

5 May 1961

NEW IRAQ

1339

A MONTHLY PICTORIAL MAGAZINE ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF GUIDANCE

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NEW IRAQ



NEW IRAQ

Across its Noble Tasks

Speaking of Iraq, a person, whosoever and wherever in the world, would remember that this land has been the cradle of the first civilization in history—the civilization of Sumer, Akkad, Babylon, and Ashur. The first thing he would recall of the features of that civilization will, perhaps, be that the "Country of the Two Rivers", with its fertile soil, embraced the greatest creations of the human race in the fields of architecture, legislation and social organisation.

The famous Galgamesh legend about the "Creation" originated in Iraq, and on its expansive, smooth plains in Babylon rose the most amazing architectural achievement in the world—the "Hanging Gardens"... Under the patronage of Assur-bani-pal, a king of Ashur, grew

the largest library of the ancient world, and from the heart of its civilized society emanated the first civil code in the history of the human race, namely, the "Code of Hammurabi", "the Wise King".

The features of this civilization, whose depth into history exceeds 4,000 years, are not the only ones the Iraqi citizen boasts today. He is also proud of his Arab Abbasid civilization which rose in Baghdad and yielded the fruits of its scientific, architectural and social maturity to all peoples of the world.

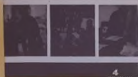
For it was in the libraries of Baghdad, with Caliph Ma'mun of his Arab Abbasid civilization which rose in the forefront, that thousands of scientists and wisemen of literature, philosophy and arts, melted their brains and souls to provide the

world with knowledge.

And it was in the classes of the world's most magnificent university—Al-Mustansiriyah—that the brains and knowledge of the greatest thinkers of the East developed, as it was in the palaces of the Caliphs, in the science clubs, and at seminars that the civilizations of Persia, Rome and Greece met to emerge as one and build up, in a most brilliant, creative operation, the most flourishing Islamic civilization in the Middle East: The Abbasid civilization.

The lights of this civilization kept shining in the dark horizon of the East until it fell a victim to the Mongol and Tartar invasions which ultimately extinguished them—or almost did!

The beautiful country of the "Two Rivers" has since gone

NEW
IRAQ

NEW IRAQ



NEW IRAQ



through a long tunnel of calamities and disasters brought about by imperialism since Holako and Genghis Khan. This went on throughout the Ottoman and British rules, represented by fake local governments, until the dawn of July the 14th, 1958, which came about with a pledge to give Iraq a new, respectful life and restore to it its heritage of civilization.

And you, dear reader, as the wings of imagination—the pages of A Thousand And One Nights—carry you back into the past, do please cast an eye, through a gap in the clouds of that legendary dream, on the world of our beloved country... Stop for a while at the end of these lines and imagine the gifts our civilization has presented to the world... Then imagine what

we are doing today to resurrect our history; for we are indeed working hard for our country's sake. And with the aid of the civilization of the "machine", we shall connect what has been cut off of our blooming past with our lively, developing present—the present of the July 14th Republic.

NEW IRAQ

A MONTHLY PICTORIAL MAGAZINE
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5

MAY 1961
2nd year

Front cover:

Sarsank Hotel—one of the beautiful summer resort havens in northern Iraq.

Back Cover:

Statue of a peasant woman at al-Umma Park, Baghdad—by Khalid ar-Rahhal

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In 1959, the Directorate - General of Ports laid down a six-year plan, and, immediately the blue - prints therefor had been completed, started executing it at an even faster pace that originally envisaged. When this gigantic project will emerge as a reality, Iraqi ports will have acquired the developed shape described on these pages, not by resorting to hopeful imagination, but by relying on figures and data that will soon take a solid shape once the year 1965 has dawned on our republican Iraq.

In 1956, one year will have

elapsed on putting Um - Qasr port into service. This is the port which the honest Leader, Abdul-Kareem Qassim, laid the foundation stone of late in March this year. It will be the first Iraqi sea - port capable of harbouring ships of 35,000 tons displacement. With it work is in hand on deepening the oil port, so as it may yield to the treasury some ID. 3,000,000 per annum. At Um-Qasr, too, will rise a large oil refinery which, it has been planned, will be included in the technical and economic cooperation agreement between the Republics of Iraq and

Czechoslovakia.

Also rising in Basrah—the cradle of the shipping industry in the Abbasid era—today is a new ship - building yard which has cost ID. 3,000,000 and will be capable of producing, annually, 20 ships of a thousand tons displacement each, and 20 other vessels, each powered with a 600-H.P. engine. There are other factories also under construction, one of which will build jet launches, and another refrigerators and electrical appliances to meet the requirements of the Iraqi ports of these household items. Any surplus will be offered

for sale to the public on the local markets.

At Ma'qal, Fao, Al-Wasiliyah, and Um - Qasr, 20,000 houses have been built, so have been the Simbad islet—a recreation centre for the inhabitants of Basrah; a ports museum; an antiquities museum; an aquarium; an aviary; a flower and plants display; clubs; swimming pools; and flats for holiday-makers.

