



A copy of the first page of Company Regulations signed on December 27th, 1920.

Stating that a company was established on April 6th, 1919.

By the name of

“HACHAKLAIT”



The first “Hachaklait” Establishment in Yavne'el, 1922

In 1919, in Yavne'el, located in the lower Galilee, "The Company for Cattle Insurance" was established. 14 members, representatives of farmers from several colonies in the Galilee and two kibbutzim from the Jordan Valley, gathered and decided to establish a company whose goal was to insure livestock. They acknowledged that the prevailing circumstances of no financial protection, under which people lived, could not enable Jewish farmers develop livestock and survive financially.

In The founders list we find the names:

"Betzer Israel from Merhavia, Shufman, Goldenberg, Fabricant Arie from Sejera, Meckler Shimon from Bayit VeGan, Brandshteter, Rozentzvaig from Menahemia, Kevshana Yitzchak from Kinneret, Fixman, Lubin, Izraelit, Fromkin, Yitzchak Ben Yaakov from Degania and Haim Zimmerman from Yavne'el".

We should mention that already in 1914, a company called "Cattle Insurance company " headed by Michael Nissenbaum was established in Kfar Tavor. Unfortunately affected by WWI the company ceased its operation.

"The company for Cattle Insurance" started operating in 14 settlements, consisted of 99 members and less than 700 heads of working animals and cattle, total worth of about 14,000 EGP (Egyptian lira). Gradually and cautiously, a worthy establishment was founded. One with the power to fulfill the ambition of its creators—cattle insurance under convenient conditions, without resorting to foreign companies whose interest was nothing but the profit they make. "The Company" does not seek profit, and uses but a small percentage of the funds for reserve to ensure the company's survival in case of disaster.

Haim Yafe from Yavne'el, was elected the first director of "The Company", The Secretary was Aaron Rotblat from Kfar Tavor, who served in this position for decades. Other members of the first management group were: Fabricant, Shimon Meckler, Yitzchak Ben Yaakov and Israel Betzer."

On the second meeting of the Company's management, held on September 13, 1920, it was decided that the company's official name would be "Hachaklait" (this is a derivative of the word "Hacklaut- meaning agriculture, and Hacklai- meaning a farmer, translator's comment).

Although we our issue is the history of veterinary medicine in the country, it is imperative to give a brief overview on livestock insurance, as it was the foundation for the establishment of "Hachaklait" and later the establishment of veterinary services.

Between The Years 1919-1929

The Insurance

As mentioned earlier, "Hachklait" was established for the purpose of insuring farm animals. The founders realized that in light of the health conditions and economical & political situation in Palestine at the time, particularly the Galilee area, without insurance, it would be impossible for the farmers to establish, develop and maintain farm animal, while dealing with various cause of deaths. It is interesting to note that the animal insurance preceded any other insurance within the agricultural settlement. The uniqueness of the company was that it was based on a mutual framework rather than profit.

Insurance was initially designed for cases of death only. For a fixed premium, the insured party was entitled to compensation of 70% to 80% of the animal's value. The premium varied not only between the different animals – working animals and cattle, but also between different regions of the country. Furthermore, with imported livestock, an acclimatization period was required before an insurance policy could be issued:

"In regards to the Dutch cows of "the Californian Group Binyamina" we here by announce that the Dutch cows will not enter the insurance settlement before an acclimatization period of 8-10 months in the country".

Insurance levels were different between the various breeds. For example, pedigree cows could be insured for up to 75 EGP. Local cows could be insured for 8-20 EGP and noble horses for up to 60 EGP and of course the premium payment was accordingly. Soon demand for extending insurance coverage was raised. In July 1921, a debate was held regarding a farmer whose insured cow was sick for a long period of time, questioning whether the company should share the losses caused to the farmer due to the animal's sickness

During these years the working animals – horses, mules, donkeys and oxen- both for work and transportation, were of great importance, therefore highly regarded by "Hachklait" Insurance Policy. Following a discussion about the insured animals working in road construction, secretary Rotblat was ordered to publish warning ads at public construction areas warning workers to use safety precautions when dealing with the working animals.

The following statement was issued:

- 1. No animal is to be left outside without shelter from the sun at noon time.*
- 2. Every insured animal should have an appropriate shade.*
- 3. One should pay close attention to the animal. Make sure it is not tired and has sufficient food and drinking water.*
- 4. All instructions made by the assistant veterinarian sent by the company to the work place on occasions should be obeyed.*
- 5. In the event of failure to comply with any and all instructions mentioned above –the animal shall be excluded from the insurance policy.*

Due to the precarious security situation in Palestine (i.e. the bloody clashes between Jews and Arabs in Jaffa in 1921), a discussion on insuring work animals and dairy cattle in cases of theft and robbery took place. The suggestion of Yitzchak Ben Yaakov from Degania was accepted stating the following:

"The assembly here by agrees that in addition to insurance policy in cases of death; insurance policies for dairy and beef cattle to cover cases of theft and robbery will be available. This will be optional and not mandatory."

