

AMERICAN COMPANY SEEKS A SHARE IN DEAD SEA CONCESSION

Dr. Thomas H. Norton, Organizer of American Company Tells Story of How Dead Sea Riches Were Found and What Provisions Concession Will Contain to Safeguard Interests; Palestine to Have World Monopoly of Potash

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

London, August 24. — Seeking a share in the salts of the Dead Sea, Dr. Thomas Herbert Norton of New York, a leading American chemist, organizer of the Anglo-American syndicate which hopes to obtain a franchise for the extraction of the mineral deposits, is now in London seeking to put through the concession.

The British Colonial Office has been considering the bids of various competitors for the last year and a half. Announcement of their award may be expected at any time.

Potash, bromine salts, gypsum and magnesium chloride are the principal of these Dead Sea fruits. But, according to Dr. Norton, the American members of his group are chiefly interested in the potash.

It is believed that if Dr. Norton and his group could acquire posses-

sion of the Dead Sea resources in that mineral, the United States would not only be independent of German and French supplies but would be able to cut very drastically the price of this essential fertilizer to the American farmers.

It is understood Dr. Norton has obtained guarantees for the capital necessary to undertake such a huge work, and also has collected an entire technical, chemical and engineering staff with a view to beginning the work as soon as the concession is granted.

There are three other strong bidders in the field. The first group represents the British Chemical Trust, presided over by Sir Alfred Mond. The second is headed by the Russian Jewish engineer Novomeisky, representing Zionist interests, and also believed to have certain affiliations

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CONGRESS OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IN GENEVA CONTINUES ITS SESSIONS

Jewish Leader Reads Paper

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Geneva, August 24.—The problems of the national minorities in European countries were further deliberated upon at yesterday's session of the National Minorities Congress.

Much interest was displayed in the papers read at the Congress by Professor Lazarsohn, Jewish leader of Latvia, on "State Sovereignty and Minorities Protection" in which he dwelt on the phase of the problem which has caused most opposition of the majority populations. He argued that the state sovereignty is not in any way lessened by legal protection provided for the minorities.

A lively discussion followed in which many representatives of the national minorities, including the Jewish representatives, participated. Great interest was also displayed in the paper submitted by Dr. Amende, general secretary of the national minorities organization. The subject of his paper was "National Intolerance Jeopardizes European Peace."

DECLINE IN JEWISH AFFILI- ATION WITH SYNAGOGUE IN RUSSIAN DISTRICT SHOWN

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Moscow, Aug. 24.—A decline in the affiliation of Russian Jews with the synagogue and Jewish religious and communal activities is to be observed in the Ukraine, according to a census taken by the Soviet authorities in the district of Mariupol.

According to the figures of the census in the entire district of Mariupol only 1554 Jewish men and women are members of the Kehillahs. Of these, the authorities assert, 1326 are illiterate or uneducated, 234 are what is termed "semi-educated" and only 8 possess high education. Only 67 members of the Kehillah in this district are between 18 and 20 years of age. Of the 4,000 Jewish persons who live in this district only 220 are members of the Kehillah. The affiliation of the Jewish youth with the synagogue in the towns in this district amounts to 4 percent; in the villages there is no synagogue affiliation among the youth. Among those between the ages of 20 and 30, there are only 17 persons affiliated with the synagogues.

SOVIET HEALTH MINISTER PRAISES PROGRESS OF JEW- ISH SETTLERS IN CRIMEA COLONIES

They Endured on Land Despite Great Difficulties; Conditions are Improving, Semashko Declares

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Moscow, Aug. 24.—The progress of the Jewish land settlers in the Crimea was described by the Soviet Minister of Health Semashko, who just returned from a visit to Crimea.

Writing in the "Isvestia," the Minister of Health describes his visit to the Jewish colony Ikor, where he found the colonists thrashing corn. The older colonists complained that the first years were very hard when they had to live in mud huts and under great difficulties. The colonists, however, stated that "Jews are accustomed to suffer and therefore we have endured. Now, every year, it is becoming easier. This year's harvest is not bad. We have planted vineyards. We have remained on the land despite difficulties because we knew that if we would give it up the whole back-to-the-land movement would be discouraged."

The majority of the settlers are former traders, shopkeepers and ar-

tisans from Zhitomir, Cherson and Melitopol. All have declared that they do not regret their having engaged in agriculture and they would not return to the towns. This is solving the Jewish question in Russia, Minister Semashko states.

JEWISH SPORT CLUB WINS BOXING MATCH IN BERLIN

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Berlin Aug. 24.—A victory of German teams over a Danish team in a boxing match attracted wide attention in the German capital and brought into the limelight the Maccabee Jewish sport organization.

