

PRESIDENT OF H.O.D.
(Boksburg)



MR. I. HYMAN, newly-elected President of the Joshua Maizell Lodge of the H.O.D.

BIALIK EVENING AT CORONATION HALL

The spirit of Bialik was rekindled for a brief two hours on June 18 at the Coronation Hall, when extracts from the poet's work were presented to an audience of over 400.

After the opening address in Hebrew, delivered by Chav. Mr. Leo Tager, a sketch of Bialik's life and an appreciation of his influence on Jewish people was given by Jankel Fine (in Yiddish).

Cantor I. Alter gave an outstanding performance of Bialik's songs. He performed the songs, some of which were his own compositions, with great feeling and understanding.

Bruno Raikin performed an improvisation of Bialik's airs in a delightful fashion.

Mr. Shalit recited a Hebrew sketch with great effect. Mr. F. Zygelbaum gave a most expressive rendering of "City of Slaughter."

Finally, Jenny Targowsky recited three of Bialik's poems in English, including the evergreen "Hazipor."

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Gen. Smuts's Confident Opening of Election Campaign

Mr. Hofmeyr — A Political Asset

The Political Scene

By Karl Lemeer

GENERAL J. C. SMUTS dominated the political scene this week when he opened the election campaign against the Nationalists with two confident speeches, the first at Pretoria and the second in Johannesburg. From now on the Nationalists will be given a Roland for an Oliver, by both the United Party and the Labour Party, which also opened its election campaign this week, when Mr. John Christie and Dr. T. W. B. Osborn addressed a Benoni audience.

In both his speeches Gen. Smuts proved his outstanding qualities of astute leadership. Confronted with a Nationalist challenge to fight the General Election on the coloured question, Gen. Smuts refused to go over to the defensive and announced that the United Party would force the Nationalists to defend themselves on the Republican issue. The Labour Party, on the other hand, announced its intention of fighting on Social Security as the only means whereby racialism and distrust might be eliminated.

The Prime Minister drove home the tactical advantage gained through his Pretoria speech by telling the Witwatersrand General Council of the United Party to take up a positive attitude on the non-European issue. He urged them to state their determination to stand by a responsible and liberal policy as the only alternative to black and white friction. Even more effective was the lofty tone of Big Issues vs. Small Issues, and Great Politicians vs. Little Politicians, which the Premier adopted in talking about immigration, which he described as possibly the greatest policy he has ever launched.

There was confidence and even a trace of bragging in the Premier's two speeches, but this will have been thoroughly justified if he has managed to dispel some of the pessimism which gripped so many of the U.P. supporters during the past six months.

All in all, it can be said that the anti-Nationalist blast got away to an effective start. The best test of this is the ruffling of feathers shown in the Nat. dove-cote. "Die Transvaler," for example, headlined the Premier's

second speech: "Smuts Brags About His Great Policies—Nation Must Laugh About All Its Troubles."

The Commission Of Omissions

THERE were two notable omissions from the Prime Minister's speeches—no reference to any question about an election pact, and no reference to the resignation of Mr. J. G. Wolmarans from the United Party.

Hofmeyr, An Asset

Not A Liability

ONE political rumour was scotched by Gen. Smuts in his Pretoria address. It was that Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr would be asked to resign because it was felt he had become a political liability for the United Party. Gen. Smuts went out of his way to praise the work and ability of Mr. Hofmeyr and to build him up as a great asset, not only for the United Party, but for the country.

This means that the Nationalist challenge to run a "Hofmeyr election" has been taken up by the Prime Minister and his colleagues.

'Tis A Pity

'Tis Not True

THE "Sunday Express" gave great publicity to a rumour that Eric Louw might be dropped from the Nationalist Party, together with Mr. J. G. Strydom, M.P. An immediate and official denial from Nationalist sources was published repudiating this report as "cheap U.P. election propaganda."

Mr. Eric Louw himself addressed an important Nationalist gathering in Bloemfontein during the week, in which he analytically destroyed Gen. Smuts's speech, point for point—running out a winner at the end of the contest on a technical K.O., if the Nat. press reports are to be accepted at their face value.

Conroy

Wins

THE defamation judgment awarded to Senator Andrew Conroy, Minister of Lands, against the publishers of "Behind the Press in South Africa" has, quite apart from other implications, an important political angle. It was generally known that Senator Conroy had decided to stake his political career on this action. Failure to sustain his point would very probably have meant his resignation from the Cabinet, with a minor political crisis as a result.

The decision in favour of the Minister of Lands eliminates this possibility.

Argument About

An Interview

A VIOLENT controversy was ignited by the front-page report in the "Sunday Express," according to which Mr. J. H. Steyl, secretary of the Nationalist Party on the Witwatersrand, was reported to have said that the Labour Party might win 20 seats in the next election and was likely to hold the balance of power.

This report was categorically denied by Mr. Steyl in "Die Transvaler" on the following day. He claimed to have been misrepresented and stated that words were put into his mouth.

Nevertheless the "Rand Daily Mail" accepted Mr. Steyl's reported statement at its face value, and expressed the opinion that the Nationalists were flattering the Labour Party as a deliberate policy to prevent them from entering into a pact with the United Party, which would destroy the Nat. chances of victory in the urban areas.

The next round in this battle about the disputed interview remains to be fought.

Straws In

The Wind

CERTAIN Nationalist papers are trying to present the present native crime wave as a kaffir-war. "Die Vaderland" printed an editorial under the heading: "Kaffir War 1947—?" and drew analogies between the present crime wave and what happened in the early Kaffir Wars. . . .

Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr's speech at the J.N.F. banquet was well-reported in the Johannesburg newspapers, but covered by only a few paragraphs in the other South African daily papers. . . .

The Nationalist Party is wondering how to resolve its difficulties over the Benoni by-election. If it fights it knows it will lose, thus ending its proud record of by-election victories; if it doesn't fight it will correctly be interpreted as a sign of weakness. It is trying to get a prominent Independent English candidate to stand, with the promise of Nat. support. . . .

Voting in the School Board elections has been marked by apathy. Initial results in other centres show victories for the Nationalist ticket. Don't let it happen on the Witwatersrand. Be sure to return your ballot paper immediately, and vote for the agreed ticket. . . .

NORTHCLIFFE CONCERT FOR J.W.A.

The Northcliffe Branch of the JWA Children's Section held a concert at the Northcliffe Tea Room recently. The concert was organised by the Godmother, Mrs. Eva Matesonn.

The special thanks of the JWA are accorded to the Balalaika Orchestra under the direction of Mr. Ichilcheck, the Pamela Wedd School of Dancing and Mr. Mike Abel, the compere, all of whose excellent contributions helped to make the concert the success it was.

As a result of this concert a large amount was raised for the benefit of the children of Europe.

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