

# MEMORIAL HALL OPENED IN PRETORIA.

## FINE JEWISH EFFORT.

### Mr. ROOS'S TRIBUTE.

The Pretoria Jewish Community, which is the third largest in South Africa, has been slower than a good many smaller communities in building for itself some centre of social and intellectual intercourse, from which the communal life should radiate. But once the task was taken in hand, it was carried through with praiseworthy thoroughness, and now the result of an admirable communal effort stands embodied in a building which can be regarded with pride by every Jew in Pretoria. The new Memorial Hall, which was opened on the 17th September, not only bears testimony to the liberality and zeal of Pretoria Jewry in supplying an indispensable element in the communal life, but also represents a notable contribution towards the architectural landmarks of the administrative capital.

Situated in Beatrice Street, next to the Miriam Marks School, the Hall stands almost midway between the old residential portion of Pretoria and the newer suburbs, with their growing Jewish population. It is thus conveniently placed as a meeting point and a centre for gatherings of every sort. Architecturally, the Hall is designed on attractive and generous lines. The frontage is striking without being pretentious, and the interior is well-suited for all the purposes for which it is likely to be put. The main portion of the building is devoted to a large assembly hall—among the most capacious of its kind in Pretoria—and this is overlooked by a spacious gallery. Leading from the main hall is the banquetting hall, which would serve for smaller gatherings. To the right of this room is a comfortable library and reading-room, and a kitchen and two cloak-rooms complete the ensemble.

### OPENING CEREMONY.

The opening ceremony was performed on Wednesday, the 17th instant, by the Hon. T. J. Roos, K.C., M.L.A., Minister of Justice. Punctually at 3 p.m. the Rabbi W. Hirsch, B.A., the minister of the congregation, handed to the honourable gentleman a golden key, with which, amidst the applause of a large gathering, Mr. Roos proceeded to unlock the main entrance to the hall, thus formally opening the building. Entering the large assembly hall, which was gaily decorated for the opening *fête*, the distinguished guest was accompanied to the platform by Rabbi Hirsch, and Mr. Brill, the president of the congregation. On the platform were also the Mayor of Pretoria (Councillor G. H. Brink) and Mrs. Brink, and the Bishop of Pretoria and Miss Talbot. A pretty touch was added to the proceedings by the presentation to the two ladies, on their arrival, of beautiful bouquets of carnations by Sylvia Goldstein and Kathleen Hack, dressed as little flower-girls.

In an introductory address, Rabbi Hirsch welcomed the Minister of Justice and the Mayor, and thanked them for having so kindly consented to honour the Jewish community with their presence on an auspicious occasion. It had been a painful effort to achieve the result which they saw before them that day. But they had looked forward to the future, and that had spurred them on in their work. The building would be associated with the memories of those of their fellow-congregants who had given their lives in a great cause. In conclusion, Rabbi Hirsch expressed the fervent hope that the hall would be a potent factor in unifying opinion and promoting harmony in the community. (Cheers.)

### SOLIDARITY AND COHESION.

The Minister of Justice, who was very warmly received, said he could congratulate the Jews of Pretoria on a fine communal Hall, the result of their united efforts.

"In the whole history of the world," went on the Minister of Justice, "there is no greater spectacle of solidarity and cohesion than that which has been displayed to the Jewish race. Jews are sundered over the whole face of the world, and yet they manage to remain one race." "No other race in the world has ever achieved that. I hope you will never forget that solidarity and cohesion. Naturally, they are due to religious considerations. Your religion has kept you one and it will continue to keep you one among the people of the world."

Coming to more mundane matters, said Mr. Roos, he had done what the Jews had done for South Africa. They had done much to make this country worth living in by their powers. The Jewish community, with their energy and their powers, had done a tremendous amount in the bringing of this country.

When the Jewish holidays took place, one noticed that in all the big centres in the Union was at a stand-

still. It proved that Jews were taking a leading part in trade and commerce. Commerce was a great thing for South Africa, and in that respect the Jews here were playing their part well.

Speaking as Minister of Justice, he was pleased to testify to the fact that no race in South Africa was more law-abiding than the Jews—(applause)—who felt, quite rightly, that sooner or later they could get all they wanted through the ballot box. (Laughter.)

Mr. Roos, in conclusion, expressed the hope that there would be no friction among the members of the Jewish community in Pretoria. "Your power is the power of cohesion and working together without friction, and of remaining united as one man." (Applause.)

Advocate Adolf Davis, K.C., M.P.C., expressed his sincere pleasure at being there to witness the completion of a fine effort, which marked a further stage in the development of the Pretoria Jewish community. He paid a tribute to Mr. Roos, whom he referred to as a man of great tolerance and breadth of view, and to whom the Jewish community in South Africa was particularly indebted for having been the first to elevate a professing Jew to the Judicial Bench of the Union.

The Bishop of Pretoria declared that he admired the efforts of local Jewry in securing the erection of such a building. He was pleased to have the opportunity of expressing his goodwill towards them. Jews and Christians had not always stood together, and he felt that they should always extend to one another the hand of good-fellowship. As a Christian, he was so much indebted to the Jewish race that he was pleased to extend his best wishes for the progress of the Jewish community. (Applause.)



JEWISH MEMORIAL HALL, BEATRICE STREET, PRETORIA.  
OPENING CEREMONY BY THE HON. TIELMAN ROOS,  
K.C., M.L.A., MINISTER OF JUSTICE.

### THE FETE.

The Mayor thereupon declared the *fête* open. As the Mayor of Pretoria he assured them that the city was proud of their building, which was undoubtedly an acquisition to Pretoria.

The *fête* itself was a triumphal success, and more than justified the expectations of its energetic organisers, to whom the greatest praise is due for a particularly capable effort. All the arrangements were undertaken by the Ladies' Memorial Hall Fund Committee, who had worked untiringly since May last to make the enterprise worthy of the cause. Thanks to the loyal assistance given by every lady on the committee, as well as by numerous helpers, the outcome exceeded the highest estimates. The function lasted during Wednesday and Thursday, and it is anticipated that over £500 will be contributed to the fund directly from the *fête*. In addition, the Ladies' Committee was responsible for the collection of about the same amount from various sources before the *fête* was held, so that in the nett result a sum of over £1,000 has been added to the building fund of the Hall through the efforts of the Pretoria Jewish ladies.

The following is a list of the stall-holders in the *fête*:—  
Mesdames Goddard, Goldin, Solomon, Katzenellenbogen, Freeman, Ettin, Muller, S. Kaplan, Liebman, Kaplan, Schulman, Hirshovitz, Hotz, Stein, Mendelson, Dembo, Saks, Herber, Goldblatt, Mofsowitz, Hersch, Machanik, Goldstein and Isaacson, the Misses Muller, Cohen, Gavronsky, Silpert, sideshows, the Hebrew Order of David; refreshments, Mesdames Niefeld, Shapiro, Schaffer, Levin, Hack, Resnik, Goldberg, Block, Freedman and Hurwitz.

The social functions which were organised in conjunction with the *fête* included a charming display of children's dancing by pupils of Miss Jessie Collier (Misses Rosie Hack, Jessie, Maggie and Edna Campbell, Nellie Basset and Jessie Anderson). On Monday night Miss Jane Leibman sang, and on Thursday night a carnival dance was held. Delightful music was presented throughout by Mrs. Ginsberg's orchestra, to whom the best thanks of the organisers are due.