

Fine Celebrations in Cape Town.

PRIME MINISTER and GENERAL SMUTS

at Public Meeting.

The most remarkable Jewish meeting ever held for many a year in Capetown was that which took place at the Opera House on Wednesday, April 1st, when the Jewry of the Cape Peninsula assembled to commemorate the opening on that day on Mount Scopus in Jerusalem of the Hebrew University. The organisers of the meeting were fortunate in securing as speakers the Prime Minister and also General Smuts, who delivered inspiring addresses demonstrating a keen friendship for the Jewish people. Capetown was en fête. Such enthusiasm as reigned during the few days prior and subsequent to the meeting has rarely been known, even in a city which responds so remarkably to the striking of any Jewish chord.

On the evening of the meeting, the Opera House was packed to the doors. Advocate M. Alexander took the chair, and on his right sat General Hertzog and on his left General Smuts. Further to the right sat Rabbi Mirvish and Mr. Rubik, and further to the left sat Sir Carruthers Beattie and Rev. Bender.

In an eloquent tone, the chairman raised the subject of a lofty plane, and after reading the Hebrew message which the committee had cabled to Jerusalem that day, carefully introduced the speakers.

General Hertzog spoke with quiet emphasis. He wished his presence to be understood as an assurance of the goodwill of the Government and people of South Africa towards the Jewish African Jewry and the whole Jewish nation.

General Smuts, who followed, received an ovation, and once went to the heart of his audience. One saw that he was a true friend of our people, and his remarkable grasp of our aspirations and knowledge of the latest developments in Palestine, showed how keenly he follows our doings and vicissitudes.

Sir Carruthers Beattie extended the greetings of a representative institution, the University of Capetown, in a most cordial speech.

Rev. Bender voiced the grateful appreciation of the community to the distinguished speakers who graced the evening.

Rabbi Mirvish spoke in Hebrew, and I have never seen him speak with such fire. It was clear from the behaviour of the audience that a large number followed his remarks with appreciation.

Mr. B. Rubik in an impassioned speech, delivered in English, likened mankind to a vast orchestra. The presence of one instrument in a symphony, he said, was essential to its harmony, but with the entry of the Jewish nation again this discordance was removed. Each nation applying its own tones, and now the Jewish nation performing its part, would lead to melodies of an unheard of sweetness.

The great concourse was wonderfully enthusiastic, and the speeches were frequently punctuated with rounds of applause.

THE CHILDREN.

The following (Thursday) morning was devoted to the children. Their celebration was timed to start at 10 a.m. in the Alhambra, but long before that hour numbers of little ones had congregated round the hall, and the proceedings started a few minutes before the scheduled time.

It was a moving sight to see this youthful assembly of happy faces, about 1,600 all told, and their orderly behaviour gave the lie to the aspersion so often cast on children that they are unruly. At any rate it showed that it is not an inherent characteristic. Practically all were dressed in blue and white, and made a pretty sight indeed.

The proceedings opened with a pianoforte solo by Miss Jessie Zuckerman. Rev. Bender followed with an interesting discourse, replete with story and fairy tale, and one only needed to look at the little upturned faces to see how he captured his hearers, and how they were impressed with the importance of "that greatest of schools which is being opened to-day in our own country."

The applause which closed his speech subsided, Miss Gesundheit recited very pleasingly in Hebrew, and was followed by most in her simple phrases and enunciation. Then came Mr. Joel Myerson with "Der Natür" and "Der Talethel" sung so well that the children would hardly let him go. Mr. Ralph Koor- held their attention with his violin and responded to an encore, while Miss Lily Agranat drew admiration with her English-Jewish recitation.

When Advocate Turtledove, who had charge of the proceedings, asked the children to show their appreciation to the artists by clapping, I am sure the latter felt ample compensation. He then asked them to give three cheers to the University so that their brothers and sisters everywhere and especially in Jerusalem should be able to hear them. To judge by the result, I believe the children really did do it. This much is certain that the building was fortunate in having the roof open.

