The Land of Israel in 1985

The *Chicago Herald* has issued an extra number, dated September 26th, 1985, which purports to give the news of a hundred years hence. Every line, including the advertisements, is supposed to be written in 1985.

We select the following extraordinary editorial article:

An experiment now making in Palestine attracts the attention of the civilised world. Three years ago Mr. Moses Solomon, the millionaire who acquired his fortune in the clothing business at Chicago, purchased the whole of Palestine, embracing Judea, Samaria, Galilee and Perea. His possessions reach from Tyre on the north to Jenyrussion on the south, giving a coast line of nearly 200 miles. Of course Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Capernaum, Mount Tabor, Gilead and Beersheba, and hundreds of other historic places are in his dominions, which consist of 8,000 square miles of territory. Immediately after his purchase Mr. Solomon began gigantic improvements. A ship canal has been cut from the Mediterranean to Lake Gennesaret, thus opening to navigation that lake, the Jordan, and the Dead Sea. Irrigating canals run everywhere, and all over his little empire King Solomon, as he is called, pumps fresh water from beneath the rocks and pours it lavishly upon the parching soil. This is done by means of Allen sunpower machines, imported from Chicago. The Dead Sea itself has begun to show signs of life, as the great sun-driven engines pump out the salt water and force in the fresh. Many railways are building, and, in short, under Mr. Solomon's direction the desert is blossoming as a rose.

The above is taken from a newspaper clipping, undated and unmarked. It probably appeared in a Jewish newspaper in 1885.