

Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr to Address J.N.F. Banquet on June 19.

Dr. & Mrs. Granovsky and Mr. Harry Levin Arriving Shortly.

At a lunch-hour meeting of workers held at the Coronation Hall, Johannesburg, it was announced that the Hon. Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, would be present at the official launching of the 1947 J.N.F. Campaign at a Banquet to be held at the Carlton Hotel, Johannesburg, on Thursday, June 19, and would deliver an address. Mr. N. Kirschner, Chairman of the S.A. Zionist Federation, will preside.

Dr. Abraham Granovsky, Head of the Jewish National Fund in Jerusalem, who will lead this year's delegation, and Mrs. Miriam Granovsky are expected to arrive in Johannesburg by air on Tuesday, June 17. Mr. Harry Levin will arrive earlier. The Hon. Mr. Justice L. Greenberg is the Honorary President of the Campaign.

Mr. Bernard Gering, Chairman of the Johannesburg Campaign Committee, presided at the Workers' Meeting.

Mr. B. L. Kellen, Secretary of the Johannesburg Campaign, announced that contact had been made with the political parties in accordance with a decision taken at the last meeting, that the major parties should be asked to hold special meetings for the purpose of enlisting workers.

The Mizrahi Organisation held a mass meeting at the Coronation Hall on Thursday, June 5, at 8 p.m. Addresses were delivered by Mr. Bernard Gering, Rabbi B. Rabinowitz, Vice-Chairman of the Mizrahi Organisation of South Africa, and Mr. D. Wacks, Chairman of the Hapoel Hamizrachi of South Africa. The United Zionist Party, Zionist Socialist Party and United Zionist Revisionist Party were also making arrangements for such meetings. Mr. Gering asked the party representatives to give their attention to this matter and to see that meetings were held without delay.

It was estimated that 9,000 people

in Johannesburg would have to be contacted. A great task faced the committee and workers were needed urgently. The H.O.D. and Bnai Brith



Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr.

had been approached and had agreed to assist. The various "Landsleit" societies were being contacted.

KEREN KAYEMETH SHABBAT.

It was decided to ask all the Spiritual Leaders in Johannesburg to regard Saturday, June 14, the Shabbat prior to the launching of the campaign, as Keren Kayemeth Shabbat, and to devote their sermons to the Jewish National Fund.

MEETING OF REEF WORKERS.

Reef workers will have an early opportunity of meeting Dr. and Mrs. Granovsky in the more intimate atmosphere of a Workers' Conference on Sunday, June 15, at 10.30 a.m. at the Coronation Hall, Johannesburg. Leading J.N.F. workers from each centre have been invited to attend and will be able to discuss with Dr. Granovsky in detail problems confronting us to-day.

The Campaign in the W. Province.

INAUGURAL MEETING.

There was a representative turn-out of members of the 1945 J.N.F. Campaign Executive and other contributors at the inaugural meeting of this year's Campaign in the Western Province, held at the Zionist Hall on Monday evening, 2nd inst. Mr. H. M. Bloch,

K.C., presided, and gave detailed figures of results obtained in the last Campaign, which reflected an increase of about 40 per cent.

Referring to the pending Campaign, Mr. Bloch dealt with the benefits which would be derived owing to the participation of Dr. and Mrs. Granovsky and Mr. Harry Levin. It was said by some, Mr. Bloch added, that Jewry was passing through a critical situation. "Never in the history of Campaign meetings has there been one where the Zionist situation was not described as critical. I am convinced that conditions are not worse today than at any previous time. On the contrary we are able to show more results for our work today than ever before." In the first four months of 5707 alone, 21 new settlements were established on J.N.F. land. The previous best was in 1946, which saw 24 new settlements. This constructive effort so far from being adversely effective was increasing in extent, and he was convinced that there were vast potentialities facing the J.N.F. For this reason it was necessary to make a great success of the coming Campaign.

