

What I Saw At The Palestine Industrial Exhibition

By Daphne Blieden

What does one expect before going to the first Palestine Industrial Exhibition? One has been in Palestine, but six days inside the Athlit clearance camp do not suffice to make one aware of life inside the country, of the activities of its people, of their attitudes, of their work, of their abilities. One even boasted a very pretty Palestinian evening frock before the war, but that may have been an isolated product, a streak of genius that occurs but rarely. One certainly cannot assume any authoritative knowledge of Palestinian industrial techniques or skills, and one can rather admit to a slight feeling of squeamishness lest the exhibition will not be quite up to scratch, so that one may have to make excuses for the blatantly poor quality of its exhibits—one can't, after all, expect those people with all their difficulties, the constant state of unrest, the high cost of materials, the Arab boycott, the sterling bloc and all the rest of it, to be able to make goods equal to those made in other countries which neither know now, nor have known for a very long time, such difficulties.

But I am pleased to be able to state, pleased and proud as a Jew living in a country where such difficulties are not known, that my squeamishness before seeing the exhibition has been replaced by my feeling of satisfaction after having seen it. I came away from the exhibition with my mind filled with the recollections of the very beautiful ceramics, so inexpensively priced even at the South African figure, which is about double that of the Palestinian price on the ticket, the lovely woollen clothing, the hand-made evening shoes, the glassware, the silver cutlery, the raffia and leather handbags, the rubber bathing shoes that are unobtainable to-day, the many things, in fact, that I would like to buy, and which I will buy for gifts, for my own home and my own child.

"I have searched the town for shoes like that," said a smartly-

dressed woman standing next to me while we admired the gold kid evening sandals, the red leather, navy leather and grey skin sandals, all hand-made, and I am sure that many other people shared her opinion and intended to make tracks, in their not-so-beautiful machine-made shoes, for Tozereth Haaretz, the shop that has been opened in Beit Street, Doornfontein, for the sale of Palestinian goods. We more than admired the handbags in red skin, grey, green and brown skin, in black suede, and the shopping and beach bags in multi-colored and striped raffia. There are suede leather belts of a sort not easily come by in town at present, as well as the most beautiful cigarette cases and pocket wallets.

The clothing caused gasps of astonishment among the clothes-conscious spectators, in particular the knitted goods. I liked in particular the pullovers, a pale blue one with a fringed front, a black and white striped button-up affair with tiny pearl buttons, a twin set with broad red and green stripes. The two black Persian lamb coats are very well made, and one of them boasts a natty idea that one is more likely to associate with New York or Paris—by opening a lightning fastener the top half can be detached from the skirt and worn as a bolero. The children's coats are warm and smart, particularly the little red one with the white-lined detachable hood, and among the samples of suiting is a beautiful heavy beige woollen cloth that would make excellent sports coats.

People who will shortly be enjoying themselves at the coast, away from our present inland heat, will know where to go for the bathing shoes they have not been able to obtain for so many years, and at Tozereth Haaretz they will also be able to buy their toddlers' rubber balls in different sizes and colours, as well as leather animals that always make popular toys.

The choice of wedding and housewarming gifts is large, varied and very beautiful, and one could not do better than buy such gifts as a vase like the enormous green and white one on show which costs about three guineas (South African price), the fruit bowl in blue ceramic with fretted flowers in pinks, greens and browns for a little less, the blue and white fruit set for about two pounds, the tiny dogs, the cute prancing foal, each about twelve shillings, the patterned ash trays for a few shillings. Other most beautiful gifts are the set of silver spoons, the glass vases, some silver tinted, made by a firm which was originally in Czechoslovakia and which has continued to make the same type of glass vases and baubles for which Czechoslovakia is famous. Something that I have never before seen on sale in South Africa is the different sets of silver glass holders for Russian tea-drinking, complete with silver tray—they should be a valuable addition to any home that drinks tea this way.

Among the kitchenware, strong-looking pots and pans and double boilers, were items that are precious by their rarity—enamel jugs, pots and mixing-bowls. No doubt many people will place their orders for them immediately.

