

RHODESIAN JEWRY AND ITS STORY

PART 111

BY

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CHAPTER 22

ANTI-SEMITISM IN THE EARLIES

Save for an occasional injudicious remark Anti-Semites had been gratifyingly absent in early Rhodesia, but there was something of an upheaval when on May 7, 1902, one of the leading newspapers in the country became guilty of an unjustified and unforeseen attack on Jewry. The "Bulawayo Chronicle" published a leading article, based on an incident in Cape Colony, where D. N. de Wet, Mayor of Aliwal North and a former member of the Legislative Assembly, had been acquitted by a Special Court of a charge of treason. This aroused the indignation of J. W. Howard, the editor, who in a lengthy leader, headed "Treason and its Penalty", saw fit to say: "If Kruger and his satellites had not imagined they fill their pockets at the expense of the British capitalists, it is questionable whether they would have gone to the extremes they did. The Hollanders (in the Transvaal), it is a matter of common knowledge, bagged all the gold they could lay their hands upon, and sneaked off to Europe with it, leaving their deluded followers to make the best of a bad case on the veld. Scratch a Dutchman and you find a Jew. Many a Dutchman, who imagined that the problematic driving of the British into the sea was a short cut to wealth, is now mourning his vanished shekels...."

This far-fetched argument roused the entire Bulawayo community, and on the same evening, the Reverend M.I. Cohen dispatched a letter to the editor: "in your leading article today,.....you made use of an expression which has aroused the bitterest resentment of the Jewish public in this city, and in their name I demand that you should give space in your paper to the following reply.

"In spite of your sneers at the Dutch, they have shown themselves eminently capable of taking care of themselves, and they will no doubt value your diatribes at their true worth. You have apparently made it the established policy of your paper to take every opportunity of throwing an evil light upon the character and ideals of the Jew, and we have been forced before now to express our resentment at this attempt to incite prejudice and ill-will against a not insignificant proportion of the population of South Africa.

"In comparing us to the rebels, who 'masquerade as British subjects', and to the Hollanders, who 'bagged all the gold they could lay their hand upon and sneaked off to Europe with it', you display a contempt of facts worthy of those Continental papers

which only cease flinging mud upon the Jew when they wish to perform a similarly genial function for the British Army and the British people...”

Mr. Cohen referred to a meeting of protest lately held at Bulawayo against Continental slanders, at which a well-known non-Jew, Mr. W.M. Frames, had declared that it was significant how often anti-British feelings and anti-Semitism marched hand in hand. He quoted the “Jewish Year Book” as showing what part the Jews were taking in the War then in progress. “You could see therein”, he said, “that we have contributed more than our just proportion of fighting men to the British Army – aye, and of casualties also – and it is significant that a large proportion of these men are just those Russian Jews at whom you are always sneering, who have taken this method of proving their appreciation of the freedom they enjoy under the British flag. And it is a well-known fact that they have done their duty as men.

“You deny to the Dutch the credit of an intense patriotic feeling, and profess to think that they would have fought far less tenaciously had they contemplated a ‘loss of shekels’, but I, sir, am proud that Jewish burgers have given up their all, and fought their best for their adopted country, just as British Jews have done on the other side. These facts are convincing proofs to any fair-minded man that the Jew, in loyalty to his country, is second to none of his fellows....”

Simultaneously with this communication appeared a further letter from William Moss – “I take exception to your remark that ‘if you scratch a Dutchman, you’ll find a Jew’ – I defy you to find a Dutchman equal to a Jew. You may find one equal to a Christian, but never will you find one equal to a Jew. You come and scratch me (I am a Jew), and see how we’ll get on. I will bet that there will be more Dutchman in your character than in mine”.

At three o’ clock a meeting the following afternoon took place in the store of Mr. Basch, in 7th Avenue, at which it was agreed to ask Jewish advertisers to withdraw their announcements in the “Bulawayo Chronicle”, “until such time as an ample apology was made” and that same evening, at 7.30, at a further gathering, he announced that all the firms concerned had already signed. A further leader, headed: A Slight Misconception” appeared in the “Chronicle”. “Let us clear the air at once”, the editor declared, “by stating that never for a moment did we seek to cast aspersions upon a Jew with regard to treason. Our contention from beginning to end of the article in question was that Dutchmen – whether Boers, Hollanders or Cape rebels – had been actuated in their attitude towards the British Government mainly by considerations of self-interest. A particular phase of this self-interest, in the most notable cases, was the desire to acquire power and to enrich themselves at the expense of the hated Uitlander and Rooinek. That desire spread into Cape Colony, and there were many – even amongst those who had taken the oath of allegiance as State Officials and Members of the Legislative Assembly, eager to take a hand in Kruger’s game, for what they could gain in a pecuniary and personal sense. Now it cannot be denied that the Jew is known the world over for his appreciation of money, and his keenness in getting it. This remark carries with it no reflection whatsoever. ‘Commercial genius’, to quote the phrase of Mr. Cohen, tells

equally well in the second generation as in the first. In this age of Mammon, all will acknowledge it”.

“Things had come to a strange pass when racial resentment was so easily aroused”, Mr. Howard added: “If one cannot refer to the character most typical of money-getting in the world’s history. Literature is full of examples of license in this respect, and we presume that even Mr. Cohen and the refreshingly original Mr. Moss would not think it worth while, at this date, to blackguard Shakespeare for having delineated Shylock”. He drew a comparison with the proverbial references to the Scot’s parsimony. “We have erred on the score of local susceptibility, but that is to be excused when we declare, in all sincerity, that not the remotest idea of associating the Jew with the Dutchman ever entered our minds. We were discussing the treason of Dutchmen and the treason of Dutchmen alone. . . . Mr. Cohen goes much further than we did, when he admits in his letter Jews have actually fought for the Boers. He refers to this as an example of ‘loyalty’ Against the Jews as a class we have nothing to say; for eminent individuals, such as the late Lord Beaconsfield, we have unbounded admiration. But for Jews who have fought for the Boers – well, Mr. Cohen, why did they fight for the Boers?”

Mr. Cohen was back in print next day: “As I and many impartial readers understand your cynical leader, it conveyed the idea that the term ‘Jew’ denotes the new plus ultra of sordid Materialism. The juxtaposition of the words ‘Jew’, ‘Rebel’ and ‘Traitor’ is (pace your ‘explanation’) a most sinister one, and as for Shylock, we are not going to allow ourselves to be victims of a medieval caricature. Every right-thinking man who has had any dealings with the Jewish inhabitants of Bulawayo will bear me out in the contention that you have cast a most uncalled-for slur upon the whole race. Since you see no virtue in any but British Jingo patriotism, you naturally cannot solve that difficult puzzle – why long-established Jewish burgers of the Transvaal should fight for that country. I leave your readers to smile at your naïve inability”.

Next in the assault came another non-Jew, Fred Eyles. “I think it is well”, he told the “Chronicle”, “you should understand that the ill-judged reference to Jews in your leader is displeasing to fair-minded men of all persuasions; and the more obnoxious innuendo contained in your leader of today provokes even stronger feelings. . . . It cannot be said that all Jews are noble, nor can it be said that all Gentiles are wise; and I wish to enter my protest against thoughtless and unfair generalizations”.

Taken aback by the uproar, Mr. Howard now resumed the process of climbing down, and in a footnote declared afresh: “A single remark – a single sentence – in an article applicable entirely and solely to treason amongst the Dutch in the Cape Colony, as illustrated by the treason trials at Aliwal North, has been made the cause of complaints amongst some of our Jewish Friends. The article was in no sense applicable to the Jews, either as a race or as a class; and we repudiate, fully and finally, any construction of this nature placed upon it. Nothing was further from our thoughts, intention or desire, than to irritate or offend the Jewish Community, and it is only necessary for us to say that we have neither sympathy nor tolerance for anti-Semitism in any shape or form. We have published in fairness, letters we have received upon the

subject. At the same time, without being hyper-sensitive, we feel that the matter has been carried far beyond an ordinary interpretation of a chance and isolated phrase. Having said this, we assure the Jews, through their spokesman, Mr. Cohen, that we deeply regret having unwittingly wounded their feelings in any degree”.

As a further precaution, Mr. Lowenstark forwarded copies of the correspondence to Thomas Sheffield at Johannesburg, Managing Director of the Argus Printing and Publishing Company, proprietors of the newspaper. Mr. Sheffield’s reply arrived by return of post: “I was exceedingly annoyed when the articles in the “Chronicle” came under my notice, and I at once wired to Howard that the offensive sentence in it should be withdrawn and apologized for. I am sure that it was not inserted with the intention of giving offence, and the fact that the editor’s explanation and apology have ended the incident has pleased me very much. . The Argus Company holds no Anti-Semitic views. Your people, at any rate in larger centers than Bulawayo, have had no reason to complain. We count them amongst our best friends, and here they swear by their “Star”, as they do by their “Jewish Chronicle”, and support it, I am sure, more generously. I am sorry to see by the correspondence that there have been previous grounds for complaint, but I think they must refer to thoughtless expressions, never intended as an insult or disparagement of your race generally.

“I hope that the unpleasant incident will be forgotten now that it has been atoned for and that the “Chronicle” and its editor will be on the best of terms with your Congregation in the future”.

This message was submitted to the Committee of the Congregation, who agreed to regard the affair as closed.

CHAPTER 23.

AFTER RHODES' DEATH

The wave of sorrow at the death of Cecil Rhodes in March 1902 expressed the feelings of Rhodesian Jewry as much as those of other sections of the populace.

One among the guard at the lying-in-state at Government House, Cape Town, was Private Dan Levy; a soldier in Nesbitt's Horse during the Boer War and lately transferred to the Cape Mounted Police.

Fifteen hundred miles away from all sections of the community the famous grave on the Matopos was strewn with wreaths, one from the Hebrew Congregation of Bulawayo, another from I. H. Hirschler, another from Susman, Jacobs & Co. another from Charles Sonnenberg, another from Solomon & Montague and no fewer than five from members of the Weil Family, Julius and his wife, Samuel, Ben and Maurice. From the small group of Jews in the Colony, scores joined in the last procession, and were present when the final benediction was spoken.

Everyone felt that another age had begun, nor were they wrong in this expectation. As Rudyard Kipling had put it in his inscription for the Monument overlooking Groote Schuur:

“The immense and brooding spirit still shall quicken and control.
Living, he was the land,
And dead his soul shall be her soul”.

At the meeting of the Congregation Committee at Bulawayo on April 14, 1902, a letter was read from Colonel Frank Rhodes, brother of the dead statesman, “thanking the Jewish community for their wire of condolence”

As in the rest of Southern Africa, the close of the Boer War set off a wave of optimism, based on the expectation that there would now be a grand spurt in prosperity and general development. While most of the 400,000 troops, who had found their way to the fighting zones from every corner of the British Empire, had either returned home or were preparing to do so, numbers succumbed to the lure of the veld, and resolved to stay. In this fashion the Cape, the Transvaal, Natal and the Orange Free State all gained

substantial groups of go-ahead immigrants, and Rhodesia hoped that a certain number would also find their way to those parts.

For a while indeed the impetus of Rhodes' stupendous vigour carried along Rhodesia in its wake, work he had begun on the railway line to the Victoria Falls and on the famous bridge, bathed in the spray of the cataract, being continued according to his plan.

But there was little to renew the great man's enterprise, and Mrs. Ethel Tawse Jollie recalls how, after the Boer War, "for the next five years Rhodesia was almost lost sight of in England. Her young men went to fight, and many never came back..." Down South too, the withdrawal of the British forces and the cessation of the huge military expenditure, which, over three years, had totaled £300,000,000, set off the opening phases of a correspondingly great depression. The disposal, by the Quartermaster-General's Department, under the instructions of the London War Office, of £10,000,000 worth of unwanted Army stores, ruined almost every wholesale and retail merchant in South Africa, with inevitable effects and repercussions in Rhodesia.

"By 1904", Mrs. Tawse Jollie added, "financially and in many other ways, the settler seemed to have touched bottom once more...."

An official statement published about this time says bleakly: "With the exception of gold....There are no exports of importance".

The entire revenue of the Colony in 1901 came to only £435,255, against an expenditure of £710,563, and every year this unsatisfactory ratio tended to grow worse £477,200 in 1902 against £779,887, £434,550 in 1903 against £738,632, and so on. "The deficit", it was explained, "is largely due to the heavy outlay on Police, occasioned by the requirements of the Imperial authorities". Owing to the bad times the ambitious scheme for the Trans-Continental African Telegraph also fell into abeyance and was never resumed again. Land prices, both in the towns and in the country, slumped heavily.

Yet life went on, and somehow the Jewish community too battled through the barren years. Economic difficulties even initiated a move for the amalgamation of the three principal Jewish bodies – the Bulawayo Hebrew Aid and Benevolent Society, The Chevra Kadisha and the Chovevi Zion Bulawayo Tent. Such a union had been mooted during the wartime period, when Isaac Pieters "expressed his urgent desire for peace among the Jewish community, and his willingness to assist in that purpose". To drive home the point reference was made to the mystification of the Bulawayo Municipality, at the existence of rival bodies engaged in similar charitable work. All, however, was to no purpose for in the end the wish to retain their identity proved too strong.

