

Nazi Victims to Tour S. Africa for J.W.A.

COMING VISIT OF MR. AND MRS. L. VROMEN.

First-hand information about conditions in Nazi-occupied Europe and in the countries now liberated from Hitlerism will be provided for South African Jewry early in the New Year when two interesting visitors will tour the country on behalf of the South African Jewish War Appeal.

Newly-escaped from the clutches of the Gestapo, Mr. and Mrs. Leopold Vromen, leading members of the Hebrew Community in Holland, have accepted the invitation of the J.W.A. to come to the Union. They will leave Palestine, where they have found a place of refuge, as soon as transport can be arranged, and will then travel throughout South Africa, visiting all the major centres and many smaller towns.

Mr. and Mrs. Vromen, both well-known figures in their native city of Amsterdam, were in German hands as recently as July, 1944, and it was only by almost incredible good fortune that they succeeded in reaching Allied territory.

Before the war Mr. Vromen was for 15 years manager of the Foreign Department of the well-known Rotterdamsche Bank. In addition he was a prominent communal worker, particularly in connection with the Youth Aliyah in Holland.

Mrs. Vromen was also prominent in public work. She was president of the Wizo (Women's Zionist Organisation) in the Netherlands from 1931, and a member of the Board of the famous Jewish Girls' Orphanage in Amsterdam.

Great courage was displayed by Mr. and Mrs. Vromen during the invasion of Holland by the Germans. They both voluntarily decided to remain in Nazi hands in order to enable the Girls' Orphanage to continue operations as long as possible. Despite their knowledge of the savagery of the Nazis, they took up residence in the institution and acted as its managers until February, 1943. Then the Nazis decided to deport both them and the children to the notorious Westerbork Camp. All the Jewish inmates were earmarked for the death camps in Poland, but as Mr. and Mrs. Vromen had obtained a Palestine certificate shortly before the war, the Nazis decided to use them as "bargaining counters." They were held at the Westerbork Camp for 12 months until they were moved to the even more dreaded Bergenbelsen Camp in Germany.

Early in 1944, negotiations conducted through neutral channels with the Allies resulted in an agreement for the exchange of certain Germans abroad for certain privileged Jews. These included Mr. and Mrs. Vromen, and thus it came to pass that in July last they were released and sent to Jerusalem.

The story of what they experienced and of what they saw with their own eyes among the Jewish and other refugees while in the hands of the Nazis, will form the main theme of the addresses which will be given in South Africa by Mr. and Mrs. Vromen. Requests for their presence are already arriving at the headquarters of the J.W.A. from all parts of the Union.

Jerusalem.

Over 10,000 men and women are now employed in Eretz Israel on home crafts and handicrafts, including 5,000 upon textiles, embroidery, various objects of art and toys, and the entire turn-over amounts to £P60,000 annually for handicrafts and £P80,000 per annum for toys (the value of production in the latter was £P1,250 in 1939), it was stated by the Jewish Agency's Trade and Industry Department (supported by Keren Hayesod funds)

Jerusalem.

The bricks and dressed stones from air-raid shelters so far dismantled in Tel Aviv are being set aside for the construction of hostels for refugee newcomers under the auspices of the United Committee for Polish Jewish Relief. It is hoped to secure the timber needed. Work commenced in November on 50 houses for refugees at Ramat Gan, using material removed from air raid shelters.

Cape Jewish Orphanage.

FAREWELL TO MR. AND MRS. BERESINSKI.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Beresinski who have been Principal and Matron of the Home for 17 years, having decided to retire from these responsible positions at the end of the year, a large gathering of friends assembled at "Oranjia" on Tuesday 5th December, to bid them farewell and godspeed.

The tables were tastefully decorated by the Ladies' Committee and a large quantity of savouries and cakes had been privately provided for the occasion. When the President, Mr. Michael Berman, took the chair at 5 p.m. the dining hall presented a very bright and animated appearance, there being nearly 100 guests, consisting of the Orphanage Committee, Rabbi Abrahams and Adv. Alexander, the Orphanage Trustees, and many personal friends of Mr. and Mrs. Beresinski. All the children of the Home were present and helped by their presence to testify to the importance of the occasion.

The Chairman introduced the various speakers, remarking that although he had known the retiring Principal and Matron for but seven of their 17 years of service he could speak with a deep knowledge of their work for the Home and the children. Adv. Alexander and Rabbi Abrahams in short valedictory speeches testified to the splendid work accomplished by Mr. and Mrs. Beresinski in their 17 years of service.

