



THE OPENING OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE ISRAELI CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY IN JERUSALEM: MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY RISING FROM THEIR SEATS TO SING THE JEWISH NATIONAL ANTHEM, *HATIQVA*, IN THE HALL OF THE JEWISH AGENCY BUILDING.

### CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF ISRAEL AND THE RE-BIRTH OF SPRING: TWO CEREMONIES IN JERUSALEM ON FEBRUARY 14.

Thousands of Israelis made their way to Jerusalem on February 14 for the first meeting of the Constituent Assembly, for which Jews all over the world have striven so long. The day chosen, Arbor Day, has by tradition always been celebrated as the day on which the sap rises once more in the trees and spring is re-born. In recent years new trees have been planted on this day, and this year some 6,000,000

trees were planted throughout Israel in memory of the Jews who fell in action against the Arabs. In the afternoon of February 14, Dr. Chaim Weizmann, who has been elected first President of the State of Israel, declared the Assembly open. A photograph of him addressing the inaugural meeting appears on page 258. Many diplomatic representatives were unable to attend the meeting as it was held in Jerusalem.



PLANTING TREES IN THE JERUSALEM HILLS ON ARBOR DAY, FEBRUARY 14: A GENERAL VIEW OF THE CEREMONY WHICH TAKES PLACE ANNUALLY ON THE DAY WHEN THE SABBATH IS BELIEVED TO RISE IN THE TREES. OVER SIX MILLION TREES WERE PLANTED THROUGHOUT ISRAEL.