JNF IN ACTION
JEWRY AT THE CROSSROADS

"I look forward to the day when the great work which has been achieved in Palestine may be carried forward in peace and harmony"—that is how President Roosevelt has acknowledged the developing revival of the old Jewish Homeland. The sounds of the plough echo again in dale and valley, and the laughter of children is in the air. Swamps have been transformed into fertile land, and gardens blossom on the once desert and sun-baked soil. The hills and rocks are covered with the young green of the saplings, and forests and orchards, orange groves and fields, heavy with crops, surround the young settlements. Townships have sprung up on the sands of the shores, and a new generation has come into being who seem to be the fulfilment of Theodor Herzl's prophecy, "The Maccabees will rise again."

This miracle unfolds itself at a time when the bulk of the Jewish Diaspora has collapsed. The great centres in Central and Eastern Europe, the proud communities on the Western Continent are destroyed. Centuries of cultural achievement and social development have reached a tragic end. For those who have watched with anxiety the trend of Jewish history, this catastrophe does not come as a surprise. Hitler is not an accident of the Diaspora—he has been foreshadowed in every century and in country after country; it was his spirit that raged in Torquemada in Spain and directed the medieval expulsions from Prague; that lit the progrom of Kishineff and made the Dreyfus case in France a world scandal. Anti-semitism is as old as the Galuth; it has changed its reasoning and appearance from time to time and taken another disguise—religious or political, racial or social, economic or literary—it was still the same "Judeophobia."

The nineteenth century allowed the Jews to reap their long desired reward—equality as bestowed upon them in the emancipation period, as secured by the minority rights in Eastern Europe. The minority rights devalued even before Hitler, and the stronghold of civic rights cracked at the first onslaught of our adversaries.

Only one charter in our recent history has weathered the storm—the Balfour Declaration. If this declaration still stands, it is certainly not because the world respects its pledged word. The last twenty years have brought about an appalling disregard of pacts and treaties; very often it has not been policy that has moulded events, but the fait accompli that has shaped policy. There have been many attempts to minimise and misinterpret the

Balfour Declaration. But all of them have failed in the face of the Jewish reality of Eretz Israel. Of course, the strength of our position there could have been manifested both in man-power and land possession had we followed up the political opportunity by concentrating to the utmost on its realisation.

However, our claim to Palestine is not confined to a political charter. It is based on historic and moral titles. Eretz Israel is the only country in the world where Jews can live not on sufferance but as of right. Jewish immigrants do not come as refugees and strangers; they come home. They do not endanger as elsewhere the position of the local Jewry—every newcomer gives additional strength to the Yishuv. Palestine is not a temporary asylum for wandering Jews—it is the Jewish National Home. Daring pioneering, sacrifice and labour have reconquered it again for our people. At a period of world-wide Jewish destruction, Palestine is the centre of construction, of steady progress, of continuous development.

It was the driving force of Zionism that brought forth this miracle, and foremost the national funds, the Jewish National Fund and Keren Hayesod, the instruments of the upbuilding of Palestine, that effected this transformation.

At the time of the Balfour Declaration in 1917, national land in Palestine amounted to 16,000 dunams, constituting 4 per cent. of the total area in Jewish possession at the time. Now the holdings of the J.N.F. are 640,000 dunams, representing 41 per cent.

In 1917, there were seven settlements on J.N.F. land (16 per cent. of all Jewish villages in Palestine). Now there are 165 settlements on national land (62 per cent. of the Jewish total), while in addition there are 16 suburban quarters, 20 rural housing quarters, 12 girls training farms and agricultural schools, and 57 rural labour camps on J.N.F. land.

Then, the J.N.F. started with the first experiments in ameliorating the soil. By now, the J.N.F. has drained and ameliorated 263,000 dunams, constituting 58 per cent. of the total area of land ameliorated by Jews in Palestine.

After the first world war there were only 15,000 trees left, planted by the J.N.F. on 173 dunams in six afforestation areas. To-day, 3,263,000 trees are flourishing on 14,000 dunams in 38 afforested centres.

In 1917 the people living on J.N.F. land represented 1 per cent. of the Jewish population in Palestine. To-day the population on J.N.F. land constitutes 44 per cent. of the total rural population and more than 60 per cent. of the population actually engaged in agriculture. Another 21,000 are living in urban centres on J.N.F. land.

At the time of the Balfour Declaration the share of the J.N.F. land in agricultural production was infinitesimal. To-day, 23 per cent. of the total Jewish plantations, 62 per cent. of the field and


vegetable crops, and 71 per cent. of the irrigated field and garden crops are on J.N.F. land. Settlements on J.N.F. land produce 63 per cent. of the Jewish milk production, 73 per cent. of the Jewish egg production, 75 per cent. of the Jewish vegetable production, and 80 per cent. of the Jewish potato production.

At a period of Jewish disintegration this picture fills us with pride and confidence. Palestine helps feed Allied armies, is providing tools for the battles which once raged dangerously near its own borders. Its volunteers, its labour, its produce have had their share in the victory which has liberated Africa. As the only ray of hope it brightens the horizon of the diaspora; as a mighty power station for the Allies, it fights on for the final liberation of our people.

THE BEGINNINGS OF THE J.N.F.

