

In and Around the Peninsula.

Readers are invited to send in suitable items of news for publication in this column. All communications should reach the Editor, P.O. Box 2000, Cape Town, not later than Wednesday morning. Secretaries of Societies are also invited to contribute news of the activities of their organisations.

The Feast of Tabernacles.

Women and children formed the larger portion of the congregation on the first day of Succoth. Among the children there prevailed an atmosphere of excitement hardly to be suppressed, for only once a year do they get lemonade and cakes in the delightful precincts of the Succah.

The Succah had been charmingly decorated with foliage and arums, while long festoons of fruit were suspended overhead. The ripe odour of the fruits and the sweet slightly decaying scent of the foliage filled the booth with a warm luscious fruity atmosphere. The season of harvest time seemed to have brought its richest gifts to adorn and enrich this little tabernacle.

Long before the stern grown-ups had finished praying, the children gathered outside the Succah waiting for the opportunity to partake of the delectable viands, which were attractively displayed on the tables. Before they could come in, however, the adults were privileged to enter and, as it seemed to the children, gobble up the lion's share.

Mr. Kibel said Kiddush, the *brocha* was said, the wine was drunk and then mercifully after each eating only a small piece of cake or a biscuit, the adults were expelled.

At last it was the turn of the children. Only he who has drunk lemonade out of a bottle and had a piece of cake in his mouth and another in his hand, can guess what a feast there was!

Young Judeans.

Since the above society celebrated its third anniversary in August, it has been progressing favourably. Numerous applications for membership have been accepted and the Committee have organised a New Members' Drive, as a result of which it is hoped many recruits will be enrolled to the ranks of the Society. It is hoped that those parents whose children are not yet members of this young society, will encourage their children to join. The most recent functions have been a lecture, debate and hat night. On Sunday last (Succoth) a Members' Social was held and was a great success. Items were contributed by the members. During the interval refreshments were served and a successful meeting concluded with the singing of the *Hatikvah*.

Rev. A. P. Bender.

At the recent election for the Cape Hospital Board, Rev. A. P. Bender

was returned unopposed as member for the Somerset Hospital. At the last meeting of the Cape School Board, Mr. Bender was elected Chairman of the Finance Committee for the current year.

A Correction.

Last week, in referring to the Yom Kippur services held at the Beth Hamedrash, Constitution Street, I incorrectly stated that Rabbi Ch. Mirvish officiated. As a matter of

fact, the services were conducted by Rev. N. M. Rabbinowitz and the sermon was delivered by Rabbi Mirvish.

Chanukah Essay Competition.

We are now able to give details of the Chanukah Essay Competition, the preliminary announcement of which appeared in our last week's issue.

The Competition will be open to boys and girls under thirteen and under seventeen.

For the former section the subject will be "Judas Maccabeus" the essay not to exceed 750 words, and for the latter, "The Origin and Significance of Chanukah," the length of the essay not to exceed 1500 words.

All Essays must be written on foolscap paper—one side only being used, and not signed. Entrants, however, should send in their names and addresses on a separate sheet of paper attached to their efforts.

Manuscripts which should be addressed to the Editor, S.A. Jewish Chronicle, 58, Burg Street, Cape Town, the Envelope being marked "Competition," must be accompanied by a certificate from parent, guardian or teacher, certifying that the essay is competitor's own work.

The decision of the Judges will be final.

The following prizes are offered:—

For Boys and Girls under seventeen:

1st prize £4 4 0.

2nd prize £2 2 0.

Two Consolation Prizes.

For Boys and Girls under thirteen:

1st prize £3 3 0.

2nd prize £1 1 0.

Two Consolation Prizes.

The Competition closes on December 3rd, 1929.

hardy natures would suggest. Why is it that so few Jewish people interest themselves in our flower shows?

Cape Town's Wild Flower Show.

This year's Wild Flower Show, which was held at the City Hall, was the finest for many years. Seldom have the proteas been so good. In colour, size, shape and variety they have surpassed anything we

Bon Voyage!

Rev. N. M. Rabbinowitz, the Cantor of the Beth Hamedrash (Constitution Street) and Secretary of the Jewish Sick Relief Society, leaves Cape Town on Friday next for a trip to Europe. He will visit, in addition to England, the Conti-

ment, Austria and Poland. Then he will go to Palestine, where he will see his father, whom he has not seen for nearly 25 years. Mr. Rabbinowitz expects to be away about four months.

Isidor Goodman Recital.

Had Mr. Isidor Goodman taken the public into his confidence and advertised his programme, a very much larger audience would have attended the recital on Tuesday evening. As it was, the community was largely represented.

Mr. Bender specially honoured the young pianist by his attendance. An interested listener was Mr. Isidor Epstein, the famous pianist, who is the subject of our "Out of the Ordinary" this week.

Professor Bell and Mrs. Bell had come to hear their one-time pupil and were well pleased with his performance.

There is no doubt that Isidor is a practised craftsman of the piano.

