

## MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT DUTIES OF JEWISH M.P.'s

### Mr. Kentridge Addresses Luncheon Club

CERTAIN misconceptions regarding the duties of Jewish Parliamentarians were dealt with by Mr. Morris Kentridge, M.P., when he spoke on the work of the last session of Parliament at last Friday's meeting of the Johannesburg Zionist Association Luncheon Club.

It had been suggested by certain correspondents in the press, he said, that Jewish M.P.'s on the Rand should take their own community into their confidence and that the Board of Deputies should convene a public meeting at which Parliamentarians could report on what had happened during the last Parliamentary session. This implied that the Jewish M.P.'s were under a special obligation to their community, a view that was hardly justified.

#### South African View-point

"The interests of the Jewish community are bound up with the progress and well-being of the people as a whole. We deal with all questions purely from a South African point of view, because only in that way can we best serve the interests of the whole country."

There was an idea prevalent among many members of the community that the Jewish M.P. should devote all his time in Parliament to talking on Jewish questions, and that whenever there was an anti-Semitic speech or interjection every Jewish member should reply. This was not only a practical impossibility considering that debates had to be fairly apportioned among the 158 members, but it would also be detrimental to the interests of the Jewish community. Often such interjections were deliberately made to provoke the Jewish members and to create an anti-Semitic debate. "It is not our business to encourage such debates, and we speak only when we are forced to do so or when we feel that we have something worth-while to say," he declared.

#### Less Anti-Semitism

During the last Parliamentary session the Opposition had definitely soft-pedalled on the Jewish question. The best example was when Mr. Eric Louw, their chief protagonist on this question, spoke for fully half an hour on immigration without once mentioning the word Jew. "It would, therefore, have been ridiculous if we got up to speak and introduced the Jewish question."

### QUIZ, MUSICAL AND CULTURAL EVENING AT SALISBURY

A MOST successful function, which took the form of a quiz and musical and cultural evening, organised by the Salisbury Zionist Society, was held at the Salisbury Jewish Guild Hall.

Two teams, representing the Salisbury Cultural Circle and the Salisbury Zionist Youth Society respectively, participated in the quiz, and were heartily complimented by the Rev. Konviser, who acted as question-master. Items were rendered by Mrs. Miriam Liptz and Mrs. Mogilnik.

Reports on the recent meeting of the Rhodesian Zionist Council were given by Mrs. Anolick (Salisbury Women's Zionist League), Mr. H. S. Court (Salisbury Zionist Society), and Mr. J. Schwartz (Salisbury Zionist Youth). Mr. I. Lasovsky (vice-chairman of the Rhodesian Zionist Council), also gave a short report and thanked the Salisbury delegates for their attendance.



When, however, Mr. Louw chose to find fault with the appointment of certain Jewish women for UNRRA work, and also complained about the number of Jews associated with that organisation, he was effectively answered by Mr. Morris Alexander.

#### Palestine Question

On another occasion he (the speaker) raised the question of Palestine in the House. The leader of the Transvaal Nationalist Party who intervened, fully endorsed the sentiments he had expressed, and stated seriously that his party had no objection to the establishment of a Jewish National Home in Palestine.

It was wrong, said Mr. Kentridge, to speak disparagingly of Parliament, and to judge it merely by the number of Bills turned out as if it were a "sausage machine." What mattered to us Jews was whether Parliament was maintaining its status and also the position of democracy in South Africa. Mr. Harry X. Rajak presided.

Mr. A. Lessem, President of the Salisbury Zionist Society, was in the chair, and welcomed the many present. He thanked all those who had helped to make the evening the success it proved to be. A hearty vote of thanks to the chairman was proposed by the Rev. Konviser.

#### "Brains Trust" Evening

THE School Board of the Johannesburg Jewish Reform Congregation are holding a "Brains Trust" on Monday, October 8, at 8 p.m., in the Temple Israel Hall.

The subject under discussion will be: "The Jewish Child—Its Psychology and Education," and those participating in the Brains Trust are: Mr. Percy Baneshik, Mr. A. E. Ettlinger, Dr. Ellen Hellmann, Mrs. Joan Phillips, Rabbi Dr. M. C. Weiler and Mr. M. Broomberg (Question Master). All are welcome.

*Sefer Hayaed:* At the Bris Milah of Robert, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Solomon, of East London, the sum of £9 15s. 6d. was collected for the J.N.F. The amount collected is to inscribe the name of the infant in the *Sefer Hayaed*.

## PALESTINE MARITIME LEAGUE DRIVE

### Enthusiastic Gathering Pledges Full Support to Jewish Nautical Enterprise

THE Palestine Maritime League Drive was officially launched in Johannesburg on Thursday evening, September 20, at a representative and enthusiastic meeting of workers held at the Carlton Hotel.

Mr. M. D. Klaff presided, and read greetings from various centres throughout the country pledging their support. He also welcomed representatives from Pretoria and the Reef.