A week before the opening of the first Congress in 1897, the official Zionist weekly Die Welt, of Vienna, published the text of a resolution which Hermann Schapira, Professor of Mathematics in Heidelberg, wished to present to the Congress. It was then that the Jewish people throughout the world learned the historic news of a National Fund to be set up for the acquisition of land in Palestine, a fund of the people for the people. Such a plan had once been discussed at the Hovevei Zion Conference at Katowitz in 1884 when Schapira ventilated his project for the first time. It was not, however, until the winter Congress held in Basle in 1901 (fifth Zionist Congress) that the National Fund was established. Schapira did not live to see his idea carried into effect. In a momentous afternoon session, Theodor Herzl threw the whole weight of his personality into the debate with the demand that “the Jewish people shall not only set up this Fund but shall also control its disposition in perpetuity.” Two essential elements in the structure of the Jewish National Fund had been foreshadowed in Schapira’s ideas, namely, the inalienability of the land held in trust for the whole Jewish people and the system of hereditary leasehold.

Dr. M. J. Bodenheimer undertook to put the plan into action and drafted the statutes of the National Fund. In the years to follow, Johann Kremenezky, one of Herzl’s most loyal supporters, initiated the first measures for setting up a world embracing organisation and devised the early methods of fund raising. The Central Office, for the first six years in Vienna, was then transferred to Cologne and, during the first world war, established in Hague. In its early days, the obligations of the J.N.F. included land acquisition as well as settlement proper, education and other Zionist activities. Although the National Fund was obliged to transmit considerable sums to Palestine during these years in order to preserve the Zionist foothold there, a fairly large capital reserve was accumulated by 1919, so that it became possible to implement a Zionist land policy immediately after hostilities had ceased.

At the London Conference (June, 1920) the National Fund was declared to be the “instrument of the urban and rural land policy of the Jewish people.” While in the period before its funds were utilised for various Zionist purposes, it was now decided that the Jewish National Fund should be relieved of any other responsibilities and concentrate all its energy and resources on land redemption. Simultaneously, Menahem Ussishkin, who devoted his lifetime to the Fund and became its great guide and leader, was elected a member of its Board of Directors. In the autumn of 1922, the Head Office was transferred to Palestine. This was the turning point in the Fund’s history, signalling a new and productive development. While the first twenty years were devoted to preparation, the Fund now passed into the period of realisation. Jews drawn from all sections and from all corners of the world formed a host of volunteers who have made the National Fund one of the most popular features in Jewish life. Its methods of fund raising, being rooted in old Jewish customs, have become closely interwoven with the social ways of our people. At the same time the National Fund became a significant factor in the education of our youth. Encompassing the Jewries of the whole world, the Jewish National Fund forms the most vital link between the Jews in the Diaspora and Eretz Israel.

PRINCIPLES

Land is the cradle of civilisation; it brings forth the vital requirements for human existence like food; it gives birth to the beauties and pre-requisites of human life—flowers and stones, trees and houses, gardens and towns.

From time to time wars ravage the world, wiping out races and nations, bringing to nought the achievements of centuries, imprinting the footsteps of destruction on future decades. Yet “the earth abideth for ever,” surviving the coming and going of tyrants, resurrecting the people who have their place on it. “Land is the only thing in the world that amounts to anything—for it is the only thing in the world that lasts; the only thing worth working for, worth fighting for, worth dying for.”

For nearly 2,000 years the Jewish people have been excluded from the blessing of the land. Flotsam in the flow of events, they have drifted from west to east, from east to west, at the mercy of others, without a piece of earth to call their own.
The Jewish return entails the return to the land. The curse of the wandering Jew can only be lifted by providing our people with a land where they may pursue their national ways of life, develop their genius, and bring up their children in security. Land is the pivot of the work and strivings of the Jewish National Fund.

A Charter alone does not weld together a people and its land. Political titles must be brought to life through physical possession. A territory is not owned by a nation unless they occupy it as their property, acre by acre, unless they work it and till it, and reap the fruits of their own labour.

"Air, light, land, and water are requisites of life," said the Archbishop of Canterbury in an address, asserting the prior interest of the community in respect of these four fundamentals. In all discussions on post-war planning, the question of nationalisation of the land is in a prominent position. Nearly half a century ago, the Jewish National Fund anticipated this development.

Ideals which animated the agrarian laws of the Bible formed the ethical basis of the Jewish National Fund. In adopting these principles and combining them with modern ideas of social thinkers and economists, it has created an edifice founded on social justice. Its lands are the inalienable property of the Jewish people, occupied by settlers on terms of hereditary leasehold. The Fund acts as trustee, responsible to the Zionist Congress as the democratic representation of our people.

National ownership of land has been advocated by many distinguished writers: the American Henry George, in his book "Progress and Poverty," believed that the ultimate cause of the recurrent economic crises was to be found in speculative increases in the price of land. The only way to prevent speculation, he urged, was to restore the land to the community. Zionist land policy implies that the bulk of the land on which Jewish settlement takes place should be the common property of the people. The National Fund is the instrument for carrying out that policy in town and country. Only on national land could the great social experiment of communal settlements be successfully carried out.

It has been found that the hereditary leasehold is the method most suitable for giving effect to an ethical land policy. The hereditary leasehold is so ancient an institution that references to it already occur in the Bible and in the Talmud. The ground rent is fixed for a period of many years, so that the settler is protected against arbitrary increases. The system ensures further that farms will be kept at a normal size, for each one receives only as much as he and his family can work themselves. The land remains the property of the Jewish people since it cannot be transferred to non-Jews.

No political plan, however favourable, can make Palestine really Jewish unless the land is in Jewish possession. No political intrigue can deny us our just claims to the land of our forefathers if the soil of Eretz Israel is ours.

LAND ACQUISITION

The holdings of the Jewish National Fund amounted, by the end of the first six months of 5703 (1st April, 1943), to 631,476 dunams; while this constitutes 41 per cent. of the total area in Jewish possession, it represents 60 per cent. of all Jewish land purchases during the last 20 years. Great as this achievement may be, Jewish land is only a fraction of the total area of the mandated territory, which covers 27 million dunams, including 12½ million dunams of cultivable land.

