

## Luncheon to Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Jacobs.

### London Communal Workers Entertained.

There was a large attendance at the luncheon given on Tuesday afternoon by the Johannesburg Jewish Guild in honour of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Jacobs, who are on a visit to South Africa from London, where both are well-known communal workers.

Mr. J. H. Barnett, the President of the Guild, was in the chair, and in introducing the guests mentioned that Mr. Jacobs was an honorary officer of the United Synagogue in London, one of the most important institutions in Jewry, and was a member of the Jewish Board of Education and of the Welfare Committee of the United Synagogue. Anyone working for the Jewish community in any part of the world was in consequence working for all Jewry. Mr. Jacobs was engaged in trying to find a solution to the problem of world peace and the ending of war, and has written books on that subject in which he has been internationally recognised as an authority.

The chairman also welcomed two other guests, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Frankau. Mr. Frankau came from a very old Anglo-Jewish family.

Mr. A. J. Jacobs returned thanks for the sentiments expressed to his wife and himself. It was delightful, he said, to come so many thousands of miles and find so much good will entertained towards them.

Speaking on the subject of world peace, Mr. Jacobs said there was an intense desire for peace in every civilised people. No doubt opinion had to be mobilised, in which direction many nations were doing such admirable work. Civilised people wanted peace. They were all unanimous that peace was a blessing and war a curse. If all the nations wanted peace why were there so many difficulties in the way of achieving it? Because wanting was not sufficient and they would not get it until they took appropriate action, and the world was engaged in finding the right kind of action to achieve it. There was no doubt about the sincerity of the nations in their desire to find peace. He had a strong belief that war could and would be abolished; it was not because they were wiser than their fathers but because there had come about an enormous change in the world conditions, which made it a vital necessity to prevent war and made it easier to organise to prevent war.

Mr. Jacobs proceeded to give the reasons for his faith. He drew a comparison between individuals and nations in the maintenance of peace, in which the former had co-operated and had established a power to prevent a breach of the peace, whereas in the case of nations there had been no similar power existing. Nations had been unable to preserve peace because they had never universally co-operated in order to do so. When two countries were at war, other countries tried to keep themselves apart, strictly neutral. A hopeful feature of the present situation of the world was that the relationship of states towards each other was approximating to that between individuals. The establishment of peace in the world was an essential preliminary to the establishment of justice.

Mr. Ronald Frankau responded with a humorous speech.

### MR. DAVID FRAM'S OPERETTA.

Under the auspices of the Jewish Guild Musical Art Section an operetta will be staged on Sundays, February 14th and 21st. This operetta has been written by Mr. David Fram, the well-known Yiddish poet. A musical setting has been composed by Mr. H. Ichilchik, and an excellent cast has been selected. Madame Ravodna is arranging the ballet work and Cantor S. Steinberg and Rev. S. Grosberg are assisting with the chorus. Every effort is being made in generous manner for the presentation of fine performances. This is the first occasion that a composition of this nature has been produced in Johannesburg with purely local talent. It is hoped, therefore, that the community will give every support to the performances.

### "KAYPAY" DANCE.

All 10s. 6d. ticket holders of tickets issued by the S.A. Zeire Zion in 1927 in aid of "Kaypay" (Palestine Workers' Fund) are requested to communicate with the honorary secretary, P.O. Box 2588, Johannesburg, not later than February 15th.

## Death of Mr. Joseph Isaacs.

(From Our Pretoria Correspondent.)

The news of the untimely death of Joseph Isaacs came as a great shock to the Pretoria community. He was born in Glusk less than 33 years ago. He entered the teaching profession and qualified under Dr. Charnaw. For several years he served on the staff of the Vynovsky Gymnasium at Charkow, and during that time wrote considerably in both Hebrew and Yiddish. When he had apparently paved the way for a notable career, the Bolsheviki made instruction against religion compulsory. Rather than suffer the ignominy of acting treacherously towards all he held dear in life, he escaped from Charkow at great personal risk and arrived in South Africa in 1922.



The whole of his stay in South Africa was spent in Pretoria, where he taught in the Talmud Torah for 12 months, and thereafter went into business with his brother. From the moment of his arrival he devoted himself to all Jewish activities and proved a tower of strength to the local Hebrew Circle. He brought to the Circle an unquenchable enthusiasm, coupled with profound scholarship, and his contributions to its labours provided one of its main props. The committee of the Circle held a special memorial meeting, when fitting and worthy tributes were paid to his work. In addition he identified himself with the National Movement, Talmud Torah, Chevra Kadisha, Ladies' Benevolent Society, Gemilus Chosodim, all of which benefit under his will. At all times he showed himself an ardent and sympathetic supporter of Jewish causes and worked unostentatiously for their advancement.

In the short time he was in Pretoria he endeared himself to all with whom he had come into contact by his charm of manner and sincerity of purpose. In his death Jewry has been deprived of one of its most promising sons, and Pretoria one of its communal stalwarts. The sympathy of the community goes out to the bereaved family.

It may be mentioned that Dr. Sternberg, who took a personal interest in Mr. Isaacs during his long and painful illness, has undertaken to publish at his own expense all writings of MSS. left by the deceased.

### An Appreciation.

Every heart in the wide-flung circle of his friends is bowed down with grief and sorrow at the death of Mr. Joe Isaacs in the sunshine of his life. He was a man of sterling qualities, was young, led a full and active life, and gave his time and personal service freely for the cause of Judaism. He particularly took a keen interest in Hebrew education, and at one time was one of the principal teachers in the *Tarbuth* at Charkow. Since his arrival in Pretoria in 1922 he was a staunch member of the *Agudath Sefateinu*. He was a type of man who in his own unobtrusive and simple way created an impression of sincerity and honesty of purpose on all who had the privilege of his personal acquaintanceship.

May I be permitted to add my humble tribute to the undying memory of one whose friendship I enjoyed for a great number of years. The words of Jonathan may be aptly employed: "And thou wilt be missed, because thy seat will be empty." The hearts of countless friends will go out in sympathy to his brother, sisters, brother-in-law, nieces and nephews.

M. Altshuler (Bethlehem).

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