

"League of Nations" Assembly in Germiston

Happy Gathering of Zionist Youth

JEWISH youth from all parts of the Transvaal spent a very pleasant stay in Germiston over the long week-end for the "Fifteenth Assembly of the League of Nations," organised by the Transvaal Zionist Youth Executive. This novel function was the form the Annual Youth Parliament took this year. The affair was attended by leading personalities in the Zionist Youth Movement in South Africa, and by many well-known civic leaders of Germiston.

MESSAGES for the success of the Assembly were received from Mr. N. Kirschner, Chairman of the S.A. Zionist Federation, and from Mr. I. Dunsky, Organiser-Secretary of the Youth Council.

THE Assembly was opened at a special ceremony held in the Radio Theatre, Knox Street, on Sunday evening last. Mr. David Dunsky, the Convenor, presided, and in his introductory remarks explained the nature of the annual Parliament gathering, and the reasons for choosing this novel form of discussing the Jewish world position on the present occasion. He then introduced the various speakers, and called upon Mr. B. Gering, Chairman of the South African Zionist Youth Council, and acting Chairman of the South African Zionist Federation, to deliver a message from the Federation and the Youth Council to the Convocation.

MR. GERING, in an interesting speech, declared that the present gathering had been convened to discuss in serious mood the tragedies and difficulties of a great nation. As members of the League of Nations, the situation of World Jewry was one of their vital concerns. The League had given sanction to the upbuilding of the Jewish State in Palestine, knowing that along such a line lay the only true solution of the Jewish problem. To-day there was chaos and disruption in the world, and indescribable was the tragedy to which Jewry especially was being subjected. From the hell-places of Europe thousands of Jews were seeking refuge, and where should they go if not to their own state, their own Eretz Israel? Surely when so many countries denied them, and so many other countries could not play host to them, because these countries had their own difficult problems with which to cope—surely in these circumstances Jews had a right to demand for themselves free entry into their own land. Jews felt, and they were not alone in the feeling, that the gates of Palestine were not open wide enough to Jewish immigration. He trusted that this Convocation of the League of Nations would endorse this opinion, and throw wide open to a homeless people the doors of its new-old home. (Applause).

MR. A. ABRAHAMSON, Chairman of the Transvaal Zionist Youth Executive, delivered to the gathering an expression of good-will from his Executive. He explained the work of the Youth Executive, and the difficulties which it had had to face in the past. He was pleased to say that these difficulties were slowly falling away and that Zionist Youth throughout South Africa was now embarking on a carefully devised programme of Zionist study and work. He was pleased that this particular function was taking the form of an Assembly of the League of Nations, because this showed to advantage the fundamental broad-mindedness of the Zionist

attitude, which aimed at a civilized weltanschauung, and a spirit of international co-operation.

THE Mayor of Germiston, Mrs. Charles Brammer, extended a civic welcome to all the delegates. She said that it gave her great pleasure to extend such a welcome on behalf of the Municipality of Germiston, for they appreciated the fine spirit which dominated such a gathering as this, and which everywhere helped towards deeper unity and harmony in the destinies of towns and countries and nations. A few days ago the twentieth year had passed since the outbreak of the terrible world-war of 1914, which had plunged civilization into four years of darkness and death. From that war had emerged the League of Nations, and humanity everywhere had hoped that this great international Assembly would heal the wounds created by the War, and bring peace and well-being to men. But, when one looked at the world to-day it seemed that the promise of that glorious founding was not being fulfilled. She welcomed this gathering in the hope that it would foster a greater spirit of harmony, and she trusted that the delegates would spend a very happy week-end in Germiston.

MR. Z. HAREVEN, speaking on behalf of the Germiston Zionist Society, of which he is Chairman, and on behalf of the United Hebrew Institutions of Germiston, extended both to the delegates and to their civic guests a warm welcome from the local Jewish community. He recalled that on the last occasion of such a gathering in Germiston the late Mr. George Brown, of blessed memory, who was Mr. Strauss's predecessor, had fulfilled the duties which he was undertaking to-night, and had shown a similar deep interest in the destinies of the Jewish people and the important part they had played in the history of South Africa.

The idea of a League of Nations was not new, and it was, moreover, one that was deeply ingrained in the hearts of every Jew. "On our most solemn days, our great fasts of expiation before God, we give utterance to the prayer that peace should pervade the nations and harmony rule over the world. A prayer that we have uttered for two thousand years will be fulfilled only when the ideals of the League of Nations will be fulfilled, and the wrongs done to a great people are righted." (Applause).

MR. H. COLMAN, Chairman of the Germiston Zionist Youth Society, welcomed the delegates to Germiston, and hoped that they would spend an interesting stay there. Arranging the affair had been no easy task, as accommodation had to be found for some seventy people, but the Germistonians had been very generous in putting up visitors, and he was sure they would take away with them pleasant

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memories of the town, the function, and their hosts.

ADVOCATE J. G. N. STRAUSS, M.P. for Germiston, in his capacity of retiring President of the Fourteenth Assembly of the League of Nations, then opened the fifteenth session with a presidential address.

During the past year, he said, the ideals of the League had been very inadequately fulfilled. In many lands to-day the ruthless rule of autocrats was flourishing. There were terrible persecutions going on. It was the duty of all to work towards a new spirit of harmony, for under present conditions the ideals of the League could not be furthered. He exhorted the present gathering to work towards such a spirit and so bring their ideals to fruition.

AFTER the ceremonial part of the evening there was a short concert, which was greatly enjoyed by all present, and to which items were contributed by Master Solomon, Roy and Eli Karlin, Miss S. Mandel, Miss M. Schutz, Miss M. Dunsky, and Mr. A. Abrahamson.

PARLIAMENT week-end was inaugurated by a brilliant ball at the Hotel on Saturday evening. Here besides the delegates came visitors from all over the Rand, and the hall, festooned with gay paper ribbons and lanterns, presented a colourful scene of delight.

The debate was continued throughout Monday, and the week-end came to a happy close with an impromptu dance on Monday evening.

United Zionist Socialist Party

A lecture on "After the Verdict in the Arlosoroff Murder Trial," to be followed by discussion, will be delivered at a meeting of members of the above party (Zeire Zion-Poale Zion) at the H.O.D. Hall on Sunday next, the 12th inst., at 8.15 p.m.

Only members and friends admitted.

Hechalutz Organisation

On Sunday, the 12th inst., at 8.15 p.m., Mr. I. Goss, the well-known speaker, will deliver a lecture at the Hechalutz Hall, the subject being "Chaim Nachman Bialik." All members and sympathisers are invited to attend.

Mr. J. Rubik, editor of the "Basad," has kindly consented to deliver a series of lectures on the History of Zionism. He will deliver his first address at the Hechalutz Hall on Wednesday, the 15th inst., at 8.15 p.m., on the "Forerunners of Zionism." The series will continue on every Wednesday at 8.15 p.m. All are invited.

To celebrate the first anniversary of the establishment of the Hechalutz Training Farm in South Africa, the Johannesburg Hechalutz Organisation is holding a grand dance on the 25th inst., at the H.O.D. Hall. The services of a famous band have been reserved and novelty and exhibition dances will be introduced into the evening's entertainment.

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