



NEW SYNAGOGUE FOR MAYFAIR.

A plea for the younger generation of the Jewish people to take a greater interest in their religion and in the progress of humanity was made by the Chief Rabbi, Johannesburg (Dr. J. L. Landau), when speaking at the laying of the foundation stone of the new Mayfair Synagogue last Sunday afternoon.

The synagogue is being erected by the Mayfair Hebrew Congregation, and, with a seating capacity of 1,200, is said to be the largest in South Africa. The foundation stone was laid by Dr. P. Snideman, Mr. S. Friedman (president of the congregation) presiding. Those present included Mr. J. Christie, M.L.A. (Mayfair).

Taking as his text the words spoken by Moses to the Israelites in the wilderness, "Behold, I set before you and confer upon you this day a blessing and a curse," Dr. Landau said the world was full of blessings that God had conferred on humanity, but it was man who turned them into curses. As an illustration, the speaker instanced a flower from which medical men could abstract a balm for pain, and yet its fluid could also be a poison. Religion was one of the most ennobling gifts that God had conferred upon mankind, and it was no fault of religion that religious persecution had taken place throughout the ages.

Could we but understand how to cherish our religious blessings and how to cultivate the gift of the influence of true religion! "Our prayer," Dr. Landau continued, "is that the time may come when no distinction will be made between race and race, or between creed and creed. Here we are building a synagogue, a house of prayer, which is entitled to be a house of prayer for all races."

The Chief Rabbi said he was looking forward to the day when the young Jewish men and women would come forward and give their mental, moral and material assistance. He wanted them to look to the future, and to realise the ideals of the race. In this connection Dr. Landau spoke highly of the example set by Dr. Snideman, who was one of few young men who deserved not only the thanks but the whole-hearted appreciation of his older colleagues.

After laying the foundation stone, Dr. Snideman said the honour conferred upon him was representative of the days in which they lived, in indicating that the younger generation was beginning to take their share in maintaining their traditions and to take a pride in their glorious past.

DR. BRAMSON MEETS THE PREMIER.

Dr. Leon Bramson and Mr. Bernhard Alexander, chairman of the Reconstruction World Organisation and the Reconstruction Campaign Committee, were received by the Prime Minister, General J. B. M. Hertzog, in Pretoria on Friday morning. They were later introduced to Dr. D. F. Malan, Minister of the Interior, by Mr. Morris Kentridge, M.L.A.

JOHANNESBURG DAY BY DAY

The Editor will be pleased to receive invitations to meetings and functions. These should be addressed as early as possible to:—

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The Reconstruction movements among the Jewish masses in Eastern Europe were described to the Prime Minister by Dr. Bramson, the delegate of the Jewish organisations, Ort-Oze-Emigdirekt. They sought, he said, to reconstruct their lives on a sound and stable basis by entering productive occupations, especially agriculture, and technical trades, by improving public health and by regulating emigration. The purpose of Dr. Bramson's visit was to secure the co-operation of the South African Jewish community in a national cause which deserved the support of all Jewry.

Mr. Alexander said that the movement had met with a keen response all over South Africa, and that a representative committee had been formed in Johannesburg to assist the campaign.

General Hertzog wished the scheme every success.

In the afternoon Dr. Bramson described to Dr. Malan the tour which he proposed to make over South Africa, and the details of the movement relating to vocational schools and colonization and emigration.

Dr. Leon Bramson also met the Minister of Justice, Mr. Tielman Roos.

ROYAL CONGRATULATIONS.

Mrs. J. L. Landau, the wife of the Chief Rabbi, has received news by this mail of a telegram sent by the King and Queen to her parents on the occasion of the sixty-fifth anniversary of their wedding. The message is published by the Bournemouth paper (the town where Mr. and Mrs. Cotton have resided for the last twenty years), and reads:—

Buckingham Palace, July 21, 1927. To Mr. Aaron Cotton, Court Heath, Bournemouth. The King and Queen are much interested to hear that you have celebrated the sixty-fifth anniversary of your wedding. They desire me to convey to you and Mrs. Cotton their hearty congratulations on this great event in your lives. Their Majesties trust that you are both in good health, and that you will be spared to each other for many years to come. (Signed) A. H. L. Hardinge.

