

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post-Election Comment in Revisionist Paper

Sir,—In the course of Rabbi Rabinowitz's appeal for post-election unity, he says:

"I earnestly hope that with the elections belonging to the past, mutual recriminations will cease and all parties will unite to shoulder together the heavy burdens that face us, and that despite the genuine differences of ideology and outlook there will be harmonious co-operation towards the achievements of the ideal which all of us have at heart, the maximum contribution of South African of South African Jewry to the cause of Zion."

How does the learned Rabbi reconcile this with the editorial comment in the "Jewish Herald" of June 21, which published his statement, reading as follows:

"In the closing stages of the campaign, and on election day, the Zionist Socialists (influenced, no doubt, by their new-found allies, the Hashomer Hatzair) betrayed "unscrupulousness and viciousness which did not exclude physical violence. To the thoughtful their conduct will be evidence of an outlook which is thoroughly intolerable and alien to the democratic spirit. The Jewish public, for its own sake, should keep a close watch on the methods and technique of this political grouping, for it represents a menace to the orderly character of our community."

In an article on the elections in the same issue, they said this of the U.Z.P.:

"To-day they stand as a completely discredited entity having lost the predominance over Zionism in this country. General Zionism and Weizmannism have had their day and even all the whisperings, special meetings and the Zionist Federation could not save them."

I would like to know whether the Rabbi's plea for unity is just another piece of Revisionist trickery which is intended to delude the public. It is no use for the Rabbi to reply by saying that he is not responsible for what the "Jewish Herald" publishes. He stood at the head of the Revisionist list and was responsible for two-thirds of their poll. Resignations and withdrawals do not in any way discharge the obligation he undertook when he decided to stand at the head of the Revisionist list. Let him read carefully the "Jewish Herald" of June 21, and see whether his own followers have paid the slightest regard to his wishes. If he really wants unity, the Jewish public can expect from his a public denunciation of the present post-election methods of the Revisionists.

Yours, etc.,

V. LEVINSTEIN.

30, 5th Street,
Bez. Valley.

A Noteworthy Exhibition

Sir,—The idea of a Memorial Exhibition organised by the Johannesburg Women's Zionist League and expounded by Mesdames R. Kirsch and F. Raphael, Chairmen of the League's Cultural Committee, in the "Zionist Record" of June 14, deserves our serious attention. As announced, the Exhibition is being organised in connection with the anniversary of the two greatest Jewish

personalities in modern times—Herzl and Bialik, and will be held during the forthcoming J.N.F. week.

On reading the programme of the Exhibition one may be tempted to suspect the League of being over-ambitious and think that such a scheme cannot be carried out in this country. And, indeed, the organisation of an Exhibition, the purpose of which is to depict the transformation into real facts of the great visions of Herzl and Bialik and to regard the history of Jewish culture and art in general and of the Jewish community in South Africa in particular, may be regarded as a super-human task. However, the limitless resourcefulness and unbounded enthusiasm and devotion which characterise the Johannesburg Women's Zionist League, inspire us with the confidence that the League will be as successful in this undertaking as it has been on many other occasions.

Naturally, for the implementation of such an ambitious scheme, the co-operation of the Jewish public is indispensable. I trust, therefore, that the appeal for assistance published in your columns will meet with the response it deserves. Those who are in possession of articles required for the Exhibition will no doubt place them at the disposal of the League for about ten days.

The League's unique undertaking promises to be of great educational value and it is the duty of everyone of us to make the greatest possible contribution to its success.

Yours, etc.,

Z. INFELD.

P.O. Box 18,
Johannesburg.

Comment on Mufti's Escape

Sir,—In your reply to my letter, printed in last week's issue of the "Zionist Record," you claim that the statements, on the escape of the Mufti, made by Professor Brodetsky and by Dr. Stephen Wise, can be considered as official Zionist comment. Such comment, however, can only come from the World Zionist Executive or the Jewish Agency, whereas Professor Brodetsky made his statement on behalf of the British Jewish Board of Deputies and Dr. Stephen Wise made his on behalf of American Zionists only.

Professor Brodetsky stated that the Board was confident that "His Majesty's Government would take every step to apprehend the Mufti and bring him to justice." It is doubtful whether the majority of Zionists throughout the world share the confidence of Professor Brodetsky and the Board.

