

Dorshei Zion Association.

"At Home" to Rabbi and Mrs. Abrahams.

An "At Home" to meet Rabbi and Mrs. Abrahams was given by the Dorshei Zion Association at the Zionist Hall on Wednesday night. There was a large gathering including many representatives of country societies.

Adv. J. Herbstein was in the chair and extended a cordial welcome to Rabbi and Mrs. Abrahams on behalf of all the Zionists of the Western Province, and also as representative of the S.A. Zionist Federation. Rabbi Abrahams had a reputation as a staunch Zionist, and would without doubt be a tower of strength to South African Zionism. South Africa was the most Zionist country in the world and Cape Town the most Zionist town in it. Touching on the question of Partition, Mr. Herbstein said that in spite of differences of opinion, the members of the Dorshei Zion Association remained united. He was sure Rabbi and Mrs. Abrahams would find great friends amongst their fellow Zionists. He hoped their stay would be long and fruitful and that the movement would receive great and lasting benefit through them.

Referring to Rev. A. P. Bender, he said that the appreciation of what he had done for Zionism had been shown by the recent inscription of his name in the Golden Book. All would join in wishing him many years of health and happiness.

Dr. C. Resnekov extended a welcome on behalf of the S.A. Board of Jewish Education. The Board had great achievements to its credit. There was a need for leaders and he was sure that with Rabbi Abrahams a new era was about to begin. His influence would radiate not only through the congregation but throughout the country. He hoped he and Mrs. Abrahams would find joy and satisfaction in their spiritual and cultural work in Cape Town.

Dr. H. W. Altschul extended a welcome on behalf of the Habonim movement and of the Jewish National Fund. Habonim, he said, had been looking forward with a thrill of expectation to the arrival of Rabbi and Mrs. Abrahams. They looked to the Rabbi for help and guidance and were confident he would not fail them. The J.N.F. was a combination of the theoretical and practical in Zionism and was bound up with the finest ideals. Come what may, the Fund was unable to throw up its Mandate. He was sure that Rabbi Abrahams would be a source of strength and encouragement in these difficult days. He greeted him and Mrs. Abrahams with the greeting of Habonim, which was also the watchword of the J.N.F.: "Chazak Ve'ematz."

Mr. A. L. Roberts extended a welcome on behalf of Zionist Youth. Unfortunately,

he said, he could not speak for the whole Jewish youth, but he hoped the time was coming when the entire Jewish youth would be proud of their past and of belonging to a movement which gave hope for the future. He was sure that Rabbi Abrahams would be an inspiration to the youth who, he trusted, would miss no opportunity of listening to his words.

Dr. Max Cohen extended a welcome on behalf of the country Zionists. He hoped Rabbi Abrahams would be given the opportunity of extending his activities to other centres besides Cape Town. He was sure the glow of his personality would diffuse far afield and reach the furthestmost boundaries.

Mr. A. M. Abrahams, Hon. Life President of the S.A. Zionist Federation, extended greetings on behalf of the pioneer Zionists of South Africa. Jewry was living in interesting if difficult times. Partition or no partition, the Jewish people would survive. He wished Rabbi Abrahams success and hoped his influence would be felt not only on his congregation but on every Jew in South Africa.

Rabbi Abrahams' Address.

Rabbi Abrahams expressed on behalf of Mrs. Abrahams and himself sincere thanks for the wonderful welcome. He was impressed by the goodwill and encouragement of all the speakers. He hoped that the fervour and outlook of Zionist youth would be imparted to the whole of South Africa.

There was no dearth of leaders in Jewry; what was needed to-day was a strong Jewish army of soldiers. There was a lack of discipline and ability to follow leadership; the ideal of a united and concerted effort for a common cause must be realised. Each generation so far had proved unworthy—we should strive that the ordinary soldier should prove worthy; the Messiah would discover himself.

In England, continued Rabbi Abrahams, South African Jewry was considered unique, the staunchest of all Zionists. This was not only because they contributed so generously to Zionist funds, but because they had the fervour which other communities lack.

He still remembered, said Rabbi Abrahams, when Zionism was not as fashionable as it is to-day. In the environment where he grew up there were two rival factions: the fanatics and the assimilationists. The first type had been converted to Zionism but the other still remained strong. The greatest peril we still had to meet to-day was that of the suave, all too plausible argument of those who preach cosmopolitanism. What was wanted was

internationalism, whereby each nation could retain its own peculiar genius and all work together, each giving a notable contribution to the good of the whole.

Zionism had already achieved great marvels for the Jewish people, said Rabbi Abrahams, but not all the wonders are in Palestine. Zionism has given the Jewish People all over the world new hope and new courage—courage to put up a fight. The danger of the new partition was not only that Palestine might be reduced to the size of an English county, but that it might bring partition into Judaism.

With Achad Haam he believed, said Rabbi Abrahams, that no matter how small Palestine might be, it would still prove at least a home for the Jewish spirit. If we wanted Palestine merely as a place of refuge, then we might as well have any other country in the world. It must be a sacred country with sacred associations.

The Jewish People must not lose their hope. Now at a time of danger they must show their mettle. Above all their unity must be maintained. It was not enough merely to love Palestine; they must love the spirit of the land, its history and culture. Otherwise Zionism was only territorialism, which had failed because the Jew felt deep within him that no other country but Palestine would do. Zionism must not become merely secular and chauvinistic, but spiritual and religiously ideal.

Judaism was a unity, said Rabbi Abrahams in conclusion, and every aspect of it must be preserved. More than the Jew had kept the Mitzvoth the Mitzvoth had kept the Jew. They would keep us in the days of stress and darkness, and he hoped the dawn would soon arise for all.

Miss Willa Haynes (accompanied by Miss Mary Foster) and Mr. A. Robinson (accompanied by Miss F. Rogoff) contributed to the musical programme.

Woodstock—Salt River Hebrew Congregation.

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