

Bnoth Zion Association Meeting.

RESOLUTION AGAINST PARTITION.

Mrs. R. Movsovic presided at a meeting of the Bnoth Zion held at the Zionist Hall last Monday afternoon.

Mrs. Clouts proposed that the members of the Bnoth Zion Association support the protest of S.A. Zionists against the proposed partition of Palestine. She felt that Zionists could not support the basic reason for the Commission's report that Arabs and Jews could not live in peace in Palestine. She wished to protest against any negotiation on the part of Zionist leaders on the recommendations of the report.

Mrs. Epstein seconded the resolution of protest as enunciated by the S.A. Women's Zionist Council.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

Mrs. Movsovic emphasised that the work for the upbuilding of Palestine must continue.

Mrs. Winokur conveyed the best wishes of the meeting to delegates to the Zionist Conference and hoped that the deliberations would be fruitful and successful.

Adv. Gordon spoke on "Problems before Congress." He concentrated on the question of partition. The Basle programme had in the past been subjected to a number of attacks, but still stood for the upbuilding of a Jewish Homeland in Palestine. Zionism was older than the Balfour Declaration and could never visualise only the erection of an asylum for Jews. Great Britain owed a duty not only to the Jews in Palestine but to the Jews of the Diaspora. Public opinion was the greatest force the Jewish people had in their support and Mr. Gordon felt confident that the public opinion of world powers would result in a successful fight at the Mandates Commission Session.

A lively discussion followed in which the following participated: Mesdames Sterner, Movsovic, Clouts, Cohen and Lieberman.

Mrs. Meyer thanked Mr. Gordon for his very interesting address and the Gardens Branch were thanked for their refreshments.

Resolutions to be submitted at Conference were discussed.

RAPHAELY—BERMAN.

The marriage of Miriam, daughter of Mrs. A. Berman, and Max Morris, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. Raphaely, took place at the Gardens Synagogue on Thursday, 22nd inst. Rev. A. P. Bender, assisted by Rev. J. Kibel, officiated.

Miss Helen Berman, Miss Queenie Bashew and Miss Ruth Raphaely were the bridesmaids.

Mr. R. Raphaely, the bridegroom's brother, was the bestman.

A family luncheon was held after the ceremony at the Queen's Hotel.

FRIEDMAN—COHEN.

The marriage of Cecilia, daughter of Mrs. Ray Cohen of Cape Town, to Mr. Solly Friedman of Haifa, Palestine, son of Mr. and Mrs. B. Friedman of Strand, took place at the Gardens Synagogue on Sunday
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Zionist Conversazione.

Adv. M. S. COMAY ANALYSES PALESTINE REPORT.

On Tuesday night at the Conversazione at the Zionist Hall, Adv. M. S. Comay gave a very interesting and comprehensive analysis of the Report of the Royal Commission on Palestine. At the outset he said that it was impossible to deal with all the aspects of the Report in the time at his disposal and his object was to give some account of the contents of the Report without dealing with the proposal of partition.

The dominant feature of the Report, said Mr. Comay, was the fact that it was a study of two conflicting nationalities. It began with a thumb-nail sketch of Jewish history up to the destruction of the Second Temple, and this part, and in fact the whole Jewish problem was treated in a most intelligent and sympathetic manner. It was clear that the Commission was one of a high intellectual level and grasped fully the essence of the Jewish question.

As regards the Balfour Declaration, the Report admitted for the first time that it was issued, because in 1917, the Allies were in such a bad way that they were ready to grasp at anything. They thought that the Jews would be of help if such a declaration were made. The Report contained a fine description of the spirit and development of the National Home and its whole tone was one of sympathy and understanding. In spite of this, however, the Report was undoubtedly the biggest shock the Zionist movement had ever sustained. The ultimate conclusion from which everything flowed was that there are two racial movements mutually exclusive which cannot be reconciled.

The Arabs.

