

Zionist Conversazione.

Adv. G. GORDON ON "JEWS AND MINORITY RIGHTS."

The fortnightly Conversazione took place at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday night.

Mr. J. M. Weinreich was in the chair.

Adv. G. Gordon gave an interesting lecture on "Jews and Minority Rights." The protection of "rights" internationally grew up in this century, he said, and reached its culmination in the League of Nations. We have since seen the collapse of the system of collective security for which the League stood, and have witnessed the decline of the League.

As regards the position of Jews, the case of Poland was typical. For a number of centuries the bulk of the Jews of Poland had formed an autonomous, self-contained and self-governing community, with their own language, culture and religion. They built up a complete national entity and were virtually "a state within a state." When Poland was partitioned about 1795, the position of the Jews grew worse. After the Congress of Vienna, various national entities grew up, and the lesser groups began to agitate for national autonomy. There was a curious position when the Poles agitated for minority rights and the Jews in Poland did the same vis-a-vis the Poles.

In the 19th century the agitation for national rights among the Jews grew stronger. Different theories were propounded by Chaim Zhitlowsky, Simon Dubnow and Nathan Birnbaum, but these had no practical results. The pogroms of 1881 brought about the collapse of all these theories and the spark of Zionism began to flare up.

At the beginning of the 20th century Zionism lost almost all its power in Russia; the youth went all out for national autonomy. A People's Group was formed and various proletarian parties sprang up. The only proletarian group to foster Zionism was the Zionist Socialist Party.

The World War.

When the World War broke out the Jews of Eastern Europe were confronted by great terrors and were plunged into despair. The agitation for Jewish minority rights was transferred to America. A number of groups were formed to assist the Jews of Eastern Europe. Zionism became strong. The Actions Committee was transferred from Berlin to Copenhagen and became a sort of Board of Deputies, who looked after the interests of all Jews. The position of the Jews in Eastern Europe was shaken and there was no time to think of the development of national rights.

There was a split in American Jewry, one group headed by Magnes and Marshall advocating rights for the Jews in the lands where they lived, and the other group headed by Brandeis and Lipsky favouring the Zionist aspect. The dispute lasted from 1914-1917, when a compromise was reached. When America entered the war she had no more time to concern herself with the rights of Jews in Eastern Europe.

After the war the Bolshevist regime in Russia laid down that minority rights were not to be recognised. Italy, France and England had representatives who were keen on assisting the Jews in Eastern Europe but were against separate nationalities. Poland fostered Jewish national rights.

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The J.N.F. Campaign.

EXCELLENT RESULTS.

The J.N.F. Campaign is making excellent progress and the amounts of individual contributions are higher than ever before. There is every prospect of this campaign being a record one, and that all previous efforts on behalf of the J.N.F. will be eclipsed.

PAARL.

Rabbi Meir Berlin and Mrs. Gluckmann, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. J. Weinreich and Mrs. Leon Segal, addressed a large gathering at Paarl on Sunday night.

Dr. Max Cohen was in the chair and welcomed the visitors.

Mr. L. Berman, chairman of the Hebrew Congregation, and Rev. Strelitz also spoke.

After a few introductory remarks by Mr. Weinreich, Mrs. Gluckmann delivered an address in which she gave her impressions of life in Eretz Israel and the work of the J.N.F.

Rabbi Meir Berlin's inspiring address aroused great interest and enthusiasm. He gave a vivid account of the growth and development of the National Home and stressed the importance of making the J.N.F. Campaign an outstanding success. There was an excellent response.

After the meeting the visitors were entertained to tea at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Back.

MUIZENBERG.

A reception under the auspices of the South Peninsula Zionist Society and the Bnoth Zion Association, Muizenberg Branch, in honour of Rabbi Meir Berlin and Mrs. K. Gluckmann, was held in the Talmud Torah Hall, Wherry Road, Muizenberg, on Monday evening.

Mr. W. Satusky was in the chair. Mrs. Sloman, the Chairman of the Bnoth Zion Association, also welcomed the guests.

After a speech by Mrs. Gluckmann and a number of much appreciated Hebrew and Yiddish songs by Canton Goldwasser, Rabbi Meir Berlin rendered a very clear and concise exposition of the results to date of the Jewish National efforts in Palestine, and stressed the necessity of an excellent response to the National Fund Campaign he was inaugurating in the Muizenberg area.

WYNBERG-CLAREMONT.

There was a large gathering of the Wynberg-Claremont Jewish Community at the Wynberg Communal Hall on Tuesday evening.

Mr. A. M. Matz was in the chair.

Rabbi Meir Berlin gave an inspiring address and pointed out the great responsibility that rested on South African Jewry to make this campaign a success.

Mrs. K. Gluckmann gave interesting impressions of Eretz Israel and the work of the J.N.F.

Rev. Ch. Gordon proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers.

There was a gratifying response to the appeal.

(Continued in Third Column).

"Zot Hi Haaretz"

FILMS OF PALESTINE LIFE.

