

**SOUTH AFRICAN
JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES**

R E P O R T
of the
Executive Council

260-68
S
AUGUST 1942 to MAY 1945

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FORM OF BEQUEST.

I hereby give and bequeath free of all estate duty the sum of..... to the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, Johannesburg, to be used by the said Board for the carrying out of the objects for which it has been constituted, and I hereby direct that the receipt signed by the Secretary for the time being of the said Board shall be a sufficient discharge for the payment of the legacy.

American Jewish Committee
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South African Jewish Board of Deputies

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South African Jewish Board of Deputies

**Report of the Executive Council
for the period
AUGUST, 1944, to MAY, 1945.**

**To be submitted to the Fourteenth Congress at Johannesburg,
May 24th to 27th, 1945.**

INTRODUCTION.

The Executive Council has the honour to submit to Congress the following report, covering its activities, as well as those of the Cape and Provincial Committees of the Board, for the period since the last Congress (August, 1942). The biennial period for which the Executive Council was elected expired in 1944, but, on account of war conditions, was extended with the consent of the constituent bodies of the Board. This report, therefore, covers a period of thirty-four months.

Throughout this period, so eventful for the world at large and, alas, so catastrophic for Jewry, we have endeavoured to conduct the affairs of the Board with due recognition of the gravity of the times. The great international crisis through which we have lived and the fearful calamity which has befallen our brothers and sisters in Europe, have naturally had a determining influence on the activities of the Board as the representative body of South African Jewry. We have to the best of our ability endeavoured to guide our community in carrying out the tasks imposed upon it in this historic hour. At the same time we have given constant attention to the day by day tasks which fell to us in relation to the activities and problems of our own community in this country.

WAR PROBLEMS.

Resolutions adopted by Congress in 1942 called for an intensification of the Community's war work in all directions. The Executive Council accordingly re-appointed its three special War Committees: the War Service Council, charged with the duty of invigorating the community's direct contribution to national service; the War Emergency Council, which has the task of assisting the Jewish chaplains in their ministrations to the members of the forces; and the Soldiers Assistance Committee, whose object it is to attend to the needs of serving and discharged soldiers

whose cases fall partly or entirely outside the ambit of the Governor-General's National War Fund and other national organisations.

Unfortunately, it shortly became necessary to appoint yet another Committee. Reports began to trickle in of steps that were being taken by the Nazis to implement their decision to exterminate the Jews in Europe. The Executive Council appointed a Special Committee on the Tragedy of European Jewry to devise such measures as were possible to mitigate this appalling calamity.

National Service.

Immediately after Congress the War Service Council embarked on an intensive campaign with the object of stimulating the war effort. Mass meetings of the community were held in appropriate centres, and addresses were delivered by speakers on behalf of the Board in support of the new recruiting appeal which had just been made by General Smuts. The opportunity was taken of the approaching High Festivals to ask the Jewish ministers to deliver sermons to their congregations on the subject of national service and this action was repeated in subsequent years on the occasion of the principal Jewish holidays. The War Service Council co-operated to the best of its ability with Captain H. Serebro, the Jewish recruiting officer who had been appointed by the Director of Recruiting to work among the Jewish community.

In May, 1943, the Director of Recruiting, Col. G. C. G. Werdmuller, addressed the War Service Council and expressed his satisfaction with the work that they had done.

In the middle of 1944 the authorities set on foot a new recruiting campaign for reinforcements for the 6th S.A. Armoured Division. The War Service Council conferred with Major Maxwell, Chief Recruiting Officer for the Witwatersrand, and also with members of the recruiting team which had been sent down to the Union from the 6th Division. One member of the team was a Jewish officer, Capt. Greenfield. Another Jewish officer of the Division, Capt. Beron, who was on leave in the Union at the time, voluntarily placed himself at the disposal of the War Service Council. An intensive campaign was thereupon launched. As part of a general appeal for recruits issued by several representative bodies, a statement was also published by the President of the Board. A letter, embodying his statement, was later sent by him to all Jewish householders. The two Jewish officers addressed numerous meetings of Jewish organisations, and particular attention was paid to students at the universities. The Jewish press were supplied with publicity material and co-operated excellently in the campaign. As the available statistics showed, the Jewish Community did its fair share in securing the results achieved by the campaign.

The War Service Council also continued its work of negotiating with employers where necessary, for the provision of allowances for employees (whether Jewish or non-Jewish) who were desirous of joining up, so that no man who wished to do so should be debarred on account of financial circumstances.

From time to time steps were taken to bring the claims of the National Volunteer Brigade, the Civic Guards and the St. John's Ambulance Brigade to the notice of men and women unable to join full-time units.

The War Service Council, in all its propaganda, did not neglect to urge those whose age or state of health prevented them from rendering direct national service to contribute to their utmost to the Governor-General's National War Fund and other war funds.

Mr. Cecil Lyons continued to represent the Board on the National Council of the Governor-General's National War Fund, and despite the many calls on his time, he flung himself into the work with such ardour and enthusiasm that (in his personal capacity) he was appointed a member of the National Executive of the Fund, and Chairman of its Fund-Raising Committee.

The Board continued its work of compiling statistics and other information relative to the war service of members of the South African Jewish community. The number of South African Jewish men and women who served in the South African and Allied Forces since the outbreak of war is just under 10,000 (9,862 as at February 20th, 1945). The total number of casualties at that date was 1,129: Deaths, 283: Wounded or Injured, 309; Missing, 28: Prisoners of War, 509. The number of decorations and awards was 170, the great majority of them being for bravery in action. The following are the details:—O.B.E., 6; M.B.E., 14; M.C., 8; D.F.C., 14; A.F.C., 1; D.C.M., 1; M.M. 17; D.F.M., 2; B.E.M., 2; Purple Heart, 1; Mentioned in Despatches, 87; Gazetted, 4; Commendations (Military), 13. The War Service Register department is still to a large extent dependent on the soldiers themselves, or their relatives, for up-to-date information about promotions, awards and decorations, etc., and we take this opportunity of expressing the hope of continued collaboration in this respect from members of the community.

To all those who have given their lives to safeguard our existence and our liberty in the fight against Nazism, and in particular to the many thousands of Jewish soldiers among them, the Jewish community pays a humble tribute, and offers its sincere condolences to their relatives.

Writing on the eve of final victory over the Nazis, we look forward to the return of the members of the Forces to their homes. We renew the community's pledge never to forget the debt we owe them and to do all in our power to facilitate their reintegration into civilian life.

It is timely to express our hope that a large number of our Jewish Springboks will play their part in communal affairs. They will bring with them a fresh outlook and an invigorating influence. It will be in their power to make a large contribution towards Jewish communal life.

At the present time there are six full-time Jewish chaplains to the forces "up north" and in the Union there are five full-time and thirteen part-time chaplains. To all the Jewish chaplains to the forces, both those who are still serving and those who have served, we offer our warm thanks for their devoted labours on behalf of the Jewish members of the forces.

Jewish Brigade.

The Board welcomed the formation of the Jewish Brigade in September, 1944, and a telegram of good wishes was sent to the Commanding Officer and personnel of the Brigade.

Soldiers' Welfare.

During the period when large numbers of South African troops were stationed in Egypt, the Board, through the Jewish chaplains in Egypt, was instrumental in facilitating visits, by Jewish and non-Jewish members of the forces, to Palestine. Donations were made to the Jewish Soldiers Welfare Committees in Palestine which were showing so much hospitality to the visiting troops.

The War Emergency Council continued its work of seconding the efforts of the Jewish Chaplains to the forces by providing in many ways for the welfare of the Jewish soldiers. Gifts were distributed to the men and women "up north" on the occasion of the major festivals. How these gifts were appreciated, could be judged from the hundreds of letters that the Board received on each occasion from the recipients, who expressed their pleasure at the contact that was being maintained with them by the Jewish Community.

A happy feature was that non-Jewish members of the Forces sometimes shared in these distributions, and many appreciative letters were received from them.

When the 6th S.A. Armoured Division went to Italy, the Board provided a mobile Synagogue for the use of its Chaplains.

At the instance of the Board, the Union of Jewish Women defrayed the cost of the religious appurtenances and the furnishings for the synagogue that the military authorities were good enough to construct for the use of the Jewish members of the forces at Voortrekkerhoogte. The Board was also instrumental in securing furnishings for the non-denominational Chapel at Zonderwater. The Board defrayed the cost of furnishing the Jewish Chaplains' quarters at Voortrekkerhoogte.

One very important branch of the work of the War Emergency Council was the provision of reading matter for the troops. Large quantities of suitable books and periodicals were purchased, and regularly despatched to the Chaplains. A large number of copies of the Board's monthly periodical *Jewish Affairs*, and pamphlets dealing with Jewish subjects were sent regularly to Jewish members of the forces. In all, over the past two years, 18,000 books of Jewish interest were sent to our men in the forces (exclusive of pamphlets and journals).

Though the emphasis was laid on ameliorating the lot of the members of the forces up North, the welfare of Jewish soldiers in the Union was not lost sight of. Gifts were distributed on suitable occasions to Jewish patients of the military hospitals and convalescent homes.

Among other services rendered, steps were taken to facilitate the provision of seats for soldiers in the synagogues at the time of the high festivals.

The War Emergency Council interested itself in the Prisoners of War Relatives Association, and annual donations have been made towards the expense of the Association's monthly magazine.

From time to time the Board received requests to look after the welfare of Jewish members of the Imperial forces stationed in East and West Africa, as owing to transport difficulties, the Jewish authorities in England could

not conveniently do so themselves. It goes without saying that whenever possible these requests were complied with.

The opportunity must be taken to mention that the S.A. Jewish soldiers, whilst stationed in Italy, have benefited from the services of the Jewish National Welfare Board of the United States which makes such remarkable provision for the Jewish members of the United States Forces. *Inter alia* the National Welfare Board sent supplies of its excellent literature for the use of the South African men.

Repeated testimony has been paid by the chaplains to the work of the Board. Typical is a letter from Rabbi W. Hirsch, the Principal Jewish Chaplain, expressing the sincere thanks of the Jewish chaplains and soldiers for "the great and noble work that the Board has done for them during the past year. I should like to assure you that your assistance to the Chaplains both up north and in the Union, has been invaluable and of inestimable benefit to our boys."

Soldiers' Assistance Committee.

It has been accepted as a major obligation of the S.A. Jewish War Appeal (as also of its predecessor the United S.A. Jewish War Appeal) to render assistance to soldiers and their dependants in cases of hardship arising from War Service. A substantial sum has been set aside for this purpose and it is administered by the Board's Soldiers Assistance Committee. The Committee works in close collaboration with the Governor General's National War Fund and the Demobilisation Committees and has already been able to do a large amount of useful work.

Other Phases of War Effort.

It has been a matter of gratification that Jewish men and women have collaborated so wholeheartedly with their fellow-citizens in all phases of the war effort on the home front. In addition, we wish to single out for commendation the various Jewish efforts on behalf of all members of the forces without distinction of religious denomination. The Soldiers' Canteen conducted by the Jewish Ex-Service League at the Jewish Guild, Johannesburg, and the billeting service of the Sisterhood of the Johannesburg Jewish Reform Congregation, the Durban Jewish Club Soldiers' Canteen and the Services Club of the East London Jewish Community have done particularly valuable work.

Austerity in Wartime.

The Board felt it necessary to give a lead to the Jewish Community with a view to the avoidance of "ostentatious festivities" and the practice of austerity in wartime. Conferences were held with representatives of the Jewish Congregations, and leaflets on the subject were issued.

THE TRAGEDY OF EUROPEAN JEWRY.

