

Potter On Anti-Semitism In The United Party;

Swing In The Platteland; A Song In Afrikaans

The Political Scene

By Karl Lemeer

THERE have been two reactions to the recent speeches made by the Prime Minister and Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr from Jewish platforms.

Mr. Arthur G. Barlow, in his usual forthright manner, asks why these speeches weren't made in Parliament, where they should have been made, instead of to Jewish audiences. Mr. Barnett Potter, writing in the "Union Review," makes this comment:

"I do what I can not to get embroiled in controversy about the Jewish question, but it must be said to the credit of General Smuts and Mr. Hofmeyr that at a time when anti-Jewish feeling is almost as strong in the United Party as the H.P. (some say stronger), they have both lent their patronage and their presence to Jewish gatherings and made pro-Jewish speeches. However, that is entirely legitimate, and the anger British people are feeling about events in Palestine must not be allowed to obscure the fact that important elements of Jewry are of the highest intelligence and integrity."

Action Against Pirow?

"**DIE VADERLAND**," which is well disposed to Mr. Oswald Pirow, reports that the Government intends to take legal steps against "Die Nuwe Orde." Mr. Pirow's paper, on the grounds of alleged racial incitement which was propagated in an article in that paper. The article, which was referred to in this column at the time, said that non-Europeans should be thrown out on their necks if they mixed with Europeans and that physical force should be used against Europeans who favoured social intercourse.

"Die Vaderland" report goes on to say that the Springbok Legion had brought the matter to the notice of Mr. Lawrence, who had replied that the matter would be taken up. It is announced that the case will be heard in the Pretoria Magistrates' Court and that Adv. F. Rumpff will defend "Die Nuwe Orde."

Swing On The Platteland

THE platteland swing to the Right is continuing and every day brings fresh evidence of the effectiveness of the Nationalist Axis "Black Danger" election campaign.

Following the defection of Jan Wolmarans, M.P., from the United Party comes news of the resignation of the Pretorius family in the Losberg district. This family is directly descended from the Great Voortrekker leader and has traditionally supported General Botha and General Smuts throughout the history of Union politics.

Family defections are, of course, common on the platteland. It is traditional among the older, well-established families to be behind one or other of the parties en famille, and when a decision to change political

allegiance is decided on, an almost ritual ceremony is undertaken whereby the members of the family go over to the new political camp.

Another typical "family" that has left the United Party last week are seven Ferreiras from Hercules, near Pretoria.

It is quite obvious that the platteland tide of opinion is running against the Government and that it will increasingly have to pin its faith in winning the overwhelming majority of urban seats.

Uneasy Alliance

THE Afrikaner Party, with Ossewabrandwag support, has been engaged in an intensive campaign of organising the Transvaal platteland, and 240 branches have been formed according to official information. Concerned about the influence of the O.B. within these branches, the Nationalist Party's official mouthpiece, "Die Kruithoring," warns that these dissident elements will not be permitted to achieve their ends behind this facade.

The alliance among the partners to the Nationalist Axis is still very uneasy.

Battle Of The By-Elections

THE creation of a vacancy in the Langlaagte constituency, as a result of the death of Mr. Willie Bawden, M.P., has served to create further complications in the immediate political problems. There are now two by-elections pending, both on the Rand, the second being Benoni.

There has been a great deal of behind-the-scenes skirmishing over the United Party's decision whether or not to oppose the Labour nominee, Dr. T. W. B. Osborn. The Nationalists are definitely not fighting this seat and are hoping that the so-called Madeleyites will enter the field, although this is most unlikely.

It is clear that if the U.P. fights in Benoni, Labour will fight in Langlaagte.

The result is anybody's guess—but Langlaagte may possibly go to the Nats. in the event of a three-cornered contest.

It Can Be Done!

THE overwhelming victory secured by the "Balanced Ticket," in fact, an anti-Nationalist ticket, in the Witwatersrand School Board elections, has somewhat dampened the ardour of the Nationalists on the Rand. They have not failed to appreciate the moral pointed by this united front victory, which is that if all the anti-Nationalist elements stand together a Nationalist defeat can be assured.

D.P.'s For S.A. Appeal

THE "Star" has broken new ground in calling for South Africa's doors to be opened a little wider to

enable D.P.s from Europe (of whom, incidentally, the Jews form only one-seventh of the total) to settle in this country. Referring to Australia's agreement with the International Refugee Organisation to take displaced persons from Europe, to General Marshall's speech of praise about these people, and to General Smuts' call for the strengthening of the European population in South Africa, the "Star" says:

"The displaced persons have nothing to bring—nothing but their blood and their skill and their belief in freedom, for which most of them have paid dearly. But the old settlers made good and there is no reason to believe that the new ones would do less well."

Jewish Composer Of Boeremusiek

UNDER the heading "Jewess Composes Boeremusiek," the Afrikaner Party Sunday paper, "Sondagnuus," pays tribute to the work of Mrs. Edith Nerwich.

The report calls on radio listeners to listen in to a broadcast of Hendrik Susan and his orchestra in which is featured a song, "Serenade of the Little Bird." Both the music and the words were composed by a South African Jewess, who composes her music under the name of Marie Meyer.

In an interview, a prominent Boere-orchestra leader is reported to have said: "Notwithstanding the fact that she is a Jewess, her Boeremusiek is typical, it is of a very high standard and does honour to South Africa."

Giving biographical details of Mrs. Nerwich, "Sondagnuus" states that she grew up on the Afrikaans platteland and showed a particular love for the idiom of Afrikaner Boeremusiek from her earliest years, and started composing while very young.

Although several of her earlier compositions have been broadcast and a number of her songs have been sung in the Milner Park Afrikaans Medium School, this composer is almost totally unknown.

Mrs. Nerwich, who has also composed Jewish and Russian music, is trying to bring Boeremusiek closer to the classical idiom and proposes to devote herself to the service of the Afrikaans film.

MEETING OF MOETZAT HABONIM

To Be Held During Week-end

The ninth meeting of Moetzat Habonim will be held at the Hebrew High School, Wolmarans Street, over the coming week-end commencing Saturday at 8.15 p.m. The various provinces are sending delegations to the meeting, which will discuss the educational progress of the movement and deal with matters of organisation and policy.

A dinner for all delegates is being held at the Habonim Hachsharah at Northcliff, to enable the visiting delegates to see the progress which is being made there.

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