

## YOUNG ISRAEL COLUMNS.



### TRANSCVAAL YOUNG ISRAEL.

#### SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The second Transvaal Young Israel Conference was held on Sunday, the 16th December, 1923. Punctually at 9.30 a.m., Mr. N. Metz, the President, welcomed the 60 delegates representing the following twelve affiliated societies:—Johannesburg, Boksburg North, Germiston, Brakpan, Springs, Benoni, Pretoria, Potchefstroom, Krugersdorp, Randfontein, Roodepoort and Standerton; also members of the Executive and visitors.

At this stage the hon. president, Dr. J. L. Landau, arrived, and officially opened the Conference with a well-worded speech, in which he emphasized the fact that the young Jewish children should be looked after, and this can be achieved mainly by taking up Zionist principles. He deplored the fact that the children of our great Zionist leaders do not associate themselves with the movement.

The Chief Rabbi further appealed on behalf of the National Library of Jerusalem, which was in great need of funds and which could house very many books which lay unpacked. He showed the Conference a letter from the board of the Library (including Professor Albert Einstein), wherein a similar appeal was made to the Doctor's. The hon. president then concluded, wishing the Conference every success in their deliberations that day, and assured them of his assistance at any time.

The president's and treasurer's reports were then presented to the Conference and were unanimously adopted.

Dr. Olsvanger next addressed the Conference.

The President thanked the last two speakers, and the delegates went into Conference. The many resolutions submitted by the various societies dealing with constitutional and general matters were brought up for discussion and summarily dealt with.

After lunch, the president of the S.A. Zionist Federation, Mr. A. M. Abrahams, welcomed the delegates to the headquarters of South African Zionism

and encouraged the Young Israel delegates to go about their work in a fashion to uphold the worthy name they bear, and pursue the noble aims they strive for.

Mr. David Dainow, the new organiser of the Keren Hayesod, next addressed Conference, this being his first public utterance on a Johannesburg Zionist platform; and it is pleasing that it took the form of addressing the delegates of the second Transvaal Young Israel Conference. Coming from Capetown, he was able to give an account of the sister body, "The Judean Central Executive of the Cape Province," and, indeed, brought greetings from that quarter, wishing the Conference success. The Judean Executive, in common with many others, had expressed a wish that South African Young Israel should be unified in some way or other, and Mr. Dainow hoped that this would be achieved. Promising the Transvaal Y.I. Central Executive as much help as he could possibly offer, this gentleman concluded with heartiest wishes for a successful term of office of the new executive.

At this stage, because several delegations had to leave by the only trains available to their respective towns, the election of office bearers for the next session took place and resulted as follows:—President, Mr. S. Joffe; vice-president, Mr. G. Saron; treasurer, Mr. B. Levin; joint hon. secretaries, Messrs. H. Rajak and M. Friedman.

The council will in future consist of the above-mentioned and representatives from each society in the grade as provided by the constitution.

Mr. Alexander, the secretary of the South African Zionist Federation and editor of the *Zionist Record*, and one who had always taken a great interest in South African Young Israel matters, next addressed the delegates. He suggested various schemes by which the Young Israel movement should become more interesting to the general Jewish public, and these will be considered by the next council. He hoped that, as was customary, a Conference of the South African Young Israel would be held in conjunction with the forthcoming Conference in Johannesburg, and he promised to give every assistance in the holding thereof.

Other gentlemen besides the very many delegates took part in the most interesting discussions arising from the resolutions submitted, including:—Messrs. B. Gering, M. S. Aaron and M. de Saxe, of the Juvenile Sub-Committee of the South African Zionist Federation. A very comprehensive constitution has been adopted and other interesting resolutions taken.

In closing Conference, the chairman, Mr. Metz, thanked the gentlemen who had come forward to address Conference, and also all those who had helped to make the Conference the success it had been. He very much regretted that he was unable to keep the position of chairman of the Young Israel Central Executive of the Transvaal for another session, on account of forthcoming important examinations, but hoped immediately afterwards to take the same interest as he displayed when he first formed the Johannesburg Young Israel Society, the premier body of the movement.

The singing of "Hatikvah" concluded the conference.

### Germiston.

On October 8th the Young Israel Society held a debate at the David's Hall. Mr. M. Friedman, the chairman, presided over a large gathering, including several adults. Mr. Harry Rubin, one of the Society's supervisors, opened the debate on the subject, "What Is One's First Duty." This being an interesting subject, it was followed by a keen discussion, and a hearty vote of thanks to the opener and the singing of "Hatikvah" closed a very interesting evening indeed.

### Johannesburg Young Israel Society.

#### REPORT OF RECENT ACTIVITIES.

Sunday, the 16th instant, was the occasion of an event which promises to play an important part in unifying the forces of Young Israel in the Transvaal—a Conference of the Young Israel Societies of the Transvaal. As an official welcome to the delegates—who represented twelve societies—a fancy dress carnival was held at Eton Hall on the evening of the 15th. The dance proved such a success, both socially and financially, as has rarely attended a Young Israel function. Welcomes to the delegates were officially extended by Messrs. N. Kretzmer and N. Metz, on behalf of the Johannesburg Y.I.S., and the Y.I. Central Executive of the Transvaal respectively. Prizes for the most original costumes were awarded to Misses R. Sack and H. Amoils, and Mr. H. Shulman. The committee wishes to thank Mesdames Metz, Guinsberg and Isserow and Mr. Crane for the share they contributed to the success of the function, and generally to all those workers to whom was due the success of the evening.

