

Opening of Levant Fair. A South African at the Levant Fair.

"MOST SUCCESSFUL YET HELD IN IN TEL-AVIV.

Jerusalem, April 26th.

The High Commissioner for Palestine, General Sir Arthur Wauchope, in his official capacity as Patron, opened the Tel-Aviv Levant Fair, in the presence of delegations from twenty-four States, and thousands of guests and tourists from all over the world.

The opening was preceded by a luncheon arranged at the Fair Restaurant for the High Commissioner, the heads of Government Departments and the foreign delegations.

The opening of the Exhibition and Fair was announced by the hooting of a huge siren brought from Sweden.

There was a street parade from the Municipality Building, where the city banner was handed over to be carried to the Fair grounds for erection.

The Fair promises to be the most successful yet held in Tel-Aviv. The town is packed with visitors. All the Palestine dailies have issued special editions, running to many pages, devoted to the Fair.

The Palestine Arab Executive has issued a call to the Arab population to boycott the Fair.

Death of Rabbi Francis Cohen.

AUTHORITY ON HEBREW MUSIC.

London.

The death is reported from Sydney, Australia, of Rabbi Francis Lyon Cohen, the Chief Minister of the Great Synagogue, Sydney, President of the New South Wales Beth Din and Director of Education.

Rabbi Cohen, who was an authority on Hebrew music, was born at Aldershot, England, seventy-two years ago, and was educated at Jews' College and University College, London. In 1892 he became acting Chaplain to the Jews in the British army, and in 1896 Staff Chaplain to the Jewish Lads' Brigade, whose formation he was the first to advocate. He organised the military Hanukah Services, which he inaugurated in his Synagogue. During the war he was Chaplain to the Australian Military Forces.

He was the author of "The Handbook of Synagogue Music," 1889, and, with D. M. Davis, of "The Voice of Prayer and Praise," 1899. In addition, he wrote numerous articles on Jewish music. He was the musical editor of the "Jewish Encyclopedia."

Jewish Agency Indebtedness.

LONDON NEGOTIATIONS OPENED.

Jerusalem.

Mr. Eliezer Kaplan, member of the Palestine Jewish Agency Executive in charge of the Treasury, has left for London in order to negotiate the loan for the consolidation of the indebtedness of the Jewish Agency and to place the Jewish Agency settlements on a self-supporting basis, in accordance with the decision of the Actions Committee meeting.

"DAZZLING ATTRACTIONS" AND GALA ATMOSPHERE.

A South African tourist at present in Palestine writes as follows of the Levant Fair:—

"The Levant Fair has just been opened and the ceremony was a most impressive one. The speakers were Mr. Meir Dizengoff, the Mayor of Tel-Aviv, and the High Commissioner. On the journalists' platform were about three hundred journalists from all over the world, though very few took notes and only a few sat at tables. The hoisting of the flag and the blare of the trumpets to announce that the Fair was open, was very effective.

"As regards the Exhibition itself, it exceeds all expectations. The buildings are beautiful, and one can spend hours wandering around looking at things. The place is packed every day and night, and the buses are doing a roaring trade; as a rule passengers are not permitted to stand on the buses, but this law has fallen into abeyance for the present. The *tozereth ha'aretz* pavilion is, I think, the most interesting and surprising—one can hardly realise that so many articles are produced locally. The exhibits are very artistically arranged, and one sees them to best advantage. They cannot but convince one that Palestine has become a real centre of industry.

"One of the finest stands is that of the Nur Match Factory, which is represented by a mosque covered with matches. The *Iria* (Municipality) and Histadruth have very cunning arrangements for their stands. The Pavilion of the Jewish National Fund and Keren Hayesod and that of the Palestine

Government are most interesting, and the pavilions of the various other countries participating in the Fair are also most attractive. I think Italy has the largest pavilion, although that of Great Britain is also very fine.

"One sees the loveliest cars in the Pavilion of General Motors. As a matter of fact there are some extremely fine cars to be seen on the streets of Tel-Aviv at present.

"The whole Fair is very well laid out and the laws, gardens and fountains which are a prominent feature of it add greatly to the general effect. One feels as if one has been transported into another world quite different from Tel-Aviv—yet actually the Fair is only ten minutes from the city. There is a high tower from which one can obtain an excellent view of the whole layout of the exhibition and the surroundings, should one take the trouble of climbing a long flight of stairs. I did take the trouble and found it well worth while, for the panorama was simply magnificent.

"Saturday night was a real gala night and the place was simply thronged with people. There were fireworks till one in the morning; Luna Park was in full swing with all sorts of dazzling attractions, including a Wall of Death, with a motor car instead of a cycle scaling the wall. The Yarkon is looking lovely, and one can go by motor or rowing boat for a long distance by day or night. There is a very fine cafe in the grounds with a splendid orchestra. There is, in fact, nothing lacking at the Levant Fair."

New Austrian Constitution.

"COMPLETE FREEDOM AND LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE."

Vienna.

The text of the new Austrian Constitution which has been presented to the National Council has just been made public.

Article 27, Clause 1, provides that all religiously adult inhabitants of Austria enjoy complete liberty of religion and conscience, as well as freedom to exercise their religion in their homes and in public. Clause 2 provides that religious belief must not be prejudicial to citizen duties, and that the enjoyment of citizen and State citizen rights, as well as admission to public office must be independent of religious belief. Exceptions to these fundamental principles can be made only in school service by means of legislation. Article 16 provides that all citizens of Austria are equal before the law. They may be treated unequally only where it is justified by the actual facts of the case. In particular, privileges of rank or class are ruled out.

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Impoverishment of Polish Jews.

"DYING OF STARVATION."

Warsaw.

Seventy-five per cent. of the Jewish population of the Polish small towns are dying of starvation, Deputy Wislicki, a member of the Government Party, declared at the annual Conference of the Central Association of Jewish Merchants, of which he is President.

Other speakers emphasised the general increase of the Jewish population in Poland, accompanied by the simultaneous decline of the merchant class, on account of the heavy load of taxation imposed on it.

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P. D. TROSKIE,
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