

David Vardi on the Chalutz Farm

EVA YOALIT and David Vardi, the eminent Habimah artistes, paid a visit to the Chalutz Farm on Sunday, December 23. We give below Mr. Vardi's impression of the Chalutz Farm:

"Although I am a comedian I am very serious when I speak about the Chalutz Farm in South Africa. In the short time that I understand that the farm has been in existence, it seems to me that marvels have been done. Especially is this so in view of the fact that the spirit of South Africa is not quite ready for the ideal of Chalutzit, even though the Zionist organisation in this country is extremely strong.

"It is a great pity that young men and women do not take more advantage of the existence of this farm which has ideal conditions. In fact, I can safely say, after having seen many Chalutz farms in other parts of the world, that the conditions under which South African chalutzim have to work are very favourable.

"Although South African chalutzim are receiving an excellent foundation during the period of Hachsharah, I think it advisable that they should do a further year's Hachsharah in Palestine. It is agreeable to find that quite a few of the chalutzim understand Hebrew, but nevertheless more should be done in the formation of a dramatic club, where Hebrew sketches and readings from the Hebrew poets could be undertaken.

"I hope that before many years elapse, this will not be the only training farm you have in South Africa, but that many more will exist on the basis of real Chalutzit. This is the yeast of the Youth Movement, and the fomentation of National progress will come about as a result of your admirable efforts."

A New Women's Zionist Society

ACTIVITY AT SPRINGS

A MEETING was held at the Springs Hotel on the 5th inst., to form in Springs Women's Zionist Organisation.

Mrs. S. Epstein, an ardent Zionist worker of Springs, and Mrs. L. Gordon, the wife of the chairman of the Springs United Hebrew Institutions, were responsible for the calling of the meeting. About 50 ladies were present.

Three well-known Zionist workers from Johannesburg came out to Springs for the meeting, and gave valuable advice on the formation of such a society.

Mrs. B. Reinhold spoke on the Jewish National Fund and the Keren Hayesod. She also explained in brief how the cultural side of the movement should be linked up with the society.

Mrs. J. L. Landau spoke with enthusiasm of institutions which she had visited in Palestine and which were being supported wholly or partially by the W.I.Z.O.

Mrs. B. Patley (chairlady of the Johannesburg branch of the Women's Zionist League), dealt fully with the functions of such a society, and extended her encouragement for its future success.

A letter was read from Mrs. Epstein, who through illness, was unable to be present.

The following committee was elected to office: Chairlady, Mrs. S. Epstein; vice-chairlady, Mrs. L. Gordon; hon. treasurer, Mrs. M. Crouse; hon. secretary, Mrs. Albert Kapelus. Committee: Messdames Lewis, Redhill, Sarak, Katz, Panovka, Melamed, Elias, Miller, Shapiro, snr., Eliastam, Shill, Levin, Rosenthal, Shapiro jnr., Valensky, and Miss Light.

Mrs. Redhill and Mrs. Rogiss entertained the gathering during the afternoon. Dr. Eliastam (chairman of the Springs Zionist Society), proposed the vote of thanks to the visitors.

Activities in George

Cheder Inspection.—Visits by members of the Board of Education are far and few between as far as George is concerned, and it was for that reason that the inspection by Mr. Blumenthal, of the Board, on the 15th ult. proved to be of especial interest to the local community. At a meeting of the congregation, held that evening in the synagogue, Mr. Blumenthal outlined the various activities of the Board, made many constructive suggestions in connection with the local Cheder, and appealed for financial help for the Board. A substantial sum was raised.

A Communal Hall.—Since the erection of the local synagogue in 1928 one of the most prominent questions confronting local Jewry has been the question of erecting a Communal Hall. Many discussions have taken place and at long last it has been definitely decided to call for tenders for the erection. Funds, in the form of a Building Fund, are in hand and it is hoped to see the consummation of the project before many months pass. It has also been decided to proceed with the laying-out of a cemetery.

