

A Central Zionist Council for Pietersburg

VISIT OF DR. DEBORAH KATZEN

COHESION in Zionist activity in the important centre of Pietersburg, the capital of the Northern Transvaal, is likely to be established shortly as the result of a unanimous decision taken to establish a Central Zionist Council. It is intended that this central body will consolidate the work of the women's and men's Zionist activity and also that of the youth.

This important decision was taken at the annual meeting of the Pietersburg Women's Zionist League held on Sunday afternoon. On that occasion, Dr. Deborah Katzen, the well-known Zionist worker and speaker of Johannesburg (and vice-chairman of the Women's Zionist Council of South Africa), was present by invitation. The visitor delivered an eloquent address in which she urged upon all the various groups of local Zionist workers to consolidate their activities in the interests of the great cause in which they were all deeply concerned.

Opportunity was taken of Mrs. Katzen's visit for her to address a largely attended mass meeting in the local Communal Hall in the evening. Numbers of people travelled from various parts of the district in order to attend. Mrs. J. Young, the newly-appointed chairlady of the Women's Zionist League, presided, and made reference to the fact that Mrs. Doris Hirschmann (the ex-chairlady) had been unanimously appointed Honorary Life President of the League. Trees in Palestine had been donated in Mrs. Hirschmann's name, as a token of appreciation for her sterling services.

The subject chosen by Mrs. Katzen was "Our Claim to Palestine." In lucid manner, she dealt with the various aspects of the early history of the country and referred to the fact that Palestine had remained for centuries the burden of the hope, and the theme of the prayers of the Jews. Coming to the present day, Mrs. Katzen pointed out that the Jewish claim to Palestine was associated with the economic and industrial development of the

country which had been initiated by Jewish industry, devotion and labour. From every point of view the Jew had a moral right to Palestine.

Fine Achievements.

MRS. KATZEN added: "The stagnating pools of water that had been drained, the malaria-stricken swamps on which now the golden fruit of the orange grew, bear adequate testimony to our claim. The stamping out of the diseases, the harnessing of the Jordan for electricity, the lowering of the rate of infant mortality, the eradication of rampant illnesses—all demonstrate the startling improvement that had taken place.

"The strange part of it all was that during the eighteen centuries of the dispersion during which numbers of nations and peoples occupied the country, the soil did not respond. We Jews have proved that by some strange dictate of faith we have an affinity for Palestine—the land of Israel and the people of Israel form a harmonious one."

Mr. Friedel, chairman of the General Zionist Society, thanked the speaker and the visitors who accompanied her, Mrs. B. Segal and Mr. S. Hirschmann, for their attendance. Rev. J. I. Levine also expressed the appreciation of the community to Dr. Katzen.

The evening concluded after Mr. L. Salaman had rendered some fine violin solos and Mrs. J. Young had rendered several delightful songs.

Keren Hayesod Campaign at Nairobi

A report has reached us of the successful Keren Hayesod campaign inaugurated in Nairobi by Mr. Baruch Zuckerman. While on his return journey by plane to Eretz Israel, Mr. Zuckerman stopped for a few days at Nairobi. The occasion was taken by him to initiate the Keren Hayesod campaign, and a satisfactory response was forthcoming.

The effort initiated by Mr. Zuckerman is being continued by an active committee consisting of Mr. A. L. Block, chairman; Mr. J. Katzler, treasurer; Mr. W. Diamant, secretary; Rev. P. Rosenberg and Mesdames Katzler and Myers, committee.

Every endeavour is being made to secure the support of the Jewish residents in the surrounding districts—even in the most remote parts of the Kenya Colony—in addition to completing the campaign in Nairobi itself.

The Keren Hayesod has already benefited by a substantial remittance, and a further amount is expected soon. Nairobi Jewish community can well be proud of the worthy manner in which it has participated in the Keren Hayesod campaign.

Jewish Cultural Activity in Benoni

"Jewish Music and Folk Songs" was the subject of a lecture delivered at a meeting of the Benoni combined cultural societies on the 26th ult., at the Hebrew Hall. Mr. L. Lovell was in the chair.

The lecturer, the Rev. S. Backon, dealt with Hebrew music and its development from the earliest times. The lecture was picturesquely illustrated by melodies played on the gramophone and sung by the speaker with great effect. Evidence of the interest aroused was the excellent discussion which followed.

The combined societies have recently concluded a series of lectures dealing with Jewish history, and "Jewish Music and Folk Songs" is to be the forerunner of a series devoted to Jewish literary subjects.

The revival of interest in Jewish cultural activity in Benoni is largely due to the energy of Rev. S. Backon, and that of the hon. secretary, Miss L. Rosenstein, who are responsible for the enthusiasm now displayed by the community in this direction.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, the 16th inst, when Mr. Edgar Bernstein will lecture on "Jacob Wasserman."

New Minister for Durban

Rabbi Freedman, of Ottawa,
Appointed

(Special to the "Zionist Record.")

At a meeting of the United Durban Hebrew Congregation it was unanimously decided to appoint Rabbi Freedman, of Ottawa, to the vacant post of Minister.

Rabbi Freedman is thirty years of age, and is a graduate of the Yitzchok Alchanan Seminary of New York. He is a fine Talmudist, a gifted speaker and has lately held the post of minister of three smaller synagogues in the Canadian city.

The new minister is leaving shortly on a trip to Palestine and from there will come to South Africa to occupy the pulpit in the Durban Synagogue. The engagement is for two years.

Amschwitz Paintings for the Prime Minister

THE Government has bought three oil paintings by Mr. J. H. Amschwitz, R.B.A. All are intended for the new residence of the Prime Minister at Pretoria.

The pictures chosen are a portrait of James Dale, the actor, as Puff in "The Critic," "The Old Master," and "The Comforters." These paintings were on view in Johannesburg recently at Mr. Amschwitz's exhibition in the Carlton Hotel.

Propaganda Meeting at Krugersdorp

The recently-formed Zionist Youth Society is organising a large propaganda meeting to be held at the Communal Hall on Sunday evening, the 15th inst. The nature of the function will be a "Ma Nishtanah" gathering.

The chairman of the Transvaal Zionist Youth Executive, Dr. H. Bloomberg, and Mr. S. Hirschmann (also of this body) will address the gathering on certain questions of interest to the Jewish community. The Habonim are participating in the arrangements. Refreshments will be served and the community is asked to respond to this notification.

SPRINGS ZIONIST YOUTH SOCIETY.

The committee of the Springs Zionist Youth Society invites all members of the Zionist Youth movement to a dance to be held at the supper room, Town Hall, Springs, on Saturday, the 14th inst. Music will be supplied by Joe Segal's band.

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