

The Late Louis Cohen

An Appreciation by Rabbi Meir Berlin

NOT according to the number of years on this earth, but according to his actions do we evaluate the life of a man.

I first made the acquaintance of Louis Cohen when I came to this country six years ago. I met him again on the occasion of my present visit, and little did we know that this was to be our last meeting. In the interim we had spent some days together in Eretz Israel, which he visited three years ago.

Louis Cohen had the vitality of a young man. He seemed so young and so alive—no visible impress seemed to be made on him by the weight of years. He was always full of restless energy—always ready to throw himself into more work, and seeking to obtain from life the full fill of its joys. And such joy he found in other than material pleasures, and his work was not confined to the pursuit of worldly riches in which some men are wholly engrossed, even on the brink of the grave.

The companionship of learned men, the interest which he had in Hebrew schools and Yeshivoh, his visit to the educational institutions of the Mizrahi in Eretz Israel—such things were for him sources of joy. And opportunities for work he found in his service to public institutions, the destinies of which he not only helped to guide, for which he not only gave and collected money, but into which he also introduced some of his spirit.

Possessed of a warm temperament, there were some things which would stir him to anger. But beneath the surface there was strong appreciation of everything which was genuinely di-

rected to the good of the community, even if it did not wholly accord with his own opinion. And he constantly strove to serve everything that performed a valuable communal function.

While he was in Eretz Israel, he strove always to reach to the root of things; he maintained contact through correspondence and spontaneously, and of his own accord, continued to send monetary contributions to various institutions. I do not wish here to recount the great assistance he rendered to Yeshivoh and other religious institutions. I merely wish to refer briefly to the last conversation we had a fortnight ago at the Carlton Hotel, Johannesburg. He was interested in my mission, not only as a friend, but as one who had a special interest in the purpose of my coming. As one who had personally visited Eretz Israel, he was in a position to estimate the achievements of the Keren Kayemeth. He promised me support in the task that confronted me—he would work himself and would harness others for the work. He also spoke appreciatively of various educational institutions of the Mizrahi in Eretz Israel. He hoped on my return to Johannesburg to speak further with me on the matter and to put many of his ideas into practice. He also spoke to me of some of his personal plans, the realisation of which would bind him more closely to the up-building of the Homeland and he hoped that these plans would soon be realised.

Death has overtaken him. Still full of life and hope he has gone to the grave. Humbly I add my regrets to those who mourn for him.

To-day

in Jewish History

A LEADER OF GERMAN JEWRY

THE Itzigs or Hitzigs were, in the 18th century, one of the exceptions in Germany—a Jewish family free to live where it would and follow whatever pursuits it wished, with access even to the court. The foremost of them was Daniel Itzig, who was born in the year 1722 and who died on June 4, 1799.

A banker and industrialist when those occupations were, with very few exceptions, closed to Jews, he was even Master of the Mint to Frederick the Great. Frederick's successor, Frederick William II., appointed Itzig to the position of Court Banker. It was this monarch who, on his accession, determined to consider the grievances of the Jews and for this purpose appointed a commission of enquiry which Itzig and his son-in-law, David Friedlander, were members.

The concessions offered by the King were, however, inadequate, and Itzig, who was the acknowledged head of the Jews of Prussia, despite his relationship with the Court, did not hesitate to refuse them. Prussian Jewry had therefore to wait until the coming of the French Revolution to gain its emancipation.

In the internal affairs of Jewry Itzig stands out as the founder of the first modern school for Jewish children in Germany. He himself had 13 children, the most famous of whom was his great-grandson, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy. The number of their descendants still living is great, but the rule that governs similar families in Jewry applies to them also, and there are few, if any, of the direct descendants of Daniel Itzig in Jewry to-day.

Support the Zionist Record

THE PROBLEM OF ARAB AND JEW

MAURICE SAMUEL'S FINAL JOHANNESBURG LECTURE

ON SUNDAY NIGHT

"THE Solution of the Arab-Jewish Problem" will be the subject of the final public lecture to be given by Mr. M. Samuel, the well-known author, lecturer and traveller at the Plaza Theatre on Sunday evening next, the 6th inst., at 8.15 p.m. In this lecture Mr. Maurice Samuel will deal with the origin of the Arabs, their history in relation to Palestine; the Arab parties; the effects on their social structure of the Jewish Homeland, and the relation of Palestine to the outside Arab world. He will continue his thesis to the areas of common interest between Jews and

Arabs; how can they be multiplied or extended; what problems are insoluble and what to be done in the present and future to bring about the solution to this burning question.

The Hon. Mr. Justice Greenberg will preside.

In view of recent events in Palestine and the anticipations of the Royal Commission Report which is soon to be published, this lecture is being awaited with the utmost interest in all circles interested in the Holy Land and the march of events in the Near East during the post-war period.

SALE

As we have to vacate our present premises, MANNERS MANSIONS, JEPPE STREET, on JULY 31st, owing to the building coming down, we must dispose of our entire stocks of this and last season's goods.

SALE

COATS, with and without furs. COSTUMES, ENSEMBLES, MORNING, NOON & EVENING DRESSES, SPORTS & KNITWEAR, BLOUSES, Etc., Etc.

REGARDLESS OF COST

NO REASONABLE OFFER REFUSED



RICHARDS

164a JEPPE STREET — Opp. Bijou Theatre.

KEEP OUT THE COLD—DRINK CHANDLER'S STOUT