

THE GRAND OLD MAN OF THE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND.

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heard in the chambers of a high international tribunal.

Again he proceeded to Palestine, this time as the Chairman of the Zionist Commission. Ussishkin then began what was destined to become the most constructive period of his life. He soon came into clash with the first British Administrators of Palestine. He discovered the discrepancy between promises given in London and the reluctance exhibited in the actual execution of the policy which was to be put into operation for the establishment of the Jewish National Home in Palestine under the Mandate. He naturally fell into disfavour with the British officials to whom his outspokenness and direct manner were not all too pleasing.

Redeeming the Land.

Shortly after the World Zionist Congress of 1920 in London when he was elected a member of the Zionist Executive and Chairman of the Jewish National Fund, he saw an opportunity for redeeming a considerable stretch of land. The transaction involved a considerable sum which was not at hand. It was a risky enterprise from the point of view of a conservative business man. Other Zionist leaders counselled caution. It was claimed that it would be impossible to drain the swamps and the prices asked were exorbitant, and apart from that, it would not be practical to undertake the obligation to pay such a large sum in five years. It might not be possible to raise so much money, and in that case, the deposits would have to be forfeited. He disregarded all these arguments. "The swamps are ours," he said, "and if we will not drain them, who will? For Jewish national land there is no price too high." The Jewish people would not fail in the emergency, he declared. He could not wait. He plunged. This plunge brought into national Jewish possession the Emek, the valley of Jezreel, which has since become the fortress and the pride of the Yishuv.

The same daring and progressive determination characterised his subsequent policy and in the twenty years that have since passed, he has seen tremendous strides in the work of the fund which is his very life. He has seen the J.N.F. landholdings leap forward from a few thousand dunams until well over half a million. As contrasted with the grim struggle of the early days to found settlements on nationally owned land, to-day he can proudly claim that over 180 agricultural settlements, besides workers' quarters and industrial buildings, are situated on J.N.F. property. More than 65,000 Jews—the agricultural backbone of the economy of Eretz Israel—are settled on the land which he has so assiduously chosen and whose purchase he has so courageously inspired.

He has been conspicuous in all phases of national activity, standing head and shoulders above all other leaders of the Yishuv and by sheer force of his dynamic genius sets a remarkably high standard of Zionist service. Despite his advanced years, he is still at his desk at seven in the morning and devotes the same minute scrutiny to the slightest routine business

as he does to negotiations concerning the transfer of large tracts of land.

Still at the Helm.

It was Ussishkin who led the opposition to Partition and who with his usual unswerving single-mindedness and hatred of compromise scornfully rejected any suggestion of half measures. And to-day, when the fate of Palestine is inextricably bound up with the fortunes of war, he still stands at the helm guiding the ship of state along the course which he knows alone leads to the desired goal.

It was a source of great and bitter disappointment to him that he was unable to carry out his original intention of coming out to South Africa two years ago to inaugurate the J.N.F. Campaign. His health and the increasing responsibilities of the hour have kept him tied to his desk at Jerusalem. But during these fateful days, his thoughts are with South African Jewry. He knows their responsibility as one of the few remaining free Jewish communities. He knows, too, that the J.N.F. has valuable options and that other large tracts of land can be purchased—in all to the tune of several millions. To what extent Ussishkin's present dreams can become realities depends upon the answer that South African Jewry will give.

Niedzielski's Second Concert.

VARIED PROGRAMME.

On Tuesday night Niedzielski, the eminent Polish pianist, gave his second recital in Cape Town. The large audience once again thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated an excellent performance.

The programme on this occasion was more varied than on the first which was devoted entirely to Chopin. Tuesday night's programme included both romantic works, such as Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata, and essentially modern music exemplified in two Spanish Dances by Joaquin Nin and in the bizarre Ritual Fire Dance by Manuel de Falla.

An excellent selection included also Schumann's Phantasiestucke, op. 12, and four short pieces by Chopin.

Two encores—Schubert's March Militaire and Chopin's "Black Key" Study—concluded a delightful evening.

S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies.

(Cape Committee).

The Offices of the Cape Committee of the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies will be removed to

SECURITY BUILDINGS,
ROOM 13-18, 4th FLOOR,

as from 15th August.

"Unto you have I given the land to possess it."—(Numbers 33.53).

Forthcoming Events.

BNOth ZION ASSOCIATION.

Members of the Gardens Branch are kindly requested to attend the Cultural Circle now known under the name of the Charlaft Cultural Circle, at the Zionist Hall on Thursday, 7th August, at 3 p.m. sharp. Rabbi Dr. E. W. Kirzner will address the gathering.

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A meeting of the Sea Point Branch will be held at the residence of Mrs. Mary Segal, 6 Avenue Disandt, Sea Point, on Thursday, 7th August, at 3 p.m. Miss Lily Guinsberg will read a paper on "The Story of Ruth." Miss Hilzenrath will present two sketches. An interesting and enjoyable afternoon is assured.

SCOPUS CLUB.

The Scopus Club is holding a luncheon at the Del Monico, Cape Town, on Wednesday, 6th August, at 12.45 p.m., at which the guest speaker will be Rev. P. H. Sitters, of the Yugoslav Y.M.C.A., who will relate his experiences during the Nazi blitz on Belgrade. All wishing to attend this luncheon must telephone the Secretary, Mr. Harry A. Cohen, 3-1326, before the 2nd August.

C.T. SEWING CIRCLE FOR WAR RELIEF.

The next meeting will take place at the residence of Mrs. H. Grodzinski, 5 Gilmour Hill Road, on Tuesday, August 5th, at 2.30 p.m. All welcome.

Early Morning Market for the J.N.F.

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.

Under the auspices of the Bnoth Zion Association, an Early Morning Market for the J.N.F. will be held at the Zionist Hall on Thursday, September 18th, a few days before the High Festivals.

Already representatives of all the Branch Committees have met and discussed preliminary arrangements. There will be stalls of all kinds to provide the housewife with all the provisions required for Yomtov—cakes, biscuits, home-made delicacies, poultry, fish, flowers, fruit, etc. Transport facilities will be arranged and everything possible done to ensure the success of the effort. Further particulars will be announced later.

THANKS.

NEWMAN.—Mrs. Nathan Newman and family wish to thank relatives and friends for their kind messages of sympathy, telegrams and letters in their recent sad bereavement. Also special thanks to the Green and Sea Point Hebrew Congregation.

JEWISH YOUNG WOMEN'S RESIDENCE.

"Astra," Breda Street, Cape Town.

This hostel is within walking distance from town, and has large gardens, tennis court, and comfortable airy rooms. There are a few vacancies now available. Terms moderate.

For details apply:

SECRETARY, P.O. Box 2796.

or to:

LADY PRINCIPAL, Phone 2-1801.