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# The ZIONIST RECORD

## The Organ of South African Jewry

"Zionism aims to establish a publicly-assured, legally secured Home for the Jewish people in Palestine."

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### Yom Kippur.

YOM KIPPUR will be ushered in on Tuesday night: and for twenty-four hours the House of Israel will give itself to meditation, repentance and affliction of the soul. There is a mysterious and mystical quality about this day which impresses itself no less upon the agnostic and the atheist than upon the orthodox and the pious—a quality which makes its appeal to the most intimate core of the Jew and evokes a response from the very depths of his being.

For one man the Day of Atonement carries all the awful import of the Day of Judgment; of the day upon which his destiny is to be determined; and on which the evil decree may be averted by "penitence, prayer and charity." For another, it is a day for heart-searching and self-purification, a day on which he may scan the pattern and purpose of his life, slough off the materialistic burden that weighs upon him with its daily cares, and dedicate himself anew for that higher life of the spirit, which is ever a life of struggle.

But whatever be the personal significance which the Day has for him, every Jew senses in it a further import. An old Talmudic sage pictured it as the "return of the children to the table of their Father." In the haunting melody of the *Kol Nidre*, in the elaborate repetitions of the long services, and the profound faith and trust in a merciful and a forgiving God which permeates it, we hear the voice of the distant ages, we see the sweeping panorama of Jewish achievement and martyrdom, feel the mystery of Israel's survival, and sense, if we do not understand, the divine purpose in human life.

### Non-Zionists and the Jewish Agency.

FOR a long time there has been dissatisfaction in Zionist ranks at the poor support which has been given to the Jewish Agency by its "non-Zionist" half. It will be recalled that at the last Zionist Congress a decision was taken for creating machinery which would ensure co-operation by the non-Zionists in the work of the Agency; and it was in pursuance of this decision that the joint meeting between Zionists and non-Zionists on the Agency was held in Zurich in the middle of last month.

The problem of co-operation between Zionists and non-Zionists on the Agency has been a ticklish one. On the one hand, it has obviously been desirable to make the Agency, which under the Mandate is the mouthpiece of the Jewish people, as representative as possible of all sections of Jewry. Further, the arrangement provided the way for such "non-Zionists" as had the will to co-operate in the building of Eretz Israel, but lacked a full-blooded Zionist conviction, to give practical expression to their good will. From the point of view of the Zionist Organisation on the other hand, the arrangement whereby the non-Zionists became equal yoke-fellows with the Zionists could only be justified if the former bore an equal share of the burden, especially in providing financial assistance for the movement.

In this latter regard, the co-operation on the Agency has been definitely disappointing. Various reasons can be given for this, the main one probably being the amorphous and indefinite character of the non-Zionist section of the Agency, which consists of a group of persons

rather than a single body. But whatever the causes may have been of past ineffectiveness, it is clearly desirable that more effective co-operation should be brought about between the Zionist and non-Zionist sections of the Agency.

The meagre report which was issued of the conference at Zurich does not enable us to form any opinion as to what progress it may have made in achieving this result. Little more is divulged beyond the announcement that definite steps are now foreshadowed to organise the non-Zionist branch of the Agency in such a manner as will make it an effective working body. We look forward eagerly to some definite and concrete advance in this direction.

### The Mayor of Capetown.

MR. LOUIS GRADNER is to be congratulated on his re-election as Mayor of the Mother City. It is a high distinction and one which (to judge from the enthusiasm with which it has been greeted in the Cape) has been fully deserved. Mr. Gradner has served the city well during his first period of office and his mayoralty was noteworthy of considerable civic progress and advance in harmony in civic affairs.

It gives us special pleasure to record our congratulations to Mr. Gradner (and to Mrs. Gradner, who has worked hand in hand with him) because he has been at the same time closely identified with Jewish endeavour in Capetown and has maintained with distinction the South African Jews' reputation for loyalty and devotion to public service.

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