

THE PALESTINE TRIBUNE

INCORPORATING
HADAR

Vol. I. No. 30

THURSDAY, August 23, 1945

Price per Copy 40 Mils

w. hazel

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS

NOTES FROM THE SIDING

*

IS A YARKON PORT POSSIBLE?

*

POST-WAR LEGISLATION

*

CITRUS NEWS AND VIEWS

TRICOT-WEREL LTD.

Tel-Aviv



PRODUCES ALL KINDS
OF UNDERWEAR.



J. CEGLA & CO. LTD.

IMPORTERS / EXPORTERS

SPECIAL DEPARTMENT FOR:

CAROBS / FODDER / FERTILIZERS / SEEDS

HEAD OFFICE:

TEL-AVIV, 95 ROTHSCHILD BLVD. / TEL. 2182 / P. O. B. 1461

THE ANGLO-PALESTINE BANK LIMITED

ESTABLISHED 1902

BRANCHES:

TEL AVIV • JAFFA • JERUSALEM • HAIFA • HADAR HACARMEL
 PETAH TIKVA • HADERA • REHOVOT • TIBERIAS • SAFAD

AFFILIATIONS:

THE GENERAL MORTGAGE BANK OF PALESTINE LIMITED
 THE A. P. B. TRUST COMPANY LIMITED



קרבידן
CARBIDAN

מפעל קרביד חרשתי • PALESTINE CARBIDE WORKS

המשרד הראשי: רחוב החרשת 19, ת.ד. 143, סלפון 3619, תל-אביב
 בית החרשת ברמת-גן • FACTORY IN RAMAT-GAN
 HEAD OFFICE: 19, HAROSHET STREET, P. O. B. 143, PHONE 3619, TEL-AVIV



IZHAR

Edible Oil	Soft Soap
Olive Oil	Soap Flakes
Laundry Soap	Washing Powder
Toilet Soap	Oil Cakes
Textile Soap	Glycerine

IZHAR OIL INDUSTRY OF
 PALESTINE LTD.

P. O. B. 823, Tel Aviv, Phone 4210-4219



Three Trumps

THE PALESTINE TRIBUNE

INCORPORATING
HADAR

Vol. I. No. 30

THURSDAY, August 23, 1945

Price per Copy 40 Mils

CONTENTS:

NOTES FROM THE SIDING: Shuntee	1	PRAYER: J. Benghiat	10
IS A YARKON PORT POSSIBLE: B. K. Zipper	5	JAMES FINN, BRITISH CONSUL AT JERUSALEM: B. Z. Abrahams	10
THE NATIONAL DEMANDS OF EGYPT: D. Sitton	6	THOUGHTS ON PALESTINE YOUTH: O. Scharf	12
POST-WAR LEGISLATION: A. M. Apelbom	8	TEL AVIV AFFAIRS: J. Eisenberg	13
TRADE DISPUTES IN PALESTINE DURING THE WAR	9	CITRUS NEWS AND VIEWS	14

SHUNTEE:

NOTES FROM THE SIDING

A Telephone Conversation

IT STARTED WHEN THE TELEPHONE RANG AND INTERRUPTED my musings about atomic bombs and the like. I answered. The editor was at the other end.

"Listen," said he. "Mr. Bernstein has gone to London, and I want you to deputise for him and do the Current Topics in his absence."

"Not my line of business," I replied. "Why not try Zemliak?"

"He's too busy weeping for the Fleshpots of Egypt. And anyway, I want you."

"I know nothing about politics. And in any case, I'm on a siding."

"A what?"

"A siding—a railway-siding, you know."

"What are you doing there?"

"Just sitting around in a cattle-truck."

"Well, that may amuse you, but it's not getting me any forrarder," said he. "I want you to do the Current Topics or something in their place which will shame neither the Tribune, Mr. Bernstein nor myself. Can you do that from that cattle-truck on your siding?"

"It's a bit of a tall order, for obvious reasons," said I. "I know we're on the kicked end of politics anyway, but I don't trouble to analyse just who's going to kick us next and why, like Bernstein. You need his tolerance of human idiocies and bestialities for that, and the training of a social pathologist. I'm quite satisfied if I can only dodge my share of the kicks."

"So that's how you feel about it," said the editor. "I

don't know but what you mayn't be right into the bargain. But half a moment. That cattle-truck you were just talking about, Where is it?"

"On a railway-siding, of course."

"Yes, you told me so before. But since you're talking from there and answering me at the same time, I presume it's located outside space."

"For the moment, yes."

"Coming the Einstein and Kafka on me, are you? Who else is on your truck with you?"

"Well, you for one."

"And the whole of the human race into the bargain, I suppose, waiting to be blown to smithereens."

"Oh no, only the Jewish people."

"That's how it is, eh?" He paused a moment. "There's something in the idea. Destination unknown?"

"No longer. One of two. Either the deathcamps that will replace Treblinka or else the good old Jewish State."

"Whose? Herzl's, Jabotinsky's or Ben Gurion's?"

"It's quite irrelevant which, because any old how it's the one we've been after for close on nineteen hundred years. They're busy arguing the toss about it in London now. It's the same railway-siding but a different cattle-truck."

"Doesn't it depend on who pays the engine-driver to ignore what signals? And anyway, how about writing me some Notes from a Siding? On anything and everything that interests you from where you sit?"

"Now that's something like. I'll tackle it. Any technical instructions, law of libel and so on?"

No issue of THE PALESTINE TRIBUNE Incorporating Hadar was published on Thursday, August 16, 1945, on account of sickness among the Editorial staff.

"Leave all that to me. But remember that we pride ourselves on being Parliamentary."

"What's that mean?"

"Well, say we want to tell somebody to go to hell. That wouldn't be nice, would it? So we suggest that he might do us a favour and remove himself to the infernal regions See?"

"Yes. Do you use it often?"

"On the contrary. But you never can tell, can you? So I'll get your first Notes in time for the next issue."

And he rang off with a violence which rather surprised me. It wasn't till next morning I learnt that he had suddenly found himself at the less pleasant end of a bank hold-up. But there you are. Some people get all the fun. Others remain sitting in cattle-trucks on a siding.

Quite Comfortable, Thank You

THE TRUTH IS, OF COURSE, THAT OUR PARTICULAR cattle-truck is quite a comfortable one as cattle-trucks go. We have hot and cold water laid on, and thanks to deodorisation the smells of cattle-dung and B.O. are barely noticeable. In fact, the weather has to be mighty hot before it becomes really unpleasant. We have music for the musical, and the latest year-before-last films. Then we have lots and lots and lots of time for arguing and arranging political parties and drives and conventions and elections and funds and all kinds of good fun; and for disputing and quarrelling and wrangling and getting rid of all our spare energies, and a great deal we can't spare, in mutual recriminations and do-each-other-in-the-eye politics.

Well, in the days of Mendele Mocher Seforim our pas and uncles hid in attics and cellars, physical and mental. But nowadays we've got beyond that, what with progress. We're now all on the same journey and the same siding, even if we aren't all prepared to admit the fact. And maybe it really is just as well to keep up our self-respect as long as possible by going for one another bald-headed all the time.

Just like any other set of rats in a trap, in fact.

Al Deatefat...

IT IS VERY TOUCHING TO FIND MR. CHURCHILL signalling his new job as razz-leader to the Labour Government by voicing his concern for "the conditions under which the expulsion and the exodus of the Germans from the new Poland has been carried out. Enormous numbers are unaccounted for. Where have they gone? What is their fate? A similar condition may reproduce itself in a modified form in the expulsion of the Sudeten and other Germans from Czechoslovakia. It is not impossible that a tragedy on a prodigious scale is imposing itself behind the iron curtain which at present divides Europe in twain."

As a Jew who happens not to have been shunted off to Treblinka or Birkenau merely because he was in Palestine instead of Poland in 1939, I must confess that I find myself wondering why Mr. Churchill did not utter the identical sentiments about Jews say three years ago. If he had done so, it is possible that the Poles and Czechs might now be behaving in a slightly more humanitarian fashion.

Once upon a time, when I was much younger and used to go to synagogue, I studied *Abot*, the "Ethics of the Fathers." (Or maybe more correctly, *The First Principles of Human Behaviour*.) And there, I remember, I read of Hillel the Elder and the skull he saw floating on the water. "Because you drowned others," said Hillel to it, "you have been drowned, and those who drowned you will finish up by being drowned themselves."

Maybe it's not too pleasant to think that way, but

it's even less pleasant to have suffered from those who act that way. And in any case, it seems to be the way the wheel turns.

Al deatefat dtefuch. Because you drowned others you have been drowned. After all, if a large section of mankind go back to idolatry and outsize Moloch worship, it's not surprising that the Jealous God of the Bible should also reappear. Vengeance is His, be it remembered. Which means that for anybody else to know that the job of vengeance has been delegated to him, he has to be on fairly good terms with that God of Vengeance.

We, of course, come in as the first chap to be drowned. Somebody had to start the ball rolling. Any complaints? Well, buddy, isn't that just too bad.

The Atomic Bombs

YET IT IS IN THIS CONNECTION THAT I CAN'T HELP feeling a sense of justice, or balance, or humour, in that same God. In fact, that was what I had been musing on when the Editor phoned me as told above.

Here you have a world in which maybe six million people are destroyed without a word of serious protest, and without a single step being taken to prevent or stop that slaughter. Very good. Along come half a dozen or so of that same people and help to produce a weapon so potent that it threatens to destroy the whole of that indifferent world.

I don't claim that the Jews who took a hand in devising the atomic bomb were thinking in any way of their people; but as a Jew who is becoming more and more reconciled, while I wait on my cattle-truck, to the outmoded superstitions of my people, I like to think that Somebody Somewhere may have been. Still, one thing remains quite clear to me. The human intelligence which produced the atomic bomb remains greater than that bomb, even though it may be destroyed by its own works.

That, somehow, does not strike me as being likely to happen. When we first read about U. 234, I think it was, some five to six years ago, the generally expressed fear was that if that source of energy were tapped, it might lead to the break-up of the world. Each atom being a self-contained unit, some people thought it possible that by breaking one up you might start a process which would extend to all the others like a contagious disease; a sort of endless knocking-down of atomic ninepins, world without end, amen. Now the fact that such bombs have been used would seem to imply that this is not the case. These bombs may be so effective that they make T.N.T. and Ecrasite block-busters look like penny crackers, but they seem to operate in the same way pretty much. Hiroshima was reduced to dust, smoke and ashes, undoubtedly, but the atoms of which it was composed would still appear to be in existence. Though I don't know whether the former inhabitants of Hiroshima worry about the difference.

Now since the effect of the atomic bomb is due to an instantaneous release of energy instead of a slow one, the best method of control would be to devise a way of preventing that instantaneous release in a given area. And I have an idea that during the next few years we shall hear a lot about neutralising factors, screens of force and the like.

