

GEORGE LANSBURY— Jewry Loses a Friend

Among the thousands—friends, comrades and admirers—who are this week mourning the death of George Lansbury, the Jewish people can be counted in no small numbers.

LANSBURY, a lover of humanity, an ardent champion of the cause of freedom, a man whose whole being revolted against injustice and persecution, was consistently a friend of the Jews. In the East End of London, where he was born and lived throughout his life, he was a person deeply loved by the large Jewish population in the area.

Speaking at a function held some years ago in his honour by the Achei Emeth Brethren of Truth Friendly Society, he said, after referring to his close association with the Jews in Whitechapel:

"I have stood in synagogue and witnessed the wedding ceremony, I have witnessed the ceremony of circumcision and the ceremony of burial, and always I have gone away with the feeling somehow that I was part of it, although I am only a Gentile."

About two years ago Mr. Lansbury became chairman of

the Polish Relief Fund in London, an organisation which has helped numerous Polish-Jewish refugees, particularly those who were expelled from Germany.

Although not actively associated with the Zionist movement, Mr. Lansbury nevertheless had deep sympathies with the cause. During the debate in the House of Commons last year on the Palestine White Paper, he was among those who most vigorously condemned this document. He spoke with deep feeling of "the miracles that have been achieved by the Jews," and he made an urgent appeal to the Government, in dealing with the question of illegal immigration into Palestine, to "understand that it is dealing with abnormal circumstances." Then, expressing what was perhaps the credo of his life, he said: "I should like him (the Colonial Secretary) to realise that there is something higher than the law of man, and that is the law of humanity, which some people call the law of God."

The Jewish people can ill afford the loss of a friend like George Lansbury—a friend who felt their suffering as his own, and who shared with them in spirit their triumphs and their trials.

A Tschaikowsky Anniversary Concert

To mark the centenary of the birth of Peter Tschaikowsky, the famous Russian composer, a symphony concert was held at the Johannesburg City Hall on Tuesday evening.

Mr. Theo. Wendt conducted the Broadcasting Orchestra in a well-chosen programme of the works of the great composer. This consisted of the playing of his Symphony No. 5 in E. Minor, the Piano Concerto in B. Flat Minor, and the "Casse-Noisette" Suite. The works were given fine and vigorous interpretations by an orchestra of experienced players under the baton of a capable and eminent conductor.

Arthur Alexander, the well-known English pianist, was the soloist in the Piano Concerto, and he gave a fine performance of the work.

An interesting aspect of the concert was an attendance of two thousand people—surely an indication of the popularity of the great composer and, perhaps, too, an appreciation on the part of the public of the fine work of the Broadcasting Orchestra players.

A Bowling Green for Balfour Park

MR. NORMAN LOURIE presided at an informal luncheon given in the cocktail room of the 20th Century Theatre on Friday, the 3rd inst., at which the question of inaugurating a bowling section at Balfour Park was discussed.

Representatives of the various bowling clubs in Johannesburg were present. Mr. Lourie announced that the intention was to establish three bowling greens at Balfour Park. The work had already been begun on the first bowling green and this would take a year before completion.

The idea was to secure one hundred people interested in bowling, who would pay a membership fee of £5 5s. per year. Mr. Lourie added that the site at Balfour Park was ideal for the erection of bowling greens.

Mr. Ferguson, on behalf of the Transvaal Bowling Association, said that all the various bowling clubs of the Transvaal wished the new project every success. A felicitous speech was also delivered by Mr. Sampson, the well-known bowling authority.

Mr. Lourie announced that Dr. Liebman had been appointed convener of the bowling section. He pointed out that whilst Balfour Park had Jewish members, it welcomed equally non-Jewish members. The idea was to create in Balfour Park fine athletic and sporting facilities for all who were sufficiently interested to make use of these.

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BRITISH FOREIGN AFFAIRS EXPERT IN JOHANNESBURG

Civic Luncheon Given to Sir John Wardlaw-Milne

A large and representative gathering of leading citizens was present at a Civic Luncheon given on Thursday to Sir John Wardlaw-Milne, K.B.E., M.P., Chairman of the House of Commons Select Committee on War Expenditure, and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Group of Conservative members.

The distinguished guest was welcomed by the Mayor, Mr. T. A. M. Huddle, who referred to Sir John's eminent services to the Empire.

In a striking and brilliant address, Sir John Wardlaw-Milne declared there was no difference among the various political parties in Great Britain as to ultimate war aims.

"Our object in this war," said Sir John, "is the complete elimination of the menace to civilisation demonstrated by the present Hitler regime." (Cheers).

Sir John went on to say that in Great Britain it was not thought that the war would be short. The British Empire had two million men under arms and there were also hundreds of thousands of women who were doing war work and releasing men from important posts. Both the British Army and the German Army were still new, but France had undoubtedly the finest army of all the combatants. The war would not only be won on battle fronts; it had to be won with machines, fuel supply and economics.

"Slowly but surely we are closing in on the enemy and we shall bring him to his knees," declared Sir John. "We are fighting for right against wrong. There is no sacrifice too great for us to meet, and I am convinced that we shall ultimately win out."

The address of Sir John Wardlaw-Milne was received with great enthusiasm and made a deep impression upon the large gathering.

A Children's Fete This Sunday

The children's fete, which was to have been held last Sunday under the auspices of the Houghton Branch of the Women's Zionist League, had unfortunately to be postponed on account of the inclemency of the weather. It will, therefore, take place this Sunday, May 12th, at 2 p.m., at the same venue—the residence of Mrs. H. L. Zinn, 9, 5th Avenue, Lower Houghton.

There will be many attractions during the afternoon, including a fancy-dress competition, merry-go-round, cinema shows, lucky dips, a ventriloquist, a clown and races. Valuable prizes will be given for the best-dressed boy and girl in the fancy-dress competition which will be divided into two sections—for children under six, and for children from six to twelve years of age. A prize will also be awarded to the child, irrespective of its age, who wears the best national costume.

Entertainment will also be provided for the adults, as clock-golf and tennis are being arranged for them.

"THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK"

Attraction at the 20th Century Theatre

A great adventure romance, entitled "The Man in the Iron Mask," is the attraction at the 20th Century Theatre from Wednesday, May 15th. Edward Small, the man who produced "The Count of Monte Cristo," has produced an even greater romance in this film. Lovely Joan Bennett and handsome Louis Hayward are romantically teamed for the first time in the tense and thrilling story. This United Artists picture is directed by James Whale and features a cast of top-notch players.

The story of "The Man in the Iron Mask" is based on the novel by Alexander Dumas and dramatises the enmity and hatred between King Louis XIV of France and his twin brother Philippe. The film brings back to the screen the swashbuckling, fearless Musketeers and introduces many scenes of fencing and swordplay. Portraying the Musketeers are Warren Williams, Alan Hales, and Miles Stander, while Louis' crafty minister is portrayed by Joseph Schildkraut. Miss Bennett, still a beautiful brunette, plays the role of Maria Theresa of Spain, who is engaged to marry the arrogant Louis.

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