

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## Public Relations.

The Editor,  
S.A. Jewish Chronicle.

Sir,  
Adv. Leslie Rubin has touched a serious point in his criticism of your editorial. In brief your editorial stated that we should not waste a lot of money on "Public Relations" efforts and that a sense of proportion be infused in this public relations work. It is disturbing to think that we raise money by instilling fear into sensitive Jews. The danger of this constant propaganda and magnification of this type of work is that we Jews morally deteriorate.

It seems that the be-all and end-all of Jewish life in South Africa is the combating of anti-Semitism. Where in all honesty have the well-meaning efforts of the Board of Deputies led us? Has anti-Semitism increased or decreased in this country?

Ask the Jew in the street—speak to the masses and you will find your answer. Enquire of our youth, and they will give you the answer whether they consider the experimenting on public relations worth while.

I would not mind the expense, but I deplore the effect of elevating the fight against anti-Semitism as a major problem for Jews to solve. From all the platforms we are told that anti-Semitism is a problem for the Gentiles and it is therefore the concern of the Gentiles to eradicate this disease from their midst. It is our duty—as citizens—it is true—to help a sick person when he is diseased, but what avail can be our medicine when the sick ones—the Gentiles—have not co-operated and seemingly do not desire a cure? Again I emphasise that in the process of helping others we have become sick ourselves—yea, in some cases—*sick of ourselves*. And this has led us into a train of symptoms, the ultimate goal of which is escapism, which shows itself in certain of our circles.

The remedy, if such it can be called, calls for no rash promises and no exaggerated pessimism. We Zionists must not promise a quick solution by saying "Your home is open: tomorrow I'll give it to you" and when tomorrow came and the home was not opened, many—those of little faith and less Jewish background—fled in despair from our midst, having lost their hope for salvation. They immersed themselves into the task of eradicating anti-Semitism—so-called "public relations work." This is what happened in Germany and Europe generally and with what dire results! Must we Jews always act like idiots and never learn from the past?

The pessimists said "What you build in the Diaspora is built on quicksand and water." Hence many give up building and turn to foreign cultures and foreign values.

When the foreign nationality insists that as condition of admittance you acknowledge that the Messiah and Redeemer has already come, one ponders, "Perhaps, it would be wiser to abdicate." So one operation after another is performed. Pages are cut out of the prayer books—not a groan is heard when this surgical operation is performed. What remains of Judaism belongs in the Synagogue and can be left in the care of the Rabbi. (J. L. Peretz.)

Thus more and more of our Judaism is diluted. It is time to call a halt and organise public opinion that South African Jewry cannot afford the huge personnel of the Board of Deputies with its tremendous expenditure on what?—to teach and tell the non-Jews that we are just as human as they are with the same virtues and failings.

Whilst stating the above, it is also correct to draw public attention to the efforts of the Board of Deputies in the other direction, namely, to spend a little money on strengthening the morale of the Jew himself. A course of lectures by Prof. Salo Baron has certainly done a little good to a great many: the fact that the agenda of the Board's Conference had many resolutions dealing with Jewish Education and Culture is also encouraging. Perhaps those who control the Board of Deputies are at last realising the futility of concentrating so much of their efforts on appeasing the Gentiles. In America, at a recent Conference of Reform Rabbis, the anti-Defamation League of the B'nai Brith was attacked

unmercifully by speakers who dwelt at length on the wasteful expenditure with so little tangible result.

I feel that while, as citizens, we should assist in a very small way, the efforts of those who consider anti-Semitism as their own disease, it is not policy on our part to assume the total responsibility for eradicating their malady; in fact, dire past experience should have taught us the futility of our heroic efforts. The more the pity that some people fail to learn.

C. RESNEKOV.

## Nationalist Party and Jews.

The Editor,  
S.A. Jewish Chronicle.

Sir,  
Statements were made recently by the Nationalist Party leaders on the Jewish question, in connection with the efforts to create a better understanding between the Nationalist Party and S.A. Jews which are being carried on by myself and Councillor I. Frank.

The following are extracts from letters and interviews in reply to correspondence by Councillor I. Frank:—

## Dr. D. F. Malan writes on the 6th June, 1947:

"The so-called anti-Semitism is certainly not an exclusive, or even a main characteristic of the Nationalist Party, or of the Afrikaans-speaking section of our people.

I and the H.N.P. oppose the further increase of Jewish population; it is not because anti-Jewish feeling urges us on, but because we wish to prevent these feelings.

