

## ZIONIST SOCIALIST ACTIVITIES

### New Branches Formed in Johannesburg

After the virtual recess of most branches of the Zionist Socialist Party, work has recommenced, and three new branches in Johannesburg are in the process of formation.

A well-attended public meeting was held on February 2, when Adv. Louis Pincus, Chairman of the Zionist Socialist Party and one of the official delegates at the World Zionist Congress, reported on the Congress at Basle and on his visit to Palestine.

**Norwood:** A new youth branch was inaugurated in the Norwood area on January 31, and the members have already planned an energetic programme. On February 9, Mr. Ronnie Sobol spoke to the branch on "The Jewish Problem."

**Judith's Paarl-Bertrams:** In this area, where a sub-branch functioned, for some months, a separate youth branch has now been started. The inaugural meeting was held on January 31, and the first speaker in the study-course planned by the branch was Mr. Harry Drew, who spoke on "The African Scene" on February 7.

**Hillbrow-Berea:** On February 3, this branch invited Mr. Aaron Abrahamson to speak to them on "Rescuing a Generation," and appeal for the Youth Aliyah. A full and ambitious programme has been prepared by the committee.

**Central Area:** The Central branch of the Zionist Socialist Party, which has been in recess for some months, is starting work again. The first meeting of the branch, to which the public was invited, was held at Coronation Hall on Tuesday, February 11. Councillor Jessie McPherson was the speaker. On February 17, the inaugural meeting of a Yiddish group was held at the Maon. A plan of future activity for this group will be outlined by M. Ch. Achron and Mr. A.

Wyscheik. The public is cordially invited.

The main efforts of the Doornfontein branch are at the moment directed towards the running of a Purim Ball, to take place at the Selborne Hall on March 19.

**Doornfontein:** This branch continues with a most active programme of work, and its Maon, at 41, Upper Page Street, continues to be a hive of Party activity. On January 5, Mr. Harry Trope addressed the branch on his recent visit to Palestine. On February 6, a successful meeting was held where

**Mayfair:** After the December and examination break, the branch has started its meetings again, and Mr. Harry Drew was the first speaker of the new session, when he addressed the branch on January 30.

**Orange Grove:** The branch continues to meet regularly. A recent speaker was Mrs. C. Pincus, who met the branch on February 6. The next guest-speaker will be Mr. Leslie Cooper, who will speak on "Jewish Culture" on February 20.

**Houghton-Saxonwold:** On January 28, Mr. Leslie Cooper addressed the first meeting of the year in this area. On February 11, Mr. J. Jaffe spoke on "Parties in Zionism."

**Youth:** The youth movement in Johannesburg and Cape Town can be congratulated on running two most successful camps, one in Vereeniging over the Christmas week-end, and the other in Hout Bay, which concluded on January 21. On February 2 a Camp Re-union Picnic was held at which all the atmosphere of camp was successfully recaptured.

### ACTIVITIES IN OTHER CENTRES

**Pretoria:** On January 27, Dr. Ellen Hellmann spoke to the Pretoria branch. There was a large and appreciative audience.

**Boksburg:** The young Boksburg branch is forging ahead, and has a programme planned for the next few months. On February 10, Mr. A. Rosen addressed their study-group on the "Zionist Ideal." A big function was held on February 16, when the branch held a social.

# Farewell to Cantor Backon To Continue Studies in Italy

A REPRESENTATIVE gathering of ministers and cantors of Johannesburg, as well as congregants of the Yeoville Hebrew Congregation, were present at a function at the Sive Hall, Hunter Street, last Sunday afternoon to bid farewell to Cantor S. Backon and Mrs. Backon, who intend proceeding to Europe in the course of the next few months, where Cantor Backon will spend a few years in Italy on further musical studies. They hope eventually to settle in Palestine, where Cantor Backon plans to devote himself to the concert platform.

Mr. C. Spitz, who presided, referred to Yeoville's good fortune in obtaining the services of Cantor Backon in the first place. Cantor Backon, he said, was a man who delighted in his work and would be remembered by the many huge audiences whom he had regularly entertained with his folk songs.



CANTOR BACKON

to share with Cantor Backon the duties of the Synagogue Services.

"Cantor Backon," he said, "was a master at interpreting the depths of Jewish prayer and always gave of his best whether the congregations were large or small, whether it was a High Holyday or an ordinary Sabbath Service."

Rev. O. Altshuler paid tribute to Cantor Backon on behalf of the chazanim of Johannesburg. He expressed the hope that Cantor Backon would always remain a member of the Agudah Chazanim.

