

New Rabbi for Bloemfontein

Welcome to Dr. Moses Romm

AN event of importance in the annals of Bloemfontein Jewry occurred on Tuesday, the 27th ult., when Rabbi Dr. Moses Romm was inducted at the local synagogue as minister of the local Hebrew congregation. The service was conducted by the Rev. S. Hadassin, who was assisted by the Rev. M. Konviser, of Kimberley. Rabbi I. Kossowsky, of Johannesburg, delivered the induction address.

Dr. Romm's installation sermon aroused the greatest interest in the attendant congregation. In the evening a reception was held at the Communal Hall at which 400 members of the Jewish community gathered to meet the Rabbi. He was introduced by Mr. J. Philips, president of the Bloemfontein Hebrew Congregation, who stated that the number of the people who were in attendance at the meeting gave proof of the high opinion the congregation had already formed of their new spiritual leader.

Mr. Philips was followed by the Rev. M. Konviser, who called upon the gathering to co-operate with Rabbi Romm, and not merely to tender lip-service. Mr. Kimmel, of Wepener, and Mr. Schatz, President of the Brandford Hebrew Congregation, also spoke.

Dr. Romm, at the commencement of his address, made reference to his predecessor, the Rev. Z. Lawrence, whose good work, he said, would serve as a beacon for himself. He also expressed gratitude for the welcome which had been accorded him.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Philips for presiding at the reception and for the good work he had done in bringing out Dr. Romm, was proposed by Mr. Bradlow.

The new Rabbi of Bloemfontein, who arrived in the town on the 25th of last month, is an active Zionist and a man of great culture and learning. He obtained, at the age of eighteen, the highest rabbinical diploma. He then left Kovno, where he had studied, and continued his education at the University of Syracuse, New York. He first graduated as a bachelor of arts, and in the following year obtained his doctorate of jurisprudence at the University of New York. About three years ago he resigned from the position of rabbi, to various important centres in America, which he had held for sixteen years, and settled down in Palestine. Eventually, however, he was prevailed upon to accept the vacancy in Bloemfontein caused by the death of the Rev. Z. Lawrence.

"Moses—the Jewish Superman"

Address by Rabbi M. C. Weiler.

On Wednesday, the 18th inst., at 3 p.m., a meeting of the Parktown branch of the Women's Zionist League will be held at "The Shales," 4, Victoria Avenue, Parktown, the residence of Mrs. Bernitz.

On this occasion Rabbi M. C. Weiler will address the gathering, his subject being "Moses, the Jewish Superman." In addition musical items will be rendered by Mrs. Beatrice Alexander, Miss Bertha Shulman and Mrs. Frances Freedman.

Greta Garbo at the Metro

There can be no doubt that Greta Garbo is to-day Queen of the Screen. Her performance in her latest picture, "Queen Christina," is a magnificent one. The story is a superb vehicle for Garbo's art. Who could better portray the life of the great Queen of Sweden than this great Swedish actress? The supporting cast is an excellent one, including a galaxy of eminent artists. "Queen Christina" is a picture to be genuinely proud of and one which no serious film-fan should miss.

"Jewish Problems of To-day"

By Dr. W. Sachs.

The next article in this series will be published in the "Zionist Record" next week.

A Seder-Night in Krugersdorp

UNDER the auspices of the Krugersdorp Jewish Guild, a Seder, conforming in every detail with traditional Jewish usage, was held in the local Communal Hall on the second night of Pesach.

The hall, which was specially decorated for the occasion with white and blue streamers, and the well-decorated tables arranged in the form of a quadrangle and dotted with bottles of sparkling wine, represented a true picture of a Jewish home on Seder-night.

The participants, numbering over sixty men and women, attired in full evening dress, took their seats at 8 o'clock sharp, and the ceremonial Seder began. The Rev. Mr. Wolk presided and recited the Hagadah, accompanied by the whole audience. Master Archie Levy asked the Mah-Nish-tanah. The parsley and "Chrein in Hareishas" were honoured in good grace by the whole great family, and needless to mention the "Kneidlich" and the long menu of dainties.

