

# WOMEN ZIONISTS HEAR REPORTS ON WIZO CONFERENCE

## Meeting At Coronation Hall

A LARGE gathering of women Zionists were present at the Coronation Hall on Tuesday, February 4, when reports on the recent WIZO Conference, WIZO work in Palestine, etc., were delivered by women delegates who recently returned from Basle and Palestine. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Johannesburg Women's Zionist League.

Mrs. A. Franks in delivering a report on the W.I.Z.O. Conference said: "For many of us Congress was a bitter disappointment and its memories a sad one. Dr. Weizmann has gone and with him a leader who has selflessly worked for our cause (whether we agreed with his policy or not) for over 30 years. With him has gone a phase in Zionist history. To-day our movement is without a titular head and there are difficult days ahead.

"We heard some thought provoking addresses at the Conference.

"Mrs. Rebecca Sieff outlined the unswerving attitude of the W.I.Z.O. movement in every country and the upward trend of its development during the seven bitter years that have elapsed since the pre-war conference of W.I.Z.O. in Geneva. She stressed the deep obligation of the W.I.Z.O. organisation to mobilise new forces in order to assist the survivors of the Nazi catastrophe still left waiting outside the gates of Palestine. She made a solemn vow that the world organisation of the WIZO would identify itself with all decisions taken by Congress.

"The Palestine section of WIZO was represented by the Chairman of the Palestine executive, Mrs. Hadasah Samuel. She spoke of the absorptive capacity of Eretz Israel which during the war had taken in 100,000 refugees and had provided for allied troops stationed in the country, while at the same time making gigantic strides forward in the domains of industry, colonisation, social service and cultural work. She showed that a country with such productive powers and vitality was able to receive and absorb further thousands of its own people.

"Dr. Klompus, who recently visited South Africa, described WIZO's efforts in introducing into its programme training for urban vocations. She was confident that Palestine would develop a national style in arts and crafts, and would play a leading role in this sphere in the Middle East.

"It was suggested that WIZO extends its instruction in Domestic Science by establishing an Institute for Good Housekeeping and an Advisory Bureau for the equipment and management of kitchens, household management in private and public institutions and in the homes of new immigrants.

"The Palestine Federation dealt with the training of women in mothercraft, and attention was drawn to the shortage of accommodation in the various institutions for mother and child. An appeal was made for the support of a new Children's Home which the Palestine Federation is anxious to build.

"The fact was stressed that large scale immigration would require enormous sums of money and the re-

spective countries were called upon to increase their efforts. The South African suggestion of a WIZO Month for each Federation was put forward and our success in this direction applauded."

Mrs. Franks also gave her impressions of Eretz Israel, most of which were recorded in an interview with the "Zionist Record" last week.

### Sisters In

#### A Holy Cause

Mrs. S. Fredman, of Benoni, who reported on WIZO work in Eretz Israel, said:

"In Palestine we realised fully how great a bond there exists among the WIZO Women of the world. We met as sisters in a holy cause—partners in the great responsibility and undertaking of the care of women and children in Eretz Israel.

"We saw in Palestine the achievement of a quarter of a century of work—the training of women and children for productive work in Palestine and the care of mother and child. We realise the immensity of the work that WIZO is doing and experienced a feeling of shame when it dawned on us that it was only the lack of funds that was handicapping and retarding this magnificent effort.

"WIZO service has penetrated into Cyprus and Athlit. To every refugee mother WIZO stands for salvation. When she arrives in Palestine the great responsibility of caring for her child which she has shouldered through all the years of nightmare, is lifted from her.

"The refugee women who arrived in Palestine are no longer young. They need kindness and help and look to WIZO for a sisterly guidance towards a new life.

"To-day WIZO work in Palestine is the vital factor in the whole life of the Yishuv. It is a great humanitarian organisation and we in South Africa dare not rest until we have put at its disposal 100 per cent. of our service and endeavour."

