

"Palestine Remains One of the Bright Spots of the World"

GENERAL SMUTS AT GERMAN-JEWISH WOMEN'S APPEAL

London, November 7th.

"I AM here to-day to support one of the lost causes in this wide world," General Smuts said, speaking to-day at the appeal luncheon in aid of the German-Jewish Women's and Children's Fund given at the Savoy Hotel, the Marchioness of Reading presiding. Tickets were £10 each, and some 250 guests attended, the amount collected for the appeal being £4,800.

"Apart from race and religion, apart from the things which divide us," General Smuts continued, "there are many things which unite us, things to which we must all show our loyalty and fidelity. While we sit here at this happy gathering, round this festive board, our thoughts travel to other parts of Europe. We think of the many who are suffering, and of the children in Germany especially, their prospects blasted, and all their young promise unfulfilled. There is so much gratuitous suffering in this poor half-mad world.

"Germany has had great services from the German Jews," he went on. "I remember when the German Jews were looked upon as the flower of Jewry. To-day we see those flowers cut off, and in spite of their great contributions to their country, we see them expelled; we see them made to feel that there is no place for them in their own country, where they and their fathers were born, they who made the highest contributions to the science, art, literature, and public life of that country.

"I think that Germany is as much sinned against as sinning, and I am not here to throw stones," General Smuts said. "But we are left with the wreckage.

"Jewry all over the world has a strong sense of self-help; it is perhaps the saving grace of the Jewish national character; and everything is being done to heal the wound.

A Fine Contribution to Human Advance.

"The Jews had a mission in the world," added General Smuts, "and it still remains a great mission. History did not end with the Old Testament. Jewry continues to take part in the great national life of the world, and to make contributions everywhere."

General Smuts concluded by saying that one of the finest contributions to human advance was made by the Jews.

"We cannot read the Old Testament, or the New Testament which grew from it, without feeling that here is the noblest insight into the human heart. We see how the nation moved from the idea of force to the nobler vision of mercy, tenderness, kindness; the noblest concept ever developed by the human race.

"That is the bequest of the Jewish Prophets, that this is a world, not of might, but of righteousness. It is indeed dreadful to see this gospel of love and kindness denied to the very people who themselves were the first to preach it.

"We are here not only to collect money, but to testify to the great faith which is in us, a faith due to Jewish insight; because we believe in the helping hand, in mercy and pity, we are going all out to support this cause.

"One of the articles of the cause," he concluded finally, "is the importance of opening up Palestine to the Jews. Palestine remains one of the bright spots of the world. In all the sadness and the surrounding disillusionments, this vision of a new Palestine is coming true. We see thousands of young Jews going back to their ancient homeland—surely one of the greatest results of the War.

"For vast masses of the Jews there can be no such return; their destiny will be to live with others, to learn the lesson of tolerance and to teach it to the human race. It is not only for your good, but for that of the whole civilised world that we have the People of the Book living with us and helping us."

Jewish Children.

LADY ASTOR, M.P., said that living in a world of mass persecution is bad enough for grown-up people, but when you hear of this persecution of children, especially mental persecution, it is hard not to hit back.

"Every right thinking woman of this country loathes the treatment of the Jewish children in Germany. My heart is with you. I do not agree that Palestine is the only bright spot in the world to-day; there are bright spots wherever Protestants are still protesting against injustice, in England for example. I would commend the treatment of the Jews here to the rest of the world."

ROTHSCHILD INSCRIPTION IN THE GOLDEN BOOK

The following appeal has been received by the Head Office of the Jewish National Fund in South Africa:—

To the Jewish People in Eretz Israel and in the Diaspora

BENJAMIN BEN JACOB ROTHSCHILD, unique in his generation, the Father of the Yishuv, is no more. It is not possible to describe in a few lines the significance of his wonderful personality. Only the coming generations will understand and appreciate this great man, who initiated the redemption and up-building of Eretz Israel.

To-day we call upon you to inscribe him eternally in the Book of Remembrance of the Jewish people, the Golden Book of the Keren Kayemeth Leisrael (Jewish National Fund). Let not one locality, community or congregation, not one Jewish institution, synagogue, organisation, or society refrain from the honour of participating in the inscription of the great departed. And this volume of the Golden Book, the Book of the Father of the Yishuv, will serve for all times as a symbol of the eternal link between him and the people of Israel.

The income from these inscriptions will serve the sacred purpose of redeeming the soil of the Homeland, to which the deceased aspired during his whole lifetime. We are confident that our brothers in Israel will respond to our appeal, acting quickly and without delay.

Head Office, Jewish National Fund.

Halutz Membership Exceeds 120,000

OVER 65,000 REGISTERED APPLICANTS FOR CERTIFICATES.

Jerusalem.

ACCORDING to figures of the Immigration Department of The Jewish Agency, the Halutz Organisations abroad comprise over 120,000 members of whom 30,000 are undergoing the course of preliminary agricultural training incumbent upon every prospective Halutz immigrant to Palestine. In Poland alone, including Galicia, there are over 700 Halutz Training Centres.

More than 8,000 Jewish artisans and skilled workmen in Poland are organised in a special Halutz Society "Haoved." These candidates for immigration need no technical training but they are taught Hebrew and instructed regarding conditions in Palestine. In addition to the Halutzim, many thousands of prospective immigrants under other categories are registered in the Palestine Offices.

According to figures of the Jewish Agency, more than 65,000 persons, excluding their families, have applied for labour immigration permits to Palestine.

JOHANNESBURG HECHALUTZ.

On Saturday, Dec. 1st, at 8.15 p.m., the Johannesburg Hechalutz Organisation is holding a Chanukah Social at the Hechalutz Hall (corner Height and Beit Streets, Doornfontein). An entertaining programme will be introduced, refreshments and excellent music will be supplied.

On Sunday, Dec. 9th, Mr. S. Pines, the manager of the Hechalutz Training Farm, will deliver an address at the Hechalutz Hall at 8.15 p.m. on the subject of "The Economic Problem in Palestine." All interested are invited.