

Statistics

I AM glad to see that at long last a Statistical Bureau is to be established in this country. It is a wise step on the part of the Board of Deputies to sponsor such a department and the engagement of an eminent statistician is an indication of earnestness behind the project.

In the present poison-laden atmosphere of racial prejudice pervading the world, it was not unexpected that libels against our race and ideals should make their appearance in this country. All manner of accusations are being made. In dark corners and openly, through poisonous printed matter and through the oral medium, the more ignorant sections of the general population are being "educated."

It is high time that we had at our finger tips information about the honourable record of Jewish achievement in this country. The figures at our disposal would help to offset open attacks made against us in the backveld areas of this fair land.

Incidentally the work of the Statistical Bureau should prove of immense advantage to ourselves in showing the nature of Jewish communal development. Upon the information gained we can build more properly for the future. A bureau of this nature has been badly needed. It should prove a success if all Jewish organisations and workers throughout the country will afford the necessary information likely to be asked of them in the near future.

Menuhin

IN all circles throughout South Africa the greatest interest is being taken in the arrival next month of Yehudi Menuhin, the famous eighteen-year-old Jewish violinist. For years we have been hearing of this remarkable boy who thrilled the musical world and satisfied the keenest critics. We have also heard of the boy's pride in the race to which he belongs and of the fine Jewish atmosphere in which he has been brought up. Apart from his reception by music lovers in South Africa Menuhin is likely to meet with a great manifestation of goodwill on the part of his co-religionists.

The brilliant young player has now finished a tour of Australia where he has been acclaimed at all recitals. At one of the concerts three young girls climbed the roof of the local town hall and thus heard the virtuoso play. When Menuhin heard of this he said: "I must applaud their courage and I must respect the safety of their necks and, possibly, those of the audience." The next night the three girls were sitting decorously in the stalls for Mr. Menuhin had ascertained their addresses and sent them tickets.

The violinist will be accompanied in this country by his young sister — a girl of fourteen, who is reputed to be a brilliant pianist.

An Alderman

AN interesting personality arrived this week in Capetown. Sir Samuel Joseph is a distinguished co-religionist and Alderman of the City of London. At one time he was the Mayor of Marylebone.

Sir Samuel's connection with the civic life of London reminds me that this year

Current Communal Comments

By

"Hamabit"

marks the centenary of the election of the first Jew to a municipal office in the great Metropolis. Sir David Salomons was the first of our co-religionists to become a Sheriff of London and Middlesex. It was after some comment on the part of Lord John Russell in the House of Commons respecting the legal status of a Jew in the holding of civil office in England that Parliament agreed that there should be no debarring of office-holding because of religious belief.

That important decision was made on June 24, 1835. Sir David duly served his year of office and was succeeded by another illustrious co-religionist — Sir Moses Montefiore. The victory of Sir David Salomons was one of the major points in connection with the civil and political emancipation of Anglo-Jewry. Since that day, other well-known Jews have held office. In the municipal ramifications of London many of them occupied terms as mayors of their respective boroughs, whilst several won recognition as successful Lord Mayors of the Capital of the Empire.

Sir Herbert

IT would be a good idea if a man of the calibre of Sir Herbert Samuel could be persuaded to come to this country. His visit would prove a great cultural treat and enhance the prestige of Jewry on this sub-continent.

Sir Herbert delivered a brilliant speech at the dinner at the Guildhall held in mail week in London, on behalf of the King George V Jubilee Forest. He recalled the time when he was High Commissioner for Palestine. Before leaving the country, he related, he had travelled from Dan to Beersheba. "Dan and Beersheba are, of course, names of places, and not names of man and wife, like Sodom and Gomorah," Sir Herbert remarked amidst roars of laughter.

Sir Herbert was the first Jew to become a British Cabinet Minister. It will be recalled that Disraeli was baptised. Three other Jews have held Cabinet positions since Sir Herbert. They are Lord Reading and Mr. Hore-Belisha in the National Government and Mr. Emanuel Shinwell in the Labour Government.

Recently Sir Herbert Samuel found time to write a book in the series of the Home University Library on "Practical Ethics." It is an excellently written and lucid volume of illuminating essays on many present-day problems.

Sir Herbert has remained loyal to the ideals of the old Liberal Party and is a "die-hard" in politics. Otherwise he would undoubtedly have been offered a Cabinet position in the present National Government. And who knows he might have been

the first really Jewish Prime Minister of Great Britain!

In passing I might mention a curious fact which came out at the dinner at which Sir Herbert spoke in London. In order that the first tree to be planted in the forest which has been contributed by the King from Windsor Great Park may be imported into Palestine, a special law will have to be passed by the Palestine Administration authorising this to be done. This is due to the fact that under the Palestine laws, the importation of trees and plants from abroad is prohibited.

Shorts

THOSE of us who saw the film of the recently-held heavy-weight boxing championship match could not help but notice the large *magen-david* sewn so prominently on the trunks of the loser, Max Baer. Millions of film-fans all over the world will have noticed this evidence of pride in his Jewishness on the part of a fighter.

It is strange that Baer's action in showing a *magen-david* on his trunks was hailed with rejoicing by his Jewish admirers when he won the battle which gave him the heavy-weight championship; now this very display is the occasion of regretful comment. In the reports which I have read of the fight in the American Jewish newspapers, I see little reference to Baer's Jewish pride in the ring. Yet Baer fought a game fight with Braddock and his defeat is no discredit to him. Incidentally, Baer's defeat is offset by Barney Ross' recent victory, when he regained the world welter-weight boxing championship.

Jews have produced great fighting champions in the boxing world and Max Baer's victory was an outstanding one at the time when he stood up so savagely against the giant Carnera. It was Baer who was the first to topple Carnera out of a championship which the latter had held for a number of years.

Incidentally, I hear that Baer has now married a Catholic girl and is thinking of paying a "compliment" to his young wife by embracing her religion. What will he now wear on his shorts?

No Time

BERELLE noticed Chayim running in the street. The latter would not stop when spoken to.

"Where are you running to?" asked Berelle.

"I'm off to the station, my uncle is arriving to-morrow morning."

"Then why must you run to the station now. There's plenty of time!"

"No, I must run now, for to-morrow I shall be very busy and will have no time."

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