

Fourth Annual Mizrachi Convention Held in Pittsburgh, May 15-20th, 1917

Its Aims and Achievements

The Mizrachi is, primarily, an organization established on the basis of the Bazel platform, striving, in conjunction with all Zionists the world over, to solve the problem, how best to assure the preservation and the development of a complete, manifold, all-pervasive national Jewish life. Its adherents are fully convinced, by force of historical circumstances, that the chief reservoir to which all Jewry must look for fresh inspiration and hope and authority is only Palestine, the Land of Israel.

The Mizrachi, however, is a distinct Federation in the Zionist movement, insofar as it rests also on a more solid, more firm and more reliable foundation than that which a mere land or national centre can offer to its people. It is based on terra firma, on the Rock of Ages. It has its origin in the Torah, in ancient, traditional Judaism.

To the Mizrachi Jew, the enchanting term of "Zion" means more than a mere home. It conveys to him the idea of a sanctuary, a sacred abode, wherein the hunger and thirstiness of his soul will be satisfied and quenched, and the yearnings of his Jewish heart will be amply gratified; where he will be permitted to live a full, round, thorough and complete Jewish life, not a life of religiosity, consisting of occasional sermons or spasmodic divine services, but of real religion in its traditional conception; where "all his children will be disciples of the Lord," and will look at the world through Jewish eyes.

The Mizrachi is not contented with the lukewarm phrase, "Be a Jew in the synagogue and an American on the street," but is longing to be a Jew in the house and on the street, in the synagogue and in his daily affairs, in his intellectual, imaginative and emotional activities; he is desirous that all his concerns in life—his getting up and lying down, his Sabbath-days and religious festivals, the food he eats, the bringing up of his children, should be governed by religious principles, rites and observances. And to him there is no conflict between Judaism and Americanism. The Jew of the Mizrachi type sees in the cherishes. Ideal of the re-habilitation of the Jewish people in the Jewish Land a panacea for all the ills of the Golum, both physical and moral, and is therefore, ready and willing to make sacrifices here, in the Diaspora, and there, in Palestine, in order to make the realization of this national hope possible.

Here may we be permitted to enumerate a few activities of the Mizrachi: First—The "Colonial Fund" for the purpose of establishing truck-colonies in the immediate vicinity of the larger Jewish Centres in Palestine, thus providing the native Palestinian youth with a livelihood, so that they are not dependent on charity or forced to leave the country in quest of means for support.

Second—The "Tachkemoni" schools in Jaffa and Jerusalem, two modern educational institutions in which hundreds of students receive instruction in religious and secular subjects, and are taught oriental and modern languages, Hebrew, of course, is the dominant tongue.

Third—A Teachers' College in the City of New York, where young men receive a thorough training and education, and are fully equipped to be the future competent and trustworthy religious tutors of our children.

The Mizrachi has also inaugurated a vigorous campaign all over the country for a Five-day Working Week, planning thereby to solve in a practical and systematic way, the perplexing problem agitating the mind of every conscientious Jew in this country, that of Sabbath observance, by adding proportionately the working hours of Saturday to each week day.

A composite movement of this kind, one that embraces "The Torah, the Land and the People of Israel" merits the approbation and the participation of all intelligent and consistent Jews and Jewesses, old and young, and is destined to become the guiding spirit of all Jewry.

The convention just held in Pittsburgh, in point of time, is ended. The spirit and attendant stimuli that it has effected has only begun. A Convention replete with sincerity, unanimity of purpose, and intent of accomplishment, has culminated most successfully. Each year it seems that serious obstacles are surmounted and the goal which formerly looked like a dream fantasy looms steadily and steadily towards the brink of realization.

The Pittsburgh Jewish people can feel just proud of the active participation which was theirs. It is indeed through their instrumentality that the Convention proved so successful. The Delegates were received at the stations on their arrivals by automobiles furnished by our own people; families offered the freedom of their homes; some of our finest women forsook their homes to prepare meals and to assist in the reception of the Delegates; and on the night of the Banquet at the Zion Council many women and younger girls volunteered their services and under the vigilance of Mrs. A. M. Ashinsky the Banquet to the 400 guests lacked nothing from the savor of the entree to the closing desert with the singing of Hatikvah.