The Grand Theatre was filled to capacity on Wednesday and Thursday nights when the Palestine sound film, produced by Aga, "Zot Hi Haaretz" ("This is the Land") and several other Palestinian films were shown. The film gives a magnificent account of the rise of modern Palestine and shows how in a few decades, sandy wastes and marshy swamps have been transformed into flourishing cities, verdant fields and smiling plains. It tells of the heroism and self-sacrifice of the early pioneers, of how with the toil of their hands and the sweat of their brow they laid the foundations of the Yishub, and of how their work is being continued to-day by young and old alike. It is an epic story and it was obvious that the audience was deeply moved and impressed; as seldom happens in the cinema, various scenes and personalities were greeted with enthusiastic applause as though the audience were actually witnessing or taking part in these scenes in the flesh. Through the whole film the dominant notes are "work" and the joy of achievement; the love of the soil, of the good earth of Eretz Israel is the central theme. The sound effects were excellent and the clear, fluent Hebrew of the "cast" was a sheer joy to hear. For those who could not understand Hebrew, the English lines on the screen gave a very adequate idea of the context.

In the first half of the programme the film "Eretz Israel" and the Carmel film "We shall Arise and Build" were shown. The former, with an introduction by Lord Melchett and commentary in English, takes the audience through a tour of Eretz Israel, showing most places of interest and the work of Jewish upbuilding, particularly on J.N.F. land. "We shall Arise and Build" gives a graphic account of the recent disturbances in Palestine, of the work of destruction of the Arabs, and of the determination of the Jews to proceed with the work of upbuilding undeterred by any obstacles. Particularly interesting were the scenes dealing with the beginning of Tel-Aviv port; the joy and enthusiasm prevalent are well conveyed and seemed to infect the audience.

The programme was also shown to a crowded audience at a matinee at the Apollo yesterday afternoon. The last showing will take place this afternoon at the Apollo.

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WORCESTER.

Rabbi Meir Berlin and Mrs. K. Gluckmann, accompanied by Dr. S. E. Kark, visited Worcester on Wednesday night. They were entertained to dinner by Mr. and Mrs. Volk (Jnr.) and afterwards addressed a most enthusiastic meeting at the Zionist Hall.

Mr. Volk (Jnr.) was in the chair and welcomed the visitors.

Mr. Jack Friedman, Mr. Shirkin and Rev. Stein also spoke.

Mrs. Gluckmann spoke on her impressions of Eretz Israel and on the achievements of the J.N.F.

Rabbi Meir Berlin delivered a most stimulating address in which he touched on the present situation in Palestine and the urgent needs of the J.N.F.

There was an excellent response to the appeal.

Cape Jewish Orphanage.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the Cape Jewish Orphanage took place at the Home on Sunday morning.

Mr. J. Weinreich was in the chair, and at the outset asked the audience to rise as a mark of respect to the memory of those members who had passed away during the year. He referred particularly to the late Mr. A. Rosenthal, Mr. I. Wittenberg and Mr. Baumberg.

In moving the adoption of the Report and Balance Sheet, he referred to the re-appointment of Mr. and Mrs. Berezinski as Principal and Matron of the Home to the great satisfaction of all concerned. There had been a great deal of disorganisation during the year, and the Committee had had an anxious time. Everything was in excellent order again and he expressed thanks particularly to Mr. Kloot for taking over the position of principal temporarily at a critical moment. The tremendous improvement in tone and organisation since the return of Mr. and Mrs. Berezinski was reflected in the annual report from the Government Inspector of Institutions.

The Hebrew education of the children which had also suffered during the year had now been reorganised and the classes were now working smoothly again, thanks particularly to Mr. Crasnow. A new teacher had been engaged and the Chairman was sure the additional expenditure would be fully justified.

During the year, continued the Chairman, four young people had joined the Committee and were doing excellent work. The work of the Committee had suffered through the absence of various members and particularly of the Secretary, Mr. Kloot, overseas. He paid tribute to Mr. Crasnow for his great services to the Institution and regretted that he would not be able to take the office of vice-president again.

Referring to the Balance Sheet, the Chairman pointed out the great necessity for members to increase their subscriptions. He emphasised that capital could not be touched and only the interest could be used. He recommended that the property be written off.

The children had been doing very well at school. One girl had matriculated and passed the examination for the Civil Service, which she was hopeful of entering. Everything was being done for the physical and cultural advance of the children. A union of the children who had left the Home had been formed and there was now close contact between these and their old home.

The Synagogue was serving its purpose adequately, and though the Committee regretted that it was no longer possible to allow visitors to attend the High Festival services, this was unavoidable owing to lack of room.

Various alterations had been made to the buildings with great advantage. In this connection thanks were due to Mr. Crasnow and Mr. Gray.

In conclusion the Chairman said the Home was in excellent hands to-day, and he expressed thanks to the Committee, to Mr. and Mrs. Berezinski and Staff and to Mr. Kloot for their valuable services.

Rev. A. P. Bender said that if there was one institution in Cape Town to which he

desired to show honour, it was the Orphanage. A lasting debt of gratitude was due to the Committee and Staff who brought up the boys and girls to be worthy members of the community. No institution did more with less ostentation. He considered the Institution an ornament to the community. It expressed one of the finest Jewish qualities—love and care of orphans, and he hoped that Providence would enable this work of great philanthropy to be continued in the same spirit in the future as to-day.

