

Resignation of Mr. Lewis French

Legislative Council for Palestine

Disagreements with High Commissioner for Palestine.

Jerusalem, Nov. 16th.

MR. LEWIS FRENCH, the Director of Development in Palestine (who was appointed by the late Colonial Secretary, Lord Passfield, in July, 1931, during the High Commissionership of Sir John Chancellor), has resigned his office. The resignation, it is further learned, was accepted a week ago, on November 8th.

MR. French's resignation is believed to be due to the fact that certain modifications were proposed by the High Commissioner in the development scheme he had drawn up in his reports.

Differences had developed between Mr. French and the present High Commissioner, Sir Arthur Wauchope, it is understood, while the High Commissioner was in London recently, prior to his visit to Geneva, where he attended the meeting of the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations. The High Commissioner is believed to have expressed disapproval of many of Mr. French's recommendations for Palestine development.

Certain disagreements existed between the High Commissioner and Mr. French previously, too, before Mr. French had completed his reports, it is understood, and the High Commissioner suggested making certain changes in the reports, which were, in fact, made by Mr. French.

The Chagy Recital

An Evening of Folk Songs.

THE possession of a magnificent tenor voice was well demonstrated by Cantor Berele Chagy at the vocal recital he gave at the Plaza Theatre on Sunday evening last. His interpretation of Jewish folk songs was of a peerless nature and much appreciated by the few connoisseurs present. It was obvious from a strange coldness in the audience that the finesse of the cantor's interpretations of well known folk songs did not make a popular appeal. Whilst the artist on the stage must have felt the lack of response, it in no way affected his exquisite rendering of a whole series of beautiful melodies.

Outstanding items were the ecstatic rhapsodic fervour of the "Berdichever Kaddish" and the "Dudele"; the poignant yearning expressed in Weiner's "Im Feld"—a song worthy of Schubert's pen;

According to the terms of his appointment, the Director of Palestine Development was "subordinate to the High Commissioner, but independent of the existing Government Departments in Palestine, though in carrying out the work of development he will be in liaison with them."

Mr. French was also a member of the Palestine Government Executive Council, which had previously consisted only of the High Commissioner and his three principal officers, the Chief Secretary, the Attorney-General and the Treasurer. He was co-opted to the Executive Council in October, 1931, and it was rumoured at the time that he would remain permanently in Palestine as Director of Agriculture, in succession to Mr. Sawyer.

The Colonial Office, however, discredited this rumour, and stated that after concluding his investigations in connection with the Development Scheme in Palestine, Mr. French would return to London.

In his statement to the Mandates Commission last month, the High Commissioner referred to the Development Scheme and explained that the Director of Development was appointed for the purpose of advising regarding the settlement of landless Arabs and the possibilities of development generally. The reports of this officer, he said, are now being considered by the Arab Executive and the Jewish Agency.

the gay humour of "A Zemer!" and "Tsalom Dsei"—and the grave beauty of Jassinowsky's setting of verses from Isaiah, written for the opening of the Hebrew University on Mount Scopus. The programme proved that the researches of Engel, Achron, Jassinowsky and others, with their really notable collections of a vanishing folklore and folk-song, have inspired an intensely national outlook in Jewish music.

The recital was of interest in giving us in South Africa, for the first time, the rendition of works of some of the new Jewish composers who have lately sprung up in America and Palestine. Each song rendered by Cantor Chagy was a living, moving picture of the Jewish soul.

Mr. Hyman Sachs, as accompanist and solo pianist, helped to sustain the high level of artistry set by Cantor Chagy, and played a large part in colouring the mood of each song with a finely controlled background of pianoforte tone.

D.

Professor Brodetsky on Attitude of Zionist Executive

London, Nov. 21st.

REFERENCE to the proposed Legislative Council in Palestine was made by Professor Selig Brodetsky, head of the Jewish Agency Executive in London, in an address which he delivered last night at a meeting of the Brondebury and Cricklewood Zionist Circle.

Dr. Brodetsky dispelled in his speech any misunderstanding as to the Jewish status in Palestine in connection with the question put in the House of Commons last week, in which it was suggested that the minority rights of the Jews in Palestine should be protected.

"The status of the Jews in Palestine," Dr. Brodetsky said, "could not be considered as that of a minority. The establishment of a Jewish National Home in Palestine was decided by international law giving recognition to the historical association of the Jewish people with Palestine," and Dr. Brodetsky quoted Mr. Churchill's White Paper of 1922 on this point to show that Jews are going to Palestine "as of right and not on sufferance."

"No concrete proposals of any kind as regards the Legislative Council have been made to the Jewish Agency or any of its associates," Dr. Brodetsky continued. "The principle only was discussed in Jerusalem and London."

"The Zionist Executive is bound by the definite decisions reached in this matter by the Actions Committee and the Administrative Committee. The Zionist Executive is pleased to be bound because this is the most important of all issues relating to Palestine, and will have far-reaching effects of a character that cannot be anticipated. It must not be left to the decision and responsibility of a few individuals."

In reply to questions suggesting that democratic opinion may be adversely affected by Jewish opposition to democracy, Dr. Brodetsky said that everybody was agreed that democracy meant sharing in the Government of a country, and therefore in relation to Palestine there could be no democracy that was not based on the fundamental constitution of Palestine, namely, the mandate and the Jewish National Home.