As early as, 1922 "Hachaklait" was facing a demand of expanding its operations to other regions of the country. During the annual meeting held in Tiberius on January 17th, 1923, a bitter argument took place between those who saw the need for expansion of the company with the aim of increasing the economy and improving the quality of animals and those who feared that any expansion will cause more company expenses (losses) and therefore prefer to keep a small frame. At this rally, honored by the presence of Major Smith- Chief Veterinary Officer of the British Mandate, was present Dr. Samsonov as the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and the representative of the Palestinian Jewish Colonization Association. Following are extracts of his speech at this meeting we believed would be interesting to read:

"It is privilege and honor to participate in this esteemed assembly. I am grateful to Dr. Smith for inviting me to accompany him to your gathering. Gentlemen, please allow me to take this opportunity to express my feelings as an individual and as a man who, as you know, is close to "Hachaklait" or rather the mutual societies for cattle insurance.

Despite all the optimism with which I handled the insurance of the cattle in the settlements about thirteen years ago, I couldn't have imagined such quick flourish of a seed planted with such hard labor, especially after the bloody events of the time. The Biblical quote: "Those who sow in tears shall reap with joyful shouting" has come to life. The farmers of Galilee have shown to the agricultural national-Israeli world that they hold a full grasp of the importance of the institution of our interest today, and may improve and upgrade the status of the farmer.

It is common knowledge that agriculture does not have solid ground as long as the number of animals does not fit the size of the land. As much as the animal needs the land, the land needs the animal. When we consider the money sent overseas each and every year for providing butter, cheese and such, the question that must be asked is: what is it that our farmers are doing about this?

This question was correctly answered by the farmers of the Galilee. No farmer can devote himself to raising animals, investing considerable amounts for their purchase, as long as there is no guarantee for compensation in case of death, which will enable him to get the dead animal's worth. There is no better system than that of a "mutual responsibility" and the proof is the fact that any other commercial company trying to get into this business had gone bankrupt. Mutuality is only possible between people who know each other, who share mutual business, who can review one another in matters concerning treatment of animals and their management, people who are in the same line of business. Also in the economic-social aspect, you, the farmers of the Galilee are an exemplary model for the rest of the colonies.

Having said that, I must note that if it's true that the a bigger mutual society, the larger number of members, the more secure it is, please let us not forget that it is only possible if the conditions I mentioned above are rooted in reality. Alas these conditions do not represent reality as in the case of distant colonies such as Kfar Tavor and Metula or Yavne'el and Hadera.

Therefore, please allow me to remind you gentlemen the proposal I was honored to present before you about 14 years ago. Recruit as many members as you can to be a part of "Hachaklait" in each and every colony, make sure that no animal is left without insurance. But, do not lose your strength trying to reach far off places. As the saying goes: "covet all lose all".

The offer represents the opinion of the PCJA's (Palestinian Jewish Colonization Association) as well as the opinion of Mr. Frank. On the subject of membership, Palestine is better off being divided into regions. Each region should establish such a company. Urge the various regions to establish a co-dependent coalition. I am sure the PCJA will support such an establishment, even though I speak here as a private man.

I trust you will agree that I give a praiseful reminder of our great benefiter (Edmond de Rothschild) for his great moral and financial support of this branch that is our interest today.

The presence of Mr. Smith at your meeting highlights the government's interest in your remarkable work and I hope that after Mr. Smith presents his report to the head of the Agricultural Department, interest will grow even bigger and take the form of real action. Huge strides have been made by you in the field of cattle insurance thanks to great talents of "Hachaklait" members, especially the effort invested by the management. Great work is still ahead, yet judging by the measures so far we will quickly reach a time when we see our country as "The land of milk and honey" where "Each of them will sit under his vine and under his fig tree".

The Beginning of Veterinary Service

In 1919, there was no veterinarian who treated only farm animals. In Jerusalem lived a man by the name of Dr. Shem Tov who held a governmental position. In Jaffa lived Dr. Moshe Caspi whose job, at the time, was mainly managing tutoring classes for veterinary assistants, and Dr. Samsonov, who served as a veterinary doctor on the Baron's colonies, and continued to serve the new British government. Thus the colonies remained with no veterinary service at all.

