

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Open Letter to Mr. Kentridge

Sir,—As one who helped to restore order on Sunday night at the Bal-four Day celebrations at the City Hall, I would like to state that the great dissatisfaction which Mr. Kentridge's utterances called forth were not only confined to the Revisionists but also to a great cross-section of the audience present at the meeting.

I would like to ask Mr. Kentridge a question: Seeing that the Jewish Agency leaders had advised Mr. Kentridge not to interview Attlee and Bevin (Mr. Kentridge admitted this at the Zionist luncheon on Friday) why, as a disciplined Zionist, did he act contrary to our leaders' suggestions.

The story is told of the late Tielman Roos that on many of his visits overseas he always declined to go ashore in England. He maintained that the English had a knack of making one feel very much at home by giving the customary dinners, banquets and sometimes even a knighthood, which often had the magic effect of making an Imperialist out of a Republican.

It seems to me that Mr. Kentridge has swallowed everything Mr. Bevin and company wanted him to swallow and the phraseology which he is using that the Agency should not stop at pious platitudes has a familiar ring about it, identifying the quarters from which they emanate.

So far Mr. Kentridge's statements have only served to play into the hands of our enemies. The "Sunday Times" leader speaks for itself.

Mr. Kentridge has done some very good work in Parliament and as such we respect him but this, nevertheless, does not give him the licence to help in the whittling down of our hopes and ideals because the door of No. 10 Downing Street was open to him on one occasion.

Yours, etc.,
S. YELLIN.

Luthjes Langham Hotel,
Johannesburg.

Ministers' Association Criticised

Sir,—The report of the Ministers' Conference, published in the last issue of your paper, aroused widespread interest. As this was a conference of our spiritual leaders, I think that every member of the community is allowed to express his comments on the event.

It seems to me that the whole affair did not add lustre to the prestige of our Rabbis. On the contrary, the pettiness and the constant pursuit of personal aggrandisement came to light now more than ever. The immediate splashing in the press, both general and Jewish, of the "terrific news" that Dr. Rabinowitz was elected Chief Rabbi of the Ministers' Association is in bad taste. Moreover, it was reported that there were 55 delegates at the Conference, yet only 30 voted on the Chief Rabbi issue, and of them only 24 were in favour of the resolution, with almost half the delegates abstaining from voting. To my mind, it is more of a vote of no confidence than anything else.

The behaviour of Dr. Rabinowitz at the Conference can hardly be considered fair. It appears from your report that the Conference Committee had decided that he should absent

himself during that particular session and one of the speakers expressly challenged him to do so. Yet he persisted in being present in order to listen to his own praises and to exert pressure on the delegates by his presence. I think this point speaks for itself.

But there was one point in your report of the debate which left me absolutely breathless. One of the speakers drew the attention of the Conference to the fact that the resolution to appoint Dr. Rabinowitz Chief Rabbi of the Association was against their constitution, as there was no provision for such an office. One would expect such an argument to carry the greatest weight with Rabbis, who are disciplined in obeying the letter of the law. Yet they took no heed at all and nonchalantly trampled under foot their own law, which they have drawn up for themselves.

All in all, I think, it was a disgraceful show. Our leading communal organisation, the Board of Deputies, must take up the matter and make its position in that respect clear before the Jewish public.

Yours, etc.,
NOT-A-RABBI.

Johannesburg.

Cape Town Revisionists

Sir,—I think that everyone has a right to criticise a speech delivered from a public platform, even if it comes from a Rabbi. If people disagree with Dr. Rabinowitz's views, they should say so frankly.

But in our own town, in Cape Town, the local "Jewish Chronicle" went to the extent of condemning Dr. Rabinowitz before he was heard. He said been advertised to speak in Cape Town at a Revisionist meeting on October 28. Three days before the meeting, the local "Jewish Chronicle" wrote an editorial entitled "Again Dissention," in which it referred to the Cape Town meeting and said about Dr. Rabinowitz's forthcoming address:

"It is all the more regrettable that the advertised meeting in Cape Town will be addressed by a personality who, through his reckless language and conduct in the past, has been a source of severe embarrassment to South African Jewry, and it must be made clear that the Campaign which he is now leading is not approved by at least two-thirds of the Zionists of this country . . .

"It is, of course, a pity that, due to the human curiosity which will probably bring large numbers of the Rabbi's staunchest antagonists to hear him, the impression may go abroad that he commands popular support in the Cape. It is to be hoped that, with a little circumspection, Cape Town Jews will immunise themselves from the campaign of slander to which they are to be subjected."

I want to ask whether it is right to condemn a speaker before he was heard?

Yours, etc.,
"CAPE TOWN REVISIONIST."

Hashachar and Hebrew

Sir,—I was present at the opening of the Jewish Ministers' Association Conference on Tuesday night.

When the chairman began to give the annual report, I asked him why he gave the report in English and not in Hebrew. To this question I got no reply.

SOLOMON DELIGHTS HIS AUDIENCE

Solomon's second concert was a joy for the lovers of classical music. He opened the concert with the well-known Haydn Sonata in D major and a Bach French Suite, to both of which he brought a crispness, clarity and sureness that was delightful.

