

PALESTINE

REVIEW

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JEREMIAH WAHL. A short story. By **YEHUDA YAARI** / **WHO'S WHO AT SEYCHELLE** / **GROWTH OF NATIONAL CAPITAL.** By **W. DUESTERWALD** / **LETTERS** from Ein Shemer, Samaria; Kfar Saba; Natania / **BOOK REVIEWS.**



YOUTH ON THE SOIL

Vol. II. **26**
No.

PALESTINE

REVIEW

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JERUSALEM, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1937

CONTENTS:

COVER: Youth on the Soil (K.H. Photo.)	445
THE WEEK IN COMMENT	447
LEADING ARTICLE: The Economic Situation	449
FROM TOWN AND COUNTRY Ein Shemer, Samaria: Kfar Saba: Natania	450
JEREMIAH WAHL By Yehuda Yaari	452
MR. JUSTICE FRUMKIN	455
A WORD FOR THE DEAF By Jessie Sampter	455
WHO'S WHO AT SEYCHELLE	456
GROWTH OF NATIONAL CAPITAL By W. Duesterwald	457
DIGEST OF THE PRESS	458
THE PASSING SCENE	459

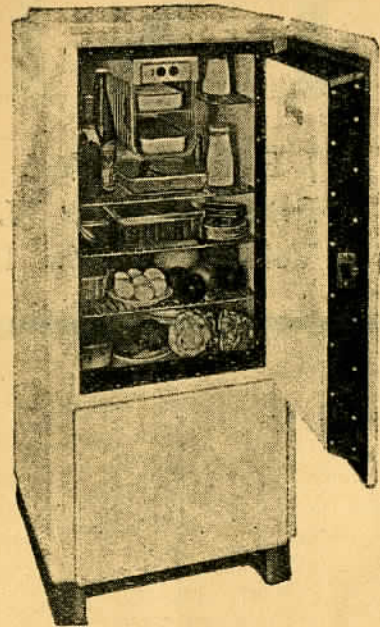
IN ITS PRESENT POLICY TO EXTERMINATE, root and branch, the banditry and political menace with which it has been associated, the Government has the goodwill and support of the overwhelming mass of the population. Its measures have been welcomed not only by the Jewish minority and the British community, but by the Arab rank and file, as well as by those Arab leaders who perceive only disadvantage to their cause in violence. It is not without significance that the relief experienced by the public from Government's action in deposing the head of the Supreme Moslem Council and deporting his political colleagues, coincided with some improvement in the economic position. No doubt can now prevail that the new course, which has been welcomed so unanimously by the London and provincial press in Great Britain, was essential and most beneficial. It is vital that this course be consistently maintained. A renewal of timidity causing Government to refrain from completing the work it began would now be disastrous. A successful effort has been made to restore the prestige of the Administration but it can only be maintained if it refuses to stop half way.

The Week in Comment

IT WAS NOT TO BE EXPECTED THAT THE Government's decisive measures of a fortnight ago would immediately restore that tranquillity and security so long and badly needed by the country. The promoters of lawlessness, whether they were directly or indirectly encouraged by the now illegal Arab Higher Committee, have not yet adjusted themselves to the new situation. That is not unnatural following so lengthy a period of vacillation and indulgence. Last week-end there were two serious hold-ups in the country, and early in the week 16 cars were waylaid by bandits in what proved to be Lebanese territory, immediately north of the Palestine boundary. The robbers were identified as Palestinian Beduin. The Mukhtar of a village near Safad was shot in that town and died from his injuries. Prompt action was taken by the police with the co-operation of the military to trace the law-breakers and the wadi between Lake Meron and Safad has been evacuated. It is hoped that an important gang of terrorists may be rounded up. In the course of the robberies committed no violence was done to the victims, who curiously enough in one case were required to surrender their passports. But Mr. Foot, the Assistant District Commissioner in the North, narrowly escaped by some ten minutes being himself molested, and it is believed that the bandits may have intended to attack him.

THE CAPITAL OF SYRIA, DAMASCUS, HAS become the seat of agitation of those forces which hitherto were responsible for the propaganda in Palestine against the Mandate and the Government. The British Consul there has been constrained to protest against the facilities permitted by the Syrian Government for a virulent anti-British campaign. In the present unhappy condition of Syria, torn by internal strife, and depressed by economic decline, it may be thought of tactical advantage by certain politicians to divert public indignation to a foreign issue. But it is quite certain that the fostering of hostility towards the Jews in Palestine cannot serve the best interests of Syria. It does a substantial trade with this country in which the Jews participate to no small extent, and, whatever shape the future of Palestine may take, Syria will not be compensated for the loss of a friendly market. Politically as well as economically it surely would seem best for our northern neighbour to seek friends on this side of the border, and particularly with the Jews whose activity provides the impetus to development in Palestine and even beyond. The neighbouring Lebanon has shown greater wisdom in this respect, and no patriotic Syrian can be interested in forcing the Jews to draw practical conclusions from the respective policies of the two States.

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THE DELAYED DEPARTURE FOR PALESTINE of the new Commission which it was decided by the League Council should prepare a detailed scheme on the basis of the British White Paper, due to the lamented death of Lord Peel, may not prove disadvantageous. The usefulness of the visit of another Commission to this country may well be questioned. What more will it learn of the conditions in Palestine than the Royal Commission, which so laboriously studied the position for several months? The new Commission is to negotiate with Jews and Arabs but under present conditions it is exceedingly doubtful whether the Arabs will not repeat their action and boycott the Commission. Those who have spoken for them have asserted that they are dissatisfied with the Report of the Royal Commission. Would it not be wiser for the Commission, apart from a tour of the country, to get the lay of the land, to do its work in London, where all necessary data can be made available? Representatives of the Jewish point of view are in London or would come there, and there can be no question that Arab representatives would feel much freer and safer in expressing their point of view in the British capital, rather than in Palestine where they are susceptible to local pressure of an unhealthy character.

EGYPT IS TO BE CONGRATULATED UPON THE abolition of the Capitulations which occurred this week. It is an acknowledgement of the new status of the country which will give intense satisfaction to Egyptian nationalists. There was much misgiving on the part of certain countries before they appended their signature to the agreement abolishing the old régime, but it was obviously impossible to maintain the Capitulations system in an independent kingdom. The new powers of jurisdiction which Egypt will now exercise will add to its other responsibilities, which are not light. It is all the more to be regretted therefore that the Government party has sought to make of the Palestine question an issue in home affairs.