During the first three years of the war the pace of land purchase...
has been constantly on the increase, and a total of 137,621 dunams have been redeemed—a peak of achievements never equaled in any other triennial period in the entire history of the Fund. In 1941-42 (5702) the Jewish National Fund acquired 48,981 dunams of land, as against 45,460 in the previous year and 43,180 in the first year of the war.

**RURAL LAND POLICY**

Since the beginning of the war the Fund has acquired 22.1 per cent. of the total land estate redeemed during its 41 years of existence. Of the 49,981 dunams bought during the year 1941-42, no less than 48,948 were rural land. During that year the Fund concentrated on the purchase of land in two areas of foremost importance: Galilee and Judea, thus extending the Jewish settlement area to the north and south.

In Galilee 20,056 dunams were acquired, of these 12,128 dunams in Lower Galilee linking up the PICA villages there with the settlements in the Valley of Jezreel, and 7,928 dunams in Upper Galilee, expanding the estate of the Fund in this area to the north of the Huleh both in the plain and in the hills. In Judea a total of 16,787 dunams was purchased, the bulk being in the south near Gaza and Beersheba where the land purchased was, for the most part, immediately available for new settlements, so far the southernmost outposts of Jewish Palestine.

In endeavouring to build up a land reserve, the Fund is trying as far as possible to proceed along lines which would strengthen the Jewish position both to-day and to-morrow. By penetrating into areas where land purchase is particularly difficult, results were achieved which are of more than economic importance. New areas in various parts of the country were opened for Jewish settlement. Of 137,621 dunams acquired, 29 per cent. is in Judea, 22 per cent. in Upper Galilee, 17 per cent. in Lower Galilee, 14 per cent. in the Sharon, and 18 per cent. in the Valley of Jezreel, the Jordan Valley and Samaria. Thus the Fund has succeeded in expanding the national estate in vital parts of the country.

**DISTRIBUTION OF J.N.F. HOLDINGS**

(At the end of 5702—30th Sept., 1942)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Dunams</th>
<th>per cent.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valley of Jezreel</td>
<td>181,545</td>
<td>29.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judea</td>
<td>89,064</td>
<td>14.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Plain</td>
<td>74,382</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Valley</td>
<td>69,221</td>
<td>11.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Galilee</td>
<td>68,014</td>
<td>11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emek Ze vulun</td>
<td>60,684</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Galilee</td>
<td>37,679</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samaria</td>
<td>29,802</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>610,391</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**URBAN LAND POLICY**

Another task of the J.N.F. which has been of great importance and will be still more so after the war, is that of providing land for the development of Palestine's urban centres. The time will come when once again new houses will be needed for the growing Yishuv, for the young men and women returning from the army and from other war jobs, and for the masses of immigrants. The problem is being made even more acute by the fact that in the past few years there has been a slump in building.

The rise in the cost of building materials and their scarcity in war-time has led to an almost complete cessation of building for civilian purposes. As a result, the war period has been marked by a housing shortage in all the towns of Palestine. This problem has already assumed serious proportions. Our national institutions are alive to the situation, and are already taking steps to tackle the difficulties which will undoubtedly confront us at the end of the war. First and foremost it is essential to prepare land reserves for housing development in the towns and in other centres where an increase of population may be expected. In recent years the J.N.F. has been giving close consideration to this aspect of its work. In Haifa the problem has to a large extent been solved by the acquisition of the Emek Ze vulun lands, where there are already a number of flourishing suburbs and where there is still plenty of room for housing development. In Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, the position is different and requires prompt attention. During the year 5702, the J.N.F. was engaged on land purchase schemes in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem which are calculated to be of great importance in strengthening the Jewish position there. An area was acquired in 5702 near Kiriat Avodah and Givat Rambam in the neighbourhood of Tel Aviv and will serve for suburban housing development. At Safed, too, the Fund was able to complete the purchase of an important parcel of land from the Scottish Church in the centre of the town, as the site of a convalescent home which will be of great benefit to local development. Additional land was granted to the Hebrew University and Hadassah on Mount Scopus. With the expansion of both institutions, more land is needed for extending the existing facilities. The J.N.F. endeavours to place at the disposal of the institutions the areas required.

A number of the plantation villages, such as Petah Tikvah, Rishon-le-Zion and Nathanya, have in the course of time developed into urban centres. Here, too, it is imperative to create land reserves for post-war housing development. The Fund has applied itself to this task.

The J.N.F. has also prepared town planning schemes in the neighbourhood of Kiryath Amal and in Emek Hepher, which are due to be approved by the Government town planning commissions. This, too, is an essential step in the preparation for post-war housing development.
LAND SCHEMES

FARM CITY SCHEME

In 1938 the J.N.F. adopted a great new land scheme for the establishment of Farm Cities. In the past four years this scheme has met with a tremendous response in Great Britain. It provides an opportunity for contributors to acquire the right to a hereditary leasehold property of one or more plots of 2½ dunums of land in one of the Farm Cities. The participants in this Scheme, all of whom are Jews in Great Britain, have formed the Palestine Farm City Association, Ltd., representing the interests of the participants and acting for their benefit. The J.N.F. has bought stretches of land on the seashore to the south of Nathanya for the establishment of the first Farm City comprising 372 plots. The land is being planned in such a manner as to ensure that the Farm City will be worthy of its name. Professor Alexander Klein has drawn up the town plan for the first Farm City which will be correspondingly adapted for the other Farm Cities.

