

Betar

This publication is directed to the vast masses of unorganised Jewish Youth with the hope that it will bring them closer to the great cultural heritage of our people.

We feel that the Jewish Youth cannot remain indifferent to the vital problems confronting them today and that their place is in the ranks of the National Youth of Betar.

Betar challenges YOU — what is your answer?

ISSUED BY THE NETZIVUT BETAR AUSTRALIA 584, ST. KILDA RD. MELBOURNE S.C.3.

DO YOU KNOW THAT—

(The following facts about Betar should be well-known to all. Do YOU know them?)

The name "Betar" was that of the ancient stronghold in Eretz Israel, which was the last one to fall in the struggle against the Romans. In addition, the three Hebrew consonants of the name "Betar" stand for Brit Yosef Trumpeldor, in the memory of one of the greatest Jewish heroes, who died in defence of Tel-Hai.

Betar was formed in the year 1923, in Riga. Thus, the World Betar will celebrate its 32nd Anniversary this year.

Z'ev Jabotinsky, one of the greatest Jews of modern times, was the founder of Betar and its leader until his untimely death in 1940.

The Emblem of Betar is the Menorah, the ancient Jewish symbol, dating back to the period of the Maccabim. Betar is particularly proud of the fact that Israel has Official State Emblem and Seal.

Betar was the largest Jewish youth movement before World War II, numbering over 100,000 members, 60,000 in Poland alone.

Betar has established the first Marine School, dating back to 1934, and also the first "Air School," founded in 1930, preparing Jewish youth for their future tasks.

The World Headquarters of Betar are situated in Israel and are called "Shilton Betar."

Menachem Begin, one of the outstanding statesmen in Israel, is the Head of the World Betar Movement today.

Betar exists in practically all free democratic countries of the world — Algiers, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Cuba, England, France, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, Sth. Africa, Tangiers, Turkey, U.S.A.

A Call To Jewish Youth

This call to Jewish Youth of Australia is not an attempt at a lengthy explanation of the position of Jewish Youth today.

It merely calls upon the youth to reevaluate its approach to Judaism and to Jewish values. To examine the trend of assimilation which has steadily progressed over the years leaving its mark on the Jewish community in this country.

It is a call to Jewish Youth to awaken from their apathy and to realise that the future of the Jewish people rests on their shoulders.

The Jewish National Youth Movement — calls upon the Jewish youth to join its ranks and become the vanguard in the struggle for the revival of a healthy Jewish nation.

We call upon the Jewish Youth not to repeat the mistakes of the past by waiting till it becomes too late. Let your better judgement prevail now, and you will find yourself in the movement which aims at the creation of a new type of Jew — "Strong, generous and fierce."

WHAT WE AIM FOR

It is a very difficult task indeed, to introduce to the reader the answer to the question "What We Aim For?" in the limited space of these columns.

The difficulty arises from the fact that our answer to this question is not derived from a dogmatic statement substantiated by more or less accurate facts, but from the very solution of the problem which has been on the minds of a number of people for a number of years — the so-called "Problem of the Jewish People."

Soon after the formation of the modern Zionist Movement, which again was a result of the awakening of the Jewish people to the fact that a problem exists and a solution must be found, it became quite evident that a new type of Jew would have to be created if the aim of the Zionist Movement were ever to be achieved.

The moral decay of the Jewish People in those days, caused by the years of exile, persecution and suffering, and the complete loss of their self-respect and national dignity, made them immune to any fresh and revolutionary ideas such as the rebirth of the Jewish Nation.

They listened without understanding to the prophetic words of Theodore Herzl, Max Nordau and the Jewish leaders of that day, who took it upon themselves to lead the Jewish People towards their ultimate goal — the Jewish State.

They could not grasp the meaning of these prophecies, for they were old and spiritless — a produce of the Galut.

Under such conditions Betar came into being. It was formed by Vladimir Jabotinsky in 1923 as a challenge to the Jewish Youth — a challenge against everything that brought them to the tragic position in which they found themselves at that time.

Betar asked the Youth to abandon the mentality of the Galut, the typical mentality

taken possession of their mind and body.

The principles of Betar, and their ideological foundation were a result of the better reality and provided a solution to the complex problem of the Diaspora.

The belief that Jewish Youth must dedicate itself to the ideal of creating and building a Jewish State — a task that required and still requires the full effort of more than one generation — is the basic principle of our ideology.