Mr. Sol Rosenbloom, President of the Hebrew Institute, was introduced by Rabbi A. M. Ashinsky and assumed the task of Toastmaster.

Rabbi Ashinsky, Mr. G. Bublick, Chief Editor of the Jewish Daily News, and Rabbi Silver, of Chicago, responded very appropriately to the toasts. The stirring and appealing talk of Rabbi Ashinsky was manifested by the number of large contributions

made in response to his talks, towards the Teachers College of the Mizrachi at New York.

As the meeting neared the end a group of young people gathered in the rear of the Banquet Hall and sang our Hebrew and American airs. The sincerity and heart-felt enthusiasm of the singers, and the fluency and sweetness of the songs demanded interested listeners. The singers were led by Miss Kornfield and Miss Fedehart of the Hebrew Institute. Both these young ladies are natives of Palestine and their singing added an earnestness and genuineness that defies sham.

On Tuesday night a reception was given to the Delegates. Mr. Sol Rosenbloom presided and welcomed the Delegates in the voice of our Pittsburgh Jewry and assured them of the spiritual support and the degree of sympathy that all felt towards the movement.

At the following session Rabbi Ashinsky suggested that a permanent chairman be elected from among the visiting delegates, and accordingly Rabbi Mayer Berlin, of New York, was elected. Rabbi Berlin accepted the chair after an enthusiastic and earnest address by our local Rabbi Ashinsky. Mr. L. Gelman, of St. Louis, and Rabbi Nachmen Ebin, of Buffalo, were elected Secretaries.

At the Wednesday morning session Rabbi Lesser, of Cincinnati, four score years and six, was assisted to the platform. He began speaking in a low voice but as the flame of meaning and heart-interest waxed higher he reached a loud pitch. This veteran Rabbi, venerable patriarch, as he whispered out the blessing of "Sheheche Yonoo" brought tears to the eyes of his younger colleagues. Indeed, Rabbi Lesser was an inspiration, his exemplary work, his earnestness, his years as a Rabbi serve a noble guidance.

On Friday evening and Saturday morning the Rabbis who were visiting the city had been invited to the various Congregations to deliver sermons. This interchange of ideas and these new men from other cities had a noticeable effect upon the people.

On Saturday afternoon two large assemblies were called at the Beth Jacob and Beth Hamedresh Hagodel, at which Rabbi Ashinsky and Rabbi Ebin, respectively, presided.

On Saturday evening a phenomenal meeting was transacted at which nothing but the purest and most classic Hebrew was spoken. This meeting was conducted at the Hebrew Institute. Rabbi Ashinsky, the chairman gave the leading address of the meeting followed by many addresses.

On Sunday evening the Mass Meeting of the Convention was held at the Lyceum Theatre. The theatre was exceptionally crowded and the audience lent themselves to the spirit of the meeting. The main feature of the evening was a remarkable address in classic Hebrew by the talented and able thirteen-year-old daughter of Rabbi Ashinsky, Judith. It was the marvel of the evening and was referred to by the subsequent speakers.

The speakers were Rabbi Gold, of Brooklyn, Rabbi Davidson and Rabbi Berlin, of New York, and Rabbi Ebin, of Buffalo. An appeal was made towards the \$100,000 fund for colonization and furtherance of cultural purposes in Palestine, to be used at the first possible opportunity. \$1,000.00 was contributed by Mr. Manashevitz, of Cincinnati, \$1,000.00 by the Benoth Jerusalem, of New York, and \$1,000.00 in cash and pledges from the audience.

Rabbi Ebin concluded with these fittingly appropriate words in behalf of the persons interested in raising the \$100,000 fund. "After the present revolution in Russia that has liberated millions of our brethren the necessity for a Jewish Homeland has infinitely increased in its demands. Now it cries out its demands more than ever before to combat the ever growing tendency and influence of the Assimilants. While Liberty is wholesome to Jewry, it is dangerous to Judaism, when men are prone to be influenced and modified in their customs by the pressure of attendant environment."