Any old how, since there are probably less than a hundred men in the world who really know what it is about, my guess remains as good as the next man's. But life is probably going to be much harder henceforward for Professor Farkas at the Hebrew University. When he has visitors in his laboratories up on Mount Scopus, it is doubtful whether it will be possible to quiet their curiosity by the

sight of a smoking flagon of liquid air or a differential balance. I am sure that in future nothing less will satisfy them than the sight of a positron ousting a neutron, an electron feeding on the square root of minus one or vice versa.*

President Truman's Statement

IN THIS CORNER OF THE CATTLE-TRUCK WHICH I have made my own, I found President Truman's statement about me and the likes of me edifying. But some of my neighbours, anxious and nervous, were afraid that some unkindly elements might decide that their function in life is to prevent the question from being solved peacefully; which the President postulates as a *conditio sine qua non*. They were also very upset at the statement about no intention of sending half a million troops to Palestine to maintain peace. (Not a bad idea, incidentally. It would mean one G.I. to every three of the local population. Now we know how we rate, my roaring boys.)

But it seemed to me, putting in my thumb in best pilpulistic style and pulling out a dialectical plum, that the President's words carry certain interesting implications, or else they would have been framed differently. The statement was made not only to us but equally to American oil concessionaires and say to our good neighbour King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud. As the cards are now stacked, it seems to mean, Palestine and the Middle East remain a specifically British Sphere of Influence; and anybody, Jew or Gentile, who thinks he can work up trouble between John Bull and Uncle Sam hereabouts has another think coming. Incidentally, Marshal Stalin was given the polite brush-off in charming fashion, and told not to try and queer anyone else's pitch.

In which connection I wish Zionist leaders and others would occasionally check up. The Order in Council under which this country is governed gives three reasons for the British to be here. One is the Balfour Declaration and Palestine Mandate; the second I misremember but I think it was the Declaration and Mandate over again in other words; the third is the fact that Britain is in Palestine by right of conquest.

"Why was I not greeted by a salute of cannon?" Good Queen Bess asked the Mayor of some town or other into which she rode. "For seventy-seven excellent reasons, Your Majesty," quoth he, "of which the first is that we have no gunpowder." "Marry then," replied the Queen, "You may spare me the other seventy-six."

P. S. — My pessimistic neighbours are already pointing with lugubrious satisfaction to the Arab reactions. Well, if the Jews of Europe aren't going to be allowed here, it might be just as well to increase the ranks of Coast and Frontier Guards in Great Britain and U.S.A. Not that any increase will help much. Since the poor devils will not stay in Europe and propose to go somewhere, it's going to be mighty hard to stop them when they take up their crutches and walk.

I wonder, by the way. Twenty-odd years ago a certain not unimportant personage who has since attained even greater prominence was heard to remark that it didn't much matter what those chiefs call themselves as long as they did what was wanted of them. Has he changed his mind? And who is to do the wanting, any old how? Suppose we do a trifle for a change?

Of Nevill Barbour

AND THAT IN TURN BRINGS NEVILL BARBOUR to mind. A couple of months ago he published an article on the Arab World in the "Spectator". According to him the aim of the Arab World is the revival of the Arab Califate

— in a form that would be adapted to modern times and, probably, without any actual Calif. (Saving his reverence, I must say that Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark isn't a patch on this). Arab independence has been largely secured and an Arab League formed in the face of bitter Zionist-Jewish hostility. (One looks in vain for Jewish Pluto-Communists here as well. And incidentally, have the Iroquois or Cherokees or whoever it may be, made peace with Germany yet in connection with the First World War? As they used to say in the North Country "Doant coom the assing!" At Marble Arch the response was "Come awf it!", or else a Bronx cheer).

A Jewish State differentiated from the environment by language, religion and political orientation would be quite incompatible with the Arab idea. (But suppose the Jews were to adopt Arabic as their language, Islam as their faith and take that particular political orientation desiderated by all Arab leaders in all *sub rosa* talks with Jews? How would matters stand? Or suppose they only did the last of the three? What would the position of the Jews be? That's an easy one. They would be left holding the baby, say cynics. While sentimentalists argue that if we have to choose, we'd sooner be on bad terms with shall I say A than with B.)

That Jewish State could only be set up by the prolonged use of force. (Set up, mind you—not maintained.) The establishment of such a State, if not actually debarred by the terms of the Balfour Declaration, was certainly not promised or even implicit in it. (That must be taken fast and was there incorporated in a good long sentence saying Three Cheers for the White Paper; otherwise somebody might ask inconvenient questions about the evidence of the War Cabinet before the Peel Commission, and Mr. Barbour would have to insist on the strictly verbal accuracy of his statement, and somebody else might talk of pettifoggery. Meanwhile the Spectator has lugged out the Balfour Declaration again. Of which more hereafter.)

But back to the good work, camerados. Mr. Barbour envisages a stipulation that regulations discriminating against Jewish settlement and immigration should be withdrawn as soon as the discriminatory stipulations of the Mandate in favour of Jewish settlement and immigration have themselves been abolished. (In short, one minus one equals nought. Mind you, he prefers not to introduce the issue of relative implementation here, though I'm sure that a metaphysician of his stature could have gone to town on it.)

Apart from all this, and somewhat earlier on, it is too often forgotten that in the minds of such men as Sir Mark Sykes and Colonel Lawrence (if you must hang yourself there is a Talmudic saying with which Mr. Barbour ought still to be familiar, choose a high tree), the consideration which the Arabs were to receive in return for the establishment of a Jewish National Home in Palestine was assistance on the part of World Jewry in support of Arab aspirations in general. (How about that dinky little Feisal-Weizman Agreement? It wasn't Weizman who introduced jokers about Third-party risks. I think I may safely say that all the Jews of the world, Zionist or non-Zionist, Revisionist, Agudat or Communist would still be prepared to abide by it; but will not be stopped, and certainly not under present conditions, by such helpful attempts as Mr. Barbour's at fomenting friendly relations.)

The real purpose of his article was to remind General de Gaulle in return for his proposal of a Middle East Five Power Conference, that he had North Africa to worry about. That a gentleman, as we remember him, like Mr. Barbour should find it possible to indulge en passant in a little

Jew-baiting friendly-like seems to show that there has been a definite deterioration in the standard of good manners within responsible British circles. That's what comes of doing anti-Nazi radio propaganda maybe. You can't touch pitch without being amucked.

What he has done in this article is tantamount to kicking a man while he's down. He may have come across the pregnant Hebrew expression *sh'efichat damim*, or bloodshed, for this while he was engaged on the translation of Bialik's *Sefer Agada*. (A propos, has it ever appeared in print?) There was no real call for him to act the part of Belial and make the worse appear the better reason. The case of the Arabs against the Jews is strong enough without that, God knows, being the old legal maxim that in ownership disputes possession is nine points of the law.

But I am reminded of an occasion in 1936 when Mr. Barbour held converse in Jerusalem with a number of simple-minded orthodox Jews. One of them, in right good style, said that maybe Divine Providence had put the British in India in order that they might come to help the restoration of the Jews in Palestine. To which Mr. Barbour retorted, "On the contrary, maybe Divine Providence requires the presence of a certain amount of Jews in Palestine in order to help maintain the British in India".

So there you are. You pays your money and makes your choice. As long as it's quite clear to both sides that it isn't the same Divine Providence they are talking about, it's O.K. by me.

Of the Parcels Post

IT IS TIME TO PROCEED FROM TRIFLES, NAMELY THE entertainment we in the cattle-trucks obtain daily through the press, to really important matters like drains, water supply and so forth. Not long ago I was at the Tel Aviv Parcels Post Office, and it struck me that there is some room for improvement. (Not in the staff, mind you. The way the Jewish postal staff copes with its unbelievable burden of work under inconceivably cramped conditions, and while suffering from shortage of hands, is beyond all praise.)

First of all, is there any reason why inland parcels should not be delivered at home as is done throughout the civilised world? I can quite see that parcels from abroad require Customs handling, though even then they could be sent on, and the postman receive the Customs dues and give the necessary receipt. But there are no Customs considerations in respect of inland parcels. How about it, Mr. Postmaster-General?

Apart from this, there should be a couple of signs up indicating which clerk deals with what. And in addition, the counter, when I was there, seemed to be woefully understaffed. Couldn't some arrangement be made so that when there are more than say ten people standing waiting, a third relieving clerk should be deputed to take something off the hands of the other two?

These suggestions are made not in any spirit of carping criticism. They are put forward for what they are worth.

Peace

INCIDENTALLY, PEACE HAS COME. AT LEAST, IF IT IS not quite here at the time of writing, it is well on the way. What should one say of it? Clearly this is not an occasion for wishing one another many happy returns. Will it at last be possible to find some way of diverting Man's combative instincts to more productive ends? Here in my cattle-truck I hope so with all my heart.

Commodity Controls

I OFFER NO APOLOGY FOR QUOTING SOME REMARKS recently made in London by Mr. Mackenzie Hay, Chairman of the British Federation of Commodity and Allied Trades Association, at that body's general meeting. For his words apply almost precisely, *mutatis mutandis*, to the situation in this country.

A year ago, said he, we publicly declared our conviction that as long as a degree of scarcity existed in any commodity it would be in the national interest for some measure of control to continue; and we likewise declared our belief that control for control's sake could only operate to the national disadvantage in the efforts that will have to be made to restore normal life.

"It is sometimes alleged that all we — who believe that the greatest freedom for markets and trade is the quickest and surest road to reconstruction and recovery — are really interested in is to get back to the economic conditions which obtained before the war. I do not think it can be too strongly emphasised that the merchant community would regard any such outcome as calamitous to British and world trade, as well as inimical to its own self-interest.

"In appealing for a return to sanity in international trading relations and for the removal of all those vexatious restrictions and restraints which for so long have cluttered up and clogged the wheels of commerce and prevented the free movement of goods and services between the nations," Mr. Mackenzie Hay wished it to be crystal clear "we are not in any sense suggesting a return to the policy of *laissez faire*."

The merchanting community, no less than others, recognised fully that the policy of *laissez faire* served its purpose in its time and generation, and that there could be no return to it. What they asked was that, following the achievement of plans which they hoped might bring to the world a sense of political security, Government would endeavour to liberalise trade, and then commercial politics, through the conclusion of an International Trade Agreement conceived "on the widest possible multilateral lines."

"We recognise, Mr. Hay concluded, that during the early stages of transition, and perhaps for a fairly long period, such a country as our own will be faced with many difficult problems, including that of its balance of payments, which will call for a great measure of co-operation between the Government and traders. We have urged that in so far as controls may be necessary, the instruments of control should be the Trade Associations themselves rather than the Civil Service."

I do not suppose that everybody in Palestine would agree 100% with the latter point; but some of our own Trade Associations certainly would.

Have you given a standing order for The PALESTINE TRIBUNE yet?

B. K. ZIPPER:

IS A YARKON PORT POSSIBLE?

SOME WEEKS AGO I PUBLISHED TWO ARTICLES IN The Palestine Tribune (Nos. 20 & 22) under the title "Port Problems in Palestine". In The Palestine Tribune (No. 25) Mr. Herzl Zuckerman, of the Marine Trust Ltd., published a letter dealing in rather summary fashion with that particular part of my articles which had dwelt on the possibility of utilizing the river Yarkon in connection with the creation of port facilities worthy of the name at Tel-Aviv. Taking into consideration the basic importance of this matter to the Yishuv, the Jewish people as a whole and the Middle East, I feel justified in dealing with his rebuttals point by point.