A small but welcome concession was also given by the Town Clerk, J. Macdonald. "I have pleasure in advising you that Stand 216 will in future be exempt from the payment of Municipal Owner Rates, in consideration of the same having been dedicated and intended to be used solely for religious purposes and work connected with your Church. This exemption is in addition to Stand No. 202... I regret not being able to

make any refund for rates paid in the past, but trust that the arrangement regarding the future will be satisfactory to your Committee.

Religious activities, on the other hand, were extended by the starting of classes for Jewish children at the very modest tariff of 4/- a month for the first pupil and 2/- for each extra member of a family. Not surprisingly, the remuneration of the teacher, (who doubled in the role of Schochet), was correspondingly modest – £5 per month. Mr. M. Hurwitz became the first instructor and received his 29 pupils at three o' clock in the

Footnote: The Hebrew Aid and Benevolent Society did indeed reduce its costs by appointing in 1903 a committee of the Congregation to take over its management. afternoon, while the rest were still at their secular studies. School books in Hebrew were imported from Jaffa, and a remittance of £3.1.6. sent there to a Mr. Joseph Sucholusky

.With the increasing Depression, it was decided in September 1903 to dispense with the paid teacher and to place his duties on the heavily-laden shoulders of the Reverend Cohen, who also accepted the appointment of Acting Treasurer, pending the choice of a new incumbent at the Annual Meeting.

One welcome windfall from his Honour the Administrator was a yearly grant of £50 to the Jewish Congregation as to other denominations, but it did not last long. At the beginning of the year 1905 the Chief Secretary wrote from Salisbury that: "In view of the falling-off in revenue, the Government is compelled to reserve for future consideration the continuance of the grant to the Bulawayo Hebrew Congregation".

Contrary to the immediate fears, the £50 from the Treasury was repeated once more in 1906. But a fresh warning arrived from Salisbury on July 11: "I am directed to inform you that the Grant provided on the current Estimates for the Hebrew Congregation at Bulawayo, will be paid at the end of the present month on application. I am, however, to state that the Administrator has decided that, in view of the altered conditions of the Country since these grants were originally instituted for the purpose of assisting religious bodies to start their work, the reason for their continuance no longer exists, and that the time has arrived when the funds provided may be devoted to other objects, nearly connected, however, with the work of these bodies.

"The Administration therefore intends, in the Estimates for next financial year, to transfer to the Education Department the sum now voted for these grants, to be utilized, with such other funds as it may be able to provide, in giving further assistance to Mission Schools and other institutions engaged in the training of natives.

The conditions upon which such assistance will be given will be formulated and published in due course".

Pleas for reconsideration brought only a further refusal. "With reference to your letter.... in regard to the withdrawal by the Government of the Annual Grant-in-Aid hitherto accorded to the Bulawayo Hebrew Congregation, I have the honour to inform you that his Honour the Administrator regrets that he is unable to accede to your request for the continuance of the grant for a further period of two years".

The general slump made it extremely difficult to gather subscriptions, which meant an incessant stream of reminders from the harassed Secretary. One defaulter, who owed four guineas, was only allowed the services of a Mohel, on condition that he paid off his arrears at the rate of £1 a month! A mysterious reference, reminiscent of “The Hunting of the Snark”, and never further explained, appears to an allegation that “the Beadle had failed in his duties”.

Out of the blue came a donation of 50 from Mr. H Mosenthal towards the Building Fund and, although there was no immediate use for it, it was certainly not refused.

So thankless was the fund-raising task that in May 1902, Emanuel Basch, as the new President, suggested that the Honorary Secretary, M. D. Lowenstark be appointed Official Collector, on a commission of five per cent”. The idea was warmly approved.

Several new ideas for increasing revenue were put forward, including a standard tariff of 6d. a time for the killing of fowls, a doubled marriage fee of eight guineas, and the enrolment of so-called three-guinea and six-guinea members.

When Mr. Greenspan, to whom were now allocated the duties of the Schochet, drew a fire of criticism upon himself by making a charge to congregation members for killing poultry, he resigned and joined the Rhodesian Cold Storage Company.

One important event of the year 1903 was the establishment of a Shechita Board, which took the majority decision to accept the tender for Kosher meat from the Rhodesian Cold Storage and Supply Company in preference to that of the Congregation member, H Hepker. Undeterred by the setback, the latter promptly offered at his own expense to engage a Schochet to carry out the killings of the animals as prescribed by Jewish Law, by which he so impressed the Council of the Congregation that they rescinded their acceptance of the rival firm’s offer!

Piquancy was lent to the situation by the fact that the only qualified Schochet in the country was still Mr. Greenspan, for whom the Rhodesian Cold Storage Company had no further use. He therefore took his discharge and immediately joined Mr. Hepker!

As for the duties of a Mohel, these were still carried out by the Reverend Cohen, who in May 1903 even undertook the long journey to Salisbury to officiate at the ceremony for the son of Mr. and Mrs. Canaric. When another impecunious citizen there advised that all he could afford was £10, the Congregation devoted the whole of that sum to traveling expenses and reimbursed the normal fee from its own funds.

After three years of exceptionally hard work of every kind, Mr. Cohen was granted six weeks holiday, though only on condition that if any “important matter” required his return before the expiration of the time, he must duly comply. He was, however, meanwhile handed a £25 bonus towards his expenses.

So well appreciated were the services of Mr. Basch as President that it was also decided to give him a “picnic basket, beautifully fitted for four persons”. Imported from England at a cost of £16, it was presented to him at a social evening.

Emanuel Basch had the pleasant experience in 1908 of being elected for the second time as Mayor of Bulawayo, which brought him a host of congratulations, both from his own community and from his non-Jewish fellow-citizens.

A contemporary character sketch by Fergus W Ferguson describes him as “one of the principal commercial men in Bulawayo, a native of Plymouth, Devon, born in 1888. He is a son of the late Mr. Edward Basch. Upon the completion of his education in Brussels, he returned to England, where he continued to follow his trade of jeweler for several years. Proceeding to Rhodesia in 1897, he took over the well-known business of M Basch & Co. from his brother. Well-known and highly respected in the district, and of a kindly and upright disposition, he receives the full support and confidence of his fellow-townsmen. He has occupied the position of President of the Hebrew Congregation and the Hebrew Benevolent Society for the past five years; he is a member of the Chamber of Mines and the Chamber of Commerce, and has recently been elected to a seat in the Town Council. He is an enthusiastic member of the Devonian Society and frequents the Rhodesia Club.

The general atmosphere of tolerance in the community was strikingly shown by the substantial attendance of Jewish children at schools of other denominations. When the Catholics held their sports day on Rosh Hashanah, Mr. Aserman proposed the Fathers be asked to alter the date!

CHAPTER 24

KISHINEV AND ZIONISM

The dominating event for world Jewry in 1903 was the outbreak of pogroms at Kishinev in Romania. It is a measure of the extent to which Mankind has been inured to horrors that this affair, in which 45 Jews were killed and some 600 shops burnt, excited more international protest than did the extermination, barely 40 years later, of over 6,000,000 in the Nazi Gas Chambers. Even from its modest resources the Bulawayo Congregation contributed an immediate sum of £16 and a later £50, to the Relief Fund Committee in London. There were public meetings and celebrations of mourning in Central Africa as there were in Europe, America, Asia and Australia.

Shortly after, Mr. Basch proceeded overseas on a visit and, learning in greater detail about the sufferings of the Kishinev victims, insisted on another £100 which the Congregation promptly cabled.

Fresh massacres, this time in Bialystock, led to a further appeal for funds towards the end of the year and on November 17, 1905 the "Bulawayo Chronicle" announced: The Committee of the Hebrew Congregation have held a meeting regarding the recent Jewish massacres in Russia, and the following resolutions were passed:

- (a) That the Jewish community of Bulawayo deeply deplore and protest against the atrocities committed against their co-religionists in Russia.
- (b) That a Relief Fund be started on behalf of distressed and persecuted persons in Russia
"The Subscription List is lying at Mr. E. Basch's establishment, Seventh Avenue".

Within a few days a sum of £210 0. 6. had been collected, including several outside gifts, £11. 11/- from S. Robinson in Gwelo, £7.12.6. from Que Que, collected by H. M. Liptz, and a third from far-away Kalomo, Northern Rhodesia, where Mr. Rollnick raised ten guineas.

Gifts from several well-known non-Jewish firms, including 3 guineas from E. W. Tarry & Co. Ltd., plus a guinea each from C. Duly, already in the motor and

cycle trade, Lennon's Ltd., the chemists, the Bechuanaland Trading Company and a subscriber who signed himself mysteriously "David Copperfield".

Outside contacts of a happier kind involved the dispatch of a 10 guinea contribution in 1903 to the South African Jewish Orphanage at Johannesburg, which established a link that still exists, and that has given many Rhodesian Jewish children both a home and the training for a career. On the other hand, when the Talmud Torah School asked for support for a bazaar, they were informed: "Owing to the increasing local calls on the benevolence of our members, we are unable to raise funds in support".

Mainly owing to the bad times, several old stalwarts now left Rhodesia, including A. Jacobs, S. Goldring, and A. Epstein, their places being taken by others hoping to escape the slump down South. Among the new recruits were L. Lazarus and Isaac Wolfe of Gwelo, H. Blumenthal of Selukwe and A. D. Marks.

* * * * *

From the earliest stage the Reverend Cohen had worked for Zionism and already in 1901, when he held the first service at Gwelo, with a total population of 15 Jews, the amount of £1. 7. 6. from the Congregation was dispatched to Palestine. At the Zionist Conference in Johannesburg, Mr. Cohen attended as the delegate from Rhodesia, making as great an impression upon that gathering as had on his own Congregation. Cohen had brought about the affiliation of the Chovevi Zion Association in Bulawayo to the South African Zionist Federation during 1902, but even then the organization maintained its strong trend to individuality, and by 1905, despite the fact that the total Jewish population of Rhodesia was less than 300, it had managed to raise, as contributions towards the rehabilitation of Israel, the sum of £2,000. Moreover, its influence socially was considerable, even in the outer centers like Salisbury, Gwanda, Selukwe and Gwelo. In due course, indeed it even extended its ramifications to the isolated Jewish outposts in the Belgian Congo.

After his strenuous years in Rhodesia, Mr. Cohen was in 1906 given leave to revisit England, on which occasion he was presented with that tribute than much more popular than it is today – an illuminated address.

New members of the Jewish community were again finding their way to Rhodesia, including A. Margolius, D. Gollan, M. Nurick, E. Davis, L. Simmons, B. Lifset, H. B. Ellenbogen, Joseph Ellenbogen, J. Frankel, L. Shapiro, L. Rubenstein, A. Nathanson, J. Boyer and sundry others, all of whom were enrolled as members of the Congregation. Friendly relations also developed with other communities, Rosh Hashanah greetings being exchanged with the Synagogue Committees at Salisbury, Kimberley, Durban, Pretoria, Port Elizabeth, Cape Town, Johannesburg, Oudtshoorn and Mafeking.

Fortunately slumps do not last for ever and in the words of Mrs. Tawse Jollie: The turn of the tide came about 1907. There was not a boom, just a steady growth of general well-being and prosperity". This was apparent by the increased contributions to local and overseas appeals, including an amount of £146 dispatched to help Russian Jewish orphans.

Greater dignity in the services was to be stimulated by the offer of a new Ark, costing £28 from, Ellenbogen & Co. When it came to discussing its acceptance, it was unanimously agreed, if the finances of the Congregation remained buoyant, to erect the Ark before the Feast of Pentecost. A further improvement in the Synagogue was the erection of a cupboard for keeping Talisim in, for which 23 subscribers were immediately secured.

From the educational point of view, an important development occurred in October 1906, when a request was received for the use of the schoolroom "for the purpose of studying the Talmud", plus a grant to buy suitable books. This was gladly acceded to, and the sum of £10 handed over, on condition that the volumes themselves should remain the property of the Congregation. It marked the beginning of more advanced Jewish studies in Rhodesia.

The vexed question of Saturday closing for religious reasons came up sharply in March 1907, when a letter was received from Mr. A. Rosenthal (no relation of the present writer's), "condemning the action of Mr. E Basch at a meeting of the local Town Council, regarding Jews being allowed to trade on Saturday nights". After a great deal of discussion Mr. L Landau proposed that the Committee approve of Mr. Basch's attitude, adding that the time was premature for any other action to be taken, and that there could be no question of enforcing a compulsory ban on the Sabbath.

Indicative of the revived inflow of Jewish immigrants to Rhodesia were the substantial numbers of new members, including H Berg, I Kollenberg, A Hirschorn, E Cohen, H Susman, Aaron Faiga, Sam Bass, Meyer Bass, H Gordon, N Shetkober, H Landau, S Shapiro, M Rappaport, L Lowenberg, H Liptz, G Pichanick, M Hochschild, B Goldberg, Monty Smollan, M Slanzer, L Lavenberg and others. With this went the reappearance of a number of persons in default with their subscriptions during the bad years.

