

March 4th, 1927.



BANQUET AND BALL.

The Jewish Guild seemed quite transformed on Sunday evening when more than six hundred members of the Hebrew Order of David and their guests, assembled there, the occasion being the installation banquet and ball of the Dr. Herzl Lodge of Johannesburg. The large dining-room of the Guild was revealed in its full length, all screen partitions having been removed for the banquet, and even then it was impossible for all the guests to be accommodated at one time, therefore some of them resorted to the Assembly Hall above, which had been prepared for dancing.

Amongst the guests were Mr. J. Distiller who founded the first lodge of the order in South Africa twenty-two years ago, and Mr. Feiger his first recruit.

After the company had been seated and the loyal toast honoured, Mr. S. Jossel proposed the toast of the Hebrew Order of David. He dwelt on its main object: to bind Jewry together with ties of brotherhood, and he also spoke of the charitable work of the lodges.

Dr. Spiro, the President of the Grand Lodge, replied in a speech in which he outlined the history of the Order in South Africa from the time of the inception of the first lodge in Johannesburg to the present day when there were branch lodges in so many towns of the Union. He said that the formation of a ladies' lodge in Johannesburg was contemplated. (Applause.)

Mr. M. Kam, Secretary of the Grand Lodge, proposed the toast of the visiting lodges, and said that the interchange of visits by the various lodges had led to a better feeling and understanding between town and country members of the order.

Mr. Frankel replied, and spoke in terms of warm appreciation of the work of the order, and the pleasure experienced by the visitors in being present on this happy occasion.

The health of the chairman, Mr. Soskolne (the President of the Dr. Herzl Lodge) was proposed by Mr. Harry Carter, the newly-elected member of the Provincial Council, and duly honoured.

At intervals between the speeches, Miss Suzanne Margolis, a gifted pianist, played a solo in brilliant style, and Miss Rae Lavine sang very sweetly.

The speeches were commendably brief and to the point, so that by half past nine the guests were able to proceed to the Assembly Hall where they danced to the music till early morning to the music of Clark & Adeler's Band.

The visiting lodges represented at the function were the Max Langerman Lodge (Germiston), Sir Rufus Isaacs Lodge (Boksburg), Sir Harry Graumann Lodge (Benoni), Dr. Manfred Nathan Lodge (Brakpan), Sir Herbert Samuel Lodge (Springs), Sir Matthew Nathan Lodge (Maritzburg) and F. C. Hollander Lodge (Durban).

THE DE AAR CONFERENCE.

Rand Zionists are pleased with the work accomplished at the recent Conference at De Aar. In spite of the

intense heat which interfered with the physical comfort of the delegates, they soon settled down to business, and in the interest of the proceedings almost forgot their discomfort.

The South African Zionist Federation was represented by Mr. A. M. Abrahams (President), the Chief Rabbi, Dr. J. L. Landau (Vice-President), Mr. Joseph Janower (Hon. Treasurer), Messrs. Benzion Hersch, L. Brando, H. Lourie, and Jack Alexander (Secretary).

After a long discussion it was decided that no overseas lecturer be invited this year but that a permanent travelling lecturer and propagandist for this country shall be engaged.

Mr. N. Kretzmer, representing the youth movement, asked for a financial subsidy from the Federation to enable the youths' institutions to organise, but this was not agreed to.

Mr. Janower reported on the activities of the "Binyan" which does so much good work in Palestine by making advances to home-builders on an easy re-payment system which covers twelve years. The "Binyan" pays a five per cent. dividend to shareholders. Subject to the approval of the Zionist leaders in London it was resolved to make representations through the Union Government to the Imperial Government, asking for a greater encouragement of the development of the Jewish National Home.

It was decided to form a Central Council of thirty members to be elected at the next Zionist Conference, and eleven of these shall form an executive with headquarters in Johannesburg.

It was resolved to change the name of the newspaper of the Zionist Federation.

