

Personal

PALESTINE WOMEN TO THE FORE

Mr. G. Agronsky Talks to Johannesburg Women Zionists

"I have come from a country where the Jewish women are playing a very important role," said Mr. Gershon Agronsky on Thursday last, when he was the guest of the Johannesburg Women's Zionist League, at a reception held at the Carlton Hotel. There was a splendid attendance, Mrs. M. Franks presiding.

Mr. Agronsky spoke at length about the work of the Jewish women in Eretz Israel, and held the gathering spellbound by his recitation of the heroic achievements of the women both in time of peace and war, and their grim determination to play their full role in the development of the Yishuv.

The Jewish women, he said, had assisted the Zionist movement from the beginning, from the time of the Chreuve Zion days, since when they had taken an equal share in the heat and burden of the day; in the calamities, burdens, and glories.

"The Jewish women of Palestine have equal rights with the men," said Mr. Agronsky. "There is full equality. You see them holding some of the highest positions in Jewish organisations, in the elected assembly, in the Vaad Leumi, and in other councils. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Jewish women are in the forefront both in time of peace and of war. (Applause).

"War time for us in Palestine is not quite the novel thing which it is to the world at large nowadays. We had been at war for more than three years in Palestine before the present world conflict broke out. The war was merely an extension of our own peculiar internal war, when we were subject both to guerilla warfare and to frontal attack."

In the war on the Yishuv the Jewish women took a part which ought to make every Jewish woman in the world full of pride.

"They took not only an equal and supplementary part, but in many cases, a part which, all things considered, called for even greater courage than the part played by the men themselves." (Applause).

Mr. Agronsky referred to the occasion when a party of nine Jewesses had been blown up by a mine, at the time of the internal disturbances in Palestine. That was only one incident of many.

"We have extended to the war some of the qualities, modes and tempo which are the fabric of Jewish life in Palestine," went on Mr. Agronsky. "Never since the dawn of history has there been a war in which Jews were subject to a greater danger, and were more vitally concerned, than in this.

"In Palestine we are fighting for the abstract right to live decently. We fight not only injus-

tice and intolerance, but also for our homes.

"I should be guilty of painting the lily if, after what I have said, I were to leave you with the impression that Palestine is peopled exclusively by angels. A people always take on something of the atmosphere in which they live. There is a certain tone in Palestine, largely of decency, of the fitness of things. While we have our ratio of undesirables, they are not fashionable in Eretz Israel. They do not set the tone.

"They are made to feel socially and politically as uncomfortable as it is possible for a community, exercising no police or governmental powers of any kind, to make such people feel." (Loud applause).

Mrs. E. Gordon proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Agronsky for his inspiring address.

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Around the Cinemas

"The Vanishing Virginian" at Metro

That remarkable young singer, Kathryn Grayson, who made her debut in "Andy Hardy's Private Secretary," is to be heard again in Johannesburg. She appears in the film "The Vanishing Virginian," which is the principal attraction at the Metro this week. Co-starred with her is Frank Morgan. This picture is outstanding for the sincerity of the acting, and one which deserves the patronage of the Johannesburg film-going public.

Bette Davis at Curzon

Loaded with laughs and hilarious situations, "The Bride Came C.O.D." is a film which should attract crowded houses to the Curzon. Featuring Bette Davis and James Cagney, it provides outstanding entertainment for those who like their film-fare to be of the side-splitting variety. This picture is a tonic calculated to chase away the bluest of blues, and Bette's acting is at its best.

Ginger Rogers at Colosseum

A case of mistaken identity which involves an imaginative little working girl in hilarious romantic entanglements provides the sprightly theme of the film "Tom, Dick and Harry." Captivating Ginger Rogers has the leading role, and is supported by Alan Marshal, George Murphy and Burgess Meredith.

This gay story presents Ginger Rogers as a telephone girl, who succeeds in affiancing herself to three men simultaneously. Replete with sparking dialogue and riotous situations, this amusing film reaches a delightful and surprising climax.

"Law of the Tropics" at Plaza

Constance Bennett and Jeffrey Lynn are co-starred for the first time in "Law of the Tropics," the chief film feature at the Plaza Theatre this week. It offers an interesting story, a romantic tropical setting, first-class acting and a happy ending.

An added attraction at the Plaza this week is the spectacular stage show presented in honour of the Plaza's birthday. There are several novelty attractions and valuable prizes are to be won.

Mirth and Melody at Empire

One of the greatest musical entertainments to have come to Johannesburg for some time is to be seen at the Empire this week, in the picture "Birth of the Blues." Combining mirth with melody, this film is produced on a lavish scale, and boasts a cast famous for its musical talent. No less than fifteen famous song-hits are to be heard in this film, and Jack Teagarden, America's finest trombonist, Bing Crosby and Brian Donlevy, a torrid trumpet player, are at their maddest and merriest in this sensational musical show.

MR. H. LEVIN'S BROADCAST

On Saturday, July 4th, at 7.45 p.m., a National broadcast talk on "Rommel's Road to Egypt" will be given by Mr. Harry Levin.

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