THE CIVIL SERVICE IN PALESTINE IS NOT underpaid and the allowances added to the salaries of the British officials are adequate for the maintenance of a proper living standard. But in one respect the Palestine official is prejudiced, namely, by the lack of protection for his family. In the event of an official being killed in the course of his duty, his widow and children are now dependent on the small grant provided by the ordinary Pensions Fund, which cannot be considered satisfactory. The desirability of an early reform is emphasised by the revelation that Mr. L. Y. Andrews, who was murdered at Nazareth, was able to bequeath his family nothing more than a fraction of his insurance benefit, besides the villa which he owned in Natania.

Surely the law should protect the families of officials like Mr. Andrews, whose whole-hearted devotion to duty, is thrown into greater relief by his lack of riches.

MR. HUBERMAN'S MANY FRIENDS AND Admirers in Palestine have been distressed by the unfortunate accident which has caused his illness and as a result of which his appearance in Palestine this year has been deferred. We all wish him a rapid and complete recovery. The Palestine Orchestra, by arrangement with Mr. Huberman, has not changed its programme but will open the season as announced this month. It will be a disappointment not to have its founder with us at the inauguration, but he will be encouraged by the knowledge that the Orchestra will keep faith with the public.

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING AND Water Polo tournament between the Palestine Maccabi and the Egyptian national swimming champions took place early this week at Alexandria. After losing the preliminary swimming events, the Palestine team won a spectacular victory in the main competition of the day. H. R. H. Prince Omar, a cousin of the Egyptian King, presented the winning team with the trophy that bears his name, and took the opportunity of congratulating the visitors on their bearing in the games before them and after. Last month another international water sporting tournament was held at Haifa, where Palestinians met a selected Greek team. Not long ago a Palestinian football team visited Lebanon and returned laden with honours. By instilling in the Palestinian youth the qualities that make for discipline, health and friendship, sport is fulfilling an important function in this land. A hardly less important function is fulfilled when Palestinians meet teams of neighbouring lands. In these friendly rivalries on the sports grounds are promoted understanding and sympathy that otherwise, unhappily are not easily won.

* * *

THRIFT AND BUILDING SOCIETIES.

BUILDING in Palestine, which is an immigrant country, is one of the most important of its industries. Apart from the necessity to provide dwellings for the newcomers, there is a strong tendency on the part of most Jewish residents to build their own homes, rather than live in rented houses. It is thus natural that there have arisen a number of companies with the object of assisting the man with a small income to finance the building of his own home. They are based on the co-operative principle which is so characteristic of the up-building of Palestine and represent a movement of mutual help. The Pinati National Building and Saving Co. Ltd., which has withstood the recent depression, has stated that partly as a result of its advertising campaign, it has registered some 600 members. In the building schemes of the Company about 85 per cent. of the building materials are local products, while an average of 150 workers are employed daily. The scheme of the Company involves it acting in the nature of a trustee on behalf of its members not only for the financing but also the surveying and management of their properties.

The Economic Situation

THAT Palestine is passing through a fairly severe depression period at the moment is an undeniable fact. Exactly how this depression originated is, perhaps, more controversial. There is every reason to believe that even without the many political anxieties and contretemps of the last 18 months, the boom of 1932-1935 must necessarily have tailed off into some form of slump. In fact, the beginnings of this slump were already clearly discernible in the autumn of 1935, before the political horizon in Palestine clouded over. Be that as it may, the abnormal situation in this country since the outbreak of rioting in April 1936 cannot fail to have intensified the economic difficulties. With the greater part of the population on strike for six months, and the remainder living in a state of perpetual insecurity, business was bound to slacken, and confidence to weaken.

A further unfortunate circumstance has added its quota of depression to the already unsatisfactory position. Through no fault of its own, Palestine experienced an exceptionally bad citrus season this year. The British market, which is the chief market for Jaffa's, was disorganised through the sporadic shipments of Spanish oranges, and the majority of the remaining markets had hedged themselves around with such a complex of trade restrictions that it was almost impossible to market the enlarged crop profitably. Naturally, bad citrus prices have an immediate reaction on the rest of the economic life of the country. Planting stopped almost completely, economies in cultivation expenses and wages had to be made, and the effects of the citrus-growers' small profits — and even in some cases actual losses — seeped through to all strata of the community.

The depression in Palestine has shown itself mainly in the decline in building and new industrial enterprise. Building throughout the country is to-day less than half its 1935 level. In Tel Aviv it has fallen even more drastically, and is to-day barely a third as great as two years ago. The numbers and wages of building workers have suffered a severe diminution, and the furniture and building materials industries have naturally contracted in sympathy. Altogether very little capital has been invested in new industries during the last year. The import of industrial machinery, which is a good indication of the extent of industrial investment, has declined steeply — by about 70 per cent. since 1935.

A further feature of the present depression is the plight in which mixed farming finds itself. On the one hand, there has been an expansion in supply, stimulated by the real shortage in demand experienced last year during the Arab strike. On the other hand, the fall in the individual's standard of living has caused a switch-over from the more expensive local foods to cheaper imported articles. Tnuvah sales of milk and other agricultural products have actually fallen compared with last year, in spite of the very noticeable increase in the Jewish output of foodstuffs.

These are the gloomy aspects of the present situation. There is also a reverse side to the medal. In spite of these depressing influences, some branches of activity have shown extraordinarily little trace of the slump. The total purchasing power of the country has almost not suffered at all. The total expenditure

on foodstuffs is higher to-day even than in 1935, and the consumption of textiles is very considerably above last year's level. In fact, the total import trade in the first half of the year is barely below the 1935 peak import figure. The consumption of electricity for domestic purposes has continued to increase. Government revenue has declined very little, if at all, and whatever information we have of industrial output shows that, by and large, the fall in the production of consumers' goods has been exceedingly small. The import of raw materials for industry, has in many such industries increased, and the sale of electric power to industry generally has risen steadily.

All these are very important symptoms of the maintenance of the purchasing power of the community as a whole whatever may have happened to the level of purchasing power per head. Such facts alone are sufficient to dispel any exaggerated pessimism regarding the present condition of the country.

Why the stagnancy appears so particularly marked in Palestine, and leaves a more gloomy impression than slump periods elsewhere, is because of a certain unusual feature in Palestine's economic life. Palestine is so organised as to cope with a perpetually expanding population and a constant influx of new capital. Industrialists have become so accustomed to a market which swelled beneath their eyes, that it became a habit to plan their operations for the future, instead of for the present. New building also was always in excess of the present population, and the tendency of any economic activity was to overstep itself in relation to the demand of the moment. Over-production is the easiest thing in the world under such conditions, particularly as the new capital entering the country is perpetually searching for investment outlets, and only too ready to over-exploit any possible opportunity. As soon as the market ceases to expand, the plans of entrepreneurs are upset, firms are compelled to liquidate or shrink, and a spirit of pessimism takes hold of the business community.

