

## Zionist Conversazione.

### CONGRESS CELEBRATION.

The fortnightly Zionist Conversazione, held at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday night, took the form of a celebration in honour of the opening of the 21st Zionist Congress at Geneva. There was a very large attendance.

DR. S. E. KARK was in the chair and contrasted the conditions prevailing to-day in the Jewish world with those of 42 years ago when the first Congress was held. He spoke of the wonderful achievements in Palestine and said these would have been impossible without the Zionist Organisation which was all-important. If we gave the Organisation our full moral and financial support we would succeed in building up the National Home. It was important that all should stand together united behind the Organisation.

DR. A. BIRNBAUM said that Congress was meeting at a time when the Jewish position was in a very bad state. Though Congress might not be able to bring salvation, it would nevertheless help to alleviate the terrible position. Congress would be occupied chiefly with the question of the White Paper and what methods to adopt to combat it. He (Dr. Birnbaum) did not agree with those who approved of terrorism as a means of forcing the hand of the British Government nor of passive resistance which would affect the Jews themselves more than the Government. Other methods suggested such as a boycott of British goods could only end in disaster. The only answer to the White Paper was to intensify our work in Palestine, to build and construct, and to influence public opinion in Britain and the U.S.A., and propaganda in this direction was most important. Unity in Eretz Israel was essential and it would be one of the main duties of Congress to seek ways and means to achieve this.

DR. I. M. HURWITZ said the Jewish position since the opening of the first Zionist Congress had greatly deteriorated politically and economically all over Europe, but the position of the Jews in relation to themselves was better to-day than then when Jews were afraid to formulate their views in public and in the press. In 1897 almost the whole of Jewry was opposed to the Congress, but Herzl managed to persuade a section that there was no harm in airing Jewish views and grievances in public. To-day we accept the Congress as the Jewish Parliament and are not afraid of public discussion of our position.

Before the first Congress there were only a few thousand Jews living in Palestine, dependent mostly on chulukah. To-day there were about half a million Jews living a free Jewish life. The country had made wonderful progress and conditions in every respect were in striking contrast to those prevailing 42 years ago. The Jews of the Diaspora by their support of the National Funds and by private investments had helped to bring this about. No matter what the British aims in Palestine were, the Jews were prepared to carry on with their work. As the first Congress had filled the Jewish people with

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## Cape Town Hebrew Congregation.

### INAUGURAL MID-WEEK SERVICE.

The inaugural mid-week service under the auspices of the C.T. Hebrew Congregation was held at the Great Synagogue on Monday night. The service, which was fully choral, was highly impressive.

Rabbi I. Abrahams, in an address, said that the Galut had brought many evils not the least of which was that the Schechina had been in Galut with us. The spirit of Israel, that which was sublime in Jewish history and culture had suffered with the result that to-day Judaism no longer had the interest it should have for Jews and it was no longer thought-provoking. It was necessary to make Judaism understandable once more; to make it a matter of vital importance; to restore to spiritual life that provoking interest which it held for former generations. This mid-week service would, it was hoped, provide an open platform where those who had views sincerely held would be able to give expression to them.

The question was, continued the Rabbi, whether it was necessary in these times to attempt to revive what to some seemed dead. Was the aim a good and worthy one? The answer is that the Synagogue gives what nothing else can give; there is nothing in the world that matters nearly so much as the revival of religion and the re-enthronement of God in our daily life. If ever there was to come an end to war and misery it would come only through religion, through the word of God becoming a reality. Religion and in particular Judaism, embraces three main ideas—the idea of God; the idea of ethics and morality; and tradition, rites, ceremonies, etc. Are these of importance to modern life? Most thinking people are agreed that the state of affairs to-day is not ideal. The greatest wrong we suffer from is polytheism—people worship the idols of wealth, power, pleasure, etc. The world needs to re-enthroned the One God again.

The world is ridden by fear—the fear of the power of evil. They have forgotten that God is an eternal God and a just God. We need courage to-day which will make us strong—we need God who works through eternity and will prevail. The world to-day is a leaning-tower in danger of toppling over. Man needs religion to make science safe for reality; only then will civilisation be able to endure. Men feel the very ground beneath them is shaking and they would like to cling to something that will give them stability, but it seems to elude them. Jewish tradition and religion can give them that stability; they are the greatest inspiration in the world and they alone can lead to a true understanding of life's meaning and purpose.

After the service the Wardens were At Home to congregants and friends in the Zionist Hall. Mr. A. M. Jackson was in the chair and expressed gratification at the large gathering.

A discussion took place on the subject of the sermon, the following participating: Mrs. Raphaely, Mrs. S. L. Cohen, Miss L. Guinsberg, Mrs. Gottlieb and Messrs. E. Newman, Dembitzer, Silbert, Sandler, Friedgood, Markovitz, and L. Gradner.

Rabbi Abrahams replied.

## New Minister for Kimberley.

### Mr. WOLFE YESORSKY, B.A.

Mr. Wolfe Yesorsky, B.A. of Jews' College, who has been appointed Minister to the Kimberley Hebrew Congregation, arrived yesterday with Mrs. Yesorsky in the Athlone Castle. They were welcomed by Rabbi and Mrs. Abrahams, Mr. M. Alexander, K.C., M.P., on behalf of the Board of Deputies, and Mr. J. Carasov.

Rabbi and Mrs. Abrahams took them for a short drive through Cape Town before they left for Kimberley in the Rhodesian Express.

Mr. Yesorsky is thirty years of age and received his early education at the Gateshead Talmud Torah and the Manchester Yeshivah. At Jews' College, he was awarded the E. J. Loewe Scholarship, the Samuel Hirsch Memorial Prize, and the G. W. Kilner Prize. He obtained his B.A. Degree in Semitic Languages with honours and at University College was awarded the Hester Rothschild Prize in Aramaic and Syriac. Since 1937 Mr. Yesorsky has been actively engaged in boys' club work. He has acted as Club Minister to the Stepney and Hutehison House Clubs, and was Boys' Club Welfare Minister in charge of the Jews' Free School Boys' Club. He has also been associated with the work of the Jewish Board of Guardians as a visiting Guardian.

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hope, so it was hoped this Congress would flood the Jewish world with light and rekindle the Jewish people with courage and hope.

The following contributed to the musical programme: Miss S. Sopher, Miss F. Felthun (accompanied by Mrs. L. Burman), and Mr. R. Shalit. An apology was received from Cantor M. Katzin who was unable to be present.

It was unanimously decided that a cable of congratulation and loyalty be sent to Congress on behalf of Cape Town Zionists.

## WOODSTOCK-SALT RIVER HEBREW CONGREGATION.

Seats in the Synagogue and Talmud Torah Hall for the forthcoming High Festivals are now bookable.

The Seats Committee will sit every Sunday, from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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