

Current Communal Comments

By "HAMABBIT."

Cantor S. Rabec.

Many readers will learn with deep regret that by the time they read these lines, Chief Cantor S. Rabec, of the Park Synagogue, will no longer be with us. According to what I understand, he received last week a call by cable from Riga—whence he came a few years ago to take up the position in Wolmarans Street, left vacant by Cantor Pincasovich—which he has decided to accept. A special urgent meeting of the Council of the United Congregation was held on Sunday morning, but apparently nothing successful could be accomplished in the way of retaining Mr. Rabec's services, and so he left Johannesburg by Thursday morning's Union Limited and is returning to the Synagogue in Riga where he formerly officiated.

During his short stay here, Cantor Rabec made many friends and obtained many sincere admirers of his gifted chazanuth, and in his departure the community suffers a loss in its leader of synagogue worship, of whom it has by no means a sufficient number.

The Unfortunate "United."

The experience of the "United" with its Chazonim has certainly been very unfortunate, in so far as the larger congregation is concerned. For one reason or another that one need not go into here at this time of day, it has not been able to retain the services of its chazonim for any length of time. As a result the "United" has been put to a great deal of otherwise unnecessary expense in getting its readers' desks worthily accepted—and its members incidentally to a great deal of inconvenience, if one can put it that way.

Let us hope that the future of the "United's" relations with its chazonim will be a happy one, and that it may succeed in obtaining a successor to the Rev. S. Rabec who will not alone be as "sweet a singer in Israel" as he is, but whose occupancy of that important congregational office will be a long as well as a peaceful one, redounding to the credit of both the congregation and the chazan.

Jewish Soccer.

I notice that the All Star Hakoah soccer team have started their tour of America. The first two games played in the lower half of the western hemisphere resulted in defeat for the Jewish teams. Playing their second game at Rio De Janeiro at Brazil the blue and white boys were beaten by the Vasco De Gama team, 2—0. Although to date the showing of Hakoah has been disappointing, it was not entirely unexpected. After a long water trip, it takes the fellows some time to become acclimatised to playing conditions, and it is my guess that before many games are played, Hakoah will strike a winning stride and show South Americans that Jews can play soccer.

Reports from South America are meagre, but the spectacle of an "All Jewish" team is a novel one to southern spectators, and the crowds are turning out in gratifying numbers to watch the boys perform.

I wonder whether we shall ever see in South Africa a Hakoah soccer team? It would be splendid to see them play against some of our best clubs. I feel that when the Hakoah

players will appear at the Wanderers in Johannesburg, we shall see not only the soccer fans, who understand every angle of the game and are experts in every point, but we shall also see—I am sure—members of all Jewish organisations, even from the Fox Street Beth-Hamedrash (not of course on Saturday afternoons).

There can be no doubt, however, that Jewish athletic prestige generally would be enhanced in this country by a visit from a Hakoah team.

A Delightful Function.

I was one of the guests at the reception given by Mrs. I. Heymann at Leveson's Gallery in honour of Mr. Giorgio Giorini, the leading tenor of the Palestine Opera Company. Mr. Leveson's new studio lends itself rather delightfully to a social function of this nature and there was a distinguished gathering present.

I had a long chat with Mrs. Ethelreda Lewis—the celebrated South African writer—who showed a deep interest in the Hebrew songs of Mr. Giorini. Mrs. Lewis was not so deeply impressed with the operatic items as she was with the *Chaluzim* and *Yemenite* folk songs. These expressed something entirely new to her and were unique.

I also had a chat with Mr. Leo Cherniavsky, the fine violinist, who regretted the necessity for his parting from South Africa to undertake concert engagements in England and America. Dr. J. L. Landau (Chief Rabbi) and Mrs. Landau were also present, looking well after their recent motor trip in the Northern Transvaal.

As for Mr. Giorini, he sang well in a vibrant tenor voice, which stamped him as a fine singer. His rendition of a number of folk songs was most entertaining and his concert on August 16th at the Selborne Hall should draw a large audience. It will be, after all, the first time in South Africa that we shall hear opera sung in Hebrew. It is, therefore, a unique musical—as well as a distinctly Jewish—event.

A Fine Choir.

I think I must have been the only Jew in the audience at the City Hall on Sunday night when the concert was given by the Kol Rinoh Choir, yet the programme was entirely of Hebrew songs usually heard in the synagogue during festival periods.

The group of thirteen singers are indeed a credit to Jewry of Johannesburg, and the choir gave some wonderful renditions of sacred compositions, under the able baton of Mr. J. Kantor, the well-known South African choirmaster.

It was rather an odd experience to hear these sacred synagogue tunes sung before a non-Jewish audience. The appreciation, however, was genuine indeed, and the work of the choir was finely enhanced by the sympathetic organ accompaniments of Mr. John Connell, the city organist.

Last Sunday night's performance was only an experiment, and at its next concert the Kol Rinoh Choir should have a large Jewish audience. It is this kind of activity that adds to the musical and cultural life of our community.

A. TREVENEN,
MONUMENTAL SCULPTOR.
 Manufacturer and Direct
 Importer of GRANITE AND
 MARBLE MEMORIALS.


Old Memorials Renovated.

First-class material and work-
 manship guaranteed.

1-3 De Korte St., Braamfontein,
 and
 Opposite New Cemetery Gates,
JOHANNESBURG.

Phone 2870 Central.
 Phone 220 Mayfair.

Trevenen's Monumental Works
 and grey granite quarries.
DESIGNS AND PRICES FREE.



SMOKE

JOHN CHAPMAN'S

"Swan Mixture"

TOBACCO.

It is Sweet and Nutty.

9d. PER 1-LB. BAG.

OBTAINABLE EVERYWHERE.