

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

(Cable and Mail Despatches)
Issued by the
JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY, LTD.

Ludgate House,
107/111, Fleet Street,
London, E.C.4.

Telegrams: Jewcorrau London.
Telephone: Central 6501-2.

Vol. XIII. No. 56.

6 pages.

2nd. Mar., 1932.

CONFERENCE OF PALESTINE JEWRY: SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF
JEWISH ELECTED ASSEMBLY: DISAPPOINTMENTS FOLLOWING
ISSUE OF PREMIER'S LETTER OF AUTHORITATIVE INTERPRE-
TATION AND POLITICAL PERILS CONFRONTING PALESTINE
JEWRY EMPHASISED BY CHAIRMAN: URGES YISHUB TO CONCENTRATE
ON IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR.

Jerusalem, Feb. 29th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The organisation of the Jewish Communities in the Ronesseth Israel, the officially recognised Palestine Jewish Community, the disappointments which have followed the issue of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's letter of authoritative interpretation of the White Paper and the political perils confronting the Yishub, were the points dealt with by Dr. I. Ben Zvi, the Palestine Labour leader, in opening the second annual meeting of the Assefath Panivcharim (Palestine Jewish Elected Assembly), at Tel Aviv to-night.

Dr. Ben Zvi urged the Yishub to concentrate on immigration and labour activities. He went on to pay tribute to the memory of the members of the Yadjur Labour Settlement who fell victims to the shooting outrage on the Haifa Road, and to the Jewish boy and girl, Stahl and Zohar, who were murdered by Bedouins while they were on a walking tour.

He then congratulated Mr. M. M. Ussischkin, the head of the Jewish National Fund, amid a burst of applause, on his completion of a half-century of Zionist work.

The High Commissioner, General Sir Arthur "Auchop", sent a message expressing his hope that the meeting would be fruitful for the Yishub and for all Palestine.

Ex-Deputy Farbstain, member of the Jewish Agency Executive, addressed the gathering, urging the Yishub to assist the Polish Jews to remove the obstacles preventing them from emigrating to Palestine, which, he said, is the aim of all Polish Jews.

Chief Rabbi Kook, sent a message to the meeting, and Chief Rabbi Jacob Leir, the head of the Sephardic Community, and Mr. Dizengoff, the Mayor of Tel Aviv, delivered speeches of welcome.

Rabbi Ostrowsky supplemented the printed report circulated to the meeting with regard to the position and activities of the Jewish Communities, and Miss Henrietta Szold, former member of the Zionist Executive, spoke on the work of the Social Service Department of the Vaad Leumi, of which she is in charge.

Rabbi Asaaf, Mr. Ben Gurion, Dr. Mossensohn, Mr. Meyuhas, Mr. Joseph Sprinzak, and Mr. Jacob Cohen, a Yemenite representative, have been appointed as the members of the Presidium of the Assembly, in which the Revisionists have decided not to take part.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PALESTINE DEVELOPMENT APPOINTED.

Jerusalem, Feb. 29th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The appointment of Mr. Andrews, District Officer, as Deputy Director of Development, will be gazetted to-morrow, the J.T.A. learns.

The appointment of Mr. G. C. Kitching, who was Mr. French's Deputy Director of Development, terminated at the beginning of January, and it was understood that this was done in accordance with the recommendations of the MacDonnell Financial Commission, under which a number of Palestine officials were "axed".

PALESTINE GOVERNMENT'S LEASE OF VADI HAVARITH LAND FOR BEDOUINS: JEWISH NATIONAL FUND STATES IT WAS CONSTRAINED TO NEGOTIATE.

Jerusalem, Feb. 29th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Head Office of the Jewish National Fund has issued the following statement through the J.T.A.:

Several scores of Bedouins who had been on the land at Vadi Havarith prior to its acquisition by the Jewish National Fund, and subsequently camped on a neighbouring area known as Sheikh Mohammed Basset, the property of the Government of Palestine, occupied early in December, the said land of the Jewish National Fund on which they placed their tents and cattle.

