



EDITED BY PERCY COWEN.

"The Official Organ of the Transvaal Government for Advertisements of universal interest, or which particularly affect the Jewish Community."

And authorised Municipal Medium.

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R.

EDITORIAL.

Here shall the Press the Jewish rights maintain
Unaw'd by influence, and unbribed by gain.
Here patriot Truth her glorious precepts draw,
Pledged to Religion, Liberty, and Law.

THE EDITOR'S FAREWELL.

This issue of the *South African Jewish Chronicle* is the last under its present editorship, as to-day, May 31st, I vacate the editorial chair and responsibility. Under these circumstances, it is only fitting that I should say a few words in farewell to the readers of this journal, the destiny of which I have guided for the last two years and eight months. During that time I have endeavoured to conduct this paper on journalistic principles prevalent among the most reputable of English journals, on the staffs of which it has been my privilege and pleasure to work previous to my leaving London to take up the editorship of the *South African Jewish Chronicle*. I have endeavoured to act and write fairly and impartially in connection with the various matters that have arisen and occurred during my occupancy of the editorial chair, and my guiding principle in adopting a course of policy has always been to serve the Jewish public interest and the lasting good of the South African Jewish community. At times the interests of individuals may have clashed with those of the community; that such should have sometimes been the case is very regrettable, but in spite thereof I have always aimed at serving and advocating the cause of the latter. Whether I have succeeded or not in these endeavours and aims I leave my readers to judge for themselves. Of course, such a policy as that above-mentioned was bound to meet with disfavour in certain quarters, and this, unfortunately, has been the case, but—and this is especially true of Johannesburg Jewry—it is impossible to please everybody. I can, however, assure those I may have displeased that in the editorial pronouncements made in this journal they may have taken objection to I only sought to serve the interests of the public as the editor of a Jewish journal, and personal feelings were not allowed to have any weight. I am grateful to be able to say that I can look back upon many spoken and written appreciations in commendatory terms of my work on the *South African Jewish Chronicle* from members of the community, and I take this opportunity of thanking them for their kind expressions of goodwill and appreciation. On reviewing the work I have done as editor of the *South African Jewish Chronicle*, my editorial conscience is quite satisfied with the record and can take its leave of this journal quite at rest with itself, seeing that I have done my best according to my lights, under the circumstances. Before concluding, I must express my

heartly thanks to the hon. officials, secretaries, and officials of the various organisations with whom I have come in contact as the representative of this journal, for the never-failing courtesy and ever-willing assistance they have invariably extended to me. I must also express my grateful appreciation of the cordial relations that have always existed between those who have been responsible for the printing of the *Chronicle* and myself, as well as between me and the other members of the staff.

I may mention that the bidding farewell in my editorial capacity to the readers of the *South African Jewish Chronicle* does not mean that I am severing my connection with the Johannesburg Jewish community. And now, dear readers, with my heartfelt wishes for the prosperity of Judaism in South Africa and of your individual selves, I ring down the curtain on my role as editor of the *South African Jewish Chronicle*, and in that capacity I bid you "Farewell."

PERCY COWEN.

"KASHRUS" IN THE HOSPITAL.

