

THE JEWISH VETERAN



The American Economic Committee for Palestine

The Boycott Movement
(An International Survey)

How Times Have Changed

My Dash To Europe

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OCTOBER 1933

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PRESENTING OUR CHAPLAIN-IN-CHIEF SOLOMON A. FINEBERG

Our Chaplain-in-Chief Rabbi Solomon A. Fineberg, Rabbi of Sinai Temple, Mount Vernon, N. Y., recently received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Columbia University, New York, for work done in the Religious Education Department of the Teachers College. Rabbi Fineberg passed the final examination for the degree in May, 1931. The formal award of the degree was made upon the publication of his book, "The Teaching of Biblical Myth and Legend."

Rabbi Fineberg received the degree of Bachelor of Arts at the University of Cincinnati in 1917. He is a graduate of the Hebrew Union College of Cincinnati, Ohio,



RABBI S. A. FINEBERG

where he was ordained in 1920. After his ordination he served for four years as rabbi of Temple Beth El, Niagara Falls, N. Y., and two years as assistant rabbi of Rodef Shalom Congregation, Pittsburgh, Pa. While pursuing his graduate studies at Columbia University Rabbi Fineberg was leader of the Jewish Community Center of White Plains.

He is a member of the New York Association of Jewish Ministers, of the Reform Rabbis' Association of New York, and of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. He represents the Central Conference and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations on the Commission on Religious Education. Rabbi Fineberg has contributed to Jewish educational literature and has lectured widely on the subject. He has served for three years as spiritual leader of Sinai Congregation.

He is also Chaplain of City Lodge, of Masons; member of the Board of Directors of the Community Chest, of the Associated Charities, and of the Young Men's Hebrew Association, Mount Vernon, N. Y.

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32

**The Economic Research Bureau of the
Jewish War Veterans**

509 Sears Building
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EDITORIAL

WE appreciate the approval with which the Jewish Veteran has been received during the past twelve-months. The letters of confidence and commendation received hearten us to carry on with a greater vigor. The constructive criticisms have been received with a good deal of satisfaction. Naturally, mistakes have been made—but each time one was made, we immediately corrected it.

This is your magazine. We want you to realize that its contents are devoted to you and your activities. We, cannot, however, do this alone. We must have your assistance and undivided co-operation. You have it within your power to help make the Jewish Veteran a bigger and better periodical by sending us news of the activities of your Post. We cannot force you to do this—you alone must respond to our appeal.

It is up to you comrades and sisters to make sure that your post or auxiliary sends us material. Each of us have a little vanity and likes to see his or her name in print—your friends and comrades like to see it there. We'll print the "schmoos" if you'll send it. Tell us about your "simchas" and births, and bar mitzvahs, and marriages, and Dutch suppers, and dances, and what have you.

And on the other hand, send us serious matter—an article of general interest—a historical item—some interesting experience—something that happened to you during the War—an article about some prominent comrade in your post—about your post and what it is doing.

And Pictures. If of interest, they will be printed.

What do you want—what would you like in your magazine? We welcome suggestions and ideas, and even criticism (we know we'll get them anyway), if constructive.

This little magazine will be interesting, and educational, and above all in furtherance of the J.W.V.—if you will only help us to make it so.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVES

The summer is past!

The elections are over!

There is no excuse for comrades not to be active. Between November 1st, and May 1st is THE TIME to make hay.

Each post is commanded to start its membership drive. There is no post in our national organization, which cannot, if its comrades make the necessary effort, increase its membership 100 per cent.

Every post can organize not less than one new post in its vicinity.

It is superfluous to tell J.W.V. comrades of the necessity of a good, strong Jewish War Veterans organization. We need power, strength and influence—and this can be achieved only through increased membership and an increased number of posts.

We have set the mark of 50 new posts during this period, and 100 per cent increase in membership. This cannot be attained unless each comrade brings in at least one recruit—unless each post organizes one new post.

O.K. pals, let's start right now.

OVER THE TOP!

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THE AMERICAN ECONOMIC COMMITTEE FOR PALESTINE

A SIGNIFICANT decision has recently been taken by a group of Palestine organizations. The General Federation of Jewish Labor of Palestine (Histadruth), Manufacturers Association, Municipality of Tel-Aviv, General Zionists of Palestine, Joint Committee for Settlement of German Jews, Hitachduth Olei Germania (German Immigrants Association) and Tel-Aviv Chamber of Commerce designated the Palestine Economic Bureau of the American Economic Committee for Palestine as the official body for the dissemination of industrial and commercial information to Jews in Palestine and throughout the Diaspora. Previously the same Bureau was designated by the Jewish Agency, General Federation of Jewish Labor, Farmers Federation, General Zionists of Palestine, Hitachduth Olei Germania, Hitachduth Olei Polania (Polish Immigrants' Association) and Kibutz Gluyoth (Russian group) to serve as the centralized information service for agriculture, horticulture and land purchase. These bodies represent every type of Jewish economic effort in Palestine—labor, industry, commerce, agriculture and horticulture. What has brought about such a remarkable unity of action among organizations which heretofore had not found any common basis for joint action? For an answer to this question we must return to the Passfield White Paper, the Hope-Simpson Report and the decisions taken at the Seventeenth World Zionist Congress at Basle.

