

In and Around the Town.

100, St. George's Street,
Thursday.

A RACE LIBELLED.

Mr. Aaron Sapiro, the young lawyer of Chicago, is determined once and for all to nail to the mast the many lies and inventions of American anti-Semites. As far back as 1920, the *Dearborn Independent*, owned by Mr. Henry Ford, the "flivver croesus," began a series of articles, violently attacking Jewry. These articles alleged a conspiracy to obtain control of money, theatres, the cinema industry, etc., and a further series of articles associated Jewry with, on the one hand, the Bolsheviki element, and, on the other hand, with international capitalists. No steps having been taken to meet these unfounded statements, Ford's journal became more virulent in its attacks and shrieked out a charge of treason to America. In April, 1924, the *Dearborn Independent*, following up its anti-Semitic policy came out with a new libel. On this occasion it became personal, and the articles then commenced, launched a new offensive the motif being to discredit a number of prominent Jews, who were specifically named and alleging a plot to sieze control of American agricultural products and to exploit the American farmer.

AN ALLEGED CONSPIRACY.

Aaron Sapiro was said to be the leading light in this "conspiracy." Mr. Sapiro originated and fostered the scheme of co-operative marketing among American farmers, for whom he has done an immense amount of good. The writer of the articles, which continued for a year, accused Sapiro and his associates of aiming at the reduction of the farmer to a state of economic dependence upon the members of the "conspiracy." It also alleged that Sapiro and his friends endeavoured to encompass the financial ruin of merchants in small towns and desired to gain control of the education and development of the children of American farmers. Many more allegations were made by Ford's hirelings against a man who for fifteen years has been building up the co-operative movement among farmers, and who is counsel for a large number of these farmers' co-operative associations. Those who have not been bitten by the anti-Semitic bug have readily recognised what Sapiro has done for agriculture in America, and the benefit derived by the farmers from the organisations inaugurated by him.

A CAUSE CELEBRE.

Although the later attacks were directed against several prominent American Jews, it was Aaron Sapiro who decided to make Mr. Ford meet a charge of libel and therefore in April, 1925, he filed his suit. The million dollar libel suit has caused a great stir in America and is being watched with much interest all over the world. Sapiro is fighting not only for his own honour but for the honour of Jewry, who have been so wickedly maligned by Ford and his satellites. Ford, with the weight of his immense wealth, tried to wear down Sapiro's resistance and successfully obtained numerous postponements of the trial, until finally the case was definitely set down for March 7th after legal manœuvring for nearly two years. But now there is another delay. Owing to a member of the jury—a woman—giving an interview to a Detroit paper, the Court announced a "mis-trial" and the action was stopped. A new trial

will no doubt be necessary, but owing to the Judge, earlier in the proceedings, ruling out the "Jewish conspiracy" issue, Sapiro cannot seek vindication of his charge of defamation of character.

TO KILL ANTI-SEMITISM.

Sapiro in bringing his action against Ford, has but one desire. His aim is to kill the anti-Semitism of Ford and his like, to destroy the falsehoods broadcasted in the billionaire's Detroit journal and to kill the anti-Jewish germ which his editorial hirelings have persistently disseminated. How the trial will end, one cannot predict, for with the power and influence of a man like the motor magnate anything may happen. There are reasonable-minded people who deplore these attacks, and who recognise in the slanders nothing but hatred and bigotry. But unfortunately, with insidious propaganda the mass mind is affected, and this has been the motif in all the articles published in the *Dearborn Independent*.

FORD'S FULMINATIONS.

Although there were many who deprecated this action and who preferred to ignore Ford's fulminations, the bulk of Jewry, not only in America but elsewhere, will welcome it. The writer of the defamatory articles is one Harry H. Dunn, who must have realised how libellous his statements were, yet feared not the result of their publication for he would be well covered by his billionaire master. Thus the meddling Ford employs his wealth. One could suggest more useful channels for his surplus dollars. The Jewish conspiracy bogey will be laid, but it is very unfortunate that the law does not protect a race from libel, so that Ford can, if he so desires continue to spread the gospel of anti-Semitism. He wants to boycott the Jew. Let the Jew boycott Ford and his manufactures.

BARNEY'S BARMITZVAH.

To celebrate the barmitzvah of their son Barney, Mr. and Mrs. P. Dodowitz, gave a dinner and dance at the Regent Palace Hotel on Saturday night, at which there were over one hundred guests. It was a perfectly arranged affair and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Precisely at eight dinner was served, and after the dessert the toast of the barmitzvah boy was given by Mr. L. Gradner to which the former responded with commendable brevity. The toast of the parents and grandparents was replied to by Mr. "Pinny" Dodowitz. The absence of the numerous and lengthy speeches usually associated with such functions was generally welcomed. No one was bored with barmitzvah party platitudes, and a dainty dinner was unspoiled. Then there was a delightful dance, to the playing of Mr. Harry Jacobson and his band until twelve. The arrival of the bewitching hour of midnight was generally regretted by the dancers who reluctantly quitted the floor.

