

*An Interesting Sidelight  
on the Belgian Diamond  
Exhibition*

**THE PART JEWS HAVE  
PLAYED IN THE INDUSTRY**

THE Diamond Exhibition which has just taken place in Antwerp has aroused interest all over the world. The exhibition was opened with great pomp and ceremony on the 19th December in the presence of Leopold III, King of Belgium, who was accompanied by the Prime Minister and other notables. The exhibition attracted more than a million people and proved an outstanding success. There were jewels on view worth a king's ransom.

It is not generally known that many Jews played a prominent part in pioneering in the diamond trade, especially at Antwerp. A correspondent of the "Zionist Record," Mr. Alexander Behr, of Antwerp, informs us that most of the exhibitors at this brilliant exhibition were Jews.

The Jewish connection with the diamond trade at Antwerp goes back to the very beginning of the industry, early in the 17th century.

Mr. Behr tells us of portraits that were hung of the Rodriguez Dynasty in the historic section of the exhibition. The grandfather, father and son, were identified with the diamond trade even in the time of the Marranos, and played a great role in the development of the commerce of Belgium. This Rodriguez Dynasty comprised merchant princes who organised large businesses and who were granted royal monopolies in the diamond trade. Members of this famous family, especially the Mendes family—Diego Mendes, Gracia Mendes and Miques (known also as the Duke of Naxos)—played important parts in history. The outstanding diamond merchant at that period was Gasper Duarte, who was also a Jew.

Even before the last war Jews had been taking prominent parts in the industry at Antwerp. But it was especially after their return from exile at the cessation of the war when they were officially invited to resume their occupations, that, due to them, really great development of the industry took place.

There are four large diamond exchanges at Antwerp, each with a few thousand members. It is interesting to learn that out of deference to the Jewish members several of these exchanges are closed on Saturdays, whilst all are closed on Yom Kippur.

**Hebrew Proficiency Test Results**

THE marking is now completed in the Hebrew Proficiency Test Examinations recently instituted by the S.A. Board of Jewish Education. We take pleasure in printing the following list of successful candidates:

1. The number opposite the subject denotes the class of pass the candidate secured.

2. First class pass denotes the attainment by the candidate of 70 per cent. of the marks and over; second class, 55 per cent. of the marks and over; third class, 40 per cent. and over.

3. Subjects not mentioned are those in which candidates failed.

4. An asterisk denotes that the candidate wrote only one part of the examinations: either the first or the second.

5. The abbreviations for the examination subjects are: Pent. for Pentateuch; F.P.—Former Prophets; Heb.—Hebrew; Gram.—Grammar; His.—History; L.C.—Laws and Customs; B.—Bible; E.F.—Ethics of the Fathers; R.—Rashi.

**SENIOR PROFICIENCY EXAMINATIONS.**

**KRUGERSDORP.**

- B. Zetzer, Heb. and Gram. 3, B. 2, His. 3, L.C. 2, E.F. 3, R. 2.
- A. Edelstein, B. 2, His. 3, L.C. 2, E.F. 3, R. 3.
- \*S. Wasserman, L.C. 3.
- Ph. Zuck, Heb. and Gram. 2, B. 1, His. 3, L.C. 3, E.F. 1, R. 3.
- L. Gleichen, Heb. and Gram. 1, B. 1, L.C. 1, E.F. 1, R. 2.
- S. Ballon, Heb. and Gram. 2, B. 1, His. 3, L.C. 2, E.F. 2, R. 1.

**JUNIOR PROFICIENCY EXAMINATIONS.**

**1. BULAWAYO.**

- \*L. Nussbaum, F.P. 2, His. 3, L.C. 3.
- \*J. Kiewelowitz, Heb. and Gram. 2, Pent. 2.

**2. BENONI.**

- H. Fine, Pent. 2, F.P. 3, His. 1, L.C. 3.

**3. DOORNFONTEIN.**

- A. Klaaf, Heb. and Gram. 1, Pent. 3, F.P. 2, Hist. 2, L.C. 2.
- B. Cohen, Heb. and Gram. 3, Pent. 3, F.P. 3, Hist. 3, L.C. 2.
- M. Joffe, Heb. and Gram. 3, F.P. 3.
- E. Beynard, Heb. and Gram. 3, Hist. 3, L.C. 3.
- J. Lubowitz, Heb. and Gram. 3, Pent. 2, F.P. 2, Hist. 2, L.C. 3.
- A. Abramowitz, Pent. 2, F.P. 3, His. 3.

