

Zionist Conversazione.

ADDRESS BY

Adv. J. HERBSTEIN.

The fortnightly Conversazione took place at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday night.

Dr. I. M. Hurwitz was in the chair.

Adv. J. Herbstein delivered an interesting address on "The background of our present problems." All over the world today, he said, Jews were faced by the same problem of anti-Semitism. In South Africa the problem was growing larger, but it would not admit of a local solution. In order to understand the problem in its entirety we must have a proper conception of the historical background.

Before the French Revolution, the Jewish world lay in a small compass, and was confined within the four walls of the Ghetto, where the Jew lived a full Jewish life. With the coming of the Revolution, the Ghetto walls were broken down and the Jews were catapulted into a new and strange world. They were granted full public and civic rights in France, but this was only a paper gift unaccompanied by any warmth of feeling. The rest of Europe, except Russia, was also influenced by liberal ideas.

The most important years for European Jewry were from 1880-1890. They acquired complete civic liberty but the result was that many turned away from Judaism and the doctrine of assimilation began to be preached. Particularly in Germany anti-Semitism began to spring up and an Anti-Semitic League was formed in 1880; for the first time the Jew was placed on the dissecting table. The process of conscious assimilation amounting to race suicide, grew in Germany and to a large extent colours the whole of the present problem.

In Russia the Cheveve Zion movement arose from the feeling among the younger Jews that salvation would come from their own desire to live a normal life as a nation. The Bund movement also sprang up amongst those who thought the destiny of the Jews was bound up with that of Russia. Owing to the powerful Anti-Semitism and the pogroms the movement of mass emigration from Russia began.

With the War, other problems arose. The Jews were granted the doubtful blessing of minority rights. Russian Jewry, that tremendous reservoir of strength disappeared and countries like Poland celebrated the return of their freedom by persecuting the Jews.

After the War, said Mr. Herbstein, there was the birth of a new form of anti-Semitism. Economic conditions made the position worse, but were not solely responsible for this. Anti-Semitism was chiefly due to the inborn hatred of the Jews, and this was true in South Africa as elsewhere. The remedy cannot be local and cannot be solved by legislation.

(Continued in Second Column).

First Hebrew Talkie Shown in Johannesburg.

MR. N. KIRCHNER'S APPEAL.

The first Hebrew talkie, "This is the Land," was shown in Johannesburg on Sunday morning at a special pre-view attended by Keren Kayemeth Campaign workers. The film, which shows fifty years of achievement in Palestine from the Bilu pioneers to the present day, made a deep impression.

Afterwards Mr. N. Kirschner briefly addressed the gathering, saying that the film

showed more vividly than he could tell the vast reconstructive work in the Yishuv. In face of the present situation all effort was needed to strengthen and enlarge and carry on the redemption of the land and the people of Israel. Once more the call had come to rally to the help of the Yishuv in acquiring new stretches of land through the Keren Kayemeth and he had no doubt South African Jewry would respond with its usual munificence.

Magnificent Concert in Aid of J.N.F.

MISCHEL CHERNIAVSKY'S FINE GESTURE.

The huge audience which filled the Zionist Hall on Wednesday night showed in no uncertain manner their deep appreciation of the fine gesture of Mischel Cherniavsky, the famous 'cellist, in giving a concert in aid of the J.N.F. There was hardly a vacant seat, and every item on the programme was received with tremendous applause and an atmosphere of warmth and enthusiasm prevailed throughout.

The programme arranged by Mr. Cherniavsky himself was a magnificent one, and the concert will long live in the memory of those who were privileged to be present.

Mr. Cherniavsky played Boccherini's "Sonata" and "Rondo," Bruch's "Kol Nidrei," Popper's "Hungarian Rhapsody," Bloch's "Prayer," Mozkowski's "Guitare," and finally his own composition "Freilichs" (Jewish Dance). In each item he revealed amazing virtuosity. The beauty of tone, faultless technique and subtle phrasing were a revelation.

He played with deep feeling and poetic insight and showed himself a brilliant master of his art. Cape Town has never heard

a finer 'cellist. Mr. Cherniavsky received a great ovation, the Kol Nidrei in particular creating a veritable furore.

Mr. José Rodriguez Lopez, who made his first appearance in Cape Town at this concert, is a most sympathetic accompanist and a brilliant soloist. His playing of Beethoven's "Sonata Pathetique" was a magnificent performance and left nothing to be desired. In the second half of the programme he played Chopin's Valse in C minor and Mendelssohn's Scherzo, with rare delicacy of feeling and the sure touch of the virtuoso.

Madame Rosita Sylvestri, who needs no introduction to Cape Town audiences, was in excellent form and her beautiful voice has never been heard to better advantage; her renderings from "Aida," "Cavalleria Rusticana," "Madame Butterfly" and "Manon" were most enthusiastically received, and she was recalled time after time.

Dr. H. W. Altschul, on behalf of the Jewish National Fund, expressed gratitude to Mr. Cherniavsky, Mr. Lopez and Madame Sylvestri for so generously giving the gift of their talents for this great cause.

(Continued from First Column).

Anti-Semitism, said Mr. Herbstein in conclusion, is a world disease and requires a world remedy: the resurrection of our own self-respect and the restoration of ourselves to the family of nations from which we have been expelled for so long and the rebuilding of our national home in Eretz Israel.

Messrs. G. Gordon, Kotlowitz and B. L. Rubik took part in the discussion to which Mr. Herbstein replied.

Miss Rabinowitz rendered a pianoforte solo and Mr. Levi (accompanied by Mr. Roos) a violin solo.

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The J.N.F. Campaign.

RABBI GOLDMAN TO ASSIST
RABBI BERLIN.

Cabled advice has been received from Jerusalem by the S.A. Zionist Federation that arrangements have been completed by which Rabbi Solomon Goldman will shortly leave America for South Africa with a view to assisting Rabbi Meir Berlin in connection with the forthcoming J.N.F. campaign.

Rabbi Goldman is a leading American intellectual; he is the author of a number of well-known books, amongst them one on the life and philosophy of Maimonides. His weekly classes in Jewish history attended by regular audiences of about 3,000, are a fine tribute to his oratory and great learning.

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