

# THE ZIONIST RECORD

THE ORGAN OF SOUTH AFRICAN JEWRY

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"Zionism aims to establish a publicly-assured, legally secured Home for the Jewish people in Palestine."—Basle Programme.

## South Africa's Aid to Hungarian Jewry

AS indicated last week in a report delivered by Eliezer Kaplan, on his return from Turkey, vast possibilities have now presented themselves for the saving of Hungarian Jewry. His report has now been implemented by a cable from Dr. Schwartz, of the Joint Distribution Committee, which was read at Monday's meeting of the National Council of the South African Jewish War Appeal. It referred to the possibility of rescuing 8,700 families, comprising about 40,000 souls, who are to be transported to Palestine under the supervision of the International Red Cross. It is unnecessary to emphasise that if the scheme materialises it will constitute the greatest single rescue effort undertaken so far, and will offer further great possibilities for the transportation of ever-growing numbers of Jews to Palestine. The new effort will involve great financial responsibility on the part of Jewish relief organisations abroad, and it is gratifying to note that South African Jewry, through the Jewish War Appeal, has undertaken a liberal share of the costs or transportation.

In several other directions, it was disclosed at the meeting of the War Appeal Council, aid is already being rendered to refugees and war victims. An important departure by the War Appeal is the decision to support certain categories of refugees who had already reached Palestine. Hitherto, all relief activity ended at the gates of Palestine, when it became the responsibility of the Yishuv. For some time past, it was, however, felt this burden could no longer be borne solely by the Yishuv and should be shared by Jewish communities abroad. The large influx of immigrants to Palestine during recent years included numerous people who, for various reasons, are of an unemployable type. There are invalids, aged and ailing; there are hundreds of Rabbis who cannot find posts and are unable to take up any other employment. Palestine has rightly opened its gates to all of them. Yet it is not the purpose of the Keren Hayesod to offer charity. The Keren Hayesod is a constructive fund, intended for the upbuilding of economic institutions. Purely philanthropic work will have to be undertaken by all Jewish relief organisations, among whom the Yishuv will play a big part. The Jewish War Appeal has decided to participate in this work, and this decision will no doubt be backed by every contributor in South Africa.

Above all, it is a source of gratification to all of us that opportunities to render aid for which we have been praying ever since the beginning of the war, are now presenting themselves in several different fields. The War Appeal is entering upon a more ambitious campaign, and must receive the support of every Jew in this country. The call is urgent, and the need is great. South African Jewry will, we have no doubt, rally to the great humanitarian cause of aiding their brethren who have suffered so much during the present war.

## Yishuv's Assembly

ELSEWHERE in this issue we publish a special article discussing the implications of the elections to the Assephat Hanivcharim held in Palestine last week. The elections were marred by a number of disturbing features, chief of which is the large number of parties. They were conducted in a spirit of bitterness and in an atmosphere of party recriminations. Normally, elections to the Yishuv's National Assembly might be regarded as a matter of purely domestic concern to the Jewish population of Palestine. But after all that has happened in Jewish life since the last Assephat was convened, Palestine has become more than ever before the heart and soul of modern Jewry.

All that is happening there reverberates in every Jewish community and is followed with the utmost interest. The consolidation of the Yishuv's internal life, and its development in a spirit of dignity and national service, is of the greatest concern to every Jew throughout the world. Jewry takes particular pride in the fact that the outgoing Assephat Hanivcharim and its executive body, the Vaad Leumi, were the first to rouse the conscience of the world, in connection with the plight of European Jewry. We are gratified that healing has come from Zion, and that the Vaad Leumi, together with the Jewish Agency, has done such excellent work in connection with Jewish Rescue. Through the Rescue Committee which organised the recent transports, the Vaad Leumi has not only set an example to Jewish communities abroad, but has shown that the small Yishuv could do more than mighty Empires.

We were therefore gravely perturbed by the recent divisions and cleavages which are liable to undermine the very foundations of Jewish national organisation. It is not for us at this end to decide whether proportional elections, allowing for multiplicity of parties, is the most perfect system for the election of the Yishuv's representations. Such matters must and will be settled by the Jews of Palestine. But in our anxiety for the prestige of our major national institution in Palestine we venture to hope that every effort will be made to eliminate the various factors which have given rise to a boycott of the Assembly by certain sections of

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the Yishuv; that within the Assembly itself there will be an alignment of constructive forces which will lead to a conciliatory approach, and wise counsel and constructive effort.

