

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

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LORD PAKENHAM'S PRAISE

SINCE its inception, the AJR, time and again, advocated the idea that immigrants were not a burden, but an asset to a country. This argumentation has not lost its importance in our days. Not only because new immigrants have reached the country after the war, but also because prejudice does not halt before a Certificate of Naturalisation. It is gratifying for Jews from Central Europe that, in his address at a Dinner of the Anglo-Jewish Association, Lord Pakenham, Minister of Civil Aviation and a former Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, in charge of German affairs, paid special tribute to the achievements of Central European Jews, from whose experience this country has benefited. He mentioned in particular the important part played by refugee scientists in the development of atomic energy, Radar and penicillin, as well as the fact that the manufacturing skill of refugees and the techniques introduced by them had given employment to large numbers of British people. The refugees "have deserved very well of this country," Lord Pakenham said.

PRIDE IN OUR RECORD

IT has become fashionable in present-day Jewish historiography, to mention the contributions of German Jews to German culture and human progress, but to ignore or to minimise the fact that also in the field of Jewish science they helped to lay the foundations to modern Jewish life all over the world. It is, therefore, a pleasure to record that in one of its leading articles the "Jewish Chronicle" recently recalled the importance of the "Wissenschaft des Judentums" (a term which, significantly, has gone into Jewish history in its original German wording).

Commemorating the centenary of the birth of the German Jewish historian Marcus Brann, the "Jewish Chronicle" paid tribute to him as well as to his teachers Fraenkel, Graetz and Bernays and his pupils Elbogen and Guttman. Brann, the article concluded, was one of the "last of a long line of Jewish scholars, starting with Zunz, who for a century gave the primacy in Jewish learning to German Jewry. His Seminary and all the other institutes of Jewish learning in Germany have been destroyed. But the history remains."

"WORLD UNION" CONFERENCE

DURING the past month, London was the scene of the Conference of the "World Union for Progressive Judaism." The mind of many a German Jew will go back to the time when, 21 years ago, the leaders of religious Jewish Liberalism met in Berlin. Since then, most of those who acted as hosts, either became the victims of the catastrophe or had to take refuge in other countries. German Jewry in whose midst Jewish Liberalism was conceived, has ceased to exist. Like in other Jewish religious and political movements of our days, however, Jews from Germany play an active part in the "World Union." It must fill every Jew from Germany with special pride that the dominating figure of the Conference was a German Jew: Leo Baeck.

The events of the last decades have also left their marks on Jewish Liberalism. Whilst in previous

MIGRATION TO ISRAEL

The size of the present large-scale immigration movement to Israel which started with the establishment of the Jewish State, can best be measured by a comparison with the extent of the Jewish immigration to Palestine (including immigrants with and without immigration certificates) under the British Mandatory Government.

While under the Israeli Government, and with the financial help of the Jewish Agency, immigrants have been pouring into the country from all parts of the world at the rate of 26,000 a month during the first year of Jewish statehood, the average rate of Jewish immigration to Palestine under the British Administration, amounted to about 1,140 a month.

During one year of the administration of the Israeli Government (May 15, 1948—May 14, 1949) as many immigrants entered Israel as had entered Palestine during the first 18 years under the British Administration.

Countries of Origin

(May 15, 1948—May 14, 1949)

Exclusive of approximately 9,000 children and youth immigrants who entered Israel under the Youth Aliya programme.

Country of Origin	Number of Immigrants	Percentage
Germany and Austria	47,881	23.0
Bulgaria	35,000	16.8
Cyprus	23,000	11.0
North Africa	22,700	10.9
Czechoslovakia	21,382	10.3
France and Italy	17,608	8.4
Turkey and other Moslem countries	11,300	5.4
Yugoslavia	8,000	3.8
Yemen	5,470	2.6
Aden	4,800	2.3
Rumania	3,600	1.7
Shanghai	3,000	1.4
Poland	1,500	0.7
Hungary	1,000	0.5
Afghanistan and Pakistan	400	0.2
Other Countries (appr.)	2,000	1.0
	208,643	100.0

times, rightly or wrongly, religious liberalism and political assimilationism were considered as synonymous terms (though, in fact, there were always Zionists and supporters of the Palestine cause in the ranks of the movement), the respect for the Jewish achievements in Israel and the responsibility for the religious welfare of Jews in Israel, are now beyond discussion; a resolution which expresses these feelings was unanimously passed.

Distribution of New Immigrants

(As of mid-May, 1949)

In new settlements	1,559
In transit camps	64,420
In Arab towns and villages (appr.)	109,000
In Jerusalem	4,743
In existing settlements (appr.)	10,000
Immigrants under Youth Aliya (either in transit camps, or housed temporarily in settlements, or placed permanently in institutions or settlements) (appr.)	9,000
Total	198,722

The remaining 18,000 immigrants of the total number of 217,585 include those who joined relatives in Israel (mostly arrivals in the earlier phases of the year), and immigrants in the younger age groups who entered the army.

The figure for May is 26,000, and the figure for June is close to 17,000. The countries are in some cases, such as Germany, only an indication of the last residence, as the majority of immigrants from Germany and Austria come from D.P. camps.

The magnitude of the task of the absorption and integration of the vast masses of newcomers is apparent when one remembers that the Jewish population of Palestine at the end of the Mandate numbered only 650,000. Thus, within one year the number of newcomers amounted to one-third of the settled population. It is, therefore, not surprising that over 60,000 of them are still in transit camps in Israel, living under conditions of extreme hardship, and waiting longer than the time originally assigned for their final settlement. This, of course, depends on the financial means at the disposal of the Jewish Agency, which has taken over the responsibility for immigration. The Government of Israel has undertaken a normal state budget, which covers a large expenditure for security, public services, education, communications and the many other functions normally carried out by a state. But it naturally cannot be expected to cater for the masses of Jewish people on their way from the Diaspora to Israel, until they are finally integrated into the national economy. This task is being shouldered by the World Zionist Movement, represented by the Jewish Agency.

In order to safeguard the sound economic structure of Israel it is proposed to settle 20 per cent. of the immigrants on the land. In the first year of Jewish Statehood, 75 new

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IN PARLIAMENT

TRAVELS TO GERMANY

On July 15, Mr. Mayhew stated that under new arrangements a permit to Western Germany can be issued within a few hours, or, in the case of postal applications, within two days. There are, however, at the moment some accumulated arrears.

The new regulations for travels to the British and American zones of Germany (see last issue of "AJR Information") have been extended to the French Zone and to the British and United States sectors of Berlin.

VISITORS' VISAS

Asked why an alien who had a visitor's visa to this country was repatriated by the Immigration Officer without being allowed to land, the Home Secretary, Mr. Chuter Ede, said: "This alien was refused leave to land because the immigration officer, after questioning him and his host, reached the conclusion that his object was not to make a temporary visit but to establish himself in this country."

Mr. S. Silverman: "Can my right hon. friend say what information the immigration officer had at his disposal which was not at the disposal of my right hon. friend or the Foreign Secretary, whichever it is, when the visa was granted; and if objection was to be taken would not it have been better to take it before the man went to the expense of making his visit here, and not give the visa at all?"

Mr. Ede: "No, Sir. Unfortunately, my experience is that a number of these people, when they apply for a visa, tell a story about the length of time which they wish to spend in this country, but when the person is questioned here by the immigration officer it is disproved. In this case the man obtained a visa on the ground that he wanted to come here for a short stay; but it was revealed at Dover that he was, in fact, coming here for a permanent stay."

