

## A Mizrachi Organisation Formed in Johannesburg.

Rabbi Meir Berlin on Ideals of the Movement.

On Thursday evening last, at the Langham Hotel, a meeting of those interested in the Mizrachi Movement was held, convened by Rabbi I. M. Gervis, who occupied the chair.

Rabbi Meir Berlin, president of the World Mizrachi Organisation and vice-president of the Zionist Actions Committee, gave an address on the basic principles and the achievements of the Mizrachi in Palestine.

The chairman, in introducing Rabbi Berlin, referred to the great part he had played in the Jewish life and the Zionist Movement. His mission to South Africa was to found a Mizrachi Organisation here. The work of the Mizrachi was twofold; it was out to make Zionists religious Jews and religious Jews Zionists. It also aimed at building up Erez Israel as the land of Israel, whilst in the lands of the *Golus* it aimed to bring to a Jewish life the people of the Torah.

Rabbi Berlin, who was cordially received, said the Mizrachi formed an organisation by itself within the Zionist Movement. His work in South Africa was not to found a Mizrachi Organisation, as there had been a society here. He wanted to renew the work and see that it was carried on with much more vigour.

"In all Zionist parties," said Rabbi Berlin, "there is a Jewish spirit that draws them towards Palestine, but in none of them was that spirit so strong as it is in the Mizrachi. For the Jew who is a religious Jew feels the *Golus* every hour much more than others. That is why the Mizrachi is more strongly interested in the upbuilding of Erez Israel than any other party."

The speaker added that the Mizrachi held that there could be no Judaism without Zionism and no Zionism without Judaism. The Mizrachi, however, was not only composed of a Sabbath observing society. The Mizrachi had seven thousand children in their schools in Palestine. The Mizrachi was bringing up a Jewish youth that was ready to make sacrifices for their religion in Erez Israel.

Proceeding, Rabbi Berlin described the work of the Mizrachi and its teachings. His object in coming here was to strengthen Mizrachi work in South Africa and help Palestine. Zionism must not be dealt with only from the political aspect and only in halls and clubs. Zionism must be also in the synagogues and the *beth hamedrash*.

It was decided to form a Mizrachi Organisation, and that the membership subscription be £1 1s. per annum. Names of members were taken from those present, and 40 enrolled themselves as members of the Mizrachi Organisation.

There was a long discussion with regard to the formation of a committee. Eventually it was decided to form a committee that evening which was to meet as soon as possible.

The following were elected on the committee:—Rabbis I. M. Gervis, S. Rosenzweig, Gordon and Brook, Revs. H. Lipschitz, A. M. Kaplan, B. Shechter, Menachomson, Kaplan (La Rochelle), and Messrs. Hirschowitz, Kirson, C. W. Behrmann, P. Lochoff, Gering, Bennun, Hillewitz, Silove and Barsel.

Rev. H. Lipschitz moved a vote of thanks to Rabbi Berlin for his eloquent and inspiring address, and a vote of thanks to the chair, followed by the singing of *Hatikvah*, concluded the Proceedings.

A further meeting was held on Wednesday evening.

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## Yom Kippur Services in Johannesburg.

Solemn services were held during *Yom Kippur* in all the Johannesburg synagogues. There were large congregations in the Great Synagogue, Wolmarans Street, where services were conducted by Cantor Inspektor, assisted by a fine choir under the baton of Mr. G. Grosberg. Dr. J. L. Landau (Chief Rabbi) delivered eloquent sermons, which made a deep impression on his hearers. At the Yeoville Synagogue the services were conducted by Rev. N. Lopato, assisted by a choir of lady and gentlemen choristers under the able baton of Mr. J. Kantor. The choir sang some delightful synagogue melodies. Rev. A. T. Shrock, B.A., delivered inspiring addresses.

At the Berea Synagogue, Cantor S. Steinberg conducted the services in an impressive and beautiful manner, assisted by the choir under the baton of his son. The services at the Beth Hamedresh Hagodel were conducted by Cantor Konwiser, assisted by a choir. At the Ponevez Synagogue the services were finely conducted by Rev. J. Kupowitz.

The Jeppe Synagogue was crowded during the *Yom Kippur* and High Festival services, which were conducted by Rev. A. M. Kaplan, the minister of the congregation. He was assisted by an excellent choir under the baton of Mr. Sessel. Rev. Kaplan also delivered eloquent sermons in English and Yiddish.

The High Festival services at the newly-completed La Rochelle Synagogue were attended by crowded congregations. The services were conducted by Rev. A. L. Kaplan, assisted by Rev. Sidofsky. In the Doornfontein Shool the service was rendered by the sweet-voiced Cantor Kaminer.

## A Valuable Collection

Presented to Durban Museum.

A valuable collection of coins illustrating Jewish history has been presented to the Durban Museum by the Jewish Club. The collection includes coins of 141 B.C., coins struck by Roman governors of Judaea, and others commemorating the capture of Jerusalem by Titus in A.D. 70.



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