

Kimberley's Minister.

INTERVIEW WITH THE REV. M. KONVISER.

Kimberley is one of the largest towns in the Union and has a Jewish community of some 200 families. The Jewish settlement is probably one of the earliest in the country and its foundation took place soon after the discovery of the diamond fields. For more than 30 years, the Rev. Harris Isaacs was the spiritual leader of the community, and on his retirement some two and a half years ago, the Rev. M. Konviser was appointed, under arrangements made by the Jewish War Memorial scheme, to succeed him.

Mr. Konviser, who is probably one of the youngest ministers in the country, came to South Africa after studying in Paris, at the Jew's College, and the University College, London. The community of Kimberley is very proud indeed of its beautiful Synagogue, which is probably, from an architectural point of view, one of the most noteworthy in the Union. Prior to coming to this country, Mr. Konviser was assistant minister in the Great Synagogue, London, and there he took a leading part in the foundation of the Young Mizrachi League. Mr. Konviser is spending a short period in Cape Town, and when approached for an interview by our representative, he readily acceded



REV. M. KONVISER.

to the request. Mr. Konviser, when asked his opinion about the federation of Synagogues, said: "My experience of the benefits secured by English Jewry from the United Synagogue, and also from what I have heard of the conditions in America, drive me to the conclusion that a federation of Synagogues in South Africa will serve a long-felt need and a very necessary one." He thought that it would be advisable to have two divisions in the organisation, one to take care of the northern part of the Union and the other to look after the southern portion. He mentioned that the status of the Ministry could be improved considerably if a united body were in existence. There were many problems which individual Ministers found too difficult to solve, and which would become amenable to solution by a Rabbinical Council, which could work in harmony with the federated body. He stressed in particular the importance of dealing with the serious question of indiscriminate conversions. He pointed out that many Ministers of standing were against the free acceptance of converts, but their effects in applying reasonable standards were nullified by the willingness of some gentlemen who, regardless of the interests

of the community at large, were prepared for some reason or other, to grant applications for admission to the Faith.

When asked his views about the Federation of Charity movement, he said, "For a small town like Kimberley this question was not a serious one, particularly as all the charitable institutions worked under the aegis of the Synagogue, and would get little advantage by a scheme of Federation." With regard to Hebrew education, Mr. Konviser said he was a very keen supporter of the Board of Education, and he hoped for good results from the very good work done by Mr. Meirowsky on behalf of the Board. "Kimberley is about to establish a Hebrew Kindergarten," he added.

Mr. Konviser also urged the importance of establishing in certain of the larger centres, a Jewish Boarding School in order to meet the requirements of Jewish children in country districts, who are to-day compelled to attend schools where the environment is not all that it might be.

With regard to Zionist work, Mr. Konviser said that Kimberley had done fairly well, but that much better results could be obtained if more propaganda work were done. He stressed the importance of leading workers in the larger towns paying visits to towns less fortunately placed.

In dealing with the position at Kimberley generally, Mr. Konviser mentioned that in the civic life of the Town and surrounding districts Jews had taken a very active part for many years. Kimberley and the surrounding towns have had several Jewish Mayors and Deputy Mayors, and the town itself has been extremely generously treated, not only by the Jewish inhabitants, but by others who lived there in former years, and in particular by the late Mr. B. Klessner, who left a very large sum to charity. In this connection, he mentioned that the Annual Memorial Service in memory of Mr. Klessner takes place in the Synagogue under the auspices of the City Council.

Good Hope Seminary.

The Rev. A. P. Bender gave an inspiring address to the scholars of the Good Hope Seminary on Wednesday morning at the annual prize-giving. He addressed the young girls as the coming women of South Africa, and encouraged them with thoughts and ideals for a full life of service. Mr. Dose, chairman of the school committee, also spoke, and Mr. Honikman thanked Mr. Bender for his outstanding address. Miss Miller, principal of the High School, and Miss Courtenay, principal of the Junior School, read their reports, both of which showed progress throughout the school year.

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Wedding Bells.

LIBERMAN—COHEN.

The Great Synagogue, Gardens, was the scene of a very picturesque wedding on Tuesday afternoon, when Gwladys, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Liberman, was married to Dr. Max Cohen. It was a very brilliant affair, the Synagogue being daintily decorated for the occasion, and was crowded with relatives and well-wishers. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. A. P. Bender, assisted by the Revs. L. Kirschner and S. Kibel.

The bride's gown was of white satin trimmed with fine Spanish lace in very pretty lover's knot effects. The train was about three yards long and hung from the hip. Spanish lace also finished the skirt. Her head-dress was a dainty affair of very fine silk net and orange blossoms. The bridegroom's gift to the bride was a diamond wristlet watch. Mrs. A. Liberman wore an elegant frock of silver grey satin embroidered in Richelieu and cut with a cape effect. With it was worn a pale pink slip. A silver grey hat trimmed in pastel shades of mauve and pink finished the ensemble. The bridegroom's mother, Mrs. B. Cohen, was handsomely gowned in a Lido blue georgette frock finely tucked and embroidered peacock blue and colours. With it she wore a blue hat—the whole being completed with an antique silver pendant studded with rose-coloured stones.