A difficult subject for discussion was submitted in 1908, "regarding the circumcision of sons born to those who marry out of their religion". While a number of the Congregation suggested that a circular be sent to similar bodies through Southern Africa, requesting their views, the Committee preferred to begin by asking the Chief Rabbi overseas, Dr. Adler, for his views.

A real loss, recorded at Bulawayo on February 20, 1908, was that of M.V. Lowenstark, who had so faithfully performed the duties of Secretary through the difficult bygone years. His successor, Mr. Cohen, resigned from the Secretaryship soon after.

CHAPTER 25

THE NEW SYNAGOGUE

Not only were the next few years relatively peaceful, but they were sufficiently prosperous to warrant discussion, towards the end of 1909, of a scheme to erect a new Synagogue. This was approved on October 12, the capacity to be 500 – 300 men and 200 women – at a cost not to exceed £5,000. Scott & McGillivary, the Architects, set about preparing sketches, while further discussions proceeded on the wisdom of buying new ground.

January 9, 1910, saw a record turnout of members to examine the plans and empower the Committee to proceed with the construction, “providing the deficit in collections does not exceed £1,500”.

Two suitable plots were found by Mr. Jacobs, available at £200 each, and, as an alternative, a plot directly adjoining the existing Synagogue offered at the reasonable sum of £130, but only under a fortnight’s option. To meet the situation, an ingenious plan was devised – a syndicate of several members of the Congregation to purchase and hold the ground until a final decision was reached. If the Congregation did not need it, the property would be dealt with as the owners saw fit. Ultimately this was the winning choice, plus another plot opposite.

The new Building Committee, beside the Reverend Cohen, comprised Messrs. C. Salomon, D. Landau, I. Pieters, R. Aserman, J. Palca, M. Immermam, J. Joseph, M. Budlender and Jack Ellenbogen, who vigorously set about organizing collections and taking all other necessary preliminary steps. The days when Bulawayo Jewry had struggled and argued whether to put up was little more than a shanty seemed indeed far away.

“Results so far are very satisfactory”, reported Louis Landau within a few weeks. By April 1910 about £2,200 had been collected in this town alone, no trifling sum for those times, and again there were contributions from non-Jews, including five guineas from the Castle Brewery, while important houses outside Rhodesia, including D. Isaacs & Co. at Port Elizabeth, likewise rose to the occasion. Sellick & Co., builders of Rhodes Street, whose tender was accepted, contributed £50 of their own towards the Fund. There

was a feeling of real achievement and pride in the community as the foundations went down, and one of the finest buildings in the country took shape. When, on May 17, 1910, Emanuel Basch laid the foundation-stone, the ceremony was attended by all the notability of Bulawayo.

Another year had begun, when on April 9, 1911, the formal consecration was carried out by Mr. Cohen, in the presence of a great number of prominent Rhodesians, Jews and non-Jews.

Neither in the finish nor the materials of the building was there any skimping this time, though a reasonable degree of economy was observed. Indeed, certain improvements were effected. "The seats will be Oak instead of pitch-pine, as originally intended, as it had been found that Oak will be as cheap, and far superior". Mr. Berlin, all the way from Johannesburg, undertook their installations. For these reasons, the original estimate was somewhat exceeded and, to meet the shortfall, £1,500 was borrowed from the Rhodesian Government, besides another £500 from private supporters. Improvements were also carried out in the Old Synagogue, henceforth to be used as a school room. The commencement of regular services in the new Synagogue also drew attention to the inadequacies of the religious teaching for the young people, and Mr. Cohen undertook to give this his special attention.

Typically Rhodesian was an incident reported about this time, when Mr. Goldberg reported that "Ants had penetrated the walls of the new Synagogue. Prompt notification to the contractors led to sufficiently drastic treatment to prevent any serious damage. Ants in the Synagogue however continued to be a plague, and for years a number of different remedies were tried, none of them with any great success.

The building of the new Synagogue and the increased interest in religious matters brought an application from the Reverend M.L. Lipschitz in Johannesburg, offering his services as Chazan. Dearly though the community would have welcomed such a functionary, they had to reply that none was needed at present. They did enquire, however, what his fee would be for taking the services during the forthcoming High Holidays, and carry out a check-up on his references from the well-known cantor, the Reverend Manne down-country. Obviously the reply must have been satisfactory, for his quoted charge of £40 plus expenses were immediately accepted.

Two resignations, which gave rise to a great deal of heart-searching, were handed in during 1911, the one by L.A. Rubenstein, as Honorary Secretary of the Congregation, and the other from no less a person than the Reverend Cohen himself, who wished to take up a less strenuous post. While Mr. Rubenstein's resignation was regretfully accepted, the idea of doing without the "King of Rhodesia", as he was playfully called, was so inconceivable that he was persuaded to change his mind.

Certain embellishments were then made to the Synagogue, including the purchase of two Shofars, while, at the request of Mr. J. Myers of Gatooma, a Sepher Torah was lent out more or less indefinitely.

(It may be mentioned that this was by no means the only occasion when Mr. Cohen issued a threat to resign, but remained faithfully in harness in his beloved Colony until the end of his days).

Mr. Lipschitz's performances as Chazan having stirred up a demand for the engagement of a permanent functionary, who would combine his religious duties with those of a Hebrew tutor, enquiries were sent to Johannesburg and Cape Town. Of the many applicants, the Reverend Weinberg of Cape Town, invited to come up on a year's trial, set off in January 1912 on the long journey to Bulawayo.

The difficult position of the servant of a small community still short of funds was emphasized afresh when he found his original salary of £30 a month inadequate. Frequent discussions took place as to the possibility of raising this figure, but without much success, until the unfortunate Chazan put in an amended request for a loan of £50. It was then brought to the notice of the Committee that he was taking part in business concerns; the loan was approved and he was asked to refrain from any commercial undertakings in the future.

New duties for these unfortunate spiritual leaders were constantly being devised, one bright idea involving a Music class, at which Mr. Weinberg was to give instruction in the Tonic Solfa notation. On the other hand, Mr. Weinberg himself proposed that, owing to the very small attendances at the Synagogue on Saturdays, the ordinary service should be replaced by one to encourage and educate the young generation. This idea was approved.

Complaints were also expressed by parents as to the efficiency of the Hebrew teaching at the old Synagogue, Mr. Cohen being asked to undertake the teaching of Scripture History in secular day schools at Bulawayo, and the Reverend Weinberg to give Jewish youngsters instruction in reading Hebrew and in the customary prayers.

Yet a healthy sign of the increased interest in the services was the need to purchase an extra 100 copies of Singer's Prayer Book and the decision, during 1912, to hold special services on Saturday afternoons. Musical facilities were also improved – and we hope their quality – by the purchase of an organ at the surprisingly reasonable price of £11. On the strength of this, Mr. H.J. Sonnenberg soon after suggested a mixed choir. Despite the initial rejection of the idea, the subject was revived in 1913, by which time the arguments of the progressives were accepted, D. Landau and H. B. Ellenbogen taking the lead in the new arrangements.

The struggle against orthodoxy came to light when in October 1913 Messrs. A. Moses and Rabinowitz declined to accept the duties allotted to them for the High Festivals "on account of the choir, which included ladies taking part in the services". Somewhat bewildered as to the wisest policy to adopt when a matter of Jewish practice and tradition were involved, the seniors of the Congregation decided to submit the query to the Chief Rabbi of the British Empire in England, the Reverend Dr. J. H. Hertz. The latter replied: "It is permissible that a mixed choir take part at a religious

service, but if an overwhelming majority objects to this procedure, then it would be desirable to discontinue it". After this tactful message had been discussed at great length, it finally emerged that most members approved of the policy, and that the mixed choir should continue.

Complaints as to the inadequacy of arrangements to supply Kosher meat remained a hardy annual and there was an unexpected tribute to orthodoxy when, to allow them to attend Synagogue services the Jewish storekeepers of Bulawayo agreed to close their premises at 6 p. m. on Friday, then regarded as unusually early.

The progress of the mining industry gave birth to another new community in the little village of Hartley, Bulawayo once again acting as "Big Brother" by lending a Sepher Torah, until it was required. Another to the new Jewish Congregation at Elizabethville in the Belgian Congo.

One of the rare excursions of the Jewish community into public prominence was on May 30, 1914, when an elaborate Ball took place in aid of the Bulawayo Benevolent Society. In the light of after events, there is something ominous in the fact that the date was put forward into August 1914.

The first World War had already been raging for sixteen days, when on August 20, R. Aserman as President announced that the members of the Bulawayo Hebrew Congregation had to cancel the forthcoming Ball in aid of the School funds, and to give the net proceeds of tickets sold to the Matabele Red Cross Fund. A few weeks later it was decided to temporarily to reduce the salaries of the officials, namely the Reverend M. I. Cohen and the Reverend A. Weinberg by £10 and £5 respectively, and to dispense wholly with the services of the Beadle. Truly an era had ended, and the Jews of Rhodesia, like most other people, were dimly aware of the fact.

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CHAPTER 26

RHODESIA'S FIRST JEWISH PAPER.

Difficult as it is to trace the early days of the Jewish community in Rhodesia, even on the official side, the task is infinitely more so when it comes to the chronicling of daily life. Hence there is special reason to be thankful for the survival of at least one precious file, issued in typewritten form and known as the "Idler's Gazette," the first Jewish paper in the Colony. Officially the mouthpiece for a group of young people at Bulawayo, it was at the start edited by Jack Moss, but soon drew items of news from a wider field and dealt with many matters beyond the ordinary routine of their Club. (Idlers Club formed 1901 under Presidency of Jack Moss).

The Idler's wide range of activities, included English classes for foreign-born newcomers to Rhodesia, the conduction of a Service on the Sabbath, a dancing class, football practice and such events as a Shekel Evening, designed to raise funds for the Zionist movement.

On the occasion of a census, a notice appeared, appealing to all readers to complete their forms promptly. "It will greatly interest us", said the editor "to know the Jewish population of Southern Africa, which has probably doubled itself during the last ten years.. As far as Rhodesia is concerned, we shall not, we fancy, be very far out in estimating its total Jewish population - men, women and children - at 450, or slightly under. Would that the list of their occupations were as comprehensive as that of the general population! It cannot be expected that a community composed entirely of shop-keepers will gain much dignity in the eyes of the authorities. But here comes an interesting point. How many Jews are there in Rhodesia who do not profess or confess their Jewishness? (I will not say Judaism). That there are men of this type is proved by the fact that an individual was buried the other day in a Jewish cemetery at Gwanda, who was never known in his lifetime as a Jew. It is said that a certain member of the Municipal Police of Bulawayo spent his Seder at a Jewish home. We know that at Home many fellows in the Army and Navy do not own up that they are Jews, fearing the chaff or brutality of their companions. Now fellows of this type are the very men who are engaged in the general industries of the country. It is very probable indeed that there are quite a number of unprofessing Jews in the Military and Municipal Police, and in the mining industrial and other occupations of Rhodesia. It is just these we want enumerated, who only too often have not the pluck to own up.. We would point out that to such that they are doing the Jewish community of this country the greatest disservice and we

sincerely trust that only very few will be found so chicken-hearted as to hide their faith and nationality....."

This attack drew a reply from another Jewish resident who declared: "In many cases such degeneration is brought about by mere force of circumstances, and not, as you say, by lack of pluck to own up. Imagine yourself a Jew, born of Anglicized Jewish parents in, let me say, a small village, where his family are the only Jews in the place. He received perhaps a smattering of Jewish learning and folklore, and a fair education in English. His whole younger life is led among Christians, never knowing or fully understanding the true meaning of being a Jew, save that he has to go to School on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. This man goes out into the world, bearing perhaps the name of Jones or Brown, mixes with Christians, works with them and spends his whole life with them, in time being assimilated to such a degree that he loses all identity, and in some cases forgets that he has been at one time or another a Jew. Whose fault is that? It is the fault of the Anglicized Jew, who, surrounded by Christians endeavour's to forget their trials of the past in a vain attempt to surmount the difficulties of public life. Thus he neglects his duty to his children and to God, by not teaching them their first and foremost duty is Judaism. Were our Jews of the present era to try and effect a more patient teaching and impress on the future generation that the term Jew is not synonymous with "all the is bad", to the Christian ears, we should in time no longer hear anything about the degeneration of the Jews".

Warmly supporting these arguments, the editor of the "Idlers Gazette" added: We cannot wonder if a vast number of Jews believe there are only two alternatives open to us - either the creation of a Jewish national state and country, or the absorption into our surroundings. The attempt to sit on two stools at once is fraught with enormous and apparently endless suffering".

