THE RIGHT TO GROW

By LOUIS BROMFIELD

The soil becomes a part of the daily life and dreams of the pioneers.

NO ONE who knows anything of the remarkable record of the Jewish colonization of Palestine could have any doubt concerning the efficiency of the original plan nor the way in which it has proven itself. In a poor and semi-desert country, through intelligence, energy and leadership, the Jew has built in Palestine a prosperous, growing and highly civilized community, an asset not only to the individual Jews responsible for the brilliant record of fact, but to the entire world.

That settlement, that state, deserves the protection and encouragement of Great Nations. It does not deserve to be the football of politicians. Beyond its immediate and already proven purpose, it has perhaps a greater one—that of a refuge for the persecuted and tragic Jews of the European continent. Little serious or practical consideration has been given this aspect of Palestine by powers and politicians whose lip-service to the cause of the persecuted Jew has been great but whose actual support has been slight or non-existent.

The Palestine "problem" is far simpler than political propagandists would have us believe. Many of the so-called "difficulties" have come from an unwillingness to deal intelligently and powerfully with the "problem" and much of the opposition to the expansion of the Palestine project has been based simply upon a deliberate and calculated campaign of misrepresentation and upon political maneuvers based upon this ignorance. The persecuted Jews of Europe deserve a more honest consideration and a better fate. Palestine has earned the right to live and grow.

This statement is made by a non-Jew after a long experience with continental Europe and its problems as well as with the maneuverings of certain politicians and powers. It is made by one with great faith in the Jewish people and their right to Palestine as a refuge and a nation.

(Below) A view of London Square in the all-Jewish city of Tel Aviv.