ADMISSION OF D.P. AS LECTURER

Asked by Mr. Julius Silverman what steps were taken under the authority of the Home Office to screen Displaced Persons who were admitted into this country for taking up academic appointments.

Mr. Silverman then inquired under what circumstances E. Zakevicius, recently at Birmingham

Continued from front page.

villages were founded and there is now a grand total of 450 Jewish agricultural settlements in Israel. The final destination of over 100,000 immigrants settled in Arab towns and villages will depend on the outcome of the talks on the Arab refugees, but there is no doubt that, in many of those cases, the newcomers seem to have definitely settled down in their new surroundings.

It is not surprising that the housing problem, under the circumstances, has become one of the most pressing problems, as new building cannot keep pace with the masses of people rushing to Israel from all corners of the world, and it will still take some years until this discrepancy between production and demand will have been smoothed out. It is, however, expected that the present rate of immigration will slightly slow down, especially as some of the countries beyond the "Iron Curtain" have put down a barrier to Jewish emigration, and the above quoted immigration figure for June is the first indication of a downward trend.

Many constructive projects, such as irrigation of large areas of land, the erection of new towns and the establishment of new industries, will finally absorb the newcomers and mould old and new, young and aged, together into one nation. Only the next generation will reap the full harvest from all these labours, but Israel is confident, unless an international conflict of world-wide scale should intervene, to tackle her problems.

H.F.

University, was admitted into this country; and whether it was known at the time of his admission that he had in 1941 accepted office as mayor of Vilnius under the German Army authorities and collaborated with them in their repressive measures especially against the Jews and Poles in that city.

Mr. Ede replied: "Professor Zymantis-Zakevicius was one of a small group of displaced persons with high academic qualifications selected by representatives of United Kingdom universities for suitable academic appointments in the United Kingdom, and he was admitted to this country in May, 1948. The allegations against him to which my hon. friend refers were made in a Soviet-controlled Lithuanian newspaper in November, 1948, and by the Soviet-controlled Radio Vilna in December, 1948, but I am not aware of any foundation for them."

REFUGEES' BANK ACCOUNTS

Sir T. Moore asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether it is with his approval that pre-war German refugees from Nazi oppression now resident in this country have had their blocked savings in Germany reduced by 70 per cent. at the cannot agree to a monstrous injustice like that."

Mr. Mayhew: "This cancellation concerned that part of bank accounts in Western Germany which was blocked following the currency conversion of June, 1948, and was carried out by the three Occupying Powers as part of the currency reform operation. It was applied uniformly to all accounts and it would not have been possible to give preferential treatment to the accounts of any particular class of individuals."

Sir T. Moore: "Is not that answer misleading? Is it not true that these unfortunate people first of all lost 90 per cent. of their savings on the devaluation of the mark, and are they not now suffering loss of a further 70 per cent. of what is left? Surely we cannot agree to a monstrous injustice like that."

Mr. Mayhew: "I can only say that undoubtedly cases of individual hardship occurred when this currency conversion took place, but it simply was not possible to make exceptions."

AUSTRIAN NEWSPAPERS

Asked by Mr. Piratin what decision has now been arrived at by the Allied Council in Austria concerning the newspaper "Alpenruf" of Graz and what steps have been taken to prevent the newspaper disseminating anti-semitic propaganda, Mr. Bevin replied: "The Allied Council meeting on May 27 decided to send a letter to the editor of the "Alpenruf" warning him that he must abide by the Allied Council decision of October 1, 1945, on "The Democratic Press in Austria," and that stricter sanctions would be imposed if he committed any further violation of this decision. Since the decision of 1945 includes a requirement that Nazi ideology must be combated, I think this answers also the second part of the Question."

AIR LIFT BERLIN

Mr. Mayhew said that the British share in the costs of the Berlin air lift up to June 15, 1949, was approximately £8,600,000. He could give no information as to the costs borne by the United States Government. In terms of weight carried into Berlin, however, the British contribution has been about 23½ per cent. of the whole.

On a further question by Sir W. Smithers, whether the German people have been told of the wonderful actions taken to save them from starvation, Mr. Mayhew replied: "I do not think the German people need persuading about the air lift."

THROUGH ROUTES TO ISRAEL

On behalf of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Mr. Lindgren stated that the establishment of a direct through air service to Israel was still under consideration, and that he would give the House further information as soon as possible. He added that, at present, communications three times a week are provided, once to Lydda and twice to Haifa.

GIFT PARCELS

In reply to a Question by Lady Tweedsmuir, Dr. Summerskill said on behalf of the Ministry of Food that no withdrawal of the regulation regarding the proportion of rationed and unrationed goods in food parcels is possible at present.

RESTITUTION NEWS

Restitution Law for Berlin

A Restitution Law for the British, American and French sectors of Berlin has just been promulgated. The time limit for the submission of claims is June 30th, 1950. As soon as the text of the new law has become available, details will be announced in "AJR Information."

Compensation Law in American Zone Delayed

As already repeatedly pointed out in these columns, legislation on restitution of identifiable property is to be followed by legislation on compensation for the various types of damages suffered by victims of Nazi persecution. A draft of a compensation law for the American zone had been adopted by the "Sueddeutsche Laenderrat" some time ago and was submitted to the American Military Government for approval. The American Occupation Authorities now informed the "Laenderrat" that they would neither reject nor accept the drafted compensation law, and that the final decision should be left to the future German "Bundesregierung." The Military Government, whilst recognising the endeavours of the "Laenderrat," took the view that the question of compensation should be dealt with by the constitutional German authorities as soon as they are functioning, all the more as the liabilities involved in the compensation would have to be shared between all eleven "Laender" of the Western Zones.

The "Frankfurter Rundschau" reports that the organisation of the victims of Nazism (VVN) has expressed its deep disappointment about this decision, because it might delay the legislation on compensation for a long time to come.

British Zone

The Humanitas Verlag, Koblenz, has published a booklet containing the German and English text of Law No. 59 regarding restitution of identifiable property to victims of Nazi oppression (Brit. Zone of Control), and general orders and decrees related to it. Dr. H. G. van Dam, the Legal Adviser to the Jewish Relief Unit in the British Zone of Germany has written a valuable introduction, setting out the main problems of the Law and showing the differences from the corresponding law in the U.S. zone. In a short chapter he deals with the important problem of restitution and currency reform.

The booklet is available in this country at 7/6. Copies of the British Restitution Law are now obtainable at His Majesty's Stationery Office, York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2. (9d.)

Any person whose property was the subject of unjust deprivation or his heirs, or other successor in title, have the right to make a claim for restitution if the person suffered deprivation of identifiable property between January 30, 1933, and May 8, 1945.

Claims have to be filed with Das Zentralamt fuer Vermoegensverwaltung, Bad Nenndorf, Land Niedersachsen (Brit. zone), on or before December 31, 1949. Forms are available at the United Restitution Office, 8 Fairfax Mansions, London, N.W.3.

French Zone

The time limit for claiming restitution of identifiable property in the French zone of Germany expires on August 14, 1949. The time limit in the Saar expires on September 29, 1949.

Austrian Heirless Property Bill

Mr. Peter Krauland, Austrian Minister for Property Administration and Planning, has expressed his willingness to submit to the Austrian Parliament a joint draft for the establishment of a Jewish Heirless Property Fund on the part of the Jewish international organisations and the Jewish community of Vienna, as an alternative to the present bill, which Jewish circles consider to be highly unsatisfactory.

