

Mr. Maurice Samuel at Paarl.

ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING.

A large and enthusiastic audience showed warm appreciation of the very fine lecture delivered by Mr. Maurice Samuel at the Talmud Torah Hall, Paarl, on Sunday night.

Mr. Samuel chose as the theme of his address "an examination and analysis of the changes that have come over Jewish life in the past four years." The dramatic events of this crucial period were in themselves not decisive, but were the accumulations of history which have begun to explode.

The curtain had been removed to reveal what had happened. We have learned of what modern anti-Semitism is capable. We were warned by "Mein Kampf" and the Nazi press, but we did not believe that they would be translated into the Nuremberg Laws. Nor did we believe that the world would stand aside and not raise a protest against the official brutality of Germany.

But a change had also taken place within Jewish life itself. The post-war period of growth in Palestine was slow and painful, but a solid foundation was surely laid for the sudden upward progress and achievement of the past four years.

Before Zionism, the Jewish problem was not a single problem, but a patchwork of local problems having fragmented solutions. But some remarkable instinct had led the people to seek a place which they could build up for themselves, and at a time when the Jew was free to move about the world. This instinct combined with the conscious need of the Jewish people had led to remarkable achievement in the upbuilding of the National Homeland—an effort which compares favourably with the greatest of colonisation efforts in history.

While anti-Semitism helped to bring the Jews to their senses—at the same time it tried to impede the upbuilding of the National Homeland. In Palestine to-day we were faced with the results of our own rapid growth. By bring so many Jews into the country, we have wrought not only a change in the country, but in the nature of the people themselves. The very triumph of our achievement was the cause of the present opposition. In Palestine we had changed a backward Turkish province into a modern forward-looking liberal part of the world.

In comparing Palestine and Spain, Mr. Samuel showed that fundamentally the struggle was the same, in the former country it was subdued and disguised, in the latter it was patent and destructive.

Dealing with the foreshadowed policy of the partition of Palestine, Mr. Samuel showed clearly that this was due to the reactionary elements, and an attempt to stem the tide of Jewish achievement and to make permanent the politically fostered antagonism between Jew and Arab. It was an attempt to arrest the firm establishment of the principles of democracy from which the Jewish Homeland was born.

In Palestine the position was clearly understood—Jewish democracy was to-day in the defensive. If Jews in the Diaspora realised the true position of the Jewish people, they must raise an unceasing clamour against partition, as England would not easily forgo the goodwill of world Jewry. But it must be clearly understood that while to England, Palestine is but a little corner

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Upington Communal Hall.

OPENING CEREMONY.

On Thursday evening, June 3rd, Adv. M. Alexander, K.C., M.P., officially opened the King George V Memorial Hall at Upington.

Punctually at 8 p.m., Mr. J. Kowen, the Chairman, asked Rev. B. Wulf to hand the key to Mr. Alexander, who in the presence of a very large gathering of both Gentiles and Jews, unlocked the door, and declared the Hall open.

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander, accompanied by the Chairman, and Rev. Wulf, followed by the public, entered, and walked through a Guard of Honour, formed by the pupils of the Hebrew School, who sang Psalm 24, led by Mr. L. Caplan, the Hebrew Teacher.

After the spacious, brightly lit, and beautifully decorated Hall had been filled to its utmost capacity, the pupils marched to their places, bearing the Jewish and Union Flags, which were afterwards pinned on the table on the stage.

On the stage, with the Chairman, Mr. J. Kowen, who presided over the function, were Mr. Alexander, His Worship the Mayor, Councillor J. W. van Coppenhagen, Mr. S. Malan, representing the Dutch Reformed Church, Mr. W. Coetzer, Principal of the Upington High School, Mr. Alexander Lewin, representing the Board of Jewish Education, the reception committee, consisting of Messrs. C. H. Robinson, H. Blum, S. Werbeloff, and M. Kurland.

The proceedings were opened by the Choir singing Psalm 118, verses 21-24; a prayer by the Rev. Wulf followed, and the Choir finally concluded with a Hymn.

The Chairman, in welcoming all present, extended a very cordial welcome to the guests of honour, Adv. and Mrs. Alexander, and thanked them for accepting the invitation to open the Hall.

Mr. van Coppenhagen, the Mayor of Upington, extended a civic welcome to the guests, and most heartily congratulated the Jewish Community on their filling such a long felt want in their Communal life.

Mr. S. Malan, on behalf of the Dutch Reformed Church, extended the compliments of his Community, and spoke of the cordial spirit of friendship between the Jewish Congregation and his Church.

Mr. W. Coetzer delivered his message of congratulations on behalf of the Education authorities.

Mr. A. Lewin, representing the Board of Jewish Education spoke in Hebrew, which was afterwards translated into English by Dr. E. L. Galgut, and conveyed the good wishes of the Board.

Amidst great and prolonged applause, Adv. Alexander, next addressed the gathering. His inspiring address was greatly enjoyed by those present, as the applause at the end of the speech proved.

Mr. C. H. Robinson, on behalf of the Reception Committee, then thanked Mr. and Mrs. Alexander for coming such a long distance to Upington, to participate in the inauguration of the Communal Hall.

Musical items were rendered by Mrs. K. Starke (piano), Mr. B. Styczynski (violin) and the Jazz Blue Orchestra, led by Mrs. P. Oehley; Mr. Ph. Morris gave a humorous sketch.

After refreshments were served, Mr. J. Kowen thanked all those responsible for the success of the evening.

The function concluded with the singing of the Hatikvah, The King, and Die Stem, and the gathering joined in lustily.

Oneg Shabbat.

On the Friday evening, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander attended the service in the local Synagogue, and on the Saturday afternoon they honoured the Oneg Shabbat, arranged by the School Children Society—Bnei Bialik—by their presence.

Miss S. Robinson, the Chairlady, presided, and after welcoming all present, called upon Rev. Wulf to introduce the visitors.

Mrs. Alexander then addressed the large gathering of members, including some of the parents, Miss R. Sack, of the Primary School, and Mrs. S. Bellon, the Secretary of the Congregation. Her interesting and inspiring talk made a deep impression upon the audience, especially the younger members.

Mrs. Alexander was afterwards presented with a box of chocolates by Mildred Finder.

Then followed a reading by Miss J. Blumberg, and Community singing of Hebrew Songs, led by Mr. L. Caplan; refreshments were served by the very youthful Committee.

Mr. Alexander also spoke, and Mr. S. Bellon proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Alexander, and those responsible for the Oneg Shabbat.

On the Sunday morning, Mr. Alexander addressed a large gathering of the Jewish Community, on the work of the Board of Jewish Deputies.

He was afterwards thanked by Dr. Galgut, who assured him of the full support of the Community.

Hebrew School Concert.

On the Sunday evening, Mr. L. Caplan, the Hebrew Teacher, presented his pupils in their Annual School Concert, held at the newly opened Hall.

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander were also present having kindly consented to stay over especially for the concert.

After an outstanding performance by the pupils, Adv. Alexander addressed those present for the last time prior to his and Mrs. Alexander's departure. He thanked the Congregation for all they had done, and said that they looked forward to a return visit.

Mr. H. S. Jacobsohn proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of those present, to Mr. and Mrs. Alexander, and also congratulated Mr. Caplan on the excellent performance of his pupils.

The concert concluded with Hatikvah and The King.

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of her colonial strategy, to the Jewish people it is a matter of life and death—which we must resist to the last.

After the lecture Mr. Samuel answered a number of questions dealing with various aspects of the upbuilding of the National Homeland.

Mr. B. Zetler proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer and the meeting concluded with the singing of Hatikvah.