

# Eliezer Kaplan in Capetown

## All Day Conference and Mass Meeting

THE arrival in Capetown of Mr. Eliezer Kaplan, Treasurer and Member of the Executive of the Jewish Agency, initiated a series of special functions and meetings, held for the express purpose of enabling as many of the local Zionists as possible to discuss with Mr. Kaplan the vital problems confronting the movement to-day.

The first function took place on Saturday evening last, when the Capetown Zionist Youth Executive held a reception at Rosecourt, in the presence of the distinguished visitor. Mr. Kaplan delivered an inspiring address and Mr. A. Roberts presided.

### All-Day Conference.

On the following day (Sunday), Mr. Eliezer Kaplan was the principal speaker at a Special Conference convened by the Western Province Zionist Propaganda and Organisation Committee. Close on 200 delegates, representative of Western Province Zionist societies, attended the Conference, while visitors included Mr. Gordon, Mr. Kentridge, Mr. B. S. Levy, Mrs. A. Levy, of Haifa, and Mr. Moss Morris.

Mr. J. M. Weinreich, Chairman of the Council, who presided over the opening session, gave a brief summary of the problems facing the movement. A warm welcome was extended to Mr. Kaplan by a number of speakers on behalf of various Zionist and Jewish associations.

Mr. Kaplan prefaced his address to the Conference with some remarks about the democratic nature of the Zionist movement, and stressed the responsibility we all owed to it. He spoke at length on the economic situation of Palestine, dwelling on the

fact that despite the political unrest, the reign of terrorism and economic pressure, the foundations of the Jewish economy in Palestine had stood firm. Mr. Kaplan also elaborated on the constructive steps taken to cope with the situation in the Yishuv.

Delegates then adjourned for a lunch, at which Mrs. R. Movsovic, president of B'nai Zion Association, presided, and which afforded an opportunity for further interchange of views with Mr. Kaplan. Mrs. P. M. Clouts proposed the toast of "Our Guests," to which Mr. H. Moss Morris replied, and the toast of "Eretz Israel" was proposed by Mr. A. M. Abrahams and responded to by Mr. Abraham.

The afternoon session was devoted to a discussion of the political situation and a large number of delegates added to the debate and asked questions. Mr. Kaplan replied at length to the various points raised. Two resolutions were moved and adopted, the one expressing loyalty to and support of the World Zionist Executive, and the other acknowledging the importance of the Shekel and undertaking to attempt to secure a complete enrolment of all Jews in the National ranks through the sale of the Shekel. Mr. Achron, President of the Zionist Socialist Party, presided over the afternoon session.

### Mass Meeting.

IN the evening, the Capetown community assembled in full force at the Zionist Hall, to listen to a striking address by Mr. Kaplan on the Palestinian situation. This meeting was held under the auspices of the Combined Zionist Societies, and Mr. J. Herbstein presided.

Mr. Kaplan presented a vivid picture of the conditions prevailing in the Yishuv at present. The disturbances had but served to show how sound were the foundations of the Jewish Home. The work of upbuilding went on, new colonies had been established, and the Tel Aviv Harbour had reached such a stage of development that it had been opened for passenger traffic the other day. Mr. Kaplan added that the crucial question was not only the position of the Jewish population of Palestine, but also the claim of every Jew to enter the country as of right and not of sufferance.

### A Ladies' Meeting.

IN the course of his stay in Capetown, Mr. E. Kaplan also addressed a well-attended meeting of the B'nai Zion Association at the Zionist Hall, on Monday afternoon. Mrs. R. Movsovic, who presided, extended a sincere welcome to Mr. Kaplan. Mr. Kaplan answered a number of questions dealing with various aspects of Zionist policy. Mrs. A. Lieberman, in proposing a vote of thanks, expressed appreciation of the informative and stimulating nature of Mr. Kaplan's remarks.

Mr. Kaplan also met members of the Zionist Socialist Party at a meeting held on Thursday, the 17th inst.

## SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST YOUTH COUNCIL

### Organisation Fortnight

THE Council has pleasure in announcing the following details of meetings and speakers in connection with the forthcoming "Organisation Fortnight":—

March 6th.—Bloemfontein: A. Abrahamson and S. N. Herman. Pretoria: E. Kluk and L. A. Pincus. Kroonstad: D. Dunskey and S. M. Levin.

March 8th.—Kimberley: I. Dunskey. March 9th.—Witbank: A. Abrahamson.

March 10th.—Worcester: I. Dunskey.

March 13th.—Johannesburg: D. Dunskey and S. N. Herman. H. J. Kirsch, Chairman of the S.A. Zionist Youth Council, will preside. Capetown: I. Dunskey. Springs: E. Kluk and Rabbi Peck. Benoni: A. Abrahamson and S. M. Levin. Krugersdorp: L. A. Pincus and Dr. H. Bloemberg.

March 15th.—Paarl: I. Dunskey.

Arrangements are also being made for meetings to take place in many other centres.

### Cultural Activity.

The Cultural Committee is embarking upon an ambitious programme to co-ordinate educational work in this country. Material on the Shekel and General Organisation has recently been completed and in future societies will receive fortnightly articles adapted where possible to topical matters.

### Short Story Competition.

The Council wishes to draw the attention of the public to the Short Story Competition, run in conjunction with its official organ, the "South African Menorah." The following rules govern the competition:—

(1) Competitors may either write a short story or sketch of Jewish interest.

(2) The length of contributions to be 1,500 words.

(3) The decision of the Judges is final and no correspondence can be entered into in regard to the Competition.

(4) A prize to the value of £2 2s. will be awarded for the best entry received.

(5) The Editorial Board reserves the right to publish any or all of the entries received.

(6) Entries should be marked "Short Story Competition," and sent to the Secretary, "S.A. Menorah," P.O. Box 18, Johannesburg.

(7) The closing date has been extended to March 15th.

## TODAY IN JEWISH HISTORY

### Hebrew Man of Letters

ERETZ SMOLENSKIN was born on the 25th of February, 1885. He died on the 1st of February, 1938. His literary life covered eighteen years, during which he poured forth a great mass of literature for the most part in Hebrew.

Until his advent modern Hebrew literature was somewhat stagnant, but he breathed a new life into it and made of it a living force. He edited periodicals, wrote novels and essays. A few years before his death Smolenskin became interested in Jewish settlement in Palestine and was involved in polemics with the Alliance Israelite on that point. This interest led him to cooperate with the English mystic Laurence Oliphant, one of the pioneers of Jewish resettlement in Palestine.

### A Great Vaudeville Programme

An exceedingly bright variety programme is being given nightly at the Empire Theatre. A glorious personality on the stage is Renee Houston, who keeps the audience in a continual bubble of laughter as long as she is on the stage with her partner Donald Stewart. Incidentally, Renee is an extraordinarily clever mimic and her imitations of some leading film stars are a revelation.

The playing of the Hungarian Gipsy Boys' band is something to be seen and heard, in order to be believed. All the members of the group are masters of their various instruments and they deal out some exquisite music.

Percy and Mari Honri demonstrate how the concertina and piano-accompaniment can be played. An especially clever turn is that of Stone and Lee—the former a comedian with a subtle sense of humour. The rest of the company are excellent and give fine entertainment.

### "THE TALMUD IN THE PAST AND THE PRESENT."

On Saturday, the 26th inst., at 5 p.m., Rabbi S. Bornstein, of Jerusalem (editor of the New Modern Talmud) will give an address at the Berea Hebrew Synagogue, Tudhope Avenue, on the above subject.

### GOOD SHOW AT PLAZA

Commencing to-morrow at the Plaza Theatre is the much discussed film, "The Devil is Driving" — a searching indictment of those who drive motor cars when under the influence of liquor. It shows the stark reality of the tragedy on the road, and is a thought-provoking play as well as an interesting drama. The acting of Richard Dix is excellent.

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