

Scopus Club.

LECTURE BY Mr. I. M.
GOODMAN.

Mr. I. M. Goodman gave an interesting lecture on "The Jew in South Africa and the South African Jew" at a meeting of the Scopus Club at the Zionist Hall on Wednesday night.

Adv. G. Gordon was in the chair.

Mr. Goodman said that in order to understand any people it was important to know their past experience and environment, and he proceeded to give an account of the history of the last century in Europe as it affected the Jew. Africa was the cradle of the Jewish race and Jews had played a big part in the development of South Africa.

The first Jewish congregation was established in Cape Town in 1841 and in Johannesburg in 1887. In the onward march of the Jew in South Africa the pivotal point was the congregation and the synagogue. Every type of Jew foregathered in the synagogue which offered him spiritual anchorage. The Jewish People had survived, because of their adherence to their faith, and as long as they continued to adhere to it so long would they remain a separate people even if they were scattered all over the face of the earth.

The South African Jew.

Dealing with the present generation of South African Jew, Mr. Goodman said that they had been well-educated often at considerable sacrifice on the part of their parents, and they had done well as students, but they played no part either in Jewish communal life or in general public activity. In Jewish institutions their names were conspicuous by their absence. They had the leisure and means to add to the prestige of their people, but were doing nothing in this direction. They made no contribution to public life and the fostering of a national and civic pride was neglected by the South African Jew. By taking part in the general life the Jew would win sympathy from his critics.

The Afrikaans speaking South African did not know the Jew. It would be a good thing if some of them could be taken to Palestine and shown what Jews were capable of doing—that they could be productive in the best sense of the word.

As regards the Scopus Club, Mr. Goodman said there was a great deal it could do outside Zionism. It could for instance help in the creation of a Jewish historical society which at present was non-existent.

In conclusion, Mr. Goodman said South African Jew must realise that the solution of the Jewish problem was not dissolution but more Judaism. But at the same time he must contribute his fair share to the spiritual and cultural life of the country as a whole. If he is to continue to exist he must be more assertive of his Jewishness and his South Africanism.

Adv. M. Alexander, K.C., M.P., said that Jews had contributed a great deal to the upbuilding of South Africa. He agreed that in spite of the attachment to the National Home, Jews must do their duty to South Africa and take a greater interest in Afrikaans culture. In many small communities, where there was no synagogue the Zionist Society was the centre of communal life, and kept the people together.

(Continued in Third Column).

Zionist Socialist Party Oppose Partition.

RESOLUTION AT PUBLIC
MEETING.

The following resolution was adopted unanimously at a public meeting under the auspices of the Zionist Socialist Party held at the Zionist Hall on Sunday night:—

"This representative mass meeting cannot listen to the vital and malignant question of partition without expressing its most emphatic indignation at the Royal Commission's plan to divide Palestine. Palestine was partitioned already by the Churchill White Paper cutting off Trans-Jordan; any further attempt to subdivide or to limit immigration facilities will be most vigorously condemned by the great Jewish masses the world over to whom Palestine is the only hope and means of salvation. We call upon South African Jewry to raise its cry of deep disappointment and bitter protest in unison with world Jewry."

Mr. B. Padowich in dealing with the Partition scheme, referred to the various commissions which had visited Palestine; their reports had all been unfavourable to the Jews, and the development of the country proved that their conclusions were wrong. The Report of the Royal Commission paid a tribute to Jewish achievements and seemed to show sympathy with the Jewish position, but their conclusions could never be accepted. By partition the Jews would receive only one-fifth of the country, with mountains on the other side of the boundary. They would be open to attack and their position would be insecure.

The Jewish people must be made to understand the danger and should not be deceived by the mirage of a Jewish State. They must not fear that if they refused partition, other dangers were in store for them. Jews had overcome many dangers and would survive this also. If the Jewish People were strong and united they would give the death blow to the Partition scheme.

Mr. G. Gitlin dealing with Congress problems concentrated on the Arab question in Palestine, which, he said would have to concern Congress whether Partition was accepted or not. The question was not easy, but a great deal could be achieved through co-operation. The Histadrut had made many successful attempts in this direction; they had established the League of Workers, a General Labour Club, and published a newspaper in Arabic which had tremendous implications and possibilities. Unfortunately many attempts at co-operation were frustrated by the Government, and even by Jews themselves who had no understanding of the problem. A definite programme of co-operation must be embarked on for the future. In the schools, too, children should be brought up to understand each other and thus a new generation would grow up which would work together as a peaceful co-operating unit.

Mr. Z. Avin spoke on the Immigration problem and said this would be the most important problem in Palestine for years

(Continued in Third Column).

Nationalist Party and the Jews.

QUOTA SYSTEM
ADVOCATED.

At a meeting of the Cape Nationalist Party in the Malmesbury Town Hall on Tuesday night, addressed by Dr. Karl Bremer, M.P. and Mr. F. C. Erasmus, M.P., Mr. L. T. Weichardt, the Grey-shirt leader, asked Mr. Erasmus if the Nationalist Party would allow a Jew to become a member of Parliament. Mr. Erasmus replied that, under the present law, a Jew could occupy any public position. The Nationalist Party was, however, considering the imposition of a quota in respect of various professions.

Mr. Weichardt: You are, therefore, in favour of a Jew being allowed to go to Parliament?

Mr. Erasmus: I shall not prevent him, but under a quota system Jews would have to occupy public positions in relation to their numbers.

(Continued from First Column).

He hoped the younger generation would realise their responsibilities and take full part in communal life.

Adv. M. S. Comay said that for many a young Jew to-day who was bewildered by the present state of affairs, a return to Judaism could have reality only if it were connected with the constructive work of building up a national home where the Jew could be free and independent. Zionism could offer something in lieu of traditional Judaism, and could win more respect for the Jew from the outside world.

Miss H. Oblovitz rendered a recitation and Miss H. Schwalbe a pianoforte solo.

An election took place to fill a vacancy on the Committee and Dr. Felix Gross was elected.

(Continued from Second Column).

to come. The economical question no longer played any part in the complaints of the Arabs against the Jews; it had been proved conclusively that the Jews far from doing harm to the Arabs, were benefiting them economically. To-day the charge against the Jews was that they were becoming numerous. Unless all development were stopped in Palestine, there must be immigration. To-day the position was such that the fate of Palestine depended on the next five years; Jewish immigration must continue at the same tempo as in 1934-'35; but there was no idea of exploitation or domination of the Arabs. There had never been any attempt at co-operation on the part of the Arabs.

Partition was an insult to the Jewish People, but with a strong united will this would be overcome. The world must be shown the justice of the Jewish Cause.

Mr. Ch. Achron was in the chair.

BARMITZVAH.

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