A meeting of representatives of the Jewish Agency, the World Jewish Congress, the Joint Distribution Committee and the Vienna Jewish Community has elected a drafting committee, consisting of Dr. Heinrich Kiwe (Jewish Agency), Dr. F. R. Bienenfeld (World Jewish Congress), Dr. Heinrich Sokal (Joint) and Dr. Rudolf Braun (Jewish Community) and has requested Dr. Bienenfeld to prepare a draft for consideration by the Committee and for submission to the Government after the Austrian elections.

Karl Pringsheim :

THE BONN CONSTITUTION

After numerous difficulties, the 146 articles of the Basic Law ("Grundgesetz") of the German Federal Republic have been finally passed by the Bonn Parliamentary Council and subsequently ratified by the occupying powers and all Laender Parliaments of the three Western Zones except Bavaria. In conjunction with the Occupation Statute, the legal foundation was thus laid for the re-emergence of a German State which had not existed since the breakdown of the Hitler State in 1945. Electioneering has now started for the elections of the first West German Parliament in August in accordance with an electoral law which combines the English with the former German proportional election systems in a typical compromise.

When the West German Parliament ("Bundesrat") has been elected, its members, together with an equal number of members of the Laender Parliaments, will elect the Federal President ("Bundespraesident") who, not directly elected by the people, will not be as strong a figure as the "Reichspraesident" of the Weimar Constitution. Whilst, furthermore, the latter could dissolve Parliament at any time, if only he gave a different reason each time, the Federal President may only dissolve the Federal Assembly ("Bundestag") if the Assembly is unable to elect a Prime Minister ("Bundeskanzler") with an absolute majority. This means, on the other hand, for the "Bundestag" that it can only overthrow the Government without risking to be dissolved, if it elects at the same time a new "Bundeskanzler."

FROM ALL CORNERS

Canada

Canada has accepted more than 11,000 displaced Jews during the past two years, it was revealed in the course of an address in Montreal by Col. David Croll, Jewish Member of Parliament.

Government statistics, released recently in Ottawa, disclosed that over 71,000 D.P.s of all nationalities and faiths have been accepted by the Dominion since April, 1947.

*

Mr. David A. Croll and Mr. Maurice Hartt, the only Jewish members in the Canadian Parliament, retained their seats in last month's general election. Both are members of the Liberal Party.

Adrien Arcand, the Quebec anti-Semite, was defeated.

South Africa

A review of the year 1948, issued by the South African Board of Deputies, says on the question of naturalisation, that the figures published in the second half of 1948 revealed that a substantial number of Jews were naturalised and there seemed to be no departure in this respect from the policy of the previous government. The review mentions, however, Dr. Donges', July 1948, statement, that "citizenship was much too cheap in the Union" and that it was a privilege that should not be given to everybody, but "this was a general statement of policy and did not indicate an intention to differentiate between sections of the population."

Poland

An estimated 13,000 applications for passports, filed by Jews who are anxious to emigrate to Israel, are pending at the Ministry of Public Administration, but examination of the applications is proceeding only slowly. Some improvements in the situation could be registered in July, when a total of 300 passports were issued, compared with an average of between 120 and 130 in the preceding months.

Sweden.

On the occasion of its 10th anniversary, the "Emigranten-Selbsthilfe" in Stockholm, a constituent member of the "Council of Jews from Germany," issued a report on its manifold activities, which, *inter alia*, consisted in welfare work, assistance to the survivors of the Concentration Camps and cultural activities. The work of the "Selbsthilfe" is entirely financed by the immigrants themselves.

Failing this, President and Government, together with the "Bundesrat" (the other Chamber which like the Bismarck "Bundesrat" and the Weimar "Reichsrat" represents the Laender Governments) can for a period of six months function as legislative organs, thus by-passing the normal legislative body, the "Bundestag," if the latter is not able to provide a working majority. The reader who remembers the frequent and prolonged parliamentary crises of the Weimar Republic, which eventually led to its downfall, will thus see that the Bonn Constitution quite ingeniously tries to avoid similar dangers in the future.

Division of Powers

The drafting of an exact division of powers between the central organs and the Laender created the greatest difficulties. It was here that a clash occurred between those occupying powers and German parties who wanted to strengthen the Laender at the expense of the Central Government and those who, like the Social Democrats, thought that a Central Government without political power and sufficient economic means would be a laughing stock and a danger to the democratic future. After a long struggle the controversy ended in a compromise which occupies the main space of the Bonn Constitution.

Without the consent of the "Bundesrat," laws affecting the interests of the Laender cannot be enacted; in all other cases the "Bundesrat" has only a delaying veto and can be outvoted by the "Bundestag." Similar to the Weimar Constitution the "Bund" has the exclusive right of legislation on a few subjects such as foreign affairs, nationality, currency, Federal Railways, Post, etc. A much longer list enumerates the subjects of "concurrent" legislation on which the "Bund" may make laws if Laender Statutes cannot effectively settle the matter or if a Federal Law is required to preserve legal or economic unity. Subject to these conditions the "Bund" can *inter alia* make laws on Civil and Criminal Law, most economic matters, Labour Law, Housing, and Social Insurance.

In the field of administration the Central Government is severely restricted and, broadly speaking, administration is a matter of the Laender, subject to supervision by the Central Government. There is no Federal Police and only in a case of emergency the Central Government can give orders to the Laender police forces.

Customs, Turnover Tax and a very few other taxes are allocated to the Central Government, while the main income goes to the Laender.

Human Freedoms

Having the memory of the totalitarian Nazi regime still fresh in their minds, the authors of the Bonn Constitution solemnly stress in its first part the importance of the classic human freedoms.

Freedom of opinion, safeguards against arbitrary arrest and maltreatment, prohibition of compulsory labour, freedom of coalition, assembly, teaching, home, etc., are clearly defined. The State is not allowed to take the life of its citizens; the death penalty is abolished, and nobody can be compelled to military service against his conscience. There must be no discrimination because of sex, race, language, native country, opinion or religion, and nobody may be deprived of his German nationality. In this connection it may be of interest to refugees from Germany that former German subjects who lost their German nationality between 1933 and 1945 for political, religious or racial reasons may, at their option, regain German citizenship.

The Constitutional Court can impose the loss of certain basic rights on persons or organisations who use them for the purpose of destroying freedom altogether.

Although the Bonn Basic Law is designed for a transitory period, until the whole German nation can decide her future, certain democratic and liberal principles, the principles of the Rechtsstaat, will certainly be embodied in the final Constitution. It will now be the task of the German people and its elected representatives to build firmly on this social, liberal, and democratic foundation.

ANGLO-JUDAICA

The New President

For the first time in a long history, a reverend gentleman has been chosen to preside over the Board of Deputies of British Jews. Dr. Abraham Cohen achieved distinction as the revered and beloved Minister of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation, and (in the words of the *Jewish Chronicle* which has frequently criticised him on political issues) "as a preacher and writer and the author of many scholarly works, he has rendered fine service in promoting among Jews as well as non-Jews a fuller appreciation of Judaism and of Jewish spiritual values."

Though he will soon relinquish his Birmingham office in order to devote himself undividedly to the new task, Dr. Cohen will remain Vice-President of the World Jewish Congress (British Section). It was this particular association of his which had caused some uncertainty in the election and probably accounted for the narrow majority of 130 to 115, by which his rival, Dr. Israel Feldman, was defeated. In his first speech as President of the Board, Dr. Cohen reaffirmed his support for the W.J.C., but emphasised that his overriding consideration must always be the integrity of the Board and the solidarity of the Anglo-Jewish community. The issue was put in plain terms by the outgoing President, Prof. Brodetsky, who hoped that his successor would not be worried by the W.J.C. but would be allowed to carry on the work of the Board in freedom without being continually bothered by issues which were no concern of the Board.