In the latter months of 1942 authoritative information began to reach South Africa regarding the diabolical policy of mass extermination of the Jews in Europe upon which the Nazis had embarked. After the first reaction of horror which this news aroused, the Jewish community were moved by an urgent desire to do whatever lay in their power to help their

brothers and sisters in Europe. The Special Committee, on which the S.A. Zionist Federation and the ecclesiastical authorities were represented, was set up with the object of bringing home both to Jews and non-Jews the significance of the news, and arousing strong public indignation in the hope of exercising a restraining influence on the Nazi leaders. A Day of Mourning was held on December 29th, 1942. Jewish business premises closed for a part of that day, and mass meetings, addressed by leaders of the Christian Churches as well as of the Jewish community were held throughout the Union. The observance attracted considerable public attention to the grave threat which faced the Jews of Europe. In February, 1943, a joint Deputation of the Board and the S.A. Zionist Federation saw the Prime Minister and urged the taking of every possible measure which could offer rescue, relief and asylum to the victims of the Nazis. The Prime Minister was sympathetic but could not offer much hope of a successful action.

The Special Committee gave the most thorough consideration to the position, and kept in close contact with organisations overseas that were also endeavouring to alleviate the position. In September, 1943, a deputation again interviewed the Prime Minister.

A further Day of Mourning was arranged on December 7th, 1943.

Among other steps taken to draw the attention of the public to the Tragedy was the wide distribution among Members of Parliament, clergymen and others, of an issue of the Board's periodical *Jewish Affairs*, containing material relating to the Tragedy of European Jewry.

Unfortunately, despite the endeavours of the Jewish communities and the Allied Nations, it was not found possible to take any practical steps to save more than a mere handful of the victims of the Nazis, who, as they saw their doom approach, intensified their bloody work.

This news struck every Jewish heart with a chill of horror. On the initiative of the Palestine Rabbinate a Fast Day and Day of Mourning was proclaimed for March 14th, 1945, and it was observed by the Jewish community of the Union.

Since then, the eye-witness accounts of the horrors of the murder camps have confirmed our worst fears. Too late, the world has now incontrovertible proof that 4,000,000 Jews or more have been done to death.

S.A. JEWISH WAR APPEAL.

Since its inception by the Board in 1942, the S.A. Jewish War Appeal has kept before the community the paramount importance of its work in bringing relief and succour to our sorely tried people in Europe and other parts of the world, and in assisting serving and discharged Jewish members of the forces and their families in South Africa.

There has been a very good response from the Jewish public to the appeal for funds and for well over two years the J.W.A. has been rendering relief in many places. As soon as the advance of the allied armies made North Africa accessible, funds were sent to Algeria, Tripoli, Benghazi and Casablanca.

From the commencement the J.W.A. adopted the policy of acting autonomously, but wherever collaboration with other world relief bodies was in the best interests of the war victims, the fund co-operated with

the Joint Distribution Committee, the Jewish Agency, the Ort-Oze and the World Jewish Congress.

The J.W.A., with Treasury authority, sent monthly remittances to Switzerland, and substantial sums have been going forward monthly for nearly two years for distribution to the J.W.A.'s own representative, Mr. Saly Mayer, the head of the Swiss Jewish Refugee Fund. This money has been used exclusively for the benefit of Jewish refugee children in Switzerland.

For the urgent relief work being done by the Ort-Oze in Switzerland, substantial sums of money have been sent to this organisation, and the J.W.A. has also managed to arrange for blocked account facilities in order to enable residents of the Union to make small personal remittances to their dependants in this most hospitable country, which throughout the dark years has been a beacon of hope and a haven of rest and comfort to many thousands of refugees of all nationalities.

The J.W.A. has also been sending regular monthly remittances to Spain and Portugal to assist the J.D.C. in its relief activities in these territories. Thus, the J.W.A. has been associated with the rescue of some thousands of people who have been transported from Lisbon to Palestine and North Africa.

Funds were sent to assist in the transportation and maintenance of the first batch of refugees, chiefly children, who reached Teheran some three years ago, and of refugees from Hungary, Bulgaria and Rumania. A substantial sum was sent to Stockholm to assist the World Jewish Congress in its work of sending small parcels of food direct to internees in Bergen-Belsen, Birkenau and other concentration camps on the Continent. These facilities were made possible by the humane Swedish Government. Also a substantial sum of money was voted for the relief of Jews in Greece.

As soon as it was possible to make contact with Poland, the J.W.A. approached both the J.D.C. and the Jewish Agency with a view to making a direct shipment to Polish Jews. Very soon the J.D.C. managed to buy a considerable quantity of clothing and food from lend-lease supplies in the Middle East and 56 tons of goods were sent in the name of South African Jewry to Polish Jewry, c/o Dr. Emil Sommerstein in Lublin. This consignment comprised men's and women's overcoats, other wearing apparel, dehydrated soup and other foods. Each piece of goods had a label on it to say that it was a gift from South African Jewry through the South African Jewish War Appeal.

The J.W.A. has also endeavoured to serve the war victims overseas and the community here by keeping constantly in touch with the Treasury and with the Post Office to facilitate correspondence with Russia. It was responsible for the present mail service by air *via* Teheran which has made it possible for residents of the Union to communicate with their relatives and friends in about one third of the time formerly required. As the postal parcels service to the Soviet Union which was initiated by the postal authorities at the instance of the J.W.A. broke down after a brief period, arrangements were made with the J.D.C. in Teheran by which an alternative service would be made available and many people have availed themselves of this opportunity to send parcels from Teheran to their relatives and dependants in the Soviet Union.

Apart from this, about 4,000 parcels were shipped in bulk with the co-operation of the J.D.C. office in Teheran who received these parcels and forwarded them to their destination. The J.D.C. purchased from the J.W.A. 5,000 pairs of men's boots and the J.W.A. donated to the Teheran parcels service 5,000 tins of jam for which export permission was obtained here.

A matter of paramount importance to the J.W.A. was the problem of avoiding duplication and overlapping with other world organisations, and it therefore took the initiative to convene a conference in Palestine with the J.D.C., the Jewish Agency, and the Ort-Oze. Unfortunately, it was not possible for the Ort-Oze to be present.

Mr. Leo Feit, as the representative of the War Appeal, flew to Palestine, and he has reported that he has come to satisfactory agreements with both the J.D.C. and the Jewish Agency in regard to the co-ordination and the scope of South Africa's relief work henceforth. His report is awaited with great interest.

Now that the Nazi tyranny has ended, the demand upon the resources of the J.W.A. is likely to be overwhelming. The community is greatly indebted to the band of voluntary workers in all parts of the country who have served the Appeal so well. It is hoped that they will all redouble their efforts and so make it possible for South African Jewry to make a worthy contribution in restoring to decent living conditions the remnants of our people who have suffered such unspeakable miseries under the fascist and Nazi regimes.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

The Foreign Affairs Committee has engaged in an intensive study of the details of the Jewish position in Europe, and has maintained active contacts with the appropriate Jewish representative organisations in Great Britain and the United States.

The overseas Jewish organisations have given considerable thought to drawing up a programme with the object of ensuring that the Jewish people should never again be subjected to such a regime of callous brutality as the Jews of Europe have experienced since 1933. The Foreign Affairs Committee was given opportunities of observing the progress of the work in this connection, and of offering opinions upon it.

Dr. Ellen Hellman, a member of the Executive Council and of the Foreign Affairs Committee, represented the Board as an observer at the War Emergency Conference of the World Jewish Congress that took place in Atlantic City in December, 1944.

There is now a general consensus of agreement among the Jewish communities of the United Nations as to the formulation of the Jewish claims for the post-war settlement. Briefly, they cover demands for the Jews to be given a hearing at the conferences planning the peace, the adoption of an international Bill of Rights, international measures to outlaw anti-Semitism, the immediate restoration of Jewish rights in liberated Europe, the indemnification of Jewish individuals and communities, reparations to the Jewish People, the opening of Palestine to unrestricted Jewish immigration, with its reconstitution as a Jewish Commonwealth, the

elimination of statelessness and Government assistance for the resettlement of displaced Jews.

The Foreign Affairs Committee naturally took much interest in the formation of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Association (UNRRA). When the Government formed a Council of Voluntary Societies for Relief Abroad, to act as the agent of UNRRA in the Union, the Board at once offered its co-operation to the new Council. Almost immediately an emergency call came from the UNRRA administration in Cairo asking the Union to provide six volunteers for urgent and immediate work in the refugee camps in the Middle East. The Council of Voluntary Societies for Relief Abroad asked the Board to find three of the volunteers and this was done without delay (in conjunction with the S.A. Jewish War Appeal).

In anticipation of further calls being made upon the South African Jewish community for relief workers for liberated Europe, the Board has instituted a training course for an overseas relief unit. A number of volunteers have joined and intimated their readiness to proceed overseas at the first opportunity.

The Committee interested itself in the lot of the Jewish refugees detained by the British Government in the Island of Mauritius. The Mauritius Sub-Committee of the Council for Refugee Settlement has throughout been actively engaged in providing the detainees with extra foodstuffs, clothing and medical requirements. Fortunately, the British Government has recently intimated that it will be prepared to admit the refugees to Palestine as soon as shipping is available to take them there.

The detainees informed the Board of their apprehension lest, after their departure from the island, the burial ground that the authorities had put at their disposal and in which a large number of interments had taken place, should be left without Jewish supervision. The Board is now in communication with the island authorities on this subject.

The Foreign Affairs Committee initiated a series of "Information Documents" which were circulated to members of the Executive Council and the Provincial Committees of the Board and other interested persons, with a view to giving them the latest information on subjects that fall within the Committee's purview.

Jewish National Home.

As in the past, the Board has used every appropriate opportunity for voicing the views of the Community with regard to the Jewish National Home in Palestine. This aspect was very prominently emphasised by the various deputations that saw the Prime Minister in connection with the possibilities of rescuing some of the victims of the Nazis. The Board also associated itself with the deputation from the Parliamentary Pro-Palestine Committee that saw Field Marshal Smuts just prior to his departure for the World Security Conference in San Francisco. In this connection it may be mentioned that the Executive Council held a special meeting to hear an address by Mr. N. Kirschner, the Chairman of the S.A. Zionist Federation, on his return from his last visit to Palestine. Similar meetings were also held on the occasion of the visits to this country of Dr. I. Gruenbaum, member of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and Dr. Bernard Joseph of the Political Department of the Jewish Agency.

Relatives Information Service.

The Board (in conjunction with the S.A. Jewish War Appeal) established a Relatives Information Service, with headquarters in Johannesburg and branches in the Provincial centres, in order to assist members of the community in tracing their relatives in Europe. Enquirers have filled in questionnaires, details of which have been sent to the appropriate Jewish organisations overseas.

The Department's activity also embraces compilation of the lists of the surviving Jews of Europe, which are being received as Europe is liberated. These lists are anxiously scrutinised by large numbers of enquirers seeking news of their missing relatives.

Council for Refugee Settlement.

The Council for Refugee Settlement (in Africa outside the Union) has continued its beneficial activities on behalf of Jewish refugees in Swaziland, Kenya, Uganda, Rhodesia and (as mentioned above) Mauritius. To its Chairman, Mr. Arthur Menell, and his devoted band of colleagues, and their staff, a warm tribute is due for the excellent work they have done.

THE PROBLEM OF ANTI-SEMITISM.

Many difficulties beset any attempt to gauge the incidence of anti-Semitism in South Africa during the period under review and still more to define the causes with accuracy. The situation has varied according to time and locality, and there is always the danger of false generalisation or over-simplification in endeavouring to summarise so complex a subject.

Anti-Semitism is only part of a much wider disorganisation and discontent. It was, therefore, to be expected that the impact of the world crisis upon South Africa would also leave its mark on Jewish-Gentile relationships. In the first place, this country has been the target for many years of direct Nazi propaganda and even during the war Nazi teachings continued to be poured over the air. There were many ready listeners: not only the adherents of the "New Order" and of the Ossewa Brandweg who openly avowed authoritarian fascistic doctrines, but also in the years 1942 and 1943 many followers of the Herenigde Party who looked to a victorious Germany for the realisation of their political ambitions. Nor should it be forgotten that even professed supporters of the democratic cause are not immune to the subtle, insidious influence of continuous propaganda.

