

Mizrachi's Fine Effort For The Keren Hayesod

BRILLIANT FUNCTION IN THE CITY

The response to the appeal on behalf of the Keren Hayesod made at a reception given by the Mizrachi Organisation last Saturday night at the Jewish Guild, in honour of Rabbi Wolf Gold, Mrs. Rosa Ginzberg and Dr. Max Soloweitschik, was both spontaneous and generous. Towards the conclusion of the function a handsome sum was announced as the contributions of members present, and there is every justification for believing that when the canvass among other members, which is now taking place, is concluded, the Mizrachi will be able to boast of a record contribution towards the fund.

The large gathering which attended the reception, was deeply affected by the news received the previous night from Palestine, of the death of Abraham Katz. Abraham Katz had spent a number of years in South Africa, where he had been very active in the Young Mizrachi movement. He had died as the result of wounds received during an attack on the colony of Hanita.

Tributes to the memory of Abraham Katz were paid by all the speakers, and the audience was visibly moved, many being unable to refrain from weeping.

MANY references were also made to the execution during the week of Shlomo Ben Joseph, and sorrow and indignation were expressed at the carrying out of the harsh sentence on this youth.

MR. A. SMITH, chairman of the Mizrachi Organisation, presided, and at the outset asked the gathering to rise as a tribute to the two deceased.

Referring to the objects of the function that night, he said that the Keren Hayesod was the life blood, as it were, of the Yishuv, and it behoved all elements in the Zionist movement, among whom were included the Mizrachi, to assist it in its great tasks.

RABBI I. KOSSOWSKY emphasised that the greater the support the Mizrachi gave to the Keren Hayesod, the better would they be able to carry out their own specific work in Eretz Israel.

MR. N. KIRSCHNER, chairman of the S.A. Zionist Federation, said that in work such as the building up of Eretz Israel we had to be prepared for hardships and sorrow. The only answer we could give to the tragedies that had befallen us during the last week was to carry on the work with even greater determination than hitherto.

"A New Link"

DR. SOLOWEITSCHIK said that the sorrow occasioned by the death of Abraham Katz had created a new link between South African Jewry and the Yishuv.

In Palestine during the last two years many lives had been sacrificed. But in Palestine it was easier to bear the sorrow which this gave rise to than it was in South Africa, because there they were able to see the achievements

that had been born of those sacrifices. This privilege was denied the Jews in South Africa. The work being done in Palestine was worth all the sacrifices that were being made.

Within the last two years new Jewish settlements had been established — settlements which were as yet little more than military outposts. Young men and women colonised these places, guarding not only the Yishuv but also keeping watch for those who were yet to come. They knew that their lives were in danger, yet they undertook this work as part of their lot. All work in Palestine was holy and all had to take their share of it. Only in this way was it possible for the Jewish people to normalise itself.

The Duty of the Diaspora

RABBI GOLD, in an impassioned speech, said that the Mizrachi believed in building up Eretz Israel according to the principles of Judaism. At the same time they believed implicitly in the necessity for physical work in this great task.

Abraham Katz had combined within himself the two main principles of the Hapoel Hamizrachi—Torah ve-avodah. There were many like him in Palestine who did not hesitate to give up their lives for Zion; who read their *Krishna* in the spirit as well as in the letter, and who truly served God with all their heart and with all their soul. The Jews of the Diaspora were not prepared to sacrifice their lives in the upbuilding of Palestine; it devolved upon them to help in the work with their financial contributions.

A Normal Development

MRS. GINZBERG, who spoke in Hebrew, said that the young men and women who "went up" to guard the new settlements in Palestine, knowing that their lives were in danger, considered this as the most natural thing to do. It was merely part of their normal development and it never occurred to them that they were doing anything that might be called heroic.

In the same way the parents regarded this development as natural. Mothers realised that their lives in Palestine had to be different from what they had

been in their former homes, and they inculcated in their children a love for the land and the knowledge that they had to participate in its redemption.

DURING the evening two films, depicting the establishment of Hanita and Tirath Zvi, were shown. A number of songs rendered by Cantor B. Chagy, accompanied by Mr. Hyman Sachs, were received with great enthusiasm.

Jews And Modern Democracy

SPEAKING at Cape Town, Prof.

H. J. Mandelbrote, Professor of History at the University of Cape Town, said that true democracy was an association of equals for the promotion of the common good with due regard to the rise of each individual.

As long as the Jew did not let his "Jewishness" prevent him from co-operating wholeheartedly with non-Jews, he was entitled to be regarded solely as an individual and not as a Jew. Those who complained that there were too many Jews in the professions, too many in commerce, too many Jews altogether, did not seem to realise that these views were inconsistent with the democratic ideology. They still thought of the State in terms of the groups or classes and not of the individual.

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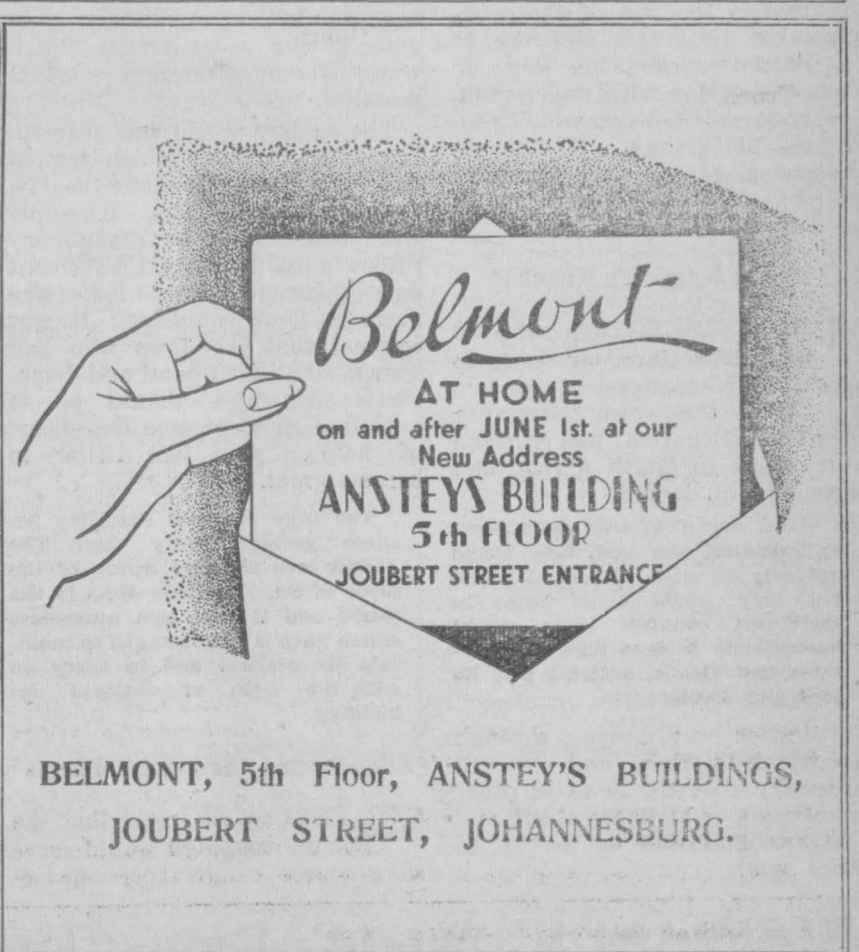
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