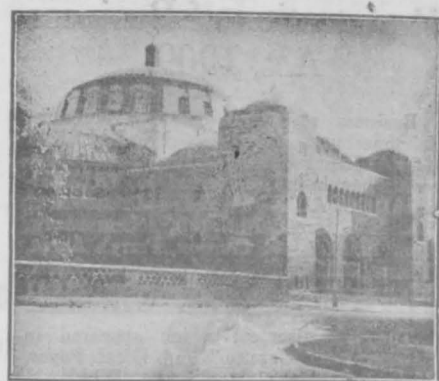




JOHANNESBURG DAY BY DAY

Invitations to meetings and functions, should be addressed as early as possible to:—

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THE ZIONIST ANNIVERSARY.

The tenth anniversary of the British Government's message forwarded to Lord Rothchild by Mr., now Earl Balfour, was celebrated on Wednesday night by a meeting in the Selborne Hall. The occasion was of some importance by reason of the fact that His Honour the Administrator of the Transvaal, Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, delivered an inspiring address, but the venue of the gathering was an eloquent admission of the gradual lessening in the interest taken in the movement. Years ago the Town Hall used to be taken for the occasion and hundreds were unable to obtain admission, while previous to that the Wanderers' Great Hall was found unable to afford sufficient accommodation to the thousands who wanted to be present. There is no doubt that Zionism everywhere is on the wane and, even in South Africa where it has been more noticeable and certainly more lucrative to its officials than elsewhere there is a constant diminution in the number of its adherents. It is a significant fact that in Johannesburg, the seat of the South African Zionist Federation and the publishing place of a newspaper which claims a circulation of three thousand copies, where hundreds of pounds are spent monthly in Zionist activities and an almost similar amount in Zionist salaries, there is no such thing as a Zionist association, society or formation! The nearest approach to such a body being the Ladies' Zionist Association, which is kept alive by the fact that it meets at the different houses of the more opulent members and so provides a means of social intercourse which would otherwise be lacking. It affords Mrs. A, who may not be amongst the aristocracy of Johannesburg Jewry, an opportunity of seeing the inside of the house of Mrs. B who is, and Mrs. C, who hails from Parktown, learns something of the conditions of life surrounding the household of Mrs. D, who resides at Bertrams. Of course, this is not "Zionist" interest, but amongst the uninitiated it goes as such.

Anyhow, the fact remains that where thousands used to seek admission, hundreds are with difficulty brought together and then only by the method of much advertising, much publicity and the presence of a Gentile whose official position is such as to attach importance to his speech and interest to his personality. It is probably because of this parlous state of Zionism in this country that it has been decided to import Dr. Weizmann next year with a view to an attempt to galvanise life into the movement in South Africa being made. While everyone will be pleased to receive this prominent Jew in our midst it is to be regretted that his coming, and still more his going, will synchronise with the departure of large sums of money which will be distracted from local charitable endeavour into Zionist channels. Truly can one apply to this movement the well-remembered words of the great South African patriot, Cecil John Rhodes: "So little done, so much to do."

THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES.

At the last meeting of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies it was decided to co-operate with the South African Jewish Historical Society and that the South African Jewish Year Book be issued under the joint auspices of the Board and the Society; further to circularise the Constituent Bodies of the Board, pointing out the important work the Society had set itself out to do and urging them to give it every assistance.

It was reported that the establishment of a Jewish Employment Bureau in conjunction with the Jewish Guild was being proceeded with, and three members were elected to act on the Committee of that Bureau, which would be run as an independent organisation with its headquarters in the Guild premises.

It was announced that a deputation had interviewed the Transvaal Director of Education with regard to the difficulties experienced in the admission of Jewish children to certain of the Johannesburg schools, but unfortunately without satisfactory results. It was decided to ask the Administrator and Provincial Executive to receive a deputation from the Board on this question.

A report was read of the proceedings of the International Conference on Jewish Minority Rights held in Zurich on August 17th, submitted by Mrs. Guinsberg, who represented South African Jewry on behalf of the Board of Deputies, and a vote was passed expressing the Board's thanks to Mrs. Guinsberg for her attendance at the Conference and for her in this connection.