Quickly "Hachaklait" realized her need for veterinary services both for the sake of the animals and as complimentary service to the animal insurance they provided. During a company management meeting held in November 1920 the following resolutions were adopted:

- 1. Contacting Mr. Abraham Ben Joseph, a graduate of Dr. Moshe Caspi's class (First graduation class 1918-1919) to offer him the position of veterinary assistant- for the company. His salary is to be- 16 EGP with the addition of a certain amount of barely per month to feed his animals. His contract will be for the period of 6 months.*
- 2. The member Yitzhak Ben Yaakov will be in charge of press releases around the country and overseas offering cattle veterinarian positions, in the area of the lower galilee.*
- 3. The assistant Avraham Ben Joseph is requested, with the help of the secretary, to gather detailed statistics of every cattle sickness and mortality case.*

On the recommendation of Dr. Ettinger from the Settlement Department of the Jewish agency, "Hachaklait" had engaged four veterinary practitioners overseas, requesting information regarding their veterinary studies, their expertise, field experience etc. In addition, they were requested to specify their terms. I was not successful in finding the names of the doctors that were approached besides the one that was accepted, and indeed, in a meeting held in May 1921, the management decides the following:

"Inform Dr. Arthur Rupin (Head of the Zionist management board), on the company's consent to sign a contract with the cattle doctor from Germany, Mr. Z. Freund (Hachaklait's first Vet) under the following conditions:

1. *Monthly Salary of 25 EGP.*
2. *Two rooms apartment with a kitchen.*
3. *An animal for travel.*
4. *Wages for any external labor will be transferred to ""Hachaklait"".*
5. *Residency at one of the central settlements.*
6. *Veterinary assistant Avraham Ben Yosef, will hold his position under previous conditions until arrival of the veterinarian."*

In August 1921, Dr. Freund had sent his consent to the terms presented; with a request to arrange for an entry permit to Palestine as well as sending him a small sum of money for the purchase of necessary equipment. A decision is made as the following:

1. *To arrange a loan for Dr. Freund for the amount of 20 EGP covering traveling expenses as well as sending him 10 EGP for purchasing various tools.*
2. *Arrange an entry permit to Palestine as soon as possible.*

In November 1921 Dr. Freund arrived with his family and in March 1922 a work contract was signed:

"A contract between "Hachaklait" in the Galilee and the cattle doctor Dr. Freund under the following terms and conditions:

- A. *Dr. Freund takes upon himself the treatment of animals of all the Jewish settlements in the lower Galilee: Menahemia, Yavne'el, Bayit Gan, Kfar Tavor, Sejera, Mitzpe, Kinneret, Degania, Har Kinneret, Poria, Sarona, Migdal, New Tiberias, etc. Responsibility includes settlements existing today as well as those which will rise during the period of this contract.*
- B. *Dr. Freund will have routine visits of one visit per week on scheduled days, except Kfar Tavor, Sejera and Migdal where visits will be scheduled 3 times per month.*
- C. *In the event of sudden sickness outbreak, Dr. Freund will be obliged to respond upon the settlement's committee invitation or its legal representative without consideration of regular visits.*
- D. *All the required tools of his trade will be purchased by Dr. Freund at his expense.*
- E. *Among Dr. Freund's responsibilities will be providing information about cattle examination, measures taken for the protection of the animals from spreading diseases, confirmation of death as well as cause of death, etc.*
- F. *All records of diseases as well as deaths must be kept by Dr. Freund in an orderly fashion.*

- G. *Dr. Freund is obliged to visit the settlements of the Valley of Izrael once a month in addition to attending to emergency calls from any of the valley's settlements.*
- H. *During his visits Dr. Freund will consult the local pharmacy or any other place he will be referred to, as to the conditions of the local herd.*
- I. *Dr. Freund needs to make sure the pharmacies located in the area of his work have the pharmaceuticals he needs, by providing a specific list to the settlement's committee.*
- J. *Calf castration falls within Dr. Freund's duties.*
- K. *Dr. Freund will receive a monthly salary of 25 EGP from "Hachaklait". Payment received each month.*
- L. *"Hachaklait" will provide Dr. Freund a horse for his travels among the settlements. All expenses will be covered by "Hachaklait" except the caring for the horse which will be Dr. Freund's responsibility.*
- M. *Dr. Freund is to receive a two bedroom plus kitchen apartment as well as accommodations for the horse at Yavne'el or Bayit Gan.*
- N. *Dr. Freund will not enter any contract with private organizations without the knowledge of "Hachaklait".*
- O. *Validity of this contract is two years, meaning as of today 1st November 1921 until 1st November 1923.*
- P. *Two month prior expiration of this contract both parties will notify each other of their interest to extend or cease this contract.*
- Q. *Any breach of terms specified in this agreement entitles the parties to cease the agreement without compensation.*

Yavne'el, March 30th 1922. Dr. Z. Freund, Ch. Yafa, Sh. Meckler, Y. Ben Yaakov.

