

THE ZIONIST RECORD

THE ORGAN OF SOUTH AFRICAN JEWRY

PERMANENT BUILDING, Cor. COMMISSIONER & SIMMONDS
STREETS, JOHANNESBURG.

P.O. Box 150. 'Phones 34-1931/2. Telegrams: "KADIMAH."

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 1946

Muddled Statement

MR. BEVIN'S references to Palestine in his address to the Labour Party Conference have aroused a storm of indignation among the Jewish people and among all friends of Zion, particularly in the United States. In Palestine the reaction has been sharp and violent. The Resistance Movement has broken the truce, bridges have been blown up, workshops destroyed and in the course of various clashes a British officer and eleven Jews have lost their lives, while a number of British officers have been kidnapped.

Dr. Weizmann, in commenting on Mr. Bevin's speech, referred to the contradictory improvisations which characterised the address, and it is perhaps just as well that the words uttered by the Foreign Secretary were not "studied" and carefully prepared statements, but a series of observations given impromptu. The speech thus became so transparent that it is possible to see through it all the evil machinations of the British Government which a diplomatically worded statement, clothed in polished phrases and equivocal terminology, might have been able to hide. Judged dispassionately, however, it was a muddled speech and the best illustration of the muddled policy which has characterised the regime of Palestine in the past.

It was Mr. Bevin who created the Inquiry Committee and almost staked his political career on the outcome of its labours. Yet it is he who is now determined to destroy every one of its positive recommendations because they have not come up to his own expectations. The Inquiry Committee has studied most carefully all the implications of the immediate admission of 100,000 Jews. Commenting on this recommendation, the report of the Inquiry Committee says: "Those who have opposed the admission of these unfortunate people into Palestine should know that we have fully considered all that they have put before us." It can safely be assumed that this statement embraces not only the Arabs, but the Colonial Office advisers who were behind the Foreign Secretary's speech. Yet Mr. Bevin frightens the British public with the need for "another division" in Palestine if 100,000 are admitted into the country.

The question widely asked is: What are the many soldiers who are already in Palestine doing to-day? Their job apparently consists of enforcing the White Paper and restraining the Jewish forces who are determined to oppose it and to die in battle against it. If the White Paper were abolished, if the 100,000 were admitted, there would be little work for half the number of troops stationed in Palestine to-day. Of this there can be no doubt, and while there have been assurances from all sides that peace and tranquility can be brought to Palestine by a determined Government policy, the statement made by Mr. Tabenkin, a Labour leader in Palestine, expresses fully the mood of the Yishuv. More divisions, he said, will be required in Palestine to maintain the White Paper than to abolish it. This apparently is the explanation for the moves of the Resistance Movement. This, too, is their reply to a speech which, shorn of all its trimmings, represents an attempt to maintain the status quo, to reduce the Yishuv to a small ghetto in an Arab State.

Mr. Bevin added to the bogey of "another division" a renewed cry about "taking away the land from the Arabs." Here again he has tried to defend the second main pillar of the White Paper, the restrictions on the acquisition of land which Dr. Weizmann in his evidence to the Inquiry Committee described as tending to create a ghetto for Jews in Palestine, and of which Recommendation No. 7 of the Inquiry Committee report says distinctly: "We recommend that the Land Transfers Regulation of 1940 be rescinded and replaced by regulations based on a policy of freedom in the sale, lease or use of land, irrespective of race, community or creed; and providing adequate protection for the interests of small owners and tenant cultivators." If the Committee of Inquiry had endorsed this iniquitous law, Mr. Bevin would have been delighted. Seeing that it has refuted this law, Mr. Bevin is now determined to destroy its report completely. It was, indeed, a sporting gesture on the part of the Foreign Secretary to declare in advance that he was staking his career on the settlement of the Palestine issue, but the British public will hardly admire the kind of sportsmanship displayed by a statesman who stakes his career on the hope of "Heads I win, tails you lose."

Dr. Weizmann has replied to Mr. Bevin's "sermon" about the contribution which Jews can make towards the development of the Middle East. One point, however, must be emphasised. If that contribution is to be a mere repetition of modern Europe, where the Jews gave of their best and received ghettos as a reward, no Zionist will be a party to it. The "give and take" in the Middle East can only materialise if the Jews are in a position to take as well as to give; if their due share of independent life and national dignity is recognised to the full. Any attempt to restrict Jewry to a ghetto life and expect them at the same time to become the benefactors of the Middle East, savours of utter cynicism and will be rejected as unworthy of a Government that is supposed to represent high socialist principles.

The Jewish Agency has made its position clear in the reply given to the British and U.S.A. Governments on its attitude towards the Inquiry Committee report. Its essence can be expressed in a few words: The views enunciated by the Agency before the Inquiry Committee remain valid and unaltered. The positive aspects of the Inquiry Committee's report must be carried out immediately if there is to be any hope for co-operation between the Agency and the Governments concerned. Any delay and procrastination is indefensible. In the light of the latest events in Palestine, it should be added that those who are intent on delaying and procrastinating the issue; those who defend the indefensible; those who persist in maintaining an illegal regime based on the White Paper must be held responsible for the bloodshed and the tragedy which is now again being forced on the Jews of Palestine.

