

Mr. A. M. Abrahams Honoured.

Congratulations on Occasion of Seventieth Birthday.

Felicitations were heaped upon Mr. A. M. Abrahams, Hon. Life President of the S.A. Zionist Federation, at a reception given by the Dorshei Zion Association on Tuesday night in the Zionist Hall, in honour of his seventieth birthday.

Mr. ISAAC OCHBERG was in the chair and at the outset extended a hearty welcome to the large and representative gathering present, included in which were many visitors from the North. Among the latter were Mr. N. Kirschner, Acting President of the S.A. Zionist Federation, Mr. and Mrs. M. Kentridge, Mr. Benzion S. Hersch and Miss Anne Hersch, Mr. and Mrs. Senior, of Johannesburg, and Rev. and Mrs. M. Cohen, of Bulawayo.

Before referring to the event that had brought them together, Mr. Ochberg stated that letters of apology for their unavoidable absence were received from the Mayor, Councillor L. Gradner, Rev. A. P. Bender, Justice L. Greenberg, and Mr. A. Liberman. These were read out.

Mr. Ochberg then heartily congratulated Mr. Abrahams on this happy occasion. He was sure, he said, he was expressing the sentiments of all when he wished him many years yet of good health and happiness. He had been associated with Mr. Abrahams on many occasions in Zionist work, and it would be most difficult to find a more sincere colleague or a stauncher friend of Zionism.

Contributions to S.A. Jewish Life.

Mr. Abrahams had not only devoted himself to Zionist work. He had found time also to associate himself with many Jewish affairs on the Rand, notable among which were those of Education and the Board of Deputies. He had also played an important part in Freemasonry circles. But his most important contribution to Jewish life here had been in the national cause, and particularly on the S.A. Zionist Federation of which he had been President for many years. The fact that Zionism had made such great progress in this country was largely due to him. He had sacrificed the best years of his life for the national cause, and acted as an inspiration to us all.

Mr. Ochberg also spoke of the wonderful helpmate Mrs. Abrahams had been to her husband. She was a devoted partner who never spared herself in order to assist her husband. He congratulated her as he did Mr. Abrahams on this happy occasion.

Mr. MORRIS ALEXANDER, K.C., M.P., said that Mr. Abrahams had been a father in South African Zionism in more ways than one. In spite of his advanced years he had the vitality of a very young man and we could look forward to his public work yet for many years. His activities were many-sided, but were most prominently connected with the Zionist Federation. Even though his taking up residence in the Cape had necessitated his resignation from the Federation, he had not ceased to be an active Zionist. He was essentially a fighter, but he had nevertheless shown extraordinary

ability in keeping down unruliness at many South African Zionist Conferences. He had managed to rule with a firm hand and yet to pacify all sections, who inevitably became to believe in him.

Mr. Alexander, in conclusion, said he hoped Mr. Abrahams would be spared for many more years and that he would yet be able to celebrate his hundredth birthday; he warmly included Mrs. Abrahams in these congratulations.

Adv. MAGGIE OBLOWITZ, President of the Bnoth Zion Association, expressed the esteem of that body for Mr. Abrahams' sterling services to the Zionist cause. The ladies were deeply appreciative of the many kindnesses which Mr. Abrahams had so often shown them, and of the help he had never withheld. In common with other speakers, said Miss Obowitz, it gave her very great pleasure to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Abrahams on this happy event in their lives.

The Federation's Congratulations.

Mr. N. KIRSCHNER, in congratulating Mr. Abrahams, spoke of him as one of the teachers of Zionism in this country. The greatest appeal in Mr. Abrahams' work lay in the fact that he had carried the Zionist flag high in South Africa when Zionism had not been fashionable. He had carried it with great and passionate devotion, and in thus doing had given dignity to the whole of South African Zionism.

To-day we were passing through a period of storm and stress and it needed courage and a sense of responsibility to face conditions. For these qualities we could take an example from Mr. Abrahams.

On behalf of the Federation, said Mr. Kirschner, he heartily felicitated Mr. Abrahams and he hoped that he would yet live many happy and useful years.

Mr. M. KENTRIDGE, M.P., associated himself with the remarks of the previous speakers. It was a Jewish fault, he said, to throw the burden of Jewish work on the shoulders of one or two people who were willing to accept it. Mr. Abrahams had been a person who had shouldered such a burden for many years and he had done it wholeheartedly and ably. Mr. Kentridge urged Cape Town Zionists to utilise to the full Mr. Abrahams' services and experience in Zionist work.

Mr. Abrahams had shown his capacity, ability and enthusiasm when Zionism had still been unpopular. But he had shown these qualities in an even greater degree when he led the cause after it had already become popular, and when the responsibility was much greater. To-day we were actually building up our National Home, and this required qualities of great leadership; they had been shown by Mr. Abrahams.

Rhodesia's Appreciation.

