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ARAB WITNESS ADMITS JEWS TOOK MALARIA AND SWAMP LANDS AND MADE THEM LIVABLE BUT SAYS THEY GOBBLE UP BEST LANDS ON COASTAL PLAIN

Government Agricultural Inspector Testifies Jews Own 25,000 Acres of Lands Most Important to Future of Palestine

By GERSHON AGRONSKY

(Staff Correspondent. Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Jerusalem, Dec. 7.—Agreeing that the Jewish settlers take malaria infested swamps, drain them and make them fertile and livable, Mohammed Ragheb, an inspector in the government department of agriculture, a Moslem, and said to have some agricultural experience in Egypt, Austria and Roumania, in his testimony for the Arab side at yesterday's session of the Commission of Inquiry, charged that not only were the Jews gobbling up the lands most suitable for orange cultivation, but that of the nearly 60,000 acres that can be used for this purpose along the coastal plain from Gaza to Haifa, the Jews have recently acquired about 25,000 acres.

From the figures presented by the witness, Auni Abdul Hadi, of the Arab council, moralized in an attempt to prove the well-known complaint against the Jews that they were gradually penetrating the best lands and displacing the Arabs. Ragheb's evidence was similar to that of other Arab witnesses, only he stressed the coastal plain.

Says Jews Forcing Arabs Out

Ragheb explained that Palestine's future from an agricultural point of view depends on the coastal plain which, he said, was passing into the possession of the Jews who are already cultivating 40 percent of the land for citrus growing, and the Arabs are cultivating the remaining 60 percent.

From this evidence, Commissioner Snell deduced that the Arab grievance was that the Jews cultivated citrus fruits where the Arabs formerly grew melons, but the Arab counsel insisted that large Jewish companies, including one backed by Lord Melchett, were buying up large stretches from "small owners." The Commission got from the witness an admission that the so-called small-land holders owned from 300 to 5,000 dunams of land each. He also admitted that the Wadi Hawareth had, which the Jewish National Fund had bought for a million dollars raised by Canadian Zionists, had belonged to two families, both of them absentee landlords living in Beirut and Jaffa.

The witness declared that "Arab ploughmen were obliged to move on to other villages or towns when the Jews bought lands from the Arabs because the new Jewish colonies did not employ Arabs. The fact that the Wadi Hawareth land belonged to a family

named Taman came as a distinct surprise to the Commissioners who had been under the impression that it was the property of a number of small owners.

Jewish Land Purchases

Ragheb lumped the orange lands in the 40-year old colony of Hederah together with newly acquired Jewish land to produce the effect that the Jews had purchased from six to eight thousands of acres suitable for orange growing in the Haifa district from small owners, but he admitted that some of it had been bought from large owners.

Auni, the Arab counsel, caused laughter at the session, by asking the witness if the Jews, whom he claimed already possessed 40,000 dunams in Haifa and Tulkarem districts, which is three-quarters of the total available for citrus cultivation, had not bought half again as much. At this Chairman Shaw smilingly remarked "what would be left to the Arabs." Ragheb agreed that the Arabs had been most active in the last five or six years in orange cultivation but he mentioned nothing about Jewish influence.

Eight Arab witnesses who preceded Ragheb were quickly disposed of with Maughanem, Arab counsel examining, and Viscount Erleigh, Jewish counsel cross-examining. A resident of Lifta testified that he had been wounded by Jews on Saturday, August 17, near the football field, where Mizrahi had been

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ASKS WHY CONGRESS OF STUDENTS WAS AIDED BY ROUMANIA

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Bucharest, Dec. 7.—The support given by the Roumanian government to the Students' Congress which recently ended its sessions at Chajova was the subject of an interpellation addressed today by Deputy Landau of Kishineff in Parliament. Interrupted by shouts from members of the majority parties, he asked the government why it had granted subsidies and extended its greetings to the Congress despite its anti-Jewish and anti-minorities characteristics. M. Costachesku, Minister of Education, replied that the government's support was necessary in order to impress upon the students the need for maintaining order.