As the children filed out, each was given a large box of chocolates bearing a picture of the University and inscriptions in Hebrew and English, as well as a small booklet containing an introductory page and photos of the University, Herzl, Schapira, Rotchschild, Balfour, Weizmann and Sokolow. So well were things arranged, thanks to a ladies' committee and a number of young men, that in about ten minutes the hall was clear and everyone bore his gifts, while outside the photographer was busy.

Thus the children too are happy.

THE YOUTH.

On Saturday night the combined Students' Jewish Association, Maccabean Association, Jewish Guild and Jewish Girls' Association held a meeting in the University Hall for which a souvenir programme is being issued. A musical feast is being prepared, and the speakers will be Mr. H. M. Bloch (president of the Student's Jewish Association in the chair), Sir Carruthers Beattie, Rev. A. P. Bender, Professor F. Clarke (Professor of Education) and Advocate S. Turtledove. This promises to be a very fine item in the celebrations.

On Thursday night the Young Israel Society provided a splendid programme including a Yiddish sketch at the Railway Institute.

THE PUBLIC MEETING.

After a few introductory remarks, Mr. M. Alexander, K.C., M.L.A., said they had met on a momentous occasion, the greatest that had taken place in Jewish history and in their lifetime. In every part of the world that day their brethren were wishing success to the opening of the first Hebrew University. "We hope," said Mr. Alexander, "the University is going to be our new message to the world. We hope there will be a great monument of learning where spiritual force will gather the scattered all over the world. We feel that the great heroes in our history belong not only to us, but to others in the world."

THE PRIME MINISTER'S WISHES.

The Prime Minister (General Hertzog) said he was there to show by his presence how deeply he shared with the Jewish people all over the world, and how deeply his colleagues and the whole people of the Union shared with them in the feeling of gladness and rejoicing which must be that night the common possession of everyone belonging to the Jewish people the world over. (Loud applause.)

"It is a great and historic event which is taking place in Jerusalem," said the Premier, "and I can well understand how that event must fill the soul of every one of the Jewish race with pride and with hope and expectancy. I can hardly think of anything which really is more appropriate, more fitting, than that the Jewish race, almost immediately upon its repossessing itself of its ancient inheritance, should take the step of deciding upon having a University erected in Jerusalem.

"This nation," proceeded the General, "which has through the ages shown itself to be a nation of moralists, of philosophers, of theologians, of lawyers and lawgivers, how appropriate, is it not, that at the very start of their national rejuvenation, they should immediately see that the beacons of light are again set burning on the hills of Zion. (Loud applause.)

"Well, the Jewish people have been a light unto all nations. They have been more than a light to all mankind for thousands of years, and I do not think I can express any better wish than that this same nation shall, especially through this institution of which the foundation stone has been laid to-day, shall prove to be a light unto all mankind for future generations, as it has proved itself to have been in the past. (Loud applause.)

"When I read (I think it was this morning) that this University is being erected upon the very site where Titus pitched his camp so many hundreds of years ago, one cannot but feel how little the power and effect the sword is as compared with the strength of the intellect and especially with the strength of human character. (Loud

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CAPETOWN UNIVERSITY CELEBRATIONS—

(Continued from page 23.)

applause.) This has endured while Titus and his legions have been all but forgotten except to the few in the Universities.

"And it will go on, and let us hope that as time flies on, when the world shall have forgotten wars and armaments, as it has forgotten Titus and his legions, the human intellect and the human character of the Jewish race will be to the nations of the world a consolation and a strength and a light as it has been in the past." (Loud applause.)

GENERAL SMUTS' ADDRESS.

General Smuts, who received a great ovation on rising, said: "I am very glad indeed to be here to-night, in no official capacity, but simply because of the love that I bear the Jewish people and of the great and deep interest that I have taken in their lot in these years of my life. (Loud applause.)

"I have had the privilege and the honour to be present on many great occasions in recent years when the fate of the Jewish people was at stake, and I am glad to be here to-night with you and to rejoice and to celebrate this great occasion. (Loud applause.) It is indeed a great occasion, and I am glad to think that all over this country of ours, and far beyond this country, throughout the countries of the world, wherever Jews live in exile or at home, they foregather to-night to celebrate this unique occasion in their history. (Loud applause.)

