

Free State News.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

BETHLEHEM.

A successful dance, organised by the ladies of Bethlehem, took place recently at the local town hall, the proceeds of which were in aid of the Synagogue Building Fund. The hall was very tastefully decorated and presented a pleasing appearance with a profusion of coloured streamers, balloons and other devices, whilst very quaint lamp shades harmonised with the general scheme. The surrounding dorps sent their contingents and such places as Reitz, Fauriesburg, Ficksburg and Kesteel, were well represented. There were a number of Capetonians present, and it was very pleasing to note many non-Jewish friends supporting the function by their presence. The Mayor and Mayoress (Councillor and Mrs. Goble) were there, the latter wearing white georgette relieved with black velvet. There were also present the Resident Magistrate, Colonel Thompson; the Chief of Police, Captain MacLaren; the Manager of Barclay's Bank, Mr. Foster; and the Manager of the Standard Bank, Mr. McLean. Among the smartly dressed ladies one noticed Miss Esther Cutler, Mrs. Meyers, of Kesteel, Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. Kaplan, Mrs. Righthouse, Miss Gordon, of Reitz, Miss Israel, of Fauriesburg, Miss Glaser, Mrs. S. T. Meyers, Mrs. C. Crystal, of Paul Roux; Miss L. Goldberg, Mrs. J. S. Jacobson, Miss Bessie Rom, Miss A. Meyers, of Kesteel, Mrs. B. Cutler, of Reitz, Mrs. Joe Goldstein, and Mrs. C. Ackerman. Dancing was kept up until a late hour to the strains of Bett's capable orchestra, and during the evening tasty refreshments were supplied and greatly enjoyed. It was a perfectly organised affair and much credit is due to the organising committee, composed of the following, for the excellency of the arrangements: Mrs. Ackerman, chairlady; Mrs. Goldberg, vice-chairlady; Mrs. Kaplan, treasurer; Miss Goldman, secretary; Mesdames. Levenstein, Righthouse, Seligson, Goodman, Meyers, Goldman and Miller, committee. Dance hosts, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Ackerman. It is anticipated that an appreciable sum will be handed over to the Synagogue Building Fund as a result of the dance.

The new synagogue, the foundation stone of which was laid by Mr. S. Goldman, will be opened on the 7th prox. by Dr. J. L. Landau. The Rev. Mr. Altshuler, of Pretoria, has been appointed to the congregation and will commence his duties on September 1st. In addition, Mr. Altshuler is a proficient Hebrew teacher. At the last census (September, 1926) the Jewish community numbered one hundred and fifty-one.

An "At Home" was recently held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Seligman in aid of the funds of the Jewish Ladies' Benevolent Society and the Synagogue Building Fund. To help the latter, regular functions are held at the homes of different members of the community and thus it is hoped to raise sufficient money for the synagogue, which is now in the course of erection. At Mr. and Mrs. Seligman's affair all the members of the community were present and a very enjoyable time was spent. The pleasant little functions are keenly anticipated, particularly by the young folk, who enter into the proceedings with much zest and energy.

A sum of £600 is already in hand towards the new synagogue. In this is included £100 bequeathed for the purpose by the late Mrs. Cutler, and a further £100 donated by the rest of the family. The land has been

generously donated by Mr. A. M. Lazarus.

The large-heartedness of the Cutler family and Mr. Lazarus should be emulated by the whole community who should see that the projected place of worship is erected as soon as possible. A great deal more money is required and it requires the support of everyone to bring about the desired result.

The newly appointed Executive Committee, with Mr. A. M. Lazarus as chairman, Mr. B. Cutler as secretary, together with Dr. Zinn and the minister, Rev. J. Kupowitz, are determined to bring the campaign to a successful issue, and in this they are ably backed by the ladies. The latter are working very hard and are at present organising a bazaar, under the leadership of Mrs. A. M. Lazarus. Miss Seligman is the capable secretary.

VREDE.

Capetonians will learn with interest that the Grand Hotel has been taken over by Mr. and Mrs. Lou Berman and Mr. and Mrs. Lipman, of Cape Town. Mrs. Berman will be better remembered as Miss Bessie Ipp. A hearty welcome is assured all visitors to the Grand.

A new minister, in the person of Rev. Ettinger, has been appointed to the local Hebrew Congregation.

Mr. A. Ackerman, the Mayor, has been re-elected to the Town Council.

A Duel.

FASCIST ANTI-SEMITE v. JEWISH FASCIST.

Dr. Paolo Levi, Secretary of the Jewish Community of Padua and a prominent member of the local Fascist Party, formerly head of the Fascist Press Bureau of Padua, has fought a duel with Signor Luigi Menini, Secretary of the Padua Fascist Students' Organisation.

Dr. Levi resented the persistent anti-Semitic agitation which Signor Menini had been carrying on in Padua and he challenged him to a duel. Fourteen rounds were fought in all and the duel lasted nearly two hours. Signor Menini was wounded twice in the head and three times in the arm. Dr. Levi received only a slight scratch in the right arm. The doctors finally decided to stop the fight. The two adversaries are not reconciled.

Sephardic Congress.

The Sephardic World Confederation has decided to postpone the projected world Congress of Sephardic Jewry until the summer of 1928. Missions will proceed during the course of this year to visit the Sephardic centres in North and South America, the Balkans, Mesopotamia, India, etc., to conduct propaganda on behalf of the idea of the Congress.

The Confederation is in negotiation with its organisations in the various countries with a view to fixing on a place at which to convoke the Congress. Suggestions have been made that if the Congress cannot be held in Palestine, it should be called for Salonica, Vienna or Brussels.

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