The 11th Board Meeting took place on December 16th, 1921 attended by Dr. Freund for the first time. In this meeting the following arrangements were decided:

1. *Until the next General Assembly, Dr. Freund will temporarily reside in Yavne'el. In the future meeting his permanent residency will be decided.*
2. *It is agreed that the company will have use of all instruments and pharmaceuticals owned by Dr. Freund free of charge. In return, Dr. Freund will receive his salary as of 1st of November 1921.*
3. *Until the next General Assembly, the assistant, Avraham Ben Yosef, will accompany Dr. Freund and familiarize him with all settlements insured by the company.*

In the said General Assembly, a long and tedious discussion was held about the practice of the veterinarian. Main issues on the agenda were: the doctor's residency; the importance of being in close reach of a telephone; means of transportation- train vs. horse! Here are some extracts from that discussion:

Y. BEN YAAKOV: *"The doctor should reside in a central location so as to be within reach at all times. Furthermore, he should have a small laboratory close by; therefor Yavne'el is suggested as that location. As to the distant places like the Upper Galilee and the Valley, a special assistant will be required, and the settlements should contribute to the assistant's expenses. I am against the train as the doctor's means of transportation. It is expensive and has no consistent schedule. He should use a horse, and in special cases a cart from the valley (Izrael) will be sent to pick up the doctor.*

COHEN: Samsonov has managed to travel through the entire Galilee in one week. I suggest Poria as the center.

CHERNOMORSKY: the doctor should have a train and a phone within reach.

BENZION: what value is a phone for a doctor that is constantly on the road? And the train- sometimes one has to wait a day and a half for it to arrive. The best way for him to travel is on horseback.

Eventually it was decided that the doctor will reside in Yavne'el away from both the train and the phone. Dr. Freund will receive an apartment in Yavne'el, in the house of Yirmiyahu Meckler. The apartment will have two rooms, a kitchen and a place for the horse. Rent will be 3.5EGP per month.

As the association's activities around the country developed, veterinary services rendered, expanded. From 1922 the association included the settlements of the Upper Galilee and that same year "Hachaklait" contracted Dr. Dauel, who worked for the company in the Upper Galilee until 1924 when he started working for the government. Dr. Y. Neria started working in the middle of 1922 as the settlements of the Judea region were accepted as part of the association. The settlements' development in the valley of Izrael and rising numbers of sick cattle in the region obliged "Hachaklait" to expand its veterinary service, thus in 1923 Dr. G. Rosen from Hungary, was accepted to work for "Hachaklait". He first resided in Moshav Merhavia.



Dr. Freund & Dr. Asherman off to work in Yavne'el, 1922

At that time "Hachaklait" was struggling with financial challenges and we have found the following report in a protocol from August 22nd, 1922:

"Avraham Ben Yosef (assisting vet) offers to resign for the benefit of the association so the company will be able to afford another veterinarian. The management gratefully accepts his offer with gratitude and contacts the veterinarian Dr. Rosen. The contract with Dr Rosen will be, at this stage, for the period of 16 months".

And so, in 1923, "Hachaklait" employed 4 veterinary doctors and the budget available for the veterinary services was the amount of 1,429 EGP.

Even though the numbers appear to be small, extended discussions already took place concerning veterinary service, animal diseases and problems of the veterinary practice.

An important discussion took place on the question of the "horse" as means of transportation in those days. It was the doctors' opinion that the horse that serves them for travel would be the property of the association. The management held a different position on the issue. After long deliberations the conclusions were as follows:

1. *There is room for slight budget changes concerning the horse's maintenance from 2 EGP to 3 EGP.*
2. *The doctor's horse will be insured by the association at no cost to the doctor.*
3. *In case of the horse's death the doctor shall receive compensation as any entitled member.*
4. *In the event of robbery and theft of the horse while the doctor is en route, the doctor's compensation will be decided by the insurance committee.*

Preliminary Discussions on Herd Health Status

Already during the first meetings of "Hachaklait" in 1923 & 1924 discussions on herd health of cattle insured by "Hachaklait" took place. Reports were submitted by all vets employed (four at the time) on what was referred to as: "The sanitary conditions in the regions":

Dr. Dauel (Upper Galilee): *"Generally conditions are good, except several cases of Trypanosomiasis in Ayelet HaShahar. The disease is still present and 8 animals were culled. We also had cases of Mastitis due to poor sanitary conditions. During the year we had 420 different cases of sickness out of which only 6% were contagious. The worst is the (lesions disease followed by hoof disease). We were also hit by Piroplasmiasis (tick fever) in cows imported from Brittany-France. In these cases the farmers, who were reluctant to clean the ticks, are to blame. All infected cows died (23 out of 24)."*

Dr. Y. Neria (Yehuda): *"In the last six months there were no cases of contagious diseases aside from several cases of fever of unknown nature. Most diseases are associated with: stomach, udder and lameness even though the cows were in the cowshed. Many cases of difficult births & Retained Placenta - probable cause - lack of movement.*

Mortality: one mule at Ben Shemen and two calves in the Borochoy neighborhood. 60 new cows were brought from Damascus, all adapted successfully. Most of the cows from Transylvania have died while the Dutch cows adapted successfully around Jerusalem area yet poorly in places like Petah Tikva and Mikveh Israel, where cases of mortality were reported.