Mr. Zuckerman's first claim is that the statistics used by me are of no use at all for sundry reasons. To this it is only fair to retort that my studies in respect of marine and land transport, past, present and future, in Palestine and its hinterland are based on the current statistical publications of the Government, the Jewish Agency and the latter's Economic Research Institute, as well as various publications deriving directly or indirectly from the Marine Trust itself. Apart from this I have taken into consideration the scope and structure of Palestine's foreign trade, the distribution of the country's Customs receipts by individual Customs Offices, the state of Palestine's shipping in relation to our foreign trade with other countries each separately considered, the current railway reports, etc.

It is true that in view of the war-time blackout on all traffic and transport figures, the only specific statistic material available was based on the preceding period of peace. But it seems to me that numerical facts regarding the situation and phenomena of our ports during the war would be of very little relevance in respect of conclusions to be reached for the transition period following. The needs and demands of the two periods are so different as to be almost, if not quite, impossible of reduction to a common denominator. In spite of this I have given full credit to the increased capacity achieved during the war at the Haifa port, though making the necessary deductions for peace-time traffic.

On the basis of more than three decades spent in, if I may say so, what may fairly be described as quite responsible functions connected with traffic and transport in Central and Eastern Europe, I have tried to gauge the tendencies of Palestine's overseas trade even for the early post-war years. It further seems to me, again on the basis of rather more than a generation of experience, that statistical material in our peculiar circumstances can only be used for purposes of illustration, since precise and up-to-date figures cannot well be available yet. Nobody knows better than Palestine Jewry how statistics can be misused. I would like to request Mr. Zuckerman, in the interests of the subject itself, to indicate precisely what the nature of my errors may be, and where specifically they are to be found.

Mr. Zuckerman appears to disagree with the issues I have chosen and the methods in which I have presented them. However, it has now been a more or less generally accepted axiom for several hundreds of years that in the pursuit of knowledge any problem may be posed, and any method of satisfactorily achieving its solution may be employed. As a writer dealing with the science of transport I have always made use of this right, and propose to continue to do so.

The objections posed by Mr. Zuckerman under of his letter refer to the central problems of Palestine's ports. Below I shall endeavour to confront the views of my opponents in somewhat detailed fashion with the theses I have formulated; and to draw logical conclusions.

a) I recommend the construction of a second deep-sea port at the mouth of the Yarkon; whereas Mr. Zuckerman proposes the building of a deep-sea harbour on the open coast of Tel-Aviv, in the immediate vicinity of the mouth of the Yarkon.

In my previous articles I endeavoured to indicate the unsuitability for sea traffic of our coast south of Mount Carmel; and stressed that a coastal port must suffer from the unfriendliness of Nature. It is impossible to deal in really full detail, in such an article as this, with the natural conditions and their effect on any coastal port; yet it seems only fair to mention the following as relevant to our theme.

For centuries there has been neither erosion nor accretion worthy of their name along our south coast. But our coast has been and is possibly still undergoing a process of sinking, which has led to a flooding of the fore shore. The best evidence of this can be found in the remains of the ancient port outworks at Caesarea, Athlit, Jaffa and elsewhere, which now lie below the surface of the sea. A sunken coast in the immediate vicinity of reefs makes it impossible to navigate in the immediate vicinity of our coast. The wandering dunes along the shore would scarcely increase the productive capacity of a trading port whose shore area would have to lie near them or possibly in their midst.

The Phoenician cities which once ruled the seas lay north and not south of the Carmel. It is scarcely accidental that all the coastal ports of the Hellenistic, Roman and Crusader periods which lay south of the only curve in our coast have disappeared without a trace. On the other hand the ancient harbours of Alexandria (protected by the lengthy island of Pharos which has since joined the mainland) or Athens, in the bays of Pireaus and Zea, have not only continued to exist till our own day but are still expanding.

Another instructive example from the years 1859-69 which is to be found in the immediate vicinity of our own southern frontier, should be mentioned here as an illustration. The Firman of the Egyptian Khedive Said issued to Ferdinand de Lesseps in 1854 required the latter to undertake not only the construction of the Suez Canal but also "the construction of two spacious entries, one in the Mediterranean and the other on the Red Sea....." At the northern end of the Canal De Lesseps built a canal city and canal port called Port Said, having at its eastern end a Lido which separates Lake Menzala (lying in the North-Eastern Nile delta) from the Mediterranean. In the south he established the canal port of Suez, south-east of which the canal itself is excavated for a further four kilometres till it runs into the Red Sea. Thanks to the selected situation it was possible to build over against Port Said the new Port Fuad as well as the two Ports Ibrahim and Taufiq south of Suez all this following the death of De Lesseps.

Specialists can well imagine the difficulties De Lesseps would have had to face if he had then had the unhappy idea of constructing his terminal ports on the open sea. If that had happened Port Said would certainly never have had a taxable transit traffic of about 35,000,000 registered tons and 500,000 passengers annually.

A historical fact which may well be borne in mind here is the following: The armies of all those who con-

quered this country from the West have either landed from the sea in the Bay of Acre, or else have marched into the country on foot either from Egypt or from Asia. But there has never been any military landing on our coast South of Mount Carmel.

If a comparison is made with port history abroad, we observe that even excellent ports on the open coast are tending to decline (Cherbourg, Brest, Havre, Boulogne, Calais, Dunkirk, Ostend, Vliessingen, Cuxhaven, Bremerhaven, Swinemunden, Pillau, etc.); whereas until the World War neighbouring ports which faced inland were flourishing (Rouen, Ghent, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Hamburg, Bremen, Stettin, Koenigsberg, etc.).

George Adam Smith, who sailed the length of the Palestine coast twice, summed up his impressions in the following characteristic words:

"It seemed, as I sailed along this coast, as if the land were everywhere saying to the sea: I do not wish for you, I do not need you!"

Remarks of a similar nature can be found in the Bible and in other geographies.

Let us assume, though we do not admit, that the proposed deep-sea port along the Tel-Aviv coast will be built. In that case the schematic plan of such a port would have to be somewhat as follows:

In order to secure calm water in all weathers, the port's outworks and breakwaters would have to be thrust out into the sea, probably for a distance of kilometres. In view of the physical nature of our coast-line, and also in view of the direction of the prevailing winds, the approach by sea and other natural phenomena which are of importance for navigation, it would be necessary to construct a very broad avant-port beyond the entry to the port proper, in order adequately to protect the internal roadstead and inner parts of the port from the sea winds, the waves and the breakers. These could only be satisfactorily mastered by a combination of moles and breakwaters. Now a breakwater lying lengthwise like an island immediately at the port entry, such as would have to be built, would compel ships to take a zigzag course on arrival and departure, which would be dangerous for navigation, particularly in bad weather. It would be inadvisable to recommend any arbitrary shift of the port entry from west to north or south despite the fact that this would render the construction of an avant-port and breakwater unnecessary. If such an entry were to be made, the ships would not be assisted into port by either the prevailing winds or the waves themselves; which is a fundamental consideration when selecting the point of port entry. Apart from this ships would be com-

pelled to cross stormy waves at an acute angle that might be anything up to 90°, with the resultant danger of being driven off their course and on to the neighbouring port structures.

If the entry is shifted to the side the resultant basin would be long and narrow, which is unfavourable for purposes of exploitation. Further, the port would need to take up several kilometres of coast-line. Any reduction of this scale could only be achieved by cutting basins into the land or by a comblike planning of the anchorages or quays; which would almost certainly prove impossible in a narrow basin.

The provision of a roadstead and quay walls with fixed port moles on the open coast brings the port builder face to face with a very thorny problem. How large is the port reserve for future expansion to be? If the selected reserve proves to be too large for the actual requirements of the future, it means the misdirection of large quantities of the invested capital. If, however, the port reserves prove to be too small, then the port builder has made a grave mistake which in practice cannot well be put right.

On the other hand, any existent port reserve of a river port can subsequently be increased without difficulty by extension up the river. Whereas the as yet unbuilt quay areas of a deep-sea port must always lie within the port proper, the port reserve can be protected by light dams in riverine harbours. In fact, the bank of a river in itself often provides a natural defence against the movement of land masses.

In the case of river ports structural work is done on land, and it is possible to use even unskilled labourers for earth works and supporting works. The structure of exposed port outworks, drying of excavations, securing of adequate depth and of good anchorage beds, etc., in the sea, all require highly skilled workers who, in this case, would have to be brought to Palestine from abroad.

This sociological factor must also be taken into account in the choice of a commercial port. Naturally there are many other considerations which serve to indicate the structure of a river port rather than a coastal port, but with which there is no room to deal here.

Lastly, I wish to stress the following: the structure of a coastal port in an unfavourable natural situation and in the immediate proximity of a powerful coastal current would constitute an anomaly for which, to the best of my knowledge, there is no analogy in the whole history of modern port and harbour structure. Whatever we may ultimately do here, it is my hope that we shall not attempt to do anything that runs counter to the accumulated experience of hundreds upon hundreds of years.

(To be completed)

D. SITTON:

THE NATIONAL DEMANDS OF EGYPT

THE WAFD PARTY IN EGYPT, WHICH IS AT PRESENT in opposition, recently submitted a memorandum to the British Government through Lord Killairn, British Ambassador at Cairo, stating Egypt's demands for changes in the 1936 British-Egyptian treaty. In this memorandum, which is unusually brief, Mustapha Nahas Pasha demands on behalf of the Egyptian people, represented according to him by the Wafd, the following two things: complete withdrawal of the British army from Egypt; and a final solution of the problem of the Sudan in a fashion satisfactory to Egyptian interests.

The memorandum demands in particular that the negotiations between Egypt and Britain should be conducted prior to the Peace Conference, in order to fix the relations between the two powers.

It is doubtful whether the Wafdist leaders themselves really believe that Britain would be prepared to enter upon such immediate negotiations as they demand. There has just been a change of government in Britain, and until Labour begins to run the affairs of the British Empire properly, and acquires some practical familiarity with all issues involved, discussions affecting the fate of the British Empire for

generations are scarcely probable. Apart from this also even if British Labour statesmen agree to commence negotiations, they will presumably insist on waiting until Japanese problems have been settled, before dealing with the military problems involved in treaty changes from the viewpoint of Imperial interests.

The Second World War has again demonstrated the strategic importance of Egypt for the British Empire. Modern warfare and its methods have once more converted that country into a vital centre for Imperial communications; despite the fact that the Suez Canal was closed during the years between Italy's entry into the war, and its capitulation. Egypt became the leading air junction between East and West, and its importance increased with the development of air traffic. Apart from which this war has clearly shown that the defence of Egypt and the Suez Canal cannot be secured merely from the Canal area, as was assumed in the military plans of 1936. The air attacks on Egypt were conducted from afar.

Every military discussion aiming to secure the defence requirements of Egypt as a nodal point in the Empire will have to treat Egyptian strategy not only from its local but equally from its international aspect. Hence changes in the treaty cannot be arranged off-hand, but will call for exceedingly careful consideration and discussion.