AT THE REGENT PALACE.

Earlier in the day, Barney read his portion at the Great Synagogue, where many of his relatives and friends assembled. No one was surprised that he acquitted himself as he did, for Barney is a bright boy. At the reception his reply to the toast was quite impromptu, which, of course, would account for its shortness. Nevertheless it was a great effort and earned him a spontaneous ovation. I sat next to his schoolmaster who was very proud of his pupil, but I must not repeat the nice things he

said, for flattery is bad even for barmitzvah boys! I notice that the Regent Palace Hotel is becoming a popular rendezvous for Jewish domestic "simchas," and rightly so for it is eminently suited for the purpose, and mine host, Mr. Charles Meyer, goes to no end of trouble in making everything comfortable and enjoyable.

MISS JESSIE ZUCKERMAN.

It is over two years ago that Miss Jessie Zuckerman left these shores for London and the Continent, and I hear that she is now making preparations to return to her native heath. During her sojourn overseas Miss Zuckerman enhanced her reputation as a first-class pianist. She is an old student of the College of Music and in London she was a pupil of Mr. Harold Cruyton at the Royal Academy, gaining the degree of L.R.A.M. there. It is her intention, on her return to Cape Town, to open a studio.

OPERATIC DANCING.

Espinosa, the well-known teacher of operatic dancing, returned to England by last Friday's mail boat after a short visit to Johannesburg for the purpose of examining the pupils of the dance teachers of that city. He was invited by the Johannesburg dancing teachers to conduct the examination under the auspices of the Association of Operatic Dancing of Great Britain, of which he is a member and an examiner. Not only did Mr. Espinosa examine teachers who presented themselves for that purpose, but a number of children gave excellent results when they were tested. The Cape Town Dance Teachers' Association had not arranged for an examination by Mr. Espinosa, but several presented themselves and he found time to conduct an examination. Miss Miriam Kirsch passed the advanced division, whilst Miss Francis Harrison gained an intermediate and Miss Pearl Lazarus and Miss Elvira Kirsch each passed the elementary stage.

DANGERS OF TOE DANCING.

In a conversation Mr. Espinosa was very enthusiastic about South African dancers, but he issued a warning note in regard to the manner in which young children were being taught. He deprecated the tendency of South African teachers to put little mites to toe-dancing and other intricate forms of dancing. While teaching in South Africa was on a high plane, owing to the ambitions of mothers, children of seven and eight were given work that should be reserved for much older girls. As a result, there was a great danger that the children would lose that beauty of body and symmetry of limb they now possessed. The object of the Association of Operatic Dancing, formed in London six years ago was to standardise and improve instruction in operatic dancing and Espinosa's visit to South Africa has undoubtedly done a lot of good.

THE GUILD.

The latest venture on the part of the Cultural Section of the Cape Jewish Guild is the formation of a Parliamentary Debating Society and the first "Parliamentary evening" was held one night last week. The Party system has been introduced, but unlike "the other House," at the Guild rooms the S.A. Party are in power, with Mr. S. Winer the "Prime Minister, and Mr. I. Lehr the "Minister of the Interior." The official opposition is led by Mr. Herman Cohen and Mr. J. Hodes on behalf of the Nats, and Mr. J. Weinrich represents "Labour interests." The "Speaker" is Mr. Lewin, and the "Clerk of the House," Mr. (Attorney) Herbstein. (Continued on Page 448.)

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IN AND AROUND THE TOWN.

(Continued from Page 447.)

The first measure introduced by the "Government" was one that caused a great deal of discussion, but a leaven of humour was introduced by various speakers. It was "A Flag Bill"—not to be confused with the measure which will shortly be discussed in the House of Assembly. If this section of the Guild activities is well supported it is intended to make it a regular feature. Guildites are particularly requested to show their interest in this new movement.

MR. HERZ GROSSBARD.

A distinguished Jewish actor arrived in Cape Town on Monday on a brief visit, and last night a reception was tendered to him by the Cape Town Maccabean Association, at the Old Synagogue, Gardens. Mr. Herz Grossbard, a member of the famous Vilna troupe of Jewish actors, is well known in Europe and his productions have always been enthusiastically received wherever staged. On Monday night, the President of the Maccabeans, Mr. B. Rostowsky, introduced the visitor, who was heartily welcomed by the Rev. A. P. Bender in the name of the Jewish community. His fame had preceded him, said Mr. Bender, and he hoped that with his undoubted ability Mr. Grossbard would have a successful tour in South Africa.

A TALENTED JEWISH ACTOR.

