

Is England With Us?

By J. BLUMENTHAL.

A European journalist of repute made a statistical collection of the articles written at a certain period in England in connection with the recent happenings in Palestine. The conclusion he comes to is expressed in the fact that out of the 900 articles published on the subject only 20 per cent. were favourably inclined towards the Jewish problem and critical as far as the Palestine Administration is concerned, whilst the other 80 per cent. condemned strongly the British policy embodied in the Balfour Declaration. This unsympathetic attitude undoubtedly proved a great shock to admirers of the British sense of justice and fairness, and a source of disappointment and disillusionment to a certain class of superficial politicians.

A writer in "Doar Hayom," the leading journal of political thought in Palestine, reveals another amazing factor in commenting on the above figures, namely, that even the sympathies expressed by the minority of English papers lose much of their intrinsic value by the consideration that their outlook on and conception of the problem of Palestine is not comprehensive enough. Whilst all these papers base their sympathies on sentimental grounds as arising out of the moral obligations of Britain towards Jewry, they entirely lose sight of the other side of the coin, the vital importance of Palestine—a Jewish Palestine, of course—for the interest of Britain herself, a theory which has become a household property of every Jew in Palestine, the alpha and omega of his political orientation which he could not imagine otherwise, but based on the principle of "do ut des," so predominant to the exclusion of everything else in universal politics.

To come to the conclusion, however, that because of this regrettable omission of the practical value of Palestine to British politics this creed of ours is nothing more than the outcome of a fertile imagination appears very erroneous to any student of British politics. That this contention of ours is right is best proved by the recent formation in England of a powerful group called "The Seventh Dominion League," which comprises in its ranks leaders of political thought, men of vision and international standing. Only a blind man cannot see that the interests of Britain are linked up with those of Palestine, especially at this junction of the contemplated evacuation of Egypt. In face of the imminent declaration of the independence of Egypt and the awakening of the self-conscious realisation

of the Orient Palestine becomes doubly important as a military base for the protection of the life nerve of British trade, the route to India through the Suez Canal. And in spite of the whole-hearted condemnation of the Balfour Declaration by a large section of the British Press, that hostile Press itself would still think twice before committing themselves to the fateful step of evacuating Palestine. And that the repeal of the Balfour Declaration amounts to just this step is quite obvious, for the Arab does not want English rule even without the Balfour Declaration. He wants independence and the co-operation of Briton and Arab is quite unimaginable because of the diversity of their interests. Even a Labour Government will know to safeguard their interests, and if it does not the people of England will entrust their fate to leaders who understand better the public feeling.

The unfavourable attitude taken up by so many leading papers is not so much the result of their disbelief in the theory of the necessity of erecting in Palestine a stronghold for safeguarding the British interests in the Near East, as their unwillingness to accept the blame for an obvious blunder which has already made their Palestine Administration a laughing stock to the whole civilised world.

And if public opinion has not been sufficiently educated to realise the practical aspect of the Palestine problem, there is nobody to be blamed more than the Zionist leadership who have at all times maintained a proverbial silence in their unshakable belief in "the less said the better." But the golden rule of silence is not always successfully applicable in politics. Here propaganda and a strong voice based on justice counts. And because our leaders belong to the old school of quasi-politicians, "the Shtadlonim," their policy has proved bankrupt and the above unfortunate phenomenon adds only **one more** item to their full account bristling with sins of political magnitude.

For us Jews there is a great consolation in the fact that the more responsible circles in England—though they be in a minority—cannot but think that Britain has to carry out her obligations to the full. For, after all, how is Britain to go back on her pledge? After all, Britain's word is her honour. In spite of all we still believe in the justice and fairness of "the Home of Democracy." She cannot treat an internationally sanctioned obligation like "a scrap of paper." This goes against British practice and tradition. And besides where is the world opinion? Surely there is nobody amongst the antagonists of Zionism who would like to see their

country, England, ridiculed and distracted because of their unwillingness of redeeming a pledge that presents some difficulty. How is Britain to exact demands from her neighbours arising out of just such treatises when adopting such an attitude? Both sentimental and practical reasons combine together to make her adhere to her original policy. Governments of all shades have stuck to this policy, and no Muftis and Rothermeres will make them deviate from their course.