Prof. Brodetsky has since left this country to take up his new appointment as President of the Hebrew University—an office which, at one of the many farewell receptions, Prof. Norman Bentwich described as "the greatest honour and privilege that a man can have."

Problems for the Board

The new Board will soon have to consider the several secessions which recently occurred. It will be remembered that the Spanish and Portuguese Congregation (London), the West London Reform Synagogue and its affiliates, and the Liberal Synagogue with its associated bodies, decided not to make any election returns, and in consequence the Board is now reduced by 34 Deputies representing 13 congregations. Dr. Cohen realises that a sharply split community would be unable to contribute great strength to world Jewry; he will therefore approach the non-conformists in an effort to restore unity, but will insist that the majority vote must be respected. Another problem which will continue to exercise the Board is Antisemitism. "We dare not minimise," the new President has said, "the gravity of the existence of a strongly organised and determined movement in Britain to create ill-will and stir up prejudice against our community, and it will be necessary constantly to re-examine the problem and see whether new methods can be employed to deal with the situation."

The Anglo-Jewish Association

It was good to hear a distinguished Gentile volunteer the epigram: "Antisemitism is the ultimate offence against decency." Lord Pakenham, Minister of Civil Aviation, said this at the 75th Anniversary Celebration Appeal Dinner of the Anglo-Jewish Association, at which he was the principal guest. In a notable speech the Minister, speaking with the "authoritative approval of the Government," not only bore useful and necessary witness to the valuable work done by Jewish refugees (reported elsewhere in this issue) but gave generous assurances to all British Jews. It was the intention of His Majesty's Government, he said, that British Jews should continue to enjoy full liberties in equal measure with other British citizens of Gentile persuasion. It seemed to the *Jewish Chronicle* a symptom of present-day conditions that a Minister of the Crown should have felt compelled to make that statement.

A well-deserved tribute was paid by Lord Justice Cohen to Mr. Leonard Stein, their President for the last ten years, who "has had the difficult task of reconciling Zionist and anti-Zionist forces in the Association." It is interesting that the A.J.A. was founded (in 1871) mainly through the exertions of two Jews from Germany, Dr. Abraham Benisch, Editor of the *Jewish Chronicle*, and the Rev. Albert Loewy, one of the Ministers of the West London Synagogue.

Lutz Weltmann : GOETHE BICENTENARY

1932.

Do our readers remember ?

The centenary of Goethe's death was a "listless," more or less academic affair. In this country it was a complete "flop." And in Germany? Professor Philipp Witkop wrote a dignified and, at the same time, popular biography which would have gradually superseded Bielschowsky's by no means negligible, but by now somewhat antiquated work, if history had not taken a different course. A cheap edition of Emil Ludwig's "Goethe" was published and Knauer's "Volksausgabe" in two volumes, introduced by Gerhart Hauptmann who went to the United States on a lecturing tour about the hero of the year. The most outstanding publication was, beside two famous speeches by Thomas Mann, a very critical essay about Goethe's alleged aloofness from life and his avoidance of great decisions: "Um einen Goethe von innen bittend" by the Spaniard Ortega y Gasset. The German writer Wilhelm von Scholz (the first president of the "Dichter-Akademie") put up with much less: it was gratifying and satisfactory (he wrote to me) that Goethe had been officially in the news for a whole year.

The Berlin theatres were already disintegrating before the approaching storm. Kultusminister Grimme had to enforce a performance of "Egmont" at the State's Theatre, otherwise the proper day of the centenary would have been without any celebration.

Beer-Hofmann's production of "Iphigenie" had a revival at one of Max Reinhardt's theatres because a sensational play had turned out a failure, and Barnowsky carried the day with a quite interesting performance of "Faust I," in which Grete Mosheim was Gretchen.

The great event, worthy of the occasion, came in autumn: Gustav Lindemann's exemplary performance of "Faust II" at the State's Theatre. Bereft of his unforgettable wife, Louise Dumont, Gustav Lindemann might have accepted a call to lead the Berlin State's Theatre.

History decided otherwise—the 30th of January 1933 drew nigh. And the man who was to destroy more than the success of a new Goethe-Book and the crowning of a well-deserved man's career had celebrated (as we could read not only in the party press) the 22nd of March with Hanns Johst. Did his "Poet laureate" tell him that Goethe was the "Widersacher," the antagonist to everything the Nazis stood for?

I wonder.

1949.

How different is the situation now!

This country is preparing a bi-centenary celebration of Goethe's birthday on a nation- and worldwide scale, unprecedented in history. Never before has any country done honour to a genius of another nation to such a degree. Is it only the nice gesture of a conqueror towards a defeated enemy? However kind this would be as such, we—I mean the readers of this monthly—might resent it a little. Would that not mean that the very people is to be honoured which did not accept Goethe's message? For the most venerable Leo Baeck was right in his statement that there was nothing in common between the Germany which had produced Lessing, Schiller, Herder, Kant and Humboldt and Hitler's Germany.

Yet the purpose of the British Goethe Festival Society is not to honour a great German, but to make heard the message of a universal mind to a world adrift.

As early as in 1943—and as courageous as Goethe was in 1813 when the common hatred against Napoleon did not make him falter in his admiration for French culture—Professor L. A. Willoughby voiced the opinion that Goethe's "idealistic humanism" . . . far from giving "no guide to practical living" . . . offered solutions which could "afford present help and guidance in our troubles." And Lancelot L. Whyte—in his stimulating book "The Next Development of Man," where he advises our generation to turn away from "doctrines" and to learn from great personalities of the past instead, in order to develop the potentialities innate

in the human race,—called Goethe the last example of a "unitary" man, and examining which great minds are to be our guides he came to the conclusion that Goethe is the greatest.

The Goethe Centenary 1932, with its tendency to popularize Goethe was a failure. Does the Bi-centenary 1949 with its emphasis on the universal character of Goethe's personality augur any better? Not only the country which can claim to be the country of his birth, nay, a whole world has been destroyed because his message had been unheeded. This country, too, makes good for neglect. Though the United Kingdom has on its record the fact that the first Goethe-Biography was an English one (G. H. Lewes), though Shelley translated passages from "Faust" and Byron admired him, though Carlyle and Matthew Arnold appreciated the "educator" Goethe, his life was looked down upon with philistine scruples and his work as blasphemous and obscene by the public opinion.

Even Goethe's latest prominent biographer, Barker-Fairley, re-echoes, in a way, the resentment of the "loose" theatrical people and a creature like Philine as Wilhelm Meister's companions. A leading literary critic could, in a recent broadcast, frankly admit that he had not read "Faust" until just now. And the Nobel-prize winner, T. S. Eliot, banned Goethe from the classics of Western Civilisation on account of his too "parochial" outlook.

Goethe and Israel.

By some irony of history there is a passage in "Wilhelm Meisters Wanderjahre" where Goethe does as little justice to the Jewish people as T. S. Eliot does to Goethe in the statement just mentioned.

Both will be corrected in the future. If Western European culture—to avoid the misleading slogan "Christian" civilization, for what is called "Christian" civilization in our days is rightly understood Jewish civilisation based upon the Jewish elements in Jesus' teaching and has nothing to do with the intricacies of Christian theology which had severed Christianity from its roots—if it wants to survive it will need a deeper understanding of Goethe's life and work.