On the matter being brought before the Government, the latter proposed to the Jewish National Fund that it should lease to the Government 5,000 dunams of its land for a period of two years, upon which the Bedouins could be temporarily accommodated. The Government stated that the Bedouins' previous camping site was under water owing to the winter rains and would not be fit for use until the close of the winter.

The reply of the Jewish National Fund was that the land at Vadi Havarith had been acquired by it by legal purchase and it was under no obligation towards the Bedouins, all of whom had received full compensation for any possible loss. The Government which had closely followed developments upon the Vadi Havarith land since its acquisition by the Jewish National Fund, was obliged, and was also able, to take the necessary steps for the accommodation of these Bedouins elsewhere. Nevertheless, in view of the insistent demands of the Government, the Board of Directors of the Jewish National Fund was constrained to enter into negotiations with the Government.

Negotiations between the Jewish National Fund and the Government of Palestine continued for about two months, and were carried on through the Political Department of the Jewish Agency. As a result, it was agreed that half of the area required for the temporary accommodation of the Bedouins would be leased from the Jewish National Fund. The area originally required from the Fund was thus reduced to 2,965 dunams. At the same time the period of the lease was curtailed to terminate by October 1st., 1933, when the land is to revert to the full possession of the Fund.

Further His Excellency the High Commissioner has given his assurance that during the period of lease the Government will do all in its power in order to arrive at a final solution of the question of the Bedouins of Vadi Havarith. During the period of lease no permanent fixtures such as buildings, plantations, etc. may be placed on the land. The sub-lease between the Government and the Bedouins will provide that such lease does not give to the Bedouins any new rights upon the land in question. The Government has also undertaken that in the event of any new legislation it will take into consideration

the special conditions in which the lease from the Jewish National Fund is being made so that the rights of ownership of the Fund upon the land shall not be prejudiced thereby.

The Government will pay to the Jewish National Fund an agreed lease-rental and also compensation for the interruption of cultivation of the land in question, and other damages caused by the lease of the land.

£13,000 RAISED FOR PALESTINE FUNDS IN CAPE TOWN: DR. WEIZMANN ADDRESSES BIG PUBLIC MEETING IN JOHANNESBURG.

Johannesburg, Feb. 29th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Over 3,000 people attended a public meeting held here last night, addressed by Dr. Ch. Weizmann and Dr. Alexander Goldstein, who are heading the South African Keren Hayesod campaign. Mr. Justice Greenberg was in the chair. A thorough canvass of all Jewish residents of Johannesburg on behalf of the Keren Hayesod was started to-day by the Johannesburg Jewish Community.

In Cape Town the Keren Hayesod campaign has already brought in £13,000, and canvassing is still continuing.

THE KEREN HAYESOD CAMPAIGN.

London, March 1st. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Great expectations are entertained of the results of the activities in America, which are carried on under the leadership of Mr. Sokolov, and of the campaign in South Africa, most energetically conducted by Dr. Weizmann, Mr. Berl Locker, member of the Jewish Agency Executive, said in addressing the Press Conference at the Zionist Central Offices yesterday, together with Dr. Brodetsky and Mr. Emmanuel Neuman.

The largest receipts, he went on, are expected from countries which are least affected by the economic crisis; but recognition is no less deserved by those friends of Palestine in other countries who, although most severely hit, are making big sacrifices in order to meet their obligations towards the National Home.

From October to December 1931, he stated, the Keren Hayesod collected £56,000, of which £16,600 were provided by the United States, £10,700 by Great Britain, £8,400 by South Africa, and £4,000 by Poland. In spite of the great difficulties of the present time, the receipts were actually higher than in the corresponding period of 1930. Valuable services were rendered by the Keren Hayesod of America, directed by Mr. Morris Rothenberg and assisted by Mr. Emanuel Neuman, and the Keren Hayesod of Great Britain, under the direction of Mr. Simon Marks. But in other countries, too, work has been carried on with unflagging energy, and it is hoped, Mr. Locker said, that now that campaigns for the Keren Hayesod are in full swing almost everywhere, the financial situation will be somewhat relieved.

