

Leading Rabbis Paid Tribute To Rabbi I. M. Gervis

LEADING Rabbis from Johannesburg and the Reef and representatives of all leading Jewish institutions were among the large gathering of mourners that attended the funeral last Thursday of the late Rabbi I. M. Gervis, Chief Minister of the Berea Hebrew Congregation. The funeral procession began at his home, where he died, and moved to the Berea Synagogue, where a special service was held. Rabbi J. L. Zlotnik delivered a hesped. At the cemetery Chief Rabbi Dr. L. Rabinowitz delivered a moving oration. Both Rabbis paid tribute to his scholarship and devotion to duty.

Rabbi Israel Meir Gervis was born in Kovno in 1905. At the age of 10 he joined the famous Kelm Yeshiva. Later he attended other famous yeshivas, including Radun and Slobodka. Finally he went to Palestine, where he studied at the Hebron Yeshiva. There he obtained semicha from the late Chief Rabbi Kuk. He also attended lectures at the Hebrew University.

In South Africa

Rabbi Gervis came to South Africa some 18 years ago. He studied at the Universities of Cape Town and the Witwatersrand and occupied rabbinical positions at East London, Muizenberg and Berea. Together with Rabbi Berlin he founded the Mizrahi of South Africa and was a leading member of the Hebrew movement in this country. For some time he was a member of the S.A. Zionist Federation and also took an active part in the Revisionist movement.

Rabbi Gervis devoted many of his leisure hours to literary activity. He translated Bialik's Megilat Haesh into English and was also engaged on the translation of Achad Aham into Afrikaans. He contributed to many periodicals in this country, in Yiddish, Hebrew and English. He was the possessor of a very fine Hebrew style, steeped in Jewish learning, yet modern in its form.

Rabbi Gervis is survived by his wife, two daughters and a son of three months, to whom our deepest sympathy is extended.



The late Rabbi Gervis

OBITUARY

Israel Goldberg

CAPE TOWN, Tuesday. — The death occurred of Mr. Israel Goldberg, aged 68, when he fell from the balcony of a Swellendam hotel on the way to the Wilderness, where he intended to spend a holiday.

Mr. Goldberg was a well-known Cape Town printer, and his wife is a prominent member of the Great Synagogue Ladies' Guild. His son has for many years been active in the Cape Town Jewish scouts.

OPPOSITION TO COUNCILLOR FRANK

CAPE TOWN, Tuesday.—Symptomatic of the spontaneous feeling of Cape Town Jewry to remove Councillor Frank from public life is the announcement that he will be opposed in the Ward VI municipal elections in September by Mr. G. Peimer, a local attorney.

The other members of Ward VI are Mayor Bloomberg and Mr. Sam Kahn.

UNITED ZIONIST PARTY National Conference to be Held in July

The United Zionist Party of South Africa is holding its 2nd Biennial Conference in Cape Town on Tuesday evening and Wednesday, 8th and 9th July respectively, in the Zionist Hall.

This Conference will have to discuss and determine the attitude of the Party in connection with a number of most important matters.

All supporters of the United Zionist Party of South Africa, who are delegates to the forthcoming S.A. Zionist Conference, are cordially invited to attend the above Conference of the United Zionist Party, which is taking place one day earlier.

MR. I. DUNSKY ON CRUM'S BOOK

AT the Zionist Luncheon Club on Friday Mr. Israel Dunsky gave an interesting review of Bartley Crum's book, "Behind the Silken Curtain." In view of the censoring reviews published by both the "Star" and the "Sunday Express," Mr. Dunsky's well-balanced review was most enlightening.

"The book," said Mr. Dunsky, "is neither flamboyant nor exaggerated. Its intention is not to launch an attack on Britain, nor is it anti-British in any respect."

Describing Mr. Crum's experiences from the time he left America to the time of his return, Mr. Dunsky gave a vivid description of Mr. Crum's impressions of the Anglo-American Inquiry Committee.

The British Socialist Government, in Mr. Crum's opinion, wanted to liquidate the Jewish Agency and disarm the Haganah, with a view to liquidating Zionism and forming an Arab State.

Continuing, Mr. Dunsky outlined the prejudices existing among the many members of the committee; of the feeling Mr. Crum had had of being watched while in England; of the trouble and discussion which the committee had undergone before they eventually reached a decision and how all their efforts had proved in vain.

"Mr. Crum's book is not sensationally a sensible and well-balanced individual who was disillusioned when he saw the intrigue which surrounded the investigations.

