

JOHANNESBURG WOMEN ZIONIST LEAGUE REVIEWS

YEAR OF SUCCESSFUL ACTIVITY

Meeting at Coronation Hall

A VERY large gathering attended the annual meeting of the Johannesburg Women's Zionist League, held at the Coronation Hall on Tuesday.

Mrs. Jeanette Davidoff, president, opened the meeting by welcoming Mrs. Mary Adler, of the Union of Jewish Women, Dr. Deborah Katzen, of the S.A. Women's Zionist League, Mrs. Kate Gluckmann, of the S.A. Zionist Federation, Mrs. Milly Furman, of the Ort-Oze, Mrs. M. Broomberg, of the Sisterhood of the United Jewish Reform Congregation, Mrs. Kaplan, of the Magen David Adom, Mrs. Sive, national chairman of the War Appeal, and Mrs. Phillips, of the Benoni branch.

Mrs. Rae Greenblatt, the secretary, read messages of welcome from Mrs. Annie Landau, Hon. Life President, and from a number of institutions and personalities.

Mrs. Davidoff said that she was happy to welcome Mrs. Spilkin as a representative of the United Women's Revisionist League.

Mrs. Kate Gluckmann, speaking on behalf of the Federation, said that 1946 had been a troubled year, but the League had gone on with its work and made two interesting innovations in the form of the Bialik exhibition and the Wizo Month. She hoped the organisation would continue with its great work.

Dr. Deborah Katzen said that the Johannesburg branch was not only the largest branch of the Zionist movement in South Africa, but was one of the largest women's bodies in the world. It had established the pre-

efforts in the coming year would show how prepared they were to lend all their efforts to the struggle. In conclusion, Dr. Katzen congratulated the chairman on her leadership during the last three years.

Mrs. Mary Adler congratulated the League on its successful year. She also extended best wishes to Mrs. Inez Gordon, who had been nominated unopposed to the chair.

Mrs. Spilkin thanked the League for inviting her to be present and gave greetings from her own organisation. She had long worked for unity, and had even formed the Unity League to educate Jewry in the idea of a Jewish State on both sides of the Jordan. A resolution had been passed in Congress relating to assistance for the detainees in Eritrea, but as long as the word "material" was left out, her organisation would have to devote all their efforts to aiding the families of these people.

First Secretary

Mrs. Sive said that she was the first secretary of the Zionist League 30 years ago. Now the War Appeal was taking up her time. She saw many women present who were working for both the War Appeal and Zionism—that was the correct attitude—the War Appeal kept alive in Europe the future citizens of Palestine, and also paid their passages. It also aided refugee rabbis in Palestine.

Mrs. Furman said she was glad to bring greetings from the Ort-Oze. In the past there was no very clear understanding between Zionist and Ort-Oze groups, but now they were nearing the type of collaboration that existed in Europe.

Mrs. Anna Franks gave the treasurer's report in the absence of Mrs. Lily Joffe. The report showed that the income in most directions had increased considerably. However, trees, Sefer Hayelid and J.N.F. telegrams were still the step-children of the movement, although other centres seemed to do well. There was a small increase in subscriptions, but the League membership was not large enough. There should be no discrepancy between the nominal and the paid-up membership. She hoped the membership would increase through the entry of the Revisionists.

Mrs. Davidoff regretted that after a connection with League dating back many years, a valuable member had been forced to resign, she hoped only temporarily. She was referring to Mrs. Rae Jacobson, the secretary and convener of all the branches and latterly in charge of the brochure for J.N.F. Week. Through her efforts many new branches had been formed



MRS. INEZ GORDON
elected president

and many others that were shaky had again been set on their feet. Twenty-five trees had been planted in Palestine in her name, in recognition of her work.

Mrs. Davidoff said that Mrs. Joffe was not standing for the treasurer-ship this year. She was sure everyone would join with her in thanking Lily Joffe for her constant attendance at the office. In her name the League had planted a garden of trees in Palestine. Mesdames Peggy Schwartz and Edith Silverman, who were not on the committee, but who had done wonderful work for Wizo Month, would also receive certificates of trees.

Delivering her presidential address, Mrs. Davidoff said that they were meeting to review their past year's work and to plan for the intensification of their future endeavours at a time when the political horizon was darkened by heavy clouds. To a world desperately seeking for a way to control the atom, a world experiencing the greatest hunger in history, the fate of the hills, of the deserts, of the colonies and of the towns of Palestine or even of a few hundred thousand Jews in Germany and Eastern Europe seemed but one of many problems.

Idealism Disappeared

But to many politicians, continued Mrs. Davidoff, the continued clamour of the tormented Jews intruded rudely into preoccupation with other concerns. The faint traces of idealism that had found their way into the war against Fascism had disappeared. The common man and his "Four Freedoms" were, it was true, on the agenda of the various commissions of the United Nations. There was no overt sign, however, that they figured at all in the deliberations of the leaders of the great powers. It seemed that there were no longer human beings in the world. There were only Germans, who had to be punished; French, who had to be avenged; Russians, who were angels or monsters according to one's viewpoint; British, who were imperialists, fighting to save a diminishing empire; Americans who were confused, but eager to take over Britain's place as leader in Europe; and lastly, Jews who had been wronged.

Mrs. Davidoff reviewed the Zionist position during the last year and dealt with the grave situation of Jews in Europe.

In spite of the most unpromising political conditions, said Mrs. Davidoff, the Yishuv had extended its boundaries and emerged materially stronger.

Mrs. Inez Gordon, on behalf of the League, paid a glowing tribute to

Mrs. Davidoff, who had been an inspiration to the Executive with her deep knowledge of Zionism, her devotion to the cause and her wonderful idea. She had been an excellent leader, and had to resign owing to the constitution, which did not permit anyone to retain the presidency for more than three consecutive years. She hoped to see her soon again in the chair. The League was presenting her with a garden of trees.

Mrs. Davidoff said she had great pleasure in declaring Mrs. Gordon the next chairman.

Mrs. Gordon then took the chair, and said that they were on the brink of a very difficult year. She appealed to all for their assistance and co-operation, reminding them that she had begun as a branch secretary, had held every position and knew how hard the work was.

Mrs. Gordon reported on the nominations for the coming year. Mesdames Davidoff and Joffe had been appointed joint vice-chairmen; Mrs. Becky Bernstein, hon. treasurer; Mrs. Greenblatt, hon. secretary; Mrs. Helen Aron, Keren Hayesod commissioner; Mrs. Ray First, Keren Kayemeth commissioner; Mesdames Balkin and Shakinovsky, branch commissioners; Mrs. Betty Gordon, sewing commissioner; Dr. Katzen and Mrs. Franks, "members without portfolios." The following seven nominations for the Central Committee had been received: Mesdames A. Broido, H. Senior, S. Leftwich, G. Todes, N. Cohen, A. G. Kark and F. Emdon.

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MRS. JEANETTE DAVIDOFF
delivered presidential address

cedent that every year should be better than the previous year. This was an indication of the spirit that animated the women of Johannesburg in their Zionist work. She recalled the success of Wizo Month, because it was an innovation not only in Johannesburg but throughout South Africa.

At the world conference in Basle Wizo undertook for the first time in its history a budget of over £1,000,000. In the midst of the struggle for survival and existence, their

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