

Dr. COLIN STEYN ON ZIONIST CAUSE.

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a small margin I am not speaking about what is going to happen in the future. There will be no margin then. I am speaking of the past, for had it not been for the magnificent stand of Great Britain in those dark days of the capitulation of France, this war would have been irretrievably lost, and in that let us remember the debt we owe to the British airmen and British sailors when they stood alone against the full might of Hitler and his hordes. I mention this because only over-confidence can do us a tremendous lot of harm. We are determined to win, and we shall win. As we are determined that in this country democracy will triumph, and it will triumph.

I am told it is the first occasion you are holding a meeting not in your Jewish Club. May I thank you for what you in Durban have done in entertaining the soldiers. The Durban Jewish Club is world-renowned for its hospitality and for the very liberal way in which you have entertained the soldiers who are passing through here, and who are sacrificing so much to see that this war will be finished soon. I want to thank you especially on behalf of the Government.

The Atlantic Charter and the Jewish Cause.

I see Dr. Goldstein here. I know that you are anxious to hear him. I have listened to his eloquent addresses in the past, and when I listened to him I understood why your race, in spite of all the blows, has never wavered, and I felt all the depth of your desire that in as short a time as possible Palestine should be yours.

Only this morning I spoke to a Durban gentleman who had been in Palestine and I was most interested in what he had seen there.

The remarkable building up of the colonies and of Tel-Aviv, the reclaiming of a barren soil, and the building up of a happy community is a wonderful achievement. We wish you all success. You are on the right road to success.

It is obvious that we cannot bring the Atlantic Charter into operation until justice has been done to your cause. I regard the Atlantic Charter as not only a milestone, but as a new era in the history of mankind.

We are extremely fortunate in having those two statesmen, President Roosevelt and Winston Churchill, at the head of affairs—men of vast experience, men of determination and men who have the complete trust of all freedom-loving people of the world.

And in conclusion I would be failing in my duty if I did not pay a tribute to that great Afrikaner, that great South African, General Smuts. We are proud of him. We are proud of his leadership. We are especially proud that you regard him as a true friend of your people who have done so much for the building up of South Africa, as a true friend of the Zionist cause.

I wish you every success in your endeavours to achieve your ideal. I wish every success to your Victory Campaign.

Zionist Conversazione.

"MYSTIC MOVEMENTS IN JUDAISM."

The fortnightly *Conversazione* at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday night was arranged by the Massadah Association, three of whose members spoke on different aspects of the subject "Mystic Movements in Judaism."

Mr. E. Charlaff was in the chair.

Miss F. Arens, introducing the subject, said that it was characteristic for people in times of distress to turn away from reality. The Jewish people had survived centuries of suffering and persecution because they were imbued with deep spiritual consciousness and with faith that God would protect and rescue them. This was shown in the Messianic idea—the belief that the Jews came under divine protection and that they would be restored to their ancient glory.

Jewish mysticism was infused with reality because Jewish religion was based on reality. It was, however, affected by outside influences such as Persian and Greek philosophical thought, which went to reinforce Jewish mysticism. The early mystics were the prophets who had deep vision and faith. At the time of the Roman invasion mysticism was a strong force in the life of the suffering Jews. The most important sect were the Essenes, who were a sort of hermit people and lived a life of rigorous restraint.

Another form of mysticism was found in the Kabbalah which was a mixture of strange philosophy and crudest superstition. This was followed by Chassidism which had a special appeal for the masses.

Through all the centuries, said Miss Arens, Jewish faith had not wavered. The conception of the Messiah was not always the same, but it was based on the establishment of justice, righteousness and peace on earth. Up to fairly recent times the yearning for the Messiah had been passive, but now the Jewish People had become their own Messiah and realised that it was up to them to make an effort to return to the land of their fathers. The mysticism of old had become the Zionism of to-day.

Mrs. F. A. Gross, speaking on "False Messiahs," said that many pseudo-Messiahs had been compelled to their way of thinking by the Kabbalah. The Messianic idea had sustained the Jews through the ages. When the present became intolerable they found faith and comfort in the Messiah who was the personification of peace and justice. Throughout the ages there were persons who claimed to be Messiahs. Some were motivated by genuine religious fervour, others were mere unscrupulous imposters who took advantage of the credulity and despair of their followers. The most important of the pseudo-Messiahs were Bar Kochba, David Alroy, David Reuveni and Sabbatai Zevi. The speaker concentrated on the last mentioned and gave a colourful description of his career and ultimate downfall. The poor deluded masses in the 17th century had been attracted to the alluring personality of Sabbatai Zevi, who demonstrated the strength of the powers of illusion of a people. His life ended in tragi-comedy,

but it was a tragedy for the poor deluded people, not for the deluding imposter. But nothing could put an end to the Messianic agitation he had called forth.

The true Messianic hope was inspired by the prophets, said the speaker, who promised right and justice to all men on earth, and this hope would never die.

Mr. Z. A. Lison, speaking on "Chassidism," said this was an extraordinary Jewish movement which kindled a fire of religious enthusiasm in the Jewish masses. It was not of a Messianic character, but brought hope and knowledge of the nearness of the Father in Heaven. The founder of Chassidism was the Baal Shem Tov (1700-1760). Jews were living in a state of terror and misery; Rabbinism had developed into dry religious observance and intellectual arrogance. Chassidism as preached by the Baal Shem was based on (1) the omni-presence of God; (2) the belief that there was no original evil. Every Jew, even the most ignorant, could become a partner in the reconstruction of the world. A wide field was opened to the simple Jew who was despised by the learned. He could come into close proximity to his Maker by faithful service. In order to achieve the holy purpose, all that was needed was simplicity, fervour, devotion, prayer and humility. Where there was love, there could be no fear, no sadness.

Chassidism captured the imagination of the masses. It was a kind of brotherhood to which all could belong. It had inspired many writers and was characterised by joy, ecstasy and communion with God. It had introduced vitality into Jewish hearts and a great debt of gratitude was due to the founder and his followers.

Richard Tauber Conducts Women's Appeal Committee Concert.

London.

Richard Tauber conducted the London Symphony Orchestra at a concert held under the auspices of the Women's Appeal Committee for Jewish Women and Children for its work in Great Britain and Palestine, at the London Coliseum. Among the crowded audience were many prominent figures in Anglo-Jewry, including Lady Reading and Prof. S. Brodetsky. The programme was presented by Mr. Harold Holt.

Mr. Tauber gave a delightful rendering of a number of Schubert songs, accompanied at the piano by Percy Kahn. Among the orchestral pieces he conducted were two of his own compositions, including his recent work, "Victory March," which was enthusiastically acclaimed by the audience.

Mrs. I. M. Sieff, Chairman of the Women's Appeal Committee, thanked Mr. Tauber for his generosity in acting as singer, conductor and composer at the concert, as well as Mr. Holt and Miss Clarica Davidson, vice-chairman, for their contribution to the success of the function. She announced that a sum of nearly £3,000 had been raised for the Women's Appeal Committee.