

Lazar Braudo

LITERALLY a tower of strength for Zionism in this country will be lost when Mr. Lazar Braudo leaves in a few days to take up permanent residence in Eretz Israel. He is not a man widely known to the masses, nor has he ever wished to make any special appeal to them. He has liked to work in a quiet, unobtrusive manner for his people, and has performed a mountain of service.

Braudo is a man who has penetrative mental qualities of a high order. One rarely, perhaps, sees the sparks, yet there is in him a tremendous fire of devotion for the causes he espouses.

Although a busy man of affairs, those who know Lazar Braudo intimately are well aware that the main purpose of his life is to assist—in his quiet, and splendidly useful way—the securing of a Jewish footing in Palestine that will make that land finally and irrevocably the home of our people for all time.

A Jewish Ship

I WAS deeply interested in the idea of a Jewish ship entering Southampton harbour recently. The ship has an all-Jewish crew and the event may be the beginning of a Jewish merchant service sailing to and from Palestine. Although there has been little Jewish contact with the sea, yet history records Jewish associations with maritime pursuits. In this regard, one must remember the epoch-making activities of those Jewish map-drawers and navigators (for cartography in the fifteenth century was almost entirely in the hands of the Mallorcan Jews) who paved the way for the highly-important discoveries of the new ocean routes via the Cape.

Even as sailors, Jews achieved some distinction. Dr. Glover in his "Life and Letters in the Fourth Century," for instance, informs us of the sprightly doings of Jewish sailors in Alexandria some sixteen hundred years ago. Again, among others, the late Lucien Wolf in his account of Marranos in the Canary Islands tells us the case of a Jewish sea captain, Arias by name, who carried a "Torah" in a leathern bag. Also in our days facts can be given of Jewish nautical men in diverse parts of the world.

In shipbuilding, too, Jews have had some share. Although the latter particular activity was generally denied to them by several State authorities, yet we have the record of Christian IV. of Denmark permitting the Portuguese Jews of Gluckstadt to build and man ships. Another example was that of Alexander Moses, of Konigsberg, who, in 1781, was allowed to plan the building of a ship of 260 tons, but was not permitted to further execute such work.

Locker-Lampson

THE first to protest against the menace of Hitlerism in Great Britain was a non-Jew in the person of Commander Oliver Locker-Lampson, D.S.O., M.P. It was this gentleman who was the host to Professor Einstein during his

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By 'Hamabit'

last visit to London and who publicly castigated Germany upon its treatment of the great *savant*.

Whilst others hesitated, it was Locker-Lampson who took action inside and outside the House of Commons and particularly in organising the great Einstein meeting at the Albert Hall, at which 10,000 people supported an appeal on behalf of refugee academic and professional workers from Germany.

Locker-Lampson is a dynamic personality. He had a fine record at Eton and was later called to the Bar. At the outbreak of the Great War he was leading armoured cars in France. He distinguished himself on many other fronts. His career in Parliament has been a brilliant one. Of special interest has been his consistent expression of disgust at unfair treatment meted out to Jews in any part of the world.

A Library Centre

NOTICE that an important denomination of the local Christian community has recently made a successful attempt to initiate a library centre for members of the faith. It seems rather a pity that in such a well-populated centre as Johannesburg there is no library centre to cater for the mental needs of local Jewry.

During a recent visit to Durban I was much impressed by the splendid effort being made to build up an outstanding collection of Hebraica and Judaica. There can be no doubt that already the Durban Jewish Club has a splendid Jewish library. In time, the institution will possess the finest collection of Jewish books in South Africa.

Why is Rand Jewry lagging behind in a really important matter of this kind? Surely there is a sufficient "feel" for cultural values to command respect for a movement of this nature once it is initiated.

Litvinoff

ALTHOUGH some pride is being taken in the fact that Russia's brilliant travelling ambassador—Maxim Litvinoff—is a Jew, it must be realised that he severed his relationship with his people long ago. Whilst his father was an observant Jew and an adherent to the Chassidic sect, Litvinoff has completely cut off his connection with anything Jewish. He has also definitely severed his relations with his family. This complete severance from his people was emphasised recently when he refused to see his brother in Warsaw (a conforming Jew), who had come from a distance especially to see him.

I WAS interested to learn that that master biographer of our day—Emil Ludwig—has written an absorbing and poignant portrait of the late Walter Rathenau. It was the violent death of this Jewish Minister of Foreign Affairs of republican Germany at the hands of Nazism, which shocked the world in June, 1922. It will be recollected that the late Dr. Walter Rathenau, who was more closely identified than any other German with the efforts for the rehabilitation of his country since the war, was shot and killed by two unknown assassins while on his way from his residence one morning to the Foreign Office.

The Minister was subjected to a hail of bullets, one of them striking him in the throat and passing upward to the brain, while others struck him in various parts of the body. Hand grenades also were thrown, almost wrecking the car in which Dr. Rathenau was riding, and inflicting further injuries on him. He was struck by at least eight bullets, any one of which would have killed him.

The fact that Rathenau's murder are still looked upon in Germany as a heroes makes the sacrifice of Rathenau's life for his country a more poignant tragedy.

Quoting Scripture.

I AM sure that we all remember the partnership which the ex-Kaiser established during the war with God. Now the Nazis appear to see the hand of Heaven in all they do.

To a body of students a German leader—to whom has been entrusted the promulgation of the Aryan super-idea—recently said that "the fight will be recognised as something God wished us to do." That arch-pietist, Adolf Hitler himself, recently proclaimed before a huge mob, "We Germans fear God and nothing else." A canting voice has come from the ex-Kaiser, who declares modestly, "I have been sent from God. I have been every emotion."

What god is referred to exactly these pious people? Possibly it may refer to Odin. It may be recollected that the legend tells us that that old German god was appeased only when human sacrifices were made to him. Modern Nazis also appear to require human sacrifices in their god-worship.

For the devil to quote the prophet of the nauseating gestures of the present Hitler regime in Germany.

Semper Fidelis.

LEIBEL: "Where is that two pounds I lent you last year, and which you promised faithfully to repay?"
Chaim: "I think you are mistaken. What I said at the time was that I, be eternally indebted to you."