It is this sensitiveness which causes the unusually sharp reaction to economic difficulties in Palestine, and intensifies the slump mood. Actually, though, as we have pointed out, the situation is nothing like as bad as appeared at first sight. *Markets have not so much contracted, as ceased to expand.*

What of the future? As we have learned from the experience of other countries, economic depressions sooner or later work themselves to an end. In Palestine, the date at which recovery is due does not depend on economic forces alone. It may be delayed by political uncertainty which could put a brake on new enterprise even if the actual economic situation were vastly improved. On the other hand, it may be hastened by an influx of capital and immigrants following on some stimulating political event. These things are impossible to foretell. It may only be said with certainty that there is nothing in the present situation to warrant exaggerated gloom. The Palestine economy is far from collapse, and — unforeseen accidents apart — will as certainly work its way to recovery, as the present boom in other countries will work its way to renewed slump.

FROM TOWN AND COUNTRY

Shepherds in Samaria

EIN SHEMER, SAMARIA.

THE winding road from Hadera railway station to Karkur brings the traveller to the very fence of our orange grove. Our village itself is distant some twenty minutes on foot in the direction of Karkur. Ten years we have been here, and in this time have seen the countryside steadily overspread with the fresh green of orange groves. When we first came the path wound its leisurely way through sand and fields of watermelon that Beduin and peasants planted by throwing down the seed and waiting for nature to do the rest. On a hillock was a clump of high trees and the ruins of a Circassian village that kept watch over the emptiness.

To-day the path has become a roadway and the emptiness has been superseded by villages and gardens. The Circassian ruins still stand out against the sky, but have lost their symbolic meaning.

Originally this site guarded the route from Judea to the Valley of Jezreel and Galilee. Enclosed by a high stone wall and entered only by an iron gate, it served as a rest-house for travellers on foot. The settlers belonging to Kvutza Brenner, earned their livelihood by acting as watchmen of the lands in the district and by cultivating grain. In 1927 the Hashomer Hatzair group at Ein Ganim joined Kvutza Brenner. That, in brief, is how Ein Shemer came into being.

Like so many other settlements in Palestine, the story of Ein Shemer for several weary years was the story of lack of water. Many a day passed that men and beasts counted the very drops of the small supply that was brought in barrels over a distance of nearly four kilometres. And because there was so little water, our agriculture could only be extensive, which was satisfying neither to our needs nor to our desires. In 1934, the water position improved. We were able to obtain more generous supplies from the well of the Karkur settler Lovsovsky, the first man in the district to discover its water resources. In the autumn of 1935 — not one of us will forget the date — we discovered water on our own land, or more correctly, on that which the Keren Kayemet had granted us. Nor was it a trickle, but a proper, full-bodied spring. Until now we have not been able to exploit this supply, but with the help of the settlement institutions an adequate supply is being installed. The main water pipe traverses practically the whole length

A Resurrected Village

KFAR SABA

Forty-two years ago, when Jewry the world over was stirred by the vision of Theodor Herzl, a group of Jews residing in Jerusalem came to the site of what is now Kfar Saba, where Baron Rothschild had purchased 7,500 dunams of sand and swamp. It was completely isolated, Petah Tikva being the nearest Jewish settlement. The settlers each purchased 55 dunams of this sand, on long-term payments, at cost price. They planted 4,000 dunams with grapes and almonds and in the swamp they sowed eucalyptus, which the Arabs in the district called the "Jews' tree." It was far too hazardous to live on the plantations, so the farmers lived in Petah Tikva, a three-hour ride over the sand by horse wagon, travelling to and fro each day. Every morning they brought the ever-necessary barrel of water. The settlement progressed

of our lands, thus enabling us to go in for intensive farming — the dream which floated before our eyes for so many years.

There are 130 of us at Ein Shemer, besides 32 children. Last year we cultivated some 2,000 dunams, of which the overwhelming area was under grain. But our 140 dunams of orange groves is an important branch of our farm, although only half is yet bearing. For the rest, we have a dairy, an orchard, vegetables, grapes and a small but pleasant grove of trees. Because we were obliged to subsist principally on our grain for so many years, we applied to it the most modern methods, with the result that our income from this source has been fairly considerable.

There is another branch of our farm of which we are proud, our flocks of sheep. Ours is the only settlement in the whole district that has experimented with sheep, (so far, we have only 52 head) but the results over the past five years have been eminently satisfactory.

Agriculture and sheep-farming alone, however, would not have sufficed to maintain us under existing conditions. So our carpentry and technical workshops and our builders have sought outside work in the district. In addition, we have placed several lorries on the traffic market of the district and have hired out our three tractors. And so while endeavouring to buttress ourselves in agriculture proper we have tided the settlement over from year to year through this variety of non-agricultural occupations.

Our cultural life is well ordered and comprehensive. The library contains 3,000 volumes in a number of languages. We have a weekly newspaper and a monthly journal devoted to the internal problems of the group. The cosy reading room, which is always full at evening, contains the daily newspapers and a number of periodicals. A choir, a dramatic society and an English study circle are all well patronised. The concerts that are held several times with the aid of visiting pianists and violinists attract every single settler. Lectures are more frequent and for those for whom this does not suffice, there is always Hadera and Haifa within reasonable distance. But the number who seek the stimulus of city entertainments are notably few. SHIMON.

economically, for land was comparatively cheap and the market was good. Soon the pioneers dared to settle on the site and before 1914 a virile young settlement of about fifty souls comprised the new community.

But their prosperity was short-lived, for war broke out. The Turks built military roads, and being short of fuel, they uprooted the fruit trees that were fourteen years old and fed them into their furnaces. Then as the English approached, refugees poured in from Jaffa and Petah Tikva. Epidemics of typhoid and malaria broke out and hundreds of dead crowded two graveyards at Kfar Saba. Then came hunger and lack of water, so that the aged fell in the streets and the children sickened. They did little more than pray in the village of those days; the synagogue

was full each morning with worshippers begging the Almighty for freedom from the Turk and for the English triumph. By 1918 the town was veined with trenches and the fire from both armies struck down many of the settlers and refugees. But with traditional stiff-neckedness, the Jews would not leave their land. At last the Turks, finding them too great a hindrance, evacuated the community to Hadera, Zihron Yaacob and parts of Galilee. Then the last vestiges of their homes and property were destroyed and the vineyards and orchards became a battlefield. This was the shock that turned Kfar Saba grey. All its body was wounded and its beauty marred, and even thought and desires for beauty passed away.