The suffering of the Jewish people in the different countries of Europe is terrible, and anyone with humane feelings must deplore it. To end this, is an international responsibility which I willingly acknowledge, and it ought to be possible to solve it without causing new problems."

## Mr. N. C. Havenga writes on July 12th, 1947:

"My attitude towards the Jews is, and remains exactly the same, as it was in the days of the old Nationalist Party under General Hertzog, and I have reason to believe that this is also Dr. Malan's attitude."

## Dr. K. Bremer writes on July 30th, 1947:

"I have declared on more than one occasion from the public platform that it is futile and fruitless policy to propagate any anti-Semitism, and I will continue to do so; I am in favour of allowing near relations into South Africa.

However you will see that there is no danger in a Nationalist Government in South Africa as far as the Jews are concerned."

## Senator Bruckner de Villiers in an interview held in Cape Town at the S.A. Mutual Buildings on August 6th, 1947:

"(1) The quota system in education, the professions, industry, commerce, is not the policy of the Nationalist Party; it is propagated by one or two individuals, but without support.

(2) No discrimination will be shown to any minority irrespective of religion in this country.

(3) He is in favour of allowing rabbis, teachers, and will also recommend allowing near relations to come to S.A.

(4) He, and the feeling of the Party, is in favour of the whole of Palestine becoming a Jewish state.

(5) No Jews will be sent out of the country when the Nationalist Party comes into power."

He also stated that neither he nor the Party is anti-Semitic, and he will endeavour to persuade the Transvaal Party to remove the restrictions as to Jews joining the Party.

Further replies are awaited from other Nationalist leaders.

J. NOSSEL.

## שבת

Sabbath commences on 29th August at 6.7 p.m. and ends on 30th August at 6.53 p.m. Portion of Law: Ke Thetze, Deuteronomy, chps. 21 to 25. Haftarah: Roni Akorah, Isaiah, chp. 54.

## S.A. Jewish War Appeal. Roll of Honour of Jewish Personnel.

## WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN.

Miss Sallie Burstein, who was a lecturer in history at the Witwatersrand University and joined the team of field workers sent to Europe by the S.A. Jewish War Appeal, is now in Cape Town to further the interests of the Fund. During the past fortnight Miss Burstein has addressed a number of women's meetings, and the direct information she is able to impart in regard to the life of our people in devastated Europe and the relief in money and in kind shipped by the War Appeal and administered in conjunction with the J.D.C. has evoked great interest and sympathy from her listeners.

## MABELLA OTT-PENETTO CONCERT.

The first function of the 1947 Campaign is a concert which is to take place at the City Hall, on September 17, 1947, at 8.15 p.m., by Mabella Ott-Penetto. At this concert the great South African dramatic contralto will make her final appearance in Cape Town, and will include a number of biblical songs in her programme. Booking opens at the Tobias Music Store, 82, Longmarket Street, on Monday September 1.

The S.A. Jewish ex-Service League has in its possession a Roll of Honour of Jewish Personnel and wish to ensure that no name that should be included is omitted.

This Roll of Honour is classified in the following manner:—

- (a) Killed or Died on Active Service.
- (b) Presumed Dead.
- (c) Wounded or Injured.
- (d) Awards and Decorations.

O.B.E., M.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., D.F.C., A.F.C., D.C.M., George Medal, M.M., D.F.M., B.E.M., King's Medal (Silver), Purple Heart (American Award), Bronze Star (American Award), Mentioned in Despatches, Gazetted for Valuable Services Rendered, Military Commendation.

The League will be glad to receive full particulars of any member of the community or organisation whose name should appear on this list in any of these classifications.

The following particulars are required: Number, rank, and name. In connection with those who made the supreme sacrifice, the date of their death is necessary, as the League is anxious to commemorate their anniversaries (Yahrzeit).



## WORKERS MUST EAT!

Mines and industries cannot produce wealth unless their workers are properly fed. Distribution of food supplies, at all stages, depends on the supply of bags.

There is a critical shortage of bags — one must do the work of five!

**DON'T HOARD OR HARM BAGS  
... GET THEM BACK TO WORK.**

Don't leave bags where rats or vermin can get at them. Store them in a dry place until you can return them. Don't keep bags a day longer than you need: empty them, store contents elsewhere and get bags back into useful circulation.

**KEEP BAGS MOVING**   
**FIVE TIMES FASTER** 

Inserted by the Jute Controller in the interests of all who have to work and eat.