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In Cape Town

REPORTS OF JEWISH ACTIVITIES IN THE MOTHER CITY

From Our Own Correspondent.

All Communications relating to these pages should be addressed to "HASOFER," P.O. Box 3084, CAPE TOWN.

CAPETOWN HEBREW CONGREGATION.

There was a fairly large gathering present at a special general meeting of the Capetown Hebrew Congregation, held in the Old Synagogue last Sunday morning. Mr. M. Rosen, President of the Congregation, presided.

The first item on the agenda was to confirm an expenditure of £227 5s. incurred for repairs to the roof, dome and cupolas of the Great Synagogue. Messrs. E. Buirski, Ph. Myers and M. Eilenberg, all expressed the opinion that the committee's action in incurring this expenditure without consulting the general body was somewhat high-handed. In reply, Councillor S. Goldstein, Dr. B. Bernstein and Councillor J. Frank in turn, explained that the repairs had been most urgent and that there had been no time to obtain the views of the Congregation with regard to having them effected. The action was ultimately confirmed.

The next item dealt with was a motion by Councillor J. Frank that Law 37 be rescinded and the following substituted: "Should a vacancy or vacancies occur on the committee, such vacancy or vacancies shall be filled by the remaining members of the committee (provided that such remaining members shall not be fewer than eight), and such member or members so appointed to fill the vacancy or vacancies shall hold office until the next annual general meeting." The motion was objected to by Mr. A. Liberman and Mr. I. Levy, but was eventually carried.

The third item on the agenda was to adopt or otherwise the committee's recommendation: "That the Great Synagogue be repaired and renovated inside and out, at a cost of about £1,100." The Chairman, in explaining the necessity for this step, stated that for many years there had been no alterations effected in the Synagogue, and it was meet that these should take place now in view of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Synagogue which was to be held shortly. The architect, Mr. J. Lonstein, endorsed Mr. Rosen's statements.

A discussion ensued in which Messrs. M. Eilenberg, I. J. Honikman, Ph. Myers, A. Liberman, S. Goldstein and W. Harris participated, the four former expressing themselves as being opposed to the scheme and the remaining two in favour of it.

In accordance with a suggestion put forward by Councillor J. Frank, it was decided to refer the matter to the committee. This body, with the assistance of Messrs. M. Eilenberg and I. J. Honikman, was to go into the question thoroughly and to bring forward concrete proposals in connection with it at the next meeting.

The last item was dealt with in similar fashion, it being left to the consideration of the committee with the assistance of the same two additional people. This item was one to adopt or otherwise the committee's recommendation: "That four houses and offices be built on the Congregation's ground adjoining the Great Synagogue, at a cost not exceeding £10,000. That plans be prepared and exhibited in the offices of the Congregation for one month and members be notified to that effect and requested to suggest any improvements. The final decision to be in the hands of the committee. That authority be given to demolish any or all the existing houses if the committee so decides." (Majority recommendation.)

CAPE JEWISH BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

One does not need to stress here the value of the work being done by that excellent institution, the Board of Guardians. The assisting of the poor and needy, the doling out of charity, the alleviation of the discomforts of old age—to mention only a few of the duties for which the Board is responsible—are acts which call for the highest admiration of all, and we, for our part, do not withhold that admiration.

The Board has rendered particularly excellent services lately. Not only has a severe financial depression in the country been responsible for an increase in the number of bad "cases" to be dealt with per week, but the sudden influx of immigrants within the last few months, coming at the time of such a depression and in numbers so large that even in ordinary circumstances it would have been impossible for them all to have found employment at once, has called for its assistance with an appeal and an urgency it has been impossible to resist. The result has been that the back of this institution, burdened as it always has been, is almost bent double to-day under the strain of its present responsibilities.

There is thus an even greater necessity that the annual house-to-house campaign of the Board which takes place at the

beginning of this month be supported. I urge upon the Jewish public to realise its duties in this connection and to come forward in doing its little bit towards assisting those in positions less fortunate than they might have been.

MACCABEAN GUILD.

A very enjoyable Musical and Dramatic Evening was held at the Zionist Hall last Tuesday evening under the auspices of the above. Several very excellent items were rendered by the Maccabean Guild Orchestra, and a number of sketches were staged in which the following participated: Misses P. Cosy and M. Gitlin, Messrs. M. D. Berman, A. E. Davis, Dr. W. Emdin and Dr. M. Glass.

During the course of the evening, Mr. S. Nell, Chairman of the Association, delivered a short address in which he deplored the apathy with which the latter was treated by members. He outlined the various phases of work for which the Association was responsible, and pointed out that without support these could obviously not be continued.

YOUNG JUDEANS.

On Tuesday, 17th June, the above society held a very successful "Parents' Evening" at the Zionist Hall. The programme was of a variety nature, the first half consisting of social items, the other of an extremely humorous mock trial. During the evening a presentation was made to Mr. H. Zuckerman as a token of appreciation of his services to the society.

ONEG SHABBOS.

The attendances at the "Oneg Shabbosim," held every other Saturday at the Zionist Hall, are steadily increasing in number—undoubtedly an indication of the popularity of these affairs. At the latest of these, held on Saturday last, there must have been some 120 persons, all of whom participated with much enthusiasm in the events of the afternoon. During the course of the afternoon an excellent address in Yiddish was delivered by Mr. Z. Avin on "Hebrew Culture."

CAPE JEWISH ORPHANAGE.

A campaign to secure as large a number of new members as possible for the above institution was held last week and has just come to a close. The campaign, it is understood, was most successful, and the Orphanage should benefit not inconsiderably by the results of it. Particularly good work, we gather, was performed by Mrs. H. Stodel, who visited Paarl, Stellenbosch and Wellington, all with excellent results, and who has now arranged a tour by motor car of the whole of the Garden Route in the interests of the Orphanage.

In accordance with the suggestion made at the general meeting of the Institution in April, the Orphanage offices are shortly to be removed to the Home in Montrose Avenue. These are certainly steps towards remedying the very unsatisfactory state of affairs in the Orphanage revealed at that same meeting and one certainly hopes they will not be the last to be taken in this direction.

GENERAL.

Dr. Benzion Mossinsohn arrived in Capetown last Tuesday. He will deliver several public addresses here prior to his leaving for Palestine.

Miss Cecilia Joffe, formerly of Capetown, is being congratulated on her marriage to Mr. Emmanuel Bohbouth, which took place on July 1st in Tel-Aviv, Palestine. Miss Joffe is the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ch. Joffe, both well-known active Zionists who, it will be remembered, left South Africa with their family some two years ago in order to take up permanent residence in Palestine.

The Jewish National Fund Ball is being held in the Zionist Hall on Thursday evening, July 10th. Judging from the preparations in connection with it which are at present in hand, it should prove a very great success.

Mr. J. Carasov, Editor of the S.A. "Jewish Chronicle," returned last Thursday from up-country, where he has been on a business trip for the last two months.