Bumper Issue of Barkai

The persistence with which Mr. J. Rubik, editor of "Barkai," maintains the publication of his Hebrew monthly is most noteworthy. The latest number consists of over 40 pages and contains a number of articles by prominent writers specially written for the journal. These include an article by Chief Rabbi Uziel of Jerusalem, an article by H. J. Nadavah of London, by L. Goodman of London, and poems by several overseas writers. Amongst local writers represented in the journal are Chief Rabbi Rabinowitz, Mr. W. Rybko and Mr. Z. Lyson. The opportunities thus given for an outlet to local talent is of considerable help in the development of Hebrew. It may perhaps be remarkable that as a monthly journal "Barkai" gives a little too much space to local reporting, much of which is dated by the time it appears in print.

ARRIVALS FROM GERMANY

Dr. C. H. Ipp, his wife, Dr. Tania Ipp, and their two children are expected in Johannesburg this week from St. Ottilian, Germany.

Originally from Kovno, they went through several ghettos and concentration camps, and Dr. Ipp was the chief doctor at the St. Ottilian Displaced Persons' Camp.

Anyone who wishes to contact them may do so care of Mr. I. Alter, 110, Sixth Avenue, Highlands North. Phone 45-5330.

HERZL ZUCKERMAN ADDRESSES P.M.L.

Mr. Herzl Zuckerman, Trade Delegate to the Palestine Foreign Trade Institute, and the former Secretary of the Tel Aviv Port, was the guest-speaker at a most successful meeting of the Maritime League held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. M. Luck of Percelia. In his address Mr. Zuckerman traced the amazing development of the Tel Aviv Harbour from its first wooden jetty in 1936 to the epic days of the desert battles when the port's Jewish personnel provided the British Navy with sorely needed minesweepers and landing craft. Mr. Zuckerman stressed the vital importance of expanding and developing Jewish Maritime institutions. The Jewish people must answer the call of "back to the sea."

The large gathering present displayed an enthusiastic interest in Mr. Zuckerman's address, and many responded by enrolling as members of the League. During the evening, the Rev. O. Altshuler and Mrs. V. M. Graff delighted the guests with song and piano items.

Mr. J. Teeger thanked the guest-speaker, Mr. Zuckerman, and the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Luck.

Correction

It is regretted that the "Record" made an error in the message of Mrs. A. Franks to the Palestine Industrial Exhibition which appeared in last week's issue of the "Zionist Record."

The message should have read as follows:

"From what I saw in Palestine I can say that Palestine-manufactured goods compare with the best in the world. I was particularly impressed by the arts and crafts sold in Wizo shops, and it is interesting to note that most of the workers making these articles are Wizo trained refugee women, and that the profits derived go to the purchasing of the new materials required, as well as to these refugee women, who thus earn a livelihood and are in this way absorbed into the economy of the country."

JEWISH GUILD PRESENTS "HEP! HEP! AND ATOM!"

The Jewish Guild celebrates its Golden Jubilee this year with the production "Hep! Hep! and Atom!" another outstanding musical revue produced by Herbert R. Friedman. This presentation is in keeping with the Atomic Age, and the underlying theme of the revue is entertainment 50 years hence.

Among the artists are Ada Seidel, Alma Fisher, Issy Goldblatt, Nat Bregman, Denny Davies and Miriam Lopert.

The dance ensembles have been devised and arranged by Hannah Seinik. George Moss is the Director of Music, and the show is directed by Woolfe Ostrowiak.

There will be nine performances, every Sunday and Wednesday, commencing November 16 and finishing December 14.

Chanukah Fair

The 26 branches of the Johannesburg Women's Zionist League are busy planning the Chanukah Fair which is taking place at Balfour Park on Tuesday, December 9.

This is another effort the League is undertaking for the J.N.F. The plans are beginning to take shape, and young and old are assured of an unusual evening's entertainment.

There will be a torchlight procession, singing by massed choirs, community singing, open-air dancing, all the fun of the fair, novelty stalls and a varied selection of "Chanukah" fare.

THE PEOPLES' SEMINAR, PRETORIA

A course of lectures on Jewish cultural subjects is being arranged in Pretoria by the local branch of the Zionist Socialist Party, but the lectures, as arranged, will deal with purely cultural phases of Jewish life and tradition.

In conformity with this aim the cooperation and participation of various competent lecturers, each of whom possesses expert knowledge of his subject, has been obtained.

The first lecture of the series will be delivered by Dr. E. Neufeld on November 20.

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