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Fatricidal Strife.

Since Herzl first mooted the idea of a Jewish State, we have had, as every student of Zionism knows, opposition from many quarters and from many points of view. Not least among the opponents were those both within and without Jewish ranks who argued that a people that had not practised for 2,000 years the art of running a State were not capable of doing so now, even if its establishment were an easy matter.

To refute both the argument and the accuracy of the facts, Zionists pointed to the Kahal Administration during the Middle Ages—particularly in Poland, where Jews maintained their own *Sejm* ("council of the four provinces")—when we ran and administered our own affairs, economic, social and legal, with very little interference from the actual Government or rulers of the countries concerned. Thus, for instance, it rarely happened that a dispute between Jewish litigants was ever referred to any other court but the Rabbi's.

But that the Jews have both the aptitude and the energy to construct and administer their communal life is amply shown by the development of institutions in Palestine. Its school system, farmers' co-operatives, commercial and industrial organisations, the Histadruth, hospitals, etc., and above all, the Vaad Leumi and the Jewish Agency itself, have demonstrated the capability of the Jewish people to govern themselves. A perusal of all the reports that various commissions have produced makes it clear that this ability has strongly influenced investigators on these commissions in their verdict that a Jewish State should be established, even if in only one part of Palestine.

DISQUIETING NEWS.

The news that has been reaching us both from Palestine and from some of the camps in Central Europe, whose inmates will be the first candidates for citizenship in the future Jewish State, is therefore all the more disquieting. Attacks of a serious nature have been launched by Jews against Jews because of political and ideological differences. We refer to the clashes between Haganah and Irgun in Palestine and their respective sympathisers in Central Europe. These clashes have already led to the actual shedding of blood, and the latest tragic report is of the killing of Eitan Avidov, a resident of Nahalal and a second generation of the 2nd Aliyah, who was an emissary of the Yishuv in the camps of Austria and who was shot dead by members of Betar.

The reports of these incidents differ according to their source. It is difficult for us, far from the centres of disturbance, to apportion the blame. But what is clear is that while Haganah, from what we know, has wholly submitted itself to the discipline of those who are lawfully elected representatives of the Jewish people, Irgun—in the words of A. Abrahams, a leader of World Revisionism and the theoretician of the party—are composed of forces "which do not accept the authority of the Zionist Organisation, attend no conferences and bow to no dictates issued from Zionist tribunes."

We are not here attempting to analyse the approach of the Irgunites to the Jewish problem. We have in the past on more than one occasion expressed our conviction that the means employed by them, so far from aiding in the achievements of the Zionist goal, are in fact harming the whole cause, besides being diametrically opposed to the very essence of the Jewish spirit. But this attitude of freedom from authority and consequently the internal strife it brings with it, can only do ill-service to the Jewish people, particularly at this juncture, when the fate of Palestine is being decided at Lake Success. There are sufficient obstacles and adversaries to overcome, even if we use our united strength. It is for this reason that all groups of Jewry in the United States and Great Britain (including the Agudat Israel) have sunk their differences and are sustaining our negotiators in their efforts and endeavours before the United Nations to secure a Jewish State.

JEOPARDISING THE ISSUE.

It is all the more tragic, therefore, that just the Irgunites and their adherents, who have arrogated to themselves the claim that they are the only true heirs of Herzl's conception of a Jewish State, should by their dissidence and violence jeopardise the whole issue. Law and order is the first essential of Statehood and the basis of good government, and by creating disorder and indulging in fratricidal strife, a weapon is placed in the hands of those who seek to obstruct the fulfilment of our ideal. They can bring the accusation that a people who cannot solve their problems peacefully are neither worthy nor capable of Statehood.

Every Jewish community should issue a strong call for a cessation of this internecine strife, for an end to this clash of brother against brother and extortion by threat. Unconfirmed reports have reached us that the Vaad Leumi has succeeded in temporarily settling the disturbances. Let us hope that these reports are true and that they mark the beginning of a realisation by all Jews in Palestine that only by submission to and acceptance of the authority of those we have set in government over us, will we attain nationhood.

According to our sages the second Temple was destroyed mainly because of dissension from within. Let us beware that dissension does not prevent the establishment of the third Jewish Commonwealth.

(Continued from Fourth Column.)

national habitat. An expedition consisting of an Englishman, an American, a Frenchman a German and a Jew set off to darkest Africa. They were away for six months and on their return to civilisation each wrote a work on the results of his observations. The Englishman wrote a short

book called "The Elephant," the American wrote a book entitled "Better and Bigger Elephants," the Frenchman wrote a work called "The Love-life of the Elephant," the German wrote "An Introduction to the Psychology of the Elephant in Seven Volumes," the Jew produced a pamphlet entitled "The Elephant and the Jewish Problem."