The Wafd leaders are quite aware of this. Nevertheless they have found the present moment a suitable one for submitting Egypt's national demands to the British Government. This they have done for internal Egyptian reasons.

Last October the Wafd suddenly found itself flung into the role of opposition. Since it boycotted the elections held last winter it is not represented in Parliament; and it is now endeavouring to interfere with the activities of the Coalition Government headed by Mahmud Fahmi Nokrashi, head of the Saad party.

Since the signature of the Treaty in 1936 the Wafd has been deprived of power twice, at the end of 1937 and in October 1944. On both occasions King Farouk used the powers granted him under the Egyptian Constitution in order to remove the party of which he personally disapproves.

As in 1937, so in 1944 the Wafd suffered a severe blow. The foundations of the party were almost overthrown. In both cases the Coalition governments which assumed power included not only the rival parties to the Wafd but also important sections of the Wafd itself. The latter broke away in 1937 and established the Saad party headed by the late Dr. Ahmed Maher. Last year again the Kothla (Bloc) party was established, headed by William Makram Obeid, the Copt Christian who for so many years served as secretary and brains of the Wafd party, and as the right-hand man of Mustapha Nahas Pasha. These Coalition governments are faithful to their cause, and wage bitter war against the Wafd and its leaders.

Ever since censorship of the press has been abolished in Egypt the Wafd press has engaged in harsh attacks on the present government. These papers accuse the government of dictatorship, and urgently demand fresh elections in order "to give the Egyptian people the opportunity of taking its fate in its own hands." The Wafd exploits every weakness that the Coalition government has to show in order to compel it to come out and face fresh elections. The Egyptian Government's lack of success at San Francisco, where Egypt was not made a member of the Security Council, is represented by the Wafd as a failure of the Coa-

lition; though it is doubtful whether the Wafd itself would have been able to do any better if it had then been in power.

However, the parties constituting the Coalition government do not remain passive. It is true that there are differences of opinion among them as to the policies to be adopted towards the Wafd. Makram Obeid, who is Minister of Finance, demands that the Wafd be treated severely and brought before the courts to account for the funds wasted by Nahas Pasha and his companions when they were in power, but Mahmud Fahmi Nokrashi, the Premier, tends to show greater leniency. It seems that these differences of opinion may produce a crisis in the government, and may cause the resignation of Makram Obeid and his followers. The Wafd charge that the Government, being elected in non-parliamentary fashion, does not express the desire of the Egyptian people is countered in the Government press by the fact that in February 1942 the Wafd was raised to power following the somewhat urgent request of Lord Killairn, at a time when British tanks were guarding the Royal Palace.

However, circumstances in 1942 were not the same as they are now. At the end of January, 1942, the non-party government of Hussein Sirri Pasha was compelled to resign, and King Farouk decided to call on Ali Maher Pasha to establish a new government. Though Ali Maher was known to be a faithful supporter of the Court, he was also known to have somewhat less than pro-British tendencies. His rise to power at that particular time clearly meant some difficulties for Britain. Lord Killairn therefore explained to the King, on the occasion of a visit, that Ali Maher Pasha should scarcely be permitted to serve as Premier, in view of his pro-Italian feelings. And Lord Killairn therefore proposed that Nahas Pasha be called in.

The situation today, however, is very different. Nevertheless, the Wafd uses anti-British pressure by submitting this Memorandum in order to help itself rise to power once again. Before the results of the British elections were known it was hinted from London that Britain would be prepared to negotiate for changes in the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty only with a delegation representing all Egyptian parties, as was the case in 1936.

Which means that the British stipulate that negotiations shall be conducted with the participation of the Wafd; and any participation of the Wafd signifies its return to power.

The leaders of the Wafd will employ every possible opportunity of shaking the foundations of the Coalition government. If Britain should in the near future decide to negotiate with Egypt for changes in the Treaty, it will mean that the Wafd takes over the government of Egypt once again.

PLACE YOUR ORDER WITH

M. SHOHAM'S PRESS

6, Finn Street, Tel-Aviv

P.O.B. 576

TELEPHONE 2239

A. M. APELBOM:

POST-WAR LEGISLATION

IT IS SAID THAT THE RECENT JOURNEY OF THE CHIEF Justice to England, the new appointments in the Judicial Department and the mysterious activities which appear to animate the Attorney General's office are straws in the wind indicating that our legislature has also entered the field of post-war reconstruction and is now busy drawing up a set of blue-prints for a better legal system and smoother judicial machinery.

Unfortunately our legislature functions behind closed doors; and though we are usually allowed a period of at least thirty days to examine, digest and comment on the finished product, we can take no really active part in drawing up the laws which will model our lives, impinge on our activities and regulate our social and commercial dealings. But there is nothing to prevent us from examining our present system in a game of make-believe, picking out any defects we may find, and imagining how we would remedy them if we had any say in the matter.

WHAT IS OUR LAW?

Our legal system is plethora. It is congested with Ottoman laws, English laws and Religious laws. It is interpreted by reference to Turkish jurists and Turkish case law, French commentators, and English, Dominion and Colonial case law. It is enacted by His Majesty in Council, the Mother of Parliaments at Westminster, the High Commissioner in Council, the Chief Justice, Government Departments and local authorities. It takes the form of Orders-in-Council, Imperial legislation, Ordinances, Emergency and Defence Legislation, Rules of Court, Departmental Orders and Municipal by-laws. All these intermingle and overlap. They contradict the one, repeat the second and conflict with the third. Some lie dormant, only to be discovered by ingenious lawyers in order to upset a long and consistent line of action. Others (such as certain sections of the Trading with the Enemy and Food Control Ordinances) are altered practically from week to week when and as any loophole is discovered; so that they can now be used to truss up the citizen and serve him to the Courts of Justice like a turkey ready for the feast.

In this uncharted morass the layman plods his weary way unhelped, for "every man is presumed to know the law". Fortunately the maxim does not appear to apply to lawyers as such; for no conscientious practitioner can give a direct answer to most of the legal problems put to him. In Palestine Counsel's opinion is always evasive and non-committal. It must contain the underlying reservations that an accepted interpretation may be altered by the Court; that of two conflicting laws a judge may choose the one or the other; or that a long line of decisions may be summarily set aside for considerations of expediency, described as "the merits of the case".

Judicial inconstancy as between practice, which makes light of the sanctity of precedent, and theory, which purports to apply the rigid English doctrine of adherence to decided cases, forms a complete maze in itself. Time and again the Supreme Court has solemnly laid down that it must hold itself bound by previous decisions. But its actual judgments show a more carefree disposition; and, as is the case in Parliament, no members of the Supreme Court have succeeded in binding their successors.

WANDERING IN THE MAZE

The proof of the pudding is in the eating. Some of the recent decisions formulated by the Courts show that our laws leave much to be desired. To quote a few of the most startling examples:

The Privy Council, in an appeal from the Supreme Court of Palestine, has held that certain articles of the Ottoman Law, providing for payment of damages for breach of contract, must be deemed to be enlarged by reference to the Doctrine of Equity applying in England. This curious admixture of Ottoman and English law amounts to a virtual alteration of the former, which allowed parties to agree to damages fixed by way of penalty. Nor did the matter end there; for by following the line of reasoning initiated by the Privy Council the Supreme Court of Palestine came to the paradoxical conclusion that if two persons contract for the sale and purchase of immovable property and, before transfer, the purchaser goes back on the bargain by reason of a fall in prices, he is liable to pay the vendor damages calculated in accordance with the difference in price. But if the price should go up and the vendor recant, the purchaser has normally no legal remedy whatsoever. Well may the layman wonder what lawyers mean exactly when they speak of the principle of mutuality in contracts. As against this broad interpretation of the local law and this lavish introduction of English law, we have the opposite case where the Supreme Court refused to introduce into Palestine the English Law of Torts, also placing such a narrow interpretation on the Ottoman law as to exclude the possibility of claims for damages to the person. As a result a motorist who runs down and breaks a pedestrian's leg is liable to pay for the damage to the trouser-leg but not for the injury to the pedestrian, other than medical expenses actually incurred.

WISDOM CRIETH FROM THE HOUSETOPS.....

It is indeed fortunate that every man is presumed to know the law. Were the common citizen to look for it, he would not always find it. The entire body of Ottoman legislation applying in 1914 still forms part of our legal system, though it has been replaced by more progressive legislation in Turkey. Part of these laws have never been translated and are not available in Palestine even in the original Turkish, save in a few private libraries. Whatever translations have been made are usually defective and never bear the stamp of authority. Again, when an Admiralty Court was set up in Palestine it was held that that Court was invested with the powers which an Admiralty Court exercised in England in 1890. This in turn necessitates reference to English statutes no longer applicable in England, which were only recently made available in Palestine in private publications.

The legislator does not always clarify, when enacting new laws, just what he proposes should be done with the old. In one case it was decided that the old order had changed, yielding place to the new (Brokers Ordinance); while in another case it was virtually held that a litigant may make a choice between the old or the new depending on which Court he prefers to entrust with his litigation*).

*) In *casu*, the Admiralty Court or the District Court in maritime matters.

THOSE FRONTIERS AGAIN!

There is no doubt that our law is more difficult to apply now than it was in Turkish times. True, it forms a more advanced and progressive system, but the difficulties inherent in its application do not flow from these advantages. A study of case law forces the conclusion that the most frequent sources of litigation lie on the border-line where new legislation meets Ottoman law. When an ordinance adapted from English law dissociates itself entirely from the former law, as is the case with the Companies Ordinance, its application is normally smooth and uneventful. But when, as in the case of the Bills of Exchange Ordinance, Ottoman law institutions are retained in a system borrowed from English law, the points of conflict between the two afford a hot-bed for litigation; a fact which appears to have been recognized by the legislature, as witness a recent amendment in the Bills of Exchange Ordinance which seeks to bring the local law more in line with the English model.

THE REAL TASK AHEAD

These lines should not be read as a suggestion that

TRADE DISPUTES IN PALESTINE DURING THE WAR

General scene.

DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS CONSIDERABLE CHANGES have occurred in the economy of Palestine. A state of nearly full employment has been attained; some industries have expanded on a scale unprecedented in this country whilst others have declined. Considerable changes have also taken place in the occupational distribution of the working population. Economic activities have been subject to control and active intervention on the part of the State by way of control of imports and prices, man power regulations, emergency laws concerning trade disputes and so on. Certain institutions whose activities affect industrial relations, such as the Joint Jewish Labour Exchange and Arab trade unions, have appeared on the scene or have become more active. Economic activities have been marked by inflationary tendencies and the human factor has not infrequently been influenced by an attitude which may be defined as "psychology of inflation".

All these changes and influences, as well as other landmarks in the economic and social development of Palestine, have been reflected in trade disputes. A survey of the disputes recorded during the last six years will bring to light some of the factors which have influenced industrial relations in Palestine in war-time. In this survey only disputes accompanied by stoppage of work will be considered.

Sifted figures.

Since the beginning of hostilities the loss of time due to strikes has exceeded a half million days. More than 55%

legislation should be curtailed. Legislation has great advantages over customary law in that the latter always lags behind social and economic progress, whereas the former marks a step forward in that direction. Examples of progressive legislation may be found in the Cooperative Societies and Workmen's Compensation Ordinances.