Throughout this period, the anti-war groups have been conducting a bitter campaign against Communism (both the system and the local "Communitistic agitators"), a campaign which has always been linked with the charge that Communism aims at black-white equality in this country. The slogan popularised by the Nazis—"Jewish Bolshevism"—has therefore expressly or impliedly reinforced the campaign against "British-Jewish democracy."

Another factor which has been present throughout has been the Afrikaner Economic Movement, organised in the year immediately preceding the war. The leaders of this Movement, determined to capture as speedily as possible new positions for Afrikaners in commerce, industry and the

professions, found a ready weapon at hand in the cry that "Uitlanders"—Britishers and Jews—held positions to which they aspired. The economic opportunities which war-time conditions brought to all commercial and industrial enterprise, as well as the desire not unduly to antagonise other sections of the population, have induced a measure of caution in the leaders of the movement; but there can be no doubt that it has contributed to racialistic ways of thought.

To all these factors must be added the psychological forces operating in war-time: anxiety as to the future, disillusionment over unfulfilled promises for a brave new world, discontent at the hardships, irritations and scarcities which result from war, and in addition, resentment at the inequalities of income and of economic opportunity. These are times in which men and women are prone to look for scapegoats. Hence, in accordance with traditional patterns, general social evils such as profiteering and blackmarketing are often unjustly ascribed to "the Jews," and the hunting out of "aliens" or "refugees" who are wrongly held responsible for shortages in housing, commodities, etc., becomes a favourite pastime for the uninformed or the malicious.

The causes enumerated (which are far from exhaustive) have all contributed to the increase in anti-Jewish sentiment which, it seems to be generally agreed, has occurred during the war years. Once again the truth has been confirmed that anti-Semitism is a phenomenon the roots of which lie basically in political, economic and psychological conditions, over which Jews have no control whatever.

The Pro-Nazi Groups.

This report does not deal with the complicated political background generally, but only with open manifestations of anti-Semitism. In their official utterances the pro-Nazi organisations adopted a thorough-going anti-Jewish policy. The Ossewa Brandwag, for example, proclaimed as its goal an authoritarian National-Socialist state which would differentiate between full citizens and mere subjects (*blote onderdane*), the latter to include democrats, anti-O.B. Afrikaners, Jews, etc. Mr. Pirow's New Order was conceived on similar lines. Citizenship would be confined to "Afrikaner National-Socialists in good faith." There was to be "the restriction of citizenship and the exclusion from State service of all anti-national, unnational and unassimilable elements" (the latter to include Jews).

Where the Afrikaner Party fitted into this scheme it is not easy to say. Its leader, Mr. Havenga, declared in January, 1943, that "thousands of good Afrikaners had come to regard the democratic system as outworn not only now but also for the future." Some months later, Dr. Jan Steyn, former Secretary to General Hertzog, declared that the Afrikaner Party fully endorsed the principle of the authoritarian state. At the same time, the Party and its journal *Die Vaderland* professes to remain loyal to the doctrines of "Hertzogism" and to the principles of the equality of all Europeans.

The Herenigde Party

The policy of the Herenigde Party as the official Opposition Party calls for more detailed analysis. Even after it had proclaimed war against

“ the foreign ideology ” of the Ossewa-Brandwag, the H.P., in 1943, professed many principles which were indistinguishable from those of the opposing groups. It rejected the accepted form of democracy (which it described as “ British-Jewish democracy ”) in favour of an Afrikaner “ Volksregering ” in which “ authority would be vested solely in the hands of those who had shown by word and deed that they would give undivided loyalty to the republic . . . this automatically excludes the Jews . . . this excludes the Jingo.” *Die Volksblad* (11/12/42) explained that the term “ nation ” referred to a people linked by bonds of blood and culture, and not to the sum total of the inhabitants of the country.

As the fight between the O.B. and the New Order became more bitter, the Herenigde Party has in various ways receded from that position, but it is still very far from the true conception of political democracy.

Although there have been periods during the past three years when the Herenigde Party has soft-pedalled its anti-Jewish policy, there is no reason to believe that it has retracted in any essentials its intolerant outlook. Only a few weeks ago *New Era*, the official English organ of the Party, republished with approval the following from the Programme of Action adopted by the Federal Council of the Party in 1941 :

“ The Council recommends that under the heading of ‘ Immigration and the Jewish Question ’ the following shall be adopted :—

- (a) the repatriation of all illegal and undesirable immigrants ;
- (b) the Party favours in general the immigration of suitable assimilable white European population elements ;
- (c) in view of South Africa’s specific problems, the Party recommends the immediate cessation of all further immigration of Jews and further of all elements which cannot be assimilated by the South African Nation or which are a hindrance or dangerous to Society.
- (d) It further has in view :—(i) exercise of stronger control over naturalisation. (ii) introduction of a vocational permit system for unnaturalised foreigners as exists in many other countries.
- (e) The Party wishes to take all possible steps to fit South Africa’s own original white population elements for earning a living in every sphere and to protect them against unfair competition.”

It should be pointed out that the Herenigde Party’s main spokesman on this subject, Mr. Eric Louw, has gone much further and has urged in the name of the Party, the introduction for *all* Jews of a thorough-going quota system in commerce, professions and industry based upon their numerical percentage in the population.

The 1943 Elections.

The 1943 Parliamentary election campaign was on the whole free of those objectionable speeches which were a feature of the 1938 election. The issue before the electorate was essentially that of the war policy of the Government and for the most part Nationalists kept clear of anti-Jewish references. *Die Burger*, however, featured several articles focusing attention on the extent of the participation of Jews in trade and the allegedly large number of their property deals. (The figures in regard to the latter proved on investigation to be exaggerated and misleading). On the very eve of the

election Dr. Malan repeated these allegations and at a public meeting declared that it was the policy of the Herenigde Party to disenfranchise every Jew who had entered the country after a certain date.

The result of the general election was U.P. 89, Labour Party 9, Dominion Party 7, Independent 2, Herenigde Party 43. No Afrikaner Party or New Order candidates were elected.

The Jewish Question in Parliament.

The occasions on which in their press, on public platforms and during Parliamentary sessions H.P. spokesmen have given vent to their anti-Jewish bias are too many to be enumerated. It is necessary, however, to record two full-dress debates in Parliament. In February, 1943, Mr. Eric Louw, tabled a motion on Communism asking the Government to take action against the Communist Party and Communist propaganda. In the course of his lengthy speech he made several references to the alleged influence of Jews on the rise of Communism in general and on Communistic agitation in South Africa. Replies to this attack were given in the House by Mr. M. Kentridge, M.P. and Mr. M. Alexander, K.C., M.P. The motion was defeated by 54 votes to 36.

In February, 1944, to a private member's motion calling for increased European immigration, Mr. Eric Louw proposed an amendment in the name of the H.P. asking for various restrictions against aliens, for the application of the Aliens Act to British born subjects and for the total prohibition of immigrants belonging to the "Jewish race." The burden of Mr. Louw's lengthy speech in support of his motion was that the Jewish community, through the Board of Deputies, had actively organised and encouraged immigration. This is an old charge which is untrue and has been repudiated on a number of occasions. In returning to it again Mr. Louw quoted from the documents stolen from the offices of the Board in Cape Town in 1934. In the resumed debate on April 11th and 12th, a number of members on both sides of the House took part and there was an acrimonious passage of arms between Mr. Alexander and Mr. Louw. Mr. Alexander insisted that unauthorised use had been made of stolen documents and that their meaning had been distorted by quotations taken out of their context, while certain relevant passages had been deliberately omitted in order to misrepresent the policy of the Board of Deputies in regard to immigration. At the conclusion of this debate, Mr. Louw introduced a new line of attack charging the Jews with profiteering and black-marketing. It should be added that in repeating his allegations in *Die Kruithoring*, Mr. Louw wrote that the H.P. did not believe in "unscrupulous anti-Semitism and large-scale persecution" and that he hoped that a "peaceful solution" would be sought.

Nationalist Allegations.

A favourite item of Nationalist agitation has been in connection with immigration. The case put forward is that the country has already a larger Jewish population than is compatible with harmonious race relations, having regard to the Jewish "domination" in various economic fields, and that all further Jewish immigration must, therefore, be stopped. Articles are continually appearing in the Nationalist press intended to

create the impression that "the country is being swamped with Jews." That this is a hollow political cry intended to play up to the ignorance and fears of the electorate can be seen from the official immigration figures which reveal that the Aliens Act is being very strictly administered. For almost the whole war period, 220 Jews in all were admitted to the Union for permanent residence (1940—101, 1941—43, 1942—33, 1943—19, 1944—24). Even when allowance is made for war-time difficulties it is clear that the Union has made a very small contribution indeed in granting refuge to the persecuted Jews of Europe.

Much play has been made by Nationalists of the fact that between 1939 and 1944, 16,118 Jews entered on temporary permit. The very great majority of these (as the Board has publicly pointed out) are persons from territories adjacent to the Union who have come for business or for health reasons and have then returned home. In a statement which he made in the Senate in March, the Minister of the Interior stated that only a couple of hundred aliens, admitted to the Union as visitors, had found themselves stranded here at the beginning of the war. Only some of these, he pointed out, were from Eastern Europe; while in addition some 30 persons, some of whom may have come from Eastern Europe, had found asylum in the Union after the fall of Hong Kong and Singapore.

Anxious as we have always been that the Union, in common with all other countries, should play its part in coming to the rescue of some of our persecuted brethren and sisters, we have nevertheless not asked for special privileges for Jews in the matter of immigration. All that we have insisted upon is that the laws should be applied fairly and equally to all applicants, without any discrimination against Jews.

Various other lines of agitation are regularly pursued by the Nationalists. They have had a lot to say about property purchases by Jews. They have frequently demanded restrictions in the issue of licences to Jews. *Die Transvaler* in particular, has specialised on the subject, and never tires in its advocacy of restrictive legislation against Jews in the professions, especially in medicine. This goes hand in hand with the exhortations to the Afrikaans community to *saamstaan*, to support one other in the economic field and not to support the "uitlander."

Die Transvaler is apparently expressing official policy. The social and economic programme of the Herenigde Party (which is much paraded these days) under the heading "Industrial Development" stipulates "the assurance for the two established white main races of their legitimate share of our industries" and under the heading "Trade" that "the issue of trade licences must be handled in such a way that . . . superfluous businesses and undesirable elements are eliminated."

Reference has already been made to the frequent exploitation of the "Communist" motif by unjustly giving it a "Jewish" angle. This has been one of the weapons most used by the Party (and also by the Dutch Reformed Church) in attacks against "alien" influences in the trade unions. In recent months, the Nationalists have been featuring the "Black Peril" and have also been making great play of the alleged unwillingness of Jewish students at universities to accept the policy of social separatism of Europeans and non-Europeans.

Frequent mentions of Jewish matters in the international field appear in the "Foreign Reviews" of *Die Burger*. Purporting to be objective and documented, they are usually highly tendentious and aim at presenting the Jews as an international group which endeavours to advance its own ends in various countries. Much is made of Jewish pressure upon Palestine and of the acute need which is likely to exist after the war for Jews to emigrate from Europe.

Undermining Tactics.

Seen in perspective, the periodic recurrence of anti-Semitic agitation by the Herenigde Party is clearly more than the expression of the ingrained racialistic bias of the Party and of its intolerance to all so-called "Uitlanders" be they of English, Jewish or any other stock. This agitation is frankly used as a device to arouse discomfort and dissatisfaction among the supporters of the Government, and undermine the unity of democratic forces in this country. Anti-Semitism is being openly dangled before the English-speaking section as a bait—a bait at which some, shortsighted enough to think that this aspect can be isolated from other racialist policies, are perhaps inclined to nibble. The large majority of Government supporters, however, as well as all militant democrats—we could wish that our democrats were generally more militant—must be aware of the undermining role intended for anti-Semitism in disrupting national unity and serving as a spearhead for fascism and reaction.

Dutch Reformed Church and Anti-Semitism.

