

IMPRESSIVE WOLFFSOHN MEMORIAL MEETING

Johannesburg Jewry Pays Tribute to Great Leader

Striking tributes to the memory of the late David Wolffsohn were made at the mass meeting at the Standard Theatre, Johannesburg, on Sunday, October 26th.

Impressive speeches were delivered by Mr. A. M. Abrahams, President of the S.A. Zionist Federation (who presided), the Chief Rabbi, Dr. J. L. Landau, and Dr. Immanuel Olsvanger.

The Chairman said that it was never too late for Jews to pay a tribute of respect to the memory of one of the great heroes of modern Jewry. Wolffsohn was a noble character. His rise to fame was due to a hard struggle in his early days, being at one time reduced to actual poverty. His sterling qualities, however, and his intellectual qualities raised him to a position of eminence in the commercial sphere of Germany.

From his youth upwards, even before the late Dr. Theodore Herzl—the founder of the modern Zionist movement—appeared on the scene, Wolffsohn was a Zionist and advocated the restoration of a Jewish State. Wolffsohn's services to the cause of Zionism were enormous. If it had not been for him, the structure, which had been so carefully reared by the great Dr. Herzl might have tumbled to pieces. He laboured so that others might reap. At the time of his death there was no Balfour Declaration, and the prospects of the movement were not bright, but a solid foundation had been laid. Wolffsohn left £15,000 for the founding of a Jewish national library in Jerusalem, and they wished to pay a tribute of respect to his memory they should help to complete that library as a monument to him.

Dr. Olsvanger then delivered a very fine estimate of the character of David Wolffsohn and of his contribution to the building up of the Zionist movement. The doctor began by showing the difference between the psychology of Herzl and Wolffsohn. Herzl had come to Zionism, not as is generally understood, on account of the anti-Semitism. His Zionism had been the result of an art feeling. He could not find a warmer corner for himself in the Austrian Empire or elsewhere in the world. As an artist, he needed a people from whom he could create.

"With David Wolffsohn," said Dr. Olsvanger, "it was different. He was born among the masses, he had received a good education and a good Jewish education. He had worked his way up and was a self-made successful merchant. He had come to Zionism because this was to fill his life with a great interest. He was a faithful friend to Herzl and accompanied him in all his great mission.

"When Herzl passed away," added Dr. Olsvanger, "it was Wolffsohn who took up the reins and by his strong personality had overcome the danger of the breaking down of the Zionist movement."

Wolffsohn had left money for the establishment of a Jewish National Library in Jerusalem, and Dr. Olsvanger appealed that the Jews in Johannesburg should honour the memory of Wolffsohn and contribute towards the Library.

The Chief Rabbi, Dr. J. L. Landau, said they had every reason to cherish the memory of Wolffsohn. It was when Herzl was in despair as to the realisation of his great dream that David Wolffsohn walked in and made an offer to serve him. It was David Wolffsohn who had first established a Hebrew newspaper and had engaged Nahum Sokolow as editor. That was the first established in Cologne. Dr. Landau then made a powerful appeal for assistance in the establishment of the Jewish National Library in Jerusalem, by which the housing of our great spiritual production could be brought together.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Schwartz, of Bloemfontein, and their daughter Carmel, are leaving in December by the "Gloucester Castle" for Palestine, where they are taking up their residence. Their son, Harry, will join them in February, travelling via England. They desire, through this medium, to bid good-bye to their numerous friends in South Africa.

Miss Ruth Marion Cohen, of Cape Town, has just passed the Cape University Pianoforte Examination, Lower Division, with honours and has been awarded the bursary. Little Miss Cohen, who showed marked musical ability at an early age, is the daughter of Mrs. Cohen, who, before her marriage, was Miss S. L. Penchansky, a devoted Zionist worker for many years.

Miss P. L. Goldman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. Goldman, of Bethlehem, O.F.S., has been successful in passing her Licentiate examination in Pianoforte (Branch A) Teachers' Section, S.A. University, being the only successful candidate in this branch in Natal.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Radomsky, of Grahamstown, have recently celebrated their silver wedding and were the recipients of many congratulations.

Dr. H. Brill, the son of Mr. J. Brill, President of the Pretoria Hebrew Congregation, has returned from Europe, where he has been to specialise in ear, nose and throat diseases.

Mr. Nathan Brozin, chairman of the Zionist Society, has been elected on the Municipal Council of Middelburg, Transvaal.

WELCOME TO NEW JUDGE.

Mr. Justice Greenberg took his seat for the first time on the Bench in Johannesburg, on Monday, November 3rd. He presided over the Criminal Sessions, but prior to that an address of welcome on behalf of the Bar and Side Bar was made by Mr. C. F. Stallard, K.C., in the Civil Court, who wished the new judge a happy career on the Bench. He said that Mr. Greenberg had long been associated with the Bar of Johannesburg. He had for a long time been one of them, was intimately acquainted with them, and they felt, in welcoming him, that they were welcoming one of their own.

Mr. Justice Greenberg, in reply, said he hoped that the manifestation of goodwill was an augury that the happy relations between himself and the Bar would continue. He relied on the broadmindedness and charity of the Bar to condone any faults on his side. He relied also on the assistance of the Bar in carrying out his duties. It was a tradition that the quality of the work on the Bench was dependent largely, if not almost entirely, on such assistance. He felt sanguine that the assistance would be given generously and in full measure.

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