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WHAT OF OUR SCHOOLS?

Use of Trust Assets

To the Editor of THE JEWISH CHRONICLE

Sir.—Your leader "What of our Schools?" (in your issue of last week) rightly draws attention to a matter of great importance to the Jewish community...

In your issue of October 30, 1953, you reported a letter from Dr. S. Schonfeld to the Chief Rabbi in which he had refused Rabbi Brodie's invitation to a conference...

DISPOSITION OF ARABS IN ISRAEL

High Court Judgment

To the Editor of THE JEWISH CHRONICLE

Sir.—The Supreme Court of Israel, sitting as the High Court of Justice, has recently given a judgment with regard to the dispossession of an Arab cultivator in Israel...

The application in this case was made on behalf of an Arab resident in an Israeli village whose lands had been confiscated and registered in the name of the Development Authority of the Government...

Meanwhile the new kibbutz dispossession of part of the village lands, but not including the applicants' holding. In 1953 a notice appeared in the official gazette stating that certain lands were not in the possession of Israel...

The applicant was granted an Order nisi by the High Court. But when the case came up for argument before the Supreme Court, the order was discharged and the Government title confirmed.

For the applicant it was argued that the issue of a certificate was a quasi-judicial act and therefore the parties concerned, i.e., the owner of the land, should have been given an opportunity to appear and to state his case.

A much-respected commentator in the JERUSALEM POST has courageously criticised the judgment of the Supreme Court,

HEBREW COURSES IN ISRAEL

Dates of Kibbutz-Ulpanim

To the Editor of THE JEWISH CHRONICLE

Sir.—The attention of your readers is drawn to the special facilities offered to immigrants and tourists to Israel to learn Hebrew in congenial surroundings at the Ulpanim (residential Hebrew courses in Israel).

The Ulpanim are arranged to meet the standards of the English-speaking people. Several hundred students have already passed through these Ulpanim and have acquired a working knowledge of Hebrew which enabled them to obtain suitable employment.

The next Kibbutz Ulpanim are due to start on May 2 at Haseleim; June 15 at Shifayim; and on July 15 at Ma'ale ha-Hamisha.

Inquiries and applications should be addressed to the Aliyah Office, 77 Great Russell Street, W.C.1, or to Patwa, 65 Southampton Row, W.C.1.

Secretary, Aliyah Office for Great Britain and Ireland.

BEHAVIOUR AT FUNERALS

Hurt Feelings of Mourners

To the Editor of THE JEWISH CHRONICLE

Sir.—Your correspondent, Mr. S. Miller (in your issue of April 21), deplors the lack of good manners by some of our coreligionists at theatres and other places of entertainment, but he charitably refrains from referring to their churlish behaviour in other places.

Mr. Miller makes a passing reference to the perennial subject, "indecorum in the House of Prayer," but he says nothing of the sacrilegious acts committed in the House of God, where one's feelings are outraged by those who congregate outside the mortuary chapel before the appearance of the officiant and, later in the procession to the graveside, carry on their conversation with utter disregard of the solemnity of the occasion, or of the feelings of the mourners.

The evil might be mitigated were the superintendents of cemeteries held responsible for the maintenance of decent behaviour at funerals.

Both manners are to be expected in the ill-bred, but when manifested in holy places they are attributable to Godlessness.

H. L. DAVIS, 116 Sutherland Avenue, London, W.9.

Dr. L. COMYNS, J.P., was recently elected councillor of the Borough of West Ham.

HEBREW COURSES IN ISRAEL

Dates of Kibbutz-Ulpanim

To the Editor of THE JEWISH CHRONICLE

The London Board and the Jewish Secondary Schools Movement would have representation, subject to the approval of a scheme by the Minister of Education, and that the London Board, with the Chief Rabbi's approval, made strenuous efforts to formulate a scheme which it was considered would be for the benefit of the community in general.

The London Board has worked in the views of the Chief Rabbi on both the schemes which have been submitted. The London Board has no objection to do so would be both ill-advised and futile.

The community must share your natural anxiety that proper use should be made of the Trust assets at the earliest possible moment, but having regard to the Trustees' own negotiations, it is difficult to see what further or other reply the Chairman of the London Board could have given to the questions put to him at the last meeting.

I. H. LEVY, 1 Laurence Pountney Hill, Cannon Street, E.C.4.

DISPOSITION OF ARABS IN ISRAEL

High Court Judgment

To the Editor of THE JEWISH CHRONICLE

Sir.—The Supreme Court of Israel, sitting as the High Court of Justice, has recently given a judgment with regard to the dispossession of an Arab cultivator in Israel, which has aroused great interest in the country and deserves attention outside the country.