But in order to assure a genuine fulfilment of this policy we need a Zionist leadership who will be on guard, who will not at all times—warranted or not—come out with the stereotype slogan of the nature: "The political situation is satisfactory"; "Everything is lovely in the garden of Zionism," but who will push their demands with strength and vigour. And if the present leaders cannot to-day—with the backing of the whole Jewry aroused to its depth by the recent upheaval—owing to psychological reasons maintain such a courageous policy, let them hand the reins of office to others better capable who will lead us to our goal. Only therein lies our salvation.

Wedding Bells.

NEUMANN—URDANG.

The marriage of Miss Kate Neumann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. G. Neumann, to Mr. Bernard Urdang, son of Mr. and Mrs. B. Urdang, of Molteno, took place in the Great Synagogue, on Sunday morning, in the presence of a very large number of relatives and friends. The Synagogue had been tastefully decorated, particularly the *Chupa*, which was a perfect setting for the charmingly dressed bridal party.

The ceremony, which was performed by Rev. A. P. Bender, assisted by Revs. L. Kirschner and S. Kibel, was fully choral. The beautiful singing of the Great Synagogue Choir, led by Mr. Boris Rome, added dignity to the ceremony, which concluded with the playing of Mendelssohn's Wedding March.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was very charming in a Victorian gown of white georgette and lace over pale pink. The frock was frilled from the yoke to hem, and the waistline formed by silver leaves and flowers with a bow of satin ribbon falling to the hem. The Brussels lace veil was loaned to the bride by an intimate friend, Mrs. Samson Brunow, of Muizenberg. The head-dress was composed of orange blossom in the form of a halo and she carried a shower bouquet of white roses and carnations.

The bride was attended by her sister, Rose, and Miss Sarah Marin

as bridesmaids. They were an attractive pair. The former wore a dainty ninon three-tiered frock, shading from pink to mauve with a pale pink picture hat in horsehair trimmed with a large bow of tulle in pink and mauve. Miss Marin wore a pretty uneven frilled frock of Mary blue faille and ecru lace and a pale blue poke bonnet of horsehair tied with blue tulle.

Mrs. Neumann, the bride's mother, was stately in a gown of green georgette and beige lace and she wore a black lace picture hat. Mrs. Urdang, the bridegroom's mother, wore a handsome gown of black georgette and gold lace and a black hat.

The bestman was Mr. Myer Brunow and the pole-bearers Messrs. I. L. Rosenberg, H. Benjamin, Cecil Neumann and Vernon Liberman.

Nearly two hundred wires and congratulatory cables were received, and the handsome and costly presents too numerous to mention. The Zionist Hall, where the reception was held, was crowded. Decorated with streamers and flowers it had a festive appearance. There were the usual felicitous speeches, Rev. A. P. Bender proposing the health of the newly-wedded couple.

The catering arrangements were perfect and great credit is due to Messrs. Emdin Bros. for the excellent manner in which they provided for the comfort of the numerous guests.

Among those present were: Rev. A. P. Bender, Rev. and Mrs. L. Kirschner, Rev. and Mrs. S. Kibel, Mr. and Mrs. M. Rosen, Mr. and Mrs. A. Liberman, Mr. and Mrs. L. Kramer, Dr. and Mrs. E. Liberman, Dr. and Mrs. B. Bernstein, Mrs. Woolf Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Harris, Mr. and Mrs. J. Gitlin, Mr. and Mrs. P. M. clouts, Mr. and Mrs. L. Gradner, Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank, Mr. and Mrs. S. Bernstein, Mr. S. Albow, Mr. and Mrs. R. Weinberg, Mrs. and the Misses Pevsner, Mr. H. J. Stodel, Mr. M. Effman and fiancée (Miss N. Nach), Miss A. Effman, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Ochberg, Mr. and Mrs. M. Eilenberg, Mrs. Sheck, Mrs. S. Franks, Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Smollan, Mr. and Mrs. I. Barnett, Mr. and Mrs. B. A. Crasnow, Mr. and Mrs. S. Gesundheit, Mr. D. Zuckerman, Mr. and Mrs. O. Basson, Mr. and Mrs. R. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. P. Myers, Mr. and Mrs. I. J. Honikman, Mr. and Mrs. P. Rosen, Dr. and Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Kentridge, Mr. and Mrs. I. Wittenberg, Mr. Benjamin, Miss L. Brunow, Mr. and Mrs. Wynick.

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