The Ma'qal grounds will be covered with public parks, and a new hotel, additional to the Shat-ul-Arab, will also rise high on them.



IRAQI PORTS IN 1965





▲ Leader Abdul-Kareem Qasim recording a word of praise in the Iraqi Ports Administration's visitor book, at Basrah.



▲ Entrance of the Basrah Airport.

▼ The Director-General of Iraqi Ports Administration, Major-General Maher ash-Shawi, delivering a speech on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of Um-Qasr port by Leader Abdul-Kareem, Qasim.



In the field of health services the six-year plan includes the building of four modern, first-class hospitals, one to accommodate 200 in-patients, another for heart and brain surgery, and a third for maternity, to be inaugurated this year. In each of Fao and Um-Qasr an 80-bed hospital will also be built. It is also expected, according to plan, that bilharzia and anclostoma will be finally eliminated.

One of the spectacular phenomena that will accompany the accomplishment of this project will be the regularisation of navigation in the Tigris, Euphrates and Shat-ul-Arab rivers, with river-buses regularly run on them and stopping at a number of station-wharves that will be built for that purpose on the banks of all the three aforesaid rivers. All this will warrant the setting up of a directorate-general for navigation, either as a subsidiary to the Ports Administration, or as an independent department, as the Government may deem fit in due course.

Other agreed projects include a radar, telephone and wireless station.

In conclusion, say the Ports Administration experts, the six-year plan will completely eliminate unemployment in the area and will provide the greatest opportunities for learning by increasing the number of schools to the extent that no child will be left without one.

▲ The Leader acknowledging the tremendous ovation he was given by sailors at Basrah.



—The power house is situated on a site 40 km. from Kirkuk, and is assigned to provide electric power for the whole of the northern area.

—It houses four turbines, complete with accessories, each of a 15,000-KW per hour capacity, and an 11-KV tension.

—It is run on natural gas, which is cheap and supplied by means of a special pipeline from the Kirkuk oil fields, in addition to what it consumes of oil for the same purpose.

—The project covers an overall area of 100 donums.

—Current production amounts to 30,000 KW per hour, with only two of the four turbines operating.

—Current production supplies the four northern liwas of Kirkuk, Mosul, Erbil and Sulaimaniyah.

—The requisite plans for conveying power from the station to Haj - Omran summer resort, via Salahuddin - Shaqlawa - Rowanduz, have been completed.

—Costs of sub-stations at the Liwas have amounted to ID. 7,000,000, and a KW of power costs a mere 1.5 fils to produce.

—Annexed to the station is a housing compound to accommodate 162 engineers and workers on the project.

—It is one of the major projects laid down by the Revolution for electrifying the whole of Iraq.

OUR MAJOR PROJECTS

DiBis

A general view of the installations of the National Electricity Services' Power House



Power Station ... in a Few Lines



The Leader visiting the Southern Area Power Station, one of three that supply Iraq with electric power.

This overland road connects Nassiriyah with the centre of the Algiers Qadha—formerly Chibayish—across the Hammar marshland, the largest of the Southern marshes. It stretches over 90 km., divided as follows:

Nassiriyah to Makhfar-ul-Abeed—30 km. (newly opened).
Makhfar-ul-Abeed to Ma'abar-ul-Fuhood—20 km. (paved and levelled only).

Ma'abar-ul-Fuhood to Hammar village—18 km. (newly opened in the midst of Hor-Hammar).

Hammar village to the centre of Algiers Casbah—17 km. (newly opened in the midst of Hor-Hammar, with 13 km. completed and only 4 km. yet to be).

—Bottom width: 15 m.; top: 12 m.

—Work has started on two bridges,

6 and 3.5 m. high, respectively, and plans have been laid for further 3 bridges.

—2.5 m. above water level, and at certain areas only 0.6 m.

—Connected by a ferry at Al-Fuhood village, but a permanent bridge has been provided for in this year's roads and bridges budget, to replace the ferry.

—Supervised by the local administration engineer at Nassiriyah, in conjunction with a committee comprising the municipal, irrigation, and road and bridges engineers.

—Work started on 16-10-1960.

—Work is on a 24-hour shift basis, with assistance from the road party of the local administration. Local administration machinery is being used.

—Crosses several villages, fairly

populated, the most important being: Al-Abeed, Ash - Shadeed, Al-Fuhood, Abu-Shamah, Al-Muwaj, and several other Bani-Assad villages.

—Will connect all the islets of the Algiers Casbah together, and facilitate traffic and movement within the Casbah whose inhabitants now use small boats for moving from one place to another.

—Will ensure security in the area and help in spreading knowledge and education among the inhabitants of the areas it crosses, who have so far lived in isolation from the civilised world. It will also reinforce their economy, because it will enable them to transport their products freely to all parts of the liwa.



A view of Algiers town, formerly ach-Chibayish.

OF THE GAINS OF THE
REVOLUTION.

The Nasiriyah-Algiers Highway in a few lines.

A general view of Algiers, Iraq.





