

THE POSITIVE VALUES OF PALESTINE

Dr. Goldstein's Address to Johannesburg Women Zionists

A VIVID picture of the day-to-day life in Palestine, of the problems which the Yishuv had to face and of its remarkable spirit of optimism and confidence was drawn by Dr. Alexander Goldstein, in an address delivered by him at the monthly meeting of the Johannesburg Women's Zionist League, held at the Langham Hotel last Tuesday afternoon. A very large gathering of ladies, over whom Mrs. M. Franks presided, was present.

At the outset of his address Dr. Goldstein drew a comparison between life in South Africa and in Palestine. In South Africa the Jews, like the other sections of the community, were far away from the realities of war; there were no nightly black-outs, as there were in Palestine, no air-raid alarms, no fear of imminent attack by the enemy; economically, they had not been hit by the war to anywhere near the extent that Palestine had been. But for all the material ease and comfort of living in South Africa, and for all the hardships in Palestine, Jewish life was infinitely richer, fuller and more desirable in the latter country. In Palestine the Jew shed the inferiority complex which was such a feature of his life in the Diaspora, he became a free, human being, conscious that he was living in his own home and able to do as he pleased without too much concern about the effect his actions would have on the non-Jews.

Dr. Goldstein went on to speak of the outlet which the creative spirit of the Jew found in Palestine. Everything that was best in that country to-day in art, in literature, in industry, in agriculture was Jewish. And a new sense of values was being created among this people who everywhere else in the world had been forced into the position of being the strangers within the gate.

"It is a fact," declared Dr. Goldstein, "that it is not your material possessions that count in Palestine. The thing that counts is what you have created."

Life in Palestine was not easy. There were practical difficulties of many kinds. Since 1932 alone the Yishuv had had to absorb no less than some 170,000 Jews, for whom the problem of adapting themselves to life in a new country was by no means simple. Three years of living through the strain and stress of the Arab riots and two years immediately afterwards of war conditions had added to the difficulties. But the spirit of the people was unbreakable, just as the spirit of the English people was unbreakable, because they were in their own country for which they were prepared to fight and to die if necessary.

Palestine was going to play an important part in the period of post-war construction. Millions of Jews would be homeless, and "if Palestine is not going to be redeemed now," said Dr. Goldstein, "God knows what will happen to the Jews." After the war there would be a Jewish people uprooted, physically and spiritually broken. Humanity itself would be lost in chaos. Only for one person would there be some measure of security—for the man on the soil. It was this truth, perhaps only subconsciously realised, that was probably responsible for the longing of so many young men and women in Palestine to-day to go on to the land.

Dr. Goldstein's address was followed with the closest attention, and the thanks of those present were conveyed to him by Mrs. Inez Gordon.

DURING the afternoon Dr. Goldstein presented Golden Book certificates to Mrs. Edith Adelson (her name was inscribed by the City Branch, of which she was the founder, in appreciation of her work on that organisation), and to the following branches which had exceeded their quotas during the past year: Bellevue, Berea, City, Doornfontein, Hillbrow, Hospital Hill, Houghton, Mayfair, Observatory, Orange Grove, Parktown, Parkview and Saxonwold. A certificate for a garden of trees was also presented, in absentia, to Dr. Deborah Katzen.

GRAND CONCERT IN AID OF J.N.F.

To Take Place on 10th August

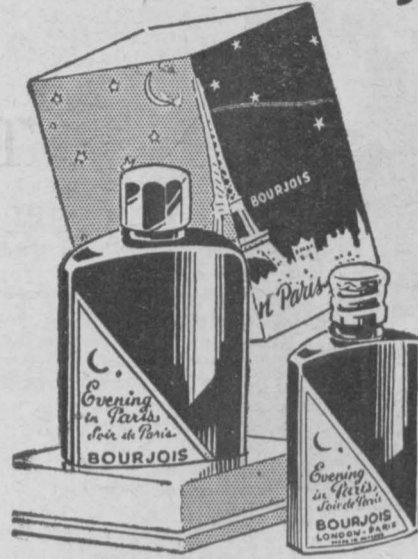
A Grand Concert in aid of the Jewish National Fund and under the auspices of the Mayfair and Booyens branches of the Johannesburg Women's Zionist League, will take place on Sunday, 10th August, at 8.45 p.m. at the Duncan Hall. The thanks of the committee are due to Miss Dolly Weinbrenn, W.L.M., who was responsible for arranging a programme which contains, among others, the names of the following prominent artists: Mr. Bruno Raiken (pianist); Mr. Eugene Magid (violinist); Miss Jean Gluckmann (contralto); Miss Lilla Emdin (soprano), and Mr. John Allen (tenor).

It is hoped that the public will give this concert, which should prove a musical treat, their patronage. The entrance to the Duncan Hall is through the City Hall.

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BOURJOIS

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PRETORIA ACTIVITIES

"Land, Labour and Culture in Palestine" was the subject of an address by Rabbi M. C. Weiler to the Pretoria Zionist Society on Sunday, July 27. Mr. Solly Ogus presided over a large gathering. Rabbi Weiler was accompanied by Dr. T. Ronsheim, Secretary of the S.A. Friends of the Hebrew University, who took the opportunity of discussing matters in the interests of the University with members of the committee.

In a talk lasting over an hour, Rabbi Weiler gave an interesting and vivid account of the life of the Yishuv, devoting some time to the Hebrew University and the Habimah. Mr. J. Janover, in a brief address, conveyed the thanks of the gathering to Rabbi Weiler.

"Hanoar" Reunion.

An interesting function in the form of a "Parents and Past Members Evening" was arranged by the Pretoria Hanoar on the 13th July. Miss F. Rutowitz, the present chairman, presided, and the function opened with a short address by Rabbi W. Hirsch. Two of the founders of "Hanoar," Messrs. A. and D. Schlosberg, entertained the gathering with reminiscences of the early days of the Society, and they were followed by Mr. E. Riese who spoke on the more recent history of the Society. The function was brought to a close with a talk by Mr. Solly Ogus on "Hanoar To-day."

Herzl and Balik Service.

On the evening of Friday, July 11, a special commemoration service was held under the auspices of the Pretoria Junior Hebrew Congregation, during which an inspiring address was delivered by Captain Freedman, Chaplain to the Forces at Premier Mine.

MR. L. LAWRENCE AND

MR. LAZAR ADDRESS

WITBANK MEETING

Mr. L. Lawrence and Mr. M. Lazar were the guest speakers at a Herzl-Bialik memorial meeting arranged by the Witbank Zionist Society on the 20th July. Mr. I. L. Shein presided and welcomed the visitors. Mr. Lawrence spoke on the life and work of Herzl and Mr. Lazar on Bialik. The speeches made a deep impression, and Mr. Kesler proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the visitors. The visitors and committee were subsequently entertained to tea at the residence of Dr. and Mrs. Moselle.

Occasion was also taken at the meeting to hold the annual general elections of the society.

DRINK PICARDIE BRANDY

BUY UNION LOAN CERTIFICATES.

CUTHBERT'S for LADIES' AFTERNOON DRESS SHOES