

ZIONISTS' MASS MEETING

Leaders in the Movement Arouse Enthusiasm at Cooper Union.

A PLEA FOR HUMAN JUSTICE

Israel's Great Gift to Mankind Recalled —Dreyfus and European Persecution Mentioned in Convention.

A mass meeting, under the auspices of the Federation of American Zionists was held at Cooper Union last night. The hall was crowded, many representative men being present, as well as those whose appearance told of drudgery in the east side sweat shops. There were many women and girls in the audience; and little sober-faced lads, whose ages could not have been over ten years, followed with attention the remarks of the speakers, applauding at times with enthusiasm.

The platform was draped with the National colors and the blue and white of the Zionists.

Personal tributes were paid by the speakers to Rabbi Gustav Gottheil, who presided.

In his opening remarks Rabbi Gottheil said that they had come together for one of the greatest purposes that had ever summoned the scattered people of Israel. "The life of our Nation has not lost by the trials it has endured," he said, "for we are joined together heart, soul, and mind, by the will of God."

DR. GOTTHEIL'S WORDS.

Dr. Gottheil said that he was in the position of a father who was bound to obey his own son and had been told that he must not speak long. "But," he added, "I cannot retire without telling you of a man who came to me some time ago from the native soil; one who came, not driven forth, but of his own free will, with horny hand, bronzed face and sturdy figure. In him I saw the success of the Zionist movement, for I took him as a messenger who told that our aspirations are not dreams.

"There is no such thing as an anti-Zionist," concluded Rabbi Gottheil.

"A man need not be a supporter of our ethics, but how can any one in whose veins flows Jewish blood oppose the movement? Every true Jewish heart is naturally Zionist."

The Rev. Dr. S. Schaffer of Baltimore, who spoke next, said that in the four years since the Zionist movement began much opposition had been developed; that it was impossible to change the views of all, but that if their opponents could see the remarkable gathering they would realize that the Jewish people still lived and prospered.

"When one realizes how much has been done in this golden land of freedom," he continued, "it is patent that the principles of the Jewish people still exist in many hearts. We have already won millions of men to our views, and in time we will realize our ideal. Such a movement requires time and persistent, united effort."

He added that the Hebrew language and literature must be broadly disseminated.

A psalm, by Leo Rafaels, sung under the direction of the Rev. David Cahn, aroused considerable enthusiasm, and then the next speaker, the Rev. H. Illowizi of Philadelphia, was introduced.

"There are some things that never perish," he said. "Weeds flourish easily. The rarest flowers require careful nursing. The Pharaohs—oppressors of Israel—have been many."

ASKS FOR JUSTICE.

He then paid a tribute to Rabbi Gottheil, and added: "Zion! Zion! How the name vibrates on the harp of Judaism! We demand of humanity the heritage that God bestowed upon us. We ask for justice.

"Israel has given to humanity a religion, a church, a mosque, a literature; in return for those gifts our people received stones and misery.

"We ask the return of our land, not that we mean to pack up and go away. But it is our right. To-day the Boer is fighting for the land he won from savages; the Irishman demands home rule.

"Because we are happy in this land of freedom [Applause] let us not forget the 5,000,000 brethren who are suffering oppression. There is a movement on foot to prevent the Russian Jew from landing on these shores. Oppressed in Russia, hunted in Rumania. Oppressed here, his only hope is Zion."

The Rev. H. Masliansky, who spoke in Hebrew, aroused the audience to great enthusiasm. "Mas'ath Nafshi" was then sung, and the voices of the children mingled with those of their elders in an impressive strain.

Resolutions of sympathy were adopted and a collection taken for the Jews of Bessarabia.

The Rev. Dr. J. H. Hertz of Johannesburg, South Africa, said that he brought greetings from the 3,000 Zionists of South Africa. He said that it would probably surprise those present to know that several such mass meetings had been held in Johannesburg within the last four years.

"The choice between life and death is before you," he said. "When the world's story takes a different tone and justice is at hand we will realize our destiny. The fact that so many of our people are satisfied with their condition is the real tragedy of Israel. You must help yourselves. The moment you realize that you are a nation you will be one. I appeal to you, be men and women, Jews and Zionists."

In presenting Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, the Chairman expressed regret that it was the last time he would be heard here for some time. Rabbi Wise is going to the Pacific Coast.

RABBI WISE'S ADDRESS.

Rabbi Wise said, in part:

"The day will never come when I will care less for Zion, when there will be any one who will strive more for the glorious ideals of Zionism.

"Two great conventions of Jews are being held to-night. In Chicago there is a conference of charities called together by men who minister to the wants of the poor. They have assembled to see that too much charity is not given to the unworthy. Their purpose is right. But ours is the greater charity. We have assembled not to see that the Jew does not get too much, but that every Jew shall get the right to live.

"There are 6,000,000 living, bleeding, suffering arguments in favor of Zionism. They come not to beg, but ask for that which is higher than all material things. They seek to have satisfied the unquenchable thirst after the ideal. They ask to become once again the messengers of right, justice, and humanity.

"Your Christian friends will honor you if you have enough self-respect to care for your own people. Say that you are not a Jew, and you will be hated as a Jew, nevertheless. But say that you are an American Jew, and strive for the best principles of the race, you will be respected and the Zionist name honored.

"Of Israel and Zion one thing is true. They can conquer. God is our leader, and with the General of the heavenly hosts to lead who will say that we go not to victory?"

"In the old Greek games, the man who won the race was not he who went fastest, but the one who bore a lighted torch to the end of the course.

"We Zionists have entered a race, the torch of liberty, charity, and justice in our hands.

"The race will be won, not because we are fastest but because that lamp is a light unto the world. It will never be extinguished.

"Come, brethren, the lamp is in your hands; run the race and may God give you the victory forever."

Other speakers were Dr. M. Mintz, Dr. Robert L. Halperin of Chicago, and the Rev. Dr. B. Drachman.

The Zion hymn by the Rev. Dr. H. Pereira Mendes, was sung at the conclusion of the speaking. The band of the Hebrew Sheltering Guardian Society Orphan Asylum, under direction of I. L. Fauerbach, played a number of selections.