

# WELCOME GIVEN TO B'NAI B'RITH

## Higher Idealism in Affairs of Jewish Race Voiced at Opening Session of For- tieth Convention.

### TODAY'S PROGRAM.

10 a. m. Opening of Convention—Hall of Hebrew Orphan Home, Washington street.

Opening Prayer, Rabbi E. N. Calisch. Welcome, Leonard Haas, Past President, District No. 5, I. O. B. B.

Welcome, Hon. J. G. Woodward, Mayor of Atlanta.

Annual Message to Grand Lodge, President Lionel Weil.

Business.

Luncheon at 1 p. m.

At 8 p. m. business session will be continued.

At 8 p. m. Celebration of Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Hebrew Orphan Home, at Orphan Home hall.

Spring Festival, Children of the Orphan home.

Distribution of prizes.

Address, Hon. Simon Wolf, President Hebrew Orphan Home.

Address, Mrs. Joel Hillman.

Voicing higher idealism in the affairs of the Jewish race, speakers at the opening exercises of the fortieth convention of district grand lodge, No. 5, Independent Order of B'nai B'rith, now in session in Atlanta, in convention with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Hebrew Orphans' home, last night held an audience in the Pryor street temple spellbound.

Special mention was made of the recent statements of Leo Frank. In that David R. Stern, of Greensboro, N. C., in his address declared that he was "not of the pessimistic class."

"When one can cry from the very gates of death that 'the truth is on the march,' when I knew that our leader has such ideals as his heart dictates, I have no crossings to and fro in my mind as to the trend of justice in this country of ours," said Mr. Stern.

### Many States Represented.

Delegates from five states are here in attendance at the convention. Many noted organizers and speakers of the B'nai B'rith are also here. The auditorium of the Pryor street temple was packed to standing room at the initial exercises Sunday night.

Rev. Dr. David Marx, the eminent Atlanta scholar, presided at the gathering and introduced the speakers.

Madame Bella Pevsner addressed the audience, making a stirring plea for more recognition of the Jewish women in the affairs of the Jewish men.

Madame Pevsner said, in part:

"In the evolution of time there always comes a great revolution of the people foreordained by a great human advance or agency. On the threshold of our present revolution we see the organization represented here tonight—the B'nai B'rith.

"The poets speak of love, sing praises on undying faith. But we find them silent on the great question of the right of women and children to live—to be a part of the affairs of man.

"Our people just, now are in the midst of a great unrest. We must raise the standard of brotherhood through this great human agency—the B'nai B'rith—and carry forward the fight to the end that our ideals shall be made universal.

"Our history is age long. Our pages are full of deeds of posterity. Out of the present-day history we find but one organization in our life that has placed altruistic ideals above the commercial existence, and that is the organization to whose delegates I am speaking here tonight.

"I urge you to write down deeds of greatness today as well as in the past. We must fight to dissolve the prejudice that exists against us. In this country, alone, can the Jew mold his own destiny and in doing that I urge you to go forth to your homes as the messengers of this organization and spread its gospel."

### David Stern Speaks.

David P. Stern, of Greensboro, N. C., was introduced by Dr. Marx as "the Maccabean fighter for God, and country."

Mr. Stern spoke in part:

"Neither day nor night has the hatred of the world against us ceased. Other nations may have an aristocracy of blood, but our nation surely has the aristocracy of tragedy.

"Our race has maintained down through the ages a solidarity like unto the gulf stream. The explanation of this unity is simple.

"We are a people with a vision. Where a nation has no vision that na-

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tion perishes. History proves that the visions of Israel have proven true.

"But what of our future as a race? We must maintain a clear vision as well as one of dreams. Now of all times Israel must maintain her vision of perfection or the race will perish from the face of the earth.

"I believe that the great heritage of our people will be the solving, here in America, of the horrible economic conditions which have made possible the concentration of great wealth and the slavery of the people. This may sound socialistic, but it is vitally true.

"The basic principle on which we will fight this battle will be the principle of co-operation.

## **Questions of the Day.**

"I have not the time to discuss the burning questions which face us, such as child slavery, overworked men and women. I am not so much concerned with the private and religious life of the Jew of today, but I want him to take a greater hand in the economic affairs of our state and nation and lend aid in correcting some of our most terrible evils of today.

"Do not believe that I am pessimistic. How could I be when from the very gates of death comes the voice of our leader, declaring from his heart that 'the truth is on the march.'"

Mr. Stern closed his address with the quotation from Kipling that "strength is in the pack."

With Charles Sheldon at the organ, a splendid musical program was interspersed in the evening's entertainment.

Following the speeches refreshments were served the visitors and delegates in the vestry of the temple.

Present on the platform last night were Dr. Marx, Mr. Stern, Rabbi C. A. Rubenstein, Dr. S. Mendlesohn and Simon Wolf.