

S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies

RETIREMENT OF MR. PERCY COWEN

THERE was a large attendance at the monthly meeting of the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies on Sunday morning at the Jewish Guild, Johannesburg. Mr. S. Raphaely, Acting President, was in the chair, and in opening the meeting welcomed a number of newly-elected Deputies.

Mr. D. A. Bradlow, hon. treasurer, submitted the financial statement for March, which showed a revenue for the month in membership fees of £77 6s. 7d.

The Executive had decided to hold a conference with the Capetown and provincial committees of the Board on Sunday, April 15th, at Kimberley.

Members of the Executive had attended a meeting of the Jewish community at Bethlehem, and similar meetings were also held at Potchefstroom, Witbank, Bethal, and Volksrust.

A report was read of the Special Sub-Committee for combating Anti-Semitism in South Africa, giving a summary of the matters dealt with at two meetings of the Committee held since the last Deputies' meeting. There was a lengthy discussion on the report, replied to by the chairman, who amplified the information given in the report.

A New Secretary

THE report of the Sub-Committee for the re-organisation of the administration of the Board and the appointment of a fulltime secretary was read by Mr. B. Leo Pencharz, the chairman of that Committee. The report described the work of the Board, and made recommendations with regard to future administration in accordance with the resolution of the last Congress to centralise the work of the Board in one office under a fulltime secretary. The report was adopted by the Executive Council and confirmed by this meeting. According to the report, the present part-time secretary (Mr. Percy Cowen) had intimated that he did not intend to apply for the post of full-time secretary. Mr. I. M. Goodman was appointed secretary, and offices had been taken at 17, 21, and 22 Marlborough House, Eloff Street.

At the meeting of the Executive Council, a bonus of 200 guineas had been unanimously passed to Mr. Percy Cowen in appreciation of his 21 years' services to the Board. The chairman at the Executive meeting referred, in very appreciative terms, to Mr. Cowen's services to the Board, and on behalf of the Executive Council, expressed their grateful thanks to him for his work during the past 21 years, which had been done unstintedly, efficiently and conscientiously.

Mr. B. Alexander, in moving the confirmation of the action of the Executive in voting the honorarium, said that Mr. Cowen acted under him as secretary during the speaker's 15 years' chairmanship of the Board, that period including ten years' secretaryship of the Jewish War Victims' Fund, of which the speaker was chairman. For loyalty one could not find a better man than Mr. Cowen. He was loyal to the President, the Executive and the members. His work was done thoroughly and conscientiously. He was sorry that Mr. Cowen could not see his way clear to accepting the full-time post. In parting with him, as secretary of the Board, he would say that Mr. Cowen had done well for the Jewish community. They had passed through troublous times, especially during the war, and Mr. Cowen had always stood steadfastly by his chairman. As secretary of the Jewish War Victims' Fund, Mr. Cowen had done yeoman service for Jewry, and the work was colossal.

Mr. B. S. Hersch, as one who had been associated with Mr. Cowen in the work of the Board, endorsed wholeheartedly the remarks made by the previous speaker. Mr. D. A. Bradlow, hon. treasurer, said he wished to add his own meed of praise and appreciation of the services Mr. Cowen had rendered to the Board of Deputies. His record was a most honourable and loyal one, and he wished Mr. Cowen every success in his future. (Applause.)

Other expressions of appreciation for the loyalty shown by Mr. Percy Cowen over a long period of years were uttered by Mr. Harry Carter, M.P.C., Mr. J. Distiller, Mr. Bernard Patley, Rev. B. D. Glass, Mr. H. Schlapobinsky, Mr. M. Sarowitch and Mr. I. Soskalne.

Mr. Percy Cowen suitably responded.

New Affiliations.

THE report of the General Information Bureau stated that there had been 55 new registrations and 34 positions found in the month.

Applications for membership of the Board were granted to the following institutions: Marquard Hebrew Congregation, Petrusberg Hebrew Congregation, Hennenman Hebrew Congregation, and Ventersburg Hebrew Congregation, these applications having been received through the Orange Free State Committee of the Board.

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"WHAT IS GOING ON IN ZIONISM?"

The above will be the subject to be discussed at a mass meeting on Sunday, April 1st, at 8.15 p.m. in the H.O.D. Hall, under the auspices of the United Zionist Socialist Party. The speakers will be Messrs. Ch. Achron, J. Batnitzky, D. J. M. Melamed, B. Padowich, W. Ribko and Ch. Sacks.

BETH JOSEPH YESHIBA IN TEL-AVIV

Rabbi Dov Berish Din, of Jerusalem, has arrived in Johannesburg in the interests of the Beth Joseph Yeshiba in Tel-Aviv. This institution is shortly erecting a large building and will be able to accommodate a considerable number of students.

EASTERN DISTRICTS JUDEAN SOCIETY

On Sunday evening, April 1st, at 8.30 p.m., members of the society will come together, and the contents of a Pesach programme, supplied by the South African Zionist Youth Executive, will be presented in the form of short informal talks.

All members are invited to come prepared to relate some Pesach *maiseleh*, anecdote, legend or humorous story. There will be singing of Pesach songs and an interesting evening is anticipated.

CICELY COURTNEIDGE AT THE COLOSSEUM

With her fame in "Soldiers of the King" ringing in the ears of film fans, there should be crowded houses at the Colosseum this week during the showing of Cicely Courtneidge in "Aunt Sally." This is a lavishly produced talkie, full of gorgeous ensembles and song hits. In this production Debroy Somers appears with his famous band.

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