

**TO ABSORB MASS-MIGRATION WITHOUT ECONOMIC FRICTION.**

**Preparing for Laying Foundations of Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine. Zionists Seek Standard Which Will Make Units of 100,000 Self-Sustaining by Application of Co-Operative Principle.**

Conferences for the purpose of arriving at methods and standards for the absorption, with the least possible economic friction, of the greatest migration into Palestine which will ensue as soon as political conditions permit have been instituted by the Zionist Organization of America. They are being participated in by some of the leading engineering, agricultural and architectural experts under the auspices of the Zionist Society of Engineers and Agriculturists. In the discussions which have already taken place, and those to ensue, the application of the co-operative principles to which the Zionist Organization is committed through the adoption of the "Pittsburg Program" is one of the basic elements. This program, adopted at the Zionist convention, at Pittsburg, in 1918, provided among other things: "The co-operative principle should be applied, as far as feasible, in the organization of all agricultural, industrial, commercial and financial undertakings."

It is not the intent of these conferences to set up any arbitrary standard. The human equation, and the thought that whatever standards or methods are finally agreed upon must be of such flexibility as will make them easily applicable to local conditions and to the character and constituency of the population, are kept constantly to the fore. What is sought is a standard basing itself on the needs and inherent resources of a population, irrespective of distribution, of a minimum of 100,000. The feeling of most of the conferees is that any lesser unit of measurement must lack certain factors essential to a completely rounded, all-embracing community. Of course, 100,000 men are not to go at once, or in a given time.

In explaining the problem to the conferees, Mr. Jacob de Haas, executive secretary of the Zionist Organization pointed out its unique character. The fact that it has no parallel in conscious effort is making these conferences of special interest to a number of leading experts in engineering, city and town-planning, agriculture and the like, including Ernest Payson Goodrich, former consulting engineer of the Borough of Manhattan and who is engaged in an enterprise of similar physical magnitude in Tennessee; Charles William Burkett, editor of the "American Agriculturist" and author of "Farm Arithmetic," Joseph Rosen, agricultural representative of the Russian Co-operative Groups, or Zemstovs; Prof. Jacob Lipman, of the Agricultural College, New Brunswick, N. J.; Prof. O. S. Morgan, of Columbia University; Joseph Horowitz, of the Thompson-Starrett Company; Capt. Lawrence Weiler, Director of the National Housing Association; Richard H. Dana and H. K. Murphy, well-known New York architects and others.

As the conferences progress they will be augmented by a number of other leading experts in the various fields associated with the problem.

The discussion was opened by the Zionist Society of Engineers and Agriculturists, who presented a memorandum, setting forth that the method of mass colonization in Palestine must be based upon an analysis of the es-

sential needs of consumption and production, with a view of making large groups of settlers self-sustaining as far as possible. Such groups must contain the requisite number of agriculturists, artisans, professionals, etc., as will make it self-sustaining. Continuing, the memorandum lays down the following:

The process of settling the unit of 100,000 presents three distinct problems.

1. The settlement proper, including organization, selection, transportation and distribution.

2. The determination of consumption and production which involves the development of agricultural and industrial enterprises and the respective settlements.

3. The determination of the ratio of the utilization of public improvements and utilities to be developed for the country at large.

The analysis of the three problems would enable arriving at the budget in terms of qualities of materials, machinery, implements and labor.

In this analysis it would be necessary to determine the quantitative ratio of prime necessities, such as food, shelter and raiment; communal necessities, including public health, education and safety; and public utilities such as water power, transportation facilities, coast, river and lake development, sanitation and the like.

As the conferees began to find their moorings in the uncharted territory of the discussion, and ideas to take shape it became evident that two avenues of approach to the problem are developing. The agriculturists are supporting a contention that a slow, natural growth is desirable, with agriculture as the starting point and that the other factors of economic development are to be dealt with by the settlers themselves as the possibilities develop. They are, at the same time, emphatically in favor of the co-operative basis for all undertakings, some going to the extent of urging the elimination of the middleman. The engineers and architects favor an "attack on all fronts", that is, the planning and preparation of all the primary industries as well as agriculture. Both sides strongly recommend a centralized control and direction.



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