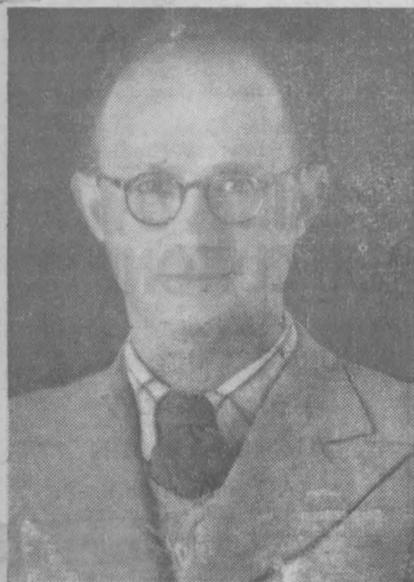


## Appointed Minister



REV. ZWI HELLER,

who has recently been appointed Minister to the Worcester Hebrew Congregation.

## MR. J. BATNITZKY TO LECTURE AT THE KULTUR HOIS

On Thursday, May 6, 1948, at 8 p.m., Mr. J. Batnitzky, editor of the "South African Jewish Newspaper," will lecture at the Kultur Hois (45, Upper Meyer Street, Doornfontein) on Arthur Keppel John's book "When Smuts Goes."

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# Beth Din To Erect Mikveh

## BUILDING FUND LAUNCHED

A BUILDING fund appeal to enable it to embark upon a scheme to build accommodation for the housing of the Beth Din, for offices for the Federation and for the erection of a Mikveh, has been launched by the Federation of Synagogues of the Transvaal.

In appealing to all Jewish individuals and congregations to provide financial assistance for the scheme, the Federation points out that the scheme is as much for the benefit of other congregations and individuals as for the local ones, as the Beth Din, more especially in regard to Jewish divorces and conversions to Judaism, has been attending to the religious needs of persons in many parts of South Africa, even as far as the Zambesi.

The appeal stresses the urgent need of a suitable Mikveh and also emphasises that the present premises occupied by the Beth Din are totally inadequate and do not lend themselves to the dignity to which the Beth Din, as such, is entitled.

The appeal is warmly supported by Chief Rabbi Prof. L. I. Rabinowitz, who, in a special statement, says:

"It is the duty of a Jewish community to provide facilities for the religious observances of any member of that community. As long as there are Jews who desire to assemble for congregational worship, it is the duty of the community to provide facilities for services, irrespective of whether those in charge of the community attend these services or not. As long as there are Jews who adhere to the dietary laws, it is the duty of the community to provide their needs in this respect, and as long as there are Jewish women who still adhere to the sacred laws of Taharath Ha

Mishpacha, it is the bounden duty of the community to provide facilities in the form of a Mikveh.

The Rabbi points out that the Mikveh at present existing in Johannesburg is a disgrace to the dignity the size of the Golden Temple. He urges the erection of a modern, up-to-date Mikveh in a suitable

## CHAZANIM HOLD MELAVEH MALKAH

The Cantors and Choirman Association held a well-attended "Melaveh Malkah" evening recently at the O. Altschuler residence. J. Badash sang the Havdalah.

Rabbi J. L. Zlotnik delivered the address on "Chazanuth in Israel." Cantors Alter, Altschuler and others participated in the discussion which followed.

The programme concluded with Chazanuth items rendered by Cantor Alter and Rev. Kibel. Community singing. A vote of thanks was proposed by the Rev. J. Altschuler.

## SHERTOK'S REPLY

(Continued from page 1)

and the other on this Assembly. In Jaffa, which is outside the Jewish state, the truce negotiations initiated by the local Arabs were in progress two months ago, but when the town came under the command of an Iraqi officer, he promptly ordered that these negotiations be discontinued. When he was warned by the Arab Mayor he replied: 'I do not mind the destruction of Jaffa if we secure the destruction of Tel Aviv.'

"Arab attacks from Jaffa against Tel Aviv were resumed as were Jewish counter-attacks, and here, too, the Arabs proceeded to flee.

### Prevention of Incursions

"Conditions for a real truce must include the effective prevention of further armed incursions from outside and the removal of foreign bands already in Palestine. Nor must our rights under the resolution be prejudiced. But even before the truce resolution was adopted by the Security Council, we offered to cease fire as soon as the other side did so.

"But the Arab attacks have not stopped and judging by what we hear from the conferences and the preparations in neighbouring Arab capitals, we must be ready for graver ordeals."

The heads of the Arab governments and the military chiefs are assessing the result of the first wave of invasion, which was a fiasco, and are preparing for a new phase of their military adventures. Their forces are composed of guerilla volunteers and a sprinkling of regular officers. Having failed, they are now preparing for the despatch of regular armies across the frontier. For a long time past there has been a plan for the invasion of Palestine by the armies of Saudi Arabia and Egypt from the south, Iraq and Transjordan from the east, Syria and Lebanon from the north, possibly with a view to the eventual partition of territorial spoils between Palestine's neighbours.

### Iraq Faces Crisis

"Iraq is now in the throes of an acute economic financial crisis and is reported to be urgently appealing for outside help. Yet, notwithstanding its internal difficulties, she is reported to be ready to despatch troops for direct intervention in Palestine. But the spearhead of this new campaign of aggression is to be, according to reports, the Arab Legion and the army of Transjordan.

"It is obvious that the Legion can move into Palestine, whether before or after May 15, with the same ease and facility with which invading Arab forces have hitherto moved in. The Transjordan Government jointly with the Government of the United Kingdom would then be responsible for a most critical situation."

### Britain Will Be Responsible

"If Transjordan brings war to Palestine, the British Government will be responsible, and if the whole issue is not placed on the agenda of this committee and the Security Council, then it cannot be said that the United Nations is dealing with the realities of the Palestine crisis.

"I ought to make it clear that while we believe that this threatened invasion of Palestine by the regular armies of the Arab States around us calls for very firm action by the United Nations, we ourselves are making every possible preparation to meet the next phase of the onslaught with our own forces.

"Our strength may be limited but

there is nothing that a people conscious of its past and its future, will not do in its life and liberty.

"We know that we shall be by the Jews throughout the wherever they may be. We are appreciative as any other people of the boon of peace, but, like a freedom-loving nation, we do not place peace above everything else. Peace is a means to a high and not an end in itself.

"Moreover, the terms of the Higher Committee or the League would place us on the verge of national as well as racial extinction. That would certainly mean peace."

Concluding, Mr. Shertok said: "We shall never cease to offer our neighbours and to pledge our operation with them, providing elementary claim to equality of rights is accepted and our need for economic and development within a part of Palestine—the part allotted to us by the resolution of the Assembly—is satisfied.

"We shall accept nothing less than that area. But as a State that area, we shall solemnly take to respect its boundaries and we shall observe the obligation of full equality of the religious and political rights of our co-citizens and shall effect co-operation with our neighbours within such an international framework as may be found to be able for the common benefit of all.

"An alliance based on mutual aggression and on joint economic development and activities would be a most willing partner. The starting point must be equal status.

"Our claim to statehood is based in our elementary human rights. Our striving for its draws its strength from the eternal bond between our country and from centuries of exile and persecution. Our attainment it now is a direct result of the impact of world events upon the Jewish people in Palestine and throughout the world.

"For all those who have eyes to see, the Jewish State already exists. International recognition cannot be long delayed. All the energies of the Jewish people are mobilised to bring about that consummation," he said.

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