"To-day the inaugural lecture was delivered in the University of Jerusalem by Lord Balfour, and it is indeed a great event in the history of Judaism. (Loud applause.)

"Ladies and gentlemen, the policy of the National Home was borne in the darkest hour of the world, when things were at their lowest ebb, and although much else has disappeared, although much of our achievements in those times seem to have been built on very unstable foundations, that policy has remained and has endured." (Loud applause.)

A FOOTNOTE TO HISTORY.

In eloquent language, which aroused his audience to outbursts of applause, General Smuts traversed the history of the Jews—a small fighting nation whose history was marked with blood-shed in the great military highway between East and West—since its conflicts with Egypt and Assyria, and through them to those of Greece and Rome, and the final dispersal of the Jews.

He told a story which gives a new footnote to history. He was in Palestine in February, 1918, studying military strategy and trying to see with Lord Allenby how they could prosecute their further advance.

They were on the ground where Joshua fought the great battle, covering the very ground from one end to the other by Jezreel over the mountains of Judea to the valley of Ajalon. And then it was borne in on him why it was that Jewish history was one story of bloodshed from beginning to end. For the first time he understood the reason—the whole land lay in that great military highway of history.

"And to-day," went on the General, "we have an Empire far greater than any of those I have mentioned, the greatest Empire on earth, and this time the Jews are no longer ground between the upper and the nether millstones, for they are in league with this new Empire.

"This great Commonwealth of ours is far greater than any Empire; it is a great world State, and this time the Jewish people find they are in league with this great power."

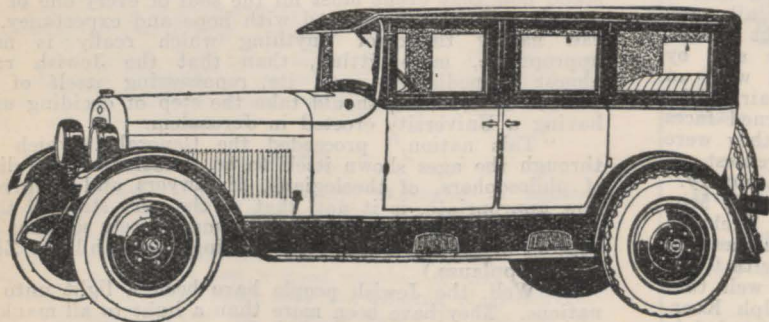
In glowing words General Smuts concluded with a description of the view from Mount Scopus over the City of Jerusalem, over Bethlehem, the gorge of the Jordan with the mountains of Moab and the higher mountains where Moses was buried in the far distance.

"I am sure that young leaders of the Jewish people," he said, "when they sit in this University and see the great vision of their country and of humanity, will once more be visited by the spirit of the prophets, and will begin to prophesy and will make their great contribution to the spiritual life of the future. I rejoice with you to-night. I congratulate you on a great event, and I hope that still greater blessings will follow from these events that we are celebrating."

SIR CARRUTHERS BEATTIE'S ADDRESS.

Sir Carruthers Beattie, who was also given a hearty reception, said that the University of Capetown had already sent to the new University of Jerusalem its message of congratulation and sympathy, and he hoped that it had been presented that day in Jerusalem. (Applause.) Like the Prime Minister and General Smuts, he was glad to be there to rejoice with them on the summation of their great aspiration. (Applause.)

"Throughout every civilised land," said Sir Carruthers—"and there was no civilised land where the Jew had not penetrated, nor was there any civilised land where the Jews had not made friends and had not admirers amongst the people—all were rejoicing with Jewry on this great event that day, and of all the countries that would rejoice he did not know of any that would rejoice more with them than South Africa." (Loud applause.)



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THE JUDEAN.

The first number of *The Judean* under the new editorship of Advocate E. Turtledove, B.A., has just been issued. It is a creditable publication and contains a number of interesting original contributions by South African writers.

The Cape and Transvaal Judean Central Councils are to be congratulated on this publication, which is likely to prove of great value in the further development of the young Israel movement in South Africa.

