

LONDON COMMENT

From our own
Correspondent

A WRITER in the "New Leader," organ of the Independent Labour Party in Britain, gives an interesting account of a visit which he paid to the David Eder Farm, which is a training centre for young Jews who intend going to Palestine to settle on the land. The article, headed "I have just returned from Socialism," is from the pen of Douglas Rogers, who insists that what he has seen on the David Eder Farm is a truly socialist society. He has seen, he says, men and women who are the children of a Revolution.

"In a world of men," he writes, stunted and dwarfed by rivalries, jealousies, violence and fear, I have seen human beings towering up with dignity and confidence, reaching forward with inspired understanding towards the greater human destiny which is within their grasp. They have no money, they have no personal material possessions, they have no authority the one over the other; they have freedom, dignity, self-respect and mutual respect, and security. And they have within them the flow of life, so strong that their bodies and minds have the vitality of new creation.

"And here is a paradox. These creatures of the new world, who are already working out in their daily living the principles to which we aspire, are of a race which through the centuries has suffered a continuous and spasmodic persecution known to no other human beings. It is out of their age-long suffering that they have at last found the key that can release them into a world free from persecution, from poverty, from violence. These are the Jewish people. And because we, too, the common people of the world, now suffer the evil fruits of a perverted system, we may look at this great social experiment with hope and understanding and find in it the inspiration which can direct us also towards enduring freedom."

After a full account of life at the training centre and some aspects of life in Palestine, of which he was told by the young people on the farm, the writer concludes the first of a series of articles by saying "One of the activities to which they give much attention is the study of Hebrew. The Jews at David Eder are mainly English, but in Palestine there are Jews from every country, and it is natural that in seeking a common language they should turn to Hebrew. But the ideas which drive them to Palestine, the hopes which they have for the future of that country, the sort of society they wish to work out—these are the real story of David Eder Farm and of the other communities and these require a further article."

THE MINES

A LESS pleasant aspect of the Hechalutz movement in Britain is recorded in the current issue of "Dvar Hechalutz," published in London, concerning Hechalutz members

"I Have Just Returned From Socialism"—Chalutzim In Coal Mines

engaged in mining. It will be recalled that about two years ago when there was an appeal for miners, a mining Kibbutz came into existence. It has gained considerable success and has been praised in many quarters.

Situated at Stalybridge, near Manchester, the Kibbutz is doing admirable work, but I gather from the account that life and work in the pits which has been difficult at all times, has become more difficult for the Jewish boys on account of the attitude of some of the miners towards their Jewish comrades. It is clear that a number of miners are anti-Semitic, which causes many arguments and conflicts between the members of the Kvutzah and the other pit workers. These anti-Jewish feelings reveal themselves in discussions on political matters and increase the strain and difficulties under which the Jewish miners are working.

CONFERENCES

THIS is the season of annual conferences. The Torah Va-Avodah was first in holding its 17th annual conference in Manchester, which was attended by a large number of delegates. The report given at the gathering shows a considerable increase in the membership of this religious workers' body, always stressing the need of a stronger religious atmosphere in Zionist work. The Mizrahi Federation of Great Britain has also had its annual conference and the Zionist Federation Conference is to take place in the near future, to be followed later by the conference of the Women's Zionist Federation.

A MEMORANDUM

The Anglo-Jewish Association, which had decided to submit a separate Memorandum to the Government outlining its attitude on the future of Palestine, is not having an easy time in view of the fact that a considerable number of members of the Council of the Anglo-Jewish Association, as already reported, have definitely decided to present a statement of their own to the Government making it clear that the Council is not voicing the opinion of all its members.

MEN OF BRIGADE

THE first batch of Jewish Brigade recruits, numbering 57, are leaving Thursday for a training camp in Kent. At a farewell party given them by the Anglo-Palestine Club, in attendance were Colonel William and Major Davidson, the latter a Jew, of the War Office, Col. Brodie, Chief Jewish Chaplain to the British Armed Forces, Major Gershon Levy, Chief Jewish Chaplain to the Canadian Army, were also present. Recruit Samuel Hirschmann replied on behalf of the group to a number of speeches in which the occasion was described as historic. Colonel Williams wished the group good luck, while Major Davidson said the Army authorities will do everything for them as equal, respected, efficient

members of the Forces, the only way of treatment known for those serving in the British Army. The speakers included Berl Locker, Colonel Brodie and Barnett Janner.