In the view of Passfield and Hope-Simpson it was futile to look to agriculture, horticulture or industry as fields for increasing the economic absorptive capacity of the country. To this view the Seventeenth Zionist World Congress, held at Basle in 1931, gave an emphatic NO. It adopted what is now known as the "*Economic Program*," so clearly foreshadowed and defined by *Mr. Justice Brandels* in 1920. In effect it said to Passfield and Hope-Simpson and to the British Government—"in each of the Palestine economic-fields—agriculture, horti-

culture, industry and commerce—the economic absorptive power can be accelerated and, what is more, we mean to do it."

And what happened? The average net annual Jewish immigration into Palestine from 1926 to 1931 inclusive was 2,167. The immigration of 1932 amounted to 9,553. From January to May, 1933, inclusive 9,993 Jewish immigrants entered the Land. It is anticipated that the 1933 immigration will exceed 20,000. The private capital brought to and invested in Palestine by Jews during 1932 in industrial, commercial and citricultural undertakings, exclusive of new bank deposits, amounted to at least £3,250,000. Bank deposits grew during 1932 by at least £2,000,000. Both the latter figures are grossly underestimated, it has been asserted frequently by conservative, well-informed persons. The rate at which new funds have been entering the country during 1933 for investment and deposit in banks greatly exceeds that of the previous year. The industrial and horticultural inquiries handled by the Tel-Aviv Bureau of the American Economic Committee for Palestine for the period of March 15 to June 20, 1933, alone amounted to £625,000.

Not only is there no Jewish unemployment, but there is no Arab unemployment. Indeed, there is a shortage of labor.

It was for the implementation of the idea underlying the decision of the Congress that the activities of the American Economic Committee for Palestine and of "economic committees" in several European countries were initiated. These organizations set out to find, and did find, those Jews with the capital and industrial and business experience the Jewish Agency was so sure about, to the end that the doors of Palestine might be opened to those other Jews "who are prepared to immigrate into Palestine to supply the skilled and unskilled labour required." They have served Jews in Palestine and throughout the world with reliable economic data in every field of Palestine economy. Now comes the heartening and significant

news that by designating the American Economic Committee as the official economic instrumentality such diverse bodies as are hereinbefore mentioned, which represent perhaps the most important cross-section of the Yishub, have for the first time in the history of Jewish Palestine joined hands in a common effort to create a Jewish Department of Commerce for Palestine. The Yishub is now "on the job," and the hope for a Jewish Palestine has never been brighter.

Organization and Program

During the latter part of 1930 and the early part of 1931, the problem of developing organically methods of revealing and utilizing the opportunities, experience and capital available in Palestine and the Diaspora for the building of the Homeland was diligently studied in America by the Palestine Economic Committee of the Zionist Organization of America. This Committee found itself unable to evolve a well-rounded and integrated program because there was not then available the economic data about Palestine essential to an intelligent understanding of the Holy Land's economic situation.

The Committee therefore set itself to the task of creating machinery to collect, make available, publish and disseminate recent and reliable economic information about Palestine; to habituate the general Jewish public to think of Palestine in terms of industry, commerce and horticulture as the means of accelerating the country's absorptive capacity; to furnish information to individuals interested in investing capital in Palestine and in establishing industrial and commercial and horticultural enterprises there; to encourage and facilitate the immigration into Palestine of persons who, by reason of experience or capital, or both experience and capital, may contribute to the economic upbuilding of the Yishub; to cooperate with persons and groups possessing investments in Palestine and to work with agencies whose activities give promise of having a beneficial effect on the development of the Homeland; to conduct the experimental planning and the direction of instrumentalities which may be evolved as aids to the development of private initiative in Palestine; to cooperate with similar "economic committees" in other countries; and to do, in general, everything which

shall facilitate and accelerate the economic development of Palestine.

Economic Bureau in America

This machinery, it was found, could only be made effective by the creation of "Economic Bureaus" at the scenes of operations. An Economic Bureau was first created in New York in February 1931. It immediately began the collection, collation, classification and cataloguing of all the recent economic information of which record could be found. The New York library now consists of 2,000 items of books, periodicals, reports, manuscripts and other printed and unprinted data. Current files of 20 periodicals are being kept. Its carefully prepared catalogue consists about 12,000 cards. The library is used for practical and academic purposes.

