

In Pretoria

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

INTER-DEBATE.

An inter-debate was held at the Memorial Hall on Sunday the 23rd November, between the Zionist Guild and the Pretoria Jewish Guild. The subject under discussion was a motion "That the Jewish Emancipation has had a Detrimental Effect on the National Character." Messrs. Podlashuc and Gavronsky supported the motion, on behalf of the Zionist Guild, and Advocate C. Isaacson and Mr. L. Hotz opposed for the Jewish Guild. Rabbi Hirsch presided, and there was a fair attendance. A keen debate, in which Messrs. Caplan, Osrin, Belfort and Billing participated, in addition to the principals, resulted in the motion being carried by a substantial majority.

The function was the first of its kind which had taken place since the inauguration of the Jewish Guild, and while the attendance might have been somewhat better, the discussion revealed the existence of a good deal of debating talent among the younger members of the Jewish community, which promises well for the future success of the cultural activities of the Jewish Guild. The latter, it should be remarked, is making gratifying progress as a really vital factor in the communal life in the capital.

THE JEWISH GUILD.

The social side of the Pretoria Jewish Guild is developing satisfactorily, thanks to the energetic sub-committee responsible for that important aspect. Functions have been held at regular intervals, and all have proved popular. The most recent one was an entertainment which was given at the Memorial Hall on the 29th November. The bill of fare included an illusionist performance by Mr. Stanley Lezard, and a gramophone recital arranged by Mr. H. Lucas, of the Paul Piano Saloons, Ltd. Mr. Lezard showed himself an experienced and clever exponent of the art of mystification, and his "act," which kept his audience interested and amused for close upon an hour, was greatly appreciated. The gramophone recital provided a feast of music, and was very well received, though unfortunately, owing to the lateness of the hour, the original programme had to be curtailed somewhat.

The committee is to be congratulated on having secured the services of Miss Majorie Cohen for a lecture. Miss Cohen, who is prominently identified with that inspiring movement, the League of Nations Union, will address the Guild at the Memorial Hall on Tuesday the 9th instant, commencing at the usual time in the evening. A cordial welcome is extended to all members as well as non-members.

A forthcoming function, which will be awaited with interest, is a lecture by Major Lorch, who served in Palestine during the war, on the Holy Land. The lecture will, it is hoped, be illustrated by lantern-slides. The date has not yet been definitely fixed, and will be announced later. Among the events set down for the delectation of members in December, is a mock election which it is proposed to hold in the course of that month.

ELECTION OF JEWISH GUILD COMMITTEE.

An important meeting will be held in the Memorial Hall on Sunday, the 7th instant, at 10.15 a.m., to elect a permanent committee for the ensuing year, to take the place of the provisional committee which has functioned so far. The need for having a strong and efficient committee has been abundantly proved in the past, and it is the duty of all members to be present on this occasion, in order to ensure that the most representative possible committee is elected for the first complete year of the Guild's existence.

THE ZIONIST GUILD.

The new Palestine film which it had been intended to exhibit in Pretoria early in December under the auspices of the Zionist Guild, unfortunately had to be refused owing to the difficulty of securing a proper hall for the proposed date. It is now understood that the film will not be shown before the first week of January at the earliest. In view of the interest which has been manifested in the film and its great value for propaganda purposes—and more propaganda is the crying need of Zionism in Pretoria at the present time—it is a thousand pities that this postponement has had to take place, but in the circumstances it was unavoidable.

The annual general meeting of the Zionist Guild, when a new committee will be elected, is due to take place shortly. There has been much heart-searching of late as to the marked decline in the activity of the Zionist organisation in Pretoria, and it is generally felt that a drastic

change is necessary. There is no lack of Zionist sentiment in the town—that is unquestionable; but what is lacking is the mobilization and organized direction of that sentiment, which is at present far too individualistic. It cannot be too strongly urged on Zionists in Pretoria that it is their bounden duty to come forward and assist the cause, not merely by an occasional effort or contribution, but by sustained activity and public-spirited service.

