

## -- Towards The Achievement Of An Ideal --

By MRS. MAX RADY

This is a verbatim report of an address to the delegates to the 2nd Western Canadian Hadassah, by Mrs. Max Rady, Vice-President of Canadian Hadassah in charge of the Western Division.

Mrs. Rady is a National figure in Canadian Zionism. Her efforts are responsible for the maintenance of Zionist spirit, particularly in the West. Western Hadassah owes a great deal of its success, which it has boasted at the conference to Mrs. Rady.

In the address below, Mrs. Rady not only tells of what Hadassah of Western Canada has done towards the achievement of an ideal, but she first puts forward the ideal in a clear and perceptive manner.

—Editor.

Today world economic conditions have helped us awaken to a new understanding and appreciation of spiritual values. We are learning to recognize the true estimate of life, and so the ideals for which our Organization stands are more emphatically emphasized than ever before. In working for our common ideal we are learning to understand each other better and are becoming more kindly disposed to one another. In turning our eyes and focusing our attention on the land in which our forefathers placed their trust, we are acquiring the greatest riches a people can be endowed with.

We are not trying to become better Jews only, but we are also striving to become better members of the human race. In working for the rebuilding of a National Home for the Jewish people we do so not with a selfish motive but in the larger hope that we may be of more use to the entire world. God has endowed us with certain qualities, our faults may be numerous but it is our duty to make the most of our good points and to do all we can to develop these in order that we may be of the greatest use to humanity as a whole. Thinkers the world over, recognize not only the serious disabilities and the oppression which Jews still suffer, but they recognize also the great spiritual and cultural benefits for the whole world in a recreated Jewish Homeland.

As we look out over the Zionist horizon, we find that many significant developments relating to our Cause have occurred since last we met.

Inside as well as outside Jewry, the number of those who deny the nationhood of the Jewish people is much smaller today and is steadily diminishing. It is now generally recognized that the equality of Jewish claims with those of other nations must be considered.

An event of great importance to

the fulfillment of the ideals of our Movement was the formation of the Jewish Agency at Zurich in 1929.

After thousands of years the representatives of all the Jews of the world, of all sections, met together for a common purpose, and it was Palestine which united them as in the days of old it united the ten tribes.

Jews were gathered from 4 continents, from many countries, and every kind of opinion that the human mind can possibly avow. Palestine had been given to all the Jews not only to the Zionists and it was essential that the whole body of Jewry should share in its upbuilding. These representatives had come together to witness the union of Zionists and non-Zionists for the upbuilding of Palestine. Many outstanding men were present among them, Professor Einstein, Sir Herbert Samuel, Dr. So-



Girls Hostel at Tel-Aviv. The Chalutzim on Coming to Palestine are at Home.

kolow. Dr. Weizmann, whose statesmanship was largely responsible for the formation of the Agency, the late Mr. Louis Marshall and Lord Melchett.

Of great importance are the developments which have been crystallized for enlisting important non-Jewish aid to restore Palestine as the National Homeland of the Jewish people. Leading public figures in the United States, England, France, and other countries have been organized into bodies for the support of the Jewish Homeland project. The aim of these committees which are composed of non-Jews is to foster the development of an informed public opinion among non-Jews concerning Zionist activities, purposes, and achievements in Palestine.

The riots which took place in Palestine the year following your last western meeting proved among other things that our Pioneers are not willing to live and work for their coun-

try but if need be they are ready to die for it.

The Hebrew University which has become a very important part of Jewish life in Palestine celebrated its 7th birthday this year. Those of us who listened in on the broadcast in which such prominent men as Sir Herbert Samuel, Mr. Felix Warburg, James Rothschild, Oscar Wasserman and others participated were deeply moved when we heard their encouraging messages. According to the plans of these outstanding men, who are taking an active interest in this seat of learning, the Hebrew University located on that glorious spot on Mount Scopus promises to flourish and in the future influence not only the life of the people in Palestine but teachers and ministers who in turn influence the lives of the people of the world.

