

DORSHEI ZION ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting of the Dorshei Zion Association took place at the Zionist Hall Sunday night. Mr. J. M. Weinreich was in the chair and at the outset referred to the members and wives of members who had passed away during the year; he asked the audience to rise as a mark of respect. He welcomed all present, particularly Mr. Joshua Leibner.

While the tide of war had turned in favour of the Allies during the last year, said the Chairman, the plight of the Jews in Europe had become more terrible and the tragedy was overwhelming. As far as Zionism was concerned, we must not depend too much on the declarations made by the various political parties in America; we must depend chiefly on ourselves and work with the same vigour and determination as the Jews in Europe.

The members of the Dorshei Zion had reason to be proud of the work accomplished during the year. The membership had grown to nearly a thousand. The Committee for the Keren Hayesod campaign, which was a record success, was composed chiefly of members of the Association who also participated in every sphere of Zionist activity. The next few years would be fateful for Zionism and it was the duty of every member to support the work to the utmost. The incoming committee would have a tremendous task; the Association must marshal all its forces and work never before for the attainment of their goal. The Chairman thanked the Committee for their cooperation. He moved the adoption of the report and balance sheet.

Mr. J. M. Heneck seconded. In spite of the increase in expenditure, he said, there was a small surplus. The Zionist Hall had covered its expenses and another £1,000 had been written on the bond. He thanked the Committee for their assistance.

DISCUSSION

Mr. H. M. Bloch referred to the brochure which he had reached Cape Town from Palestine telling the story of the Isaac Ochberg Tract. This showed the good purposes to which the Ochberg bequest had been put and was a tribute not only to the generosity of the late Mr. Ochberg but to the Dorshei Zion Association of which he had been a member. He advised all members to try and get a copy of this brochure.

Mr. C. Resnekov said Zionist propaganda should propagate personal Zionism. He stressed the desirability for South African Jews to go to Palestine themselves; the future of their children could only in this way be safeguarded. Referring to the Zionist Hall, he said it was time the endowment of £6,000 was paid off in its entirety. They should consider a reconstruction programme for the future which should take into account the needs of the youth who must be carefully nurtured.

Mr. D. Rechtman said that cultural activity should be intensified and there should be more lectures.

Mr. B. Hoffman said the Zionist Hall was not sufficient; there should be a central meeting place where matters of topical interest could be discussed. There must be more contact between members of the Association.

Mr. J. Herbstein, K.C., said the Advisory Council had been a failure. A need existed for some machinery whereby a few people should assemble to consider what would face Zionism in South Africa in the next few years. One of the results of the war would be the establishment of a Jewish State and this would have repercussions on Jews in the diaspora. The problem it relates to each individual was of tremendous importance. The Board of Deputies, in its programme of principles, had very grudgingly acknowledged the need of Zionism. Because of the success of Zionist campaigns it was believed that South Africa was a Zionist country. Other campaigns, however, had drawn more money. Monetary results were no indication of real Zionist conviction. The time had arrived when we could not just accept the programme of principles of the Board of Deputies which did not accept the Zionist ideology first and foremost.

Mr. Herbstein suggested that the incoming committee should press strongly very soon for the convocation of a small body from all over South

Africa for the purpose of working out the programme for South African Jewry in the event of a Jewish State being established. The public wanted a lead and it was up to the Dorshei Zion to give it to them.

Mr. J. Gilten said the Association had by no means neglected cultural activity; a large number of functions had been held and all centres had been visited by various speakers.

Mr. J. M. Weinreich endorsed Mr. Herbstein's suggestion. It was not an oversight, he said, that little had been done to reduce the bond on the Hall, but members had been pre-occupied with campaigns. He hoped, however, that the incoming committee would take the matter in hand.

The adoption of the Report and Balance Sheet was unanimously carried.

ELECTIONS.

Mr. H. M. Bloch was elected President and before taking the chair paid a tribute to Mr. Weinreich under whose chairmanship during the last two years the Association had made much progress. Mrs. Mary Segal on behalf of the Bnoth Zion Association thanked Mr. Weinreich for his understanding and appreciation of the work of the women and hoped he would not relinquish his interest in their activities.

Dr. I. M. Hurwitz was elected vice-president. Mr. Bloch thanked him for his work as chairman of the Cultural Council; he had put cultural work on an entirely new plane.

Mr. Max Cohen was elected Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. Gitlin, Hon. Secretary, and Mr. L. Burman, Hon. Recording Secretary.

Dr. S. E. Kark was unanimously elected a Life-Honorary Member of the committee.

The following were elected to the committee for two years: Messrs. M. Bobrov, J. M. Heneck, S. L. Schach, L. Segal, Ch. Winokur, J. M. Weinreich, Dr. H. Myers and Dr. C. Resnekov.

