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# In Cape Town

## REPORTS OF JEWISH ACTIVITIES IN THE MOTHER CITY

From Our Own Correspondent.

All Communications relating to these pages should be addressed to "HASOFER," P.O. Box 3084, CAPE TOWN.

### THE HELPING HAND ASSOCIATION.

A spirit of unanimity characterised the twenty-seventh annual meeting of the Cape Hebrew Helping Hand Association, held in the Zionist Hall last Sunday morning. That this was the case was by no means surprising, for the report delivered was such that very little, if any complaint could be levelled against the Committee with regard to the manner in which it had conducted affairs during the past year.

The report and balance sheet revealed a very excellent state of affairs indeed. True, it showed that like every other institution the Association had suffered during the year on account of the heavy financial depression since the demands on it had increased considerably, but it showed at the same time that no deserving applicant for assistance had been sent away unaided. As a matter of fact no less than 303 loans, totalling £12,919, had been granted.

The Finance Committee, the able Chairman of which was Mr. B. A. Crasnow, who was assisted by the zealous and energetic Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Richard Lewis, was mainly responsible for the administrative success achieved and it speaks volumes for their work when it is mentioned that during the past five years the bad and doubtful debts did not exceed the sum of £4 10s. 11d.

In opening the meeting the Chairman, Mr. J. Frank, said that the result of the year's work was such as to satisfy every member, not only of the Committee, but also of the whole Association. The last ten months had been a period of depression and the demands for assistance had been heavy, but the Committee had not in any way become disturbed or daunted in its purpose. The one thing that had been uppermost in its mind was the fact that notwithstanding the shortage of funds, no appeal would be turned down and every case would be treated on its merits.

The past year had been a record year as far as the number of cases dealt with was concerned. It was true the Committee had often been hard put to it to meet the claims of applicants, but it had eventually managed to deal with all deserving ones. Each case was thoroughly investigated before loans were given out.

Mr. Frank concluded by expressing thanks to the Committee and others, who had made the work of the Association possible. He formally moved the adoption of the report and then called on Rev. A. P. Bender to speak. During the course of his address he had expressed great pleasure in having present Mr. Bender, who had always rendered great assistance to the Association, and Mr. A. Rosenthal, its veteran Hon. Life President.

Mr. Bender said that the Helping Hand Association deserved the united support of the whole community. It helped people who were self reliant and independent by nature to retain these qualities and in so doing it helped them to retain their self-respect. It did not submit them to the humiliation of an investigation such as was made when charity was given. It gave people the opportunities of rising upon the stepping-stones of their dead selves.

The Committee had rendered very great service to the community and it was to be congratulated on coming together week after week to carry out its duties as it did, as a labour of love.

Mr. Bender expressed regret that it had been decided during the year that no offerings for charity should be made in the Synagogue on Yom Kippur. He himself was not in favour of these offerings as such but until the community was prepared to give the same donations outside the Synagogue as they were in their names were called out by the Chazan, he did not think that the custom ought to be abolished.

After expressing his pleasure at seeing present Mr. A. Rosenthal, who, he said, could well act as an example to the community, Mr. Bender concluded by expressing the gratitude of the Committee and by wishing the Association long health and prosperity.

The adoption of the report was then formally seconded by Mr. Richard Lewis, the Hon. Treasurer, who laid stress on the fact that the Institution had been somewhat financially handicapped

during the year but that it had nevertheless not withheld its aid and assistance to the deserving.

There was no discussion on the report, the adoption of which was carried unanimously.

Before the conclusion of the meeting, the election of the new Committee took place. According to the long established rule of the Association, five members had been nominated by the retiring Committee and these were Messrs. C. Albow, C. Nell, H. Ospovat, M. Peires and R. Weinberg. Those elected at the meeting were Messrs. B. A. Crasnow, J. Frank, S. B. Hersman, J. Jaffe, M. Joffe, R. Lewis, R. Oblowitz, I. Ochberg, L. Pinn, J. Sacks, S. Shaskolsky, M. Walt and R. Zabow.

### MR. A. M. ABRAHAMS.

It is with very much pleasure indeed that Cape Town Zionists welcome in their midst Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Abrahams, who arrived last Friday from Johannesburg in order to take up permanent residence in this City.

Mr. Abrahams needs no introduction to readers of the "Zionist Record," for his invaluable services as President of the South African Zionist Federation for the last twenty years are well known to all. Under his able chairmanship the Federation has grown from strength to strength until to-day it is recognised as comparatively one of the finest such bodies in the world. And it is thus not only with extreme pride that we in Cape Town reflect on Mr. Abraham's arrival in our midst, but also with a sense of satisfaction in that another member has been added to that small but zealous band of workers here on behalf of the national cause. We are not unmindful of Mr. Abrahams' assurance given at the banquet held in his honour in Johannesburg that he "would also do Zionist work in Cape Town," and whether Mr. Gitlin sees to this or not—Mr. Abrahams was certain that he would—there can be no doubt that it is an assurance that will be carried out in full.

One can only conclude by wishing Mr. and Mrs. Abrahams good luck in their new environment and by hoping they will find in it all that they have come to seek.

### DORSHEI ZION CONCERT.

A very well attended concert was held in the Zionist Hall last Sunday night under the auspices of the Dorshei Zion Association. The programme consisted of a large and attractive variety of items, all of which helped to render the concert a most successful affair. The Cape Town Maccabean Guild Orchestra gave several very pleasing numbers, whilst songs by Miss B. Pinn, Mr. Boris Rome, and Mesdames S. East and R. Kahn were very much appreciated. Mr. J. Weinreich recited charmingly and the dancing of the pupils of the Miriam and Elvira Kirsch School of Dancing won great favour. A recitation was also given by Mr. M. Losman and towards the end of the evening a play, "The Burglar and the Girl" was staged, in which Mr. Frank Weinberg and Miss Anne Lerner took parts. The acting of both showed much talent and the production as a whole, which was in the very capable hands of Mr. David Levy, was a more than creditable one.

### THE ZIONIST CONSERSAZIONE.

Mr. and Mrs. P. M. Clouts acted as host and hostess at the Zionist Conserazione held last Tuesday night. The evening was spent mainly in a debate initiated by Mr. A. Z. Berman and Mr. A. Shacksnovis, B.A., LL.B., on "The Rise and Meaning of Nationalism," and those who took part were Messrs. H. Snitcher, L. Rabkin, D. Schrire and Dr. J. Sachs. The discussion was a most interesting one, in spite of the fact that the subject of it was neither new or original.

As usual, during the evening Mr. D. Getz read his reports of Jewish world events culled from the J.T.A. bulletins.

### GENERAL.

At the Oneg Shabbos held last Saturday afternoon, Mr. Alexander Levin lectured on the eminent Jewish historian, Professor Simeon Dubnow.