

A PROTEST AGAINST THE ATTACK ON MR. CECIL LYONS

To the Editor of "The Zionist Record"

LAST week a Jewish party organ published an attack (part of which found its way into a Sunday newspaper) upon the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, and singled out the chairman, Mr. Cecil Lyons, for a bitter onslaught.

Without taking into account the unfounded nature of the allegations made, we, as Mr. Lyons' colleagues on the Executive Council of the Board, cannot pass the matter by without placing on record our utter reprobation of the unbridled and insolent attack made upon him. Mr. Lyons enjoys the esteem and confidence not only of his colleagues, but of the whole Jewish community, who are deeply appreciative of his untiring and self-denying services to the Jewish cause and who will fully share our resentment.

Moreover, we deeply deplore the fact that — particularly in these difficult days for Jewry — there have been introduced into this as well as into other criticisms which have recently emanated from the same quarter, a tone and a language calculated not only to lower the standards of Jewish public life, but also to injure the good name of the entire Jewish community.

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- M. Nestadt
- H. Sonnabend
- M. C. Weiler

Members of the Executive Council of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies.

November 23, 1938.

The Mayoral Services at Benoni

LARGE AUDIENCE AT LOCAL SYNAGOGUE

THE Benoni Synagogue was packed on Sunday afternoon when a large audience assembled there to be present at the customary Mayoral Service.

The Mayor and Mayoress, Mr. and Mrs. M. Nestadt, walked from the Town Hall to the Synagogue at the head of a procession of Town Councillors (in the red and purple gowns of their office) ex-Mayors and Mayoresses of Benoni, and the chief citizens of the neighbouring Reef Towns.

On his arrival at the Synagogue the Mayor inspected a guard of honour composed of the Ex-servicemen's League, the V.A.D., the Naval Brigade, the Fire Brigade, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides.

All present were deeply moved by the prayer of Chief Rabbi, Dr. J. L. Landau, by his eloquence and his grief, as he appealed for a cessation of the suffering and humiliations of the people of Israel. In his prayer for the Royal Family he begged for Divine guidance and protection for all rulers, states and cities which followed the paths of righteousness and justice.

Rev. Shrock, in a thoughtful and stimulating sermon showed that peace, justice and truth were the three basic pillars of society, the absence of any of which meant decay and death. The Nazi ideology of lies and slander, he pointed out, was an attack, not only on Jews, but also on all that civilisation had built up. His tribute to the Voortrekkers whose centenary is now being celebrated, was one of sincerity and admiration for a tradition of strong religious conviction and devotion to freedom and tolerance.

The very beautiful choral service was led by Cantor Mandel, of Benoni, assisted by the Wolmarans Street choir.



MR. M. NESTADT

SENEKAL

AT the general meeting of the Senekal Zionist Society held on the 7th November at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. Greenman, the following Committee was elected for the ensuing session:— Chairman, Mr. A. Zaltzman; Vice Chairman, Mr. M. Muller; Secretary, Mrs. I. Feitelberg; Committee: Mesdames B. Bricher, H. Duchon, E. Schmaman and Mr. and Mrs. I. Greenman.

The Plaza Concert

ARTISTS HELP THE NATIONAL FUND

The members of the Parkview Branch of the Women's Zionist League must have worked valiantly in order to secure the large audience at the Plaza Theatre on Sunday night last, when a concert was held in aid of the Jewish National Fund. There was also an excellently printed programme with announcements of firms who showed their goodwill towards the worthy object. This entailed a considerable amount of work and credit is due to all concerned for the success of the function.

In regard to the concert itself, there can be no doubt of the high quality of the fare supplied. Unfortunately there was a strange mixture on the programme. Organisers of charity concerts must realise that it is unwise to mix classic music with jazz or farce with subtle art. The well-known Yiddish artists all did well in their particular line although it was not quite of concert platform kind. The delicate singing art of Mdme. Juliette Schonfrucht or the violin art of Mr. Jerry Shulman is hardly compatible with the music-hall work presented by professional players of the daily theatre.

An excellent impression was made by Mr. Arthur Robinson — a newcomer who sang operatic arias in a finished style. He is the possessor of a delightful lyric tenor voice and it is hoped that he will be heard more often on the concert platform in Johannesburg. Mdme. Schonfrucht demonstrated the possession of fine artistry in her rendering of two exquisite songs. She is a finished artiste to whom it is a pleasure to listen. Miss Freda Gross also sang delightfully.

Margaret Williams, Jerry Shulman and Rube Goldberg were applauded heartily for fine trio work. The Lisbon Gypsy Orchestra (which had been loaned by the O.K. Bazaars) brought the programme to an end.



LEOPOLD GODOWSKY DIES

A Great Musician

The news, just announced, of the death of Leopold Godowsky, the distinguished pianist, who passed away at New York on Tuesday, will be learnt with deep sorrow by music-lovers in many parts of the world.

AN APPRECIATION

To-day, when this tragic time of persecution for Jewry is destroying some of the finest Jewish talent in Central Europe, the loss of any of our distinguished sons in the more enlightened countries tends to be overshadowed by the greater national calamity confronting us. Nevertheless, Godowsky's absence from the concert platform will be keenly felt by his vast audiences and numerous admirers.

One of the last "big pianists" of the 19th century, Godowsky was born in February 1870, in Vilna. Vilna was known as the "Jerusalem of Lithuania." It was the home of Jewish learning and old tradition more particularly so from the time of the 'gaon.' And in this typically Jewish atmosphere Godowsky spent his childhood.

Vilna was also a city of no mean musical life. The Opera, Symphony and College of music succeeded in giving to the world such violinists as Michael Press and Heifetz. Godowsky gave evidence of his musical gifts at an early age and after studying in Germany he toured the United States at the age of 14. His constant travelling prevented him from attending any conservatoire, and as a musician he was practically self-taught.

The possessor of a magnificently brilliant technique, as well as the master of tone-gradation and an exquisite touch, Godowsky used to give some amazing performances of the Chopin studies which he himself arranged. He was also a prolific composer, for apart from many transcriptions he composed piano pieces and orchestral suites, some of the latter gaining a wide popularity in America. As a pedagogue he ranked among the world's best. From 1909 to 1912 he occupied the position of director of the Piano Master School in Vienna.

But it was chiefly in America that he gave pianoforte tuition and he taught in Philadelphia, Chicago and New York.

The musical world and the Jewish in particular will be all the poorer for the loss of this great artist.

J.I.

THIRD PIANOFORTE RECITAL

The Third of the three annual concerts of the Isador Epstein Pianoforte School will take place on Wednesday November 30th, at the Selborne Hall, at 8.15 p.m. The performances will be by the intermediate and junior pupils. Invitations for the recital will be sent on application to 59 Hillbrow Street, Berea, Johannesburg.

BREYTEN

Under the auspices of the local Zionist Society, a card evening was held at the residence of Mrs. Hyman Schneir, on Sunday evening, November 13th. The sum of £8 9s. 3d. was realised in aid of the society's funds, and a further sum of £1 13s. was collected in aid of Austrian and Czech refugees.

Over 30 members and visitors from Ermelo and Carolina were present, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

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