

Zionist Conversazione.

REPORT ON S.A. ZIONIST CONFERENCE.

At the Conversazione held at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday night, delegates to the Nineteenth S.A. Zionist Conference reported on the proceedings. Dr. S. E. Kark was in the chair.

Mr. J. M. Weinreich said that among the delegates were forty from the Western Province and eight members of the Dorshei Zion Committee. This showed that Zionism here, far from being on the decline, had a stronger hold than ever and that the propaganda done was worth while. The Conference was overshadowed by the tragedy of European Jewry. Outstanding features were Mr. Kirschner's opening address and the addresses of Prof. Franklin, Dr. Deborah Katzen, Mrs. K. Gluckmann and Mr. L. Pincus. Mr. Weinreich also paid tribute to Mr. B. Gering for the manner in which he had conducted the proceedings.

The Conference showed that Zionism among South African Jewry had reached great heights and it was hoped that other countries would take a leaf out of their book.

Mr. M. Bobrov said that though he had attended previous Zionist Conferences this one had given him particular pleasure. It was clear that Zionism in South Africa was progressing by leaps and bounds. There was a real spirit of "give and take" at Conference. He hoped that now that the principle of party representation on the Executive had been settled all would work harmoniously together for the benefit of Zionism and Eretz Israel. He referred to the memorial to Ussishkin and expressed the hope that the Jewish Parliament would meet in the proposed Assembly building in Jerusalem. The acceptance of the Biltmore Programme meant that they now had a definite platform and knew exactly where they stood.

Dr. I. M. Hurwitz criticised the organisation at Conference, which left a great deal to be desired. Though Cape Town was poorly represented amongst the speakers, the work done by certain Cape Town Zionists was much appreciated. The outstanding feature of the Conference was the debate on the party principle which was conducted in a friendly spirit. All the speeches were characterised by deep seriousness and earnestness. He agreed that the Conference was the most impressive in the history of South African Zionism and should have good results in the future.

Mr. J. Gitlin said that the arrangements at Conference were not as good as they might have been, but this was partly due to the fact that the hall was too small for so large a number of delegates and visitors.

The debate on the party principle had been better than was expected; there was no bitterness or acrimony and in general, respect was shown by one party to another.

He regretted that there had been so little discussion on the Report of the Executive Council and on the National Fund report. The report on the Palestine Maritime League had been well handled. The Conference on the whole was interesting and stimulating.

Mrs. S. Gordon said that if the Cape Town delegates were not as eloquent as others they nevertheless had a fine record of work. The women at the Conference were outstanding; Mrs. Katie Gluckmann and Dr. Deborah Katzen were leaders of the movement and made a deep impression. The other women delegates showed their great devotion to the Zionist cause. Referring to the Women's Conference, Mrs. Gordon said that this was characterised by a spirit of determination for the upbuilding of the National Home.

Mr. S. M. Levin said that the Conference showed that the cream of South African Jewry were bending their mind to Zionism. Conference was conducted in a war-time atmosphere and there was a tendency for action rather than words.

Dealing specially with the Youth Conference Mr. Levin said that this showed a revolution in the Youth movement. The need for a Shaliach from Eretz Israel to inspire the youth was manifest. All problems were discussed in a spirit of earnestness and showed a keen awareness of the Jewish position on the part of the youth. The Biltmore Programme was adopted, with the opposition of the Hashomer Hazair. Measures were adopted for the strengthening of the organisation in South Africa. Mr. Levin paid a warm tribute to Mr. Jack Alexander, whose resignation from the position of Secretary of the S.A. Zionist Federation was a loss to Zionism which was not fully appreciated. He hoped that as a result of Conference the tempo of Zionism in South Africa would be increased during the next two years.

Cultural Council's Ambitious Programme.

INTERVIEW WITH CHAIRMAN.

Following the announcement that the Western Province Zionist Cultural and Organisation Council was inaugurating an intensive campaign, an interview was arranged with the newly-elected Chairman, Dr. I. M. Hurwitz. In reply to a question, Dr. Hurwitz said: "Yes, the Western Province Zionist Cultural and Organisation Council is busy with a campaign, but we are engaged upon a campaign of giving and not of receiving. We do not ask the public to give us funds or anything else; on the contrary we ask the public to take from us as much as they wish. We are asking the public to let us give them all and more than we possess. I admit that this sounds strange, but it is true nevertheless.

Dr. Hurwitz was then asked: "Do you mind telling us the object of the Western Province Zionist Cultural and Organisation Council in order to enable us to understand your peculiar campaign?" He replied: "Our aims are to make the Jews of the Western Province better and more intelligent Zionists—in other words to raise the standard of their knowledge and understanding of Zionism."

Dr. Hurwitz then explained how the Council proposed to set to work, and enumerated the following points:—

(1) They had drawn up a list of speakers who would be available to address meetings when required by societies.

(2) They proposed encouraging and helping societies to hold more frequent meetings and to arrange more topical and attractive programmes.

