



The Editor,
S.A. Jewish Chronicle.

THE QUOTA BILL AND BOARD OF DEPUTIES.

Sir,
Various contributors to Jewish publications in this country, more especially in the course of reviews of the past year, have remarked upon the extraordinary fact that the Quota Bill followed so soon after the South African Jewish Board of Deputies Congress, and that at that Congress the matter of Jewish immigration was considered safe and satisfactory. Some reviewers drew from that the conclusion that the leaders of South African Jewry were extremely short sighted.

As a matter of historical truth, permit me, Sir, to point out that the introduction of the Quota Act was not at all the surprise it was made out to be. Already in 1929, Mr. O. Pirow, K.C., the Minister of Justice, in the course of a political address at Vrededorp, made the statement that some kind of quota was bound to be introduced in Parliament to restrict further immigration.

Moreover, the probability of the introduction and the dangers of a coming Quota Act were also brought to the notice of the Board of Deputies Congress in January last (by myself) when nominations were called for members on the Cape Town Executive. Mr. M. Alexander refused to accept nomination and, though repeatedly appealed to, was reluctant to reconsider his decision. It was then that I felt a duty to speak. I referred to the coming storm in the shape of quota legislation and appealed to Mr. Alexander that in face of such a grave danger, champions of Jewish immigration of his calibre must not withdraw and must help in the great struggle. In his reply to the appeals which were addressed to him from every quarter, Mr. Morris Alexander also mentioned the impending legislation as one of the reasons for his consenting to continue to act.

Unfortunately, these references were considered unimportant to be incorporated in the official report of the proceedings of the last Deputies Congress, whilst those remarkable statements as to "all being well" remained. It is for this reason that South African Jewry was given the impression that the introduction of the Quota Bill was so surprising an event.

I am, etc.,
BENZION S. HERSCH.

The above letter was referred to Mr. Morris Alexander, K.C., who has now written as follows:—

"With reference to Mr. Pirow, K.C., your issue of January 24th, 1930, refers to Mr.

Pirow's speech at Bethal, from which, it would appear, that no such quota legislation was contemplated by the Government.

I have myself no recollection of any reference to impending quota legislation at the Congress. We have, of course, always been on the *qui vive* in view of the repeated arguments in favour of a quota for immigrants advanced by certain members of Parliament, but the actual introduction of the recent Quota Bill by the present Government came as a complete bombshell to me."

Yours faithfully,
MORRIS ALEXANDER.

The Editor,
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A DEPLORABLE LACK OF COURTESY.

Sir,
It must have been a matter of surprise to the numerous friends of Mrs. Wallis, the little Jewish lady who acts as secretary to Lady Frances Ryder, that although she was fêted and entertained publicly wherever she went in this country, she received no recognition whatsoever from any Jewish body or society.

But for the kind thought of the Rev. A. P. Bender, Mrs. Wallis would have been without a seat in the Synagogue on Yom Kippur. Yet Cape Town must have known that Mrs. Wallis was here. The "Argus" and the "Cape Times" mentioned her name frequently. We were even fortunate enough to get a small announcement of her arrival into the "In and Around" column of this paper.

It would seem that no visitor is to receive any public recognition unless he or she comes as an emissary of Zionist propaganda.

Personally as a Jewess and a South African, I received, through the kind services of Mrs. Wallis and the organisation which she represents in London, the most hospitable consideration on the occasion of the Jewish festivals during my stay in London, and mine is only an isolated case. Just before Mrs. Wallis left I heard of one of our Jewish teachers going on exchange to London in 1931. I went out of my way to introduce this girl to Mrs. Wallis. Her *entree* into the best Jewish homes in London is now assured.

Yet what did the Jews of the Mother City do for Mrs. Wallis?

She was allowed to come and go without having had the opportunity of meeting any of our Jewish citizens.

Her Gentile friends will no doubt look upon this as a deplorable lack of manners and courtesy on our part and not without justification.

ROZILDA.

Immigration to Palestine.

LABOUR CONFERENCE RESOLUTION.

A special cable from London announces that the Labour Party Conference has passed a resolution urging the Government to encourage Jewish emigration to Palestine, and stating that trade unionism would pave the way to better understanding between Jews and Arabs.

"Jews in Art."

MR. LASZLO SCHWARTZ AT LUNCHEON CLUB.

Mr. Laszlo Schwartz was the speaker at the Maccabean Guild Luncheon held at the Carlton Hotel yesterday (Thursday). Mr. Schwartz chose as his subject "Jews in Art."

The influence of Jewish history, said Mr. Schwartz, was manifest in Jewish art of today. It was often said that modern Jewish art was too philosophical, too intellectual. This was because of our past experience, our suffering as a nation. The Jew looked more into the soul of art than its contours.

Speaking of how it was that so small a race had produced such a large number of artists, Mr. Schwartz said this was because the Jews had the power of concentration, because they were emotional as a result of intensive suffering, because they had the brain to control their emotions and because they possessed a sense of humour.

When the Jewish immigrant arrived in a new country, continued Mr. Schwartz, he swayed under the influence of his new environment and his own Jewish soul was submerged. He held the Zionist Movement in the highest esteem because he believed that the Jew would be able to produce through it what he had not been able to produce for thousands of years. "I contend," he said, "that the Jewish soul will find a natural expression in Palestine." Everywhere else in the world the Jew because of his race was debarred from free expression. Palestine was the one place left for him to-day. "For that reason," said Mr. Schwartz, "Palestine is a wonderful experiment from an artistic angle."

Not everybody, however, was able to go to Palestine, and it was high time, therefore, that we saw to the building of an institution—probably in Europe—where our men of vision and brains could develop freely and unhindered.

Mr. S. Cohen presided over the gathering and Mr. M. Hurwitz proposed a vote of thanks to the speaker.

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