The Bournemouth paper comments on the public services of Mr. Cotton, who founded the Bournemouth Hebrew congregation, of which he was president till a few months ago. Before going to Bournemouth Mr. and Mrs. Cotton resided in Birmingham for forty years, where they were well known for their communal and philanthropic work. One of their sons, Mr. E. H. Cotton, was town councillor of Port Elizabeth for many years.

Mr. Aaron Cotton is now eighty-five years old, and his wife is senior by one year.

MACCABEES AT JEWISH GUILD.

The Maccabees Section of the Jewish Guild held its first social in the Guild Hall, Johannesburg, on

Sunday last, a very attractive entertainment being given by the members. The hall was decorated in blue and white, the international colours of the Maccabees.

Violin solos were given by Mr. Myers and Mr. Gersman, and Miss Margolis was at the piano. The songs in Hebrew by Mr. Field were enthusiastically received. The programme included recitations by Mr. Lazarus, Mr. Lunz and Mr. Jacobson.

Congratulations to the Misses R. and S. Gersman and Miss Ragolsky the organisers on the success of the entertainment.

A JEWISH GUILD ENTERTAINMENT.

A room in the palace of Haroun-al-Raschid seemed transplanted to Johannesburg and to occupy the main hall of the Jewish Guild War Memorial Hall last Saturday night, where an eastern cabaret was in progress. The odour of incense filled the air. Round the room were eastern divans where the ladies lounged while the men sat at their feet on rich oriental carpets. The musicians played within an eastern temple whose walls were draped with purple Indian "sari."

Chinese lantern, streamers and the effect of coloured lime-lights gave further eastern charm to the scene.

During the course of the evening several cabaret dancing items were given by Miss Grace Guinsberg.

There was a large attendance and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

AN OPERATIC OPENING.

Mr. Meyerbeer Rabiner has been engaged by the African Theatres, Ltd., to introduce the film play, "His People" with two vocal items, "The Prologue from I Pagliacci" and "Eli, Eli."

"His People" which is being screened at the Bijou Theatre this week is described as "the greatest heart picture of a generation." It is a Universal-Jewel production and was directed by Edward Slowman. The principal parts are played by Rudolph Schildkraut, Virginia Faire, Blanche Mehaffey, Arthur Lubin, George Lewis, Kate Price, and Rosa Rosanova. The story is based on the Biblical narrative of Isaac, Esau and Jacob.

BREVITES.

On Sunday, August 28th, and Sunday, September 4th, the Jewish Guild Dramatic Section will stage three one-act plays: "A Marriage Has been Arranged," by Alfred Sutro, a brilliant sketch, in which the part of Harrison Crockstead was created in London by the eminent actor, Mr. Arthur Bouchier, who is now having such a successful season at His Majesty's Theatre; Mrs. Berthe Goudvis's amusing play, "A Husband for Rachel"; to be followed by "The Monkey's Paw," by W. W. Jacobs.

This last play is of a most thrilling

character. Patrons are assured of an enjoyable evening in the cosy little theatre at the Guild.

The thirty-fourth annual general meeting of members of the Witwatersrand Hebrew Benevolent Association will be held on Sunday, August 28th, 1927, at 10 a.m. sharp at the Hebrew High School Buildings, corner of Wolmarans and Claim Streets.

The anniversary dance of the Agoodas Achim took place on Saturday evening last in the Selborne Hall, and proved a great success. The committee responsible for the organisation are to be congratulated on the success of the dance.

The foundation stone of a new Hebrew School in Bloemfontein was laid on Sunday afternoon, the 14th inst., by Mr. Louis Shapiro. He is defraying the whole cost of the building (about £2,000), with the object of advancing Hebrew education in Bloemfontein and as a memorial to his parents. Addresses were delivered by the Administrator, the Deputy-Mayor and others, who congratulated the donor on his generosity.

There will be many distinguished members of the local community both Jewish and non-Jewish at the banquet which is being given at the Carlton Hotel on the 3rd prox. in honour of Dr. Leon Bramson, the eminent emissary of the "Ort" and other organisations. Mr. Tielman Roos and the Mayor of Johannesburg will be present on what will be an important and momentous occasion.

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