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In Cape Town

REPORTS OF JEWISH ACTIVITIES IN THE MOTHER CITY

From Our Own Correspondent.

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

A SALE OF WORK.

The members of the Bnoth Zion Association have been busy for some time putting in considerable energy for the monster sale of work which is to take place on Tuesday, May 5th, in aid of the Zionist Hall Funds. Chief amongst the organisers are Mrs. P. M. Clouts and Mrs. M. Kentridge. They are assisted by a large band of workers and it looks as if the monster sale will be well patronised. Amongst the goods which are to be offered for sale are furniture, ladies' goods, books, stationery, sweets and all manner of articles. The display will prove a fine spectacle in colour.

The following is a list of those responsible for the stalls:—

Fancy Stall, Mrs. J. Marcus, Mrs. Max Fig, assisted by Mrs. Kleinman; Flower Stall, Mrs. J. Herstein, Mrs. Movsovic; Baby Stall, Mrs. D. Getz, Mrs. M. Kottler. Book Stall, Mrs. J. Weinreich, Mrs. H. Friedlander, Miss J. Zuckerman; Toys, Mrs. M. Zuckerman, Mrs. Jacobson. Furniture, Messrs. J. Sarif, M. Cohen; Cakes, Mrs. Berold and Mrs. Glazer; Cigarettes, Mrs. S. Sief and Miss B. Futeran; Refreshments, Emdin Bros.; Sweets, Mrs. Gesundheit and Mrs. Gorfinkel.

A Book-Tea and Dance was given on the 18th April at the Belgrave Hotel, Muizenberg, in aid of the Flower Stall. It was arranged by Mrs. J. Herstein and Mrs. Movsovic. Prizes were won by Miss Jocum, Mr. Abromowitz and Mr. Fine. Miss Favish recited and a humorous interlude was provided by Messrs. Emdin and Edwards.

On May 2nd a dance will be held at the Zionist Hall in aid of the Toy Stall, which is in the hands of Mrs. M. Zuckerman.

LEAGUE FOR A WORKING PALESTINE.

On Monday, April 13th, a meeting was held at the Zionist Hall to establish a branch of the League for a Working Palestine. The meeting was well attended and all present were enrolled as members. A Committee was elected with the following office-bearers: President, Mr. M. Kentridge, M.P.; Vice-President, Mr. B. L. Rubik; Chairman, Mr. G. Telem; Hon. Secretary, Mr. Ch. Achron; Committee: Ch. Kavarsky, D. Fleishman, G. Andrusier, M. Kaplan, and M. Melamed. The aim of the League is to assist the chaluzim in the Yishub and an appeal is made to all Zionists for their support. Those interested may receive further information from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Ch. Achron, P.O. Box 1156, Cape Town.

A VREDEHOEK VENTURE.

There is a legend to the effect that two Jews once landed on an island and they founded two congregations. There is a movement in Cape Town at present to establish a new synagogue. A meeting was held at the Zionist Hall on Sunday morning, 26th April, to discuss ways and means of beginning with the work. Mr. Lonstein was in the chair and about thirty people were present. Discussion centred round the question of finance. There was a good deal of talk, but nothing was definitely decided. A Building Committee has not yet been appointed. The general feeling of the meeting was that the time was not yet ripe for the building of another synagogue and the creation of a new congregation.

WEIZMANN VERSUS JABOTINSKY.

At a lively meeting of the Kadimah Association, which was held last Sunday in the Zionist Hall, the merits and policies of Weizmann and Jabotinsky were contrasted and discussed.

Mr. Z. Avin, in an hour's oration, declared that one could not live on politics alone. Jabotinsky vested his faith with the British Government whereas Weizmann believed in the Jewish people. Mr. Avin said that he held admiration for Jabotinsky as a great national Jew, as a journalist and as an orator, but he could not regard him as a clever politician. He never had faith in those who could find an easy way out of every difficulty. Weizmann was a man and not an idol. He had committed mistakes, but he was ready to repair them. His policy was a sound one, and the Jews would do well to abide by it.

Mr. Rosenblitt in opposition claimed that at this crisis in world Zionism, Jewry had to prepare itself for a revised policy. The old methods had led to chaos and only through revisionistic

policy could a sound Jewish State be established in Eretz Israel. Zionists had to become more earnest. They had to prepare themselves for self-defence, if necessary. But public opinion could easily be won to Jewish favour, and the leader who knew how to achieve this was, in his opinion, Jabotinsky. A heated discussion ensued and the following voiced their views: Messrs. B. Rubik and Ch. Achron pro Weizmann, and Mr. L. Rubik in favour of Jabotinsky. As the hour was late, no vote was taken.

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES AND THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

Professor Farrington lectured to the Cape Town Maccabean Guild on Thursday evening, 23rd April, on the Hebrew Scriptures in the Early Christian Church. "The repeated efforts of the Jews in the field of biblical translation," said the Professor, "show their sentiment toward translations prepared by other denominations." The dominant feature of this sentiment was that the Jew understood that he could not afford to have his Bible translation prepared for him by others. Christological interpretations were out of place in a Jewish Bible.

In the fourth century B.C., Jews formed an important and privileged portion of the population of Alexandria. Those Jews completely lost the use of the Hebrew tongue. The Jews of Alexandria were therefore obliged to do for themselves what the Jewish Publication Society has done in 1917. They gave themselves the Bible in their adopted tongue.

The first Greek version of the Hebrew Bible, continued Professor Farrington, became known as the Septuagint. Various legends were in existence to explain the term. The work of the Septuagint was done by Egyptian Jews. The translation was done piecemeal over a period of over a hundred years, and the whole was completed during the second century B.C.

The translation was a unique achievement. In the Septuagint was found the only instance from Greek antiquity in which an attempt was made to incorporate within the language of Greece, the literature, the culture, the religion of an alien people. Thereafter the Hebrew scriptures spread into the very substance of Western European life. Judaism entered into various combinations with Hellenism, and in the end Greek intellectual culture and Roman imperial sagacity had to accept the supremacy of a religion largely Hebraic.

Although Philo and his Alexandrian co-religionists looked upon the translation of the Seventy as a work of inspired men, the Palestinian Rabbis subsequently considered the day on which the Septuagint was completed as one of the most unfortunate in Israel's history. Many obvious mistranslations occur in the Septuagint and Professor Farrington quoted these, trying to explain how misinterpretations arose. Akiba and his scholars put forward the claim for a new translation of the Bible in close conformity with the Hebrew text and the Rabbinical tradition. This work was ultimately accomplished but the Septuagint remained the Bible of the Greek Church.

GENERAL.

The Maccabean Guild held a successful dance on 16th April. Dance solos were rendered by Miss Sadie Marks and by pupils of Miss Pearl Lazarus. Mr. Perl and Mr. B. Garfinkel gave an entertaining interlude and Miss Disner's Orchestra was in good form.

At the last gathering of the Oneg Shabbos, a discussion was resumed on Dr. S. E. Kark's paper, which he had delivered at the previous function. Dr. Kark, Mr. Rubik and Mr. Hirschon led the discussion.

A pretty wedding was solemnised last week at the Great Synagogue when Dr. Florence Levitan, second daughter of Mr. and the late Mrs. Levitan, of Cape Town, was married to Dr. Jacob Cohen, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Cohen, of Johannesburg.

Congratulations are being extended to Dr. and Mrs. S. Hotz (nee Jenny Bashew) on the birth of a son, and to Dr. and Mrs. H. Bernstein on the birth of a daughter.

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