After the war, with the aid of PICA and the Keren Hayesod, the settlers stubbornly returned. They put up new buildings and planted olive trees, and pioneered again. But before its strength had time to grow the battered community was faced with a new trial. The Arabs, hitherto friendly, attacked the village in 1921 and the settlers had to evacuate it a second time. The houses were pillaged and burned. Every tree was destroyed and the only well was ruined. All the fight seemed gone from the first pioneers.

But in 1923 new settlers came and old ones returned. The latter were very tired and hence unprogressive. When some of the newcomers wished to plant boulevards, they said "No," and when the young spoke with fervour of highways and theatres, the aged asked "Why?" Thus the town dragged through the years. The first idealistic pioneers became complacent petty bourgeoisie. They substituted intensive for extensive cultivation, for the most part they hired cheap Arab labour, and some grew wealthy. Strikes and picketing of Jewish workers

are part of the unfortunate story of those days. Within the community there were various groups, the House-Owners' Group, the Farmers' Group (many of them newcomers with capital), and the rebellious Workers' Group. Each pursued its own interests and meanwhile there were no street lights in Kfar Saba, and the roads needed repair; there were no sidewalks, no planning and no proper system of sanitation.

Then a wonder happened. In its old age Kfar Saba became a parent. Ramat Hakovesh was born. Like Kfar Saba it was born in pain for it suffered from over sixty Arab attacks in one year, but the young settlement became stauncher for the gruelling experience.

Then the Tel Aviv-Haifa road was built and passed through the village so that commerce invaded it. More youths came to the village and five residential quarters were built to house them. Rows of trees were planted along fences, and a wood nourished nearby. The village rose from its lethargy and put its house in order. This year a Local Council was formed and the place has a new appearance. There are 4,500 dunams of orchards, 3,000 dunams under other crops, all of which are worked by Jewish labour. Not since the very first days has there been such amity between employer and employee, between house-owner and farmer. The population now numbers 3,000 of whom a third till the soil.

There is to be another event in Kfar Saba soon. Kiryat Eliezer, a new workers' quarter, will soon be born. Two hundred homes were conceived at once, and in another month or so, will become alive. Preparations are keen and jovial. The grandest birthday present is planned — an asphalt highway from the proud parent Kfar Saba, to the new offspring. MOLLY LYONS

Watchmen's Rally

NATANIA

WHEN we arrived in the morning, the spirit of festivity was already abroad. The buildings were bedecked with flags and bunting and the streets filled with crowds of people all excitedly discussing the rally and the races. *Shomrim*, watchmen, had assembled in Natania from all corners of the land to show their prowess in the field of horsemanship.

In the morning they held a conference. The past year of stress, strain and hardship was reviewed. As the chairman pointed out, the work of the *shomer* deprives him of the enjoyment of the Sabbath and festival — for him there is no rest or feast day, he must ever be on his guard.

From the conference hall the watchmen rode in procession through the town to the stadium, led by the veteran Abraham Shapiro of Petah Tikva. About forty in number, including several women, they made a splendid sight on their gaily-caparisoned thoroughbreds mostly of high-spirited Arab stock. They were followed by some thousand people on foot, in cars, and in horse-drawn vehicles of all descriptions. Large numbers of settlers, accompanied by their wives and children, had driven in from the surrounding settlements, for it was one of the intermediate days of *Succot* and hence a half-holiday.

Following the procession over the brink of the hill overlooking the stadium, a gay and colourful scene met our eyes. The Natania stadium is one of the finest in the country, beautifully situated in a deep natural amphitheatre within a stone's throw of the cliffs. The

judge's box was occupied by the notables of the district—the Assistant District Commissioner, the Mayor of Natania, local sheikhs, officers of the Jewish training-ship *Sarah I*, and other officials. The adjoining grandstand was packed, and there must have been three thousand spectators.

Many Arabs came in from the nearby villages, some on foot, others on their magnificent steeds. They mingled with the crowds indiscriminately. There were no signs here of a breach between Arab and Jew. During the disturbances of last year relations between Natania and the surrounding Arab villages were friendly despite the incitement of extremists who came from other districts in order to stir up the peaceful fellahin. As if to scorn the terrorist elements, the Arab villagers came on this Jewish festive day to share in a great sporting event.

When the Mayor had delivered a short speech, in which he welcomed the Arab sheikhs and villagers, the first race was run. It was closely contested, two of the horsemen riding almost neck and neck in their double circuit of the course.

Then came the second race, the great event of the day, in which the pick of the Arab and Jewish horsemen competed. About a dozen riders drew alongside the starting post. There was an expectant hush, and then in a flash they were off. Immediately the air was filled with cries of encouragement and the babble of a thousand excited voices. Sayd, a tall dark Arab riding a

Continued on Page 459.

taken by the priests who covered them and placed them in one of the huts at the port. There they were claimed by the bereaved family, or if not claimed, they would be given a public funeral by the police authorities.

The morning passed in observing the grand spectacle of the thaw. At noontime, as people were preparing to depart for lunch, another corpse was thrown up. The clergymen and their assistants immediately approached it and were about to carry the body to their hut. Suddenly they turned to some of the Jews among the onlookers and told them to take the body. "He is one of your people; treat him with respect." The Jews approached the body in trembling, the man with reversed collar, followed by the leaders, and then by all the other Jews. Soon every member of the congregation was gathered at the port. They stood by the body of Jeremiah Wahl. A great terror oppressed them. There had not been a death in the community since it was formed. It was still young, hardly two decades old. Their sons did not work in the mines, nor did they fish, and were therefore never on the ice. In general they were very cautious and managed to preserve themselves from accident. Although they had built a small cemetery together with the synagogue, its only occupants were babes for whom no gravestones had even been erected. They were depressed by the sight of their first dead, and particularly because it was Jeremiah Wahl whom they had not loved. Tremblingly they gathered up the body, taking it to the synagogue where preparations for burial were begun. Many non-Jews also came, some out of curiosity. Some remembered him and wished to pay their last respects, and others came to intimate to the Jews that they shared their mourning. All stood on the pavement in front of the synagogue speaking in whispers, telling stories of the strange man's life, and guessing at the cause of his strange death.

Suddenly the old men in the synagogue rushed out with terrified faces as white as snow.

What had happened?

The horror-struck old men answered the pressing enquirers. As they were about to prepare the body for burial, they were amazed to find that the palms of the hands and soles of the feet were wounded as though by nails, while on the breast where his heart would be, there was another large wound like that of the Man whose picture hung in the portals of the Catholic church. Death was not due to accident, but murder, wilful murder! How was he killed? Who killed him? Where are the police? Where is the mayor? Murder!

Confusion arose and the word "Murder" was wafted as on wings from one to another. In a few moments the police commissioner and the mayor appeared in their car, passed through the crowd, and ascended the steps of the synagogue. There was immediate silence, everyone anxious to hear what might be said.