When Goethe, through his mouthpiece in "Wilhelm Meister's Travels," counts our religion among the pagan ones, these words are less derogative than they sound: it amounts almost to a compliment when Goethe has "Abraham visited by his gods (! sic) in the form of handsome youths" and brings this scene into relation with Apollo's visit to King Admetos' shepherds. In fact it was the other way round: Christianity was blended with pagan conceptions when its missionaries preached the gospels to the Hellenist world. (Even the idea of Saturn devouring his children is not missing!).

But where has Goethe's "pedagogic province" been established most efficiently so far? With all its imperfections: in the educational system of the Jewish settlements in the "Land of Israel"—even before it had attained statehood. Herder, who liked Moses Mendelssohn though he did not like very much showing himself with him in public, wished the Jews to become citizens of the world and to give up their aspirations for a return to Zion; Goethe was not friendly inclined to Jewish emancipation, though he thought highly of the Bible and of Spinoza and was a personal friend of several emancipated Jews and Jewesses. The fact that these latter were mostly Christian converts fell in line with his sense of "order" at that stage of history.

Now the way of history converges with Goethe's ideas. If there is a meaning in history, the Land of Israel is not to be a belated offspring of romantic nationalism, but a country to breed messianist cosmopolitans wherever they live. Christianity, for almost two thousand years alone in the limelight of history, is not any longer unchallenged. The names and perhaps the rites of the historic religions may survive, but they move into a direction as visualised first by the Jewish prophets and in modern times by Lessing and Goethe. The new world religion—the religion Goethe's—will be almost "Jewish," but in the name.

It is the religion of life.

Memento vivere—as opposed to medieval Christian words "Media in vita in morte sumus" as to modern existentialism which reduces the mastering of life to a mere fight for survival. There are guiding principles. God made men free, like chess-players who can move the chessmen and can even foresee moves—but the rules of the game are fixed.

Continued on page 5

LAW and LIFE

Legal Advice Hours (for persons with limited means only): Wednesday 5-6.30 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.—12.30 p.m.

NEW LANDLORD AND TENANT ACT

The Landlord and Tenant (Rent Control) Act, 1949, was promulgated on June 2nd, 1949. In the February and March issues, this paper commented on the Government proposals now embodied in that Act. It was then pointed out that, leaving alone some minor matters, four important changes of the existing law were involved. With regard to three of them, the Act, with some alterations, essentially corresponds to the original Government proposals. These three issues are:

- (1) that a reasonable "standard rent" may now be fixed by a Rent Tribunal for premises which were let for the first time at a date later than September 1st, 1939—it will be remembered that in the ordinary case the rent payable at that time is the "standard rent,"
- (2) that no longer protection is withheld from a tenant who shares accommodation with (a) either the landlord, or (b) another person—a different set of rules being applicable to these groups (a) and (b),
- (3) that a Rent Tribunal may grant security of tenure to a tenant of furnished accommodation for a period of three months or less not only—as the law was before the new Act—once, but repeatedly for such periods.

Prohibition of Premiums

On the other hand, those clauses of the Bill which dealt with the fourth problem, namely the prohibited payment of premiums, have been much enlarged and completely redrafted. The essence of these rather lengthy clauses of the Act is as follows:

It is illegal and punishable by a fine to require the payment of a premium as a condition of any grant, renewal, continuance or assignment of a tenancy, (a) in the case of rent-restricted (unfurnished) prem-

ises, and (b) if the rent payable for the premises has been determined by the Rent Tribunal, also in the case of furnished lettings. Premiums illegally paid under an agreement concluded after March 25, 1949, can be recovered.

However, a person who assigns his tenancy rights may ask the new tenant for the payment of

- (a) so much of any "outgoings" (say, payments for rates, water, gas, etc.), as is referable to the period after the new tenant has taken over,
- (b) a reasonable amount for the "goodwill" of the business, trade or profession, if part of the premises was used as a shop or office, or for business, trade or professional purposes,
- (c) certain expenditure of the old tenant for improving the premises, but only in the case of an assignment of rent-restricted premises and not in the case of furnished lettings.

A new provision deals with the case in which the purchase of any furniture, fittings or other articles has been required as a condition of the grant, renewal, continuance or assignment of a tenancy, and in which the price charged exceeds the reasonable price of the article. In such a case, the excess shall be treated as a premium; furthermore, the price for such purchases shall be stated in writing, and a fine may be imposed if this, without reasonable excuse, was not done on demand, or a false statement was made.

In a schedule attached to the statute, special provisions have been made with regard to premiums paid or agreed upon before the commencement of the Act. They cover not less than three pages in print and elaborately aim at adjustments in the interest of all the parties concerned. Though the object of these regulations, to work fair justice may be laudable even at the expense of simplicity, it may be felt that much scope is given for unnecessary litigation.

NEWS FROM GERMANY

JEWIS IN THE EASTERN ZONE

According to the latest reports, approximately 2,000 Jews are living in the Eastern Zone of Germany. The main congregations are—except in Berlin—in Dresden, Erfurt and Schwerin. They have formed a "Landesverband der juedischen Gemeinden in der russischen Okkupationszone," headed by Mr. Julius Meyer.

The largest congregation of the Eastern Zone is the Jewish community in the Soviet Sector of Berlin, comprising 1,500 Jews, out of 7,000 Berlin Jews. The next one in size is in Saxonia, with 196 Jews (as compared with 5,600 before the war). 120 of them are living in Dresden. The Chairman of the local community is Mr. Leo Loewenkopf. The Dresden Town Council granted 50,000 marks for the restoration of the Jewish cemetery. Another small congregation is in Leipzig.

There are 130 Jews in Thuringia which, before the war, had 4,000 Jewish inhabitants. The main congregation there is in Erfurt. Shortly after the end of hostilities, over 1,000 non-arians were transferred there from Breslau, but the small number of the members of the congregation signifies that those non-arians have not become "Glaubensjuden."

92 Jews live in Mecklenburg. Only one 60-year-old man is left of the pre-war community of Schwerin which then comprised 80 persons.

Four Jews are left in Prenzlau, one of the oldest communities in the province of Brandenburg. The cemetery was restored to them and they even got another building in place of their destroyed synagogue.

In April, a Jewish theatre was inaugurated in Wroclaw (Breslau) with the support of the local Polish authorities. The first play on the programme was a comedy by Sholem Aleichem. The auditorium contains 500 seats. The four-floor building serves, at the same time, as a centre for other Jewish cultural activities.

EX-NAZI ELECTED MAYOR

The former local Nazi Chairman (Ortsgruppenleiter) Hlasek was elected Mayor of Fischbach near Nuremberg. During the Election Campaign, pavements were smudged with Svastikas and large inscriptions such as: "Wir marschieren, Sozi und Ami werden verlieren." (We march, Socialists and Americans will lose.)

GOETHE BICENTENARY

Continued from page 7

We must not knock the chess-board off the table—neither as Hitler did nor as those scientists do who are mere technologists without a humanist outlook.

In these fundamentals Goethe and the Jews think alike; they believe in the freedom of Man and his dependency on cosmic rules.

There has been (and, perhaps, still exists) a half pious, half superstitious custom to open the pages of the Bible with a pin and to find an oracle answering our troubles. There is no other work in the literature of the world which, under this aspect, can be compared with the Holy Scriptures but that of Goethe. The very problems of our days are diagnosed, such as education for leisure which has become a major issue in a mechanised world, the education for citizenship which would prevent the degeneration of homo sapiens, a reasoning and responsible being, to a willing fool and tool of parties.

