

June 29, 1923

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## OUR LONDON LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent—Special to the "S.A. Jewish Chronicle".)

### Amschewitz's Defence—A Famous Chazan—A Politician's Denial—Resignations From Board Of Deputies—A Royal Visit—The Zionist Federation.

15-16, Railway Approach,  
London, E.C.  
June 1st, 1923.

The following is Mr. Amschewitz's defence in reply to an attack on his views which appeared in your London contemporary regarding his views on South African Jewry and its support of art: Sir,—I gather from Mr. Hermann's letter that he imagines I have been guilty of an injustice to the high appreciation of Art evinced by the Jewish community in South Africa, and that my reference of Philistinism was a reflection on the quality of talent among them. Everyone knows the Jewish capacity for art all the world over, and South Africa can well be proud of its proportion. Nevertheless, if artists were to rely on Jewish appreciation, which should mean support, I am sorry for them. I do not speak from my experience alone, but from that of brother brushes, Jew and Gentile alike.

Yours faithfully,  
J. H. AMSCHEWITZ.

Warlbeck, Ilkley, Yorks.

An official denial has been issued to the report of a political correspondent in the *Daily Telegraph* of last Friday who wrote: It is understood that the Right Hon. E. S. Montagu, formerly Secretary for State for India, is about to relinquish politics for business. Mr. Montagu is expected to join one of the big concerns of the Barnato-Joel group.

There was quite a sensation at the last meeting of the Board of Deputies when Lord Rothschild announced his resignation as Chairman of the Joint Press Committee and, to add to matters, the President, not only summarily adjourned the meeting but, threatened to follow the

noble lord's example if the former's action in regard to the publication of a certain book were not agreed to.

Cantor Joseph Rosenblatt, the renowned American Cantor, who has made such an astounding success throughout the United States, is to visit England. He will make his first appearance in this country at Queen's Hall, on June 12th. This will be entirely Cantor Rosenblatt's concert, and he only will appear. It will be remembered that some time ago Cantor Rosenblatt refused an offer of 3,000 dollars a performance to appear in the Chicago Opera Company's production of Halevy's famous opera, "La Juive." He declined the engagement on the ground that it was a transgression of Jewish tradition for a Cantor to go on the stage.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Stepney (Councillor Harry Kosky J.P., and Mrs. Kosky) received an urgent communication on Tuesday informing them of the intention of their Majesties the King and Queen to pay a long-promised visit to the East London College and the People's Palace, Mile End Road, during the afternoon, and the Royal programme was carried out accordingly, to the great delight of the Borough.

Their Majesties were received at the entrance to the Queen's Hall, People's Palace, by His Worship the Mayor, accompanied by the Master of the Drapers' Company (the Rt. Hon. Sir William Ellison-Macariney), the Deputy-Chairman, the Clerk, and the Principal of the East London College, who presented Prof. Sir Sidney Lee.

Their Majesties had a long chat with the Mayor and Mayoress, during the course of which

they showed their keen interest in the East End of London, and their pleasure in the great progress which had been made. His Majesty also discussed at length with the Mayor the question of unemployment and conditions generally in East London.

Owing to local circumstances the Conference has been postponed for one week, and will therefore take place on Sunday and Monday, the 10th and 11th June. The Midland Hotel at Manchester has been acquired for the sittings of the Conference.

The Zionist Central Committee of Manchester and Salford, who are carrying out the local arrangements in connection with the Conference, propose to give a reception on the evening of the first day, at which the Lord Mayor of Manchester and other prominent persons are expected to be present.

The agenda, which has not yet been definitely settled, will include a discussion on Congress problems, particularly the question of the Jewish Agency, which will be initiated by Dr. S. Brodet-sky, and the question of arrangements in regard to the election of delegates to the Congress. A proposal will be submitted to the effect that the Federation take over the *Keren Hayesod* work in this country. Another proposal of great interest will be one aiming at a radical alteration in the Constitution of the Council.

It is proposed that the election of the new Council should take place on the second day, before the interval for lunch.

Blessed is he who meekly bears his trials, of which every one has his share.—The Talmud.

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