Mr. J. Kadish, as the first President of the Orphanage 33 years ago, presented Mr. and Mrs. Beresinski with inscribed portrait enlargements which are to remain in the Home as lasting mementos of their long association with the Home. He referred to his close friendship for so many years with the Home and its Principal and Matron.

Mrs. A. V. Jacob presented Mr. and Mrs. Beresinski with a magnificent oil painting on which an engraved plate recorded the Committee's grateful recognition of their Orphanage work. One of the smallest girls then handed Mrs. Beresinski a beautiful bouquet and one of the boys brought two gifts from the children of "Oranjia."

Mr. Louis Gradner concluded this series of speeches by expressing his and Mrs. Gradner's regrets at losing two such loyal friends as Mr. and Mrs. Beresinski, referring also to their parents whom he had met in Europe some years ago.

Mr. Beresinski, in a short thoughtful speech, tendered his and Mrs. Beresinski's thanks to all those who had assembled to show their respect and friendship and to all Past Presidents and Committees during their years of Orphanage work for their advice and co-operation.

Toasts were drunk and then the good things provided for the guests were speedily disposed of by the guests and the children.

Solly Aronowsky - Guest Conductor

Solly Aronowsky, of Johannesburg, was the guest conductor at a special concert at the City Hall on Saturday night. He presented a most enjoyable programme which included a first performance of B. Walton O'Donnell's "Miniature Suite for Strings" and a dynamic performance of the second and fourth movements from Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5. Cecilia Wessels was the soloist, who delighted the audience with her beautiful voice, which was shown to best advantage in Verdi's "Pace, Pace" and "Elisabeth's Greeting" by Wagner. Both Cecilia Wessels and Solly Aronowsky were received and rewarded with enthusiastic applause from an appreciative audience for a most enjoyable evening of music.

HANS KRAMER.

Mr. Aronowsky will broadcast to-night (Friday) at 8.15 on the "A" transmission under the title "Our Guest Conductor presents—"

Zionist Conversazione at Muizenberg

Well over 300 people crowded the Muizenberg Talmud Torah Hall on the occasion of the Zionist Conversazione held on Tuesday, 12th December, under the auspices of the Western Province Zionist Council and combined Z. Societies of Muizenberg. Mr. J. M. Weinreich in the chair.

The guest speaker was Prof. Rabbi Abrahams who spoke on the significance of Chanukah. The Jews had to keep their erect; they had no reason to apologise for actions or behaviour. The Chanukah lights reminded them of the great heroes of Israel. Greeks had the armaments and numbers, Jews had the spirit which was triumphant. Chanukah was not only of significance to Jews; but the Maccabean's victories there would have no Christianity. Anti-semitism was a denial of Christian morals. The Chanukah lights, however, testified that no anti-semitic tyrants in the end survive. The speaker concluded by saying that the reason why we said Hallel on Chanukah was because we could only celebrate in true spirit of Judaism in our homeland. A return to the Holy Land would enable the Jewish people to fulfil its historic mission.

During the evening a piano recital was presented by Mr. Schneider; topical poems were recited by Mr. Asher. Cantor Goldwasser accompanied on the piano by Miss Goldwasser solo conducted the Hadlikah ceremony. Mr. S. Levin proposed a vote of thanks.

LIVING NEWSPAPER.

The next Conversazione will take place at Muizenberg Talmud Torah Hall on Tuesday, 19th December, in the form of a living newspaper. A number of leading Zionists will participate. H. Lieberman will be the editor. An interesting and enjoyable evening is assured.

Obituary.

MR. SIMON KIRSCH.

The death took place on Monday at the age of 66 of Mr. Simon (Sam) Kirsch, a well-known member of the community and a director of Ackermans Ltd.

Born in London, Mr. Kirsch came to South Africa in 1898 and was for a time co-editor of "Standard-Digger News," Johannesburg, served in the South African War.

He was very orthodox and was a member of the Cape Town Hebrew Congregation many years. He took an interest in all Jewish institutions and was vice-chairman of the Cape Jewish Orphanage and a member of the Committee of the Cape Jewish Aged and Infirm. He was a generous contributor to all Jewish causes.

The late Mr. Kirsch was held in high esteem and will be sadly missed by a large circle of friends.

Sincere sympathy is extended to his wife and son in their great loss.

התדרות עברית

An At Home to Dr. A. Birnbaum on his return from Eretz Israel will be given at the Talmud Torah Hall on Sunday, 17th December, 7.45 p.m. All Hebrew-speaking people are welcome.

THE MOADON

will be CLOSED during the Summer Season and will re-open on Sunday, 4th February, 1945.

SITUATIONS WANTED

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