

The South African Jewish Chronicle.

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Dr. Malan's Statement.

Dr. Malan's candid and comprehensive statement made in an interview with "Die Burger" is welcome as an expression of his desire for better relationship between Jews and Nationalists, although it is a pity that it was not made sooner, as many may gather the impression that it was made more with an eye to the forthcoming elections than through a desire to clarify his position.

The statement is certainly the most moderate that has come from any of the leading members of the Nationalist Party, but nevertheless there are things therein which cannot satisfy any self-respecting Jew. The basis of Dr. Malan's policy is what he says has been recognised by Jewish leaders themselves, namely that when the numbers of Jews in any land increase to a certain percentage—saturation point—they become a problem and that saturation point has been reached in South Africa.

But when we state that fact it is merely to recognise the phenomenon without accepting its justification or admitting its inevitability. It is entirely another matter for a leader of a political party or a people to use existing prejudices and injustices as unalterable and axiomatic facts and accept them as the foundations on which to build a policy. It is the same as saying that because there is a prejudice against red hair, therefore there should be discrimination against red-haired people simply because they have red hair. If the prejudice is recognised then it is the duty of those who lead to combat and not adopt the prejudice. Dr. Malan, by accepting the existence of a prejudice against Jews, not only gives sanction to it, but actually encourages it, because the whole conception that it is necessary to discriminate against Jewish immigration "for the Jews' own protection" has the very opposite effect. The masses, when they know that there exists among the principles of a party or on the statute books of the nation restrictions against a particular racial or religious group, can only conclude that that racial or religious group is inferior, and hence it follows that they believe that they have every reason to discriminate against the group internally as well.

That this is not mere imagination or theorisation is proved by the fact that since the Quota Act discrimination against Jews in South Africa has shown a marked increase, and indeed many of the leading members and intellectuals of the Nationalist Party have openly propagated various measures ranging from mild to complete internal discrimination against Jews, as Dr. Malan is well aware by his reference to the Paarl Conference. However gratifying it is to know, therefore, that Dr. Malan is not anti-Semitic, that is "opposed to the Jew as a Jew," and sympathises with us in the calamities we have sustained, his declarations, well meant though they be, can only act as encouragement to anti-Semitism of the worst type.

That even Dr. Malan is not free from anti-Semitism (no doubt unconsciously) is proved by his assertion that "considerable ground exists" for the view that Jews are inclined to exploit other sections of the community. It may be true that by its very nature commerce—into which the Jews, through discrimination, were pushed—offers more opportunity for exploitation than other trades or occupations (although tales of exploitation are often exaggerated), but what evidence, what statistics, are there to show that the Jew as a merchant is more unscrupulous, or more likely to be, than his fellow? Such views give credence through mere repetition and Dr. Malan has merely repeated the same canard.

But assuming we were thoroughly satisfied with the attitude of Dr. Malan, his views cannot be taken as the accepted views of his party. The way the Nationalist Party has treated the Jewish problem and the Jews (in some provinces Jews are debarred from becoming members of the party) is sufficient proof that in this respect the head of the party does not express the views of its members. There is enough evidence on record that large numbers of front-benchers have disagreed and will disagree with Dr. Malan's declared policy on many points.

With regard to the coming elections Jews have in the past voted in accordance with their individual consciences and convictions and there has never been an attempt, nor is there one likely to be made by Jewish leaders, to dictate the manner in which Jews should vote. But it will not be surprising, least of all to the Nationalists, if the bulk of Jews—many of them who in the past voted Nationalist—mindful of the propaganda and outspoken anti-Semitism indulged in by the Nationalists in recent years, decide that they cannot vote for their party, however much they may sympathise with some of their aims or agree with some of their principles on other issues.

Herzlia Residence.

The Jewish community in Cape Town, and particularly up-country, will express well-deserved congratulations to the Cape Board of Jewish Education on the occasion of the opening of the new building into which the Herzlia Residence for Jewish School Children is moving this week.

The Board, since its inception some 14 years ago, has many achievements to its credit and, despite various difficulties, has established itself as an essential institution in the community. Not only educationalists, but also laymen, will acknowledge the tremendous strides made in the sphere of Jewish education in this area in recent years. Indeed many an overseas personality has expressed his pleasant astonishment at the high level of Jewish education he found, particularly in Cape Town.