**Worcester**

An error appeared in the last issue of the "Zionist Record" to the effect that Mr. A. Volks was reported as having been appointed representative of the Jewish National Fund. It was Mr. J. J. Wilk who received this appointment.

**PLAZA ATTRACTION**

"Ourselves Alone" the new feature at the Plaza is a vivid melodrama presenting the thrilling portrait of life in Ireland during the Sinn Fein troubles, the hectic rebellion days of 1920. John Loder makes his British film debut and is ably supported by John Lodge and Antonette Cellier. The organ interlude by John Williamson is good.

- S. Sundy, Heb. and Gram. 3, Pent. 3, F.P. 3, His. 2, L.C. 3.
- H. Kaplan, F.P. 3.
- M. Nissenbaum, Heb. and Gram. 2, Pent. 2, F.P. 2, His. 2, L.C. 3.
- \*B. Miller, L.C. 2.
- \*H. Altman, L.C. 3.

**4. HEBREW HIGH SCHOOL.**

- J. A. Grosberg, Heb. and Gram. 3, Pent. 3, F.P. 2, His. 3, L.C. 3.
- M. Hesselson, Heb. and Gram. 1, Pent. 3, F.P. 2, His. 3, L.C. 3.
- A. Lourie, Heb. and Gram. 2, Pent. 2, F.P. 1, His. 3.
- M. Freiman, Heb. and Gram. 1, Pent. 2, F.P. 2, His. 1, L.C. 2.

**5. S.A. JEWISH ORPHANAGE.**

- L. Rosengarten, Pent. 3, F.P. 2, His. 2, L.C. 3.
- Myer Solomon, Pent. 3, F.P. 3, His. 2, L.C. 3.
- A. Starkowitz, Pent. 3, F.P. 3, His. 1, L.C. 3.
- A. Mendelson, Heb. and Gram. 2, Pent. 3, F.P. 2, His. 1, L.C. 2.
- H. Klevansky, Heb. and Gram. 1, Pent. 2, F.P. 2, His. 1, L.C. 2.
- I. Grevler, Pent. 3, F.P. 2, His. 3, L.C. 3.
- H. Barlin, Heb. and Gram. 3, Pent. 3, F.P. 3, His. 1, L.C. 3.
- \*A. Zagory, Heb. and Gram. 1, Pent. 2.

**6. PORT ELIJABETH.**

- \*R. Bennun, Heb. and Gram. 1, Pent. 3.
- \*H. Bloch, Heb. and Gram. 1, Pent. 2.
- \*S. Stein, Heb. and Gram. 1, Pent. 2.
- \*M. Bloch, Heb. and Gram. 1, Pent. 3.
- \*J. Stein, Heb. and Gram. 1, Pent. 3.
- \*H. Trumpetzky, Pent. 3.
- \*P. Gutstein, Heb. and Gram. 1, Pent. 2.
- \*M. Witt, Heb. and Gram. 2, Pent. 3.
- \*F. Redhouse, F.P. 3, His. 3, L.C. 3.
- \*M. Redhouse, F.P. 2, His. 3, L.C. 3.

**7. PRIVATE TUITION (Miss Ben-Yacob).**

- \*W. J. Hersch, F.P. 3, His. 2, L.C. 3.

**8. STANDERTON.**

- \*M. Dison, Pent. 2.
- \*L. Dison, F.P. 1, His. 1, L.C. 2.

**Vereeniging**

The S.A. Jewish Orphanage has received from Mrs. B. Slomowitz, the hon. secretary of the Vereeniging branch of that institution, the sum of £52 2s. 6d. made up as follows: Proceeds from bridge drive, £18 17s.; proceeds from raffle of £5 note donated by the branch committee, £24 7s.; and £8 18s. 6d. donations by the following: Messrs. L. Abrams and E. Shapiro £2 2s. each; Messrs. S. Levy and H. Behrman £1 1s. each; Messrs. Isaacs, Melman, M. Krauss, M. Shill and J. Rees 10s. 6d. each.

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