

"Make Palestine Your Own—" *Mr. Madeley*

*Minister of Labour and
Dr. Goldstein at Benoni*

Notable Speeches at J.N.F. Function

The Minor Hall of the Benoni Town Hall was crowded to capacity on Monday night last, when a record attendance of Benoni Jewry, as well as many representatives of other Reef centres, gathered to welcome the Hon. W. B. Madeley, M.P., Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, and Dr. Alexander Goldstein.

Mr. M. E. Lurie, Chairman of the Benoni Zionist Society, presided, and amongst those who supported him on the platform were Mr. and Mrs. N. Kirschner, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Phillips, Mr. M. H. Harris, Chairman of the United Hebrew Institutions, and Mrs. Harris, and representatives of the Women's Zionist League and the Zionist Youth Society.

MR. LURIE welcomed the distinguished guests and the large gathering. He referred to Mr. Madeley as the friend and champion of all causes which fight intolerance and oppression.

Dr. Goldstein, he continued, was an old friend who had come to Benoni in the course of his tour of the Union in the interests of the Jewish National Fund. He was glad to inform Dr. Goldstein that, in accordance with tradition, the J.N.F. Campaign in Benoni had already been completed and with record results. He paid tribute to Mr. Harry Phillips, who had once again borne the brunt of the campaign.

In welcoming the chairman of the S.A. Zionist Federation, Mr. Lurie referred in glowing terms to Mr. Kirschner's leadership in South African Zionism.

Mr. KIRSCHNER.

MR. KIRSCHNER, amidst warm applause, congratulated Mr. Madeley on his birthday, which coincided with the date of the meeting. The Jewish community, he said, was happy to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Madeley, as they had always been deeply conscious of Mr. Madeley's friendship to the community.

Mr. Kirschner spoke of the difficulties which the Jewish people were experiencing in these terrible years of war, years which had brought more suffering to the Jews than to any other nation. When the time of reckoning came the Jewish people would require in their claim to Palestine the sympathy and understanding of leading statesmen in the allied countries. He felt sure that Mr. Madeley would, together with our great Prime Minister, Field-Marshal Smuts, support the Jewish people on that occasion.

The response to the Jewish National Fund appeal, continued Mr. Kirschner, would be a reaffirmation of the faith of South African Jewry in Palestine. That small country was proving to be a bastion of allied defence

in the Middle East and was doing its utmost for the war effort.

Mr. MADELEY.

ON rising to speak Mr. Madeley received a warm ovation. He was glad, he said, to join in the welcome given to Dr. Goldstein and to be able to help and give encouragement to Dr. Goldstein in his mission.

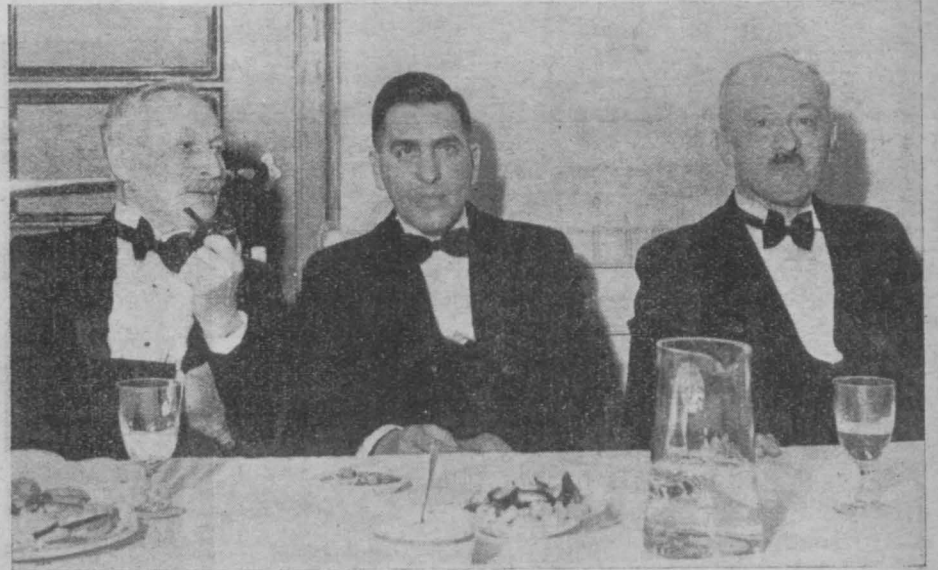
The Minister said that he had always taken a peculiar interest in what was known as the Jewish question. He had seen what Jews had done in South Africa and read of what they had achieved in other parts of the world.

