

A Mizrachi Organisation Formed in Capetown.

(From Our Capetown Correspondent.)

Last week we stated that a Mizrachi Organisation had been formed in Capetown. We are now able to publish the names of the members of the committee. They are as follows: Hon. President, Rabbi M. Ch. Mirvish; President, Mr. M. Gurland; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. H. Sandler, O. Basson, I. Shuel; Treasurer, Mr. M. Peires; Joint Hon. Secretaries, Messrs. B. Chideckel, M. Aronson; Committee Members, Messrs. S. Bloch, S. Bernhardt, A. Kaufman, I. Sonnenscher, A. Katz, L. Sacks, N. Dorogov, J. Pasvolsky and D. Kalverisk.

The first meeting of the Organisation took place in the Zionist Hall on Sunday morning last. Mr. M. Gurland presided and opened the meeting with a short speech in Hebrew.

Rev. A. P. Bender expressed his great sympathy with the cause to which Rabbi Berlin had dedicated his life. He himself, he said, was a Zionist who did not belong to any particular organisation, but he welcomed the Mizrachi movement. He heartily believed that religion should permeate Jewish life, especially in Palestine.

We had to give of our help to the Zionist movement to-day in every possible manner. We could not turn back now. If we walked onward, trusting in providential guidance, we would reach our goal.

Rabbi M. Ch. Mirvish explained that the term "spiritual centre" had not been originated by Achad Ha'am but by the Mizrachi. He proceeded to retail the history of the Mizrachi movement, pointing out that its aim was to create of Eretz Israel a centre from which would radiate to the ends of the earth the spirit and teaching of the prophets of the Torah.

Rabbi I. M. Gervis said that a new page in the history of South African Jewry had been written since Rabbi Berlin's arrival in this country. Rabbi Berlin had explained clearly what was the aim of the Mizrachi movement, and it was left for Jewry here to put the principles of it into practice.

Rabbi Berlin next delivered an address. The Mizrachi movement, he said, was not a new thing, but it had been given the appearance of something new in this country and every new undertaking, even if it was only seemingly new, had to take note of two things. The first was, that the stronger a movement was, and the more earnest and enthusiastic its members, the more likely was it to attract others. The second was, that an atmosphere had to be created around the movement as would make it a factor with which to be reckoned. The Mizrachi had to hold their heads up high, had to become a force. The Mizrachi Organisation in Capetown had to have leaders who were enthusiastic and energetic to represent the religious section of the community.

A certain amount of opposition had been raised to the movement, but it was without foundation. It had been said that religion barred progress, that the Mizrachi were fighting a lost cause as had been shown in the case of other nations. But only those who knew nothing of Jewish religion and Torah offered such grounds for opposition. In any case, the Jews could not be compared to other peoples and so the analogy did not hold.

It had also been said that religion was too holy a thing to be dragged into politics. But, said the speaker, it was *because* it was so holy that the Mizrachi wanted to proclaim it to the world. They wanted the Jewish Torah to be given life and Jewish life to be *Torahdik*.

The creation of Eretz Israel as a spiritual centre was of first importance. But this was impossible without the actual possession of Eretz Israel. And so together with the spiritual revival had to go the more concrete work on behalf of Palestine. The Mizrachi had to provide more souls to bear the spirit of Judaism, to make the spiritual centre possible. They had to increase their work on behalf of the Keren Hayesod and Keren Kayemeth.

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Zionist Ball. The annual ball given by the Zionist Society on Wednesday the 28th October, at the Berea Hall was an outstanding success and once again it stood out as Pretoria Jewry's most popular function. The hall was artistically decorated and the Zionist colours were attractively displayed. The Revellers Band played with their usual brightness and balance and the Ball proved to be a most jolly affair from every point of view.

A feature of the evening was the dancing display by Signor and Madam Canale, of Johannesburg and their shadows, Miss Gwennie Fraser and Master Cecil Schneider.

The arrangements were in the hands of an augmented committee comprised of the following:—Miss Hirsowitz, B.S.C. chairlady; Mr. C. A. Dorfan, Secretary and Mrs. D. Boner, Mrs. Machanik Mr. and Mrs. Isaacson, Mrs. Breanach, Mrs. Ravid, Mrs. Gavron, Mrs. Ginsberg, Mrs. F. Goddard, Mr. and Mrs. Manashewitz, Mrs. S. Malitzky, Mrs. Rom, Mr. and Mrs. S. Katzen, Mrs. A. Cooper, Mrs. Etin, Mrs. Schewitz, Mrs. Millstein, Mrs. D. I. Friedland, Mrs. J. Liebman, Mrs. M. Niefeld, Mrs. A. Orkin, Mrs. S. Sacks, Mrs. N. Sacks, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Saks, Mr. and Mrs. Kumin, Mr. and Mrs. S. Rutowitz, Mrs. H. Ziman, Mrs. E. Ziman, Mrs. Kaplan; the Misses Madnitzky, Rostowsky, Saperstein and Goldberg; and Mr. D. Gould and Dr. J. Hellman.

In addition, the Pretoria Women's Zionist League, and the Jewish Women's Benevolent Society, rendered valuable assistance.

It was a communal effort in the widest sense and the efforts of the organisers were rewarded with a large and distinguished audience, which included visitors from Johannesburg, Devon and Ficksburg.

Councillor Ivan Solomon. At the municipal elections held last week, Councillor Ivan Solomon was re-elected by a large majority. Councillor Solomon is at present the only Jewish member on the Pretoria City Council.

Miss Mary Kumin, L.R.A.M., U.L.M., L.T.C.L., A.T.C.L., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. Kumin, the well-known residents of Pretoria, has returned from London, where she completed her musical studies at the Royal Academy of Music. Miss Kumin, who is a gold-medalist, is a very talented pianist and proposes shortly to open a school of music.

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