

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Campaign For Right And Justice

Sir,—A National Conference is being convened by the Campaign for Right and Justice at the Witwatersrand University to discuss the principles of Regional Development, and the possibilities of their practical application in South Africa.

The thought which has been devoted to the conception of Regional Planning in other Western countries has already taken root in this country in the formation of Regional Associations.

Practical nation-building projects will form the subject of detailed treatment at the Conference by persons qualified to apply the principles of Regional Planning to the conditions of our country and the particular social and racial problems which are bound up with its development.

The Conference will be of a non-party political character, and, in convening it, we have been encouraged by the support of other bodies, and by the advice of experts qualified in the respective fields outlined in the provisional agenda which is enclosed herewith.

The Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. J. G. N. Strauss, M.P., will preside at the opening session of the Conference, which will be held from December 4th-7th, 1945.

Delegates are being invited from Universities, Chambers of Industries and Commerce, Municipalities, Agricultural Associations, Religious and Social Welfare organisations from all parts of the Union.

Yours, etc.,

(Rev.) MICHAEL SCOTT,
Chairman,

The Campaign for Right and Justice.

The Aga Khan

Sir,—In connection with the report published in your columns about the Aga Khan's interest in Palestine, I should like to draw your attention to the following extract from Dr. Herzl's diaries. Whether it refers to the present Aga Khan or to his father I do not know:

"An interesting letter received from Alex Marmorek. Zadok works intensively for us. Edmund Rothschild is supposed to be a convinced Zionist but does not dare to come to the fore. An Indian Prince, Aga Khan, who was recommended to Zadok by Haffkine, Bombay, is said to be a Zionist and to have undertaken to speak to the Sultan for us in a friendly way."

Yours, etc.,

BEN ADAM.

Johannesburg.

Has Jewry Lost the War?

Sir,—In his reply to my letter, Mr. Baumgarten makes no attempt to prove that "we Jews have lost the war," but he does explain why Zionist spokesmen find it necessary to repeat this extremely mischievous statement.

"When we say that we lost the war," writes Mr. Baumgarten, "we do it because we are convinced that this defeat was a result of our homelessness and statelessness."

From this it would appear that propaganda for a homeland and Jewish State needs the acceptance of the belief that we have lost the war.

I did not merely say that we Jews have paid a high price for victory proportionally to our numbers. I also said that we paid for victory with a third of our nation, and so there was no need to remind me that five mil-

lion Jews were slaughtered; but to say that there was "no interference from the outside world" is again to expose a self-centredness that denies the titanic struggle aimed at the destruction of those who also happened to be our exterminators. The war itself was the expression of the maximum and the only effective interference. The bombing of Germany was a daily "interference"; the more than heroic fight of the Red Army was an interference, and ultimately the invasion of the continent of Europe was the culminating act of "interference."

It is true that what few instruments that were available to save some Jews in the claws of the beast had not been made use of. It is also true that the mass murder of five million Jews had not stirred the conscience of the world, but it is necessary to remember that this thing called "world conscience" remains indifferent also to the tragedy of other peoples who live in their own homeland.

Mr. Baumgarten's reference to the vast majority of the survivors not wanting to return to their former homes but "looking to Eretz Israel for salvation" raises the most serious question of the action of Zionists who have arbitrarily renounced the claims of the survivors to their old homes.

I do not deny that there are those who do not want to return to their former homes and many wish to go to Palestine to start a new life there; nor do I deny that the question of unrestricted Jewish immigration into Palestine is extremely urgent; but the demand for the exodus from Europe and the renouncement of the claim to the European homes of the survivors, is a gamble without precedent.

Those "Exodus from Europe" Zionists are prepared to make homeless in its literal concept, every Jew, if by so doing they advance the cause of a Jewish State in Palestine.

This preoccupation with the ultimate home of the survivors has been a contributory factor in the shocking neglect in regard to the physical and mental reclamation of the survivors.

Before they were restored to a condition to enable them to give expression to their wishes and plans for the future, it was already broadcasted that they wanted to be repatriated to Palestine. One cannot also escape the feeling that there was a deliberate effort to exaggerate anti-Jewish incidents soon after the liberation of the various countries, when no public order had yet been restored. This has been and is being used as additional argument for the immediate evacuation of all the Jews to Palestine.

Mr. Baumgarten, claiming a new familiar privilege as a Palestinian, resents my saying that those who go about saying that we Jews have "lost the war" are "mocking the tragedy of the dead and the life and the hopes of the living." He says that only the Jewish effort in Palestine can create a situation which would ensure that "such a defeat should not be repeated."

This is misleading. The story of the first Jewish conquest of Palestine right down to the time of the destruction of the Second Temple, conclusively proves that a national home in itself does not give security. Likewise has Jewish dispersion proved that survival is possible without the nation being confined to a given territory.

