

The ZIONIST RECORD

The Organ of South African Jewry

"Zionism aims to establish a publicly-assured, legally secured Home for the Jewish People in Palestine."

—Basle Programme.

Vol. XXIV., No. 515.

JOHANNESBURG.

October 2, 1931.

Rate of Subscription: 17/6 per annum.

Progress Buildings, cor. Commissioner & Von Weilligh Streets. P.O. Box 150; Phone 722 Central; Tel. Add.: "KADIMAH."

Carnival.

THE stage is set for the grand Carnival for the Redemption of the Sharon, which takes place next Monday and Tuesday evening in Johannesburg's City Hall. It is the culmination of several months of devoted effort by hundreds of willing workers and supporters to secure from Johannesburg Jewry its share of South Africa's great contribution to the redemption of our land.

Scores of functions of a most varied nature have been held during the past few months, under the name and aegis of the Carnival. They have given the effort a wonderful start. Many of them were on a quite elaborate scale. But all pale into insignificance before the grand climax—the Carnival itself.

It would need an inspired pen and an artistry altogether beyond our pedestrian imagination to picture the treat that is in store for the thousands who will throng the City Hall. Pageant, song and dance; historical scenes and tableaux; specially trained choirs and orchestra; gorgeous costumes, and equally gorgeous decorations and lighting; the Ballet and the massed *Hora* for the public to admire, and the general dancing for them to indulge in; the numerous stalls, whose fair proprietresses are in themselves attraction enough and to spare; the side-shows, the "stunts," the games—imagination positively reels at the thought of this blend and riot of colour and gaiety.

All this is as it should be. It is as right as right can be that we Jews should redeem the land with joy, with song, with dancing. The

Shiv'r Hamaaloth tells us how, when "the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion, our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with exultation." To-day we are once again in process of redeeming the Jewish soul, the Jewish people, the Jewish land, from captivity and repression; it is fitting that we do it with gladness and with fervour, in the spirit of—Carnival.

"Parity."

TO Dr. Chaim Arlosoroff, a member of the newly-elected World Zionist Executive, has been assigned the important task of conducting the political work of the Zionist Movement in Palestine in succession to Colonel Kisch. We published in our last issue a report of a statement made by him to the press giving the general lines on which he proposes to work. In the course of this, he said that "he would strive to bring about an Arab-Jewish understanding in Palestine on the basis of parity as laid down in the Coalition programme of the Executive elected at last Congress."

This statement has awakened echoes of the severe controversy aroused at the recent Zionist Congress. Abstract terms, especially in such a wide and indeterminate field as political science, are very apt to mislead and to be misunderstood: and this word "parity" has been for some few months in Zionist circles the same King Charles' Head as the "bi-national state" of last year, and both at the Congress and subsequently has engendered a tremendous amount of heat and feeling. Some, in fact, regard these two terms as inter-

changeable, in spite of the fact that Dr. Weizmann, at whose door is laid the injection of both of them into Zionist political ideas, stated in express terms, in the famous press interview which he gave during Congress and which aroused such a storm, that parity did not mean a bi-national state.

An Equality of Numbers?

Some again have an idea that in "parity" is involved the view that our aim should be an equality of numbers between Jews and Arabs in Palestine. Here again we need not look further than the explanation given by Dr. Weizmann to Congress on the day following his interview. It will be remembered that the impression had been created that he had definitely abandoned any idea of a Jewish majority in Palestine; and he explained that whilst he did not favour the formulation of a demand for a Jewish majority as a political slogan on the ground that it was impolitic and would be interpreted to mean a demand for the driving out of the Arabs, at the same time—to quote his own words—"I repeat emphatically what I have said on previous occasions, that a demand for any limit to be placed on the proportion of the Jewish population in Palestine is absolutely unacceptable"; and again, "relations between the National Home and the Palestine Arabs are to be settled according to the principle of complete parity of both peoples *regardless of their numerical strength*. I have repeatedly stated that we do not want to be dominated in Palestine, but we also do not wish to dominate."