

Cape Board of Jewish Education.

COUNCIL MEETING.

The first meeting of the newly-elected Council of the Cape Board of Jewish Education took place at the Zionist Hall on Sunday morning.

Dr. C. Resnekov was in the chair and welcomed all present. He expressed condolence with Mr. J. Gitlin and Mr. Woolf Harris in their bereavements. The gathering rose in sympathy.

Giving a short report on the work done since the Executive Committee was appointed at the last Conference, Dr. Resnekov said they were paying special attention to adult education. Special arrangements were being made for the Sabbath and festivals for children at boarding schools and students at the University. Mr. L. Herrmann had been appointed organising secretary and it was hoped that the work of the Board, which had grown tremendously, would be carried out efficiently. The shortage of teachers was still an acute problem but Dr. Birnbaum would be leaving for Palestine shortly with the object of choosing a number of teachers. In the meantime they had negotiated with two teachers who had agreed to come here as soon as possible.

Dr. Resnekov then put the various clauses of the new constitution before the gathering and these were discussed in detail. While there was some lengthy discussion on various clauses of the constitution, the clause stipulating the policy of the Board which reads "To foster Hebrew and religious education on accepted traditional lines in its recognised area of operation," was acclaimed unanimously.

AMALGAMATION.

Dr. Resnekov then introduced the question of the proposed amalgamation of the "Cape Committee" with the South African Board of Jewish Education. He reviewed the steps which had been taken for unified control of Jewish education in South Africa and said that since the meeting in Johannesburg last December certain developments had taken place there and must have some bearing on the whole problem. The whole question as to whether amalgamation was necessary or desirable should be gone into very carefully by the Council. The Executive Committee felt that before final conclusions were reached, certain conditions should be laid down, the principal one being that education must be along traditional lines. The S.A. Board of Jewish Education, Johannesburg, could not on their own accept this principle and agreed to submit it to a national conference to be called for the purpose of formulating the lines on which Jewish education in this country should be conducted. As there were many disturbing factors he would suggest that a small sub-committee be appointed to assist the Executive Committee in considering the whole question of amalgamation. He therefore moved the following resolution:—

"The Council elects a sub-committee, consisting of the executive officers and three members of the Council, who are not members of the Executive Committee, and instructs this sub-committee to consider the question of a united South African Board of Jewish Education in all its implications. This sub-committee shall report to the Executive Committee the result of its deliberations. The Executive Committee shall in turn report to a meeting of the Council and submit its recommendations."

This was carried unanimously and the following were elected to the sub-committee: Dr. J. Karpas, Rabbi M. Morgenstern and Mr. Isaac Cohen.

Dr. C. Resnekov, Dr. I. M. Hurwitz and Mr. J. Gitlin were elected trustees.

A hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman was proposed by Mr. Ch. Winokur.

Washington.

Seventeen hundred prominent professors of American Universities have submitted a petition to President Roosevelt asking for free Jewish immigration into Palestine and the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth.

Zionist Conversazione.

ADDRESS BY DR. BERNARD
FRIEDMAN, M.P.

The Synagogue Hall, Sea Point, was packed and hundreds were unable to gain admission on Tuesday night when Dr. Bernard Friedman, M.P., addressed a Zionist Conversazione under the auspices of the Dorshei Zion Association on "Problems and Prospects in Zionism."

Mr. Hermann Cohen was in the chair and in introducing Dr. Friedman paid a tribute to him as Member of Parliament and as a Jew.

Dr. Friedman said that he could not conceal the fact that he regarded the position of Jewry as grim and their prospects as grave. Nevertheless he was not pessimistic about the ultimate prospects of Zionism; it was only by facing up to realities that we could brace ourselves for the struggle. To-day Zionism took its stand on the Biltmore Programme; this represented an advance in Jewish ideology, for in asking for a Jewish commonwealth we were asking for definite powers. The Balfour Declaration contained a promise but conferred no powers on the Jewish People, whose fate was in the hands of the Mandatory Power. The British Administration in Palestine was unmoved by the broad sympathy and lofty vision of Balfour; instead of implementing the Mandate with which British honour and prestige were bound up, they preferred to appease the Arabs and deliberately to obstruct one of the finest examples of historic reconstruction ever attempted.

