



JOHANNESBURG DAY BY DAY

Invitations to meetings and junctions, should be addressed as early as possible to:—
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CONVERTING JEWS.

The great subject of discussion this week has been the following resolution advanced by the Rev. Godfrey Evans, rector of St. John's, Belgravia:—

That the time is ripe for the launching of a mission to the Jews in Johannesburg, and that the Bishop be requested to take such steps as may be possible, after due consultation, for the establishment of such a mission. Subsequently the Press, who were excluded from the committee's session, were informed that the resolution had been amended and passed as follows:—

That, in the opinion of this Synod, the time is ripe for considering afresh the method of representation of Christ to the Jews in Johannesburg, and that the Bishop be requested to take such steps as may be necessary for the inauguration of work upon these lines.

After some difficulty we have obtained, by permission of the Bishop, the text of the address delivered by Mr. Godfrey Evans, the mover of the motion. It is as follows:—

"My Lord, when I gave notice of this resolution, I did not anticipate the amount of publicity that it would attract, and I certainly had not the general public in mind. Now, however, that the limelight has been directed upon it, I wish to make a strong appeal to members of Synod that no word shall be spoken here that shall suggest any disrespect towards the Jewish community. Anything of that kind would entirely defeat and destroy the aim and purpose of this resolution.

"I am well aware, my lord, that this matter has already engaged your attention, and I have on more than one occasion stated my views before my brother clergy. My object in moving this resolution is to win, if I can, the attention of the Church in Johannesburg to what I hold to be a matter of deep and far-reaching importance, and, at the same time, to urge upon my fellow-churchmen a reconsideration of our attitude towards the whole Jewish question.

"I do not doubt that to some here perhaps, and certainly to many more outside, this may seem unnecessary; and I can easily see that to many members of the Jewish community—though we are not really concerned here to state our case to them—it might appear even impertinent. But if anyone suggests that a better policy is to leave the Jewish question alone, I reply that that is really an impossibility, because the Jewish question has never left the world alone, and never will.

"Think what we may, say what we may, do what we may, history teaches us, and prophecy teaches us, that the Jewish people is a fact with which the world has got to reckon at all times; and if the world has got to reckon with it, the Christian Church most emphatically has got to reckon with it.

"My Lord, we are men who are concerned with the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God. This is no place for sermons, and I am not minded to preach one. But we must not let ourselves forget that fact. I think sometimes in our attitude towards the Jewish question we do forget it. We do forget, I think, how it is that this strange people, so distinct, so different from other peoples in their history, in their character, in their influence upon the world, are not only still flourishing, but are flourishing the world over.

"I spoke of prophecy because I believe in prophecy; and I am convinced that this is not due simply to internal causes, nor yet to circumstance, but that there is a definite purpose of God for the Jewish people. The traditional attitude of other nations to the Jew, when it has not been definitely hostile, has been one of pity, contempt or fear. I suggest that the time has come for us to face this question in a quite different spirit, to believe that St. Paul spoke the truth when he declared that the Christian Church could not be complete without the Jewish people, that they are, in fact, essential to the establishment of the Kingdom of God.

"The movement that I am proposing is not intended to express any sense of superiority; it is not promoted by any feelings of pity—though to a Christian there cannot but be something pitiful in the contemplation of that ancient Church of God waiting, waiting for the light. It is intended to be a gesture to the effect that we need this people as our fellow-workers if we are to win the world for Christ.

"Think of it. We know their tenacity, we know their industry. We know that whatever they set their mind to do they do. I say, once let us have the Jews on our side in the cause of Christ and you will see His Kingdom going forward by leaps and bounds.

"It will, of course, be urged in some quarters that this is pure idealism and not a practical proposition. I shall endeavour very briefly to show that the facts of to-day point in the reverse direction.

"The statement may be denied, my Lord, in certain quarters, but we have had the very best testimony quite recently to the fact

that large numbers of Jews in this generation are breaking away from their ancient faith. We have indisputable evidence that in America, for instance, thousands are drifting to Christian Science. We have had quite lately a remarkable testimony to the change of mind towards the person of Our Lord evidenced by a book written and published in Jerusalem by an orthodox rabbi.