These considerations however did not interfere with vigorous pleas to accommodate themselves as quickly as possible to Rhodesian life. Under the heading, "Learn English", we read: "In New York, the first thing done is to Americanize the Greeners and teach them the language of the country. In Southern Africa nothing of this kind is even attempted, and the prevalence of Yiddish in the biggest communities is a public scandal. It certainly increases the ill will against us, because the general public are necessarily ignorant of us and our ways, habits and characters..... It cannot be said that the community here have not been sufficiently exhorted as to the necessity of familiarizing themselves with the language of the country..... We suffer from lack of ambition and of desire for improvement. Learn English thoroughly. This applies not only to those who need a Vocabulary for daily use, but to those who have already acquired certain knowledge. Let them read and seek to attain what may be called a literary command of the language, and try to also wipe out all traces of a foreign pronunciation, so that they may be able to use English as it should be by the citizens of any British Colony".

Conflicting views about the communal criticisms were again expressed in the "Idlers Gazette". "The large number of naturalizations", declared another contributor

"shows a true appreciation of this privilege of British citizenship. The community is steadily improving its knowledge of the language and customs of the country, and it is to be hoped that its members will no longer cut themselves adrift from the society of the town. The ideal for us to pursue is progress in general culture, combined with faithful adherence to Jewish principles. The two are thoroughly compatible.... We Jews of Bulawayo have developed a very commendable Jewish spirit and communal activity, but we have tended to an undue and rather dangerous extent in the direction of forming a moral, intellectual and social Ghetto. Thereby we have lost far more than we have gained. The mischief of this course is very apparent in larger centers, but is also obvious enough in this outpost of a new country. A Ghetto is created sometimes by external compulsion, and this external force is almost always existent in some form or other. 'Tis true, 'tis pity, and pity 'tis true. Ghettos are also self-made - Why should be so foolish intellectually speaking, as to cut our own throats?"

The dominant new subject of the day was the war between Russia and Japan, wherein, rather surprisingly, in the light of the prevailing anti-Semitism under the Czar, the sympathy of Rhodesian Jewry, unlike that of most other westerners, was by no means all on the side of the Little Yellow Men. Thus we find in the "Idlers Gazette" a protest about an article headed, "Jap the Giant Killer", reading: "I must say, as a Russian and a subscriber, I thoroughly object to the way in which you side with the Japanese. You say our password is 'Concentrate Now'. How can we do otherwise, away from the field of action as we are?"

While many allusions in the columns of this homely little production have long lost their significance, yet in between it gives a vivid glimpses of the way in which Jewry took part in building up Rhodesia. Thus we not on February 24, 1904, that B.L. King, son of N.I. King, had qualified with honours the first professional examination of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and that several Jews had lately joined "E" Troop in the Volunteers at Bulawayo.

Maurice H. Smollan, Principal of the Premier School of Shorthand, was congratulated on securing his qualifications as a teacher, while Eva Marks led the way among the girls by passing the Cambridge Senior Examination. The Rev. M.I.Cohen and Mr. E. Basch were due in Gwanda to consecrate the Jewish cemetery there.

While on the occasion of Passover most Jewish shops in Bulawayo had been closed, one or tow had decided to risk their religious status and capture the trade of their competitors. Complaints were voiced about visitors from Jerusalem (then still under the Turks), who considered that they had a claim on the generosity of the Rhodesian Jewish settles, exciting the wrath of those who preferred making their living by work.

Despite occasional criticisms, there were plenty of contacts between the Idlers and all other Jewish organizations as well as the general public, particularly in the field of sport. Amongst others, there is a reference to a football match against a team from Haddon & Sly's department store. Instructions were given to Jewish players to wear white shirts and knickers of any colour, and the reporter grew lyrical about the "very

brilliant play" by S. Grossberg, adding: "A more plucky and daring performer it would be hard to find".

Harry Stodel, after a long stay in Cape Colony, was back again, and everybody looking forward to the "pleasure of hearing him in his inimitable "coster songs". This famous pioneer of the cinema in South Africa, passed away at Cape Town fairly recently.

Again there was always Miss Ethel Lowenstark, who won golden opinions at the orchestral concert of the Bulawayo Musical Society, with her song "Pansies", followed by "If No One Ever Marries Me."

Entertaining glimpses of the good old days are also furnished in the account of the monthly cycle run of the Idlers, their destination being the Umbusa Hotel. It took place in the evening, the participants leaving Bulawayo at 8 p.m. We are told that the ride was "cool and exhilarating", but two of the adventurers lost their way and arrived rather late, having had a glorious walk across the veld.

"There being just enough ladies for a square dance, the lancers opened the dancing programme, after which a few songs were indulged in, and then came the very necessary supper. Though impromptu, it was well received, fowl being the chief article of consumption. After a few toasts, an adjournment was again made for dancing, which was kept up till late. The party arrived in town at about 12 p.m., as a few new members remarked, 'having spent one of the most enjoyable evenings we have had for a long while.'"

Efforts to preserve the records of the community are set down as early as May 1904, when the journal observed: "The ranks of the pioneers of the School have sadly thinned out of late.. Messrs M. S. Leven and A. Jacobs have left the country. Mr. Saber has joined the Majority, and we fear that Mr. S. Goldring may also be leaving the country at no distant date. Thus of the real founders of the Congregation there will soon be no remnant in our midst. Steps therefore have to be taken in the near future to ascertain and to place on record the true facts as to the early history of the Community. Most unfortunately the most precious and irreplaceable of the old records, namely the first Minute Book of the Bulawayo Hebrew Congregation, has been lost, and there seems no chance of recovering it. The early history will therefore have to be compiled and placed together from the recollections of such of the pioneers as may be found willing to tax their memories of the true facts to be placed on record. We hope very shortly to institute an inquiry into this most interesting subject, and shall then publish the results week by week....."

Mr. Moss adds: "Books of all other Jewish Societies are intact, and their history therefore presents no difficulties. The necessity of writing the communal story without delay is evident, and is in itself sufficient justification for the existence of this paper. The credit due to workers will be recognized, and we shall be in a position to know who are the men who made the Bulawayo Hebrew Congregation. In the meantime

we shall be very much obliged if the early-stagers will furnish up their recollections, for the Reverend Cohen will be thankful for any information as to the early days".

A general stirring of the political consciousness of the community was stimulated by the introduction of two important measures, one to restrict the immigration of aliens, and the other to change the Licensing Laws in a fashion felt to involve discrimination against Jewry. The main criticisms were concentrated on the setting up of a Board, with arbitrary powers to refuse licences without explanation or appeal. On this issue the Administrator finally decided to withdraw the measure. Despite the success, the "Idlers Gazette" urged all Rhodesian Jews to qualify as voters. "No action", it said, "is to petty or insignificant for us, and it is the solemn duty of every Jew to see that he is entered on the roll, and to exercise his franchise on every occasion. The community agrees with us, and do nothing. If every Jew in South Africa had voted, the Alien Immigration Bill might never have been passed. It is not desirable to go into details in this matter, but the moral of the affair seems to be an old one - that Jews can only be driven, but will not listen to reason and act with promptitude and foresight". The article added: "The reappearance of the Licensing Bill in a different form has revived the whole menace".

Mr. Moss, the Editor, visited the office of the Town Clerk, where he examined the Municipal Voters roll. "There are ", he said, "only about 80 Jewish names on the list. We may safely reckon that the local Jewish adult male population at 200. Everybody above the age of 21, if only he has got a room, shop or office, is entitled to a vote. Where are the other 120? It is not too much to say that the fate of this country and all of us will be decided during the next few months. No doubt the election of the representatives to go to England (to secure extra representation for Rhodesian settlers) will be decided by the People. Every vote will count. We want the right men, the honest men, the best men, in our own interests, as well as the country's. Very soon a Municipal election will take place. We want the right man here too. Every non-registered Jew is guilty against the city, the community and himself. Go up and see that your name is on the list....."

In conclusion Moss declared: "There is no Jewish vote, but we want every Jew to have his vote for all that and to exercise it too".

Effects of the great slump were noticed with disturbing clarity. "Depressions are no respecters of persons", said the "Gazette". "They depress everybody. Blue individuals make up a blue community, and social and congregational activities languish with commerce".

A plea for a Government loan of £5,000,000 is submitted: "What a fillip this would be for Rhodesia; winter would pass like a dream, and the spring of renewed life shine in every heart, reviving every drooping spirit. With fresh prosperity, the Shul would be relieved of all anxiety. As things are, the financial outlook is none too bright. The Depression hits us particularly hard, in that it deprives the Community of invaluable workers, like Mr. Goldring, who cannot be replaced. Good men leaving us, while such newcomers as may arrive are as a rule far from desirable additions to our ranks. We

stand and fall with the general population of the country. Our interests are common, and everyone will cordially hope that the efforts of the authorities may result before long in dissipating the nightmare in which the country is labouring at present".

Similar references appear in other places, amongst others the remark: "The Chartered Company can't raise a blue cent. If you want to meet Bulawayo, go to Johannesburg.

Zionist politics also became a subject of frequent argument, and on March 9. 1904, a resolution was passed, proposed by the Reverend Cohen and seconded by H.B. Ellenbogen: "We, the Zionists of Bulawayo, South Africa, assembled en masse this day of Purim, 5664, desires most emphatically to stigmatize the action of those Russian members of the Great Actions Committee who were responsible for the Charkow Conference, as utterly unconstitutional, and as deliberately calculated to wreck the unity and efficiency of the Zionist organization. We therefore exhort our leaders to regard such actions as proceeding from the worst enemies of Zionism, and beg them to continue in their great labours in the full assurance that we, together with all true Zionists, place in them the most implicit reliance, and we shall redouble our efforts to afford the means necessary to develop the efficiency of our organization".

Then there was an argument foreshadowing the political divisions of Israel today, heralded by Mr. Miller who, "although a fluent speaker, did not succeed in impressing upon those present his socialistic ideas about Zionism".

Despite the strong words used concerning the Charkow Conference, which hinged on the offer by the British Colonial Office to make available for Zionist settlement a large part of the Uasin Gishu Plateau in what is now Kenya, the furor quickly died down, and only a few weeks later the "Idlers Gazette" reported that the split had now been healed. "The East African Commission is to go, and its report is a foregone conclusion, for all evidence goes to show that the land offered us is magnificent. The next Congress will decide that the colonization of this country should be proceeded with. A number of Zionists may leave our ranks, but more will join us. It should be possible to enlist the non-Zionist Jewish bodies, for this work". It is a matter of history how, on this issue, the Territorialists, including the famous writer, Israel Zangwill, and others seceded from the main body of the movement, which in the end decided that the future home of Jewry must be in the Land of Israel, and whatever may have been the arguments in those days, one can but wonder what the situation would have been in the East Africa of today, had a Jewish Commonwealth arisen in those parts!

Rhodesia's only Jewish library that of the Chovevi Zion Society, was open every Sunday from three to five. It took eight Jewish papers from South Africa, Britain, Russia, and the United States.

Jewish members of the Southern Rhodesia Volunteers were well represented at the parade on July 1904, when the famous Memorial to the Wilson Patrol and to Cecil John Rhodes was unveiled at World's View in the Matopos.

From the Jewish point of view, the most memorable event of the year was the news, on July 3, 1904, that the founder of the Zionist Movement, Dr. Theodore Herzl, was dead. On the following Sunday evening a Memorial Service took place at the Bulawayo Synagogue, attended by almost every member of the community. "Well may we exclaim in this sad hour with Jeremiah, the Prophet of Sorrow", said the "Idler's Gazette", 'great as the ocean is thy calamity, who can heal thee'. We cannot and will not despair, for our faith in Providence and in the justness of our sacred cause is invincible, but we may well be forgiven if for the moment we are overwhelmed at our national misfortune'."

Shortly after the "Idler's Gazette" came to an end, but it did not do so on an unworthy note.

CHAPTER 27

NORTH OF THE ZAMBEZI

The development of the Jewish Community in Southern Rhodesia had its counterpart further north. Inevitably, with their eternal quest for far places, some of the Jewish pioneers were drawn, both by opportunities for adventure and for profit, to try their luck in this almost completely undeveloped territory.

Even in the days of Cecil John Rhodes, a certain number became interested in the investment possibilities there, notably Baron E.B. Erlanger, the famous London banker and Alfred Beit. In Germany the great industrialists, Emil Rathenau, founder of the great electrical combine, the A.E.G. (Allgemeine Elektricitäts Gesellschaft), had taken a major participation in the famous African Concessions Syndicate that fathered the scheme to use power from the Victoria Falls.

Adventurous Jews occasionally made their way during the 1890's beyond the Northern bank of the Zambezi, though few left details of their deeds. As mentioned earlier, the French explorer Edmond Foa, who trekked here in 1894, already drew attention to the mining possibilities of the land. On the scientific side, it is also worth mentioning that the first two White Rhinoceroses, shot there by Robert T Coryndon in 1892, were secured for the Rothschild collection at Tring in England.

Quite apart from the adventurers, however, appeared traders and hunters. Sir Harry Johnston mentions in 1897 the firm of Kahn & Co. as one of the principal commercial houses both in what is now Nyasaland, and in Northern Rhodesia.