"Mr. Crum's book is not sensational, although the facts disclosed by Mr. Crum are sensational," said Mr. Dunsky, and in conclusion he urged that all who had not up to the present read the book should remedy this as soon as possible.

Mr. H. J. Kirsch presided.

Anti-Semitism Denounced At Cape Town City Hall

Large Crowd at Goodwill Service

CAPE TOWN, Tuesday.—The City Hall was crowded on Sunday afternoon on the occasion of a goodwill service. A noteworthy feature was the slashing attack by Senator Brookes on anti-Semitism. Senator Brookes stressed that the Jews and Christians were drawn together during the war not by equal rights but by equal wrongs. He maintained that when the persecution of the synagogue began, the persecution of the church was not far behind. It was unreal for any form of Christianity or liberalism to accept anti-Semitism.

Rabbi David Sherman pointed out that expressions of goodwill were heard on all sides, but people usually omitted to explain how to apply this goodwill. It had to apply to all

groups without exception before God, and in sight of the atomic bomb there could be no outsiders.

The "Cape Times" followed this up with an editorial strongly denouncing anti-Semitism in South African life, and called it "a squalid tendency to degeneration, a primeval passion of intolerance." Since the year 1290 there have been no recorded feelings against the Jews in England and no recorded case in South Africa," but the paper notes the ever-growing anti-Jewish clamour, which is "as dangerous to the moral health of our people as it is unlovely." The paper adds: "No South African Jew should utter words condoning terrorism. The civilised world must be assisted to exorcise anti-Semitism."

ZIONIST SOCIALISTS' DOORNFONTEIN MEETING

The Doornfontein branch of the Zionist Socialist Party of South Africa will hold a public meeting at the Talmud Torah Hall, Beit Street, on Sunday, June 1, at 8 p.m.

Mr. Leo Tager will speak on the "Role of South African Jewry in the Palestine Problem," and new Palestinian films will be shown.

LITERARY BIALIK EVENING

A Bialik evening will take place on Wednesday, June 18, at the Coronation Hall. Mrs. Jeannie Targowsky, Cantor I. Alter, Messrs. F. Zygelbaum, Bruno Raikin, R. Shalit and J. Fine will take part, and Mr. L. Tager will preside.

Tickets are at five shillings, and are obtainable from Crystal's Confectionery and S.A. Zionist Socialist Party, 45 Shakespeare House, Johannesburg.

ROUSING WELCOME TO MOISEIWITSCH

BENNO MOISEIWITSCH was given a rousing welcome at the City Hall last week when he gave his first concert. Every available seat was occupied and many members of the audience were accommodated on the stage. All sections of Johannesburg's musical life were represented in the gathering and the atmosphere which prevailed during the performance will long be remembered.

Moiseiwitsch excelled in Chopin. He approaches this composer with a seriousness which animates his entire playing. He is a forceful performer, but the fear that might be entertained at his too vigorous interpretation of "gentle" Chopin was quickly dispelled after he had played the first piece. Being a mature artist he manages to control his movements and his powers.

His performance of Beethoven was so interesting that one hopes he will give us more of him in forthcoming concerts. The first concert has not shaken the view held by Johannesburg audiences that Moiseiwitsch is a brilliant artist and a great master of technique.

Moiseiwitsch is booked for a concert at the Empire Theatre for Sunday, June 1; at the Colosseum on June 8 and at the Pretoria Opera House on June 5.

CONCERT BY HENRI MONDI

A PROGRAMME of classical songs constituted the first part of Henri Mondy's concert given at the 20th Century Theatre on Sunday night. Mondy is the possessor of a pleasing and well controlled voice. He excelled in particular in the various folk songs which included two South African songs. His Negro spirituals were carried out with great simplicity and ease.

In the supporting programme Bruno Raikin gave a delightful performance of pieces by Beethoven, Handel, Brahms and Chopin. Bram Verhoef provided the excellent violin obligato for Massenet's Elegy.

NORTH-EASTERN CONGREGATION

Special Concert

The North-Eastern Hebrew Congregation are giving a concert on Wednesday, June 11, at 8 p.m. at the new hall, Pine Street, Orchards (opposite Aastra Bioscope). A programme by outstanding artists has been arranged.

Amongst the performers will be: Alter's Balalaika Orchestra, Mrs. Gertie Hirschman, Cantor B. Fisher, Mr. Louis Sachs, Miriam Lopert, Etyte Fisher, Hannah Senick.

Mr. Mike Abel will comper the show and Mr. G. A. Judin is the convener.

Tickets are obtainable from all members of the committee or phone 45-1821, and seats are booked at Paramount Stores.

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