The last paragraph is distinctly interesting and those who take note of Jewish happenings are asking who Mrs. Guinsberg is, why South African Jewry needed to be represented, and who appointed the half-a-dozen or so American advertisers who held a conference which was no more international than the meeting of the Three Tailors of Tooley Street was a national occurrence.

"SUNSHINE LAND."

Despite the comments of the local press there have been a large attendances during the week at the different performances of "Sunshine Land," which is a South African play with music written by a Jewish woman, orchestrated by a Gentile, who has been a Jewish choirmaster, and produced by a Jewish actor and teacher of elocution. The libretto of the play is novel, the introduction of Afrikaner customs and songs appropriate and in many parts the dialogue is clever and amusing. There are, it is true, instances of faulty play construction, and these, of course, are brought into bolder relief by the presentation by amateurs. The local critics could easily have been kinder than they were. The effect of the opinions of the press upon the public is shown by the fact that despite the criticisms, the piece has "drawn" and touched up and pruned and presented by a capable combination of

professionals it would provide a distinctly interesting evening. Mrs. Goudvis has every reason to be satisfied with the success she has achieved and Mr. Casiraghi has presented pleasantly tuneful music appropriate to the theme, while Mr. Henry Miles has shown professional producers that they can learn at his hands. It is quite a different thing for a producer, specially imported from England, to teach people who have already seen a thing played how to imitate the originals and to train a body of ambitious, but not always capable, amateurs to create roles and adequately fill them.

A JEWISH EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

As will be seen from the report of the proceedings at the last Jewish Board of Deputies meeting a movement is on foot to establish in Johannesburg a Jewish Employment Bureau. The provisional committee consists of three members of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies and three members of the Jewish Guild. It is intended to secure, if possible, an office in the Jewish Guild where a register will be kept of applicants for employment. It is also intended to appoint a member of the committee, who will place himself at the disposal of callers and also keep in touch with employers of labour. It is said that the provisional committee will shortly be making an announcement to the community and every endeavour is to be made to obtain support for the project. Whether the movement is a wise one or not is a matter for individual opinion, but we do not think it will work as well as its proposers anticipate. Jews rarely make good servants to other Jews and still more rarely do Jews make good employers to their fellow Jews. It seems as if there is something in the composition of our people that make them work better with Gentiles, and while it is no uncommon occurrence to hear Christian employers praise the abilities of their Jewish assistants it is rare that the Jew does the same thing.

"KOSHER KILLING."

That this subject is attracting attention outside the community is proved by the fact that the local press is publishing letters in its correspondence columns upon the subject. The following communication above the signature "Dumb Animal Friend" shows the trend of public opinion upon the matter:—

"An appeal is being made by the *Spectator* to all Jews to exert themselves to abolish the cruelty in Kosher killing and use the new machinery that is now complete for the purpose. Sir Michael Foster, witnessing the method of slaughter, averred that the cruelty could not be denied, the head of the animal being forced back by a crowbar, and when that was not sufficient a finger plunged into the

eye and dragged at. Kindness emanates from the Jewish people in general. May I appeal to them in preventing a cruelty which is awful?"

BREVITIES.

Last Sunday night there was a symposium at the Jewish Guild, the subject being "Evolution in Relation to Religion." Professor R. A. Dart presided and there were ten-minute speeches by Dr. Bernard Friedman, Dr. Morris Cohen, Mr. L. Japhet, Miss Fanny Ustiev, the Rev. B. I. Beckman, Mr. Bernard Kahn, Mr. Henry Block, Mr. H. Wedeclefsky and others.

Braamfontein is very excited over a Chanukah Ball for Thursday evening, December 15th, in the Selborne Hall. The proceeds will be donated to the Braamfontein Hebrew Congregation and Talmud Torah. A ball committee has been elected, with Miss J. Comaroff in the chair, and Miss A. Pillemer and Mr. A. Kam, joint hon. secretaries.

The opening took place on Tuesday at the Jewish Guild War Memorial Hall of the bazaar in aid of the Jewish Women's Benevolent Society. The task was performed by Sir Ernest Oppenheimer, whose wife has been the chairwoman of the organising committee and it is interesting to note that, even prior to the bazaar, there was an amount of some £1,500 in hand.

On Thursday last Professor Hoernle delivered the fifth of his lectures on "Some Aspects of the New Psychology" at the Guild. The title was "Delinquency and the Inferiority Complex."

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