"There are, in fact, clear signs that something of a profoundly disturbing character is happening to this people, so long and wonderfully preserved by God for the fulfilment of His purpose. That is why I contend, my lord, that the time is ripe for us to take action. That is why I believe that we, as a church, shall be culpable before God if we stand idly by and let our hands hang down while others step in and offer to Jewish enquirers something less than the fulness of truth which is entrusted to the Catholic Church.

"If I am asked how can it be done, it would seem premature and undesirable to attempt at this stage to outline any definite policy. Only I would remind Synod that there are to-day Hebrew Christian congregations in London, and that all who have studied the matter are agreed that the only line of approach which promises success is through their own people and their own traditions, teaching them, in the spirit of the Epistle to the Hebrews, to find the fulfilment of all they have been taught to believe and to hope for in Christ.

"I beg leave, my lord, to move this resolution."

SOME OPINIONS.

Of course, this matter made a big stir and Chief Rabbi Dr. Landau and Mr. A. M. Abrahams, President of the S.A. Zionist Federation, were interviewed on the subject. We cannot understand why the latter gentleman was approached because Zionism has nothing to do with religion and as a matter of fact the increase in the national spirit of the Jew has led to an almost corresponding decrease in his religious observance. However, both gentlemen attach more importance to the occasion and to the subject than either deserve. It must be admitted that the latter was in very good taste and Jews reading the report, which we are enabled to publish above, will feel that the speaker was actuated by real enthusiasm and not by any desire to wound the feelings of his Jewish fellow citizens.

There have been a considerable number of letters written to the

"Star" and other papers on the subject in which quite an important section of the Christian community express their distaste towards the proposed mission. Even Dr. F. G. Cawston, M.D., of Durban, who will be remembered as the author of a series of interesting and edifying articles which appeared in the "S.A. Jewish Chronicle" some ten years ago entitled "Leaves from the Bible," writes strongly upon the subject, while Mr. Pelham Webb pertinently asks: "Why a mission to the Jews? The number of Jews throughout the world is approximately 20,000,000. Mohammedans 150,000,000, Greek Church 80,000,000, Roman Catholic Church 260,000,000. Why should the Jews be converted to Protestantism more than to any other religion? Judaism is the religion of the Jews and will remain so till the coming of the Messiah. I have found when contributions are requested for any Protestant churches the Jews are always conscientious givers. When they have £1 purses they are always found to have £1 hearts for any charitable object."

EXPLOITING THE JEWS.

In the course of addressing a political meeting last week Mr. M. Kentridge, M.L.A., said: "He was grieved to learn that Mr. (Continued on Page 855.)"

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NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders in the above-named Company will be held in the Board Room of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Limited, Consolidated Building, Fox Street, Johannesburg, on Tuesday, the 29th November, 1927, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purposes following:

To receive and consider the Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet for the period ended 30th June, 1927, and the Report of the Directors and Auditors thereon.

To elect four Directors in place of those retiring, in terms of the Company's Articles of Association.

To elect Auditors, and to fix their remuneration for the past financial year, and to transact any other ordinary business of the Company.

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JOHANNESBURG DAY BY DAY.

(Continued from Page 853.)

Abrahams, president of the Zionist Federation, spoke in the way he did. No Jew should exploit either the Jewish community or a Jewish position for political purposes.” This has led to a reply from Mr. A. M. Abrahams, who suggests that Mr. Kentridge implied that he exploited his position as president of the Zionist Federation for political purposes. He asks if Mr. Kentridge means that because he holds the position mentioned, he must lose his rights as a citizen and refrain from taking part in the public affairs of this country? When he spoke at Mr. Duncan's meeting he did not mention the Zionist Federation nor did he appeal to the audience as its president. He spoke entirely in his individual capacity, and it was neither with his knowledge nor consent that he was described as president of the Zionist Federation.

THE TRAGEDY OF ASSIMILATION.