The application in this case was made on behalf of an Arab resident in an Israeli village whose lands had been confiscated and registered in the name of the Development Authority of the Government. Before the State was created, the Arab was registered in the official Land Book as the owner of the lands, and he, in fact, cultivated them till 1950.

Meanwhile the new kibbutz dispossession of part of the village lands, but not including the applicants' holding. In 1953 a notice appeared in the official gazette stating that certain lands were not in the possession of Israel...

The applicant was granted an Order nisi by the High Court. But when the case came up for argument before the Supreme Court, the order was discharged and the Government title confirmed.

For the applicant it was argued that the issue of a certificate was a quasi-judicial act and therefore the parties concerned, i.e., the owner of the land, should have been given an opportunity to appear and to state his case.

A much-respected commentator in the JERUSALEM POST has courageously criticised the judgment of the Supreme Court,

DISTRIBUTION OF RECOMPENSE

Broken Promises Alleged

To the Editor of THE JEWISH CHRONICLE

Sir.—In your leader of March 26 you rightly state that the Jews from Germany, whose property was the first to be taken and whose cultural institutions were the first to be destroyed, have a special claim for material and cultural rehabilitation.

These promises have now been broken. The funds allotted by the German Government for the explicit purpose of relief and rehabilitation of victims of Nazism are being spent by the Government for the virtual exclusion of the special needs of the Jews from Germany and without any co-operation with them.

A spokesman of the Government suggested that this action was taken after the project submitted by our Council had been thoroughly investigated. This is incorrect. Some of our affiliated groups report that their social projects have not even been examined yet.

According to the same spokesman, the Jews from Germany wish to receive a higher standard of assistance than other Jewish victims of Nazism. I cannot but call such an allegation grossly misleading.

As to the further contention of the spokesman that our Council's application for Britain was overlapping with the proposed refugee programme to be carried out from the funds of the Jewish Trust Corporation, these funds might be just sufficient to accommodate 100 old and infirm people in the next few years.

Statistics at our disposal show that the number of applicants is more than five times higher. Besides, two-thirds of the proceeds of the J.T.C. go to the Joint and the Jewish Agency and are not spent in Britain.

The decision of the Claims Conference to exclude our Council, the representa-

TRAVEL NOTES

More Group Holidays

By "Green Flag"

Mr. Norman Sosner, of Apal Travel, Ltd., 50-51 High Holborn, W.C.1, sends me his new brochure which includes details of many interesting group holiday opportunities, many of which take place in Greece, cruising for eight days in the Adriatic, and a number of free-lance holidays on the French Riviera.

As to the Claims Conference, you will agree, Sir, that we would not act in conformity with the responsibility we feel towards our brothers in need if we accepted such measures as final.

ACHAD HA'AM'S MORAL OUTLOOK

His Doctrine Challenged

To the Editor of THE JEWISH CHRONICLE

Sir.—May I complete your report of my lecture on Achad Ha'am, which appeared in your issue of last week? I explained in some detail that (1) however much we may admire Achad Ha'am's moral outlook, we must realise that the theoretical foundation of his doctrine is both false and dangerous.

(2) This foundation is the conventional sociological one, and it cannot yield the absolutes (e.g. absolute justice, or the absolute commitment of Jewry to the moral law) assumed by Achad Ha'am. Whence the dilemma: we can accept his general theory, in which case we have to let go his moral outlook; or accept his moral outlook, in which case his general theory must be dismissed.

(3) The generation brought up on Achad Ha'am accepted his general theory. (4) Achad Ha'am himself stuck to his moral outlook, and on the occasion of one of the early instances of so-called retaliation published a letter to the press (which I read in my lecture) denouncing and repudiating the new spirit, and ending with the Talmudic sentence: "If this is the Messiah, let him come and may I see him!"

(5) Achad Ha'am added fuel to the moral treason of the Jewish intelligentsia by giving an account of Judaism as resting on a justice severed from love: and (6) Achad Ha'am effectively led to the identification of the God of Judaism with the "national creative power" of Jewry or even the "national will to survive."

(7) Thus, ironically enough, Achad Ha'am's theories promoted the subordination of religion and morals to politics against which the Hebrew Bible is one continuous protest, and which has been made, alas, by so many even of our religious leaders the outstanding mark of the Judaism of our time.

These, I think, were my principal points in addition to those you mentioned. I may now add what I did not know last week, that all that I had to say on the subject is confirmed by an article of the well-known young Hebrew writer and novelist, Gideon Katznelson, published in the supplement of the Hebrew paper, HA'ARETZ, of April 2. I direct to this article the careful attention of anyone who is still under the impression that the facts are still round about the same level as; and in some instances even higher than, the return fares by air. The "tourist" off-peak fare is only £11 return.

Continued from previous column

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