"What has happened?" asked the police chief in his dry official tone. Before the president of the congregation, who had received him, was able to answer, Jim Ryan, the cigarette storekeeper appeared walking up to the steps of the synagogue. He came slowly with down-cast head.

"What does Jim want? Why does he come where he is not wanted?"

Jim approached the police officer and the president. In a quivering voice he spoke, although his lips did not move: "I am the murderer."

"You? What in heaven are you saying?"

"I crucified him," Jim continued in the same deep voice. As he spoke he drew from his pocket a small hammer. "I crucified him with this hammer; look, there are the blood stains. I could not do otherwise. He so much resembled our Lord."

That day, the first day of spring, the town saw its first Jewish funeral, and that day a man was arrested in it for the first time on the charge of murder, a man who had murdered his friend only because he resembled his Lord.

ENGLAND AND JEWRY

The Jews in England, an historical survey. By Albert M. Hyamson. Published by the Board of Deputies of British Jews, London.

The English (Hebrew). By Norman Bentwich, translated from the English MS. by Dr. Y. L. Baruch. Omanut, Tel Aviv, 1937. pp. 164.

IT WOULD appear at first sight that these two publications are in no way related, but they have a common purpose — to explain the characteristics of one people to another. The Board of Deputies of British Jews is publishing a series of pamphlets intended to dissipate the false ideas about the Jews disseminated in Nazi literature which is being thrust on the British public. This summary of the history of the Jews in England by Mr. Hyamson, who formerly held a high office in the Palestine Government will, it is hoped, succeed in refuting many of the unfounded accusations which anti-Semites hurl against the Jews.

Prof. Bentwich's book is designed primarily to give the Palestinian Jew an insight into English character and traditions, which is needed before one can hope to understand the Englishman himself. He briefly outlines the origin and growth of the English, and explains their parliamentary, legal and educational systems. He also devotes a chapter to the Empire and its relations with Great Britain. He maintains that Palestinian Jews see certain acts of Government in a false light, simply because they do not understand the Englishman and his ways. This is undeniable but only partly true. No amount of explanation of the virtues of "cricket" and "fair play" can account for some acts of the local Administration, which have puzzled members of such a supremely British institution as Parliament.

Y. BEN ARI

Mr. Justice Frumkin

(From a Correspondent)

THE fiftieth birthday of Mr. Justice Frumkin, the Jewish member of the Supreme Court of Palestine, lately celebrated by a number of public bodies as well as by the legal profession, invites an appreciation of the career of this highest Jewish judicial dignitary in the country. As such he has served no sectional interests, his only master being the law of the land.

Judges are not always able to express their own personality in their judgments. They have to interpret the law anonymously. If this applies everywhere, it does doubly so in Palestine, where a rigid application of the law is perhaps the only guarantee of objective justice. Judgments, moreover, are often composite productions. But occasional *obiter dicta* that Judge Frumkin has permitted himself where the occasion demanded it, have revealed his character. They enable us to appraise not merely the interpreter of the law, but also the Jew, the seer and rebuker of his people.

When on one occasion the Jewish people as a whole were accused from the judicial tribunal, of criminal designs, less from malice, than from ignorance, as it later appeared, it was Judge Frumkin who, in measured but no uncertain terms, defended the Jewish people as such against the slander, and the Supreme Court against that unwelcome invasion of racial animosity. Again, when the issue of fictitious marriages among Jews (with a view to facilitating entry into Palestine), came before the Supreme Court, he did not hesitate to utter a solemn warning against interference with the purity of Jewish family life, and admonished his own people from that same tribunal.

Mr. Frumkin is identified with the life of Palestine. His popularity amongst Moslems and Christians, even in these very troubled days of inter-racial strife, points to the high regard in which he is held. While he has kept aloof from sectarian politics, he has not withdrawn from Jewish public life, and has taken a leading part in activities which he has peculiarly made his own. The Jewish Law Association, to revive a study of Jewish jurisprudence, is one of his creations. The Bnai Brith Lodge of Jerusalem, over which he has presided with distinction in the last few years, in another activity. In the domain of Judaeo-Arab relations, particularly in intellectual and social spheres, Judge Frumkin has long been helpful.

A body which is largely dominated by the imprint of his personality is the "Friends of the Hebrew University." With characteristic unstinted devotion he set himself to the task, organising supporters among the admirers of our highest educational institution. No task, from drafting appeals to canvassing, was disdained if a "Friend" was won. Little wonder that in course of time there was organised a movement of substantial proportions, and the "Palestine Friends of the Hebrew University" very properly have a representative on the governing body of that institution — Mr. Frumkin himself.

A native of Jerusalem, a son of the founder of Hebrew journalism in Palestine, a Puisine Judge, with opportunities for close association with the variegated racial structure of Palestine, Mr. Frumkin's opportunity was unique. His was the great privilege to have served during the first twenty years of post-war Palestine, (this period of transition) in the judicial hierarchy. He has achieved a synthesis between Jewish and British culture.

A Word for the Deaf

A VIOLINIST stands in a group of children playing her instrument. She bends forward, and as she plays, the children press close, touch the violin with fingers tender as grass blown against a flower, cup their ears to catch the sound; and what they hear shines in their eyes. For these children are deaf. And until recently they were also dumb. Even though they have now learnt to pronounce words, to speak audibly and intelligibly, every oral expression is to them a special art that costs effort, and so they speak preferably and more dramatically with their eyes, their faces, their hands and feet and the quiver of their bodies. But now they have been actually hearing the violin; you can see them hear.

By a new method, imported from Europe and new even there, the school for Jewish deaf and dumb children in Jerusalem is developing in children who were born deaf or lost their hearing in infancy, the capacity actually to hear. This wonder and mystery you can see for yourself — if you are in Jerusalem or plan to go there — at the school of the Alliance Israélite on Jaffa Road; you can see there also the first reader for the deaf and dumb that has been published in Hebrew; you can hear the children speak audibly in Hebrew, you can look at their handicraft, their neat flower and vegetable garden; and you can soothe your heart, awake with pity, by noting how the children laugh and work and quarrel and play, happily occupied, and how the teachers, though strict and exacting, are not so much teachers as surrogate parents. A hand on the shoulder, a tweak under the chin, an impatient correction made with a patient smile, and the intimate gesture in response, are like the give and take between parent and child who are pretty good friends.

In order to prove that these children really hear, that the joyful light in their eyes at the sound of the violin was not roused merely by the vibrations of the rhythm, the teacher now stands behind his pupil and speaks a word or sentence close to the ear, and the child repeats the word or answers the question correctly. But, as in all modern institutions for the deaf, the greater part of the language teaching still is concentrated on clear enunciation of words learnt through imitation of muscular tensions by means of sight, sensation and repetition. Hearing is substituted by comprehension of spoken words through the reading of lips in motion. During class, the children sit in a semicircle round their teacher, so that they may see each other's lips as well as his.