AN OPINION ON IRAQI POPULAR ARTS

We have already published an interview, put on the air by the Baghdad TV, with Mrs. Lucette Tawfiq, a French lady, on the question of Algeria. We are pleased now to publish a second interview with the same lady which dealt with her literary work as well as the Ministry of Guidance Exhibition in Baghdad, which has attracted the attention of many foreign visitors.

Q.—What books have you written and on what subjects, please?

A.—I have written two long stories, the first entitled "The Conscience" and the second "The Meaning of Life". I have also written a collection of reflections on Baghdad. I have now in hand a number of surveys which I started a long time ago but have not completed yet. "The Conscience" is the story of an illegitimate girl in our French community, from childhood to maturity, with all the complexes, struggle, rebellion and fear of life that accompany the state of illegitimacy. The other story is about the revelation of the purpose of life to a miserable woman.

Q.—Has any of your works been translated into Arabic?

A.—Yes, "The Conscience". And I do hope to have it published soon.

Q.—Why haven't you published it in French?

A.—Because of financial difficulties. In France it was stipulated that I should have to pay for the publication of a book whose fate no one could foretell. Also, I wouldn't publish it because I am so far away from any French literary connection capable of assisting or guiding me. Nevertheless, I still hope it will be possible to have my first book, "The Conscience", published in due course.

Q.—Which do you prefer, the symbolist, romantic, or realistic school?

A.—My literary tastes are always liable to change. They follow firmly the developments of my mood. From the romantic stage, at the age when a person tries to find himself and overcome literary caprice, I have recently attained the stage of preferring realistic writers who, in their smooth, clearly defined style, expose to us life as it is in reality, be it

beautiful or ugly.

Q.—Have you read any Iraqi literature?

A.—No, and I am very sorry for that.

Q.—Being a literary lady in love with literature and the arts, have you ever visited the Ministry of Guidance Exhibition in Baghdad?

A.—Of course. And I follow with great interest all the innovations that are taking place in Iraq.

Q.—Would you tell us about the popular works of art that you liked and those that you didn't?

A.—My answer would be rather complicated. For it is very difficult indeed to realise exactly whether one likes or dislikes a work of art. A person can like a form or colour because of its simple beauty, but without being greatly impressed by it. And one can be impressed by the ugliness of some articles. My visit to the exhibition was a delight to the soul—a delight of discovering creative possibilities in the people I had not imagined to exist. But all these works are still far from maturity. Yet they inspire us to hope for more in the future.



Iraqi ornaments are known for their primitive charm and beauty.



A local girl wearing Iraqi made ornaments, at a reception held on a festive occasion.



A portrait of an Iraqi girl proudly showing her 100% Iraqi-made ornaments.

A person who creates with his hands is often an artist who ignores himself and cannot rise alone; and taste takes shape and grows and develops. I notice, for instance, that these small statuettes, according to my own scale of values, reveal an artist in need of some preparation. It is a duty of the Iraqi authorities to try to encourage and assist these "instinctive artists" and afford them with the means of improvement. As for the pottery, I find it simply wonderful, well above any possibility of criticism. Even the articles which are crude and rough, such as the footwear, we cannot but be impressed and moved by their simplicity

and the sense of primitive beauty which their creators have. I should like also to point to the figurines made masterfully from the soft parts of bread loaves—these statuettes which represent scenes from Iraqi life: they are lovely and delightful. The articles made of palm leaves, however, could be made in greater varieties, but the colours used in the north are very attractive. I had already admired the costumes before visiting the exhibition.

Q.—How can this exhibition be improved, in your opinion?

A.—I only hope for one thing, and that is

that the exhibition be expanded to show more and more new articles every year, and in continuously improved styles.

Q.—Do you think that it will be a success abroad?

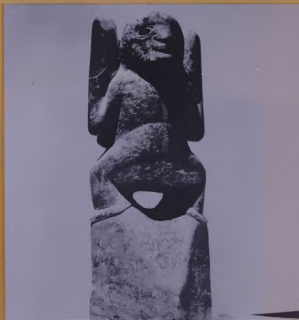
A.—I do, because people like to know each other more, and Iraq is seldom known well abroad. Exhibitions such as this one help to introduce Iraq to foreign nations and will give it its due place not only because of its antiquities, but also because of its promising, new possibilities.

Q.—Have you seen a similar exhibition in other countries, and if so, where?

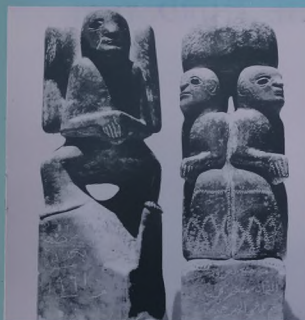
A.—I cannot give an accurate answer. But during my journeys across Europe I have seen many exhibitions. Some were held by the municipalities of certain cities, others at tourist centres, and yet others, for commercial purposes only. Incidentally, it occurs to me that the exhibition would be better in Baghdad, as far as foreigners or any other interested people are concerned, because it makes it possible for them to purchase some of the exhibits. In other words I would rather have your exhibition offer its exhibits for sale and not be satisfied with displaying them only.



