

Ben Gurion Scores Victory in Histadruth Elections

Shots Fired at High Commissioner

(From our own Correspondent.)

JERUSALEM, Tuesday.—Upon the eve of his departure from Palestine on the termination of his office, the High Commissioner of Palestine, Sir Harold MacMichael, was the target of a terrorist attack this afternoon.

A party of gunmen ambushed his car outside Jerusalem while he and his wife were motoring to Jaffa to attend a civic farewell reception in their honour. The desperadoes, armed with Tommy guns, were concealed in a ditch winding along the mountain roadside about a mile outside the city limits of Jerusalem. They opened fire when the car approached, seriously wounding the British police driver. The car swerved into the ditch.

Sir Harold himself was only slightly wounded in the hand and thigh, but his Aide-de-Camp, Major Nicholl, was shot through the lung and seriously injured. Lady MacMichael escaped unhurt.

After exchanging further fire with the attendant police, the assailants fled. It is believed that there were ten of them. It is reported that the police are taking appropriate measures to apprehend the desperadoes.

Jewish Authorities Condemn Outrage

The news of the outrage caused a profound impression as it spread throughout the country. The Jewish Agency issued a statement after midnight severely denouncing the latest outrage.

"The Jewish Agency," the statement says, "was shocked to learn of the criminal attempt made on the life of the High Commissioner. We feel confident that whoever the culprits may be, all the inhabitants of the country, irrespective of race or religion, will do everything in their power to assist in bringing to justice the perpetrators of this dastardly act."

A statement expressing similar sentiments was also issued by the Vaad Leumi.

The King has sent a message of congratulation to Sir Harold and Lady MacMichael on their escape.

INDUCTION OF CANTOR MANDEL

Large Congregation at Berea Synagogue

The Berea Synagogue was crowded to capacity at last Friday night's service, when the induction took place of Cantor Mandel. The newly-appointed Cantor was led into the Synagogue by the chairman and Committee of the Congregation. Mr. I. J. Hersch, in a short address, welcomed the new Cantor, and paid tribute to his predecessor, Cantor Steinberg.

Rabbi A. M. Gervis delivered a sermon on Sabbath Nachmu and deeply moved his congregation with his references to the special significance which the Sabbath of Comfort has for us to-day. He also extended a welcome to the new Cantor. The service was fully choral, and the congregation was greatly impressed by the Cantor's melodious voice and beautiful rendering of the prayers.

The Zionist Record, Friday, August 11, 1944.

JERUSALEM, Thursday.—The Mapai scored heavily in the Histadruth Conference elections.

According to the results, 89,640 out of a possible electorate of 100,000 went to the polls. Mapai received 47,347 votes, Mapai Faction "B" 14,779 and Chazit Hasmol 12,882.

This represents a considerable increase for the Mapai since the last elections in December, 1941, and a weakening of the opposition parties within the Histadruth.

SIR RONALD STORRS' NEW ANTI-ZIONIST OUTBURST

LONDON, Wednesday.—Sir Ronald Storrs has again come to the fore with an anti-Zionist outburst. In an article in the London "Evening Standard" he accuses Zionists of deriding every rescue proposal alternative to Palestine. The gradual development of Jewry in Palestine, Sir Ronald declares, must be decided in the light of local conditions and the possibility of negotiating an agreement—perhaps by federation with neighbouring states—and not by bayonets and bombs. Lord Gort, he adds, has given fresh proof of his courage by accepting the High Commissionership.

Enumerating the difficulties confronting Palestine, Sir Ronald says that world Zionism which, he alleges, constitutes only a portion of world Jewry, was ready to upset the declared British policy, the moment this policy should command almost unanimous Arab support.

Sir Ronald is apparently perturbed by the fact that British public opinion is associating the rescue of Jewry with the future of Palestine. He says:

There is surely every hope of solving both the Palestine problem as well as the problem of outraged Jewry as long as it is not forgotten that these are two separate and distinct problems. Nobody but the Nazis, he concludes, want to stifle the Jewish National Home, except a few bitter and hopeless extremists like the Mufti.

Nazis Say:

Prussian Generals Offered Homes in Palestine

(From Our Own Correspondent)

GENEVA, Monday.—Nazi agitators are spreading reports throughout Germany that the Zionist Organisation, the World Jewish Congress and the B'nai B'rith had organised the plot against Hitler.

According to the Nazis, these Jewish organisations were in contact with General Beck and his collaborators and a promise was made by them to pay the anti-Hitlerites a sum of 1,000,000 dollars.

It is also stated that General Beck and his assistants were promised safe homes in Palestine.