It is with great pleasure that we inform our readers that an entirely new *Kosher* kitchen, of large dimensions, is being built by the Johannesburg Hospital authorities, where not alone every meal but everything—apart from medicines—intended for the consumption of the Jewish patients will be prepared. Entirely fresh sets of utensils, crockery, and all the other requisites for the kitchen will be furnished, and it will be conducted in accordance with the laws of strict orthodoxy. It will take to the end of June to make all the preparations necessary, and the new arrangements will start in July. Hitherto only one meal a day was served by the *Kosher* kitchen, but thanks mainly to the energetic workers of the Jewish Ladies' Association, which controls the kitchen, the vast improvements above-mentioned are being carried out. The maintenance of a *Kosher* kitchen at the hospital is an absolute necessity, and no Jewish community can be considered to have done its duty so long as there are no means for providing *Kosher* food to the Jewish patients in the hospital existing in its midst. It is a well-known fact that many Jewish patients prefer to go on suffering maladies of more or less gravity rather than be cured by staying in a hospital where only *Trija* food is provided. Recently, Rabbi Dr. Hertz, at a meeting in America of the *Beth Yisroel* Hospital, urged the necessity of establishing *Kosher* kitchens in the hospitals. There are Jewish hospitals in Vienna, Berlin, St. Petersburg and Manchester, while in London some of the hospitals have Jewish wards. But strangely enough, in New York, with its population of a million Jews, there are no Jewish hospitals, nor are there *Kosher* kitchens attached to any of the hospitals. Rev. Dr. Perreira Mendes, the well-known American Rabbi, tried to establish a *Kosher* kitchen in Mount Sinai Hospital, but failed. In this, therefore, the Johannesburg community can claim superiority over the much larger and older one of New York. The *Kosher* kitchen is not only of benefit to the ordinary layman, for recently Dayan Freedman and the Rev. Woolf were inmates of the Hospital where they could not have stayed to be treated had there not been a *Kosher* kitchen, of which they both speak in the highest terms. All this is a fit subject for sincere congratulation, and now we put forth a strong plea which must be responded to if the manifold benefits of a *Kosher* kitchen such as is being prepared at the Hospital are to last. We appeal specially to the smaller congregations in and around Johannesburg and on the Reef to give the *Kosher* kitchen, which benefits all Jews on the Witwatersrand, their financial support. It is the bounden duty of every congregation to do so, seeing how closely knit to our religion is the great question of *Kashrus*. On the sound principle of no taxation without representation, we may inform the congregations whom we ask for support that all responding to that appeal will be allowed to send delegates to the meetings of the *Kosher* kitchen. Donations should be sent either to this journal, or to Mrs. Landau, the President of the Jewish Ladies' Association, which has charge of the *Kosher* kitchen. All donations will be acknowledged in the columns of the *South African Jewish Chronicle*.

THE JEWISH LADIES' COMMUNAL LEAGUE.

The annual meeting of this organisation is a pleasant function as a rule, harmony and concord prevailing and representatives of both our chief congregations meeting in accord and brotherly—or, under the circumstances, we should rather say sisterly—feeling. The general meeting of the League on Monday night in the hall of the Hebrew High School only deviated from this rule in one circumstance, and that occurred towards the end of the meeting, when Dr. Goodman lifted up his voice in condemnation of the League's action in subscribing towards the *Talmud Torah* in Jeppestown and of the Advisory Board for recommending undeserving cases to the Orphanage Committee. With the exception of this ripple on the otherwise happy and peaceful surface, Monday night's meeting can very well be an example to other communal institutions and congregations, and is another instance of women doing things much better than men. There was a good attendance, Mr. D. Starfield, a member of the Advisory Board, presiding. Before proceeding with the business, the chairman moved a vote of condolence to the family of the late Sir Julius Wernher. The deceased, and the eminent firm he was a member of, always, said Mr. Starfield, treated the Jewish Orphanage in an admirable manner. The vote was carried in silence, all present standing.

THE DUTY OF S.A. JEWRY.

