

East Rand Jewry.

COMMUNAL NOTES

Springs.

Many weeks ago we promised to report any functions held to collect funds for the building of the new synagogue and communal hall. In the Springs Town Hall on Wednesday evening last, Kinemas, Ltd., presented a delightful programme in aid of the Building Fund. Following the usual Topical Budget and comedies, several musical items were introduced. Miss Dorothy Weinand, a popular lyric soprano, received a hearty welcome, while some local talent of no mean standard was really appreciated; we refer to the really fine elocution of Miss Doris Lapsen and Miss Joyce Lorge. The Merwis Musical Trio was encored again and again. The feature of the evening was an appropriate film entitled "A Daughter of Israel," which was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

The Committee of the Springs United Hebrew Institution wishes to take this opportunity of thanking Kinemas, Ltd., and also Mr. New- man, the local manager, for their generosity and courtesy. The artists, too, must be very sincerely thanked for their voluntary services. After the performance the artistes were presented with boxes of chocolates, Mr. Gordon making the presentations.

Brakpan.

The Brakpan Maccabean Society has now opened the library, which contains a most excellent selection of some 200 books, practically all of which are on Jewish subjects. The library will be open on Mondays and Thursdays from 8 to 10 p.m. We trust that the library will be well patronised by the members of the Maccabean Society. While on the subject of Jewish libraries on the East Rand, we wish to remark that it is a great pity that these are not supported or patronised. Perhaps the best example of this is the case of the library of the Benoni Jewish Cultural Society, which is perhaps one of the finest Jewish libraries in the Transvaal. It contains books of every description—the treasures of Yiddish literature, the well-known historical works of Graetz and Dahnow, the Hebrew classics of Bialik, and numerous translations; yet barely five people visit the library during any week! This is a very sad state of affairs, and we should not like to see the same kind of thing happening in Brakpan. As regards Germiston, the library there has not yet been opened. A huge consignment of books is expected from America; when these books arrive, they will be kept in a room of the new synagogue, and the library will begin to function.

Benoni.

The Benoni Y.I.S. has now entered upon its new session. It announces a series of interesting functions for the period, of which we are pleased to publish some details. The first is a tennis match at the court of Mr. and Mrs. I. Cohen on Sunday, 15th September. On Saturday evening, 28th September, there is to be a surprise party. The most important function, how-

PALESTINE COMMISSION. OF ENQUIRY.

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been carried out or not covers the entire field.

The task of the Commission is by no means an easy one. The atmosphere in which they will have to hear evidence is at present one of great bitterness, high feeling and general tension. Some time must elapse before the present tension becomes eased.

We wish the Commission every success in its difficult task and feel certain that they will receive the utmost co-operation from responsible Jewish bodies.

We trust that the Arabs will co-operate with the Commission. We are glad, however, that they have been given to understand quite clearly that it is not within the province of the Commission to question the basis of the Mandate. The policy laid down in the Mandate is that not only of the British Government, but of the civilised world at large. If the Arabs will bear this essential point in mind, and will co-operate with the Commission in the difficult task set to them, then we can expect that the report which the Commission will provide will make the commencement of a new chapter in the history of Palestine. The Jews have declared their willingness to co-operate with the Arabs in the restoration of Eretz Israel and progress in this direction, great as it has been in the past, will be intensified as soon as the Jewish invitation to the Arabs is accepted. We feel sure that the Commission will play a notable part in securing co-operation between the two races.

(Continued from First Column).

ever, is the Oratorical Contest arranged for Sunday evening, 29th of September. The contest is to be held in the Hebrew Hall; prominent Jewish residents of the town have consented to act as judges of the oratory, and it is hoped that the Jewish public of Benoni will attend in full force to hear the future Ciceros and Pitts. Further, the Benoni Y.I.S. earnestly request the youth to enter for the contest and support the Society. There is no entrance fee.

Boksburg.

To assist those who suffered in the recent Palestine massacres, the Boksburg and Boksburg North Zionist Society is to stage a vaudeville concert. Mr. Ch. Hoppenstein, President of the Society, tells us. The popular and well-known artistes, Miss Mary Aingorn and Mr. Boris Abramoff, are to appear at the Masonic Hall, Boksburg, on Thursday evening in a Yiddish concert. We need not stress the great need for support of our brethren in Palestine. As we announced last week, a campaign is in full swing in Benoni, and a further £100 has been collected, bringing up the sum collected in this town to £951. The campaign in Brakpan is still proceeding, and several hundred pounds will probably be collected within the coming week. We take this opportunity of wishing Boksburg success in its effort on behalf of the noble cause.

Death of Mr. Louis Marshall.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Louis Marshall, the great American Jewish Leader and one of the Presidents of the Jewish Agency, in his seventy-third year.

A cable from Zurich received yesterday states that Louis Marshall died at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, following an operation for necrosis of the pancreas. Transfusion of blood was resorted to and proved of no avail. Mr. Marshall travelled to Europe in order to be present at the first meeting of the Jewish Agency in Zurich.

Mr. Marshall was recognised as the foremost Jew in America and was justly regarded as a leader of world Jewry. He was regarded by the American people as one of the most distinguished citizens of the Republic and the authoritative spokesman of the Jews on all questions. Mr. Marshall was one of the greatest constitutional lawyers in the United States. The establishment of the Jewish Agency and American Jewry's participation in it was due to a great extent to his influence. He was the central figure in the negotiations which led to the agreement between the non-Zionists and the Zionist movement in America. At the time of the discussions his sagacious leadership brought about the much-desired harmony between the Zionists and non-Zionists for the good of Eretz Israel. It may be recalled that after the resolution for the non-Zionist Jews of America to enter the Agency was passed unanimously, Mr. Marshall then said:

"We are no longer Zionists and non-Zionists; we are all Jews together, intent on bringing about united action for the purpose of making the Jewish people a great force for good wherever they may live. There has been here the finest

spirit of unity and harmony and co-operation that I have ever observed in the fifty years of my public life. I feel that I ought to congratulate the Jews of America upon what has been accomplished here."

In his role as champion of his people, Mr. Marshall took a prominent part in the Henry Ford episode, at the time when the motor magnate attacked the Jewish community as well as individual Jews, through his Detroit newspaper. The great libel action instituted against Ford by Mr. Sapiro is still fresh in the memory. Mr. Ford's subsequent recantation will also be remembered and the great part that Mr. Marshall played in insisting upon Ford's unqualified withdrawal.

Mr. Marshall was a keen student of European affairs, particularly where the well-being of his co-religionists was concerned. Mr. Marshall played a conspicuous part in defending Jewish interests in Eastern Europe since the war. His activity in connection with Jewish affairs in Roumania, Turkey and Hungary will be within our readers' memories.

Mr. Marshall, of course, will be remembered with gratitude by those victims of the war who were relieved and helped by the Joint Distribution Committee which Mr. Marshall helped to found and which could not have achieved its remarkable results had it not been for Mr. Marshall's generous moral and material support.

Louis Marshall was one of the Jewish giants of his age. Nothing of Jewish interest was foreign to him, he was indifferent to nothing which concerned Jews in any part of the world. World Jewry mourns a man who will not easily be replaced.



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