I believe that cases of Epizootic Lymphangitis can be cured yet I justify the government's position in regards to this disease. It is our duty to report every case. We have data on successful results of cure and these should be published.

As to Metritis, I am of the opinion that the owners sustain direct hit from it. Treatment is advised, especially as there registered patent available that should be implemented. In addition we have brucellosis, which we should pay attention to. As to medication-pharmacies refuse to store cattle pharmaceuticals in stock. We should make effort to contact the HMO. As to piroplasmiasis - ticks need to be fought against."

Dr. Rozen (Izrael Valley): *“Treatment is usually satisfactory. The improper sanitary conditions on the premises are distressing, and negligence in cleaning the areas designated for animals is observed- hence the many lesions we encounter.*

For a substantial period of time we had many cases of piroplasmosis although now they are steadily reduced. Most problems are in Tel Adash, due to lack of farmers' dedication to the animals, which was why I stopped working there.

Second on the list suffering from piroplasmosis is Tel Yosef. Especially the new imported cattle. Several have died. Care is better here yet there is no discipline. The disease has struck horses as well though curing them is easier. In my opinion “Hachaklait” has got to take a stand against importing cattle. Selective Breeding is welcome only by importing new worthy bulls.

In Merhavia- dairy cattle suffers from a disease similar to paratuberculosis. In my opinion rotten food is the cause. All are dead. Sanitary negligence is noted. An additional disease is mastitis. Here caused by insufficient treatment after the cow had given birth. They are especially careless with the amount of feed after delivery.”

Dr. Freund (lower Galilee): *“Satisfactory sanitary condition. As for contagious diseases I must note Epizootic Lymphangitis. Almost all cases are referred to the government. The disease has two forms: light and sever. There were 6 cases in Yavne'el and Menahemia. Sick animals were culled by the government. Although this disease can be cured it is prohibited by the government.*

I can also confirm a disease resembling bovine ephemeral fever. There are babesiosis and anthrax which are very dangerous. There are many colic incidents in which the farmers are to blame for not adhering to the doctor's treatment recommendations. Most farmers provide water immediately after labor. Many working animals suffer from bad shoeing. Many cases of Metritis – but that is not serious”

Decisions:

We shall turn to the government for its approval of Tuberculin import. We appoint Dr. Freund to place orders for injections and significant serums for “Hachaklait” and distribute them among the doctors.

There are many bacteriological tests and blood works to be taken and our doctors need a suitable microscope which is not always available. The management finds it imperative to assist the doctors with purchasing a microscope. We require that the doctors attend lectures given by their peers.”

Discussion on Employing Veterinary Assistants

In 1924, there were 4 veterinarians employed by “Hachaklait”. Considering the poor transportation conditions of the time, as well as, the distances between the various settlements, the doctors struggled in their travel from one place to another, not to mention handling emergencies. Only a number of people in the country held the title of "veterinary assistant”, given to them by the government’s Veterinary Department on the basis of their studies at the school of Dr. Moshe Caspi in Jaffa.

“Hachaklait” has employed a number of assistants at various times, due to budgetary consideration (saving money). The vets, however, considered the matter to be primarily a

professional one. In a meeting held on Jan 15th, 1924, it was proposed that "Hachaklait" organizes workshops for assistants. The following are minutes from that meeting:

Dr. Freund: *"The Company's dependency on first aid and its expansions are futile. In most cases assistants do only damage, as the one who knows the least makes the most damage."*

Yitzhak Ben Yaakov (management): *"True are the words of Dr. Freund, as the one who knows the least makes the most damage. Yet, it was not my intention that they learn the whole craft overnight. However there is elementary treatment that can be learned within a short period of time to benefit the sever cases where the cow requires daily treatment and the doctor is not available."*

Dr. Y, Neria: *"there are good guys among the assistants who know their job well. Having said that, Dr. Caspi as well as the assistants themselves regret the creation of such a position years ago, and I believe this will become clearer in the future. We need to be careful not to make room for additional such positions. Experience shows, that there is always someone on the farm that learned how to care for the sick animal and we do not need to expand and add more help."*

That same year a letter was sent to the settlement Merhavia from the "Association of Hebrew Veterinarians in the Land of Israel" in the following words:

"It was brought to our attention that you intend to summon a medical specialist for Merhavia and the area. According to the laws of the state, only those graduated from highly professional schools, holding a diploma validated by the local government, are allowed to practice the healing of animals. Those who received a certificate of "veterinary assistant" in Palestine may only work as apprentices alongside professional veterinarians and only under their supervision. We as a society are concerned with improving and expanding the professional work and protecting the rights and affairs of our members, call this matter to your attention so as to avoid future possible conflicts between us. With most respects, Dr. Y. Neria

Several years later, in 1927, with pressure from the veterinary doctors, the government changed its rules and "veterinary assistants" were denied the right to practice veterinary medicine.

