

Picnic at the Chalutz Farm Happy Gathering of Jewish Youth

ON Sunday last, under the auspices of the Transvaal Zionist Youth Council, a mass picnic was held at the Chalutz Farm. Six motor lorries, conveying about two hundred people, left Johannesburg early in the morning. The picnickers were singing cheerily as the lorries made their way out of town, and words of a strange language assailed the ears of passers-by. Hebrew songs filled the air. "Am Yisrael Chai!" the picnickers sang: "Boker, Boker, Yisrael!" They were a gay throng, dressed in shorts, open-necked shirts, flamboyant blazers, Garbo "longs," happy in their common Jewishness, clinging defiantly to national integrity in the face of an alien world.

And on the Chalutz Farm, in this quiet corner of the Transvaal, it was as if they had been transported in some magic way to the land that some day these Chalutzim hope to be building, the new-old land of Israel. A medley of three languages filled the air with sound: English, Yiddish, Hebrew. In chorus they sang Hebrew songs, they took each other's arm and danced the "Hora." The African valley, sloping gently and lazily downwards to a thin, trickling stream, was filled with a life that vaguely it may have connected with people who walked its green slopes thousands of years ago; those dark-eyed, dark-haired men who made their perilous way from the north to mine gold for King Solomon . . . Or it may be that they never came so far south as this . . . Only Africa can tell.

Blithe and gay, the picnickers went about the farm, inspecting the apple orchard, the vegetable garden, the lands which soon, when the coming winter is done, will be ploughed for sowing, and which next year will wave with green maize. They went through the dwelling place of these pioneer Chalutzim, pleased at its cosiness, its general air of a rich Hebrew life. On the walls were pictures of Palestine, and, in a place of honour, a photograph of the man who inspired his people with the ideal of a great Hebrew revival. Against one wall there is a bookshelf, on which is the "library" of the farm colony. A varied selection of books is here, fiction and non-fiction, Hebrew and English and Yiddish. The inmates of the Chalutz Farm are very proud of this collection, which they hope will form the nucleus of a fine library.

The picnickers beheld, with pleasure and pride, the work that was going on, the manner in which this wild, uncultivated stretch of land was slowly taking shape and yielding fruit, under the moulding hands of their kinsmen.

Late in the afternoon, almost at the beginning of evening, they clambered back on to the lorries and drove home. They were tired, dust-begrimed, but happy. And as the lorries rode over the brown, dusty, uneven roads, their voices sang forth, even more enthusiastically than when in the morning they set out, "Am Yisrael Chai . . . Am Yisrael Chai!"

Women's Mizrahi Organisation

Under the auspices of the Western Suburbs branch of the above organisation a literary afternoon will be held at the residence of Mrs. J. Sacks, 36, 10th Avenue, Mayfair, on Monday, the 23rd inst., at 3.15 p.m. Mrs. L. Greenberg will give an address on the Wizo. A pleasant afternoon is anticipated.

Forthcoming National Fund Fete in Pretoria

THE Women's Zionist League of Pretoria held their monthly "at home" on Wednesday, the 11th inst., when Mr. J. Greenstein delivered an interesting address on "The Jewish Women's Place in Palestinian Agricultural Life."

Mrs. S. Katzen read the current news items of Zionist interest, and Miss Fasser charmed the audience with her singing. Mrs. Ravid was in the chair, and Mrs. Levinkind proposed the vote of thanks.

Mrs. D. Sugarman and Mrs. J. Liebson, conveners of the cigarette stall for the forthcoming National Fund Fête, and their helpers, are to be congratulated on the successful "Treasure Hunt" they organised on Saturday evening, the 14th inst. This function proved to be one of the most enjoyable held for some time, and judging by the attendance, the funds should benefit considerably thereby.

The next effort for the Fête will be a bridge and tennis afternoon which is being organised by Mrs. Levinkind of the arts and crafts stall, and which will take place on Wednesday, the 2nd May, at 2.30 p.m., at the residence of Mrs. Saperstein. (Tickets are to be had from the members of the Arts and Crafts Committee).

On Wednesday, 16th May, the grocery and cigarette stalls are making a combined effort by organising a grand variety entertainment at the City Hall, Pretoria. An excellent programme has been arranged, full particulars of which will be given later. All music lovers should make a special effort to attend this entertainment.

