

Converting Synagogue Services into Operatic Performances.

A READER'S PROTEST.

The Editor,
S.A. Jewish Chronicle.

Sir,—It is with genuine sincerity that one feels bound to protest most vehemently against the scandalous practice of certain of our "famous Cantors" in converting our religion and Synagogue services into operatic performances.

A Cantor is perhaps "famous" in the U.S.A. and may be in Johannesburg on account of his silvery voice. But how far this coincides with his conscience as regards our respected traditions, is another question answerable only by inference from his acts.

Surely if a Cantor who comes down to the Cape on a vacation desires to give his talent publicity he ought thereby to benefit charitable institutions sooner than himself. It would no doubt be an entirely different matter if the Chazan were himself in financial straits.

A very unpleasant incident occurred at Paarl on Sunday last. Having arrived at the Synagogue, a "famous Cantor" found that his advance agent had not been successful in securing an attendance big enough to his liking, with a consequent deficiency in the estimated budget, for a performance no less solemn than the Evening Service. He executed a round-about turn and, without an explanation, left his prospective audience in the lurch, and disappeared. Some of those present had been foolish enough to motor over from Worcester, Wellington and elsewhere to hear him.

It is not unfair to attach a share of the blame to some of the responsible communal authorities for not taking precautionary measures for the protection of their community's interests.

It is to be hoped, therefore, that the above experience will be a preventative against similar recurrences in future.—I am, etc.,
S. L. G.

Berele Chagy's Tour.

AN EXPLANATION.

To the Editor,
S.A. Jewish Chronicle.

Sir,—I shall be greatly obliged if you will grant me the hospitality of your columns for the following statement.

The arrangements for my present tour in the Cape were not in my hands, and the nature of many of them was entirely unknown to me. Certain incidents took place here which have never occurred in my career before during the many privileged years of my connection with the noble calling of Chazanuth.

I am exceedingly aggrieved at certain occurrences which are due to the fact that matters were beyond my control, owing to my being a newcomer to this country.

I remain,
Yours faithfully,

(Adv.) B. CHAGY.

Obituary.

Mr. LOUIS LANDAU.

The death took place in London on Tuesday of Mr. Louis Landau, of Johannesburg and formerly Rhodesia, after a short illness.

Mr. Landau was a noted communal worker and public figure and devoted himself wholeheartedly to the interests of Jewry here. In addition to his other communal activities he was a strong Zionist supporter and a generous contributor to Zionist funds. His death will be deeply regretted by the many who knew him personally or who knew only of his good work.

The deepest condolences are extended to the widow and son of the deceased.

Mrs. I. CHAMES.

The deepest condolences are extended to Mr. I. Chames, a well-known and highly respected member of the community, on the death of his wife, which took place last Friday after an illness. Mrs. Chames is deeply mourned by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

Mrs. H. ARENSON.

Deepfelt condolences are also extended to the husband and relatives of Mrs. H. Arenson, who passed away on Tuesday. Mrs. Arenson died after a long and painful illness and her death is deeply lamented by many. The funeral took place on Wednesday morning.

The Late Louis Landau.

AN APPRECIATION.

South African Jewry has sustained a great loss by the untimely death of Mr. L. Landau, which took place on Tuesday in London. I knew him intimately from the day of my arrival in this country, and am filled with a deep sense of personal as of public loss.

Mr. Landau had no advantages, he had to leave school as a mere child in order to earn his own living. He was still in his teens when he came to South Africa. But as a youth of nineteen, he was already a member of the Zionist Executive in Bulawayo, and the leader of the youth there in every phase of public activity. He was one of the founders of both the Zionist Society and the Chevra Kadisha in Salisbury, and served on the Shool Committee and on the Town Council of that city with distinction. Then he took an ever-increasing part in the development of the Jewish community in Bulawayo, and eventually became the lay head of that community, while doing notable work for the Town Council.

(Continued in Third Column).

Second Bernheim Petition.

COMING UP BEFORE THE LEAGUE.

Warsaw.

Herr Max Bernheim's second petition, which the League of Nations has transmitted to its Permanent Mixed Commission for Upper Silesia for examination at its meeting in Kattowice, will be argued before the Commission by Advocate Reichmann, a well-known Kattowice lawyer.

The second petition which is to come before the Mixed Commission, submitted by Dr. Perl, who was employed in the Hindenburg Sick Fund, complains that he has been illegally dismissed from his employment, contrary to the provisions of the Polish-German Convention on Upper Silesia.

(Continued from Second Column).

He was the head of many institutions, and laid the foundations of the Bulawayo Jewish Memorial Hall with which his name is primarily associated, and to which he gave a donation of £2,000 on the marriage of his only son, Herbert, now settled in Cape Town. Mr. and Mrs. Landau were extremely popular socially, and ever the souls of hospitality.

Mr. Landau was invited to contest a seat in Parliament; unfortunately he had to leave Rhodesia for the Rand, or he would undoubtedly have risen to Cabinet rank. In Johannesburg, Mr. Landau became the President of the United Talmud Torahs and gave yeoman service to that institution.

He was a director of the Binyan, and paid a visit to Palestine some years ago, and it was his intention at an early date to revisit the country and make a thorough study of its problems and possibilities. Alas! His departure is our national loss. He was a man of great ability and independent thought. He was a devoted and enthusiastic Jew, and a fearless fighter where his convictions were concerned. He held strong views, but none ever doubted his absolute sincerity and his interestedness. He was also a man of remarkable generosity, the most loyal of friends, and the best of companions and good fellows. To his devoted and stricken wife (nee Lily Smollan, of Port Elizabeth), and to his son, our hearts go out in deep sympathy. To his brothers also, who with him built up the great firm of Landau Bros., we extend sincerest sympathy. Mr. Landau's only son was recently married to Miss Marcia Blumberg, of Bulawayo, and the birth of their daughter gave great happiness to Mr. L. Landau on his death-bed. He will be widely missed and deeply lamented by a host of friends in every part of the country. He was one of the creative forces of Rhodesian Jewry. Such a notable personality can ill be spared.

M. I. COHEN.