A popular sculptor showing one of his statuettes.



An original sculpture by the same popular artist.



Two other sculptures by the same man.



The same two statuettes with yet another of two couples, from a different angle.



THE SUMMER RESORTS AND

IN THE THIRD YEAR OF



The Gah Ali. Big gorge, situated at the pass carrying the same name.

Preamble:

One of the principal objectives of this Administration is to provide and ensure comfortable accommodation and means of recreation for the tourists, such as modern hotels, rest-houses, casinos, chalets and the like, at the various tourist centres, provincial centres, archaeological sites, and estivation resorts. Hereunder we enumerate the activities of the Administration in this field, during the third year of the Revolution.

The Habbaniyah Lake Cornice.

A casino and 30 chalets had already been built on the shores of the Habbaniyah Lake, but it was later found out that the place could not be run successfully, nor would it be complete, unless the requisite complemen-

tary services and installations, such as furnishings, gardens and public parks, were also adequately provided.

With this in view, residential quarters for the casino staff were completed and plans and specifications for building a new road to the recreation centre were laid down; the necessary furniture and appliances were ordered, and the parks and gardens planted and duly trimmed. Work is in hand with the Directorate-General of Afforestation and Arboriculture to plant the shores with trees, and a consultant firm was asked to provide advice in this connection. Blue-prints and specifications have also been laid down for reorganising the hotel previously used by the military authorities

TOURISM ADMINISTRATION

THE REPUBLIC'S LIFE

then stationed at Habbaniyah, and the casino and the residential quarters have been offered to a contractor.

The Ramadi Hotel.

Considering the situation of Ramadi a principal international highway connecting Baghdad, Ramadi, Rutbah and Damascus, and appreciating the necessity for ensuring a residential centre of the comfort of tourists and passengers, the Administration decided to build a fully-equipped modern hotel near the Ramadi Dam on the Euphrates. Work is in hand, and all the reinforced concrete works of the skeleton and foundations have been completed, and we are confident that the hotel will be completed within the specified time. It

will have comfortable sleeping rooms with private baths, dining halls, and lounges, for which ID. 60,000 has been earmarked.

The Diwaniyah Hotel.

As Diwaniyah lacks a modern hotel for the comfort of tourists and passengers, the Administration decided to build one. Work has actually started, and the concrete works have

already been completed. It will have eight rooms with private baths, dining rooms, and other facilities for which ID. 50,000 has been allocated.

Summer Resorts
The Nasiriyah Rest-House.

This rest-house has actually been taken over, furnished, and opened to receive visitors and tourists.



Northern Snows
Haj Omran resort, where skiing facilities are always available.

The Kerbala Hotel.

This Hotel comprises 40 rooms with private baths, lounges and dining halls etc.. It has a garden and is now being furnished prior to opening it to visitors.

The Suwairah Rest-House.

The Administration started building this rest-house on the Tigris bank. It will have six rooms with private baths, lounges, dining rooms and all the other facilities and services. ID. 40,000 has been earmarked for this purpose.

The Kut Hotel.

ID. 60,000 has been allocated for building a tourist hotel in Kut. A plot of land has been selected on the Tigris at the town's entrance overlooking the Kut Barrage. Work started in July 1960, and it is expected to be completed and opened on July 14th this year. The most up-to-date architectural patterns have been considered in building this hotel which will be adorned with a variety of mosaic and ceramic decorations, coloured glass panes, and doors decorated with formica.

Ten Swimming Pools for Baghdad.

ID. 400,000 has been allocated for building 10 swimming pools in Baghdad, with all their requisite accessories, such as playgrounds, recreation grounds, changing rooms etc..

The necessary surveys for assigning the plots therefor have been carried out in conjunction with the Baghdad municipality, the Directorate-General of Physical Culture, the housing departments, and the Water Board. So far the following areas have been

selected:

1. Kadhimiyah.
2. Adhamiyah.
3. Officers Township.
4. Karradah Al-Sharqiah.
5. Al-Mansour.
6. Al-Qassim Township at Baghdad West.
7. Al-Ju'aifir.