With regard to the Arabs the Report clearly shows that the promise of an independent kingdom did definitely include Transjordan, but as regards Palestine there was some doubt. The grafting of the Balfour Declaration on the Mandate created two irreconcilable obligations to two different parties. The basic assumption was that the Arabs would agree to the Balfour Declaration but this had not happened. The conclusions of the Commission as regards the underlying causes of the disturbances cannot commend themselves to us. They say the two main causes are (1) The desire of the Arabs for independence. (2) The fear of the Arabs of domination by the Jews, their distrust of the Mandatory Government and of Jewish influence on the Government. All other factors they say, are only contributory. Two external factors are stressed: the pressure of emigration from the Diaspora and the attainment of independence by all the Arab communities in the Near East except Palestine.

The picture of the Arabs drawn in the Report, said Mr. Comay, is that of a full-blown Arab national movement existing side by side with the Jewish movement and equally powerful. The Commission had no hesitation in dismissing the Arab proposal for the solution of the problem, viz. to give the Arabs independence and to leave the Jews to them.

The report, said Mr. Comay, contained a fair expression of the Jewish evidence before the Commission, but they were not prepared to accept it because they considered it was founded on two basic false

assumptions: it underrated the strength of Arab nationalism, especially amongst the youth, and it overrated the help the Arab moderates could and would give.

The Report stated emphatically that neither the Arab nor the Jewish attitude afforded hope of a lasting solution, and the position was one of deadlock. Hence the Commission came to the conclusion that Partition was the only solution.

Operation of the Mandate.

The second part of the Report concerned the operation of the Mandate, and was divided into a number of chapters. As regards the role of the Administration, the Report dealt with the Jewish grievances very summarily and dismissed them for the greater part. The Report was largely a defeat for Jewish grievances. As regards land, the Report states that the hill districts are over-populated by the Arabs and that no Jewish settlements should be permitted on the hills. It also criticises the purchase of land by Jews in small parts in different areas in the plains and suggests if the Mandate continues that purchase of large tracts only be allowed.

In conclusion, Mr. Comay said that the general impressions of the Report were:—

- (1) That the Report was an intellectual and artistic masterpiece. Its tone was one of fairness, moderation and tact and it was written in a clear, lucid style.
- (2) The manner of dealing with the background of Jewish history was admirable.
- (3) In spite of the sympathy and understanding, the Report by and large means a defeat of the Jewish case as presented to the Commission.
- (4) In spite of the fairness of tone the Report is a white-washing of the Administration.
- (5) The dominant note is the attitude to Arab nationalism. For the first time the Arab national movement had been placed on the same footing as the Jewish. This approach to the problem sets a new tone to discussion on Palestine and its problems. To us it is a shock. If correct it means that we shall have to revise our outlook accordingly.

Mr. Comay illustrated his analysis by copious quotations from the Report itself and was listened to with the greatest interest by the large audience. At the conclusion various questions were asked to which Mr. Comay replied.

Dr. S. E. Kark was in the chair.

Mr. Fleischer rendered a pianoforte solo and Mrs. Gottschalk (accompanied by Mrs. Sanger) a violin solo.

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afternoon. Rev. A. P. Bender officiated and Mr. Boris Rome was the organist.

Mr. and Mrs. Heneck were the unterfuhres for the bride. Miss Lilian Cohen was the maid of honour and Miss Louie Cohen and Miss Ruth Garb were the bridesmaids. The flowergirl was Miss Ruth Friedman. Mr. A. Friedman, the bridegroom's brother, was the bestman and the groomsmen were Messrs. Sidney Friedman and Sidney Cohen.

A reception was held at the Zionist Hall, where Mr. J. Friedman was the chairman and the Rev. A. P. Bender proposed the health of the bride and bridegroom.

Mr. and Mrs. Friedman will leave next week on the Dunvegan Castle for Palestine where they will take up permanent residence.