The two major works on the programme were Beethoven's Sonata in E flat, Opus 31 No. 3 and Variations and Fugue Op. 24 by Brahms on a theme by Handel. One of the less spectacular of the Beethoven Sonatas it nevertheless proved once again Solomon's sensitivity of interpretation, and the last movement was particularly beautiful. In the Variations Solomon was superb, bringing a freshness to each mood.

The concert concluded with two preludes of Rachmaninoff, the first delicate and the second rather military in character, and three works of Chopin, the brilliant Ballade in A flat, a simple Mazurka and the orchestral Polonaise in A major.

The pianist's performance throughout was truly beautiful, and we look forward to his future concerts.

R.M.

"OPHIR" FUNCTION

The next function of the "Ophir" (Jewish Arts Association of S.A.) will take place on Saturday, November 16, at 8 p.m. at the Carlton Hotel.

Rabbi Dr. M. C. Weiler will speak on "Spiritual and Cultural Issues Overseas."

Miss Maisie Flink, the well-known Johannesburg pianist, who has recently appeared with the Durban Municipal Orchestra, will be the soloist.

All members and their friends are cordially invited.

GERMISTON WOMEN ZIONISTS HOLD SUCCESSFUL CONCERT FOR J.N.F.

The Jewish National Fund will benefit handsomely as a result of the sixteenth annual Rosh Hashonah concert organised by the Germiston Women's Zionist League and held in the local Town Hall. The artists, to whom thanks are due, were Alter's Balalaika orchestra, Miss Selma Samuel and the pupils of her dancing studio, Miss Gavronsky, Miss H. Gill, Mr. J. Gill, Dr. Brink, Mr. Michel, Mr. Feinstein, and Mr. and Mrs. N. Bregman.

DANCE IN AID OF YOUTH ALIYAH FUND

As a result of a highly successful dance organised by the Jewish youth of Uitenhage, Youth Aliyah will benefit to the tune of £9 4s. Similar functions are to be held in future and the proceeds will be donated to Youth Aliyah or other good causes.

At a ministers' conference the medium of speech should have been Hebrew, or at least Yiddish. Are we ashamed to speak Hebrew to a public who are Klei Kodesh?

The Hashachar at its meetings and members of the Agudah should converse in Hebrew, and make it a spoken living language, and thereby set an example to others, that in the Galuth we recognise and use Hebrew as our national language.

Yours, etc.,
R. LURIE.

1 Kenmere Road,
Yeoville, Johannesburg.

20TH CENTURY

Phone 22-9561.

Daily at 2.30 and 8 p.m.
Saturdays 10.15, 2.30, 6 and 9.

NOW SHOWING
3rd GREAT WEEK
of 20th Century Fox's Technicolor Hit

"LEAVE HER TO HEAVEN"

Starring
GENE TIERNEY
CORNEL WILDE
JEANNE CRAIN
(Not for children under 12)

— WEDNESDAY —
MAUREEN O'HARA
DICK HAYMES — HARRY JAMES
in
"DO YOU LOVE ME"
in Technicolor

Histadrut Ivrit Farewell to Mr. and Mrs. J. Blumenthal

A large Hebrew-speaking gathering assembled at the Carlton Hotel on October 20 in order to bid farewell to Mr. and Mrs. J. Blumenthal, who left for Eretz Israel on their way to the Zionist Congress. Mr. and Mrs. Blumenthal were associated with and played active parts in the Histadruth Ivrit from its very inception.

Mr. M. Rutstein presided and paid tribute to Mr. Blumenthal's unceasing work for the Histadruth Ivrit. Other speakers were Rabbi Weiler, Mr. Z. Infeld, Mr. Rybko and Mr. P. Neaman.

Mr. Louis Alter's Balalaika orchestra, Misses Beinard, Rybko and Miller and Mr. Marchak contributed to the evening in song and music.

FASHION DISPLAY BY PARAMOUNT

Messrs. Paramount Stores organised a delightful fashion display at the Carlton Hotel on Wednesday, October 30, in aid of social welfare. The Johannesburg branch of the Union of Jewish Women was responsible for the arrangements.

The display started off with a cruise and included a wedding at Jamaica, a beach scene in Rio, dinner in France, cocktails at the Carlton, shopping at Paramounts, a garden party at Government House, and ended with the Royal Ball.

Emphasis was laid on the forthcoming Royal tour and gowns were in keeping with various receptions that will take place during the tour. The main features of garden party, evening and cocktail wear were frontal drapery and pleats or bustles. Feather and flower trimmings were most popular and long matching or contrasting gloves were worn wherever possible. The gowns displayed were made in Britain, Europe, America and South Africa.

Smart beach wear and children's clothes were seen, and an unusual feature of the show was the parade of elegant fashions for the older woman.

Mr. Fridjohn acted as compere.

Bikkur Cholim Children's Seaside Fund

Previously acknowledged ..	£1,056	6	7
Mr. S. Shewitz ..	3	3	0
Messrs. M. Win & Son ..	10	10	0
Twins & Wilfred Jacobson ..	1	0	0
H. Boyer (Pty.), Ltd. ..	10	10	0
Elephant Trading (S.A.) Holdings, Limited ..	20	0	0
Total ..	£1,101	9	7