Violent changes are opposed even when Goethe subscribes to the ideals of the French revolution. The artist, with all his divine inspiration, must take his place in society—lack of adjustment is Tasso's tragedy. A wrong is not put right by inflicting another wrong—this is Iphigenia's perennial message, which concerns us as Jews as well. Faust striving for the absolute with Helen's cloak in his hands must discover that Beauty is not enough, which was the Jewish reply to the challenge of the Grecian world. It is not by chance that a Moses-drama was one of the many layers which form the structure of "Faust."

Goethe shared with the Jews the idea of history and evolution. God's word is enshrined in the history of Israel. It tells us how magics and demonology were gradually overcome by a monotheism

POPULATION CENSUS

A census of the population in all four zones of Germany and Berlin, the first census in any European country after the war, was carried out on October 29, 1946. The result was, according to an article by Dr. Bruno Blau (New York) in the "Juedisches Gemeindeblatt Duesseldorf," compiled by Dr. Franz Eppenstein, Director of the Office for Statistics in Berlin. It reveals that, at the date of the census, there were 165,417 Jews in Germany; 120,725 of them lived in D.P. Camps and 44,692 were considered as "residents" (Wohnbevölkerung). Whilst, with few exceptions, the inmates of the D.P. Camps had not lived in Germany before the war, the so-called residents do not only consist of German Jews who had survived Hitler persecution, but also of those non-German Jews who had moved from the D.P. Camps to towns and townships for more or less permanent residence. The number of pre-war German Jews was after the end of the "Third Reich," 15,000.

The regional distribution of the Jewish residents in Germany was on the day of the census as follows: American Zone 28,011 (62.4%); British Zone, 6,321 (14.3%); French Zone 681 (1.6%); Russian Zone 2,094 (4.7%); Berlin (all sectors) 7,585 (17.0%).

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH TRADERS

At a recent Meeting in Frankfurt/Main, an Association of Jewish Traders was founded. The object of the new organisation is to fight against anti-semitism and to represent Jewish tradesmen, if they experience any discriminatory treatment.

Berlin.—Amongst the pictures shown in the recently restored part of the National Gallery, were works by Max Liebermann and Lesser Ury.

Munich.—The newly elected Second Mayor, Dr. von Miller, paid a formal visit to the President of the Jewish Community, Dr. Julius Spanier.

Mannheim.—To strengthen the contacts with the Community Members as well as with friends abroad, the Kultusgemeinde Mannheim (R7,24) started to issue a Monthly "Juedisches Gemeindeblatt."

Ludwigshafen.—22 Jews are still living in this town which, before the Nazis came to power, had a Jewish population of 1,400 persons.

Ansbach.—The restored Synagogue was reconsecrated recently.

which was more rational and more ethical at the same time. The biblical words "Let there be Light!" and Goethe's knowledge of "das Dumpfe" giving birth to "Klarheit" are sayings which "differ in sound, but not in meaning."

The Jewish God developed from a tribal deity to the universal God of mankind. The Jewish people, the most stubborn nation of the ancient world and the only ancient nation still alive, scattered all over the world, persecuted throughout the centuries, was educated by experience to a cosmopolitan outlook. The "foreigner" is not forgotten in Israel's early social legislation.

Thus Goethe, the "Titan," the "Stürmer und Dränger," was "dumpf," self-centred, self-possessed and arrived at an attitude to human life which had been aptly expressed by a saying of great Hillel: "If I am not for myself—who else then is for me? But if I am only for myself, what am I then?"

The Jewish religion, whatever the name—"Name ist Schall und Rauch!"—will be universal, or it will not be at all. The same applies to Goethe's message, which is so akin to Jewish thought—more than we could have been aware of. But the Jews felt early by instinct how much he corresponded to their religious philosophy, which is not a doctrine, but a way of life. And it is a promising sign in a world of rift and cleavage that both to the West and to the East from the "Iron Curtain" people can claim Goethe as one of theirs. Thomas Mann sees in Goethe the exponent of the epoch of bourgeoisie, Georg Lucacz a forerunner of Marxian dialectics. There is quite a lot in it, though the interpretation is too one-sided. And yet, it has been made in the spirit of Goethe who did not care for the "form of government" so long as it secured the dignity of man and anticipated the Four Freedoms.

Old Acquaintances

Talking Points:—During one of the hot weekends I read a manuscript, "The first fifty years," by the late Eugen Robert; it's the story of theatre life in Berlin during the three decades preceding the second world war. The late director of many Berlin theatres most amusingly tells the inside story of this important period of the German stage, and it seems a pity that these memoirs are still unpublished. He recalls how Oskar Kaufmann built the "Hebbel-Theater" for him, and how he fought for Wedekind and Molnar. Amongst the well-known personalities, he mentions, only very few are alive: Rudolf Bernauer, Viktor Barnowsky, and Erwin Piscator.

Travellers and Visitors:—Arnold Zweig, who returned from Israel to Germany, became President of the new German Academy, and seems to have settled down in the Russian sector of Berlin. Bert Brecht also seems to have returned to Germany for good, and there is a possibility that he will take over Berlin's "Deutsches Theater," after Wolfgang Langhoff had failed to run it successfully. Switzerland is becoming the "Umsteigebahnhof" for returnees. Lilly Darvas, wife of Franz Molnar, arrived from New York, and Gert von Gontard is paving the way for Grete Mosheim who intends to go to Konstanz where Heinz Hilpert works as a producer. Reinhold Schuenzel is already in Munich to direct a picture with Hans Albers, and Alfred Polgar and Ludwig Marcuse are on their way to Germany, where they intend to lecture and to collect material on post-war Europe. Peter Lorre arrived in London to tour England's music halls, and Marlene Dietrich and Luise Rainer are starring in British pictures. E. M. Remarque went to Switzerland to finish his new novel, and Richard Katz returned to Europe from Brazil to write one of his travel books. Eric Charell, too, is on a visit to the Continent.

Books and Plays:—The Countess Waldeck, Rosie Graefenberg-Ullstein to you, published "The Emperor's Duchess."—Paul Tabori's thrilling new historical novel "Uneasy Giant" is based on the "Dreyfus affair" and on the Russian pogroms of 1905.—London's little "Blue Danube" scored a real success with two theatre plays, produced by Rolf Carston and Arnold Marlé with Agnes Bernelle, Michael Rittermann and the two directors in the cast.

U.S.A.—John (Hans) Kafka finished his new novel "Sicilian Street" to be published soon by Howard McCann.—Constantin I. David and Alfred Zeisler showed their picture "Alimony" and are preparing "The Touchoff."—Liesl Frank-Mittler, daughter of Fritzi Massary and widow of Bruno Frank, handles the German rights of "Death of a Salesman," the biggest Broadway success.—Hildegard Neff, the German actress who married Kurt Hirsch, returned to Berlin to play in "The Quartered City," a picture about the air-lift.—Paul Henreid will produce "Runaway" with his own company.—Produced by Gottfried Reinhardt and directed by Robert Siodmak, "The Great Sinner" was successfully shown in the States.—Curt Bernhardt finished shooting "Bodies and Souls."—Joe and Mia May's "Blue Danube" restaurant is the meeting place of all Hollywood celebrities.