For the second Farm City, an area of 288 plots, situated in the Sharon, on the main Tel Aviv-Haifa high road, has been set aside, which is now being surveyed and planned. At the instance of the J.N.F., a body of planning experts has been established, while the Agricultural Research Station of the Jewish Agency at Rehovoth has formulated detailed suggestions for the development of the agricultural plots in the Farm Cities.

An area in the southern part of the residential district of Haifa Bay has been provided for the third Farm City, which will have 250 plots, and for the fourth Farm City, with 450 plots, the site has been chosen on the seashore at Emek Hepher, bordering the River Alexander and Kfar Vitkin in the centre of a flourishing Jewish settlement area.

JOINT LAND PURCHASE SCHEME

The problem of land purchase in Palestine has been gravely complicated in past years as a result of the unorganised buying of land by private individuals. The latter often entered the land market without any expert knowledge and, regardless of the national interest, made extravagant bids for land, which seriously raised the price to the detriment both of the Jewish National Fund and themselves. In some cases they actually competed for land for which the Jewish National Fund was already negotiating. It is essential that land-buying in Palestine should be organised and centralised and that Jews should not compete one against the other.

Large tracts of agricultural land must now be acquired in Palestine to be prepared as rapidly as possible for large-scale settlement. Such a land-buying programme can be successfully carried out if national and private interests combine and if the purchase of the necessary land is concentrated in the hands of a single agency—a plan which leading experts have long advocated.

The J.N.F. is the largest buyer of land in Palestine and is concerned solely with the national interest; it has had 40 years' experience in the field of land purchase, and it clearly would be an appropriate body to deal with this important problem. The J.N.F. has therefore introduced the Joint Land Purchase Scheme, which aims at eliminating unnecessary competition in the buying of land and protects the private investor from exploitation by unscrupulous agents. The plan safeguards the interests of the investor and enables him to buy on most advantageous terms.

The policy of the Jewish National Fund to buy land for private individuals has been justified by experience, and the co-operation between national and private interests proved to be practicable and helpful in the Fund's land purchase activities. Substantial areas have been acquired as a result of this Scheme.

SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY

During the period under review there have been difficulties arising out of the war such as have never been encountered in the Fund's history. In spite of it, settlement activities were carried on. Nineteen new Jewish settlements were established during the first three years of the war, 17 of which were on Jewish National Fund land:
In the first six months of 5703 Kfar Szold in Upper Galilee was established; furthermore, a settlement in Southern Judea near Gaza (not yet named) and Kfar Herzog, between Jerusalem and Hebron. It is worth remembering that during the last war Jewish settlement activity in Palestine was almost entirely suspended. During this war it has been possible to continue settlement work despite tremendous difficulties, such as the increase in the cost of building materials and equipment, which in turn necessitated much higher settlement budgets, and the shortage of man-power which has had an adverse effect on a number of Kibbutzim and Smallholders’ Groups awaiting settlement. The establishment of 19 new settlements during three years of war can therefore be regarded as an important achievement.

In 1941-42 (5702) the following new settlements were founded on J.N.F. land:

- Dov Hos, one of the leaders of the General Federation of Jewish Labour, and his family who were killed in a motor accident in 1940.
- Doroth, established by Kibbutz Haboneh, is named after the late Dov Hos, one of the leaders of the General Federation of Jewish Labour, and his family who were killed in a motor accident in 1940. Doroth marks an important extension of the national area to the south, for it is situated 20 miles to the south of Negba, which was formerly the southernmost extremity of Jewish Palestine.
- Tamra, a settlement in Upper Galilee, which has been established by Hagalil, a group formed by the sons of Galilee farmers.
- The lands of two other settlements were transferred to the J.N.F.—Kfar Avraham, a smallholders’ settlement in the coastal plain near Petach Tikva, and the land of Sarona, a smallholders’ settlement in Lower Galilee.

The total number of agricultural settlements on Jewish National Fund land had reached the figure of 165 by the 30th March, 1943.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Establishment</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samaria September 1939</td>
<td>Beth Yitshak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samaria October 1939</td>
<td>Beth Oren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Galilee January 1940</td>
<td>Amir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Galilee January 1940</td>
<td>4. Kfar Felix Warburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Galilee January 1940</td>
<td>5. Beth Hillel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Galilee January 1940</td>
<td>6. Gan Hopher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Galilee January 1940</td>
<td>7. Metzudath Ussishkin C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Galilee December 1940</td>
<td>8. Matzova</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Galilee December 1940</td>
<td>9. Kfar Nehemiah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon February 1941</td>
<td>10. Nira</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beisan Vale July 1941</td>
<td>11. Avukah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judea October 1941</td>
<td>12. Yavnah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samaria November 1941</td>
<td>13. Ramat Hashofet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Judea December 1941</td>
<td>14. Doroth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Judea December 1941</td>
<td>15. Gath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Galilee January 1942</td>
<td>16. Tamra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samaria August 1942</td>
<td>17. Maniat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


during the last six years amounts to 162 per cent. The total area under irrigation covers now over 56,000 dunams.

This development has imposed a heavy responsibility on the Mekoroth Water Company, which is mainly an undertaking of the Jewish National Fund and Keren Hayesod. In 1939 this Company provided its consumers with 1,000,000 cubic metres of water; in 1940 the figure rose to 2,800,000 cubic metres, and in 1941 to 4,700,000 cubic metres. Of this latter figure, 1,000,000 cubic metres were provided to Hadar Hakarmel and the Jewish suburbs in Haifa, and the remainder—77 per cent, of the total quantity—to 24 agricultural settlements stretching from Usha in Emek Zevulun to Sarid in the Valley of Jezreel. In 1942 Mekoroth achieved a new record in water supply of nearly 7,000,000 cubic metres.

