

## BASLE, AGAIN THE SCENE OF ZIONIST CONGRESS, ACCENTUATES CONTRAST

Opens in Solemn Mood; Americans  
Resent Curtailing of Delegation  
(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Basle, August 31. — Grey haired men, veterans of the Zionist movement, occupied the platform in the Messe Hall at the first session of the Fifteenth Zionist Congress which was opened here yesterday. The majority of these men were participants in the first congress held in this city on August 30, 1897; others who joined later, have spent a lifetime in advocating Zionism among the Jewish masses. Among the members of the Actions Committee one could see only a few younger men.

The Great Messe Hall, brilliantly lighted and beautifully decorated with the blue and white Zionist flag and the picture of the founder of the movement, Dr. Theodor Herzl, on the platform against a background of a blue sky, was a marked contrast to the modest Casino Hall where modern political Zionism was born. The presence of representatives of the League of Nations, the British government and many members of the diplomatic corps impressed the 270 delegates with the political progress which culminated in international recognition achieved by the movement since its inception.

Participants of the first Zionist Congress who remembered the limitless enthusiasm and youthful visions which animated the first assembly, commented upon the solemn earnestness which characterized the opening session of the Fifteenth Congress. Instead of fiery visionaries, the average delegate gave the impression of an experienced, somewhat disappointed Zionist worker. There were no stormy ovations at the session. The crisis in Palestine hovered over the brilliantly lighted hall.

Weizmann, the man who is largely responsible for the brilliant successes

(Continued on page 4)

## WEIZMANN DEMANDS CONSTRUCTIVE PROGRAM FOR FURTHER PALESTINE WORK

Zionism's Progress Has Changed World's Attitude to Jewish Problem, He Says; Palestine Interest Inherent in All Elements of Jewry; Warns Against Depression; Asks for Means to Remove Acute Need  
(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Basle, Aug. 31.—Warning against both over and under estimation of Zionist achievements in Palestine in the effort to create a Jewish National Home there in accordance with the provisions of the Mandate of the League of Nations, Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the World Zionist Organization, in his address opening the Fifteenth Zionist Congress here yesterday, urged the Zionist legislative body to pave the way for further efforts of Jews throughout the world to bring the ideal of Zionism nearer realization.

The Zionist Congress which meets every two years to formulate the plans of Zionist activity in Palestine, deciding on the scope and character of the agricultural and urban settlements, as well as on the enterprises created by the Organization with a view to promoting the development of the Jewish National Home, was admonished by the President to tell

### SECOND CONGRESS SESSION LISTENS TO POLITICAL REPORT OF DR. CHAIM WEIZMANN

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Basle, Aug. 31.—The second session of the Zionist Congress was opened here this morning under the chairmanship of Dr. Leo Motzkin.

Following the report of Dr. Grone-mann on behalf of the Congress Court on the credentials of the delegates, Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the World Zionist Organization, took the floor to submit his report on the political work of the Zionist Executive.

In his statement Dr. Weizmann declared that no unexpected developments are to be awaited in the political situation of the Zionist movement. It is a slow but steady march ahead. He also reviewed the negotiations leading to the agreement between him and Mr. Marshall on the formation of the Jewish Agency and stated that while the agreement was adopted in principle, the organization of the Agency must await the report of the experts commission which will be ready in March. Mr. Sokolow, who followed Dr. Weizmann, completed the report of the Executive by giving additional details of both the political and organizational activities.

the Jewish people in and outside of Palestine that it has "learned the lesson" from the experiences in Palestine which resulted in the recent set-backs. These set-backs, however, are nothing but temporary obstacles which, the Zionist leader urged, must be overcome.

The President of the World Zionist Organization in his address to the 270 delegates assembled in Messe Hall, drew a picture of Jewish life as it presented itself thirty years ago before the inception of the Zionist movement and asserted that the progress of Zionism and the work undertaken in Palestine have materially changed the world's attitude toward the Jewish problem. "Zionism," he stated, "though essentially a national movement has not the characteristics of an aggressive nationalism, but is rather a profession of a faith which has its root in the ancient Hebrew culture and is in substance an idealistic spiritual power. In the efforts of Zionists to make this power a reality in Palestine, it is their sincerest desire, as experience has shown, to live in peace and friendship with their Arab neighbors in Palestine," he stated.