In April of 1943 the Federal Council of the Dutch Reformed Churches instructed its "Commission for Current Questions" to submit a report on "anti-Semitism, its origin and consequences and what the attitude of the Church should be." At the next annual session of the Council in April, 1944, the Commission presented its report. It was an astounding document—drawn up by a man well-known for his intolerant views—couched in the language of Greyshirt propaganda, charging the Jews with "domination, secret organisations, Communism," etc. The Federal Council did not adopt the report but accepted it "vir kennisgewing" and included it in the published report of the proceedings. It asked for a further report, which was submitted by the Commission to the meeting of the Council in April, 1945. It showed little advance on the earlier report and once again the Federal Council did not adopt the report (though accepting it "vir kennisgewing"). It proceeded to accept a series of resolutions on the attitude of the Churches as follows:—

1. The Council of the Churches feels that the solution of the problem of anti-Semitism (in the national as well as in the international sense) is first of all a matter for the authorities of the State and the Church.
2. In so far as it falls into the sphere of the Church, it must, above all, be seen as a spiritual problem the solution of which lies in untiring efforts to Christianise the Jewish people and to carry the principles of Christ into the Jewish way of life and world of ideas.
3. As regards the attitude of our Christian people and Churches towards the Semitic race groups, the Church expects no other

attitude from its members than that of love of one's fellow-men, justice, truth, and forbearance, in brief, the attitude of Jesus Christ.

4. For these reasons the Church disapproves of un-Christian persecution of other racial groups in any form, but at the same time and just as much it recognises the good right of our volk's endeavour to be itself and to protect its interests in every sphere of life."

Jews in the Medical Profession.

The alleged "disproportionate number of Jews in the medical profession" has also been canvassed in other ways. In 1942 for instance, the Provincial Secretary of the Transvaal, Mr. H. F. Pentz, when submitting a report to the Administrator on "a scheme of free hospitalisation" devoted a section of his report to a consideration of Jews in the medical profession and more particularly to the number of Jewish medical students at the Medical Schools. In an objective analysis he rejected a number of "popular prejudices" against the Jews in the profession as being without foundation and had no criticism to offer of the proficiency or professional standard of Jews in the medical profession. He was equally frank in recognising that the prospects for Jewish young men and women in other professions and occupations "are few and far between." He admitted that they are "tacitly discouraged" from entering the Civil Service, the teaching profession and all professions "with the exception of Law and Medicine," and that "in skilled occupations the position is the same." The field of Medicine was one of the few in which the Jew "may expect the just rewards of his talents and industry." Nevertheless the Permanent Secretary deemed it necessary to put forward proposals for a scheme of Government and Provincial scholarships which would be deliberately allocated on a "selective" principle. A deputation from the Board called on the Administrator and left with him a memorandum setting out its objections to the report. The Administrator assured the deputation that, speaking for himself and also he thought, for the Executive Committee, there was no intention whatsoever of discriminating against any section of the community. He had always adhered to the test of "merit and ability." He authorised the publication of his reply.

Since then, on a number of occasions, the racial composition of the medical profession has come up for public discussion and it is obvious that this matter must be closely watched. Unjust and undemocratic as the racial approach is, it is all the more deplorable in view of the great shortage of doctors in the Union especially in the country areas.

The Democratic Reply.

It is gratifying to record that, on the whole, the English press of this country as well as the United Party's Afrikaans press have, from time to time, vigorously exposed the fallacies and dangers of the anti-Semitic agitation. Sympathetic treatment has been given by this press to the reports of the barbaric Nazi treatment of the Jews. A forthright lead has been given by the various English church organs, Catholic, Anglican, Methodist and others.

Disappointment has occasionally been expressed at the fact that attacks upon the Jews in Parliament have not been more vigorously answered

But this should always be qualified by remembering that liberals have naturally a reluctance to enter into acrimonious racialistic debates. In September last year a statement condemning anti-Semitism was issued by four Cabinet Ministers and thirty-seven Members of Parliament and Senators belonging to various pro-Government parties and representing Reef and Pretoria constituencies.

"We desire," they declared, "publicly to take a stand against this growing and dangerous tendency on behalf of racial tolerance, decency and goodwill. We feel that anti-Semitism is one of the chief weapons of intolerance and racial division in our country, and that those who lend themselves to it, however specious their reasons for such an attitude may be, are in effect playing the game of the Nazis and of the Nazi-minded elements in the Union."

This declaration was drawn up at the instance of the pro-Palestine Parliamentary Committee, a body which is doing useful work in mobilising public opinion in support of Jewish aspirations in Palestine, its Chairman being Senator E. H. Brookes. Senator Brookes was also the author of a motion introduced in the Senate in March, 1943, condemning "propaganda aiming at the inciting or exploiting of feelings of fear or antagonism between the races in the Union." In speaking to the motion, Senator Brookes exposed the Nazi origins of the anti-Semitic agitation in this country. Senator C. A. van Niekerk, the H.P. Leader in the Senate, denied that the Afrikaner people were anti-Semitic and the motion was carried with only one Nationalist dissident.

The influence of the army in promoting better race attitudes has been very important. When all the qualifications are made, there can be no doubt that the co-operation in the field of men drawn from all sections and groups of the community has greatly contributed to the strengthening of the sentiment of a common South African nationality. Many tributes have been paid by high officers to the valour and good conduct of Jewish troops. The educational work, too, of the army education units has been a valuable factor by introducing the men and women in the army to an objective and non-racialistic study of the real problems of this country. It is very much to be hoped that the experience gained in the war will be applied also in adult education schemes in the post-war period.

When all is said, however, the fact must be faced that the end of the war marks only the end of one chapter—though a very critical one—in the political struggle for freedom and democracy. The fight will go on, for there are roots of fascism deeply embedded in the political, economic and ideological conditions of this country. The struggle against anti-Semitism is integral to that larger issue and in so far as we Jews can play our part—it is now widely recognised that basically this is a problem for the non-Jewish sections of the community—it will be important to see that the Board and, indeed the whole Jewish community, is properly equipped for the tasks that lie ahead.

It is unwise, however, to concentrate our attention exclusively on the political variety of anti-Semitism. As an American writer has said "Latent anti-Semitism, even of the genteel, respectable variety, practised by some of the nation's well-bred people, is not necessarily static. It may readily become dynamic in a period such as this of profound unrest, insecurity

and fear; when the Hitlerian poison has subtly permeated the minds of millions, and bewildered men seek a scapegoat for their troubles. For, it must be remembered, the anti-Semite is generally a man suffering from a sense of inferiority and few things give rise to a more violent hatred."

Efforts to Combat Anti-Semitism.

Even from this incomplete summary it is obvious that the fight against anti-Semitism is a very complicated matter: there are political, economic, religious, social, educational and other aspects. The relative importance which is assigned to each of these and the methods to be used are matters which give rise to a great deal of controversy. For ourselves, the only claim that we make is that we have endeavoured conscientiously to study the South African position and to become acquainted with all important thinking on this subject overseas in order that our work shall be conducted on sound principles. We are acutely aware that we have fallen short of maximum achievement but, having regard to all the difficulties, we have endeavoured to do our best.

In a "Nine Point Programme" formulated last year we set out briefly the principles upon which our fight against anti-Semitism is being conducted. These are:—

1. The fight against anti-Semitism is part of the defence of democracy and of freedom; and only if the larger victory is won is there hope of eliminating (or mitigating) anti-Semitism.

2. The Board's efforts to promote better Jewish-Gentile relationships are part, and in furtherance, of wider efforts to promote inter-racial and inter-faith goodwill.

3. Racism (of all varieties) thrives on poverty and economic hardship. Jews must, therefore, range themselves behind efforts aimed at improving existing social and economic conditions.

4. The enhancement of the international status of the Jew through the creation of the Jewish National Home in Palestine will enhance the status of Jews everywhere.

5. Any spirit of defeatism in regard to the continued enjoyment by Jews of their full rights of citizenship must be strenuously counteracted.

6. The fight against anti-Semitism can only be effectively waged by the Jewish Community living a positive and healthy Jewish life and participating to the full in all phases of the national life of South Africa.

7. We must aim at the promotion of the highest standards of business principles and ethical morality among all sections of our community.

8. A tolerant and co-operative spirit towards all sections of the South African people must be fostered.

9. The Board must impress upon the individual the part which he can play (a) through his collaboration in its work and (b) by his personal conduct.

Wherever opportunity offered for inculcating and applying these principles within both the Jewish and the non-Jewish communities, it was readily seized. In particular, we have endeavoured to bring home to liberals among our Gentile neighbours their responsibility in participating in the common fight for preserving democratic principles and strengthening

the spirit of goodwill and of goodneighbourliness. Support has been given to the Society of Jews and Christians and the Goodwill Movement. Suitable literature published here and abroad has been regularly distributed and contact has been made with bodies and organisations which propagate democratic principles and seek to promote better race relations in this country. A careful scrutiny has been kept daily on the press, and whenever possible, false or injurious statements referring to the Jewish community have been refuted. We are very much alive to the importance of basing our work upon precise knowledge of the actual facts instead of upon preconceived theories, and efforts have continuously been made to ascertain the facts.

Delegates at Congress will be given a more detailed report than has been possible here of our efforts to combat anti-Semitism, and of the measure of success obtained. The work of education and enlightenment is necessarily unspectacular and the results are often not tangibly felt or easily gauged. There can be no doubt however, that when all sorts of propaganda devices are exploited in order to manipulate the minds of men, it is of the utmost importance that accurate and objective information should be available and a carefully planned campaign of enlightenment carried out. Within the Jewish community itself too, it is essential that there should be a clear understanding of the facts of the situation and the forces at work so that in a realistic spirit, without undue alarmism or optimism, the Jews can play their part in the common fight for freedom and equality.

Imposing as has been the record of our work in the past, we are aware of the need to extend and improve it in the future. There are gaps and weaknesses in our organisation which must be remedied. Plans have been submitted for the reorganisation of the Public Relations Department and the intensification of its work, including increase of staff and the achievement of greater contact and co-operation with the rank and file of the Jewish community. It is to be hoped that immediately after the forthcoming Congress, energetic steps will be taken to give effect to these plans.

COMMERCIAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

For some considerable time the Board has felt that it was not sufficient that the commercial community should merely contribute to the Board's funds, but that they should be encouraged to participate actively in its work. Persons in Commerce and Industry are in constant contact with all sections of the community, and by their co-operation can do much to assist the Board, especially on the public relations side of its work.

In England, where similar problems exist, an organisation was formed several years ago known as the Trades Advisory Council which incorporates all branches of Industry and Commerce. It is to-day an integral part of the communal structure, and has as its patrons the leading members of the community.

The Commercial Relations Committee was formed along similar lines in July of last year. Prominent members of the commercial community in Johannesburg were invited to the inaugural meeting and there expressed their approval of the setting up of a Committee with the following objects :—

- (a) To avoid antagonism in the economic field by eliminating friction and misunderstanding.
- (b) To promote goodwill amongst traders of all classes and creeds.
- (c) To promote the observance of the best standards of business conduct by its members, and the elimination of unethical and undesirable business practices.
- (d) To protect the Jewish commercial community against false charges which may injure the good name of Jewry.
- (e) To rally the Jewish commercial community in support of all constructive schemes dealing with post-war demobilisation and the improvement of the standard of living of all people in South Africa.
- (f) To rally the Jewish commercial community against anti-Semitism and all forms of Fascistic reaction in South Africa.

Since then numerous sectional meetings have been held in Johannesburg of the various commercial groups with the object of enlisting the support of the commercial community as a whole. Those attending these meetings have almost without exception indicated their endorsement of the work and the objects of the Committee.

It is now intended to speed up the enrolment of members by the use of pamphlets and by inaugurating branches of the committee in other urban centres.

The practical work of the Committee has until now been concerned largely with disputes referred to it. These disputes have not been confined to members of the Jewish community, and have on occasion been between Jew and Gentile. While not all cases have been satisfactorily settled, the fruits of this work have been very encouraging.

COMMUNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

The last Congress passed a number of resolutions instructing the Board to interest itself in fostering our cultural heritage, strengthening communal organisation and creating machinery which would ensure that the widest sections of the community will have an understanding of the Board's aims and be drawn into the ambit of its work.

To give effect to these resolutions, the Communal Relations Committee came into being in July, 1943. The Committee envisaged its work as falling in two parts: (i) A long range programme for the strengthening of communal life and (ii) a short range policy for making better known the work and aims of the Board and fostering contact between the Community and the Board.

Regarding a long range policy, there is often lacking in the community a total view of Jewish life and of the problems of South African Jewry. There is an absence of co-ordination in various spheres, e.g., congregational life, the Jewish Ministry, welfare work, etc. One of the objects of this Committee is to envisage the affairs of the Community in terms of an organic whole, and help to bring about co-ordination in these spheres.

The war has revealed considerable weaknesses in many phases of our communal life, educational, cultural and religious. While in the past we relied a great deal upon cultural and spiritual sustenance from abroad we shall now have to rely much more upon our own resources and devote more time than hitherto to our local problems.

A Synagogue Council.

The need to create some unifying body of congregational life has long been felt. The Committee, after careful deliberation advocated the creation of Synagogue Councils, comprising laymen and Ministers. It envisaged the establishment at the present stage of several regional Councils rather than a national Council, leading ultimately to a national Synagogue Council.

As a first step it suggested that a Council be established for the Transvaal. Unfortunately, no further progress has been made but it is hoped that this is a matter which will receive the support of Congress and be carried to fruition in the near future.

Contacts between the Board and the Community.

The Committee regularly arranges meetings in town and country in order to acquaint the public with the work of the Board. Members of the Executive Council and of the staff have made periodic trips to all parts of the country. Towards the end of 1944 the Committee was very glad to arrange for a series of meetings in Johannesburg and on the Reef, addressed by Mr. M. Alexander, K.C., M.P., accompanied by other speakers. These meetings were uniformly successful. Mr. Morris Kentridge, M.P., accompanied by Mr. Ovedoff, had an equally successful tour in the Eastern Province.

Other tours were conducted by Mr. G. Saron, Mrs. H. Kehr, Dr. J. Sachs, Mr. G. Zybert, Mr. Sulski and also by Mr. L. Cooper (while he was a member of the staff).

The Committee is aware that many misapprehensions exist among the Jewish community in regard to the Board, and it hopes to receive the fullest co-operation from all constituent bodies in arranging meetings.

Cultural Lectures.

A new project embarked upon is that of a Lecture Service which will supply regular lectures to all institutions which ask for them. A panel of speakers has been formed of over thirty well-known personalities, in addition to members of the Board's staff. A programme of over 100 lectures is now available. The lectures fall under the following headings: (1) Aspects of Jewish Life in South Africa (history, institutions, problems, achievements); (2) The Message and Meaning of Judaism; (3) Jewish Adaptation to Modern Life; (4) Leading Personalities and Movements in Modern Jewish Literature, Art, Music, etc.

It is hoped that when travelling facilities are improved, it may be possible to invite prominent lecturers from overseas to deliver public addresses in the Union. In addition, it is hoped to undertake the publication of pamphlets and booklets dealing with aspects of Jewish life in South Africa.

Historical Work.

A history of the Jews of South Africa brought up-to-date and other studies of the Jewish community are objectives which must also be regarded as urgent and important.

For a short period Miss Roza van Gelderen was engaged upon historical research work but upon her resignation this work has been interrupted. It is hoped that it will soon be resumed.

“ Jewish Affairs.”

Jewish Affairs, the Board's monthly journal, continues to be published regularly and enjoys a wide circulation. It is distributed free. It has endeavoured to fulfil the purpose for which it was established, namely, to record the Board's activities and to reflect constructive Jewish thinking about the problems of our own community and of Jewry in general.

Because of paper restrictions, the circulation has been somewhat curtailed and the size of the journal reduced. We look forward, however, to a programme of expansion after the war.

PROBLEMS OF ALIENS AND REFUGEES.

Naturalisation.

On the whole the naturalisation law is being fairly administered. The Department of the Interior has, for some time, appeared to be giving every facility to enable members of the forces and their parents, whether “friendly” or “enemy” aliens, to secure naturalisation.

There are still, however, certain hard cases arising from war conditions. Other “enemy” aliens are not permitted to apply, however well qualified; and applications from “friendly” aliens are not entertained unless they are over forty-five years of age or have been rejected on medical grounds for military service.

Restrictions on Enemy Aliens.

Towards the end of 1942 more severe restrictions than hitherto began to be imposed on “enemy” aliens, under which heading Jews who had fled from, or been expelled by, the Nazis were technically comprised. In some of the smaller towns, they were obliged to surrender their wireless apparatus, report at frequent intervals to the police, and obtain permits to visit other areas. Representations were made to the authorities. It was found that as time passed the regulations came to be applied with considerable leniency in *bona fide* cases.

Jewish Refugees Interned in the Union.

Reference was made in the report to the last Congress to a number of refugees who had been sent by the Northern Rhodesia, Uganda and Kenya authorities to the Union for internment. The Union Government was merely acting as custodian of the refugees on behalf of the other governments. Representations were made to the Chief Control Officer. Subsequently, the Kenya and Uganda Governments agreed to the return of most of these refugees. Unfortunately, the Northern Rhodesia Government has not agreed to allow two internees from that territory to return, notwithstanding the fact that there are no objections against them on security grounds.

Status of Jewish Refugees from Germany.

As is well known the Nazi authorities deprived all German Jews *en bloc* of their German nationality. Technically, therefore, they became "stateless" but in Great Britain and other British territories, after the outbreak of war German Jewish refugees continued to be regarded as still holding their German nationality and therefore, technically, "enemy" aliens. Much consideration was given by the Board to the possibility of securing a modification of this ruling, but the position continued to be governed by the view taken by the British Government, viz., that it would be contrary to public policy to recognise the power of an enemy state, by its legislation in time of war, to relieve persons who were its nationals at the outbreak of war from the disabilities imposed by British law on aliens of enemy nationality.

Entry of Jewish Ministers and Teachers.

For some time the shortage of qualified Jewish ministers and Hebrew teachers in the Union has given rise to great anxiety. The immigration regulations have placed many obstacles in the way of the entry of such persons from abroad and representations were made to the authorities on several occasions. Recently the Immigrants Selection Board pressed upon this Board that "the time has arrived for the Jewish community in South Africa to arrange for the training of rabbis in the Union." The Board wrote in reply that while every effort was being made by the Jewish community to train ministers and teachers locally this was a difficult task, and in any case a long time would have to elapse before results could be obtained. Furthermore, even if its endeavours were successful, the necessity for bringing in ministers and teachers from overseas might still arise in special cases.

Thereupon the Immigrants Selection Board wrote that while they appreciated the difficulties in the way of creating, at comparatively short notice, facilities for the training of Jewish ministers in the Union, they trusted that proposals of a more concrete nature would be submitted, and asked whether the possibility had been considered of sending South African Jewish candidates for the ministry overseas for the necessary training. To this we replied that the Jewish educational authorities were in the process of formulating plans in order to meet the needs of the Jewish community so far as teachers and ministers were concerned. However, even on the most optimistic forecast a considerable time must elapse before sufficient personnel could be trained (whether locally or overseas) to fill all the necessary positions.

Representatives of Overseas Organisations.

In 1944, the Minister of the Interior requested the Board, with regard to applications from various Jewish bodies for the admission of lecturers, organisers, collectors and propagandists, to express its views as to the necessity and desirability of each visit, especially at the present juncture when travel facilities are restricted. The Board agreed to this request and reports have been submitted on several such cases.

SOME INTERNAL PROBLEMS OF THE COMMUNITY.

The Board is being more and more regarded by members of the community as the natural instrument for solving a number of its internal problems. Some of these are in essence religious questions and the Board deals with them only in so far as their lay aspects are concerned, and for guidance on the religious aspects it depends upon the ecclesiastical authorities. We deem it our duty to point out that the Board has been compelled to deal with many of these matters because of the absence of a competent religious authority within whose purview they would properly come. We sincerely trust that such a body will come into being in the near future.

Matzo for Passover.

The Matzo manufacturers experienced great difficulty in making satisfactory matzo from the unsifted meal from which, owing to wartime conditions, the Union's bread is made. The Board took the matter up with the Wheat Industry Control Board, and arrangements were made for the issue to the matzo manufacturers of a limited quantity of sifted flour for this purpose. For the last three Passovers, the Board has been responsible to the authorities for the rationing of the matzo and the control of prices. This is done through a Matzo Control Board which has functioned very well, and has earned the commendation of the authorities for the efficient manner in which it has carried out this work.

Ethrogim.

The Board has continued to be the intermediary between the Government and the Community for the importation of Palestine ethrogim for the festival of Succoth, the regulations for the import of citrus fruit to this country being very strict, owing to the danger of infection.

Meshullochim.

The Board continues to supervise the operations of the collectors (meshullochim) for the religious and charitable institutions in Palestine. There was a suggestion that some alternative system might be introduced, but after careful enquiry it was not found to be practicable to make any change during the continuance of the war.

Land Settlement.

The Board has given its moral support to the work of the Land Settlement Bureau of the South African Ort-Oze with the object of inducing Jewish boys and girls to find a vocation in work on the land.

Vocational Guidance Bureau.

The Board continues to be associated with the South African Ort-Oze in the conduct of the Vocational Guidance Bureau.

Welfare Department.

The Board's Welfare Department continues to render multifarious services to the Jewish public. It gives advice and assistance in such matters

as naturalisation, immigration regulations, employment problems, and educational matters. We are very pleased to find that we are able to render service to individuals in many spheres and that these services are widely appreciated.

Education Aid.

The Board's Welfare Officer reported that in the course of his work he had found that there were a number of Jewish students of exceptional ability who were debarred, through financial circumstances, from continuing their educational courses. The Board accordingly instituted a system of bursaries which are administered by an Education Aid Committee.

Weiss Memorial Bursary.

The late Mr. A. Weiss was for several years a deputy representing a Germiston constituent body. He joined the forces, and after gaining the Military Medal lost his life in action. He was particularly interested in Jewish education, and in his memory the Board has founded a Weiss Memorial Bursary for the promotion of Jewish Education. The administration of the Bursary has been placed in the hands of the S.A. Board of Jewish Education.

Overseas Appeals.

In view of the multiplicity of appeals from overseas funds, an Inter-Provincial Conference in 1935, recognising the necessity of some form of regulation and control of these appeals, formulated a policy under which the written authority of the Board was required before any collection or campaign in the Union for an overseas object (apart from the Keren Hayesod and the Keren Kayemeth) could be commenced. This scheme was approved by the 12th Biennial Congress in 1937.

In the subsequent five or six years, this policy of regulation of foreign appeals continued to be carried out by the Board, and worked very well with advantage, we believe, both to the funds concerned and to the community as a whole. During the last few years, however, primarily as a result of the increasing needs of the Yishuv in Palestine, a number of appeals have been launched which fell outside this scheme of control. Several Conferences have taken place between the Board and the S.A. Zionist Federation on the subject of control of overseas appeals, but it has not been found possible to reach a formula acceptable to the Executive Council.

FINANCE.

The Board's biennial campaign for funds to cover its normal budget for the years 1944/1945 was commenced in February, 1944. The response has been a good one; not only has the high standard of previous contributions been maintained, but it has often been substantially increased.

The campaign was started in Johannesburg. A Special Planning Committee was appointed which arranged for a thorough and systematic canvass of the Johannesburg community. Many more persons were approached than during previous campaigns. In Johannesburg itself the campaign is still being continued and an endeavour is being made to call upon every potential contributor.

With the exception of Natal and a few centres such as Pretoria, Klerksdorp and one or two others, the campaign has been completed throughout the country. Excellent results were obtained on the Reef, in the Transvaal country towns, the Western Province, the Eastern Province, Orange Free State and South West Africa.