It would seem that it takes the young pianist a considerable time to work himself up. His interpretation of Schuman's trying work, *Carneval*, though good technically, was lacking in colour. The modern group proved to be very much more suited to his temperament and age. He gave a particularly charming rendering of Ravel's delicate *Mirrors*. In this group considerable interest attached to Gideon Fagan's "The Three Harpies," dedicated to Goodman. The showy little piece received delightful and sympathetic handling. Chopin's *Sonata in B Minor* found the pianist warmed up to his instrument and audience. An altogether interesting and pleasing performance was the result. Two encores were given during the evening in response to much applause. Of these *Le Concon of Danguin*, which contains a simple off-repeated and haunting little melody, was entirely to the audience's taste.

A New Consul.

Mr. S. M. Wale, Manager of The Colonial Banking and Trust Company, Limited, Cape Town, has been appointed Consul for Latvia.

"True Judaism."

In this week's Sabbath reading, Deuter., chap. 16, verses 16 and 17, we read, "Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the Lord thy God in the place which He shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the Lord empty. Every man shall give as he is able according to the blessing of the Lord thy God which He hath given thee."

The most appropriate verses to be read on Sheminee Atzereth, the day after Hoshanah Rabah, are those mentioned above. Judaism is divided into two principal parts, "Bein Odom Lamokom" and "Bein Odom Lachaveiro," principles between man and God, and those between man and man. From Elul to Hoshanah Rabah each of us pleads on his own merits. There are certainly a great number amongst us who boast of being religious, viz., always ready to attend

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The Position in Palestine.

Increased Immigration Required.

LAND PURCHASE NECESSARY.

THE JEWISH AGENCY.

JEWRY UNITED.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. ISAAC OCHBERG.

In an interview with a representative of the S.A. *Jewish Chronicle* Mr. Isaac Ochberg, who returned to Cape Town by the Carnarvon Castle last week, after an absence of about six months, said that on his return he found the principal topic discussed was regarding the recent catastrophe in Palestine. At the same time, he said, as tragic as the occurrence was, they must not allow it to interfere with their main principles and ideas so far as they are concerned with the establishment of a Jewish National Home in Palestine. Much had been written and said about the future safety of Jews in Palestine, but Mr. Ochberg had no doubt that the British Government, having realised the blunder that had been made by withdrawing the military, would see that proper martial strength was maintained in order to secure peace in the country. The interests of Palestine as a whole could only be served if there was peace and harmony, fostered by the British Government, between Arab and Jew. This could only be achieved by keeping the military forces up to a certain strength, and, having profited by experience, he felt sure that Great Britain would not repeat its former grave error. The future prosperity of Palestine depended upon happy relationship between both the Arab and Jewish sections of the populace.

The Arab made a great mistake in attributing to the Jews the desire to turn them out of the country. Of course, this was entirely erroneous, but at the same time they should be made to realise that Palestine was the ancient land of the Jews, and was referred to biblically as "the land flowing with milk and honey." Under Turkish regime, the Arab was persecuted and oppressed. They allowed the land to develop into a state of desolation, and since the Great War Jews had gone a long way to bring back the country to its former comparative prosperity. The Arabs must not lose sight of the fact that as a result of the Great War, Great Britain became the Mandatory Power with the unanimous approval of the League of Nations. Having conquered the Arab, Great Britain, for political reasons, and to secure an uninterrupted route to the East, desired a friendly people in Palestine. Recognising the great part the Jews played in the successful prosecution of the war, knowing their peaceable disposition and their energy and capacity for progress, it was given back to them for the purpose of establishing their own National Home.

The wonderful achievements of our co-religionists in the Holy Land under the direction of the Zionist Movement fully demonstrates how justified the Great Powers were in adopting the Balfour Declaration. Land that had been abandoned, uninhabitable swamp, unproductive soil, all has been cultivated and made productive, simply by the energy and application of those Jews domiciled in Eretz Israel."

Jewish capital had been introduced into the country and to such good purpose, continued Mr. Ochberg, that trade and commerce was in a more or less flourishing condition. The Arab had never been so well off as he is at present. Jews paid very high prices for their land, and only for the purpose of cultivating it in the interests of the country generally. "The Arab has had everything to gain and nothing to lose. Civilisation has undoubtedly been the gainer in the development brought about by our co-religionists. The trials and sufferings of Jews throughout the centuries, their contribution to civilisation, the great part they played in the late war, all entitles them to that little corner of the world in order that they may establish their own National Home."



MR. ISAAC OCHBERG.

Mr. Ochberg then went on to speak of the recent Zionist Congress in Zurich, which he attended as one of South Africa's delegates. Prior to the Congress, Mr. Ochberg attended the Jewish National Fund Conference at Zurich, which was presided over by Mr. M. M. Ussishkin. This Conference lasted a week and was a very successful affair.

So far as the Congress was concerned, Mr. Ochberg said that two major matters discussed were the Jewish Agency and the Budget, the former occupying the greatest time in the discussion. The debate was a very protracted affair and developed into a battle between the various elements.