Cantor Backon, in replying, said:

"I go away with the satisfaction that I have been able, in a small way, to give some pleasure to my congregants in the rendering of the services. My eight years at the Yeoville Synagogue have been happy ones and I sincerely trust that the congregation will continue to flourish and make great progress."

Mrs. Backon, in a brief address, expressed her gratitude to the congregation for holding the function, which for her and her husband, she said, had been a memorable occasion.

### Tributes by Congregation

Chief Rabbi Prof. L. Rabinowitz said that no one had so well deserved the appreciation and also the affection and esteem of the community as Cantor Backon.

Prof. Rabinowitz said that at the age of 18 Cantor Backon had occupied the position of Chasan Sheni at the biggest synagogue in London as an assistant to the very well-known Cantor Shapiro.

On behalf of the United Hebrew Congregation of Johannesburg, Prof. Rabinowitz made a presentation to Cantor and Mrs. Backon.

Mr. Michelson, one of the wardens of the Yeoville Hebrew Congregation, made a presentation on behalf of the members of the Yeoville Hebrew Congregation, and Mrs. Seratsky made a presentation on behalf of the Yeoville Synagogue Ladies' Committee.

Rabbi A. H. Lapin, in paying a tribute to Cantor Backon, referred to the ideal relationship which had existed between the Minister and Cantor Backon at the Yeoville Hebrew Congregation. It had been a privilege

## American Visitors Entertained at Springs

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schnaid, of 14 Davis Drive, Selection Park, Springs, held a cocktail party recently in honour of Mr. Schnaid's brother, Mr. Abe Snide, and his sister, Mrs. Fannie Zakroff, both of Chicago, Illinois, who are on a holiday visit to South Africa.

Other members of the family present included another brother, Mr. Monty Schnaid, who farms near Bethal, a sister, Mrs. B. Morgan, whose husband farms near Leslie, and an uncle, Mr. David Schnaid.

Mr. Abe Snide and Mrs. Fannie Zakroff had not seen their South African relatives for nearly 40 years.

Mr. Snide is connected with one of the largest engineering firms in Chicago. He is a very active member of the Bnei Brit and is on the board of directors of the Lonsdale Lodge.

Mrs. Zakroff's husband owns a large machinery business in Chicago. Mrs. Zakroff herself is chairman of the Greshlawa Aid Society and is an active member of a large number of other organisations in America.

During the war she devoted much of her time to Red Cross work and was presented with a gold medal. She has lots to tell of the wonderful work done by Jewish organisations in Chicago.

As a result of an American auction organised at the cocktail party by Mr. I. Elias, of Springs, who was assisted by Messrs. Isadore Bader and S. Mendelsohn, of Benoni, the sum of £100 was realised. A bottle of liquor was auctioned and was knocked down to Mr. Monty Schnaid, of of Bethal.

The sum raised is to be utilised to inscribe the names of Mr. and Mrs. A. Snide, Mr. and Mrs. B. Zakroff, Mr. and Mrs. C. Schnaid, Mr. and Mrs. B. Morgan and Mr. and Mrs. M. Schnaid in the Golden Book.

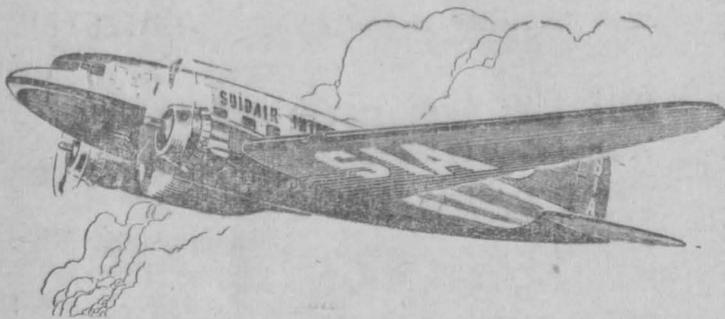
### JWA Clothing Drive

Arrangements for the JWA Clothing Drive, which is to take place on Sunday, March 23, are proceeding most satisfactorily.

Several organisations, such as the S.A. Ort Oze, the Sisterhood of the B'Nai Brith and the Sisterhood of the Johannesburg Jewish Reform Congregation advised Mrs. I. Jacobson, convener of this Drive, that they are willing to assist in this effort.

The response from the Reef and country has been most enthusiastic, and the JWA anticipates an even greater success than last year.

There is still a shortage of vans for the day of the Drive and the JWA once again appeals for assistance in this matter.



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