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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.

Lecture by Mr. M. Kentridge, M.P.

The Minor Zionist Hall was crowded last Sunday night when Mr. Morris Kentridge, M.P., delivered a lecture on "My Travels in Palestine." Dr. S. E. Kark presided and at the outset introduced the speaker.

Mr. Kentridge gave a graphic and comprehensive survey of his tour through Palestine, from a trip to which he has just returned. Unfortunately, time forbade his dealing with his impressions of the new Jewish colonies in that country, but his account of the urban settlements, their upbuilding, development and outstanding features was absorbing to a degree.

Mr. Kentridge was evidently deeply impressed by all he had seen, and particularly by such towns as Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv and Haifa. Speaking of Jerusalem, he described the meeting-place which this town provided for East and West. The Orient, represented by the Arabs, was to be found in slums and hovels, and the West, represented by the new Jews entering Palestine, in conditions which could well compare with those in any part of the world to-day. There was no difference between the streets and buildings of the new Jerusalem and those of Johannesburg or Cape Town. In this connection Mr. Kentridge drew particular attention to the new National Fund Building which was as fine a structure as one could wish to see anywhere. He also spoke of the University, but deplored the fact that it was so far only a research and not also a teaching University.

At Tel-Aviv, said Mr. Kentridge, the most startling impression one received was the fact that there was not a single non-Jew or non-Jewess to be seen. This was par excellence a hundred per cent. Jewish town.

Mr. Kentridge also spoke of the industrial development of Palestine and the various factories he had visited in Tel-Aviv. The time was not far distant, he said, when Palestine would be the centre of the Near East and the distributing centre between East and West.

As for Haifa, Mr. Kentridge saw facilities and opportunities for the utmost development of this town, largely because of the Haifa harbour. It would yet become a great commercial centre in the Near East. Already it had made great strides forward and as in Jerusalem the Jews in it had built up for themselves a modern residential quarter. In speaking of Haifa Mr. Kentridge paid special tribute to the work being done by the Binyan, whose office was in that town.

Questions were put to Mr. Kentridge at the conclusion of his lecture and after these had been suitably replied to Dr. Kark proposed a vote of thanks to the speaker. The meeting closed with the singing of the Hatikvah.

During the Holidays.

Two notices I saw recently in the Jewish press have interested me considerably. The first is that the Judean Central Council is again holding its camp at the Strand this year, and the second, that a Young Israel Week is being held at Muizenberg.

The Young Israel Camps need no introduction to Jewry in this country. They are well known as one of the finest types of Jewish camps that exist, as well as being extremely valuable as far as propaganda and other such questions are concerned. There can, therefore, be no doubt of the pleasure which must have been occasioned by the Judean Central Council's announcement and even more particularly by its decision to divide the camp this year into two sections—senior and junior—with different heads. Such an innovation should certainly make matters pleasanter all round, for one still remembers a few minor complaints from both seniors and juniors last year concerning the absence of a division as is to be made this year.

As for the Young Israel Week at Muizenberg, I cannot conceive of a more welcome measure that could be introduced by the juniors. There are numerous Young Jewish people who come to Muizenberg during the season on holiday. No advantage is taken of their presence as far as propaganda is concerned, no effort is made to further social intercourse—an excellent thing—among them, no attempt, in short is made to reap the full benefit of a gathering together of so many young people once a year from all over the country. It is to be sincerely trusted that the Judean Central Council's undertaking and the committee responsible for its carrying out will meet with all the success they deserve.

Kadimah Association.

Since Mr. Z. Avin some two months back became president of the Kadimah Association, that Society has been responsible for some excellent work and of late it has arranged a series of functions that might well be an example to many institutions of its kind. One of the most successful of these functions was a literary trial of "Baruch Minagentsa," the chief character in the poem of that name by Tehernichowsky. The trial was excellently conceived and arranged. Both the prosecutor and the defence were extraordinarily well managed and it was clear that much time and thought had been spent on them. The jury found the accused innocent of burning the city and in the matter of apostasy, but guilty as far as the murder of his daughter was concerned. The judge, in passing sentence, ordered Baruch to compensate for his misdeed by national constructive work on behalf of Judaism, the Jewish people and the Jewish revival.

Another very successful function held by the Association was when Mr. Avin lectured on "Masada," Isaac Lamdan's exquisite post-war poem. The lecture was very ably delivered and the character and contents of the poem admirably dealt with.

Maccabean Guild.

The Maccabean Guild in introspective mood is not at all an attractive body. It is, as a matter of fact, just a little dull and wearisome—at least that was what one could not help feeling at the Newspaper Evening it held last week. A large portion of the evening was devoted to discussing "What is wrong with the Society," and at the end the audience was politely thanked for having made such a good attendance at a "cultural" evening. The connection is not quite clear.

At any rate, even though the failings and shortcomings of the Maccabean Guild may provide excellent material for an evening's discussion, such discussion should have been postponed, or at least definitely curtailed last Monday night in view of the fact that there were far more worth while articles to be read. Such articles were, for instance, one by L. S. Richfield on "What should be the Jew's attitude to the Native Question," and one by W. Emdin on "The Nervousness of the Jew—a vicious cycle." Miss Helena Hersman contributed a sketch entitled "Meeting a Landsman" and Miss Annette Joelson submitted a short paper on "Jews I should like to meet." Correspondence was comprised of letters by Miss B. Lewis and Messrs. S. Nell and R. Freeman.

During the evening musical items were rendered by Mr. Eberlin, who gave a violin solo and Miss L. Jowell, who recited.

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