

## K.H. WORKERS' FAREWELL TODR. I. OLSVANGER

The final address by Dr. Olsvanger, in Johannesburg, was delivered at the Carlton Hotel, on Tuesday, October 28th, at a gathering of Keren Hayesod workers. On this occasion, Dr. Olsvanger delivered an intimate and feeling speech which made a deep impression on his hearers. His words on this final occasion will long be remembered by those who were privileged to be present.

Mr. A. M. Abrahams, President of the S.A. Zionist Federation was in the chair, and was supported by the Chief Rabbi, Dr. J. L. Landau and other members of the Executive Council. Mr. Abrahams stated that during the four years which Dr. Olsvanger had spent in South Africa, they had been privileged to listen to his burning words of eloquence, which had exercised a considerable influence. Dr. Olsvanger had been a true representative of the wandering people, as there was hardly a spot in South Africa which he had not visited. He had travelled the wastes of South-West Africa and the wilds of Namaqualand, and had left in these places, among our scattered communities, an influence that would not die.

### PRESENTATION OF ADDRESS.

The chairman then called upon Dr. Landau to read a Hebrew address presented to Dr. Olsvanger, of which the following is the English translation:—

*Dear and Honoured Colleague,*

*Before you part from us, after four years of incessant and fruitful work, we are anxious in the name of all our fellow-Zionists in South Africa to convey to you our warmest and deepest thanks and to extend our heartfelt good wishes to your family and yourself. Your winning voice, your easy eloquence, and your enthusiasm for our Cause, have drawn into the Zionist fold thousands of new adherents. All who have listened to you have fallen under the spell of your words, and have learned from them their mission in the present, their duty to the past, and, above all, their responsibility to the future.*

*You can be assured that your name will be engraved on grateful hearts, which will continue to hold your work in dear regard, even although it will from now be done in those distant lands to which you are going, and where you will raise high the Zionist banner and deeply implant the Jewish national spirit. Go on and prosper! May you rise from height to height and be to us and to all the scattered members of our Nation a source of blessing!*

*We pray that it will be vouchsafed to you to raise up for yourself an enduring home and a new centre of influence, worthy of your eminent ability and devoted energy, in our Holy Land, the land of our future.*

*For the South African Zionist Federation,*

A. M. ABRAHAMS, President.

J. ALEXANDER, Secretary.

The Chief Rabbi, in a powerful and eloquent address, endorsed the eulogy paid to Dr. Olsvanger by the chairman, and appealed to the Jewish community in Johannesburg to arrange the holding of similar functions more often when questions of vital importance to Jewry could be openly discussed. Dr. Landau asked for more earnestness on the serious problems which confronted them in the development of Jewish life in South Africa.

### A FINE ORATION.

Dr. Olsvanger, on rising to speak, was greeted with loud and prolonged applause.

"The proceedings this evening," he said, "have been of a rather intimate character, and I would like to preserve that atmosphere of intimacy in all that I have to say to you. If it has been my lot to play any part at all in the Zionist movement, I owe it to two people—my father and mother. In this age of new

ideas and new cults, it is necessary to uphold the sanctity of these two names. I always remember what my father had once written to my brother: 'Remember that whatever you intend to do or to say, ask yourself what your own father would have thought of it.' This advice of my father has been the guiding principle in my life.

### THE JEWISH YOUTH.

"Whatever generation we take, it is certainly true that the child is more educated than his parents, and for that reason it is the duty of the child to study the psychology of his parents. In the innermost depths of the parents' soul will be found the most beautiful dreams.

"The Jewish youth of South Africa is in some respects like the Jewish youth of other countries. When I think of the Jewish youth here there is an incident I should like to mention. It occurred recently in Vienna at an International Conference of Students. Many nations were represented and each national group vied with the other in singing its national songs and displaying its national colours. Somewhere in a corner there stood a group of Jewish students—those who could not take part in the national rejoicings. Suddenly a young man rose and began to sing the 'Hatikvah,' and this young man—named Frankel—came from Johannesburg. (Applause.) Perhaps it was due to this incident that the conference adopted a resolution not to include in its deliberations those countries where Jewish students were not given freedom to study at the universities. Perhaps this incident is an indication that there exists some creative power for the Jewish national cause amongst the South African Jewish youth.

"So far the world knows that it can only receive money from South Africa. It is not right of local Zionist societies and organisations to place so much stress on the collection of money to the neglect of anything higher. Behind the collection of money there is an object we must not lose sight of. The evolution of a national renaissance, the building of a national home—these are but a means to a higher purpose.

"When I saw how intently you listened to the music of the violin solo I could not help thinking how much you were estranged from another kind of music, a music not expressed in sound but in human action—the unending melody of our history. You will observe when you study our history how in places the chords have been snapped and at times the melody has been broken. But those of you who have an ear for music can hear that the whole people is striving towards a harmony—towards a final orchestral clash which will shake the world. This final chord we are striking in Palestine.

"If you want to study yourself, to know who you are, you must trace through the centuries how you have evolved from the past to your present state. In all our learning we strive to discover this kernel of knowledge, and where it is present the Jew is strong and indestructible.

"There has been a terrible period in our history—the assimilation period. During this period we sought not to be true to ourselves, but to be like others. That period is past. How it would hurt me to tell my children, 'Be like somebody else's father, not like me'—yet that has been going on in Germany and elsewhere. And now has arrived the period when suddenly this rabble, this horde changes and speaks of its place in history and shows an invincible determination to take its place amongst the nations of mankind, and this period of upliftment leaves in its trail those who, too far from their people, have a sneaking desire to return to its bosom, and, worse still, those who, knowing they cannot return, nibble spitefully and secretly at the massive granite structure of Zionism with the teeth of mice.

"I want to leave you with this single blessing. It is wrong to say that we are parting. We can never part. We are together and our friendship is unbroken. Friendship does not cease when one has left a country. The rays of the same ideal will shine on all of us wherever we may be. The impressions of you that I carry away with me and the impressions you have of me can never be effaced, for they are connected with something far greater than our individual lives. That unites us which is indestructible and everlasting—the awakening genius of an ancient people.

"So long as I live I will not tire, I will not cease from my work, and in that work there are no sacrifices. I know how the Cossacks have thrown from one side of the street to the other the child who uttered a cry which shook the world—"Hear, O Israel. The Lord our God is One." There are no sacrifices. These are my final words to you: The harmony of your lives preserve at all costs, and if your present form of life is inharmonious, break it off and begin another. In the hope that you may find this harmony I bid you farewell." (Continued applause.)