

War Against Judaism in Soviet Russia.

Jewish Communist Press Preparing for Action.

Moscow, September 3rd.

With the approach of the Jewish High Holy Days, the Yiddish Communist Press is again starting a vehement anti-religious campaign. In an issue given up almost entirely to this question, the Central Yiddish Communist organ here, the *Emess*, launches a fierce attack upon the rabbis, who, it says, are no better than the clericals of the Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Lutheran and other Churches. They are doing everything they can to exploit the difficulties of the Soviet regime and to help to dig pitfalls for it. They are in alliance with the Fascists and the Socialist Fascists in spreading lies and calumnies and throwing mud at the Soviet regime, with a view to aiding the plans of the Imperialist countries, who are preparing for armed invasion of the Soviet Union. The Zionists and Bundists are linked in this with the Baal Chofetz Chaim and the Gerer Rebbe, and with the Roman Catholic "black hundreds" in the attempt to overthrow the Dictatorship of the Proletariat. No wonder, therefore, that the Jewish masses have turned from religion in disgust. They have seen through the masks of the religionists. The Jewish working masses have converted many synagogues into clubs and workshops, and they will see to it that those synagogues and Beth Midrashim which have been left will also be turned into useful institutions.

There is a generation growing up which knows nothing of the cheder and of the synagogue, a Jewish generation brought up in the Soviet secular schools. But religion is not yet exterminated, the *Emess* goes on. Along the whole front of Soviet constructive work we find religion our great obstacle. The war against religion must therefore be waged upon the whole line, especially now, when the Jewish Solemn Days are on us and the Jewish clericals are engaged in a vigorous campaign of their own. This is the moment to increase our militant anti-religious activity and to combine it with our fight against Jewish nationalism and chauvinism.

The same issue of the *Emess* contains a series of reports from towns and townships throughout the Soviet Union, in which the writers complain that the local anti-religious groups have ceased to exist except on paper, and are no longer active. The clericals, they say, have gained new courage from this fact, and have lifted up their heads again, carrying on their religious propaganda without hindrance.

Things have gone so far, one correspondent from Homel writes, that there are even clergy who offer to conduct services without any payment, so long as they get a congregation to go to synagogue. They get their pay, he hints, and very good pay probably, from the Jewish organisations abroad.

In Krasiliev, a township in the Ukraine, another report says, even the young people are terror-stricken with the approach of the Jewish solemn days, and are going to synagogue.

Similar complaints that the anti-religious campaign has fizzled out, and that the Jewish clericals are again finding a response among the Jewish masses, appear in the *Emess* from a number of other places.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. MINNIE KING (Johannesburg).

The death occurred on Sunday of Mrs. King, better known in the concert world as Miss Minnie Freeman. The late Mrs. King was a fine pianist, and when a girl carried everything before her at South African Eisteddfodau. She was one of the outstanding performers revealed as the result of these annual festivals, and made many appearances on South African concert platforms. She married Mr. B. King, of Johannesburg and Capetown. Taken ill last May in Capetown, she made little progress, and was brought to Pretoria, where she died at the General Hospital.

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SIR DAVID HARRIS HONOURED.

Kimberley's Tribute.

Kimberley honoured the grand old man of the diamond fields—Sir David Harris—on Saturday, when a great crowd assembled at the Gardens to see the unveiling of a bust of Sir David.

The Mayor (Mr. H. Solomon) performed the unveiling ceremony, and paid a striking tribute to Sir David.

In a short speech, Sir David Harris remarked that in a book shortly to be published he had said what he felt about Kimberley more fully than he could that day.

JEWISH GUILD (Johannesburg).

A debate of topical interest will be held at the Jewish Guild on Sunday, the 5th inst., at 8.30 p.m. The subject is: "That it is in the interest of the State for women to serve on juries."

The famous dramatic thriller, "The Thirteenth Chair," by Bayard Vellier, will be presented at the Jewish Guild on Sunday, the 12th inst. Admission is as usual—members, 1s.; visitors (who must be introduced and paid for by members), 2s. 6d.

"THE CONSTANT NYMPH."

Miss Olga Lindo, whose work has made such a deep impression upon South African audiences, gives a wonderful performance in the character of Tessa in "The Constant Nymph" at His Majesty's Theatre. It is a part which needs very delicate acting, and Miss Lindo brings out the strange poignancy of a most unusual stage character.

She is ably assisted by her company of English artists, and the production by the African Theatres, Ltd., is on a splendid scale. A visit to "The Constant Nymph" makes a profound impression upon playgoers.

PLAY-READING SOCIETY.

Owing to the Jewish festivals, the Repertory Play-Reading Society will meet on October 8th and 22nd, instead of October 1st and 15th.

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