

Zionist Conversazione.

The fortnightly Conversazione was held at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday night.

Dr. J. MIBASHAN was in the chair and paid a tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Benzion Hersch. The audience rose as a mark of respect.

Mr. Z. AVIN delivered a very interesting lecture on Bialik, who, he said, had been not only a great poet, but a many-sided personality. He was a great orator and in his addresses to Jewish communities all over the world he had revealed himself as the comforter and chastiser of his people. He had enriched Jewish life, culture and language. He strove with the Jewish people and chastised them for their faults and shortcomings, but he loved them, and when others sought to chastise them, he extolled them.

The people saw Bialik as a national poet; he was the teacher of the people and did a tremendous amount in improving their cultural standard. He had a deep sense of responsibility for his people. Only half of Bialik can be known from his written works. Orally he was equally great; he possessed a marvellous temperament but squandered many of the wonderful thoughts and ideas with which his mind overflowed so that there is no record of them. He could not suppress them so that they could be written down but had to give vent to them verbally without regard as to who heard and took notice of them.

He wanted Jewish life to be natural and the national life to be rooted in the soil; he served the truth and was never afraid and showed great courage in fighting his opponents.

Bialik preserved many literary treasures for the nation that would otherwise have been lost and the Jewish people will be eternally grateful to him for this.

Bialik produced a wealth of wonderful similes and parables which have enriched the Hebrew language. He also had a fine sense of humour and was very witty on occasions.

Bialik was a unique gift from God to the Jewish people. Only future generations would understand him properly—the present generation stood too close to him. Consolation lay in the fact that the race which produced a Bialik must be a noble and aristocratic one. The words of chastisement can become words of consolation if we take his advice and carry out his behests.

Dr. Mibashan and Messrs. A. Levin, Lipshitz and M. Natas took part in the discussion to which Mr. Avin replied.

Master Kassel (accompanied by Miss Kassel) rendered Jewish songs and Miss Radowsky recitations from Bialik's works.

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them to send men to Palestine and thus help to build up "Am Yisroel be'ertz Yisroel"

The Chairman thanked Mr. Braudo for his very interesting talk and wished him a pleasant voyage, a happy time at Congress and a safe return to Eretz Israel.

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Israel. The pioneers, she said, had done wonders and had been richly rewarded for their labours in the satisfaction of seeing the country growing and developing. She had met many interesting personalities and had found that South Africans were held in very high regard all over Eretz Israel.

Mrs. M. SCHRIRE proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the speakers for their fine addresses.

Zionist Committees meet Mr. L. Braudo.

Committees of local Zionist Societies gathered in the Zionist Hall on Wednesday night to meet Mr. L. Braudo, formerly President of the S.A. Zionist Federation, who left yesterday for Lucerne in the "Giulio Cesare" to attend the forthcoming Zionist Congress and thence on his return to Palestine.

Adv. J. HERBSTEIN was in the chair and said that if had not been for the lamented death of Mr. Benzion Hersch, the evening would have taken a different form. Mr. Braudo had occupied a prominent position in South Africa, and had now attained a position of honour, respect and great affection in Palestine. He was carrying on there the great traditions he had built up in this country. He set an example of unselfish devotion to the cause and lent valuable assistance in turning Palestine into the Jewish National Home. He was glad to welcome him back to South Africa, but realised that it was necessary for him to return to Palestine where he had important work to do and acted as connecting link between South African Zionists and the Yishub.

Mr. L. BRAUDO thanked the Chairman for his warm welcome. Under the shadow of the death of Mr. Hersch, who had been a dear friend, he found it difficult to speak. It was the first time he had the privilege of addressing a Cape Town audience, and it gave him great pleasure to do so. Zionism, he said, had made his life richer and more interesting and he felt it was a privilege to do what he could for the cause. He invited questions from the audience as to conditions in Palestine, and these were put by Messrs. Futeran, Gitlin, Clouts, Weinreich, Laden, Padowitz, Rubik, Herbstein, Dr. Resnekov and Mrs. M. Zuckerman.

