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JEWISH DAILY BULLETIN

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NEWS.

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LEAGUE COUNCIL IN PRIVATE SESSION CONSIDERS POSSIBILITY OF REWORDING MANDATES COMMISSION REPORT

No Action Will Be Taken on Palestine Arab Complaints Council Decides.—Austen Chamberlain Criticizes Permanent Mandates Commission Report.—Reply of Palestine Government to Arab Petition Proves Arabs Complaints Baseless.—Important Document Distributed Among League Members.—Full Text of Palestine Government Reply Given in Cable Despatch to Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

(Special Cable Despatch to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Geneva, Dec. 11.—The Council of the League of Nations held a private meeting after listening to the explanations of Austen Chamberlain, British Foreign Secretary, and decided to consider the possibility of rewording the text of the report submitted to it by the Permanent Mandates Commission.

In its public session the Council approved, without alterations, the report of the Permanent Mandates Commission, which stresses the fact that Jewish immigration into Palestine is not in accordance with the interests of the country. The criticism voiced in the report against the immigration policy of Sir Herbert Samuel's administration and its attitude towards the Arabs and Jews met with a reply on the part of Austen Chamberlain, British Foreign Secretary.

"I am not quite certain whether the Permanent Mandates Commission fully realizes the difficult conditions under which the High Commissioner of Palestine had to fulfill his duties", Austen Chamberlain declared. "To say that the majority of the immigrants into Palestine have not had any previous agricultural training", he stated, "is to ignore the wonderful work they have done. My information authorizes me to maintain that Jewish immigration into Palestine consists mainly of agriculturists who are admirably suited for the work in Palestine. The immigration also contains industrial and commercial elements. It is sufficient to consider the development which tobacco growing is making in Galilee to realize the justice of this assertion. The tobacco cultivation is yielding excellent results. In any case, the higher class of immigrant who is now pouring into Palestine will help to develop industries which hold out a bright promise for the future."

The Council of the League of Nations decided to refer the report of the Permanent Mandates Commission to the governments concerned. At the same time, the Council decided not to take any action on the complaints submitted to the Permanent Mandates Commission in the memorandum of the Palestine Arab Executive, representing the Moslem Christian Association.

CHAMBERLAIN AND SIR ERIC DRUMMOND RECEIVED BY POPE

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Rome, Dec. 11.—The audience granted to Austen Chamberlain by Pope Pius XI lasted for an hour and a half. The question of Palestine and the position of religion in Soviet Russia were the main topics of discussion, it was declared. After the audience with the Pope, Chamberlain conferred with Cardinal Gasparri.

Rome, Dec. 11.—Following the audience granted to Austen Chamberlain, the Pope received Sir Eric Drummond, General Secretary of the League of Nations, who is of the Roman Catholic faith. Sir Eric, his wife and daughter were later received by Cardinal Gasparri at a special reception.

Rome, Dec. 11.—A document of great importance with regard to the situation in Palestine which had an influence upon the decision of the Council of the League of Nations to ignore the complaints of the Palestine Arab Executive was distributed among the Council members. It represented the reply of the Palestine Government to the petition of the Palestine Arab Executive submitted to the Permanent Mandates Commission. The petition, which served as the basis for the opinions expressed by the Permanent Mandates Commission is proven in the reply of the Palestine Government to be a conglomeration of mis-statements. The document reads as follows:

The High Commissioner feels bound to draw attention to the fact that the statement submitted by you and forwarded to the Mandates Commission, apart from matters of opinion and of political controversy, contains a number of mis-statements on matters of fact, which, in his judgment, must detract from the impression made by the document. Those mis-statements are the following:

1.—"The Government of Palestine, after strong representations, handed over the administration of Moslem Religious Courts and Waqfs (Moslem religious endowments) to a body of five elected members known as the Supreme Moslem Council", your memorandum states on page three.

This step was taken, not as a result of strong representations but on the initiative of the Government, which desired to provide a substitute for the control previously exercised from Constantinople by the Ministry of Waqfs, and the Sheikh ul Islam.