The progress of all developments in

4 years intervening since last we met we have increased the number of our chapters and added to the membership of our old ones. We have today 39 chapters in our Division, 31 senior and 8 Junior. About 3 years ago a Membership Campaign was launched in our division, the centres that co-operated were surprised themselves to find what a field there was for increasing their membership. In Winnipeg 200 new members were registered. Calgary enrolled 35 new members. Regina, Edmonton and Saskatoon all increased their strength as a result of the effort they put forth. An outstanding example is Melville who this year sent in a list showing a 20 p.c. increase in membership bringing their total to 20.

I wish to commend this branch of work for your greater concentration in the future. Our membership register is the only means we have of gauging our strength. We must keep in mind that every member assists in some form the work of our organization.

In experiencing a justifiable pride in our progress and growth in the past, we must be mindful of the fact that with our work, progress is its spirit, it cannot stand still, we must grow and ripen to greater tasks and greater accomplishments.

Many are the eloquent tributes that have come to our ears concerning the Girls Agricultural School at Nahalal, the institution which we Canadian Hadassah women claim as our own.

No race can prosper till it learns that there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem. It is at the bottom of life we must begin and not at the top. Agriculture is the basis upon which Palestine will be built.

In sponsoring this Agricultural School for girls we are doing a vital piece of work for our country. Let me impress upon you the great necessity of meeting the budget for our schools maintenance, and to urge you to put forth every effort to make possible the erection of the second building which is so imperatively needed. I remember when I was at Nahalal and I watched a number of those girls with sun-tanned faces, straw hat and bare legs wheeling a wheelbarrow in the scorching sun and doing it with a spirit of rendering a service to the Jewish people. I felt ashamed that I sometimes complained to myself that I attend too many meetings.

Difficult as our tasks may be here, raising funds, attending meetings and socials, campaigning, it is not to be compared with the noble work these

fine Jewish girls are doing in the front line trenches. We are proud of them and we are not going to desert them. We'll say to them, carry on and we will stand behind you.

There is an additional building needed for those girls to live in, the temporary quarters consist of but a wash room and a seed shed. In the rainy season particularly such living quarters are most inadequate. We must see to it that this building is provided lest a day's sickness or a death shall lay heavy on our conscience. I desire also to recommend to this Conference that our division favour the establishment at the earliest possible time of a scholarship for graduates. Obviously our school would benefit as the standard of our work would be raised and an incentive would be provided for the girls to devote themselves with even greater interest than heretofore to their studies.

Hospital work one of the important phases of Canadian Hadassah activities has received our willing support during the period under review. The Motza Convalescent Home, a sanctuary for our sick, safeguards the health of our pioneers by offering recuperation to post-operative and other cases of illness as well as to the pioneers who come to Palestine from other countries often broken down in health. This important institution will, I feel sure, continue to receive your interest, your heart and your efforts.

One of the incidents that stand out clearly in my mind is the rejoicing and happiness of the delegates at the Dominion Convention held last winter at Montreal, when it was announced that the obligation to the bank had been discharged on behalf of the 40,000 dunam of land in the Emeq Hasharon which Canadian Jewry undertook to redeem at the Convention in Winnipeg, in 1927.

To convert additional stretches of Palestine into Eretz Israel land is the basis for all our efforts. The expansion of our land possessions is a most vital necessity for continued progress of our colonization work. When Mrs. Felix Warburg visited Palestine, she said to her husband with tears in her eyes. "You probably think I am foolish, but I want to own some of this soil." You, too, want to own some of this soil. You may not be an individual owner but by your daily contributions to the Jewish National Fund Box you will enable the Jewish people to increase its land possessions in Eretz Israel.

Every Hadassah Chapter in our division must do N. F. work. I am told that throughout the west there are filled boxes waiting to be cleared. If true, this is a deplorable condition of neglect and must be remedied immediately. Once established you will find that a systematized and concentrated effort on behalf of the Blue Box and other methods of N. F. collections will yield you very gratifying results.