In the course of his replies Mr. Braudo gave some very valuable information on conditions in the country and was listened to with great interest. He was going to Congress he said, with an open mind, but hoped that instructions would be given to the South African delegation to use their influence for a coalition Executive on as broad a basis as possible.

With regard to immigration, he thought all Zionists should be satisfied with the way this was proceeding. If it continued at this rate for another few years, it would not be long before we had a Jewish majority. Illegal immigration was not satisfactory. There was enough material in Eastern and Western Europe willing to come in legally. Immigration to-day was not due solely to persecution. Palestine had a prestige of its own. The little we had already created in Palestine was unprecedented in history and should give us pride and dignity in our troubles.

Asked about the disparity between imports and exports. Mr. Braudo said that the exports would gradually rise, and the disparity be reduced. The capital that was flowing into the country was a great factor in lessening the danger from such a disparity. There was greater concentration now on mixed farming so that there would be less need in the future to import the necessities of life.

With regard to the National Funds, Mr. Braudo said they were the basis of all future upbuilding of Palestine. The way, however had been paved for private investment, and he urged the audience to invest money in Palestine not from fear but because of Zionism and patriotism. He also urged

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Bnoth Zion Association.

An "At Home" was held at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday afternoon when Mesdames Herbstein, Marks, Segal and Sloman, who had been delegates to the recent Wizo Conference in Tel-Aviv, were welcomed back on their return to South Africa and gave impressions of the Conference and Palestine.

Mrs. R. MOSOVIC was in the chair and extended a warm welcome on behalf of the Association.

Mrs. R. SLOMAN said that the Wizo Conference had been a great event. Though the organisation had been defective, there was no doubt of the sincerity and single-mindedness of purpose which animated the whole Conference and which was the keynote throughout. They had been received everywhere with cordiality and were very much impressed by the magnificent body of women they had met in Eretz Israel.

Mrs. Sloman went on to speak of the Hachshara (training) and Aliyah (immigration) in various countries, and said that conditions under which there were being carried on, particularly in Poland and Galicia, were very bad. In Palestine the work was well organised and the Beit Hahaluzoth in Haifa was a veritable boon to many girls, who were given motherly advice at every step. As regards certificates, she hoped a larger percentage would be allotted to women, so as to do away with the necessity for fictitious marriages.

Mrs. L. SEGAL spoke on the children of Eretz Israel of whom the Jewish people could be justly proud. Wonderful care was taken of them and she had never seen anywhere healthier or happier children. There was great congestion in the schools owing to the vast immigration and it was very difficult to cope with the problem Mrs. Segal paid a tribute to the "Children's Immigration to Palestine" movement in connection with which Mrs. Levy-Stein had visited South Africa. She had been to Ben Shemen and seen the children at their daily routine and was very much impressed with the way they were being educated to do all kinds of manual work.

In the Kvutzohs the children were brought up under most modern conditions and she repudiated the idea that the parents and children knew very little of one another. There was no more beautiful sight than to see parents and children together when the day's work was done. If the system were introduced all over Eretz Israel there need be no fear for the future of the country.

Mrs. B. HERBSTEIN said that in spite of the fact that it was difficult to follow the proceedings at the Wizo Conference as it was all carried on in Hebrew, there was no doubt as to the sincerity and earnestness of the women delegates. The feeling of each delegate was that it was absolutely essential for her to master Hebrew before the next Conference. A tremendous amount of work had been accomplished. The co-operation of the South African women was very much appreciated, and the South African delegation had benefited a great deal and enriched their knowledge of Wizo work. There was no lack of fine and unselfish women in Eretz Israel; the least we could do in South Africa was to assist them financially to extend their noble work. The great purpose of the Wizo was to help to create a healthy, happy Jewish Homeland and they deserved the thanks of the whole Jewish people.

Mrs. S. MARKS gave an interesting account of some of her experiences in Eretz

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