In the course of his address Dr. Weizmann urged the delegates not to limit the activities of the Congress to a celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Zionist movement, but to devote their attention to the acute problems, particularly the problem of unemployment, and the formulation of plans for a further extended continuation of the reconstruction work.

"Time and place," Dr. Weizmann began, "link this gathering in a symbolic manner with the beginning of the Zionist movement. Three decades ago a new epoch in the history of the Jewish people was begun here. It was here that a borderline for the centuries-old Jewish Diaspora was drawn. Basle was inscribed in our modern history by the first Zionist Congress, where the Basle program was adopted, with which the Balfour Declaration is undeniably connected both in name and in content.

"We have gathered here again in  
(Continued on page 3)

## VILNA SUFFERS FROM FLOOD; JEWISH QUARTER DAMAGED

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Vilna, Aug. 31.—The dams on the River Wiljia broke last night, causing a flood in the outskirts of Vilna, mainly populated by Jews.

Many houses were flooded and much damage caused. No lives were lost.

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## RUSSIAN JEWISH COLONISTS NOT HAMPERED IN RELIGION, JAMES BECKER, BACK, STATES

The Soviet government has issued instructions to the local authorities in the regions where Jewish colonies are located that colonists should not be interfered with if they desire to erect synagogues, declared James H. Becker of Chicago, who returned yesterday on the steamer Paris from an extended visit to Russia. Mr. Becker accompanied Felix M. Warburg, chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, on his visit to the Jewish colonies in Russia.

"The Jewish colonization work in Russia surpassed all my expectations. I have always followed with great interest the opinions expressed by those who returned from Russia concerning the success of the Jewish colonization work there. These opinions, however, are weak in comparison with the enthusiastic inspiration one obtains when visiting the colonies.

"The Jewish colonists are not peasants. There is a strong cultural and spiritual life in the colonies and those of them who want to engage in religious activities and find no obstacles," he stated. Mr. Becker praised the leadership of Dr. Joseph A. Rosen, to whom the success of the colonies is due, he stated.

When asked for his impressions of Palestine which he also visited recently, Mr. Becker stated that no comparison between the Jewish colonization work in Russia and Palestine should be made. "Both are worthy of full support. The colonies in Palestine are the most successful enterprises that I saw in the country. Their flourishing condition is due no doubt to the great idealism and devotion of the settlers."

## SOKOLOV URGES UNITY OF JEWISH PEOPLE FOR BUILDING NATIONAL HOME

Reviews History of Zionism for Past 30 Years; Zionism Substituted Jewish Complaints by Demand for Rights, He Says, Recalling Early Battles with Anti-Zionists; Land of Promise Now Land of Realization  
 (Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Basle, August 31.—The history of the Zionist movement, aiming at the establishment of the Jewish National Home, which started at Basle August 30, 1897, was reviewed in the opening address of Nahum Sokolow, well-known Hebrew writer, one of the leaders of the Zionist movement, and Chairman of the World Zionist Executive.

From the humble beginning of a gathering of Jewish intellectuals and dreamers, who gave political expression to the age-old Jewish dream of the "return to Zion," in accordance with Biblical predictions, Zionism, during this period, gained international sanction through the issuance of the Balfour Declaration, the acceptance by Great Britain from the League of Nations of the Mandate for Palestine and the beginning of agricultural and urban colonization which resulted in an increase in the Jewish population of Palestine by 100,000 since the close of the war.

In reviewing the history and depicting the present difficulties due to the economic crisis in Palestine, Mr. Sokolow urged an all-Jewish unity for the accomplishment of the goal set in the so-called Basle program in 1897.

"A great section of our history looks upon us assembled here in this town which witnessed the beginning of our movement and gave life to a force that has awakened the slumbering forces of our people. Modern Zionism bears the indelible impress of the Basle program," he stated. "After 2,000 years of silence the Jewish people who suffered like none other, spoke again to the world's public opinion through the medium of the Zionist movement. It has not complained, as before, but has solemnly proclaimed its right to Israel's land. Dr. Theodore Herzl lifted the veil of the future and raised the torch of the Prophet. Zionism was a return to Jewish idealism," Mr. Sokolow stated.