Any programme of post-war legislation should take these factors into account. The repeal of the heterogeneous and unpopular mass of Defence and Control legislation, never fully digested and assimilated by the local population, should be accelerated and the remaining legislation systematically revised. However wide and ambitious this scheme of revision may prove to be, it need not necessarily involve any considerable additions to the statute book. A great number of ordinances could be consolidated into shorter, more comprehensive statements; and large portions of the Ottoman law could be condensed into lucid and modern legislation. What the writer hopes to see some day in Palestine is a system of law really accessible to all members of the public, and not only to the chosen few.

of this impressive number was the share of the diamond industry; from 1942 to 1944 the share of the diamond industry was two thirds of the aggregate loss of time. For reasons outside the scope of this survey, industrial relations in the diamond industry have been disorganised and strained. This industry is one of the youngest in Palestine; its conditions differ considerably from those prevailing in the staple industries and are to a very large extent affected by the situation on the international market and by the irregular supply of raw materials. In order that the survey may present a picture characteristic of Palestine industry, it is perhaps advisable therefore to eliminate the strikes and lockouts in the diamond industry from the data included. This statistical amputation should not, however, overshadow the fact that industrial relations in the diamond industry are unsatisfactory and produce an exceedingly high yield of strikes and lockouts.

Similarly, strikes which occurred in Service installations in 1943 were unconnected with the staple industries of Palestine and, again, not characteristic of the field surveyed; their inclusion in the survey would obscure the analysis.

General trend of disputes.

The following table shows the total number of disputes in progress in each year since 1939, the workers involved and the time lost, and the corresponding "sifted" numbers, i.e. totals for all disputes except those in the diamond industry and in Service installations.

Year	Total numbers			Sifted numbers		
	No. of disputes in progress	No. of workers involved	No. of man-days lost	No. of disputes in progress	No. of workers involved	No. of man-days lost
1939	103	2,964	19,435	103	2,964	19,435
1940	85	2,221	22,108	84	2,181	22,028
1941	80	3,803	36,342	77	3,476	34,067
1942	109	8,540	137,640	102	4,996	42,901
1943	147	17,846	131,650	104	7,129	41,842
1944	119	9,835	184,014	107	6,091	63,963

It will be observed that the number of workers involved in trade disputes and the amount of time lost showed a continuous rise during the war-years. The peak in the number of workers involved in disputes, recorded in the column of

"sifted" figures as occurring in 1943, was due to a number of disputes in public and municipal institutions; if these disputes are discounted, the peak in the number of workers (continued on page 13)

J. BENGHIAT:

PRAYER

Salvation in our great distress bestow,
Into thy bosom lead thine anguished sons;
And Thou, O Lord of once thy Chosen Ones,
Lead us away from those who laid us low.

Lead us away from thine own enemy,
That we may shelter in thy Promised Land
Betwixt the Desert and the Sea; the hand
Of Moses 'gainst Amalek raised be,

That we may triumph who have known defeat,
Despair and pestilence, and holocaust,
The ire of Heaven and titanic host:
Despoiled of all but Faith in Thee — our wheat

Through weary years of massacre and fear;
Through horrors painted in our hearts with blood
That drips from million breasts befouled with mud;
Through lamentation at a countless bier.

O Lord of Hosts, the birds have wings to flee
Aloft from degradation, and a nest
To breed their young in peace; the eagle's nest
Lies on a crag O Lord, where shall ours be?

Where may we refuge find, where comfort given,
Where reap earth's harvests peacefully again,
Where till land sow, where live who yet remain,
Where seek thy peace, from home forever driven?

In thine Eternal Love our mourning hear,
In thine Eternal Mercy our despair,
Give us the hope with others Peace to share,
The hope, redemption from exile is near.

B. Z. ABRAHAMS:

James Finn, British Consul at Jerusalem

THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXTRACT FROM A LECTURE, RECENTLY delivered to the Jewish Historical Society in Jerusalem, dealing with the period of service in Jerusalem of Mr. James Finn, Her Britannic Majesty's consul from 1846 to 1863. Much of the information given will be completely new to all readers, and is based on unpublished material made available by the kindness and assistance of Miss Constance Mary Finn, now aged 94, the last surviving child of James and Elizabeth Finn, a letter from whom was published in "The Palestine Tribune", No. 19.

Finn's period of service in Palestine coincided with an era of political change during which British policy in the Middle East began to take shape, while Jewish concern with Palestine's settlement potentialities began to assume concrete form.

Even before proceeding to Palestine Finn had taken an interest in Hebrew and the Jews, publishing his book on the Sephardim in 1841 and a book on the Jews in China in 1843. He established close connections with Dr. Alexander McCaul, principal of a Mission to the Jews, whose daughter he married in 1846. When his name was

proposed as British consul in Jerusalem, he himself enquired of Lord Aberdeen, then Foreign Secretary, whether his missionary associations would not prejudice the position. He was informed that this connection was not regarded as a bar, and proceeded to Palestine early in 1846 accompanied by his wife. — Ed., P. T.

FINN ARRIVED IN PALESTINE SIX YEARS AFTER THE horror of the Damascus affair. He was the second British Consul of modern times; the post had been created as a result of increasing British intervention in the Ottoman Empire following the period of disturbance connected with the rise of Mahomet Ali of Egypt.

For Finn it was the beginning of a great and new adventure. His education and interests had served as a preparation for his new life, especially as far as concerned the Jews of the Holy Land. One sees it immediately in the entries in his Journal soon after landing in Syria. At Beirut one of his first observations is of a talk with two Jews on their way home after — as Finn describes it — "a false imprisonment". He discusses some Scriptural texts with them and comments on their beautiful, though to him unfamiliar pronunciation of Hebrew.

Finn was impressed with the intense Jewish life in Palestine. He knew, of course, of the difficulties and dangers to which Jews were exposed, and the widespread brigandage and the impositions of the Turkish officials. To this there is ample reference in his Journal as in the Consular records. But it is the sidelights and occasional flashes of description of Jewish life as seen by the British official that are of especial interest. He writes from time to time of Jewish customs, and particularly of the prevalence of Hebrew even in everyday use. This latter fact is not usually appreciated by many who are apt to date the revival of Hebrew from the rise of Zionism.

Just before entering Jerusalem Finn's quick eye catches sight, for the first time, of a procession of camels loaded with luggage and merchandise. He tells us that the bales were inscribed in Hebrew. Indeed, later on, he rarely omits admiration for the universal use of Hebrew in Palestine. He tells of merchants keeping their accounts in Hebrew, of Hebrew maps used by the Jewish schools in Jerusalem, of Hebrew inscriptions over Jewish shop fronts, of pots and jars bearing Hebrew labels, and even of three Jewish doctors in Safed who prescribed in Hebrew as well as in Latin. His own Journal is frequently interspersed with Hebrew phrases, sometimes Biblical and sometimes conversational phrases in common use. Among his papers are business contracts, in which he or Mrs. Finn were interested, drawn up in Hebrew.

In his dealings with the Jewish converts to Christianity, he also tried to maintain the same use of Hebrew. This was so in the case of their plantations, the accounts of which were kept in that language. He even made it a practice that Jews who came to him for consular purposes should sign their names in Hebrew. Under the date of Jan. 28th 1850, he writes, "During my business of the day, Rabbi Coronel, a Dutchman, came for a Certificate of Protection. I required him to sign his name in Hebrew. This he refused to do. At length, seeing no reason for departing from the usual practice, to which all other Jews had conformed cheerfully, I insisted on his compliance, and returned him his Dutch passport — to take it where he pleased. At length he submitted to compulsion..... All other Jews seemed pleased to sign their names in Hebrew when required."

These facts, as well as fugitive items of information which enrich Finn's Journal, render it particularly valuable for a knowledge of the local history, customs and even dress of the various groups of Jews and others in the

country. A striking example is a passing reference which may be regarded as testimony to Jewish rights at the Wailing Wall. We learn under the date of May 18, 1846 that he was shown

"the Jews' place of weeping. The place is wept nice and clean, a pavement having been laid down by the late Joseph Amzalek."

Amzalek was the head of an old Jerusalem family, members of which are still to be found in the country. The obvious inference is that the paving by a Jew was recognised as following naturally from the fact that the area in front of the Wall was an acknowledged place of Jewish concourse.

Similarly, at a later date, June 1856, Finn mentioned the blowing of the Shofar at the Wailing Wall to announce a *Herem* an excommunication.

It is interesting to speculate whether facts like these, coming with the authority of a British Consul, would in any way have influenced the much later and unfavourable verdict on the Jewish rights at the Wailing Wall under the Mandatory Administration.

Finn's descriptions of the Jewish Festivals as celebrated in Jerusalem about a century ago are full of life and colour. Some of the customs have passed away. Tisha B'av in Jerusalem provoked several entries. We learn that it was customary to dress in black on that day, and that "No Jews wear shoes even in the street till the Fast is over". In this, as in the depicting of other days in the Jewish Calendar, we obtain the impression that Jews certainly did not feel alien in the country. They solemnized their fasts, and celebrated their festivals and weddings, in the synagogue and street. They mourned, sang, and danced publicly. Finn gives us a joyous picture of Purim when, to the sound of music, Jews wearing masks and dominos made merry in the streets. While on this aspect of the Journal, I cannot refrain from giving Finn's vivid account of a Jewish wedding procession under the date of February 2nd, 1852. ".....There came..... a troop of Ashkenazim from Hebron with a bride for Jerusalem..... Near the Jaffa gate was a large procession of Jewish women come out to meet the bride. They ran down the steep street and dragged her off the ass to kiss her, crying out *Shalom Alayich* in their peculiar pronunciation. She was in front of all her party. Next came up the Chief Rabbi of the Ashkenazim in Hebron with his jolly red face and snow-white beard, without a hat or shoes, and kicking his animal with his heels..... Then came the rest..... Plenty of laughing and joking."

But all was not festivity and recording of day-to-day life in the work of the British Consul. The main part of his activity comprised protection of British interests and British subjects. The records dealing with the Jewish aspects of Finn's official work have been ably presented in the volumes of the Jerusalem Consulate published by the Jewish Historical Society. It is rather with the personal side of Finn's preoccupations and with matters outside the consular work that this paper is concerned.

This resolved itself mainly into a passionate interest in the encouragement of agriculture among the Jews. He never misses an opportunity of recording examples of Jews working on the land. It is with special pleasure that, in a tour he made through the North of Palestine in October 1848, he enumerates a number of places where Jews were working on the land, commenting on their healthy appearance, rosy cheeks and sparkling eyes. He makes mention of Shafa-Amr where there were thirty farming families, and Pekiin, the village where Jews claim to have continued in uninterrupted possession of the land since ancient times. He also tells of Jewish farmers at Bettear, described as six

hours distance south-west of Safed. On a later occasion he gives an almost idyllic description of a visit, in September 1849, to Joseph Bechor's vineyard near Hebron; declaring, "it was uncommonly pleasant to visit a Jew among his own cultivation of his own land in Judea. We were hospitably treated, reclining on carpets beneath fig-trees in the twilight, all very happy."