THE WHITE PAPER.

It was difficult, said Dr. Friedman, not to believe that the White Paper had been deliberately issued in order to do away with the Balfour Declaration, which had become irksome. The White Paper was not only a breach of faith but an admission of failure. He believed that the fight against the White Paper had every chance of success; it did not express the opinion of the British People but of the Chamberlain Government. It was difficult, however, to understand how the present British Government could countenance the White Paper, which Mr. Churchill himself had condemned in robust terms. The Nazi policy was to exterminate the Jews and the right and humane course for Britain was to open the gates of Palestine and rescue as many as possible before it was too late.

THE ARMS TRIAL.

Dealing with the recent arms trial in Palestine, Dr. Friedman said that its true character and significance was not fully understood. One of the greatest obstacles to Zionism was the unsympathetic and unfriendly attitude of the British Administration towards the Jews. The arms trial had been denounced by Ben-Gurion as a flagrant miscarriage of justice; there were features in connection with it which were not in keeping with the best traditions of British justice. It was impossible to resist the conclusion that the trial had been played up in order to turn the tide of feeling against the Jews and to create an atmosphere in favour of the White Paper. A particularly ugly feature of the trial which caused burning indignation in the Yishuv was the sentence of eight years imprisonment on two Jews compared with the trivial sentence of two months on Arabs for the same offence. The disparity in the sentences must have dangerous and far-reaching consequences for it gave licence to the Arabs to go on arming freely. Arms traffic among the Arabs had been going on for years. The Jews would not allow themselves to be deprived of the elementary right of self-defence; what they had built up with sweat they would defend with arms. They had no aggressive designs on the Arabs, however; they wanted to possess the soil with the ploughshare and not with the sword; all they asked was to be allowed to build in freedom and eat their bread in peace.

Jewish development was no threat to the Arabs; on the contrary it raised their standard of life. It was the Effendis who saw a threat to their social privileges; sooner or later the Arab masses would realise that in order to rise in the scale of living they must collaborate with the Jewish

workers. The British Government in opposing Jewish development was bolstering up a decayed feudal system against the best interests of Arab masses. Such a state of affairs could last long and the ultimate triumph lay with forces of progress which in Palestine meant Jews. The real charter of Arab liberty lay in the White Paper but in the Balfour Declaration.

CASE BEFORE PEACE CONFERENCE.

For the Jews retribution was not enough, said Dr. Friedman; the only way to give meaning all their sacrifices and sufferings was to build a new creative order which would make the rise of another Hitler impossible. Their hopes and dreams were of a Jewish commonwealth incorporated in a new democratic structure, and in this case that they would put before the Peace Conference, which, he believed, would make

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Naomi Telem Memorial Award.

An annual award in the name of Naomi Telem (born Ben Arie), who died in Cape Town last year, will in future be made to the best student in Hebrew pronunciation and style in the Kindergarten Teachers' College in Palestine. The fund has been endowed by her husband, Mr. Gabriel Telem, through the Vaad Haloshon (Academy for Hebrew Language), who are the trustees.

This year the prize has been halved between the Women Teachers' and Kindergarten College in Tel-Aviv and the Kindergarten Teachers' College in Jerusalem. The successful recipients are to be named by the council of each school.

Naomi Telem was born in Rosh Pinna, Palestine. She received her first training as a teacher in the Jerusalem Seminary and proceeded to Germany, where she attended teaching courses at Berlin and Leipzig Universities. When she returned to Palestine she was kindergarten mistress in Jaffa and lecturer in the Tel-Aviv Kindergarten Teachers' Seminary. She came to Cape Town as teacher at the Bnoth Hebrew Kindergarten and after her marriage was in charge of the Kindergarten at Muizenberg.

It was always her wish to encourage correct Hebrew pronunciation and style which she always stressed in her teaching.

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COMPANY MEETING.

Nigel Gold Mining Co.

A SOUND POSITION.