Recalling the early skirmishes between the Zionists and the anti-Zionists within the Jewish community, Mr. Sokolow stated that the Zionist movement was a challenge to the doctrine

of assimilation.

"Our fight against assimilation began here. Dr. Max Nordau, the late philosopher and writer, one of the greatest spirits in modern Jewish life, began this war here. At that time the assimilation doctrine was dominant in the Jewish communities. Its policy was to disguise, to pursue a policy of cowardly retreat, silence and mimicry. Nordau swung his lightning scourge against assimilation from the platform erected by the Zionist movement in this city.

"The thirty years which have elapsed since, are divided into three periods: a Herzl period, a Wolfson-Warburg period and the present period. In Herzl's time Zionism passed through its creative stages. In the second period the organization which evolved at the first Zionist Congress consolidated its forces and prepared for the future. In the third, the present period, international recognition for Zionism and the beginning of the realization of the idea of a Jewish national home was obtained under the British Mandate and the protection of the League of Nations and the International treaties. Thus the land of promise has become the Land of Realization," Mr. Sokolow stated.

Speaking of the present difficulties encountered by Zionists in Palestine, Mr. Sokolow stated:

"Two difficult years are behind us. Palestine suffers need. Thousands of workers are unemployed and are exposed to starvation. The Zionist World Organization has made superhuman efforts to ameliorate the situation. The question now arises; What shall this Congress do? It must create a new force which must continue to build Palestine until it becomes a great, real Jewish national home. We Zionists are ready to bring any sacrifice and to make every effort towards that goal. In this spirit the various parties and tendencies within the Zionist movement and within the entire Jewish people must be united. Our unbending determination will secure the victory of our cause. May God grant it," Mr. Sokolow stated.

## Z. O. EXECUTIVE APPOINTS ZIONIST LOAN COMMITTEE (Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Basle, Aug. 31.—A special committee to inquire into the possibilities of securing an internal and external loan for the Zionist Organization to carry

The Jews in Palestine place great hopes in the experts commission of the Jewish Agency, which was received there enthusiastically," he stated.

## WEIZMANN DEMANDS CONSTRUCTIVE PROGRAM FOR FURTHER PALESTINE WORK

(Continued from page 1)

the shadow of that genius, Dr. Theodor Herzl, who created the Zionist Congress and we propose to dedicate our deliberations to his memory, which is enshrined in the precious reminiscences of an already legendary tradition.

"Our movement was created by a minority of the Jewish people, a minority which had little, if any, experience in political life and in colonizing effort. This small beginning has already to its credit a two-fold achievement. First, it is responsible for creating within Jewry a crystallized Jewish communal life, and, second, in normalizing the attitude of the world toward the Jewish question.

"The Jews who have settled in Palestine have demonstrated their natural creative abilities. This has led to a total change in the aspect of the Jewish problem, for the world was thus given an opportunity of seeing the Jewish people in a different light than that in which it had been seen before. Zionism was responsible for stimulating those creative abilities which were demonstrated in Palestine," Dr. Weizmann said.

"Fractions of the Jewish people were brought to the Land of Israel, where they are being fused together into an economic and cultural entity. Notwithstanding all the difficulties, all real experts appreciate the achievements of the Jewish settlers as contributions of great value.

"The Jewish problem to-day is no longer the same as it was before the Zionist Congress in Basle on August 30, 1897. The Jewish problem to-day is no longer the painful puzzle which has no solution. The world to-day understands this problem and it knows that it can and must find its natural solution. In the process of the development of the Zionist movement, the will for action has been awakened in the Jewish communities and their political life has ripened. The external stages for this development are: the issuance of the Balfour Declaration, the San Remo decision, the confirmation of the Mandate for Palestine by the League of Nations, and the creation of stable

on its Palestine work was appointed by the Executive, it was learned to-day.

The committee was charged with considering the various proposals which were under discussion in recent months. It was stated that the committee will submit its report to the Congress.

political conditions concerning Palestine.

"The Jewish people have welcomed with joy and confidence the acceptance of the Mandate by Great Britain. Our creative work in Palestine has brought Zionists in closer relations with the mandatory power. With the continuous progress of the work, this understanding has grown stronger and deeper in public opinion in England and other countries. Important positions in public opinion have been won.