What struck Mr. Ochberg forcibly was the difference in the procedure of the Congress as compared with similar gatherings in this country. Here, he mentioned, the peculiar fact that the debate was principally carried on through the medium of the German language, English

being practically barred. The only two speakers who were allowed to use the English language were Dr. Stephen Wise and Mr. Harry Sacher; in fact, all the Congress order papers and other documents were printed in German. Mr. Ochberg registered a protest against this procedure, particularly seeing the large number of English-speaking delegates who were present from America and England.

The most important of recent events subsequent to the Congress was undoubtedly the formation of the Jewish Agency, said Mr. Ochberg. He could not find words adequate enough to describe the wonderful scenes enacted at that most memorable gathering. Jews whose names were household words the world over—Zionists and non-Zionists—sat together on one platform exhibiting the greatest enthusiasm, and all demonstrating how they were imbued with one idea, namely, to make Palestine, in the true sense of the word, a Jewish National Home. Never in the history of the Zionist Movement had such an epoch-making event taken place. It showed the solidarity of Jewry. It was a wonderful achievement, the success of which was due in great measure to the initiative of that great American co-religionist, Mr. Louis Marshall. The latter's death so soon after the consummation of the idea of the Extended Agency, was a terrible blow. He was looked upon as a pillar of strength to Zionism and much had been expected from his co-operation in the Movement. Together with Mr. Ch. Weizmann, opposition and obstacles were overcome and the tremendous significance of the Jewish Agency must be realised and appreciated. As a result every section of Jewry has been united. Opponents of the Zionist Cause have thrown in their weight to further the Palestine ideal. With unprecedented enthusiasm, many prominent co-religionists who had cut themselves adrift had been brought back to Jewry through the establishment of the Agency. The manner in which they have entered into it heart and soul should be noted by those sections within the Movement who have opposed and might still oppose the idea of the Agency.

It is sufficient, said Mr. Ochberg, to quote Mr. Sokolow, who, after the non-Zionists had spoken at the Agency Meeting, said that very little had been left for the Zionists to say. Unexpected inspiration had come from non-Zionists, such as Marshall, Oscar Wasserman and others!

Returning to the position in Palestine, Mr. Ochberg said that the recent disturbances had certainly shown how unfortunate it was that the Jewish population in the Holy Land was not larger than it is. Had there been at least half a million Jews in Palestine, the occurrences which had been so universally deplored would not have taken place. What was certainly required was a forward policy of immigration. A large Jewish population would be the most effective method of ensuring peace between Arab and Jew.

Mr. Ochberg mentioned the recent announcement which appeared in the Press of an anonymous gift of £50,000 for immigration purposes. He knew, said Mr. Ochberg, that the anonymous donor was Lord Melchett and this is ample illustration how he realised the importance of an in-

creased immigration into the Holy Land.

Mr. Ochberg emphasised that the purchase of land in Palestine was very necessary and that it was one of the most important activities of the Zionist Movement. "Had extensive purchases been made years ago, we could then have paid £1 for land for which to-day we have to pay £10. It is, therefore, obvious that land purchases must be made as soon as possible as prices in time will become almost prohibitive." Arab leaders, Mr. Ochberg continued, were instilling into the minds of their people not to sell land at any price to Jews. Seeing how necessary it was that land must be acquired, he welcomed the Dunam Drive which will shortly take place and which he hoped would be a huge success.

Referring to local matters, Mr. Ochberg said that he noticed that whilst he was away, several important meetings had been held to discuss the scheme of federation among local institutions. His view had always been that at the present moment local charitable institutions were on a sound basis and circumstances at present did not warrant federation. He would welcome a general discussion between institutions on important Jewish communal affairs, but he saw no necessity to depart from the present system.

He had noticed, said Mr. Ochberg, the leading article in the *Jewish Chronicle* dealing with the question of Mechullachim, and he took the opportunity of expressing the opinion that whilst he was not against helping Jewish objects in any part of the world, he certainly felt that the collections for overseas institutions could be better controlled by a properly constituted committee in this country.

Before he concluded the interview Mr. Ochberg said he was very interested in the news that the Kadimah Press had taken over the interests of the *Jewish Chronicle*. He had always felt the necessity for a Jewish paper in Cape Town, representative of the views of every section of the Jewish community and to support every movement that had for its object the welfare of Jewry.

IN AND AROUND THE PENINSULA.

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a service which is the "Bein Odom Lamokom," but one cannot find their name on the charity list. This seems to be out of their line. On the other hand, we find a number of our brethren who boast of being charitable, viz., "Bein Odom Lachaveiro," but we find them most conspicuously absent in other religious matters. How appropriate it is then to read the above verses, "Three times a year shall all thy males appear before the Lord thy God" . . . and they shall not appear before the Lord empty . . ." One could almost call this a direct protest against the class of Jew who is only one-sided, viz., either religious or charitable. The true duty of the Jew is to be both religious and charitable. "Appear before God, and not empty-handed." At the same time, not to discourage those who are not so comfortably placed, we are told that we should give "according to the blessing of the Lord thy God, which He hath given thee."