I take it that you agree that it is wrong that we should be kept in the dark as to why the Zionist Congress was postponed and that there should be no definite guiding lines as to British-Jewish relations in the present crisis. Our leaders are not men of such tremendously outstanding ability as to enable us to sit back and passively watch them move in their mysterious paths.

Yours, etc.,

J. SCHRAGENHEIM.

29 Urania Street,
Observatory,
Johannesburg.

To Heaven, Mr. Bevin?

BY "ARRIE."

WHITHER shall the hundred thousand turn

To seek fresh fields and pastures that are new?

Will England, Mother of the Free, yet learn

To bring salvation to the poor and hapless Jew?

For Bevin's sneering gibe and bitter taunt

Can never heal all Europe's fest'ring sore.

Six million ghosts are not enough to haunt

The Council Chambers of the "Big" (sic) Four.

Whither? The Western World already has enough!

The Empire wants selected immigration.

And Palestine? Hints Bevin, bold and tough,

"Forgets the solemn Balfour Declaration!"

So whither shall they wend, dear Ernest Bevin?

The only spot that's left, it seems, is—
—heaven.

Appreciation of South African Contribution

Sir,—On my return from leave I was pleasantly surprised to find a remittance for £105 from South Africa, representing the sum total of donations for the Mikveh-Israel School collected by Mrs. Carmel Sheyel of Tweespruit.

Needless though it may be to reiterate that agriculture forms the basis of our reconstruction work in Palestine, it may, however, be emphasised that in the rebirth of the Jewish agriculture our school has played an outstanding part, unparalleled by that of any other kindred institution. Not only is it the largest centre of agricultural education in Palestine (450 registered students), but also the oldest, having been established in 1870, i.e., prior to the foundation of any Jewish colony in Palestine, and is justly considered the cradle of Jewish agriculture.

It is gratifying to see that the Jewish public in South Africa are becoming cognisant of the pioneering character of the work done by our school, and I accept their donations as a tangible proof of their appreciation which, I hope, will grow and spread in future.

Yours, etc.,

E. KRAUSE,

Director,

Mikveh Israel Agricultural School.

P.O. Box 185,

Tel Aviv.

The Wager

Sir,—With reference to the wager by the Rand pioneer regarding people who heard Tom Mann and Masliansky, I wish to state that the former was in Bloemfontein and spoke there, and many people must have heard him. I heard Masliansky some ten times in Bobruisk in the year 5655. If I could meet "Curious" I would convey to him some of the contents of his speeches.

Yours, etc.,

J. L. SHKAIDY.

P.O. Eureka.

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Party Rivalry Deplored

Sir,—It is disgusting to contemplate the vast sums of money that must have been spent by the different parties on electioneering propaganda while so many thousands of our brethren are languishing in the camps of Europe in want of daily bread and clothing.

This party rivalry is indeed a farce and is apt to make one lose faith in Zionism. It is high time that the various leaders to whom we men and women in the street look up with hope and confidence, sit up and take notice. Let them in this critical period of our history join forces and fight unitedly for the rights of Israel in Eretz Israel.

Yours, etc.,

S. FRIEDGUT.

Bethlehem.

Letter From Chief Rabbi

Sir,—In your last issue reporting the meeting of the United Hebrew Congregation you referred to Rabbi Rabinowitz's letter. In fairness to the public who were not present, I think its terms should have been given fully and not in paraphrase form.

I hope in reply to this letter you will take an early opportunity of publishing the full terms of that letter.

Yours, etc.,

(Miss) M. JOFFE.

263, Louis Botha Avenue,
Johannesburg.

YFRAH NEAMAN PLAYS AT CITY HALL

Yfrah Neaman gave another fine performance on Thursday, June 20, at the City Hall, Johannesburg.

He opened the concert with Handel's Sonata in D Major, followed by the Sonata in A Major of Franck. He played this romantic Sonata with great sensitivity, but it was in the Baal Shem of Ernest Bloch that he displayed his great talent. His interpretation and understanding of the theme—Pictures of Chassidic Life—were of the highest quality, and he transmitted the spirit of these pictures to his audience.

Baal Shem was in three parts, Contrition, with its traditional chassidic chant, Improvisation—somewhat restless, and Simchas Torah—the gay music of rejoicing.

John Pritchard accompanied Neaman, and his solo performance of Mozart's Fantasia in D Minor was delightful.

The programme concluded with the Mozart-Kreisler Rondo, the Larghetto of Webber and Rondo Capriccio of Saint-Saens.