GRUENBAUM CITES STATUS OF POLISH JEWS DURING SEJMS' BUDGET DEBATE

Jewish Deputy Denies that Governmental Anti-Semitism Has Been Wiped Out

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Warsaw, Dec. 7.—The extremely difficult situation of the Jewish population of Poland was reviewed yesterday by Deputy Isaac Gruenbaum during the debate on the budget in the Polish Sejm.

The Jewish deputy, in an impressive speech, laid particular stress on the fact that the Jewish population is being ruined by tremendous taxation. He cited facts to prove that many Jews have been taxed out of business by the State. He also dwelt on the many restrictions imposed upon Jews in various ways. Deputy Gruenbaum refuted the statement which was recently made abroad that government anti-Semitism has disappeared by calling attention to the fact that Jews are still not admitted to state office.

As an example, he mentioned the fact that when M. Adelsberg, the reporter for Jewish questions in the Ministry for Religious Affairs, resigned, he was replaced by a Catholic.

In the course of his speech, Deputy Gruenbaum criticized the opportunist policy of the orthodox Jews and concluded with an announcement that the Jewish Sejm Club would without reservation fight with the Left parties for the protection of democracy and order.

AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR PROMISES TO SPEED UP KEHILLAH'S SUBSIDIES

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Vienna, Dec. 7.—Chancellor, Shober received today the president of the Kehillah. The Chancellor promised the delegation that he would take steps to speed up the granting of the State subsidies for the requirements of the Kehillah. He indicated that he would eventually provide for an advance to be paid to the Kehillah in case a Parliamentary delay should occur.

Vienna Jewish Citizen Awarded Medal by Austrian Republic

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Vienna, Dec. 7.—A. H. Herrmann has been awarded the gold medal of the Austrian Republic for the promotion of Austrian industrial interests in the United States. The Jewish community of Vienna has congratulated Herr Herrmann on the honor that has come to him.

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SWISS REPRESENTATIVE OF JEWISH NATIONAL FUND IN CANADA FOR VISIT

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Montreal, Dec. 7.—Dr. B. Weinert, of Switzerland, well-known representative of the Jewish National Fund in Europe, is at present visiting Canada, where he intends spending several months, for the purpose of strengthening the work of the Jewish National Fund in this Dominion.

Dr. Weinert is well known in Jewish circles throughout Europe, as one of the leaders of Swiss Zionists. He has played an important role in the organization of the Zionist movement among students in Switzerland, during the war, being one of the first students to obtain his degree of doctor of philosophy, at the University of Zurich, by choosing as the topic of his thesis, "The Political Zionism from 1898-1904."

Since his student days, Dr. Weinert has been actively connected with this movement, doing work for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in Europe, the Jewish Colonial Trust and especially the Jewish National Fund. This is the first time that Dr. Weinert has come to this continent. Arrangements have been made to have him visit the capital cities of the Dominion.

Economic Conditions in Warsaw Impel Trio of Jews to Kill Selves

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Warsaw, Dec. 7.—The extremely difficult economic conditions that face the Jews here resulted in three fatal suicides today. Salke Benesz, aged 39, an unemployed painter, jumped from the fourth story of his apartment. He is survived by a wife and five children.

Chaim Greenberg, 42, a manufacturer of beds, hanged himself in his factory because he faced bankruptcy. Joseph Ritz, 35, a paper-box worker, died after a leap from the third-story window of his flat from which he had just been ejected.

Says Limit Jewish Palestine Influx to Half of Population, to Calm Arab Fears of Encroachment

The fixing of a final limit of Jewish immigration into Palestine at some-what less than half of the total population as the basis of eliminating the fear "which haunts the Arab mind today that he is destined to be overwhelmed by alien thousands" is suggested by Henry Noel Brailsford, an eminent British Socialist, in an article on "Great Britain and the Palestinian Mandate" in the December issue of the "Menorah Journal."

Mr. Brailsford believes that this limit should be not less than 33 per cent and not more than 45." Within these limits "little or anything would be sacrificed, for the chances of exceeding such a figure during the probable duration of the Mandate are remote. Within these modest limits, the atmosphere of a cultural focus would be created. Jewish thought would have its own home, and a compact population would be living under natural conditions . . . under a stable treaty of friendship and Jewish ability and wealth would command an influence, even in politics, out of all proportion to the number of Jews."