The match was arranged between a combination of the Berlin Maccabees and the Sparta Club and a Danish team. The result of the match was the defeat of the Danish team, by a score of 10 to 6. The Maccabee members were given the chief credit for the Berliners' victory.

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REFORM RABBIS HOLD SERVICES AT SUMMER RESORTS

(Jewish Daily Bulletin)

Cincinnati, O., August 24.—Religious services were conducted at summer resorts throughout the country, through the arrangement of the Department of Synagogue and School Extension of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations with rabbis in various sections.

All summer places attracting large numbers of Jewish visitors have had services arranged for them. The country was divided into sections, with rabbis of different localities acting as supervisors, and in addition field Rabbis were employed by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

In New York State, Rabbi Jacob Pollak, of the New York office of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, was in charge, and through him arrangements were made with visiting rabbis to spend weekends at various resorts, officiating at religious services. In Michigan and Wisconsin the services were in charge of Rabbi David S. Nathan of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The reports returned at the Union office here from the supervisors and the Rabbis indicate that there is a demand for summer religious worship. Attendance at the various services are generally large, and in every community where they were held they were welcomed, and cooperation was extended in many cases by non-Jewish owners and managers of hotels.

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VIEWS VARY IN JEWISH PRESS OF NEW YORK ON SACCO-VANZETTI CASE

"World" Praises Patriotic Service of Prof. Felix Frankfurter

Comment on the repercussions of the Sacco Vanzetti case in America and abroad are numerous in the editorial columns of the Yiddish press.

The "Jewish Morning Journal," conservative paper, commenting on the Geneva riots states: "Insofar as the hatred of America comes to the surface because of the Sacco Vanzetti tragedy, this sad event also has a useful aspect. If the first riot which took place in Geneva will have as a result that 10,000 Americans who would have visited Geneva will now avoid it, America will lose very little by it. At any rate much less than Geneva. If a part of the three-quarters of a billion dollars which American tourists spend annually in Europe will remain at home or will be spent in such places where they are not so eager to display hatred and contempt of guests from this side of the ocean, we will be the last to be aggrieved about it.

"The longer the excitement will continue among the immigrants here, the easier will it be for the enemies of immigration to carry through at the next Congress any restriction which they will propose. They feel themselves on certain ground because millions of American workers and farmers remained indifferent. The president of the American Federation of Labor asked for either clemency or a new investigation and in this millions of Americans of all classes agree with him.

"The indignation is limited to such places and such circles where America was not too popular even before. It is an unpleasant event no matter from what side we regard it, but we are sufficiently optimistic to believe that the relations between our Republic and the great outside world will not be greatly influenced by the noise which has been raised or which will still be raised in certain centers.

"So far as we are concerned we believe in the Talmudic rule: 'After court has acted, there is no complaint.' And we regret, with many others, the 'threats' which have contributed to the result more than any other single cause," the paper writes.

"The Day," liberal paper, in an editorial entitled, "The Fight Continues" states that the Sacco Vanzetti case has strengthened the belief of those who are opposed to capital punishment.

"We know Governor Fuller did not allow public opinion to dictate to him. He acted in accordance with his own view. This does not prove,

however, that the giant, public opinion, is conquered and that the death of the two condemned men has disarmed the giant. Just the opposite, now let the real fight begin, if not for definite persons, it is for definite principles, namely: for the abolition of capital punishment for all citizens and non-citizens alike, for all time."

The "Jewish Daily Forward," socialist paper, in an editorial entitled: "The Last Act of the Bloody Tragedy" says: "We should not forget to express recognition and gratitude to the thousands of intellectuals in the country, to the millions of the great American masses who have demanded justice for Sacco and Vanzetti, who have not ceased for seven years in the fight for the two lives and who, at the last moment, made such a desperate attempt to stay the hand of the executioner. We should not forget that the fight for Sacco and Vanzetti has awakened the conscience of the American people.

"On the list of those who demanded a new trial, there are the names of the most prominent Americans, of the most exalted American spirits, and on the list of the newspapers which have applied all their force to obtain justice for Sacco and Vanzetti there are the names of the greatest and most influential in the country. The tragedy of Sacco and Vanzetti has shattered the entire world. Certainly the prestige of America, the good name of the country, will suffer greatly. The attacks which are now being made in the press of the world will have their repercussions in one way or another on the political, economic and social relations between America and other countries. This is the price which the entire country will pay for the deed committed in Massachusetts," the Forward writes.