2.—"The Government had to adopt some measures in order to render ownership of land on un-

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ICA ASSIGNS 500,000 RUBLES FOR JEWISH COLONIZATION WORK IN RUSSIA

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Riga, Dec. 11.—A new Council of the Jewish Colonization Association in Soviet Russia was formed, according to a recent agreement between the Ica and the Soviet Government.

The members of the Council are: Raschkes, chairman; Weinstein, of the Department for National Minorities; and Bersin, representative of the Agricultural Commissariat.

The representative of the Ica in the Council will be Mr. Sak Simkin.

The Council has adopted a budget for colonization for the coming year amounting to 500,000 rubles.

KIEFF JEWS ELECT REPRESENTATIVES TO CITY COUNCIL

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Kieff, Dec. 11.—The Jewish population in the city of Kieff gained considerable representation at the new elections to the City Council. One-third of the newly-elected aldermen are Jews.

A circuit court with proceedings conducted in Yiddish was opened, in view of the fact that the circuit court in Berditschew is overcrowded.

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PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR PERLMAN IMMIGRATION BILLS

(Jewish Daily Bulletin Special Despatch)

Washington, Dec. 10.—January 6th was set by Chairman Johnson of the House Immigration Committee as the date for the public hearing of the two bills introduced by Congressman Nathan D. Perlman—one to exempt from the quota certain additional relatives of citizens and declarants and the other to admit, free from quota restrictions, holders of old immigration visas who were excluded by exhaustion of quotas under the previous law. This would enable the entry of the thousands of refugees stranded in various ports, who are unable to proceed to the United States because their old visas are now invalid.

Congressman Perlman stated that he expects to be in New York tomorrow, when he will confer with Louis Marshall and other prominent Jews and ask them to appear at the public hearing in January to support his bills. He expressed hope that the bills will ultimately be adopted, even if considerable modification is deemed necessary. He stated that the reference of President Coolidge in his message in favor of humanizing the immigration law will help the proposed legislation a great deal. Congressman Perlman admitted, however, that considerable opposition has already been expressed by restrictionists against his bills and that a strong fight must be expected.

AUGUST BELMONT, AMERICAN BANKER OF JEWISH ORIGIN, DIES

Belmont, known as the "father of American racing" and builder of the New York elevated and subway lines, who died Wednesday at the age of seventy-one, was of Jewish origin. He was born in New York City in February 18, 1853. His parents were the late August Belmont and Caroline Siddell. August Belmont, Sr., was a native of Alzey, in Rhenish Essen, where the family was known under the name of Schoenberg. He came to America in 1844 as Consul General for the Austrian Government, a post which he held until 1850. Three years later he was appointed American Charge d'Affaires at The Hague.

He soon left his official position to engage in banking and became one of the most powerful factors in international finance, acting as the American representative of the Rothschilds for many years.

ARAB WORKERS PLOUGHING AT AFULEH ARRESTED

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Jerusalem, Dec. 10.—The land near Afuleh, where the first altercation between Jewish workmen and Arabs occurred, was again the scene of controversy when the Arabs commenced ploughing today, claiming their right to the land. The Arab workers were immediately arrested.

LEAGUE COUNCIL IN PRIVATE SESSION CONSIDERS POSSIBILITY OF REWORDING MANDATES COMMISSION REPORT

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profitable trade. An Ordinance, therefore, promulgated (1921) prohibiting exportation of local products—grain and olive oil", your memorandum states on page four.

It has been repeatedly stated in public that the measures taken immediately after the war to restrict the exportation of food products had in connection whatever with the Zionist movement or with land policy, but were dictated solely by shortage of food supplies and the danger of excessively high prices or even of famine. The exportation of olive oil was prohibited by the Military Authorities in August 1919, and the restriction was removed by the Civil Administration in October, 1920. The exportation of wheat and barley was prohibited in September 1920, in consequence of the report of a Committee on food supplies, presided over by Sir Wyndham Deedes, and including the District Governor of Jerusalem, the Director of Customs, Director of Agriculture, Director of Commerce and Industry and the Deputy Treasurer. This prohibition was removed in April, 1921. Precisely similar measures were taken at the same time in the neighboring countries of Syria and Egypt, where no question of Zionist policy could in any case arise. It is obvious that the allegation made is totally unfounded.