About the same time arrived two young men who may be regarded as Jewish "Voortrekkers". Born in Lithuania in 1880, Eli Susman landed in Southern Africa in 1896 at the age of 16, and, with hardly a penny to his name, managed to reach the Frontier settlement of Francistown in the Tati territory. There, soon after, he was joined by his elder brother Harry, who had been born on February 1, 1876, at Ritteva in Russia. At Bulawayo they were to meet Cecil Rhodes for the first time and thanks to new contracts during the Boer War period, in 1901, they found a chance to join an historic trek to Barotseland, then an almost unknown territory. On foot, by ox-wagon and canoe, they passed through a country riddled with fever and menaced by wild animals. Fully half the 800 miles they traveled in primitive tribal dugouts, only eight of the 28 whites who formed the party succeeding, after three months, in reaching Mongu, capital of King Lewanika. Nearly all the others died of Blackwater Fever. The Susmans were among

those who won through and they succeeded in gaining the confidence of Lewanika himself, who so trusted Harry as his adviser, that he declared on one occasion “The man who does not know Susman is not a Barotse”.

Having made their homes in the territory, they set off on a two-year trading journey, specializing in the sale of blankets and coloured materials. Cattle were cheap, but had to be driven nearly 1,000 miles to the South. It speaks well for their skill and care that, of the vast herds handled; only 21/2 per cent were lost.

Putting to use his unique knowledge of the countryside, Harry Susman in 1906 joined another expedition, formed to recover “Lobengula’s Millions”, believed to have been buried near the Portuguese border. While great dangers were overcome, including an onslaught by a local group of cannibals, the treasure alas was never located.

When in 1908 the town of Livingstone was founded, the original inhabitants included Eli and Harry who, in partnership with a Mr. Davis, set up as “Susman Brothers & Davis”, the first butchers beyond the Zambezi. The venture was a success, and led not only to the expansion of the export business in cattle, but to the gradual building up of a chain of shops, mills and other businesses extending right across Northern Rhodesia. The first Jewish wedding in the territory was that of Harry Susman to Miss Grill in 1910.

Twenty years later Eli moved to the Union, where he and Max Sonnenberg started the South African Woolworths organization. Harry passed away at the age of 76 in 1952, followed in 1958 by his brother, at the age of 78. Both left considerable amounts to public purposes, Jewish and non-Jewish.

More or less simultaneously with the advent of the Susmans another young Jew named Joseph Beemer settled at Livingstone. The fairly substantial influx which followed is reflected in the original issue of the local “Pioneer and Advertiser” dated January 13, 1906:-

BLOCH BROTHERS

“Beg to announce that they have
Opened Business
At the corner of Main and Sackville Streets
With a Large, New and Well-Assorted Stock of
Gents Outfitting Goods.
A Call Invited
Postal Address: G.P.O. Livingstone”.

Then there were Berger & Cohen, “Wholesale and Retail Merchants” (Late of the Bechuanaland Trading Association Buildings.”)

Produce and Livestock Dealers.

A choice selection of Fresh Groceries
And Provisions
Quality and Weight guaranteed.
Clothing Department – Finest Selection of
Ladies and Gents Outfitting Goods North of the Zambezi.

Boots and Shoes a Specialty
A Splendid Stock of Waterproofs
Bortsi (so spelt) Curios always on hand.
Country Orders Promptly Executed.
Telegrams: ‘Burger’, Livingstone

In another line of trade was R .J .Bernstein, “Building Contractor, (late of Bulawayo), Plans and Estimates Free”. (One pioneer recalls rather unkindly the crooked shelving which Bernstein once erected in a shop). Leopold (afterwards Sir Leopold) Moore, by occupation a pharmacist, was responsible for the publication of the “Livingstone Advertiser” itself, which before long became a well-accepted and reasonably profitable organ of public opinion.

The first train to Livingstone arrived on the occasion of the famous Regatta held on the Zambezi for the world championship, and included at least two Jewish passengers, C. Harris and M. Isaacs.

Meanwhile the line from Cape Town, which it was hoped ultimately to continue across the African Continent to Cairo, reached the Zambezi, and was being pushed forward towards the border of the Congo, largely with the financial help of Alfred Beit. When in 1906 Beit passed away, the “Cape Times” devoted a leader to this aspect of his work, in which it said, inter alia: “When the British Government declined to guarantee a loan to push on the railway to the Zambezi, Beit immediately came to the rescue.... When we remember that Rhodesia was but newly won from barbarism, we can realize that the man who thus backed the moves of the great “Dreamer in Continents”, had all the nerve of the giants of the Stock Exchange speculation, plus a mind and a quality of heart and intellect to which they are usually strangers....”

Gradually the number of Jewish colonists rose, one of the early comers being the legendary Barnett Smith, whom everybody knew under his nickname of “Bongola” Smith. Born in Russia in 1871, he reached Northern Rhodesia in the early 1900’s, and was soon recognized, in the words of a contemporary, as “the pioneer of organized ranching and cattle trading.” Unwilling merely to operate among the native breeders of this area, he crossed into Katanga, where he was promptly accepted as leader in this branch of business. From his headquarters in the newly-founded town of Elizabethville, he dominated the meat industry of the Belgian Congo, and founded the Comagnie d’Elevage et d’Alimentation du Katanga.

Referred to in the London press as “most enterprising and far-seeing, Smith also launched the Congo-Rhodesian Company, to import cattle for the copper

mines of the Union Miniere, and was later Managing Director of the Union Cold Storage and other large concerns. When he passed away in 1944, “Bongola”, with seven children and 13 grandchildren, was one of the Rhodesian Jewish Patriarchs, enjoying a reputation for shrewdness, humour and kindness that won him respect and admiration from the entire population of the two neighbouring countries.

Max Ruda, another early settler, was born at Warsaw on May 17, 1887. In 1902 he made his headquarters in Bechuanaland, moved to Bulawayo as manager of the firm of Joseph & Rabinowitz, and then trekked into Northern Rhodesia. Likewise attracted by the possibilities of Katanga, he set up as M. Ruda & Co. at Elizabethville. His branch at Bulawayo was in 1913 taken over by his partner, Joseph Joseph.

Then there was Marcus Pieters, born in Russia on November 9, 1869, who came to Bulawayo in 1897 to start S. Pieters & Co., (later renamed I. Pieters & Co.), a firm that also operated with great success at Elizabethville and Salisbury.

The fate of J.L. Rollnick is typical of the ups and downs of the pioneer settlers. Coming to Northern Rhodesia in the early 1900's he entered into a trading partnership with Charles Solomon, but was almost ruined when his premises burnt down uninsured. However, he recovered and, moving over to the Congo, became associated with Lever Brothers, for whom he built up a business in vegetable oil and similar products, that helped to make him one of the wealthiest, if not the wealthiest man in Central Africa. At one time he was credited with owning over 1,000,000 and, even if this were an exaggeration, there was no question of his ability and enterprise as a business man.

Of enormous physical strength, one of his favourite tricks was to tear in half a whole pack of playing cards. With his newly-won fortune he went overseas, to tour the most spectacular gambling spots in Europe, actually achieving the proverbial feat of breaking the bank at Monte Carlo! But alas, his fortune changed and, at that same resort, he ultimately speculated away every penny he possessed.

Confronted with the prospect of complete ruin, poor Rollnick committed suicide. It is a tribute to his personality that Lever Brothers both paid for his funeral and put up a memorial stone in his honour.

Among Jews appearing in Northern Rhodesia was a Mr. Franks at N'Dola, then a wayside halt on the British side of the Congo frontier, long before the Copper Belt. On the border itself two other Jews operated a hotel at Sakania, while the storekeepers at Livingstone had been reinforced by the arrival of Max Shapiro. At the Bwana Mkubwa Copper Mine, Hyman Beemer established himself as a general dealer.

Mrs. G.H. Epstein, now living in retirement at Salisbury, is one of the few survivors from that era. Born in Sheffield in 1891 as Olga Hilda Crowngold, she was brought to Cape Town as a child, but at 20 went to Bulawayo, where in September 1911 she married George Gabriel Epstein. Epstein, born in Ireland in 1883 and brought to

Rhodesia by his father, Isaac Epstein, had as a youngster of 14 met Cecil John Rhodes, had fought in the Boer War with Kitchener's Fighting Scouts, and then had gone prospecting until in 1908 he secured his first post with Susman Brothers at Livingstone. That firm sent him to one of their out-stations at Nalolo up the Zambezi. Yet despite the 411 miles separating them from the nearest village, he already found several other Jewish traders there, including Jacob Finkelstein, Abe Diamond and his brother Louis.

It was to Nalolo that young Olga Epstein was brought as a bride in 1912. "How well", she said, "I can still remember the journey in the dug-out canoe, and seeing lions and crocodiles on the river bank. Once at least we were capsized by hippos and all my wedding presents lost. Every day at four in the afternoon we would pull into the bank and camp out overnight. Altogether it took us 20 days to get there. Our house was constructed of pole and dagga, with a grass roof and there we stayed until 1913". An outstandingly good hunter, her husband so impressed the visiting Duke of Westminster that he gave him a fine rifle as a souvenir.

Jewish customs were maintained at Nalolo, more particularly the lighting of candles and saying of prayers every Sabbath evening. The birth of their first son, David, in this lonely spot was the signal for a crude practical joke. Outside the primitive hut gathered the eight other traders of the district and broke into song: "I'm a daddy today". Great was their distress when they discovered that the young mother had burst into tears. Thanks to the nurse from the near-by French Mission station, and a medical man, Dr. Collier, the health of the baby was safeguarded, and the crowning compliment came when the Royal Barge arrived from the Paramount Chief, accompanied by attendants ringing bells and hauled along the shore by oxen. By this time Mrs. Epstein had acquired the tribal nickname of "Morena Maquai", which playfully meant "Queen of Barotseland". King Lewanika, looking at the infant, asked her: "Do you know how to bath a baby?" and, before she could reply, said "I will show you how to bath the petutu (little buck)". What is more, he called for water and a basin, and to the young mother's horrified amusement, proceeded to do so!

Because of the prevailing fever, the parents were in constant anxiety as to the health of the small boy and, after six months; Mrs. Epstein undertook the long trek to Bulawayo, returning 14 months later. Soon after World War 1 began, she was still in Northern Rhodesia, at Lealui, when her first daughter was born.

During the rainy season of 1916, with a large part of Barotseland under water, Dr. Collier advised the Epsteins if they wanted healthy children to leave the country permanently. With a heavy heart they said goodbye, for, in spite of the primitive conditions, they loved the life. Susman Brothers granted a substantial bonus, and for a while they lived at Livingstone and then moved to the coast. But the spell of Rhodesia had seized them, and they came back, this time to Fort Victoria. Until 1923 when Joe Gruber and his wife arrived, the Epstein family were the only Jews in the district. Mr. Epstein passed away on May 24, 1956, but his widow still revels in her imperishable memories.

During World War 1 there was a slow increase in the Jewish population of Northern Rhodesia, the newcomers including Max Emanuel King, who settled at Lusaka in 1915, and of whom more will be said in another part of this book. There he ran the hotel, a brick and corrugated iron structure and, for the convenience of the handful of farmers in the neighbourhood, also operated a mill, butchery, a mineral water factory and a store.

When from Bwana Mkubwa and one or two other producers, the first small amounts of copper were forthcoming, Max King became forwarding agent. "I can still see the natives arriving", he said, "with the metal bars, on their heads. Most of them came from the Old Sable Antelope Mine and the Prince Edward Mine in the Mumba district, concerns now long forgotten. It was my job to see that they were safely consigned to Beira by rail".

A few other Jews were now also at Lusaka, including M. Bloch, who ran a store, the Granger Brothers, Abraham Glasser and E. Kollenberg, a wholesale merchant. When the High Festivals came, the Sepher Torah was sent up by rail from Bulawayo, and Mr. King himself generally held a service at the hotel.

CHAPTER 28

RHODESIAN JEWS IN WORD WAR 1

One of the glories of Rhodesian history is that during both World Wars she contributed a higher percentage of her white manhood to the British forces than did any other part of the Commonwealth. From the moment when hostilities against Germany began in 1914, until the time of the Armistice, it is estimated that close on 80 per cent attested, and, in keeping with a tradition that went back to the days of Lobengula, local Jewry did its full and loyal share.

From a statistical point of view, however, the facts are hard to determine, since records were incomplete, and even those prepared have, in many instances, not survived. One of the significant items dates from August 31, 1914, only a few days after the outbreak of hostilities, when, at a meeting of the Bulawayo Jewish Guild, a donation of five guineas was voted towards Red Cross Funds. Mr. A Jacobs, who presided, pointed out: "As the Jewish ladies of Bulawayo have formed a Committee for the purpose of raising funds for the South African and Imperial Troops, it would be advisable to leave the matter of the Society's donation in abeyance for the present. At a later stage the Society will be in a better position to judge which of the various funds now being started, most particularly needs support...."