In moving the adoption of the report and balance sheet, the Chairman said it was always a pleasant duty to do so for that institution, as the report always fully dealt with the work of the past year, and so it was unnecessary for the mover to do so. He congratulated all concerned on the past year's work. The Orphanage expenditure amounted to £1,500, which was not much when it was considered that the Orphanage maintained and looked after on the average fifty-five children year in and year out, and especially when the manner in which the work was done was taken into consideration. Each child cost the Orphanage 47s. 6d. a month, which worked out at 1s. 6d. or 1s. 7d. per child per day. It was very gratifying to see how economically the institution was run, and how beautiful and healthy the children looked. He wished to lay stress on one matter referred to in the report, and that was the Building Fund, which troubled the executive more than anything else, as it was so necessary to complete the building of the new wing as early as possible. They were accommodating more children now in the building than it was originally intended for. They should make every effort to complete the new wing as soon as possible, an additional reason being the name it would bear. The speaker expressed regret that one who very greatly appreciated and worked for the Orphanage, Rabbi Dr. Hertz, was not there to assist them. Had he been here the new wing would have been further towards completion than it was at present. Mr. Starfield announced that the executive would call a special meeting for the purpose of obtaining assistance in collecting the necessary money. Continuing, the Chairman said that Mrs. Binion, the matron, had left for America on a well-deserved holiday. It was only once a year that they could show their appreciation publicly of the lady who has acted as a mother to the children. The League was to be congratulated on having been successful in obtaining Mrs. Binion as a matron of the Orphanage, where every child grew to love her. They wished her a very pleasant voyage and return to Johannesburg to continue her noble work in the Orphanage. In conclusion, he assured the Ladies' Communal League that the good work they had done and were doing in the community was greatly appreciated. Mr. Bernard Alexander, in seconding the adoption, said the report gave them a bright picture of the admirable work done by the noble ladies in charge of the institution. He referred to the loss of Mr. Binion, an excellent friend of the Orphanage. Referring to the new wing, the speaker impressed the fact on his hearers that it was their duty as good Jews and loyal subjects of the King to see to it that the King Edward VII. Memorial Wing progressed beyond the foundation-stone stage. The ladies would shortly come to them to demand money for the building of the wing, and it was their duty to respond thereto satisfactorily. It was not a choice but a necessity to build that wing. It was a terrible thing to have to turn away orphans who would be taken in by non-Jewish institutions, and the blame would

be theirs if they allowed their Jewish children to be reared by non-Jewish organisations. The vote was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE ETC.

The next business on the agenda was the election of executive, with the following result:—Hon. President, Mrs. Max Langermann; president, Mrs. Sam Marks; vice-presidents, Mesdames Vallentine and Solomon; treasurer, Mrs. Stone; hon. secretary, Mrs. S. Davis-Marks; committee, Mesdames Goodman, Nathanson, Rosenthal, Anshell, Isaacs, Patlansky, Sasserath, Goldberg, Sonnenfeld, Spier, Imroth, and Aaron; hon. committee, Mesdames Landau, Hirschowitz, Woolf and Lipschitz; advisory board, Rabbi Dr. Landau, Messrs. D. Starfield, B. Alexander and G. Imroth; trustees, Sir George Albu, Messrs. Max Langermann and E. Friedlander. Very nice things were said about those elected—especially of Mrs. Davis-Marks—by their respective proposers, which complimentary sentiments were fervently cheered by those present. Mr. Max Langermann returned thanks on behalf of his wife for the honour they had done her in electing her hon. president. Mr. J. M. Patlansky moved a hearty vote of thanks to the outgoing committee, and Mr. M. P. Vallentine seconded the motion, which was enthusiastically carried.

DR. GOODMAN'S PROTEST AND ACCUSATION.