3.—"When the proprietor's confidence in the safety of his property is shaken, he can have no other alternative than to sell it or exchange it for a safe one. The Palestine Administration in pursuance of this rule put into force (1921) a Turkish law that has never been enforced before, whereby a proprietor who fails to cultivate his land or part of it during three consecutive years, will lose his title to it." It is stated that in consequence the landowners sold the land to Jews at a low price, your memorandum states on page four.

As a matter of fact, the Turkish law referred to has only once been put into operation by the Palestine Administration, in relation to a piece of land of 193 dunams which was needed for an aerodrome in the neighborhood of Haifa and which belonged to a wealthy Syrian land owner to whom the considerations mentioned in the allegation cannot apply. It is true that certain land-owners were reminded that the Turkish Law did not allow land to remain uncultivated indefinitely, but there has been no case in which persons so warned have subsequently sold land to Jews.

4.—Reference is made on page six to the statement in the Palestine Government's report for 1922 that unemployment has increased and that the need for additional labor immigrants had been slight. "Yet the flow of immigrants never ceased and so the whole country had to bear the burden", the memorandum proceeds.

This is directly contrary to fact. Measures were taken to reduce to an absolute minimum the immigration laborers during the latter parts of 1923. Only 100 immigrants were admitted for the purposes of entering the labor market; the small number of other immigrants who came in were either members of the families or persons already in the country, or individuals possessing means of their own. In any case, no charge whatever was imposed upon the Palestine Budget.

5.—"Police force distribution was not based on local requirements for suppressing and preventing private crimes but rather on unusual, sudden requirements for suppressing or preventing international communal political attacks, which distribution had greatly affected public security with regard to private crimes. For instance, the road between Jerusalem and Jericho, so much noted for its insecurity even since those very old days of the Bible, is left unguarded to the pleasure of highway

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DAILY DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION ON JEWISH MATTERS

A Passport System for Everybody in America

That the bill for the registration of aliens, introduced in Congress by Representative Aswell, is in reality the preliminary step in the direction of establishing a passport system for everybody in this country, is the opinion of the "Day", which writes on this matter editorially on Dec. 10.

"How will a detective know", asks the "Day", "who is an alien and who isn't unless he stops the person under suspicion and inquires? If that person is an American citizen the only way he can prove it is by carrying a passport on his person at all times, which, in effect, will put him in the same class with aliens in this respect."

"The proponents of the idea to register all aliens are afraid to come out with the full truth, that they are aiming at establishing a passport system for everybody in America. Hence they are endeavoring to achieve their purpose by using the 'dangerous' foreigners as a foil."

Adopting the Czar's Methods

If the bill for the registration of aliens, which has been introduced in Congress by Representative Aswell of Louisiana, were passed it would mean that the methods of the Russian Czars have been transplanted to America, says the "Jewish Daily News" of Dec. 10.

"If America adopts this law and continues to claim that this is the land of freedom, of equality and justice, the land of Lincoln and Jefferson, it will be the greatest falsehood ever uttered. The Czar's passport and espionage system cannot very well harmonize with the tradition of the 'land of the free and the brave'."

TURKISH PAPER ATTACKS JEWS FOR USING JUDEO-SPANISH LANGUAGE

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency Mail Service)

Constantinople, Dec. 1.—An article attacking the Jews in Turkey for employing Judeo-Spanish was published by the Turkish paper, "Vakit", which declares that Judeo-Spanish is "a jargon unworthy of being spoken in Turkey."