Mrs. Landau, on behalf of the Women's Zionist League, asked that all funds collected for that organisation for the Keren Hayesod should be ear-marked for women and children's welfare work in Palestine. This was agreed to.

It was decided to oppose the Russian Colonization scheme, and that efforts should be made to persuade South African Jewry to concentrate on the work in Palestine. The delegates expressed their appreciation of the warm welcome accorded to them by the Mayor and leading residents of De Aar, and of the generous hospitality of the Zionists of the vicinity.

YIDDISH THEATRICAL SEASON.

The Yiddish company which played at the Standard Theatre last year was so successful that the African Theatres Trust has been tempted to repeat the experiment. On March 14th a new company will open, including those old favourites Miss Vera Kanevska, Mr. Paul Breitman, and Mr. Adolf Tefner. Miss Kanevska was the leading lady of the last Yiddish company which came out under the direction of Mr. Nathan Isaacovitch. Mr. Breitmann has a fine baritone voice, a good stage presence and his acting is decidedly above the average. Tefner was the idol of the stalls as well as the "gods" during his last visit to

JOHANNESBURG DAY BY DAY

Johannesburg. As an exponent of a peculiar brand of humour associated with Yiddish melodrama and farcical comedy, he is excellent, and his vitality and agile dancing keep the audience amused and interested whenever he is on the stage.

The Company's open production will be the operetta "Caucasian Love," which has proved so popular with Yiddish-speaking audiences in America and on the Continent.

FEDERATION OF SYNAGOGUES.

There was an important meeting of delegates from the synagogues of the Witwatersrand at the Jewish Guild on Sunday morning, to further consider the question of federation. The obnoxious Clause 8, which excited so much opposition has now been rescinded. It will be remembered that this clause, as amended at a previous meeting, declared that unless steps were taken to engage a Rav from overseas during the first eighteen months of the existence of the federation, said federation would automatically dissolve at the expiration of that period.

At last Sunday's meeting the Constitution was passed and the by-laws and other details will be dealt with at another meeting to take place in a fortnight's time.

This federation of synagogue is a very important step in the progress of the Rand Jewish community, and all who have brought the conflicting elements to this successful issue are deserving of congratulation.

NUTSHELL COMMENTS.

The Executive and Committee of the Jewish Guild will be "At Home" to members on Sunday evening, 6th March. A ladies' committee is arranging for a good musical programme and also for the catering.

The Chief Rabbi, Dr. J. L. Landau, has promised to give the second part of his lecture on the Kabbala to the Women's Zionist League on Tuesday afternoon. The meeting will take place in St. James Restaurant.

Although a considerable number of members of the Orthodox Congregation met Rabbi Kahanaman on his arrival in Johannesburg, the rest of the community has shown little, if any, interest in his arrival. The explanation is that Rabbi Kahanaman is regarded as one of the pillars of the Agudath Israel, an organisation which persistently seeks to undermine Zionist efforts, and as the majority of Rand Jews have keen



Zionistic sympathies, they are not inclined to welcome the learned Rabbi.

The Braamfontein Jewish community has sustained a great loss in the death of Mr. David Bagg, at the age of seventy-three. He was the founder of the Braamfontein Hebrew congregation twenty years ago and remained the president for many years. He also took an active interest in the Board of Deputies, Chevra Kadisha, Jewish Aged Home, and other communal institutions.

Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Sive have returned from their trip to South America. They contemplated making the return voyage on a Japanese liner, but were fortunate enough to secure cabins on the "Asturias," the splendid ship which carries the American tourists. Mrs. Sive describes the voyage as delightful and most interesting. She and her husband were the first South Africans to make contact with our visitors from U.S.A.

A Dead Executive.

The Palestine Arab Executive is dead, the *Palestine*, the organ of the Executive declares. The two or three members of the Executive who live in Jerusalem, it says, use its name only when they find it advisable, as in the case of the municipal elections now in progress. The paper complains that the Executive is doing nothing to keep the Arab cause before the public and that it did not attempt as the Zionists did, to place its case before the American professors and students who have been visiting Palestine.

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