

Letters to the Editor

Acts About Histadruth Ivrit

I was astounded to read the comment by "Interested" in your issue with regard to the Histadruth activities. This person claims something about the work and activities of the Histadruth Ivrit, but his knowledge is very imperfect in the Histadruth Ivrit has never done any campaign whatsoever. There are minor canvasses for contributions from a selected number of individuals, amounting to a couple of hundred pounds, of which was remitted to Palestine for books and in support of institutions.

In 1941 there was a general meeting which a detailed audited statement was submitted. At this meeting was an individual who used the same silly arguments given by "Interested" in the last issue, and at the meeting the speaker in question made a laughing matter of himself and left the meeting, without the least support on the part of the members.

Mr. Kirschner never refused to sign the manifesto issued by the Histadruth Ivrit. His name did not appear on the manifesto for technical reasons. The manifesto had to go to the printer before his signature could be placed on the original document, which bore the names of the late Dr. Kaufman and the late Mr. Haskel.

The last conference of the Histadruth Ivrit held in Johannesburg was on Friday evening. It was on a rainy morning. No songs or any other entertainments formed part of the proceedings. It was held under the chairmanship of Mr. J. Blumenfeld and was addressed and attended by Dr. Kaufman. Representatives from Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and other places participated and a decision was adopted to form a Central Committee for South Africa. Its headquarters was to be Histadruth Ivrit League for the Promotion of Hebrew Language and Culture.

It is incorrect that in Benoni, Durban, Port Elizabeth and other places branches existed before. They may have existed years ago, but were defunct in 1945. It was Dr. Kaufman on behalf of the Histadruth Ivrit who organised these branches.

"Interested" thinks that 15 groups for the study of Hebrew conducted by newly qualified teachers (all in Johannesburg, besides the classes conducted by the branches) that a Hebrew Choir (50 singers), club rooms, a new Dramatic section, regular publications, a number of Hebrew concerts and Jewish festival celebrations, which were held during the last 12 months—that all this is of no importance. What he would have liked to see the Histadruth do God alone knows.

Other organisations with big financial resources than the Histadruth Ivrit have hardly displayed the same amount of activity and with wonderful results as was done by Histadruth Ivrit during last year.

It is a pity that "Interested" did not show the Jewish people of S.A. what he can do, besides trying to stir trouble. What is more, this person has not even the courage of his convictions to stand up like a man and his name or divulge his identity, like a snake in the grass tries to remain unnoticed.

Arguments of such a kind and form do not impress anyone.

Yours, etc.,

J. ROSENFELD.

Johannesburg.

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REMARKABLE PROGRESS OF JWA CAMPAIGN

THE enthusiasm which was manifested at the luncheon of the workers of the South African Jewish War Appeal on Thursday, November 9, continues undiminished, and all the workers are reporting remarkable results.

About twenty sub-committees have been formed to conduct the drive among all trades and professions, and more committees will be formed where necessary. A special sub-committee to canvass the German Jewish Community in Johannesburg was established at a special meeting held on Tuesday, November 14. Mr. G. Reichman presided. Mr. Reichman thanked Mr. A. Weil for the success of the last campaign. He pointed out the enormous demands being made upon the JWA as a result of the liberation of large parts of the Continent and asked for the formation of a committee to conduct the new drive.

Professor S. Frankel supported the Chairman's sentiments and said he felt sure that the German Jewish community would play its full part in the great relief and rescue work of the JWA.

Mr. Jack Herscov, Chairman of the Transvaal Committee of the JWA, thanked Mr. S. Frowin for convening the meeting and asked him to become Chairman of the new sub-committee.

The following were then elected:—Mr. S. Frowin, Chairman; Mr. A. Weil and Mr. C. Saenger, Vice-Chairmen; Committee, Messrs: L. Aschheim, Dr. R. Herstadt, B. Schragenheim and G. Weinstock.

Mr. L. Feit strongly urged the newly formed committee to begin their activities without delay and was supported by Mr. M. J. Spitz.

Symphony and Choral Concert on Saturday Night

THE Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra is presenting a Symphony and Choral Concert in collaboration with the combined ASAF Choirs. It will be held at the City Hall on Saturday, November 25, at 7.30 p.m.

The conductors will be Mr. J. B. Z. Keet and Mr. Joseph Trauneck, who have done some fine work for the development of musical life in Johannesburg. Saturday's concert offers an exceptionally fine programme and should attract a large audience of music enthusiasts.

MRS. HAYMAN ADDRESSES LUNCHEON CLUB

Mrs. Ethel Hayman delivered an interesting address on her impressions of Palestine at the Zionist Luncheon Club last Friday.

She described her visit to the Wailing Wall on the eve of Tisha B'Av. She was greatly impressed by the huge crowd of men and women and children. The mass of people walked in a fine, orderly fashion—it was Jewish Palestine on the march.

During the course of her stay in Palestine Mrs. Hayman visited many Youth Aliyah camps. She was amazed to find how these children who had come to Palestine broken in spirit and with a warped view of life, had completely recovered. After they had been in Palestine for a short while it was impossible to distinguish between them and the other children of the Yishuv.

There is no problem of unemployment in Palestine, continued the speaker. The reason for this is obvious. The large number of men away on active service and the rapid expansion of industry in the country has created a labour shortage.

The refugees who came to the Yishuv, concluded the speaker, were naturally afraid of, and reluctant to deal with the forces of law and order such as the police and the courts. Their experience of life had dimmed their conception of justice. It was up to the Jews in the English-speaking countries to come to Palestine to teach these people the value of discipline and State-justice.

Mr. H. Trope presided.

Mizrachi Bible Circle to Welcome Rabbi Zlotnik at Siyum Function

RABBI J. L. ZLOTNIK, who recently returned from Palestine, will be welcomed by the Mizrachi Bible Circle at a Siyum function, at the Coronation Hall, on Wednesday, November 29, at 7.30 p.m. sharp.

Rabbi Zlotnik, who opened the Book of Isaiah in the series of lectures arranged by the Circle, will speak on the last Chapter of Isaiah.

Rabbi M. Kossowsky will speak on "The Jew and the Tanach," and Rabbi B. Rabinowitz will lecture on the "Influence of the Prophets in the 20th Century."

Rev. O. Altshuler will daaven Ma'ariv, and Cantor I. Alter will render Chazanut items.

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Hundreds of Relatives Traced by R.I.S.

THE Relatives Information Service in Johannesburg has obtained the following lists:—

—Lithuanian and Latvian Jews in the U.S.S.R.; Polish Jews in the U.S.S.R. and in liberated towns; Polish Jews in East Africa and Rhodesia; arrivals in Palestine from various European countries; German deportees to Theresienstadt, Birkenau and Poland; Internees at camp Bergen-Belsen, near Hannover, Germany; Czechoslovak internees in Ferramonti and Bari, Italy; Italian Jews in Switzerland and Italy; refugees from various countries in Rome; refugees from various countries at Camp Oswego, U.S.A.; refugees at Casablanca. More lists may be expected very soon.

During the last six months over 2,000 people have visited the offices of the Central Registrar of the R.I.S. in Johannesburg (Unity House, 100 Fox Street) and of its branches in Cape Town, Durban, Bloemfontein and Port Elizabeth. Several hundred relatives have already been traced.

The offices of the R.I.S. are open every day (except Saturdays and Sundays) from 9—5 (not closed lunch time). Information and enquiry forms can be obtained by mail (P.O. Box 8965) or by phone (33-9238).

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