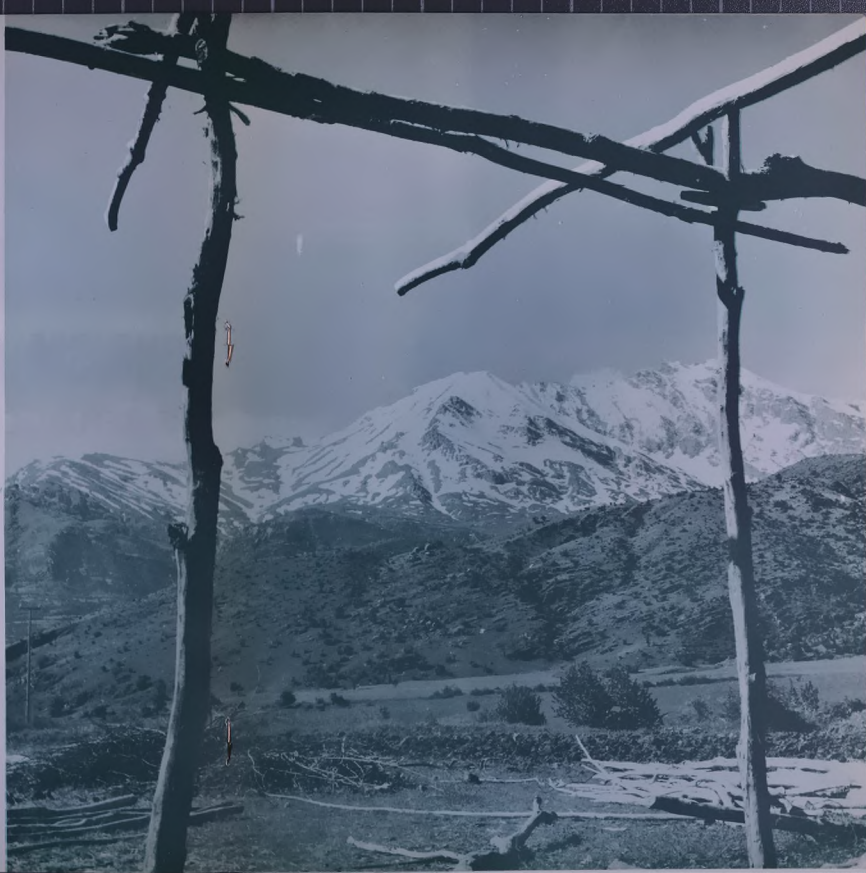
The pools will be of international olympic dimensions and of two sizes, and will have small, low spring-boards and 3 and 5-metre high diving boards. The Tourist Centre Building.

In view of the expansion of the development and responsibilities of the Administration, and considering the increase in the number of tourists, archaeologists and foreign delegations, the Administration has considered the building of a 6-storey building at the entrance of the Jamhuriyah-street near Tahreer-square. A part of it will be for the use of Administration's bureaux, while the ground floor will be a tourists centre. All the necessary plans have been completed and the specifications laid down for starting work on the foundations.

A Casino and Rest-House at the Hindiyyah Barrage.

Considering the importance of this area which is frequently visited throughout the year by tourists and citizens alike, it has been decided to build in it a casino and a fully-equipped rest-house. Swimming pools and cabins will also be built, and the necessary foundation works are in hand. The tender for the main building has been made public.

A Motel and Saloon at Haj-Omran.





Holidaymakers enjoying their stay at Salahuddin hotel, at Salahuddin resort.

The swimming pool at Salahuddin hotel - a most popular recreation spot.



Haj-Omran being the coolest and most important summer resort in Iraq, where skiing facilities are available, and in order to ensure comfort and accommodation for visitors and tourists, it has been decided to build there a residential colony, i.e., a compound of chalets, each comprising one bed-sitting room, a kitchenette, and the rest of the requisite facilities and services. They will be air-conditioned (heated in the winter) and the necessary blue-prints, plans and specifications for work on it to start soon have been laid down.

The Southern Cape Casino.

This casino will be situated on the top of the Pirman mountain, some 9 km. from the summer resort. The spot has been selected for its height above the resort and for its coolness and the large number of its blooming trees which have given it the Kurdish name of "Seri Resh" or, as say the Arabs, "Ardh-us-Sawad", meaning grass and green. This peak overlooks all the surrounding areas to the extent that a viewer can even see the "Hissar Rost" mountains, the towns of Rowanduz, Erbil, and the "eternal fires" of the Kirkuk oilfields in the night. Salahuddin can be seen at night as a twinkling treed rug. The building has been completed and the casino opened for the patrons and visitors, and the road leading to it is a smooth one, with its greater part already metalled. The place is also provided with swimming ponds for children, fountains, and sheds for mothers bringing their child-

ren, and green yards and sand pits for the children to play in. Mineral Water Spas.

Recreation and convalescence are two of the biggest tourist attractions if mineral waters and suitable treatment sanatoria are available under expert supervision. In Iraq there exist several mineral water

spring, as there are others elsewhere that are inaccessible for the time being for the lack of suitable roads leading to them.

The Technical Board has completed surveys and explorations in this connection, in conjunction with the Health Ministry, and agreement has been reached on setting up a committee



Gali Ali Beg gorge, whose cool, refreshing waters flow incessantly throughout the year.

springs, such as "Hammam Al-Aleel" near Mosul, the "Kirna" springs near Duhok, and the "Bani Khailan" spas near mount Qobi, Qaradagh. On the road between Hiran village and Koyсанjak there is yet another

to study the mineral waters and assess the suitability of the springs for building sanatoria, tourist centres and parks on some of them.