On the same day a telegram was dispatched to General Louis Botha, the South African Prime Minister, addressed to Pretoria: "Bulawayo Jewish Guild and Rhodesia Junior Political Association at a public debate, resolved to congratulate you on and express admiration for the statesmanlike and patriotic manner in which you have answered the call of the Empire. We are proud of you". Shortly after, a substantial sum was handed over to the Red Cross and, more significant still, a meeting took place on December 16, 1914, "to recommend the suspension of the activities of the Guild, until say, March, 1915, owing to the normally heavy calls made upon the community since the outbreak of hostilities...." Amplifying this, Mr. Jacobs told a meeting: "The Guild exists essentially for the provision of entertainments for its members, and it is thought that, under the present war conditions, these would be out of place. Further, the calls upon the community have been somewhat heavy of late". The establishment of a Russo-Jewish War Fund was referred to in December 1915, when a function was held in support of it at Bulawayo.

In a half-hearted way operations were, however, for a while allowed to continue, though the dominating fact of the struggle was increasingly reflected in such items as an “organized discussion of the War in relation to the Jewish people”. In August 1915 a Social was given to the Jewish members of the Southern Rhodesian Volunteers and the First Rhodesian Regiment, “as well as their lady friends”. The Simchas Torah Social took the form of “toast to the King, Country, Army, Navy and the Bulawayo Jewish Community”.

From 1916 onwards until the end of the war, the Bulawayo Jewish Guild went into recess, and did not recommence operations again until well into 1919.

Meanwhile the enlistment of Jews in the Colony’s forces proceeded vigorously, a unique incident being recorded in 1914, when a group of young volunteers belonging to the community, met at Bulawayo and choosing their own officers, were duly embodied in the Rhodesian Reserve Volunteers. This unit, numbering about 40, became a section of B Company, and hopes were expressed that they might take the field as a single body. Military authorities still controlled by the British South African Company, however, disapproved of the principle and despite the precedent of the famous “Judeans” overseas, insisted on appointing officers of their own. Nonetheless, there is a photograph extant of this Jewish group, before it was dispersed. Among the names that can still be identified are Lieutenant Louis Landau, Sergeant R. Aserman, Sergeant S. Grossberg, Private David Landau, Private Abe Fingelson, Private Meyer Cohen, Private Joe Budlender, Private R. Feigenbaum, Private L. Solo, Private Oscar Kaufman, Private Adolph Hepker and Private Jacob Hoffman.

Considering that the entire Jewish population of Rhodesia only numbered a few hundred, the frequency with which Jewish names occur in the military lists is noteworthy. Thus we find Lieutenant Byron Jacobs, son of a Bulawayo stockbroker, serving with the buffs in France, where he won the Military Cross, while carrying ammunition to a front line trench under heavy fire. Seeing another soldier fall, Lieutenant Jacobs stopped to pick him up and brought him to safety. Private H.M. Jacobs from the Wanderers’ Rest Gold Mine in Rhodesia, serving with the Third South African Infantry, was killed in action in 1917. Private P. Wisener of the Southern Rhodesia Column was decorated “for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty”. Lieutenant Solly King, born in Ireland, came to Bulawayo in 1902, finished his schooling at St. George’s, and was working with the well-known chemists, Lennon’s, when war broke out. He not only volunteered, but paid his own passage back to the Old Country. There he joined the Officers’ Training Corps and attracted the favourable notice of Colonel Davidson, through whom he received his commission as Lieutenant in the First Northumberland Fusiliers. In the slaughter on the Somme, Lieutenant King was killed on October 12, 1916. His brother, Sergeant Isidore King, also born in Ireland, had come with him at the same time to Rhodesia. Leaving his work with the Bulawayo firm of Charelick Salomon, he enlisted in the Southern Rhodesian Volunteers and then transferred to the British South Africa Police Regiment, with which he went to German East Africa. Seriously wounded up North, he was invalided out of the army, but never fully recovered, and died

of the effects in London. His son, Edwin King, became a well-known Cape Town advocate.

Then there was Lieutenant Julius Hermann, an attorney from Fort Victoria, who, making his way over to England, like so many others, joined the 9th London Regiment in 1916, and was killed in action within 14 days of his arrival in France.

Private P.L. Barnett of Bulawayo, was first reported missing, and later died in action in France, on February 28, 1918. Private A.J. Ackerman from Salisbury, originally in the Second Rhodesian Regiment, was transferred to the Second South African Infantry. After being reported missing, he too was found killed in action.

Several sons of Eli Susman enlisted in Northern Rhodesia, - Oscar Susman distinguishing himself in the Second Rhodesia Regiment during the East African Campaign. In appreciation of what he had done, his name was formally inscribed in the Golden Book, on behalf of the Livingstone Herzl Zionist Society.

Captain H.H. Baron transferred from the Rhodesian Regiment to the Royal Air Force. During the campaign in South West Africa, he contracted a disease, from the effects of which he ultimately died, immediately after the Armistice in February 1919.

And so the story might be continued. The list of those killed between 1914 and 1918, appearing in a Memorial Tablet in Bulawayo, is unfortunately very incomplete, but it gives H Chitrin, D Cohen, J Hermann, S King, A.G. Lazar, and B Rabinson.

When the Bulawayo Jewish Guild met again for the first time on August 21, 1919, Mr. Louis Landau began by welcoming the returned soldiers, and expressed the sympathy of all to the relatives of those who had made the supreme sacrifice. "I will ask all present", he said, "to rise in honour of those who have not returned".

CHAPTER 29.

GOLD AND OTHER MINERS.

No story of Rhodesia can be told without taking account of those men who helped to build up its mining industry, more particularly the production of gold in the earlier days. Here as everywhere else, Jewry played its part to the full. Reference has been made to some of the pioneers who helped to open up the underground treasures, first of Mashonaland and later of Matabeleland, before the end of the 18th Century. But the time seems ripe to take account of those who continued the trail into the 20th Century. Many of these ventures - in fact, the majority - ended in disappointment, but optimism and courage are not to be calculated in pounds, shillings and pence. Those who risked their money, their health and their time in questing after minerals in the bundu, helped to build a tradition which continues to aid the Colony in coping with its problems.

Several of the early Jewish pioneers were specially attracted by the technical aspect of mining. Thus on October 5, 1895, it was reported that "Messrs. Henri Knoertzer and Leopold Weil, engineers of the French South Africa Company, have arrived at Salisbury with Mr. Am Ende from Bulawayo". One November 3, 1899, there was an item:

"J.D. JACOBSON.

P.O. BOX 579, Bulawayo. (Later of Bargerton and
Johannesburg).

Having had 14 years experience in the Erection of Batteries, Concentrators, Compressors, Hauling Engines, Headgears, Cyanide Plants and Dams, Cornish Pumps, Offices and Whole Surface Plants, is now prepared to undertake similar works in Rhodesia".

And again a notice appeared:

"CONCENTRATION OF ORES BY OIL

Elmore Process.

Samples Tested Free Of Charge.

Full Particulars on Application to :

EUGEN BLUME

P.O. Box 77, Bulawayo.

Testing Works: Albany House".

In the columns of "The Idler" are recounted the adventures of an anonymous Jewish pioneer, who took up a five-stamp gold proposition. After describing how he had battled to get the primitive machinery into operation, he tells how he and his partners decided to scrape the amalgamating plates to see if there was any gold. "We all worked very hard", he said, "lifting and hanging the stamps, and then came the scraping. After some hours, I saw a few ounces of amalgam, about sufficient, I should say, to pay for fuel for the boiler. Then cattle disease broke out and the rain set in and stopped our traction engine. Now a drought has set in, and there will probably be a scarcity of water". He adds that at the moment when other operations came to a standstill, he had, after a long lull, plenty of labour, but was unable to use it. "The woes of a manager of a mining syndicate are many he said, "but the experience he gains is in proportion".

Something of the quality of the original comes out in the obituary of Barney Barnett, an early Jewish prospector. He had begun as one of the Diamond Fields pioneers at Kimberly long before, and was later active in the back blocks of Rhodesia. When he passed away in his 99th year on July 24, 1926, the press described him as "the oldest European in the Colony. "At one time ", commented the "African World", "he was in affluent circumstances, but in later years found it difficult to make ends meet. A man of sturdy independence, he declined to accept charity in any form, and was working until within a week of his passing". That proud quality might have been found in many of those fine old Jews.

Emanuel Basch, besides becoming Mayor of Bulawayo, was one of the first Rhodesians to erect a five-stamp battery on his own property, the Mohem Mine in the Bembezi district. In connection with his work there he made a classic remark. "A mine", said Basch "is a big hole. You put in sovereigns and take out stones. In spite of this, he persisted and belonged to the Rhodesian Chamber of Mines for a number of years, even sitting on the Committee, along with his co-religionist, W.L. Simon of the Bechuanaland Exploration Company, which operated the Bernheim (Mazoe) Gold Mines Ltd.,

That very famous early mining engineer, E.H.A. Cohen, nicknamed "Alphabetical" Cohen, on account of the numerous letters both in front and behind his name, gained a number of his laurels in Rhodesia.

No mention has yet been made of Abner Cohen's mining ventures, or those of his partner, Norman Levy Mandelson, of Joseph Saber, of Leonard & Lezard of Gatooma and Gwelo, of Jacob Goldberg, and of N. Platnauer.

The number of Jews associated with the Rhodesian mining companies was so considerable that it is difficult to pick out names. Among the most versatile was Isidore Hirschler, to whom reference was made in connection with the Matabele Rebellion, who for many years was Resident Director of the group known as Rhodesia Ltd. To his earlier directorships he added those of the Rice-Hamilton Syndicate, Sneddon Concessions, the Austro-Rhodesian Development Co. Ltd., the Empress Rhodesia Mines Ltd., the Rhodesian Mining and Development Company Ltd., the Tuli Consolidated Coalfields Ltd., the Urangwe Main Reef Syndicate Ltd., the South African Gold Dredging Company Ltd., the Sabina Proprietary Mines Ltd., the Wearleigh Rhodesian Development Company Ltd., and others.

Charterland Goldfields Ltd., one of his earlier directorships, was to be followed at the time of the Boer War by the Wanderer (Selukwe) Goldmines Ltd., by the Rhodesia Investment Company Ltd., which, started in 1899, was reconstructed the Wankie Colliery Company, on August 23, 1909. Similarly the Rhodesia Copper Company Ltd., registered on January 31, 1902, was ancestor of the giant undertakings which make the present Copper Belt famous. Many other Jewish names appear in the old records - M. Goldstein of the Ophir Concessions and Exploration Co. Ltd., Bruno Weiser of the French South African Development Company Ltd., the French Ayrshire and Lo Magondi District Development Co. Ltd. A. Spitzer along with Charles Sidney Goldman, had a number of Rhodesian interests, including the famous syndicate started by Lord Randolph Churchill, father of the celebrated Winston.

Similarly E.G. Mocatta was an early director of the Penhalonga Proprietary Mines Ltd., near Umtali, one of the first opened up after the Occupation. The Salisbury Reef Mine occupied Louis Susman at the turn of the century (he later ran the Dwarf Mine near Gadzema); the Monomotapa Development Company Ltd., W.H. Cohen; the Africa Trust Consolidated and General exploration Company, H. Feldman; the St. Gerera Development Company Ltd., E.H. Joseph; and the Etna Mine at Hartley, Max Grossberg and George Thal, while Isaac Lasovsky was to be found at the Sabiwa Mine near Banket, and later at the Shamva. A.Hess, director of the Consolidated Exploration and Development (Rhodesia) Co. Ltd figures, along with E.Hess, in the British Lomagundi Development Co. Ltd. Then there was Fleming's Matabeleland Exploration Company Ltd., of which E.S. Marcus was the Chairman; A.G. Freeman was on the board of the Rhodesia Transvaal Syndicate Ltd., while John I. M. Ornstein was a director, both of the Makaha Goldfields Ltd., and of the Matoko Goldfields Ltd.

B.Y. Vioira was on the board of the J.G, Development Syndicate and Falcon Mines Ltd., a reconstruction in 1910 of the earlier Falcon (Rhodesia) Development Company Ltd., later merged with the Athens Mine in 1911, as well as of the Glen May (Rhodesia) Mines Ltd., established in 1914, which also had on its board A.W. Cohen and Dr. M. Thalmessinger.

The famous Globe and Phoenix Gold Mining Company Ltd., included in its directorate H.H. Haldenstein, member of the prominent shoe manufacturing family in Norwich, while the North Charterland Exploration Company Ltd. (1910), had, amongst others, E. Turk.

Partner of the legendary Sammy Marks in Lewis & Marks, Isaac Lewis, was director of the Rhodesia Gold Mining and Investment Company Ltd., as was his son, G. Roy Lewis, A. Horkheimer held a similar position on the United Excelsior Mines Ltd., and E. Friedlander on Viking Gold Mines Ltd.

