

## New Fruit Wrapper Reduces Waste

### Important Research at Hebrew University

A NEW method of impregnating wrappers for citrus fruit has been developed by Dr. Adalbert Farkas, of the Department of Physical Chemistry at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, which may have a far-reaching effect on methods of citrus fruit storage and transport and which is calculated to save the citrus fruit industry of Palestine over a million dollars annually on the 13 or 14 million cases of oranges now exported each year.

Diphenyl is the agent used for impregnating the wrappers. The experiments were carried out by Dr. Farkas during the 1937-38 citrus season and have proved that decay in oranges during storage and shipment can be largely eliminated by the use of the chemically treated wrappers, the reduction in wastage being from one-sixth to one-tenth of that usually experienced. Neither smell nor taste of the fruit is impaired, and analyses have proved that none of the chemical penetrates beyond the peel.

In the storage experiments, a number of cases were used containing fruit wrapped in ordinary paper and the same number of cases wrapped in diphenyl-treated paper. They were

handled under identical conditions and for further check, some boxes were filled with fruit with both kinds of wrapping. Results were equally satisfactory in cold and warm weather. Diphenyl-wrapped oranges stored for 85 days after packing in November showed no trace of wastage. Even the sprinkling of boxes before packing with the plainly wrapped fruit reduced wastage considerably.

On inspection the oranges wrapped in the treated paper were found to be quite firm, had a healthy appearance, and not the slightest chemical flavour or smell. By contrast, the oranges in the untreated wrappers suffered wastage of 15 to 20 per cent.

Shipment trials were also highly satisfactory. Sixteen boxes of oranges packed with mixed wrappings were shipped in March from Haifa to London. On arrival in London 11 days later it was found that while the treated wrappers showed an average of only 1.6 per cent. rotted fruit, the untreated ones showed an average of 9.3 per cent. Oranges in the diphenyl paper were hard and fresh, and looked as though they had been shipped under refrigeration.

Fruit wrapped in the treated paper will be offered to the public for the first time this season in the usual way.

Experiments with diphenyl as a means of preventing fruit decay were first made by Dr. R. G. Tomkin, of the Low Temperature Research Station, Cambridge, but the experiments were made in the laboratory with a limited number of oranges shipped from abroad and artificially infected with moulds. It was necessary for Dr. Farkas to prove that the diphenyl-treated wrappers could be effective under natural conditions and could also be made commercially practicable, which he has now done. Reports of Dr. Farkas' successful experiment have been reported in leading industrial chemical journals.

Dr. Farkas is now engaged in conducting further experiments looking toward the discovery of other fungicides suitable for impregnating paper.

Dr. Farkas, who is 33 years old, was educated at the Universities of Vienna and Frankfurt-on-Main. He has been affiliated with both the Technische Hochschule, of Vienna and the Department of Colloid Science at the University of Cambridge, and in 1935 lectured at several American universities. He became senior assistant in Physical Chemistry at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, in 1936, working under his brother, Dr. Ladislaus Farkas, who is Professor and personam of the Department.

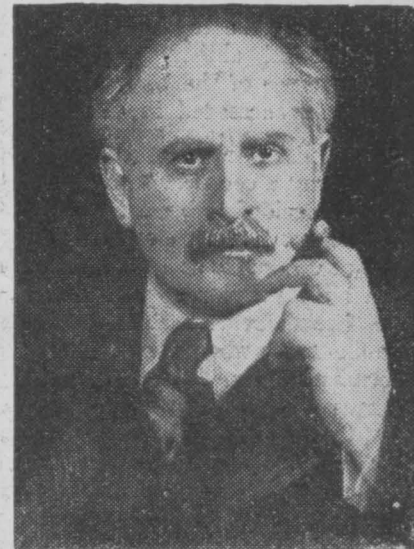
## "PROFESSOR MAMLOCK" AT THE EMPIRE THEATRE

### A Great Indictment of Hitlerism

A withering exposure of Hitlerism and Nazi brutality is given in "Professor Mamlock," a powerful film which will be released at the Empire Theatre in Johannesburg from Monday evening.