Since its inception the Board had the idea of catering for school children from up-country by giving them a home which would offer them a Jewish atmosphere and thus greatly assist in the shaping of the mind and character of the future Jewish citizen. Seven years ago this idea was translated into practice and the first Jewish hostel for school children in the country was opened by the Board. It was a small beginning, but it made a great impression among the communities throughout South Africa, and the desire to take a like step was expressed in other centres. Thus some three years ago a similar institution was opened in Johannesburg and others will probably follow suit.

To-day the Board is able to provide magnificent premises where the children will find comfort, pleasure, instruction and care that will serve them in excellent stead for their future physical and spiritual welfare.

(Continued in Second Column.)

From my Desk

... By ...

HASOFER



Australian Apathy.

"I was shocked and horrified at the apathetic and lethargic attitude of Australian Jewry to the sufferings of their fellow Jews," were the first words with which Mrs. Enid Alexander greeted my question on her impressions of her birthplace, from whence she has just returned after an extended visit. Mrs. Alexander, who has been in South Africa for the last 13 years, said that this first visit back to Australia in all that period was a veritable eye-opener. She had never been prouder of the achievements of South African Jewry than when she compared them with the almost infinitesimal efforts of Jewry of Australia. Pro rata donations were a tithe of what they were here. Concerted Jewish endeavour was virtually non-existent, except in Melbourne, where an influx of Polish Jews kept alight the lamp of Jewish communal work. According to Mrs. Alexander the reason for this state of affairs could be attributed to the fact that there was hardly any anti-Semitism, even as we know it in South Africa, to be found in Australia. There was not even social anti-Semitism. The friendly relations which obtained between Jew and Gentile during business hours were carried into the homes and social gatherings. There were no schools which barred Jews, and even in the most "exclusive" educational establishment there was a good percentage of Jewish students.

Leadership.

Mrs. Alexander had with her a letter of introduction from General Smuts which had been an "open sesame" to the highest in the land. This afforded her the opportunity of coming into contact with everybody of importance, to all of whom she brought home the fact that the recent refugees to Australia had done much for that country. What seemed to strike most forcibly, said Mrs. Alexander, was the apparent lack of Jewish leadership. "South Africa," continued Mrs. Alexander, "can be proud not only of its Jewish community or its achievements but most particularly of its Jewish leaders."

No Ballyhoo This Time.

In these days, when newspapers are full of the capers of those unpredictable human beings, the denizens of filmdom, the "top liners" of Hollywood, when for over a week their child-like utterances at commission sittings made head-line news, it is pleasing to note that some film stars

are genuinely concerned about the suffering of their less fortunate brethren. Eddie Cantor, who has for many years devoted much time and effort to charitable endeavour, was recently presented with an award by the United Jewish Appeal of America "for outstanding humanitarian service." The Appeal, which has to date collected over one hundred and seventy million dollars, decided to recognise Mr. Cantor's "unceasing and devoted efforts on behalf of a programme of reconstruction and settlement in Europe, Palestine and the United States" by making this special award to him.

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy.

This week marked the centenary of the death in Leipzig of one of the world's greatest musicians and composers. Felix Mendelssohn was the son of Abraham Mendelssohn and grandson of the great Jewish philosopher, Moses Mendelssohn. He was born in Hamburg in February, 1809. His father, who had all his children baptised because he thought that by this action he might ensure of their more favourable treatment by the world at large, often said of himself "I am the son of a great father, and the father of a great son." Tributes to Mendelssohn's musical greatness are legion. Many of his biographers and critics trace much of the Jewish spirit in his works. The most notable possibly is his Oratorio "Elijah," which ranks with the best of the compositions of the giant Handel. Mendelssohn was the creator of the Concert Overture in its present form.

Origins of Genius.

Mendelssohn's style seems to be the product of two great influences. Moses Mendelssohn combined the old and new Judaisms, Felix Mendelssohn united classicism and romanticism in music. This genius, who occupies so eminent a position in an era of great musicians, does so not only because of Heaven's grace, but also by virtue of the fact that his origin lay deep in a family of great spiritual aristocracy. And although only a portion of his works reveals any Jewish influence whatsoever, who knows what might have been written had he not passed away at the early age of 38. Mendelssohn died of a broken heart, and literally wasted away after the

(Continued on Page 757.)

(Continued from First Column.)

The Jewish community is indeed indebted to the Cape Board of Jewish Education for having established this institution, which is a most worthy addition to the scholastic needs of our community, and we trust that our up-country co-religionists will make full use of the facilities it offers.

