

The Privilege of Being a Jew To-day

Professor Dingemans on the Destiny of Israel

A NOBLE tribute to the achievements of Zionism and the great culture of the Jewish nation was made by Professor G. F. Dingemans, of Rhodes University College, in the course of an address at the H.O.D. Hall, Johannesburg, on Wednesday evening last. The occasion was the celebration of the sixtieth birthday of Professor Joseph Klausner, the great Jewish historian. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Nordau Club and the Johannesburg Revisionist Association.

In introducing Professor Dingemans, Mr. I. J. Kagan, who presided, declared that he was respected by Jews for his great erudition, his ability as a linguist, and, perhaps more than anything else, because he had shown himself to be one of those noble Gentiles who assisted the Jews in repulsing the fight waged against them for no other reason than that they were Jews.

Professor Dingemans thanked the Chairman for his fine words and assured the gathering that it was in the interests of plain justice that he had come forward on a recent occasion of importance to the Jews in this country.

Professor Dingemans then offered an evaluation of the gifts made by Jewry to world culture. He dealt learnedly and absorbingly with the centuries of Jewish history, linking the changing fortunes of Israel with the great works of human wisdom and civilisation which generation after generation of Jews have produced. He displayed a thorough knowledge of Hebraic culture, and frequently in the course of his address gave quotations in a finely-pronounced Sephardic Hebrew. He offered his address as the view-point of an evangelical Christian who had always been a great admirer of Jews. It was a wonderful thing that in spite of dispersion and oppression Israel had not disappeared in accordance with normal sociological laws. "This is the greatest miracle of history, and is one in which I and millions of sincere Christians see the hand of God reserving for Israel an even greater and more glorious destiny," he declared.

Now a great people was reviving again the age-old culture and making it new through Zionism. The Zionist cause was not something fortuitous. It was an historic necessity, and because of this it had emerged conquering and to conquer. The old traditional greeting "*Leshanah Haba'ah Berushalaim*" had been imbued with fresh significance. He felt that to be a Jew in these stirring days was indeed a great privilege, and he could not understand how any Jew could be indifferent to the Zionist cause. It seemed to him that Zionism called forth all that was best in the Jew, and therefore enhanced his value as a citizen of the lands in which he lived. He knew that to-day there were various factions in Zionism, and he felt that the Histadruth, Revisionists, Mizrachi, General Zionists and all others had to learn the difficult law of give and take, for it was necessary to the interests of their people that they act harmoniously and in unity and thus give to the world an object lesson in the attainment of the maximum of self-expression with the greatest good to all.—(Applause.)

THE life and work of Professor Klausner was ably dealt with by Mr. J. Blumenthal, of the S.A. Board of Jewish Education. Klausner, he said, represented the essence of all that was best in Israel. He had deep erudition and foresight, coupled with youthful vitality. He brought to bear on the problems of his people a scientific attitude of mind. He introduced all that was best and most ennobling in the culture of other peoples to the culture of Israel, and that which was great in Jewish culture he sought to disseminate among other peoples. In his great work "Jewry and Mankind" he showed that there was no conflict between the values of the Jewish people and the values of the world at large. Both were contributory, and only by working together in the great scheme of the universe was progress obtained. From his early years Professor Klausner had identified himself closely with Zionism, and he consistently propagated the view that it was vitally necessary for Jewry to have their own homeland. Homeless, they were at the mercy of the world. With a home they were free to achieve reintegration.

The speaker referred briefly to the present-day position in Palestine, and commended a leading article in the *Zionist Record* dealing with the proposed Legislative Council in Palestine. This article, he declared, had been written in the true spirit which Joseph Klausner had always sought to inculcate into his people.

MR. JUDELOWITZ delivered an interesting address in which he gave many reminiscences of Professor Klausner, whom he had known in Europe. His address was interspersed with many whimsical anecdotes illustrating this point and that, and with a wealth of knowledge on Jewish culture.

South African Board of Jewish Education

Sermons on Education.—The Council of the Board has noted with pleasure that practically all preachers took as their subject Hebrew education at one of their sermons during the recent High Festivals. Chief Rabbi Dr. Landau, and Rev. A. T. Shrock, spoke at great length in their respective synagogues on various problems of Jewish education which subject was also the main theme of Rabbi Kossowski in his Yom Kippur night sermon to the Berea Hebrew Congregation. The Director of the Board addressed a large gathering of Jewish children in the succah of the Berea Synagogue on the first day of Succoth.

Shortage of Trained Teachers and Kindergarten Mistresses.—A considerable number of requests have reached the office of the Board for trained teachers and kindergarten mistresses in various parts of the country. Qualified teachers desirous of taking up positions in any part of the country are advised to communicate with the Secretary of the Board, P.O. Box 2942, Johannesburg.

Lessons Issued by the Board.—History lessons Nos. 13 and 14,, as well as the first lesson on Palestine have now been issued and are being circulated amongst all affiliated bodies throughout the country.

Hebrew Text Book for Adults.—A Hebrew text book for adults—with a particular view to the needs of self-learners—is in the course of preparation by the Board. It is expected that the book will be ready for publication at the beginning of the year.

Tours by Board's Officials.—Mr. J. Blumenthal, Inspector of the Board, has now completed his Transvaal tour and is about to launch on a lengthy tour of the Cape Province. Mr. Mierowsky will be visiting Durban at the end of next month for the purpose of conducting examinations of the Durban Hebrew School.

New Affiliations.—The following Congregations have been recently added to the list of affiliated bodies to the Board: Delmas, Reitz, Warmbaths, and Thaba 'Nchu.

Panels by Amschewitz

Mr. M. Haskel, of Johannesburg, has commissioned the London artist, Mr. H. J. Amschewitz, to paint two panels, one depicting the voyages of Vasco da Gama and Bartholomew Dias, for presentation to the Johannesburg University Library, and the other probably an episode in the founding of Pretoria for the Pretoria Town Hall.

PACKED HOUSES AT THE COLOSSEUM

This week is "Birthday Week" at the Colosseum theatre. The special attraction is "Dames"—a musical show which has been rushed to South Africa by air mail from America. The film is not being released throughout the world until February next year.

"Dames" is one of the finest musical shows ever seen in the film. The Colosseum Symphony Orchestra is now being conducted by Mr. Michael Doré, who has come from London. He is a gifted musician and wields the baton with fine dignity and effect.

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