

Mr. Jack Gering on a Visit to Johannesburg

AN interesting visitor to South Africa is Mr. Jack Gering, of Tel Aviv. Educated at the Witwatersrand University, where he obtained the degrees of B.A. and LL.B., he practised at the Bar and Side Bar in Johannesburg for some years. In 1932 he left for Europe, and two years later settled in Palestine where he became one of the leading figures in the industrial and commercial life of the Yishuv. He is manager of the Africa-Palestine Investment Company, and is connected with a number of other South African enterprises, such as the Binyan, the Palestine Cold Storage, the Tiberias Hot Springs and various subsidiary organisations. At present he is in Johannesburg in connection with the establishment of a Palestine Industrial and Utility Development Corporation.



In an interview with a representative of the "Zionist Record" he gave some details of the proposed new enterprise. He said that it was generally felt that there are great possibilities for private enterprise in the economic activities of the country. Experts, economists and financiers from various parts of the world realise the great prospects which the country offers for investment. Americans have been showing great interest in the economic affairs of Palestine as is evident from the Government Economic Report issued recently.

As regards South Africa there are great prospects for the strengthening of economic and commercial ties with Palestine. All over the world there is a tendency to establish large-scale economic organisations for various post-war schemes, and South Africa would well help in this respect by starting immediately on an ambitious scale.

Asked in what way the new venture would differ from existing South African enterprises, Mr. Gering said that the existing companies have a limited object and a definite aim. (The Binyan, for example, was mainly devoted to building activity). The new enterprise would be on a wider scale. It would facilitate, promote, guide and assist in the establishment, operation and financing of new industries and commercial undertakings as well as public utilities. It would also facilitate the expansion and modernisation of existing industries and would undertake schemes for the provision of water and the erection of houses in various parts of the country. It would also collaborate with existing authorities such as the Government or the Jewish Agency, in the execution of various economic projects.

Readjustment

The whole scheme, he continued, is a purely business venture. There is no doubt, however, that it will directly and indirectly contribute to the advancement of the Yishuv, and from that point of view it has the blessing of the Jewish Agency. It is expected that similar enterprises will be undertaken by British and American Jews. It must be borne in mind that the country will require a readjustment to post-war conditions and imaginative handling of its employment market, so as to provide work and homes for the masses of thousands of men and women who are on active service, for those employed in war industries, and for the newly-arrived Jewish enterprise has a great part to play in this direction.

Speaking of the present economic situation in Palestine, Mr. Gering stated that while cost of living continues to be high, there were already signs of improvement, and as far as transport is available there is no doubt the position would be re-

stored to normal. The situation was largely due to the rise in the purchasing power of the community which was not met by the provision of commodities. Measures which were taken in England to prevent shortage of commodities had either not been undertaken in Palestine at all, or were started too late.

There is a great deal of talk, he said, about inflation in Palestine. This was a wrong term to be used. The Palestine pound had lost none of its value compared with other British currencies. It merely so happens that the country has been in the very centre of war activities for some years and all imports of food had to be restricted as transport was required for the war effort. There is no doubt that the position will improve before very long.

Mr. Gering has been away from Johannesburg for the last twelve years. He is struck by the great changes which have taken place in the appearance of the city, and in the development of the Jewish community. He also noticed the marked growth of Zionist activity and interest in Palestine which prevails among all sections.

Friends of Habimah and Palestine Orchestra

THERE was a large gathering of members at the annual general meeting of the Friends of the Habimah Theatre and Palestine Orchestra last Sunday night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Karnovsky. The meeting began with musical items by Eunice Robinson, who gave a charming rendering of light piano works by Chopin, Debussy and others. Cantor I. Alter sang some fine Yiddish songs in his inimitable manner.

Mrs. Ethel Hayman, chairman of the Society, stressed the difficulties under which musicians and actors worked in Palestine to-day. She further put before the society a request made by "Ohel," the progressive theatre begun by labour elements in Palestine. "Ohel" asked for assistance, pointing out that it was the second theatre in the country and was carrying on experimental work of vital importance to the cultural life of the Yishuv. After a formal motion had been put to the meeting, and discussion had followed, there was an enthusiastic vote for the inclusion of "Ohel" in the sphere of the society without in any way infringing on the promise made to Habimah and Palestine Orchestra. A committee reinforced by several new members was elected to undertake the work of expanding the activities of the society and raising larger funds for the support of the three great cultural institutions.

It was decided to use the wood figure donated by the sculptor, Rene Shapshak, at one of the major functions to be included in the programme of the year, which would comprise, among other things, a concert by Ella Goldstein, an acted play-reading of a dramatised version of "Daniel Deronda" by Lily Tobias, and a Brains Trust Evening.

Johannesburg Weizmann Celebration Next Monday

A RECORD attendance is expected at the celebration in honour of the 70th birthday of Dr. Chaim Weizmann, President of the World Zionist Organisation and the Jewish Agency, which will take place at the Coronation Hall, corner Claim and Plein Streets, Johannesburg, on Monday next, December 4, commencing at 8 p.m.

The function has been organised by the Combined Zionist Societies of Johannesburg, and will be a memorable occasion. Tributes to the Zionist leader will be paid by prominent personalities. Mr. N. Kirschner, chairman of the S.A. Zionist Federation, will propose the toast of "Dr. Weizmann." The toast of "Eretz Israel" will be proposed by Mr. B. Gering, vice-chairman of the Federation, and Rabbi J. L. Zlotnik, Director of the S.A. Board of Jewish Education, will reply. Lieut. D.