Eloquent testimony was paid to Mr. Grossbard's dramatic ability by Mr. Meyerowitz of the Michaelis School of Art. The latter referred to Ansky's play "The Dybbuk," which he witnessed in Berlin some years ago, and which was staged last month by the Forum Theatre Guild at the London Royalty Theatre. Mr. Grossbard gave an enjoyable recital from the works of Peretz, and his audience had an excellent opportunity of judging his great talents as an exponent of Jewish literary and theatrical art. One hopes the general public will be given the opportunity of seeing this eminent actor at work and, although his visit will be of short duration, it may be possible to arrange a recital before he leaves.

A SILVER WEDDING.

Twenty-five years ago—on the 7th May, 1902—Mr. Leonard A. G. Neumann was married at Bloemfontein to Miss Bessie Fredman, and the host of friends of Mr. and Mrs. Neumann are tendering them hearty congratulations on the occasion of the anniversary of that event. For about thirty years Mr. Neumann has been Secretary of Hebrew Congregations, twenty-four years in an honorary capacity. In 1911 Mr. Neumann was President of the Bloemfontein Zionist Society.

Thirty years ago he was the secretary of the Bulawayo congregation, following which he held similar positions in Bloemfontein, Theunissen and Muizenberg. During his residence in Theunissen he was an active member of the town council, and his services were much appreciated. It is six years ago that he took over the secretaryship of the Mother congregation and his ability, his conscientiousness and his sincere attachment to his duties are generally recognised and esteemed. Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Neumann and here's wishes for very many happy returns of the day!

MR. L. H. LEWIS RETURNS.

Monday's mail boat brought back to South Africa Messrs. Ackerman's new general manager. Mr. Lewis was recently appointed chief clerk to the High Commissioner in London, but evidently he preferred a commercial career to the Civil Service, and thus he has obtained a plum in business circles. Mr. Lewis for many years was a prominent official in the Department of Finance, Pretoria, and was

the first Jew to occupy so an important a position in the Civil Service. Undoubtedly he will be a great acquisition to the progressive firm he has joined.

A NEW K.C.

His Excellency the Governor-General has appointed Mr. Emile Nathan, an Advocate of the Supreme Court of South Africa, to be of His Majesty's Counsel for the Union of South Africa, with precedence next after Mr. Arthur Edward Carlisle. Mr. Nathan, who is the popular M.L.A. for Von Brandis, was originally a partner in the firm of Nathan and Papenfus, Solicitors. Mr. Papenfus is also a barrister and a Member of Parliament. Mr. Nathan has always shown a great interest in Jewish matters, and he has been a frequent contributor to the *Jewish Chronicle*. An article from his pen some years ago in favour of the abolition of trial by jury attracted much attention and was quoted extensively by the South African press. Mr. Nathan, who many years ago married Miss Godfrey, devotes the whole of his time to public affairs.

THE SEDRA.

In this week's *Sedra*, Leviticus 24, verse 22, we read the following: "Ye shall have one manner of law, as well for the stranger, as for one of your own country; for I am the Lord thy God."

In daily conversation with our neighbours we often hear their opinion as to why this or any other is a free country. They usually say "This is a free country because it is a Christian country." This seems to imply that prior to Christianity there were no free countries. Yet to the Jew who knows his Bible it is a great source of pleasure when he reads the above sentence and finds that more than a thousand years before the Christian era, Moses already taught the Jew that equal treatment should be meted out to the Jew as well as to the non-Jew. The injunction "to be kind to strangers" appears in the Bible more times than any other law. There were even some non-Jews who enjoyed greater privileges than the Jew. This we also find in the reading of this week, Chapter 22, Leviticus, verse 10-14, where we find there were certain kinds of food, which belonged to the portion of Cohain, which an Israelite was not allowed to eat. Yet the non-Jew servant of the Cohain was allowed to partake of it.

CONSECRATION OF
TOMBSTONES.

The tombstone erected to the memory of the late Mr. Gerson Schach, father of Mrs. B. Jacobs, Mrs. J. Schulman, Mrs. N. Bloch, Mr. S. Schach and Mr. M. Schach, will be consecrated at Woltemade Cemetery No. 3 on Sunday, 8th inst., after the arrival of the 3.5 p.m. train from town.

At the same time the tombstone erected to the memory of Jessica, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. Jacobs, of Upper Mill Street, will also be consecrated. The Rev. S. Steinberg will perform the ceremony.

AN ENGAGEMENT.

The engagement of Mr. Percy Trappler, son of Mrs. Trappler, of Kloof Road, and Miss Jenny Kruyer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Kruyer, of Tamboers Kloof, is announced. Both are very well known among the younger section of the local community, and their many friends will offer them their hearty congratulations. Mr. Trappler has done his "little bit" for local communal organisations, and for three years was the Secretary of the Cape Jewish Aged Home. For some time he was also a member of the Committee of the Cape Jewish Orphanage, and is now a member of the Cape Jewish Guild.

MR. GOSSIP.