



## ROUND THE SYNAGOGUES

As the afternoon of Sunday gradually sank into evening, Johannesburg Jewry prepared itself for a solemn welcome of Rosh Hashonah. Before dusk had settled, the numerous synagogues throughout the city and its suburbs were filled to capacity with congregations in grave and earnest mood at the approach of the New Year. In all these houses of worship the solemn atmosphere which customarily prevails at the ushering in of Rosh Hashonah was even more marked than usual. There was no doubt that the general world unrest as well as the tragic plight of millions of Jews in various countries had had the effect of making the Festival this year of even greater significance than ordinarily. The dominant theme of the prayers offered up on this occasion was the desire for peace for humanity and relief for our people.

### The Great Synagogue

LONG before the service was due to begin, a steady stream of worshippers had entered the stately and dignified edifice of the Wolmarans Street Synagogue. Every seat was taken and many people stood in the aisles and in the doorways eager to join in prayer and contemplation on the eve of the New Year. The congregation earnestly followed the famous sections of the Rosh Hashonah liturgy rendered with rare beauty and musicianship by Cantor I. Alter. The responses by the choir, conducted by Mr. S. Grosberg, were an outstanding feature of the ceremony.

As the Shofar-blower performed his ceremonial duty and the sound of the shofar echoed through the building, each note a reminder of our past and our people, Chief Rabbi Dr. Landau chanted the *Tekiah* prayer. He presented a venerable and distinguished figure.

On the First Day of Rosh Hashonah, Rabbi W. Gold, the distinguished leader of the World Mizrahi Organisation, delivered an inspiring sermon, which profoundly stirred the assembly, while on the Second Day, Rabbi Gold also delivered an eloquent address.

### Beth Hamedrash Hagodel

AT the Beth Hamedrash Hagodel the worshippers took part in a service which had preserved its traditionalism intact throughout the ages, and which seemed to gain in beauty and significance from this fact. Cantor B. Chagy's melodious and powerful voice captured immediately the attention of the congregants, who were stirred to responsiveness by his rendering of the Rosh Hashonah liturgy. Mr. H. Ichilchik ably directed the choir.

Rabbi I. Kossowsky (Rav of the Federation of Synagogues) delivered sermons on both days. On the one occasion the tone of his *droshe* was somewhat severe and he strictly admonished his congregants to return to the ways of the Torah.

### Yeoville Synagogue

EXCEPTIONALLY large congregations assembled in the Yeoville Synagogue for the High Festival services. The rich and resonant voice

of Cantor S. Backon led the worshippers in prayer and a choir of male and female voices, under the direction of Mr. E. Eschwege, chanted the responses.

The eloquent and thoughtful sermons delivered by the Rev. Dr. A. T. Shrock deeply moved his hearers and made a profound impression on them. This year, the Yeoville Synagogue found it necessary to arrange for an overflow service in a neighbouring hall, and in addition, a special service for children also took place.

### The Berea Synagogue

The services in Berea, which were crowded, were conducted by Chief Cantor Steinberg, assisted by a very fine choir under the direction of Mr. Solly Steinberg. Sermons were delivered by the minister, Rabbi Gervis.

### The Reform Synagogue

AGAIN this year the Temple Israel—the only Jewish Reform Synagogue in South Africa—drew a large congregation to its services. Although the latter were not conducted according to the custom of the old Prayer Book—there was much deviation and "contraction" in the prayers and liturgy—the atmosphere was solemn and dignified. The choir, under the direction of Mr. J. Idelson, the congregation's Director of Music, contains some really fine male and female voices, and a number of psalms and hymns were beautifully rendered by them.

Rabbi M.-C. Weiler, assisted by Mr. E. M. Davis-Marks and Mr. P. Levy, conducted the services. Rabbi Weiler chose the significance of suffering as the theme of his sermon.

An interesting feature was the special children's service conducted by Rabbi Weiler, who was actively assisted by the children, the latter reading portions of the Service and assisting in the synagogal honours.

### Ez Chajm Congregation

IMPRESSIVE services were those conducted by the German refugees under the auspices of the Ez Chajm congregation at the Jewish Guild and at the Coronation Hall. Both the halls had been transformed into dignified places of worship, drapings in black and gold providing an appropriate and striking background. The Chazonim at the Coronation Hall were Mr. V. Sternberg and Mr. Schönman,

while at the Jewish Guild, Mr. Kurt Hirsch and Mr. Hammerschlag officiated.

A moving aspect of the ceremony was the special *mishaberach* made by Mr. Bloch for the Jews in Germany and Austria, and the whole service was noteworthy for the intensity of feeling which characterised it.

Dr. Kehr, during the course of the Holy Days, delivered a forceful and invigorating sermon on the future of the Jewish race. The congregants must have numbered over nine hundred people, and the deep religious spirit which prevailed impressed itself constantly upon the spectator.

