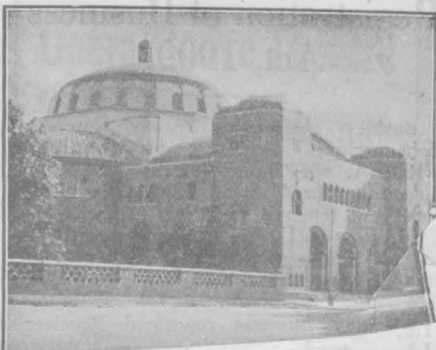




JOHANNESBURG

DAY BY DAY

Invitations to meetings and functions, should be addressed as early as possible to:—
 P.O. Box 20. 90, 91, 92 & 93, Permanent Buildings,
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THE KANTHACK TRAGEDY.

The great event of this week has been the tragedy of the murder of Miss Irene Kanthack who disappeared from her home in Oxford Rd., Forest Town, on Thursday afternoon last and was discovered murdered and hacked about on Saturday morning in the Sachsenwald. The Jewish connection with the matter is the discovery of the body by a Jewish Orphanage boy, David Rubin, covered with leaves and branches, and lying in the shelter of a tree within twenty-five yards of Upper Park Drive, which runs along the back of the Zoo on the edge of Sachsenwald. Practically no portion of the body was visible beneath the thick layer under which it was hidden when first seen. The tree at the foot of which it lay obscured it from the view of anyone approaching the road through the plantation; leaves carefully packed, supplemented by the apparently purposeful collection of fallen trees around the body, made it impossible for anyone entering the wood from the road to discover its presence except by means of a careful examination. About six yards away, at the foot of another tree, was a large pool of blood which had also been covered with leaves.

On the covering branches being removed, Miss Kanthack's body was disclosed, lying on its right shoulder. The head was stretched towards the right, revealing a deep cut from the left ear across the neck almost to the middle of the breastbone. The ear itself was marked with blood, the fourth finger of the left hand was cut almost to the bone, and on her left leg were three minute punctures, apparently caused by the incision of a small sharp instrument. When the Boy Scouts approached the scene of the crime on Saturday, there was practically no sign of the terrible happenings that had taken place there. About a hundred Boy Scouts had started off from the Zoo Lake at about 9 a.m. The Arcadia (Jewish) Troop was allocated an area from the Monument to the back of the Zoo. Their leader, Mr. L. Shaer, the Superintendent of the Jewish Orphanage at Arcadia, from where the boys came, was not satisfied that they were sufficiently spread out, and when half the area had been covered he reformed them. Almost immediately afterwards David Rubin noticed the heap of branches which covered Miss Kanthack's body.

"It looked like a bed," he told a press representative later, "so I went over and kicked it. And then I saw a girl's head. Here she is sir," he then shouted, and the troop gathered round, Mr. Shaer strictly prohibiting them from touching anything. Their whistles brought the police to the scene, and to them the body was handed over.

FEDERATION OF SYNAGOGUES.

We understand that the difficulties which had occurred in connection with the abstention of the United Hebrew Congregation of Johannesburg from membership of the

Federation of Synagogues have been overcome and that everything tends towards the firm establishment of this new and necessary formation. Recently there was a meeting of the Provisional Committee when it was decided to make arrangements for the launching of a membership campaign. Of course to be a power for good the Federation must have a large and influential membership. As a matter of fact, we have too many institutions in the community which, though possessing a grandiloquent name, are of little importance except in the minds of their principal officials. If the Provisional Committee of the Federation succeeds in inducing other synagogues to join it then it can be of great power in Jewish life on the Witwatersrand, but if the more important "kehillahs" hold aloof then it will simply be a big name without power for good.

IS DR. WEIZMANN COMING?

We have recently re-published paragraphs appearing in the Jewish press overseas, both from London and large continental cities that Dr. Weizmann was coming out to South Africa, but on enquiry at the local office of the South African Zionist Federation we learn that no confirmation of this proposed journey has been received by them. They expressed the opinion that it was hardly likely that the President of the World Zionist Organisation could be spared from his arduous and important duties to come out to South Africa, more particularly as the journey and sojourn here would entail an absence from Europe of several months. It is true that at the recent Zionist Congress Dr. Weizmann expressed to certain prominent South African Jews his anxiety to visit South Africa, but circumstances change very rapidly and what might have seemed feasible a few months ago is to-day difficult of accomplishment. We should be very glad to see Dr. Weizmann come to this country for reasons which we have already expressed, but we fear that despite the warmth of the welcome which would be accorded him he will not be able to leave Europe. Certain it is that as soon as anything is known definitely the public will be informed and arrangements set in train for the inevitable collecting campaign which will undoubtedly synchronise with his visit.

