

# NEWS IN BRIEF.

## Palestine Industrial Development.

Jerusalem.

On the occasion of the opening of the Permanent Exhibition of Palestine Industry at the "Beth Ha'Taasia" in Tel-Aviv, Mr. A. Shenkar, President of the Manufacturers' Association, gave a review of industrial developments during the war. Mr. Shenkar pointed especially to the production of industrial machinery and declared that a number of Palestine factories are already equipped with machines made here. Surgical instruments are also being manufactured here, and eight local factories for medical supplies are already producing some 300 different medicaments. The plants, managed by expert chemists, are putting out many articles superior in quality to those formerly imported from Germany. Orders have been received not only from Palestine, but from neighbouring countries as well. The Exhibition will serve as a substitute for the Levant Fairs. More than 200 factories displayed their products.

## Diamond Cutting Industry in Palestine.

Jerusalem.

The sixth diamond-cutting and polishing workshop at Nathanya has now been established there at a cost of £P2,000 for the up-to-date machinery installed. Some 100 hands will be employed. Negotiations are proceeding for the opening of a seventh similar workshop at Nathanya, which is rapidly becoming a centre of the diamond-cutting industry in Palestine.

## The Citrus Industry.

Jerusalem.

As an outcome of a recent rally of over 1,200 Jewish and Arab citrus-growers at Jaffa, a Council of 60 members drawn equally from both sections of the population was elected to conduct the professional affairs and safeguard the interests of that industry on a bi-racial basis. The Council elected a Jewish-Arab Executive Committee and secretariat under the chairmanship of Shukri Bey Taji, prominent Arab planter. Mr. Zvi Botkowsky, of Hadera, is Chairman of the Council, while the joint secretaries are Mr. H. Ariav, Secretary of the Jewish Farmers' Federation, and Suleiman Eff. Ajjoun, Arab planter. Four Jews and four Arabs were elected to a Committee to wait upon the High Commissioner and convey to him requests of the industry for its maintenance under present difficult war-time conditions.

## Jewish-Arab Co-operation.

Jerusalem.

"We the sons of Ishmael and you the sons of Isaac are brethren." With these words, one of the Arab labourers, attending the celebration of Jewish and Arab workers in Tiberias to mark the completion of the new Police building, expressed the hope that the existing cordial relations would continue. The evening was opened by Mr. Nathan Frankel, who spoke of the

functions of "Solel Boneh," contractors for the building, as a Jewish Labour Federation contracting institution and its efforts to provide employment. Mr. M. Weiss, Secretary of the Tiberias Labour Council, dwelt on Jewish Arab relations, and Mr. Citron, of Solel Boneh, emphasized the share of the Arab workers in the construction.

## Palestine Ceramics Industry.

Jerusalem.

Wider scope has been given to Palestine's ceramics industry by the great decrease of glass and chinaware imports following the outbreak of war. Such imports used to amount in value to some £P35,000 yearly. A number of ceramic factories, mainly in the Haifa area, have been established. Among them are "Palceramic" and "Kadar," which have been operating now for five years and together employ some 40 workers. Last year "Kuehn's Ceramic" was founded in Haifa. With "Kad Wasefel" in Rishon-le-Zion and with "Naaman" which will begin production shortly, there will be five ceramic works operating in Palestine apart from those old-established ones in Jerusalem and Hebron which cater for the tourist trade. The raw materials, which had previously been imported, are now available from local sources in quality up to European standards. The required chemicals are imported from the United Kingdom. Pottery promises to become a useful industry for Palestine when a sufficient number of workers have been trained.

## Reclamation of Swamps in Haifa Sub-district.

Jerusalem.

The reclamation of Wadi Al Mazraa swamps near the village of Al Faradis, in the Haifa sub-district, is reported by "Ad Difaa" to have been completed. The Palestine Government contributed £P500 towards the cost of the work, and inhabitants of Faradis, Zichron Yaacov and Tantura provided the balance of £P180. As a result, some 1,000 dunams of new land have become available for cultivation.

## Palestine Orchestra.

Jerusalem.

The Palestine Orchestra's recent tour of Egypt proved very successful. Eleven concerts were given before capacity audiences, including four regular concerts, four for the troops, two youth concerts, and one in aid of the Egyptian Red Crescent. Among those who attended the performance were the British Ambassador, Sir Miles Lampson, and his family; General Catroux, French leader; numerous members of the Egyptian Cabinet, as well as some Palestinian soldiers who were serving in the desert. The Orchestra has received invitations for another tour in April.

## Research Fellowship in Civil Law at Hebrew University.

Jerusalem.

Acting upon the suggestion of Mr. Justice Gad Frumkin, C.B.E., the Palestine

Jewish Bar Association has established a Research Fellowship in Civil Law at the Hebrew University, and the University authorities have selected Professore Guido Tedeschi, late of Siena, Italy, for this fellowship. Professor Tedeschi will conduct his research in the field of Comparative Law and conflicts of law in Palestine relating to personal status, starting with the law of inheritance and succession. Prof. Tedeschi, who received the degree of Doctor of Laws cum laude in 1928 and was awarded three prizes for his thesis, has written many books on the laws of finance, domestic relations, and personal status. He also collaborated in the preparation of a compendium of civil law and of the new Code of Civil Law recently published in Italy.

## New Branches of Farming in Palestine.

Jerusalem.

Citrus growers in the Raanana district are taking to other branches of farming and large areas have already been prepared for this purpose. Out of the Government loan to stimulate production, of which some 400 families received grants in the Raanana district, about 450 dunams of grain and 50 dunams of potatoes have been planted. Settlers at Herzlia are planting large additional areas with cereals, and marshlands in the vicinity are to be put under vegetables. A sum of £P300 has been received from the Jewish Agency for the purpose of drainage pipes and an additional loan will be obtained later.

## Alexandria Jew Gives £5,000 for Spitfire.

London.

Mr. Joseph Smouha, a leading member of the Anglo-Jewish community of Alexandria, has given £5,000 to the British Government towards the purchase of a Spitfire, it is announced.

## 40,000 Flanders Jews Interned.

London.

Almost the entire Jewish population of the Belgian provinces of West and East Flanders and of the city of Antwerp have been sent to concentration camps, according to a B.U.P. message from Brussels. They are said to number about 40,000.

## Nazis in French Restaurants.

London.

In Paris, says the "News Chronicle," the restaurant problem became acute when German soldiers began to patronise many of the more popular of the small restaurants and cafes, crowding the regular clients out.

The French found a way out. When the next German customers arrived they found placarded up outside the restaurant: "Jewish-owned," or "Jewish restaurant." That kept the Germans out.

## Jews Evacuating Kattowice.

London.

All the large department stores belonging to Poles and Jews at Kattowice have been looted by newly-arrived German settlers, according to reports received in Polish

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