

## 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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