

## Jewish Youth Orchestra Performs in Bulawayo

The Youth Orchestra, Balalaika Orchestra and Soloists of the Jewish Musical Institute of Johannesburg recently paid a successful visit to Bulawayo where the concert party of 40 members gave three concerts in the Bulawayo City Hall and Jewish Guild and a fourth for school children.

Messrs. B. Mirbach and M. Myers originated the tour, and all arrangements were made by Wizo. The concerts were conducted by the Institute's musical director, Mr. Solly Aronowsky, and the Balalaika Orchestra by Mr. H. Ichilchecck.

His Excellency the Governor of Rhodesia, Sir John Kennedy, and Lady Kennedy, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Bulawayo, entertained Mr. and Mrs. Z. Engel and Mr. and Mrs. S. Aronowsky at a concert of the Bulawayo Symphony Orchestra, and invited the Institute to visit Salisbury.

During the various functions and concerts given in honour of the Institute, speeches were given by Rev. Yesorsky, the president of the Bulawayo Jewish Community, Mr. S. Rabinovitz, and the chairman of the Jewish Youth, Dr. M. Goldin.

# A Zionist Lecture Tour

## By W. Rybko

### ▪ Northern Rhodesia ▪

The history of the Jews of Northern Rhodesia, like that of Northern Rhodesia in general, began with the completion of the Victoria Falls Bridge in 1904.



Mr. Leon Kuritzky, chairman of the Broken Hill Zionist Society.

When the bridge was completed, the whole of North-Western Rhodesia was thrown open to settlers, and excellent opportunities were there for those prepared to taken them. Only 100 white people lived in the whole country, and pioneers could select land wherever they liked. Every settler was granted 6,000 acres at three-

pence per acre, payable within five years.

By 1911 the population of Northern Rhodesia was 1,497, distributed over 287,950 sq. miles. By 1931 the white population had increased to 13,846.

Jews came to Northern Rhodesia in very small numbers, not for farming, but to open up trading stations. Jewish wholesalers in Bulawayo assisted their relatives and landsleit by giving them goods and oxen so that they could go to the new territory to open shops at railway stations and sidings. Some of them became cattle dealers and others contractors supplying food to the thousands of railway workers.

At present the Jewish population numbers 612 souls in a European population of 22,000, including 3,000 Polish war evacuees and refugees. This Jewish population is distributed over eight towns.

#### BROKEN HILL

Broken Hill is famous not only for its rich lead, vanadium and zinc mines but, more particularly for the discovery of the skull of Homo Rhodesiensis, the prehistoric man, who lived in Central Africa in the dawn of mankind.

If Homo Rhodesiensis were to visit Broken Hill to-day, he would find as I did, that time seemed to be moving backwards. When I was there 19 years ago I remembered a fairly large Jewish community, owners of the shops as well as the hotel. To-day there is only one lonely Jewish name, and all the tradespeople are Indians.



Mr. Myer Brin, chairman of the Broken Hill Hebrew Congregation.

I met Mr. Myer Brin and the two daughters of the late Mr. Ch. Hochstein, these two families being all that remained of the Jewish "old stock" of Broken Hill.

Mr. Brin was able to tell me about the Jewish community only from 1925, the year of his arrival in Broken Hill. He found only 40 people, mostly unmarried. It was a flourishing period in the history of the Jews in Broken Hill, and the community grew in such numbers and force that they were about to build a synagogue.

But since 1936 the situation has changed entirely. British Indians started to come in large numbers and they opened shops all over the town. The Jews could not compete with them, and one by one the Jewish shops closed down and the Jews left Broken Hill.

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#### NATIVE TEACHERS' CONFERENCE

##### Work of Reform Sisterhood

Among the resolutions adopted at the 41st annual conference of the Transvaal African Teachers' Association held this week at the Lemana Training Institution in Louis Trichardt, was one which stated:

"The Jewish public of Johannesburg should be sincerely thanked for establishing the Jabulani School in Alexandra Township, the first native school to be established by the (Reform) Jewish Synagogue."

#### NEW COMMITTEE FOR CAPE BOARD OF DEPUTIES

There was a record attendance at the meeting of Cape Deputies of the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies at the Board's offices on Sunday. Mr. A. M. Jackson, chairman of the Cape Committee, presided.

The result of the elections for a new Cape committee are as follows. The names are given in alphabetical order: Mr. A. E. Abrahams, Major A. Z. Berman, M.P.C., Mr. F. R. Bradlow, Mr. J. Gitlin, Mr. M. H. Goldschmidt, Adv. G. Gordon, Councillor L. Gradner, J.P., Mr. A. M. Jackson, Dr. J. Karpas, Adv. L. Rubin, Mrs. Leon Segal, Mr. J. M. Weinreich.

Mr. Woolf Harris and Mr. Leon Segal have been nominated for appointment at Congress as Vice-Presidents for the Cape.

The names of the successful candidates will be forwarded to the forthcoming Biennial Congress of the Board for confirmation. Until the results are formally confirmed the present committee will continue in office.

Councillor Chas. Barnett and Mr. A. V. Jacob were appointed scrutineers by the meeting.

#### U.J.W. BRAKPAN ACTIVITIES

Miss S. Kussel, organising secretary of the Union of Jewish Women, visited Brakpan recently. At an open meeting at the Lecture Room in the afternoon, Miss Kussel gave an address on the work of the Union of Jewish Women. During the afternoon Mrs. L. Kramer was presented with a watch as a token of appreciation for her work as convener of the Jewish War Appeal.

##### Address by Mrs. Cornell

Under the auspices of the Union of Jewish Women, Mrs. Cornell, together with Mrs. Levinson and Mrs. Harris, all members of the S.A. Ort-Oze Executive, visited Brakpan recently.

As a result, the Union of Jewish Women in Brakpan is taking a more active interest in Ort-Oze work, and Mrs. Minnie Sterling was unanimously elected convener, with Mrs. S. Shapers to assist her.

##### Mock Wedding and Dance

A Mock Wedding and dance was recently organised by the Brakpan Union of Jewish Women and War Appeal Committees, and proved successful both socially and financially.

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