

Secretary

It must have come as a pleasant surprise to hear that a young South African has been appointed to a high position in the Zionist political world overseas. I refer to Mr. Arthur Lourie, who has occupied for two years the important position of political secretary to the Jewish Agency in London. The news of this appointment has percolated here very slowly.

It is certainly a matter for pride on the part of the Jewish community here that we have produced a young man whose talent and ability has gained for him recognition in the headquarters of our national movement.

Arthur Lourie was born in Johannesburg and received his education at the King Edward School. He is a graduate of the Capetown, Cambridge and Harvard Universities, at each of which he distinguished himself brilliantly. For a time, after his return from overseas, he was lecturer in Roman-Dutch law at the University of the Witwatersrand.

The political secretary is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lourie, the well-known pioneer communal workers. Another son is Mr. Norman Lourie, the founder of the Habonim movement in South Africa.

Sabbath Goy!

Tel-Aviv is an all-Jewish city, how do religious folk manage without a Sabbath Goy? A friend of mine who was in Palestine during the High Festivals supplied me with an answer. He said that it was really a difficult problem. On Sabbath, religious people manage somehow to guard against desecration of the laws by fixing alarm clocks to their electric switches, by keeping their food in ice-chests, etc. But on Rosh Hashanah—the only festival in Palestine which lasts for two days—the Sabbath Goy seems to be missed not only by the pious people, but even by those who are not so particular. Such perishable necessities as milk, meat, fish and ice are not delivered on the two holy days. In a hot climate, it is impossible to keep these articles for several days and the rabbis had to stretch a point in the law in order to facilitate the obtaining of foodstuffs, particularly in these days when Arab vendors are not welcome.

The rabbis have, in fact, devised a system of purchase by cards. A number of centres have been established in Tel-Aviv where housewives collect their milk and ice on Yom-Tov, in exchange for cards previously purchased. The system involves a certain amount of work on the part of the distributors. The rabbis' excuse is on grounds of "pikuach nefesh"—the fear to life, which may result from lack of milk for babies, etc.

It is said in Palestine that in olden times when a rabbi had some difficulty in observing a precept he would say: "What can be done—a Jew is in trouble." Now he says: "What can be done, a Yid is in Eretz Yisroel."

**Current
Communal
Comments**

By
"Hamabit"

A Prima Donna

A GRAND old lady of the opera, Ernestine Schumann-Heinck, has passed away. She never made a secret of her friendship for Jews throughout her life. Since the present regime in Germany set in, her manifestations of Jewish friendship were many and sincere.

Madame Schumann-Heinck was always proud of the fact that she had a Jewish mother and a Jewish grandmother. Her mother's name was Goldman. The famous singer once said proudly: "I know that much of the artist in my heart, much of my love for people and the fire that is in me, I owe to my own little Jewish grandmother." Two of Madame Schumann-Heinck's sons married Jewish girls. It was but natural with a genealogical stigma upon her family escutcheon that the great opera singer was a "persona non grata" with the Aryans.

This never affected the deep humanitarianism which characterised her. In her passing, the world has lost a great artist and a great woman and the Jewish people a warm and loyal friend.

The Press

IT will surprise many of us to learn that the first Jewish newspaper appeared as early as two hundred and fifty years ago. This first Yiddish paper was entitled "Die Couranten," and appeared in Amsterdam in 1686. This important date is now being commemorated by lovers of Yiddish throughout the world.

Since the appearance of the "Couranten" the Yiddish press has grown and developed particularly during the present century. A statistical review of the year 1930 shows that there were 389 Yiddish periodicals in the world. Of these no less than 50 were dailies and 133 weeklies. Amongst the countries that boast of a Yiddish weekly are Uruguay, Cuba, Chile, Australia and Denmark. Argentina has two Yiddish dailies, Brazil has one and France one. Altogether Yiddish periodicals appear in 23 countries. Top of the list is, of course, Poland, with 172 periodicals. Next comes the United States of America with 72. Soviet Russia, with 36 publications, is third, and Argentina is not a bad fourth, having 21 Yiddish journals.

By far the biggest number are non-party organs. Most of them are,

however, strongly Zionist in spirit. A large number of Yiddish journals are devoted to special subjects. No less than 24 papers engage especially in the co-operative movement, which is now popular in the economic life of Eastern and Central Europe. There are also a goodly number of trade journals, as well as publications devoted to medicine, psychology, philology, agriculture and statistics.

It is of interest to note that Christian Missionary societies are responsible for six Yiddish periodicals.

Names

SOME time ago, writing on the subject of Jewish names in these columns, I expressed the hope that one day somebody would write a scholarly treatise on so fascinating a subject. In view of a suggestion made recently that Jews should be forced to relinquish their "Aryan" names in Germany, the subject has again been given space in the German-Jewish press. One writer points out that in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries Jews in German-speaking countries were forced by the authorities to adopt German-sounding names.

What, indeed, is a Jewish name and what is not? The English John, the Dutch Jan, the German Hans, the Danish Jens, the Spanish Juan, the Swedish Ivar, the Italian Giovanni and the Russian Ivan, have all derived their names from the Hebrew Jochanan, mentioned in Chronicles I.

Such seemingly "Aryan" names as Elisabeth, Elsa, Ella, Betty and Beatrice have all come from Elisheba, wife of Aaron the Priest, mentioned in Exodus. Martha comes from the Talmud and means mistress. Similarly, the typically German name of Gretchen, or Margaret in English, is derived from the Talmudical word Marganitha, a pearl. Thus the name "Pearl" would also become taboo.

There seems to be no end to this kind of speculation and I should not be surprised if on examination it were proved that by far the largest number of names are of Jewish derivation.

What will the German "Aryans" do then?

"Some Difference"

WHILST on a visit to Europe a South African merchant ordered a pair of trousers from a Jewish tailor in the East End of London. At the end of his stay in England, the merchant found that the tailor had not completed the trousers. Three years later, the merchant was again on a visit to England and was surprised when the little East End tailor called upon him at his West End Hotel with the trousers which he had ordered three years ago.

"Well," said the merchant, "God created the world in seven days, but it took you apparently three years to make a pair of trousers."

Without blinking an eye, the tailor replied: "Look at the world and then look at these trousers!"

**BUY
BEST
BUTTER**

THERE IS NONE
BETTER THAN
DOVE
BRAND
(Unsalted)



ALWAYS FRESH
AND SWEET

Manufactured by
**DOMINION
CREAMERIES**
Ltd., Johannesburg

Phone:
P.O. Box 2065. 24-6361

**SOUTH AFRICAN
AIRWAYS**
(S.A.R. & H.)

Regular Services between all
principal centres in the
Union and South-West
Africa.

For

*Enquiries,
Reservations,
Tickets,*

apply to

S.A.R. Tourist Bureau
JOHANNESBURG.

Phone 22-3930,

or

S.A. AIRWAYS OFFICE,
Phones 51-2088.

(Night Service 51-1677).