Jewish Palestine is still but a branch of the Jewish tree. To uproot the tree is to destroy its roots. To say that the soil of Europe and its climate can no longer sustain the tree that weathered all storms, is unwittingly to play the game of the enemy. To incite people to run away because excesses are staged with the object of frightening the Jews from returning to their old homes, is not to ensure

Mizrachi Bible Study Circle

A WELL-ATTENDED meeting of the Mizrachi Bible Study Circle took place at the Koshers Restaurant "Mizrachi," on September 12, when Mr. A. Smith presided.

Dr. B. Morrison dealt in a scholarly manner with Jeremiah, Chapter XV, and his lecture was followed with the closest attention by the many present.

Rabbi B. Rabinowitz congratulated Mr. Smith on the success achieved by the Mizrachi Bible Study Circle, and expressed the fervent wish that the members of the "Circle" would develop an even greater urge to acquire more of the wealth of Jewish Culture.

Rev. O. Altshuler delighted the audience with his singing, and Mr. A. Smith recited a Yiddish poem composed by himself.

Histadruth Ivriith (Cape Town)

"EDUCATION of Youth in Eretz Israel and the Diaspora" was the title of an interesting address delivered by Mr. Y. Levene to the Histadruth Ivriith on September 11.

After pointing out the success achieved by the Yishuv's educational system, the speaker dwelt on the difficulties of developing a full Jewish education outside Eretz Israel. He made some practical suggestions for interesting the youth in Judaism and matters Jewish, pointing out that improvement must come not only from within the school, but the entire community must endeavour to provide for the child the ideal Jewish environment.

Messrs. Ben Arie, Telem, Schatz, Avin and Dr. Birnbaum took part in the discussion.

Mr. Z. Avin presided.

Dr. Hellmann Addresses Union of Jewish Women

THE role of the Jewish woman in the struggle for the reform of modern society and for women's emancipation was discussed by Dr. Ellen Hellmann when she spoke at a luncheon of the Johannesburg branch of the Union of Jewish Women at the Carlton Hotel on August 29. Mrs. W. Hillman, who presided, announced that the lecture was the first of a series which would be delivered at regular intervals to the local branch.

The emancipation of women, she said, had not yet been completed in Western Society, and in some countries, such as South Africa, the woman was penalised if she was married, and prevented from entering many spheres of useful activity. In America woman had gone further in her struggle and marriage was not the bar it was here. Many prominent figures in America had been women, said the speaker. On the Jewish woman rested a three-fold responsibility: they had to fight for Society, for their emancipation, and in addition, they had to attend to specific Jewish needs.

Comprehensive Programme

Dr. Hellmann referred to the comprehensive variety of women's organisations she had seen during her visit to America, and felt that here in South Africa, as in America, the need is for those organisations to be based on a comprehensive programme and a definite ideology. The old concept of relief based on philanthropy was outdated, and it was clear that relief must be bound up with political activity as well.

a better future, and to use the tragic position of the survivors as a means to advance political Zionism is not to serve the cause of our people. This must be said—particularly to Palestinians.

Yours, etc.,

R. FELDMAN.

60 Sauer Street,
Johannesburg.

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Concert of Jewish Music

THE next concert by the Johannesburg Jewish Choral Society, to be held on Sunday, September 30, at the Selborne Hall, will be of especial interest to the Jewish public. Nearly all the songs and instrumental works are new to South African audiences.

Of special interest is the performance of the "Partisanen-Song," which was written by Hirsh Glik, a 25 years old Partisan, who was murdered in the woods around Wilno, and who was a member of the United Jewish Partisan Organisation in Wilno Ghetto, a sad remnant of the last war.

Jean Gluckman and Eugene Magid will sustain the solo items, and the choir and orchestra will be conducted by Jerry Idelson.

Booking is at Greatermans.

Gatooma and Que Que

MR. A. ABRAHAMSON, Youth Convener of the Rhodesian Zionist Council, accompanied by Miss H. Benatar of the Zionist Council office in Salisbury, and Mr. Paul Nussbaum, Cultural Convener of the Salisbury Zionist Youth Society, visited Gatooma recently. In the morning, at a meeting which took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Pogrand, Miss Benatar, with the assistance of Mrs. H. Sloman of Que Que and the Que Que Hashtilim, formed a Hashtilim group.

Mr. Abrahamson also met the combined committees of the Gatooma and Que Que Zionist Societies at the home of Mrs. Sadie Hyman, where various organisational questions were discussed. As a result, J.N.F. sub-committees have been set up in both Gatooma and Que Que, and a study circle was formed in Gatooma.

MOSMARK MATZOS

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