

Zionist Conversazione.

The last fortnightly conversazione of the season took place at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday night.

Mr. I. OCHBERG, President of the Dorshei Zion Association, was in the chair and despite the tense heat of the day, there was a fair attendance.

Dr. S. E. KARK, on behalf of the Dorshei Zion and the Board of Directors of the "S.A. Jewish Chronicle," extended his very best wishes to Mr. M. S. Comay, the lecturer of the evening, on his forthcoming marriage to Miss Solomon, of Johannesburg. He praised Mr. Comay's work in the Zionist ranks in Cape Town and hoped he would continue to give of his best.

Mr. COMAY chose as his subject "A New Deal for Zionism?" He contended that recent developments in Palestine had been so rapid as to upset all previous notions regarding the upbuilding of the National Home, and the Zionist of to-day was beginning to doubt the very success of the movement. He traced the various motives that had at different periods inspired the Zionist work. Each group approached the Zionist question from its own angle. Each in turn gave its contribution to the development of the Zionist philosophy. Organisation was the means of bringing all the motives into realisation; but even organisation had to keep pace with the progress and be readjusted to meet with altered conditions. New ideas of nationality were evolved in the modern world and these were significant for the Jew. The Zionist organisation, as a piece of machinery, had in the past served a tremendously big function, but its importance was now lessened. It still served, however, as the controlling force of private enterprises and was the international mouthpiece of the Jewish people.

A heated discussion ensued in which Mrs. M. Cohen and Mr. J. Weinreich participated. A presentation of a Golden Book Certificate was made by Dr. C. Resnekov on behalf of the Hebrew Board of Education to Mrs. M. Cohen. Dr. Resnekov spoke of the inception of the Board of Education, emphasising the excellent work done by Mrs. Cohen, its first secretary. It was largely due to Mrs. Cohen's efforts that the Board to-day was recognised for its work by the whole of the Cape area. She had seen a good deal of her work come to fruition, and that was her greatest reward.

Mrs. Cohen, in replying, said that the Board gave the strongest link to Zionism. The child who received a good Hebrew education was prepared for his life as a national Jew. She was pleased that with the Jews their good lived after them and in receiving the Golden Book Certificate thanked all who had appreciated her work.

The news of the week was read and musical items were rendered by Miss Kessel (piano forte soli) and Mr. Basch (violin soli).

A Tribute to Mr. & Mrs. Louis Gradner.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Gradner, the ex-Mayor and Mayoress of Cape Town, were the guests of the non-European communities of the Cape Peninsula at a social and dance held at the City Hall last Thursday evening.

The function was arranged for the purpose of a presentation being made to both Mr. and Mrs. Gradner in the name of the coloured community. There was a very large gathering present, over which Dr. A. Abdurahman, M.P.C., presided.

After a short musical programme, Dr. Abdurahman presented Mrs. Gradner with a diamond wristlet watch and Mr. Gradner with an office inkstand, clock and fountain-pen. The various sections of the non-European community had subscribed to these



gifts, and there were representatives of the Moslem, Indian, Coloured and Native sections among the speakers.

Dr. Abdurahman, in making the presentation, said that the coloured communities had desired to express their appreciation for all that the ex-Mayor and Mayoress had done for them during their term of office. The non-European community was the poorest section of the general community, but however individually poor they were, each had subscribed his or her little mite towards the gifts. Without detracting from the work which previous Mayors had done, he could safely say that, with the exception perhaps of the late Mr. H. Liberman, Mr. Gradner had done more for the non-Europeans than any previous Mayor. The community to which Mr. Gradner belonged should be very proud of his achievements as an occupant of the Van Riebeeck Chair. Not only had Mr. and Mrs. Gradner enhanced their own reputations, but they had added to the prestige of the Jewish community.

Mr. Kay, in the absence of Mr. S. Reagon, expressed the thanks of the whole of the coloured community to Mr. and Mrs. Gradner, and said that the large and representative gathering indicated how much they all appreciated what had been done for them by the ex-Mayor and Mayoress, and he felt that in making the presentation to them, they were in but a small measure expressing their gratitude and thanks for the many services which had been rendered to the coloured community of South Africa.

Dr. I. Abdurahman spoke on behalf of the Moslem community, and said that his people had asked for very little indeed, and in asking for that little they had been pleased to accept a little less. Mr. Gradner was always approachable and considerate, and in many instances they had received from him more than they had asked.

After Mr. Mama had spoken on behalf of the Native community, Mr. Ismail on behalf of the Indian community, and Mr. R. Van der Rose (Teachers' League), the Right Rev. Bishop D. H. Sims paid a warm tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Gradner. He had carefully watched the progress of Mr. Gradner, and he was happy to say that never in his experience had a man in the position occupied

by Mr. Gradner shown such fair-mindedness and created such harmony between all sections of the community, irrespective of race, colour or creed. Mr. Gradner regarded them all as citizens, and as such were treated by him humanly. Mr. and Mrs. Gradner had always sought to better the conditions of that section who appeared to count the least, and whose voice was seldom heard.

Councillors Berman and Nelson also spoke and then Mr. and Mrs. Gradner responded.

Mr. Gradner said that he always preached the doctrine of racial equality. He always recognised the rights as citizens of the non-European community on an equal basis with their fellow European citizens. Coloured communities should demand equal rights. They should discard their inferiority complex. They should organise themselves in such a manner that they need not go cap in hand for right and justice. It would be a happy day in this world and a happier place to live in if all this racial prejudice, all this envy and hatred were dispelled.

Mrs. Gradner said that after her many years of social service she had come to understand and sympathise with the hopes and aspirations of the non-Europeans. Her work for years had been among the poorer classes, and she had done what she could to alleviate the condition in which they lived, and as far as it was in her power to make happier their lives. She would treasure the gift that had been given to her, and if it were possible it would spur her to redouble her efforts among those people whose representatives that evening had spoken so eloquently of her husband's and her work.

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