

A Mass Meeting in Johannesburg

Protest Lodged Against Victims of German Fascism

UNDER the auspices of the Relief Committee for the Victims of German Fascism, a mass meeting was held in the City Hall, Johannesburg, on Thursday evening last. It was a call to workers, trade unionists and pacifists. Such a call attracted an immense audience of some three thousand people. The Mayor of Johannesburg defrayed the cost of the hire of the hall.

There was a tense atmosphere prevailing throughout the proceedings and when a youth had the temerity to shout "Hail Hitler" a furious attack was made upon him by a section of the crowd. When a detective went to protect the boy, he was brutally attacked. Uniformed police, with batons drawn, battled for a quarter of an hour to protect the detective from the crowd, which had by this time become infuriated. Pandemonium ruled in the immediate neighbourhood of the City Hall. A certain section of the crowd later attacked the offices of a local German newspaper.

All the addresses, however, in the hall, were delivered and the resolutions passed. The disturbances only affected a small section of the audience.

MR. A. A. MOORE, President of the Trades and Labour Council, presided and said that the gathering had been arranged to appeal for funds to help the victims, irrespective of race, creed or politics, of the German Fascism. The Nazi regime had resulted in the destruction of the democratic institutions.

The Dean of Johannesburg, the Very Rev. W. A. Palmer, said he was present at the meeting because of his complete sympathy with those suffering in Germany. He knew nothing about politics but after reading all he could on the subject, he had been convinced that it

would have been cowardice to stop away from the meeting. Among the things against which enlightened opinion protested in Germany was also the persecution of the Jews because of their race and religion. Unless Hitlerism was stopped, it would prove ghastly for the world. They set their faces against the peril which is threatening the peace and stability of the world in this generation.

Mr. W. B. Madeley, M.P., stated that he was also anxious to associate himself with the protest meeting organised that night to express the fullest sympathy of the citizens of Johannesburg with the victims of the present Nazi regime. What their fellow labour folk in Germany suffered under the merciless terror of the Hitlerite rule should be known to a large audience, and steps should be taken to mitigate their lot as well as to crush the onward movement of pernicious Nazi doctrines in other countries.

Referring to the recent Capetown Nazi meeting, the speaker wished to call their attention to Mr. Weichardt's outburst and its significance. A stop should be made to such nefarious propaganda. In this regard, he wished, as a member of Parliament, to protest against the action of the Government in appointing Mr. H. Meyer to its recently-established Railways Commission. This Mr. Meyer, who hails from Germany, is evidently a supporter of the Nazi regime, for on his arrival at Capetown, when interviewed by the local press, he defended Germany's treatment of Jews.

Further addresses were delivered by Mrs. Hattingh, Adv. M. Pollak, Mr. W. Kalk, and Mr. W. A. Andrews.

Resolutions expressing sympathy for the victims of the Nazi regime were unanimously carried.

Activities in Port Elizabeth

The local Mizrahi Society held its annual meeting on the 16th ult., at the Emmanuel Hall.

Mr. B. Weinronk, the retiring president, gave a report of the Mizrahi and its work and made reference to the recent Zionist Conference in Kimberley. He referred to the great task which had confronted the Mizrahi movement in electing delegates to the recent Zionist Conference.

Owing to the meagre attendance, the election of President was deferred to a later date. A committee was elected from those present with the power to co-opt. Mrs. J. Mizrahi was elected Convener, and Rev. S. Rudy undertook the duties of Hon. Secretary.

By unanimous wish, Mr. B. Weinronk was elected Honorary Life President and good wishes were expressed to him in connection with his intention of journeying to Eretz Israel early next year.

Mr. Weinronk has given two addresses at the synagogue on the first and second days of Rosh Hashonah. He is to deliver a few more addresses before leaving for Palestine. The delivering of Zionist Addresses in the synagogue is an innovation which might be well emulated in other centres.

The first of the monthly conversaciones held under the auspices of the "Herzlia" Association took place on September 24th. There was a good attendance over which Mr. M. Donen presided.

Mr. Raphael Schauder read a paper on "The Jews in the last 20 Years," and gave a resume of the activities, progress and development of the race as seen from his objective standpoint. The lecture created a lively discussion, and Mr. Schauder ably replied to the questions put to him.

An instructive item of the conversazione was the news report for the month, which Mr. Infield delivered in detail, and in which the audience was extremely interested.

The sports section held a successful outing on October 2nd, in the form of a picnic to St. George's Strand, when a happy day was spent. Mr. M. Donen was indefatigable in his work of arranging the games and sports for the day, in which the Habonim and Habonot mainly took part.

The first of the intensive study meetings under the auspices of the Herzlia Association was held on the 18th ult., when Mr. Infield delivered the first of his series of lectures on the History of the Jews. As an introduction this address took the form of a finely drawn analysis of the status and importance of history showing its relative value as compared with that of science.

A concert and dance was held on the 21st ult. in the St. George's Hall. The Committee are grateful to the artists who assisted, and Mrs. Mizrahi who produced the one-act play by Sholom Aleichem, "The Doctor," in which the following took part: Misses Taubkin, Cramer, Barris, Messrs. Yellen, Kahn, Altshuler. This proved very amusing and was well received by the audience. Mr. Tartz produced two tableaux of the "Diaspora" and "Palestine" which were both picturesque and interesting. The remainder of the programme were items by the "Herzlia" Choir, a piano-forte sole by Miss Esther Davidson, and a recitation of Raskin's "Wanderer" by Miss Bella Kahn.

The proceeds taken indicate that the Chalutz Scheme will benefit by a fair amount.

In the course of the High Festivals, the following Synagogue donations were contributed on behalf of the Jewish National Fund: B. Weinronk £11 1s.; J. Issroff 10s. 6d.

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