

An Interview With Rabbi Z. Schwartz

IMPRESSIONS OF THE YISHUV

Rabbi Zalman Schwartz, the well-known Zionist propagandist, who has just returned from a visit to Palestine, is full of enthusiasm for what he saw while in that country. He has come back greatly inspired, with, as he says, "a deeper realisation than ever before that nothing we can do in the Galuth is commensurate with the real sacrifices which are being made by those in the front lines in Palestine, who are giving up their very lives for the national ideal."

DURING the course of the next few months Rabbi Schwartz will be visiting, in the interests of the Keren Hayesod, many centres in the Union where the campaign has not yet been inaugurated, and his appeal will, no doubt, be given added force by reason of the inspiration gained from his visit to Palestine. His conviction that the present circumstances in Palestine demand greater efforts than ever before from the Galuth will certainly be difficult to ignore.

Despite the unsettled conditions prevailing and warnings from friends and other well-wishers not to take risks, Rabbi Schwartz nevertheless saw a great deal of Palestine, often going into the most dangerous parts. At one time the car in which he was travelling was shot at from ambush, fortunately without anyone being hurt, but the party proceeded on its journey, the only reaction to the situation being the driver's quiet "Ain davar" ("It is nothing").

"That," said Rabbi Schwartz when interviewed, "is the spirit which is to be found all over Palestine. There is a courage, a persistence, a determination that life shall go on no matter what happens, that is unforgettable."

There had been the instance when a bomb had exploded at the very doors of the popular San Remo Hotel in Tel Aviv one afternoon. The consternation this event

caused died down within a short space of time — and the same evening a well-attended dance was held at the hotel.

There had been the sang-froid of the Jewish supernumerary on watch at Givath Ada. During the course of an attack a young boy next to him was shot dead — but there was no time for emotion while the rest of the colony was in danger. The supernumerary continued with his job until the attack was over, only then attending to the body of the dead boy next to him.

There was the airy and gallant unconcern of the ghaffir who escorted him on his visit to Sdeh Nahum in the Beisan Valley.

"Surely," he was asked by Rabbi Schwartz, "you are in much greater danger than I, since those Arabs who wish to shoot have more to gain by aiming at you than at me?"

"That may be so," was the reply, "but at least, my friend, you will in the meantime see Eretz Israel."

There were numerous other instances of extraordinary heroism. Shortly after his arrival in Palestine Rabbi Schwartz visited Abraham Katz in the hospital at Haifa. Katz, a South African chaltz, had been wounded at Hanita and, it will be remembered, died about two months ago.



As Rabbi Schwartz was about to leave him, he said: "I know you will want to bless me before you go. There is only one blessing I want — bless me that I may return to Hanita as soon as possible."

"Wherever I went," said Rabbi Schwartz, "I encountered this same amazing spirit. The Yishuv is standing up to conditions in the country marvellously. Economically things are very bad, but the people of Palestine have adjusted their standards of living accordingly — without complaint and with great patience. A larger nation could not have held out better in a time of virtual war, such as this. In short, I am overwhelmed by what I have seen in Palestine."

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ZIONIST YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Central Districts Society. This society is entertaining Benoni Zionist Youth Society on Sunday afternoon at the Florida Lake. All members are asked to meet outside the Coronation Hall at 2.45 p.m. In the evening a Debate will take place at the residence of Mr. J. Cohen. Benoni will move that "Jewish Nationalism has done more for Zionism than Anti-Semitism."

Germiston Society. Mr. Sydney Berg will speak to this society on "My Impressions of Eretz Israel" at the Shul Hall, on Sunday the 18th instant.

Herzlian Society. Mr. S. M. Levin, Organiser-Secretary of the S.A. Zionist Youth Council, will address the society on "Words or Deeds" at 29 Yeo Street, Yeoville, on Sunday, the 18th September.

Transvaal Youth Parliament. The Transvaal Zionist Youth Parliament this year is taking place at Pretoria over the long week-end in October. Particulars will be printed later.

Springs. On Tuesday, the 6th inst., a study group was held at the residence of Miss J. Levitas. Dr. Kretzmar delivered an instructive lecture on the present situation in Palestine.

The weekly Committee Meeting was held on Thursday, the 8th inst., at the residence of Mrs. A. Schneider, when preparations were discussed for the Annual Ball which was held in the Springs Town Hall, on Saturday night the 10th instant., with Reg. Clayton's Personal Orchestra in attendance. The Dance Committee and all concerned are to be heartily congratulated on a successful and enjoyable evening.

Your New Year Greetings

IF YOU HAVE BEEN TOO LATE to have your greeting included in our New Year number there is still time, however to record your wishes in the

Weekly Issue

of the ZIONIST RECORD published on

Friday, September 23rd,

almost on the eve of Rosh Hashona.

BUT YOU MUST

send your greeting to reach us not later than the first post

On WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st.

Fill out the form below and send it, together with remittance of 3/6, to the "Zionist Record," P.O. Box 150, Johannesburg

Mr. and Mrs. of wish all their Relatives and Friends a Happy and Prosperous New Year.