

Jasha Heifetz to Arrive on Monday.

His Deep Interest in Palestine.

DESIRE TO ESTABLISH A CONSERVATOIRE.

Jasha Heifetz now on his fourth tour of the world, arrives in Cape Town on Monday next by the mail-boat and will give two concerts at the City Hall, on Wednesday and Friday, 1st and 3rd June, respectively, under the direction of African Consolidated Theatres Ltd., by arrangement with the Cherniavsky Bureau.

Heifetz visits this country at the zenith of his fame and is unquestionably, with perhaps the exception of Kreisler, the greatest violinist of the day. A Russian Jew, born at Vilna in 1901, he began his study of the violin at the age of three under the guidance of his father, Ravin Heifetz, and made frequent public appearances before he was eight. In 1910 the boy was honoured by being admitted as a member of Professor Auer's famous class at the Imperial Conservatory, and at twelve he was recognised universally as a genius in the musical world. Russia, Scandinavia, and Germany were toured with notable success. A year later Heifetz played in Berlin, in Vienna, and at the Gewandhaus, Leipzig, under the direction of Kikisch.

Driven out of his native country by the revolution, Heifetz is now a naturalised American. He has won for himself the reputation of being the most perfect technician of the present day, and is visiting South Africa while yet in the early thirties, at the very zenith of his career. His wholehearted sympathy with the ideals of his people is well known, and was particularly emphasised during the course of his several visits to Palestine. His last visit was paid as recently as February in this year and in a stay of five days he gave no less than seven performances.

It is definite that he never played better in his life, and he himself attributes this to the tremendous enthusiasm of his Jewish audiences and the atmosphere of Palestine,

which he said, was so stimulating that it took the place of food, sleep and rest. Although his stay in Palestine was so short, Heifetz made a point of visiting the various colonies, schools, hospitals, etc., and was deeply interested in the experiments being conducted in the Homeland.



Jasha Heifetz.

A Conservatoire in Palestine.

Heifetz has taken a very close interest in the movement which was launched a few years ago by the famous pianist Leon Godowsky to establish a conservatoire in Palestine. In 1926 he gave his first concert in Jerusalem before a crowded audience, including Lady Samuel, wife of the former High Commissioner, Colonel Symes, who was Acting High Commissioner, Dr. Weizmann, and many Government officials. He

scored a tremendous triumph, and was given endless ovations. The stage was snowed under with flowers and bouquets. All the proceeds of a series of five concerts which he gave in Palestine that year, he said, would be devoted to the establishment of a concert hall in Jerusalem as part of the projected Jewish conservatoire of music.

Speaking of the movement to establish the Conservatoire in Palestine under his direction, he suggested that the conservatoire should be built on a site adjoining the Hebrew University, to serve as a centre for Oriental musical culture. Prominent Jewish teachers of music in Europe and America would teach at the conservatoire and would promote the study of both Jewish and Oriental music and also of world music. The conservatoire would accept students in the Orient as well as from Europe and America.

"Godowsky and I," he said, "have taken on ourselves the establishment of the Conservatoire, not because of Zionism, but because we are convinced that a Hebrew conservatoire will be the most valuable element in a movement for the brotherhood of the peoples."

"I Would Like to Visit Palestine Each Year."

"I am not and shall not be a Zionist in the political meaning of the word," he said in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "But I have always had an interest in Palestine, and when I heard of the love for art and music which exists there, I decided to help Palestine. Certainly, when a centre of art and culture is established in Palestine, it will also increase the economic strength of the country. So, too, will our artistic effort contribute to the growth of Palestine in general. The country has made a deep impression on me, and I hope to return. I would like to visit Palestine each year, and to stay there for some time."

With regard to what would be done with the proceeds of his concert in Palestine, Heifetz said that he hoped that it would be possible with this money to build a concert hall in Jerusalem which would be gradually enlarged and converted into a natural conservatoire. "I hope the idea of a Jewish conservatoire in Palestine will not remain a dream and that it will be realised in the near future," he concluded.

TALMUD TORAH AND COMMUNAL HALL AT CLAREMONT.—Continued from Page 365.

The Congregation, the next toast, was proposed by Mr. M. Alexander, who paid a special tribute for their services to Messrs. R. Newstead and H. Gorfinkel. The Claremont Congregation, he said, was very generous and progressive. In wishing them all success in the future, he hoped they would ever realise they were the trustees of the traditions handed down by their forefathers.

Mr. H. Gorfinkel, President of the Congregation, responded, and pointed out the

need for the hall that was going to be erected. The accommodation for the Talmud Torah at present was inadequate in every way. Mr. Gorfinkel expressed the hope that a generous response would be made to the appeal on behalf of the Building Fund.

The last toast—that of the Chairman—was proposed by Captain A. Friedman, who was supported by Mr. R. Newstead. Both Capt. Friedman and Mr. Newstead expressed wholehearted admiration and esteem for the enormous services, both on behalf of his

own people and the community generally, which Mr. Alexander was performing and had performed throughout the many years of his career. They expressed, on behalf of those present, their appreciation of his presence at the function that afternoon.

Mr. Alexander suitably responded.

At the conclusion of the speeches Kantor Katzen gave another rendering and the function was brought to a close with the singing of Hatikvah and God Save the King.