

The ZIONIST RECORD

The Organ of South African Jewry

"Zionism aims to establish a publicly-assured, legally secured Home for the Jewish people in Palestine."
—Basle Programme.

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The Reddingsdaad Examined

THE story of the Reddingsdaad movement has many important morals. In its original inspiration, it was intended by the late Rev. Kestell as a sincere and large-scale "act of redemption" aimed at alleviating what is an undoubted problem in this country—the incidence of "poor-whiteism," especially among sections of the Afrikaans-speaking community. Whether the project as conceived by the Rev. Kestell could itself have improved the position is very problematical. When the movement was, however, formally launched twenty months ago at the Bloemfontein Congress it was given a different direction. Little emphasis was placed on the problem of poor-whiteism, but a good deal on the need for having the "Afrikaner" represented in greater numbers in trade, industry and the professions.

This objective itself involved an over-simplification of the facts: for while it is true that for well-known historical reasons the Afrikaans-speaking group are not numerically strong in certain spheres of our economic life, they are present in larger numbers (in fact, often "over represented") in certain other spheres. Agriculture is largely in their hands; they play a leading role on the control boards, in insurance, and on boards of executives; they hold the highest positions in the iron and steel industry; and, of course, in the public service, particularly in the Departments of Agriculture and Forestry, Defence, Justice and the Police Force, their numbers are very great.

Actually, the principle of dividing the economic life of the country along racial lines is entirely unsound—that, indeed, is the basic objection to the whole ideology of the Reddingsdaad. From the very outset, despite the fact that its sponsors claimed that the movement was entirely non-political, it had very much in common with the segregation doctrines of "Afrikaner Christian Nationalism." To many it appeared to be merely the economic wing of the Republican movement. Now in the light of the recently-created Afrikaner Unity Front—whereby the Reddingsdaadbond is linked with the Ossewa Brandwag and the Herenigde Party—its claim to be non-political is obviously no longer tenable. Despite the elaborate explanations which have been offered, it is clear that the Reddingsdaadbond is now inseparable from the political aspirations of Republican Nationalism.

These latest developments are to be welcomed, in a sense, because they help to make the issues clearer for those people who may have been misled by the humanitarian facade of the Reddingsdaad and so have misunderstood its real character. This clarification has also been aided by the closely reasoned pamphlet just issued by Prof. A. C. Cilliers, entitled "Hertzogism and Commerce." Prof. Cilliers rightly emphasises that the Reddingsdaad movement rests on a false political basis, namely, a "two-stream" or isolation policy in economic life. He points out that the organised support which is being claimed for Afrikaans undertakings by Afrikaans-speaking people, must, inevitably, be looked upon by the

other side as a boycott, and, therefore, if persisted in, is likely to "unleash an economic struggle on racial lines." He explains that since, in the economic field, two blades of grass cannot be made to grow where one grew previously, an organised support for one section can only be accomplished at the expense of the withdrawal of support from the other section. "It means that one side can win only what it takes from the other side. In practice this means an economical and political war on racial lines." Moreover, he believes that the Afrikaans-speaking people cannot succeed in such an effort. "The reason lies in the fact that the two races in our country are interwoven to such an extent by vested interests of a social, political, organic and economic nature, that any attempt to divide them on racial lines must inevitably fail."

This commonsense viewpoint must commend itself to all who regard the matter dispassionately. It is sincerely to be hoped that in the interests of the future unity and tranquillity of this country, the truth of that viewpoint will speedily be realised by all.

In Spite of War—

CIVILISED nations have long recognised that war imperils the pursuits and practices which in peace are the marks of civilisation. Among all such peoples in this war the public mind has been at great pains to ensure that the conflict should not involve the sacrifice of the very things for which they are contending. It should cause no surprise, therefore, that in Eretz Israel to-day the Yishuv, in spite of wartime hardships, should cling more tenaciously than ever to its cultural activities. For the Jewish people the distinctive Hebrew civilisation that it is building up in Eretz Israel is its most precious achievement of modern times. And the Yishuv knows that literature, music, drama, art, do not spring into being at the word of command; their life is a continuous process growing within itself, and a break in its continuity may be irremediable.

If, in some directions, the war has caused a partial dislocation in these cultural activities, every effort has been made to correct the dislocating influences. If quantity has sometimes had to be sacrificed, quality has been maintained at its former level. Because paper, for instance, is severely rationed and the buying capacity of the public reduced, books are now being published in smaller editions, on poorer paper and in cheaper form. But in the first year of the war the Yishuv still produced some 60 new Hebrew books. The size of newspapers has had to be curtailed, but the written word has been supplemented by the open forum of the "living" or "vocal" newspaper.

Although guest conductors cannot now come from abroad, there has been no diminution in the number of concerts of the Palestine Orchestra, nor in the public's enthusiasm for music. More than ever, indeed, music plays a part in the life of the people comparable to the performances of the plays of Sophocles and Euripides in ancient Athens. Not only has the war not been permitted to re-

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LATEST CABLES**THE SYRIAN ARMISTICE
AND PALESTINE****Resumption of Trade Relations Expected**

Jerusalem, Thursday.

THE Syrian Armistice has given rise to a wave of optimism in Palestine. With the prospect of normal conditions being re-established, merchants and businessmen in Palestine are looking forward to an early resumption of business relations with Syria.