"The Palestine mandate, when considered politically, has not given us all we desire and which we are entitled to expect. However, the door was opened for unhampered activity and the way was paved for a growing development of our life. We have be-

### BASLE CONGRESS CALLED 'ELDERS OF ZION' MEETING

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Basle, Aug. 31.—"The Traitors' Congress in Basle—Basle 1897, Basle 1927" is the headline of an article by the National Socialist writer, Alfred Rosenberg, appearing in the "Voelkischer Beobachter," the organ of the Hitlerist Party.

"The Fifteenth Zionist Congress at Basle," the article says "is a Congress of the Elders of Zion." The writer then quotes long passages from the "Protocols" to support his contention.

come in the full sense the masters of our own fate, politically and socially. We have reaped what we have sown," Dr. Weizmann said.

"These external results were accompanied by the internal revolution which Zionism has called forth within the Jewish people. The great new opportunity has encouraged a people which has been downtrodden and enslaved for centuries to regain its lost national dignity. The sense of life and the purpose for suffering were again revealed to us. This great transformation was the result of limitless devotion and the unceasing labors carried on modestly by the servants of our ideal. Zionism has brought about a transformation not only in the Zionist but it also gave a new value to Judaism.

"Only thirty years have elapsed since the inception of our movement, a period which is small for an ancient people, but to-day we stand in the midst of the building of the Jewish National Home, which was outlined in the Basle program.

"A fantastic dream has been transformed into a historic reality," he declared.

"Interest in Palestine is inherent in all loyal elements of the Jewish people, although this interest assumes varying forms and appears under manifold names," Dr. Weizmann continued. "The idea of the Jewish National Home generated a power of attraction which unites on a high plane the diversified elements of Jewry. The more conscious the will for the reconstruction of Palestine becomes, the more this will comes to expression, the stronger is the power of attraction exercised by the living Jewish Palestine. Our reconstruction work goes through all the ups and downs of a steady development. We ourselves are not satisfied with all of our work, just as we are not fully satisfied with the pace of our progress, driven as we are by the gruesome knowledge of the critical situation of the hundreds of thousands of our brethren who cannot find a place under the sun. However, the disproportion between the will and the accomplishment, the desire and the consummation, should not lead us to an under-estimation of the work accomplished thus far.

"What Zionism has accomplished during the thirty years of its existence stands alone in the history of the Jewish people. Temporary setbacks are unavoidable, but these should never destroy our equilibrium. Just as it is unwise to underestimate the present crisis in Palestine, it is dangerous to exaggerate it. The foundations of our reconstruction work are strong and sound enough to withstand the crisis. We should not, however, overlook the fact that the last experiences have taught us much. The Basle Congress should tell the Jewish people in and outside of Palestine that it has learned the lesson," Dr. Weizmann stated.

"Thirty years ago we proclaimed here the return to the old home. To this message of peace, we have remained true. Our nationalism is a profession based on the spiritual and cultural roots of our existence, just as the effects of our national movement involves no aggressive action toward other peoples, but indeed is an expression of an urge for the reconstruction of our homeland. Just the last years of our reconstruction work in Palestine have strengthened in us the conviction that not only Jews, but all the inhabitants of Palestine benefit by our work. The everyday life in Palestine has proven the sincerity of our intention for cooperation, peace and friendship with our Arab neighbors.

(Continued on page 4)

## DR. WEIZMANN DEMANDS CONSTRUCTIVE PROGRAM

(Continued from page 2)

"The sympathies of all Zionists and of all Jews were directed during the recent earthquake in Palestine to the land and to the unfortunate victims. Then we fully felt the significance of living together in one country. The spontaneous reaction of the Jewish people to the earthquake proved that we fully realize the importance of our fellow-citizens. At that moment the two peoples came closer together, above politics and above programs, in the feeling of common humanity. Our deepest sympathy should be expressed here for the victims of the earthquake in Palestine," he said.