Several Hebrew and Yiddish songs were rendered during the meal, which whetted the appetites and raised the festive spirit to its greatest height. A short address on the significance of the Passover was delivered by Rev. Wolk.

The "Afikoman" met with a friendly reception when passed round the tables. "Sheer-hamaaloth" and almost the whole of the remainder of the Hagadah was sung in full chorus, opportunity being given to members of the company to bring out their own particular tunes in the passages of the Chad Gadya. The singing of Hatikvah and our exclamation of "Le sho-no Habo Berusholoyim" terminated an evening of great spiritual enjoyment—a communal Seder, the first of its kind in the annals of Krugersdorp.

The great success of the evening was due to the initiative and indefatigable work of Mr. H. Tennenbaum, Chairman of the Jewish Guild, to whom all the credit of the success of the evening is due. The Jewish Guild is filling a long-felt want among the younger section of Krugersdorp Jewry. Its efforts, mainly due to Mr. Tennenbaum and to the hon. secretary, Miss Burstein, are meeting with great success in drawing the younger generation to a participation in Jewish affairs of every description.

REFORM SISTERHOOD.

The Sisterhood of the Johannesburg Jewish Reform Congregation will hold its next monthly literary meeting at the residence of Mrs. D. Cohen, 35, Restanwold Drive, Saxonwold, on Wednesday, April 11th, at 3.15 p.m.

Advocate G. Colman will deliver an address on "Feuchtwanger." Mrs. Alec Hendler will recite.

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A Lively Zionist Meeting in Johannesburg

A PUBLIC meeting was held on Sunday evening last at the H.O.D. Hall under the auspices of the United Zionist Socialists of South Africa. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the present position in Zionism.

There was a feeling of intensity prevalent. Almost from the outset interjections were hurled at the speakers by the members of the "Geserd," Jewish Workers' Club and Revisionists. Disturbances continued until the chairman was finally forced to close the meeting.

Mr. Ch. Sacks, who was in the chair, said that the Zionist Socialist movement was a new conception in Jewish life resulting from the new position created in Palestine. The workers in that country fulfil their duties and responsibilities without considering personal benefit or advantage. On the other hand, there were those who exploited Palestine for their personal profit.

The speaker declared that the most important element in the upbuilding of Palestine was Jewish labour and a just treatment of the worker. It was the latter who was so bitterly opposed to the spread of the evil of land speculation. The masses in the diaspora must realise the situation and help the workers to build the land according to the latter's plan.

Dr. J. Melamed said that whilst Zionism alone could solve the Jewish problem, it would have to be a Socialist Zionism wherein the interests of Eretz Israel came foremost. It was those who were responsible for the fine national work proceeding in every country who should be supported.

Mr. Ch. Achron said that the opposition to the Zionist Executive of to-day had developed into an anti-workers campaign, and the opposition to labour had no definite programme and were not concerned with the Executive's failures but rather embittered at its successes. Whilst every party in Eretz Israel had the right to criticise they had no right to hinder the general worker's progress. It was the narrow party politics of the opposition which was harming the upbuilding of Palestine.

The speaker added that the workers in Eretz Israel had taken over the leadership in the interests of the Jewish masses only. The workers had a moral right to leadership in view of the sacrifices they were making.

Mr. J. Batnitzky said it was a regrettable thing that when the situation in Palestine admitted of an immigration in one month equal to that of Biro-Bidjan in a year, there were splits in the Zionist organisation. Referring to the Revisionists, he said that the movement carried along with it reaction and Fascism and must be condemned by all progressive elements.

Mr. W. Rybko declared that no single party in Zionism could claim to be the sole carriers of the ideals of Herzl. He felt that the fight against the workers was based on narrow party jealousy and a hatred of the workers' fine achievements.

As indicated at the beginning of this report, all the above recorded speeches were considerably interrupted and at this stage the chairman was forced to close the meeting.

"Peach O'Reno" at the Plaza

Those two bright comedians, Wheeler and Woolsey, appear again in Johannesburg at the Plaza Theatre in a new production entitled "Peach O'Reno." This is a bright entertainment, which is causing crowded audiences to rock with laughter. The supporting programme at the Plaza this week is of extra high quality.

Brewed Right—Always Bright—CHANDLER'S LAGER