Rabbi Berlin paid a tribute of thanks to the organizations that have lent their assistance and service that the Mizrachi Convention should be a success. He publicly thanked the Sisters of Zion, Louis D. Brandeis Camp, Dorshai Zion, Young People's Zion League, Girls' Junior Mizrachi, the Zion Council, the Congregation Beth Jacob, Beth Hamedresh Hagodel, Shaarai Zion, Or Chadosh, Shaarai Zedeck, Shaarei Tephilah, Tiphereth Israel, Shaarai Torah, B'nai Israel, the Hebrew Institute and others who have interested themselves in the movement.

The Committees who have worked before and whose services are still needed in completing the work paid a tribute for their service. And the writer takes this liberty of mentioning their names and expressing the heart-felt thanks and sincere appreciation of those who are earnestly interested in the Mizrachi.

The Convention Committees are as follows:

Officers of the Convention:
Rabbi A. M. Ashinsky, Hon. Chairman,
Max I. Amdursky, Chairman,
M. Enelow, Vice President,
S. Krous, Vice President,
Bernard Cohen, Treasurer,
Elt. Spokony, Recording Secretary,
J. Malachofsky, Corresponding and Financial Secretary.

Reception Committee:
M. Topolsky, Chairman, S. Bluestone, Chas. Levine, J. Malachofsky, J. Tobias, S. Freedberg, Mrs. I. Dunn, Mrs. O. Silverblatt, H.

Mosenson, Dr. N. Ashinsky, Dr. S. Bloomberg, Mrs. A. M. Ashinsky.

Decoration Committee:
Mrs. S. Hoffman, Chairman, Mrs. B. Goldstein, Mrs. M. Kautman, Mrs. J. Goldbloom, T. Goldstein, G. Levenson, S. Laenson, Miss E. Dunn, Miss C. Marks, Mrs. R. Romick, Mrs. A. Caplan, Mr. I. Pearlman, Wm. Shiff.

Press Committee:
Jos. S. Glick, Chairman, M. A. Berman, Wm. Shiff, Morris Ashinsky, L. H. Cadison, I. J. Williams.

Program Committee:
I. J. Williams, Chairman, M. Topolsky, Wm. Shiff, J. Tobias, B. Pearlman, Mrs. A. M. Ashinsky, Mrs. I. Dunn, Mrs. M. Topolsky, Mrs. L. L. Laufe.

Ticket Committee:
Mrs. I. W. Rabinovitz, Chairman, Mrs. M. Schlesinger, Mrs. A. Caplan, Mrs. M. Romick, Miss F. Hershtman.

Banquet Committee:
Mrs. A. M. Ashinsky, Chairman, Rev. J. A. Neaman, Manager, Mrs. Ruderman, Mrs. R. Balter, Mrs. B. Goldstein, Mrs. Oppenheim, Wm. Shiff, I. J. Williams, M. A. Berman, Mrs. Sanes.

Badges Committee:
I. J. Williams, Chairman, B. Pearlman.

Mass-Meeting Committee:
Chas. Levine, Chairman, I. J. Williams, M. A. Berman, H. Mosenson.

Registration Committee:
Max I. Amdursky, M. Neaman, H. Mosenson.

Printing Committee:
I. J. Williams, Chairman, Wm. Shiff, H. Mosenson.

HEBREW INSTITUTE.

Last Friday many delegates of the Mizrachi Convention visited the Children's Synagogue. Rabbi Ebin, of Buffalo, spoke to the children.

On Sunday morning the children assembled at the Institute at 9 o'clock and marched in a body to the Beth Jacob Synagogue to greet the delegates. After they had sung several songs, Judith Ashinsky, studying under Mr. Rubin's instruction, delivered an address in Hebrew. The effect of so many Jewish boys and girls was marked and was most pleasurably received.

On Sunday evening the Institute choir of seventy-five sang patriotic American and Hebrew songs at the Lyceum Theatre Mass-meeting. A new song entitled Mizrachi was introduced. This song was written by Dr. Bluestone, of New York, and the music written by Rev. S. Rosenberg, of the Hebrew Institute.

The card system previously described in The Criterion was very favorably accepted by the various delegates, several having direct jurisdiction of Hebrew schools already testified their intention of adopting the method and several orders have been placed for the cards.