Arabs in Overwhelming Majority

After a brief discussion about an admission of British responsibility for the recent events in Palestine Mr. Brailsford speaking of the Arab claims says "when (British Labor) looks at Palestine it sees a nearly homogeneous Arab population which even today forms an overwhelming majority. It has settled in Palestine for almost as many centuries as our Germanic ancestors have held England. One can not doubt that it is bitterly and generally opposed to any verifiable immigration of Jews. Can one refuse it the right of self-determination? One may deplore its fanaticisms; one may regret it is blind to the economic and cultural gains which Zionism has brought it already and promises in much richer measure for the future. This, if the appeal to right be considered, are irrelevant considerations. One might reason with the Arabs; one might insist that some time be allowed for a fair trial of this experiment, but if in the end they cannot overcome their prejudices, then it is they and not we who must decide what is best for them."

Mr. Brailsford then goes into a discussion about the moral right of the Jews to the country. "In right, and in morals the Jewish ambition is capable of good defense . . . if we believe in any system of rights at all, an organized humanity must preserve to itself the power to override the particular race or tribe in the interest of the great society of mankind. . . . The League sees in Palestine a territory negligently cultivated and sparsely inhabited, in the hands of a race which if left to itself gives little promise of progress. Has it not the right to say: 'Make room. There is place in your territory for others, who will reclaim its deserts and restore its civilization.

You shall not obstruct their coming, but neither shall you suffer in any of your civil rights.' The true basis . . . for the Jewish claim in Palestine calls for a builder, that the Jews lack a home, and that here is the site of which they and they alone are ready to lavish their wealth, their science and their devotion. The Arab race has lost the development of its nationality and culture the whole of North Africa, Syria, Iraq and Arabia. Palestine it is reckoned is only one percent of its estate."

Time Limit for British

Then he goes on to say that England has undertaken to support this Jewish claim but while there is no chance of Britain giving the mandate in the near future a reasonable time limit or say, seven years must be placed upon her responsibility. He points out that at the present rate of immigration the date of the Jews obtaining a majority population is infinitely distant. "It is not a small achievement that the Jews form 18% of the population. But when one analyzes the figures of immigration it is not easy to feel sanguine about the attainment of a majority within any period which even a patient man might be willing to accept. . . . about one hundred and sixty years must elapse before the Jews whose natural increase is slightly less than the natives could outnumber the Arabs."

He then asks should England undertake to control the land for a century and a half and is it legally and morally justified in doing so. He answers it by saying "we have done it in India. . . . You shall not do it much longer. . . . One must coldly face the fact that . . . as immense change has come about in the attitude of the whole nation towards territorial expansion overseas. . . . There have always been strategical thinkers who wished to hold Palestine as we hold Cyprus, as a guarantee for the security of the Suez Canal . . . but realists of this school would be content to hold Palestine without the Jews. They would achieve their strategical ends by concluding a treaty of Alliance with an autonomous Arab Palestine, and save their faces by obtaining on paper guarantees for the toleration of some severely limited Jewish settlements. They might provide for some such guardianship by the League of the rights of the Jewish minority as it exercises today in Roumania and Poland . . . as solution on these lines would be in conformity with the whole trend of the development of British Imperialism since the War."

Mr. Brailsford concludes by remarking that since the changing attitude toward imperialism must influence the national view of the Palestinian mandate and since the possibility of a Jewish majority, the one real solution is so remote . . . he feels that the fixing of a final limit for Jewish immigration would considerably improve Arab-Jewish relations.

Oppose Palestine Government's Attempt to Control News Sources To and From That Country

The American Jewish press continues to voice its opposition to the attempts of the Palestine government to get control of the news sources to and from Palestine. The most recent comments on the cancellation of the Chicago "Jewish Telegraphic Agency" in that country by the Palestine government, has come from the Philadelphia "Jewish World," Canadian "Jewish Eagle," and the Toledo "Israelite."

