

Brilliant Violinist

Interview with Yfrah Neaman



THE full name of the young genius of the violin who is to open his concert season in Johannesburg next week is Yfrah Am Neaman. The first two are the "Jewish names" and the last is the surname. But the surname is also Hebrew. Taken together—name, middle-name and surname—Yfrah Am Neaman means "may a faithful nation blossom forth." It originated from the fact that the violinist was born in the north of Palestine, near the borders of Lebanon, which is much connected with blossoming of trees. A name of this kind places quite an obligation on its bearer, but young Neaman seems to carry it very cheerfully and proudly. Although he left Palestine at the age of nine he still speaks Hebrew fluently. How did you manage that? I asked him.

He replied that he was in Europe with his mother who spoke to him in Hebrew only. He is interested in Jewish affairs and asked me whether there would still be time for him to get a Shekel. While on the boat he missed the Shekel-campaign in England and he is now worried that he might not be able to exercise his Zionist duty in the forthcoming elections.

"Are there any other rising young Jewish musicians in England?"

Mr. Neaman replied that there was great interest in music among all sections of the British community, and Jews were no exception. There are a number of brilliant Jewish violinists and pianists in England to-day. He mentioned in particular Miss Shulamith Shafir, a young pianist, and Ida Haendel, a young violinist. Both are doing well and are most promising. Somehow, he added, Jews did not shine in singing.

On the whole, said Mr. Neaman, there has not been any intensive encouragement of musical talent by Jewish public bodies in England. Nevertheless, various organisations are making an effort. These include the Arts Department of the Zionist Federation. The "Bachad," a union of religious Chutzim, include music in their cultural training activity,

Congress Elections in England

LONDON, Wednesday. — Polling day for the election of delegates from Great Britain to the Zionist Congress has been fixed for Sunday, July 7. Rev. J. K. Goldbloom has been elected Chairman of the Central Election Board.

Each party submitting a list of candidates has been ordered to contribute an initial sum of £3 and forward a written statement agreeing to contribute towards the expenses in proportion to the number of elected delegates.

The London "Jewish Chronicle" suggests editorially that "the Zionist Congress, which remains the source of all Zionist authority, can no longer function along the lines laid down in 1897. This is a problem that has been attracting much attention during recent months.

"Congress in shape and machinery is to-day totally unsuited to the task it has to perform. All parties in the Movement must take cognisance of this fact. It is self-evident that the Jewish national revival cannot carry on with a system of an authoritative assembly which only meets for ten days once in two years, a system suitable for the infancy of the Movement when it dealt largely with ideas, but quite incapable of coping with concrete problems such as now have to be dealt with."

The paper suggests that Congress will have sooner or later to devise ways and means to function as a representative body in permanent session.

Fight Between Jewish and British Soldiers

JERUSALEM, Monday. — It has been officially announced that a disturbance occurred on May 19 at Beit Nabala Camp, near the Lydda airport, between members of the British airborne unit and Jewish soldiers of a unit stationed in the area.

From preliminary enquiries it appears that the disturbance arose through remarks which were construed as being insulting and which were directed at the airborne troops.

A few minor injuries in the shape of cuts and abrasions were sustained by five airborne soldiers and seven Jewish soldiers.

and Mr. Neaman gave several concerts at their training farm in England.

Mr. Neaman is particularly fond of Ernst Bloch and includes some of his compositions in his programmes.

"I play almost everything that Bloch has written for the violin: the violin concerto, the violin sonata, the Baal Shem Suite and the Abodah. The Decca company have recently recorded my performance of the Baal Shem Suite, which is in three movements: Vidui, Nigum, Simchas Torah."

Another recording is the Mozart Sonata in "B" flat. Mr. Neaman told me that he was looking forward to visiting his homeland, Palestine. He intends to spend several months in Southern Africa and will give a number of concerts.

His accompanist is John Pritchard, an outstanding British pianist, who will render solos at his concerts.

The first concert next week will include the Brahms concerto and the Mendelssohn concerto.

