

Headquarters Wanted!

AN old friend of mine in Montreal writes to me that he recently visited the new headquarters of the Zionist Organisation of Canada. He felt a glow of pride as he stepped into the most pleasing edifice. "I remember well," he writes, "the days when Zionism in this country would be discussed and argued in the attic of some ramshackle building or in some make-shift little office. Those were the days when the sale of a few shekolim preceding a congress set everybody agog, and the National Fund box was the alpha-omega of financial undertakings."

It is obvious that in Canada, as well as in South Africa, the small *pushke* has given way to financial campaigns on a large scale requiring expert organising powers with adequate machinery of a variegated form. It is in keeping with the trend of the times that the central office of the Zionist movement in the great Dominion should have found more spacious headquarters to carry out its numerous activities.

In this connection what is the situation in South Africa? Here too, Zionist endeavour began in a small way and has developed into unrecognisable proportions. It is apparent that the present accommodation of Zionist headquarters in this country is inadequate. The time has surely arrived when consideration should be given to a project for the erection of suitable and commodious premises for Zionist activity in this country of loyal Zionist service.

I am not merely interested in the setting up of a group of offices. I would like to see such a building become a centre of national activity. There should be a conference room, a lecture hall, a library, and many other facilities, which would make of such headquarters a real Jewish centre.

"Swords Into Ploughshares"—

AT a local meeting held recently in the interests of Peace, one of the speakers accused organised religion of co-operating with the forces of militarism and war.

It is unfortunately true that many a war in the past has been fostered in the name of religion. Often it was that a mere brute struggle between might and might was transformed into a holy and religious crusade. To accuse, however, organised religion as a whole in working for war, is surely a distortion of the truth. Particularly is it untrue of the Jewish religion.

It was Israel's great prophet Isaiah who visualised the final redemption of mankind from the horrors of war in his sublime, stirring prophecy:

"... And they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
And their spears into pruning-hooks;
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
Neither shall there be war any more."

Iron, the weapon of war and destruction, was banished from the altar of the Lord. King David, the warrior, was not allowed to realise the dream of his life, the erection of the Temple, "for his hands were stained with blood." This task was left to his son, Solomon, whose very name signified peace. There is probably no sentiment which en-

Current Communal Comments

By
"Hamabit"

ters more thoroughly and persistently in Jewish life than the aspiration for peace. The Jew prays for peace in his daily prayers. He salutes his fellowman with the words "Peace unto thee." His history, his religion, his mission—all pledge him not only to live peacefully but to work for peace as mankind's only instrument of happiness.

Rassenschande

FRITZ KIBEL, a German writer who is now in exile, has published recently a scientific work, dealing with the racial theories of the Nazis. Kibel tries to show that some of the greatest minds of the world were a product of mixed marriages. He bases his arguments on research which was executed with German exactitude.

Most of the names mentioned in his work are well known to Jewish readers. Nevertheless, there are a number of new discoveries of men who, according to the author, are of Jewish origin. It is not, for instance, generally known that Sven Heden, the famous explorer, had a Jewish grandfather whose name was Abraham Braudo, or that Bethman Hollwig, the Chancellor of the Kaiser during the last war, was of Jewish origin.

Herr Kibel's descriptions of Jewish achievements in the field of wireless are of ironic significance. It is well known that Hitler's ascent to power was greatly aided by the radio. His propaganda chiefs have made full use of the wireless for their own purpose and millions were made to listen in when Hitler's voice was on the air. Even to-day Nazi propaganda is carried on in a disguised fashion by the various overseas broadcasts of the German stations.

It is, nevertheless, tragic to record that Heinrich Herz, on whose theories of electric waves the radio is based—was a half-Jew. Count Georg Arko, who had done great work in the field of wireless, was also of Jewish origin.

"Viennese"

THE Austrian Government has, I notice, taken up an ostrich-like attitude towards the celebrations of the eightieth birthday of Professor Freud. Whilst it sent an official congratulation to the aged savant, the newspapers were ordered not to publish the text of the congratulation lest it offend the anti-Semites. The municipality of Vienna, of which Freud was made an honorary citizen, under the Socialist regime, ignored the celebration altogether. Freud's birthday was celebrated unofficially by an important medical society.

A somewhat different treatment was accorded to the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the death of Gustav Mahler, that famous musician who was considered the leading opera conductor in Europe three decades ago. At the concerts held in his

memory Bruno Walter was invited to conduct and Schuschnigg, the Chancellor himself, was present.

A pathetic story is told in Vienna concerning the family of the late Gustav Mahler. His wife is now married to Franz Werfel, the famous writer. A daughter of her first husband was married to a well-known German publisher, Von Schulnau. The latter is a descendant of *meshumodim* and like many others of his clan associates himself with the anti-

Semitic movement. This was a little too much for the daughter of Mahler and step-daughter of Werfel. She sued her husband for a divorce. Another son-in-law is also said to be connected with anti-Jewish activity. What tragedy upon tragedy has Nazism introduced into human society!

Achron

JOSEPH ACHRON, the Jewish composer, is now celebrating his fiftieth birthday in Los Angeles. Achron's compositions are widely known and performed at Jewish concerts. Particularly famous are his cradle-songs and the variations of "El Yivne Hagalil," a tune sung as an accompaniment to the popular Palestine Horah dance.

Twenty years ago Achron lived in Russia where he belonged to a group of young Jewish composers amongst whom were Milner, Saminsky, Rosovski, Krein, and Gnessin. They formed a society for the dissemination of Jewish music and did yeoman service in spreading the knowledge of Jewish music, collecting folks-songs, performing at concerts and composing works of their own. Much was expected of this group, but the revolution has scattered them in various parts of the world, where each one has developed along his own lines. Saminsky is choirmaster of Temple Emmanuel in New York; Milner is in Biro-Bidjan, and little is heard of him; Rosovski is in Jerusalem, where he takes a leading part in the musical life of the country. Krein is in Paris, and Achron went as far as California before he settled down.

Scattered all over the world, this band of Jewish composers can do little collectively. So far there is no international Jewish organisation devoted to the interests of music, and the Jewish composer has the full taste of galuth life.

Unbershrier

AN aged *shamas* was a witness in a court case.

"How old are you?" asked the Prosecuting Counsel.

"Sixty-eight till one hundred and twenty," replied the *shamas*.

On the answer being translated, the counsel was annoyed. The magistrate intervened.

"You must answer the question put to you," he said kindly. "How old are you?"

"Sixty-eight till one hundred and twenty," was the reply.

Then the magistrate became annoyed. A Jewish advocate, who happened to be in court, volunteered to be of assistance and the magistrate told him to go ahead. The advocate asked: "Till one hundred and twenty, how old are you?"

"Sixty-eight," replied the *shamas*.