Mr. B. Joseph, in seconding the adoption of the Report and Balance Sheet, said that the past year had shown a deficit of £491 11s. 4d., through the reduction in revenue for the year. Subscriptions in the Peninsula had decreased by £238, but in the country had risen by £74. The annual ball also showed a deficit of £205. Synagogue offerings, however, showed an increase. There had been a reduction in working costs of £255. A special Building Fund had been established, the nucleus being part of the proceeds accruing from the May Fair.

Mr. Joseph proposed a vote of thanks to the Hon. Auditors, Messrs. A. Thal & Co., for undertaking the onerous task of auditing the books of the Institution and to the President and Executive for their assistance.

Mr. M. Alexander, K.C., M.P., said that the Report covered a multitude of activities, and thanks were due to all who were assisting in the work of the Institution, and particularly to Mrs. Stodel and Mrs. Gradner, who were largely responsible for the success of the May Fair.

The internal dislocation had been happily overcome. The health of the children was good and thanks were due to the Hon. Physicians.

He hoped the appeal made in the Report would not fall on deaf ears. The Institution was one of which all could be proud, and he trusted the interest of the community in it would not wane. He hoped the children, the Committee and all who had laboured for the Institution would be blessed in the coming year.

Mr. B. Chideckel said the Orphanage was a unique Institution. The children were being brought up in the true spirit of Judaism. They lived as Jews twenty-four hours of the day, and the Sabbath in the Home was a real Sabbath. He was agreeably surprised at the amount of knowledge of Hebrew and Judaism shown by the children. A tribute was due to the Committee and to Mr. and Mrs. Berezinski for bringing up the children in the right spirit.

Mr. J. Kadish expressed gratitude to the Chairman for his great services and to Mr. and Mrs. Berezinski, Mr. Kloot and Mr. Crasnow.

The adoption of the Report and Balance Sheet was carried unanimously.

Elections.

Mr. L. Gradner moved as an unopposed motion that the rule by which the Chairman could not hold office for more than two years, be suspended for this year and that Mr. J. Weinreich be re-elected chairman.

Mr. S. Goldstein seconded; the motion was carried and Mr. Weinreich was duly re-elected President.

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Obituary.

MR. LOUIS COHEN.

The death took place in Johannesburg on Sunday morning at the age of sixty-four of Mr. Louis Cohen, a well-known and highly respected member of the Jewish community of the Rand.

The late Mr. Cohen was noted for his great-heartedness and support of every charitable cause. He was one of the founders of the Jewish Aged Home in Johannesburg, to whose interests he was devoted heart and soul. In the Orphanage, too, he took a great and active interest.

The late Mr. Cohen was a keen Zionist, and visited Palestine a few years ago, making some investments there.

He was a man of pious disposition, but though orthodox in his views he was tolerant and broad-minded.

The sincerest sympathy is extended to the widow and family in their sad bereavement.

MR. SOLOMON WAINSTEIN.

The death occurred at Sea Point on Sunday, the 16th inst., of Mr. Solomon Wainstein, late of Dordrecht.

The late Mr. Solomon Wainstein was the first President of the Synagogue in Dordrecht and presented it with a Sefer Torah. He was for many years interested in Jewish charities and was one of the pioneers of Dordrecht. His daughter, Mrs. E. Roytowski, was the first girl to be married in the Synagogue to the late Dr. Phillip Roytowski. He leaves a son, daughter and granddaughter.

ZIONIST CONVERSAZIONE.

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The representatives at the Peace Conference were governed by President Wilson's policy of self-determination. The idea of minority rights arose. The Polish nation raised the objection that the internal working of a state must not be interfered with. The Versailles Treaty suffered from the defect that there was discrimination with regard to minority rights. The Minority Treaty was binding in Poland, but not in Germany; those who drafted the Treaty based it on the position in 1919 without considering that the social order of a country might change.

The Minority Treaties, said Mr. Gordon, did not introduce standard uniform rights for every country. They should have laid down uniform obligations for all nations. They provided for petitions to the League, but these had proved worthless.

When we realise, said Mr. Gordon, in conclusion, how much activity has been spent on the attainment of minority rights and how useless they have proved, we must feel how much more could have been achieved had this activity been expended on promoting the aims of Zionism.

Mr. Pulvermacher played a number of Hebrew melodies, and Mr. Laden read an account of the foundation of Hassadeh and Ein Hakoresh.

(Continued from Second Column.)

Mr. J. Kadish was elected Vice-President, Mr. Michael Berman, Treasurer; Mrs. A. Stodel, Chairlady, and Mrs. Lurie, Vice-Chairlady.

The following were elected to the Committee: Messrs. H. Stodel, B. A. Crasnow, B. Joseph, I. Ochberg, M. Shnaps, Ian Friedlander, H. Stolly, J. O. Markovitz, B. Chideckel, Sonny Cohen, and Mesdames H. Wolff, R. Leibowitz, A. Jacob, A. Phillips.