Since its creation, the New York Bureau has, by mail and interview, been answering daily many inquiries, and giving guidance to many prospective Palestine settlers and investors as to Palestine's industrial, commercial, financial, agricultural and living conditions and possibilities. It has, for instance, assisted a manufacturer of silk fabrics in establishing in Palestine a branch which may employ 100 persons and ultimately 200 persons. It has dealt with problems such as those of the dairy-farm expert, poultry farmer, food-products, chemists, tinsmith, carpenter, optician, house-painter, machinist, tool and die maker, pharmacist, builder, engineer, architect, teacher, musician, importer, exporter, grocer, dry-goods, jobber and manufacturers of knit-goods, underwear, furniture, luggage, shoes, neckties, and leaded glass. It daily furnishes information on many aspects of orange culture to prospective planters.

Other phases of the New York Bureau's work included: Keeping the public informed of the more important economic events in Palestine and of the opportunities for the establishment of sound economic enterprises there. Securing from the Tel-Aviv Bureau, whenever necessary, independently-prepared reports required by prospective immigrants and investors. Conducting the experimental work and the direction of the Palestine savings-investment groups, known as the "Palestine Corporations," with which considerable progress was made last winter until the financial difficulties of last Febru-

ary and March in the United States brought this work to a standstill. Cooperation with American companies, societies and individuals having business relationships with Palestine. Cooperation with Palestine agricultural, business and public organizations having relationships in the United States. Correspondence with foreign individuals and organizations interested in Palestine economic matters. Encouragement of the creation of Palestine "economic committees" in other countries and cooperation with such committees. Correspondence with the Economic Bureau in Tel-Aviv. And conduct of the business affairs of the Committee.

The Economic Bureau in Palestine

The Committee's early experience with the Bureau in New York taught it that its work in America could not be effective without very close cooperation in Palestine. The Committee concluded that it must undertake to open its own "Economic Bureau" in Palestine. This bureau was opened in May, 1932, in Tel-Aviv, by the Committee's Palestine representative, Mr. Rehabiah Lewin-Epstein and with the active cooperation of Mr. Emanuel Neumann, the American member of the Jewish Agency Executive. Mr. Lewin-Epstein had been active in the Committee's work prior to his departure from America and is especially well-fitted by training and experience to cope with the Committee's problems in Palestine. The intensive application of the Committee's plan with reference to prospective American middle-class settlers and investors would not have been possible without the Tel-Aviv Bureau.

Within the year the Tel-Aviv Bureau made a place for itself in Palestine economic affairs. It has established a reputation as the general, reliable and comprehensive source of business information. Recently-arrived immigrants from all over the world come to it in large numbers for information.

Other Phases of the Committee's Work

The Committee continued to encourage the formation of Palestine Economic Committees and Bureaus in other countries. In this work the Committee cooperated with the Jewish Agency's Economic Department. Economic committees, sometimes called chambers of commerce, were or are to be established in Poland, England, Austria,

Germany, Hungary and Bulgaria. The facilities of the Tel-Aviv Bureau are placed at the disposal of all foreign correspondents.

The Committee was instrumental during recent months in interesting substantial American capital in Palestine industrial enterprises.

The Committee believed that it should encourage Americans to take their annual vacations in Palestine. To this end it arranged for a summer tour of Palestine. A group, consisting of thirty persons, was organized for this purpose and is in Palestine now.

The Committee continued to keep "au courant" with the social aspects of economic trends in Palestine. It observed the tendency of real property inflation and the congestion of capital seeking investments during a period of limited investment opportunities. The result of the Committee's work is organizations and directions to Palestine of immigrations representing several million dollars.

The Committee consists of 105 General Members. Since March 1932 its Executive Committee has held 52 meetings in addition to frequent informal conferences for consideration of special subjects. Three large meetings of the General Members were held for consideration and discussion of reports on Palestine economic matters and the Committee's activities. The Committee's officers are: The Honorable Julian W. Mack, Honorary President; Israel B. Brodie, President; Robert Szold, Chairman, Board of Directors; Laurence N. Levine, Vice-president-Treasurer; Aaron Baroway, Secretary; and Rehabiah Lewin-Epstein, Directors, Tel-Aviv Bureau. The Executive Committee consists of: Juliet N. Benjamin, Simon Bernstein, Paul P. Gourrich, Sidney Matz, Joshua Morrison, Emanuel Neumann, Edward A. Norman, Louis P. Rocker, Samuel J. Rosensohn, Morris Rothenberg, N. I. Stone, Joseph Winston, and the Officers. The Economic Bureaus are at 522 Fifth Avenue, New York City, and 18 Rotchschild Boulevard, Tel-Aviv.

We are specially anxious to inform our readers about the work of this Committee as one of the first attempts to approach Jewish economic problems in a scientific and national way.