The following remain on the committee for another year: Messrs. J. O. Markovitz, P. Marks, J. Sarif, B. Wilder and J. J. Wilk.

ADDRESS BY MR. J. LEIBNER

Mr. Joshua Leibner gave a short address. He said that it was very gratifying to find Zionist work done so fundamentally in Cape Town; he did not think there was any other place where the task undertaken was carried out as successfully as here. The Dorshei Zion must be congratulated on its membership and achievements. If the public contributed generously to other funds to-day it was because Zionists had taught Jews the duty of giving—what it means to be conscious of one's Jewishness. Contributions should, however, be in proportion to the needs and importance of the various campaigns.

The Dorshei Zion should be the first in making Zionism a personal thing and should organise Aliyah from South Africa to Palestine. Jews should come to Palestine because they want to, not because they have to. Only those who want to make room for those who have to come. Those in the first category do much more for the country.

The Jewish Agency budget for this year was £2,100,000. Of this various allocations had been made for agriculture, industry, housing, shipping, etc. Two million pounds in control of the Jewish Agency would set in motion at least ten million pounds. The Agency had begun to work like a government, but must have the means of a government. Socialism could not solve the Jewish problem because the problem was one of Jewish national existence and Jewish culture. Private capital in Palestine was greatly needed. As a Socialist he appealed to South African Jews to come to Palestine in a business-like and efficient manner. There must be immigration from countries free to decide their own future and Cape Town should set an example in this direction.

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Herbstein paid a tribute to Miss Saltzman and to the memory of the late Brigadier F. H. Kisch, who was largely responsible for the formation of the committee in Cape Town. Mrs. Hessen on behalf of the committee made a presentation to Miss Saltzman, who expressed her sincere thanks.

Farewell Interview with Pnina Saltzman.

Pnina Saltzman, the brilliant young pianist, left Cape Town on Saturday night for Johannesburg; from there she will go to Durban en route for Palestine.

This was Miss Saltzman's second visit to Cape Town and during her short stay she gave two memorable concerts in the City Hall—one in aid of the Red Cross and the other in aid of the Palestine Orchestra; and delighted thousands of listeners with her broadcast recitals from the Cape Town studio.

Miss Saltzman's tour of South Africa has been a veritable triumph; coming here almost unknown and unheralded, she achieved an immediate and unprecedented success. Wherever she played the halls were crowded out and she was received with tremendous enthusiasm; the public showed their admiration in no uncertain manner and the press without exception acclaimed her as a great artist. Yet she has remained simple and unaffected; in her general manner as in her playing she is calm and imperturbable, and her spirit seems to be one of peace and serenity.

Interviewed by a representative of the "S.A. Jewish Chronicle" shortly before her departure from Cape Town, Miss Saltzman said she had up till now given sixty-three concerts in nineteen towns in the Union and Rhodesia, including broadcasts; nine of these were in aid of various causes. She was still to give a concert in Benoni in aid of the Red Mogen David and another in Durban for the troops. She was very much impressed by South Africa and thought the people showed a high standard of musical appreciation; she felt, however, that young musicians here did not have the same opportunities as in Palestine of coming in contact with outstanding personalities in the musical world and of learning from them.

Miss Saltzman said she was naturally gratified at the fact that her tour had been so successful, but she was especially pleased because she was the first Palestinian pianist to give concerts overseas, and she felt that her success would redound to the credit of her native land. She had been born in Tel-Aviv and though she had left at the age of nine to study in Paris she kept in close contact with the country and followed its growth and development with pride.

She had returned to Palestine from Paris shortly before the war and except for visits to Egypt with the Palestine Orchestra she had remained there until she left for South Africa. In spite of war-time difficulties, cultural life in Palestine continued as usual; in addition every attempt was made to provide entertainment of a high standard for the large number of troops stationed there. She would always look upon Tel-Aviv as her home no matter where her musical career might take her.

Asked about her plans for the immediate future, Miss Saltzman said that she would remain in Palestine for about six months, during which she hoped to rest after her strenuous tour, but she would of course play with the Palestine Orchestra. At the beginning of next year she was booked for a tour of Australia and it was possible that she would again visit South Africa en route, probably in January. After the war she intended touring America (from where she had already had several invitations), England and the Continent, as soon as conditions permitted.

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After the concert in the City Hall on Wednesday night, 19th July, in aid of the Palestine Orchestra, a farewell party to Pnina Saltzman was given by the members of the Cape Town Committee of the Palestine Symphony Orchestra Society at the Mount Nelson Hotel.

Mr. B. Canin welcomed those present, who included a number of music lovers. Mr. J.

(Continued in Second Column).