

Mr. and Mrs. L. Policansky in Cape Town

INTERVIEW WITH "JEWISH CHRONICLE" REPRESENTATIVE.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Policansky arrived in Cape Town in the "Stirling Castle" on Friday on a short visit. They have been resident in Palestine for a number of years and their names are well known throughout the Yishub, to the progress of which they have contributed a great deal.

In an interview with a "Jewish Chronicle" representative, Mr. Policansky was asked his views on the present situation in Palestine. He stated that in spite of the disturbances, the general outlook was optimistic. The spirit of the Yishub was remarkable and they refused to be deterred from their task by acts of lawlessness and terrorism. Trade had undoubtedly been affected but nevertheless the factories were working and there was a great deal of activity in commercial life. The banks were of tremendous assistance to manufacturers and business people.

The recent campaign for Tozereth Haaretz, said Mr. Policansky, had proved a great success and had acted as a strong stimulus for the Jewish population of Palestine to buy products manufactured locally. Mr. Policansky added that Jews in South Africa could also help a great deal in consolidating the position in Palestine by purchasing goods manufactured in that country. In the case of goods which are not produced in South Africa, Mr. Policansky urged that Jews make a point of buying goods produced in Palestine.

Beginning of Tel-Aviv Port.

Some good had resulted from the disturbances, continued Mr. Policansky. A notable example of this was the beginning of Tel-Aviv as a port. For years the Jews had asked the Government to grant facilities for the use of Tel-Aviv as a port and thus relieve the congestion in Jaffa; but the Government had consistently refused until a few months ago when the Arab strike made this inevitable. Never would he forget, said Mr. Policansky, the enthusiasm which prevailed when the "port" was first opened. In a few days over £80,000 was collected in Tel-Aviv alone towards the construction of the harbour. Tel-Aviv, said Mr. Policansky, offered a marked contrast to Jaffa, where everything was at a standstill owing to the strike.

South African Companies.

In connection with the economic position in Palestine, Mr. Policansky stated that the three companies in which South Africans were specially interested, viz., the S.A. Binyan, the Palestine Cold Storage and the Africa-Palestine Investments, Ltd., were all making good progress and helping materially to ease the present situation. It was significant that on the completion of the new building of the Palestine Cold Storage in Haifa every chamber was immediately occupied.

Attitude of the Government.

Asked what was his opinion about the attitude of the Government in the present disturbances, Mr. Policansky said the Yishub had full confidence in the Palestine Administration; it was felt however that if stricter measures had been taken at the beginning, the country would have been

normal by now and the disturbances a thing of the past.

With regard to the charge that had been brought against the Jews that they were hiding behind British bayonets, this was absolutely untrue, state Mr. Policansky. Jews had shown the greater heroism in the present situation but refused to emulate the acts of brigands and terrorists. From the very beginning they had urged the British Government to enrol them as police or to be formed into special units under the control of British officers, for the defence of the country.

Part Played by the Women.

Mrs. Policansky was asked specially about the part played by the women of Palestine in the present disturbances. The women, she stated, had been wonderful, and in addition to the heroism and courage they had shown they had done a tremendous amount in helping to solve the refugee problem in Tel-Aviv. The Wizo in particular, in addition to carrying on its usual work, had done yeoman service in organising the refugee work and in providing for the needs of those who had been forced to evacuate their homes.

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great symphony of humanity which is still to come and to which each race should contribute.

Dr. Rabinowitz and Mr. Mirvish took part in the discussion to which Dr. Sachs replied.

Miss R. Rabinowitz rendered a pianoforte solo and Miss Berndt songs.

Zionist Conversazione.

Dr. J. SACHS ON "OUR RELATION TO CURRENT IDEAS."

The fortnightly Conversazione took place at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday night.

Adv. J. Herbstein was in the chair and extended a cordial welcome to Mr. and Mrs. L. Policansky. He also welcomed Rabbi Rabinowitz, Mr. Kirsch, on his return from a visit to Palestine, and Dr. and Mrs. Singer who are taking up permanent residence in Cape Town.

Mr. Herbstein went on to deal with the present news in connection with Eretz Israel, and said there was hope to-day that peace would be restored soon. The Jews had shown by their work that they had no quarrel with the Arab people and desired to live at peace with them; it was to be hoped that the Arabs would learn very soon that violence does not pay. The Jews were entitled to demand that the doors of Palestine should be kept open, and should be grateful to Great Britain for refusing to be intimidated. The Jewish people would face the future with confidence and trust that the National Home would be built on the sure foundations laid in the past.

Mr. L. Policansky, on behalf of Mrs. Policansky and himself, expressed thanks for the cordial welcome.

Dr. J. Sachs gave a very interesting lecture on "Our Relation to Current Events and Current Ideas." The Jewish people, he said, were possessed of self-righteousness to an extraordinary degree. They were self-centred and seemed to forget their relationship to the outside world. They should realise that their troubles were to a large extent due to the current world situation and were shared by other peoples as well. Anti-Semitism was not the result of blind hatred but was grounded in the social and economic conditions prevailing to-day.

The Jews, continued Dr. Sachs, should realise that a new era had dawned and they must adjust themselves to new conditions.

Nationalism.

Some people, continued Dr. Sachs, conclude that life to-day is all a question of economics and politics and that therefore everything else is mere sentimentalism. Nationalism, they say, is just a dark power like religion in earlier days and must be discarded. They do not realise that there is a certain continuity linking the past with the future, and that there is a synthesis between universalism and nationalism.

The reaction against the type of nationalism rampant to-day, said Dr. Sachs, was internationalism or cosmopolitanism. The Jews had made important contributions to human civilisation and culture and could not sacrifice their great cultural heritage and merge with other nations, even if this were to bring about a material solution of their problem.

Our aim should be, said Dr. Sachs, to bring about a synthesis between the material and spiritual. That this was possible could be seen to-day in Palestine where the workers were combining manual work with culture. They realised there was something higher than bread and butter.

The Jews, said Dr. Sachs, should find their relationship to other cultural trends and currents that go towards making that

(Continued in Second Column).

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