During the year 5702 the J.N.F. helped in the establishment of a special fund to finance the search for new sources of water. Borings were made at the foot of the Nazareth Hills, in the Valley of Jezreel, and at the foot of the Carmel.

In the north of Emek Zevulun the J.N.F. expanded the Kfar Masaryk water supply in order to enable the irrigation of new areas and an increase in agricultural production. The Fund also built a pumping station on the Ein Afie canal, which has made it possible to bring a great part of the land on both banks of the Naaman river under intensive cultivation (Northern Haifa Bay). In addition, the J.N.F. assisted in the construction of water supply systems in a number of settlements in Upper Galilee. In the Huleh, the J.N.F. made observations and experiments which will serve as a basis for the eventual rational planning of the drainage and irrigation of this important area. Preliminary investigations have also been made of the problem of surfacing water flow in a number of districts in the Negev, the southern part of the country.

**IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE WATER SUPPLY**

With the expanding and intensified agricultural production, the demand for water for irrigation purposes has risen by leaps and bounds. The growth of irrigation during the last six years amounts to 162 per cent. The total area under irrigation covers now over 56,000 dunams.

The J.N.F. has always managed to meet the growing demand for water with a regular budget for its water supply and drainage work. In 1941-42, £10,600 were spent on the amelioration of newly acquired land and £5,100 on land development, including drainage and anti-malarial work. £16,400 were used for afforestation.

During the war most parts of the country were made malaria-free, among them the last districts in Haifa Bay and Emek Hefer, where drainage operations were successfully concluded, and which are now completely cleared from this plague. A constant anti-malarial service is employed by the J.N.F., which keeps a permanent watch on all potential breeding grounds of mosquitoes, providing night-patrol guards and taking all steps to prevent the outbreak of malaria.

**DRAINAGE AND ANTI-MALARIAL WORK**

The J.N.F. has always been able to provide water to its settlements and to the new areas it acquires. The demand for water, both for irrigation and for human consumption, has increased enormously, and the J.N.F. has had to adapt its water supply systems to meet the new needs. The Fund has also been able to provide water for new sources of water. Borings were made at the foot of the Nazareth Hills, in the Valley of Jezreel, and at the foot of the Carmel.

In the north of Emek Zevulun the J.N.F. expanded the Kfar Masaryk water supply in order to enable the irrigation of new areas and an increase in agricultural production. The Fund also built a pumping station on the Ein Afie canal, which has made it possible to bring a great part of the land on both banks of the Naaman river under intensive cultivation (Northern Haifa Bay). In addition, the J.N.F. assisted in the construction of water supply systems in a number of settlements in Upper Galilee. In the Huleh, the J.N.F. made observations and experiments which will serve as a basis for the eventual rational planning of the drainage and irrigation of this important area. Preliminary investigations have also been made of the problem of surfacing water flow in a number of districts in the Negev, the southern part of the country.
AFFORESTATION

Twenty thousand dunams of good farming land are lost in Palestine every year through soil erosion. The rain waters sweep down the barren hills, washing away with them the upper layers of the soil, causing fissures and dragging large quantities of earth into the open sea. This process, which menacing agriculture in many parts of the country, is a direct outcome of deforestation. Palestine was famous for its forests in Biblical times. It was only during the Turkish period that the land became denuded of trees, a desert of bare rocks.

Afforestation absorbs rainfall and prevents soil erosion. Many settlements could never have won their fight against the obstacles of Nature if the forests had not come to their assistance. Trees protect the crops against the wind and help in surfacing underground water; they are a means of draining swamps, and if in sufficiently large numbers increase the moisture of the earth.

3,262,857 trees have been planted by the J.N.F. in the last 20 years, covering an area of 14,079 dunams in 38 afforestation centres. Nearly half a million trees have been planted during the first three years of war, 166,110 in 1941-42, as against 155,468 in the previous year.

AFFORESTATION CENTRES WITH MORE THAN 100,000 TREES

1. Kfar Hahorosh ... 600,000 trees
2. Ginegar (Balfour Forest) ... 400,000
3. Kiryat Anavim-Maale Mahamisha ... 358,000
4. Mishmar Haemek ... 240,000
5. Shaar Haamakim ... 160,000
6. Ramat Yohanan ... 143,000
7. Ein Hashofet ... 132,000
8. Shimrom (King George V Forest) ... 128,000
9. Hasorea ... 111,000
10. Ben Shemen ...

The area in Palestine still to be afforested amounts to 42,000 dunams. On the average 300 saplings being needed per dunam, the number of trees required amounts to 12,600,000. As the planting and tending of 1,000 saplings needs 85 working days, altogether 1,071,000 working days must be provided for the afforestation of this area, spreading over four years. Based on wages and prices on pre-war standards, there must be provision for a total expenditure of 4½ million pounds. In addition, 25,000 dunams of ancient forests which have been thinned out and neglected during the last two centuries are being revived by the J.N.F. and transformed into pleasant woodlands, requiring another three million trees.

If we were to continue with afforestation at the same rate as in the past, it would take nearly three generations to fulfill this task. Unless settlement activities and agriculture are to be seriously hampered, we have to plant nearly as many trees in one year as we planted altogether in the last 20 years—three million.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

JEWISH AGRICULTURE

Jewish agriculture fills a glorious chapter in the epic story of the upbuilding of the Jewish National Home. As the demands from the Allied Forces stationed in Palestine and the bordering countries laid a heavy strain on the food situation in Palestine, and the scarcity of shipping space prohibited many essential imports, Jewish agriculture closed the gap by intensifying its production. Although many labourers volunteered for the armed forces, agricultural production increased considerably during the first three years of the war. In vegetables, potatoes, dairy produce and fruit, Palestine is now not only self-sufficient, but supplies considerable quantities for military requirements. The introduction of oil seeds and successful experiments in exploiting local raw materials have further eased the food situation. In addition, agricultural plants have been cultivated for industrial purposes.
MIXED FARMING

Forty per cent. of the 10,000 private Jewish farm units in Palestine are engaged in cattle breeding; 81 per cent. in poultry raising; 60 per cent. grow vegetables; 36 per cent. own small cattle. 88 per cent. of the 148 collective farms breed cows, 62 per cent. small cattle, 90 per cent. poultry, and 92 per cent. grow vegetables.