From my Desk

... By ...

HASOFER



"Totzeret Ha-Aretz."

The outstanding local event of the past week was most undoubtedly the official opening of the New Herzlia Hostel. The actual opening ceremony was performed by Mr. Jacob Gitlin and I believe that this is the first occasion that this ubiquitous and energetic stalwart has filled the role of "Keeper of the Keys." Among the numerous interested spectators I saw Mr. Zvi Heller, one of the Board of Education's "latest importations." Mr. Heller has arrived in South Africa with his wife and only child, who is incidentally the fourth generation of both sides of his family to be born in Eretz Israel. Mr. Heller, in conversation, remarked on the fact that some of our South African youth knew as much if not more than members of the same age group in Palestine as to the trend of current events in the Yishuv.

Hot Stuff.

Wiping his forehead, Mr. Heller said that whilst the day was hot, he had noticed as many variations in South African climatic conditions as in Palestine. The heat was almost comparable with that of Tiberias. I asked him about the Hot Springs of Tiberias and he reminded me of the fact the great Judah Hanassi conducted one of his three academies in Tiberias. Whenever he came there from any of the other two cities it was for a two-fold purpose, firstly to conduct his classes and secondly to "take the Waters." This he did at least twice annually. To-day there are to be found Roman Baths as well as swimming baths. The water is so hot when it emerges from the springs that some time must be allowed to elapse before one can bathe in it. Mr. Heller told me of actual miracles of healing which he had himself witnessed and which testified to the exceptional healing qualities of the water. Perhaps now that a well known watering place in the Western Province is temporarily unavailable some intending visitors to that place might consider making use of the air service to Eretz Israel and spend their fortnight's leave at Tiberias.

Canaan.

I learn that Mr. I. Berlinski, who is to be the guest conductor of the Municipal Orchestra on Thursday night 27th November, is to conduct one of his own works on that night. It is called "Canaan" and is based on the 21st chapter of Genesis which readers will no doubt recollect is the portion of the Torah read on the first day of Rosh Hashonah. It will be recalled that it deals with the story of Sarah's attitude towards Hagar and her son and the "casting out of the bond-woman." Embodied in the work is, I understand, the motif of the modern Palestinian song, "Yesh lanu Eretz."

"Cast Thy Bread."

There is in Cape Town to-day a gentleman who has been able to repay in some measure a kindness shown him in 1938. It will be remembered that after the Grynspan episode a renewed "Jewish purge" took place in Nazi Germany. In a certain town notified a Jewish Friend that in an hour's time he would be "collected."

This timeous warning enabled our co-religionist to escape with his life. Recently that police official was arrested in the American zone of Germany for his alleged share in the work of the Nazis and managed to locate his erstwhile friend informing him of his plight and soliciting his aid. An affidavit was accordingly lodged with the local American Consul and as result of the testimony of the German official received his reward for his having befriended the Jew by being released.

"Good Friendship."

There is a very succinct Talmudic statement "The book — it is good friend." There are numerous other sayings of the sages which praise the value of books all of which are equally apt. The National Jewish Welfare Board of America is currently holding a "Book Month." The object of "Book Month" is, I gather, to engender a greater interest in books of Jewish interest. I recall that some 20 years ago there was an exhibition of Jewish Literature in Cape Town held in the Old Synagogue. If I remember rightly it was sponsored by the now defunct Maccabean Society. I think the time is now opportune to arrange for another such exhibition to encourage people to renew their friendship with Jewish books. It was Moses Ibn Ezra who said: "A book is the most delightful companion. If you crave entertainment, its witty sayings will amuse you; if you wish for counsel, its prudent words will gladden you."

"A Question!"

Last week I described a hitherto unreported incident which occurred during the Session of the Palestine Committee's meetings at Lake Success. There is yet another which is worthy of repetition. Jamal Hussein tried to argue that the Ashkenazi Jews were descended from the Khazars and that the only true Jews were the Sephardim with whom the Arab League had no quarrel. Dr. Weizmann in the masterly retort demolished the silly argument by asking: "Mr. Chairman, is it expected that I should produce my birth certificate as proof positive of my Jewish origin?"

What's In A Name?

Mr. Lionel Phillips recently, as the result of a letter he had addressed to the local press, was the recipient of an anonymous communication. The writer, who was apparently too ashamed to disclose his own name queried Mr. Phillips' right as a Jew, to possess so typically a Welsh name. The question now crops up as to what names belong to any particular nationality. After all, "The Wizard of Wales," the late Lloyd George it should be remembered, possessed the first name of David. I should imagine that at least one half of the world's non-Jewish notabilities are the proud possessors of Biblical names.

Point Of View.

The story is told of an international scientific investigation into the mode of life of the elephant in its

(Continued from First Column.)