Touching upon the present situation in Palestine, Dr. Weizmann, in the concluding part of his address stated:

"In the present moment of difficult and worrisome work, our thoughts are directed toward those pioneer workers who are the vanguard of our movement in carrying on the trying work in the country. Many of our brethren in Palestine are exposed to-day to a life of inactivity. Although it is our opinion that this inactivity is merely a temporary state and although it is true that individual Zionist enterprises have already developed satisfactorily, justifying our hopes, it would be unpardonable to permit the present situation to be prolonged further. The Zionist Organization must do everything within its power to revive the productivity of Palestine. This is primarily a question pertaining to the middle class immigration, inasmuch as the forces of labor are there and what is lacking is the correct proportion between capital and labor.

"The Basle Congress should not disband before ways and means are found to ease the situation of the unemployed in Palestine. The Congress should not limit itself to issuing a message of gratitude and inspiration on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary, but should primarily evolve a plan of how to remove the acute need, to strengthen the works already begun.

"Thirty years ago we proclaimed a great ideal here. We have made an important stride forward on the way of realization. To-day, the moral, liberating and transforming effect of the Zionist and Palestine work is great. A handful of enthusiasts who were ridiculed by others thirty years ago have become the bearers of a great responsibility.

"This Fifteenth Zionist Congress must prove equal to the responsibility resting upon it." Dr. Weizmann declared in concluding his address.

## BASLE AGAIN THE SCENE OF ZIONIST CONGRESS

(Continued from page 1)

of the movement since the close of the World War, appeared tired and the main point of his presidential message was the Palestine crisis and the necessity for new means. He even admitted in a reflective mood that "the Palestine mandate when considered politically has not given us all that we desire and which we are entitled to expect." He added immediately however, that an immense piece of work has been accomplished and must be continued.

Nahum Sokolow's address in Hebrew was a historic review teeming with pearls of Hebraic wisdom and aphorisms.

The Congress Hall was dominated by the American delegation, the Mizrahi representatives and the labor groups. The Zionist Revisionists and the Radical Zionists refrained from participating in the ovation for the leaders as they arrived in the hall.

Among the American delegates dissatisfaction was vibrant at the announcement of the Congress court limiting the membership of the American delegation to forty on the protest of the opposition leaders. This was particularly resented because the announcement was made before the formal opening of the Congress.

Following Sokolow's address, Dr. Weizmann welcomed the diplomatic guests and particularly Lady Samuel and Miss Dogdayle, a niece of Lord Balfour.

Dr. Weng, representative of the government of the Basle canton, welcomed the Congress on behalf of the Swiss government. He expressed his admiration for the progress made by the Zionist movement since the time of Herzl. Mr. Berner, representative of the British legation, offering the apologies of the British Ambassador at his inability to attend the first session, welcomed the conference in behalf of the British government, stating that it follows with close interest the building of the Jewish National Home.

A message of welcome was read from the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

Mr. Dreyfus-Brodsky, president of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Switzerland, welcomed the Congress on behalf of his organization. Rabbi Weil extended a welcome in behalf of the Federation of Swiss Zionists.

The latter part of the session was devoted to eulogies on Achad Ha'am by Nahum Sokolow and Dr. Martin Baber. Mr. Sokolow, who spoke in Hebrew, concluded his tribute exclaiming: "Asher Ginsburg died, but Achad Ha'am lives!"

## JEWISH LAWYER PROPOSED LINCOLN FOR PRESIDENT

A Jewish lawyer first proposed Lincoln for the presidency, according to documents which are reproduced in "Abraham Lincoln: The Tribute of the Synagogue" addresses edited by Emanuel Hertz and published by the Bloch Publishing Company.

This man was Abraham Jonas of Quincy, Illinois, an intimate friend of Lincoln. His suggestion that Lincoln was the logical presidential candidate during the troubled days of pro-and anti-slavery, occurred during an interview in 1838 between Horace Greeley and prominent political leaders of Illinois.

New light on Lincoln's diverse and numerous contacts with Jews of this country and his devotion to the Old Testament, is given in this book. The introduction to the book is written by Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler.

Temple Emanu-El, at Fifth avenue and Forty-third street, to-day is being demolished. A new temple and twelve-story community house annex is being erected a few blocks further up the avenue on the former Astor site at Sixty-sixth street.

Plans for a new synagogue and school building for Temple Beth-El, Utica, N. Y. will be carried out immediately after the holidays. A site was recently procured for this purpose.

## THE NEW PALESTINE

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