Milk and dairy produce represent the chief output of Jewish farming. Of the various dairy products, milk itself amounts to 42 per cent., butter to 22 per cent., cream, sour milk and Kefir 20 per cent., and cheese to 16 per cent. (Milk production during the current year is estimated at 52 million litres.)

Although J.N.F. holdings are 41 per cent. of the total Jewish land, they represent 51 per cent. of the total Jewish area under cultivation. Since 1936 the national area under plough has been enlarged by 136,000 dunams—constituting a rise by 68 per cent. The extension has been chiefly due to the increase in field and garden crops in the existing settlements and to the establishment of new settlements.

IRRIGATED FIELD CROPS

Irrigated Jewish field crops show a marked development during the war. The areas sown with vegetables and potatoes extended in 1942 to 26,700 dunams, as against 8,300 dunams in 1936; those under potatoes to 12,400 dunams (including about 3,200 dunams to meet the requirements of the Military Authorities). The irrigated acreage under forage crops is 28,900 dunams (compared with 13,000 dunams in 1936).

Areas under irrigation yield two and three crops a year. Although this process is usually associated with mixed farming, it is interesting to compare the yield of the land worked by Jews also in respect of cereals. The Jewish-owned area of land under wheat constitutes only 6 per cent. of the total, yet it produces 14 per cent. of the wheat crop of Palestine. In the case of barley the figures are even more striking. Jewish land under barley is only 4 per cent. of the whole, yet it yields 17 per cent. of the crop. In the case of maize and oats the respective figures are 7 per cent. of the area and 9 per cent. of the crops.

EXPANSION OF JEWISH FISHERY

Fish breeding during the past years has shown a great expansion; this activity has been introduced in 12 agricultural settlements (11 of them on J.N.F. land), the ponds covering 1,600 dunams. The haul of fish during the first three years of the war has grown six-fold. Deep sea fishing yielded 157 tons in 1941-42, as against 26 tons in 1938-39; fishing in artificial ponds increased to 133 tons in 1941-42 from 1 ton in 1938/39, and coastal and lake fishing amount to 372 and 58 tons in the two periods of comparison.

INCOME OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS

The growth of Jewish agriculture is reflected in the income of the settlements on J.N.F. land. During the last three years for which figures are available their revenue shows a remarkable increase:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Agriculture</th>
<th>Enterprises and workshops</th>
<th>Outside work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1938-39</td>
<td>£1,025,000</td>
<td>£221,000</td>
<td>£431,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940-41</td>
<td>£1,893,000</td>
<td>£661,000</td>
<td>£472,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941-42</td>
<td>£3,026,000</td>
<td>£3,026,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sixty-three per cent. of the total income from workers' farms was derived from the various branches of agriculture. The returns from undertakings and workshops were twice as much in 1941 as in 1940, indicating an important development which is still in its infancy: rural industry.

INDUSTRY

HAIFA BAY

Palestine has become the workshop in the Middle East for the Allied war machine. Over 50,000 Jewish workers are employed in Jewish industrial undertakings, 400 of which have been established in war-time. In 1942 Jewish industry executed military orders to the value of eight million pounds, a figure which will certainly be surpassed in the present year.

One of the most important industrial centres of Palestine is situated on Jewish National Fund land in Haifa Bay, where there are now 50 factories; more than £1 million pounds have been invested in these industrial enterprises. To enable them to cope with the increased production, the J.N.F. places additional areas at their disposal from time to time in order to extend their facilities.

RURAL INDUSTRIES

A new feature has been introduced in the economic effort of the settlements which is intended—together with the agricultural pursuits—to make the settlements self-supporting. These rural factories on Jewish National Fund land have developed into a substantial factor in the economic life of the Yishuv. There are nearly 60 settlements on national soil which have their profitable industrial branches ranging from small workshops to large factories which employ more than 100 workers.

The type of industrial work done in rural settlements varies. They have their own carpentries, blacksmith forges and tinsmithies, canning plants, cobbiling workshops, quarrying outfits, tile factories, jam factories, and other plants. The jam industry at Givat Brenner and Ashdoth Yaakov and the box factory at Afikim engage more than 100 workers each; among other rural industries are a
IRRIGATED GARDEN AND FIELD CROPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>1936</th>
<th>1943</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>64%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of its total income of seven million pounds the Jewish National Fund has brought two-fifths to Palestine in the past five years alone. Altogether, land has been acquired for £5,500,000; amelioration works, afforestation, water supply and contribution towards land settlement and maintenance of land took up the remaining million and a-half.

DISTRIBUTION

In recent years there have been considerable changes in the distribution of J.N.F. income. Of the £1,919,900 received in the three years of the war, 59 per cent. was derived from the U.S.A., as against 50 per cent. in the period 1937-39 and 20 per cent. in the period 1934-36. The British Empire accounted for 27 per cent. of the income in the three war years, of which 12 per cent. came from England, 11 per cent. from South Africa, 3 per cent. from Canada and 1 per cent. from Australia, New Zealand and British India. Thus during the war period the English-speaking countries accounted for 86 per cent. of the total income of the J.N.F., as against 69 per cent. in the period 1937-39 and 48 per cent. in the period 1934-36. The remaining 14 per cent. of the income during the first war years was derived as follows: Palestine 7 per cent., and European countries, 6 per cent. The remaining 1 per cent. is made up by Central and South America. The share of these countries in J.N.F. work has latterly been on the increase, and in 1941-42 they provided 2 per cent. of the annual income.