#### Mr. Gering

Addressing the gathering, Mr. B. Gering, vice-chairman of the S.A. Zionist Federation, said that his presence at the meeting, which was his first public appearance since his return from London and Eretz Israel, was indicative of the importance which the Federation attached to the maritime undertakings in Palestine and to the work of the Palestine Maritime League. He expressed the hope that the effort which was now being made in South Africa on behalf of the Palestine Maritime League, would meet with great success.

Mr. Gering said that although his brief stay in Palestine made it impossible for him to visit any of the fishing settlements or other establishments of the Palestine Maritime League, he, nevertheless, felt the new impetus which Maritime development was beginning to give to Jewish life and economy in Palestine. He was proud to see the tremendous development that was taking place at the Tel Aviv harbour and was deeply impressed by the boat-building yards which were now coming into being.

"Maritime activity ranks very high, since it is inconceivable to think of a Jewish Palestine without our own ships and seamen," concluded Mr. Gering.

#### Mr. Rivlin

Mr. M. Rivlin, general secretary of the Palestine Maritime League, who

is visiting South Africa, expressed the appreciation of the Palestine Executive to all those who had helped to bring about a revival of Jewish maritime tradition, thereby giving a new moral stimulus to our people. He felt sure that the aims of the Palestine Maritime League would make an appeal to every Jew and every Zionist.

Mr. Rivlin analysed the economic aspect of maritime development. During the period between the two World Wars, he said, 300,000 immigrants came to Palestine and more than 500,000 tourists visited the Holy Land; 65 million cases of citrus were exported and 8 million tons of cargo were brought in. Ninety per cent. of the export and import trade of Palestine was sea-borne and all this traffic was carried by ships belonging to foreign countries, providing employment for more than 28,000 families of foreign nations. There were so few Jewish ships that only some 80 seamen were employed on them.

In the last pre-war year alone more than £3,000,000 had been paid out in fares and freight to foreign supply and the catch of fish by Jewish fishermen then only amounted to 2½ per cent. of the total consumption.

The war years, however, had brought new responsibilities and opportunities to the Jews of Palestine with regard to Maritime activity. Fish caught by Jewish fishermen had increased to 33 per cent. Many Palestinian Jewish seamen had received their training in the Royal Navy and a number of cadets were now being trained at the Haifa Nautical School. It was small Jewish boats manned by Palestinian men that brought supplies to the besieged Tobruk in the early stages of the war.

He urged that now was the most opportune time for Jews to establish themselves as a maritime people. That was why the establishment of a National Shipping Company under the aegis of the Jewish Agency was a most momentous and far-reaching undertaking.

At the conclusion of the meeting a strong maritime Drive Committee was formed under the chairmanship of Mr. M. J. Gordon.

### MR. S. RABINOVITZ ON THE LONDON CONFERENCE

MR. SAMUEL RABINOVITZ, Chairman of the Rhodesian Zionist Council, and delegate for Rhodesia at the London Conference held last month, arrived back in Bulawayo recently. On Monday afternoon, September 10, Mr. Rabinovitz was entertained by the Committees of the combined Zionist Societies of Bulawayo at the residence of Mr. Sammy Rabinovitz.

Mr. Rabinovitz, who was officially welcomed back by the host, a member of the Executive of the Rhodesian Zionist Council, gave a brief survey of the London Conference, and pointed out that the fact that the Labour Party had become the Government in Great Britain encouraged the hope of immigration into Palestine, and in fact, the removal of the White Paper.

This was the first World Zionist Conference where Rhodesia had been represented. At that Conference representatives were present from all liberated countries as well as from the Jewish Brigade. Palestine sent 40 representatives. Dr. Emil Sommerstein, the chief delegate for Polish Jewry, left a very marked impression on those who heard him.

Mr. Rabinovitz also referred to the Commissions appointed by Conference to investigate political, economic and organisational, as well as cultural matters referred to them by Conference. It was decided that members of the Palestine Executive were to be six

months in Palestine and six months on tour.

The leadership had been criticised. Dr. Weizmann stated that the achievements in Palestine were a living expression of Jewish demands in Palestine. He also stated that irrespective of what would happen, immigration into Palestine would be continued.

It was felt that the free countries had not been kept sufficiently informed of the developments of Zionist affairs in the past.

It had been reported at the Conference that over five million Jews had been slaughtered in Europe during the war years, and only one-quarter million had remained of Polish Jewry out of more than three million.

In conclusion, the speaker thanked those who had been responsible for electing him delegate to the Conference, and stated that this had indeed been a memorable experience for him.

#### Golden Book Inscription

The children of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Hirschowitz, of East London, have inscribed the names of their parents, Hirsch Wolf Hirschowitz and Hannah Rosie Hirschowitz, in the Golden Book.

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LANDLESS OF ISRAEL