We should aim in our Jewish National Fund work to keep informed regarding the development of Keren Kayemeth activities both here and in Palestine.

We should see to it that there shall be no Jewish home without a N. F. Box and that there shall be a clearance of these at regular intervals.

We should put forth greater effort on behalf of the Canadian pledge to redeem the 40,000 dunam of land in the Emeq Hasharon to the end that this project may be more speedily accomplished.

Effort should be concentrated on the afforestation of Palestine. I offer the suggestion that the planting of a grove of 1,000 trees or a wood of 10,000 trees in the name of Western Canada Hadassah be undertaken.

In our Homeland, women are to be found in every field, tilling, toiling, dreaming, daring, erecting and rejoicing, shoulder to shoulder and side by side with the men. Similarly in the Diaspora our Hadassah women have stood side by side with

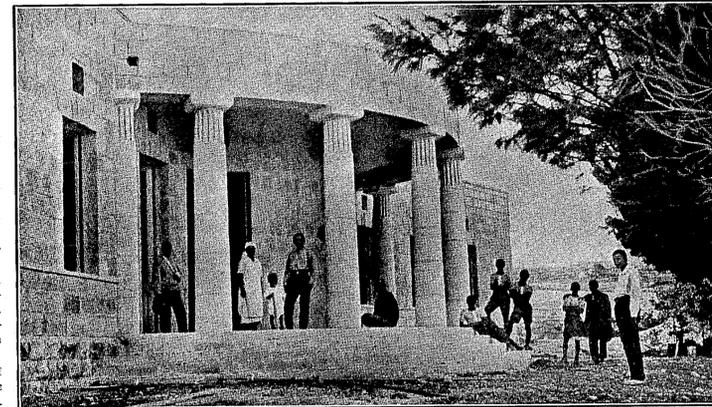
men. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart all those who have co-operated so faithfully in the past. It is because of their untiring efforts that we are able to report the sum of \$53,869.16 collected during the past 4 years in our division. This is a 60 percent increase per average month over the period preceding. While we take pride in what we record as a result of the combined efforts of our members, we do not for a moment forget the help that has come to us not only from our supporters outside of our members but especially the press whose kind co-operation has been a constant source of encouragement and help.

Your National Representatives have endeavoured at all times to co-operate with you. We have tried to anticipate your needs, cultural material and suggestions for work have gone forth from the Western office at frequent intervals, supplementing the

ship places upon us is keenly felt by us all. At the same time nobody will deny that a love for one's native land is entirely natural and entitled to respect. The Jews as a people are floundering in unknown seas, the sooner they can become rooted in a land of their own, the sooner will they be able to make more significant contributions here in Canada and wherever they may happen to live. Palestine is the unit; the stronger the unit, the greater will be our strength of contribution.

Before I conclude, I wish to remind you that there is a lofty sentiment pertaining to our work that we have perhaps been overlooking.—I refer to the inspiring sentiment of Patriotism.

According to the dictionary a patriot is one who loves, and is devoted to his native country and it's welfare. Patriotism is defined as love for one's country. Love of country is older than the history of the nations. It is only slowly that nations are



Workers' Convalescent Home at Motza, Supported by Canadian Hadassah

definitely formed. France, the United Kingdom, Italy and others in becoming nations in the true sense of the word have been assisted by the growth of National patriotism. The justification of the sentiment today is found in the defense of a common independence and the love of common liberties.

You must return to your chapters and arouse this patriotism which is not extinct but is only slumbering in our people.

Animated by patriotism, our army of workers would be fortified with a superhuman strength. A strength which would secure our unity; keep alive our intellectual activity, induce among our people splendid examples of heroism, and assure the independence of our race.

We sometimes hear in our community, you delegates may sometimes hear it in yours, that there is so much to do right in the local community —

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