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Rutenberg to Harness Jordan

\$5,000,000 CORPORATION TO BE LAUNCHED. BRANDEIS-MACK GROUP TO AID. MOST SUBSTANTIAL, PRACTICAL CONTRIBUTION BY JEWS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PALESTINE

A corporation with a capital of \$5,000,000 to finance the project of Pinhas Rutenberg, the well-known Russian engineer, to harness the waterfalls of the Jordan River for the purpose of generating and distributing electric light and power in Palestine is to be organized in England. The Palestine Development Council, of which U. S. Supreme Court Justice Brandeis is honorary chairman, and Judge Julian W. Mack, Chairman, is taking immediate steps to aid in the financing of this great undertaking.

This project, based on concessions to Mr. Rutenberg by the British Government, the mandatory power in Palestine, for the utilization of the waters of the Auja, the Jordan and the Yarmuk rivers and their affluents, even outside the present boundaries of Palestine, has been described in the British House of Lords, by the Government spokesman, the Duke of Sutherland, as the most practical, substantial contribution so far made by Judaism to the restoration of prosperity in Palestine.

The concession, which includes Trans-Jordania as well as Palestine as at present constituted, covers a period of seventy years, includes the exclusive right to build the generating stations, transmission and distribution lines, electric tramways, railroads, telegraph and telephone systems. Under the terms of the concession no other electric installations will be permitted and no similar concessions granted in Palestine during that time.

The first undertaking of the planned corporation will be to build dams and generating stations to utilize the falls of the Jordan between Lake Tiberias and Jisr-el-Mujamyah, a distance of eight miles in which there is a fall of 40 metres. Generating stations and power-houses are to be erected at Jaffa, Haifa and Jerusalem. It is estimated that 70 million kilowatt hours can be made available by the initial project, or three times more than the present needs of the country.

This first phase, alone, of the Rutenberg plan, which has been checked up and endorsed by leading engineers of four countries and has been approved by the British and Palestine Governments, will give direct employment to 3,000 men, and indirect employment to many thousands more. It will make possible the carrying out of many industrial undertakings, for many of which capital has already been subscribed in private corporations, or contemplated by private individuals, which could not be carried out because of Palestine's lack of fuel. It will materially solve the problem

in Palestine caused by the influx of thousands of "Chalutzim" and will help toward lowering the immigration barriers set up by the Government because of prevailing lack of employment.

Rutenberg's plans have been checked up by Dr. L. C. Loewenstein, consulting engineer of the General Electric Company, of Schenectady, N. Y., and other engineers on the staff of that company; by the Electricity Commission of the British Government, by Dr. I. W. Majerczik, consulting engineer of the German Electric Company, known throughout the world as "Die Allgemeine," who made his investigations in Palestine, and by the experts of Baron Edmond de Rothschild, of Paris.

Speaking in the House of Lords on two occasions, in response to interpellations addressed to the Government, the Duke of Sutherland said: "The Rutenberg plan is the most substantial practical contribution so far made by Judaism to the restoration of prosperity to Palestine. The whole scheme has been examined with the greatest care by the departments of the Palestine Government who are particularly concerned and also by the technical advisors of the Secretary of State for the Colonies of this country, and it is generally agreed that from an engineering point of view the scheme is thorough-sound."

Dr. L. C. Loewenstein of the General Electric Company, officially informed Judge Mack on April 28th that the engineers of that company have gone into the project with extreme thoroughness and that they had found:

1—That the amount of available water is far in excess of the present demand for energy;

2—That the costs of the development are estimated very liberally and will probably be lower than anticipated;

3—That the demand for electrical energy will probably exceed the estimated figures, thus increasing the annual income expected.

Dr. Loewenstein adds: "I personally wish to add that I consider the entire scheme feasible."