"DAILY EXPRESS"

THE "Daily Express" in an editorial declaring that since three conflicting Palestine policies announced pre-war, namely, Partition in 1937, reversal of the Peel Commission's recommendations in 1938, and the White Paper of 1939, have not been implemented, demands that "before this tired old Parliament ends its term of office, it should produce and implement a final policy and should be energetic in the matter. The principle of thrice failing to succeed must be to try, try, and try again."

DR. SOMMERSTEIN

THE fact that Dr. Sommerstein has not been included in the Lublin Provisional Government caused considerable comment in Polish Jewish circles in London. Informed observers opined that the reason for dropping Sommerstein while members of the Liberation Committee are given portfolios might on the one hand be Russian opposition to Sommerstein's Zionism and on the other hand consideration for anti-Semitic feelings of some Polish quarters. But the possibility that Sommerstein did not want to commit himself at the present stage in order not to prejudice the position of Polish Jewry is not excluded.

AMERICAN CRISIS

THE knowledge that America's interest in the future of Palestine is such a vital factor makes it all the more deplorable that dissension has arisen among the foremost Zionist leaders in the United States. It was hoped about a week ago that the differences had been composed after the Emergency Council had elected Dr. Stephen Wise as Chairman and after the declaration of Dr. Silver that he would remain a member of the Council.

If, however, the main purpose of Dr. Silver for remaining within the Council was to launch a campaign against Dr. Wise, as he apparently has done, then it is most regrettable. It certainly cannot be expected from a man like Dr. Wise to compromise in regard to what he thinks is the right policy of the Zionists towards the State Department. It was, however, hoped that Dr. Silver would fight out the issue within the Council without launching a public attack on Dr. Wise which, however strong his conviction on this issue, is certainly not likely to do good to the cause of Zionism.

As usual under such circumstances, the two leaders have their followers, and while it is not likely that the dispute will lead to a split in American Zionism, it is bound to dissipate a good deal of Zionist energy.

For this and very many other reasons it is of the utmost importance that Dr. Weizmann should curtail his visit to Palestine, which has had

such a profound effect on the morale of the Yishuv, and proceed to America.

National Education Conference Arouses Keen Interest

THE Seventh National Conference of the S.A. Board of Jewish Education, which takes place on March 3, 4 and 5, at the Coronation Hall, Johannesburg, has aroused keen interest throughout the country. Various communities from all parts of the Union and Rhodesia have already appointed strong delegations and sent in resolutions and, according to all indications, the forthcoming Conference promises to be most representative.

Judging by the response, all Johannesburg Talmud Torahs will be represented at Conference, in addition to almost every centre in the Union and Rhodesia.

Germiston Library and Cultural Society

The third meeting of the Germiston Library and Cultural Society took place in the Hotel Alexander last week when Mr. C. Gershter spoke on the "Jewish Press."

The lecture called forth a number of questions which were answered satisfactorily by the speaker, who dwelt on the position and problems of the Jewish Press.

Proposing the vote of thanks, the Rev. Dr. A. Lichtigfeld suggested that the Jewish Press should establish a Hebrew-English page which would awaken the interest of our youth in the Hebrew heritage, and thus establish a link between Eretz Israel and the Galuth.

Mr. L. Finger presided in the absence of Capt. (Dr.) J. Ginsberg.

J.W.Z.L. Competition Result

The winner of the Whisky Competition run during J.N.F. Week, is Mr. J. Eskapa, 120, Eckstein Street, Observatory, Extension.

This case of whisky was generously donated by Mr. Sam Goldberg and Mr. S. Wunsh.

Trio Concert Held by the Musical Society

One of Beethoven's most beautiful trios, his Opus 97 in B. Flat, was performed at the last Musical Society concert, the artists being Lorenzo Danza at the piano, Nella Wissema violinist, and Betty Pack cellist. The trio opens with a light, playful movement, has a slow movement with a hymnlike quality which was particularly beautiful in the last variation, and concludes with a brilliant finale. Lorenzo Danza's playing was superb throughout and rather outshone the strings.

In the Turino trio, a colourful modern work, the combination of the three instrumentalists was much better, and they succeeded in obtaining the fairy-like effects of this lovely Spanish music. Here Nella Wissema's performance was sensitive and delightful.

The concert concluded with a trio in E minor by Zanella, a dreamy trio in the modern Italian style, which was very well performed, the strings coming fully into the picture.

An unusual programme, very well performed.