

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

History of Zionism in Russia

Sir,—In an endeavour to commemorate the Zionist Movement in Russia in the manifold activities of its various currents, parties and organisations, I have been collecting, for a period of fifteen years, pictures and documents reflecting the main stages of development of Russian Zionism. This varied collection, comprising over one thousand two hundred documents and pictures, I am now preparing for publication as an "Album of Russian Zionism" (from the days of "Hibbath Zion" up to our time). The "Album" will be published in two or three volumes and will contain four sections:

- (1) The Period of "Hibbath Zion";
- (2) Twenty years of Political Zionism (1897-1917);
- (3) The Zenith Period (1917-1918);
- (4) In the Path of Heroism and Suffering (The period of Destruction and Interdiction, the Activities in the Underground Movement and the Ordeal in Prison and Exile).

Although, I have managed to collect much material, there can be no doubt that the work is still incomplete, and I am now endeavouring, before bringing the material to press, to fill the gaps of documents, pictures, letters, etc., that have remained with all those hailing from Russia and in the archives of Russian Emigrant Societies ("Landsmannschaften") in their respective countries of dispersal.

Anyone in possession of similar material is requested to communicate with me at his earliest convenience, stating the contents of every picture and document with a note, if possible, as to the circumstances (place, time, etc.), of its origin. If it appears that the material offered is missing in my collection, I shall contact the owner for the purpose of making a copy of the documents in question. I appeal particularly to relatives of late Zionist workers. They do not often fully realise the importance of the pictures and the historical documents left to them by the deceased. I, therefore, appeal to them to let me know of this material, that I may go through it and copy the essential items for inclusion in "The Album."

At a time, when both public and private collections in the Diaspora were almost entirely destroyed, it is our duty to rescue what has been left and preserve it in the Nation's Treasury by publishing it in book form for the benefit of coming generations.

My address is 15, Frug Street (corner Frishman Street), Tel Aviv, Palestine.

Yours, etc.,

L. ZENZIPER.

Tel Aviv.

Criticism of Jewish Press

Sir,—Being interested in the promotion of tolerance and goodwill among the Jews of South Africa, I feel it my duty to bring to the attention of the Jewish press that in spite of the past efforts in this direction, they have not tackled the root of the trouble.

During the past couple of years Jewish youth in South Africa have become extremely interested in Zionist affairs. A tendency exists among them, however, to have prejudiced views on Zionism, and instead of regarding Zionism as a whole, they have divided and again sub-divided it into many factions and have sympathies with no other group than that to which they belong. This is due entirely to ignorance of the activities, aims and aspirations of other groups, and the intolerance of these

young people does not speak for the future unity in South African Zionism.

S.A. Jewish youth needs guidance. As a result of their lack of knowledge of Zionist affairs, many of our young people have joined youth groups, and the less enterprising, having been presented with the point of view of one particular party in the form of impassioned speeches, have accepted it blindly and have based their own ideologies on this information. On the other hand, the less credulous have gone from group to group with the result that their creed has become confusion and they are entirely lost to the cause of Zion.

By devoting a few columns to educate S.A. Zionist youth in Zionism, the Jewish press of this country could do much to alleviate this confusion. I suggest that short, interesting lectures be written on Zionist history, on present day Zionist policies of the various parties and on the work which these youth groups do. This might also act as a stimulant to Zionist groups which are not sufficiently active.

Yours, etc.,

"SHUSHANO."

Johannesburg.

JEWISH CENTRE FORUM

A Forum will take place at The Jewish Centre, 8 O'Reilly Road, Berea, on Friday, April 18, at 8 p.m. sharp, with the following programme:

The evening will be opened with a Meditation given by Rabbi Dr. Harris; classical extracts from plays in English and Yiddish will be presented by Mr. F. Zygelbaum; Mr. Louis Sacks, the well-known tenor, will render songs; and Mr. Gustav Saron, the general secretary of the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies, will give an informative address on the topic "American Jewry Plans for its Youth."

Miss Ettie Beinart will conduct the community singing. The public will be invited to supplement the evening by participating in discussions, and refreshments will be served.

This is the second Forum of The Jewish Centre, the purpose of which is to acquaint our Jewish people with the problems confronting the Jew and how to solve them, while spending the Friday night in a Jewish atmosphere.

SYDENHAM-HIGHLANDS NORTH HEBREW CONGREGATION

At the fourth annual meeting of the Sydenham-Highlands North Hebrew Congregation, held recently, the chairman, Mr. S. Schatz, in a comprehensive report, dealt with the activity of the congregation and the problems facing it. The most urgent problem, he said, was that of finding accommodation for the Talmud Torah and the Nursery School. The number of pupils attending the Cheder had increased to 100, and in the kindergarten there were about 60 children on the waiting list. The committee was preparing three large classrooms for the cheder, which will be used by the Nursery School in the mornings.

Referring to the North-Eastern Districts Community Council, the chairman said that the results achieved did not come up to expectations.

The chairman concluded his report by expressing the hope that the building restrictions would be eased and that there would be sufficient funds for the erection of the Synagogue. The first item on the building programme would be the Nursery School and the Cheder.

In the discussion Mr. M. Levin stressed the importance of the Community Council of the North-Eastern Districts and pointed out that similar bodies had proved very useful and fruitful in Europe and Palestine. On the Rand a Jewish Community Council was just coming into existence.

Mr. I. Teeger deplored the lack of space in the kindergarten. Mr. J. Fine criticised the committee for lack of initiative in building new classrooms. He was supported by Mr. Peck.

The chairman and several members of the audience expressed their warm appreciation of the activity of the president, Mr. I. Katz, and the other members of the retiring Executive and Committee. The new Executive, which was appointed by nomination, consists of the following: President, Mr. E. Greenblatt; chairman, Mr. S. Schatz; vice-chairman, Mr. M. Levin; hon. treasurer, Mr. I. Levin. The hon. secretary has not yet been appointed.

NOVEL SEDER HELD AT KENSINGTON NURSERY SCHOOL

A Seder morning was held by the Kensington Hebrew Nursery School on Friday, March 28. A large gathering of mothers attended. The children put up a little puppet show of dolls dressed to represent Pharaoh, the Princess, Moses and Aaron. The children and the teacher then went through the story and the ceremonies of Passover.

Mrs. Abt, the guest-speaker, gave a most enlightening lecture on the Passover and its ceremonies.



MAHNISHTANO.—Seder scene at the Johannesburg Jewish Orphanage.

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CANTORS' AND CHOIRMASTERS' ASSOCIATION

Bids Farewell to Cantor and Mrs. Backon

MEMBERS of the Cantors' and Choir Masters' Association and their wives met recently at the Carlton Hotel to bid farewell to Cantor and Mrs. Backon before their departure for Europe. Cantor C. Altshuler presided, and expressed regrets that Cantor Backon intended giving up chazonuth. He wished them a very pleasant journey and a safe return. Cantor I. Alter paid tribute to Cantor Backon as the Shomer Hachazonuth in the full sense of the word.



Cantor Backon

Rev. A. M. Kaplan, Rev. Alloy, Rev. Chaitowitz, Rev. Kibel, Rev. Davidowitz, also paid tribute to Cantor Backon.

Mrs. Altshuler and Mrs. Kamionsky referred to the sterling qualities of Mrs. Backon. Cantor Backon replied to the speeches and said that he did not intend to give up chazonuth. Mrs. Backon very heartily thanked the ladies for all the good wishes and kind words said about them.



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