The concession provides that the corporation, which is to be registered in Palestine, is to be recognized as a public utility body under Government control and its installation and property will receive protection as such. Land needed by the corporation for its installations and operations is to be expropriated by the Government by due process of law. The eventual corporation will be formed as a re-

sult of negotiation between organized groups in several countries, but as the need for action presses, the Palestine Development Council has undertaken to issue trustee certificates in units of \$50 to be exchanged for preference shares bearing interest up to 8 per cent non-cumulative, with the right to share in the surplus profits up to 12 per cent.

The corporation's common stock will be held by quasi public bodies to insure continuity in office and management and to protect the public interest in the connection as a whole.

Baron Edmond de Rothschild, acting through the Jewish Colonization Association (ICA) of Paris, has subscribed \$500,000 toward the proposed corporation; the Joint Distribution Committee had made a conditional investment of \$200,000, and the Jewish Colonial Trust subscribes \$500,000. The London Economic Board for Palestine will also subscribe.

WARNS AGAINST MONOPOLY FOR BRITISH GOODS IN PALESTINE.

London (J. T. A.)—Commenting on the criticism against P. Rutenberg, author of the Palestine irrigation and electrification scheme, who is now in New York to finance the project, for having purchased in Germany part of the machinery necessary for his scheme, the "Daily News" declared that in imposing upon Rutenberg a condition giving the monopoly for British goods required for Palestine, would constitute a discrimination against competing firms of other nations. Such discrimination, this paper declares, will bring trouble between Washington and Whitehall and result in a breach of the terms of the British Mandate for Palestine, guaranteeing an open door to the United States in mandated territories.

The "Daily Mail," one of Lord Northcliffe's papers, continues the campaign against Rutenberg. Referring to the order given to German firms for 10,000 pounds worth of machinery, the "Daily Mail" quotes leaders of the Palestine Arab Delegation, that the Arabs are opposed to the concession given to Rutenberg to harness the waters of the Jordan because it is a "purely political affair."

RUTENBERG AUTHORIZATIONISTS AND "BRANDEIS GROUP" TO FINANCE HIS SCHEME

New York (J. C. B.)—Pinchus Rutenberg, author of the famous irrigation and electrification scheme for Palestine today authorized the Zionist Organization and the Palestine Development Council (Brandeis Group)

to proceed independently in the collection of subscriptions for the financing of his project. The statement he gave the Jewish Correspondence Bureau reads:

"As the financing of the plan for the utilization of the water power of the Jordan must in the interest of Palestine be undertaken immediately. I am authorizing every group, and organization approved by me that is willing to aid in this financing, to take action at once. Every such effort will be made in the manner most convenient to each particular body.

It remains my belief that it is necessary that those undertaking to support this task should get together for common action. But even if the work be done for the present independently, I am certain that the various groups in American Jewry would do their utmost for the success of this economic undertaking, which is the most urgent and vital task of Jewry for the development of Palestine.

The Zionist Organization of America and the Palestine Development Council are hereby authorized to proceed with the collection of subscriptions in accordance with their own specific plans."

SAMUEL REPORTS ON PALESTINE

London (J. T. A.)—In an address before members of both Houses of Parliament, presided over by Lord Cecil, Sir Herbert Samuel, High Commissioner for Palestine, said that Palestine will be the National Home of the Jewish people, even if it is not the kind of home extremist Zionists expected. Jews are bound to increase in numbers until they become the majority in the country, he said. The Jewish immigrant pioneers are making good.

Denying the Bolshevik "bogy," the High Commissioner declared that the number of Jewish Bolsheviks in the country is more than insignificant, the usual view of the Jewish laboring element being similar to that of the labor party in England.

Sir Herbert expressed himself as hopeful of an agreement being reached between the Arabs and the Jews, who come to rehabilitate the country. He defended the concession granted to Engineer P. Rutenberg providing for a monopoly in the exploitation of Palestine's water resources, saying it would be impossible to raise capital otherwise than by a monopoly. Self-determination for the Arabs would prevent colonization of Palestine, he declared.