It should be remembered that in the period 1934-36 the countries on the Continent provided 37 per cent. of the income, and in the period 1937-39 21 per cent. In the year 1941-42 the income from the European countries declined to 14 per cent., coming mainly from Switzerland and Sweden.

The distribution by countries of the total income of £7,000,000 is: U.S.A. 38 per cent., European countries 29 per cent., British Empire 23 per cent., Palestine 6 per cent., other countries 4 per cent.

INCOME

INCOME

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

The income of the J.N.F. during the first three years of the war amounts to nearly two million pounds, bringing the total world income of the J.N.F. to seven million pounds. £682,500 have been raised from contributions during 1941-42 (5702). This represents a record income in the history of the J.N.F. constituting an increase of over 10 per cent. over the income of the previous year. This record, however, has already been surpassed. During the first six months of 5703, the receipts of the Jewish National Fund were £400,000, which marks the highest amount ever obtained by the Fund within such a period.

cheese factory at Kfar Shmaryahu, a factory producing liquid pectine at Kfar Vitkin, a factory for the production of citrus juices at Kfar Saba, the "Galam" factory for cornflour and glucose at Karkur, the "Arad" factory in Dalia, engaged on precision instruments, and a textile factory in Nira.

The turnover from industrial enterprises in rural settlements on J.N.F. land amounted to £661,000 in 1940-41 and has since then substantially increased.

BEQUESTS

The total receipts of the J.N.F. from bequests now reach the figure of £182,000. During 1941-42 the income from bequests was £32,000. £23,000 were received from the bequest of the late Isaac Ochberg, of South Africa, from whose estate the J.N.F. has already benefited to the extent of £37,000 in addition to £42,000 in loans on account of payments due to be effected in the near future. From the estate of the late Isaac Goldberg, of Palestine, a further £4,061 was received, bringing its total to £8,061. A sum of £1,893 was transmitted from the estate of the late Moses Epstein, of South Africa, raising the amount from this bequest to £4,832. From the estate of the late Rosie Lewis, of South Africa, £1,016 was received, bringing the total income from this estate to £8,257. In the first half of 5703, the late Mr. Simon Hershberg, of Westcliff-on-Sea,
England, bequeathed a third of his residuary estate to the Jewish National Fund, from which the Fund is to benefit to the extent of over £1,000.

LIVING LEGACIES

Amongst a number of special contributions "Living Legacies" deserve particular mention. "Living Legacies" enable the transfer of money or property to the J.N.F. on condition of its paying a fixed annual return to the contributor or beneficiary designated by him during his lifetime. The total income from "Living Legacies" received by the Fund since the initiation of this scheme is £225,000.

GROUND RENT INCOME FROM J.N.F. LAND

Ground Rent constitutes a source of income which is ever increasing with the expansion of settlement activities. In determining the amount of ground rent, certain factors relevant to Zionist settlement work must be borne in mind, such as the peculiar characteristics of the Jewish settler and the difficulties he must combat as well as the limited capital at his disposal. It is therefore impossible to fix ground rents in accordance with the economic value of the land. Because the rents upon Jewish national land are so low, it is possible for the leaseholders to pay them under all conditions, and they are rendered less dependent on economic variations.

In 1941-42 a substantial achievement can be recorded in the income from ground rent. For the first time in the history of the Fund receipts from this source have exceeded the £25,000 mark and reached a figure of £25,610, as against £16,344 in the previous year. Thus the golden circle closes—the land yields revenue which will be re-invested in land. The more land acquired by the Fund, the higher will be its income from ground rent, which, again, will be used for land purchase. In recent years a remarkable change has taken place in the income from ground rent, favoured by the readiness on the part of the settlers on national land to meet their commitments towards the National Fund.

It was only ten years ago that the J.N.F. was able to begin with the systematic collection of leasehold rentals, and even to-day the income from this source is not proportionate to the total value of the J.N.F.'s landed estate. Nonetheless it is significant that the income from this source has already become a permanent feature of the J.N.F.'s annual accounts, and that it is becoming increasingly important from year to year. There has been a steady rise in income from ground rent both from rural and urban property. Of the £6,489 received from industrial property in 1941-42, £4,601 came from the Oil Refineries in Emek Zevulun, £1,358 from factories and workshops in Haifa Bay, and the remainder from stone quarries and the sale of sand.
The total of £123,000 consists of £43,000 (50 per cent.) from rural holdings, £61,000 (35 per cent.) from urban estate, and £19,000 (15 per cent.) from industrial property.

When the J.N.F. first began to collect ground rents, almost all the income was derived from its urban lands. Subsequently, income from rural property began to rise, while in recent years it has almost reached the level of the income from urban estate. In 1941-42 for the first time the income from rural property exceeded income from urban property.

**FUND RAISING IN GREAT BRITAIN**

The share of Great Britain in the world income of the Jewish National Fund has increased steadily since 1938-39. In 1939-40 its contributions amounted to £40,000, in 1940-41 to £62,000, in 1941-42 it rose to £135,000, and the receipts for the first six months of 1942-43 have reached the figure of nearly £80,000.

The Palestine Victory Campaign and the Palestine Solidarity Campaign—the two great drives of the last two years—have rallied British Jewry to the Zionist cause as never before. New and still mightier efforts are on the way and will make "Geulat Haaretz" the watchword of the Anglo-Jewish community.

