

CURRENT

COMMUNAL

By "Hamabit"

COMMENT

Wolffsohn

Today of this week marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the passing of Theodor Herzl's successor to the presidency of the World Zionist Organisation—David Wolffsohn. There must be many here who still remember Wolffsohn's strong yet charming personality, when he visited this country in 1906. He was one of the first Zionist ambassadors to come to South Africa, and wherever he went he was most cordially received. It is little known that one of Wolffsohn's brothers-in-law resided here. I refer to the late Mr. Isaac Goldinger, a Zionist leader, who died in February of this year. Goldinger was, incidentally, a personal friend of President Pieter van der Merwe's.

Wolffsohn often used to tell the story of his welcome in Capetown at the banquet held in his honour, at which he sat by the side of the Mayor. He was in a predicament, as he could speak only very little English. Wondering what to do, he turned to what the Mayor was saying. And then, all of a sudden, with a gleam of joy in his eye, he turned to His Worship and asked: "The Mama-loshen?" For the Mayor was none other than the late Herman Liberman, whose accent immediately proclaimed him as a Jew, originally from Eastern Europe.

De Sola

A GREAT surprise was caused some years ago by the announcement that the daughter of the late Isaac I. De Sola, first President of the Zionist Organisation of Canada, had married a gentleman who was not of the Jewish faith, namely, Sir John Lubbock—reputedly Britain's richest man.

Now hear that Sir John has commissioned a 600-page biography of the Canadian-Zionist leader, but that the book, which has taken more than a year to produce, is for private circulation only. The biography has been compiled from the hundreds of letters kept during De Sola's life and assembled after his death by his daughter, who resides in England.

The book glorifies the De Solas' pedigree as one of the oldest Jewish families in Spain—there were De Solas in the fifth century and they claimed direct descent from King David.

The late Clarence De Sola was highly respected by Canadian Jewry. I remember many years ago visiting him in Montreal in his beautiful mansion built in a Spanish Moorish style—undoubtedly one of the love-

liest homes on the American Continent. He was proud of his Jewish lineage. De Sola was a great admirer of Herzl, whom he had met in London and throughout his life he devoted himself to the Zionist ideal.

Soccer

DURING his recent visit to this country Col. Kisch referred on several occasions to the recent tour of a Palestine football team to Australia, in which he was particularly interested.

I now hear that the tour has duly taken place and that the Palestinian footballers have done extremely well in Australia. In Ipswich they played against Queensland B and won by 8 goals to one. In a game against representatives of the Queensland District they won by 13 goals to three. Out of nine games they won six, and have altogether 54 goals to their credit against 23 scored by the Australians. Their biggest victory, however, was gained in Sydney, where they played against the representatives of the whole of Australia. They won the game by 2 goals to one.

I shall be interested to learn whether the tour was a financial success. If circumstances had been different to-day, one might well have considered bringing out a Palestine sporting team to this country. Rugby or cricket would, of course, be a greater attraction in South Africa, but unfortunately the latter games do not seem to be popular in Palestine. Football is holding sway and a well-known rugby player who is at present serving in the Palestine army recently wrote to his friends that "during the past three months I have played more football than in my whole sporting career. . . ."

Schipa

IS Tito Schipa, world famous tenor and star of La Scala, a Jew?

A Jewish journalist in Warsaw claims to have discovered Schipa's Jewishness. In March this year, he states, Poland called up a certain class of reservists. Amongst the Polish subjects in Italy who were called up was a certain Rosenstraus who was born and brought up in Tarnopol, Galicia. He was drafted into an infantry regiment near Posen. After staying for some time in the barracks, Rosenstraus happened to join a sing-song of the troopers. It was at once noticed that the man possessed an unusually beautiful voice. The

singing soldier was brought before the higher military authorities, and finally they discovered that Rosenstraus was none other than Schipa!

The discovery is a most remarkable one. Far from being expelled from the Italian opera Schipa has just recently appeared with an Italian opera company in Warsaw, and whilst there he was entertained by the Italian Embassy! Furthermore, the German radio which is always particular about the Aryan *kastruth* of its performers, is regularly broadcasting records of Tito Schipa!

A Character

RECENTLY, there was published in the U.S.A. a fascinating biography entitled "Emperor Norton: Mad Monarch of America," which deals with the life and queer activities of one Joshua Abraham Norton, who was one of the best-known characters in San Francisco during the latter half of the nineteenth century.

The son of a Jewish 1820 Settler, Norton, who left South Africa in 1849 for the Californian goldfields, after a failure in some business transaction in San Francisco, proclaimed himself, in 1859, "Emperor of America" and, later on, "Protector of Mexico." Until his death, in 1880, Norton was comically regarded as such by many of his fellow-citizens along the Pacific Coast. His subjects provided him with a splendid uniform, a sword, and a cockade in a beaver hat. He had the freedom of all the dining places in San Francisco, where payment was never demanded. He travelled free on all public conveyances and even the local steamship company (after a threat of blockade by one of the "imperial warships") made him welcome to travel whenever he wished.

Among others who have immortalised Norton's deeds in their works have been Robert Louis Stevenson, who wrote of him in "The Wreckers," and Mark Twain, the famous American humorist.

Dislike

CHANNELLE: "Do you remember, dear, you always used to tell me, that I am for you the whole world, and now . . ."

Chayim: "Let me be frank with you, dear one, but I must admit it, I have lately taken a great dislike to the world."



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