"Their Turkish pronunciation is affected by their dialect", the paper states. "The majority of them can read Turkish and a number of them write it as well. Notwithstanding this, they continue to consider their Judeo-Spanish jargon as their mother tongue."

"It is foolish to persist in using this absurd jargon. We would not mind if they tried to revive a dead language like Hebrew, which they use for their ritual and which places them in contact with their co-religionists in other countries. To preserve the language of a country which expelled them four centuries ago, and to employ it in the midst of a population which has given them all hospitality, suggests that Spain did right in ejecting the Jews."

"Our objection to the use of Judeo-Spanish is not prompted by animosity towards the Jews, who are a useful element in the country. That is why we desire that all our nationals of the Jewish faith should give up their jargon and speak, read

SITUATION OF JEWS IN POLAND DESCRIBED IN DECLARATION OF DEPUTIES

Legal, Economic and Political Discrimination Is Government Policy; Vote Against Budget.
(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Warsaw, Dec. 11.—The legal, political and economic position of the Jews in the Polish Republic was vividly described in an official declaration read in the Polish Parliament by the Jewish Deputy Schreiber on behalf of the Club of Jewish Deputies. Deputy Schreiber explained the reasons why the Jewish members of the Polish Parliament voted against the government budget.

"The policy of the present Polish Government undermines the hope of the Jewish population that they will ever be able to enjoy the equality of rights guaranteed to them in the Constitution. The government, in spite of its many promises has not yet removed the old legal restrictions which originated in the time of the Czaristic regime."

"In the field of cultural needs, the Polish Government completely ignores the demands of the Jewish population. Jewish schools are refused subsidy and the existence of private Jewish schools is made difficult. In the private high schools practically a numerous clause for Jewish students is being enforced", the deputy stated.

In his declaration, Deputy Schreiber further described the economic position of the Jews in Poland, which, he stated, is approaching a catastrophic state of ruin brought about by the policy of the Polish Government. The proposed bill to withdraw the concessions on monopolized articles threatens the existence of tens of thousands of Jewish families. Government offices are completely closed to the Jews. Employment over which the Government has control is also withheld from Jews. Sekretarczyk, the leader of the Polish anti-Semitic bands in Posen, who was sentenced to jail for his activities, enjoys freedom in spite of the verdict of the court, under the pretext that "the jails are overcrowded", the declaration states.

The Sejm passed on the budget with a majority vote. An exception was made with one item amounting to 100 Zlotys which was taken out on the motion of the Left as an expression of lack of confidence in the Minister of Education. The resignation of Professor Miklaszewski is probable.

BRIGANDS ENGAGE IN FIGHTING ON SYRIA-PALESTINE FRONTIER

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Jerusalem, Dec. 11.—Fighting on the Syria-Palestine frontier occurred when a group of Arab brigands attacked a detachment of French infantry rear Deraa. One soldier was wounded.

and write Turkish, so that they should be able to serve Turkish civilization and become an important factor in the life of our country, as the Jews are in other countries", the "Vakit" concludes.

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LEAGUE COUNCIL IN PRIVATE SESSION CONSIDERS POSSIBILITY OF REWORD- ING MANDATES COMMISSION REPORT

(Continued from Page 2)

men, while the huge forces of the police are lying in town stations, awaiting action for suppressing political fights between Arab and Jew," it is stated on page eight of your memorandum.

This also is directly contrary to the facts, as they are known to every resident in the country. With respect to the particular instance mentioned, the Jerusalem-Jericho Road has always been patrolled. There are police Posts at Jericho itself, Nebi Musa, Khan Saliba and at the Allenby Bridge.

6.—It is stated on page nine that the burden of taxation per capita of the population is £3½.

This figure treats as taxation, however, the gross receipts of the Railway Department and of the Post Office, which are almost wholly spent upon the services rendered by those Departments, and which are non-taxed revenue, and also Municipal rates, which are in payment of local services rendered. The actual taxation upon the people is in fact £1.750 per capita or precisely half the figure stated in the memorandum.