Hadar, another principle of Betar, means the complete abandonment of all the slovenly habits that were acquired by our people whilst in exile.

It stands for the complete realisation of every Jew of the great achievements of his people, of the Historical and Cultural heritage of over seventy generations.

The above two principles aim at the creation of a normal, healthy citizen who will do his utmost in the great task of building and developing his country.

If we examine closely the conditions in the State of Israel today, as well as in the Diaspora, we cannot but

reach the conclusion that this is still the primary aim of Jewish Youth. Betar is a Jewish National Youth Movement, and as such recognises only one flag — the blue and white flag of the Jewish People. The inherent nature of other "isms," which have been adopted by some Jewish Youth Movements, will inevitably bring into open conflict the contradictory values of these "isms" and Zionism, resulting in splits and confusion.

Betar aims to instil in Jewish Youth a spirit of pride in their national heritage and love for the Land of Israel.

It aims to inculcate the youth with the basic principles of Democracy, loyal citizenship and social justice.

It aims to develop each member of Betar into a healthy, competent, and self-reliant, self-respecting man and woman able to lead a useful and purposeful life for the benefit of the Jewish People.

BETAR AND THE STUDY AND USE OF HEBREW

Betar recognises Hebrew as the only and eternal language of the Jewish People.

Therefore, in all activities of the movement, cultural as well as recreational, as many Hebrew terms as possible are introduced. This principle is already adhered to in the youngest age group.

As a matter of course, the Hebrew language is also taught in special classes, which are arranged according to the standards of the participants.

Great emphasis is put on the intensive study of Hebrew at our Summer and Weekend Camps, also through the medium of our numerous publications. Experience has taught Betar's leaders to present the language in such a form that the lessons are more like entertainment and are therefore not regarded as compulsory.

THEY LEAD AUSTRALIAN BETAR

It is easy to understand the tremendous responsibilities resting on the shoulders of those leading a Jewish Youth Movement if we realize the fact that the aim of any such movement is the education of the younger generation.

Not infrequently do we notice how seemingly booming youth organisations find themselves on the verge of collapse for no other reason than a lack of a well trained leadership, capable of implementing the educational programme of that particular organisation.

From that point of view Australian Betar is very fortunate in having a most capable and mature leadership, more so than any other Jewish Youth Movement in this country.

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce to the reader the members of the Netzivut (Federal Execu-

SHIMSHON FEDER — K'tzin (Member of Federal, Executive) is one of the best and richest in any Zionist Youth Movement in Australia. He is in charge of the Education Department and has excelled in producing a number of excellent educational publications. In 1933 he participated in the Leadership Course at the Jerusalem Institute for Youth Leaders.

DORA STEINER — has been active in Betar for a number of years. For the last 3 years she has been a member of the Federal Executive, where she is in charge of the Financial Department. In previous years she was holding the



Y. E. Steiner

youth affairs since his arrival in Australia 5 years ago. In the year 1933/34 he was Vice President of the Melbourne Jewish Youth Council and served on many of its sub-committees. On the Federal Executive he is in charge of the Secretariat and the publicity department.

YAACOB MIRJAM — is the fifth member of the Federal Executive. Being in charge of the Cultural Department, he has written a number of plays which have been successfully staged by Betar on various occasions. At present he is in Israel participating in the youth leadership course at the Jerusalem Institute for youth Leaders.



From left to right:—S. Feder, D. Steiner, T. Balberyszski

(left). All of them have had many years of experience in the educational field and are competent in all Jewish youth affairs.

YOSEF E. STEINER — Netziv (Head) of the Australian Betar, has been a member of the movement since 1938. After his arrival in Australia he organised the existing movement and then left for a leadership course at the Jerusalem Institute for Youth Leaders. At the same time he participated in the World Academy of Betar. Today he also holds the position of General Secretary of the Australian Zionist Youth Council.

position of Secretary. **THEO BALBERYSZSKI** — Has been active in Jewish



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If You Want to be Kept Informed

If you want to be kept informed about the activities of Betar, follow Betar's Club Notes in the Jewish Press.

In this column, from week to week, news appears about the activities of the individual groups and forthcoming functions and other events in the movement.



162 happy faces of Betarim from three States at the recent camp at Kingslake West.