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He Is A Ponevez Landsman

I HAD an interesting chat the other day with "The Great Marco" whose performances at the Empire Theatre, Johannesburg, have been a tremendous success. He will shortly tour various centres in the Union and Rhodesia.

To my surprise I learned that this Scotch-speaking, fair-haired young man belongs to a family of Ponevez landsleit. His mother, whose maiden name is Einbender, was on her way to South Africa over forty years ago. She passed through Scotland and there she met Mr. Louis Fisher from Brest Litovsk. They married and settled in Scotland. "The Great Marco" is their eldest son. (His name is ark Fisher.)

"The Great Marco" has a number of relatives in South Africa. They are Mr. and Mrs. H. Einbender, of Bellevue, Johannesburg, who celebrated their Golden Wedding last week. Another uncle is Mr. E. Goldberg, of Pritchard Street, with whom Mr. Marco is residing.

"The Great Marco" speaks Yiddish well, and attended Cheder in Glasgow. At the age of 16 he was on the stage as a dancer. (His father thought it was a big *meshugas*). He left for London and some fifteen years ago took up magic and mentalism, and performed in various parts of England. During the war he was a member of No. 1 Show of the Second Army, the "Top Liners." He toured various theatres of war and entertained over a million troops—American, Canadian, Polish and British soldiers. In 1946 he entertained the Jewish children from Belsen when they came out to London. This was the first time that the children had seen a conjuror, and his generous gesture in entertaining the children was highly praised by the Jewish press.

"The Great Marco" gave a demonstration in the office of the



"Zionist Record." The staff stood next to him at a distance of a foot or two. He asked a member of the small "audience" to think of a series of numbers, and to the amazement of all he read out the numbers correctly. He did the same when another member of the staff thought of a word of five letters.

Mr. Marco said that he made a special study of mind-reading and also learned the art of magic from many magicians. He said that there are a number of Jews amongst the most prominent magicians today including Great Lyle, an Australian Jew.

His mind-reading act is, however, entirely his own. He performs it blindfolded and there can be no doubt that this is more than a mere trick. Of this I had occasion to convince myself when I saw "The Great Marco" doing his act in a small room. "The Great Marco" is also a hypnotist and will shortly give demonstrations in the Union.

Howard Fast Writes Novel On Maccabees

THE story of the Maccabees, excellently retold, is the subject of a new novel by Howard Fast, recently published in the United States. "My Glorious Brothers" is the title of the novel and the glorious brothers are the Maccabees who led the Jews to their great triumph over their Graeco-Syrian oppressors and preserved Israel's independence until the Roman conquest.

With his usual genius for story telling, Fast re-creates one of the most stirring chapters in the history of Israel and presents a living and emotional picture which will be admired by all those who believe in the fight for freedom. Epic as the story is, it also contains a romantic touch—the unspoken love of the two Maccabee brothers, Judah and Simon, for the same woman.

FIRST SCHOOL FOR CANTORS IN U.S. OPENED

THE Hebrew Union School of Jewish Sacred Music, the first school for cantors in America will serve all Jewry "without prejudice to any attitude or established set of customs," Dr. Nelson Glueck, president of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion declared last week at the opening exercises of the new school in the College-Institute Auditorium.

An entering class of 19 was inducted at the school's inauguration service.

LATEST story from the London Stock Exchange (breeding-ground of good stories) is of the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bevin, arriving at the Foreign Office one morning to learn that the Jewish forces in Palestine were resisting from Dan to Beersheba. "What! Are those places?" he exclaimed. "I thought they were man and wife—you know, like Sodom and Gomorrah."

Pretoria News.