THE PASSING SCENE

By "Commentator"

Anglican Synod on Jewish Sufferings

A RESOLUTION expressing abhorrence of the persecution Jews are suffering in Europe, condemning anti-Semitism and expressing profound sympathy with Jewry, was unanimously adopted by the Cape Town Diocesan Synod of the Anglican Church at its latest session at the end of last month. The resolution, proposed by Father Bull, and seconded by Sir Herbert Stanley, states:—

"This Synod desires to express its abhorrence of the unparalleled sufferings inflicted on the Jewish peoples of Europe as part of a racial, personal hatred that contravenes every principle of the Christian religion; and to separate itself from every form of political anti-Semitism."

"It assures its Jewish fellow-citizens in this country of its deepest sympathy and its appreciation of the services rendered to South Africa by so many of their number, and of their high character."

A further paragraph says that while, as a representative body of a Christian Church, the Synod hoped that Jewry would ultimately recognise the Christian Saviour, "it desires to assure them also, now and continually, of its sincere fellowship with them in their unconquerable faith, and of its profound conviction that the Divine Providence watched over them, and still has its purpose of blessing for them."

Father Bull put forward the resolution in a stirring address, in the course of which he referred feelingly to the long, sad story of Jewish martyrdom through the ages. It was a remarkable thing, he said, that a nation which for two thousand years had been without a country, had not only survived, but had increased its numbers and had proved itself one of the leading nations of the world. The hand of God was evidenced in this miraculous survival.

Opposition Politics

THE quarrel that has broken out afresh between the Nationalists and the Ossewa-Brandwag as a sequel to the kidnapping of Mr. Mentz became still further accentuated during the past week. Following upon Dr. Malan's recent statement, instructions have been issued to all branches of the Herenigde Party to suspend from membership any person who remains associated with the Ossewa-Brandwag.

Dr. van Rensburg has replied with a statement urging all members of the Ossewa-Brandwag who also belong to the Herenigde Party to take no action in the matter, but to let the Party force the issue. "Die O.B.," official organ of the Ossewa-Brandwag, bitterly assails Dr. Malan for the attitude he has adopted. It says that the new ultimatum issued against members of the Ossewa-Brandwag, "after the complete victories which they assured him in Wakkerstroom and Zoutpansberg . . . will lead to a repetition of the fate of the Herenigde Party in the General Elections."

Reports are current in Pretoria that, as a counter to the new Nationalist stand, the Ossewa-Brand-

wag will withhold its support from the Nationalist Party candidate in the forthcoming Provincial Council election in Germiston.

Addressing a meeting in Pretoria on Saturday, Dr. van Rensburg threatened that the Ossewa-Brandwag, which, he claimed, had so far remained "outside the political field, might be "forced by the Nationalists to enter politics. It could enter politics, he said without becoming a political party, as it would merely form a "fourth front."

At about the same time as Dr. van Rensburg was speaking, Mr. J. Strydom, Transvaal Nationalist Party leader, was attacking the Ossewa-Brandwag at another meeting in the Capital. He said that the Ossewa-Brandwag would probably turn Communist, and he argued this rather remarkable thesis in the following manner: The Ossewa-Brandwag was the type of movement which tried to back the winning side; it had backed Nazism and Fascism when Germany and Italy seemed to be winning the war; now, with the rise of Russian power, it could easily turn to Communism. "People who to-day follow one dictator can easily follow another to-morrow; to-day it might be Hitler to-morrow Stalin," Mr. Strydom declared. The Ossewa-Brandwag was now referring to itself and the returned soldier as the "two legs of a Republic," and was speaking of "Workers' Republic." This, said Mr. Strydom, paralleled the early period of Communism in Russia, when the talk was of a "soldiers' and workers' republic." The Afrikaner was opposed to the totalitarian games of Europe, whether Nazi or Communist. The Afrikaner believed in the ballot box, based as it was on Christian foundations.

Lest anybody should run amok however, with the mistaken idea that the Herenigde Party is not genuinely engaged upon changing its attitude, one should add that Mr. Strydom also declared that "every Afrikaner who does not his duty in his people's political struggle plays into the hands of British Imperialism and Jewish Capitalism."

I don't know whether Mr. Strydom thinks this sort of rubbish accords with the essentially Christian outlook he rightly ascribes to the Afrikaner. If he does, he must have strange methods of argumentation.

EXTRA CHARGES FOR KOSHER POULTRY

Statement by Federation of Synagogues

The Executive of the Federation of Synagogues states that it has noted, with regret, that in Government Gazette dated July 28, 1944, under heading "Maximum Prices of Fowls," a separate and extra charge has been made on the Jewish poultry of 6d. per fowl for Kosher killing. This extra charge, it points out, has been levied without consultation of the Federation, or according to information available, without consultation of any other ecclesiastical organisation.

The Executive immediately convened a meeting of the poultry dealers and Beth Din, with the object of obtaining an amendment, what must be considered an exorbitant charge.

The Federation of Synagogues has the matter in hand, and will report progress.