

Unfavourable Reports on the Palestine Colonies.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

At a time when the fate of the Colonists and agricultural labourers in Palestine is agitating all the friends of the people, the appearance of the reports of Mr. U. I. Günzberg and Mr. A. A. Sussman, who inspected the Colonies on behalf of the Committee of the Society for assisting agriculturists in Syria and Palestine, acquires special significance. It is not for the first time that Mr. Günzberg is visiting the Jewish Colonies; he attentively studied them also on former occasions, and not once only has he startled the public with his "Truth about Palestine." But severe as were the findings of "Akhad Ha-am," pessimistic as were his views on the future, reality always justified them. And even in the present instance, Mr. Günzberg did not consider it necessary to weaken the power of that light which his severe and logical mind throws on the surroundings; he hides nothing; he passes nothing over in silence. An unusual picture was obtained for the readers of former reports of the Society. Sad as is the actual state of the Colonies, small as the results seem to be, to hide them would be not only useless, but even suicidal for the further progress of the work. Without any criticism of the past, without a thorough knowledge of one's own mistakes, no progress is ever possible. Therefore the appearance of such "pessimist" reports ought to be welcomed as a beginning of a new and more fruitful activity on the part, not only of the Odessa Society, but of all friends of Zion. It was a long-felt necessity for a radical revision of all the principles of that Colonisation which was undertaken at random in Palestine, without any system nor organisation, by various benefactors. Mr. Günzberg has acquainted himself thoroughly with that kind of philanthropy, and arrived at the conclusion that it is "further impossible to colonise the indigent by way of benevolence, for this deprives even better men of energy and initiative and leads them to constant begging." Mr. Sussman, the second reporter, entirely agrees with Mr. Günzberg. The first plans of the immediate creation of a "perfect idyll" in the new country, of converting the townsman into a peasant by sole means of subsidies without the painful period of adaptation and the hard school of life experience, have proved, as it was only to be expected, to be difficult to fulfil. After spending so many millions, after work during almost two decades, a series of colonies, extremely unstable in an economical sense and unsatisfactory in a moral sense, was obtained. These two facts are clearly illustrated and undoubtedly proved by the two reporters. Not only the Rothschild colonies, but even the so-called independent colonies which are subsidised by private benefactors and organised institutions are in a sad condition. What then, is to be undertaken in the future? Mr. Günzberg says nothing of the economical tasks of the future activity. He thinks of leaving this to the Jewish Colonisation Association, which possesses the necessary capital for that purpose. The Odessa Committee he advises to look after the moral side of the case, by way of organising schools in the Colonies and the preparing of future more healthy and moral generations of Jewish agriculturists. Mr. Sussman does not, however, consider this sufficient, and recommends to the Committee a whole series of economical enterprises, whereby the Society will not have to do good to individual persons but actively to use its influence towards improving the husbandry of the Colonists by introducing rational cultures and the diffusion of rural information. In the opinions of this competent agriculturist, the Jewish vine-dressers, thanks to mistakes committed by benefactors, find themselves in the same position as the vine-dressers of France and Sicily, and they ought to be wisely supported in a critical moment.

The Hirsch Colony at Woodbine, New Jersey.

One of the most successful undertakings promoted by the Baron de Hirsch Fund in the United States is the Colony at Woodbine, New Jersey. The recent annual reports of the Jewish Colonisation Association have borne eloquent testimony to the growth of the Colony, which has received a fresh development in a fine building for the Baron de Hirsch Agricultural and Industrial School. The building was dedicated with considerable ceremony on Sunday, the 25th ult., in the presence of a representative gathering drawn from the principal cities in the United States. On the arrival of the visitors the one hundred pupils, the boys in neat uniforms, and the girls in white, were paraded, headed by a brass band composed of pupils. The proceedings opened with a prayer by the Rev. Dr. Berkowitz. The Hon. Myer S. Isaacs, President of the Baron de Hirsch Fund of New York, accepted the building on behalf of the Association; Mr. A. S. Solomons, General Agent of the Fund; Professor Voorhes, Director of the New Jersey State Agricultural School, Mr. L. Sabsovitch, Superintendent, and others spoke.