The figures for the 1944/1945 campaign show a considerable increase on previous years. The good results obtained have in the main been due to the splendid and whole-hearted assistance of members of the Board's campaign committees in the various towns. The work of these committees was made very much easier by the ready manner in which the community responded to the appeal for funds.

We gladly acknowledge the contributions made to the success of the campaign by members of the Executive Council who visited centres in the Reef and the Transvaal, and also by members of the Provincial Committees who participated in the drives in their respective areas. In addition, we acknowledge with thanks the help of Mr. Morris Alexander, K.C., M.P., who addressed meetings on the Reef towards the end of last year, and that of Mr. Morris Kentridge, M.P., who visited various centres in the Eastern Province. Members of the staff, in particular Messrs. J. Dwolatzky (Secretary of the Cape Committee), A. Ovedoff, S. W. Sulski, G. Zybert and Mrs. H. Kehr, visited many centres in the interests of the campaign.

The opportunity is taken of conveying the warm appreciation of the Executive Council to the large band of workers for their efforts, and to contributors for their continued support.

A report of the expenditure of the Board for the years 1942, 1943 and 1944 will be submitted at Congress.

Bequests.

In the hope that members of the Jewish community, when providing in their wills for communal institutions, will have in mind the needs of the Board, the Executive Council again draws attention to the following form of bequest which is recommended by its Legal Committee:—

I hereby give and bequeath free of all Estate Duty the sum of to the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, Johannesburg, to be used by the said South African Jewish Board of Deputies for the carrying out of the objects for which it has been constituted and I hereby direct that the receipt signed by the Secretary for the time being of the said South African Jewish Board of Deputies shall be a sufficient discharge for the payment of the legacy.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES.

The following were elected to the Executive Council at the Fourteenth Congress in 1942:—

President : Mr. Cecil Lyons, J.P. ; *Vice-Presidents* : (*Transvaal*) Mr. Gerald N. Lazarus ; (*Cape*), Mr. Morris Alexander, K.C., M.P. ; (*Eastern Province*), Mr. A. Schauder ; (*Natal*), Mr. I. Geshen ; (*Orange Free State*), Mr. H. Bradlow ; (*Additional*), Mr. Woolf Harris ; *Hon. Treasurer* : Mr. B. A. Ettlinger, K.C.

Members : Mr. J. Alexander, Mr. J. H. Barnett, Mr. J. Daleski, Mr. D. H. Epstein, Mr. A. E. Ettlinger, Mrs. A. Franks, Major B. Friedman, Mr. D. Hayden, Mr. J. Hersov, Mr. C. Isaacson, Mr. A. B. Klipin, Mr. S. M. Kuper, Mr. Harry Landau, Mr. C. Legum, Mr. A. Livingstone, Mr. J. Meyer, Mr. M. Nestadt, Mr. L. A. Pincus, Dr. H. H. Sonnabend, Mr. F. Zwarenstein.

The Executive Council elected Mr. G. N. Lazarus as the Chairman.

The following were subsequently co-opted by the Executive Council :—

Mr. G. Reichman (October, 1942), Rabbi I. Kossowsky and Rabbi M. C. Weiler (May, 1943), Mr. A. Fine (resigned, October, 1943), Mr. S. Jaff, Mr. M. Leibowitz and Dr. Ellen Hellman (June 1943), Mr. M. Gonski (August, 1944), and Major M. Summerfield, M.C. (September, 1944).

In January, 1943, owing to ill-health Mr. Lyons was obliged to relinquish the Presidency, and Mr. B. A. Ettlinger, K.C., was elected to fill the vacancy (in May). Mr. G. Reichman was then elected Treasurer in place of Mr. Ettlinger.

Owing to the illness of Mr. Lazarus, Mr. Ettlinger was appointed Acting Chairman of the Executive Council in April, 1943. In the following month Mr. Hayden succeeded Mr. Ettlinger as Acting Chairman. Mr. Lazarus was able to resume the chairmanship in July, 1943, but unfortunately suffered a recurrence of his indisposition in the following October. Mr. Hayden then continued as Acting Chairman, but in August, 1944, was obliged to relinquish the position owing to the pressure of other work. Thereupon, Mr. S. M. Kuper was appointed Acting Chairman.

In March, 1943, with a view to relieving the pressure of work that fell upon the Honorary Officers in dealing with urgent business, an Administrative Committee was appointed, consisting of, in addition to the Honorary Officers, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Kuper, Mr. Livingstone, and Mr. Cecil Lyons.

It was a very severe blow to the Executive Council when they were deprived, by Mr. Lazarus' indisposition, of the ardour and ability with which he had conducted the work of the Executive Council (of which he had been a member since April, 1938). We trust that he will soon be completely restored to health.

It is our sad duty to record here the great loss suffered by the Community and by the Board in particular by the untimely death of Mr. Cecil Lyons in April, 1945. Mr. Lyons had already distinguished himself as a communal leader in his early days in Durban, and played a leading role in the work of the Council of Natal Jewry. On moving to Johannesburg, he became a member of the Executive Council of the Board, in January, 1935. He flung himself into the work of the Board with characteristic energy and unlimited patience. It was he who did most to "put the Board on the map," first as chairman of the Public Relations Committee and then, from 1935 to 1940, as chairman of the Executive Council. He showed vision and enterprise in practically every sphere of communal endeavour. His tirelessness and self-sacrifice undoubtedly contributed to shorten his span of life, and no one will dispute his claim to permanent commemoration in the annals of South African Jewry. Proposals to this end will be submitted to the Congress by the Executive Council.

The Executive Council also wishes to take this opportunity of paying a warm tribute to the services rendered to the Board by Mr. Jack Alexander, who was a member of the Executive Council from the early days of the

Board, and was Honorary Treasurer from 1923 to 1925. On his relinquishment of the office of Secretary of the S.A. Zionist Federation on the completion of twenty-five years' service and his subsequent departure for Palestine in March, 1944, the Executive Council lost a devoted colleague, whose vigour and acumen had always been highly appreciated.

To the late Mr. J. H. Barnett a tribute is also due. He had been a member of the Board for nine years and chairman of the General Purposes Committee, and his experience both in communal and business affairs had been of great advantage in the Board's work.

In December, 1942, Dr. (now Captain) H. H. Sonnabend joined the forces and on that account later resigned his seat on the Executive Council.

It was a source of particular gratification that no fewer than four of the recipients of "military commendations" in the King's Birthday Honours List of June, 1944, were associated with the Executive Council or its Committees. They were, Major I. A. Maisels, a member of the Executive Council from 1935 until he left to go on active service; Captain H. H. Sonnabend; Major M. Summerfield, M.C., now a member of the Executive Council and formerly an active member of the War Service Council; and Captain M. H. Kam who had also been an active member of the War Service Council.

In view of the war-time limitations on the use of paper we are not printing a table of attendances of members of the Executive Council and the Board's Committees in accordance with previous practice.

Since the last Congress the Executive Council has met 57 times, and and there have been no fewer than 310 meetings of the *major* Committees of the Board. In addition, there have been innumerable meetings of sub-committees and informal consultations.

The following shows the membership of the major committees, including co-opted members, as at the date of this report.

(The Honorary Officers are *ex-officio* members of all committees.)

Aliens and Refugees Committee :—Mr. C. Isaacson (Chairman), Dr. W. Cohn, Mr. J. Daleski, Mr. D. H. Epstein, Mr. J. Meyer, Mr. W. Seehoff, Mr. F. Zwarenstein; *Secretary*, Mr. L. Melamed.

Commercial Relations Committee :—Mr. S. Jaff (Chairman), Mr. C. G. Behrmann, Mr. Ph. Berman, Mr. M. Cassel, Mr. S. Green, Mr. H. Herber, Mr. J. Hersov, Mr. J. Hurwitz, Mr. B. Jacobson, Mr. S. Kessel, Mr. M. Leibowitz, Mr. H. Saevitson, Mr. N. Schultz, Mr. W. Seehoff, Mr. J. Unterhalter; *Secretary*, Mr. A. Ovedoff.

Communal Relations Committee :—Mr. C. Isaacson (Chairman), Dr. H. Abt, Mr. M. Broomberg, Mr. L. L. Cooper, Mr. C. Gershater, Dr. Ellen Hellman, Rabbi A. H. Lapin, Rabbi Dr. M. C. Weiler; *Secretary*, Dr. J. Sachs.

Foreign Affairs Committee :—Mr. D. H. Epstein (Chairman), Mr. L. Feit, Mr. R. Feldman, M.P.C., Mr. C. Gershater, Mr. C. Legum, Mr. L. Tager, Rabbi Dr. M. C. Weiler, Mr. G. Osrin, Mr. G. Zybert; *Secretary*, Mr. J. M. Rich.

General Purposes Committee :—Mr. A. B. Klipin (Chairman), Mr. B. Elkin, Mr. M. Gonski, Mr. D. Hayden, Mr. J. Hersov, Mr. C. Isaacson,

Rabbi M. Kossowsky, Mr. M. Leibowitz, Rabbi Dr. M. C. Weiler ; *Secretary*, Mr. J. M. Rich.

Public Relations Committee :—Mr. A. E. Ettlinger (Chairman), Mr. E. Bernstein, Mr. J. Daleski, Mrs. M. Franks, Dr. Ellen Hellman, Mrs. S. Hirsch, Mr. H. L. Hawkins, Rabbi A. H. Lapin, Mr. C. Legum, Mr. M. Nestadt, M.P.C., Mr. L. Pincus, Mr. L. Pinshaw, Dr. A. Shedrow, Rabbi Dr. M. C. Weiler, Rabbi J. L. Zlotnik ; *Secretary*, Mr. G. Saron. *Secretary for Goodwill Activities*, Mrs. A. Levy.

Soldiers' Assistance Committee :—Mr. A. B. Klipin (Chairman), Mr. C. Behrmann, Mr. J. V. Klugman, Mr. B. Mendelsohn, Mr. J. Meyer, Mr. H. Sonnenfeld, Major M. Summerfield, M.C. ; *Secretary*, Mr. L. Melamed.

War Emergency Council :—Mr. A. Livingstone (Chairman), Mr. A. B. Klipin (Vice-Chairman), Mr. A. E. Ettlinger, Mrs. M. Franks, Mrs. S. Gottlieb, Mr. H. Landau, Mrs. L. Marks, Mrs. T. Saphra ; *Secretary*, Mr. J. M. Rich.

War Service Council :—Mr. H. Landau (Chairman), Mr. A. B. Klipin (Vice-Chairman), Mr. S. M. Bernstein, Mr. S. Buirski, Mr. J. Daleski, Mrs. M. Franks, Mr. M. Gonski, Mr. H. S. Graham, Mr. J. Hersov, Mr. C. Isaacson, Mr. M. Kentridge, M.P., Mr. J. V. Klugman, Mr. J. Lavine, Mr. J. Massey, Mr. B. Metter, Mr. J. Meyer, Mr. H. Miller, Mr. H. X. Rajak, Mr. J. D. Rutenberg, Mr. S. Silbert, Mr. H. Sonnenfeld, Mr. S. L. Sive, Mr. R. Stern ; *Secretary*, Mr. J. M. Rich.

The following are the Executive Council's representatives on other Bodies :—

Council for Refugee Settlement :—Mr. B. A. Ettlinger, K.C., Mr. S. Jaff, Mr. J. Meyer.

S.A. Jewish War Appeal (National Committee) :—Mr. A. Falkson, Mr. L. Feit, Mr. M. Gonski, Mr. M. Greenstein, Mr. B. Grollman, Mr. D. Hayden, Mr. A. S. Hersov, Mr. J. Hersov, Mr. J. Kanarek, Mr. N. Kirschner, Mr. A. B. Klipin, Mr. S. Kuper, Mr. H. Landau, Mr. M. Leibowitz, Mr. A. Livingstone, Mr. G. Reichman, Rabbi Dr. L. I. Rabinowitz, Mr. E. I. Rogoff, Mrs. A. Sive, Mr. M. J. Spitz.

