

THE WAILING WALL INQUIRY.

(Concluded from page 7.)

"Jews Have No Designs On Mosque."

Jerusalem, July 17th.

We declare before the whole civilised and Islamic world that we have no designs on the Mosque Aqsa area, nor do we intend to convert the pavement at the Wailing Wall into a synagogue, nor impinge upon Wakf rights, Dr. David Yellin said in the course of his address before the International Wailing Wall Commission, which lasted for one hour.

Dr. Yellin scorned the bigotry of the Moslem agitators and praised the tolerance of their antecedents, who lived up to the Scriptural words: "Let there be no quarrel between us cousins," especially in religious matters, and wherein politics should not figure. Dr. Yellin paid tribute to the League of Nations, and blessed the Commissioners. Turning to the Moslems, he said: "It is true that the Islamic world is inflamed; it is you who have inflamed it."

He referred to the so-called Persian delegation attending the International Wailing Wall Commission, who have admitted that they have never so much as visited Persia, and also to the delegates from Java, who admitted that they had learnt of El Buraq only from newspapers. Dr. Yellin insisted that not a single Moslem authority claimed that El Buraq is the Wailing Wall, and that Moslem theologians have never objected to the recital of Jewish prayers at the Wall.

The Mufti himself, Dr. Yellin continued, originally proposed in the name of the Mughrabi dwellers only, and not, as at present, on behalf of 300 million Moslems. The Moslem side have never brought evidence to show that Moslems had ever prayed at the Wall, and they have never taken steps to save it from defilement. The Jews' immemorial right to the Wall is not confined to any single Moslem ruler, but is an ancient custom which has lasted through the ages.

Dr. Blau, on behalf of the Agudath Israel, associated himself with Dr. Yellin's statement on behalf of the Agency and the Rabbinate. He said that this was a purely religious issue, on which all Jews were united. They did not claim any property rights, but desired to retain the right of uninterrupted worship.

Arabs Pressed to Abide by Commission's Recommendations.

Jerusalem, July 17th.

While the International Wailing Wall Commission was pressing counsel for both sides to sum up their cases to-day in order to enable their departure from Palestine on Saturday, the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Loefgren, was doing his utmost to bring about an Arab-Jewish settlement on the Wailing Wall dispute, or at least to advance an agreement on the part of the Moslems to abide by the Commission's recommendations.

Mr. Loefgren was until midnight yesterday in consultation with the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem and his friends. Mr. Loefgren left to-day the sitting of the Commission, over which Mr. Barde, one of the members of the Commission, presided, in order to confer with the Acting High Commissioner. It is understood that little prospect exists to reach an agreement with the Moslems, as the Mufti is adamant, despite all private and public appeals to him on the part of the Commissioners since their sittings began.

The Jewish side apparently approves the efforts of the Commissioners to reach an agreement with the Moslems, and Dr. David Yellin, as well as Dr. Blau, in their speeches which preceded Dr. M. Eliash's summing up of the Jewish case, contained fervent appeals for agreement and tolerance.

CANTOR SAMUELS.

Cantor Morris Samuels, who recently arrived in South Africa from New York, will conduct the services at the Mayfair Synagogue, Johannesburg, on Friday evening, August 8th and on Saturday morning, August 9th. The Cantor has come here with a reputation as a famous Chazan in the United States and great interest is being taken in the conducting of his first synagogue services in Johannesburg.

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"OUR BETTERS."

The performance by the members of the Dramatic Section at the Jewish Guild of Somerset Maughan's play entitled "Our Better" can be recorded as a distinct success. The work of this dramatist is full of delicate satire, which requires the cleverest of dramatic talent to bring properly over the foot-lights. The players were able to do this, and as a result the audience enjoyed a fine performance. It was evident that the play had been well rehearsed, and credit is due to Mrs. Anita Colman for the production, which compared well with any amateur performance recently given in Johannesburg.

Of special merit was the work of Miss Irma Berman in her portrayal of the chief character in the comedy. Upon her work hinged the whole success of the play, and Miss Berman carried out the brunt of this responsibility with flying colours. She is certainly one of the most charming amateur actresses on the Johannesburg stage to-day.

A fine performance of the most important male character was given by Mr. Joseph H. Barnett, who, it is to be regretted, makes but rare appearances upon the amateur stage. There was a fullness and maturity in his work which lent dignity to the production. An equally creditable performance was given by Miss Hetty Feitelberg in the character of a nervous, hysterical pseudo-aristocrat. This was a difficult and unsympathetic part, but played almost perfectly by Miss Feitelberg. All the other characters were conscientiously portrayed.

A WIRELESS LECTURE.

"Jewish Contributors to Literature since Disraeli" is the subject of the lecture to be broadcasted by Miss Rhoda K. Fridjohn, on Thursday, the 14th inst., at 7.45 p.m.

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