There are now twenty-five children in the school, boys and girls between the ages of six and fourteen, in three age groups with three teachers. The need to begin still younger has led to the organisation of a small kindergarten class, in a private home. These very young children, who have the charm normal to their age, are learning unconsciously to speak vocally and to understand others by lip reading, so that they need not pass through the hell of chaos with which other deaf children begin their existence.

We are scientific in Palestine. We have correct statistics even when we have no money to pay the statistician. We know that besides these twenty-five deaf children who are being saved for a human and creative life, there are still scattered through the country seventeen other little deaf and therefore dumb Jewish children for whom there is at present no possibility to attend the school to be given the key that will open for them the world of thought and society. Days pass, years pass, the elasticity of childhood passes, and so these deaf children are

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doomed for all their days to the prison of primal ignorance. There is room for them in the school, which, housed in spacious sanitary quarters in the Alliance Israélite building, awaits their coming. But there is no money to board them in Jerusalem; for since the school has no dormitory, its pupils must all be boarded in private homes which fortunately have been well chosen by the director of the school. As most of the children are from the poorest of homes, their board is paid from a special and limited fund for that purpose. For these other seventeen children there is nothing left! £P.3 (\$15) a month for each would save them from their doom.

The school is supported by the legacy of a Jew, Léon Lévi, who died in Shanghai in 1929, and left a sum of money to the Alliance Israélite in Paris for a school for

Who's Who at Seychelle

OF none of the members of the now disbanded Arab Higher Committee who have been deported to the Seychelle Islands in the Indian Ocean, can it be said that they constituted the inspiration of the extremist Arab leadership in Palestine. The moving spirits of this leadership were either not arrested or succeeded in escaping.

Senior in point of years among those now at the Islands is Ahmed Hilmi Pasha, who is 55. His career has taken him longer or shorter periods to many countries of the Near East, although by origin he is Turkish. In Damascus during the Ottoman regime he was a Government auditor; during King Feisal's short-lived reign over Syria, he became Minister of Finance. Transjordan knew him next, as Director of the Treasury, but he did not retain this post for long, being sent into exile by the French (Transjordan at that time was under French control) for subversive political activities. In 1926 he participated in the Syrian revolt against France. Thereafter he immigrated to Palestine, where the Haj Amin el Husseini, appointed him to an office in the administration of the Wakf funds. But continued intrigue in Syrian politics earned him deportation also from Palestine. Several years of hardship in Egypt were brought to an end, when Haj Amin secured his pardon from the Palestine Administration; he returned to office in the Wakf administration. When his wealthy son-in-law, Abdul Hamid Shouman, now under arrest in Jerusalem, took a prominent part in the establishment of the Arab Bank, Ahmed Hilmi Pasha was appointed its General Manager. In the Arab Higher Committee he acted as Treasurer, and thus doubtless knows more than anyone else, except Haj Amin, about the sources and distribution of the considerable funds expended during last year's strike and revolt.

Dr. Hussein Fakhri Bey Khalidi, Mayor of Jerusalem until now, is experiencing deportation for the first time. The burly, loud-voiced ex-Mayor was born in Jerusalem 50 years ago. His family is a distinguished one and contains many scholars and professional men. Educated at the American University of Beirut, Constantinople and Germany, he qualified in medicine shortly before the outbreak of the War, during which he served in the Turkish forces with distinction. After the Allied Occupation he was appointed to the Department of Health.

Until the appointment of Haj Amin as Mufti of Jerusalem, Dr. Khalidi took no part in Arab political life. Then, however, he joined the opposition to the Mufti, his father having been Haj Amin's principal rival for that

deaf and dumb children anywhere in the Near East that they might decide. At that time a small school for deaf and dumb children existed in Palestine, founded under difficult conditions to meet an elementary need, and subsidised by gifts from America through the efforts of Mrs. Stephen S. Wise, who maintained the school for two years and so created a nucleus which probably was the magnet that drew the Lévi legacy to Palestine.

There are seventeen more deaf Jewish children in Palestine, without any language, waiting for the bread of speech, the possibility to enter this school, little dumb animals with human hearts and brains encased in silence. How can we be so deaf as not to hear their wordless cry!

JESSIE SAMPTER.

office. Before the last Jerusalem Municipal elections he deserted the Nashashibi opposition and supported the Mufti, in this way winning the Mayoral office from his erstwhile leader, Ragheb Bey Nashashibi. To buttress his position in political life, Dr. Khalidi formed the so-called Reform Party, consisting primarily of members of his own family. The reforms which it sought to achieve have always been wrapped in obscurity. By virtue of his leadership of this party he attained a seat on the Arab Higher Committee.

Yacoub Effendi Ghussein, 45, stout and hearty, was born in close proximity to Jews, his home Wadi Hanin, adjoining the Jewish village of Ness Ziona. His father, the "Bek" of the district, has always been highly respected alike by Arabs and Jews. To the latter he has sold large areas of land, and it was doubtless with the proceeds of some of these sales that his son so successfully prosecuted his political activities. Yacoub, who prides himself on knowing no language other than Arabic, became a leader fortuitously. When the Chairman of the Arab Youth Association of Jaffa, a member of the Khalidi family, was obliged to resign upon his appointment to a Government position, Yacoub Ghussein offered to support that body financially if he were elected to the vacant chairmanship. He was duly elected. Although he attempted to steer the Association along a non-partisan path, Ghussein soon found himself tending towards the Husseinis. Among his achievements was the organisation of the Arab youths who kept watch along the coast to prevent Jews from entering the country illegally. When the Arab Higher Committee was formed he was invited to join it as the head of a so-called political party.

Probably no one was more surprised than Fuad Saba himself at his sudden projection into the political limelight, and at his ultimate deportation. The son of an Arab Protestant clergyman, Rev. Saleh Saba, Fuad was born in Haifa 35 years ago. Graduating from the American University of Beirut he set up practice in Jerusalem as an accountant, in which profession he soon acquired high standing. Business men from as far afield as Beirut occasionally commissioned him to audit their books. It was through the medium of his occupation that he was first drawn into the political sphere, having been engaged to inspect the books of various Arab institutions, including the original Arab Executive. When Auni Bey Abdul Hadi vacated the post of Secretary of the Arab Higher Committee last year, Fuad Saba was appointed to it. As part of the propaganda activities of this Committee he edited an English weekly (entitled *Palestine and Transjordan*.)