The fact that it has been possible, despite the unexampled economic depression and political unrest of the last few months, to keep things going and even to make some not inconsiderable progress, is due, he continued, to the constant efforts of the Executive and its collaborators in all countries which, though quiet and inconspicuous, are both intensive and persistent. The uninterrupted continuance of normal activities and the implementing of the budget in Palestine and in London were rendered possible only by the numerous efforts and sacrifices entailed in the provision of the necessary funds, accompanied by drastic cuts in expenditure.

The Executive, he pursued, is meeting the changed circumstances by cutting the budget both in Palestine and in London to the utmost, and especially by reducing its administrative machinery to the farthest possible limit. Thus in Palestine the number of officials has shrunk from 118 to 56, and in London from 39 to 24. It is self-evident that a limitation of the activities of the Executive had to follow upon the reduction of staff. Thus, the information service could not be kept up in its former dimensions and has suffered curtailment.

The economic and political crisis have not failed of their effect on Zionist activities in various countries. The Zionist Federations have been hard hit by the depression, and only the idealism and devotion of Zionists have saved them from the worst and set them on the road to recovery.

The Revisionists.

Of especial importance are the efforts, now in progress, to end the isolation of Zionist parties, Mr. Locker went on, and to bring about the establishment of territorial joint working committees, designed to facilitate co-operation and to concentrate all Zionist forces within each country. The preparations are necessarily somewhat lengthy, but concrete results are expected very soon. These tendencies towards consolidation, especially gratifying in times of crisis, are unfortunately counteracted, he complained, by efforts at secession made by the Revisionists. With a view to satisfying the separatist aspirations which had become apparent within the Revisionist Union, the Revisionists adopted at Calais resolutions which run counter to the most essential principles of the unity of the Zionist Organisation and of its political activities. These resolutions have been unanimously condemned and rejected by all Zionist Federations and groups which have publicly expressed their views thereon. The Executive, he recalled, published in December a statement dealing with these resolutions and setting out the conditions upon which the Revisionist Union might be incorporated in the Zionist Organisation. Despite the attacks to which it is being subjected by the Revisionists, the Executive, Mr. Locker said, will patiently seek to avert, as far as it lies within its power, the secession of any portion of the movement. It must be quite clear, however, that there is room within the Zionist Organisation only for those who respect its laws and accept its constitution. This question, he added, calls for a very early settlement.

THE PALESTINE DEFENCE FORCES.

London, March 1st. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Brigadier General Spears asked the Under-Secretary of State for Air in the House of Commons to-day if he would state on what ground it was decided that the Royal Air Force should be empowered to create an armoured car force in Palestine and Transjordan, what expert advice was taken before this policy was adopted, the date of this decision, and whether the Chief of the Imperial General Staff advised or concurred in so fundamental a departure from previous policy as the creation of this force entails.

Sir Philip Sassoon, the Under Secretary for Air, in replying, said: General Spears was under some misapprehension. Royal Air Force armoured car units had been functioning in Iraq as well as in Palestine and Transjordan for the past decade with conspicuous success, and such a system could not be described as a fundamental departure from policy. The institution was the result of prolonged and careful investigation and consideration by the Government.

Are we to understand, General Spears asked, that the Air Ministry is going to have a permanently mechanised force and to develop a mechanised land force?

I can only say, Sir Philip Sassoon replied, that this policy has been working successfully for ten years.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS BILL INTRODUCED AGAIN IN HOUSE OF COMMONS.

London, Mar. 1st. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Slaughter of Animals Bill, which Lieutenant-Colonel Moore has introduced into the House of Commons for several years past, seeking to provide that no animal shall be slaughtered for food except by stunning, saving for the Jewish or Mohammedan method of slaughter, was introduced to-day by Colonel Moore and read a first time.

The Bill is backed by the following members of Parliament: Colonel John Buchan, Mr. George Lansbury, Sir Rennel Rodd, Lady Iveagh, Miss Megan Lloyd George, Sir William Davidson, Sir Robert Gower, and Sir Stafford Cripps.

We had introduced a similar bill four years ago, Colonel Moore said, but as it was thought that England was too big a country to try out the experiment it was decided to limit the application of the bill to Scotland. It had been working for three years to the entire satisfaction of those who killed and the greater satisfaction of those who eat. In view of the success he introduced a Bill last year. It obtained a second reading but its progress in committee was checked by the national crisis. He was now introducing it again, in the hope that the knowledge and experience gained would induce the House to give him what he wanted. The object of the bill was to ensure that animals killed for human food should be slaughtered by mechanical instruments instead of by the barbarous method of the pole-axe.