Rev. M. I. COHEN, of Bulawayo, said that South African and Rhodesian Jewry were always united and were one in felicitating Mr. Abrahams on this occasion.

Rhodesian Jewry no less than South African Jewry appreciated Mr. Abrahams' work in Zionist and other Jewish spheres. Under Mr. Abrahams' leadership the Federation had grown enormously and one of the greatest things about his work was that he had always effaced his own personality in it. He hoped that Cape Town Jewry would make use of his presence in their midst.

Mr. Abrahams had brought about a real unity in Jewish ranks in this country, and he had co-ordinated the efforts of all stalwarts here.

Mr. BENZION S. HERSCH said he was able to speak intimately of Mr. Abrahams' two main contributions to Jewish life in this country—his educational work and his Zionist work. As far as the former was concerned, as first principal of the Jewish Government School in Johannesburg he had firmly laid the foundations on which the school had been built. He had given it a tradition which was still maintained to-day. The school was a source of pride to South African Jewry, and was the only Jewish Government School in this country.

As regarded his Zionist work, Mr. Abrahams was noted chiefly as an ideal chairman. He had done wonderfully at Zionist Conferences in this capacity, but there had been even more strain imposed on him in presiding at the regular private meetings of the Federation. It was a tribute to him that although there had during the years of his leadership been so many different types of people and opinions represented on the Federation, the members had all been one happy family thanks to the excellent guidance of the Chairman.

Sevnty Years of Jewish History.

To-day a new generation had arisen. It was time that the history of Zionism in this country were written so that it could be shown that South African Jewry had made very valuable contributions to world Zionism apart from the monetary aspect. Seventy years was a long time in a man's life, but they were even longer than seventy when, as in the case of Mr. Abrahams, they had seen the history of the Jews being rewritten by the Jewish people themselves. Mr. Abrahams had been an active figure in what had taken place during these years. He hoped, said Mr. Hersch, that he would continue to be an active figure and participant in Zionist work.

After the interval which then took place, Mr. Ochberg made a presentation to Mr. Abrahams on behalf of the Dorshei Zion Committee.

Mr. ABRAHAM'S RESPONDS.

Mr. ABRAHAM'S expressed his warmest thanks for the presentation and for the expressions of appreciation for his work that had been made that night. He would not be so hypocritical, he said, as to assert that his work had not succeeded to a certain degree. But when people worked in a cause like Zionism they did so without any expectation of a reward. The knowledge that they were doing their duty by their people was sufficient reward for their activity. To-day he was still prepared to give his services to the Zionist cause, and he expressed the wish that more use would be made of those services.

He had acted as President of the Federation for many years. In the early days there had not been present the enthusiasm

in Zionist work which existed to-day, and it had been difficult to get sufficient people to join the Executive. All the work had been carried out by a handful of zealous individuals and there was a great deal of indifference about Zionism among the Jewish population generally.

He had done Zionist work, said Mr. Abrahams, also when he had taught his pupils to be proud of the fact that they were Jews and Jewesses, and that it was incumbent on them to act so that no slur should fall on the reputation of the Jewish people. To-day there were pupils of his all over the country who were active in Zionist work.

Always a Fighter.

He had been to Palestine once, and that had been a very memorable occasion. He hoped that he would yet see Palestine actually the National Home of the Jews. We were living in exceedingly evil times, as far as the Jews were concerned, and our only protection was the establishment of Palestine as the National Home. We had to have courage to face the situation as it was. We could not indulge in an ostrich policy and hide our heads in the sand. We had to fight if necessary. He had always been a fighter, even before he had come to this country. To-day it was most necessary that we fought our own Jews who were still afraid of joining the ranks of their own people. He was prepared to fight until the last day.

Before the conclusion of the function Major H. Abrahams, son of Mr. A. M. Abrahams, said a few words.

During the course of the evening musical items were rendered by the following:— Miss Freda Rogoff who gave a pianoforte solo, Miss Sylvia Kirsch who sang, and Mr. H. Garfinkel who sang.

Mr. Abrahams has received a cable of congratulations from Prof. Brodetsky, in London.

Ort Farm for German Jewish Youth.

(Communicated).

The success of the first Ort course in Kovno, which was arranged for training German Jewish youth in mechanical engineering, has encouraged the Central Board of the Ort Association to form a second course in Lithuania. In the near future a group of thirty-two youths from Germany will arrive in Lithuania to be trained in agriculture. This training course will take place on the farm "Ungarina" near Marjanpol. The students will be instructed in general farming, gardening, dairy and fruit cultivation.

For this purpose expert teachers have been engaged.

Thaba N'chu Hebrew Congregation (O.F.S.).

Wanted: Shochet

with knowledge of Hebrew preferred, for the above Congregation. Salary, £12 per month.

Apply immediately to—

M. SINGER, Secretary,
Thaba N'chu Hebrew Congregation, O.F.S.

Dunam Drive in Namaqualand.

