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In Cape Town

REPORTS OF JEWISH ACTIVITIES IN THE MOTHER CITY

From Our Own Correspondent.

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DORSHEI ZION ANNUAL MEETING.

The thirty-first annual report delivered at the general meeting of the Dorshei Zion Association, held in the Zionist Hall last Sunday night, was an eloquent testimony to the strength, energy and sincerity of that body. It showed as clearly as ever that the Dorshei Zion is still the premier Zionist society in South Africa and that one will have to go far to seek another with such vast and varied achievements to its credit.

The report opened with a survey of the general position of Zionism during the last year, describing the latter as "one of the most momentous in the history of Zionism." Throughout all the events of the year, it said, the Association remained steadfast to its principles and more than ever determined to carry out its difficult task. As an example of this, the success of the Keren Hayesod Campaign was quoted.

During the year a large number of public meetings and lectures were held, the occasions and speakers at each one of these being mentioned. It was interesting to note that of these, two were protest meetings, one being in connection with the August riots, the other against the more recent suspension of Immigration Certificates to Palestine.

The report also mentioned that a special committee for the Cape had been formed for the collection of money for the relief of victims of the August riots and that the sum of no less than £5,268 3s. 7d. had been raised in a very short time.

Prominence was given in the report to the Propaganda Conference arranged by the Association, to the very considerable improvements effected in the Zionist Hall, which has become "indeed the home for all Jewish societies," and to the Zionist Hall Library in which, we are told, the number of books, especially in the Hebrew and Yiddish sections, had greatly increased and in which the Reading Room was especially popular.

A paragraph of the report was devoted to the activities of South Africans in Palestine, all of whom, it would appear, are doing most valuable work over there. Another paragraph dealt with the visit of Mr. Arie Shenkar to South Africa and yet another to the acquisition of the S.A. Jewish Chronicle by the Kadimah Press, Ltd., and of the innumerable benefits to be derived from this step. Finally, comments were made with regard to the excellent work being done by the sister society, the Bnoth Zion Association, and the report concluded with a hint as to the lines of future policy in view of the Quota Bill and its implications.

The Balance Sheet revealed a very favourable state of affairs there being an excess of revenue of some £70. The National Fund Statement also was a not unsatisfactory one. Some £3,000 was raised during the year, the Dunam Drive realising £1,628 4s. 6d., J.N.F. Box clearances £352 16s. 6d., and the annual Zionist Ball £289 14s. It was not so pleasing to note, however, that the Zionist Hall is still being run at a heavy loss despite the fact that there was an increase in the income during the last year.

Before moving the adoption of the report Mr. Isaac Ochberg, the Chairman, referred to the severe loss sustained in the death of Advocate Morris de Saxe which had just taken place in Johannesburg. Mr. J. Herbstein spoke appreciatively on the career of Mr. De Saxe and his services to Jewry in this country. The meeting rose as a mark of respect to the deceased.

The report was taken as read. The Chairman, in dealing with it, referred to the year of successful activity. He did not believe any society could have done more than the Dorshei Zion had done and as examples of its untiring efforts he quoted the Keren Hayesod Campaign, the work of the National Fund Committee during the year, and the cultural work of the Association. He dwelt on the harmony which existed between the Dorshei and Bnoth Zion Associations, and on the active part being taken by the juniors in the movement. He spoke at length on the serious position of Zionism in general and emphasised the need for doubling our efforts in the cause and of putting our faith in our leaders. He concluded by thanking all who had served the society during the last year.

Mr. J. Zuckerman, the Treasurer, formally seconded the adoption of the report which was then thrown open for discussion. Those who participated in the latter were Messrs. B. L. Rubik, M. Gurland, J. Gitlin, P. M. Clouts, N. Emdin and S. Horwitch. At the conclusion of the discussion the various points raised were summed up and suitably dealt with by Mr. Gitlin.

