

Zionist Conversazione.

MR. Y. LEVENE ON "PALESTINE TO-DAY."

There was a large gathering at the Conversazione held at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday night, when Mr. Y. Levene, B.Sc., an economic research worker of the Palestine Electric Corporation, Ltd., gave an address on "Palestine To-day."

Mr. J. Gitlin was in the chair and extended a cordial welcome to Mr. Levene and to Adv. G. Gordon on his return from active service.

Mr. Levene said Palestine to-day was no longer a subject of discussion as to whether it can or cannot solve the Jewish problem. Palestine was a fact which must be reckoned with. Palestine was an oasis of modern civilisation in a desert of Arab countries in the Middle East. Out of desert and swamps the Jews had succeeded in creating colonies and settlements which were not only a success in themselves but which could serve as an example to the whole world. Land which was considered uncultivable had been converted into flourishing gardens by scientific technique. The solution of the problem of water was making great progress and water had been found in arid regions.

Palestine had been found also to have quite important natural resources. The minerals from the Dead Sea had been an important asset to the war effort. Hydro-electric power was obtained from the Jordan, and the Mosul-Haifa pipe line provided a cheap source of power, so that no coal was needed. Palestine itself had oil fields which would be utilised when the big oil companies found it necessary.

The Yishuv could now supply 75 per cent. of its food requirements. The agricultural population was progressive and advanced and had harnessed science to its service. Industry had made great strides especially during the war, when Palestine was the only country in the Middle East that could be relied on to supply the Allied armies. The diamond industry, which was only five years old, employed 10,000 workers. In 1944 £3,000,000 of diamonds were exported. The industry's existence after the war was assured. Palestine industries produced food, textiles, building materials, furniture, kitchen ware, etc. The pharmaceutical industry had been developed from small beginnings and had great possibilities. The Hebrew University produced sera for injections against typhoid and sent hundreds of these to Russia and Iran. The Jewish population of Palestine was growing to the proportion where it could be considered a market for large-scale industry. Agriculture and industry would develop at a much quicker pace than hitherto.

All this, said the speaker, served as a basis of Jewish life. The 600,000 Jews of Palestine had succeeded in creating a strong pulsating Jewish life; a real Jewish spirit permeated every sphere of activity. Education was well organised and there was a network of schools from Kindergarten to the Hebrew University. Education went hand in hand with the requirements of Jewry all the world over. Culturally the Yishuv was also showing excellent results. The performances of Habimah and Ohel were of a high standard, while the Palestine Orchestra was a credit to all Jews.

All this together, said the speaker, made the Yishuv a state in fact if not in name. Jewish life had become so strong in every way that it must have an effect on political life. The Yishuv was a body politic in every sense of the term. Palestine was now on the cross roads and Jewry all the world over was on the cross roads. Palestine had bigger significance to-day than at any other time in history. It was only the existence of Palestine and the hope that it would become a Jewish state that gave meaning to Jewish life. Hence the Jews in Palestine and those all over the world would not let the last hope go. They would never agree to the stoppage of Jewish immigration or allow the Yishuv to be crystallised at its present stage. The Jews asked only what was due to them legally and morally. They hoped the Labour Government in Britain would fulfil its promise, but whether the Government agreed or not the Jews were determined that immigration should continue whether legally or illegally.

At the close of the address questions were asked to which Mr. Levene replied.

During the evening Miss R. Rabinowitz rendered several pianoforte solos.

Send your New Year Greeting through the S.A. Jewish Chronicle—only 4/6.

United Zionist Party.

SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FORMED.

Numerous discussions, conferences and interchanges of opinion have been taking place during the last year throughout the country with a view to crystallising the position and standpoint of the United Zionist Party. This has been most important in view of the changes which have taken place in the structure of South African Zionism, which is now based on party lines. The party has already made great progress and attracted to its ranks important and representative sections of South African Zionism. Particularly notable is the fact that the overwhelming majority of Zionist Youth have accepted the ideology and programme of the United Zionist Party.

The governing body of the party which will hold office until the next South African Conference is a South African Council consisting of the following: President, B. Gering; Vice-Presidents, J. Gitlin, Dr. D. Katzen and Adv. S. M. Kuper; Chairman, Israel Dunsky; Council Members, Mrs. J. Davidoff, D. Dunsky, Mrs. C. Erling, Mrs. A. Franks, S. M. Gordon, H. Herber, H. J. Kirsch, R. Kretzmer, Z. Segal, H. Stutzen, M. Udwin, P. Zuckerman (Johannesburg), Adv. H. M. Bloch, Mrs. M. Segal, J. M. Weinreich (Cape Town), A. Kaplan (Durban), I. Kerbel (Port Elizabeth), M. Pencharz (Bloemfontein), S. Rabinovitz (Bulawayo).

The programme of the United Zionist Party has certain features which are common to most Zionist parties. This is as it should be since otherwise common affiliation to the same World Zionist Organisation would be impossible. There are, however, certain important differences which are evident from the following aims.

1. The establishment of a Jewish state within the historic boundaries of Eretz Israel, which is essential for the preservation of the Jewish people. To render unconditional, unswerving and undivided support for the upbuilding of the Jewish state. The unification of all elements who have this common purpose, regardless of differences on any other issue which must be subordinated in order to achieve the primary objective.

2. To give the fullest support to the National Funds. To give the fullest support of the Histadruth (trade union) in its striving for economic security and equitable labour conditions for workers. Simultaneously to encourage, guide and direct the constructive investment of private capital, which is necessary for the development of Eretz Israel. Only the combined efforts and harmonious co-operation of national capital, labour, and private capital can make possible the absorption of a large Jewish immigration by Eretz Israel.