Growth of National Capital

By W. DUESTERWALD

AN outstanding feature of the past year, which will almost certainly characterise the coming year, is the very marked increase in the share and importance of nationally-owned capital in the total volume of investment in Palestine. The gaps in private enterprise and initiative have been filled, at least partially, by public constructive effort. What is the significance of this new trend from a financial point of view?

It is not a matter for surprise if, in the present period of unrest, insecurity and depression, to which no immediate end is in sight, the individual capitalist adopts a more cautious attitude than formerly. This would apply particularly to new immigrants, who are still strange to the country, and therefore doubly chary of investing. From a long viewpoint, the present caution may prove to be mistaken, but it is an existing psychological fact which must be seriously taken into account. Fortunately, nationally-controlled capital has succeeded in bridging many of the gaps in private enterprise, though it has not been able to do so solely through the use of public funds. There has, rather, been a direct connection between public enterprise and the investment of privately-owned capital. The system has been to encourage private capital to participate in the development of the country along economic lines, but under the control of the public economic institutions. The public or semi-public undertakings have gradually gained for themselves so great a degree of confidence, that private capitalists are increasingly prepared to renounce direct control of their investment, and to place their capital at the disposal of these institutions for investment. As in this way, the capitalist frees himself from the normal entrepreneur's risk, he is prepared to renounce the profit of the entrepreneur, and contents himself with receiving a steady rate of interest on his capital.

Since the beginning of 1936, the capital invested in this way through the central financial institutions of the country has amounted to several million pounds. It is naturally difficult to draw a line between "normal" and "crisis" investments. The shares of the Anglo-Palestine Bank and the debentures of the General Mortgage Bank, for example, were purchased, even in good times, by active entrepreneurs as a sound investment for spare cash. But the *share* of this form of capital investment has risen appreciably, which indicates that some special force has been at work.

From the beginning of 1936 — to give a few examples — the paid-up capital of the Anglo-Palestine Bank has increased by about LP. 430,000. In the same period, the issue of debentures and shares of the Mortgage Bank has risen by LP. 800,000. Nir has doubled its share and debenture capital, involving a capital increase of LP. 250,000. The Palestine Land Development Co. has carried through a capital increase of more than LP. 100,000 in this same period, and the new financing company for public works, Bizur, has entered the market as an investment channel and has already sold about LP. 150,000 worth of debentures.

These share issues alone, which have been taken up mainly by private capitalists and small investors, have provided the five bodies mentioned with

LP. 1,750,000 of new capital for the financing of public or centralised activities. To these should be added the time deposits in the banks. In a period in which the total of bank deposits has remained stationary, the volume of time-deposits has risen from about one to 3.3 million pounds — at the expense of demand deposits. Demand deposits should also not be looked upon as idle capital. They are put to constant use by the banks as the basis for the short-term business and discount credit which is of vital importance in the country's economic life. But as our leading banks rightly placed great stress on a high degree of liquidity, the limits within which these funds can be used are fairly narrow. The depositors of demand deposits expressly stipulate that their capital may be withdrawn at any moment and put to work under their own personal control. But when such deposits are converted into time deposits, the depositors renounce their right of disposal for a fixed period, and officially surrender their capital to the bank, which assumes responsibility for its safety and for the return to them of a certain rate of interest. From the point of view of the capitalist, a fixed deposit in a bank has exactly the same significance as the purchase of a fixed interest-bearing security.

Altogether, LP. 2,750,000 of additional capital have been handed into the keeping of the central economic organs of the country during the last 18 months — either through the sale of the securities of public or semi-public institutions, or through the increase in time deposits in the banks. If we include the receipts of the national Funds, and various institutions not mentioned above, we come to the conclusion that the financial power of the public economic institutions has grown by at least 4 million pounds in this short period. This sum represents a considerable part of the total capital import. From 1st January 1936 till 30th June 1937, about 3,700 so-called "capitalists" entered the country, importing probably about 5½ million pounds of capital. In other words, an important part of the new capital import has not been invested directly by its owners, but through the means of central organisations. It is true that Jewish capital from abroad has also entered Palestine through other channels, and that security sales and bank deposits have also been financed by home capital left idle through the general slackness, or created in the ordinary process of capital formation. But on the other hand, it should not be forgotten that just in this period there have been losses of capital in Palestine, which have offset some of this local accumulation. All in all, the contention appears to be justified that the share of nationally-controlled capital has risen substantially. At a time in which so much depends on planned and purposeful construction, on the maintenance of initiative and the strengthening of the productive apparatus at its weakest points, this fact points to great possibilities for controlled economic action. It is just by those central bodies that so much can be done to keep the economic machinery in working order and to strengthen its foundations, until such time as more private capital will again be prepared to flow from abroad, and home capital loses something of its present reserve and caution.

DIGEST OF THE PALESTINE PRESS

PALESTINE REVIEW endeavours in these pages to present the views on current events of all parties and journals without necessarily identifying itself with any of the opinions expressed.

CONTINUATION AND NOT TRANSITION.

Davar (Hebrew, daily; Labour):—

We should not regard the period before us as one of transition. It ought to be but a continuation of our up-building work, whether it be based on the present legal situation, or a new political status is created. We must proclaim to the whole world that we are continuing our work, and cease to speak of a transition period. It is natural for the capitalist to hold back "until the storm passes" before investing. Let us not create for ourselves a status of transition, the period of which is not known to anyone. For this purpose I suggest that we should mutually agree in our internal discussions on the following understanding:—

Those who support the partition scheme should refrain from declaring that the failure to carry it out will mean a standstill, and deterioration of our whole economic structure. It is possible to describe all the positive aspects of a Jewish State without an exaggerated pessimistic belittling of the opportunities for advance which exist at present and will exist in the near future. It must also be clear that if partition is not carried out, for reasons independent of the Zionist Congress, we shall not surrender our enterprise, but carry it on under the prevailing conditions.

Those who oppose partition must refrain from arguing that if it is carried out under such conditions as its supporters are prepared to accept, the Jewish State will be unable to maintain itself economically. It is possible to describe all the negative aspects involved in establishing such a Jewish State without paralysing our economic activities at present and in the near future by exaggerating the economic dangers which may arise from partition. It must not be forgotten that from a far-sighted point of view, most of the economic disadvantages attributed to such a Jewish State can be attributed to the whole region of the Mandatory-regime. It should be clear that if partition is effected, independent of the Zionist Congress, we shall also continue our work under the conditions which may prevail.

STRENGTHENING OF THE CENTRE.