### Adass Jeshurun Congregation

THIS newly-formed congregation held services in a large house in Fortescue Street. One hundred worshippers, of whom forty were women, were present. There was no officially employed chazan, as the services were conducted by private folk, nor was any sermon delivered. There was also no choir.

The earnestness of the worshippers, however, was notable. Many among the audience were recent arrivals from countries in which they had known discrimination and persecution. It is the intention of this group of orthodox Jews shortly to establish a synagogue here.

### In the Suburbs

IN the suburbs of Johannesburg, synagogues attracted large congregations and the services were impressively conducted throughout.

There was an exceedingly large assembly at the La Rochelle Synagogue. Rev. A. Kaplan who officiated, also delivered a sermon and the responses were chanted by a well-trained choir.

### General Impression

IT was generally gratifying to notice the large number of worshippers which assembled in the houses of worship. There can be no doubt that the solemn call of the Festival of Rosh Hashonah was answered earnestly by thousands of co-religionists in the Transvaal and throughout the country.

## FUNERAL OF SIR HARRY GRAUMANN

There was a cortege nearly a mile in length to the Jewish Cemetery in Brixton, Johannesburg, when Sir Harry Graumann, who died in Cape Town on the 19th instant, was, at his own request, buried in Johannesburg, the city he had served so well.

After the service in the entrance hall of the Jewish cemetery, Cantor Alter offered prayer at the graveside in Hebrew, the Rev. Dr. A. T. Shrock prayed in English, and Mr. J. Nathan, grand president of the Hebrew Order of David, spoke a message of sympathy with the bereaved relatives.

Among those who threw earth into the grave were the Mayor, Mr. Fotheringham, Dr. Manfred Nathan and Mr. Leslie Blackwell, M.P.

Before the funeral took place, a memorial service, attended by over a hundred prominent citizens, was held in the H.O.D. Hall, at which Cantor Chagy chanted a prayer in Hebrew, and Mr. H. Blank, grand secretary of the Hebrew Order of David, delivered an address.

"By the death of Sir Harry Graumann, K.B.E. — Rand pioneer, first Jewish Mayor of Johannesburg, former member of Parliament and the friend of the late Sir Percy Fitzpatrick — the country has lost a great citizen," said Mr. Blank.

Sir Harry, he added, would be remembered for the part he played in seeing the Act of Union placed on the Statute Book, in seeing Johannesburg grow from a mining camp to a great metropolis. In the twilight of his years he had played a part in making possible a united people.

## THE JEWISH STATE PARTY

Owing to repeated requests from the districts concerned the Jewish State Party announces the holding of meetings in Southern Suburbs (Johannesburg) and in Randfontein.

### Southern Suburbs

This meeting will take place at 8.15 p.m. on Tuesday, 11th October, at the Talmud Torah Hall, Prairie Street, Rosettenville. Amongst the speakers will be Mr. J. Daleski and Adv. D. Schlosberg, Chairman of the S.A. Executive.

### Randfontein

On Thursday, 13th October, in the Town Hall, at 8.15 p.m., a meeting will be addressed by Rev. Goldberg and Mr. J. Daleski, while Dr. H. Bloomberg will be in the chair.

It is proposed at both these meetings to inaugurate branches of the Party and to elect committees for this purpose. The Party issues a cordial invitation to all interested to attend these meetings and to acquaint themselves with the principles and programme of the Jewish State Party.

## ZIONIST "PARLIAMENT" AT PRETORIA

The annual Zionist "mock parliament" will be held in Pretoria on October 2nd and 3rd. The "cabinet" will be formed from the Transvaal Zionist Youth Executive Committee and members will be selected from the affiliated boards of the Transvaal.

Delegates will receive an official welcome from the local committee at a social in the Scout Hall, Troye Street, on Saturday night, October 1st. The "mock parliament" will be officially opened by the Mayor, Mr. J. J. Cooke, on the Sunday.

## MORE JEWISH PLAYS

Beginning on October 5th, Sarah Sylvia and the London National Yiddish players will appear in several new Jewish plays. Madame Sylvia's productions have always enjoyed considerable success and this new season of Jewish plays is likely to prove equally popular.

The first play to be presented is "The Eternal Fools," by H. Kalmanovitz. The principal players will be Myer Tzelniker, David Segal, Anna Tzelniker, Meta Segal, Vrona Tzelniker and Sarah Sylvia. Booking opens on Monday.

## WITWATERSRAND JEWISH AGED HOME

The Witwatersrand Jewish Aged Home, Johannesburg, acknowledges with thanks receipt of the following amounts: Krugersdorp branch £75; proceeds collected on the occasion of the Bris-Milah of the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. B. Mink, Vryheid, Natal, £10.

## GOOD FILM AT COLOSSEUM

"Mad About Music," the current attraction at the Colosseum Theatre, continues to draw large audiences. Deanna Durbin, in the leading role, gives one of her best performances. Her singing is as delightful as ever, and her acting, too, is of a high standard. The supporting programme is also interesting.

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