Alternates :—Mr. J. Daleski, Mr. C. Isaacson, Mr. J. Meyer, Mr. M. Nestadt, Major M. Summerfield, M.C., Rabbi Dr. M. C. Weiler.

Vocational Guidance Bureau :—(Under the joint auspices of the Board and the S.A. Ort-Oze) : Mr. L. Melamed, Mr. L. Pincus.

The following is the composition of the **Central Meshullochim Committee** :—*Representatives of the Board* :—Mr. M. Gonski (Chairman), Mr. A. B. Klipin, Mr. G. Reichman ; (*Federation of Synagogues*) Mr. M. Kavin, Mr. S. D. Sachs ; (*Beth Din*) Rabbi I. Kossowski, Rabbi S. Rosenzweig. *Supervisor*, Rabbi I. Soloweitzik ; *Secretary*, Mr. L. Druion.

S.A. Board of Jewish Education :—*Vacant*.

Governor General's National War Fund (National Committee) :—*Vacant*.

STAFF.

There have been some changes in and additions to the staff of the Board since last Congress. Among the senior staff, the new appointments include Mrs. H. Kehr (Woman Organiser), Mr. G. Zybert (Registrar, Relatives

Information Service), Mr. J. Gleisner (Public Relations Department), Mr. I. Pinchuk (Press Reading Department, in place of Mr. M. J. Friedgut, who left on taking up another appointment) and Dr. J. Sachs (Secretary, Communal Relations Committee; he replaced Mr. L. L. Cooper, who served in that capacity for a year until his resignation to resume his professional work). Mr. W. Heidenfeld (Public Relations Department) has returned from active service. Mr. Max Melamet, formerly Secretary of the Cape Committee, is still serving in the forces.

The Executive Council takes this opportunity of expressing to every member of the Board's staff warm appreciation of their loyal and devoted work. We are much indebted to them for solid service in the interests of the whole community.

Acknowledgments.

We take this opportunity of recording our thanks to the many Jewish organisations overseas who have exchanged information and publications with us, and rendered us other valuable assistance.

We also thank the Jewish communal organisations in this country and the Jewish press for their unfailing courtesy and collaboration.

Membership.

There has been a further increase in the number of bodies affiliated to the Board. The present figure is 286 as compared with 254 at the time of the last Congress.

There are now :—Transvaal 136 (of which 81 are in Johannesburg), Cape (Western Province) 65, Cape (Eastern Province) 28, Natal 8, O.F.S. 44, Rhodesia 3, South-West Africa 2.

CONCLUSION.

This account of our period of stewardship is drastically circumscribed because of considerations of space. It can therefore reflect only very inadequately the multifarious and many-sided aspects of our work. We are conscious of many tasks imperfectly performed and of others left undone, but if after perusing the report, the reader will feel that we have tried conscientiously to serve the major interests of South African Jewry in this difficult period, we shall be well recompensed.

The 15th Congress of the Board meets at an historic moment when the military defeat of the Nazis will be in sight or already achieved. A critical chapter of human history lies immediately behind us. We are on the threshold of a new era. The whole world hopes and prays that the foundations may now be laid for lasting peace and international security. That is also the ardent desire of Jews the world over.

S. M. KUPER (*Acting Chairman*).

G. SARON (*General Secretary*).

J. M. RICH (*Secretary*).

April 30th, 1945.

THE PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES.

The reports of the Provincial Committees of the Board published below are much abbreviated because of considerations of space. In the main, their activities cover the same field as those of the Executive Council as already outlined. The Executive Council has taken every opportunity of keeping in touch with the Provincial Committees and of consulting them on all questions of major policy. Several "Inter-Provincial Conferences" and "Consultations" have taken place with this object. It gives us very much pleasure to place on record our appreciation of the close collaboration which has throughout existed between the Executive Council and the Provincial Committees and to express our thanks for their loyal services to the cause of South African Jewry.

REPORT OF CAPE COMMITTEE.

Personnel.

The following were elected to the Cape Committee at the Congress in Johannesburg, 1942, viz :—Messrs H. M. Bloch, K.C., J. Gitlin, M. H. Goldschmidt, L. Gradner, A. M. Jackson, Dr. S. E. Kark, Dr. H. Kramer, Messrs. J. Philips, Leon Segal, Mesdames M. Segal and S. R. Sloman, and Mr. J. M. Weinrich.

The Committee elected the following office bearers :—Mr. Leon Segal (Chairman), Adv. H. M. Bloch (Vice-Chairman), Mr. A. M. Jackson (Hon. Treasurer).

Dr. Charles Resnekov was co-opted in August, 1942, Mr. A. Sacks in December, 1942, and Dr. J. Karpas in January, 1944. Dr. Resnekov resigned in December, 1943.

Committees.

The full Cape Committee met thirty-three times. In addition there were many meetings of the Honorary Officers and of sub-committees. The work of the Committee was carried on by the following sub-committees with membership as stated :—

War Emergency Committee : Dr. H. Kramer (Chairman) and Mr. J. Carasov (Secretary) and a committee consisting of twenty-six prominent men and women, including a large number of Jewish ex-servicemen.

Parliamentary Committee :—Adv. M. Alexander, K.C., M.P. (Chairman), Messrs. L. Gradner, J. Gitlin and A. M. Jackson.

Soldiers' Assistance Committee :—Dr. H. Kramer (Chairman), Mr. J. Carasov, Major H. J. Abrahams, Messrs. J. Dwolatzky, L. Berman, M. H. Goldschmidt, A. V. Jacob, S. Sapire, Dr. J. H. L. Shapiro and Miss E. Krawitz (Secretary).

Mr. L. Segal, the Chairman, is *ex officio* a member of the Parliamentary, War Emergency and Soldiers' Assistance Committees.

Administrative Committee :—Adv. M. Alexander, K.C., M.P., Messrs. W. Harris, L. Segal (Chairman), H. M. Bloch, A. M. Jackson, Dr. H. Kramer

and Messrs. M. H. Goldschmidt and J. Philips. This Committee meets at least once a week.

Administration :—The Secretariat of the Cape Committee is in the charge of Mr. J. Dwolatzky, Secretary, and an able and efficient staff.

War Problems.

The War Emergency Committee has been actively concerned with Jewish recruitment and similar activities. It has had the full collaboration of the Union of Jewish Women, Cape Town Branch, whose untiring work in connection with the Zionist Hall Canteen, hospital visiting and kindred matters are deeply appreciated.

Soldiers' Assistance Committee :—In the period under review the Soldiers' Assistance Committee has dealt with 250 cases, more than half of them relating to rehabilitation. Every possible endeavour is made to keep in touch with all persons so assisted and to proffer advice and guidance when required.

Parliamentary Committee.

During the Parliamentary sessions, the Parliamentary Committee has dealt with matters of direct concern to the Jewish community. Various deputations were arranged in connection with the tragedy of European Jewry, the admission to the Union of Hebrew teachers and ministers, and so on.

Vocational Guidance.

Early in 1943, the Committee helped to bring about the formation of a branch in Cape Town of the Vocational Guidance Bureau to which the Board grants an annual subvention. The Committee is represented on the body by Dr. H. Kramer and Messrs. M. H. Goldschmidt and J. Philips.

Contacts with the Jewish Community.

Despite travel restrictions efforts have been made to keep in contact with the far-flung Jewish communities. Many meetings, both public and private have been held.

Early in 1943 Messrs. Leon Segal, J. Philips and J. Dwolatzky, together with Mr. L. Kirschner, toured the South-Western districts of the Cape in the interest of both the Board and the War Appeal.

A similar tour was undertaken later in the year by Messrs. Segal, Jackson and Dwolatzky in South West Africa.

Meetings have taken place in Somerset West, Strand, Stellenbosch, Paarl and Worcester.

In the early part of 1944, Messrs. J. Philips and J. Dwolatzky toured the South Western districts of the Cape including Oudtshoorn, George, Mossel Bay, Ladismith, Riversdale, Heidelberg, Robertson Worcester, etc.

Drawing room meetings at which the Board's work has been explained were held in suburbs such as Muizenberg, Kenilworth, Rondebosch, Sea Point and Parow.

The Committee continues to have the services of Mr. L. Kirschner who was previously connected with the Gardens Synagogue.

There have been frequent meetings in the Board's offices with representatives of constituent and other bodies in order to ensure closer collaboration. These have been of great benefit to all concerned.

A very successful Conference of Cape constituent bodies took place at the Talmud Torah Hall, Muizenberg, on the 7th February, 1943.

S.A. Jewish War Appeal.

The Committee and its staff have given the lead and actively participated in the fund-raising activities in the Western Province on behalf of the S.A. Jewish War Appeal. The collaboration of a representative group of men and women was secured for this important work, and a warm tribute is due to the many workers for the excellent results achieved.

General.

Together with the War Emergency Committee, the Committee gave a reception to the Jewish troops of the First Division on the 18th January, 1943, and on subsequent occasions welcomed other Jewish members of the forces who either had returned home on leave or who were stationed in the Cape Command.

Mr. Leon Segal took a leading part in rallying the Cape Community to respond to the South African Fund for Soviet Jewry in Cape Town.

The Committee takes the opportunity of paying tribute to all the members of the staff for their loyal services.

With pleasure we record the most amicable relations which exist with the Executive Council, Johannesburg, and the various provincial committees of the Board.

On behalf of the Cape Committee :

L. SEGAL (*Chairman*).

J. DWOLATZKY (*Secretary*).

REPORT OF COUNCIL OF NATAL JEWRY.

Personnel.

Hon. Presidents :—Senator the Hon. F. C. Hollander, J.P., Messrs. H. Moss-Morris, S. Moshal, M. Freed, Lt.-Col. E. S. Henochsberg, K.C. ; *President* : Mr. I. Geshen; *Vice-Presidents* : Messrs. H. Brown and W. Cranko; *Hon. Treasurer* : Mr. H. Zulman; *Secretary* : Mr. B. Suttner.

Executive Committee :—Messrs. N. E. Abrahams, H. Carter, M. Cohen, L. Davis, P. Frame, H. Freed, I. Geviser, I. J. Greenberg, N. Hertz, A. Kaplan, B. Levy, H. L. Magid, A. Miller, J. Nuusbaum, M. Solomon, M. Wolpert, M. Woolfson, Prof. P. Stein, Dr A. Broomberg, Mesdames A. Freedman and I. Goldberg; *Ex-Officio* : Rabbi A. H. Freedman, Mr. A. Goldberg, M.P. and Mr. C. Sternberg.

Committees.

The work of the Council has been divided among the following sub-committees :—

<i>Public Relations Committee :</i>	Chairman, Mr. S. Moshal.
<i>Soldiers Guidance Committee :</i>	Chairman, Mr. M. Freed.
<i>Immigration Committee :</i>	Chairman, Mr. N. Hertz.
<i>Meshullochim Committee :</i>	Chairman, Mr. N. Hertz.
<i>Legal Sub-Committee :</i>	Chairman, Mr. A. Goldberg.

Administration.

An important departure since the last report was presented has been the appointment of a full-time Organising Secretary to the Council of Natal Jewry. It is hoped as a result of this appointment to increase the scope and efficiency of the work undertaken in Natal, and such a result is already apparent. The appointment was filled by Mr. B. Suttner, who, on his release from the South African Air Force, assumed duty on the 16th January, 1945. In addition, it has been found necessary to increase the clerical staff.

War Problems.

A considerable proportion of the Council's work has been connected with such matters as assistance and guidance to refugees, servicemen and ex-servicemen. This work is regarded as of particular importance and no effort has been spared to provide for the well-being and comfort of soldiers and to ease the lot of many refugees passing through Durban. In common with other Jewish organisations the Council has taken steps to impress on the community its duty to give the war effort maximum support in every direction. Particular stress has been laid upon the question of recruiting, and we are pleased to report that Jewish Youth in Natal has answered the call in a manner which reflects credit on the community.