CAPETOWN UNIVERSITY CELEBRATIONS.

(Concluded from page 24.)

"There is no University in South Africa to-day," said Sir Carruthers, "that would be in the position it is in were not for the material help and the intellectual help it has received from your community." (Loud applause.)

At any time to see a new University founded was a matter for congratulation, because he (the speaker) thought it was the greatest propaganda for peace in the world, and founded by the Jewish race this new University raised expectations greater than those raised by the foundation of any university he had heard of. He hoped and prayed that the great expectations they all had of the new university would be amply fulfilled. (Loud applause.)

REV. A. P. BENDER'S ADDRESS.

In the course of an eloquent speech, the Rev. A. P. Bender said:—"I should indeed be sorry to renounce the privilege which is mine, as the minister of the orthodox Jewish community on the spot, of expressing on behalf of the Jewish community of South Africa the debt of gratitude we owe to the people of this country manifested this evening for the consideration and sympathy they have shown us on this memorable occasion of our chequered history, and, above all, to General Smuts and General Smuts, who, at considerable personal inconvenience, have come here this evening to wish the University Godspeed and give us a message of good cheer which will enable us to appreciate the true worth of the spirit of the people of South Africa whom they so highly prize in their own great personality."

"Notwithstanding the many faults sometimes ascribed to the Jewish people, they have one sentiment pervading them all, and that is the sentiment of the truest and most unfeigned gratitude to those who in the moment of stress and danger have defended them and championed their interests towards the nations of the world and who have helped them towards the fulfilment of great ideals which they have cherished through all vicissitudes of the ages. We shall never forget them. (Applause.) As soon as the Prime Minister assumed office he had no hesitation in assuring the Jewish community that he would be loyal to the principles adopted by his distinguished predecessor, General Smuts, in his attitude towards the Balfour Declaration, and in championing the cause of the Jewish people in the Councils of the world. We will never, never forget the magnificent services rendered by General Smuts—(loud applause)—at the time when our destiny was trembling in the balance, and the services which he rendered and supported by all the force of his own great personality."

Rabbi Ch. Mirvish addressed the gathering in Hebrew, his speech being frequently punctuated with cheers.

Mr. B. Rubik addressed the audience in Yiddish, and his speech was repeatedly applauded.

A vote of thanks was passed to the chairman for his presiding, and the proceedings terminated with the singing of the Hebrew and English National Anthems.

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CAPETOWN MACCABEAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday evening, March 21st, Mr. M. Kentridge, M.L.A., delivered a very interesting lecture in the old synagogue hall to an audience of about a hundred—composed mainly of Maccabeans.

The subject, "Certain Aspects of Zionist Work in Palestine," was one on which the lecturer is particularly well informed, and the speaker's free and easy eloquence was responsible for the close attention with which his speech was followed.

Disclaiming the usual platitudes which one so often receives at a lecture of this kind, Mr. Kentridge immediately dived deep into the practical politics of Zionism, and promoted an interesting discussion, in which Messrs. Schaffer, Halperin, Sagorsky, Rubik and Turtledove (chairman) took part.

The lecturer is to be congratulated on a very lucid presentation of certain problems, and one feels that there were many who left the hall with a better realization of the difficulties which beset our common cause, and a stronger inclination to devote thought to the ways and means of overcoming them.

A walk to Oudekraal took place on Sunday, March 29th, when a small but happy party spent a most delightful day on the beach.

The activities of the day, consisting mainly, as they did, of laughing, eating and bathing, do not lend themselves to descriptive reporting, but if any of those who did not turn up are seeking the recipe for a day's happiness, they are cordially invited to our next picnic, when it will be revealed to them.

On Sunday evening, April 12th, a Peretz evening is arranged to take place in the old synagogue, and on April 14th a tennis tournament is being held.

The much harassed acting hon. secretary has had a very busy time lately congratulating the lady members of his committee on their engagement. The latest to record is that of Dr. D. Morrison, whose engagement to Mr. S. Katzen was announced a few days ago.

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