

April 22nd, 1927.

# In and Around the Town.

100, St. George's Street,  
Thursday.

## THE COLONIZATION SCHEME.

If the movement to obtain local financial support for the Jewish Colonization Scheme in Russia is in existence, then all I can say is that the promoters are working very quietly. May be they feel the time is not propitious to make a general appeal for funds, and here, perhaps, I may be inclined to agree with them. At the same time they should give some sign that they are not asleep, that their movements is being organised, and that there will be early activity. Since I mentioned the matter in these notes I have had many enquiries for information, but, unfortunately, I am unable to supply any details beyond saying that rumours had reached me that a start was being made to interest Cape Town Jewry in the Russian Colonization project. There are many co-religionists in South Africa who have not been so long away from Russia that they have forgotten what they experienced, and one can, with confidence, anticipate considerable support from them for their stricken brethren in that country.

## TO SOLVE THE ECONOMIC PROBLEM.

American Jewry have long recognised that the solution of the economic problem confronting our brethren in Soviet Russia is their rapid and widespread settlement on the land; and most of the financial support for this great work of reconstruction has emanated from the United States. The Soviet government has helped the scheme by providing land in the Crimea and Ukraine, by granting credits to the colonists for timber for the building of homesteads, by freeing them from taxation for the first few years, and by a cash grant of several million roubles towards the colonization. But help must come from Jews in every country. A renaissance of the Jews of Russia is at hand, but the revival needs fostering and encouraging, morally and financially. South African Jewry can do a lot for the movement. The colonization scheme is opening up a wonderful vista for our unfortunate folk in Eastern Europe. Reports dealing with the movement are enthusiastic concerning the growth and development of the colonization project. Whilst ten years ago there were less than fifty thousand Jewish colonists in Russia, to-day there are close on three times that number.

## BACK TO THE LAND.

This then goes to show how eagerly our Russian brethren are grasping the opportunity to rehabilitate themselves. With the help of Jews in other countries, the scheme of settling them on the land can be enlarged and widened. Financial support is needed to purchase agricultural implements and machinery, and to enable the colonists to live until the land they cultivate yields them the means to live. Up to the present the bulk of the support has come from America. South Africa should not be left behind. Here is an opportunity to solve a problem that has long baffled solution. The hundreds of thousands of suffering Jews in Russia must be helped now. It is an immediate solution. Are we to let them starve while other schemes are maturing? Are we to deny them immediate bread pending the fruit of the dim and distant future? With all respect to that section owing

allegiance to the Palestinian movement who would try to wreck efforts to bring relief and succour to millions of Jews in Russia, the answer must be an emphatic NO! There are, fortunately, many prominent and sincere Zionists whose sympathy will always be with any scheme to ameliorate the lot of their suffering brethren no matter under whose auspices the scheme may be, and who do not see in the Russian Colonization scheme a menace to the Palestinian movement.

## ZIONIST OPPOSITION.

Fortunately there are many in the Zionist ranks who recognise the necessity of something being done to relieve the deplorable state of affairs in Russia immediately, and who see in the colonization scheme the means to that end. Here in South Africa the Zionist organisation only see in it a machine to divert money away from Palestine. This they will not countenance at any price. To them the blood and tears of their brethren in Russia count for nothing. They have decreed that the Russian Jewish Colonization Scheme shall be boycotted. This means that the unfortunates in Russia must starve and die until Palestine is rebuilt and ready for occupation. But I can see no reason why the one scheme need affect the other. Both movements can be supported. The Palestinian scheme is a national one; the other sets out to solve a local problem.

## NO COMPETITION.

There is no question of competition. The Russian Colonization Scheme can be supported by Zionists and vice versa. In fact I rather think the time will arrive when Zionism will benefit from the colonization scheme. Anyway, here is one section of Jewry requiring immediate relief. Palestine cannot yet receive them. It will be a long time before it is able to absorb large numbers of Eastern European Jews. In the meantime what is to happen to the millions crying out for aid? South African Jewry may be relied on to answer this question and to see that they are not left in the lurch. And they will still contribute handsomely to the National Fund. There is no necessity for that to be shelved. One can be a Zionist and yet give another scheme one's support, and the local Zionist organisation should realise this. The Russian Jewish victims of the devastating world war, the fearful pogroms, the upheavals of the revolution and the attendant years of misery and hunger must be saved, and this is what the Russian Colonization scheme sets out to achieve.