Visit of Messrs. Goodman and Jackson.—The monthly social evening was held on the 13th inst. and, as usual, proved an unqualified success. Practically the whole community attended. Mr. S. Miller presided. The proceedings were opened with a piano solo by Miss Edna Landsman. The monthly news-reel, excellently compiled by Mr. David Segal, followed.

Mr. I. M. Goodman, secretary of the Jewish Board of Deputies, addressed the gathering in a brilliant speech. He traced the development of the Board of Deputies and its activities, and discussed its significance to the Jews of South Africa. He dealt with the activities of various anti-Jewish organisations in the country and gave sound advice on how to deal with these manifestations.

Mr. A. M. Jackson, President of the Sea Point Congregation, and a member of the Board of Deputies dealt in masterful fashion with various aspects of the anti-Jewish movement in this country.

The two speakers were heartily thanked for their inspiring addresses. As a result of their visit, the George Congregation is affiliating to the Board, and the local community is contributing a substantial amount to its funds.

A Chazan from America

REV. SOLOMON SAPIR

There has recently arrived in South Africa a well known New York synagogue reader, in the person of Cantor Solomon Sapir. The cantor has come on a visit to relatives in South Africa and on arrival in Capetown he conducted the services on two Shabbosim at the New Hebrew Congregation Synagogue in Roeland Street. In Johannesburg he has conducted services at the Beth Hamedrash Hagodel and at the Yeoville Synagogue.

The visitor is a member of the Jewish Ministers-Cantors Association of America, which has a membership of over three hundred. The cantor has occupied a number of important posts in synagogues in New York and Brooklyn and has come to this country with excellent credentials. He is accompanied by Mrs. Sapir.

Activities in East London

AN amusing Mock Trial, under the auspices of the Zionist Society, and organised by Mr. J. A. Shapiro, was held in the Communal Hall on the 3rd inst. Mr. Addleson was the Judge, Counsel were Messrs. M. J. Zackon and J. A. Shapiro, while the witnesses were Messrs. M. Aingorn, Meyer Hertz, A. Sarnak, B. Sacks, G. Boley, D. Lazarus and N. Lazarus. Mr. A. Kaplan acted as Registrar, and Mr. J. Strelitz was Court Orderly.

Before opening the proceedings, Mr. Hertz, the president of the society, spoke in feeling terms of the demise of the late Baron Edmond de Rothschild, the large audience rising in respect. Mr. Hertz then referred felicitously to Dr. Weizmann's attaining his sixtieth birthday, and suggested that a cable of congratulations be sent. A silver collection was made for this purpose.

The choir, comprising boys and girls of the Hebrew School, rendered several enjoyable items under the baton of the Rev. Altshuler, Mrs. J. Altshuler accompanying.

A successful and enjoyable concert and play was staged by the children of the Hebrew School on Thursday, the 5th inst., in the presence of a large audience in the Communal Hall.

Mr. M. Shwer, president of the Hebrew Congregation, during the course of the proceedings, conveyed a vote of thanks to the teachers and organisers, Rev. O. Altshuler and Mr. M. Cohen, and to the pupils who had shown excellent understanding of the Hebrew language. He extended thanks also to Mrs. Abelman for her great interest in the Hebrew classes, and to Miss C. Rabinowitz for assisting the organisers of the concert.

At the conclusion of the concert, Mrs. I. J. Abelman presented prizes to the successful candidates at the recent examination. In addition a gift was presented to each child.

The following took part in the evening's programme:—Master Norman Addleson, H. Buchalter, Slava Altshuler, the Pupils, L. Albert, and the cast of the play, R. Franklin, S. Altshuler, F. Altshuler, J. Margolin, M. Buchalter, Z. Hertz, D. Slevin, G. Jaffit, M. Cohen, N. Addleson, S. Rabinowitz, R. Buchalter, D. Capon, L. Sarnak, D. Moss, A. Gersowsky, J. Buchalter.

It is of interest to note that the play, which is in Hebrew and was arranged and produced by the Rev. Altshuler and Mr. M. Cohen, is to be published, having been highly recommended by the Hebrew Board of Education and by Mr. N. Sokolow.

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