Mr. Isaacs' address gave the following interesting particulars of the Colony and the School: Woodbine—nine years ago a waste, with two houses and a highway—is a busy village, well-lighted, with good streets, telephone and other up-to-date improvements; and a population of 1,500 souls. There are 150 houses and stores, three factories, a brick yard, a synagogue, a church, and three schoolhouses; and besides, the collection of buildings constituting the Agricultural School. This Agricultural School has a group of buildings, a complete schoolhouse, including a teachers' cottage, a dormitory, a dairy, barns and the necessary concomitants, and a nearly perfect system of outdoor instruction in horticulture, poultry raising, the apary, the hothouses, the forge, the carpenter's shop. The new School is to be large enough to accommodate twenty times the number of the twenty-five original pupils, viz., 500 boys and girls, mainly children of farmers. The plan of the grounds includes another lecture hall, a library, a dormitory for girls, and several shops.

The new building is a three-story brick structure, 68 by 76 by 40 feet. The lower story contains shower and spray baths and toilet rooms, a boiler house, a large drill room and a room set apart for a gymnasium and bowling alley. The second story contains two large class-rooms, seven windows in each, and capacity for sixty pupils each, two coat rooms, a library, a reading room, offices of the Superintendent and Principal, and small class-rooms. The physical and chemical laboratories, as well as the agricultural class-room and a large assembly hall with sixteen windows, with a seating capacity of 800, are located on the third story. In the chemical laboratory provisions are made for individual laboratory work for twenty-one pupils at a time. The building is in Colonial style; it is surmounted by a large cupola through which it is completely ventilated. It is heated by steam, has ample water supply, fire appliances, and is lighted by electricity.

Notes on the Jews of the North-West Territories, Canada.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

HIRSCH, ASSA, NOV. 16TH, 1900.

The following notes on the Jews resident in the North-West Territories of Canada will probably be interesting to those of your readers who take an interest in the subject of Jews as agriculturists, and especially to those who are looking for a good field for the disposal of the Roumanian exiles.

The Harvest.

The harvest this year has, unfortunately, been a failure. The whole of East Assiniboia suffered greatly from drought from April to August, and not only the colonists at Hirsch suffered from it, but the crops as far East as Manitoba are the same. The same cry comes from the North part of the United States.

HIRSCH.—Twenty-three Jewish farmers are settled here. The amount sowed was: Wheat, 670 acres; oats, 140 acres; which produced 1,850 bushels of wheat, and 800 bushels of oats.

OXBOW.—(25 miles South-east of Hirsch).—Twenty Jewish farmers' crops averaged 8 bushels to the acre.

WAPPELLA.—Forty Jewish farmers' crops averaged 7½ bushels to the acre. The crops at Hirsch were slightly better than that at Estevan (20 miles north-west of Hirsch), where the Christian farmers only averaged 2½ bushels. The potato crop however was exceptionally good, averaging 100 bushels to the acre. A ready market can always be found for these in the neighbouring mines.

FODDER.—There was also a great scarcity of hay this year owing to the drought, but the farmers at Hirsch were able to secure sufficient quantity for their cattle owing to the vast extent of land around Hirsch which is unoccupied.

CULTIVATION.—The amount of land at Hirsch ready for next year's seeds is 1,200 acres, an increase of 400 acres on 1900, and if the weather is at all favourable the Hirsch farmers are likely to have a record crop.

Schools at Hirsch.

The Schools are still carried on under the direction of Mr. Sim A. Goldston, J.P. H.M. Inspector paid two visits to the school this year, and his reports speak highly of the progress of the pupils and the capability of Mr. Goldston. The Hon. W. F. Haultain, Premier of the North-West Territory, while on a political tour last month, and in a public address spoke of the schools as being "a credit to the Territories." The amount of grant earned has been, from August to December, 1899, 124 58 dols., and from January to June, 1900, 152 8 dols.

Services were held at the schools during the recent holidays—notwithstanding the inclement weather and the great distance that some of the farmers have to come—there was a large attendance. The services were concluded by the Rev. M. Bermer (late of Hanley, England), Messrs. Moses Fishtröm and D. Rosenick. Sermons were preached on each occasion by Mr. S. A. Goldston, J.P.

Jewish Colonists Naturalised.

The General Election for the Dominion Parliament took place on November 7th, and the Colonists for the first time made use of the franchise. At the previous election in 1896, they could not take part owing to their not having been naturalised. Mr. Goldston however used his influence with several influential politicians who kindly consented to pay the fees. The oath of allegiance was administered to them by Mr. Goldston on November 4th, at the School House, after which a short service was held at which he gave an address on the "Duties of a Citizen." At the conclusion of the service the whole of the congregation joined in the singing of the National Anthem in Hebrew.

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THE WAR.

Casualties.