3. To promote the ideal of Chalutzit and Aliyah.

4. To support all efforts for the establishment of friendly relations and active co-operation between the Jewish and Arab peoples, always provided that such efforts are compatible with the establishment of a Jewish state.

5. To strive for the growth and development of homogeneous Yishuv by popularising the policy of excluding party politics in Eretz Israel from education, sport, culture and art.

6. To oppose all attempts to redisperse the Jewish people in different part of the world as scattered minorities, a course that would only perpetuate Jewish suffering.

7. To inform the non-Jewish masses about Zionist aspirations and to endeavour to secure their support.

8. To participate in the defence of Jewish rights in South Africa and in every aspect of communal life in order to promote the welfare of the South African Jewish community. To give the fullest support to Hebrew education and to foster Jewish culture. To safeguard the pre-eminence of the Zionist ideal in Jewish life.

Jerusalem.

Developed by war conditions, the turn-over in the fur industry in Palestine during 1944 totalled £205,000 compared with £120,000 in 1943, and only £55,000 in 1942. Over one half was earmarked for export. In 1942 the value of exports was £40,000 and in 1944 it went up to £125,000. Sales in Palestine rose in the same period from £15,000 to £80,000. There are 80 furriers' workshops in Palestine at present employing 250 hands. Another 15 firms handle the import and export of raw materials and eight workshops specialise in dyeing. The furs in their raw state come from Iraq, Iran, Bukhara and parts of Russia, but local Karakul sheep furs have now reached a high-quality standard.

Relatives Sought.

Jaffe, Chaja (born Krausz) — sought Krausz.

Kaminsky, Walter—sought by Wilhelm Littman, Werner, and Blumenthal, Hugo by Horst Blumenthal.

Mr. Van Felsen—sought by Moses Engel Schmajah (Schmajech), Roman—seeks re-Johannesburg.

Levinson, M.—sought by E. Friedman.

Nachemson, Moische—sought by Mendel Zilber, M. Z.—sought by D. Rutshin.

Leibner-Shmul, Sarah—sought by Moische Dujan, Lazer—formerly of Lithuania.

Arustein, Moses—sought by Sara Arustein.

Schonfrucht, Arnold—sought by Cesia Judkowski, Selig—sought by Syma zawska.

Kremer, Mr. and Mrs. Chiel (wife born —sought by Mrs. Necha Chaitaita).

Mandelstam, Charles—sought by Patern delstam.

Pisowocka, Mrs. Malgorzata—sought by Schube.

Levin, Nissen—sought by Feimal Feigenbaum.

Jaffe, Chaja and Mary—sought by Leona Kram.

Monat, Jankel—sought by Itzeg Lewin.

Szwalbe of Cape Town—sought by Gina Goldin—sought by Ilma Zochle.

Levit, Moses—sought by Berul Levit.

Izraelsohn; Charles—sought by Gutwitz Schneider, Elias—sought by Jankel Hirsch.

Lewin, Alter—sought by Jankel Hirsch.

Mann, Max—sought by David Martshman.

Robinson, Henech—sought by Moses Guttmann.

Bulkin, Aizik—sought by Schie Kacev.

Natas, Faiwel—sought by David Josif Siewzon, Salen—sought by Lazar Edelstein.

Sohn—sought by Thekla Dobrin and Emanuel.

Hamburger, Elly—sought by Klara Hamberg.

Lindenberg, Herman—sought by Frieda Kahn—Siegfried—sought by Margareta Julius Kahn.

Oster, Max—sought by Nathan, Emilie, Hugo.

Wiesner, Irene—sought by Margar Wiesner.

Zirkir, Julius—sought by Helene Zirkir.

Ziprusch, Dr.—believed to be in Belgium.

Cohen, Harold—aged 26, son of Jane and Cohen.

Will anyone able to furnish any information concerning the above kindly write to the Department of the S.A. Jewish Board of P.O. Box 1180, Johannesburg.

Mordkhay and Rivka Zats, of Cape Town sought by their nephew, Joseph Tunik, of Shlomovitz-Tunik), now living in U.S.S.R.

Rozka Fligel, living somewhere in the world sought by Hertsel and Ethel Aronson are now living in Russia.

Louis Alperin, residing somewhere in the world is sought by Sonya Palevsky, who is living in the U.S.S.R.

Abram Kagan (or Cohen), born in Lithuania, and now living in South Africa probably Johannesburg, is sought by nephew, Jacob Slavin, of Lithuania, residing in Palestine.

Mr. Savitch, of Amersfoort, is sought by nephews, Yescheskiel and Isaac (or Shlom Alter Savitch), who are now living in the U.S.S.R.

A. Bruc, of Wellington, Cape, and M. Bruc, Cape Town, are sought by their nephew, D. G. (or M. L.) Zmudiak, who is now living in the U.S.S.R.

Further information may be obtained from S.A. Zionist Federation, Permanent Secretary, Simmons and Commissioner Streets (Box 18), Johannesburg.

שבת

Sabbath commences on August 10th at 6 p.m. and ends on August 11th at 6.30 p.m. Portion of Law: Shophetim, Deuteronomy chs. 16 to 21. Haftarah: Aniochi Aniochi Menachemchem, Isaiah, ch. 51.

Bible Reading in Jewish Home

The chapters to be read during the week commencing 11th August (2nd Etlul) 1 Chronicles, 1 to 15.