

DAY OF MOURNING

Wednesday, March 14th

THE Executive Council of the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies calls upon South African Jewry to observe Wednesday, March 14, as a Day of Mourning for the five million Jews of Europe who have died a martyr's death at the hands of the Nazis.

The ecclesiastical authorities, following the example of the Palestine and U.S.A. Rabbinate, have proclaimed the day as a Fast Day.

All Hebrew Congregations are expected to arrange special services in the afternoon of that day. It is also suggested that wherever possible, special services or gatherings for children be organised.

Employers of labour are urgently requested to facilitate attendance of the Jewish members of their staff at the Synagogue services.

There will be no public or private Jewish entertainments, and members of the Jewish community are expected to refrain from attending theatres, bioscopes, etc., throughout the 24 hours ending midnight, March 14.

In Johannesburg, the Board is arranging a mass meeting to take place at the City Hall on the Wednesday evening. It is hoped that similar meetings will be held in other large centres.

Fuller details will be announced next week.

In view of the short time available, the Board makes an earnest appeal to all Jewish communities to take in hand the necessary arrangements immediately. It also appeals for the full co-operation in this observance of every Jew and Jewess. Let them on this day not only mourn for their martyred brethren, but dedicate themselves anew to saving and rehabilitating the survivors and obtaining for the Jewish people its rightful place in a world of justice and peace.

Dr. and Mrs. Shrock Leave for Cape Town

Rabbi Dr. A. T. Shrock, accompanied by his wife and family, left for Cape Town on Tuesday night. There was a large gathering of friends and well-wishers at the station. Among those present were representatives of various local institutions.

BULAWAYO

Farewell to Cantor and Mrs. M. Kamionsky

ON February 22 the chairman and committee of the Bulawayo Jewish Guild, Dramatic and Musical Circle, were "at home" at the Guild Hall to bid farewell to Cantor and Mrs. M. Kamionsky on the eve of their departure for Johannesburg, where Cantor Kamionsky has been appointed as Cantor and teacher to the Kensington Hebrew Congregation. The hall was packed with friends and well-wishers.

Mr. Sammy Rabinowitz, chairman of the Circle, presided, and paid tribute to Cantor Kamionsky's activities, especially on behalf of the Circle, and to Mrs. Kamionsky, who had taken an active part in Zionist and communal affairs. He wished them godspeed and every success in their new sphere of labour.

Mr. M. Myers and Mr. S. Gotz, in their tributes, expressed appreciation of the delightful singing of Cantor Kamionsky at local functions.

Mr. Gotz announced that at the initiative of the Bulawayo J.N.F. committee the names of Cantor and Mrs. Kamionsky would be inscribed in the Golden Book.

On behalf of the Rhodesian Zionist Council, Mr. Ben Baron made a presentation to Mrs. Kamionsky who had acted as organiser-secretary of the Council.

Both Cantor and Mrs. Kamionsky suitably replied.

There was a short musical programme in which the following participated: Dora Middeldorf, Barney Katz and Meier Cesman, the well-known violinist. Cantor Kamionsky also rendered a number of songs in Yiddish and Hebrew. Lily Rabinowitz and A. Marsicano were the accompanists.

Mizrachi Bible Study Circle

On Wednesday evening, February 21, Rev. O. Altshuler, of the Sydenham-Highlands North Hebrew Congregation gave an interesting and informative lecture on Chapter 5 of Isaiah.

The next Tanach Class will be held on Wednesday evening, March 7, at the Coronation Hall, at 7.30 p.m. Mr. A. Rom, the well-known pedagogue, will lecture on Chapter 6 of Isaiah.

All are welcome.

Record Return in Orphanage Box

At the Barmitzvah of Master David Schneider, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Schneider, the sum of £44 8s. 5d. was collected in an Orphanage box and has been received by the S.A. Jewish Orphanage, in addition to a Synagogue Offering of £5 5s. made by Mr. Julius Schneider on the occasion of their son's Barmitzvah.