The "Jewish Daily News," Orthodox paper, writes: "The great drama is ended, the machinery of justice is satisfied. But the feeling of justice will long remain unsatisfied and doubting. We can only sincerely wish that this feeling of doubt will not be transformed into a feeling of bitterness and an accusation against the entire American justice, which is not responsible for the justice of Massachusetts."

The New York "World," terms the efforts of those who took an unselfish interest in the Sacco Vanzetti case a patriotic service.

Prof. Felix Frankfurter, Professor of Law at Harvard, who wrote a book on the case, is included among those listed by the "World" who were willing to stake their reputations, to sacrifice their comfort, to

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with Sir Alfred. The third is an independent British syndicate.

Dr. Norton went abroad more than a year ago in the interests of the chemical development of the Dead Sea and the securing of an operating concession. He made a study of the possibilities of exploiting the salts of the Dead Sea. He reported the findings of his survey and the progress in the negotiations in a recent article in "Chemicals," American chemical trade magazine of which he was for a number of years technical editor.

"There is nothing to prevent Palestine from becoming, at an early date, a powerful factor in the production on a large scale of some of our most important chemicals, and from being the seat of one chemical world monopoly," Dr. Norton wrote.

"Highly perfected processes make it possible to supply bromine and potassium chloride at a cost of production far below that of any other known source. Sodium chloride—salt—is a by product, costing literally nothing beyond the trifling expense of collecting and shipping in bags or bulk. It furnishes the raw material for the establishment in the land itself of a highly remunerative soda industry, capable of supplying the markets of the Near East with a variety of products. Caustic potash can be placed upon the market at about the cost of caustic soda and regain its old-time predominance in a variety of chemical reactions.

"Numerous other features carefully developed by the chemists who have been occupied with this problem for the past nine years, contribute to make the economic exploitation of the Dead Sea one of the most interesting and important chemical triumphs of our day.

face danger, in an effort to get at the truth.

"Among those who gave freely, and at great cost to themselves, three names stand out," the "World" writes. "They are William J. Thompson, Arthur D. Hill and Felix Frankfurter. They failed in their efforts to have the case retried, but they placed indelibly on the record the fact that there are men in Massachusetts now, as in the past, who are ready to uphold the rights of the humblest and the most despised. Those who are prepared to generalize glibly about the conservative classes in Boston and about Harvard might remember these three names. For they stand very high and very honorably in the roster of patriots."

"Palestine will not be alone in profiting from this sudden entry of the Dead Sea among the chemical assets of the world. The farmers of Great Britain, and of the Dominions as well as those of all other countries, will appreciate a cut in the cost of potash, that indispensable plant food, to at least one half of what they have hitherto paid.

"No one can blame the officials charged with the serious task of granting so important a franchise, as being unduly slow," Dr. Norton continued.

"The values involved are such that the responsibility of dealing with the problems of creating a vast modern industry in what is little more than a pastoral country must, of necessity, be entrusted to men fully competent to handle them, from every standpoint. They should be technically and temperamentally well equipped for a task of such magnitude, demanding an unusual range of experience and highly specialized knowledge.

"Fortunately for Palestine this type of chemist is well represented in the small group of applicants for the concession in question. It includes men who have devoted long years to the study of the chemistry of potash, who have mastered every detail in connection with the production of potash salts, their marketing and their applications, before specializing on the problem of the Dead Sea. They are intimately familiar with all the phases of the large scale production of the numerous compounds to be manufactured from such enormous quantities. Of international repute, highly trained in research, they command the confidence of banking houses and chemical companies to such a degree that the most ample financial support and the full cooperation of powerful industrial corporations are at their service. One of the group was a resident for several years in the Turkish Empire and is familiar with every detail of oriental life.

"A most interesting feature is the spirit in which these chemists enter friendly rivalry for the honor of creating the new industry. The dominant idea, the mainspring of the prolonged studies and experimentation of the past nine years has naturally been the ambition to achieve a notable success in creating a new industry and unlocking a marvelous storehouse of mineral wealth. It is, however, coupled with a resolute determination that Palestine, so rich in historical and spiritual associa-

tions, so destitute of actual wealth, shall be the chief beneficiary of the undertaking in view. They are ready to combine their efforts and pool their interests, unite individual effort and financial support, or enter into any arrangement deemed most desirable and effective for the purpose in view by the Colonial Office.