1923- First Labor Dispute

In 1923, just before the vets' contract renewal, we find the first labor dispute between "Hachaklait" and its doctors. At the time, contracts were signed individually as personal contracts, with wages & terms designed for each doctor, for an agreed period of time. It so happened, that all contracts reached their termination just before 1924 and were up for renewal. It is important to note that at the time there were 2500 cows insured by "Hachaklait", the number of members was 600 while the number of doctors was four as noted earlier.

A letter was sent to "Hachaklait" from the doctors. They wrote, among other things:

"On November 2nd 1923, a gathering was held in Haifa, by all doctors employed by the company. It became clear to us that since "Hachaklait" had hired the doctors at various times and conditions while each doctor was still new in the country. We believe that our friends were obliged to agree to terms of employment that are in no way satisfactory or sufficient for their needs and in no way do they match any other equivalent positions in the country. In determining the minimum salary of a veterinarian, one should take into account the harsh working conditions and the constant travel that affects the health of the doctors.

The criterion for a vet's salary should be the salary paid by the government: 30 EPG per month plus 75 Egyptian Qirsh per day's travel plus a horse and its feeding. Furthermore he should receive an extra for each year on the job".

The letter was signed by all the company's doctors: Freund, Rosen, Deuel and Neria."

In an executive meeting held by the company without the presence of the doctors, Shidlovsky and Yehoshua Manoach, members of the Audit Committee stated the following:

"We would like to express our indignation at the high salaries paid by our institution, while all expenses fall directly on the farmers who scarcely make due. We strongly demand to reduce the doctor's salary in at least 10%".

The chairman Haim Yafe and the rest of the members second this proposal yet expressed their concerns:

"The doctors who have formed a union will fight any attempt to reduce their salary; this in turn will create an uncomfortable and controversial situation between us and the doctors".

The great importance of the matter and the serious implications of any decision made, called for a general meeting that will include the Board of Directors, the Audit Committee and the Legal representatives of the various settlements.

The meeting was convened on October 3rd, 1923 by the Sea of Galilee with presence of its 7 members. Details of the negotiations with the doctors were presented with their strong opposition to any reduction of their salary. So stated the member Sh. Meckler:

The doctors clearly understand that it is impossible for us to pay them a higher salary, however, given the standard wages in the country in general and the future state of affairs, they cannot live on a lesser pay. Their solidary decision is: not to agree to any reduction. We obviously cannot force them to accept our conditions, and their position will give them the opportunity to resign and be self-employed ".

Yehoshua Manoach added: *"It is clear fact that their salary is beyond our capabilities. If subdued to the pressure we are to accept their terms in order to renew their contracts, we should strongly emphasize that we are doing so under duress". And the chairman **H. Yafe added:** "The situation compels us to renew the contract without cutting their salaries. We must also acknowledge that they dedicate a great deal of time and energy doing their work and act as the company's representatives in their regions as well as take care of all technical matters."*

Shidlovsky: *"I hereby agree to all concessions out of sheer necessity. Furthermore the doctors need to know that this action was made out of necessity*

H. Yafe *has suggested the following: "we shall inform the doctors of a 10% reduction in their salary. If they decline, we will agree to renew their contract under the previous conditions and stress that we do so out of sheer necessity. We will demand free negotiations for the contract of the following year, 6 months prior to termination of this contract."*

We do not have a summary of this conflict, but the fact that "Hachaklait" and its doctors continued to work collaboratively, "Hachaklait" continued to grow as did the number of the doctors employed, indicates that a satisfactory solution had been negotiated."

The Development of Veterinary Service:

"Hachaklait" was established as mutual society for insurance and disaster rescue. The connection made between insurance and veterinary services was one of a kind in the world. This unique combination enabled the company's development despite the existence of sever diseases in the field. To say that, the veterinary service allowed the company sustains itself as an insurance company and pay compensation despite the difficult health conditions at the time would not be an overstatement. Without a doubt, the veterinary service supplied by "Hachaklait" was the best in the country compared to other veterinary services available at that time.

By the mid-twenties, there were 7 active veterinarians working for "Hachaklait"; they were: Dr. Freund, Dr. Neria, Dr. Rosen, Dr. Kromholtz, Dr. Silberstein, Dr. Farber and Dr. Marmorosh. In 1927, the doctors presented a plan for raising the professional level of veterinary service. First step was gathering statistical data about the veterinary activity of "Hachaklait" under the supervision of Dr. Rosen, who was nominated as the coordinator of the veterinary service.

