

Dr. Landau in Bloemfontein

Official Pastoral Visit of Chief Rabbi

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

THE official pastoral visit which Chief Rabbi Dr. J. L. Landau paid to Bloemfontein last week was a red-letter event in the communal history of the Free State capital. Dr. Landau spent three crowded and fruitful days in the town, and during that time he addressed numerous gatherings and came into contact with every section of the community. His unbounded energy and intellectual force and the wide variety of his interests were alike an inspiration to young and old.

ARRIVING from the north on the morning of Friday, the 9th inst., Dr. Landau was welcomed at the station by Mr. J. Philips, the president of the Congregation and other members of the Congregation Committee, at whose instance the visit had been arranged. The Chief Rabbi's first public engagement, after an earlier meeting with the Congregation Committee, was an "at home" held at the Queen's Hotel under the auspices of the Womens' Zionist Society. Mrs. Tcherny presided over a gathering of about 80 ladies, who listened with keen interest and inspiration to an eloquent address on the responsibilities of the Jewish woman in the furtherance of the ideals and traditions of her people. At the conclusion of his inspiring remarks, which left a deep impression on his audience, Dr. Landau made a stirring appeal to Jewish mothers to interest themselves in the education of their children. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks moved by Mrs. Lovius.

ON Friday evening Dr. Landau conducted the service at the synagogue and delivered a powerful sermon to a large congregation. Later in the evening he met the Hebrew Circle at the residence of Mr. I. Fogel. The members turned out in full strength in honour of the distinguished visitor, and an instructive and enjoyable couple of hours was spent. Speeches of welcome were made by Messrs. Blesovsky and Philips, and Dr. Block recited a number of Dr. Landau's poems. The Chief Rabbi responded in suitable terms.

THE following morning Dr. Landau again conducted the service and preached a second sermon. In the afternoon he was present at a special service for the children, delivering an appropriate address, which was listened to with rapt attention by his youthful audience.

In the evening he gave a public lecture to a well-attended gathering in the Communal Hall. Mr. Philips presided and paid a glowing tribute to the intellectual and spiritual eminence of their visitor. Dr. Landau spoke on the lofty theme of the Jewish vocation in the world.

ON Sunday morning Dr. Landau commenced a busy day with a visit to the Hebrew School, where he examined the children and discussed questions of organisation with the committee. In the afternoon he proceeded to an open-air gathering of the Herzlia Association at Lilyvale, where he listened to an impromptu rendering of Hebrew songs.

ON Sunday night came the climax of the visit in the shape of a communal reception under the aegis of the Hebrew Congregation. The function was held in the Communal Hall, which was packed to capacity by a representative assembly of every section of the community. Great enthusiasm prevailed when the visitor was welcomed by Mr. Philips on behalf of the Congregation, Mr. L. Lawrence in the name of the youth, and by Mrs. Bloom on behalf of the women's organisations.

Musical items were rendered by Mrs. Morrison (soprano), who came specially from Dewetsdorp for the occasion, Mr. Kinkulkin ('cellist), and Miss R. Massel (pianist). Miss Lyle acted as accompanist.

After refreshments had been served, the Chief Rabbi, who received an ovation on rising, spoke eloquently and at length on the duty of this generation to foster and preserve the national tongue and the national literature. It was a masterly oration and evoked vociferous applause from the large audience.

Mr. J. Lovius, who acted as director of ceremonies, thanked the artistes who had performed and the ladies who had provided the refreshments and made the other arrangements for a memorable occasion.

Dr. Landau left Bloemfontein on Monday morning, and was seen off by members of the Congregation Committee.

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Judean Central Council of the Cape Province

The Cape Executive has returned from the Youth conference at Kimberley with increased and intensified enthusiasm. An immediate and systematic campaign is being started to raise the £500 which the Cape pledged towards the sum of £1,500 required for the Chalutz Scheme, which was adopted by Conference amidst scenes of wild enthusiasm. As a result, also, of the successful agreement arrived at with Habonim at Conference, Mr. and Mrs. N. Lourie arrived at Capetown immediately after Conference to start the Habonim movement. As a result of his visit, five gedudim have already been started, two in Capetown, two in Wynberg and one in Paarl.

On May 24 and 25, a very successful inter-function was held at Muizenberg, in which the Stellenbosch, Paarl, Wellington, and Bellville Societies participated. On Sunday, 21st May, members of the Cape Executive, en route to Conference, addressed a meeting at De Aar.

A drawing-room campaign meeting was held on the 12th inst. at Sea Point and was addressed by Adv. J. Herbstein, and on the 18th inst. Mr. E. Kluck will visit and address the Paarl and Wellington Young Israel Societies. The Hebrew classes are carrying on very successfully, and Zionist Instruction classes will shortly be started in Wynberg and Capetown.

Death of Mr. A. Polliack

THE death occurred in Capetown on Monday of Mr. Aaron Polliack, founder of H. Polliack and Co., Ltd., of Johannesburg and Capetown. Mr. Polliack was known throughout South Africa as an outstanding business man, and his remarkable organising ability laid the foundation of the success of the present business.

Mr. Polliack came to South Africa from Russia 30 years ago, and shortly afterwards opened a small music warehouse in Long Street, Capetown. The business was successful from the start, and it was not long before the Capetown branch was transferred to its present site in Adderley Street. Later branches and agencies were opened in all parts of the Union, with headquarters in Johannesburg.

Mr. Polliack, who had been in indifferent health for two or three years, was 73. He leaves three sons, John, Herman and Barney, and two daughters, Mrs. A. Nafte and Mrs. P. M. Cohen.

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