"Formal proposals include the transfer of the bulk of the surplus profits to the Government of Palestine, or the obligatory reinvestment of a portion in the Palestinian industrial, financial, commercial, transportation, and similar organizations thus retaining in the land itself the chief amount of the tribute paid by the rest of the world for the country's mineral treasure; the distribution of potash salts for fertilizer at cost prices to the farmers of Palestine and Transjordan; the gift of the entire plant for the recovery of the salts of the Dead Sea after a short period of years; to the Government of Palestine, the establishment of vocational schools to train natives for subordinate posts and eventually higher administrative and technical positions; the presence in the directorate of the proposed Corporation of one or more competent natives of Palestine representing ex officio its Government; a highly perfected welfare organization, dealing with the interests of workmen and their families; and similar features aiming at the closest cooperation with the mandatory administration in its efforts for the social and industrial uplift of Palestine.

"Probably no Government has ever been approached with more generous propositions in return for a franchise.

"Very complete preparations have been made for a prompt entrance upon active operations in case the concession is granted. Thus the staff of one applicant includes four prominent chemists of international reputation, all Fellows of the London Chemical Society, distinguished by the number and value of their original researches, and experienced specialists for all key positions are already chosen.

"The technical and financial support of a long established and powerful chemical manufacturing firm, with agencies throughout the world is a most valuable feature.

"In numberless ways ample provision has been made to solve all the problems incident to the creation of a great industry as far as is feasible before the actual terms of a concession are defined and formulated.

"The generous offers extended to the Colonial Office are thoroughly

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justified. In their blue book 1925 the Crown Agents for the Colonies cautiously characterize the proposition as "an enterprise which in any case must be speculative." The preliminary studies and experiments of those applying for the franchise show conclusively that the term "speculative" must disappear.

"The actual problem will be: How far below the minimum cost of production of potash salts in Alsace, Germany, Poland, Russia and Spain, shall the price of Palestinian potassium chloride be fixed to meet the demands of agriculture throughout the world? It is not to be forgotten that Palestine is the ward of the League of Nations.

"Few realize the amounts of potential values of the contents of the Dead Sea. Based upon current quotation they are: Potash 1,300,000,000 tons, \$70,000,000,000; Bromine 853,000,000 tons. \$260,000,000,000; Salt, 11,900,000,000 tons, \$27,000,000,000; Gypsum 81,000,000 tons \$120,000,000; Calcium Chloride 6,000,000,000 tons \$85,000,000,000; Magnesium Chloride 22,000,000 tons \$825,000,000,000—a total value of \$1,267,000,000,000. Of this, the gypsum is purely of local interest and the calcium chloride for the time being is without value.

"This latest effort of technical and scientific efficiency may place the historic land at an early date among the powerful industrial factors of our age," Dr. Norton concludes.

Rabbi W. Shapiro, Brooklyn, New York, was one of the principal speakers at the dedication of the new \$50,000 Adath Jeshurun Synagogue at Newport News, Virginia. Rabbi Harry Cohen of Rodef Sholem Temple of Newport News was also a speaker at the services.

Illuminated by an electric light, the Ten Commandments are inscribed in glass above the Ark containing the Holy Scroll in the new Synagogue.

Mrs. Harry H. Yawger, prominent in Hartford, Conn. Jewish circles was awarded first prize in the exhibit for women staged at the annual meeting of the American Numismatic Association. The prize, a silver loving cup, was donated by R. F. Dunham, coin expert of Chicago, and awarded to Mrs. Yawger for her display of a note containing Lincoln's signature.

Because of poor health, Nathan Straus, whose efforts to supply pure milk to the poor have resulted in the saving of many lives, has declined to join on the proposed Milk Commission.

Creation of the commission was suggested by Acting Mayor McKee to eliminate graft in milk distribution and protect the purity of the city's supply.

REFORM RABBIS HOLD SERVICES AT SUMMER RESORTS

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Rabbi Jacob S. Raisin recently officiated at services in Saranac. He reports an attendance of over 100 people, and announces that regular Sabbath services were held throughout the season at this resort. Under his direction a school for children was organized. Services were held regularly at Kaaterskill, New York, and presided over by Rabbi Jacob B. Pollak, Rabbi Bernard J. Bamberger, and Rabbi Bernard Heller of Scranton. M. Freundlich, a frequent visitor acted as chairman of the congregation in that community. Rabbi Harry Ettelson, of Memphis, Tenn., reports the holding of special religious services at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago. Services were held regularly at Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, which were arranged for by Rabbi David S. Nathan. Among those who officiated at the services were Frederick Doppelt and David L. Feinberg, students at the Hebrew Union College. Services were also held at Sacandaga Park, Richfield Springs, Brown's Lake, Wis., and Catskills, N. Y. Rabbi Sidney Regner also officiated at services at summer resorts.

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