

Durban Doings

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

It is impossible for the writer of these notes to be "au fait" with every happening of Jewish interest in this town, consequently the resident correspondent will be pleased to receive any information of interest to the Jewish community to Box 296 or Telephone 3663.

The Durban Hebrew Congregation held a very important meeting in the Committee Rooms, Synagogue Chambers, St. Andrews Street on Sunday morning last when not only did their semi-Annual General Meeting take place, but also a Special General Meeting for the purpose of confirming the Committee's unanimous recommendation of the appointment of the Rev. E. M. Levy, B.A., L.L.B., as minister to the Congregation for a period of five years. There were present Mr. F. C. Hollander (in the Chair) and Messrs. M. Stiller, L. M. Braham, A. J. Lipinski, S. Bloom, (Honorary Treasurer,) L. Davis, L. Hart, I. Lurie, L. Lipinski, A. J. Cohen, B. Lurie, H. Hillman, H. Lipinski, J. Moshal, C. Greenberg (Honorary Secretary) and about forty others. It must be something of a record for a meeting of this description that there was not a discordant note sounded and that every speaker was in absolute favour for the adoption of the resolution which was unanimously carried. After several other matters had been adjusted the meeting closed with the usual vote of thanks to the chair.

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Mr. P. Wartski one of our best known Durban Jewish citizens sailed for England on Friday the 9th. inst. per the Edinburgh Castle on a holiday visit to the Old Country. Mrs. M. Brookstone was also a passenger for England on the Edinburgh.

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Mr. C. P. Robinson, M.L.A., left by the mail train on Thursday May 8th. for Johannesburg.

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Preparations are proceeding apace for the first big ball of the season, which will be held on the 4th proximo, in the Town Hall under the auspices of the Durban Jewish Circle. It is synonymous with success whenever this society stage a function and from all accounts this coming ball is going to exceed even their previous efforts. We shall have an opportunity of again referring to this event prior to the date but as the funds are in aid of the

Durban Jewish Benevolent Society as hitherto, we trust that those who intend being present will purchase their tickets early and thus enable the committee to estimate to some extent the number that will be present.

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Mr. Robt. Bernstein who has been on a flying business visit to Rhodesia returned to town on Sunday last.

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Mr. S. S. Festenstien was a passenger to Johannesburg on Saturday the 10th. inst. per the mail train.

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An event of considerable interest to Durban will be the concert to be given on Tuesday, the 27th instant in the Town Hall under the auspices of the Natal Society for the Advancement of Music, in conjunction with Mr. Lyell-Taylor's Orchestra to afford Mr. David Cohen the Durban-born pianist, his first opportunity of appearing before a Durban public, after his studies in London. Mr. David Cohen, after winning a succession of first awards in one Natal Eisteddfod after another, and appropriating the gold medals in the highest of the annual competitions for the pianoforte, carried off a bur-sary, which entitled him to two years' tuition in London. On presenting himself for examination at the Trinity College, he found such favour with the examiners that he was promptly accorded free tuition for the period of his studies. Last year he came under the notice of the London musical critics at a concert at Queen's Hall, and received the following complimentary notices. The "Morning Post" said of him: "Of the soloists, Mr. D. Cohen gave a remarkably certain reading of Paderewski's Polish Fantasy, Op. 19, for piano—a performance which leads to pleasant expectations from this executant in the future." "The Times" was still more laudatory. It said: "David Cohen's performance of Paderewski's 'Polish Fantasy' gained the warmest recognition from the audience. He played with complete assurance, and managed the big rhetorical passages very well. Naturally at present he lacks the full force of maturity, but his tone is good, and his fingers are not daunted by any technical difficulties". It is pleasant to find Mr. David Cohen has fulfilled the expectations placed on him, to the extent of winning appreciation such as this from high places in London. Mr. Cohen will, at the concert on the 27th inst., play the above Paderewski

"Fantasy", with Orchestra, and also Liszt's "Rhapsody No. 12", and Chopin's "Nocturne in F sharp major". It is to be hoped that a full house will assemble to welcome a Durban youth who brings back with him the above assurances of his having "made good".

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Col. Creswell says his wing of the Pact will press for land taxation. What did Rand Labourites DO in the Transvaal Provincial Council? They supported Nat. taxes on the Overburdened Rand. They fouled their own nest.

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Palestine Government Self Sustaining.

The astonishing fact that the Palestine Government is self-sustaining is brought out in a report issued by the office of the Chief Secretary of the Palestine Government For the Fiscal year 1921-22, the revenue was £1,997,000 and the expenditure £1,881,000. During the year 1922-23, the revenue fell, showing a deficit of £73,000. It was, therefore, necessary to enforce the most rigid economies; and the revenue for 1923-24 is estimated at £1,780,000 with an expenditure of equal amount so that the year may end without a deficit.

The financial difficulties of the Government are due in a measure to the increase in the growth of tobacco in Palestine and the consequent decrease in the amount imported, the immediate effect being a great loss of revenue to the Government. In the long run, however, the development of tobacco cultivation which will assist the agriculturists will add to the wealth of the country. Other reasons for the decline in revenue are the withdrawal of the greater part of the garrison and the consequent reduction in military traffic for the railways; and the fall in the redemption prices upon which the land tithes are based. The cultivators pay their taxes in the form of tithes.

Economies have been effected in almost all the Departments of the Government in order to prevent a repetition of the deficit of last year. As the Palestinian officials are being trained to the efficient performance of their duties, it becomes possible to dispense with the services of a large number of the British officials. The financial situation of Palestine is now regarded very hopefully.

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