Early on the following morning the Berkeley Rooms were astir with the arrivals of the delegates, and by 9.30 the Conference was officially opened. The whole conduct and general tenor of the discussions marked a notable improvement on the Conference of the previous year. There was noticeable on every hand a deeper appreciation of the problems confronting Young Israel, and a genuine effort to reach satisfactory solutions. The Johannesburg Y.I.S. delegates, Messrs. N. Kretzmer (leader), G. Saron, W. Witkin, S. Sapire and S. Kuper took a prominent part in all the proceedings, and faithfully voiced the wishes of the Society. After a fiercely contested struggle, Johannesburg carried the principle of larger representation on the Council for the larger societies, which is essential for the successful working of the Council. Our congratulations are due to the following members of our Society who have secured positions on the Executive of the Council: Mr. G. Saron (vice-president), Mr. B. Levin (treasurer), Mr. H. Rajak (secretary). Thanks to the principle above-mentioned, the Society will have four representatives on the Council, the members elected being Messrs. N. Kretzmer, W. Witkin, S. Sapire and S. Kuper.

In view of the forthcoming Ninth Congress of the Zionists of South Africa, our Society has been called upon to elect its delegates: the following four gentlemen will therefore represent the Society: Messrs. N. Metz (leader), N. Kretzmer, G. Saron and S. Sapire. These members will naturally also represent the Society at the Conference of the Young Israel of South Africa, which, following the precedent of the previous Conference, will probably be held on the evening

before the General Conference opens, and which, it is hoped, will become a permanent institution unifying the work of South African Young Israel.

### Kroonstad.

The inauguration of the Young Israel Society was celebrated by a social in the Victoria Hall on the 20th October. A large gathering was present, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. Items were provided by the Misses Dolly Smiedt, Martha Mervis, Ada Meyer and Bella and Fanny Jacobs; also Master J. Berman and company staged a comedy after the interval. The social was opened by the playing of "Hatikvah" by several members of the Society. Miss Dora Abrahams, the president, said a few words, and then dancing began. Miss A. Grossmark and Master H. Friedman were very efficient M.C.'s. Music was kindly provided by Mr. A. Hearn and band. During the interval tea and cakes were served, while the kiddies each received a packet of sweets. The playing of "Hatikvah" brought the evening to a close. Ninety members were enrolled during the evening. Entrance fee was 6d., and a sum of £4 10s. net was taken at the door.

On Saturday evening, the 10th November, Rev. E. H. Matthews gave a lecture on "Rabbi Akiba." The lecture was very interesting to the older members.

On Sunday afternoon, the 25th of November, a book tea was held at the residence of Mrs. Klass. There were some splendid representations, and judging was extremely difficult. The following received prizes: First prize, Master H. Javen; second prize, Miss C. Friedman; first consolation prize, Miss B. Jacobs; second consolation prize, Master I. Grossmark; special consolation prize, Miss H. Hearn. Mrs. Klass, as hostess, presented the prizes to the winners, and then after a few games were played the party dispersed.

### Krugersdorp.

The semi-annual general meeting of the Pirchei Zion Society took place on Sunday, the 4th November, at the Communal Hall, and was attended by a large number of members.

Mr. John A. Frack, in his presidential report, stated that during the session under review the Society held three successful social functions, whilst the literary tastes of the members had not been neglected.

Committee meetings, held fortnightly, had been well attended, and the president thanked the ladies and gentlemen for their support and untiring efforts for the Zionist cause. He also thanked the parents of the members for their kindly help towards the welfare of the Society.

The treasurer reported that goodly sums had been donated to Zionist funds, and that a large sum of money was still on hand. It is fitting to make special mention of the treasurer's magnificent holding of the Society's finances. It is the third session that Miss B. Danilowitz has held the office, and during that period the Society has always been in a sound financial position.

Mr. Louis L. Heyman, a delegate to the Transvaal Y.I. Central Executive, reported upon that body's activities for the past session.

Owing to the unavoidable absence of Mr. S. Cantor, the president presented Mr. A. Jacobs and Mr. Louis L. Heyman with silver badges for their devotion

and self-sacrificing labours for the Young Israel movement.

The following were elected on the new committee:—President, Mr. John A. Frack; vice-president, Mr. A. Folb; treasurer, Miss B. Danilowitz (all three being re-elected); hon. secretary, Mr. Louis L. Heyman; committee, Misses D. Broudie, S. Taitz, F. Levin, F. Jacobs, L. Feldman, M. Burstein, Z. Caplan, T. Rose and E. Plotkin, Messrs. D. Frack, M. Resnick, W. Friedman and H. Kaplan. Mr. A. Jacobs was duly appointed supervisor.

Under the auspices of the new committee, the film "Endurance" was shown at the Communal Hall, on Wednesday, the 28th November, to a huge audience, and proved an unparalleled success.

