

NEWS IN BRIEF.

JEWISH-ARAB CO-OPERATION.

Jerusalem.

A meeting of Jewish and Arab orange growers took place at the boundary of Tel-Aviv and Jaffa to discuss plans to be submitted to the High Commissioner for assistance to growers, as promised at the last interview.

The revival of Arab-Jewish friendship was illustrated at Esindiani, a village in the Zichron Yaacov area, when Jewish settlers from Zichron attended the wedding of the son of the late Mukhtar of Esindiani, a member of the Mughbali family. The father was murdered last year by terrorists for alleged "non-co-operation with the rebels."—(Palcor).

REFUGEES RELEASED.

Jerusalem.

The last of the refugees interned at Sarafand were released and taken to the Immigration Hostel of the Jewish Agency in Tel-Aviv. They arrived some weeks ago in open boats, landing north of the Reading Power Station.—(Palcor).

AIR RAID SHELTERS IN PALESTINE.

Jerusalem.

The Port authorities at Haifa have begun erect air raid shelters in the harbour area. It is understood that the Palestine Railways are to undertake similar precautionary measures.—(Palcor).

JERUSALEM-DEAD SEA BUS SERVICE.

Jerusalem.

The "Egged" Company has resumed its bus service on the Jerusalem-Dead Sea route. Buses are also running daily to the Dead Sea from Tel-Aviv.—(Palcor).

RUMANIAN SHIPS TO CALL AT TEL-AVIV.

Jerusalem.

According to an official report from Bucharest, the Rumanian passenger liners, Bessarabia and Transylvania, will call at the Tel-Aviv Port on alternate weeks.—(Palcor).

LABOUR DISPUTES IN PALESTINE.

Jerusalem.

A Committee composed of Messrs. Rutenberg, Berligne and Rabbi Katzenelenbogen, was appointed to arbitrate on behalf of the Vaad Leumi between Revisionist and other labour organisations in labour disputes.—(Palcor).

EMERGENCY TAX FUND IN HAIFA.

Jerusalem.

About £P.12,000 were contributed to the Emergency Tax Fund in Haifa in the first six weeks. It is hoped that £P.40,000 will be collected during the campaign, £P.15,000 of which will be ear-marked for the construction of the new Hadassah-Rothschild Hospital. The building will begin as soon as the funds are available.

An additional sum of £P.15,000 donated by P.I.C.A. (on behalf of the Rothschild family) will be given for the purpose.

The second campaign of the Mifdel, 'Ezrachi (Redemption Fund for Middle Class Relief) yielded £50,000. This announcement was made at a conference held in Tel-Aviv to deal with constructive aid to the middle-class elements in Yishuv.—(Palcor).

HADASSAH MEDICAL CENTRE TO BE EXTENDED.

Jerusalem.

The number of beds at the Hadassah Medical Centre will shortly be increased from 215 to 272, and later the hospital will be extended to its full capacity of more than 300 beds.

The additional beds will be distributed over all wards, and a number of them will be made available to neurological cases, and ear, nose and throat diseases.—(Palcor).

DRAINAGE SCHEME FOR TEL-AVIV.

Jerusalem.

It is announced that improvements are to be effected by the Municipal Drainage Committee in Tel-Aviv. To relieve the flooded areas at the junction of Rehov Allenby, and Rehov Gruzenberg, and of Rehov Nachmani and Rehov Yavne, a drainage channel from these points to the sea is to be constructed at the cost of £P.6,500.

It has also been decided to complete the drainage system in Rehov Sokolow, near the Working Girls' Hostel, in order to relieve the sections in the vicinity of Gan Meir and the Yemenite Quarter. This work is expected to cost £P.3,500.—(Palcor).

PALESTINE DOCTORS.

Jerusalem.

The maximum number of licences to practise medicine in Palestine to be granted by the Director of Medical Services during the year 1940 will be sixty, the same as last year. During the year 1936, the maximum was fifty; in 1937 and 1938 it was thirty.—(Palcor).

CONFISCATED TERRORIST ARMS.

Jerusalem.

It is officially stated that during 1939 the authorities confiscated 3,766 rifles, 958 pistols and revolvers, 210 shotguns and 112,000 rounds of various kinds of ammunition.—(Palcor).

PALESTINE ORCHESTRA TO VISIT EGYPT.

Jerusalem.

The first Palestine Orchestra concert in Egypt this season will take place in Cairo on February 14th. There are to be two symphony concerts each in Cairo and Alexandria, in addition to a number of chamber music performances.—(Palcor).

AMPLE FOODSTUFFS IN PALESTINE.

Jerusalem.

Imported foodstuffs continue to arrive in Palestine at a normal rate, as shown by figures made available by the Department of Customs, Excise and Trade.

Although it is stated in commercial circles in Tel-Aviv that local foodstuff prices may be increased shortly to the level of the world market prices it is thought that the price of flour will not go up, as there are ample supplies now in the country.—(Palcor).

COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS OF DISTURBANCES.

Jerusalem.

The Vaad Leumi has received £P.6,000 from the Palestine Treasury for the payment of compensation to families of persons killed in the disturbances, and of persons injured, whose claims were heard by the Compensation Commission in August and September of last year.

VAAD LEUMI REPORT ON PUBLIC EDUCATION.

Jerusalem.

About 25,000 persons contribute one mil a day for the "One Mil Culture Campaign," according to a statement made at a Press meeting by Dr. Yehuda Kaufman, Chairman of the General Council (Vaad Leumi) of Palestine Jews' Education Department.

In twenty-one towns and settlements throughout the country, 6,494 persons were taught Hebrew by 135 instructors. Fifty courses in Bible study were organised in different parts of the country. Seven special schools were opened for children without previous education, while a school for under-privileged children was established in Tiberias. Two hundred lectures were sponsored during the year.

Dr. Kaufman appealed for public support for the valuable educational work being done.—(Palcor).

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF KFAR VITKIN.

Jerusalem.

Over 1,000 people, including visitors from adjoining settlements, took part in the tenth anniversary celebrations held at Kfar Vitkin.

When the Emek Hefer district was first occupied in 1929, following the purchase of 30,000 dunams in Vadi Havareh by the Jewish National Fund with the aid of a gift from Canadian Jewry, 20 settlers of Irgun Vitkin were the first to establish themselves there. Among the speakers at the celebration were Messrs. H. Ben-Zvi and J. Rosenblatt, who described the process of settlement in the past decade.—(Palcor).

ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN PALESTINE.

Jerusalem.

A sum of £P.8,000 has been spent by the Redemption Fund (Kofer Hayishuv) for the building of 50 kilometres of road in various parts of the country. The total cost of the roads was £P.42,570, of which the Redemption Fund contributed 19 per cent.

Fifteen roads with a total length of 39 kilometres have been completed, and six more with a total length of more than 9 kilometres are at present under construction.—(Palcor).

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