

Deputies Hear Report On Deputations To General Smuts And Mr. Lawrence

AT Sunday's meeting of the Board of Deputies the president, Mr. B. A. Ettlinger, K.C., reported on the recent interview at Irene between representatives of the Board and the Prime Minister. The Board's representatives had been the president, Mr. D. Hayden, vice-president, Mr. J. Daleski and Mr. G. Saron, general secretary. The interview had been of a very cordial nature.

The deputation pointed out to the Prime Minister that some concern had arisen within the Jewish community because of his recent remarks in Parliament on the subject of Jewish immigration.

The Prime Minister assured the deputation that his remarks had been taken out of their context and misunderstood. It was true that on the general problem of displaced persons he had indicated that South Africa could not provide the solution, but that did not exclude the possibility of suitable persons among the D.P.'s who complied with the requirements of the Immigration Law being admitted into the Union. The Prime Minister stated emphatically that the Government stood firmly by its established principle of non-discrimination against Jews, and would in no way countenance anti-Semitism in the Union. He said that he would seek an early opportunity of clearing up the misunderstanding that had arisen.

Mr. S. M. Kuper, who presided at the meeting, reported on an interview with Mr. H. G. Lawrence, Acting Minister of the Interior, in Cape Town. The Board's representatives had been himself, Mr. Daleski, Mr. A. M.

Jackson, Chairman of the Cape Committee of the Board, Mr. G. Saron and Mr. A. M. Melamet, Secretary of the Cape Committee.

A number of current matters within the province of the Minister of the Interior were discussed. In particular, the attention of the Minister was drawn to two matters. Firstly, there was the difficulty experienced by a number of responsible persons who had been long resident in South Africa but nevertheless had found themselves unable to secure South African citizenship because of their inability to comply with the strict requirements of the educational test. The Minister intimated that he was aware of the problem and had already given instructions that for the future more weight was to be attached to the character of the applicant and his length of residence in the country, than to the educational test.

The second problem related to the relatives of South African citizens now in Europe—often the sole survivors of their respective families—who so far had been unable to gain admission to this country although the relatives here could give ample guarantees for their future main-

tenance. The Minister showed sympathetic understanding of the problem, and undertook to give it careful consideration.

Mr. F. Zwarenstein, Chairman of the Aliens and Refugees Committee, gave further information about these problems.

In the discussion which followed, Mr. Pinshaw drew attention to certain difficulties experienced by children of persons who had been naturalised under the Pre-Union Laws of the Provinces.

Mr. M. Kentridge, M.P. (who was present at the meeting by invitation) dealt with the points raised by Deputies. Mr. Kentridge said he felt that the speech made by General Smuts in the Senate last week should serve to allay any doubts as to the Government's policy with regard to anti-Semitism and non-discrimination against Jews in matters of immigration.

Several Deputies expressed thanks to the deputations, but at the same time urged that the Board should continue to watch the situation carefully.

JOHANNESBURG MUSICAL SOCIETY

THE Johannesburg Musical Society held its 446th meeting at the Selbourne Hall on Thursday, May 29. The quality of the music performed was of the highest order, ranging from music by the greatest composers of the 18th century to music by 20th century composers. We have rare opportunities of hearing modern music and it was therefore surprising that the attendance was poor and that genuine music lovers did not avail themselves of this opportunity to hear inaccessible music.

Miss Gladwell, accompanied by Arnold Fulton at the piano, sang arias by Bach, Mozart, Delius and Vaughan Williams. The high quality of her performance was retained throughout, even in intricate coloratura passages, where she displayed versatility and agility.

Anna Tichauer at the violin and Bruno Raikin at the piano played a Duo by Schubert and Sonata No. 2, by the modern Paul Hindemith. Miss Tichauer was a little disappointing. Although her intonation was sure, her technique was not brilliant enough to stand up to the more difficult passages. An otherwise lovely tone was somewhat marred by harsh bowing. Bruno Raikin has already established himself as a pianist of repute and is an asset at any concert. His playing was well balanced, not once overshadowing the tone of the violin.

ACTIONS OF INDIVIDUALS DEPRECATED

SEVERAL Deputies voiced their indignation at the recent publication of letters by individuals in both the Jewish and non-Jewish press criticising the Board and challenging its authority to speak on behalf of the South African Jewish community.

Mr. I. J. Hersch said that Mr. J. Milne's statement to the Jewish press was "a stab in the back," and he asked why there had been no official reply to it.