Haaretz (Hebrew, daily; General Zionist):—

Recent political events have pushed into second place the internal problems of the Yishuv and the Zionist Organisation. The neglect of our internal affairs does not mean strengthening the external front. Precisely at present, as the community is entering an era in which it will probably have to shoulder new political functions, it is essential to consolidate our internal forces, and in particular those of the community which are at present unorganised and do not therefore fulfil their proper function. This is particularly so in regard to the non-Labour element whose numbers are large, whose economic function is important, but, on the other hand, whose place in the administration of the affairs of the community and the movement in no way correspond to their true strength. These circles become active only at election time or internal crises, while a permanent organisation whose voice would be heard in all affairs, both local and Zionist, hardly exists. Hence their influence is so slight.

This was illustrated at the 20th Congress where the non-Labour element organised as General Zionists, composed nearly forty per cent. of the delegates. Yet what influence had they on the work of Congress and its resolutions? Such a situation is dangerous for the Zionist movement, and particularly the Jewish community in Palestine, seeing that the balance of forces in the Yishuv will leave its imprint on the political structure to be erected at the end of the coming transition period.

The vital necessity of changing this situation has latterly been realised to an increasing extent. The participation of a delegation of the Farmers' Federation at the Zionist Congress was one sign of this. Another was the negotiations at Zurich regarding the union of the two groups of General Zionists. The Congress did not provide the right atmosphere for such discussion, but now efforts are being made in Palestine along these lines.

The Passing Scene

POLITICAL FREEDOM.

Hayarden (Hebrew, weekly; organ of Zionist Revisionists):—

In an open letter to the Officer Administering the Government, Dr. A. Altman writes in reference to the arrest of a number of Jews under the Emergency Regulations and the Prevention of Crimes Ordinance:—

Why were just the members of the Zionist Revisionist Party arrested in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem? The impression has thereby been caused that their one fault is that they belonged to a certain party. This would have been intelligible had the party been illegal. But it is a lawful organisation, working in the open for the realisation of the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate which are part of the law of the land. It is said that these Jews were arrested to establish balance, but how can there be a balance between those responsible for disturbances and who are opposed to the law, and those who favour the observance of the law?

I am confident that it is realised that our movement cannot be paralysed by persecution. The noble English race has always appreciated the importance of freedom. The freedom given to political opinions and movements of all kinds in English-speaking countries has saved them from the political and social upheavals suffered by other European countries. The unfettered championship of various views is a healthy necessity of the State.

DAMASCUS AND PALESTINE SEDITION.

The Palestine Post (English: Daily):—

Damascus appears to have become not the city of refuge in which a political fugitive might properly seek domicile, but a hive of ill-concealed conspiracy against the Government of Palestine. Yet in Damascus, and over Damascus, there is France which is not less vitally concerned in the tranquillity of this part of the world than Britain herself, and it is not a little strange therefore that Damascus should become the jumping-off place for Palestine sedition. None who followed the fateful results of Anglo-French co-operation at Nyon a month ago could fail to be impressed and heartened by the solidarity and firmness displayed in the face of a menace to civilized government. Is the danger of continued unrest in Palestine so trivial or remote that Britain can afford to ignore the valuable help which France could give by seconding those measures by which, on October 1, Britain, as we then said, had struck a blow for civilization?

LETTER FROM NATANIA. Continued from page 451.

beautiful brown thoroughbred, took the lead. He sat his horse in magnificent style; horse and rider presented a uniform picture, a sculptured whole. With the reins in one hand, he waved the other with dramatic gesture, perfectly controlling his steed. His nearest rival, a *shomer* from Hadera, crouched low over his horse, urging every ounce of it, yet he could not overtake his rival. Twice they raced round and although other riders changed places, the first two continued their magnificent duel as though they alone held the field. In a swirl of dust and sand they came sweeping round the final bend, into the straight, and past the Judge's box. A storm of applause, alike from Jew and Arab, greeted the winner. Sayd, his face wreathed in smiles, rode round on his panting steed, cheered and congratulated by all. *Alhamdu' l'lahi*. (thanks to God) was all he answered.

Before the next race which was inevitably an anticlimax, took place, we were treated to an excellent exhibition of athletics by the Maccabi. The meet concluded in the evening with a grand *neshef* (dance). J. S.

It must seem almost a fulfilment of Bible prophecy this coming and going of ships of all nations to and from the port of Tel Aviv. The port grows from strength to strength as the months go by. As you see the proud ships standing out to sea, the busy shipwrights building the lighters, the men stripped to the waist, bodies bronzed, doing the work of dockers and the goods brought from the ends of the world mounting in the sheds, you get a feeling of pride in this splendid Jewish achievement. In the month of September alone ships from no less than sixteen countries discharged cargoes at the port. Four German boats were among those to discharge at the Jewish port. Compared with 10,000 tons of net registered tonnage in September 1936, the ships that discharged a year later returned a net tonnage of 67,000 tons. The total cargo handled 9,030 tons, was more than double that of September of the previous year. Nor must it be forgotten that all the Holy Days, New Year, Atonement, Tabernacles fell during the month, thus reducing the working days in which it was possible to discharge or take on cargo.

May the day be near when the gates will again be opened to healthy immigration and Jews will enter their country at their own port.

LIONS in Tel Aviv. There are actually two of them but they are in captivity, in the only zoo in the country, a small private collection of animals maintained by an enthusiast. The two lions, they are cubs, male and female,—have been loaned by the zoological gardens of Cairo for educational purposes. Children will be brought to see them instead of being satisfied with illustrations. They thrive on horse meat, which is supplied by the S.P.C.A. of Jaffa. Once lions did roam the Sharon but Palestine looked different then. Incidentally, though we have much bigger worries now, something should be done to convert the private collection into a municipal zoo and aviary, and thus reward the initiative of the owner and improve Tel Aviv's educational facilities.

THE frontier between Palestine and our northern neighbour, at Ras el Nakura, contains a no-man's land which isn't quite Palestine and isn't quite Syria. What are you to do, then, if there is a hold-up in this no-man's land? This is no academic question for certain highway robbers with, apparently, a full knowledge of the constitutional difficulties they were creating, held up a number of Arab travellers and demanded their clothes or their life, just at this very spot. Note, by the way, that they were very careful bandits. They threw their torchlights over the clothes of their victims and when they were satisfied with the tweed, the serge or the silk of the clothes they intended appropriating, they stripped the travellers and made off.


Then the authorities of the two countries began getting busy. Whose bandits were they? Was the hold-up nearer our boundary or theirs? So to give the robbers a good chance of taking proper advantage of the constitutional problem raised, the representatives of the two countries measured very carefully the distances and it was found that our northern neighbour won by a few metres.

So now the Lebanese will have the pleasure of tracking down, if they can, our Palestinian bandits.

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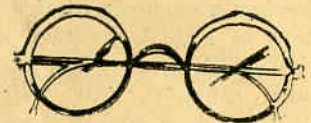
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