The next item on the agenda was the election of the new committee. The old executive was unanimously re-elected and while the voting for the committee was being scrutinised, the next item, "general" was dealt with. Under this various matters were brought up and discussed, such as the question of Jewish education, the strengthening of our internal organisation, the S.A. Jewish Chronicle and so on. Those who spoke were Messrs. D. Getz, J. Herbstein, H. M. Bloch, C. Wheeler, S. Borok, M. Gurland, P. M. Clouts, O. Basson and B. L. Rubik. The Chairman reviewed the discussion and the results of the elections were then announced. The committee now consists of the following: President: I. Ochberg; Vice-President, Dr. S. E. Kark; Hon. Treasurer, J. Zuckerman; Hon. Secretary, J. Gitlin; Committee, H. M. Bloch, L. Burman, D. Getz, S. Gesundheit, J. Herbstein, M. Joffe, S. Kaminsky, Ch. B. Levinsohn, P. Policansky, Dr. C. Resnekov, J. Sarif and J. Weinreich.

MRS. STODEL'S ACHIEVEMENT.

Mrs. H. J. Stodel has always been known as one of the finest Jewish social workers in Capetown, but never has this fact been so strongly brought home to the community as after her very latest achievement. Mrs. Stodel has just returned from a fairly extensive tour of the Cape Province in the interests of the Cape Jewish Orphanage and she has to record the increase, due to her efforts, of no less than 500 new subscribers to this institution and an amount of some £100 received in cash. This achievement, it will be agreed, is nothing short of wonderful and Mrs. Stodel is indeed to be admired and congratulated on her excellent work.

An "At Home" to welcome Mrs. Stodel on her return was held at the Orphanage last Sunday afternoon. Mr. J. Kadish presided over a very representative gathering and at the outset extended a hearty welcome to the guest of honour, and thanked her wholeheartedly for the work she had done.

Rev. A. P. Bender next paid a glowing tribute to Mrs. Stodel, remarking not only on her activities in connection with the Orphanage, but with all phases of social work. He trusted the example she had set would be followed by other Jewish women. Before concluding he presented her, on behalf of the Orphanage Committee, with an engraved silver plate.

Others who spoke were Mr. Isaac Ochberg, Councillor L. Gradner, Mr. M. Eilenberg, and Mr. M. Rosen, all of whom spoke warmly of Mrs. Stodel's services to the Orphanage and to the community generally, and also to the interest displayed by Mr. Stodel who had consented to the tour and who had rendered assistance throughout. Both Mrs. and Mr. Stodel suitably replied.

During the afternoon musical items were rendered by the "Tivoli Orchestra," by Mr. Billy Ray, who gave a clog dance and performed several very clever juggling tricks, Miss Ruth Kadish, who recited, Messrs. Oliver and Holt, who sang a number of duets, Mr. Marcus, who sang, and to Mr. Garfinkel and Miss Ruth Kadish who also rendered vocal solos.

The meeting concluded after Mr. B. Crasnow had thanked the artists for helping to make the afternoon a success.

THE ZIONIST "CONVERSAZIONE."

The fortnightly Zionist "conversazione" held at the Zionist Hall last Tuesday night was a very successful affair. Mr. and Mrs. J. Weinreich acted as host and hostess.

During the evening musical items were rendered by Miss Elma Feinhols and Mr. H. Garfinkel. Dr. D. Getz, as usual dealt with world Jewish events and spoke particularly on the life and services to Jewish people of the late Mr. Lucien Wolf. Others who paid tribute to Mr. Wolf were Mr. Zwejer and Mr. Futeran, after which the gathering rose as a mark of respect to his memory.

Before tea a discussion set on foot by Mr. Getz at the last "conversazione" was reopened. In this Mr. Getz contended that not sufficient attention was being paid by Zionists to the industrial development of Palestine. Those who spoke on this question were Messrs. Zwejer, Pam, S. Gesundheit, M. Joffe, P. M. Clouts, J. Gitlin, and Dr. J. Sacks. Mr. Getz spoke again on the subject.

The discussion was a very heated one and ended at so late an hour that a lecture which was to have been delivered by Dr. Sacks had to be postponed. A very pleasant evening concluded with the singing of "Hatikvah."