The fifty-fifth ordinary general meeting of the Nigel Gold Mining Company, Ltd., was held at 4 p.m. on May 17th, at the board room, the Transvaal Gold Fields Building. Mr. S. C. Black, the chairman, presided, and in his address to shareholders, said:

In submitting for your approval and adoption the report and accounts for the year ended December 31, 1943, I feel sure that in these days you would prefer me to keep my comments on the year's work as brief as possible. The published reports, although abridged, afford you adequate information on the business of the company during the past year, but if any shareholder wishes to be further enlightened on any particular point, I shall be glad to afford him such information as is at my disposal.

Property.—Your property and mineral rights together with the area held under Government lease, are as usual set out in the directors' report and need no further comment.

ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL POSITION.

The capital of the company remains unchanged.

The financial position is disclosed in the accounts before you. The working profit for the year amounted to £536,935 and sundry revenue, less Glenvarloch Township expenses, to £18,936, while unclaimed dividends amounting to £423 were declared forfeited. The sum of £1,617 was received in respect of a claim for loss of profits occasioned through a fire which occurred on an adjoining mine. These items, together with the amount of £124,108 brought forward from the previous year, make a total of £682,019, which has been dealt with as follows:—

Provision for Government and Provincial taxation	£310,365
Provision on account of outstanding liability in respect of miners' phthisis compensation	18,729
Dividends Nos. 54 and 55	232,191
Directors' additional remuneration, as provided for in the company's articles of association	5,500
Balance unappropriated	115,234
Total	£682,019

The net profit for the year was £47,411 less than for 1942 which, having regard to the rise in working costs and the acute shortage in native labour, may be regarded as fairly satisfactory, although it was impossible to avoid a slight contraction in the dividends for the year from 3s. 6d. to 3s. 3d.

As explained in the directors' report, it was decided during the year to make immediate provision for the full outstanding liability in respect of phthisis compensation, and this was responsible for the small decrease in the unappropriated balance carried forward.

TAXATION.

The increase of 2½ per cent. in the gold mines special contribution cost the company an extra £16,138, but aggregate taxation for the year, due to the diminished working profit, was somewhat lower than in 1942.

Nevertheless, direct taxation for 1943 was as equivalent to nearly 56 per cent. of the total profit, against a pre-war figure of 36 per cent. These figures are given merely for your information and I do not intend to discuss them at length, since the financial requirements of a country at war are obvious to all. It is, however, of interest to note that in affording some relief against the recent increase in native wages, the Government has indicated its recog-

niton of the fact that the present burden of costs and taxation on the gold mines is as much as the industry can carry.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

Capital expenditure for the year amounted to £8,695, and was chiefly in connection with the resumption of sinking operations at the sub-incline shaft, which became necessary in order to open up more levels.

OPERATIONS.

The abridged reports of the consulting engineer and the general manager furnish you with details of the year's operations.

The shortage of native labour gave a considerable amount of anxiety throughout the year, and adversely affected both the tonnage mined and the development footage. We naturally made full use of a large tonnage of low grade ore from the old development surface dumps, which materially eased the position and enabled us to maintain a reasonable tonnage through the mill from month to month. I am glad to say that there is some improvement in native labour supplies at the present time and although our milling tonnage declined appreciably during February, there was a slight increase in March and April and I anticipate a further improvement during the present month.

DEVELOPMENT.

In consequence of the native labour shortage referred to above, and the need to conserve stores and materials as far as possible, development continues to be on a restricted scale. The estimated ore reserve at the end of the year, however, stood at a total of 1,030,100 tons of a value of 7dwt. over a 28 inch stoping width, which, in the circumstances, may be considered as reasonably sound.

NATIVE WAGES.

The increase in native wages from the beginning of last month is to be counter-balanced by the Union Government refunding to the gold mines the realisation charge on gold of 3.2s. per ounce. So far as we are able to judge at present, the credit amount is unlikely to cover the full additional increase in the wages. Still, something had to be conceded to requite the low-paid workers, not only for the slight increase in their cost of living expenses, but for the fidelity and patience with which they have carried out their work throughout the four years and more of war.

GENERAL.

When we consider the major difficulties encountered during the past year, not only in the contraction of stores supplies, but in the diminution of native labour, we have every reason to be gratified with the manner in which it has been possible to keep the reduction plants working at a satisfactory level.