(3) Special visits would be arranged to committees of societies to discuss local details.

(4) Endeavours were being made to increase societies' memberships. New societies would be formed where possible.

(5) In other centres a new form of entertaining friends was gaining popularity. A few friends were invited for an evening and, in addition to refreshments or even cards, arrangements were made for informal discussion on a specific subject. His organisation was ready to help in this direction. If anybody wished to have such a gathering at his house, no matter how small or how big, or if anybody wished to be invited to such a gathering either in the capacity of guest or speaker, all that he or she had to do was to communicate with the secretary and all arrangements would be made without any trouble to the enquirer.

(6) They were collaborating with the Zionist Federation in sending out specially trained lecturers to all centres.

(7) Methods were being introduced to elucidate current issues, to bring about a co-ordinated presentation of the subject matter of speeches and to arrange them in systematic order.

(8) A special department had been set up to collate reference material from all sources with the object of helping to provide lecturers with the latest information and news about Zionism and Jewry.

(9) They were, in addition, making full use of pamphlets and papers, and arranging for the widest possible distribution of literature.

There were many other schemes contemplated which would be explained in detail to interested parties.

Dr. Hurwitz was then asked: "Are you also prepared to help societies which are not specifically interested in Zionism?" He answered: "We are a cultural organisation and as such we are naturally only too glad to help any organisation, Zionist, non-Zionist or even non-Jewish, to spread knowledge amongst its members." He urged societies anxious to take advantage of the Council's facilities to apply, either by letter or 'phone, to the Secretary, 85 Plein Street, telephone No. 3-2028. He wanted the Jewish public to know that they were more than willing to be of service to them in any matters affecting Zionism.

EAST LONDON HEBREW SCHOOL.

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The Hon. Secretary,
P.O. Box 684, East London.

Society of Jews Christians.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting was held at the Metropolitan Hall, Burg Street, on Monday.

Bishop S. W. Lavis was in the chair. In a review of the year's activities of the Society, he said, was interested in the fact that they must never lose sight of which was the destruction of anti-semitism.

Sir Herbert Stanley, K.C.M.G., P.C., was the cause for which the society existed. He said that which every right-minded man must do. If there was to be a brave new world after the war it must begin with the individual. He said that could do something to build up a better world. Selfishness was at the root of all the evil. We must do something to-day. In a world based on the brotherhood of man, the individual must express himself not in assertion but in service.

Adv. H. M. Bloch in an address on "The Problem of Anti-Semitism" said this was not a new problem. It existed for many centuries. The present anti-semitism was different from that of the past, but the cause there was no country to-day. He said that to receive refugees. Already with the rise of Nazism, which was comparatively small, the world was proved insoluble. This was not necessarily anti-semitism, but to lack of tolerance. He said that the world saw a threat to the act of kindness to refugees.

With the exception of Palestine the world failed to make any adequate contribution to the relief of distressed Jewry. About 7½ million Jews in Europe were destroyed, and nothing was being done for the remainder. The Bermuda Conference was an indication of the temper of the world. He said that the prospect of what would happen to humanity after the war was frightening, for something had got into the heart of the civilised world which was a compound of fear and jealousy. He said that there was no sign of any approach to the problem of the progress; the difficulties in helping refugees were not to transport but to lack of will.

Rabbi I. Abrahams moved a vote of thanks to the speakers. Mr. C. B. M. Abbott seconded.

Mr. L. Segal moved a vote of thanks to Bishop Lavis, Lady de Villiers, Rabbi Abrahams, Mrs. Sears for their work for the society.

Bishop Lavis was re-elected President. Mr. L. Segal, Hon. Treasurer, and Mrs. Sears and Mr. S. H. Rechtman, Hon. Secretary.

Stellenbosch Hebrew Congregation.

On Sunday, 15th August, an official service was held in the Stellenbosch Talmud Torah in honour of the newly-appointed Rector, his wife, Cantor and Mrs. Golub.

Mr. Shulman, the Chairman of the Stellenbosch Congregation, presided. In introducing Mrs. Golub to the community, he expressed his hope that they would long remain in Stellenbosch and wished them good luck and happiness.

Mr. A. Senitzky in welcoming Cantor Golub on behalf of the Zionist Society, presented an original poem composed in honour of the occasion. Mrs. Spiro, representing the Stellenbosch the Ladies' Benevolent Society, expressed her progress in the correct atmosphere under the guidance of Rev. and Mrs. Golub. Miss M. Joffe on behalf of the Zionist Youth added a word of welcome, saying that she hoped that the Stellenbosch would be a long and pleasant one.

Various prominent members of the Stellenbosch community expressed their personal welcome and appreciation at the new appointment.

There was a short interlude during which Cynthia Shaban and Miss Pamela Joffe danced. Miss Z. Lurie rendered a piano recital. Miss A. Joffe a recitation.

After tea and refreshments had been served, Rev. Golub responded.