

NEWS IN BRIEF.

PALESTINE VOLUNTEER FORCE.

Jerusalem.

The appointment has been gazetted of F. R. Mason as Officer Commanding the Palestine Volunteer Force.

The Corps will consist of a combatant unit, a reserve unit, and a unit for vital services. An oath of loyalty must be taken.

The purpose of the Corps will be to assist the regular armed forces of His Majesty in all matters connected with the prosecution of the war and the maintenance of law and order in the country.

CLOSER CONTACT WITH ARABS.

Jerusalem.

A special commission has been set up by the committee of the settlements of the Harod Block for the furtherance of closer contact with the Arab neighbours. Hadasah has been requested by the commission to establish a clinic at Kibbutz Mesilloth, for the Arab inhabitants of the Beisan area.

NEW USES FOR CITRUS TREES.

Jerusalem.

Citrus trees, not merely the fruit, are now found capable of being processed for the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, and a beginning has been made by the Palestine Wood Distillation Co., whose factory is being built north of Bnei Brak, north of Tel-Aviv. Hundreds of trees are uprooted annually, and in this time of emergency timber for thousands of tons may be had. The factory intends to extract methyl-alcohol, vinegar, gum and charcoal. The vinegar is used for paints and ferments, while the bark can be used as an ingredient for aspirin or the Palestinian "Palgin" (patent headache pills), for fumigating material, and as substance for bakelite. The charcoal is used for metal working and for the manufacture of carbide. It is free of sulphurous substance. The process of distilling or refining the wood by separating it into its component parts through heating is a new one in the country, and the furnaces have been made here. The Sieff Research Institute and the Government Department of Agriculture are giving their assistance.

PALESTINE'S HARVEST.

Jerusalem.

The prospects of the forthcoming hard wheat crop in Palestine and Trans-Jordan

are very satisfactory. The harvest will yield in Palestine, according to estimates, at least 150,000 tns, some 30,000 more than last year. The Trans-Jordan crop will provide, after deduction of some 40,000 tons for local inhabitants, an exportable surplus of 160,000 tons. (Palestine's total needs amount to some 250,000 tons).

Potato crops planted in December and January will be harvested in the coming weeks, and it is anticipated that the yield from winter seeds will be adequate for local consumption for a period of four or five months. The large new crop is remarkable in view of the shortage of first grade imported seed. This situation was foreseen and cold storage facilities costing thousands of pounds were built chiefly in communal settlement and thus part of last year's crop could be preserved for seed. It is proposed that in order to continue the development in this field, 40 per cent. of the spring crop be preserved for next winter's planting.

The British Army in Palestine is to purchase potatoes at the rate of not less than 100,000 kilogrammes monthly for delivery at specified camps during June, July and August of this year.

INCREASE OF OLIVE CROPS.

Jerusalem.

In view of the steadily increasing annual olive crops and the surplus of olive oil on the farmers' hands, a sub-committee of the Committee on Agricultural Economics and Marketing has recommended that permits for the export of 250 tons of unrefined oil and an equal quantity of refined oil per month should be granted and that further permits should be considered when the estimates of the new crop become available in June or July.

ANGLO-PALESTINE BANK.

Jerusalem.

The payment of a six per cent. dividend will be recommended by the directors of the Anglo-Palestine Bank at the forthcoming general meeting. A similar dividend was paid last year.

NEW BRIDGE ACROSS JORDAN.

Jerusalem.

The new bridge across the Jordan at Jisr Damiya was opened for passengers and traffic. Jisr Damiya is about 30 kilometres north of Allenby Bridge. The new bridge was built mostly of girders and planks taken

from the old Allenby Bridge built twenty years ago.

GERMAN-JEWISH RESEARCH WORKER HONOURED.

London.

Dr. F. Simon, Reader in Thermo-Dynamics at the University of Oxford, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Dr. Simon, who came to this country in 1933, following the Nazi seizure of power in Germany, was until that date Professor of Physical Chemistry at Breslau University. He is at present engaged in research in very low temperatures.

DEATH OF GERMAN-JEWISH PHILANTHROPIST.

Jerusalem.

The death has occurred at Harrogate, at the age of ninety, of Mr. Leopold Mainz, formerly of Frankfort.

An eminent banker, philanthropist and communal leader, Mr. Mainz belonged to a family whose roots in Germany go back to the early fourteenth century. His father was one of the eleven collaborators of Sampson Raphael Hirsch, and his son followed him as a foremost protagonist in the cause of rigid orthodoxy.

PROPERTY OF JEWS SEIZED IN PARIS.

London.

Members of the so-called French "National People's Party" have occupied six buildings in Paris which belonged to wealthy Jews who "were conducting anti-French propaganda in England and the U.S.A.," says a Paris message to the German news agency.

NAZIS INTRODUCE RACIALISM INTO FRENCH MUSIC.

London.

The Colonne Concerts in France are in future to be known as the "Gabrielle-Pierné" Concerts, it is announced by the Free French newspaper, "France."

The reason is that the Germans have discovered that Edouard Colonne, the founder and for many years the director of the orchestra, is a Jew. The concerts are therefore to be named henceforth after his successor, Gabriel Pierné, thus providing a typical example of Nazi "racialism" in music.

JEWISH JOURNALISTS EXPELLED FROM OCCUPIED FRANCE.

Vichy.

The Vichy Government has issued orders for the expulsion from France of the Jewish journalists, Imre Mikes, a Hungarian, correspondent of the "Magyar Nemzet," and Alice Hartmann, a Rou-

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