His interest in agriculture led him to initiate ventures of his own. In these his wife played the more active part. The projects aimed at providing employment for necessitous Jews. However, they aroused a certain amount of opposition from the Jewish Communal leaders, who feared that the known interest of the Consul and his wife in the promotion of Christianity among Jews would be conducive to apostasy.

A great deal was subsequently written on the subject. The Journal itself indicates that it was the dream of James Finn that the land of Israel should be cultivated by Hebrew Christians. Recording the acquisition of land at Artas outside Jerusalem, he writes that he and Mrs. Finn went by appointment to meet Berghem and Calman, two converts who had a secret matter to communicate. He writes, April 23rd, 1856, "the matter was contained in a letter from Rev. R. Herschell to Mr. Calman, proposing, without loss of time by acting with Committees or publishing proposals, to commence cultivation of the Land of Israel by Christian Israelites—at first on a small scale—to commence if possible at Artas. After reading over the letter, Elizabeth and I were of opinion that so much frankness should be met with frankness, and accordingly she related to them all our hold upon the present cultivation of Artas, etc. All on behalf of the Jewish plantation near Jerusalem — related how that our earliest intentions and feelings in such matters had been the revival of the land by means of Hebrew Christianity..... Finally it was determined by Mr. Calman to summon Mr. Herschell here personally, as quickly as possible, with money in hand, untrammelled by Societies or Committees." Herschell, the convert mentioned, was the father of the first Lord Herschell, Lord Chancellor in 1886.

In actual fact, the Journal devotes a great deal of space to the life, foibles, conflicts and backslidings of the converts. Indeed, it would seem that the denominational label sat lightly on many of the inhabitants of Palestine of that time, Jews, Moslems and Christians of various sects; and there seems to have been great activity and competition in the winning of souls. Under the date of June 30th., 1847, Finn says that in a single case before the Consular Court "there was an Armenian turned Turk, a Jew become Protestant, and a Roman Catholic turned Jew."

(To be continued)

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

Contributors are reminded that if they wish their manuscripts to be returned they must enclose a stamped addressed envelope. All contributions should be addressed to:

The Editor,
The Palestine Tribune, P.O.B. 2212, Tel Aviv.

O. SCHARF:

THOUGHTS ON PALESTINIAN YOUTH

ONE OFTEN HEARS DEROGATORY REMARKS ABOUT THE education of Palestinian Jewish youth. There are always some adults who rebuke a child, and rightly, when he does not stand up for an old lady in the bus; and everybody dislikes being disturbed at midnight by groups of youngsters singing rowdily in the streets. But is it really youth that is to be blamed? Does the child in the bus who sticks to his place deliberately want the old lady to remain standing? Do the youngsters who pass singing through the streets nightly have the set intention of breaking your well-deserved sleep?

The problem, which in the beginning seemed to consist only of telling young people how to behave, becomes more complex. If the child in the bus does not intentionally behave badly, the cause of his naughtiness must lie somewhere outside his consciousness. We all assume that Jewish youth is no less talented than the young generation of any other people; further, we agree that it displays a considerable amount of readiness to accept new ways of living and new manners of personal conduct, provided that you can properly explain to them the reasons for these. Hence, as it is neither intentional wilfulness nor mental predisposition that leads our youth to bad behaviour and even ruthlessness, there seems to remain only one factor to be blamed, namely, the influence of the surrounding world; that is the way in which the child is educated; the concepts and ideas he is taught to appreciate; the ways of living and the social relations he observes.

Take, for example, an average child in any European country or in the U.S.A. He grows naturally into ways of living and static social relations, to which he is accustomed from the very beginning of his conscious life. This refers not only to external forms such as politeness and the like; it includes much more. The child finds himself in a world which has been settled and firmly established for many generations. His parents have been living in the same or similar surroundings. In their own childhood they themselves acquired personal contact with places, houses, persons, villages, plants, animals, etc. similar to those surrounding their child; and their rich memories serve him as a guide on the way into life. The concepts he is taught in school correspond to those he hears at home. Words have the same meaning in the nursery and in college, and there are fixed and approved associations between notions, happenings and the emotions and imaginations aroused by them. It can be said that these associations form the very foundations of cultural life; and it is in this connection that culture can be called a social phenomenon. The success of a drama, for example, depends mainly on the similarity of the associations of both author and audience.

In Jewish Palestine such a national treasure of cultural association connected with our everyday life is, however, developing only slowly. There is, of course, the rich store of Jewish religion and its rituals; but it is at least questionable whether those can solve the problem for most of us. Palestine is a country where new colonisation is a dominant feature. Immigrants from all parts of the world meet. Each of these groups brings with it into the old yet new home its culture, its specific customs and traditions, its distinct ways of thinking and living and even its mother tongue, though that is the language of another people. Only a minority among them really understands the problems that lie ahead; only a relative few know Hebrew on arrival.

Sooner or later these immigrants become parents. Their children do not know the Diaspora; they have never seen the country where their father and mother were born. And now, one has to imagine the situation which must inevitably develop from this state of affairs. With every word they speak the parents automatically associate conceptions which can never be understood properly by the child. When they say Nature, they mean green, soft meadows and shadowed forests, both of them almost unknown in Palestine. When they say Art, they think say of Gothic churches and Renaissance statues, which the youngster has never seen.

On the other hand, it is very hard for a European to discover the beauty, say, of a camel. This difference in concept exists not only between parents and children; it exists, more or less, between the overwhelming majority of the generation who came to this country as adults and the native youth. Which in turn means that Palestinian Jewish youth is growing into a chaotic welter of heterogeneous cultures or cultural fragments. There are scarcely any definitely fixed concepts which could provide the undisputable foundation that a child needs so badly. Everything is in doubt; and the young and untrained brain has to face the problems of the world single-handed.

In this connection there is another point to be stressed again. The vast majority of parents possess only a very limited knowledge of the Hebrew language. Thus, even if they attempt to establish real understanding with their children and try to base home education upon concepts taken from Palestine's everyday life, they still lack sufficient knowledge of Hebrew to express their thoughts properly. One way out of the dilemma, which is used by too many parents, is to transfer their own European education to the child. This may seem successful as long as the child is confined to home. But the moment it contacts other children in the kindergarten or goes to school the problem arises again. (This, incidentally, is a universal problem among immigrant populations using their own vernaculars). It can be said that in Jewish Palestine there is a lack of cultural uniformity, not in a totalitarian sense, naturally, arising from the conditions of an immigrant country and stressed especially by the Zionist aim of fulfilling the ideal of a cultural renaissance. There is no doubt that considerable improvements have already been brought about. But the problem is still very far from being solved, and every group of newcomers makes the task more difficult. As far as our youth is concerned, this state of matters indicates that slow progress only can be expected in producing the cultural homogeneity which makes education for fixed, crystallized and approved ways of personal and social thinking and living possible. Only after such homogeneity in life has been achieved will the bad habits change and youth feel itself part of a community whose laws and habits are beyond doubt or, even if doubted, have to be adhered to; and whose members are to be respected accordingly.

What can be done to accelerate this process? First of all, those among us who have not yet acquired an adequate knowledge of Hebrew need to do so as soon as possible; this refers especially to all parents. Intense participation in original Palestinian cultural life is absolutely necessary, and includes reading Hebrew books, attending Hebrew performances, etc.

And, last but not least, try to understand youth and its problems. Do not become upset by the naughty child in the bus and the nightly singers in the streets; if you think yourself able to explain the matter to them, do so. If not, do not blame the innocents. Be patient and help to bring about those cultural conditions under which your sleep is no less respected than any one else's, and no old lady is left standing in the bus any longer.

J. EISENBERG

Tel Aviv Affairs

ARMY HUTS FOR EX-SERVICEMEN

FINAL PREPARATIONS ARE BEING MADE BY THE Technical Department of the Tel Aviv Council for receiving the huts promised to the Municipality by the Military Authorities for the purpose of housing ex-servicemen. Following investigations as to suitability for civilian purposes, last Friday was fixed as the day for receiving them. One of the engineers of the Technical Department visited Kiriath Motzkin near Haifa on the previous Friday to arrange for the transfer of the huts from them to Tel Aviv.

These huts, 35 in number, are made of tin. They are round in shape, airy and well-built. Each hut will be divided into two equal sections; each section to be given to a single family. Each family will have a room area of 6 metres by 5 metres. Thus these huts will house 70 families of ex-servicemen.

The Tel Aviv Municipality is negotiating with Government meanwhile for additional huts for this purpose. The huts will be set up on municipal land near the Government Yarkon Hospital to the north of the City.

The handing over of these military huts shows the desire of the Military Authorities to aid those who did their duty against the enemy. This is, of course, only a very modest beginning; but it is to be hoped that it will have a good effect on the general public, and on demobilised soldiers in particular. When our soldiers are given proof of a constructive attempt to solve the problem of housing them, they may realize the damage inherent in "invasions" of private dwellings, accompanied at times by acts of violence.

The Military Authorities are to be congratulated on their timely gesture, which it is to be hoped will be followed by other constructive Government measures on behalf of the soldier returning to civilian life after a prolonged period.

NEW BUILDING.

THERE ARE CLEAR SIGNS THAT BUILDING ACTIVITIES are about to commence again in the country. There is a continuous increase in the number of plans being forwarded to the Technical Departments of the various Municipalities and Local Councils for approval; and the instructions issued by the Controller of Heavy Industries are being passed from hand to hand.

Tel Aviv, it is estimated, requires at least 20,000 rooms for her static population without taking into consideration immigration in the past few years. It must be remembered that a large number of the new immigrants chose to remain in Tel Aviv, and that many more immigrants are to be expected. Plans for the erection of 2,000 rooms have been submitted for approval; which would seem to show that besides the additions being made to existent buildings, people are prepared to invest money in completely new buildings. The latter include private individuals, companies, cooper-

atives, etc. At the moment most of the building under discussion is intended for the North-Eastern part of the city; whereas there are no signs as yet of any proposed large-scale building in those sections included in the Tel Aviv Building Area during recent years. A limited amount of building is also proceeding in the South-Eastern part of the City, near the Hatikva Quarter.

The scarcity of skilled labour in building may impede the carrying-out of the plans. Many old-timers in this branch went over to other trades during the war and are now well established. No newcomers have joined the building trade in that period. A skilled labourer now demands L.P. 3.- a day, while the engineer in charge of the building is usually prepared to accept from L.P. 1,500 to L.P. 2.- per day.

The main problem which faces the community today, apart from obtaining building materials, is that of training skilled labourers.

TRADE DISPUTES

(continued from page 9)

involved in disputes in industry and transport appears in 1944.

Industrial expansion.

