

# Eric Louw Challenged to Produce Evidence of Cement Stealing

Letter by M. Kentridge, M.P.

MR. M. KENTRIDGE, M.P., has addressed the following letter to the "Natal Witness" of Pietermaritzburg.

Sir,—My attention has been drawn to the issue of your esteemed paper of the 9th instant, in which Mr. Eric Louw, speaking at Pietermaritzburg, is reported as follows:

"Referring to the Housing problem, he said, the Minister had promised houses which had not materialised. This was due to the fact that a great deal of the cement was exported and the rest was stolen by Jews who sold it on the Black Market. He obtained this information from the Public Accounts Select Committee of which he was a member."

It will be seen from this that, apparently to add weight to his statement, Mr. Louw claimed to have obtained this information from the

Public Accounts' Select Committee of which he is a member.

I also am a member of that Committee and from my recollection of its proceedings as well as from enquiries made and from a careful scanning of its report I can find no trace of any evidence to confirm Mr. Louw's allegation.

In fairness to the Public Accounts Committee, to the Jewish community and to the public generally, I challenge Mr. Louw to produce his evidence for the above statement or to unreservedly retract same.

I am, etc.,

(Sgd.) M. KENTRIDGE,  
(M.P. for Troyeville).

## Not a Timely Play

Burlesque on Dybuk

THE acting in "Der Dybuk Afn Linken Zait," produced at the Library Theatre by the Dramatic section of the Jewish Workers' Club, was excellent. The singing was spirited and moving. The producer, B. A. Ozyński, obviously worked hard and well.

Masha Itzler gave a particularly good rendering of a Jewish song. I. Zygelbaum was a very fine type. The music, under the direction of Sam Miller, was lively and impressive. The two first acts were especially funny. As a burlesque it would have been a suitable piece of entertainment in normal times. But, to-day? in 1944?

The play is intended to make fun of the Chassidic mannerisms, idiosyncracies, superstitions and mysticisms portrayed in the Dybuk. If anyone had tried, for example, to produce, in October, 1944, a burlesque on the mannerisms, idiosyncracies, superstitions and mysticisms of Lidice—what would we think of him?

In Russia to-day there is a strong tendency in Jewish literary circles to glorify the past. Bergelson has just written two plays, "I Shall not Die but Live," and "David Reuveini," both of which extol the Jewish past in the finest terms. The excellent talent possessed by the club could have been made good use of for plays of this kind.

Mr. Leib Feldman complimented the company publicly on the "relief" and "comfort" which the play offered to the heart-broken audience. A study of the audience did not quite impress me that such "relief" was so very urgent. It did teach me that "tragic" or "heroic" play was imperative.

B.D.

## Farewell to Rev. and Mrs. G. H. Kahan

A REPRESENTATIVE gathering of the Salisbury Jewish community attended the farewell evening to Rev. and Mrs. Kahan at the Guild Hall on October 18. Rev. M. Konviser paid a warm tribute to Rev. Kahan. Mr. Louis Banet, vice-chairman of the congregation, and Rabbi Dr. Papo associated themselves with the Rev. Konviser's remarks.

The president of the congregation, Mr. D. Schwartz, made a presentation of a purse on behalf of the community. Rev. Kahan suitably replied. During the evening musical items were rendered.

Rev. Kahan has been appointed Minister to the Klerksdorp Hebrew Congregation.

## Musical Society Concert

Nella Wissema, violinist, Betty Pack, cellist, and Douglas Mossop, pianist, performed a Trio in A by Ildebrando Pizetti—a colourful piece of music in the modern style, and also John Ireland's Phantasie Trio in A Minor at the last concert of the Musical Society. The combination of the three performers was good, the violinist in particular playing brilliantly.

The soloist was Jean Gluckman, who sang some Spanish Folk Songs by de Falla, her rich voice doing full justice to the warmth of these beautiful songs, especially in "Nana," a song with a tender lyrical quality. An original note was struck by a group of songs from poems by Yeats, Houseman, and Keats, set to music by Mr. Mossop. Miss Gluckman's rendering of "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" and "La Belle Dame Sans Merci" was particularly striking.

R.M.

East London: The Jewish National Fund gratefully acknowledges an amount of £5 collected at the wedding of Miss M. Stern, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Stern, of East London, and Mr. H. Kacev, of Bloemfontein. The wedding took place at the local Synagogue on September 6.

## OBITUARY

### Mr. Shlomo Gordon (Cape Town)

WE regret to record the death of Mr. Shlomo Gordon, which occurred in Cape Town on Monday morning. He was 60 years of age.

The late Mr. Gordon came to South Africa from Bialostok some forty years ago. He lived at first in Namaqualand and later settled in Cape Town. In recent years he was associated with A. Fraser and Co. and Harris and Kay, of which he was chairman. Throughout his long residence in this country, and despite his many preoccupations in business affairs, he never lost touch with the



Jewish learning which he acquired in his youth. He was a fine Hebrew scholar, a Maskil in the best sense of the word, and a voracious reader of Jewish literature. Some years ago he visited Palestine and made a lengthy stay in that country. There he married Miss Shoshana Halberstader whom he brought out to South Africa. Together they built a home in Cape Town which became one of the finest Jewish cultural assets of the community. It was a Zionist home par excellence, imbued with a true Zionist and Palestinian atmosphere and with a real Hebrew spirit.

Shlomo Gordon was of a most unassuming disposition. He served on few committees, and shunned the lime-light. But every good cause found in him a staunch supporter. He was a most generous and large-hearted man and was always surrounded by a host of friends and well-wishers. Although he suffered for some time from a grave illness, he was full of joy and hope for the future, and had been making various plans in connection with Palestine. As one of the founders of the Palestine Africa Shippers, Ltd., and chairman of the Cape Town committee, he visited Johannesburg last year and took an active interest in the recent moves to create stronger business ties between the two countries. All throughout, he maintained his interest in music, Hebrew books, and in every Jewish cultural enterprise.

(Continued in next column)

Cape Town Jewry has lost one of its finest sons, and the deepest sympathy is extended to his wife, who is one of the leading Zionist workers and Hebraists in the Cape, and to three daughters, in the loss which they have sustained.

## UNITED ZIONIST PARTY YOUTH SUCCOTH FUNCTION

Over 500 youths filled the Coronation Hall on Wednesday, October 11, for the Succoth function held under the auspices of the United Zionist Party Youth.

After Kiddush had been recited by Leslie Wexler, Mr. Dave Dunsky, chairman of the South African Zionist Youth Council, addressed the gathering.

The choir of the Mayfair United Zionist Party Youth, under the direction of Leslie Wexler, rendered a selection of Hebrew songs. Other items included in the programme were a number of short sketches, songs by Chavera Celia Welcher, of the Hapoel Mizrahi, Phil and Max Badash, a humorous monologue by Leslie Polen as well as community singing.

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