Germany:—H. W. Litten produced "All my Sons" with an anti-American bias in "Schiffbauerdamm Theater."—F. Mellinger, former U.S. theatre officer, directed "Uncle Harry" with Blandine Ebinger in Berlin.—78 years old Gertrud Eysoldt will play in "Die Nachtwache."—Marianne Oswald returned from Paris to give a recital in Berlin.—Fritz Kortner will appear for the first time again on the German stage in Strindberg's "Father."—Hermann Leopoldi, Hans Moser, and Kurt Goetz are touring Germany.—Gustav Knuth will be "General Harras" when Zuckmayer's play "The Devil's General" becomes a picture.—

PEM.

PERSONALIA

Professor Heinrich Loewe, one of the veterans of the Zionist Movement in Germany, celebrated his 80th birthday in Israel.

Gerson Stern, whose novel "Der Weg ohne Ende," published shortly after Hitler had come to power, had left a deep impression on German Jews of those days, was 75 years last month. He now lives in Israel.

FROM MY DIARY

Throughout the centuries a Ghetto was a settlement in which Jews, separated from their Christian environment, lived their lives according to Jewish tradition. Whenever a person of Jewish origin embraced the Christian faith, he left the fold and took residence on the other side of the Ghetto walls. It was one of the paradox effects of Hitler's racialism that Christianity was also practised in a Jewish Ghetto. The peculiar problems of baptised Jews in Theresienstadt are dealt with by Dr. Arthur Goldschmidt, a former Hamburg Judge, in a pamphlet about "The History of the Protestant Congregation Theresienstadt" (published in the series "Das Christliche Deutschland").

It is not up to us, to deal with the theological or moral side of the question, but from the sociological point of view the booklet is a most interesting and curious document of our time. In the introduction, the author gives a description of the misery and of the permanent fear of deportation to the East, which characterised the Theresienstadt Ghetto. On the other hand, the phrase "The daily life was not free from occasional attraction" is not only in contrast to the great number of reports, which have become known meanwhile, but is also highly regrettable if used in a pamphlet which is published in present-day Germany.

According to Dr. Goldschmidt, the Christian Community in Theresienstadt consisted in the first line of members of the upper and middle classes, of civil servants, professionals, intellectuals and officers. When putting the particulars of the members on record, the author, as the head of the Congregation, discovered that most of them had been baptised as grown-up people, especially after having married Christian partners. He later on refrained from asking for the date of baptism, for he had found out that the "Jewish" Jews who reacted more or less indifferently to those Christians, who had been baptised at their birth, considered as renegades those, who had left the Jewish Community on their own free will. There were, according to the author, sometimes quarrels between the representatives of the Christian congregations in Theresienstadt and the Ghetto administration. Dr. Goldschmidt who acted as a Lay Preacher claims that, in his sermons, he tried to create respect for the Jews who had remained faithful to their tradition.

At the congregational meetings, lectures were given, *inter alia*, by a former teacher of a Palestine Protestant School on her experience in the Holy Land, by the author Professor Hochstetter, and by the 80 years old "Geheimraetin" Bernstein who, under the pseudonym Ernst Rosner, wrote the text to a Humperdinck opera. The unique situation is

mirrored in the following sentences: "Before Lieutenant Field Marshal Friedlaender, in spite of his high age still the type of a young Vienna Cavalry Officer, was deported to the East, he gave a talk on his experiences during the First World War. A beautiful Christian prayer which he himself had written, concluded his lecture. He was never seen again."

When Mrs. Crossman, wife of Mr. Richard Crossman, M.P., was in America recently, she said that she was disappointed to find American Jews so clannish, fraternising only with Jews.

A reply came from Philip Slomovitz, editor of the *Detroit Jewish News*, who told a story of "five o'clock anti-Semitism" in America.

"We have heard the charge of clannishness so often," he said. "But some of us who know the background of American-Jewish relations, are in a position to offer some sort of explanation."

"If only we could induce the Crossmans to take time out to read the late Heywood Broun's famous book, *Christians only*. Perhaps it would solve their problem, because they seemed to be puzzled by conditions. Mr. Broun made one very important point in his book—that there is such a thing as 'five o'clock anti-Semitism.' Even where Jews and non-Jews mingle well in business, in banking, on Wall Street, in schools, their fraternisation seems to end at five o'clock, when the offices and stock exchanges and shops and schools close and people disperse to their homes. Then non-Jews stop befriending their Jewish colleagues. There is a breach somewhere that is pathetic and tragic. And perhaps the Jew is just as rigid on that score, but it is far from being a one-sided clannish business. It is double-edged, and the non-Jews may be the guiltier."

During the trial against SS General Karl Wolff, former assistant of Himmler, one of the star witnesses, the former Secretary of State in Goebbels propaganda ministry, Gutterer, revealed that the "Star of David" which German Jews were compelled to wear, was introduced in 1941 upon the suggestion of Admiral Canaris, then chief of the defence services. Canaris was executed in April, 1945, in the concentration camp of Flossenbürg because he had in the end fallen out with Hitler.

The defendant in the trial, General Wolff, maintained that the criminal measures of the Gestapo and of the Security Services had nothing to do with the SS. He asserted that his post as assistant to Himmler was of a "purely representative character."

NARRATOR

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir, "ANTISEMISEMITISM IN RUSSIA"

The Editors of your journal are no doubt aware that the enemies of the Soviet Union—who invariably in contemporary history, if given time and a chance, have turned out to be the enemies of the Jewish people—are letting loose a flood of anti-Soviet propaganda of the worst "Stuerner"-type, in order to mentally prepare their peoples for a war against the Soviet Union. In this attempt they will make use of every type of slander. The Jewish people obviously have nothing to gain from such a campaign and certainly less from a possible war.

Herbert Freedman's whole article, while stating a great number of so-called facts, does not offer a single proof for any single of his assumptions. As he says, "We are, of course, helped in our assessment of the true facts by some centuries of experience, though not with the Soviets, but with the Russian people." This is the same type of attack which we are used to with regard to our own people, whose experience of centuries makes it in the eyes of Anti-Semites a people of usurers. We know the slanderous character of such a statement, which does not take the historical, economical and political circumstances and influences on a people into consideration.

I believe it is true that there are now less Jews in the leadership of the Soviet Union than were at the time of the Revolution and shortly after. There can be no doubt that the Russian Jews belonged to the most educated sections of the inhabitants of the Czarist Empire and also to its most oppressed peoples. Both these reasons explain the fact of the proportionately great number of Jews in the leadership. But as the high illiteracy among the Soviet peoples was eradicated and the standard of education rose, it was only natural that other members of the many peoples should climb up the ladder of leadership. To any objective observer, this is a most natural development, yes, a welcome development.

As to the part played by Jewish citizens of the U.S.S.R. during the war, this cannot possibly give rise to Anti-Semitism. The Jewish people, one of the smallest in the Soviet Union, holds 5th place as far as decorations for bravery and outstanding services during the war are concerned. This is universally known among the peoples of the Soviet Union and makes nonsense of the existence of a serious opinion among the Soviet peoples that the Jews were shirking front-line duties. The Soviet people are fully aware of the part played by the Jewish people in the war.

If Herbert Freedman is eager to fight against Anti-Semitism, he may concentrate his attention on London, where Jewish youths were brutally beaten up and where the Fascists are allowed to provoke the Jewish community by marching through the streets under the protection of the police.