The Rev. B. D. Glass said that Mr. Milne's action was a slap in the face not only for the Board but for the whole community.

Mr. Edgar Bernstein said that the statement issued by the Board might have been couched in much stronger terms. "We have seen," said Mr. Bernstein, "what happened in the past when Jewish grand dukes and Shtadlonim acted on their own even with the best of motives. Such persons are a threat to the safety, security and progress of the community."

Mr. J. Isacowitz asked why Mr. Milne had been afforded a special opportunity of meeting the Honorary Officers.

Mr. S. M. Kuper replied that the Honorary Officers were always ready to meet individual members of the community who wished to discuss matters of importance with them.

The Board had not issued a reply to Mr. Milne because his letter did not merit such special attention. He

hoped, however, that members of the community would make quite clear to Mr. Milne what they felt about the matter.

Literary Bialik Evening

A Bialik evening will take place on Wednesday, June 18, at the Coronation Hall. Mrs. Jeannie Targowsky, Cantor I. Alter, Messrs. F. Zygelbaum, Bruno Raikin, R. Shalit and J. Fine will take part, and Mr. L. Tager will preside.

Tickets are at five shilling, and are obtainable from Crystal's Confectionery and S.A. Zionist Socialist Party, 45 Shakesjeare House, Johannesburg.

Histadruth Ivrit

A literary evening in honour of Rabbi J. L. Zlotnik will be held at the Coronation Hall on Tuesday, June 10, at 8 p.m.

Appreciations of Rabbi J. L. Zlotnik's literary and public career will be rendered by Mr. Isaac Goss, Rabbi B. Rabinowitz and Dr. M. C. Weiler, who will bring greetings from Palestine cultural institutions. Mr. J. Blumenthal will be in the chair.

An interesting all-Hebrew programme will be rendered.

Members and friends of the Histadruth are cordially invited.

"League For Free Palestine" Attacked By Miss Neulander

The propaganda activity of the American "League for Free Palestine" was discussed by Miss Sylvia Neulander when she addressed the Zionist Luncheon Club last Friday. Miss Neulander said that by clever propaganda the Ben Hecht crowd were giving the public the impression that they were responsible for the transportation of Jews to Palestine.

As she had been working with UNRRA and had had contacts with the Haganah she knew the work which the Haganah was doing, and was surprised that the American public should be taken in so easily by the American League for Free Palestine and other such organisations which existed in America ostensibly with the purpose of bringing Jews to Palestine.

"Ben Hecht, who is the chairman of the American League for Free Palestine, is a Jew and an American. I am ashamed that he should be either," said Miss Neulander, adding that between four such organisations an amount of 25,000 dollars was being paid to about 22 people. "When a financial report was demanded from the League by one of its supporters, it was found that whereas the League

had claimed that 122,000 dollars had been spent on the repatriation of Rumanian Jews, this money had in fact been used "for propaganda purposes for the repatriation of Rumanian Jews."

"Similar instances are occurring in South Africa," said Miss Neulander. Referring to statements which she said were made by Rabbi Rabinowitz and Mr. Daleski to the effect that the Revisionists were responsible for the "illegal" immigration, while the Haganah merely sit and wait, Miss Neulander said that as Dr. Rabinowitz had had the opportunity of speaking to members of Haganah, he could not possibly be fooling himself about the immigration of European Jews, and that he was "trying to pull wool over the eyes of the South African public."

Discussing her visit to Palestine, Miss Neulander said that speaking to the man in the street in Palestine, she had learned that the general feeling in the Yishuv was that if protection were required the Haganah would give it. It was the Haganah, she concluded, which got the willing support of the Yishuv and not the Irgun Zvai Leumi, which obtained its funds by robberies and murders.

RABBI ZLOTNIK TO VISIT AUSTRALIA

Rabbi J. L. Zlotnik, Director of the S.A. Board of Jewish Education, is at present on six months' accumulated leave. During these six months the Rabbi will head the J.N.F. Campaign in Australia. Rabbi and Mrs. Zlotnik are expected to leave South Africa at the end of June.

Acting Director

Mr. I. Goss, M.A., Assistant Director of the S.A. Board of Jewish Education, will be Acting Director during the absence of Rabbi Zlotnik.

Zionist Socialist Party, Cape Town

Mr. E. Kluk, chairman of the Western Province Zionist Socialist Council spoke on "the idealistic approach to Zionist socialism" at a study circle meeting arranged by the Cape Town branch, which was held at the house of Mrs. M. Melamed. Mr. L. Karabelnik presided.

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