Septuagenarian

SOUTH AFRICAN Zionists will join with the rest of the Zionist world in rejoicing with Leib Jaffe on his seventieth birthday, which occurs this week. Mr. Jaffe is one of the few remaining veterans of the glorious period of Russian Zionism and one of the builders of the Zionist Movement. Jaffe devoted the greater part of his life to propagating the ideal of Zion among the masses. This he began at Heidelberg and Leipzig Universities among the students. With Weizmann he headed the famous Democratic Faction at the Zionist Congress. In Moscow and in Vilna he headed the Zionist organisations and later he became one of the builders of the Keren Hayesod. We in South Africa have pleasant recollections of his visit to this country in the interests of Zionism some years ago.

While, as Director of the Keren Hayesod, he devoted himself for the last twenty years to the daily tasks of Zion, he managed to give of his time to Jewish literature. A poet of note, he has written extensively in Yiddish, Hebrew and Russian; he was editor of the "Haaretz," of "Haolim" and "Dos Yiddishe Folk," as well as numerous other publications. He translated Hebrew verse into Russian and Russian verse into Hebrew.

Thus, like a like Zionist, he combined vision with reality and became an outstanding and beloved figure in the Yishuv.

Work of Mercy

AT one time the formation in this country of small groups attached to separate institutions in Palestine was discouraged by reason of the fact that the major Zionist funds which directly or indirectly provide for various national institutions in Palestine must engage our undivided attention. Of late, however, groups of enthusiasts have emerged, each devoted to a particular "hobby" and anxious to do a little more for some "pet institutions" in Palestine. Their work cannot but evoke admiration, since they are backed here by very small bands of enthusiasts and often have to bring to public notice certain aspects of life in the Yishuv which are not too well known. This applies to efforts such as Friends of Habimah, the Maritime League, and others. It is good to know that people take the initiative and "adopt" a certain institution as their own, by reason of a special attachment to its work and objects.

The Magen David Adom has rendered excellent services during the war. It has an equally important task to-day in work of mercy which has to be carried out, both for the citizens of Palestine and among the newcomers, many of whom are taken ashore on stretchers and carried by men and in ambulances of the Magen David Adom. The institution has also done some work in aid of displaced persons in Europe. It has trained nurses and sent medical staff to under-privileged Jews in various areas.

This work must have a strong appeal to various sections of the community, and we have no doubt that the branch created in South Africa, which is having a public meeting next week, will receive the support of the community.

Prof. Baron's Lectures Next Week

THE titles of the four lectures which constitute Professor Baron's series on "Aspects of Jewish Life and Thought" have now been announced. The first lecture, "Jewish History and Its Meaning to Us" he delivered during this week; the second will be on "Jewish Survival in a New Society"; the third on "Religious and Cultural Conflicts," and the fourth on "The World Status of Jewry." This series of lectures is being delivered on Monday nights, and repeated on Thursday nights. There are a number of seats available for the second series.

In addition to this series, Professor Baron is conducting a seminar on "The Jewish Heritage: Its Permanent Values." It will be held the coming Sunday afternoon, June 23, at 5 p.m., at the Coronation Hall, and will be continued on the two following Sundays at the same time and place. All interested are cordially invited.

A list of Professor Baron's lectures

for the forthcoming week appears on page 6.

"Swinging the Corn"

THE Jewish Guild Musical Art Section's presentation of "Swinging the Corn," produced by Herbert R. Friedman, opened at the Jewish Guild last Sunday night, and played to a capacity house. Packed with laughs and gay comedy the show was put over with a real professional touch, and the whole company are to be congratulated on a magnificent effort.

Worthy of special mention are the producer who wrote no less than seven songs for this show; Miss Reina Berman whose arrangements of the ballets and ensembles were truly artistic; Louis Davis for his stage decor, and George Moss for his musical arrangements and conducting. Ada Seidel and Louis Sachs impressed the audience with singing of a very high standard, whilst Dawn Page and Denny Davies excelled themselves in their own particular styles of vocalising. The show is booked to run until the 3rd of July, playing Sunday and Wednesdays only.

MORE ELECTION RESULTS

The count of Postal Votes and Votes by Declaration in the Congress elections has not yet been completed. The following were the results at the time of going to press: Mizrachi, 1,427; U.Z.P., 9,648; Revisionists, 8,576; Zionist Socialists, 7,473.

The following are further detailed results from country centres (an earlier list appeared last week):—

District	Mizrachi	U.Z.P.	Revisionist	Socialist
Aliwal North	4	2	6	—
Bethlehem	—	37	18	6
Brits	1	5	17	1
Elisabethville	2	9	77	76
Gatooma	—	25	2	1
Kingwillamstown	—	38	—	3
Luanshya	—	4	4	—
Oudtshoorn	6	74	22	20
Nigel	—	29	22	9
Wepener	—	2	14	3
Postal votes	17	256	179	79