The Passing Scene — By "Commentator"

Louw Attacks Jews Again—But Bremer Denounces Racialism

THE remarks made in this column last week, on the subject of Nationalist attempts to modify their policy, were given further point by what occurred in the House of Assembly last Thursday. Mr. Eric Louw made allegations of malpractices and corruption in the Department of Defence and claimed that a number of Jewish firms were involved. "There is," he stated, "a certain section in this country which has been battenning on the profits and spoils of this war—making money out of war contracts, out of the black market, and out of profiteering." He alleged that orders from the Department of Demobilisation were being diverted to five firms, and said it was no coincidence that all five firms were Jewish. Complaints had been made to the responsible Minister six months ago, but he had not acted. "One wonders," said Mr. Louw, "why the delay? One wonders whether some influence was brought to bear?"

This insinuation provoked Mr. Abe Goldberg into calling out: "Say that outside and you will get six months!"

Mr. Louw went on to complain that "an alarming number of Jews are still entering the Union." Between 1939 and 1944, he said, a total of 16,118 had entered the country on temporary permits. There was no assurance that these people had left. No wonder there was growing resentment and nervousness in the country.

Actually, of course, those 16,118 permits were used in typical bogey style. Mr. Louw either knows or should know that most of the permits were issued for people in transit, or on visits, and that they are not in the country any longer.

"Local Julius Streicher"

Mr. P. V. Pocock (one of Pretoria's United Party Members) took up Mr. Louw's remarks in a vigorous fighting speech. Mr. Louw, he said, had denied that he was making any personal attacks. No one would believe that. "How does he get his reputation of being a Jew-baiter? He is becoming the Julius Streicher of South Africa." Mr. Pocock deplored the whole racialistic approach of the Nationalists. They were trying to stir up bitterness all the time.

Mr. J. M. Conradie (Rustenburg's United Party Member) agreed, and said that the racialistic speeches made by members of the Opposition had led to mass treachery during the war.

Then Dr. Karl Bremer got up and caused a sensation by saying: "We have reached the stage in South Africa when we should be ashamed of ourselves—ashamed that we are still talking about matters of the past, and about differences between the parties which belong to the past."

It was time, he said, for all sections of the people to come together and co-operate for the welfare of South Africa. They must give the people something better than the "promises of Communist dictatorship." Every effort should be made to provide full employment and decent standards of living. If Communism or any other "ism" could provide this without revolution and anarchy, then he would not oppose Communism.

One may well ask what is behind this statement. Dr. Bremer is a leading member of the Nationalist Party and it is inconceivable that he would speak "without the book." The situation is one which merits careful attention.

New JWA Organisation for Benoni Women

A WELL-ATTENDED committee meeting of the Women's Section of the JWA took place at the Hebrew Hall, Benoni, on Monday, February 19. Mrs. P. Mandelstam was in the chair. Miss B. Baigel attended on behalf of the Women's Section of the JWA, and explained the aims of the War Appeal, stressing the great urgency and the importance of rendering the utmost help.

The committee pledged itself to do its utmost for the JWA. A Sewing and Knitting Group has been formed at the home of Mrs. H. Shapiro, 14 Russell Street, with the assistance of Mrs. M. Bader, 12 King Street, Westdene, Benoni. The committee will hold a house-to-house Drive on Sunday, March 18, for the purpose of collecting old clothing. The organisers for the "Garments for War Victims" Section are Mrs. F. Bortz, 47 Sunnyside Ave., Westdene; Mrs. L. Kahanowitz, Rex Hotel, and Mrs. J. Perkes, 150 Howard Ave., Benoni.

Under the auspices of the Union of Jewish Women, a function will be held at the home of Mrs. J. S. Taback, 53 Charles Street, Pretoria, in aid of the Jewish War Appeal, on Wednesday, March 7, at 10 a.m.

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