

# An Interesting Mock Congress

## Transvaal Zionist Youth Rally in Benoni

AN annual function which never fails to arouse interest is the "Mock Congress" of the Transvaal Zionist Youth Movement which took place during last week-end in Benoni. In past years, representatives of a large number of Zionist youth societies in the Transvaal were present, but for the first time a pronounced party spirit permeated the proceedings, perhaps heralding a keener appreciation of a party outlook among the youth.

Mr. N. Kirschner, Chairman of the Executive of the S.A. Zionist Federation, opened "Congress" and counselled the youth to adopt a calm and careful approach to all their deliberations. He felt that discussion and criticism at this stage should be tempered down with tolerance and with an appreciation of the realities of the situation. He was followed by the Mayor of Benoni, Mr. G. H. Launder, who on behalf of the town, extended a warm welcome to the visitors, and expressed the wish that the deliberations would prove successful and of a constructive nature.

Dr. C. Shapiro, Chairman of the United Hebrew Institutions of Benoni, extended a hearty welcome. Miss Lillian Rosenstein, of the Transvaal Zionist Youth Executive, presided during the opening ceremony.

"Congress" went into session after "President" had been elected in the popular person of Mr. Colin Gluckmann, who then took the chair. Dr. H. Bloomberg, who represented the "President of the Jewish Agency," reviewed the development of Zionism over the last two years. His comprehensive survey dealt with the Diaspora and the vividness of his descriptions made a deep impression.

Mr. David Dunsky presented a report on the Yishuv. In scholarly manner, he analysed the structure of Eretz Israel in its various aspects, and gave careful attention to the political make-up of the Jewish population and delved deeply into the economic situation.

### "Dor Dor Vesofrav"

Students of Hebrew literature have found of considerable utility the series of selections of writings of Hebrew authors issued under the title of "Dor Dor Vesofrav." The editors of the series included the late Alachman Bialik, and the extracts have been carefully chosen and arranged. A biographical introduction is supplied to each booklet.

The Literature Department of the S.A. Zionist Federation has secured a number of copies of two of the booklets in the series devoted to the writings of Achad Ha'am and J. L. Gordon respectively. It may be mentioned that the booklets have been prescribed for the matriculation examination.

The booklets are obtainable from the Literature Department of the S.A. Zionist Federation, P.O. Box 18, Johannesburg, at 1s. 6d. (for the Achad Ha'am booklet) and 1s. 9d. (for the J. L. Gordon booklet) respectively.

### Jewish Orphanage Synagogue Holyday Services.

Due to the increase in the number of children, the committee of the South African Jewish Orphanage find that the total available accommodation in the orphanage synagogue for the forthcoming New Year and Day of Atonement Services will this year be required for the exclusive use of the children.

Under the circumstances, the committee regret having to notify local

He paid a fitting tribute to the work and achievement of the Labour faction in the Yishuv.

The "Jewish National Fund" and "Finance" was given careful attention in a comprehensive and thought-provoking address by Mr. Pelkowitz. He spoke on the great part which the Keren Hayesod and Keren Kayemeth played in the upbuilding of Eretz Israel, and illustrated his address by detailed statistics dealing with the economic situation in Palestine.

Mr. S. N. Herman reviewed the activities of the "Organisation and Propaganda Department" and stressed the importance of an intensification of Zionist education of the Jewish masses, particularly at this critical juncture in Zionist history. Dealing with the development of the "Parties in Zionism," Mr. Herman pointed out that the Zionist Congress allowed for the expression of all shades of Zionist opinion and that all parties could further their programmes within the framework of the Organisation. The unity of the Organisation must be maintained.

Dr. Bloomberg at this stage initiated the discussion on "Partition"—the main burden of which was a complete condemnation of the proposals.

The proceedings were continually enlivened by clever cross-talk and interjections between the "Jewish State Party" led by Mr. H. M. Goldberg, the "Zionist Socialist Party," led by Mr. S. Hirschmann, and the "Mizrachi" representatives, whose main spokesman was Mr. J. Green. "General Zionists," however, under Mr. M. Levin, remained particularly calm and quiet.

The social arrangements were in the capable hands of the Benoni Zionist Youth Society, who organised a successful dance on the Saturday night, and a luncheon during Sunday. A pleasant little party was also given to the delegates by Miss Manachewitz on Sunday evening.

### Chug Ivri

The Bialik evening, arranged by the Hebrew-Speaking Circle, on the 4th inst., at the Jewish Guild drew a large gathering. The chairman, Mr. J. Blumenthal, recalled the historic role played by the national poet in fashioning a new revolutionary outlook among the Jewish youth. Mr. Bakst delivered an interesting lecture on the literary activities of N. Bialik. A number of songs, based on Bialik's poems, were beautifully rendered by Rev. Klaff, Miss Biderman and Miss Unterhalter. Miss C. Factor recited several poems, among them, the well-known poem: "After My Death." Community singing took place throughout the evening.

The next function will take place on the 25th inst., and will take the form of a "Living Newspaper." Participants are requested to send in their contributions to the hon. secretary, c/o Box 5043, Johannesburg, not later than the 20th inst.

residents, who have in the past attended the Holyday Services, that they are unable to offer them any accommodation this year.

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