Perhaps the most prominent personalities in the realm of Rhodesian mining were the members of the Weil family of Mafeking and Bulawayo. Thus when in 1910 the famous Cam and Motor Gold Mining Company was registered in London, the Chairman was Julius Weil, with his brother, Sam, on the directorate. Sam in his turn was Chairman of the Enterprise Gold Mining and Estates Co. Ltd., with Julius an ordinary member of the Board. Another, Maurice Weil, was on the board of Farmlands of Rhodesia Ltd., registered in 1912. Sam Weil was likewise Chairman of the Giant Mines of Rhodesia Ltd., and Ben Weil a director. Both Joe and Sam Weil were on the London board of the Imperial Gold Mines and estates Company of Rhodesia Ltd. Julius was Chairman of the Linchwe Concession Company Ltd., also Chairman of the New Found out Mines Ltd., again with Sam as an ordinary member of the Board. Julius was also a director of Rhodesia Ltd., already mentioned in connection with I.S. Hirschler.

Almost inevitably Julius Weil was made Chairman of the famous "Lonrho". officially the London & Rhodesian Mining and Land Company Ltd., established on May 30, 1909, to take over a very large number of important ventures in the Colony, again with Sam one of the directors. This does not by any means exhaust the Jewish contribution to mining.

The firm of Hepker, Blumenthal and Thal, also has its place in the story of the industry. It was founded by the well-known Hermann Hepker, one of the memorable personalities of the earlies. Born in Goldingon in Latvia in 1870, he came to German South West Africa as a boy of 17, making his home in the new settlement of Luderitzbucht. There he remained some years, engaged in smousing and cattle training, until about 1891, when he moved over to Kimberly. Inherent restlessness sent him trekking round Bechuanaland, where he gained approval of the famous Chief Khama. With his partner, a Frenchman, he secured land concessions on 10,000 morgen at the not unreasonable figure of 3d. a morgen! Soon after the Matabele Rebellion, Hermann Hepker in 1896 moved to Bulawayo, where he combined business as a cattle trader with that of produce merchant. His "Chartered Butchery", adjoining the Palace Hotel, one of the landmarks of the town, remained in business until shortly after World War 1!

During the period following the Boer War, Hepker became interested in mining and, along with Blumenthal and Thal, succeeded in acquiring a number of small properties including the Authentic Gold Mine, the Reliable Gold Mine, the Highland Chief Gold Mine and the Lowland Chief gold Mine, all of which were merged into the West Mazoe Mines Ltd., to which was added later the Hermit Mine. Unfortunately none

of these were successful, but Hepker, undeterred, took advantage of the knowledge he had gained in developing sources of local mining timber.

Douglas Abrahamson, born in the Eastern Cape in 1877, first reached Rhodesia soon after the Boer War and became an active prospector, as well as miner. A nephew of Sir David Harris, the famous Kimberly pioneer, he was the son of Louis Abrahamson, a well-known member of the old Cape Parliament. Though his mother was not Jewish, he always considered himself a member of a community and married into the faith. Abrahamson was associated with the successful development of the mines in the Shamva District, particularly the Ilex property, from which at one time he was recovering gold at the rate of £1,000 a month. It was a sign of his popularity that upon its establishment in 1907, he became the representative on the Executive of the Rhodesian Small-Workers and Tributors Association, representing the Abercorn Goldfields.

Quite apart from his link with the Lonely Mine, R. Aserman was active in the Gwanda district in 1910, where his representative was Maurice Kanter. He pegged over a mile and a half of claims in one section, and another eight miles near the Susanna Mine. So promising were the results that there was a rush of other diggers and prospectors. In all Aserman was associated with well over 20 gold-producing properties, most of them short-lived.

The membership list for the Rhodesia Chamber of Mines for 1919 includes R. Aserman, now an independent operator, his former partner J. Palca, also on his own, Emanuel Basch, representing the Lonely Reef Gold Mining Company Ltd., Louis Landau, representing the Durban Syndicate, S. Levin, representing his own interests, S. Charelick, as also Charelick Salomon, another claim-holder, a not inconsiderable proportion of six out of 34.

In more recent years membership of the Rhodesian Chamber of Mines has included O. Kaufman of C. Salomon & Kaufman Ltd., (1938); N. Landau of the Rezende Mines Ltd.; M.L. van Blijdenstein of the Cambray Mining Company (1944) Ltd., A.M. Bensusan and H. Levy, who for many years was Secretary for the Goldfields group in the Colony.

The list of small gold workings in later times is a long one, with many picturesque names - the Brilliant New Hartley operated by V.J Shapiro; the Camstick by L.U Hepker; the Commoner, near Hartley, by A.M. Bensusan; the Dreamy Daniel, near Bulawayo, by N. Turk; the Earl, near Salisbury, by N.B. Galante; the Frank, the Commonwealth and the W. & B. near Bulawayo, but Burwitz Brothers; the Pluvius, near Bulawayo, by I. Burwitz; the King's Daughter, near Umtali, by D. Cinamon and A.G.F. Alexander; the Marvel, near Bulawayo, by Ralstein's Mining Syndicate; the Negus, near Bulawayo, by F.R. Berman; the Dew Day and the Scoveni, near Bulawayo, by D.B. Pieters; the Tatagura II near Salisbury and the Sunrise by N.B. Benatar; the Teddy near Bulawayo, by M. Sher; the Teviot near Salisbury, by Douglas Abrahamson; the Yellow Vlei by M. Nowak; the Kambanye by O. Lieberman; the King's Daughter by Mrs. B.

Cinamon; the Mona near Salisbury by D.S. Leon; the Morven, near Belingwe, by N. Levin and the Promoter near Bindura, by B.S. Leon.

Nor are the Jews to be forgotten in exploiting Southern Rhodesia's deposits of base minerals. Hyman Benjamin helped to open up the Mashaba Asbestos Mine in 1915 and the name of George Gabriel Epstein, mentioned in connection with Barotseland, figures in the beginning of the same great industry when he settled on the fields on 1918 and discovered the highly profitable Shashi Mine.

The year 1905 saw the arrival in South Africa of James Frederick Kapnek, who, born in Bessarabia in 1891, had been brought up and educated in Philadelphia, U.S.A. Mining propositions became his particular interest and remained so for most of his life. After World War I Mr. Kapnek tried very hard to find oil at Inyaminga, in the Northern part of Mozambique.

Amblygonite and Beryl were produced by B. Kaplan at the Benson Four Mine near Umtoko, as they were at God's Gift, belonging to J.A. Moss, also near that village. Mr. Kaplan was also responsible for the production of Columbite and of tantalum at the Benson Mine. We find D. P Pieters recovering Tungsten at the Beth Mine near Bulawayo, and B.S. Leon at the Topsman, while Magnetite was produced from the Krantz Mine near Bulawayo by M. Yodaiken.

Northern Rhodesia developed along an entirely different road, owing to the Mining laws, which made impossible the existence of small propositions. In consequence two great rival combines of the Anglo-American, headed by Sir Ernest Oppenheimer, as well as the Rhodesian Selection Trust, took a leading part, continuing the pioneer work of Edmund Davis.

The distinction of holding the first mining license for the great Rhokana property of the Copper Belt went to Eli Susman, who disposed of it for the sum of £500.

Edmund Davis, born in 1862 was of Australian origin, the son of S. Davis of Melbourne. He was sent to England and France for his education and reached South Africa as a lad of 17 in 1879. His connection with Rhodesia began early and he became one of the original directors of the Northern Copper Company Ltd., registered in London on February 16, 1895, with a capital of £250,000. Established under the auspices of the British South African Company, it had the right to take over 510 square miles vaguely described as "North of the Zambezi". Within a short while it disposed of 400 square miles and a block of farms to the Rhodesia Copper Company, "retaining the right to locate within this area five blocks of ten square miles each, round the Ancient Mines, which are being opened up by its engineer".

As the new century developed, Edmund Davis - later to become Sir Edmund - became one of the dominant financial figures of England as well as Southern Africa, with interest in West Africa, East Africa, Australia and other parts of the World. In Rhodesia he was associated, inter alia, with the Bechuanaland Exploration Co., the

Charterland and General Exploration and Finance Company, Rhodesia Copper and General Exploration and Finance Company Ltd., Rhodesia Chrome Mines Ltd., the Wanderer (Selukwe) Gold Mines Ltd., the Wankie Colliery Co. Ltd., and many more. He passed away in 1939.

Even more spectacular was the rise of Sir Ernest Oppenheimer who, 18 years younger than Sir Edmund Davis, was born in Friedberg in Hesse, Germany. Coming to Kimberly in 1902, to look after the diamond interests with which his family was linked, he laid the foundations there for his future financial empire. Having become Mayor of Kimberly and a leading expert on the fields, he moved to the Rand in 1915, and in 1916 established the Anglo-American Corporation of South Africa, today one of the greatest mining and industrial enterprises in the World. Oppenheimer's activities in Rhodesia began in 1924, on his own testimony:

"..... The Corporation's original incursion into Northern Rhodesian mining was really the result of our diamond activities. After negotiations with the Belgian and Angola diamond companies, through the intermediary of Sir Edmund Davis, for the purchase of their diamonds had been successfully completed, Sir Edmund asked me as a favour to assist with Bwana (M'Kubwa) finance and I agreed to participate in a small way, on condition that we were appointed consulting engineers. We looked upon the deal as a share transaction; it was liquidated fairly promptly, actually with the assistance of Sir Edmund.

"Later on, after negotiations with Mr. Chester Beatty concerning West African diamonds had brought us into closer relations with him, he asked the Corporation to help in Rhodesian Congo Border Concession finance, which it did, again stipulating for the consulting engineership, which was readily granted. It must be recorded that at this time Bwana was in a state of continuous reconstruction, and nothing of any value had been found in the Rhodesian Congo Border Concession territory.

"In due course the Corporation became interested in other enterprises in Northern Rhodesia".

Space is lacking to do justice to the enormous and essential role which Sir Ernest Oppenheimer played in creating the Copperbelt, the interests acquired by him in the Chartered Company and other enterprises and the establishment, in 1928, of Rhodesian Anglo-American. It may safely be claimed that, however great was the contribution of others, in establishing the vast Mineral industry of Northern Industry including the production of Zinc, vanadium and other minerals at Broken Hill, the building of a vast power network, culminating in the construction of Kariba, the advance of the Wankie coal-fields and countless other achievements would have been unthinkable without the presence of Sir Ernest Oppenheimer.

In this context it might however perhaps be justified also to mention the name of the great Rio Tinto group. Originally connected with the famous Spanish copper mine from which it took its name, it has for generations enjoyed the powerful support of

the Rothschild family in London, with its international connections, and in recent years has become prominent in the same industry in Rhodesia and elsewhere in Southern Africa. Thus a link formed in the days of Cecil John Rhodes has been expanded in our own time. From the giant corporations, with their expenditure of millions, down to the little two and three-stamp batteries standing in the bush, Jewry has played a worthy part in opening up the mineral endowments of the Rhodesias.

CHAPTER 30.

NATIE ARNOLD AND HIS STORY.

For sheer picturesqueness probably the most interesting figure among the Jewish mining fraternity, was the legendary Nat Arnold. Born as Nathaniel Arnold Aaron in London in 1878, he changed the order of his names into Nathaniel Aaron Arnold. So eventful was his career that it is hard to believe that he died at the age of barely 40, we are fortunate in having still with us one of his lifelong friends. Alfred Glover, now living in retirement in Cape Town. Mr. Glover is only slightly younger, having also been born in London, on February 7, 1879. The two families were neighbours, and the boys themselves met first at the famous Jewish Free School, where they shared as a teacher in the evening classes, the later great novelist, Israel Zangwill.

"Natie" Arnold's father, Isaac Aaron, was a woodcarver, permanently hard up, and living in small house in Frying Pan Alley, one side of which abutted on the school. The boy found his first job with the Jewish Board of Guardians, who sent him round on Thursday the shopping day before the Sabbath, to distribute up to 4, in small sums of cash, to deserving Jewish poor. "Walking round with him", said Mr. Glover, "between five and eight o'clock in the evening, we usually were rewarded with half a crown each for ourselves".

Alfred left school at 15 years old, in 1894, in order to become apprenticed to a shoemaker named Flatow. The prevailing standards wealth could hardly be shown better than by an excited conversation that took place one day.

Natie Arnold: "I met a man who's back from South Africa with three suits of clothes!"

Alfred Glover incredulously: "Who's got three suits?"

"He has. He's from Johannesburg. He says it's a lovely country, and he wants me to go there".

The outcome was that the two boys obtained leave from their parents to emigrate. "We sailed", said Mr. Glover, "on the ill-fated "Drummond Castle " in March 1896, on her last outward voyage before she went to the bottom near Cape Ushant, with the loss of almost every soul on board".

Landed at Cape Town, the pair of young immigrants spent a short while there, before they moved to the Rand, where they shared a room at Heights Hotel, living as economically as they could. Arnold was the first to find a job, in the capacity of a waiter at the then fashionable North Western Hotel. As such, his first need was to borrow, as he could not afford to buy, a dress suit. Three sizes too large, with the cuffs coming over his fingertips and the trousers falling over his shoes, it was strange attire in which he had to be firmly pinned. But at least he had made a start.