JEWISH NEWSPAPER OFFICE IN CRACOW ATTACKED BY ANTI-JEWISH BOYCOTT AGITATORS.

Warsaw, Feb. 29th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The offices of the Jewish Polish-language daily "Nowy Dzienny" were attacked to-day by members of the Green Ribbon anti-Jewish boycott organisation, who threw stones, smashing the windows. No injuries were caused in the attack.

AGROJOINT'S GRADUAL WITHDRAWING FROM CERTAIN SPHERES OF WORK IN RUSSIA A GRATIFYING NOT AN UNSATISFACTORY SIGN DR. ROSEN FORD OF AGROJOINT DECLARES: J.T.A. REPORT BEING INCORRECTLY COMMENTED ON IN MANY JEWISH PAPERS: "WE HAVE ALWAYS ENDEAVOURED TO CREATE CONDITIONS FOR STATE TAKING OVER THIS GREAT HISTORIC WORK ON BEHALF OF RUSSIAN JEWRY: SOONER THIS WILL BE ATTAINED THE BETTER."

Berlin, Feb. 29th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Dr. Joseph Rosen, the head of the Agrojoint in Russia, who is now in Berlin, made the following statement to-day in the course of a conference with Jewish press representatives here, with regard to the work of the Agrojoint:

The J.T.A. report circulated recently (given in the J.T.A. Bulletin of Feb. 17th.) with regard to a certain reconstruction and change in the work of the Agrojoint in Russia, has, unfortunately, been understood by world Jewry as if these measures were a negative appearance, constituting the surrender of certain achievements and positions. Actually, however, it is thoroughly positive and gratifying.

The Soviet Government is honestly desirous of adapting the Jewish population to the conditions of life of the post-revolutionary period. It has made this the task of the State, and is gradually bringing considerable masses of Jews into agriculture, industry, transport, State service, etc. The Soviet Government, as is known, has allocated to an increasing extent State funds for Jewish settlement. It is making it an unconditional duty of all State organs to collaborate in this process, so that the work of the foreign organisations who have a great share in this revolutionising of the economic structure of Russian Jewry can now diminish their work. We hope that the time will come when the collaboration of these foreign bodies in the work of settling the Jewish population in Russia in agriculture and industry will no longer have the significance which they still have to-day.

For these reasons the Agrojoint started already in 1931 to prepare the ground systematically, so that when its agreement with the Government of the Soviet Union terminates, the work can be continued through the local State organs, without any upheavals. These are the motives for which the Agrojoint is gradually giving up its activity in the field of agriculture in the Crimea and leaving it to the State tractor organisations, and also suspending the further erection of houses for settlers and of public buildings.

The facts were correctly reported by the J.T.A., Dr. Rosen said, but the Jewish press has been making wrong commentaries on these facts. We have always endeavoured to create such conditions, Dr. Rosen concluded, that our activity in the Soviet Union should gradually pass to the State, and that the State should itself continue this very great and historic work on behalf of Russian Jewry. That is the direction of our activity, and the sooner this aim is attained the better.

AMERICAN JEWISH TOOLS CAMPAIGN IN AMERICA AMALGAMATES WITH
AMERICAN O.R.T.: JOINT BODY WILL CONCENTRATE MAINLY ON
POLAND.

New York, Feb. 29th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Folksgezeig American Tools Campaign Organisation, which has been raising funds for providing tools to promote the productivisation of the Jewish populations of Eastern Europe, decided at its fourth Annual Convention, held here to-day in the Hotel Pennsylvania, with 400 delegates present, to amalgamate with the American O.R.T. Organisation.

The new organisation, which will be known as the Folk-O.R.T. Federation, is headed by Mr. B. Vlodeck, the manager of the Jewish daily "Forwards", with Mr. J. Weinberg as Treasurer.

The future activities of the Folk-O.R.T. Federation will be concentrated mainly in Poland.

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