

"With the Springboks in Eretz Israel."

CAPT. W. YESORSKY AT ZIONIST CONVERSAZIONE.

There was a large attendance at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday night when Capt. the Rev. W. Yesorsky addressed the Zionist Conversazione on "With the Springboks in Eretz Israel."

Mr. J. O. Markovitz was in the chair and paid a tribute to Capt. Yesorsky for the great services he had rendered to our men up North in his capacity as Chaplain.

Capt. Yesorsky said the first men to visit Palestine consisted of a small party led by Capt. Weinstein, and they were greatly impressed by what they saw. He himself and the other men did not go till much later, after they had spent months in the Libyan desert. They appreciated the achievements of Palestine all the more then by contrast. The Jewish Agency had made arrangements for both Jewish and non-Jewish men to get a comprehensive idea of the country. They came, they saw, and were conquered. Their hearts were so full that they couldn't express themselves in words; looking back on their experiences, however, they became more articulate and tried to give vent to their feelings.

One of the first things that impressed the men was the optimistic outlook of the people—they were soldiers who had been fighting a battle for years both inside and outside Palestine. The men felt an affinity of purpose, a cohesion of ideas with the Yishuv. In spite of setbacks and disappointments there was no sign of depression; the soldiers confessed that they felt ashamed—it took a great deal to stand up against a sea of trouble and still be so optimistic. Another thing that struck them was that the people of Palestine seemed to be in a hurry—they were engaged on a task they alone had to accomplish. The effect of this on the men coming from Egypt, where everything was slow and lethargic, was tremendous. They were impressed by the spirit of devotion towards culture and education. The children both in the towns and the settlements were given the best of training and both physically and mentally were a credit to the Yishuv and a source of pride to every Jew who saw them.

Travelling through the country and seeing how the desert had been pushed back and the sands transformed into gardens, the men appreciated to the full the tremendous efforts that had been necessary to make this possible. They had visited Kiryat Anavim, where they were told a geologist had said nothing could grow because of the rocky soil. The answer was a village with a small but thriving community cultivating beautiful grapes and other fruit. They had shown the geologist something he did not know—that nothing could stand in the face of the spirit. In Galilee, in the Emek, and right through the country the same thing was evident.

The visits to Palestine, said Capt. Yesorsky, had done much towards making the non-Jewish soldiers realise that the Jews were a creative people, and in this way much more was achieved than through any number of goodwill talks and pamphlets. Many came back with a different outlook on the Jewish question. They had seen for themselves, while all over the world cities were being turned into deserts and men into refugees, a place where deserts were being changed into cities and refugees into men and women. When the non-Jewish soldiers saw the contrast between the Arab villages in Palestine and the Jewish settlements, and how Jewish achievements benefited the Arabs as well, they began to realise how much credit was due to the Jews.

In spite of the shortage of commodities the soldiers were wonderfully entertained by the Yishuv; the hospitality they received was often embarrassing and overwhelming. Although they spent only a week in Palestine a lasting impression was created. The non-Jews were amazed at the number of forests

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The Palestine Orchestra.

The Hon. Secretary of the Cape Town branch of the Palestine Orchestra Society (South Africa) has received the following letter from Mr. S. B. Lewertoff, General Secretary of the Orchestra in Palestine:—

Dear Sir,

Two weeks ago the Palestine Orchestra came back from another concert tour in Egypt where it gave five public concerts and six concerts for the troops. This time, too, our audiences included many members of the South African Forces. Among the troop concerts was one in a military hospital where some five hundred wounded soldiers had the opportunity of enjoying our music. The last concert of the tour was given in aid of an Egyptian charity at which there was a large attendance of Egyptian notables—usually the greater part of the audience is European. The presence of the Egyptian Premier, Nahas Pasha, gave a special stamp to this concert.

The Orchestra is working very hard and at the time of writing is in Egypt on a special tour for the Department of National Service Entertainment (Naafi) in which most of the concerts will be given solely for men in uniform. But included are a number of concerts of Russian-English music in Cairo and Alexandria—a small tribute to the alliance. Ft./L. Crawford McNair is the chief conductor. But in spite of all the hard work the financial situation is still very difficult and, as you know, all our people are still on pre-war salaries with only a small cost of living allowance to help them try and make ends meet. Therefore we have to call on the special help of our friends abroad, and we should be most grateful to hear from you as to how the South African "drive" is going now that the committees for the Habimah and the Orchestra have amalgamated.