Thus encouraged, Alfred hunted round for a similar appointment, which he obtained in the less aristocratic Simmer and Jack Mine Boarding House. Despite his lack of experience, he was within three months made head waiter! Natie's ignorance of his duties soon cost him his post at the North Western Hotel, so he tried again as a waiter on the Geldenhuis Mine Boarding house, was soon promoted to barman at the Geldenhuis Deep Hotel and then found a post at the Native Canteen, where liquor was sold to the black workers. There he was joined by his head waiter friend, each earning 5 a month, plus board. "We were supplied", said Mr. Glover, "with a barrel of fiery Nellmapius brandy from Lewis & Mark's Distillery at Hatherly, near Pretoria. After water and mentholated spirits were added the mixture was retailed at 2/6d. a bottle, or nine bottles for 1. As a rule, the natives would club together to buy the nine bottles, and sit down in a circle while they drank the contents. Before they went home everything was empty. In this way, the canteen would take anything up to £100 a day in golden sovereigns". Though fights were numerous and often bloody, the two newcomers hung on and succeeded in saving a good deal more than their pay, so that, by the time they decided on a move, they had about £500 between them.

One of the Basuto canteen workers having suggested that they should try his homeland, they duly set off from Johannesburg to Bloemfontein, where they acquired two Basuto ponies and continued towards the border on the first ride of their lives. At Thaba'Nchu, however, they were so exhausted that they spent three days in bed recovering! In the village they encountered a famous character, D.J. van Riet, once President of the long-defunct Stellaland Republic on the borders of Bechuanaland. He had become a lawyer and was now living in retirement at an advanced age. He noticed the two greenhorns chaffering for horses and stopped to ask what they were up to.

"Buying ponies for Johannesburg", Arnold replied. "You're paying too much", the veteran observed, and agreed to help in the deal.

"In the course of conversation", said Mr. Glover, "Mr. van Riet mentioned that he had two sons, - Gielie, on the offices with his father, - and Johnnie, who lived in a place called Rhodesia. Since neither of us had ever heard of this country we didn't take much notice. Instead we spent four or five months buying ponies and sending them to the Rand, where they were sold by auction, giving us a useful profit. We also bought forage, which we dispatched to the Johannesburg market".

One day van Riet told them that his son was coming down from Umtali, intending to also buy Basuto ponies. When the young man made his appearance, he was

not particularly pleased to find that the two young Jewish fellows were also talking of going up there on a similar quest. Both sensed his attitude, but this did not deter them and after careful consideration, they decided that they would risk too much if they traveled together. Instead one should make the long trek by himself, with say 20 ponies, which would not cost more than £5 each. If they got through to Umtali, they could easily realize £75 apiece, in that land of horse-sickness. "If you get there with five", a young van Riet warned them, "you will do well", but he spoke of such obstacles as lions, crocodiles and tsetse fly, to say nothing of the risk of the horses running away.

It was agreed that Natie, stocky in build and a good boxer, should make the trip overland, some 1,500 miles over a country with no roads. So he set off from Thaba N'chu with his cavalcade of ponies and one or two Africans to look after them, while Glover by arrangement waited another three months before setting off on the coastal route.

No news of any kind came through before his departure for Delagoa Bay, where he caught the German East African liner "Burgermeister". His trip up the Mozambique shore was uneventful, but Beira was a pest-hole, even though the railway to the Rhodesian border was already under construction. At the railhead, Fontesvilla, even the imported Indian coolies, supposed to be inured to fever, were dying like flies, and it took a day and a half to cover even this short distance of 35 miles.

"Next", said Mr. Glover, "I had to walk 100 miles through blazing heat to Masekessi on the frontier. It took four days and one had to carry one's own pack. As we followed what was later the railway route we got a close-up of wildest Africa, its insects, wild animals, snakes and steamy heat". Masekessi, a few years earlier the scene of a border fight between British and Portuguese forces, had grown into a small settlement with an apology for a hotel. Into this tin and mud building he went in search of a beer, only to find there Nat Arnold full of beans and energy. Exactly as van Riet had foreseen, he arrived with five of his 20 horses. "Instead of the £75 on which we had reckoned, they had only fetched £50 each, so that on making up our accounts, we found we had slightly. But he had got through safely himself from the Orange Free State to Umtali!"

The partners now made their headquarters in that newly-established village, where Natie found a post as a clerk with Douglas Hudson & Co., auctioneers, and Alfred a similar job with a rival firm conducted by the famous Sandy Tulloch. Nat had already made a name for himself in Umtali by a successful two hour fight with a formidable bruiser named Tongler, who had assaulted him in the main street, and despite the rough conditions both young Jews felt very much at home.

One day Alfred Glover met an engineer named Montagu Groves, working for Cecil John Rhodes, who was connected with the Quagga Mine, a new proposition near Odzi Siding, about 20 miles away. "Through him", said Mr. Glover, "I made the acquaintance of Mr. Rhodes himself. He was sitting with his secretaries, Jack Grimmer and Gordon Le Sueur on the verandah of the Cecil Hotel, Umtali, the small tin

building quite unlike the present palatial establishment. We had a most friendly talk. "You're the young man", Rhodes said to me, "who wants to take over the store? Do you know anything about the work?"

"No, sir".

You'll find it tough going", he said, "but you can have it". Although the whole discussion only lasted about five minutes, it was sufficient. Without any capital the two adventurers arranged a partnership - Alfred to run the shop and Natie to attend to matters in town. "Having reached Odzi by train", said Mr. Glover, "I found myself faced with another trek of some 20 miles by ox-wagon. The Quagga Mine, when we found it, was nothing but empty veld, without even a building. So I spent the first three weeks in putting up a shack for myself, together with a store and other essentials".

Digging operations began underground, but soon showed to little gold. Four months later Alfred developed Blackwater fever, and though he gradually recovered in the local hospital it was the end of the mining adventure. He then took a post as barman at the Masonic Hotel, belonging to a Jewish settler named Schwaebe, son of Lt.-Col. Schwaebe. One of the few regular Jewish officers in the British army.

Meanwhile Nat, apart from representing the firm at Umtali, continued his duties as auctioneer's clerk for the Douglas Hudson. The latter sold out to D'urban Barry who saw the young Cockney's unusual gifts and gave him an interest in the firm.

A year having passed since their arrival in Rhodesia, Arnold and Glover decided to try their fortune further inland. On the coach to Salisbury, they met Bob Bernsteubm a traveling photographer, now engaged in property and mining business. While Glover found another post as a barman at the Albion Hotel, in Salisbury, Bernstein and Arnold set up as auctioneers.

Within a short time Natie had acquired from the Africans the nickname by which he became known through a great part of the Colony, namely "One-One", an echo of his rapid-fire acceptance of bids. Specializing in mining properties, claims, machinery and the like, they were soon on the road to prosperity and within barely four months invited Alfred Glover to join them.

A write-up at the turn of the century says: "A firm which may be justly assigned a dominant position in this important department for commercial activity is the well-known house of Messrs. Arnold & Co., Auctioneers, Valuers and Commission Agents. Founded in 1897, they are one of the oldest firms of auctioneers in Rhodesia. From the commencement, the concern has been conducted in a spirit of progressive enterprise, until it is now second to none in the town. The firm's mart, which covers a large area of ground, is well appointed, and within it are stocks of goods, both utilitarian and ornamental.

"Messrs. Arnold & Co. have several stores for grain, in which commodity they do a very large business in various parts of the town. The conduct sales of live-stock and general sales of household furniture and other goods are also frequently held. In brief, Messrs Arnold & Co.'s reputation in all matters relating to their business is of the highest character, as the phenomenal development of their business testifies.

"As gentlemen equal to every responsibility of the important and representative concern with which their names are identified, Messrs. N. Arnold and R. Bernstein, the principals, gain the esteem of their numerous constituents by integrity, enterprise and tact which are displayed.

"The firm is the sole auctioneers - by appointment - to the Mozambique Company at Beira, the British South Africa Company, the Beira and Mashonaland Railways etc. They are also sworn Appraisers to the High Court of Southern Rhodesia and the Municipal Market Masters".

After about three years Bernstein withdrew from the partnership and the new merger was known for a short while as Thompson, Arnold & Co. But Natie preferred his independence and started up once more on his own.

His first local branch was established at Beira about 1903, by which time his agencies included the Lake of the Woods Milling Company in Canada, producers of the celebrated Five Roses Flour, also the kaffir truck imported by the Oost-Africakaanshee Compagnie in Holland, Demuth's Triumph Antiseptic and Odenaal's "celebrated Melsetter Gazaland Tobacco". He also held the appointment of Lloyd's agent.

After six years Glover ceased to be an employee and also became a partner, allowing Arnold time for a certain amount of communal work on the Committee of the Salisbury Congregation. He made frequent visits to Johannesburg, in connection with the disposal of blocks of claims and mining properties, in which he often took a personal share. This fondness for investment was to cost him dear.

On September 24, 1910, the "South African Journal" reported: "The purchase of the Colossus Mine in the Kimberly Reef District was concluded this week... the purchaser being Mr. N.A. Arnold. The price was reported to be between £30,000 and £40,000 cash. The purchase was concluded after six days of option. The Colossus has hitherto been a ten-stamp proposition, and entered the producing list a few months ago. Wonderful values are reported to have been attained".

Mr. Glover can well recall how doubts gradually arose in their minds, until they decided to inspect the property itself - something which should have been done before the deal was ever closed! On reaching the Colossus, the gathering suspicions grew deeper. Not only was the ore completely devoid of gold or any other metal, but at the bottom of one of the excavations were found portions of a golden sovereign from which filings had been taken and then fired with a shot gun onto the surface of the rock! A criminal charge for salting was laid, but the sellers were equal to the occasion. They

retained the services of the famous South African criminal lawyer, the late Dr. F.E.T. Krause, afterwards Mr. Justice Krause, who came up specifically from Johannesburg to fight the action. Playing on the emotions of the jury and describing the accused as "poor ignorant foreigners," Krause achieved the impossible, and secured their acquittal!

Poor Arnold, left with the doubtful chance of bringing a civil action, decided to risk it. Even if it was a bad blow, his irrepressible spirits could not long be kept down. He was soon hard at work again and able to make good much of his loss.

In 1911 Natie brought his Jewish sense of humour to bear, by christening a property of the Mozzle claims.

"Golden Gatooma", issued in 1912, carries a reference to another mine, with the quaint name of The Second Event, also belonging to Arnold, and located Umsweswe River near the town. "There is as yet no plant", said the publication "on this property, which has only been in the present owner's hands for a few months, but during that time a large quartz reef, measuring up to 15 feet in places, has been opened up, whilst lying on the surface, covered only by a very slight overburden, are hundreds of thousands of tons of pay-rock. The average assay values of the reef are given at 9 dwts. and the overthrow has been variously given as 4 to 6 dwts. per ton".

Amongst other things, Arnold set up a branch of his business in the Old Country, which he advertised in 1912.

"OLDEST ESTABLISHED AUCTIONEERS IN RHODESIA.

N.A. Arnold & Co.

Salisbury- P.O. Box 315

Telegrams: "Arnoldco",
and

London - 831 Salisbury House, London Wall.

Telegrams "Arnoldator".

"Largest Importer and Salesmen of Livestock in Salisbury.
Donkeys, Mules, Horses, Wagons, always on hand.

Mining Department.

We are in touch with every Mining Cam in Mashonaland and Matabeleland, and are recognized as the leading Mining Agents in the Territory. We are prepared to deal with Properties in any District.

Correspondence invited.

N.A.ARNOLD & CO.

London and Salisbury".

In 1913 Arnold was responsible for the floatation of the Seignury Gold Mining and Development Company, which operated a property 16 miles east of Hartley. Its output in 1913 came to £9,042, but the high hopes expressed in its prospectus were unfortunately not destined to be fulfilled. Better luck attended him with the Cheshire Cat, located some 30 miles South of Gatooma, which he owned in partnership with a Mr. Taverner. With a shaft down to 250 feet, it was able in 1913 to produce gold to the value of £12,407.

As he extended his interests in new directions and attained increasing popularity, Nat Arnold was acknowledged to be one of the coming men of the Colony. He and Alfred Glover remained good friends but parted company in 1913, owing to a disagreement between their wives.

One day in 1918 Arnold sold an important block of claims in the Midlands for the sum of £20,000. Pleased with his feat, he came into the village of Gatooma in the evening and asked for a meal at the local hotel. Presented with a dish of tinned salmon, he smothered it in Worcester sauce and detected nothing until it was too late. Within a few hours he was in the agonies of ptomaine poisoning and passed away in the local hospital on December 15, 1918. As with so many pioneers, his speculations had failed in the end to leave him even a competence, for, despite the fact that his assets reached £16,015.12. 6, the estate account showed that he was insolvent. He remains a prototype of the happy-go-lucky Rhodesian of an earlier day.