BREVITIES.

The Jews cannot complain of being left out of the honours conferred by the present Government, since out of three appointments as Commissioners of Oaths for the Johannesburg district two are Jews, namely, Mr. L. Solomon, of the firm of Sydney Aarons, Johannesburg; and Mr. Solomon Saharin, managing director of Ysebrand & Co., Ltd.

On Sunday night the Musical Revellers presented their new programme at the Guild Hall when there

was a large attendance. This body of talented artists have recently been showing with great success at Benoni's Hebrew Hall, the United Party Club and other places.

It is said that nearly a hundred delegates, representing about twenty societies, will attend the sixth Transvaal Young Israel Conference at the Jewish Guild on December 25th, 26th and 27th.

On Tuesday there was held an afternoon concert under the auspices of the Women's Zionist League. The proceeds will be used for the inscription of Lord Balfour's name in the Golden Book. Mrs. Balkin arranged a very attractive musical programme.

The annual picnic for the members of the choirs and Hebrew classes will take place early this month, and ladies' committees from the Park and Yeoville Synagogues are busy with the arrangements.

Mr. L. Policansky recently paid a visit to Johannesburg, and during his time here had several conversations with prominent members of the local Talmud Torahs. He pointed out the great success that had been achieved by combination in Cape Town and strongly urged a local union.

Advocate Morris de Saxe broadcast a lecture entitled "The Education of Jewish Parents" from J.B. station last Friday.

The Grand Chanukah Ball, which is being organised by the Braamfontein Judean Society and the Braamfontein Hebrew Congregation, is to be held in the Selborne Hall on Thursday, December 15th, promises to be the ball of the season. Miss Elsie Reed and Miss Pearl Adler have kindly consented to allow their best pupils to give exhibition dances. The Jazz Maniacs Orchestra has been engaged and the tickets are priced at 7s. 6d. double, and 5s. single, including refreshments.

In view of the great interest which the Hon. Tielman Roos, K.C., Minister of Justice has been displaying in the Jewish community they will doubtless felicitate him and Mrs. Roos upon the acquisition of a second son. Mr. and Mrs. Roos also have one daughter.

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Jewish Colonization in Poland.

GOVERNMENTAL AND JEWISH INITIATIVE REQUIRED.

The question of the Jewish colonization work in Poland was discussed at the Conference of the United Jewish Campaign held in Chicago at which about four hundred delegates from all parts of the United States assembled. Mr. James N. Rosenberg in opening the question indicated that the initiative in this matter must come from the leaders in Poland. It must come, he said, not merely from the Polish Jews but from the Government of Poland. Poland has lately floated a loan of some seventy million dollars. This money is to be used largely for the economic rebuilding of the country.

A handful of Polish Jews have organised an agricultural society. Inspired by the success of the Russian work, they yearn for the soil. Such yearning is to be heeded and should receive the fullest sympathy. To be specific, I call attention to a tract of four or five million of acres of marsh and swampy lands in the Pinsk district belonging in large part, as I am informed, to the Polish Government. This land adjoins similar land in White Russia, drained, ditched and cultivated by Russian Jews. Such land cannot be used unless it is ditched and drained.

"This land, as I am reliably informed, now lies idle and unproductive. Twenty-five to thirty acres will support a family. This would not be farming such as in the Ukraine and the Crimea, where large acreage per family is needed. One million of these acres ditched, drained and equipped should support 40,000 families.

"Is it possible to hope that the Polish Government would make a grant of this land?"

"To none of these questions do I dare venture an answer; but I draw attention to the existence of these lands, and the existence of what at least furnishes the hope for a possibility of agricultural Jewish work in Poland.

It is not unthinkable that the success of the Jewish agricultural work in Russia is known and realised by the Polish Government, and that Poland, which will gain immeasurably in economic strength by increasing her crops, might give favourable consideration to such a plan.

As to emigration from Poland, which has also been urged, that, I submit, is a mockery. Emigrate? To what country? Shall they go to the Sahara Desert? I know of no country where large scale Jewish immigration is at present possible. Let us be realist and face the facts. The doors are closed. Help to Jews must be in the lands where they reside."



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