

progress of Johannesburg. He was one of the first members elected to the Stadsraad and so esteemed were his services that he was one of the two Aldermen of the town who were appointed. During the Boer War he rendered good service to the exiled Randites, being Chairman of the Uitlander Committee at Capetown, which had for its purpose the alleviating of the hardships which had fallen to the lot of the exiled Johannesburgers and in facilitating their return to the Rand.

In 1904 he sought election under the ticket system and so high was the opinion held of him by his fellow townsmen that out of thirty three candidates he was returned second on the poll. Finance was his strong point and his talents in this direction were soon recognised by his fellow Councillors who elected him Chairman of the Finance Committee. He had no easy task, but his fearless and impartial policy during the time of trade depression of the most acute type resulted in his placing the town's finances on a strong basis. As the local "Chancellor of the Exchequer" he was able to turn a deficit of over fifty thousand pounds into a substantial surplus and at the same time reduce the municipal assessment rate. So great was the esteem in which he was held that in 1909 he was unanimously elected Mayor of Johannesburg and his year of office was a notable one. As a mark of appreciation he was entertained at a dinner given by the Maccabean Club and His Excellency, Lord Selborne, the High Commissioner and Lady Selborne were amongst the distinguished company who assembled to do him honour as the first Jewish Mayor of the largest town in the Union.

Unlike certain other born semites, Sir Harry has never forgotten that he is a Jew and has invariably taken a deep interest in Jewish matters in this country. Apart from the fact that he has been president of the Johannesburg Zionist Association as well as a prominent member of the old Park Synagogue, he has always been to the fore when there has been a question of bringing Jewish matters to the

attention of the Government. The Prayer for the Royal Family, so beautifully engraved on marble, that hangs at the side of the *Haroun Hakoudesh* in the Wolmarans Street Shool was presented by the new knight in remembrance of his late brother-in-law, Mr. Harry Freeman Cohen. Amongst his many activities, journalism has also played some part and he was for some time managing director of the 'Rand Daily Mail' when Mr. Edgar Wallace was its editor. But it is in politics that Sir Harry Graumann has occupied the public mind more even than in his municipal activities. After Union, he was successful in winning the Commissioner Street constituency for the South African Party and though, at the following election, it reverted to Labour owing to our active co-religionist not standing, in 1921 he again succeeded in bringing this important constituency back to the folds of the faithful. Throughout his residence in South Africa, the new knight has shown an interest not only in his own people, but in all the peoples of the country, being singularly popular in Dutch circles and we feel sure that in tendering him the congratulations of the entire population of the Union, we are merely voicing the opinions of those who have followed his career with interest and approval.

Transvaal Provincial Tax Falling On The Public.

The taxation imposed by the Transvaal Provincial Council on employers is likely to have a widespread effect on the smaller industries of the country as well as on co-operative farming associations, etc. What may be described as the first outcome to the general public of the infliction by the Provincial Council of this tax on employers is contained on a gummed slip, 2in. by 4in., which is being attached to aundry bills. It reads:—"We regret to have to notify our customers that owing to the crippling effect of the Provincial Employers' Tax and in order to prevent further unemployment, we are compelled to make an extra charge of 5 per cent, on all accounts, as from 1st December, 1922." Of course another way of dealing with Provincial Piracy would be to pass the tax on to the employee.

Durban Doings

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

At the prize distribution at Maris Stella school by the Right Rev. Bishop Delalle the following pupils were recipients of prizes. Miss Laura Braham, Miss Muriel Scott, Miss Tilly Moshal, Miss Sarah Lurie, Miss Ella Jacobson, Miss Thelma Rabinowitz, Miss Jeannette Jacobs, Miss Rosie Lewin, Miss Jessie Schwartz, Miss Kathyne Rosettenstein, Miss Rita Scott, Miss Annie Sang, and Miss Rachel Byala.

The wedding of Miss Bec Blumenfeld to Mr. Abe Block took place at the Kenilworth Ocean Beach on December 19. The nuptial knot was tied by Rev. H. Rubin, the ceremony being followed by a reception and dance, at which there was a large assembly of relations and friends.

A charming display of dancing by Miss Marian Grigson's School of Dancing took place at the Theatre Royal on December 20. One item, although of a different order, was a recitation by Miss Cissie Romain. This proved to be one of the most popular turns of the programme and was deservedly encored.

Miss Laura Braham has been successful in passing the examination of the London College of Music in elocution which secures for her a licentiate diploma, L.L.C.M. This distinction permits Miss Braham to enter the field of teachers.

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