

Zionist Conversazione.

STRIKING ADDRESS BY
Dr. A. SYNGALOWSKI.

The Zionist Hall was filled to capacity on Tuesday night when Dr. A. Syngalowski gave a striking address at the second Conversazione of the season.

Taking as his subject "In Spiritual and Political Confusion," Dr. Syngalowski said that in spite of the pessimism that was rampant in the world to-day, there were definite signs that humanity was being driven in the direction of real and full democracy. No idea could be embodied in form until history was ripe for it and the time would come when the ideals of truth and justice would again triumph.

There were two opposite forces in the world today, continued the lecturer; the one strove for war and the other for peace. Fascism was a manifestation of the former; it meant the domination of the strong over the weak and everything in the Jew revolted against the idea. Anti-Semitism was inseparable from Fascism, and the Jews had no alternative but to fight against it.

The idea of State was not embodied in a Social contract but was the highest manifestation of the national spirit, and it was against this that Fascism set itself.

Jewry, continued the lecturer was today in a state of spiritual decline. The old type of pious Jew who devoted his life to study and religion was fast disappearing; he had his faults, it is true, in that he could not bear criticism, but he was sound and whole culturally. The modern Jew had nothing which could bind him to Judaism, and lacked of energy and initiative; in America however, the third generation was beginning to return to Judaism, although it was a Judaism of a different type from that of their grandfathers.

The problem of spiritual life was not one of language and literature but of culture. Only where a nation had definite aim and vision could they be said to have culture. The Jews had not yet got that; it was important to have a home of one's own but that was not sufficient; there must be fundamental ideas governing the mode of living. The great tragedy of German Jewry was that they had brought no sacrifices for the cultural welfare of their own people.

The Jews, concluded Dr. Syngalowski were hated not because of the protocols of the Elders of Zion or any other lies and calumnies, but because of their high moral and ethical code, from which they could not dissociate themselves.

A discussion followed in which Dr. Rabinowitz, Mr. B. L. Rubik and Dr. Altschul took part. Dr. Syngalowski replied.

Dr. S. E. Kark was in the chair.

Mr. Roos and Mr. Witebsky contributed to the musical programme.

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An Appeal from Chief Rabbi Dr. Hertz for Ort-Oze.

"For fifty-five years, the Ort-Oze has laboured for the health and the technical training of our toiling and suffering masses in Eastern Europe. Every Jew living in a land of freedom should deem it a sacred privilege to share in this rescue of tens of thousands of brethren from disease and economic misery; and I should be happy to feel that these words of mine have helped the cause of the Ort-Oze in this country."

... and from Haham Dr. Gaster:

"We appeal to you to give our people, not charity but the means to earn their own livelihood, the strength to stand on their own legs, the dignity of work, the means of earning their own bread in the sweat of their brow, and to make them independent in every way, first in body and then in spirit, and to grant them the possibility to find a home wheresoever they be, to use their knowledge and their tools, to be weapons of peace, the arms of progress, to benefit not only themselves but also their neighbours and above all, the lands wheresoever they may live so as to become in every way a valuable asset working together for the uplifting of the masses and thereby also knitting society together in one common endeavour for bettering the life of the people and in time to realise the great ideals of human brotherhood.

"This everyone of you to whom we appeal can do and should do, if he loves his people and wishes to prepare a better future for it. But your help must come quickly; time waits for no one and unless we help soon it might be too late. The young people that are growing up cannot wait, they cannot be fed on the hope nor can they be encouraged by mere promises. The work of the Ort is so well-known to you that only one word suffices.

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Palestine and Middle East Economic Magazine.

FEBRUARY ISSUE.

The second issue of the new "Palestine & Middle East Economic Magazine" has just been received here and like the previous number is full of interesting material. The leading "Notes and Comments" touch on many important points, while the various articles are highly informative.

Mr. Tolkowsky contributes a lucid explanation of the difficulties facing citrus export and puts forward suggestions for tariff reform as the only solution to the problem of finding adequate markets for the future crop. A vivid description of the changes taking place in the Arab economic structure in Palestine is given by Mr. Z. Abramovitch who follows the breakdown of the semi-feudal Palestine Arab existence in pre-war days to the rise of Arab capitalism, in which he finds many of the roots of the recent disturbances. Mr. Israeli of the Anglo-Palestine Bank gives an account of banking developments during 1936 and cites the fact that deposits in Palestine banks have continued to rise, in spite of the difficulties through which the country has been passing. Possibilities for the cultivation of new fruits to supplement citrus, both on the home market and for export purposes, are discussed by Dr. Oppenheimer of the Rehovoth Experimental Station in the light of the experiments being carried out in the Station's acclimatisation garden; as a result the writer advocates the cultivation of loquat, sugar-apple and pitanga for the local market and mango and avocado for export purposes. The problem of the nomad tribes in Transjordan is discussed searchingly by Mr. Eliahu Epstein who states that the only hope for the starving bedou lies in agricultural development of the country and their settlement on the land, but the Transjordan Government lacks funds for this.

A feature of this issue of the magazine is the number of interviews with leading figures in the economic world. Mr. Shenkar of the Manufacturers' Association discusses the industrial outlook; Mr. Glickman describes the position in the building materials trade; Mr. Gruenblatt outlines the important Tel Aviv Foreshore Reclamation Project which ultimately meaning a £3,000,000 investment, will alter the face of Tel Aviv and make it a real "seaside" resort; Mr. H. Halperin of the Agricultural Workers' Organisation gives an account of recent agricultural developments and Mr. Efer of the Hamashbir Hamercazi discusses co-operative trading, which in Palestine accounts for purchases valued at LP 2,000,000 annually. The Economic News Section gives all sorts of interesting information on finance, land settlement, agriculture, industry, transport, trade and insurance. Under "Book Reviews", Dr. Granovsky reviews the collected speeches and writings of Dr. Ruppin published as "Three Decades of Palestine".

The February issue is as well-printed and arranged as was the first number and its illustrations, all of which are unfamiliar are well-chosen.