

CURRENT COMMUNAL COMMENT

By "Hamabit"

A Film

I HEAR that the scenario of the film "Oom Paul" dealing with the life of the late President Kruger and written by the well-known South African historian, Dr. Gustav Preller, has been greatly praised by those who have read it. Among those who have praised the outline of the film story of the famous last President of the Transvaal Republic, is General Hertzog. The greatest care is being taken in the production of this outstanding South African film.

Apart from numbering many Jews amongst his friends throughout his lifetime, the late President Kruger always took a keen interest in the welfare of the Jewish people in the Transvaal. He was a great lover of the Old Testament, parts of which he read daily, and his liking for the Jews was associated with his love for the Bible.

I hear, too, that a character which will come to life in the "Oom Paul" film will be that of "Sammy" Marks who, as is well-known, was a close friend of the old President.

An Anomaly

WITH reference to my remarks last week about the Nazi decree regarding Jewish names, there is a feeling existing that these efforts to deprive Jews of German appellations will not quite succeed. An American Jewish writer pointed out recently that whilst according to the latest Nazi decree no newly born Jew will be permitted to bear a German name, more than half of the world's Jewish population bear German surnames!

If one goes through the register of a Hebrew congregation anywhere in the world, one finds that by far the largest number of names are German in origin. First come the "Botanical" names: Rosenfeld, Rosenbaum, Rosen, Weizmann, Apfelbaum, Grunbaum, Greenberg, Kirschenbaum, Rotbaum, Blum, Blumenthal and Lillienthal. Then come the "Mineralogical" names: Goldstein, Greenstein, Kopferberg, Bronzstein, Goldman, Silberman, Silberstein, Blaustein, Zinkman and Stahlman. After that one has the full assortment of colours in the German language: Schwarz, Blau, Weiss, Gelb, Green, Braun. German towns are also well represented. Berlin is the name of a famous Rabbi. Berlinski, Berliner are quite common. Hamburger, Hamburg, (a Jewish musician), Leiptziger, Frankfurter, Danziger, Halberstadt and, worst of all, Deutschlander, are fairly common Jewish names.

What are the Hitlerites going to do about it? Surely, there is enough "desecration" in every Jewish register to rob Nazis of their sleep for the rest of their lives!

A New Salzburg

TOSCANINI is probably the only outstanding personality in Europe who has won the day against a dictator. Side by side with the recent announcement of Hitler's triumph in Czechoslovakia the newspapers contained a short cable to the effect that the great virtuoso had received his passport from the Italian Government after all and would thus be able to proceed to the United States.

This announcement is of great significance. During the last few months there have been rumours regarding the establishment of a "new Salzburg" in the United States. Since the Nazis occupied Austria it has become increasingly evident that Salzburg, where the great music festivals have been held for so many years, would now no longer be able to claim the attention of the musical world and that without Bruno Walter, Arturo Toscanini and many other leading musicians it was bound to lose its power of attraction. Various suggestions have been made amongst leading musicians "to establish Salzburg" elsewhere. Yasha Heifetz has a scheme for setting up the "new Salzburg" in Arizona or New Mexico — he considers the climate of the South West of America ideal for open air performances. There are also several other schemes in which England, Belgium, Sweden and also Palestine are considered as the new musical centre. These schemes, however, could be put into effect, only after consultation with Toscanini, the doyen of the musical world.

Since most of the world's leading musicians and conductors are now in America it was essential for Toscanini to be there. The Italian Government were aware of this, as were also the German authorities, and it is alleged that it was a result of the latter's wire-pulling with Mussolini that the attempt was made to confine Toscanini to his homeland.

Was It . . . ?

THE JEW and the German had known each other for many years and were closely connected in business. The friendship had survived several years of the Nazi regime. The fact that the German's son became a prominent Nazi leader in the town had but little affected the connections between the two. One day, however, the German had had a few drinks and made some derogatory remarks about the Jews. As a result the Jew began to avoid his friend's company.

The German felt hurt, and one day he appeared before his old Jewish friend and apologised. He had no animosity, he said, towards the Jews. How could he hate them if his own late and beloved wife, the mother of his son, was of Jewish descent?

Some time later the German appeared again, and brought a little parcel.

"I have a present for you," he said. "I am going to marry again, and I cannot possibly show this heirloom to my new wife. She is a Nazi."

He then held out the parcel, which contained an ancient *machzor*. On the back of the cover was written a number of family dates, including the birthday of Rudolf, his Nazi son. Soon afterwards the father died of a heart attack.

At that time the Jew's daughter became engaged to a young student, who was in great fear of Nazi persecution. One night storm-troopers arrested the son-in-law and were about to send him to a concentration camp, whereupon the Jew photographed the inscriptions of the *Machzor*, went to the Nazi leader and confronted him with the text.

The young student was released without delay, and the family was given every facility to leave Germany. They are now in Palestine, where they told the story to a correspondent of the *Davar*.

Was it blackmail?

Lest We Forget!

I RATHER like the idea of the opening of a special memorial book in Jerusalem for the Jews of Germany. The Sepher Zicharon will commemorate the names of Jewish communities which have gone out of existence since the new regime in Germany. It will also record the names of Jewish institutions and prominent personalities in the Reich.

I hear that the idea has met with enthusiasm from all sections of our co-religionists in Germany. The income from the inscriptions will be devoted to the establishment of a Tel-Zichron—a settlement of remembrance. Through the means of this scheme Jews from Germany residing in all countries will be able to commemorate the communities and institutions to which they belonged. This, I am sure, will prove the best monument to the slowly decreasing Jewish communities in Germany.

No Film-Fan

IT is well-known that the Reform Synagogue in America is called the Temple. There is a story told of a Jewish parent who was entering the name of his child in the Talmud Torah School of a certain congregation in an American city.

"And what is the child's name?" asked the minister.

"Shirley," replied the mother.

"Shirley?"

"Yes, sir. After the famous Shirley Temple."

"Yes, yes, of course," said the minister. "Let me see, who is the preacher there now?"

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