In the past, the Yishuv has not failed us. In its spiritual, social, cultural and economic development, it has set an example to the whole world. This same high record of achievement must now be maintained in the sphere of communal organisation.

## Services and Chazanuth

IN an erudite description of the part played by Chazanuth in Jewish life a correspondent in our Readers' column last week placed a minor controversy in its proper perspective. He has adequately answered the allegation made at a congregational meeting in Johannesburg recently that "services can be ostentatious."

The orthodox service is generally distinguished by its simplicity, and many of the solemn ceremonials such as the opening of the ark, the procession with the lulav, the prayers rendered by a good chazan, leave an indelible impression on all those who understand and appreciate the true spirit of traditional Judaism. In these days, in particular, when so many of our houses of prayer in Europe have been reduced to ashes, it is essential that we make every effort to preserve those institutions in and around the synagogue which have helped to make it the most vital force in Jewish life.

Chazanuth may not be "as old as the Jewish people," but it is certainly an ancient and time-honoured institution, and has helped to enhance the beauty of our ritual for many generations past. The compositions rendered by our cantors are mostly the work of great and pious men who knew the soul of the Jew and appreciated the true spirit of Jewish liturgy. To describe them as "operatic singing" is to display an ignorance both of music and of Jewish liturgy. If, as has been suggested, the decorum during certain services is not as good as it should be, the fault lies not with the Services but with those few people who misbehave at the Services. The majority of worshippers come to synagogue for the purpose of devotion; they delight in listening to a renowned Chazan because his moving musical interpretation of the Service is a great source of religious inspiration. Johannesburg is indeed fortunate in being served by several excellent cantors of whose reputation our community may well be proud. They are public spirited men, who in addition to the normal congregational duties, have made an important contribution to the cultural activities of the community, and have helped every good national cause. Their work is greatly appreciated by the bulk of the community, particularly when it is realised that they maintain with dignity, one of the noblest traditions of our Synagogue.

## NAHAS PASHA'S NEW PROTEST

CAIRO, Thursday. — In the Egyptian Senate yesterday, the Prime Minister, Nahas Pasha, read the texts of strong protests sent in the name of the Wafd Party to the British Labour Party Executive and the American Democratic and Republican Conventions, in connection with their proposals on Palestine.

Referring to the suggestion of the British Labour Party Executive, that a portion of the Arab population in Palestine might be transferred to neighbouring Arab countries, the statement points out that this is the first time that there has been publication of an intention to chase the Arabs out of Palestine.

"Such a settlement," the statement says, "if realised, or even adopted in principle, will arouse the anger of the entire Arab world against the Jews, and will lead to their complete loss of faith in the idea of justice."

The protest insists that only a few Jews could be established in Palestine, and says that this is possible without applying an anti-Arab policy. It adds that Jews could be sent to other countries.

The protest to the American parties was couched in similar terms and urged the abandonment of their schemes which, it says, are "contrary to the interests of justice, politics, peace and the Jews themselves."

(From Our Own Correspondent)

GENEVA, Monday.—It is learned here that among the Jews interned in a concentration camp in Hungary are Baron Andreas Hatvany and his family.

## Ministry of Information Officially Conducts Anti-Zionist Propaganda

TEL AVIV (by Air Mail).—Taking exception to a statement that the Yishuv of Palestine is anti-Zionist in spirit, the Sons of the Yishuv Association (an organisation consisting of the sons and daughters of pre-1914 Palestinian Jews) has cabled the Colonial Secretary protesting against a speech made in Montreal by Miss Freya Stark, member of the Middle East staff of the Ministry of Information.

The British Minister of Information, Mr. Brendan Bracken, recently said in the House of Commons that Miss Stark was being paid her salary and expenses while touring Canada and the United States to tell of the war effort of the Middle Eastern peoples. It is alleged in Palestine that she has taken the opportunity to conduct anti-Zionist propaganda. Her reference to the Old Yishuv, though every member of the Jewish community resident in Palestine before the last World War was active, opposed to, or out of sympathy with Zionism, has been particularly resented.

## Arab Conference in September

CAIRO, Wednesday.—The preliminary Arab conference is now officially scheduled to take place in Alexandria on September 25.

It has been announced that Yemen has agreed to participate in the talks and that Iraq will be represented by Nuri Said.

The names of the Palestinian delegates are as yet unknown. There seems to be serious disagreement among the various parties as to the names of the Palestinian Arabs to represent the representatives.