Syria always sold Palestine more than she purchased from it. In the year preceding the outbreak of war, Syria sold Palestine merchandise of various kinds amounting to £1,500,000, and took in exchange goods for only £413,000. The principal exports from Syria to Palestine until the outbreak of war were food, eggs, vegetables and fruit, comprising about half of the total. The second half of imports amounted mainly to leather and shoes.

These trade relations were greatly reduced after the outbreak of war, and particularly after the capitulation of France. In place of sending food to other countries, Syria

herself began to experience a food shortage, and Palestine took advantage of this position to expand her own agricultural production, especially in Keren Hayesod and other farming areas.

"Haaretz" Opinion.

DISCUSSION of the Armistice terms took place in Acre under conditions of the utmost secrecy. The population of Haifa, only 17 miles away, was completely unaware that the Vichy delegates had arrived shortly before noon.

The Hebrew newspaper, "Haaretz," emphasises the need for turning Syria into a base of defence against any future surprises from Hitler.

**POLISH REFUGEES BEING
SENT TO RHODESIA**

Jerusalem, Thursday.

IT is learned here that a first group of Polish refugees, including many Jews, will shortly be transferred from Cyprus to Rhodesia, and a second group of 300 will follow a fortnight later.

**J.D.C. SPENDS NINE MILLION
DOLLARS IN 17 MONTHS**

New York, Thursday.

THE annual report of the Joint Distribution Committee reveals that during the last 17 months the organisation spent nine million dollars in assisting the Jews of 50 countries. Seventy-five thousand Jews emigrated from German-occupied countries.

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tard the development of the Hebrew University, but in the past eighteen months this development has actually been accelerated. Among several innovations are University lecture courses for settlers in the Sharon and Galilee. Since the war broke out the theatres of Palestine have been augmented by a new company; an Oratorio Society has been formed and the Palestine Opera Company revived. In the settlements, despite the heavy new commitments that wartime conditions have imposed, there is no abatement in the passionate striving for the things of the mind and the spirit. The Jordan Valley settlements recently enlarged their Orchestra; those of the Emek have just announced a new art exhibition of their settlers' work.

While on almost the whole Continent of Europe the soul of man is being starved into sterility, and thought and imagination are being strangled, in this small corner of Asia, in the face of hardship and menace, an ancient culture is being steadily recovered and developed. That is a matter of significance not only for Jews, but for all the civilised world.

**DR. WEIZMANN ON SOVEREIGN
STATUS FOR PALESTINE****Post-War Problems of Jewry**

Boston, Thursday.

DR. CHAIM WEIZMANN, addressing a Zionist Regional Conference here, stated that Palestine must become a Jewish Commonwealth, with the status of complete sovereignty, equality and dignity among the nations.

World Jewry, he continued, had to be prepared after the war for the greatest emigration in the history of mankind. Palestine had to be ready to absorb the hundreds of thousands of Jews who would be homeless.

"Without saying anything derogatory of other plans and other territories that are being discussed as havens for these millions," said Dr. Weizmann, "it must be made clear that there can be no substitute for Palestine as a centre for mass immigration of Jews who need a home and who need it quickly."

"To us Zionists the solution of Jewish homelessness implies an opportunity to build our homeland in Palestine, with no strings attached."

**DEATH OF DR. DAVID
JOCHELMAN**

London, Thursday.

The death occurred on Friday last in London, of Dr. David Jochelman, at the age of seventy-three.

[An appreciation of the late Dr. Jochelman appears on page 4.—Ed.]

JEWISH ARMY REPORT

London, Thursday.

THE "Daily Sketch" reports that the British Government has declined to form a Jewish army, as it will not allow sectional or religious interests to exist in the Army.

HAIFA RAIDED AGAIN

Jerusalem, Thursday.

HAIFA was raided again on 10th July. There were no casualties and no damage.

**CHIEF RABBI HERZOG
ARRIVES IN PALESTINE**

Jerusalem, Thursday.

CHIEF Rabbi Dr. Herzog arrived here on the 10th instant. In an interview he praised the great personality and outstanding merits of President Roosevelt, and also paid a tribute to Mr. Justice Brandeis. He described his interview in South Africa with general Smuts, Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr and Lord Harlech, stating that they were all friends of the Jewish people.

**MILITARY SERVICE OF
PALESTINIAN JEWS****Government's Appreciation**

London, Thursday.

MR. RICHARD LAW, Financial Secretary to the War Office, stated in the House of Commons that the Government was most appreciative of the military service of the Palestinian Jews. Every effort, he said, was being made to take advantage of their services.

**JEWS IN GERMAN HORROR
FILM**

London, Thursday.

A GERMAN film of the war in Russia, notable for its grotesqueness and horror, has been shown to foreign press correspondents in Berlin.

A special section of the film deals with the Jewish question and shows how hundreds of thousands, many of whom took refuge in Russia from Nazi terrorism, have been hunted down, or, as the film says, have been "overtaken by fate at last." Their corpses are seen piled everywhere. Crowds are shown being driven out of burning homes, herded together and marched off. All the cellars of houses, prisons and offices were ransacked and no Jew was allowed to escape.

The text of the film asserts that among them are many who were responsible for the present Russo-German war and guilty of the crimes recently depicted in the German press. "England will now be their last refuge," it says.