The committee gathered the necessary data available at this

Administration and sought the assistance of a number of Iraqi experts in various relevant fields. It is still busy with its studies and surveys with regard to the geology of the soil, in conjunction with geologists of the various ministries and the authorities of the Isotopes Institute with regard to the composition of the waters of the springs and the assessment of the extent of the benefit that can be derived from them in the field of natural cures. It has recommended the necessity for demanding information on mineral water springs from Switzerland, West Germany, Turkey, the U.A.R. and Austria, for comparison, and the preliminary results of these investigations indicate that the "Hammam Al-Aleel" springs are the best of the known ones for building a sanatorium, a tourist centre and a summer resort on them, the reasons being:

1. The facility of access by train, due to their situation on the Baghdad-Mosul line, which also connects Basrah with Istanbul, Turkey.
2. Their nearness to Mosul city and the main estivation centres.
3. The proportion of sulphur in them, and the suitability of this element for curing skin diseases.
4. The water temperatures and their compatibility with medical specifications for treating skin diseases.

The committee is still carrying on with its studies and surveys and will make a spot-check of the springs prior to presenting its final recommendations, the data available at present being rather inadequate.

Sinjar

Sinjar is situated at the extreme north-east of the Iraqi Republic, between Mount Sinjar north, the Qadha' of Hatra south, Telafer east, and the Jezirah desert west.

It has the advantage of a temperate climate in the summer, but its temperatures in the winter are lower than those of other districts. Most of its arable land is rain-fed, and it has springs which irrigate the orchards and vegetable plantations.

Cereals constitute Sinjar's main product, followed by cotton and fruits, such as apples, figs, olives and pomegranates. It is reputed for the quality of its figs. In this era of the Revolution all lands previously owned by major land-owners have been subjected to seizure and redistributed to the peasants on lease under the Agrarian Reform Law.

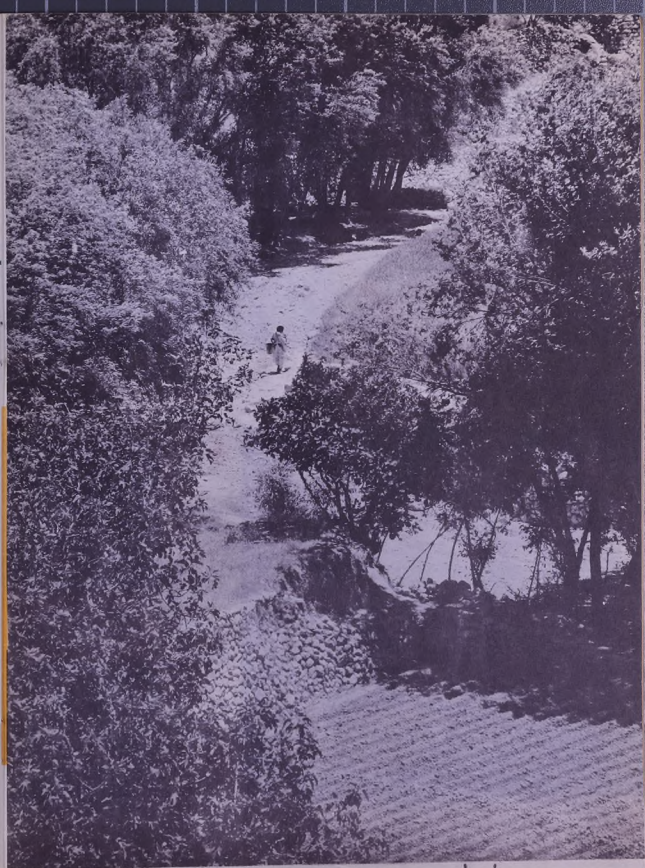
The inhabitants of Sinjar are known as being conservative. The remote situation of their town has made their life rather isolated and their region under-developed. Until 1958, the year of the Revolution, Sinjar had only nine schools, harbouring 470 pupils. After the Revolution, however, these numbers were more than doubled.



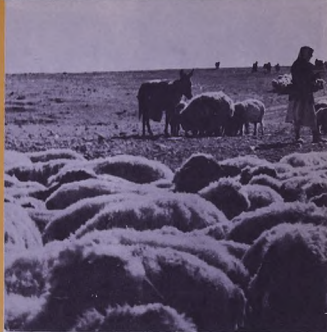
Shaikh Said of the Yezidis — A perfect example of the benevolent, hospitable Yezidi character.

The town of Sinjar overlooks a prairie of colourful wild flowers and greenery all around during the spring.

In the summer the prairies acquire a golden glow, radiated from the maturing wheat ears promising prosperity and abundance to the populace.



A Nahiyah was attached to Sinjar and given the name of "Ash-Shimal". This township, with its country-side, measures about 7,700 square-kilometres and enjoys a temperate climate, similar to that of Sinjar. Its inhabitants indulge in the same occupations as those of Sinjar, and are a mixture of Kurds, Yezidis, and Moslem Arabs. Seventeen schools have been opened in this Nahiyah whose school-boys count some eight-hundred. Several artesian wells have been drilled and its Miri (government) lands are currently under distribution to the needy peasants for them to exploit.



Sinjar is rich in animal products and livestock. Here is seen a flock of sheep watering at a spring.