After some discussion the meeting proceeded to elect a Campaign Executive for this year. The names of those elected will be published next week.

Mr. J. J. Wilk said he was unable to accept nomination owing to his departure next week for overseas. Amidst acclamation he announced his contribution—a substantial figure—and wished the Campaign every success.

Mr. J. M. Weinreich expressed the thanks of his colleagues to Mr. Bloch for his inspiring lead during the past few J.N.F. Campaigns which he had led in this Province. It was due to him that the general standard of contributions in this Province had been considerably raised.

The meeting confirmed that the delegation would visit centres in the Peninsula and the Western Province during the second half of July.

The J.N.F. as a Political Weapon.

"Our future boundaries depend more than upon any other single factor, on the extent of land in Jewish possession," writes Walter Eytan, well-known Palestinian journalist, in an article entitled "The Jewish National Fund as a Political Weapon."

In a comprehensive review of the significance of the Keren Kayemeth, Eytan states: "If those who are determined to hinder our development are conscious of the significance of land as a decisive political factor, we for our part know it too. Every new settlement on Jewish National Fund land, every new dunam in Jewish ownership, is a mighty pillar in the edifice we are erecting for future generations. The Jewish people cannot abandon its struggle for land any more than it can give up its fight for immigration. The two go hand in hand. Immigrants who come to Palestine require land on which to settle. If there is no land the absorption of new immigrants becomes extremely difficult, and in the long run impossible."

THE NEGEV.

The most topical example of the significance of the land factor at the present time is the Negev, the vast

southern part of Palestine which covers nearly one-half of the country. This desert and semi-desert region was not included in the proposed boundaries of the Jewish State by the Peel Commission in 1937, for the very good reason that at that time there was not a single Jewish settlement throughout its length and breadth. The Peel Commission saw that it offered scope for possible future developments, and made recommendations accordingly, but it did not see fit to allocate it to the Jewish State—even though it knew well enough that as far as the Arabs were concerned the Negev would remain a desert. In the last ten years there have been extensive development in this region, for no fewer than twenty-eight settlements have been established on Negev lands bought by the Jewish National Fund. To-day the cry is "Peel plus Negev"—that is to say, the area for a Jewish State proposed by the Peel Commission would have to have the Negev added to it if it is to be considered at all seriously by the Jewish people. The facts created by Jewish land purchase and Jewish settlement in the Negev have acquired a vital political significance. The twenty-eight settlements exist, and nothing can shake

them now. The men and women who have their homes there and work their once-desert fields have shown that the Negev is an integral part not only of Palestine, but of Jewish Palestine. In 1937 the Negev could have been severed from the rest of Palestine by no more than a slight incision on the map. To separate it from the rest of the Yishuv to-day would require a major surgical operation.

Side by side with the political struggle against the White Paper, the Jewish National Fund must be in a position to exploit every opportunity that comes its way for extending its holdings. By doing so, it will be extending the physical boundaries of the Yishuv, and ultimately the political frontiers of the Jewish State.

Palestinian Musicians at Prague Music Festival.

Prague.

A number of Palestinian musicians have participated in the Prague Music Festival, and compositions by the Palestinian composers Josef Kaminsky and Ben Chaim featured on the programme. Jiri Singer, of Tel Aviv, conducted the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, and Frank Pollak, another outstanding Palestinian artist, gave a piano recital.

The Jewish flag was prominently displayed among the flags of all nations draped across the Prague Artists Hall where the concerts took place. Among the musicians from other countries are many Jews, including Leonard Bernstein of the United States, who recently concluded a tour of Palestine, where he received wide recognition when he conducted the Palestine Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra.

BARMITZVAH.

ASTRINSKY.—Maurice, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. M. Astrinsky, will read a Portion of the Law and Maftir at the Vredehoek Synagogue, Cape Town, on Saturday, 7th June, 1947. Broche at Harmony, Yeoville Rd., Vredehoek. Relatives and friends are cordially invited.

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