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In Cape Town

REPORTS OF JEWISH ACTIVITIES IN THE MOTHER CITY

From Our Own Correspondent.

All Communications relat-
ing to these pages should
be addressed to
"HASOFER,"
P.O. Box 3084,
CAPE TOWN.

A TOP HAT ON THE BABY'S HEAD.

The Judean Central Council is holding its annual Conference on the 21st and 22nd of this month. The reports to be delivered have been already sent out to delegates, and the agenda has also been drawn up.

The reports point, on the whole, to a year of most fruitful endeavour, the presidential report particularly showing that much has been done. The aims with which the Executive set out at the beginning of the year, it is stated, have been more or less faithfully carried out. Lecturers have been sent to various societies, and a special lecture tour was arranged for societies in the Eastern Province. New societies were formed and old ones reorganised. A camp was held as usual at the Strand, and Young Israel Weeks were held at East London and Muizenberg. A host of other achievements is recounted, all of which go to show that the Council is performing very useful work indeed in the interests of Young Israel in the Cape Province.

It is not altogether surprising that the report is as favourable as it is. It is now some eight years since the Council was formed. The leaders have always been keen and enthusiastic young men and women who worked energetically for the cause they were sponsoring. The presidential report each year has in a measure improved on the one previous, and it may be said that this year's report is the result of ten years of devoted service by past members of the Council. Those members saw their aim clearly—the furtherance of Jewish aims and ideals among Young Israel in this country. They realised that their work did not lie in matters outside this sphere—although their interests might—and thus did not bother, for instance, with political questions. This fact accounted for a harmony and absence of rancour that largely made the success of the Council possible.

It is more regrettable than one can express, however, to see that the Council does not give promise of continuing its excellent work in the spirit of peace and harmony which has so far characterised it. For on the agenda of the Conference I see that the Executive is taking up a definite attitude on Zionist politics of to-day—it wishes the Conference to express its strong disapproval of the present World Zionist Executive and to demand its resignation!

I cannot conceive what it is that is responsible for this attitude on behalf of Young Israel to take up with political questions. Undoubtedly the political aspect of the Zionist movement is far more prominent to-day than it has ever been before, but that still does not mean that the Council is a fit body to deal with it. Leaving aside the question of possibility of rupture in the movement, there are still other points to be considered. The Council is a junior body, consisting, I am given to understand, in some cases of members who are barely sixteen years of age. Most of the members—as Young Israel generally—are far from being fully equipped with a knowledge of the very elements of the Zionist question, let alone Zionist politics of to-day. Young Israel leaders will corroborate my views—they themselves never cease to deplore that they are justified—whilst one has only to read the Young Israel Forum in the *Zionist Record* to obtain further confirmation. The Council continually complains of the apathy and disinterestedness in leading Zionist questions evinced by its members. The presidential report this year opens with a similar complaint, yet the Executive feels an urge to introduce the motion.

The whole matter is rather a shameful one. Must it be admitted that the Council has lost much of its former modesty which prevented it from acting on the assumption that it knew everything there was to be known, and that to-day it has become so conceited and brazen that it considers itself and its influence in world Zionism important enough to warrant a demand for the resignation of men who have given up their lives to the movement. This is indeed vanity of the first water. Even men with a little more knowledge of and experience in the Zionist movement than the Executive of the Council have hesitated before arriving at such definite decisions on political matters.

Maybe the motion will be carried at Conference, maybe not. It does not matter either way, and whatever takes place neither leaders of the present regime nor of the opposition will shed tears of sorrow or rejoicing as the case may be. What does matter is that the youth of this country can find it within themselves to introduce so dangerous an element as politics into their activities and that they have so lost their sense of

proportion that they can, metaphorically speaking, in all seriousness seek to adorn the baby by putting a top hat on its bald pate. The result of such a headgear may be in some cases quite harmful to the baby, but it always provides an extremely good laugh for the spectator.

THE ZIONIST CONVERSAZIONE.

After an interval of some two months, during which time a minimum of communal functions were arranged, the Dorshei Zion Association has recommenced the holding of the Zionist conversaziones which proved such a success last year. The first conversazione to be held this year took place in the Zionist Hall on Tuesday evening last. It was, on the whole, a most enjoyable affair, although, it must be admitted, it was more reminiscent of a social than a conversazione as we remember this function.

The date of the conversazione happened to—or perhaps it was arranged so as to—fall on Purim, and this fact was far from lost sight of during the evening. Dr. S. E. Kark, the host, referred to it in his introductory speech. A lecturette on it was given by Mr. M. Wolozinsky, which had the effect of calling Messrs. Rabkin and M. Gurland to their feet. The sketch recited by Mr. M. Natas was one of his own composition and gave a humorous account of an imaginary conversation between Haman and a young Jewish man of to-day. And, finally, even the pastries usually served with tea during the interval were supplanted by the *hamantaschen*, without which no Purim would be complete.

During the evening Mr. D. Getz as usual read extracts from the J.T.A. bulletins dealing with world Jewish events. Musical items were provided by Mr. Seresman, who, accompanied by Mrs. Seresman, gave a violin solo, by Mrs. East and Mrs. Kahn, who gave a violin solo, and by Mr. Losman, who recited.

TRUMPELDOR MEMORIAL EVENING.

A Trumpeldor memorial evening was held last Thursday night in the Zionist Hall, under the auspices of the Kadimah Association.

The chief speaker of the evening was Adv. J. Herbstein, who dwelt on the place of Trumpeldor in the Zionist movement. Trumpeldor had appeared at the psychological moment to create, through his own example, the Chalutz movement. The spark of nationhood had, until his appearance, still been smouldering in the Jewish people, and it had needed but a gentle fanning to make it blaze into a great fire. Trumpeldor's death had placed the seal for all time upon the claim of the Jewish people for their own land.

Others who spoke were Mr. Z. Avin, who presided, and Mr. M. Natas.

MR. WEINREICH AND THE JUNIORS.

A lecture on "The Progress of Zionism from 1919" was delivered last Saturday night by Mr. J. Weinreich to members of the Young Judeans.

Mr. Weinreich briefly outlined the position of Jewry in the Diaspora to-day. He went on to speak of the progress being made in Palestine, and particularly of the work of the Halutzim. In spite of difficulties created to hinder the Jews in the development of Palestine, said Mr. Weinreich, the small number of Halutzim who represented the seventeen million Jews of the world were carrying on their work as enthusiastically as ever.

GENERAL.

An "At Home" in connection with the East European Reconstruction Campaign was held last Wednesday afternoon at the residence of Mrs. Henry Harris.

Speeches were delivered during the afternoon by Rev. A. P. Bender and Mr. S. Y. Jacobi, who both spoke on the distressed condition of Eastern Jewry and the need for assistance. Mrs. P. M. Clouts appealed to the women to form themselves into an active committee. Miss Roma Harris read a scene depicting the life of suffering during a Russian pogrom.

A successful flannel social dance was held last Saturday night at the Zionist Hall under the auspices of the Maccabean Guild. This was the last function of the Association to be held before its annual general meeting, which by the time this letter is in print will have already taken place, the date arranged for it being Tuesday, 10th March.