It is a well-known fact that, *ceteris paribus*, trade disputes are more frequent during periods of industrial expansion, which are also periods of shortage of labour, than during periods of depression. Viewed from this angle, the economic background of trade disputes shows sharp contrasts during the years surveyed. In 1939 industrial activity was low; unemployed and underemployed labour was in abundance. In 1940 industry was at cross-roads and there was some evidence of a revival. The years 1941 to 1943 were years of rapid expansion. In 1944 no appreciable increase in the volume of industrial employment was observed. However, industrial expansion alone does not account for the rise in the number of disputes: while employment in industry doubled between 1939 and 1944, the number of workers involved in disputes increased fourfold. Rising living costs and absence of collective agreements covering wide sections of industry should be added to the contributing factors of trade disputes. There is also a view, perhaps not entirely unjustified, that of late organised labour has developed a tendency to resort too readily to the use of the strike weapon.

Industries affected.

As mentioned before, strikes usually affect expanding industries. Before 1939 a large proportion of strikes was recorded in construction and industries ancillary to building. Since 1939 the centre of gravity has shifted to manufacturing industries not connected with building. In 1943 and 1944 most disputes occurred in manufacturing industry. Disputes in agricultural employment were rare, with the exception of the years 1939 and 1940 when strikes over the recruitment of labour through the then newly established Joint Jewish Rural Labour Exchanges spread over the citrus belt.

Causes of disputes.

Claims concerning wages were the predominant cause of dispute during the period surveyed, but certain changes in the nature of the points at issue in disputes over wages are discernible. In 1941 a considerable number of disputes arose in connection with differences over the payment of cost-of-living allowances. In 1943 the number of disputes over cost-of-living allowances declined but claims for higher basic wages increased in number. In 1943 numerous demands concerning other conditions of employment appear-

(completed on page 16)

CITRUS NEWS AND VIEWS

EDITED BY ISAAC ROKACH

The War is Over

AFTER A BIG STORM IT TAKES SOME TIME UNTIL THE SEA becomes really calm again, and so it will take quite a little while for our world to settle down again to its normal life. The work of reconstruction will start forthwith, and we hope that a better world will be erected on the ruins of the present one.

Citrus growers in the greater part of the world, including Palestine, have contributed their share to winning the war by supplying the Army, Navy and Air Force and the civilian populations working behind the lines for the Services with the most luscious form of vitamins, thus contributing towards keeping their health of body and of mind at the highest possible standard.

Of all citrus-producing countries Palestine probably deserves most mention in this respect because, for part of the war, it supplied its fruit literally gratis; and even in the later years of the war it received a price far below the costs of production.

Citrus growers all over the world will now take their share in the work of reconstruction. Starved Europe and starved Asia will require high doses of citrus vitamins for many years to come. The citrus-growing countries, and Palestine among them, are there to supply these.

To do so, Palestine will have to surmount innumerable difficulties during at least this coming season and the immediately ensuing seasons. Shortage of labour generally and of skilled labour, insufficiency of packing materials, box shooks in particular, as well as scarcity of shipping space, are problems that the Citrus Industry has to tackle with intensified vigour. The supply of fruit to by-products factories at prices lower than what the growers can now sell for export is another ticklish problem. That these factories should be encouraged in the interests of the grower is too obvious to require comment. But in the present pecuniary position of the bulk of the growers — after six years of deficit — it will not be easy to explain to him that he has to sacrifice the present for the future. However unpleasant it is, the leaders of the industry will have to face this task as the Citrus Industry must not slow down the progress of the by-products factories even for one season. Those in charge of the latter must also make the maximum possible contribution towards an amicable and workable agreement between the two sister industries.

The War is over, and we hope that with it the worst troubles of the Palestine Citrus Industry are over too. Rehabilitation of the groves, a return to normal yields, the adoption of modern packing methods, improved handling and shipping, the resumption of our standing in our established markets and the acquisition of new ones — those of the Soviet Republics in particular — these are some of the duties facing the Citrus Industry. Knowing full well the difficulties to be expected, it is nevertheless permissible at this moment of rejoicing at the termination of the War to expect that a period of prosperity is facing the Citrus Industry; a period the length of which will very much depend on whether its leaders are capable of handling a situation in which most of the odds are in their favour.

"THOUGHTS ON THE FINANCING OF THE CITRUS INDUSTRY."

WE ARE PLEASED TO PUBLISH A CONTRIBUTION BY Dr. Polak, the Manager of the Farmers' Mortgage Corporation Ltd. Much as we respect the contributor, we can-

not agree to all his opinions. He is a banker by profession and inclination. It is therefore no wonder that his views should not coincide with those of the growers. In particular the latter do not agree at all with his opinion about the legal priority of the Cultivation Loan. The Citrus Control Board, which represents the Industry as a whole, expressed itself in no equivocal terms in favour of the Government priority. More about the point of view of the growers on another occasion.

RAPHAEL POLAK:

Thoughts on the Financing of the Citrus Industry

WHEN SPEAKING ABOUT FINANCING OF THE CITRUS industry, two separate kinds of credit should be clearly distinguished: the short term or seasonal credit, purporting to finance production and sale of the yearly crop, and the long term credit, intending to assist the grower in developing his grove and/or providing it with permanent accessories, as irrigation plant, packing house, decauville, etc. The short-term credit has not changed its nature essentially compared with pre-war times; the long term credit, however, has changed its object, in so far as credit for development of land into groves is practically out of the question because of legal provisions prohibiting the planting of new groves. On the other hand more stress has had to be laid on what I called above "permanent accessories", because many of these accessories have been neglected, spoiled or destroyed during the war and will have to be rebuilt or thoroughly repaired. In this connection the term "rehabilitation loans" is often used.

Before the war seasonal credits were provided by our commercial banks and long term loans, on the security of mortgage, by mortgage institutes or private lenders; and in spite of the change in character of long-term loans as outlined above, no change in this "division of labour" would have to be contemplated if various factors did not preclude the return to pre-war conditions.

Foremost among these factors is the appearance during the war of the Government cultivation loans which have now accrued to an aggregate amount of L.P. 25.- per dunum, and which are secured by a lien on future crops. A judgment of the High Court of Justice in Jerusalem, pronounced about two years ago, fortified the position of these loans (even far beyond Government's intentions) by giving them the same priority as direct taxes; that is to say, they constitute a first charge on the property for which the loans have been given. It is open to discussion whether from an economic point of view there is much difference between the two ways, as even when the crop alone, and not the grove itself, is charged, that charge will reduce the exchange value of the grove perhaps not less than a direct charge on the property. But one thing is certain, namely, that those financial institutions whose regulations permit them only to give loans on first charge or mortgage (as is the case with most of them) are precluded henceforth from giving mortgage loans on citrus groves as long as Government does not neutralize the Court decision by an appropriate change in legislation, and thus shows that it wants to be fair and does not desire to avail itself of an unintended advantage. Quite apart from this, the question arises for all prospective mortgagees how far they will be justified in

granting mortgage loans on citrus groves which are already charged with a debt of about L.P. 25.- ranking in front of them.

The question of the legal position of Government cultivation loans also arises in connection with seasonal crop loans. The latter, which were granted before the war by the banks or by exporters, are of two categories:

(a) cultivation loans or crop advances, which were usually paid to the borrowers at the beginning of the irrigation season;

b) loans to finance the "lifting" of the crop, i.e. picking, packing and transport to the port of exportation.

Security for these loans was the crop itself, on the trees as well as picked, packed and under way. Legislature made it possible even to pledge the following year's crop for loans which could not be collected from the proceeds of the year for which the loan had been given. The wisdom of this legislative measure is in my opinion highly questionable as it tended to confuse and to endanger the economic position of growers. At any rate it is quite clear that such seasonal loans cannot be given any more as long as Government maintains its charge on the crop to secure the accumulated cultivation loans. Probably a way can be found (as it has been found) to safeguard the position of the loans for financing lifting expenses: that is those mentioned above under b).

After all these expenses are made to render the crop marketable, and thus enable Government to exercise its rights on the proceeds of the crop if it so wishes; but it is inconceivable that a bank or anybody else will be able to give new crop advances as long as Government maintains its crop charge in the present form.

The simplest and widely advocated remedy for this difficulty is of course that Government should drop its claims and consider the accumulated cultivation loans not as loans but as a grant-in-aid to the citrus industry during war time; thus discharging that industry of a heavy burden. I do not know whether such a step is or will be contemplated by Government, but advantageous as it might seem to the growers in question, it would no doubt constitute an injustice towards those from whom Government has already collected its due, especially those growers who, owing to lack of means, have been forced to sell their property.

If Government does not drop its claims — what then? There are some people, and it must be said that they enjoy authority within the citrus branch and outside, who voice the opinion that the actual position is not so very undesirable, as the Government's crop charge bars the way to bankers and other moneylenders to give new cultivation loans, and thus to increase the burden of the growers' debts. They bear a grudge against the banks for the way the latter behaved towards the citrus growers and their organizations at the beginning of the war, and accuse them of having shattered the industry's financial position.

It must be admitted that their complaints are not totally unjustified. The banks, perhaps, cannot be blamed for what they did to their debtors of the citrus industry in the beginning of the war; in accordance with sound banking principles they could not probably have acted otherwise; but they cannot be exonerated from having created a position which forced them to do what they did. This means to say that in the years preceding the war they made the citrus growers' community such crop advances which were quite unjustifiable in their relative amount. At a time when fruit "on the tree" did not fetch higher prices than two shillings a case and even less they gave cultivation loans to the same amounts, and sometimes even more. Of course, the growers and their organisations should not have claimed such big loans; but the banks should have known better and not have submitted to their pressure.

However, unless those who oppose crop advances from the

banks are of the opinion that no such advances should be given at all, and that those growers who cannot do without them should sell their groves or part with them to stronger hands, a solution must be found. Erection of a special financial institution, say an agricultural bank, however recommendable, does not offer the desired panacea, as it would encounter the same legal difficulties. In order to obviate the recurrence of events witnessed at the beginning of the war (and even before), the following conditions should be fulfilled:

1) Government should change the character of the growers' debts out of their cultivation loans altogether. If a cancellation of these loans is not contemplated (which is very improbable), some reasonable plan must be devised for their repayment. However, a single extension of the terms of repayment will be of no avail as long as citrus growers or a considerable part of them will require crop advances in future seasons either from banks or from other quarters that would be inclined to grant them. Government will have to cede its position of first charge on the crop in favour of the lenders. This can be done generally for all the instalments of the Government loan, or from year to year. The latter way, although creating less security for future lenders would enable Government to retain strong influence on the organisation and terms of the future crop advance business.

2) Crop advances will have to be restricted to a maximum amount per dunum, to be fixed from time to time by Government or under its control. It would be helpful if Government were to refuse to give up its position as first chargee in the case of loans transcending such a maximum.

3) It should no longer be permissible to pledge two seasons' crops against the credit granted in and for one season. Legislation should be brought into line with this principle.

Will Government be prepared to cooperate in adopting a solution which involves concessions on its side as to the terms of repayment and the security it enjoys? I think the answer should be in the affirmative because thus Government will "in honour" be able to discontinue the system of Government cultivation loans, the carrying through of which has encountered growing opposition each year from the central authorities in London. However, I could imagine that Government, before making these concessions wants to make certain that the organisation of the citrus industry and trade will function normally. Of course no industry or trade can be made totally crisis-proof under the prevailing economic conditions, but such an anarchy as witnessed before the war, nothing short of an invitation to crisis, should not be permitted to recur.

