

PALESTINE FROM DAY TO DAY

SIR JOHN CHANCELLOR GREET'S M. PONSOT

Sir John Chancellor has sent a cable of greeting to M. Ponsot on the occasion of his return to Beirut. The French High Commissioner in his reply thanked His Excellency emphasising his appreciation of the courtesy shown to him on his way through Palestine.

VAAD LEUMI INTERVIEWS HIGH COMMISSIONER

The Executive of the Vaad Leumi (National Council of Palestine Jews) interviewed H. E. the High Commissioner yesterday morning. The conversation which lasted for about one hour touched upon the autonomous organisation of the Jewish Communities in the country, the Wailing Wall, immigration and other questions.

Sir John Chancellor remarked that Palestine Jewry should be united and that he hopes Palestine will be built up by Jewish brains, Jewish capital, and work. In regard to immigration, suitable conditions must be created in the country first. His Excellency praised the big Jordan works and the neighbouring colonies which he visited at the end of the week, expressing his wish that all colonies should aim at becoming self-supporting.

The delegation, which consisted of Rabbi Ostrowsky, Dr. Thon and Messrs. Ben Zvi, Meyuchas, Kalvarisky and Salomon, stated that Palestine Jewry received with a feeling of satisfaction His Excellency's inaugural speech on December 6 as well as his reply to Dr. Weizmann (reported in the "Bulletin" of Dec. 28). The delegation asked Sir John Chancellor to convey to His Majesty the King their wishes for a speedy recovery.

RECEPTION TO MR. CRANE AT BETHLEHEM

On Sunday afternoon a reception was held in honour of Mr. Charles Crane at Bethlehem. Numerous guests, (Christians and Moslems), including visitors from Jerusalem, Jaffa, Hebron etc. were present. Three speeches of welcome were delivered by priests who declared that Palestine since the time of Jesus has become a Christian country, and that the Christians preferred to live together with the Palestine Moslems, under bad conditions than to be under a foreign power.

Mr. Crane, in his reply, expressed the hope that during his next visit to Palestine he would find an independent Arab government here.

MOUNT ZION LODGE No. 279

The Mount Zion Lodge No. 279, hitherto conducted in English, has decided to change its language into Hebrew. This will make it the only Hebrew-speaking Masonic lodge in Palestine.

At the annual elections held on Monday evening, the following brethren were elected to the principal offices: Master—W. Bro. Isaiah Karniol; Wardens—Bros. Asher King and S. Ashkenazi; Treasurer—Bro. J. Salomon Siev; and Secretary—Bro. J. L. Meltzer.

MONEY FORGER SENTENCED

Nablus.—The District Court has sentenced Muhammed Ibn Said Abu Zahara to five year's imprisonment because a machine for forging Palestine currency was found in his house.

ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEETS

Jaffa.—The National (Arab) Chamber of Commerce of Jaffa district held its annual meeting on Sunday evening. A representative of the Jewish Chamber of Commerce greeted the meeting. The President of the Arab Chamber in his reply emphasised the cooperation of both bodies during the past period.

The annual report was then read and a new committee elected.

TWO HUNDRED COOPERATIVES IN PALESTINE

There were 199 cooperative societies registered in Palestine in September last. They included 80 societies for the acquisition of land and building, 42 for savings and loans, 25 of producers, 41 of agriculturists. Tel Aviv is the largest centre of cooperative movement in the country, which movement has been developed among the Jews and the Germans but not among the Arabs.

HERZL'S DIARIES

Volume 2 published

The second volume of Dr. Herzl's Diaries published in Hebrew by the Mizpah Publishing Company Jerusalem, has just appeared. It comprises a period of fifteen months, from the end of April 1896 till the beginning of June 1897. The publication and the dissemination of the famous "Judenstadt", Herzl's preliminary negotiations in Constantinople as well as in Vienna, Berlin, Paris and London, and the preparations to the first Zionist Congress are the nucleus of this volume's stories.

The whole volume was translated from German by R. Binyamin. Its make-up is very fine, similar to that of its predecessor.

REPAIR WORKS AT CITADEL STOPPED

The Department of Antiquities has stopped the repair works at the Citadel. About one half of the works have been carried out. The expenses incurred amount to L.P. 7,000.

BACKWARD TAXPAYERS

The financial commission of the Jerusalem Municipality has received from the Revenue Department a list of 106 taxpayers who are several years in arrears for payment. The list will be submitted to the Execution Office.

TRADE ROOMS FOR APPRENTICES

Tel Aviv.—The inauguration of the first trade rooms (metal industry) for apprentices took place here on Saturday evening. The rooms bear the name of Max Fain, the late American Jewish leader who had displayed such great interest in institutions of Palestine labour.

MRS. BLUM DEAD

Tel Aviv.—The death of Mrs. Rivka Blum, wife of the local manufacturer, caused general regret. She returned from the U. S. only three days ago. The funeral took place yesterday with a large throng attending.

BOY-MURDERER

Haifa.—Ahmed Diab Al Hassan, a boy aged 17, was found guilty of attempting the murder of his neighbour seven months ago. He was sentenced to two years' hard labour only in view of his being under age.

TO INVESTIGATE AFFAIRS OF HUNGARIAN CONGREGATION

In view of the numerous complaints by members of the Hungarian Jews' congregation in Jerusalem, the Rabbis and supporters of the congregation in Budapest have decided to send an investigation commission of six. The commission will arrive here shortly.

CATTLE THIEF GETS PRISON FOR ONE YEAR

Two villagers were tried by the Jerusalem District Court on Saturday on a charge of stealing cattle. One was sentenced to one year's imprisonment, while the second was acquitted. Two butchers who purchased the cattle from them were sentenced to three months' imprisonment each.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

The Chief Rabbis of Jaffa (Rabbis Aaronson and Uziel) were received by H. E. the High Commissioner yesterday.

His Excellency said the building of the Jewish National Home requires three things: idealistic devotion, national unity and a sound economic basis.

The Chief Secretary accompanied by Mr. E. Samuel paid a visit to the Jewish National and University Library last week.

Mrs. Grase, a noted peace worker of U.S., is now paying a visit to this country.

WAR WIDOWS REMARRY 2,500 Off the Pension List

LONDON.—A steady decline in the number of beneficiaries is disclosed in the annual report of the Ministry of Pensions for the year ended March 31 last, just issued.

Re-marriage during the year brought a reduction of 2500 in the total of widows, the pensionable age limit of 16 was reached by 65,000 children, and there were 27,000 deaths. This made a total reduction in pensions or allowances of 94,500. At the end of the year 1,584,800 persons were in receipt of pensions or allowances.

The staff had been reduced by 1,698 during the year, or about 18.6 per cent., and totalled 7,432 on March 31 last.

The total expenditure of the Ministry for the year was £59,800,000, about £3,392,000 less than the previous year.

During the year there had been supplied 5,205 artificial legs, 1,106 artificial arms, 17,249 pairs of surgical boots, 4,574 artificial eyes.