#### Pietermaritzburg.

The nineteenth semi-annual meeting of the Young Zionists' Society was held in the Hebrew Schoolroom on Sunday, December 2. Mr. B. Benjamin presided. Rev. J. Levine, honorary president, gave a brief address on "Zionism," with special reference to "Chanukah." The chairman thanked him for his address, and also for the great assistance he had rendered to the Society. The treasurer's report showed a good financial position and a satisfactory membership roll. Thanks were tendered by Mr. G. Benjamin, vice-president, to the outgoing president for his able work. The chairman expressed regret at the departure of Mr. A. Shrock who had done good work for the Society and whom he wished the best of luck at Jews' College, London, to which he is shortly proceeding. Mr. Shrock suitably replied. The election of officers and committee resulted as follows:—President, Mr. B. Benjamin; vice-president, Mr. G. Benjamin; hon. secretary, Miss D. Blumenfeld; hon. treasurer, Mr. A. Blumenfeld; librarian, Master J. Blumenfeld; auditor, Mr. L. Maister; committee, Misses E. Cohen, J. Kinkel, L. Maister and L. Levine, Messrs. N. Greenberg, L. Maister, H. Kukley. The meeting then terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman, and with the singing of "Hatikvah" and "God Save the King."

#### Port Elizabeth.

After considerable delay, the general meeting and election of the Daughters of Zion Society took place on the 9th instant, at the Emanuel Hall. Miss R. Rubin, the president, welcomed an attendance of about eighty members and friends.

Mrs. Nathan Levine read a paper on "Daughters of Zion and their Power," which was much appreciated by those present.

The election of officers and committee resulted as follows:—President, Miss A. Kalmin; vice-president, Miss M. Luntz; treasurer, Miss L. Weinronk; hon. secretary, Miss G. Martinson; committee, Misses R. Rubin, S. Zartz, M. Stein, B. Kahn, L. Perkin, B. Kraitziak, T. Levin, N. Eliasov, M. Rosfield and R. Whistler.

Mr. B. Weinronk, honorary life president of the Society, congratulated the newly-elected executive and committee, and expressed the hope that the coming year would bring great results to the Zionist cause from the Daughters of Zion. A hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer and to the outgoing officers concluded the meeting.

A few days afterwards the first meeting of the newly-elected committee took place at the residence of the hon. secretary, Miss Martinson.

The president having welcomed the new officers and committee, Mr. Weinronk addressed them, throwing emphasis on the hapless position of the Jews in Eastern Europe, and urging the duty of reviving the Zionist ideal amongst our sisters and brothers.

Various suggestions were made as to ways and means for making the Society a living force in Port Elizabeth, whilst all routine matters, such as membership, etc., were satisfactorily provided for.

### "AWAKENING PALESTINE."

#### A STRIKING COLLECTION OF ESSAYS.

This book, which is referred to in our London correspondent's Letter in this issue, is the most important collection of Essays on Zionist questions which has appeared in English for several years. The editors, Messrs. Leon Simon and Leonard Stein, are recognised authorities on the cultural and political problems of Zionism respectively. Mr. Simon is the English translator of *Ahad Ha'am*, and Mr. Stein is the political secretary of the World Zionist Organisation. Under such auspices, the collection of essays is carefully chosen so as to cover, in lucid exposition, every side of current Zionist questions. Each editor contributes a short essay, Mr. Simon stressing the spiritual and philosophical implications of Palestine for the Jewish people, and Mr. Stein forecasting the internal political future of the country and its population. Pride of place in the collection is given to a general survey of the Palestinian problem by Sir Alfred Mond, who has come strikingly to the front recently as a statesmanlike and forceful exponent of Zionist ideology. Next comes an impression of Palestine from the pen of Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, whose numerous and sympathetic utterances on Zionism assume great importance in view of his leadership of the strongest Labour Party which has ever sat in the English House of Commons, and the not unlikely contingency of his becoming, before many days are over, the Prime Minister of Great Britain. Other non-Jewish contributors to the volume are Mrs. Millicent Garrett Fawcett, Prof. Patrick Geddes, Canon Danby of Jerusalem, Hon. W. Ormsby-Gore, and Mr. Herbert Sidebotham. Dr. Weizmann writes on the Hebrew University. Mr. A. M. Hyamson reviews the march of Zionist history during the war. There is a series of essays dealing with the practical questions of the Jewish re-settlement, each by a leading expert: *e.g.*, Dr. Lurié on Hebrew education in Palestine, Dr. A. Ruppin on economic development, Mr. S. Hoofien on credit facilities, Dr. Jacob Thon on land development, and Mr. S. E. Soskin on agricultural settlement. An appendix gives the text of the Rutenberg Concession and of the British Mandate for Palestine; and there is also an admirable index and a map.

Taken altogether, the essays comprise a complete general review of the programme and problems of the Zionist movement, and will prove stimulating and convincing reading for every thinking Jew.

The book, which is neatly bound and clearly printed, contains over 300 pages, and is published by John Murray. Copies can be obtained from the S.A. Zionist Federation, price 8s., post free.