Dr. MIBASHAN'S TOUR.

Van Rhynsdorp.

Arriving from Springbok and Bitterfontein, Dr. Mibashan was met at Klaver station by Mr. H. Joffe and Mr. I. Frank who motored him to Van Rhynsdorp on January 8th. In the evening the members of the small congregation met at the North West Hotel where Dr. Mibashan inaugurated the Dunam Drive and explained to those present the importance of the Jewish National Fund as the main instrument of the redemption of the soil of Eretz Israel and made a strong appeal for the support of this fund.

The subscription which followed was continued next day in the surrounding villages with very satisfactory results. Mr. I. Frank volunteered to accompany Dr. Mibashan in the car lent for the purpose by Messrs. Joffe Bros. to the villages of Vredendal and Vlermuisklip. The complete list of subscriptions of Van Rhynsdorp and neighbourhood amounts to £50 18s. 6d.

Mr. M. Gelb, owner of the Railway Hotel, Bitterfontein, lent his car to convey Dr. Mibashan as far as Nuwe Rust in the interests of the Dunam Drive.

Mr. and Mrs. Binder, proprietors of the North West Hotel, Van Rhynsdorp, were the hosts of Dr. Mibashan during his stay there.

Having no car or train connection from Van Rhynsdorp to the Orange Free State, where he was due for January 12th, Dr. Mibashan was offered a lift in the car of Mr. J. Berelowitz on January 10th. Mr. Berelowitz, who was going from Calvinia to Cape Town, made special detours which involved several additional hours of travel in order to fetch Dr. Mibashan at Van Rhynsdorp and convey him to Paarl where he took the train for the Free State.

On passing Clanwilliam, Dr. Mibashan, accompanied by Mr. Berelowitz, approached the few Jewish residents there on behalf of the Dunam Drive and secured £27, the main donation being that of Mr. A. N. Ginsberg, proprietor of the Clanwilliam Hotel, who subscribed £25 or five Dunams in the name of his wife, himself and their two children.

NAMAQUALAND DONATIONS.

Clanwilliam.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|----|
| Mr. A. N. Ginsberg, Proprietor, Clanwilliam Hotel, 1½ dunams; | | | |
| Mrs. S. E. Ginsberg, 1½ dunams; Master Jack Ginsberg, 1 dunam; Miss Evelyn Ginsberg, 1 dunam | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr. A. Dowitz | 2 | 0 | 0 |

Van Rhynsdorp and Environs.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Mr. M. Gelb, Bitterfontein | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Messrs. Balkin Bros., Bitterfontein | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Mr. P. Rachman, Nuwe Rust | 5 | 5 | 0 |

Van Rhynsdorp.

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| Messrs. Joffe Bros. | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Messrs. Hoffman & Co. | 3 | 3 | 0 |

(Continued in Third Column).

A Valuable Publication

SOUTH AND EAST AFRICAN YEAR BOOK AND GUIDE.

The Union-Castle Mail Steamship Company have once more performed a public service by publishing a 1,200-page encyclopaedia of information about South Africa and the neighbouring territories for the absurd price of half-a-crown. The South and East African Year Book and Guide for 1934 is the fortieth issue of this publication and has reached an even higher standard of completeness and accuracy and interest than its predecessors. A very full index enables one to find an answer at once to any normal question about the countries concerned, their history, geography, climate, inhabitants, politics, administration or economics. A special desk section contains full information for the business man about postal regulations, licences, stamps, taxes, currencies, etc. For the tourist there is a complete "Baedeker's Guide" to practically every town and village on every route in the Union, and the naturalist and the sportsman will revel in the fifty-page section devoted to the game of South and East Africa. What I found most fascinating were the sixty-four pages of maps at the back.

Incidentally, it is interesting to learn from the population statistics (based on the 1926 Census) that the adherents of the Hebrew denomination in South Africa number 71,816 Europeans (4.28 per cent.) and 335 non-Europeans!

Apart from non-Europeans, only the Dutch and the Anglican communities are far larger, the Methodist being a little larger, and the Roman Catholic and Presbyterian about the same.

This is definitely a work that should be within easy reach of everybody.

M. S. C.

(Continued from Second Column).

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|---------------------------|---|---|---|
| Messrs. Gelb & Righthouse | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Mrs. D. Minde | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Mr. I. Frank | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Mr. I. Kaufman | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mr. S. Wolf | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mr. M. Kaminer | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Rev. Wulf | 1 | 1 | 0 |

Vredendal.

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---|----|---|
| Miss Riva Gordon | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Mr. M. Cohen | 2 | 12 | 6 |
| Mr. M. Geiger | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Messrs. Freidberg Bros. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mr. P. Wapnik | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mr. R. Wapnik | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mr. E. Elkan | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mr. Joe Cohen | 1 | 1 | 0 |

Vlermuisklip.

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| Mr. N. Grill | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Mr. L. Klein | 1 | 1 | 0 |

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