The Blue Box has become the symbol of the redemption of Eretz Israel. Under the motto "No home without the Blue Box," the J.N.F. has placed many thousand Blue Boxes more in Jewish houses, the majority of them pledged to yield at least a penny a day.

The Golden Book is gaining still wider popularity, and the number of Simchas on which inscriptions are made in this eternal chronicle of the Jewish People, is growing. Its volumes, kept in Jerusalem, record both the happy and sad events in the life of Jews, record the names of men and women who have served our cause, Jews and friends of the Jewish people. A special section has been opened, based on the Fifth Commandment, "Honour Thy Father and Thy Mother," where children can perpetuate the names of their parents.

Trees have always played a conspicuous part in J.N.F. activities in Great Britain. A recent suggestion to present Tree Certificates as birthday gifts, has been well received. Two afforestation projects are at present being carried out by British Jewry—the Hertz Forest, inaugurated on the 70th birthday of the Chief Rabbi of the British Empire, and the Children's Forest. Trees planted by the children in Eretz Israel on behalf of the children of the Jewish community of Great Britain, are to be a living memorial for the Jewish child victims of Nazi persecution.

In Sefer Hayeled, the Children's Book, Jewish children can be inscribed on their birth, brith milah, pidyon haben, and any anniversaries.

Substantial sums have been derived from Bequests, and every Jew should make it his solemn duty to remember the J.N.F. in his Will.

A considerable income for land redemption in Palestine has been received through the J.N.F. Charitable Trust. The Trust, whose purpose is to provide land in Palestine for the settlement of Jewish refugees from Nazi Europe, is a legally recognised charity; as such every contributor who signs a seven years' covenant enables the Trust to recover income tax equal to the amount he pays, so that he doubles his contributions without additional cost to himself.

The significance of the Farm City Scheme is greater than the already considerable part it has played in the budget of the J.N.F. It now embraces many hundreds of Jewish families in this country and its popularity is steadily growing. Its significant contribution to land acquisition in Palestine is reviewed on another page.

The Joint Land Purchase Scheme still serves as an important means of interesting Jewish private enterprise in the land market of Palestine.

לעם ישראל חי!

The redemption of the land of Palestine is a matter of life and death for the Jewish people.

When democracy has been victorious and the new world is being shaped, the Jews will be expected to produce concrete and practicable plans. The realisation of these plans will, to no small extent, depend on our economic and organisational strength in Palestine. When the destiny of Eretz Israel comes to be decided, our achievements will be measured dunam by dunam, settlement by settlement; and our claims will be measured by our achievements. Our effort to launch a bold policy of land purchase now, will be a factor of prime significance in our political position after the war.

Already the Arab interest in the Palestinian land market has grown. Arabs do not come as sellers only, they come as buyers; hailing from Palestine and Syria and Egypt, they invest capital in real estate in Palestine. Flattering as their confidence in the economic prospects of Palestine may prove—the race for the land is the race for the future. We have the means to take up the challenge. At present land can be bought. It is in our hands to shape the face of post-war Palestine according to our efforts now.

After the war, thousands of young Jewish men and women from Palestine who have answered the call of our people and are now serving as volunteers with the forces, will return with the desire to settle down as quickly as possible to the conditions of peace, having toiled and risked their lives for the establishment of a better world.

Youngsters who came with the Youth Aliyah into the country, saved from the clutches of Nazism, will have grown up and must be transferred to agricultural pursuits.

Then there are the children of our Chalutzim, born and bred on the land in Palestine, who wish to settle themselves. Should they be driven to the towns because we have no land?
More than 30,000 Jewish immigrants have entered Palestine during the war; land must be provided for them.

The transformation from war-time to peace-time economy cannot but lay an economic strain on the country, entailing difficulties on the labour market, especially in the industrial branches of work. Only a large reserve of land ready for cultivation and able to absorb substantial numbers of war-workers, will insure a smooth adaptation to the new tasks of peace.

There is, of course, still another aspect of the land question—it is a necessity to prepare large areas to absorb the new immigration which is to take place from the ruined Diaspora. Thousands of Jewish children, bereft of their parents and relatives, facing the danger of complete degeneration both physical and spiritual, have to be saved for a life of freedom and dignity. Adults, men and women, with broken energies and shattered nerves, must be transferred into healthy surroundings, cared for by a community which does not see in them a burden but an honour, trying to regain them for productive occupation.

The goodwill of the free nations will certainly not solve these problems for us. The Allied Governments will be preoccupied with the care for their own citizens and with the reconstruction of their looted countries.

The remnant of Jewry which will survive destruction in the shattered centres of Eastern Europe, will be our responsibility. Conferences on refugee questions and solemn declarations have not helped us. The Jewish question is not a matter of charity. International sympathy does not satisfy our claims. Again and again, we have been taught the lesson that nothing will be given to us that we have not laboured for and acquired through our own sacrifices. At no time more than at this juncture of world events, the Zionist postulate of self-help is imperative for the free Jewries.

The Battle for Land which we have to fight out, is the battle for the survival of the Jewish people. "When the Jewish people have redeemed Eretz Israel, then Eretz Israel will redeem the Jewish people." Let us remember these words of Menahem Ussishkin and accept the challenge! When the enemy was approaching the gates of Palestine, the Yishuv stood up, men and women alike, to man the bastions; when the oppression in the ghettos grew unbearable, Jews, an outnumbered minority, stormed the machine-gun posts of the Nazi brutes and died fighting. In their spirit be our answer—not words but deeds! Let our action speak, cheering our friends and disheartening our foes: The Jewish People lives!

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