Union of Jewish Women.

The receipt of the annual report of the Union of Jewish Women again draws attention to the invaluable work this body has been doing. The year under review has been no exception, and within the covers of its report is a record of numerous activities in connection with the variety of institutions which the Union has taken under its wing. The Hebrew University, the Palestine Maritime League, kindergartens, soup kitchens, creches, Youth Aliyah and the War Appeal are only some of the institution and funds on whose behalf the members of the Union have directed their activities. The Union of Jewish Women is playing a great part in the life of the community, and in congratulating them on their achievements during the past year it is needless for us to add that we hope they will continue with the good work.

Indispensable for your Daily Needs.

The Bnoth Zion Association once again must be warmly congratulated on its enterprise in producing a pocket diary for use by members of the Jewish community. It is well bound and has ample space for daily notes. Its special advantages, however, are the mass of vital information which its pages contain. Full dates are given of the Jewish calendar as well as the general calendar with particulars of public holidays and school terms. There are well-written and informative sections dealing with memorable dates in modern Zionist history, the texts of the Basle Programme and the Balfour Declaration, the Jewish National Fund and the Youth Aliyah. There are also explanatory portions dealing with the activities of Wizo, the Hebrew University and the Palestine Maritime League, and lastly, there are some useful facts about the Bnoth Zion itself. Finally, the diary contains a short Hebrew glossary of terms which everyone should know and also the words of Hatikvah in Hebrew and English phonetics as well as an English translation.

The diary is sold at half a crown and the total proceeds go to the Jewish National Fund. Members of the public who would not only like to pay tribute to our women workers for their splendid achievement but who at the same time would like to secure a most useful possession are urged to place their orders without delay with the Bnoth Zion office, 13, St. George's Street, Cape Town. (Phone 2-6051.)

Forthcoming J.N.F. Bazaar.

A gay scene will be presented at the City Hall on Monday night, 17th November, when the J.N.F. Bazaar, under the auspices of the Bnoth Zion Association, will be opened.

The Hon. Mr. Justice Herbstein will perform the opening ceremony in an original Palestine setting. The entire stage will present the sea and landscape of Tel Aviv beach and every stall will be designed to represent a Kibbutz in Eretz Israel. Apart from the spectacular aspect, there promises to be an unusually lavish display of good things to buy.

The record result of the efforts of the convener, Mrs. Mary Segal, is proved in the fact that this is literally a united effort on the part of Cape Town Zionist women; all societies, branches, and parties have rallied round and answered her appeal for a really concerted effort.

The Zionist Socialist youth choir, under the baton of Mr. W. Sher, will participate in the opening ceremony. The whole of the following day will be devoted to the business side of this fund-raising effort. Dainty snacks and teas will be served throughout the day.

ACCOMMODATION OFFERED. MUIZENBERG

For Boys and Girls, 14 to 17 years of age, private family, during school holidays only. For further details write immediately to "Seaside," P.O. Box 3224, Cape Town.

Jewish Telegraphic Agency Campaign.

Mr. Morris L. Appelman, International Field Director of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (J.T.A.), has arrived in Cape Town to conduct a lightning campaign for this important Jewish press organisation.

The J.T.A. is to open an office in South Africa to improve and increase the service to the Jewish press and leadership and also to increase substantially the outgoing Jewish news from South Africa to the Jewish press and communities throughout the rest of the world. Mr. Edgar Bernstein has been appointed Editor.

The J.T.A. is included in the United Jewish Appeal in America. This is the first time in 13 years that it has made an appeal to South African Jewry. The campaign has the approval of the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies. The "S.A. Jewish Chronicle" is the oldest subscriber in South Africa to the J.T.A. and has made extensive use of its service.

Mr. Appelman is staying at the Marine Hotel, Sea Point.

Palestine Industrial Exhibition.

TO BE OPENED BY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT.

The Hon. F. C. Sturrock, Minister of Transport, will open the Palestine Industrial Exhibition at Coronation Hall, Johannesburg, on Monday afternoon. This is the first show of Palestine manufactured goods to be held in this country and will be on view from Monday, 10th November, until Monday, 24th November. With the exception of the opening session, admission to which is by invitation only, and a number of sessions which will be set aside for business men, all sessions will be open to the general public and admission will be free. The Exhibition will be closed on Sundays and from sunset on Fridays to sunset on Saturdays.