"For advance education of the doctors, a study of peers is organized every three months, where scientific discussions took place on subjects such as: brucellosis, infertility in cattle, calf diseases, tropical disease, Tuberculosis and Rinderpest. In addition, the organization subscribed to various scientific magazines to be circulated among the doctors. To ensure success at their work, the organization makes efforts to purchase all necessary tools for the vets practice".

The Structure of Veterinary Assistance

While "Hachaklait" expended its services from proving only for the Galilee area, to service for other areas of the country, the veterinary assistance grew and developed as well. Each area was a separate business with its own revenues and expenses of veterinary assistance. This caused great differences between the regions. For example in the Jordan Valley – close location of settlements enabled the doctor treat a large number of cows and consequently expenditure (premium) per cow was significantly lower than that of Judea, where the distances between towns were large and the number of cows in each community was small.

Already in 1926 Yehoshua Manoach a member of the Audit Committee of the "Hachaklait", offered to "change the current system of veterinary assistance to a mutual and national one". Although this proposal found many supporters, it was probably premature and debate on the subject lasted throughout the years. It took 25 years, until 1951, for "Hachaklait" to institute national - uniformed veterinary assistance.

Here's some trivia information from those days: the management was presented with a proposal to change the name of "Hachaklait" from "a company for cattle insurance" to "a company for cattle insurance and veterinary assistance".

"The proposal was not accepted for the following reasons:

"This would result in unnecessary expenses such as registration and change the seals. Also this will be a burden for those working in the offices and time will be wasted using a name as long as the exile of the Jewish people"

On the tenth anniversary of "Hachaklait" the area of operation includes all regions of the country except Samaria. Administratively, the country was divided into four districts: 1. Upper Galilee. 2. Lower Galilee. 3. Izrael Valley. 4. Judea. From veterinary standpoint, in 1929 these districts were divided into seven regions, with seven doctors.

Illnesses reported Up To 1939

The veterinary agenda included issues such as infertility in cattle, tick fever, traumatic endocarditis due to presence of foreign bodies in the feed, lameness and other infective diseases.

Rinder Pest (Cattle Plague)

In 1926 Rinderpest in Cattle struck out. In the words of the director of "Hachklait":

"This year fate brought upon us the plague. Our war against it was active and satisfactory. We thank our doctors for enabling us to pull out one doctor from his regular work to fight this war in Judea at a spot where the most important dairy farms faced extreme danger (Ben Shemen). We were successful in eradicating the disease from our country without large losses while this plague still prevails at full swing in Syria and Transjordan."

Brucellosis

The question of how to treatment this disease was a subject of controversy between the governmental veterinary division and the doctors of "Hachklait".

Says Dr. Samsonov, a government representative:

"Throughout the world there are differences of opinion regarding the method treatment. The best thing to do is slaughter the infected cows, and better sooner than later."

The debate was not really about the method itself, but the way of compensation. Dr. Neriya answers Dr. Samsonov, Dr. on behalf of "Hachklait" and its doctors:

"Slaughtering brucellosis infected cows, as proposed by Dr. Samsonov is not practical as the involvement of the government in compensating is merely symbolic and the main burden falls on "Hachklait" hence the farmers themselves."

There is no doubt that for eradicating this disease the government veterinary department acted fiercely in the Jewish farms and with definitely impressive results.

Tick Fever

"Tick fever" diseases were a most important and difficult group of diseases treated by "Hachklait" and its doctors. These diseases endanger the very existence of a dairy cattle farm in the country. As told by Dr. Freund:

"When I came to Israel in 1921 it was known that the country faces "tick fever" and we thought it was merely the Babesiosis (dark red or brown-colored urine). I arrived carrying plenty of "Methylene Blue" which was then the drug used against this disease, and indeed we saw great benefits from it."

Because the disease is not transferred by touch, nothing was done by the government veterinary department to prevent these diseases or eradicate these diseases. "Hachaklait" doctors held the key to the clinical cure of this disease.

That is not to say that there was no collaboration between the government service and "Hachaklait". The governmental cooperation was mainly in not interfering with our work. But when Prof. Adler began preparing vaccines against Theileriosis the government has taken various measures to impede his actions. "

Cattle Dip (Immersion of animal in a bath with tick removal chemicals)

In the beginning of the decade, this was the best treatment available to cattle farmers, and indeed using a substance called "killing Dip" gave positive results in exterminating the ticks on the animal body by washing the animal or better yet dipping pools.

The cows were led between two fences built to form a funnel leading to a pool where the cows had to dip into in order to reach the other side.