The Council of Natal Jewry wishes to place on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered by the Durban Jewish Club Canteen. Although there has been a considerable decrease in the number of servicemen catered for of late, all the facilities of the Club are still available to the members of the forces. A concert has been held at the Club every Sunday night for their entertainment.

The Committee has kept close watch on the interests of Jewish soldiers especially those stationed in Natal. Until the appointment of a full-time Padre, Rabbi Freedman acted as part-time Chaplain. Steps have been taken regularly to provide comforts to serving men at High Festivals.

The Soldiers' Guidance Committee is an important aspect of the Council's work—it deals with the rehabilitation of, and the dispensing of financial assistance to, Jewish ex-servicemen and their dependants, where necessary. The number of cases dealt with is steadily increasing.

South African Jewish War Appeal.

Under the aegis of the Council, the first drive for the South African Jewish War Appeal was successfully carried out in 1942 under the chairmanship of Mr. M. Woolfson. At present another campaign is in progress and there is every indication that the previous excellent result will be surpassed.

Public Relations.

This work occupied a very prominent part in the Council's proceedings and an unbroken record of about twelve years has been maintained in this

department. In 1942 Mr. A. Levine resigned the Chairmanship of the Statistical Committee to join the army. On Dr. A. Broomberg assuming that office the name of the Committee was changed to the Public Relations Committee. In 1943, on the resignation of Dr. Broomberg, Mr. S. Moshal assumed office as Chairman.

With the assistance of Rabbi A. Freedman and Mr. A. Goldberg, M.P., contact has been maintained with the country districts in Natal and tours undertaken. An important undertaking was a complete census of Durban Jewry and the compiling of a mailing list.

Draft legislation in the Provincial and Municipal spheres has been examined and in some cases representation has been made—a case in particular was the Provincial Education Ordinance dealing with religious instruction. This Committee has also concerned itself with the promotion of Jewish culture and education in Natal.

The Public Relations Committee now has a sub-committee, known as the Actions Committee, under the Chairmanship of Mr. A. Miller. Policy is discussed by the main committee and its recommendations put into effect by this sub-committee. Interim matters arising are dealt with by the Actions Committee.

General.

We have been grateful for the opportunity of rendering assistance to many hundreds of Jewish refugees in transit from practically all parts of the world. Many of these have had tragic experiences and the assistance we were able to give in the way of clothes, provisions, funds and advice, has been greatly appreciated.

With a view to minimising the number of financial appeals made to the community, a Meshullochim Committee has functioned successfully for a number of years. It conducts one campaign per annum, and from this attends to the needs of duly approved institutions.

A new constitution has been accepted by the various constituent bodies of the Council of Natal Jewry.

Useful service was rendered by the Legal Sub-Committee.

Conclusion.

The Council has maintained close contact with the Board in Johannesburg and is indebted to the officers there for their co-operation and assistance at all times. With the conclusion of the war it is anticipated that the tasks facing the Council will impose considerable responsibilities and increase our work. Owing to space restrictions this report has had to be condensed. In the circumstances it is not a fair reflection of the vast amount of work actually undertaken by this Council.

I. GESHEN, *President.*

B. SUTTNER, *Secretary.*

REPORT OF ORANGE FREE STATE COMMITTEE.

Personnel.

The following were elected at the Biennial Conference held in Bloemfontein on the 15th October, 1944 :—*Executive* : Mr. H. Bradlow (Chairman),

Mr. L. Hotz (Vice-Chairman), Mr. R. M. Berger, J.P. (Treasurer), Messrs. I. Bloch, J. Awerbuch, J. Hodes, H. Posner, N. Woolf, D. Davidson, Dr. M. Block, Mrs. M. Myers.—*General Committee*:—S. Wasserman, Geo. Arvan, M. Gin (representing Hebrew Congregation), H. Green (Chevra Kadisha), I. Fogel (Gmilas Chesodim), I. F. Sacks, S. Miller (Zionist Council), E. Chien (Zionist Socialist), B. Landau (H.O.D.), I. Cohen and H. Berman (Donors), Mrs. B. Lapping (Ladies' Benevolent Society), Mrs. W. Herberg (Benevolent), Mrs. L. Kramer (Ladies Zionist), Mrs. H. Epstein and Mrs. M. Tcherny (Union of Jewish Women), Rabbi Dr. M. Romm (*ex-officio*), and Mrs. G. Arvan, Secretary.

Every communal organisation affiliated to the Board in this area has received direct representation on the Committee, the object being to ensure closer contact between the Committee and the affiliated bodies. In addition, the new principle of giving donors to the Board's funds some representation on the Committee was adopted. Two donors' representatives were chosen at the meeting of donors specially called for this purpose.

An *Executive Committee*, which meets at more frequent intervals than the full Committee, deals with all important current questions and all matters referred to it by the two sub-committees.

The Public Relations and War Services Committee comprises:—Mr. L. Hotz (Chairman), Mr. H. Bradlow (*ex-officio*), Messrs. I. Bloch, D. Davidson, N. Woolf, Dr. M. Block, E. Chien, S. Miller, Mrs. M. Myers, Mrs. L. Kramer, Mrs. W. Herberg, H. Epstein, Mr. H. Posner, and Mr. B. Landau.

The Communal Relations Committee comprises:—Mr. R. M. Berger (Chairman), Mr. H. Bradlow (*ex-officio*), Messrs. I. F. Sacks, G. Arvan, J. Hodes, J. Awerbuch, S. Wasserman, M. Gin, H. Green, I. Fogel, I. Cohen, H. Berman, Mrs. M. Tcherny.

Public Relations.

In recent years the Free State Committee, like other constituent bodies of the Board, has often debated the problem of anti-Semitism, possible methods of combating the evil, and its effects on the life of the future of South African Jewry. Of late considerable attention has been given to working out a clear set of guiding principles on these problems. They are principles concerned with the correct approach to those questions, as well as with the right bearing and conduct of South African Jewry, within the framework of the general life of the country. They are also principles of action for the further shaping of the Board's policy. It is much to be hoped that new and more fruitful activities will result from them.

War Problems.

The O.F.S. Committee has fulfilled every call made on it in connection with our men in the forces, and with the Jewish part in the war. The need for recruits was from time to time brought to the notice of the community. Unfortunately, some difficulty was experienced in keeping our Register of War Services up-to-date, but renewed efforts are being made in this direction.

Comforts have been supplied through the Committee on appropriate occasions for our men up North. Hospitality for Jewish soldiers in local

camps has been provided, wherever required, and their spiritual needs have received every consideration and attention.

S.A. Jewish War Appeal.

Bloemfontein, and the Free State generally, responded very satisfactorily to the Board's nation-wide appeal for Jewish War Relief. A campaign for the War Appeal was inaugurated at a Mass Meeting in Bloemfontein on the 8th April, 1945, and a liberal response is anticipated.

Fund Raising Campaigns.

The Committee has given a good deal of thought to the problem of eliminating the need of frequent fund collecting campaigns amongst Jewish communities, and of substituting instead a system of controlled and co-ordinated appeals. Satisfactory arrangements to deal with this problem would be welcomed by this Committee.

Country Contacts.

The Committee has endeavoured to maintain contact with the country districts in every possible way, but we cannot deny the difficulties and the disappointments we have met in many directions. In November, 1942, and June, 1943, Conferences were held under the auspices of the Committee at Bethlehem and Kroonstad, respectively, with a full measure of success. Unfortunately, owing to transport problems, no further meetings of this kind could be arranged. But it is hoped that when conditions improve this necessary work of personal contact will be resumed. The appointment of country organisers and propagandists should, we feel, be vigorously continued by the Board in Johannesburg, as well as by the Provincial Committees. The Committee has had under discussion a plan for appointing an Organiser in this area, and it is hoped that this scheme will materialise.

To further the same object, the establishment of a number of Regional centres in the Free State area has been considered. As a result of meetings held in Kimberley, a Regional centre was established there.

Communal Relations.

At the beginning of the year Mr. M. Pencharz resigned from the O.F.S. Committee, on account of ill-health. He had been Chairman of this Sub-Committee for a number of years, and rendered invaluable service to the Board. Mr. R. M. Berger was appointed as Chairman of this Sub-Committee.

In Bloemfontein the Committee has been able to do much to awaken the interest in the work and objects of the Board by the establishment of a Panel of Speakers, who have on suitable occasions addressed other local organisations. It is hoped to maintain and develop this system as time goes on. With the same end in view, cultural gatherings have been arranged in close co-operation with the cultural sub-committee of the Zionist Council.

It is proposed in the near future to launch the publication of a Communal Journal under the auspices of the Bloemfontein Hebrew Congregation, and with the co-operation of the Committee.

In May last year, Mrs. M. Myers who was Secretary of the O.F.S. Committee for a number of years, resigned. She served the Board loyally and efficiently. She was succeeded by Mrs. G. Arvan, our present Secretary.

H. BRADLOW, *Chairman.*
(Mrs.) G. ARVAN, *Secretary.*

REPORT OF THE EASTERN PROVINCE COMMITTEE.

Personnel.

The following were elected at the Biennial Conference of Constituent Bodies of the Eastern Province held at Port Elizabeth during March, 1944. Mr. B. Smulian (Chairman), Mr. L. Dubb (Vice-Chairman), Mr. H. H. Bernstein (Treasurer), Mr. A. Shear (Secretary). *Committee* : Messrs. S. Bennun, M. Horwitz, S. Hallis, S. Karstaedt, S. Kaplan, J. S. Levy, L. B. Marks, N. E. Rosenberg, D. V. Seagull, and Mrs. Matherson.

Mr. A. Schauder was elected as Vice-President for the Eastern Province at the Congress held in August, 1942.

The Eastern Province Conference was well attended and Mr. G. Saron (General Secretary) and Messrs. A. M. Jackson and J. Dwolatzky of the Cape Committee were also present.

Meetings.

During the period under review, thirty meetings of the Committee were held, in addition to meetings of the Public Relations Committee (under the Chairmanship of Mr. M. Horwitz) and the War Services Committee. Public meetings were addressed in Port Elizabeth by Rabbi Lapin, Captain Serebro and Messrs. G. Saron, M. Kentridge, M.P., A. Ovedoff, Morris Alexander, M.P., D. H. Epstein, and G. Zybert.

Since the election of the present Committee, regular meetings of Deputies have been held quarterly, and reports of the meetings have been sent to all Constituent Bodies in the Eastern Province area.

The Committee has kept in close touch with the Board's Offices in Johannesburg and every effort has been made to assist in the activities of the Board Generally.

Public Relations.

During the past twelve months the Public Relations Committee has met regularly and has given serious consideration to this subject and to the many problems facing the Community. A resolution recommending the appointment of a Commission to investigate the organisation and activities of the Board, as also a memorandum on the subject of Public Relations work drawn up by Mr. S. Hallis, have been submitted for the consideration of the Executive.

War Services.

The Committee has taken active steps to assist in obtaining Jewish recruits and assistance has been rendered to discharged soldiers, although

so far few calls have been made on the Committee. The question of re-employment and rehabilitation of discharged soldiers, both Jewish and non-Jewish, is considered of paramount importance.

Relatives Information Service.

A branch office for the purpose of tracing the whereabouts of relatives overseas, has been opened in Port Elizabeth, under the supervision of the United Hebrew Institutions at their offices in the Emanuel Hall, Clevedon Road.

Commercial Relations Committee.

A committee has been formed to assist the Board in all matters affecting the business community. The Committee is now busy canvassing for members amongst the business and professional community and to form an Association of business men, to be called the Commercial Relations Association.

Campaigns.

Since the date of the last Congress, two Campaigns for the Board's Funds were held both of which met with good response. Two Campaigns for War Appeal Funds have also been held and the Committee rendered every assistance and contributed largely towards making these an outstanding success.

B. SMULIAN, *Chairman.*

A. SHEAR, *Secretary.*



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