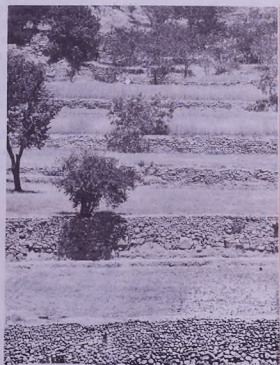
Sinjar is famous for the hospitality of its inhabitants. In almost every house, rich or poor, coffee is served to guests round the clock. So are meals served to passing-by strangers who also find shelter in any home for the night.

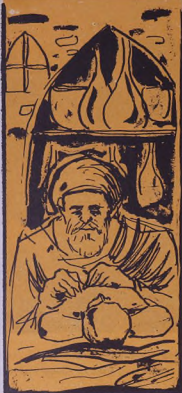


Quite a number of schools were opened in Sinjar after the July 1948 Revolution. The number of pupils has increased, and they are adequately provided for in the Sinjar Directorate's educational institutions.



Beet-root is a main product of Sinjar's fertile soil. The yield is supplied to the Mosul Sugar Factory, which in return supplies Sinjar with its requirements of sugar at reasonable prices. Picture shows how land is provided for the plantation of this useful ingredient.





Ar-Razi was both a doctor and philosopher, though more reputed in the former capacity. Ibn-Khullakan says ar-Razi took up medicine at an advanced age, and in his youth was a singer and performer on musical instruments. On attaining manhood, ar-Razi had said: "Any singing emanating from between a moustache and beard is unpleasant". He had thus given up singing and devoted himself to the studying of medicine and philosophy, and writing abundantly on both these subjects.

Ar-Razi read and wrote so much that the strain brought him blindness in his last few years. He even strained his hand muscles to the extent that he could write no more by himself and had to employ others to read and write for him.

Abu-Bakr Muhammed bin Zakariyah ar-Razi was born in ar-Ray, a town whose remains now stand near Teheran, known by the name of Mesh'had Abdul-Adhem. He was in charge of ar-Ray mental hospital, and later came to Baghdad to take over the charge of its large mental hospital during the rule of Al-Muktafi.

Among his works on medicine is a book in thirty volumes. Ar-Razi remained one of the greatest sources of medical science until the end of the seventeenth century. Another of his books is "Aj-Jami"—The Comprehensive—and a third is "The Book Of Nerves".

Ar-Razi was a man of a fast developing scientific mind, and his style of research was based on experiment. He was very reserved in accepting old ideas and always analysed them and put them to the test before accepting or refuting them—or adding to them. He believed in reality and took philosophy as being the way to deliverance from what he called "depression resulting from ignorance". He wanted philosophy to be preached in the streets to everybody, not merely to the elite.

Some of his words were widely quoted as proverbs, for the simplicity of their phrasing. For example:

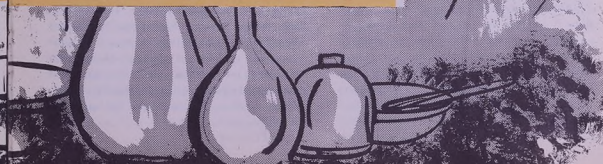
"Never treat by drugs when dieting can do."

"If the doctor were a scientist and the patient obedient, how short would the ailment endure!"

Ar-Razi died in A.D. 932. He is survived by a treasure of scientific works, better known to the West than to the East. His name is still very much alive, and his portraits still adorn the walls of many a medical academy and institute all over the world.



AR-RAZI, DOCTOR AND PHILOSOPHER





A QUICK SURVEY OF THE BAGHDAD—BASRAH STANDARD GAUGE RAILWAY.

A huge increase in economic activities, covering every field of trade and industry, came in the wake of the July 14th Revolution, making it incumbent on the authorities concerned to reconsider the communications network of Iraq, particularly in the case of the railways which had become critically inadequate to meet the requisites of the economic evolution which invaded the whole country.

At present, two-thirds of the country's railways are of the metric gauge and only one-third of the standard gauge, and, obviously, this state of affairs, i.e., the presence of two different railway gauges in a small country as is Iraq, is unhealthy from the economic aspect, because operating them efficiently requires unnecessary additional expenses since it implies the frequent transfer of passengers and goods alike, from one train to another, with the result that the purchase of machineries and accessories, and the employment of hands are doubled. A phenomenon of the deficiency of the present lines is the fact that the best part of them, with the exception of the Baghdad-Mosul line, is built on soft soil

and is therefore exposed to being wiped out by torrential rains and floods. Another is that these lines have too many acute bends.

Former governments had considered the construction of a standard-gauge line, as an extension to the Baghdad-Mosul line to Kut and thence to Nassiriyah. The necessary survey work was actually completed, but our engineers expressed the view that they would rather have the present line widened, as this would cost less. The Soviet experts supported the Iraqi engineers' viewpoint, and it was then decided to put it into force.

The Baghdad-Ma'aql line is one of the most important railways in Iraq, because it carries 48 per cent of the total load of the whole railways of the country. It crosses six liwas whose total inhabitants constitutes about half the population of Iraq. It is for this reason that special priority has been given to it. Work on widening the line commenced on the 4th July last, when the dutiful Leader, Abdul-Karim Qassim, laid the project's foundation stone. Cost of Project.