The structure of pool was such that the animal had to jump into it, soaking its head in water containing the "Cattle Dip" solution. It must be emphasized that at that time, in Israel, farmers were not aware of the poisonous properties of "Cattle Dip", therefore together with the positive action against ticks, other damage were caused to the cattle herds.

"Hachaklait" negotiated with the Government Veterinary Department loans for the construction of the pools and the supply of the "Cattle Dip" solution.

To save money as it was proposed to build a number of central pools to serve a number of farms. Although the Agriculture Department recommended providing loans for this purpose they were not approved by the secretary of state

The Government Chief Veterinary Officer expressed his doubts as to the efficiency of the central pool and with a frown typical to an English government official suggested:

"To make due and settle with washing the animals manually together with using a special breed of chickens that eat the ticks off the cattle and the ground".

"Hachaklait" on its part decided to approve loans for the construction of dipping pools. The price of a pool was estimated at -60-55 lira (an old Israeli currency).

The loan was granted for purchasing building materials in the amount of 35Lira for a maximum period of six years, interest free.

At the same time, "Hachaklait" had announced, that farms will not be compensated for mortality resulting from tick fever unless proof was presented that dipping pools were used according to protocol.

In 1931 tick fever was a cause of great damage on farms.

A report about infective diseases published by the Veterinary Service of "Hachaklait" stated:

"Out of 892 cases of Infectious diseases this year, 465 (52%) were caused by tick fever.

The division between the various fevers was as follows:

Anaplasmosis	180 cases (38.7%)
Theileriosis	255 cases (54.8%)
Babesiosis	22 cases (4.8%)
A mix of the above	8 cases (1.7%)

Out of 465 sick cows – 74 had died (16%). Most cases were sited in Izrael Valley - 379 cases, constituting 81.5% of all cases of Fever related diseases.

Researching For Vaccine against Theileriosis (Egyptian Fever)

One of the most important actions if not THE most important of "Hachaklait" was contacting Prof. Shaul Adler from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and his involvement in tick fever research. A testimony to that was found in the management protocol from 26 Jan. 1933:

"In a joint meeting with Dr. Adler and Dr. Theodore, it became clear that this research required a special doctor to handle this work for nine months of the year from April to December (It was agreed that the doctor handling this study will, in his free time, try to deal with the question of sterility).

It will be necessary to travel Jordan Valley to obtain material for study - ticks and blood - about 30 trips, and the budget allocated for this purpose is about 20 Lira. Additional 10 Lira were given for travel of experts from the university.

15 Lira will be required for the purchase of calves that are clean from fever. Doctor's salary is estimated to be 125 Lira per year. A total of 170 Lira per year.

For this purpose the University's apparatus of the parasitology department will be available. It was mutually agreed that Dr. Avigdor Ellenbogen was the best suitable for this job. "

Professor Adler approached to this work with great enthusiasm. In 1935 Prof. Adler reported of his success in his attempts to develop a vaccine against Theileriosis, and that his only limitation was lack of budget. Lack of finances for this project posed serious danger as to the progress of the research and the continuation of Dr. Adler's activities; at this stage there was no other entity but "Hachaklait" willing to support this important project.

Evidence to this fact is a memo sent to the Jewish agency by the director of "Hachaklait" Haim Zimmerman, in 1935, while he was holding the position of head committee for cattle disease research, stating among other things the following:

"As you already know, it's been three years that the Department of Parasitology at the University of Jerusalem has performed research of Piroplasmosis. We are proud to say that the department has reached great success and the results are satisfying.

We know that 40% of cattle contracting Theileriosis have died from this disease. The past 3 years have shown that we can vaccinate young calves with 0% mortality rate.

The means requested by the department are minimal in comparison to the work invested. There is no need for accommodation nor devices nor laboratory workers,

merely materials to work with and one leading assistant. Prof. Adler's work together with his helpers is not taken into account within total cost calculations. Without support, this extremely successful department on all its achievements will unfortunately have to cease its activities."

As far we know, at this stage, there was still no support from any organization but "Hachaklait" in financing this work.

Anthrax

Beginning in 1933, the vaccine against anthrax (anthrax) has become mandatory for receiving insurance from "Hachaklait". Any animal transfer to a new location required registration of latest vaccination in its transfer papers.

Doctors used a vaccine imported from Italy. At some point incidences of the disease occurred in vaccinated cows, and there was doubt as to the quality of the vaccine; and indeed at a later stage vets used a vaccine imported from Australia in spite of its cost being three time more expensive than its Italian equivalent.

Doctors suggested contacting the government and the university regarding the preparation of local serum against the disease. It is important to mention that "Hachaklait's" demanded that the Government Issues a notice that Immunization of all herds (cattle and sheep) against the disease will be mandatory. That demand was not accepted.

Coming in the next chapter.....

Between The Years 1930-1939