"The Country Girl."

A delightful presentation of "The Country Girl"—that pleasant old musical comedy—is being given at the Barnato Girls' High School by the Old Girls' Club of that institution.

The opening performance on Wednesday evening was a most enjoyable affair. The school has a very small stage, but within its limits the producer, Mr. E. E. Strangman, has done wonders. The costumes and stage properties were of the simplest kind, but were effective.

An excellent portrayal of an Indian Rajah was given by Mr. B. M. Rabinowitz, who is the possessor of a powerfully-strong bass voice. The part of Nan—made famous years ago by Miss Evie Greene—was played with rare grace and charm by Miss Rose Kowarsky. This lady is the possessor of a rich and cultured soprano voice. She is one of our finest amateur singers and has rarely been heard to better advantage than in the various important numbers in this production.

The whole performance went with a vim and swing which pleased a discerning and appreciative audience.

Hebrew Classes at the Jewish Guild

There is no doubt that there is evident among Jews to-day a special consciousness of their religion and race. Successful colonisation in Palestine and other world factors have stimulated a desire for the study of Hebrew as a living language, and for the acquisition of knowledge on Jewish cultural subjects. In order to meet this demand the Jewish Guild has instituted Hebrew classes followed by lectures on Jewish History and Jewish Literature, the instructors and lecturers being highly qualified men.

Excellent progress has been made by those who have been attending the classes which are held on Monday and Thursday evenings at the Jewish Guild War Memorial Hall at 8 p.m., but in order to disseminate knowledge of these specific subjects over a wider area, an open invitation is extended to all interested to join these classes.

"Moses—the Jewish Superman"

ADDRESS BY RABBI M. C. WEILER.

WE are interested, not in the existence of the archeological Moses, but we are interested in his historical significance. For Moses has been the guiding conscience of the Jewish people throughout the ages."

These words formed the guiding theme of an address on "Moses — the Jewish Superman," delivered by Rabbi M. C. Weiler, at a meeting of the Parktown branch of the Johannesburg Women's Zionist League, held on Wednesday, the 18th inst. The venue was the home of Mrs. Bernitz. Mrs. E. Gordon presided over a representative gathering of some one hundred persons.

Rabbi Weiler analysed Moses as portrayed by Michael Angelo, Henry George, Heine and Achad Ha'am. The last-named, said the speaker, understood him best, for according to him Moses, the Superman, demanded nothing of society but a satisfaction of his elementary wants, leaving him at peace to pursue his own inner perfection.

"Moses is the archetype of Hebrew idealism," continued Dr. Weiler. "He is the master of the prophetic Guild, and can never subordinate justice to anything else for he believes in absolute justice."

The Kabbalists say that "Moses is reincarnated in every age," and indeed in subsequent generations, Maimonides, Mendelssohn, Herzl, Spinoza and Karl Marx embodied in their ideas the ideal of absolute justice which tradition has attributed to Moses.

"Above all Theodor Herzl may be considered a modern Moses, for he, too, at first imbibed the cultures of the modern Pharaohs, and before he returned to his people, was moved by his sense of justice in regard to Capt. Alfred Dreyfuss. Herzl, too, believed in absolute justice, for in his 'Alt Neuland,' the architect, Steineck, after he has completed his Palestinian task, wants to go to Africa in order to establish justice for the despised and rejected natives, and thus to achieve the ultimate dominion of absolute justice."

Among those in attendance at the meeting, were the Deputy Mayoress of Johannesburg, Mrs. M. Freeman. Mrs. B. Patley, chairman of the Women's Zionist League, and Miss Kusel, of Oudtshoorn. During the course of the afternoon Miss B. Alexander sang, Mrs. A. Freedman rendered a pianoforte solo, and Miss Schulman played the violin. Dr. D. Katzen spoke on the delegation from Palestine.

The vote of thanks to the speaker was proposed by Mrs. T. Saphra, that to the artists by Mrs. B. Goudvis, and that to the hostess, Mrs. Bernitz, by Mrs. Neuman.

"MERELY MARY ANN" AT THE PLAZA

A talkie version of Israel Zangwill's great story "Merely Mary Ann" is the attraction at the Plaza this week. In this fine Fox feature there appear Janet Gaynor and Charles Farrell, the celebrated screen rivals. There is also a very attractive supporting programme at the Plaza this week.

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