Whether this means that Government, as it practically did during the war years, has to take and keep the whole business in its own hands, or that avoiding such total socialisation a sensible system of rationalisation and coordination has to be devised, is a problem which does not fall within the scope of the present article. But the members of the Citrus delegation which is about to sail for Britain will be well advised to prepare such a plan when they approach the Central Government in London with proposals to change the terms and conditions of the accumulated Government cultivation loans.

In connection with the foregoing the question will have to be answered over how many years the repayment of the Government loans should be divided, in order not to create a halfway solution but one which enables the grower to honour his obligations. This means to say that the terms of repayment must not be taken too short. Here the difficulty arises that there is no such thing as a standard of working and maintenance expenses of citrus groves in this country. However, when the grower's debt towards Government has risen this year to L.P. 25.- per dunum, and interest, even a small percentage, will have to be taken into account, and when on the other hand the net proceeds of citrus growing will be moderate in the near future owing to the prevailing high expenses and to the low output of the groves in the first years to come, it may be said that no less than 30 years' extension would be justified. The yearly sum to be paid would have to be a debt "in rem", i.e., it

would weigh on the land like a land tax; and the obligation would be transferred automatically in case the property changes hands.

This brings me back to the long-term loans with which I dealt in the first part of this article. If, namely, the debt towards Government will be converted into a series of obligations and it is made clear by the passing of suitable legislation that a charge (if any) on the property itself shall be enjoyed only for the payments which had already fallen due at the moment a new mortgage loan is given, and that subsequent payments when falling due shall enjoy a charge (if any) ranking only behind the above mortgage loan, then the obstacle at present thrown in the way of our mortgage institutions will be cleared.

That it is high time for doing this need hardly be emphasized. Many groves, owing to war-time negligence, are in a bad state of repair. Wells must be deepened, pumps and pipes repaired, packing houses rebuilt, decauvilles reinstalled, field boxes and other materials purchased, and last but not least the plantation itself must be given a thorough overhaul. The much discussed rehabilitation loans will have to be granted; the money is there and it is a primary duty of Government to remove any legal hindrances which impede their being paid out. Whether it is also incumbent on Government to exercise control on the measure of long-term indebtedness of citrus growers is a question which I should not like to answer in the affirmative. Moreover, most institutions engaged in mortgage business are not entitled by their rules to give higher loans than up to 50% of the assessed value of the mortgaged property.

TRADE DISPUTES

(completed from page 13)

ed along with demands for higher wages — annual leave, sick leave, overtime pay and the like. In 1944 demands for increases in basic wages caused fewer strikes. Demands concerning other conditions of employment were as numerous as in the preceding year and strikes over discharge of labour and claims for the payment of dismissal indemnities showed an increase.

Strikes over the employment of non-union labour or over the recruitment of labour showed a marked decrease between 1939 and 1942 and almost disappeared in 1943 and 1944, probably in consequence of the abundance of employment and of the activities of the urban Joint Jewish Labour Exchange established early in 1943.

The last two years witnessed a rise in the number of disputes over disciplinary matters and productivity of work appeared as a point at issue in a not inconsiderable number of disputes. These latter causes may be regarded as reflecting attempts at adjusting output to increased labour costs.

Intensity of disputes.

The average duration of disputes is usually accepted as a measure of their intensity, which, in its turn, reflects two important factors:

- efficiency of the existing machinery for the settlement of trade disputes;
- balance of power as between employers' and workers' organisations.

The average duration of trade disputes during the period surveyed was as follows:—

1939	6½ days
1940	10 days
1941	10 days
1942	8½ days
1943	9 days*
1944	10½ days

*) Not including strikes of short duration in municipal and public institutions.

No significant change seems to have taken place in the intensity of the disputes during war-years, although the last

of the surveyed years shows a record figure. The average duration would have been much higher if the diamond industry had been taken into account.

Importance of disputes.

Another factor in the assessment of the intensity of disputes is the average number of workers involved in each case. These data are given in the following table:—

Year	No. of workers involved— average per dispute	
	Total number	Sifted numbers
1939	29	29
1940	26	26
1941	48	45
1942	78	42
1943	121	40
1944	83	43**

***) Not including a strike of short duration in a public transport undertaking.

These figures are probably more significant of changes in the size of industrial undertakings than of any change in the course run by trade disputes. During the last four years the average number of workers involved fluctuated between 40 and 45, a figure which probably bears some relation to the average size of industrial undertakings in that sector of industry which is the stronghold of organized labour.

Unlawful strikes and lockouts.

By virtue of the Defence (Trade Disputes) Order, 1942, a strike or lockout may not lawfully take place unless the dispute has first been reported to the Director of the Department of Labour, and then only if

- the Director has, within ten days of the date of the report, informed the parties that he has decided not to intervene, or
- at a later stage, the Chief Secretary decides not to refer the matter to arbitration.

By these criteria, most of the stoppages of work under review appear to have been unlawful. During the last three years prosecution for such unlawful stoppages was initiated on 50 occasions, 714 persons being charged and 350 persons convicted. The number of convictions increased in each of these three years, but the number of illegal stoppages did not change in the opposite direction as may have been expected. It appears as if the emergency legislation has not applied a particularly effective brake to stoppages of work, although of course it is impossible to say what stoppages would have taken place had it not been enacted.

Settlement of disputes.

There is another side to the Defence Order — its provisions relating to arbitration and their influence on industrial relations. Complete data concerning the methods of settlement of disputes are not available at present. A comparatively small number of disputes was settled by official conciliation. At the end of February, 1945, awards given under the Order totalled eighty; the number of disputes accompanied by stoppage of work passed for official arbitration was thirty-eight.

As to the contents of the awards, the activities of the members of arbitration boards and the social consequences of arbitration — this is a subject which deserves a special and extensive study.*

(Palestine Govt. Department of Labour Bulletin)

*) The first issue of an official digest of arbitration awards, compiled by the Department of Labour, has been published; the second issue is with the Printer. (See also: Labour Conditions in Palestine, by John Blasbalg, P.T., No. 25)

AARON ROSENFELD

BELGIAN CONSUL

STEAMSHIP AGENT & SHIP BROKER, INSURANCE
AGENT, MANUFACTURERS' REPRESENTATIVE.

Agent for: American Export Lines, Inc. New York; Arment Deppe, Antwerp; Messrs. Stanley & John Thompson Ltd. (Silver Line) London; Kerr Steamship Company, New York; United Netherlands Navigation Company, Rotterdam, Director Eastern Steamship Agency Ltd. (General Agents Near East for: Wilh. Wilhemsen Lines, Oslo).

Representing leading World Manufacturers.

P.O.B. 74

HAIFA

PHONE 4241/2

STEEL

FOR THE WORLD OF TOMORROW...

In the cities of the future, you will enjoy new inventions, new conveniences, new products, new types of architecture. Many will be fabricated from improved U.S.S. Steels developed through speeded-up wartime research — steels more efficient than any known before the war. Wherever you live, U.S.S. Steels for every purpose will be available through the worldwide facilities of the UNITED STATES STEEL EXPORT COMPANY, export outlet of THE WORLD'S LARGEST STEELMAKER

UNITED STATES STEEL.

PLATES / STRUCTURAL SHAPES / HOT ROLLED SHEETS / REINFORCING BARS / GALVANIZED SHEETS / PIPE AND TUBING / CASTINGS / HOT ROLLED STRIP / COLD ROLLED SHEETS / ELECTRICAL WIRES / WIRE AND WIRE PRODUCTS / SHEET PILING / WIRE ROPE / STAINLESS STEEL / NAILS / MERCHANT BARS / FABRICATED STRUCTURAL WORK

Our trained and experienced metallurgists and engineers are available for consultation without obligation to you. They'll help you with plans and the selection of the proper type of steel for your requirements.



UNITED STATES STEEL
Export Company

30 Church St., New York U.S.A.

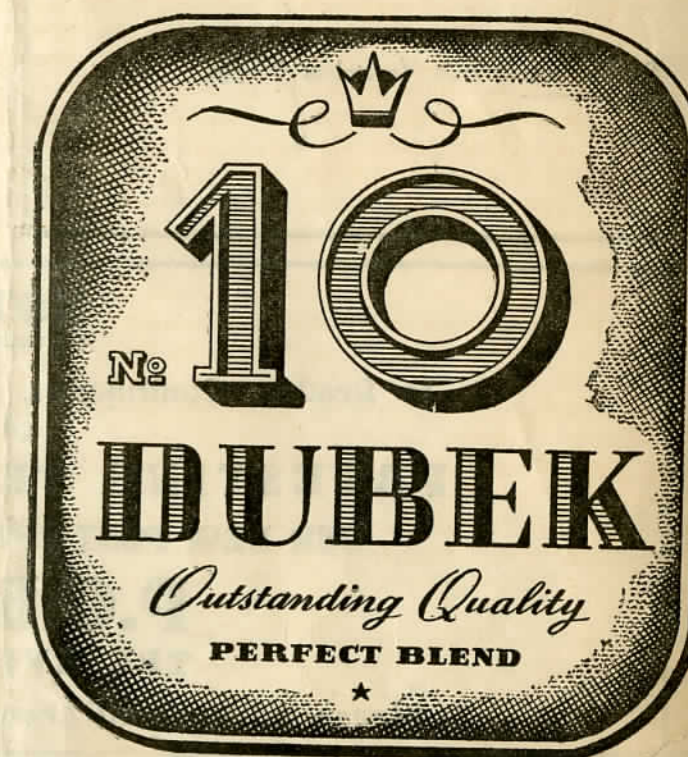
Represented in Palestine by
M. Dizengoff & Co., Tel-Aviv, Haifa, Jerusalem

Perfection

IN BEAUTY AND
IN QUALITY IS
THE SYMBOL OF
SILKS AND
WOOLLENS OF
"MESHI SACKS"

M
MESHI SACKS

MELNIK



LODZIA TILE CO. LTD.

TEL-AVIV

HOSIERY AND UNDERWEAR
FOR LADIES,
GENTLEMEN
AND CHILDREN

AMIR

SUPPLY COMPANY OF THE JEWISH
FARMERS' FEDERATION OF PALESTINE LTD.

Tel-Aviv, P. O. B. 209, Tel. 3073

Supply of: Fertilizers
Organic Manure
Insecticides
Seeds
Agricultural Tools & Machinery
Pumps
Fodder & Feeding Stuff

Sale of: Fruit, Vegetables & Eggs

AGROBANK

(AGRICULTURAL AND BUILDING BANK
FOR PALESTINE) LTD.

TEL-AVIV

65, ALLENBY STR. P. O. B. 161
Tel. 4244, 4245 Telegr. : AGROBANK

GENERAL BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED

SUBSIDIARY COMPANY
LAND AND LOAN CORPORATION LTD.

REAL ESTATES
DEVELOPMENT UNDERTAKINGS

NOTICE

to Readers, Contributors, Subscribers and Advertisers
of the
PALESTINE TRIBUNE (incorp. HADAR)
OUR NEW POST OFFICE BOX NUMBER IS

P.O.B. 2212

TEL AVIV (PALESTINE)

Please address all communications accordingly.