

NEW ZIONIST ORGANISATION (REVISIONISTS)

Address by Mr. S. Y. Jacobi.

THERE was a large attendance at the Elgin Hotel, Johannesburg, on Sunday evening, when Mr. S. Y. Jacobi, who has been on a flying visit to South Africa, gave a lecture on the New Zionist Organisation, under the auspices of the local branch of that Organisation.

Mr. I. E. Judes, who was in the chair, remarked that they welcomed the opportunity of having an authoritative statement on the new organisation: they all knew the unfriendly attitude towards the Revisionist Party of the official Zionist press in the country, which, at times stepped beyond the lines of fair comment.

Mr. Jacobi recalled that it was just over four years ago that he had addressed a public meeting in Johannesburg. He proceeded to review the achievements in Zionism during the last fifteen years. Politically, there had been a great retrogression. The Zionist ideal of a Jewish state, which had been acknowledged by non-Jewish statesmen and the press in 1919, had now been completely whittled down. Weizmann had said that we did not want a Jewish majority in Palestine. There had been talk of a bi-national state. Further, Transjordan had during this period been exempted from the operation of the Mandate. He laid the blame on the Zionist leadership for having acquiesced in this whittling down of the "State" idea. There was now a further danger that at any moment Great Britain might seek to "crystallise" the Jewish National Home in its present form.

Speaking of the economic situation in Palestine, Mr. Jacobi said there was no real prosperity but inflation. He quoted figures of the very large adverse trade balance in Palestine. All the building activity was deceptive. The factories were now being closed down, because they were not protected by tariffs. There was further too great a proportion of capitalists among the immigrants. "We are building on sand," Mr. Jacobi declared.

In dealing with the internal position of Palestine, Mr. Jacobi declared that the right of immigration was controlled by the Socialists in their own interests, who were excluding persons of different political sympathies. An atmosphere of hatred had been created by the dominant Party against the others. Further, the doctrine of the class warfare was being fostered by the influences of this attitude of the Socialists. The speaker referred to the Arlosoroff trial and its subsequent developments.

The Revisionists held the Executive responsible for the weakening of the political situation, because it had not sufficiently insisted on Jewish rights and had itself repudiated the idea of a Jewish state. In place of the private diplomacy of the Executive, the Revisionists demanded mass political action, hence they had sponsored the petition idea. The Executive had sought to force the Revisionists to accept every one of its decisions by the Discipline Clause of the Shekel. The Revisionists had pleaded with the Executive to alter its economic policy and to introduce a planned economy, but to no purpose.

So for many years they had fought for the adoption of their principles, hoping that eventually these would be accepted. But it gradually became clear that however just their demands might be, they could never get their policy enforced within the Zionist Organisation. The Organisation desired to get rid of them and found a way to do so through the Discipline Clause of the Shekel. When that Clause was accepted by the Actions Committee, the Revisionists had two alternatives—of either remaining within the Organisation bound hand and foot, or of leaving it and creating an Organisation for themselves. They chose the second alternative.

Mr. Jacobi proceeded to deal with the recent Congress of the New Zionist Organisation. They had decided to continue the policy of mass political action. They had also decided to send an economic commission to Palestine, which should make recommendations how to increase its absorptive capacity and to enable a Jewish majority to be created within ten years.

After several questions had been asked and answered, Mr. J. B. Shacksnovis proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Jacobi and the meeting terminated with the singing of "Hatikvah."

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"CHUG IVRI" GENERAL MEETING.

At the general meeting on the 9th inst., the following were elected: Chairman, Rabbi I. M. Gervis; Treasurer, Mr. Beinisch; secretary, Miss Z. Factor. Committee: Messrs. J. Rubik, H. Kaplan, M. Burgin and J. Dumas. Suggestions were made for the reorganisation of the Circle. The committee has worked out a programme of work. All those that have in their possession Hebrew books from the library are requested to return them on any Saturday night at the Hebrew High School.

"HECHALUTZ" (Johannesburg).

A grand picnic will be held on Sunday, the 17th inst., at Swartkop. All meet at the H.O.D. Hall at 8 a.m. A special lorry is taking the Zionist Youth from all along the Reef to Johannesburg.

Mr. H. Arbeter will introduce the debate at the Hechalutz Hall on the 19th inst., on "Will Palestine solve the Jewish Problem?" Mr. P. Rostovsky will conduct a debate at the Hechalutz Hall on the 21st inst. on "What the World Zionist Executive has achieved in the year 1934." Mr. J. Batnitsky, who is well-known in Zionist circles, will deliver a lecture at the Hechalutz Hall on the 24th inst. on J. Ch. Brenner. All are cordially invited.

On Sunday, 1st December, a "Living Newspaper" will be held at the Hechalutz Hall. Members and sympathisers are invited to send in articles and humorous sketches to the secretary, P.O. Box 6239, Johannesburg.

AN ARGENTINE ORCHESTRA.

On Sunday evening, the 17th inst., an interesting event will take place in Johannesburg. For the first time in South Africa there will appear Julio Della Rosa and his Argentine Gaucho Orchestra, who have been engaged to play regularly at the Corner Lounge tea rooms.

The cafe will be crowded on this occasion and is likely to be equally crowded during the whole of the season in which Rosa and his orchestra will be performing, for the players have come here with a great reputation, built up in South America. The engagement of the orchestra is an unique one for this country and has been accomplished at great expense.

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