Joseph Jacobs, eldest son of Mark and Henrietta Jacobs, prominent and well-respected residents of Plymouth, was living in Johannesburg when the war broke out, and on refusing to join the Boers had to quit at once, leaving all his belongings behind. He travelled with his wife, sister and her child of six weeks, in an open truck, in the most inclement weather, and was repeatedly insulted and spat at by Boers during the journey. In Cape Town he joined the Cape Volunteer Medical Staff Corps, and on November 13th, whilst on duty attending the sick and wounded, he, with several others, was struck dead by lightning.

Private J. Abrahams, Vryburg Special Police, was accidentally severely injured on December 6th.

Sergeant V. C. Jones has been appointed Lieutenant in the 12th Battalion of the Imperial Yeomanry.

Bertie Swaabe (son of the late David Swaabe, of Bishopsgate Street) has recently joined Brabant's first horse.

Lieutenant Ellis Heilbron, the non-commissioned officer, and ten of his men in the Volunteer Company of the Scottish Rifles, have expressed themselves willing to join the Imperial Mounted Infantry till the end of the war.

A Glasgow correspondent informs us that Trooper Isaac Wolfe, R.R., a description of whose plucky exploits was given in last week's Jewish Chronicle, by our Bulawayo correspondent, was a former resident of Glasgow, where, before leaving for South Africa, he became a naturalised British subject. The graphic lines of Mrs. H. Lucas in "The Jewish Soldier," apply to Wolfe peculiarly for he is a native of Luknik in the Government of Kovno, Russia.

A correspondent describes as follows in the Cape Times the gallantry of a Jew, Dr. Friedmann, during the siege of Philippolis: A report came in that there were wounded on the veldt. Nobody ventured to go to their assistance, not even the district surgeon. Dr. Friedmann, on hearing of this, asked the Boer commandant to stop firing, thus enabling him to bring in the wounded, which was refused. Without further delay, he took two natives and a stretcher, and went under a hail of bullets to the place where the wounded were supposed to be. Many times they had to take shelter. He just arrived in time to save a trooper from bleeding to death. On the arrival of the relief column, the commanding officer and the staff of the Military Hospital were full of his praise, acknowledging the service publicly.

MISS ELIZABETH LEE, in "The Growth of Greater Britain" (Murray), tells the story of South Africa, Australia, India, Canada, and other colonies, through selections from the writings of their discoverers, settlers, and rulers, and the speeches of English statesmen.

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Jews' Free School.

The Committee have decided to hold a Dinner in aid of the funds of the school. Lord Rothschild, the President, will occupy the chair, and the function has been fixed for Wednesday, March 20th.

In order to provide more recreation space for the girls, a roof playground has been erected on the roof of the girls' school, under the supervision of Messrs N. B. Joseph, Son and Smithem. Further accommodation was also provided in the boys' playground. The cost has been about £1,800, and has been met by special donations, which are announced in our advertisement columns. The roof playground was informally opened by Lady Rothschild on the occasion of her most recent visit to the school to attend a meeting of the Ladies' Committee.

Mr. Harris Sacher, who obtained his elementary education at this school, has just gained a Scholarship of £50 a year for four years, at New College, Oxford. His previous successes were: Junior and Intermediate County County Scholarships and Fishmongers' Company's Scholarship, also for four years.

Musical and Dramatic Notes.

Mr. Leon M. Lion is joint author of "The Man who Stole the Castle," a Christmas episode in one act, which is to form part of the holiday programme at the Garrick Theatre. Mr. Lion will play the rôle of Josiah Hankey, a lawyer.

Mr. Sidney Lee, the editor of the Dictionary of National Biography, has undertaken to write an introductory pamphlet for the forthcoming carnival of "King Henry the Fifth" at the Lyceum Theatre.

"The Day of Reckoning," a sensational domestic drama, by Miss Beatrice Isaacson, was produced at the Surrey Theatre on Monday, under the direction of Mr. Alexander L. Isaacson. Although new to London it has been frequently represented in the provinces, as two of the principal parts have been performed by Miss Isaacson and Mr. A. L. Isaacson for over seven hundred times. The latter gives an excellent piece of character acting in the rôle of a drunken labour agitator, Nat Guzzler, and the authoress shows much force as Nellie, a barmaid, both of them being the unwitting tools of the villain of the piece, who schemes the downfall of an honest man in order to obtain both his post and his wife. There are many vigorous lines in the play, which received the hearty approbation of the transpontine audience at the Surrey. The drama was well mounted, and the incidental music is from the pen of the authoress's grandfather, the veteran musician, Mr. Barnett Isaacson.

Mr. Stuart M. Samuel, M.P., will attend and make a short speech at a recital to be given at the Bishopsgate Institute next Monday, in aid of the Homes for Working Boys in London. We are informed that many of the boys who are taken charge of by the charity are working for Jewish employers, and there may be others of these employers who would like to have boys now working for them safely housed in one of the Homes.

