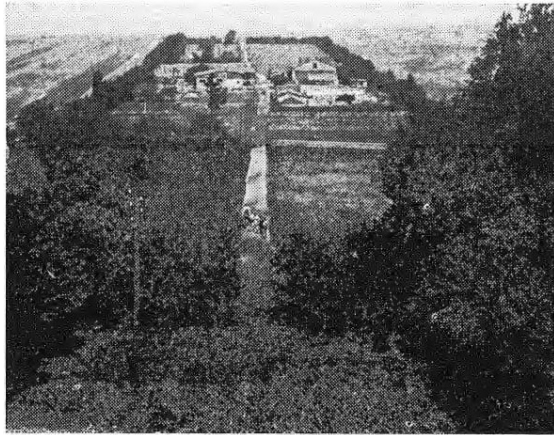


## The Horticultural Farm in Częstochowa



*A general view of the horticultural farm in Częstochowa*

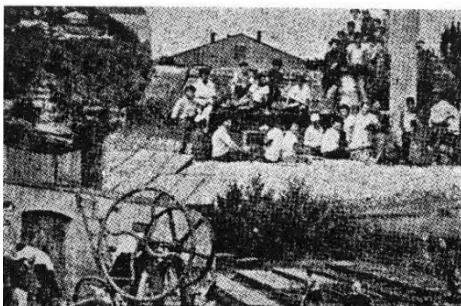
The horticultural farm was founded in 1902 by the well-known philanthropists and public activists Leopold Werde, Henryk Markusfeld, Mr Grosman and Stanisław Herc. They bought a large parcel of land behind the city and established a gardening school there in order for Jewish young men to learn and become qualified in agriculture.

Among others, the brothers Aron and Abram Finkler (members of "Poalei Zion") graduated from this school in 1908. Abram Finkler immediately left for the Land of Israel. Aron Finkler was arrested by the

police for being a "Poalei Zion" activist. Afterwards, as he later reported, seeing as how he was prepared to voluntarily serve in the military for an [appointed] time, he was released from prison and was sent away as a soldier to Turkestan.

In 1912, he was released from the military service and returned to Częstochowa. Here, he planted a garden next to the Old Synagogue (on the other side of the Warta River) and, afterwards he also departed for the Land of Israel. He joined the group at "Merhavia" [a *kibbutz*] and occupied himself there with agriculture. Due to the malaria disease, he was forced to leave "Merhavia" and settled in the Upper Galilee. At the start of the First World War he was, as a Turkish subject, mobilised. His brother Abram also took part in the war. They were both in El-Arish ([El-]Qantara).

We have told of them in detail, because they were the first Częstochowa youngsters to learn at the farm.



*A group of pioneers at work at the horticultural farm*

Now about the farm itself - in the 1930's, there was a pioneers-farm on which up to 130 young men and women worked. The farm had its own 21-acre field, which was very intensively cultivated. Most favoured were the tomato plantations, as the pioneers had convinced themselves that this produce brought in the best proceeds. The farm also had a well-developed hen-house for fowl. Cattle also [were kept] and the milk was taken to town and sold well.

When the farm passed over to "Ha'Shomer Ha'Tzair", its pioneers developed the farm as much and as best [as possible]. A short time before the World War, they built structures for new branches of agriculture. In this way, they greatly developed the gardens for fruits and they built by themselves the warm ovens for their plantations, as well as workshops for shoe-making, tailoring of clothes and even linen, both for their own use, as well as to sell. They also had their own bakery and the farm was provided with a fine dining room and a reading hall. The sleeping quarters for the members were

clean, well-ventilated and comfortable. They also created a rich library with precious books and, as is self-evident, a separate room for the sick members of the *kibbutz*.

Of the 130 members of "*Ha'Shomer Ha'Tzair*", 85 worked in the city and 45 were employed in the *kibbutz*.

(All this was until the destruction. Everything fizzed with life and idealism until Hitler's murderers put an end to Polish Jewry. The wonderful farm with its idealistic youth, too, was destroyed by the barbarians!)