The bride was attended by a bevy of pretty bridesmaids—the Misses Evelyn Clarke, Cora Levenstein, Grace Mandelstam, Phyllis Kramer, Hannah Bloom and Thelma Tyfield. Their pretty white frocks were cut on Grecian lines and were trimmed with diamante. Their head-dresses were of tulle in various pastel shades to suit their wearers. Each had shoes and bouquets to match her head-dress. All the bridesmaids had received from the bridegroom choice antique necklaces.

Little Sheila Joyce Cohen, of Port Elizabeth, the niece of the bridegroom, was the only flower-girl and Master Derrick Spitz, of Johannesburg, the little page.

Mrs. Spitz, the bride's sister, wore a lovely black and white net gown outlined with narrow black braid and embroidered in white.

Mrs. Dr. E. Liberman looked charming in a maze georgette gown.

Mrs. Cohen, sister-in-law of the bridegroom, was handsomely gowned in black figured silk trimmed with net.

The subsequent reception was held in the Grand Hall at the City Hall and here a perfect scheme of decorations had been arranged under the supervision of Mr. Munro Biggs. The beautiful decorations consisted of delphiniums, gladiola, carnations and roses. Over the centre of the table of honour was suspended a large wedding bell composed of white flowers. There were the usual toasts, the principal, that of the bride and bridegroom, being offered by the Rev. A. P. Bender. This was replied to by the bridegroom, after which Mr. E. Buirski, M.L.A., proposed the toast of the parents of the newly wedded pair. Other speakers were: Adv. A. Jacobson, Dr. Cohen (brother of the bridegroom) and Mr. A. Liberman (father of the bride).

During an interval, Miss Mabel Lewin beautifully rendered two solos to the accompaniment of Mrs. (Dr.) E. Liberman. Subsequently the floor was cleared for dancing, the music being provided by Moller's Orchestra.

Dr. and Mrs. Cohen, after their honeymoon, which will be spent in Europe after a trip round the coast, will take up their residence in Koffiefontein, O.F.S.

Among those present were: The Mayor and Mayoress (Councillor and Mrs. A. J. S. Lewis), Sir Carruthers and Lady Beattie, Mr. Eli Buirski, M.L.A., and Mrs. Buirski, Sir John and Lady Kotze, Professor and Mrs. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. M. Rosen, Mrs. Woolf Harris, Mrs. Henry Harris, Mr. C. W. Coulter, M.L.A., Advocate Jacobson, Councillor and Mrs. L. Gradner, Councillor and Mrs. S. Bernstein, Mrs. B. Bernstein, Dr. and Mrs. E. Liberman, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Ochberg, Dr. and Mrs. Dowie Dunn, Mr. Finch, Mr. and Mrs. H. Bashew, Rev. and Mrs. L. Kirchner, Rev. S. Kibel, Mrs. R. Lewis, Mrs. J. Frank, Mr. and Mrs. R. Oblowitz, Mr. and Mrs. M. Eilenberg, Mrs. Anna Sheck, Mrs. Silverstone, Councillor E. H. von Witt, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. G. Neumann, Mr. and Miss Kadish, Mrs. S. Franks, Mr. and Mrs. Levenkind, Mr. and Mrs. A. Friedlander, Mr. and Mrs. I. D. Fryde, Mr. Ise Levy, Dr. and Mrs. Harris Cohen, Mr. and Mrs. L. Spitz, Mr. and Mrs. I. Barnett, Mr. and Mrs. M. Clark, Mrs. J. Hochschild, Mr. and Mrs. H. K. Sieradzki, Dr. and Mrs. R. Wolff, Mr. and Mrs. L. Freeman, Mrs. M. Greenwall, Mr. and Mrs. Leopold Kramer, Mr. and Mrs. B. Buirski, Mr. and Mrs. M. Bashew, Mrs. H. Bertish, Mr. and Mrs. Mandelstam, Mrs. M. D. Immerman, Dr. Sennett.

Prize Distribution at the Girls' Central School.

The prize-giving at the Girls' Central School was a very informal and pleasant little function. The Rev. A. P. Bender, the friend and patron of the School, presented the prizes and there were present on the platform Professors A. C. Scrimgeour, Professor Lancelot Hogben, Adv. Morris Alexander and Mrs. Eilenberg.

In delivering her annual report, Miss Roza van Gelderen, the principal, expressed great pleasure at the general all-round improvement which had been made in the work throughout the School. A 60 per cent. minimum was demanded and obtained in all subjects. Addressing the departing pupils, Miss van Gelderen urged them to exercise discretion in their choice of friends, and reminded them that their best friend at all times was their mother.

The Rev. A. P. Bender in a genial little speech said he was very pleased to note the good health of all the pupils. This was one of the very few schools he knew where so much care and attention were paid to the health of the scholars. They had reason to be very grateful to their headmistress. He trusted that they would always retain through life the heart of a little child.

Adv. Alexander proposed a vote of thanks and called for cheers.