

## IN AND AROUND THE PENINSULA

### The Zionist Conversazione.

The speaker at the Zionist Conversazione on Tuesday night was Mr. Alexander Lewin who chose as his subject, "The Arab Problem in Palestine." Mr. J. Herbstein acted as host, and introduced the speaker.

Mr. Lewin at the outset repudiated the theory that there was such a thing as a united Arab front. The Arabs were divided into various groups. There were, firstly, the Bedouins, who were a wild, nomadic thieving tribe. There were the town Arabs who had not been born in Palestine, but had drifted in from other countries during the last few centuries, and there were the *fellaheen* or peasants who constituted the majority of the Arabs in Palestine. There were as many as thirty different languages spoken by the Arabs, and several religions professed.

There was much talk of the *fellaheen* being dispossessed of their lands by the Jews. But there was no such thing. All private land bought by the Keren Kayemeth was owned not by the *fellaheen*, but by the wealthy effendis who lived outside Palestine, and who exacted heavy taxes and tithes from the Arab peasants who lived on their lands. One of the first provisos of the J.N.F. when buying land in Palestine was the safeguarding of the interests of the Arabs who were always left enough land on which they could live.

Relations between the Jews and the *fellaheen* would have been quite normal if not for the leaders of the latter, who incited them to hostility. And that being the case, it was obvious why the Jews, who constituted only twenty per cent. of the total population of Palestine, did not want a Legislative Assembly. They knew from past experience that they could expect nothing from the Arabs but obstacles and hindrances in their schemes for the upbuilding of the national home, particularly in so far as they concerned immigration and colonisation.

But the keys to these questions of Jewish immigration and colonisation did not lie in Arab or even English hands. They lay with the Jews themselves. If the Jews had so desired it, things could have been very different in Palestine from what they were. To-day it was possible to buy hundreds of thousands of dunams of land, and if they were not bought, it was because the Jews themselves had chosen not to buy them.

The lecture was followed by a discussion in which Messrs. Kotlowitz, M. Ben-Arie, H. Rosenblit and Max Ben-Arie participated.

The reading of a humorous sketch by Mr. G. Laden and the reading of the news of the week completed the programme.

### Zionist Socialist Party.

Two very well attended meetings took place on the 8th and 18th inst., respectively, when the results of the elections to the Zionist Congress and past activities were

dealt with. A lively discussion took place on the future work of the movement.

A continuation of this discussion will take place on Tuesday next, 1st August, at 8.30 p.m., in the Zionist Hall. All members and sympathisers are cordially invited.

### Excellent Production of "Moshke Chazir."

The Zionist Hall was packed to overflowing on Sunday night, when a performance of J. D. Berkowitz's play "Moshe Chazir" was given by the Dramatic Section of the Zionist Socialist Party (Poale Zion-Zeire Zion).

The action of the play, which is a tense drama, takes place in a Russian village during the pogrom period 1918-1919 on *Yom Kippur*, and from the moment the curtain rises to the final climax, one feels the atmosphere of gloom and horror which enshrouds the play, and which is typical of the Russia of the period.

Moyseï Perepontov is a converted Jew, called by the Jews Moshke Chazir. He has married a Russian woman and entirely cut himself off from his people; yet he is far from happy, for he cannot altogether sink to the level of the illiterate Russian peasant in whose midst he lives. There are strivings towards higher things within him, faint memories from the past which cause a continual conflict of soul. Hence his unsuccessful attempts to make his boorish son something of a scholar, and the tragic fate of the gentle, refined Russian girl whom he has forced his son to marry. The pogrom on the Jews in which, to his horror, he discovers that his own son has taken part, makes him realise for what he has sold his birthright, and leads to the terrible tragedy which seems inevitable.

The whole production was excellent; for the three acts the stage was most realistically transformed into the living-room of a Russian peasant's home, and was correct in every detail. The cast, without exception, was excellent, but special mention must be made of the outstanding performances of Mr. H. Kovarsky as Moshke Chazir, and of Mrs. B. Gammerman, who gave an almost flawless interpretation of the character of Avdotia, his Russian wife; great praise is also due to Mr. P. Dubowitz for his excellent interpretation of the difficult character of Kiril Kyrilitch Pyatak, the Russian ex-parson.

Others who participated were Miss V. Rosen, Mr. M. Dubovitz, Mr. J. Natas, Mr. A. Natas, Mr. D. Feinstein, Miss A. Radowsky, Mr. S. Kotlowitz and Mr. I. Swiel. The production was in the hands of Mr. H. Kovarsky.

### Memorial Meeting at Woodstock.

A large gathering assembled at the Woodstock Talmud Torah Hall last Thursday evening when a memorial meeting to com-

memorate the deaths of Dr. Herzl and Dr. Arlosoroff was held under the auspices of the Woodstock and Salt River Jewish Cultural Circle.

Dr. C. Resnekov presided and in a short address outlined the enormous services which Dr. Herzl had rendered his people. His memory would live for ever wherever there were Jews. He also paid a tribute to the late Dr. Arlosoroff.

Rabbi I. M. Gervis said it was particularly apt that we should recall the memory of Dr. Herzl to-day when the Jews who had acted in direct opposition to the policy he had advocated, were in so dire a plight. Herzl had stressed that the solution of the Jewish problem lay not in assimilation but in a restoration of national self-respect in a national homeland. German Jewry had preferred rather to follow an assimilative policy.

The *Haskorah* was impressively intoned by Rev. S. Kassel, after which a film of Palestine life was shown. The film was preceded by the showing of pictures of Dr. Herzl and various incidents connected with his work for Zionism.

### Hebrew Teachers' Association.

An urgent meeting of the Hebrew Teachers' Association will be held in the Talmud Torah Hall, Cape Town, on Sunday, 30th inst., at 4 p.m. sharp. Very important matters will be discussed and all members are requested to be present.

### Carnival Dance at Zionist Hall.

The Zionist Hall presented a bright scene on Saturday night last when a large and enthusiastic crowd danced to the music of Christie Droomer and his Orchestra at the "Rainbow Fete" Carnival Dance held in aid of the Zionist Hall funds.

The hall was artistically decorated with balloons and blue and white streamers, and the stalls, where fancy caps and streamers were sold, were well patronised.

Valuable prizes were awarded for various novelty dances and Mrs. A. Orman, who looked exceptionally charming in black lace and georgette, distributed the prizes. Mrs. Wise, in soft pink satin with brocaded coatee was occupied with the stalls, while Mrs. Frankel, who looked very dignified in brown velvet, was in charge of the sale of claret cup.

The floor presented a brightly coloured scene and amongst the dancers were noticed Mrs. H. Bernitz, who won the lucky envelope prize, Mrs. J. Gottlieb, Miss Gladys Lazarus, Mr. and Mrs. Sloman, Mr. and Mrs. J. Weinreich, Mrs. B. Zuckerman, Mr. and Mrs. Max Cohen, Mrs. L. Perlman, Mrs. H. Hecker, Miss Ray Penkin, Mr. and Mrs. Schach, Miss Bell Orman and Miss Betty Engers. The lucky winners of the Monte Carlo dance were Miss Rhoda Gesundheit and Mr. Julian Gesundheit.

An excellent sit-down supper was organised by Mrs. Press, Mrs. Jacobson and Mrs. Heneck.

The success of the evening was due to the strenuous efforts of Mrs. A. Orman and Mrs. Wise, well known for their organising abilities, and their body of lady helpers. Great praise is due to them for arranging such a successful evening.

