

South African Reconstruction Campaign— Ort Oze Emigdirect.

CAPETOWN.

In the course of Dr. Leon Bramson's stay in Cape Town he succeeded in winning the sympathy and support of local communal leaders for the reconstruction movement, which is directed by the organisations Ort, Oze and Emigdirect, whose task it is to deal with the present critical situation of the Jewish masses in Eastern Europe. A committee to conduct the Cape Town Campaign has already been formed, and consists of the following:—Messrs. M. Alexander, K.C., M.P., I. Albow, Rev. A. P. Bender, L. Berezowsky, A. Bloch, Adv. P. Clouts, Isidore Cohen, B. A. Crasnow, A. Friedlander, I. Gordon, W. Harris, S. B. Herman, Dr. Hurwitz, Dr. S. Kark, D. H. Kramer, J. O. Markowitz, C. Nell, I. Ochberg, B. Padovitz, M. Rosen, B. L. Rubik, M. Segal, Max Sonnenberg, T. Snitcher. The first meeting in Cape Town will take place on Sunday, the 14th instant.

Mr. CH. ACHRON'S TOUR.

Mr. Achron, the official propagandist of the Third South African Reconstruction Campaign, arrived in Nigel on the 28th ult., and was entertained by Mr. M. J. Plen. With the co-operation of Messrs. Plen and Lowenstein Mr. Achron succeeded in carrying through the effort in aid of the Campaign in Nigel.

STANDERTON.

Mr. Achron arrived in Standerton on the 30th December, and was very kindly entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Lidikker who also assisted him greatly in launching the Campaign in Standerton. Most of the residents were approached, and responded to the Cause. Mr. Lidikker, who is the Chairman of the local Hebrew Congregation kindly promised to complete the collection.

VREDE.

On the initiative of Mr. Wolman, Chairman of the local Hebrew Congregation, a general meeting took place at the hotel of Mr. and Mrs. Rootenberg. At the meeting, which was presided over by Mr. Wolman, Mr. Achron delivered a speech on the Jewish position and the economic emancipation of the Jewish masses, and concluded with an appeal to support the movement for the Jewish rebuilding in Eastern Europe. A collection was made at the meeting and was afterwards continued by Messrs. Wolman and Yudelman.

VOLKSRUST.

On Sunday, the 7th inst., a public meeting was held at the Volksrust Hotel, kindly lent by Mr. R. Baigel. Mr. Berman presided, and Mr. Achron spoke on the distress of millions of Jews in Eastern Europe and the ways and means the reconstruction movement adopts to relieve the critical situation. A collection was made to which most of the members of the community contributed. The Rev. A. Bitzik, Messrs S. Berman and A. Stock, rendered valuable assistance to Mr. Achron. The further itinerary of Mr. Achron includes the following towns: Wakkerstroom, Vryheid, Paul Pietersburg, Piet Retief, Ermelo, Amersfoort, Trichard, Kinross, Delmas and Devon.

JOHANNESBURG EASTERN DISTRICTS JUDEAN SOCIETY.

During the current month the activities of the above society will include a Club Night, to be held on the 13th inst.; the bi-annual general meeting, on the 14th inst.; and an address by Mr. J. Alexander on "Parties in Modern Zionism," on the 21st inst., the time of meeting being in each case 8.15 p.m. and the venue the Eastern Districts Communal Hall. On the 28th inst., at 8 p.m., a "mystery ramble" will start from the Communal Hall. All members are requested to make every effort to attend these functions and to take tickets in the Chalutz raffle.

The Transvaal Young Israel Conference

From J. JOFFE (Johannesburg).

To the Editor of the *Zionist Record*.

Sir,—In the report on the Transvaal Young Israel Conference published in the last issue of *The Zionist Record* mention is made of a motion to define the aim of Zionism as the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine on both sides of the Jordan. Then the report goes on to say:

"This immediately raised a storm of opposition from a certain section of conference, for whilst they were in accord with the ideal, they did not want the words inserted in the constitution, as it might be implied thereby that they subscribed to the policy of one of the Zionist political parties."

The above motivation for the rejection of the motion strikes one as pure sophistry. If Conference was really in favour of the definition then the argument that because a certain political party also subscribes to it the definition has to be rejected is absurd, and verges on the ridiculous. Because a certain political party holds a similar view the ideal underlying the view need not be declared taboo. On the contrary, it ought to be an encouragement as an indication that the youth does not stand alone. And besides, why should the adoption of the resolution imply that the Conference subscribed to the policy of one of the Zionist political parties (read Revisionists)? What has policy and method to do with the definition of an ideal? The Seventh Day Adventists, for instance, even go a step further: they adopt one of the principles of Judaism and yet are not afraid that this might imply their having become Jews. The rejection of the definition has just the opposite effect. It places the Conference in the camp of those who do not believe in Herzl's frank definition of the Jewish State ideal. The outsider is entitled to argue that the Conference is not unlike the Brith Shalom who, not believing in a Jewish State, do not subscribe to such a definition of Zionism.

But then the report says that the Conference was in favour of a Jewish State. We can thus see to what absurdities the lack of courage of the Conference has led.

The Transvaal Young Israel Conference has followed in the footsteps of the Kimberley Zionist Conference, which was also afraid to face the issue. That Conference was also afraid to vote for a Jewish State because it would have meant the recognition of a Revisionist principle; on the other hand to vote against they did not possess the pluck, and thus a previous question was moved. But if a Youth Conference is to be nothing else but a miniature edition of an adult Conference, why duplicate these Conferences? Let us simply take instructions from those who have already "thought" out everything for us. Let us follow them blindly and we can do no worse.

Youth all over the World seems to be different. The main qualification of youth is its youthfulness which implies freedom from all shackles of conservatism and lack of cowardice. And it is only natural, for had youth only followed the elders without attempting to find new paths no progress could ever be made in the domain of human thought. The young Israel Conference has exhibited a dangerous symptom of an unhealthy state. "Afraid lest it imply"—imply what? That you are Bolsheviks or vagabonds? No, that you are only subscribing to what the elders lack courage to subscribe to. Really and truly we ought to be ashamed of such a mentality.

Yours, etc.,

J. Joffe.

"I WAS A SPY" AT THE COLOSSEUM.

A brilliant cast has been chosen for that fine dramatic story, "I was a Spy," showing at the Colosseum Theatre this week. This film, which was produced by Victor Saville, is claimed as Britain's best picture, and should, therefore, not be missed by film fans. The Colosseum Symphony Orchestra will contribute their usual excellent programme, and a special film of Miss Lucille du Toit (Miss South Africa) will be shown.

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