This was the title of an interesting lecture which Mr. M. Kentridge, M.L.A., delivered to the Women's Zionist League in the course of which he said that he had been led to his choice of a subject by a discussion he had had with several friends *apropos* of the Jewish reconstruction work in Russia. They had contended that they could only hope to establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine, and that the three or four million Jews in Eastern Europe must be accounted as lost. He could not agree with this point of view because he realised the difficulty experienced by those Jews who wished to become assimilated and to illustrate this point Mr. Kentridge quoted the experiences of Ludwig Lewisohn, whose books “Israel” and “Up Stream” illustrate one aspect of the tragedy of assimilation.

JEWISH WOMEN'S BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The energetic committee of this formation are making arrangements for the various entertainments in connection with the individual stalls. At the last meeting, when Mrs. A. Solomon presided, it was announced that nearly £700 had been obtained. Interest in the function is rapidly increasing and at the last meeting there were present amongst others Mesdames Ernest Solomon (organiser), F. Anshell (secretary), B. Starfield (treasurer), M. Braude, A. Behrmann, H. Cantor, E. Cohn, E. Cohen, B. Goudvis, D. Greenberg, W. Hillman, B. P. Marks, S. Newman, G. Nathanson, D. Pearlman, Ratzker, M. Reuid, W. Sacks, S. J. Silberman, N. Schmeier, S. Suzman, G. Sieradski, L. Schlosberg, S. L. Sive, A. Udvin, A. Ullman and H. Williams.

BREVITIES.

Last Thursday Professor Hoernle gave his second lecture on the new psychology at the Jewish Guild, his subject being “Dreams and Day Dreams.” The new psychology, through the work of Freud, Jung and other leaders of psycho-analysis, is said to have taught the interpretation of dreams.

On Sunday last the Guild had a “wireless” concert when, thanks to the assistance of Mr. Lago Clifford, the announcer, the hall was arranged as a studio. There was an excellent programme, which was preceded by the customary weather forecast and share market reports. Those who contributed towards the success of the evening were Miss Freda Cross, Miss Ray Lipkie, Mr. Franco Coscia and Mr. Maurice Tatz (vocalists) and Mrs. Anita Colman and Mr. Maurice Hillman in monologues.

A Three Arts cabaret was given at the Guild on Saturday evening last when an attempt was made to give an impression of student life in Montmartre. There were special dances and good vocalists and the occasion was entirely successful.

Another Jewish intellectual society has been formed and this time it is in Yeoville. It is called the Northern Suburbs Judean Society and the following hon. officers have been appointed: Hon. president, Rev. B. I. Beckman; chairman, Mr. A. Wolfowitz; vice-chairman, Mr. S. Monk; secretaries, Miss B. Egnés and Mrs. A. Egnés; treasurer, Mr. S. Egnés; committee, Miss L. Schrire, Messrs. Steinberg, Hersch and Harris; Miss P. Agranat and Messrs. P. Hilewitz and Mr. S. van Flyman.

Bialik Resigns.

Mr. Ch. N. Bialik, the famous Hebrew poet, having tendered his resignation from the Hebrew Authors' Association owing to disagreement with its policy, all the members of the Central Committee at Tel-Aviv have resigned. The Association is as a result in a state of dissolution.

THE PROMISE OF LIFE.

(Continued from Page 852.)

was never intended by the ancient philosopher who first expounded the truism. With the increase in the national spirit and the consequent decrease in the respect for traditional Judaism and its teachings we have a tendency to become so materialistic that our respect not only for each other as individuals but also for our different formations is based almost entirely upon affluence or public recognition. We have ceased to recognise the fact that closer union is a necessity for the future well-being of the community and this closer union must be of the societies as well as of the individual. We must realise that the community needs the work of every member and that work cannot be generously accorded or thoroughly given unless there is a spirit of cohesion abroad. No small portion of Israel's troubles have been caused by the internal squabbles of her people, which have regularly occurred from time to time since the dispersion. We, in South Africa, must try and get above and beyond this pettiness of spirit for then only shall we learn, and possibly practise, the lessons of *Yom Kippur* and by the creation of a greater spirit of friendliness throughout the community strengthen the power of Jewry so that in time we shall become one combined whole, justifying our existence and our claim to the promise of life.

W. F. WINTLE, Government Fumigator.

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