On Saturday, May 26, Sunday, 27, and Monday, 28, Shabuoth will be observed by fitting services at the Institute Synagogue.

NATIONAL FUND FLOWER DAY.

On Wednesday evening, May 16, a reception was tendered to the young women interested in the National Fund Flower Day which was observed on Sunday, May 20. The chairman, Mr. I. J. Williams, greeted the audience and after a few preliminary remarks pertaining to the importance, aims and accomplishments of the National Fund, introduced the principal speaker of the evening, Mrs. Nachman H. Ebin, of Buffalo, N. Y. Mrs. Ebin entered into the spirit of the undertaking and proceeded in a most practicable manner of the detailed methods to be pursued. She related most interesting incidents attendant upon the various Tag Days in her own city. She paid a tribute to the zeal and earnestness of Pittsburgh young women and expressed her assurance that the day would be a success.

The inspirational effects of her talk have demonstrated its worth in the subsequent Flower Day, which net-

ted over a thousand dollars, to date, with many committees yet to report.

ZIONIST COUNCIL OF PITTSBURGH.

Flower Day a Great Success.

With practically a new committee in charge and with less than ten per cent. of veterans of previous "Flower Days" participating, the collection for the Jewish national fund held by the local Zionists, Sunday, May 20, was a tremendous success, due to the untiring efforts and indefatigable work of the committee in charge. With a fifth of the committees still to be heard from, the collection already exceeds the amount of \$1,000.

The outstanding feature of the flower day campaign was the participation of the Young People's Zionist League, which has collected almost 50 per cent. of the entire amount raised, and thereby has won the prize offered to the organization bringing in the greatest amount, an inscription in the Golden Book. Further details of the collection will be announced in the next edition of The Jewish Criterion.

A reception and dance will be tendered to the flower day workers at the Zionist Institute auditorium, Wednesday evening, June 6, 1917.

Young People's Zionist League.

At the last meeting of the Young People's Zionist League, held at the Zionist Institute Tuesday, May 23, plans were considered for an appropriate celebration of the first anniversary which is to take place in June.

The Young People's Zionist League has during less than one year's existence established a very enviable reputation, and has become a dominant factor in local Zionism.

Professor Allan Davis addressed the members of the organization on the "Future of Zionism."

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT THE HOME FOR THE AGED!

The following Jahr-zeits will be observed during the month of Sivan, 5677:

Morris Feuchtwanger; Thursday, May 24, 1917.

Freda R. Edel; Friday, May 25, 1917.

Pauline Zeugschmidt; Wednesday, May 30, 1917.

Bella Alpern; Sunday, June 3, 1917.

Esther White, Cecilia Gottfried, Rachel Friedman Goldman; Monday, June 4, 1917.

Israel Solomon Holzman; Tuesday, June 5, 1917.

Esther Goodman; Friday, June 8, 1917.

Annie Kramer; Saturday, June 9, 1917.

Maurice Nevins; Sunday, June 10, 1917.

Herbert S. Rosenbaum; Monday, June 18, 1917.

Hannah Klein; Tuesday, June 19, 1917.

Rebecca C. Rosenberg; Wednesday, June 20, 1917.

Relatives of said departed are cordially invited to participate in the memorial service.

Daily service, 7:30 A. M., 5:30 and 7:30 P. M.

Saturday, 8:30 A. M., 5:30 and 7:40 P. M.

A. J. NEWMAN,

Superintendent.

RABBI J. LEONARD LEVY.

(Editorial, "The Jewish Voice," St. Louis, Mo.)

Rabbi J. Leonard Levy was worthy of all the praises offered to his memory in both the pulpit and the press and it was here no doubt that the Rabbinic sentence was fully applicable:

"M'hespeido shel odom nikkor, im ben olom habbo hu, o lav"—

From the eulogy of a person it may be known whether or not he is a participant in the world to come (immortality).

But the eulogy of even the greatest of men must be moderate, limited, reasonable.

Announcement is made today that Mr. Herbert H. Lehman, of Lehman Bros., bankers, 20 Exchange place, and treasurer of the Joint Distribution Committee of the funds for Jewish war sufferers and of the American Jewish Relief Committee, has been appointed textile expert of the Navy Department at Washington by Secretary of the Navy Daniels.