

Hebrew Press Welcomes the New Labour Agreement

HOPES THAT OTHERS WILL FOLLOW

THE labour agreement which has been concluded between the Histadruth and the Revisionist labour union is acclaimed in the Hebrew Press as a most welcome step towards internal unity in the Yishuv and the consolidation of Jewish labour. The Hebrew Press generally expresses the hope that it will be the first step, and that other agreements with other labour fractions will follow.

THE Agreement which has been signed between the General Jewish Labour Federation and the National Federation of Labour is described in "Davar" as an event of outstanding significance.

It will be received with great satisfaction by every far-seeing worker with an understanding of the interests of his class and the strengthening of our work in Palestine, the journal says, as well as by every devoted Zionist interested in the strengthening of our life and the fate of the upbuilding work. It will particularly be received with great joy and with a measure of relief by the Jewish Diaspora, which had learned from time to time with consternation of the quarrels and bloody strife among Jewish workers in Palestine.

"This agreement, when fully realised, will put an end to the continual and bitter labour quarrels between Jewish workers in the country which were likely more than once to endanger our best efforts. Political differences between us and the Revisionist Party will remain as they were. Differences of opinion must be fought and should be fought, but the battle of differing political opinions, whatever its fate may be, should not be permitted to embitter the relations between Jewish workers.

"Our Organisation has always stood for a complete unification of all the Jewish workers in Palestine, irrespective of their particular party views. The Histadruth has proclaimed both in its councils and at its Conferences as well as from the public platform that it was prepared to arrive at labour agreements with every Workers Union in the country acting on the basic concept that the right to work in Palestine should be the right of every Jew willing to work, and that it is an essential condition for the consolidation and expansion of the Jewish labour in Palestine that all Jewish workers should be united. When the separate existence of the "Mizrachi Worker" became an established fact, the Histadruth concluded an agreement with them. Similarly, despite the bitter enmity which existed between the Labour Movement and the Revisionist Party, there was

always a constant readiness to arrive at a labour agreement with them. As long ago as 1934 a meeting took place on the invitation of the Histadruth with representatives of the Revisionists, at the house and under the chairmanship of Mr. P. Ruttenburg, for the purpose of arriving at an agreement on Labour relations, and it was not the fault of the Histadruth that that particular meeting did not achieve practical results.

"Indeed, the day after the proposed agreement was turned down by the plebiscite, this journal recorded the fact that the majority of the participants in the plebiscite had protested only against a particular provision in the draft agreement, since they saw in this a limitation of the independence of the Trade Union Movement. Several days afterwards the Executive of the Histadruth submitted a new proposal to the Revisionists for an agreement to ensure a just distribution of work, but the outstretched hand remained unanswered. Instead, a campaign was set afoot in the galuth against the Histadruth, on the allegation that it robbed non-members of the right to work. This led to chaos in the labour market and to disputes which grew in number and intensity, and developed almost into civil war.

"The conclusion of the present agreement will close a bitter chapter and will open a new leaf in the history of the relations between Jewish workers in Palestine. This agreement has none of the stumbling blocks contained in the preceding one. It does not limit the independence of trade union activity among workers. It also settles the dispute on the composition of the administration of the joint Labour Bureau, by providing for proportionate representation in the administration of the Bureau, while at the same time fully guaranteeing the interest of the minority.

"This agreement is only the first, for a number of considerations. It deals only with the division of work on buildings and public works, without extending to industry and agriculture; it confines itself only to the sphere of work and does not embrace general trades' union policy; it has

been concluded only with the National Labour Federation, and is still open to other workers' unions. But, though this first and fractional agreement is certainly not free from faults or defects, its main moral effect lies in the fact that it has been concluded between the strongest political opponents. The great moral courage shown in the conclusion of the Agreement by both sides will stand it in good stead in strengthening it, and enabling its future continuation and expansion."

"Haaretz"

"Haaretz" of the 14th inst. contains an editorial acclaiming the Agreement as an important event, the first step in the regulation of workers' relations in Palestine generally.

While welcoming this great achievement, however, the writer deplors the absence of the employer from its operation and regrets that it does not yet meet the long desired need for a general labour agreement in the Yishuv, under the direct supervision of the National institutions. The writer feels that it savours somewhat of trade union politics and urges the conclusion of a further full agreement between all workers' unions on the one hand, and all employers on the other, providing for compulsory arbitration in all labour disputes and thus avoiding all possibility of friction in the future.

GRIPPING DRAMA AT THE COLOSSEUM.

"The General Died at Dawn," a tense drama of China, is the attraction at the Colosseum over the weekend. Gary Cooper is the adventurous American who becomes involved with the villainous machinations of General Yang, played by Akim Tamiroff, truly terrifying. Madeleine Carroll has one of the best parts she has ever played. The Coronation film continues to interest audiences and the supporting programme is amusing. Charles Manning and the Colosseum Orchestra present an interesting interlude.

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