

CORONATION SERVICE AT PARK SYNAGOGUE

Impressive Sermon by Chief Rabbi

THE most elevating and inspiring thought at this solemn service is that of the brotherhood which embraces at this moment all the nations and races of this vast and mighty Empire. The prayers we are now offering up for the glory of the King and the welfare of this great Empire will be echoed in millions of hearts scattered over the wide face of the earth."

With these words, Chief Rabbi Dr. J. L. Landau commenced his sermon at the special Coronation Thanksgiving Service in honour of the King and Queen, at the Wolmarans Street Synagogue, Johannesburg, on Sunday morning last. Standing in the pulpit, a noble and impressive figure, he gave utterance to the hopes for the long and peaceful reign of King George VI. and Queen Elizabeth that will be felt by Jews, no less than by their fellow countrymen, throughout all the Dominions of the British Empire.

"One cannot help thinking," the Chief Rabbi said, "that no sovereign in history has enjoyed such affection, loyalty and devotion from millions of men and women throughout the civilised world as the rulers of Great Britain during the last century, and Britons have every reason to be filled with great national pride on the glorious day of the Coronation.

"It is true that there are clouds on the horizon of the world to-day. There are war-loving and ambitious nations which cannot rest, and half suppressed war cries are faintly stirring. But we as Jews firmly believe that a throne based on justice must triumph, and that the throne of Great Britain, which is founded on the principles of liberty, equality and righteousness, will prevail.

"The British Empire has been a civilising factor in the modern world. Wherever a son of Great Britain has established his home and unrolled the British flag, he has planted a colony dedicated to upholding those noble ideals of democracy upon which the Empire rests."

Dr. Landau then referred to the infiltration of poisonous ideologies of race hatred even into the Empire saying: "New elements have been imported into England and its dominions, hostile elements from other countries, and we Jews are forced to face abominable accusations and fight them, even in the British Empire. But we may indeed rejoice in the thought that the highest personalities in the Empire, the great statesmen of England and the Dominions, have repudiated these base calumnies, have risen to break a lance in our defence and proclaim the universality of human brotherhood and Britain's traditional abhorrence of intolerance. And when we rejoice on this day and pray for the glory and welfare and prosperity of the British Empire and its Sovereign, we do so with deep reason; more, we do so with the closest feelings of kinship, for the noble principles for which the Empire stands are Jewish principles. 'Love thy neighbour' is Jewish, and 'Be just' is Jewish; it was our prophets centuries ago who raised these cardinal principles of righteousness, and planted them in the hearts of men.

"Our loyalty as citizens of this great Empire is unquestioned. When ever we had the opportunity of proving it, we have done so wholeheartedly. Many of the great sons of our nation have woven the golden thread of their intellect into English literature, learning, science and statesmanship. We have given to Britain Prime Ministers and Governors, and we have given to the Dominions of the Empire statesmen who have helped to guide the destinies of this great brotherhood of nations.

"We fervently join in prayer for the continued peace and welfare of this glorious Empire and, on this solemn day, long life to its Sovereign and its Queen."

The service began with the rendering of *Ma Tovu* by Chief Cantor Alter, assisted by the choir. This was followed by the reading of Psalm 21 by Rev. Dr. A. T. Shrock, subsequently chanted by the Chief Cantor and choir. Then Cantor and choir beautifully rendered a Hebrew poem which Dr. Landau had written in honour of the Coronation. Thereafter Rev. Dr. A. T. Shrock read Psalm 24, subsequently chanted by the Cantor and choir.

Then the Chief Rabbi, taking a Scroll of the Law from the Holy Ark, intoned a special prayer for the Royal Family, and for the watchfulness of God over the destinies of the British Empire. The Torah having been replaced in the Ark, Dr. Landau delivered the sermon reported above and thereafter the service closed with Psalm 150 and the National Anthem.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

A THANKSGIVING Service, on the occasion of the Coronation of their Majesties, King George VI. and Queen Elizabeth, was held by the Johannesburg Jewish Reform Congregation, at Temple Israel, on Friday evening last.

The service was conducted by Rabbi M. C. Weiler, ably assisted by Mr. E. M. Davis-Marks, Honorary Reader, and by the full choir under the able leadership of Mr. J. Idelson.

Rabbi Weiler delivered an impressive sermon, stressing the unique institution of the crown in the British Commonwealth of Nations. The King was a symbol of unity—was the harmoniser of all the diverse elements in the political and social structure of the Empire and Commonwealth. The British Commonwealth was in effect a League of Nations.

The King of the Commonwealth of Nations had no ponderable power but he had an incalculable influence.

Rabbi Weiler concluded his sermon with the statement that South Africans will have full confidence in our new King, because King George VI. understands the place that the Commonwealth of Nations, the constitutional monarchy and British democracy held in a world which is economically and politically maladjusted and almost on the brink of a cataclysm.

"Deputies" Congress Approaches

DETAILS OF ARRANGEMENTS

THE 12th Annual Congress of the Board takes place at Bloemfontein on May 30 and 31. The Congress comes after two years, which have witnessed serious developments affecting the Jewish Community in this country. The Board therefore urges upon every Constituent Body to be represented.

Attention is drawn to the following facts in connection with the forthcoming Congress:

Nominations for the Executive Council.—A new procedure has been adopted (in terms of a recommendation made at the last Congress) that nominations for the position of officers of the Board and of the Executive Council must reach the Head Office of the Board not later than 14 days prior to the date of Congress.

Appointment of Delegates.—All constituent bodies have been circularised requesting them to appoint their delegates and to notify the Secretary of the names and addresses of such delegates.

Items for the Agenda.—Items for the agenda for Congress may be sent in by the Executive Council, Cape-town Committee, or any Provincial Committee, a constituent body, deputy, member of any committee or of the Executive Council, and must be in the hands of the secretary at least three weeks before Congress.

Train Accommodation.—It is intended to arrange for special booking facilities for delegates travelling from Johannesburg and the Reef and other towns in the Transvaal. Should the number of persons warrant it, it is proposed to arrange for a special coach on the train leaving Johannesburg on Saturday night, 29th May, at 9.30 p.m., arriving at Bloemfontein on Sunday morning, 30th May at about 7.45; and leaving Bloemfontein Monday night, 31st May, at 8 p.m., arriving at Johannesburg at 7 a.m. on Tuesday morning, 1st June. Delegates who wish to travel by these trains should communicate with the secretary as soon as possible.

Hotel Accommodation.—The Orange Free State Committee, whose address is 3, Arcade Chambers, West Burger Street, Bloemfontein, Box 438, Telephone 1496, have been good enough to place their offices at the disposal of delegates attending Congress for any information they may require. The O.F.S. office is also prepared to reserve hotel accommodation for delegates, and all who wish to avail themselves of this facility should write direct to the secretary of the O.F.S. Committee, indicating the name of the hotel desired and the exact accommodation required.

Executive's Report and Agenda.—The report to be submitted to the Congress by the Executive Council, as well as the agenda for Congress, are now being completed, and will be in the hands of all delegates and constituent bodies well in advance of the date of Congress.

MAURICE SAMUEL

Monday Evening



TO ADDRESS

YOUTH MEETING

Subject:—

"The Structure of the Homeland"

MONDAY EVENING, the 17th inst.,

at

CORONATION HALL (cor. Claim & Plein Sts.).

Dr. H. Bloomberg, Chairman of the Transvaal Zionist Youth Executive, will preside.

Prices of Admission: Youth, 1s.; Seniors, 2s. 6d.