

**G**RAHAMSTOWN, the capital of the district of Albany and at one time the parliamentary capital of the Eastern Province, came into being in 1812 as a military outpost at the time of the Kafir wars. In 1820, a number of immigrants from England and Scotland, who landed at Algoa Bay, settled in Grahamstown and district.

Jews came to Grahamstown in the early days of its history. Benjamin



Mr. and Mrs. RADOMSKY and their son.

Norden and his brother, Joshua David Norden, were in business there before 1835. In the Grahamstown Cathedral there is a tablet to the memory of Captain J. D. Norden, who was Commissioner for the Municipality and Sworn Appraiser to the High Court. In 1838, during the native raids, J. D. Norden formed a burgher force, the Grahamstown Yeomanry, of which he was commanding officer. That burgher force distinguished itself in the war against the natives in 1846 when Captain J. D. Norden fell at Buffalo Kloof on May 25 of that year.

In the same year the Jews of Grahamstown appealed to the Jews of Cape Town to assist them in building a synagogue. But before they started the building of the synagogue their numbers decreased, a few of them leaving the town and those who remained becoming absorbed into the Christian population.

Mr. Abraham Radomsky of Zhitomir, the oldest Jewish pioneer of Grahamstown, told me that when he arrived in Grahamstown in 1897, he found only two Jews, Messrs. Benjamin and Lawrence. There were by that time several Jewish feather buyers in the district.

During the South Africa War a few Jews settled there and soon they formed themselves into a congregation. The first president of the Grahamstown Hebrew Congregation was Mr. Fein, who was succeeded in turn by Messrs. Rosenbaum and A. Radomsky.

From that time onwards the Jewish community grew gradually. In 1913 the synagogue was erected, the foundation stone being laid by the late Rev. Bender of Cape Town.

# A Zionist Lecture Tour

By W. Rybko

## GRAHAMSTOWN

Rev. Joseph Blackman, minister of the Congregation since 1920, told me that in the early years of his arrival more Jews lived there than at present.

Grahamstown is the educational centre of the Eastern Province and has in its midst the famous Rhodes University College. There, Professor Dingemans, the great Christian humanist and Hebrew philologist, lives.

In 1934 the famous trial of the "Emanuel Hall Document and Circular" of the Greyshirts took place in the Eastern Districts Court at Grahamstown at which the late Nahum Sokolow gave evidence. Professor Dingemans, in the same way as the famous Christian humanist and friend of the Jews, Johann Von Reuchlin, at the beginning of the 17th century, in the controversy between him and the apostate and persecutor of the Jews, Joseph Pfefferkorn, gave evidence with dignified sincerity. The professor's evidence created a profound impression upon the judges.

At the Grahamstown University there are over 70 Jewish students.



MR. A. G. BARNET, President of the Grahamstown Hebrew Congregation, and his wife

who are housed in the specially-designed residence at the college. There is much scope for Jewish cultural work to be done amongst those Jewish youths, who, it is hoped, will become leaders of our communal and social life in the near future.

Our Boards of Jewish Education should consider the provision of spiritual and cultural guidance for those Jewish young men and women, who would appreciate it greatly.

At present the Jewish community in Grahamstown consists of 116 souls, of whom 40 are children, namely, 19 girls and 21 boys. Only eight boys attend Cheder.

Most of the Grahamstown Jews are engaged in commerce. Besides these, there are three Jewish doctors, one professor, one judge, two attorneys, two hotel-keepers and one electrician.

The office-bearers of the Grahamstown Hebrew Congregation are Messrs. A. G. Barnett (chairman), E. Cohen (vice-chairman), L. Suttner (treasurer) and S. Lutrin (secretary).

The office-bearers of the Grahamstown Zionist Society are Mr. B. I. Borman (chairman), Mr. E. Cohen (treasurer), and Mrs. H. Radomsky (secretary).

The chairman, treasurer and secretary of the Grahamstown Hebrew Burial and Benevolent Society are Messrs. S. Marcow, L. Osher and B. I. Borman respectively, and the chairman, treasurer and secretary of the local branch of the Union of Jewish Women are Mesdames L.



PROF. DINGEMAN.

Osher, E. Sugarman and respectively.

The office-bearers of the town Zionist Youth Society are Messrs. B. Lazarus (chairman), Julian Osher (vice-chairman), E. Cohen (treasurer) and L. Michelson (secretary).

## Mr. Resnik Returns From Overseas

ADDRESS ON AMERICAN JEWRY

"ONE can hardly draw a distinction between Zionists and non-Zionists in American Jewry," Mr. R. Resnik, secretary of the Palestine League Committee in Cape Town, told that organisation at a lecture held in his honour on his return from an extensive tour overseas.

"American Jews," he said, "are very proud of being Americans. Their freedom is on the highest level of dignity, because they are free to be themselves, both individually and as constituent communities."

One could often see Jewish boys and girls boarding trains and mounting platforms in the busiest shopping centres, at the height of the traffic rush, in order to expound the cause of Israel and to appeal for Zionist funds. Many passers-by dropped coins and notes in the collection boxes, others simply rushed by, but no one regarded the speakers with amazement or even less flattering sentiments.

Mr. Resnik visited England, France, Belgium and the United States. During his stay in England and America he took the opportunity of establishing closer contacts with the Palestine Maritime League bodies

in those two countries.

He had interviews with C. Ash Lincoln, Mr. Rosette Litvinoff, vice-president, and secretary respectively P.M.L. in England, and he met the chairman and secretary P.M.L. in the United States.

Mr. Weinreich presided amongst those present was Rabbi Professor I. Abrahams, Mr. R. Landecker, treasurer Natal P.M.L. Committee.

### Reitz Community Does Good Work

A SUBSTANTIAL sum was raised at a function organised by the Reitz Jewish Benevolent Society at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Sacks. Half of the amount was sent to M.D.A. and half was handed to the Reitz Jewish Ladies' Social Club for transmission to the Bethlehem branch of the Union of Jewish Women for the Ambulance Fund. The conveners were Mesdames L. Baron, S. Sacks

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