## A WEDDING CELEBRATION.

Queen's Road, Tamboer's Kloof, on Thursday night was a scene of great activity. Both sides of the rather narrow thoroughfare were packed with motors whilst "Westcliffe," the residence of Mr. and Mrs. I. Jacobs, and that of Mr. and Mrs. Rabkin, next door, were a blaze of lights. Obviously celebrations of some importance were in progress. At Mr. Rabkin's house dancing was vigorously indulged in by a large gathering of friends of Mr. Jack Berman and Miss Gladys Jacobs, who, earlier in the day had been married at the Gardens Synagogue.

## FUN AND FROLIC.

It was very thoughtful of the Rabkin's to allow their residence to be used and the many large rooms were converted into dance and supper

salons. Here there was much fun and frolic, for the newlyweds are very popular in local Jewish circles, and it appeared as if all their friends had assembled. Nevertheless, there was no crowding and it was one of the most successful "parties" at which it has been my fortune to be present. Being a cool evening dancing was enjoyable, and the refreshments available throughout the evening were both dainty and delicious. Among the guests were a number of Guild officials, for Mr. Berman has been a member since the inception of that organisation and is, at present, on the Executive.

## A FAREWELL PARTY.

At "Westcliffe," there was a card party on a grand scale. "Westcliffe" is a large house, and there are numerous rooms. All, with the exception of the large dining-room—where supper was laid—was given over to cards, whilst the balconies were also filled with card tables. Here the occasion was in the nature of a "farewell" given to their many friends by Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs, who are leaving for Europe on the 23rd inst. They are likely to be away for some time, and they will certainly be missed. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs are genial hosts and give many enjoyable "evenings." Accompanying her parents is "Toots" Jacobs, who is looking forward to her trip overseas. I anticipate there will be a great muster at the Docks when the "Guildford Castle" sails.

## GUILD "POP" CONCERT.

The fourth monthly "Popular Concert" under the auspices of the Cape Jewish Guild, held on Tuesday evening, was a distinct success. These concerts are held to acquire funds to reduce the bond on the recently constructed tennis courts, but, at the same time they provide excellent entertainment for members and friends. Once again, the outstanding feature of a splendidly arranged programme was the playing of the Guild Orchestra under the perfect directorship of Mr. Geo. Tobias. This amateur combination is making wonderful strides and gaining in popularity, although there is still room for improvement in the attendance of members at these concerts.

## THE PROGRAMME.

The programme was opened by the Orchestra with Rossini's overture "Semerandre," which was well rendered, and then Miss F. Cron gave a delightful rendering of "The Enchantress" (Hatton). Miss Cron should make a point of appearing more frequently in public, and thus gaining much desired confidence. Humorous items by Mr. A. B. Kellaway followed, and, although hardly recovered from a bad cold, his catchy numbers readily "caught on." The first half of the programme was concluded with an orchestral selection "Evening on the Veld" (Pickerill). Mr. Aubrey Ospovat is becoming a violonist of no mean order and his rendering of Concerto in G Minor (Vivaldi) was faultless. His technique was perfect and, aided by the Orchestra, the item was perhaps the most enjoyable of the evening. Mr. Boris Rome, the Choirmaster of the Gardens Synagogue, sang with great effect "Una furtiva lagrima" from Donizetti's "L'Elisir a'Amore," and well deserved the hearty encore that awaited him. Miss Phyllis Cohen submitted two acceptable recitations, and the evening concluded with "In a Persian Market" in the Orchestra's best style.

(Continued on Page 408.)

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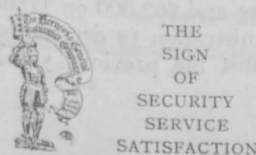
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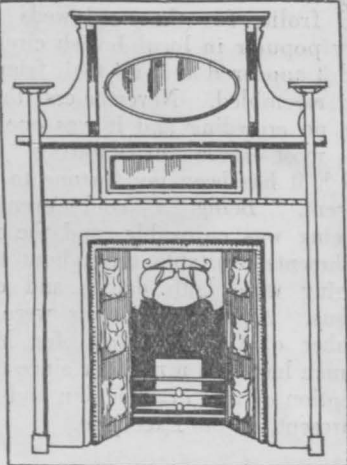
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### IN AND AROUND THE TOWN.

(Continued from Page 407.)

#### A SUCCESSFUL ARTIST.

Mrs. Prinz, better known as Miss Irma Stern, is a South African artist who is meeting with much success overseas. The general public of Cape Town were first acquainted with her work when she executed the scenes for the "Fairyland Fete" at the City Hall, some four years ago. At that time her work was severely criticised. She had distinctly Futuristic leanings, which were not generally approved. But she has matured in her art and has developed a distinctive expression which has attracted Continental critics, who pay many tributes to her undoubted talents. Miss Stern is shortly exhibiting her art in Paris, and there is no doubt that her work will be as favourably received there as in Leipsic and Berlin.