Yours very truly,

S. B. LEWERTOFF.

Tel-Aviv, 28th Feb., 1943.

Mr. Lewertoff has also sent a photostatic copy of a letter received from the A.D.C. to the C.-in-C., Gen. Sir H. M. Wilson, who was present at one of the concerts. The following is the text of the letter:—

General Headquarters,

Middle East Force, 28/2/43.

Dear Lewertoff,

I have been instructed by the C.-in-C., Gen. Sir H. M. Wilson, to write and thank you for the most excellent performance of the Palestine Orchestra which he attended on Saturday last. As you know, he has had long associations with the orchestra, and was present at the first concert that it gave to the troops in the Ebzekieh Theatre. It was then with added pleasure that he came to Saturday's concert and saw that the Orchestra was not only still going strong, but going from strength to strength. He wishes you every success in your present tour, and hopes that there will be many more like them to come.—Yours,

G. W. TALBOT,

A.D.C. to C.-in-C.

(Continued from First Column).

they saw and realised perhaps that one of the secrets of Palestine lay in the idea of the tree as the symbol of life. The Jews were imbued with the spirit to create in Palestine. There was so much of the country that could still be cultivated, so much desert and waste-land crying out to be inhabited. Yet thousands of Jews were homeless and denied the opportunity of going to Palestine and proving what they could do. Capt. Yesorsky said he had tried to impress upon the non-Jews the fact that the Jewish people were fighting a lone battle and had no allies; he had urged them to try and do their best to create better relations between the Jews and those not on their side and thus help to make Palestine a flourishing country not only for the benefit of the Jews but for the rest of the world as well.

Society of Jews and Christians.

GOODWILL SYMPOSIUM.

A Symposium on Goodwill in connection with Goodwill Week was held under the auspices of the Society of Jews and Christians Tuesday night, 18th instant, in the Metropolitan Hall.

Bishop S. W. Lavis, who was in the chair, asked whether goodwill was enough. He quoted General Smuts as having said that the love of one's fellow man and the love of God would prove to be the final solution to the present problem—the greatest problem of all, the ill-will which existed in the world to-day.

GOODWILL IN THE HOME.

The Dowager Lady de Villiers speaking on goodwill in the home, said that the home should be the source of goodwill in all aspects as evinced between strangers, members of the family, and their employers. Thoughtlessness often gave rise to expressions of ill-will. We should bring up our children to be gentlemen and gentlewomen, stressing the importance of the word gentle, not violent or ill-will to be tolerated. She stressed the importance of religion and the sanctity of the home. Lady de Villiers went on to say that the basis of goodwill was in the home and the guide thereto in the ten commandments.

GOODWILL IN SCIENCE.

Dr. H. S. Skaife dealing with goodwill in science, said that in his mind scientists actually the salt of the earth in so far as no scientist ever expressed an opinion without thorough examination nor was any scientist ever afraid to admit his ignorance of an aspect of the matter under discussion: it was often caused by ignorance. Dr. Skaife went on to show that science knew no boundaries of nationalism or rationalism, but the boundaries of demarcation had brought service to humanity. He quoted the cooperation between the Scotsman Lister and the Frenchman Pasteur, the German Jew and his assistant the Japanese Hanau as examples of international goodwill in science. He urged everybody to follow the example of scientists and only express their opinions after weighing a subject carefully, rejecting that which was untrue.

GOODWILL IN THE SCHOOL.

Miss T. Tyfield spoke on goodwill in the school and pointed out that education should do more to foster goodwill than anything in the world. The subject was vast and she could not deal with many of the lesser aspects of it; however, she felt sure that there would be many improvements in our educational system which would be to the advantage of the future generation. Education could be used in eradicating social ills; our educational system should turn out men and women cultivated, inquiring, liberal and human minds instead of stereotyped automatons. Schools should lay stress on studies which taught children to think independently and to analyse press, radio and film propaganda. The appreciation of art should be encouraged because art is a human possession and not the prerogative of any one race. Tolerance should be encouraged. Co-operative instead of competitive methods of education should be introduced, for had not war taught us that humanity must co-operate or perish. Teachers would have to bear the main burden of eradicating ill-will, and they, their training colleges and their university faculties would have to rise to the challenge.

GOODWILL IN BUSINESS.

Mr. A. R. Cohen dealt with the practical aspects of goodwill in business and showed how this might be achieved between buyer

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