Then occurred the ripple on the peaceful surface referred to above. Dr. Goodman rose to draw attention to the contribution made by the League to the Jeppestown *Talmud Torah*, and said it was a great mistake for the committee to take money given them for one purpose and devote it to *Talmud Torahs*. These institutions asked for funds on their own account and they got it too, and it was a wrong principle to make people subscribe to them indirectly as well as directly. By doing that they were overlapping the work of the community. He hoped that they would consider the question again, and decide not to give money to any other institution. Continuing the speaker said that some members of the Advisory Board had recommended cases which were ultimately found by the committee to be by no means deserving ones. He considered it a great shame for those members of the Advisory Board to have done so. Dr. Goodman's speech elicited replies from three members of the Advisory Board, namely, Rabbi Dr. Landau, Mr. Alexander and the Chairman. The rev. gentleman said they only supported the Jeppestown *Talmud Torah*, and the Jeppestown congregation often helped the Orphanage, whilst the Rev. Lipschitz did some good work for their institution. Dr. Landau wanted to know of the previous speaker what members of the Advisory Board had recommended undeserving cases. Besides, Dr. Goodman had not suggested any remedy for their sometimes admitting undeserving cases. The Rabbi thought any Jewish child that was in danger of being placed in a Catholic home was deserving and must be taken in by the Orphanage. The children were always deserving, it was the parents that were sometimes undeserving. Mr. Alexander said the Jeppestown Hebrew Congregation showed a great deal of favours to the Orphanage, and they even allotted to the inmates a number of seats in the synagogue during the High Festivals, and in addition their minister, Rev. Lipschitz, did useful work for the institution, so that they were justified in making a donation to the Jeppestown *Talmud Torah*. With regard to the charge that the Advisory Board recommended undeserving cases, the speaker said there was not the slightest foundation for Dr. Goodman's remarks. Never had the board recommended any child that had not been deserving. He quite agreed with Dr. Landau that it was much better to accept cases that were undeserving than that those children should leave the Jewish faith. The Chairman, in the course of his speech, said the first object for which the League was founded was to support education, and therefore it was right that the Jeppestown *Talmud Torah* should be supported by the League. Besides, the Orphanage was in close connection with the Jeppestown Congregation, and the latter was of assistance to the former. He only wished that the League could support the *Talmud Torah* more than it did. As far as the accusation against the Advisory Board was concerned, he did not know of any such case as that mentioned. But supposing a mistake was made. In his opinion rather than

that one child should suffer it were better to make ten mistakes. Dr. Goodman, in reply, said he had not accused the Advisory Board. What he said was that individual members of the Board came and recommended certain children, and the committee afterwards found them undesirable. He did not consider it fair that those members of the Advisory Board who had spoken should have got up and contradicted his statement.

A VERITABLE MISFORTUNE AND A REMEDY.

The scrutineers, Messrs. Sasserath and Marks, then came in with the result of the ballot for the committee, there having been more than twelve nominations the vacancies had to be polled for. As the names given above were read out something like consternation, certainly much more than surprise, could be seen on some of the faces of the well-known workers of the Ladies' Communal League, as they realised that an old and tried enthusiastic worker on the committee had not been elected to the body. It was, unfortunately, but too true that the name of Mrs. A. Atkins, that had so long figured in the list of the committee, was not among those successful in the election. After the names had been read out the Chairman got up and expressed keen regret and disappointment that so valuable and tried a worker for the League as Mrs. Atkins was not returned on the committee, and he moved a vote of thanks to that lady for the work she had done. Whilst we cordially echo every word spoken by Mr. Starfield—than whom nobody is in a better position to judge good work done in the community—we go further and assert most emphatically and beyond all fear of contradiction that the deletion of Mrs. Atkins from the committee is a veritable misfortune for the Ladies' Communal League and the Orphanage. For eight years Mrs. Atkins has worked enthusiastically and wholeheartedly on the committee of the institution, and we cannot understand how any member of the League with the most superficial knowledge of its activities in the past could pass by Mrs. Atkins' name without recording a vote in favour of that lady. In this connection we may mention that we are given to understand on good authority that among those who voted on Monday night were some who were not entitled to do so. This cannot be designated otherwise than as flagrant dishonesty on the part of those unentitled voters, and we cannot recommend too strongly to the committee that effective steps must be taken on future occasions to annul the possibility of a recurrence of the perpetration of such dishonest irregularities. Our sympathies are entirely with Mrs. Atkins, and we fear that the loss to the League's committee of so valued a member will prove an unfavourable factor against it. Under these circumstances it should be a matter for the serious consideration of the executive whether it is not possible to devise some means whereby the unaccountable error of Monday night can be rectified and Mrs. Atkins be re-instated as a member of the committee in the near future, to the great benefit of the good work the Communal League is engaged in. The sentiments on this matter expressed by Mr. Starfield at the meeting and in this article by ourselves are the reflection of the popular feeling on this subject, a further true mirror of which is furnished by the letter in our correspondence columns published over the signature of Mr. J. P. Hyman. We entirely agree with our correspondent's remarks, and we trust that, for the good of the League, our suggestion just put forth will be carried out by the executive. The number of our public workers is not so large that we can afford to dispense with so valuable a one as Mrs. Atkins, and therefore every possible means should be resorted to so as to retain that lady's services on the committee of the organisation she has so nobly worked for during the past eight years.