#### MISINFORMED.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency is usually so well informed that I was surprised to read in its latest bulletin, commenting on the passing away of Mr. Isaac Lewis, that the deceased gentleman established the Jewish Orphanage in Johannesburg. This is, of course, quite inaccurate, and no doubt the Agency has become confused with the fact that in his lifetime, Mr. Isaac Lewis contributed generously to the Cape Jewish Orphanage, and to perpetuate the memory of his wife the "Sarah Ann Lewis" hospital at that Institution was erected through his generosity. I never saw it mentioned, in any of the references made to his death in the South African press, that he had ever made any contributions to the Johannesburg Orphanage.

#### THE SONG OF SONGS.

In addition to the ordinary reading, on the seventh day of *Pesach*, it is customary in many synagogues, for the book known by the name of "Songs of Songs" to be read. In some congregations this beautiful book is not read, which is a great pity. Its beauty lies not alone in that it consists of the greatest song of love ever written but that it also contains valuable lessons with regard to the present day position of the Jew.

In Chapter 1, verse 6, we read: ". . . They have made me the keeper of the vineyards, but mine own vineyard I have not kept." The influence of the Jew has been felt in every sphere of life: educational, political and economical, and yet we find Jewry were the guardians of strange vineyards. Our politicians are politicians of the countries of their birth. The same applies to every other phase of life. "Our own vineyards we have not guarded." It is only now, with the establishment of the Hebrew University at Jerusalem that we are becoming the "guardians of our own vineyard," and this message should percolate throughout Jewry with the burning desire to again bear the torch of civilization; and it should be known as the Jewish torch of civilization.

MR. COSSIP.

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### Anti-Semite's Appeal.

#### SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS SENTENCE.

We learn from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Hanseatic Supreme Court at Hamburg has after a hearing lasting seven hours, upheld the sentence of four months' imprisonment passed last October on Ex-Deputy Fritsch, the seventy-two-year-old anti-Semitic agitator and member of the Bureau of the Anti-Semitic International, for libelling Herr Max Warburg and Dr. Melchior. The sentence now becomes effective and Fritsch will have to go to prison to serve his term.

In his address to the court, Fritsch contended that the article complained of had been published in the public interest. Warburg was a man taking a prominent part in public life, and if there was any suspicion regarding his conduct it was necessary to make it known so that there should be an enquiry. The court, however, refused to accept this plea.

Fritsch, who is the editor of the *Hammer*, a virulent anti-Semitic publication appearing in Leipzig, and the head of a publishing house issuing anti-Semitic books and pamphlets, including Henry Ford's "International Jew," which he translated into German, alleged that Herr Max Warburg, with the connivance of Dr. Melchior had during and after the war acted in league with his brothers, Felix and Paul Warburg, citizens of the United States, to betray Germany to the Allies. As a result of these allegations, a number of attempts were made at various times on Herr Max Warburg's life.

Libel proceedings were immediately taken by Herr Max Warburg and Dr. Melchior and the case was first heard in December, 1924. Deputy Fritsch, as he was then, was sentenced to three months' imprisonment. He appealed against the sentence, the appeal being heard the following month. The Appeal Court imposed on him a fine of 1,000 Marks in place of the term of imprisonment, basing its decision on the ground that persons like Max Warburg, who were playing an historic role must be subject to criticism. However mistaken Fritsch's views might be, the verdict, said, they were not frivolous, inasmuch as he had preached those views consistently for over forty years. In view of this fact and of his extreme age the court held that a fine would be sufficient to meet the case.

Herr Max Warburg and Dr. Melchior counter-appealed against this decision of the court, and the Hamburg Supreme Court in October sentenced Fritsch to four months' imprisonment. Fritsch appealed against this verdict which has now been upheld.

### Palestinian Defences.

#### DECREASE IN THE ESTIMATE.

Details of the estimates for Imperial and Foreign Services in 1927-1928 are continued in a Parliamentary paper issued recently. The total estimate is £8,635,760, a net decrease of £601,380. The principal item is a saving of £1,049,000 on Middle Eastern Services. The total sum provided for Middle Eastern Services is £3,680,000 including £2,519,000 on Irak and Palestine Defence (a decrease of £936,500 against 1926-27), £45,000 on Palestine Transjordan Frontier Force (a decrease of £63,000 against the previous year) and £62,000 on Transjordan Administration (a decrease of £30,000 against the previous year).