It has been estimated that the scheme will cost I.D. 300,000,000, including the cost of diesel locomotives, passengers and goods wagons, station buildings, staff and labour quarters, earth work, bridges, culverts, etc., etc., and it has been divided into the following sections on which work is in progress simultaneously:

1. Baghdad—Musayab stretch.
2. Musayab—Diwaniyah stretch.
3. Diwaniyah—Samawah stretch.
4. Samawah—Nassiriyah stretch.
5. Nassiriyah—Ghubaishiyah stretch.
6. Ghubaishiyah—Ma'qal or Um-Qasr stretch.

The Railways Administration, keen on keeping the services of redundant labour, has undertaken the completion of two of the six above mentioned sections, namely, the Baghdad—Musayyab and Ma'qal—Ghubaishiyah stretches, leaving the other four to local contractors.

Extending th Line Across Hor—Hammar.

To avoid the Shinaf Marshland and thus save money, it had been originally decided to diverge the line between Nassiriyah and

Ghubaishiyah. On presenting the idea to the Leader, however, he insisted that the line should cross the Hor-Hammar at all costs, for the following reasons:

The line will help the reclamation of no less than 120,000 donoms of lands for rice cultivation, and some ten kilometres of the line will run alongside the edge of Hor-Hammar where a station will be built. The marshland will thus be connected to the railways network, making it possible for the inhabitants to dispose of their products without difficulty. Moreover, the marshlands are natural beauty spots that could be turned into perfect winter resorts once they have been connected to communication lines.

The Baghdad-Basrah standard-gauge line has been designed up to the most modern standards, with all its accessories and complements of locomotives, trucks and air-conditioned carriages of all classes. And at each station on this line will be built a health centre, a police post, a modern cafe, a dispensary, and yards and parks, all to be completed by the end of 1963.



Under the patronage of Leader Abdul-Kareem Qasim, the inauguration ceremony of the second conference of the General Federation of Trade Unions was held in Baghdad on 15.5.1960. On arrival, the Leader was welcomed with a storm of cheers and applause, and a number of speeches were made by the chairmen of the various unions all of whom pledged on the workers' behalf support to the revolutionary Government and its Leader Abdul-Kareem Qasim, who followed with a comprehensive speech that lasted some two hours and a quarter. He dealt with several internal and external topics, the most important being the Palestinian

case, whose usurpation anniversary coincided with the conference. He stressed the determination to remove this pathetic memory by tactical plans, discretion, and victory from God Almighty, as he referred to our country's economic struggle, and demanded from the workers to group together and exterminate economic imperialism, "after we had eliminated its political, military and socially". The Leader also explored interference in other people's affairs and stressed the neutrality of the immortal Iraqi Republic. The magnificent speech was received with great enthusiasm, and the Leader left the ceremony after spending some three and a half hours with his worker brethren.



▲ A scene from the first equestrian show held in the republican era under the patronage of Leader Abdul-Kareem Qasim.



At 10.00 a.m. on 29.4.1961, Major-General Ali Ghalib Aziz inaugurated the canteen of the Army Martyrs Spinning and Weaving factory, at Mu'askar Ar-Rasheed.

The picture shows the General presenting a prize to one of the workers.



Staff Major-General Ali Ghalib Aziz, Assistant Chief of Army Staff and President of the Army Martyrs Services' Administrative Board, inspecting with Staff Colonel Khalil Ismail Muhammed, the Services' Director - General, and a group of our gallant Army's officers, the new machines of the weaving factory of the Services.



On May 19, 1961, the first horse show in the republican era was held in Baghdad under the patronage of Leader Abdul-Karim Qasim who is seen in the picture delivering a speech on the occasion.



▲
The Leader delivering a speech at the Officers Club on the occasion of 'Id-al-Adh'ha.



Another picture of the Leader at the Officers Club, being congratulated by a senior officer on the occasion of the Moslem feast.



▲
The Leader with the President of the Sovereignty Council, when he paid a visit to the President to greet him on the occasion of Id-al-Adh'ha.



The Leader delivering a speech at the Baghdad Garrison on the occasion of Id-al-Adh'ha.

IRAQI ARTIST

- Born in Mosul in 1919.
- Received his elementary studies at Al - Ma'mouniyah school Baghdad, with the late Jawad Selim.
- Completed his secondary education in Baghdad, also with Jawad Selim.
- A member of the first group of young Iraqi artists to organise the first ever painting exhibition in Iraq, in conjunction with Jawad Selim and Zaid Salih Zaki.
- In 1940, participated in founding 'he Friends of Arts Society, the first of its kind in Iraq.
- Participated in almost every exhibit on the Society organised in Iraq and abroad.
- Graduated from the Fine Arts Institute, Baghdad, in 1949.
- In 1956, joined Syracuse University, to specialise in " Audio-Visual Aides In Education."
- Also specialised in photography and cine-photography.
- Represented Iraq at several international fairs abroad.
- Currently employed by the Directorate - General of Exhibitions.
- His style of painting is a mixture between realism and classic.



ISSA HANNA