On Wednesday next, Mr. Johann Davids will give his first orchestral concert at Steinway Hall, when he will conduct the "Century Orchestra."

Conjointly with Herr Hefft, violinist, Edward Isaacs gave on Monday evening a pianoforte recital at the Athenæum Rooms, Manchester, before a fairly large and appreciative audience. His selections were from the best masters and were played in faultless style. The pleasure of the audience was indicated by the recalls the pianist received after each piece. Edward Isaacs, who is the holder of the Hallé Scholarship at the Manchester Royal College of Music, bids fair to make a mark in the musical world.

On Wednesday evening a Students' Orchestral Concert was held at the Guildhall School of Music, when an excellent programme was provided. A pianoforte concerto by Liszt was admirably executed by a pupil of Mr. W. Cowen, Miss Z'nie Weisberg (Mitchell scholar), who is undoubtedly a most talented and well-trained pianist. The orchestra, conducted by Mr. W. H. Cummings, played extremely well. Mr. Ernest Bull, the only vocalist, sang a song by Mr. Cummings, "A welcome to the C.I.V.," which met with a hearty reception.

On Wednesday afternoon Miss Emma Barnett gave a Pianoforte Recital at St. James' Banqueting Hall, assisted by the well-known contralto, Miss Hilda Wilson, who was accompanied by Mr. T. Chapman. Miss Wilson's artistic singing was much appreciated, especially in two old English melodies. Miss Emma Barnett played uncommonly well, and was compelled to take an encore for "Papillous," by Ole Olsen; she had repeated recalls, and may be congratulated on the success of the Recital.

Les Pierrots Anglais kindly give entertainments this month at the Hampstead Town Hall, and Home for Jewish Incurables, Walthamstow.

On Saturday evening Miss Gertrude Azulay gave a Students' Pianoforte Recital at the Kilburn Conservatoire, before a very appreciative audience. Masters R. Wolfe and J. B. Solomon were amongst the performers, and acquitted themselves well. Miss Peggy Woolf played "Study," by Berens and Gavotte-Reinecke, in excellent style and with great taste. There were eleven more pianists, all of whom reflect much credit on Miss Azulay for the manner in which they are instructed.

QUEEN'S HALL.—On Tuesday afternoon, the Large Hall presented a gay and festive scene, and was filled by a large audience to listen to a most attractive programme by leading members of the musical and dramatic professions, including the Misses Isabel Jay, Alice Liebmann, Professor Annie Oppenheim, Mrs. Brown Potter, Mr. Lewis Waller and many others. The reason was the annual tea given by Miss Vane Featherstone to provide funds for dinners for poor children of all denominations, under the management of Mrs. O. L. Carson. Tea was served by ladies including Miss De Lissa, Miss Weikeraheim and leading actresses including Miss Nellie Farren. Messrs. De Lissa, R. Leverson, and Charles Hawtry were amongst the Stewards. A very large sum was realised.

STEINWAY HALL.—On Wednesday evening Madame Minnie Shtal gave a song recital assisted by Mr. Tailleux Andrews, and her pupils Madame Fuite, Miss Benson, and Miss Tenison-Collins; accompanists, Signorina de Nigra, Mr. F. Lambert and Signor Bissaccia. Madame Shtal had a large and enthusiastic audience, and met with a hearty reception. She has a fine contralto voice and in two of Mr. Frank Lambert's ballads she deserves special notice for her artistic rendering of them. Mr. Andrews' fine baritone voice was greatly admired; he is one of our most popular vocalists of the day. The other artistes all displayed talent and good training.

MISS GERTRUDE LONSDALE'S RECITAL.—By inadvertence Miss Gertrude Lonsdale's Vocal Recital was not noticed in our last issue. It was held on December 4th at Queen's (Small) Hall, and was an entire success. The Hall was crowded. Miss Lonsdale possesses a very fine voice which she knows how to use. Her songs in different languages were well chosen, and most artistically rendered, and she had a splendid accompanist in Miss Marguerite Swale. Miss May Mukie's cello playing was much appreciated, and Miss Ellen Bowick recited with her usual charm and effect. Mr. Carl Weber was the solo pianist, and Mr. Gordon Tanner, the violinist.

TOWN HALL, EDMONTON.—Miss Rose Sylvia Morris is singing here this week in Miss Maggie Morton's Touring Company, and her performance as juvenile lead is all that can be desired. Her appearance and diction are extremely good, and her improvement as an actress is very visible.