Schlosberg will propose the toast of "The Jewish Brigade." Mr. M. J. Spitz will preside. Musical items will be rendered by Cantor S. Mandel and Miss Betty Pack.

In view of the fact that seating accommodation is limited and that a large attendance is expected, all those desiring to attend are asked to notify the S.A. Zionist Federation immediately, either by phone (34-1941) or by returning their acceptance cards.

Weizmann Birthday Celebration in Springs

Organised by the Springs Zionist Society, a function in honour of Dr. Chaim Weizmann's seventieth birthday, will take place in the Supper Room of the Springs Town Hall on Monday evening, December 4, at 8 p.m. The speakers will be Rabbi B. Rabinowitz, member of the Executive Council of the S.A. Zionist Federation, and the Rev. Altshuler. Mr. T. Eliastam, chairman of the society, will preside.

Family Gardens of National Fund

THE "Family Garden" Scheme of the Jewish National Fund in Palestine has achieved great popularity here. A maximum of 20 trees only is needed to commence such a garden to which all trees planted in the name of a particular family are added, thus ensuring that in time to come large groves, and even forests, will bear the names of South African families.

Several communities and organisations have commenced "Family Gar-

dens" in honour of their members, and it is expected that the names of many South African communities will be perpetuated in Eretz Israel in this manner.

The Jewish National Fund, therefore, suggests that parents inscribe their children, and children their parents, under this scheme. Many occasions offer themselves for this purpose: Festive occasions, birthdays, weddings. In times of sorrow and in times of joy, the Jewish National Fund will bear testimony to Jewish consciousness and devotion.

Among the "Family Gardens" already commenced in South Africa are the following:—

- LATE RAYNALD KAHN, BLOEMFONTEIN.
- WITRANK ZIONIST COMMITTEE, WITBANK.
- HELEN LEWIS—ELLIS SPEKTOR, CAPE TOWN.
- LEO RAPHAELY, CAPE TOWN.
- RABIE (BIRZER) FAMILY, CAPE TOWN.
- MR. AND MRS. S. MOCH, JOHANNESBURG.
- MRS. B. GORDON, JOHANNESBURG.
- LATE RABBI AND MRS. RESNICK, JOHANNESBURG.
- MAJOR LOMEY, JOHANNESBURG.
- GORDONIA ZIONIST ASSOCIATION, UPINGTON.
- WINDHOEK LADIES' ZIONIST LEAGUE, WINDHOEK.
- MR. AND MRS. S. RABINOVITZ, BULAWAYO.
- HIRSCHMANN FAMILY, PIETERSBURG.
- JATWES—HACK, QUEENSTOWN.
- SEGAL FAMILY, KLIPTOWN.
- MR. AND MRS. S. TRAUB, EAST LONDON.
- RANDFONTEIN W.I.Z.O., RANDFONTEIN.
- MR. AND MRS. W. SMITH, DURBAN.
- BETHLEHEM WOMEN'S ZIONIST LEAGUE, BETHLEHEM.
- LATE BENZION GREENBLATT, VAL.
- MRS. MARY KATZ, BETHLEHEM.
- LATE HERMAN BLUM, UPINGTON.

JERUSALEM POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

JERUSALEM, Wednesday.—Plans for the post-war development of Jerusalem, estimated to involve an expenditure of nearly £2,000,000 were finally approved at a meeting of the Jerusalem Municipal Council on November 23.

The building scheme includes the erection of a new town hall, central bus station, fire station and markets, as well as the construction of drainage, new roads and public parks.

MR. B. L. RUBIK DECRIES POPULAR FALLACIES

Address to Zionist Luncheon Club

THE prevalent belief that only a small remnant of European Jewry would be found alive at the end of the war was deplored by Mr. B. L. Rubik, of Cape Town, when he addressed the Zionist Luncheon Club last Friday on the subject of "Facts and Fallacies."

No one knew the truth of the Jewish situation in Europe to-day, declared the speaker, yet on all sides he heard the acceptance of the fallacy that Hitler had already won the war against the Jews. "Hitler has not won that war," he commented, "far more members of his superior Nordic race than Jews have been destroyed in this war."

He also heard on all sides, amongst Jews and Zionists, talk of the liquidation of the Galuth after the war as the only solution of the Jewish problem. There was general acceptance of the idea that the problem of shattered European Jewry could only be solved by transporting those Jews who survived to Palestine.

This was a dangerous and defeatist attitude born of fallacious argument. Zionism, Mr. Rubik reminded his audience, had never been based on anti-Semitism, on Hitler, or on the evacuation of Jewry from the countries of the dispersion.

"If Zionism is preached from that angle, it is converting the noblest movement in Judaism into a Sabbatai Zvi movement," he said. "To talk of Jewry quitting Europe and to say that there is only one corner of the globe where Jews can live, namely, Palestine, is a denial and suppression of the Zionist ideal."

"We are betraying the cause of Polish Jewry, we are stabbing Polish Jewry in the back when we give up every hope and every belief that Jews may live in Poland after the war," he added.

Mr. H. J. Kirsch, who presided, in thanking Mr. Rubik for his address, emphasised that the Zionist Organisation had never proposed the liquidation of the Galuth, although certain other groups had spoken of this.