

## A Good Move

A FRIENDLY atmosphere pervaded the annual dinner of the Jewish ex-service men held a few evenings ago. It appears to be one of the few functions at which Jews and non-Jews come together merely as good citizens of the country in which they live. Would that there were more gatherings of a similar nature!

Reference was made during the evening to the remarkable manner in which Jews in the British Empire rallied to the call of patriotism in the great war. It was well to be reminded that five Jews faced death under fire and secured the coveted V.C. honour. Another interesting fact learned was that the famous Sassoon family had given no less than ten officers to the army. The five sons of one Jewish mother—Mrs. Sebag Montefiore—held commissions. No less than fifty thousand Jews served in the various forces of the Empire and the further information was given that thirty thousand of these still survive.

A movement is now afoot to organise a Jewish ex-service movement throughout the British Empire — an excellent idea indeed, and one which should receive the support of all local ex-service men.

I was glad to learn that the local branch of the movement has joined the British Empire Service League in South Africa. This is in line with Jewish co-operation in any activity making for a better South Africa.

## A Comedian

WITH pleasurable anticipation one looks forward to the appearance of Eddie Cantor—the famous comedian—in his new picture to be released in South Africa next week. Apart from Charlie Chaplin, Cantor is undoubtedly the greatest laughter-provoker on the screen. He amuses millions by his farcical conception of the serious things in life—and it is all done in such a human manner which makes so strong an appeal.

Cantor is one of the few famous film stars who does not boast of his Jewish ancestry for publicity purposes only. He feels so keenly the plight of his co-religionists in many countries that he has given up his screen work for a few months in order to devote himself to the task of securing sufficient money to send five hundred German-Jewish children to Palestine.

Recently a banquet was given in his honour in New York. The comedian spoke with great feeling on the present position of his people. "Hitler was hissed by audiences in America when his face appeared on the screen. To-day there is applause instead." Cantor added that he was now personally experiencing the scourge of anti-Semitism and that he was going to devote his time to "taking out an insurance policy against Jew-baiting by sending German-Jewish children to Palestine."

Much praise was showered upon the comedian by speakers at the banquet. When Cantor rose to speak he said: "I wonder whether you will also recite the 'kaddish' after me, because I have never heard so much praise showered upon a living person."

The action of Eddie Cantor in coming out so boldly and courageously for his people has made a deep impression upon millions of his admirers.

# Current Communal Comments

By  
"Hamabit"

## A Little Exodus

A FRIEND of mine who visited Japan recently has given me some interesting details of the Jewish community in Harbin. Before the war most of the Jews in this eastern town hailed from amongst those who were exiled by the Tsarist Government to Siberia. With the advent of the Bolshevik regime in Russia many Jewish refugees fled to China and most of them settled in Harbin. Several years ago there were over 20,000 Jews in the town.

Communal activities began to develop and some fine institutions were established by the refugees. In their style of life, the immigrants maintained the famous traditions of Russian Jewry. Harbin boasts of several big synagogues, a Jewish hospital, a spacious Hebrew school and a weekly Jewish newspaper published in the Russian language.

Since the town has now come (as part of Manchukuo) under Japanese influence a great change has come in the position of its Jews. The remnants of the Russian "white" armies, who inhabit the district, began a strong anti-Jewish campaign. Japanese penetration into the land has removed from Jews all sources of livelihood. Owing to the sale of the Siberian Railway to Japan, thousands of people left the country and business has come to a standstill.

It is estimated that close on 15,000 Jewish inhabitants have left Harbin since the Japanese invasion. The synagogues are empty, the school is no more used, the weekly newspaper leads a precarious existence. Thousands of Russian-Jewish refugees who had found shelter in this eastern town, have again been obliged to take up the "wandering stick." Yet little has been heard of this additional "exodus" for a section of our people.

## Songs

THE "Vorwaerts," of New York, has recently been publishing a series of monographs describing the lives of famous "meshumadim." These articles were written by Mr. Saul Ginzburg, a Jewish publicist, who devotes himself to the study of the by-way of modern Jewish history. The writer displays great erudition and an inexhaustible knowledge of the modern epoch of Jewish history in Russia.

Ginzburg, who has recently celebrated his seventieth birthday, is one of the most interesting personalities of old Russian Jewry. It was he who started the first daily Yiddish newspaper in Russia. It was called "Der Freund" and had an enormous circulation. In his spare time, he devoted himself to Jewish history. One of his greatest achievements was the publication of a volume of Yiddish folk songs which he had

collected with his friend, Peretz Marek. This was the first collection of its kind to appear in print and created a sensation in musical circles.

It was then commonly believed that the Jews had only liturgical music of their own. By publishing his collection of folk songs, Ginzburg opened a new field to those interested in Jewish music. Since then hundreds of books have appeared on the subject and Jewish folk-songs are being sung from concert platforms all over the world.

## Marczali

I HEAR that Heinrich Marczali has recently celebrated his eightieth birthday. Marczali is one of the many distinguished Jews in Europe who have unfortunately returned a little too late to their own people. As a young man he achieved great fame in Hungary as a leading historian and particularly as one of the greatest authorities on modern history. He edited a history of the world in ten volumes. As professor of the Budapest University he was considered the greatest authority on Hungarian history. During that time he took little interest in his people.

In 1920 when a wave of anti-Semitism spread in the Hungarian universities, Marczali was forced into retirement. Only then did he begin to devote his attention to the history of Austro-Hungarian Jewry. He also took a keen interest in the Jewish "Literaturverein," of Budapest, and is today regarded as the "Grand Old Man" of Hungarian Jewry.

## Intelligence

IT is a reflection upon the lack of humour on the part of the German people prior to the advent of the Nazi regime, practically all the best comedians on the German stage were of the Jewish persuasion.

All of these artists have now been eliminated from the "sacred" boards of the German theatre. One comedian, a certain Werner Fink, a "goy," was one of the few remaining good comedians on the Berlin stage. He highly amused audiences until a few weeks ago when he was making quite innocent wise cracks at the expense of the Hitler regime.

A Storm Trooper who was in the audience did not like this procedure and yelled out: "You — Jew!"

"You are mistaken," came the quick response from the comedian. "I am pure Aryan. I just happen to look intelligent."

As a result of this remark, Werner Fink is now spending his time in a concentration camp.

## "No Jew!"

AN Irishman in New York invited his friends to attend a feast on his first wedding anniversary. The occasion, too, was a celebration on the birth of a child.

This double event was celebrated for four consecutive years, but no invitation came for the usual annual hospitality in the fifth year. A close friend asked the Irishman the reason for this omission.

"I read in the papers," he said, "that every fifth child born in New York is a Jew, and we are not keen on having a Jew in the family."