THE HEBREW CONGREGATION.

The following is a list of the members of the new Synagogue committee, which was elected on the 16th November:—President, Mr. Mark Cohen; vice-president, Mr. L. J. Hack; hon. treasurer, Mr. A. Orkin; trustees, Messrs. D. Feinberg and H. Katzenellenbogen; committee members, Messrs. J. Brill, L. Cohen, M. Waibrod, S. Pecker, L. Kumin, L. Pearlman, S. Joffe, L. le Roith, and I. Goldblum. Mr. J. Cohen is the secretary.

THE MEMORIAL HALL: AN S.O.S. CALL.

An urgent appeal is being made to every Jew and Jewess, in Pretoria and district, to assist, each to the best of his or her ability, in raising the burden of debt which is at present weighing heavily on the Memorial Hall. The Hall is a communal institution, of which every Jew is rightly proud, but it is not generally remembered that until the mortgage on the Hall is paid off the building does not really belong to the community, and its usefulness as a communal institution, in which Pretoria Jewry can take a perfect pride, will be greatly impaired. The fact has only to be mentioned in order to arouse, it is hoped, the sense of duty in every member of the community, and to make them realize that some sacrifice on behalf of the Hall is still an urgent necessity. An active campaign in this direction is being planned by the committee shortly, it is understood.

In the meantime an effort is being made to equip the Hall with chairs, and an appeal is to be addressed by the members of the community to make a contribution, either in money or in kind, towards the funds for that purpose.

NEW YEAR ON THE HIGH SEAS.

With reference to the account which appeared in our issue, of October 24th, giving an account of the Festival Services held on the "Balmoral Castle," we have received a communication from Mr. S. A. Nathanson, the devoted communal worker of Durban, in which he indicates that certain inaccuracies have occurred in the report.

It appears that just before *Rosh Hashona*, Mr. Nathanson took the trouble to discuss with Mr. P. Policansky of Cape Town, and Mr. J. Schumacher of Port Elizabeth, who were fellow passengers, the idea of holding services. Enquiries were made, and it was discovered that in all the three classes on the boat, there were 26 Jewish men and 12 women. When approached, all expressed their readiness to co-operate in having full services on both days of the Festival. A delegation then interviewed the captain, from whom permission was secured to hold the Services in the library of the first-class saloon. A committee was appointed, which called itself the "Balmoral Congregation," Mr. Nathanson being appointed the president and Mr. J. R. Reitstein, secretary. One of the passengers, Mr. Slonin, acted as *Bal Korea*. The *Shachrith* services were rendered by Messrs. Kessel, Schumacher and Bloom, and the *Mussaph* services were rendered by Mr. Nathanson.

THE JEWISH COLONIAL TRUST.

The 26th ordinary general meeting of shareholders was held in London on October 16th. The directors' report stated that business during 1923 had continued to be somewhat deflated. Deposit and Current Accounts showed a further increase, and at December 31st, 1923, stood at £1,022,000. The Trust's subsidiary Company, the Anglo-Palestine Co., Ltd., paid a dividend of 2½ per cent for 1922.

The net profit of the Trust amounted to a little over £15,000, the whole of which has been applied to the writing off of book debts arising out of transactions of former years, which had become of doubtful value.

The balance sheet at December 31st, shows that at that date £390,887 was the paid up capital. A striking feature in the assets is the amount of £293,719, covering that number of fully paid £1 shares in the Anglo-Palestine Company, this item representing about 60 per cent. of the Trust's total investments.

It will be noted from the above that no dividend was declared this year. Holders of shares can, therefore, not at present obtain dividends on coupons after No. 12.

The S.A. Zionist Federation is prepared to cash any or all of the following dividend coupons:—

No. 5, 6d. per share; No. 6, 6d. per share; No. 7, 6d. per share; No. 8, 7d. per share; No. 9, 7d. per share; No. 11, 1s. per share; No. 12, 1s. per share.

The above are the only coupons on which dividend is at present payable.

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