

Dearth of Suitable Hebrew Teachers SERIOUS SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA DISCUSSED

At a special meeting of the Council held at the Board Room on Monday evening last, Mr. Alexander Lewin presented an exhaustive report on the state of Jewish education in the country in the communities he had visited during the last six months.

A large number of communities were too small to be able to maintain a shochet-teacher. A large number of these, however, which did employ such an official, were unable to offer a salary which would attract a competent man. Even those few communities who were able to offer a living wage found it even more difficult to secure suitable individuals.

As a result of the Quota Act the number of competent teachers and shochetim who reach these shores in the last few years had been greatly decreased,

and the finding of suitable teachers and shochetim was becoming more difficult from day to day.

A grave situation had thus arisen. With the best organisation in the world the Board could not carry out its work effectively without competent teachers. The most urgent and immediate function of the Board was thus to evolve a scheme for the training of teachers and shochetim locally.

South African Jewry had reached a stage where it must become independent of other countries in the matter of providing its teachers and its shochetim.

Mr. Lewin also touched upon the idea for the establishment of a Jewish hostel and a number of other matters affecting the education of Jewish children in remote and dispersed parts of the country where no teacher could be employed.

The report of Mr. Lewin was followed by a lengthy discussion, in the course of which various proposals were made as to how to grapple with the various problems.

A special sub-committee, headed by Rabbi I. Kossowsky, was then formed for the purpose of going into the matter fully and evolving a definite scheme for the supply of teachers and shochetim.

The Director's Tour.

The Director returned last week from a tour through the country, in the course of which he visited Kimberley and Bloemfontein. In Kimberley, where he arrived on Sunday, September 20th, he carried out the annual examination of the school in the morning, and in the afternoon met the committee, together with a number of other prominent members of the community, whom he addressed on various problems affecting Jewish education in the country.

The same evening he addressed a large gathering at the Communal Hall, under the chairmanship of Dr. Zweiback, President of the Congregation. His address, which was listened to with close attention, was followed by a number of questions from the audience.

In Bloemfontein, Mr. Mierowsky spent three days, where he carried out an exhaustive examination of the school. One evening he attended an H.O.D. Lodge meeting, in the course of which he addressed the gathering at some length on a number of present-day Jewish problems.

Fifth Annual Habonim Camp FOUR FULL WEEKS AT THE SEA.

The approaching of summer brings forth the thought of a holiday—especially amongst children. In this connection the announcement, which will be found in another section of this issue, of the preparations being made in the holding of the Fifth Annual Habonim Camp, will be read with interest. The Camp, which will be held at Summerstrand, Port Elizabeth, offers members of Habonim four full weeks of glorious holidaying by the sea. Sun, fresh air, swimming, hikes and picnics by day, camp-fires, sing-songs, lectures and debates at night—these are only a few of the attractions the Habonim holiday camp offers its members.

Fees are extremely moderate and include railway-fare while the utmost attention is paid to the health and welfare of the campers. A splendid camp site, excellent and abundant food, medical and nursing services for those in need of them, a fully-equipped hospital tent—these are some of the factors responsible for giving the Habonim holiday camps the high reputation they enjoy with the Jewish community.

The camp life introduces the children to communal life. Two or three hundred children live together as one large family and learn the important lesson of sacrificing individual interest for the common good.

TWO ZIONIST YOUTH CAMPS AND SUMMER SCHOOLS.

(1)

(2)

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Resort,
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KROONSTAD.

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FEES: £3 10s. (3 weeks); £1 (week-end Dec. 25-27).

Full particulars from:

Eastern Province Zionist Youth, 6 Northwood Road, Port Elizabeth, or from Transvaal Z.Y.E., 30 Progress Buildings, Johannesburg. Phone 22-6821.

Pietersburg-Zoutpansberg Zionist Society

A CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR DISTRICT RECOMMENDED.

The annual general meeting of the above society was held in the communal hall on Sunday, the 20th ult. Mr. M. Freidel was in the chair. The treasurer, Mr. J. Hirschmann, read a statement of revenue and expenditure.

Mr. Freidel then reviewed the Jewish position during the past year. He first rendered tribute to the late Nahum Sokolow and the victims of the present strike in Palestine; all members present standing as a mark of respect. He felt that the real aim of the strike was to upset the Balfour Declaration, which was being maintained by the British Government with a firm hand.

Turning to local activities the chairman stated that the recent Keren Hayesod campaign had broken all records, thanks to the energetic activities of the chairman of the campaign, Mr. J. Hirschmann. He regretted the resignation during the year of Mr. H. Manaschewitz, the past chairman, who for so many years had helped to build up and to maintain Zionism in the Northern Transvaal.

Mr. Freidel added that Zionist activities were not being harmoniously carried on locally, and after thanking his committee for their support during the year, he asked for suggestions for united work in the future.

Mr. J. Hirschmann said the success of the recent campaign was due partly to increased contributions from the districts and to the visit of Rabbi Schwartz, who had canvassed individuals and who held several meetings in the district.

Mr. M. H. Cohen congratulated Mr. Freidel on the society's activities and regretted the absence of members of the Youth Society at the meeting. He recommended to the incoming committee that a sub-committee be formed to meet representatives of the Ladies and Youth societies with a view to the establishment of a central council or some other suitable body. This was seconded by Mr. B. Herman. Rev. J. I. Levine, Messrs. I. Brenner and B. Levy also took part in the discussion.

The following honorary officers were elected for the ensuing year: Chairman, Mr. M. Freidel; vice-chairman, Mr. J. Hirschmann; hon. lady vice-chairman, Mrs. B. Palte; acting lady vice-chairman, Mrs. M. Levi; Treasurer, Mr. B. Levi; secretary, Mr. H. B. Greenberg. Committee: Mesdames B. Herman, H. Manaschewitz, I. Brenner, and Misses J. Bernstein and M. Worms; Rev. Levine, Messrs. M. H. Cohen, B. Herman, M. Brenner, Dr. Hack, and S. Worms.

JEWISH GUILD (Johannesburg).

On Sunday, the 18th inst., at 8.30 p.m., a Cabaret will be held. Charlie Berman's personal band will supply the music, and an enjoyable evening is assured. Members are requested to book as soon as possible.

The dates of presentation arranged for the next production of the Jewish Guild Dramatic Section, "Ambrose Applejohn's Adventure," the well-known comedy by Walter Hackett, originally arranged for Sundays, 18th and 25th October, have been changed to 8th and 15th November. The producer is Mr. Emanuel Nathan.

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