The film, which was produced by "honoured artists" of the Soviet Republic at Leningrad, was withdrawn by the Kremlin authorities when Hitler and Stalin became friends.

Although it is a propaganda film, "Professor Mamlock" has been produced in a manner which holds the



S. Mezhinsky, who plays the title role in the film, "Professor Mamlock," which comes to the Empire Theatre on Monday, 22nd January.

### JEWISH STATE PARTY FUNCTION

#### To Commemorate Nordau's Yahrzeit

To commemorate the anniversary of the death of Max Nordau, that great protagonist of political Zionism, the Jewish State Party is holding a public function at the Luthjes Langham Hotel on Tuesday, January 23, at 8.15 p.m. The function will take the form of a symposium on the following subjects: "Nordau and Herzl," by Mr. D. M. Schlosberg; "The Post-Herzlian Period," by Mr. R. Laks, and "Nordau—the Antagonist of Assimilation," by Mr. J. Daleski.

By kind permission of the United Hebrew Congregation, Chief Cantor I. Alter will intone the "El Molei Rachanum." During the evening other appropriate musical items will be rendered. A most instructive and inspiring evening is assured. The public is cordially invited to attend.

### THE LATE MRS. DORA ALSWANG

News of the death while bathing in the sea at Umgababa on December 29 last, of Mrs. D. Alswang, of Johannesburg (formerly Mrs. Said, of Pretoria), has been received with deep sorrow and regret. The late Mrs. Alswang was an active Zionist worker and a member of the Committee of the Parkview branch of the Johannesburg Women's Zionist League. She was a worker in many good causes and a generous donor.

The passing of Mrs. Alswang is not only deeply mourned by her husband, children and grand-children and the members of her family, but by a large circle of co-workers and friends. She will be sadly missed by the members of the Parkview Committee of the Women's Zionist League in view of her close association for many years with the work undertaken by these energetic ladies on behalf of the Zionist ideal.

### BOXING AT CITY HALL

#### Large Crowd Expected on Saturday Evening

At the City Hall in Johannesburg on Saturday evening, the 20th inst., a huge crowd of boxing fans is expected to be present to witness the contest between Ben Foord, who is challenging Tommy Bensch for the S.A. heavyweight boxing title. A second interesting contest is the one between Laurie Stevens and Dave Katzen, the Maccabean fighter. The latter is challenging Stevens for the first time.

There are two further fine contests and the whole promotion, under the auspices of the Transvaal National Sporting Club, should afford a splendid evening's boxing entertainment.

### 1940 MUSIC FESTIVAL

Music lovers will be interested to learn that Mr. John Connell is busy organising the 1940 Johannesburg Music Festival, during which three operas will be produced.

The Festival, in which the City Council is collaborating with the South African Broadcasting Corporation, will comprise four weekly symphony concerts, starting on February 6, a fortnight of opera from March 4, when Verdi's "Aida" and "Rigoletto" and Humperdinck's "Hansel and Gretel" will be performed, and six more fortnightly symphony concerts starting on April 9. The conductors will be Mr. Connell, Mr. J. Schulman and Mr. Theo Wendt. Walter Widdop, the famous English tenor, is coming to Johannesburg specially for the season.

### YOUNG MIZRACHI ORGANISATION

The 7th annual gathering and general meeting of the Young Mizrachi Organisation of South Africa will take place over the week-end, Friday, 26th inst.—Sunday, 28th inst.

The following programme has been arranged:  
Friday, 26th inst., at 8.15 p.m.—Oneg Shabbath at 47 Charlton Terrace, Doornfontein. Guest speaker: Dr. Rabinowitz.

Saturday, 27th inst., at 3.30 p.m.—Shalosh Seudoth at the Communal Hall, Beit Street, Doornfontein. Guest speaker: Rabbi A. M. Gervis.

Saturday, 27th inst., at 8.15 p.m.—Social and dance at the Coronation Hall. Open to all members and friends.

Sunday, 28th inst., at Coronation Hall, 2.15 p.m.—First session of annual general meeting. 7 p.m.—Official supper to all members attending the annual meeting. 8.15 p.m.—Second session of annual general meeting.

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