

JEWISH STATE RALLY IN JOHANNESBURG.

Stirring Addresses.

"It is hard to believe that, after two thousand years of exile, persecution, humiliation and untold suffering of the Jewish people, the Jewish State has arisen again. But it is a fact, and as time goes on we shall realise more and more the benefits which the State of Israel will bring to the people of Israel and to the world at large," declared Mr. B. Gering, Chairman of the S.A. Zionist Federation, when he addressed a Jewish State Rally at the City Hall, Johannesburg, on Saturday night. There was an unprecedentedly large attendance.

"But, despite this momentous occasion," continued Mr. Gering, "there could as yet be no full rejoicing because the newly born State was already at war. The Arab States, not content with the vast territories they possessed, apparently considered it their duty to civilisation to attack the Jewish State. Egypt, which did not consider it worth while to fight when that country was threatened with invasion by the Nazis, considers it worth while to fight the Jewish people to-day.

"On an occasion like this one would have expected felicitations from the whole of the civilised world, but this, unfortunately, was not the case, as was seen from editorials which appeared in some of the newspapers in this country. Such editorials were doing an injustice not only to South Africa but to the world at large.

"I have seen the determination and the fighting spirit of the Yishuv and I am convinced that nothing will stop the progress and development of the new Jewish State.

"We have gathered here not only to cheer and applaud, to sing the Hatikvah and to pass resolutions, but also to take stock of ourselves. The question which we must ask ourselves is what contribution can we make to assist the Yishuv in its present struggle and to secure beyond doubt the future existence of the new State of Israel, thus making it possible to bring in the thousands of our brethren still languishing in the camps in Europe. Each of us will have to answer that question.

"We are at war and I appeal to you to realise this fact and to be prepared to shoulder your responsibilities towards the new State.

"We must appreciate the uncertainties of warfare and should not be discouraged when we sometimes hear news of reversals. There may be temporary reversals, but I have no doubt of the final outcome. Let us face up to the struggle with grim determination until victory is ours and the Jewish State is firmly established."

"On Friday afternoon a solemn ceremony in Tel Aviv made a formal proclamation of the Jewish State. Those who were present were the dreamers of a great dream. With their own hands they created and defended their State," said Mr. Yoel Palgi.

"The proclamation was only a formal one. It had to be supported by everyone. The Jewish State was born in bloodshed and destruction. Those who were giving their lives were confident that we would be able to defend our State. The fate of the citizens of Israel, together with the fate of our sons all over the world, would enable us to build, out of the destruction, a State in the spirit of our prophets.

"Our young men and women are facing the invasion of the Arab world. They are not looking for help from the outside world but from you. We want to know that if one man falls ten will step into his place. Thousands of Jews arriving in Palestine to-day are free men. We have suffered heavy losses but we will win," concluded Mr. Palgi.

"On this momentous day, when we stand on the threshold of a new era in Jewish history, our thoughts go

back to the first Zionist Congress at Basle in 1897, when Zionist aims, to establish a legal home in Palestine, were first formulated. The great Zionist experiment was then started, and since then Jews have never ceased to work and pray for the attainment of a National Home in Palestine," said Mr. B. A. Ettlinger, Chairman of the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies.

"To-day we celebrate, not under circumstances as happy as we would have wished them to be.

"In 1918, soon after the British army had entered Jerusalem, Chaim Weizmann laid the foundation stone of the Hebrew University. It was an act of great faith in the future, a vision of the great things to come, and history has vindicated the faith and the vision. The whole Zionist experiment has been completely justified. In the midst of attack the Jewish State has been proclaimed and the faith which has sustained the Jewish people till now will sustain the new-born State. What was in 1918 a dream or vision has now become a reality.

"The Jewish State was proclaimed as a result of Jewish determination and fitness to defend and govern themselves."

Speaking of the failure of the world to find a home for the surviving remnants of European Jewry, Mr. Ettlinger said that the cause for the Jewish State did not rest on this alone. Nor did the cause rest with the losses of Jewry sustained at the hands of Hitler, nor with the suffering of Jewry throughout the ages.

"The cause for a Jewish State rests on our national life on the soil in ancient times; on our spiritual, cultural and historical interest in Palestine. We have an irresistible longing to resume our association with the land that gave us the Bible. We require a centre which will bring inspiration and stimulus to Jews throughout the world."

Mr. Ettlinger appealed to the nations of the world to follow in the footsteps of the United States, Russia and other countries, and recognise the new State.

Speaking of the Arab attacks in Palestine, he said that the new State was anxious to live at peace. It was ready to co-operate with all the Arab States to secure peace and progress in the Middle East. "It is a direct challenge to the structure of world peace and we pray that the hounds of war will be restrained.

"Come what may, we Jews in South Africa and throughout the world must realise that this is a crucial moment for Jewish history, and in peace or in war we shall stand solidly behind the new State."

