

## ZIONIST SOCIALISTS EXPRESS SOLIDARITY WITH LEON BLUM

"Leon Blum is not only one of the most outstanding Socialists of the age, but also a man who has identified himself from the very inception of Zionism, with the national cause of the Jews," said Mr. L. A. Pincus, in opening the meeting held at the Coronation Hall last Sunday evening under the auspices of the Zionist Socialist Party, to express sympathy and solidarity with the great French statesman now facing his "trial" at Riom.

Mr. Pincus related how, after the publication of the Passfield White Paper, it was Leon Blum who formed a delegation to visit Palestine, and as a result of that visit, declared the Zionist movement entitled to the support of Socialism and Socialists.

A message was read from Mr. A. A. Moore, President of the S.A. Trades and Labour Council, expressing regret at his inability to be present and conveying the solidarity of organised Labour with Leon Blum.

PROFESSOR J. L. GRAY, of the University of the Witwatersrand, in rendering homage to Leon Blum, analysed the actual social policy of the Leon Blum Front Populaire Government. Their programme, he said, even though it did not mean the fulfilment of Socialist ideals, was a decidedly progressive step for a socially backward country like France. The Blum Government represented the social security phase, which aimed at solving the problem of poverty while leaving the economic structure by and large intact. Leon Blum was the last Premier of a large industrialised state who hoped to achieve Socialism with a social reform policy as a stage in the transition.

MR. COLIN LEGUM, editor of the "Forward," described the career of this great statesman. The "trial" at Riom was the sixth crisis in his political life. He had been called to

the helm of government when France had been paralysed by sit-down strikes, and it was he who had saved the country at that time from Fascism. Throughout his life, while building up the Socialist Party, and later, despite the bitterness of an unsuccessful non-intervention policy and the tragedy of defeat by the Senate, he had remained true to a consistent set of principles. "To-day," said Mr. Legum, "Leon Blum still stands unsullied as a Socialist."

Answering the question as to why Blum was a Socialist, Mr. Legum recalled the reply given by some of his biographers, who laid stress on the fact that Blum was the product of his Jewishness, the son of a people who, having known oppression for centuries past, kept their eyes steadfastly fixed on the ideal of social justice.

Nor, emphasised the speaker, did Blum ever forget his people. As an international Socialist he never failed to insist that the justice which was the due of all people, had no less to be accorded to the Jewish people.

The meeting passed with acclamation the following resolution:

"That this mass meeting of Johannesburg citizens gathered to demonstrate its solidarity with Leon Blum, the victim of the farcical Riom trial, hereby denounces the Vichy Government as the weapon of reaction, which has placed on trial not only Leon Blum, but the Socialist Party in which he played such a prominent part. This meeting expresses its admiration of the courage and ability with which Leon Blum is conducting his defence. It expresses its belief that while Leon Blum can expect no justice from this farcical puppet government, it realises that in the future France, reborn after an Allied victory, he will be given his rightful place in the Government of France."

## THE "JEWISH FORUM" MAKES ITS BOW

### Successful First Function at Witwatersrand University

The Great Hall of the Witwatersrand University was filled with a large and appreciative audience on Saturday evening last when the new cultural organisation—the Jewish Forum—made its bow to the Jewish public of Johannesburg.

Among the aims of the new organisation is that of providing and popularising Jewish music and art and to create a permanent Jewish choir and orchestra. It must be said at once that the fare provided was of a nature to give pleasure and entertainment. It is a long time since a purely Jewish programme of this nature has been heard in the Golden City. From that point of view much credit is due to the "Jewish Forum" workers and to its founder and organiser, Mr. B. Gersman.

The highlight of the evening was Mr. Jerry Idelson, who excelled himself as conductor in charge of a really good choir and of a capable symphony orchestra. To have gathered the various players together was a feat of organisation in itself.

A most entertaining part of the programme was a one-act Yiddish sketch written and produced by Ossip Runitch, who played the leading role. It was an excellent half-hour's entertainment. To listen to a Yiddish play, quietly acted and with a natural dignity—above all, with the entire elimination of the old-time prompter—was a delightful experience.

The violin solos of Eugen Magid and the pianoforte solos of Bruno Raikin in works of Jewish composers, were much enjoyed. Mr. F. Ziegelbaum dominated the evening in the capacity of compere. He is a talented fellow, and incidentally a fine recitalist, but one might ask him to consider that in the work of compere "brevity is the soul of wit."

Praise is due to the University authorities for having offered the use of the fine Great Hall for the concert, which was held in aid of the Jewish refugees in Mauritius and Medical Aid for Russia.

## S.A. JEWISH ORPHANAGE

### Annual Prize Distribution—17 Barmitzvahs

The Jewish public is invited to the Orphanage, "Arcadia," Oxford Road, Parktown, for Sunday afternoon, 10th May, at 3 p.m., when the Barmitzvah of 17 Orphanage boys will be celebrated, and the annual distribution of prizes will take place. Refreshments will be served.

The Rosebank and Dunkeld buses pass the Orphanage gates.

## PORT ELIZABETH WOMEN'S ZIONIST LEAGUE

The inaugural monthly social of the League was held on Tuesday, 14th April, at the Emanuel Hall. There was a large attendance. The hostesses were Mesdames E. Weinronk and F. Friedman.

Mrs. Dubb, the chairlady, welcomed all present especially visiting Zionists and newcomers. Miss Myra Pamensky ably read two inspiring poems from "The Emek," by Jessie E. Sampter.

After tea was served the guest speaker, Mr. S. Berg, the organiser-secretary of the Eastern Province Zionist Council, delivered an interesting and instructive address on "Social Justice."

## Jewish Parents in Berea

A meeting of Jewish parents and of subscribers to the Berea Hebrew School will take place in the school hall, Doris Street, on Monday, 11th May, at 8 p.m. There will be an election of parents and subscribers as representatives on the school governing body.

Other matters affecting the educational welfare of Jewish children in the neighbourhood of Berea and district will be discussed. All interested are cordially invited to attend.

## CONFERENCE OF ZIONIST SOCIALIST PARTY

### To be Held in May

The Conference to be held at Coronation Hall, Johannesburg, between 23rd and 25th May, by the Zionist Socialist Party of South Africa, is being planned with thought and care. The conveners are determined that discussion shall be centred on the most important aspects of the problems facing not only the Party in particular, but Jewry in general to-day. Attention will be given to Party organisation and development.

The chief addresses will be by Mr. Alexander Lewin on "Galuth Policy" (in Yiddish); Mr. Colin Legum on "The Labour Movement in South Africa," and Mr. L. A. Pincus on "Zionist Organisations in South Africa."

## TOOLS FOR MAURITIUS INTERNEES

### American Ort to Ship Consignment

The American Ort Federation is to supply tools and implements to the Jewish detainees at Mauritius, according to a cable which has reached the South African offices of the Ort-Oze.

Some time ago the local Council for Refugee Settlement communicated to the Joint Distribution Committee of America a request from the detainees for tools and certain other articles which will enable them to produce goods suitable for importation into the Union of South Africa. The Joint Distribution Committee passed on the request to the American Ort Federation, which is now endeavouring to ship a consignment of tools and appliances.

It will be recalled that it was at the suggestion of the South African Ort-Oze, through the Council for Refugee Settlement, that the Governor of Mauritius provided facilities for the detainees to engage in skilled technical work and to occupy themselves with farming operations.

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