

NEWS IN BRIEF.

AUSTRIAN ZIONISTS PRESENT TORAH TO Mr. USSISHKIN.

Jerusalem.

An impressive ceremony, preceded by a picturesque procession, marked the admission into the Rehavia Synagogue at Jerusalem of the Torah presented to Mr. M. Ussishkin by Austrian Zionists. Chief Rabbi Herzog declared that the Torah symbolised Israel's tragedy throughout the world, and had now found a haven in Jerusalem. Dr. Leopold Plashkas, a veteran Austrian Zionist, who had brought the Torah, stressed that it was the last Scroll which had left Austria where no synagogue and no Torahs now remain owing to the destructions. Other speakers were Rabbi Meir Berlin, Rabbi Joachim Ziegler of Carlsbad, and Mr. M. Ussishkin, who said it was one of the proudest days of his life.—(Palcor.)

UNITED FRONT OF YOUTH ORGANISATIONS FORMED IN TEL-AVIV.

Jerusalem.

A united front of Youth organisations was formed in Tel-Aviv at the initiative of the Jewish Agency Executive, with the participation of Mr. D. Ben-Gurion and representatives of 19 such bodies. The function of the new "Front" will be to conduct joint action for the purpose of defending immigration, colonisation, the maintenance of Jewish rights, Totzereth Haaretz, Jewish labour, Hebrew language, and national discipline, and to place the youth at the service of the national institutions. A fitness campaign was announced. A Central Committee was formed of all the Zionist Youth Organisations.—(Palcor.)

TWELFTH JEWISH SETTLEMENT SINCE WHITE PAPER.

Jerusalem.

This is the twelfth settlement established since the publication of the White Paper, and the tenth in Beisan Plain, declare the Hebrew papers, in welcoming the new settlement at Hemdia, in the Beisan Plain.

The settlement sprang into being on June 23rd when Kvutzath Dror occupied 1,500 dunams of Keren Kayemeth land in the Beisan Plain, providing a central link in the chain of settlements joining the Emek with the Jordan Valley. The new centre is located on a mound overlooking the Beisan Valley. As has become customary in recent pioneering colonisation, work began at midnight and ended at dawn when the stockades, watchtower and first huts were completed. Similarly to colonisation carried out since the White Paper, the settlement was established without prior arrangements with the authorities.

The foundation stone was laid in a suburb in Haifa Bay for workers employed by the Palestine Electric Corporation. The new suburb to be named Kiriath Hachashmal will be built on an area of 60 dunams of land belonging to the Keren Kayemeth and 200 houses at a cost of over £100,000 will be built for the workers. Mr. Rutenberg and Aba Hushi were among the speakers at the ceremony.—(Palcor.)

JERUSALEM MUNICIPALITY.

Jerusalem.

The Government has appointed a commission to arrange the elections to the Jerusalem Municipal Council. It consists of an Englishman as chairman, two Jews, two Moslems, two Christian Arabs and three District Officers of each religion. Jewish circles, however, doubt whether there will be Jewish participation because the composition symbolises Jewish minority status on the body, whereas the Jewish inhabitants have an absolute majority in the population of Jerusalem.—(Palcor.)

OFFICES OF JERUSALEM SHEKEL COMMITTEE BROKEN INTO.

Jerusalem.

Unknown persons broke into the office of the Shekel Committee in Jerusalem, burnt lists and accounts, and stole the sum of £P.324 from the iron safe.—(Palcor.)

RESERVE RIFLES RESTORED TO JEWISH SETTLEMENTS.

Jerusalem.

Forty reserve rifles recently taken from Emek settlements were returned, and others have been restored to Jordan Valley settlements and the Samaria colonies.—(Palcor.)

FIRST VIOLINIST OF PALESTINE ORCHESTRA INJURED.

Jerusalem.

A number of cars carrying Jews through Ramleh were stoned on June 21st and several Jews were injured. The seriously injured include Andreas Weissgerber, the first violinist of the Palestine Symphony Orchestra.—(Palcor.)

JEWISH POLICE EMPLOYEE FOUND DEAD.

Jerusalem.

Valentine Bak, aged 30, a translator for the Army who was also employed by the police, was found shot dead in Kiriath Motzkin, outside Haifa.

An official communique stated he had been shot by "unknown Jewish assassins."

Bak, a brother of Dr. Avigdor Bak, cancer research worker at the Hebrew University and brother-in-law of Meir Grossman, leader of the Jewish State Party, is survived by his widow and one child. Bak participated in the arrest some months ago of Abraham Kotik, a Revisionist, on arms possession charges and testified at the trial before the Jerusalem Military Court. Kotik was sentenced to death but the sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment. He left the Revisionist Party two years ago.—(Palcor.)

FAMOUS TIBERIAS YESHIVA DESTROYED BY FIRE

Jerusalem.

Arab terrorists set fire to the famous old Or Thora Yeshiva, in Tiberias, wrecking the sepulchre of Rabbi Meir Baal Haness, the object of pilgrimage by devout Jews.

The Scrolls of the Law were rescued, but a collection of priceless and unique holy books long sought by leading libraries throughout the world was destroyed. Police and Jewish ghaffirs extinguished the blaze which was started after nightfall.

A survey of the damage revealed that the ancient Ashkenazic Synagogue was totally destroyed and the Sephardic Synagogue partly destroyed. There had been no beadle in the building owing to the danger of terrorist attacks. The Government communique issued does not mention Arabs but blames "unknown incendiaries," for the desecration.

Chief Rabbi Herzog has protested in the strongest terms against the destruction of the Synagogue, and has in a communication to the High Commissioner requested its reconstruction by the Government.—(Palcor.)

FIRE IN JEWISH SETTLEMENT.

Jerusalem.

A disastrous fire took place at Moshav Moledeth, one of the settlements established in the Emek in the past two years, destroying all the huts, the watchtower and the stockades, and doing damage estimated at several thousands of pounds. The fire resulted from a petrol-stove overturning.—J.T.A.

CONFERENCE OF BRITISH POALE ZION.

London.

A resolution condemning the British White Paper policy for Palestine and calling on the Jewish masses to fight for their rights in Palestine was unanimously adopted at an extraordinary conference of the British Poale Zion.

Forty delegates from all parts of the country were present and heard reports on the political situation by Mr. Berl Locker and on the Jewish Agency's financial position by Mr. Eliezer Kaplan, Treasurer of the Jewish Agency for Palestine.

Messages of sympathy with the Zionist cause and pledges of support in the fight against the new Palestine policy were received from a number of prominent British Labour leaders.

Mr. J. Middleton, General Secretary of the Labour Party, emphasised Labour's sympathy with Jewish constructive activities in Palestine and expressed the hope that the joint efforts of British and Jewish Labour may succeed "in winning such a position that Palestine may yet prosper and at long last peace may come to Palestine."

Other messages were received from Mr. Herbert Morrison, Lord Snell, Mr. Arthur Greenwood, Colonel Josiah Wedgwood and others.—J.T.A.

AMERICAN SOIL CONSERVATION EXPERT IN PALESTINE.

London.

The Colonial Office announced that Dr. Lowdermilk, Chief of Research of the Soil Conservation Service of the United States, has been spending several weeks studying the question of soil erosion in Palestine, the Negeb and the Akaba area of Transjordan. Dr. Lowdermilk's study has been undertaken at the invitation of the Palestine Government.—J.T.A.

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