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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.

POLLING DAY.

There was considerable excitement in Zionist circles last Sunday when elections for the forthcoming Zionist Congress took place. For the first time in the history of Capetown Zionism the elections were run upon well organised lines, there being a number of polling stations both in town and the suburbs at which votes could be recorded during the whole of the day, and the party competitive spirit which was responsible for this state of affairs was strongly in evidence throughout. Canvasers were busy all day bringing Shekel-payers to the poll and in not a few cases it took some time explaining the method of voting—that the names of delegates on only one ticket could be voted for and that names could not be selected promiscuously from the whole list. The departure from the old method in which voting took place for the best man, irrespective of his political views, was not appreciated by all, apparently.

All the week prior to Sunday there had been an election atmosphere dominating communal activities. The Jewish press had for the last few weeks been publishing various announcements with regard to the elections and on the Friday just prior to voting day a special election number of the *S.A. Jewish Chronicle* was published. Prominent announcements were made with regard to the polling stations and the significance of a vote being cast. Photos and descriptions of the local candidates occupied almost two full pages of the journal. But the work of the press was really only to fan into flame the sparks that already existed, for as early in the week as Tuesday, at the usual fortnightly conversazione, a heated discussion took place on political Zionism in which the question of the election played far from an inconspicuous part. On Saturday night, when a genuine election meeting was held where representatives of all three parties were given the opportunity of explaining their party programmes, the Zionist Hall was crowded and the discussion from the floor was a considerably animated one. In this connection one must congratulate the Dorshei Zion Association which, although it arranged the meeting, was broadminded enough to see to it that all parties were represented on the platform.

The scene of the greatest excitement on Sunday was the Zionist Hall polling station. Here the majority of votes were recorded and throughout the day the meeting of General Zionists, Revisionists and Zeire Zionists resulted in not a few minor arguments. In the other centres, the election officers had fewer incidents of this nature to report, the reason no doubt being the fact that practically all the local "firebrands" were engaged at the Zionist Hall.

The results of the votes are not yet officially published but I understand that there has been a victory for the General Zionists.

On the whole it can be said that the elections were very well managed in Cape Town. Owing to the fact that it was the first time they were conducted in the manner they were, there were, of course, not a few features about them that were far from satisfactory, but one has every reason to believe that in the future these will be given the attention they need, and that elections will be run on as perfect lines as possible.

THE ZIONIST CONVERSAZIONE.

There was a fairly large attendance at the fortnightly conversazione held in the Zionist Hall on Tuesday night. Dr. and Mrs. J. Sachs acted as host and hostess.

After a short introductory speech by the host, Mr. D. Getz as usual delivered his report of recent Jewish world events, in the course of which he referred to the death of Professor Albert Michelsen. He paid a glowing tribute to Professor Michelsen as one who had rendered many services to mankind in the realm of science.

The main feature of the evening was a continuation of the discussion on Zionist problems which took place at the last conversazione. Those who participated were Messrs. S. Futeran, J. Weinreich, M. Woloziński, Rosenblit, Z. Avin, D. Getz and others. The discussion was a very animated one and was concluded at a late hour.

SHALOM ASCH CELEBRATION.

On Sunday, May 10th, a literary evening was held in the Zionist Hall under the auspices of the Zionist Socialist Society,

to celebrate the fiftieth birthday of the Yiddish writer, Shalom Asch.

The Chairman, Mr. Achron, in opening the function, spoke on the significance of the celebration. Asch, he said, was a national writer and had always taken a great interest in Jewish social life. Recently he had begun to interest himself in the working classes and both by word and deed had helped to spread their ideas.

Mr. Barsky gave a short but eloquent address. He spoke of Asch's activities in the world of literature and pointed to the spirit of optimism which characterised all his work. Even the writings he had completed when a youth had come like a clarion call to the Jewish public, for he had effected a departure in Yiddish literature in assuming a positive and not a negative outlook on life.

During the evening musical items were rendered by the Misses B. Zive and H. Hodes, who gave a pianoforte duet, by Messrs. Losman and Natas who recited, and by Mr. Dunsky, who gave a violin solo. Jewish folk songs were sung by Messrs. H. Kawarsky and Kaminsky, who were accompanied at the piano by Miss Goldstein and Mr. Koor'nd respectively.

GENERAL.

The engagement is announced of Dr. Charles Immerman, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Immerman, of Cape Town, to Rose, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Schwartz, of Klerksdorp.



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