Yours, etc.,

H. Prajs,

31 Ravenscliffe Dr.,
Giffnock—Glasgow.

CLASSIFIED Employment

AJR EMPLOYMENT AGENCY (annually licensed by the L.C.C.) has on its register men and women (skilled and unskilled), also homeworkers of any kind, sitters-in. Report vacancies esp. for book- and storekeepers. Tel. MA1 9096.

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REPRESENTATIVES WANTED by Wine and Spirit Importers. Good salary and commission offered. Sound knowledge of the wine trade essential. Box 778.

Accommodation

ACCOMMODATION of any kind wanted. AJR Social Service Dept. SMALL PLEASANT BED-SITTING-ROOM with breakfast to let in Neasden, N.W.2. Phone GLadstone 4214 after 6 p.m.

OFFICE required, 1 or 2 rooms, between Baker st. and Oxford Circus. Box 777.

Miscellaneous

ALTERATIONS, Remodels. Dress-maker, Mrs. Cohn, 158 Adelaide Road, PRI 7428.

WELL ESTABL. WHOLESALE Firm (Underwear) seeks partner with capital (at least £750) either active, if Trade experience, or interested in lucrative investment. Box 775.

BOND STREET. Reliable businessman would share his 1,000 sq. ft. premises and consider participating in suitable business or manufacturing. Replies giving particulars of sound propositions to Box 771.

Personal

WIDOW, OWN FLAT, wishes acquaintance of elderly gentleman (may be up to 70, if in good health) for whom she would provide a happy home. Box 776.

MISSING PERSONS Inquiries from HIAS

37 Museum Street, London, W.C.1
Auerbach, Else, née Kuznitzky, formerly Berlin, for Catherine Lebran, Frankfurt/Main.

Asser, Max, who came to London in 1934 from Berlin, for Arthur Hirsch, Leipzig.

Inquiries from AJR

Horowitz, Mr., of Roonstr. 80, Cologne, for Jewish Community, Cologne.

Suerth, Sophie, abt. 38, of Zuelpicherplatz 4-6, Cologne, same inquirer.

Cohler, Sara, formerly Hagedorn, née Israel, for son in Hamburg.

Scheffranek, Lisl, born 1900, singer or actress from Vienna, for Hilda Zyduka, Vienna.

The following persons or their heirs are wanted for restitution claims in the French Zone:

Hirsch, Heinrich, from Ruchheim.

Althof, Emilie, from Flonheim.

Linden, Erna, née Michel, from Koblenz-Asterstein.

Lehmann, Luise, née Levi (wife of Max L.), from Stuttgart.

Rosenberger, Gertrud, from Konstanz.

Schatz, Leopold, from Konstanz.

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LIQUIDATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES PROBLEM IN EUROPE

The General Council of the International Refugee Organisation has recently been discussing ways and means of solving the problem of the so-called "hard-core" cases among the remaining displaced persons in Europe, i.e. people who because of illness or old age have no chance of being accepted as immigrants anywhere.

Representatives of various States have outlined the views of their respective Governments on this question. Mr. S. Adler Rudel, who attended the session as an observer for the Israeli Government, told the Council that Israel would be ready to admit all the remaining aged and disabled displaced Jews, provided that I.R.O. was prepared to help the Israeli Government carry the financial burden involved.

Mr. Adler Rudel emphasised that the need to evacuate these old people, the most helpless survivors of the tragedy that had befallen the Jews of Europe, would arise sooner or later as they became increasingly worried about their future, seeing that all able-bodied men and women, on whose help they had been depending, were leaving. The people of Israel, Mr. Adler Rudel added, were most anxious to play their part and fulfil their obligations towards this small remnant of the poorest among the poor.

Plans for a solution of the problem are now under consideration by a sub-committee. Particular attention is being given to financial and technical aspects of the problem.

Meanwhile no decision has been reached yet as to the continuation of the activities now carried on by the I.R.O. after the winding up of the Organisation on June 30, 1950. Three possibilities are mentioned in lobby conversations: (1) That refugee work be taken over by the United Nations Secretariat; (2) that a special High Commissioner for refugee questions be appointed; and, (3) that refugee work be transferred to either the Economic and Social Council or the International Labour Organisation.

INSURANCE OF PARCELS TO GERMANY

Personal and commercial parcels which are transmissible to the British, French and American Zones of Germany, but not to the Soviet Zone or to Berlin, may now be accepted for insurance up to a maximum insured value of £80. Gift parcels for Germany may not be insured.

REPORTS FROM LONDON

LIBERAL WORLD CONFERENCE

"The Jews have to realise an ideal and to idealise a reality," said Leo Baeck at the Opening Meeting of the conference of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. In their addresses Professor Charles E. Raven, D.D., Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University, and Professor Sir Ian Heilbron, D.S.O., LL.D., D.Sc., F.R.S., stressed the increasing tendency amongst religious thinkers and scientists, to bridge the gulf which had existed between these two trends of thought a generation before. On the Mission of Judaism spoke Professor Dr. Sheldon Blank from the historical point of view and Leo Baeck in relation to the tasks of our days. The two centres of energy, Dr. Baeck said, are now Israel and U.S.A., the centre of the missionary work has to be in America.

A special day was devoted to the position in Israel and in present-day Germany. The specific problems of Israel arises according to Dr. M. Elk from the fact that, in the Diaspora, Jewish life finds its expression in the Synagogue, whereas in Israel Jewishness exists in all fields of Community life as a matter of course. Jewish liberalism has, in the speaker's view, not only a function for those immigrants from Germany who wish to preserve their specific form of worship, but is also an educational task towards the younger generation, which finds its expression in the Leo Baeck School. Rabbi Steven Schwarzschild who, under the auspices of the World Union, is working as a rabbi in Berlin, stated that, according to recent estimates, even after the emigration of those Jews who consider to leave Germany shortly, there will be still about 25,000 Jews in Germany, 5,000 of whom will be in Berlin. Some of them had already been living in Germany before the war and had survived mainly because they had been living in mixed marriages, others are of non-German origin who, for the time being, are settling down in German towns. This specific structure of German Jewry of our days creates special problems in the religious as well as in the cultural field, and the organisations abroad have to be aware of their responsibility towards German Jews.

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"THE HYPHEN"

No general functions are being arranged for the month of August, being the holiday season, but there will be two rambles on the 7th and 21st of this month.

Sub-groups' activities will continue during August by arrangement of the members of the respective groups.

Further particulars may be obtained from the hon. Secretary, Miss Ilse Apt, 121 Broadhurst Gardens, N.W.6 (stamped envelope to be enclosed).

TRIALS

The Leipzig trials against supervisors of the "Hasag" Camp in Czenstochow, where unspeakable atrocities were committed, ended with three death sentences; the other accused supervisors and Officials were sentenced to a Penal Servitude from 20 to three and a half years and to imprisonment.

The Dresden Law Court sentenced guards of the former Concentration Camp Hohenstein to Penal Servitude from four to 20 years.

For participation in the November pogroms, the former Kreisleiter of Heidelberg, Wilhelm Seiler, was sentenced to five months imprisonment.

Ilse Koch Trial

Ilse Koch, the "Kommandeuse of Buchenwald," is going to be re-tried soon. Anybody who can submit material about the atrocities committed by her in the Camp after the outbreak of war, should contact the AJR.

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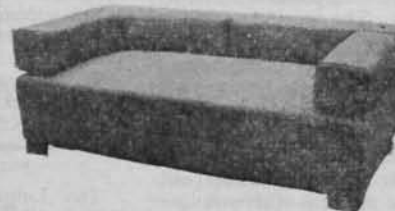
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