### Prices . . . Arabs . . .

#### And Criticism

Mrs. F. Raphael in recounting her impressions of Palestine said:

"I paid particular attention to the economic conditions and standard of living in Palestine. There is a great inflation in the country and prices stand at three to four times their pre-war level. Chicken is sold at 5s. 6d. a pound, and a 3d. slab of chocolate costs 1s., but everything may be had at a price. During the war Palestine made enormous strides in industry, but what will happen now with the



A reception in honour of the members of the South African and South American delegations to the Wizo Conference at Basle, who recently visited Palestine, was held on January 18 at Wizo House, Tel Aviv. From left to right: Mrs. Babs Nathan, Mrs. Averboukh (Trinidad), Mrs. Rebecca Shapiro (Argentine), Mrs. Bertha Gerschunoff (Argentine), Mrs. Jeanette Davidoff, delivering her address, Mrs. Miriam Scheuer (Palestine), Mrs. Anna Franks, Mrs. Regina Zimmermann (Palestine) and Mrs. Sadie Fredman.

removal of war-time conditions and the beginning of imports from abroad, is a matter for conjecture.

"So far the first major crisis has been favourably weathered. Ex-soldiers have been easily re-absorbed into civil life, but the problem of shortage of employment still exists. Wages have been sent rocketing sky high, and as a result essential industries, such as building, are being impeded. Meanwhile prices become higher and to-day civil servants are compelled to take two jobs, one by day and one by night, to make ends meet."

Referring to the Arabs of Palestine, Mrs. Raphael said: "There is no doubt that in the past ten years the Arab has made great strides in many directions. His farming has vastly improved, his health is better as is his organisation within his own ranks. All this he owes directly to the Jew. I was impressed by the fact that to-day there are great stretches of land planted with orange grove or crops, belonging to Arabs. It is true that the Jewish yield per dunam is four times that of the Arabs, but there is no doubt that the Arabs have made an important start.

"In industry, Arabs are to-day better organised as a result of their direct lesson from the Jews during the war. This results in an approaching equalisation of standards. To-day both spouses in an Arab household are compelled to work and this creates a major social problem regarding uncared for children.

"We heard a good deal of criticism of the Yishuv as regards the low standard of efficiency in labour, of the lack of cleanliness, even in the theatre, which the Yishuv was accepting blindly in its romantic enthusiasm for anything and everything achieved by Jews in Palestine. We heard it said that building was bad as proved by poor drainage which resulted in stagnant water during the rainy season; that workmen slacked on their jobs, and that streets and public buildings were dirty. Most of this is true. We saw worse slums in Tel Aviv than in Johannesburg, more filth in some of the streets than

in Alexandria Township—yet on the other hand we saw glittering audiences at performances of the Palestine Orchestra and the Habimah Theatre, and local fashions that certainly made Johannesburg look backveldish. We saw, too, hospitals, technical and educational institutions which would not be out of place in any part of New York. I believe that such criticisms are invalid to-day. All this represents the growing pains of a sturdy young country, the ingredients of which are going into the crucible to produce under fire and pressure the Jewish national home."

Mrs. B. Nathan dealt in lighter vein with personalities at the Conference.

### DR. FRYLING'S FIRST CONCERT

DR. BRONISLAW FRYLING proved himself more of an artist than a violin virtuoso at his first recital at the City Hall last Friday night. His rendering of the first two items, Handel's Sonata in D Major, and Brahms's Sonata in A Major, the two main works on the programme, was artistic and refined, though too academic and formal. Dr. Fryling is essentially a musician and not a technician.

As a contrast it was a delight to hear the Pugnani-Kreisler Praeludium and Allegro played in a spirit of hilarious abandon and freedom. As Dr. Fryling gained confidence his reserve seemed to break down and the audience was quick in showing its appreciation.

The rest of the programme consisted of well-known pieces by various composers, the best performance being given to Bloch's Improvisation, which was beautifully played, showing off the rich tone of the Stradivarius to perfection. The Gluck Gavotte and the Francaeur-Kreisler Sicilienne and Rigaudon were played in a charmingly light-hearted manner. The programme concluded with Paganini's Caprice in which Dr. Fryling displayed brilliant technical skill.

Bruno Raiken was an able accompanist. He proved his undoubted abilities as a solo pianist in three well-chosen works by Schumann, Debussy and Chopin.

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