For this success we are indebted to the loyal co-operation of all those concerned in the working of the company, and I take this opportunity of expressing the board's thanks to them all, the superintending officials, the technical, secretarial and buying staffs, and all the employees on the mine, who have rendered excellent service throughout. I must, however, select for individual mention Mr. W. M. Prout, the consulting engineer, and Mr. S. Beaton, the general manager, whose management throughout a year of difficulty and anxiety has been most efficient from every point of view.

I would also acknowledge the good services of the London committee and staff under the chairmanship of Sir E. H. M. Leggett, D.S.O., who have accomplished their work with their customary efficiency.

Certain of our employees have received an honourable discharge from the Army and have resumed work at the mine. At present some 78 employees are still on active service, and I regret that one has been killed in action and nine taken prisoners of war. Our deep sympathy is extended to those who have suffered, coupled with the hope that the men who are

(Continued in Third Column).

Forthcoming Events.

S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies (Cape Committee).

The next meeting will take place at the Board Offices, Security Buildings, Exchange Place, on **Sunday, June 4th**, at 10 a.m., and not on June 11th as previously advised.

Great Synagogue Centre.

The Answer Study Circle will be held at the Talmud Torah Hall on Sunday, 4th June, at 4 p.m. Rabbi I. Abrahams will deliver a lecture on "The Old and New Testaments." All welcome.

Union of Jewish Women of South Africa.

Mrs. Sara R. Sloman, National President of the Union of Jewish Women of South Africa, will give an address on "The Place and Scope of the Work of the Organisation" at the Sea Point Town Hall on Tuesday, May 30th, at 2.30 p.m. Members and friends in the Sea Point area are particularly asked to attend this meeting.

United Hebrew Schools.

The Annual General Meeting of members will be held on Wednesday, 31st May, at 10.30 a.m. in the Rose and Woolf Harris Hall of the Talmud Torah, 103 Hope Street, Cape Town. Members urged to attend.

Vredehoek Cultural Circle.

The next function will take place on Thursday 1st June, at 8.15 p.m., at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Benson, 2 Signal View Mansions, Ludlow Road, Vredehoek, Cape Town. Mr. Z. Lison will lecture on "Modern Reflections on Ancient Jewish Principles." A suitable programme appropriate to Shevuoth has been arranged. All members and friends are cordially invited.

ZIONIST CONVERSAZIONE.

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serious attempt to solve the Jewish problem. The danger was that in order to appease the Arabs some new territory might be offered the Jews instead of Palestine. It would be their task to resist any attempt to impose a non-Zionist solution of the Jewish problem. They must make it clear that Palestine was the centre and summit of any scheme of post-war construction.

Another danger was Partition. The colossal tragedy of European Jewry must be the measure of post-war needs in Palestine. Those who favoured partition believed it would give the status of sovereignty of an independent state. But what was the good of making Israel king if there was barely room to establish a throne? It must be made clear at the Peace Conference that sovereignty without territory could not alleviate the plight of millions of Jews in Eastern Europe.

Our task before the Peace Conference would not be easy; we would have to rely exclusively on the united will of the Jewish people; this was no mean weapon; if we could speak with one voice it would be difficult to resist our claims. Unity was the paramount need of the hour.

Another powerful political factor was the Yishuv itself. Though the Jews were still a minority, even in numbers and above all in creative achievement they were a force too powerful to be ignored. We could rely on the Yishuv to resist any attempt to crystallise it at its present stage.

Another factor was the tenacity of the Jews in which thousands of years of history bore witness. We could not at this stage abandon the struggle; the Zionist ideal was part and parcel of Jewish life; it was as constant and inextinguishable as the lamp in the temple and by its light we shall live and triumph.

Questions were asked at the close of the address to which Dr. Friedman replied. During the evening songs were rendered by Miss Cecilia Muller and Cantor Katzin. The Chairman thanked the speaker and the artists.

(Continued from Second Column).

still on active service may return to civil employment before very long.

I now beg to move that the directors' report and audited accounts, as submitted, be approved and adopted, and that all matters and things undertaken and discharged by the directors on behalf of the company, be and they are hereby confirmed.

Mr. W. M. Berlein seconded and the report and accounts were adopted. The retiring directors, Messrs. S. C. Black and W. M. Berlein, were re-elected.