7.—It is stated that farmers give, in the form of title and land-tax about 15 per cent on the produce of their land.

This statement is not accurate, the figure being not more than 13 per cent.

8.—It is stated that salaries of Government employees, particularly the highest, ought to be reduced, seeing that they were fixed "four years ago when the cost of living was three times as much as it is now."

No facts whatever can be deduced to indicate that the decline has been anything approaching this figure.

9.—"The Governor's office in Jerusalem occupies a huge building which would have been capacious enough to hold all the departments of the ex-Government," your memorandum states.

Your Committee must be fully aware that the building in question is accommodating not only the Governor's office but the offices of the High Commissioner of the Secretariat, the Attorney General, the Treasury and Audit Department.

10.—It is stated that Hebrew "is spoken by less than one-half of one per cent of the population."

This would mean that Hebrew is only spoken by four thousand persons; as the total Jewish population is now approaching one hundred thousand this statement is wholly inconsistent with facts that are common knowledge.

11.—"Wine, which is exclusively manufactured and exported by Jews, has been exempted from exportation tax contrary to all other products," your memorandum states.

The fact is that the export duty on wine was abolished many years before the British Occupation; the only concession, so far as export of wine is concerned, and one which all local manufacturers alike enjoy, is that the excise duty is charged in accordance with the Ottoman Law only to the extent of about one-quarter upon wine exported.

12.—"All new roads and railway extensions built

after the war were from or to Jewish Colonies," it is stated.

This also is contrary to fact. One branch railway line was built to Petach-Tikvah. A financial arrangement with the colonists was made which secured the Government against loss, and the line was largely constructed from advances provided by them. The only other railway extensions have been built to the military camp at Sarafand paid for from Army funds, and to the quarry at Beit Nabala. Main roads that have been made or re-constructed since the war have included roads from Nazareth to Tiberias and Safed, from Afulah to Nazareth and Haifa, from Tulkarem to Kalkileh. In fact, no high roads have been made at all to any Jewish colonies, except one from Beit Dagan to Richon and on to Rechovoth. This road is designed to be continued as the high road adjoining Gaza with the main road system. In addition about 200 kilometers of secondary roads have been constructed by village labor in various parts of the country under the auspices of the Government. One of these roads at present leads to a Jewish Colony; but it is by no means for its exclusive service and follows an old track used by the adjacent Arab villages.

13.—The Kabbara concession "was secretly granted (1921) to a Jewish land company to use for several purposes and cultivate an extensive area of land lying on the coast between the two ports of Jaffa and Haifa, for a period of 200 years against a nominal yearly rental. The one hundred and seventy families who still live on that land and who cultivate parts of it and own it were treated as a negligible lot. This concession which, until recently, was a Government secret, is now being enforced by Government influence and armed forces," your memorandum states on page twelve.

This Concession, which is for the draining and reclamation of a malarial area, was originally approved by the local authorities under the Turkish regime, but had not been endorsed by the Government at Constantinople before the war. In its original form, it provided for the sale of the land at a low price. The new Concession provides for a lease (except in respect of a small area of 2,500 dunams) and for a rent to be paid, which is by no means a nominal one and which is subject to revisions at intervals of thirty years in accordance with the ascertained value of the land.

The interests of the 170 families referred to, far from being treated as a negligible quantity, were most carefully considered by the Government, as well as by the Concessionaires. Under the arrangement which has now been made, they have been glad to accept an area of 3,500 dunams in a neighboring district as their absolute property in exchange for the 2,500 dunams over which they had previously exercised grazing rights. In addition they are receiving a sum of money for their expenses of removal. No disorder has taken place, and the reference to enforcement by the Government armed forces is purely imaginary.

In referring to these thirteen instances of misstatement, it must not be assumed that the High Commissioner accepts as accurate the remaining allegations in the memorandum. Most of them, however, are questions of opinion, and the minor errors of fact which they include, are not of sufficient importance to require attention here.

Signed, RONALD STORRS,
Acting Chief Secretary.

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