"The final recognition of Israel by the Union Government will not be long delayed," said Dr. Bernard Friedman, M.P. "The swiftest way of obtaining recognition," he continued, "is to secure the admission of Israel into the United Nations Organisation. South Africa should take the initiative in this respect and sponsor the claim of Israel to a seat among the United Nations. We certainly could not desire a better sponsor than General Smuts."

The Jewish State, said Dr. Friedman, will become the focal point of

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From my Desk

... By ...

HASOFER



Must Do All.

A peculiarity that I have previously commented on, is the tendency for a particular motif to dominate my column from time to time. If I have devoted more than the usual amount of space to Magen David Adom, it is because its humanitarian work is something which I personally feel warrants every person's fullest and most wholehearted support. I would draw attention to the first letters of the caption of the paragraph. *Must Do All* might well be the slogan for M.D.A. Incidentally the local address of Magen David Adom is now Room 610, S.A. Permanent Buildings, Darling Street, Cape Town. Volunteer part-time office workers will find a ready avenue for their energies in that office, if they would care to assist the Honorary Secretary, Mrs. L. Levin. Her phone number is 2-4246.

Distinguished Parents.

The name of Salaman is well-known amongst the Jewish community in England and much further afield. Nina Salaman, collaborator with Zangwill in many of his most beautiful translations into English of our festival liturgy, published a translation of selected poems of Jehuda Halevi in 1925. "Rahel Morpurgo" and "Apples and Honey" are also products of her pen. She translated "Hatikvah" as also several of Bialik's poems. Her husband, Dr. Redcliffe Nathan Salaman is prominent in scientific as well as in Jewish spheres. Originally a medical man, he was for a time a Director of the Pathological Institute of the London Hospital, but subsequently turned to agricultural research, and is to-day possibly one of the greatest living authorities on the potato and the various diseases which attack this extremely ordinary but essential article of diet. A one-time President of the Jewish Historical Society of Great Britain, he is a trustee of the Hebrew College, and an elected governor of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is the author of the book "Palestine Reclaimed."

Distinguished Children.

Following in his father's footsteps, his eldest son, Dr. J. Salaman, is Director of the London Hospital Cancer Research Institute. Another brother who is also a doctor is married to a daughter of Lord and Lady Samuel. The youngest of this illustrious family is Miss Esther Salaman, the well-known singer. Elsewhere in this issue reference is made to this gifted artist and her talented husband and accompanist, Mr. Paul Hamburger, a pianist of note. They are on a broadcasting tour of the Union and will be giving a concert in the City Hall to-morrow night. Last Sunday evening they delighted a crowded Zionist Hall with selections from their repertoire, Miss Salaman's renderings of Jewish folk songs in Hebrew, Yiddish and Ladino being greatly appreciated. Miss Salaman is a niece of Mr. Alfred de Pass, who is known for his magnificent gifts of art treasures to the Cape Town Museum and Art Gallery.

Was Interested.

Incidentally Mr. Hamburger, who was born in Vienna came to England

in 1939, and was for a period, after the outbreak of the war, interned as an enemy alien. He was subsequently released to do war-work in a munitions factory. In 1944 he was appointed a lecturer in music, at the Cambridge University, a position he relinquished only recently. Before the war Miss Salaman was instrumental in running a social club for refugee immigrants in London, and whilst she did not do it herself, my romanticism leads me to believe that it must have been there that she met the man who was later to become one of her music teachers, and subsequently her husband.

Returned.

Over two decades ago I was constantly encouraged in my Zionist Youth work by the example of a more senior worker whom we all affectionately called "Uncle" Dave. Of late I have noticed that he has been addressing a number of Zionist gatherings in the Peninsula and its environs, and I envied him his long vacation from Kimberley. My illusions have been shattered. I learnt the week that Advocate Dave Cohen had settled permanently in Cape Town, and has been admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of the Cape. I wonder if now that he has settled down here he will once more become the head of the Young Israel Camp, since amongst the happiest childhood recollections are the memories of those days when smiling and conscientious Dave Cohen used to act as "Loco Parentis" to a number of youngsters, whose first training in Zionism was received at his hands.

Reserved Seats.

I came early to one of the numerous Services of Intercession held last Sunday and discussed, with the gentleman sitting alongside of me, the difficulties encountered by the Synagogue officials in retaining the reserved area seats free for those specially invited non-Jewish dignitaries, and representatives of our various Jewish organisations, who deserved on so unique an occasion, just that little extra consideration. This gentleman, who I know to be a person who has never once refused any Zionist appeal in the last half century, was ultimately moved to remark on the unseemly behaviour of many of those present. "Why is it," he asked, "that it is always those who never seem to participate in any Zionist work, that are the ones who are loudest in their denunciations of the arrangements, the most disrespectful in their attitude to the workers, and the most insistent in demanding, despite their having arrived late, a good seat 'aiben on.' My only answer to him was, that perhaps, when they are next called upon, the prickings of their consciences will constrain them to make such contributions as will compensate for their lack of interest to date, and be in keeping with the interest they apparently evinced in the prayers for the State of Israel.

Unique.

My story this week concerns the Service I have just mentioned. As

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