"I can say without fear of contradiction," said Mr. Madeley, "that the Jewish community have played a great part in the up-building of any country in which they happen to find themselves, and it is incumbent upon me to pay tribute to that remarkable quality of the Jewish people to adjust themselves to circumstances."

It was natural, because of the scattered nature of the Jewish people at the present time, for the Jews to want to come together geographically and physically in some spot on the earth's surface, and it was also natural for them to look to Palestine as that spot, in the same way that he himself looked towards that little island which was facing such dire peril to-day and which he called Home. The Jewish people had every right to ask for Palestine.

"You have a right to do it," said Mr. Madeley amidst applause, "just as we have a right to ask of any country which wishes democracy to be free, to side with us, and you can count upon me to give you every support, and whatever I can do to further the excellent work of Dr. Goldstein, will be done."

It had often been said, continued Mr. Madeley, that Jews only thought of making money.



["Zionist Record" photo.]

At the reception at Benoni. From left to right: Mr. W. B. Madeley, M.P., Mr. M. E. Lurie, who presided, and Dr. Alexander Goldstein.

"That is not only peculiar of the Jews. Everybody wants to make money (laughter), and this particular charge is completely fallacious."

When one observed what had been done in Palestine, where the Jews engaged not only in trading but were also increasing their efforts in agriculture and were doing everything from pick and shovel work to manufacturing, and when it was remembered that the most successful farmers in South Africa who worked with their own hands, were invariably Jews, it could easily be seen how wrong this contention was.

Mr. Madeley urged his audience to help Palestine so that that work could be carried on. He expressed the hope that the Jewish people would give all the financial support that was needed and that they would be able to purchase all the land they wanted. He urged them to carry on with the weapons of peace and not to cut one single throat in the acquisition of that land.

"Make Palestine a place of your own, which you can call your own. All honour to you and more power to your elbow. I hope that as the result of our victory in this war you will gain your right to a bit of the surface of this earth. Good luck to you!"

Mr. Madeley's address was greeted with loud and prolonged applause.

Dr. GOLDSTEIN.

DR. GOLDSTEIN was warmly welcomed on rising to address the gathering. Commencing in humorous vein, Dr. Goldstein asked why this evening was different from all other evenings of the year. In the first place, he did not have to ask for money. That task had already been performed most ably by Mr. Harry Phillips.

Secondly, those present were privileged to listen to the voice of "Echad Michasidei Umot Ha-olam"—one of the righteous of the nations of the world. In a world which, since the rise of Hitler, had been poisoned by hatreds of all sorts, it was refreshing and inspiring to listen to the speech which had just been made by Mr. Madeley.

Dr. Goldstein also referred feelingly to the words of Mr. Kirschner, whom he described as the second Palestinian present, because Mr. Kirschner

was regarded in Palestine as one of themselves.

If one weighed in the balance what the Jews had given to Palestine and what Palestine had given to the Jews, it would be found that the Jewish people was heavily in debt to Eretz Israel.

What would have been the fate, asked Dr. Goldstein, of thousands of young people if not for their hope of a certificate for Palestine?

Those who had come to live and work in Palestine had prepared the ground and they had laid the foundations of life in Palestine so that these thousands of young people could be rescued in their distress.

The Jewish people had started building Palestine before Hitler, because of their urge to be a normal people, and because Palestine was the cradle of their race.

New links in the chain of our ancient association with the soil of Palestine and our present return had been forged by the workers on Jewish National Fund land in the hundreds of colonies which now provided food not only for the population of Palestine, but also for the army.

Many new industries had been established. The Jews of Palestine had placed the whole of their industry at the disposal of the British Authorities and they were achieving wonderful things. Lorry loads of food had been sent from Palestine to Syria following the successful conquest of that country. The Jews of Palestine were assisting the war effort to the utmost of their ability and with intense loyalty to the allied cause.

ZIONIST YOUTH CHOIR.

THE happy atmosphere which prevailed at this meeting and the enthusiasm aroused by the inspiring addresses were heightened by the singing of Hebrew songs rendered by the Johannesburg Zionist Youth Choir under the direction of Mr. A. Abrahamson.

During the interval, when refreshments were being served, the Choir rendered some fine Hebrew melodies and Miss Freda Marcus, especially, charmed the audience with two Hebrew songs.