

Industrial and Agricultural Occupations Among Jews in South Africa

A GENERAL meeting of representatives of Jewish bodies in the Transvaal and other interested individuals took place at the H.O.D. Hall on Sunday morning, the 12th August, 1934. The President, Mr. Maurice Franks, opened the meeting, which was fairly well attended.

Mr. Franks, in his opening remarks, welcomed all those present, and explained that the meeting was called with a view to test the feelings and enlist the support of the general Jewish public for the work of the Association of promoting agricultural and industrial pursuits among S.A. Jews—work considered by many of vital importance to the well being of S.A. Jewry. He further explained that the initiative for the Association came from Dr. Leon Bramson, Chairman of the United Committee of the Ort-Oze-Emigdirect, who whilst in this country recently, urged local public opinion to form an Organisation such as the Association was.

Mr. Walter Pollak, Chairman of the Association, outlined the general standpoint of the Association, which was that the economic future of South African Jewry demands that more Jews shall take to agricultural and industrial work. At the present moment a thorough investigation was planned into the possibilities of accomplishing the task the Association had set itself. More attention would, for the time being, be paid to the question of agriculture with a special view to encouraging Jewish youths to take up tillage of the soil, and other forms of agriculture as a means of a livelihood. He felt that the work of the Association, if carried out, would prove to the advantage of South Africa in general, and the Jewish community in particular.

Prof. H. S. Frankel in a short address urged the necessity of comprehensive investigation of the whole problem. While pointing out the difficulties in the way of the accomplishment of the positive aims of the Association, the speaker thought a good deal could be done negatively by enlightening people on the occupations that were offering little prospect.

Other speakers at the meeting were Mr. M. Kentrige, M.P., Mr. A. Ovedoff, Rabbi I. Kossowsky, Mr. J. Daleski, Rabbi M. C. Weiler, Mr. I. Sandler, Mr. R. Feldman and Mr. J. Miller, a farmer of Lydenburg, who specially came to attend the meeting. All the speakers stressed the various aspects of the economic problems involved in the proposals of the Association, and generally agreed with the desirability of a thorough investigation of such problems.

Mr. S. Goldberg moved the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

"This general meeting of representatives of Jewish bodies in the Transvaal, and other interested individuals, after listening to the exposition of the various aspects of the economic problems of South African Jewry, has come to the conclusion that the time has arrived for investigations to be carried out into the possibilities of promoting agricultural and industrial pursuits among South African Jews, and especially the Jewish youth.

"The meeting welcomes the formation of the Association for this purpose, and pledges itself to support it in every way."

The provisional committee of the Association is now as follows:—Mr. Maurice Franks, president; Mr. Walter Pollak, chairman; Dr. S. L. Feldman, vice-chairman; Mr. A. Sive, hon. treasurer; Mr. H. M. Festenstein, hon. secretary; Messrs. S. Goldberg and A. Ovedoff, members of executive; Mr. L. Melamed, organising secretary.

General committee: Messrs. E. Gordon, H. Kallenbach, I. Katz, Mrs. I. Kuper, Mr. J. Miller, Mr. E. Schaiowitz, Rabbi M. C. Weiler and Mr. G. Weinstock.

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S.A. Board of Jewish Education

Hebrew Classes at Normal College.—Hebrew classes for teachers in training which have been conducted by Mr. Mierowsky for the last few months are now being held at the Normal College. It is hoped that this new arrangement will enable students to have more frequent lessons than they have had.

Inspection Tours.—The Inspector of the Board is now touring the Western and Northern Transvaal in which province he visits practically every Jewish community. Mr. Mierowsky spent the week-end in Potchefstroom where he carried out an exhaustive examination of the Hebrew classes.

Register of Teachers.—The forms in connection with the registration of teachers are now ready and teachers all over the country are requested to apply for copies in order to complete same and return them to the office of the Board. These forms are obtainable from the Hon. Secretary, P.O. Box 2942, Johannesburg.

There is an ever-increasing demand for competent teachers and it would be to the advantage of teachers to furnish the Board with all details regarding qualifications, experience, etc.

Ethrogim for the Feast of Tabernacles

THE Government has granted a permit to the South African Jewish Board of Deputies exclusively for the importation of "ethrogim" from Palestine.

The permit has been granted under certain specified conditions, one of which is that each "ethrog" must be retained in the possession of, or be under the personal supervision of the senior official of each congregation. This official must immediately after the festival destroy the "ethrog" by burning.

The Board has this year placed its order with Mr. J. Gesundheit of Tel Aviv, and cabled communication has been received to the effect that the "ethrogim" have already been dispatched from his Pardess.

Secretaries of congregations are notified that applications for "ethrogim" must be received by the Board not later than August 24th, otherwise there is a risk of congregational requirements not being met.

Communications should be addressed to the Secretary, P.O. Box 1538, Johannesburg.

Women's Mizrachi Organisation

Western Suburbs Branch.—The monthly literary afternoon of the above organisation was held at the residence of Mrs. Silver, 8th Avenue, Mayfair, on Tuesday, 31st July. Mrs. Meyerowitz was in the chair. Mrs. H. Smith read a paper on the current events in Palestine.

Mrs. L. Adelson addressed the meeting and related her impressions of her recent tour in Palestine. Mrs. Ostroff thanked Mrs. Adelson for her very interesting and enlightening address. Mrs. Smith moved a vote of thanks to Mrs. Silver for her kind hospitality.

Jewish Guild's Next Production

The next production of the Musical Art Section of the Jewish Guild will be a revue, "Soup to Nuts," which has aptly been described as a menu-full of fun. This will be presented on Sundays, August 26th and September 2nd. The producers are Miss Charmion Kantor and Mr. Louis Ostrowiak.

All the musical arrangements are in the hands of Miss Kantor who has composed and written lyrics for two slow foxtrots, which are to be featured in the show. The production is full of bright and snappy sketches, dancing and singing. There is a talented cast, headed by Mr. Louis Ostrowiak, and a ballet, which is being trained by Miss Gertie Schneider.

Open Forum

The next "Open Forum" held under the auspices of the United Zionist Socialist Party (Zeire Zion-Paole Zion) will take place on Wednesday, the 22nd inst., at the H.O.D. Hall, at 8.15 p.m.

Mr. I. Goss will lecture on "The Prophets and Their Message to the Modern Audience." Discussion will follow. The programme includes news-service, recitations, etc. All are welcome.

North-Eastern Hebrew Congregation

A Talmud Torah Dance, under the auspices of the North-Eastern Hebrew Congregation, will be held at the Communal Hall, Ninth Street, Orange Grove, on Saturday, 25th August. The Ambassadors' Personal Orchestra will be in attendance, and an enjoyable evening is assured.

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