

The J.N.F. Campaign in the Transvaal.

Youth Effort Successfully Launched by Rabbi I. Herzog.

Transvaal Zionist Youth gave a magnificent re-affirmation of their faith in Eretz Israel on Sunday night, when their campaign on behalf of the Keren Kayemeth was brilliantly launched at a reception held in honour of Dr. Isaac Herzog, Chief Rabbi of Palestine, and Mr. J. Daleski, Chairman of the S.A. Zionist Youth Council, at the Carlton Hotel, Johannesburg. Despite the absence on active service of many well-known figures in the ranks of Zionist Youth, a very large gathering of young people was present, many of them being in uniform.

Mr. Bob Shmuelson, Chairman of the Transvaal Zionist Youth Executive, presided, and other speakers were Mr. Z. Segal, Funds Convenor of the S.A. Zionist Youth Council, and Mr. N. Lourie, Manhig Habonim, who conveyed greetings on behalf of that organisation, and expressed the thanks of the gathering to the speakers who had preceded him.

Dr. Herzog, who was warmly applauded on rising to speak, said that the combination of Zion and Youth was a happy one, for youth suggested the future, and on Zion was focussed the future of the Jewish people. That vision of the future was,

perhaps, more vitally necessary for the Jewish people to-day than ever before in their tragic history. The Jewish youth had to think of the present in terms of the future. Practical work had to go hand in hand with their motto of faith and hope.

For centuries Jews had built all over the world, carrying out constructive work on a colossal scale in the Galuth while their own land lay waste. Had they spent a tithe of their energy, wealth and thought in building up Eretz Israel, Zion would long ago have been rebuilt, and the gates of Palestine would not have been slammed to-day in the face of the thousands of des-

perate refugees fleeing from the Nazi inferno.

They had to prepare to-day for the future. Just as over 2,000 years ago Jeremiah had obeyed the instruction to buy land even when the enemy was besieging Jerusalem, so to-day with Palestine threatened by enemies, the Jewish people still had to buy land in Palestine, land for the future, that they might have soil of their own on which to reconstruct the shattered lives of oppressed Jewry after the war.

The Jewish people had to present a united front for the hour of their redemption, for that hour of triumph over Nazism when they could demand from the nations that the wrong done to them, the landless, homeless Jewish people, be righted, and that the gates of Palestine be opened wide, to enable them to build a Jewish Commonwealth on both sides of the Jordan.

In conclusion, Dr. Herzog expressed the hope that the enthusiasm of his audience for the land of Israel would also engender enthusiasm for the Torah of Israel.

Mr. Daleski said that the Jew was playing his part in the general battle for freedom. At the same time he realised that his fate was tied up with Eretz Israel. He asked his hearers to demonstrate their faith in Palestine in the only way available to them that night, by the response they would make to the appeal to redeem the land.

LAND MONTH RALLY.

Successful Function.

The concluding function in the series of Land Month meetings in the Peninsula was held in the Zionist Hall on Sunday night. This proved very successful and the varied and attractive programme was followed with the closest interest by the large audience present.

Exhibition.

An outstanding feature of the evening was the novel exhibition of models and diaramas illustrating Palestine's agricultural and industrial progress in recent years. This was arranged along the walls of the hall and was examined with the keenest attention by large numbers of people at the beginning and end of the meeting. Many people declared themselves to be most inspired and stimulated by these examples of Palestine's amazing development.

Dr. H. W. Altschul was in the chair and said that the only way of making the Government's White Paper policy ineffective was by acquiring as much land as possible in Eretz Israel.

Address by Mr. H. M. Bloch.

Mr. H. M. Bloch said that there had always been conflict in history between the

upward surge of progress and the downward pull of destruction. For the Jews more than for any other people, to be engaged in the midst of destruction in an effort at development and progress is what might be expected of a live people. Our losses in this war were likely to be greater than those of any other belligerent. Within the last week another million Jews had fallen under the Nazi heel. Those left alive in Europe would be ruined materially and physically. The lives of millions of Jews would have to be reconstructed after the war to enable them to live under conditions of ordinary decency.

The exhibition illustrated the achievements of twenty years of constructive effort but only half a million people had been able to be settled in Palestine during that period. After the war millions would have to be rescued within four or five years. An enormous task lay ahead and some form of systematic planning was essential. Land

must be acquired and it must be made habitable. Preparations must be made now to receive the millions of refugees after the war. Great sacrifices would have to be made, and Jews would have to contribute by voluntary taxation as much as they had been forced to give up under compulsion in Germany and German-controlled countries.

Jewish achievements in Palestine were our national asset. The foundations were laid in Jewish land. Given more land the Jewish people had the human material available to build up a civilisation in Eretz Israel that would have much to teach other civilisations in the world. Not only economic but political problems were facing us. But we had learnt that political boundaries were fixed by settlement. We must so build our settlements now that when the map came to be redrawn after the war our boundaries would be determined in accordance with our desires.

Films.

Three short films were shown depicting afforestation in Eretz Israel, Mr. M. Ussishkin and Mr. N. Kirschner at the opening of the Kirschner Forest, and life in Tel-Aviv, including A.R.P. work. These proved very interesting and instructive.

During the course of the evening Miss Hilda Sacks rendered pianoforte solos and Mr. S. Morris (accompanied by Prof. Plaut) songs; Mr. Laden read a humorous article specially written by him for the occasion.

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