

THE JEWS IN ITALY

A CORRESPONDENT of the "Forwaerts" (New York) gives some interesting details concerning the position of the Jews in Italy.

There are about fifty thousand Jews. The leading communities are Rome, Milano and Florence. Of the fifteen thousand Jews who live in Rome about three thousand are still inhabiting the ancient Ghetto. Milano has to-day a population of 12,000 Jews, of whom three thousand are German refugees. The population as well as the Government of Italy have hitherto been almost free from anti-Semitism. Lately, however, many Italians have come under influence of Nazi propaganda. They are told that Jews are patriots of England, that they fight against Italy's ambitions in the Mediterranean and support the movement of Free Masonry.

The Hebrew congregations in Italy are maintained by a special income tax which every Jew has to pay, under a Government decree. Only by conversion to Christianity can a Jew escape the payment of this tax. The congregations have wide powers of self-administration in matters of ritual, charity and religious education.

Lately there has been a great deal of friction between the Zionists and assimilationists in these communal councils. In Rome the Government appointed a special non-Jewish Commissar to look after the affairs of the Hebrew Congregation.

In view of the somewhat strained relations between England and Italy, Zionism is not viewed with favour by the authorities.

Bumper Grappling To-Morrow Night

To-morrow night the Transvaal National Sporting Club are staging a wrestling tournament at the Wanderers. Fans will see the Australian mat man, George Pencheff have it out with "Rough-house" Charlie Green. And since the winner of this bout is to meet our old friend, John van der Walt, the mule-kick crack on March 5, the fare should be a tussle of the best.

Piledriver Parks, the man who delights in banging his opponent's nut against the boards, is to meet Dory Detton. So fans are in for an exciting time.

Baritone Terrasi and His Pupils

A concert which promises to be highly enjoyable, takes place at the City Hall, Johannesburg, on Thursday evening, March 3, when Grand Operatic selections will be given by Baritone Terrasi and his pupils. The first act of Pagliacci and the second act of Traviata will be presented in costume and acting, and there will also be other solos and duets. The accompanist will be Miss Michael.

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Wrestling at the Wanderers

Followers of the heave and groan game had all they wanted at the Wanderers last Saturday night. The Union Sporting Club put on a fine tournament which was as interesting as it was thrilling.

A little canine enthusiast stole the thunder of the Berman-Holmsby bout when it entered the ring and yapped its approval. Then the real stuff was put over. Holmsby got busy and got a fall. Berman equalised in the fourth round, and settled the issue with a pinned fall in the final round.

Hank Oswald entered the roped square as a referee, and controlled the Clem Lawrence-Mark Hoesly encounter with rare skill. Lawrence found the new-comer a handful. Hoesly appeared to be fond of tossing his man out of the ring. Except when the American was tangled in the ropes, Lawrence seemed subdued. The result was a win for Hoesly.

Marshall and Nelson gave thrills galore. First Nelson shoulder-butted his man to the canvas to gain the first fall. Marshall equalised in the fifth round with a like fall, and dropped his man with an elbow jolt to call it a day.

TODAY IN JEWISH HISTORY

A Council of Toledo

FEBRUARY 18, 654 was the date of the ninth Church Council of Toledo which laid down that baptised Jews must observe Christian festivals as well as Jewish ones. It was obvious that these converts were not very thorough-going ones. This enactment came in the midst of a long series that oppressed these unwilling converts. Some ninety thousand Jews are said to have adopted Christianity in order to avoid expulsion from Spain. Those who had been expelled of course drifted back, and they and many of the "converts" inevitably practised Judaism. This was the occasion for further persecutions which continued intermittently until the arrival of the Moors.

Jewish Aged Home

Mr. I. Heymann presided over the monthly meeting of the general committee of the Witwatersrand Jewish Aged Home last Sunday afternoon.

It was reported that there were 143 inmates in the Institution—101 men and 42 women. Fourteen new inmates were admitted during the month, two had died, and one had left of her own accord. The meeting dealt with six new applications for admission.

The revenue for the month included £100 from the Germiston Branch and £50 bed endowment donation by Messrs. S. A. Stock Buyers.

The committee appeals for donations of clothing, especially men's. Each parcel of clothing received will be gratefully acknowledged.

Union of Jewish Women

The monthly meeting of the Union of Jewish Women was held last month at the residence of Mrs. Ed. Israel. This was well attended, and an interesting lecture was given by Mr. Eric Berman on "Native Customs." The vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. Tobias.

RABBI M. C. WEILER TO LECTURE.

At the next meeting of the Literary Section of the Johannesburg Women's Zionist League, which will take place at the Langham Hotel, on Tuesday, the 22nd inst., at 3 p.m., Rabbi M. C. Weiler will be the speaker. The subject of his address will be "Mendelssohn and the Haskalah Movement."

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PALESTINE FREE TOUR COMPETITION

The South African Zionist Youth Council has pleasure in announcing that Mr. Cecil Barnett, of Transvaal, Johannesburg, has been successful in the Palestine Free Tour Competition.

Mr. Barnett is the lucky recipient of a free tour to Palestine through Eretz Israel with the S.A. Zionist Youth Tour.

Cantor Konviser Fund

A KONVISER Fund, to provide immediate assistance for the family of the late Cantor B. K. Konviser, has been formed by the Cantors' and Choirmasters' Association. Konviser, it will be remembered, died in very tragic circumstances some time back, and his six daughters in Poland are in great distress, and are urgently in need of assistance and it is hoped that readers will respond to the appeal of the Association for donations.

Contributions may be sent to Cantor B. Chagy, Hon. Treasurer, Konviser Fund, 7 Alexandra Road, Yeoville, Johannesburg 44-6762).

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