Haganah's Weekly Paper

Run with Military Efficiency

JERUSALEM, Monday. — The weekly journal "Eshnab," believed to be the organ of Haganah, has become a regular feature of life in the Yishuv. Nobody knows where the journal is published and printed, but everybody gets it and everybody reads it. In appearance the newspaper of the Resistance Movement is a modest four-page bulletin, but in contents it could serve as a model to the Hebrew press, who are notoriously verbose.

Attack on Irgun Zvai

Words are not wasted in this organ of the Resistance Movement. There is an air of military efficiency about its articles. Most of the things published would be red-pencilled by the censor. There is information about anti-Semitic officials, military and civil; details about irregularities and corruption in the administration; news from behind the scenes of the Arab world and publishable accounts of resistance activity.

On the internal front, the newspaper "Eshnab" endeavours to maintain discipline and unity in resistance work. The issue of the 21st April contains a sharp attack on the Revisionist group known as the "Irgun Zvai Leumi." It accuses this body of engaging in blackmail and extortion of funds from various business men in Tel Aviv. Those who refuse to pay are being terrorised and

warned that "they would be dealt with militarily."

The paper says: "Such deeds are harmful because they create demoralisation in the Yishuv and lead to a disintegration of internal discipline. They are basically wrong because they put the Yishuv under a regime of private factions in matters with which the Yishuv as a whole must deal. The monies which these secessionist groups receive are under no control and this leads to much squandering. In order to continue with this waste they go on to blackmail and robbery.

"These seceding bodies have no public backing. They adopt methods of gangsterism on the pretext that they have no other choice. They are mistaken. There is another choice. Let them return to the framework of the organised Yishuv," concludes the "Eshnab."

Elections to 22nd Zionist Congress

SUNDAY, JUNE 9th, 1946

NOTICE TO SHEKEL HOLDERS

Shekel Holders are hereby notified that Polling Stations will be established in the following centres and will be open for the purpose of voting between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m.:

Aliwal North, Amersfoort.

Beaufort West, Benoni, Bethlehem, Bethulie, Bethal, Bloemfontein, Boksburg, Bothaville, Brakpan, Brits, Broken Hill, Bronkhorst-spruit, Bulawayo.

Cape Town (15 Polling Stations), Chingola, Cradock.

Dannhauser, De Aar, Delmas, Dordrecht, Dunnottar, Durban, Durbanville.

Elisabethville, East London, Ermelo.

Ficksburg, Florida, Frankfort.

George, Gatooma, Germiston, Grahamstown.

Harrismith, Heidelberg (Tvl.), Heilbron.

Johannesburg (20 Polling Stations).

Kimberley, Kingwilliamstown, Kinross, Kirkwood, Kopjes, Klerksdorp, Kroonstad, Krugersdorp.

Lichtenburg, Livingstone, Luanshya, Lusaka.

Mafeking, M'babane, Messina, Middelburg (Cape), Middelburg (Tvl.), Mossel Bay, Mufulira.

Oudtshoorn.

N'dola, Nigel.

Parys, Paarl, Pietersburg, Piquetberg, Port Elizabeth, Potchefstroom, Potgietersrust, Pretoria.

Queenstown, Que Que.

Randfontein, Reitz, Robertson, Roodepoort, Rustenburg.

Salisbury, Selukwe, Senekal, Shabani, Standerton, Springs, Stellenbosch, Strand-Somerset West.

Thaba 'nchu, Theunissen.

Uitenhage, Uniondale, Upington.

Vereeniging, Viljoenskroon, Volksrust, Vryburg, Vryheid.

Warmbaths, Wellington, Windhoek, Wepener, Witbank, Wolmaransstad, Worcester.

The addresses of the Polling Stations in each of the above centres will be published in the respective local papers.

A complete list of the Johannesburg Polling Stations will be published in the next issue of this paper.

All Shekel Holders residing in centres not mentioned in the above list will receive Ballot Papers through the post. These should be immediately completed and returned to the undersigned.

Voters are particularly asked to note the following:—

- (1) Shekel Holders under the age of 18 will not be permitted to vote.
- (2) Shekel Holders must present themselves in person for the purpose of voting. No person can vote on behalf of another person or persons.

H. S. LIEBGOTT,
Secretary, Central Electoral Board.

P.O. Box 18, Johannesburg.