The Exhibition is sponsored by the South African Board of Inter-Trade Relations with Palestine, a body consisting of prominent local business men headed by Mr. H. L. Karnovsky as President, and is under the joint auspices of the Jewish Agency and the South African Zionist Federation. Some 150 exhibitors are participating and the numerous exhibits include aluminium ware, building materials, bulbs, seeds, cosmetics, pharmaceutical goods, foodstuffs, office supplies, shoes, textiles, fashion goods, arts and crafts.

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FROM MY DESK.

(Continued from Page 748.)

sudden death of his favourite sister, who predeceased him by four months.

"Anu Olim Artzah!"

More deserves to be known of the commendable manner in which a group of young Capetonian Jews is preparing itself for the achievement of its ultimate aim of "Aliyah." Having patterned themselves along the lines of P.A.T.W.A. in England, this group, which consists in the main of young professionals and their families, are members of the Massadah Association, and are desirous of acquainting themselves with conditions in Aretz. They devote much time to the study of Palestinian life and of Hebrew. A feature of the programme of this group is the fact that its members are investing a portion of their savings in Eretz Israel.

Magen David Adom.

What has happened to all the talk we heard in July and August, particularly at the time of Conference, about the formation of a local branch of the Magen David Adom? I understand that in Johannesburg there is a very active branch of this essential organisation. I cannot too forcibly recommend the immediate establishment of a Cape Town branch of the Magen David Adom, nor need I here dilate at any great length on the importance of the immediate and future work which the Magen David Adom can, and will be called upon to do, not only in Cyprus, but also in the bringing of relief and succour, spiritual as well as material, to our refugee brethren in Aretz.

Basle-Windhoek.

Windhoek seems to have greatly impressed Chief Rabbi Abrahams, who has just returned from South-West Africa, where he spent a few days. The Jewish community of that town, although small, is one with a very big outlook. The Rabbi tells me that he was treated right royally by everybody. He met Colonel Hoogenhout, the Administrator, at a reception given in his honour. Among the other interesting personalities were Mr. Gamsu, a Town Councillor of many years standing, and Mr. Davis who, together with Mrs. Shar, were the Rabbi's hosts during his short stay. The latter, it would appear, entertains all visiting Rabbonim, and

makes a habit of feeding them on "taibelach" (pigeons). Not since his visit to Basle has the Rabbi had occasion to speak so much German, the third official language of South-West Africa.

We Could Do With Him for the Negev.

The Town Clerk of Windhoek is a Jew—Captain Kerby, who until a few years ago combined the duties of his present position with that of Town Engineer. In this latter capacity Captain Kerby is responsible for much of the beautiful layout of the town, the two showpieces of which are Government House Gardens and a remarkable cemetery unique for the sense of peace which pervades throughout. The cemetery, and it is not until one has entered well beyond the belt of encircling cypress trees that the visitor realises that it is a cemetery, has remarkable acoustic qualities and an all-pervading atmosphere of peace and restfulness. Both the Government House Gardens and the cemetery are laid out on what were once arid wastes. Captain Kerby has made flowers grow where once no blossom bloomed.

Authoritative.

A hitherto unreported incident occurred during the sessions of the Palestine Committee's meetings at Lake Success. The Iraqi representative, in support of the Arab case, spoke at exceeding great length. His final point was made when he compared Zionism with Nazism. "Zionism," he said, "like Nazism, strives to destroy others so that it may itself succeed!"

Dr. Chaim Weizmann's retort to this futile allegation was perhaps a masterpiece of repartee. "Surely, Mr. Chairman," said Dr. Weizmann, "you will allow me to concede that the Iraqi minister is undoubtedly an authority on Nazism and that I am not, but you must also concede that when it comes to Zionism I am the authority!"

London.

Professor Selig Brodetsky, member of the Jewish Agency Executive, accompanied by Mr. Joseph Linton, Political Secretary, was received at the Colonial Office by Mr. Trafford Smith, of the Middle East Department. Matters affecting the present security position in Palestine were discussed.

CHEVRA KADISHA.

בית המדרש החדש

ורידעוהו עוועני קייפסן

BETH HAMEDRASH HACHODOSH, VREDEHOEK AVENUE.

THE ANNUAL SABBATH

(PARSHA CHAYEH SORO)

will take place on

SATURDAY, 8th NOVEMBER, 1947

Shachris 8.30 p.m.
Mincha 4.30 p.m.
Chairman's Address - 5.00 p.m.

Members are earnestly requested to attend.

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