RUMOURS AND A PLEA.

The rumours of the disbandment of the Transvaal Police Band and the discontinuance of the municipality engaging its services for the parks, are matters for keen regret on the part of the public, especially of that section which has enjoyed many an hour's listening to well-performed music amid the refreshing greenery of the parks. It is sincerely to be hoped that these rumours will not be translated into facts, and that the authorities will stay their hand before demolishing a band that is not only a credit to its members and the force it represents, but which is a source of pure and innocent enjoyment to

thousands of men, women, and children, to whom the band's open-air performances are welcome streaks of colour in a gray existence. Co-religionists from all parts of the town—with the exception perhaps of Parktown—form a large proportion of the public who enjoy the afternoon's music in the open provided by Bandmaster Smith and his capable bandmen, and it is not the least of our tributes to the admirable manner in which they render the various items of their varied programmes, when we state that their performances of *Kol Nidrei*, which as our readers will remember were brought about by the efforts of the *South African Jewish Chronicle*, assisted by Professor Pomfret, showed the Transvaal Police Band to be possessed of a quick sympathetic understanding of the spirit of Jewish music, together with a keen appreciation of the beauties of, and a respectful reverence for, our ancient, synagogal sacred melody. We trust that the reports of disbandment will not come true, that the police authorities and the municipality will continue to maintain the band in the beneficial use it has been, and that Bandmaster Smith and his men will have a long and excellent future before them as the Transvaal Police Band.

THE SHORTENED WAY.

It will not seem as far to you
If in your heart the skies are blue,
And birds are singing there, and trees
Are whispering their melodies
Of happiness and sweet content
Beneath the azure firmament.

It will not seem so hard and rough
If you believe it sweet enough
If you look up through all your care
In gratitude of whispered prayer
To tell your happiness to God
For every blossom where you plod.

It will not be so tiresome quite
When you have reached the gates of night.
If through the toiling of the day
You have beheld along the way
The meaning of each holy trial
That happens on each measured mile.

It will not seem so long and far,
If you remember that the star
Of love and faith above your head
Accompanies you where'er you tread,
And if, in grace of simple things,
There's something in your heart that sings.

SIR EDWARD SASSOON, BART., M.P.

The death of Sir Edward Albert Sassoon, Bart., M.P., D.L., which occurred on Friday last, has removed from Anglo-Jewry a distinguished communal worker of a distinguished family, whose manifold activities in the political, social and military circles were not allowed to interfere with communal work of a high and useful order. The Sassoons are a family whose munificent donations for charitable and educational purposes and whose deep interest in matters affecting the welfare of the Jewish community are world-renowned, and universal too is the feeling of sorrow at the passing away of so notable a member of the family as the late Sir Edward. It was only a few months ago that we had to mourn the loss of Mr. Arthur D. Sassoon, an uncle of Sir Edward, and an intimate friend of Royalty. Sir Edward Sassoon was fifty-six years of age, having been born in 1856, the eldest surviving son of the first baronet. He succeeded his father in 1896, and was elected M.P. for Hythe in the Conservative interest in 1899, retaining his seat ever since. In 1887, Sir Edward married Aline, daughter of Baron Gustave de Rothschild, who, however, predeceased her husband by nearly three years, having died on July 28th, 1909. The deceased was an ex-President of the Elders of the Spanish and Portuguese Congregation in London, a vice-president of the Jews' College and Anglo-Jewish Association, and president of the Education Aid Society. He was major in the Duke of Cambridge Hussars Yeomanry.