Speaking of the suppression of the P. T. A. service, the Toledo "Israelite" says:

"We hear with surprise and regret that the Palestinian government has cancelled the concession of the P. T. A. news service for Palestine and will take over that service itself."

"We cannot understand this action on the part of the government. The P. T. A., as part of the J. T. A., has done such excellent work in keeping the world informed about the happenings in Palestine that it has received praise from both the American and the European press."

"We have been informed on everything that was taking place in Palestine. The whole news has come to us, unbiased, unprejudiced."

The Philadelphia "Jewish World" says:

"Among the many unfriendly, if not hostile actions of the Luke administration against Jewish interests in Palestine, there should be put on record the action against the Jewish Telegraphic Agency."

The Palestine Telegraphic Agency, most likely committed a wrong, in the eyes of Luke, by distributing news that does not appeal to him; especially the reports about the tragic events in Palestine and the behavior of certain officers in the Luke administration, and about him personally.

"Not only did he do that, but his administration sought to exert its influence on the London 'Times,' to get it to discharge Gershon Agronsky from his position as correspondent because Agronsky is the representative of the J. T. A. in Palestine."

"Such an action must call forth the sharpest protest from all right-minded people. That amounts to forbidding the truth about the events in Palestine should be reported to the outside world. There are not sufficient words to condemn such an action. This should not be allowed!"

The Chicago "Sentinel" writes:

"At the sessions of the Inquiry Commission appointed by the Colonial Office to probe the origin of the outbreaks in Palestine, Sir Boyd Merriam, counsel for the Jewish Agency, has been endeavoring to show that the British administration in Palestine has been favoring the Arabs in many respects. The administration is naturally not inclined to admit that such a policy has ever existed in Palestine, and it has even appointed counsel to

defend its tactics. However, what shall one say after learning that the Palestine administration is even now stifling the freedom of the press? Thus it has come to light that the Palestine administration has made a strong attempt to exert pressure on the London 'Times' to cancel its contract with Gershon Agronsky as its correspondent in Palestine."

Cancelled Concession to J. T. A.

"But the Palestine administration has not stopped here. It has also cancelled a concession which it has made in good faith to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency to waive the terminal charge of cables which this organization receives in Palestine from the Reuter press service in return for furnishing news from the Middle East to this organization. The Palestine government plainly says that it alone wishes to handle news from the Holy Land. We can designate such a policy only as autocratic and reminiscent of the Czaristic regime. . . . The careful observer cannot but feel that the officials at Government House in Jerusalem have tried to hide. If these gentlemen think that such tactics are conducive to increase the prestige of Great Britain in civilized countries, they are greatly mistaken."

The Canadian "Eagle," speaking about "A Censor on the J. T. A.," says:

"The government of Palestine decided to show a certain amount of strength in dealing with the situation in the country. But that strength is so far shown not in severe measures to stop the terror of Arabian hooliganism, but in something else. It is expressed in its desire to take under control public opinion and to introduce a censorship."

"That censor, it appears, is to a very great extent used against the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, which is the only agent distributing Jewish news over the whole world."

Motives Unjustifiable

"One can understand the motives of the official authorities. They do not want the Jewish world, and through it, public opinion, to learn about the true situation in Palestine through purely Jewish sources, because that may place the situation in its natural light. That does not mean, however, that such motives are justifiable and that the government may use such tactics."

"From the standpoint of British justice, it is particularly difficult to understand what may move the Palestine government to such a step. We here, living in a British country, and acquainted with British procedure—us, appears strange and extraordinary. We know that freedom of public opinion and freedom of the press cannot be so easily blown away with the wind in a British country. And that which goes for many British countries, should also apply to Palestine."

JEWISH COLONIAL TRUST SUIT FOR LEGACY PROTESTED BY ICA

2 Organizations Fight for Bequest to Non-Existent "Jewish Colonization" Trust in South Africa

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Cape Town, Dec. 7.—The failure of Albert Solomon Nathan of Cape Town to be sure that he had the right name of the Jewish organization to whom he willed his estate 50 years after his death has brought the matter of the proper heir into the South African courts after having been pending more than two years, according to a cable in yesterday's Chicago "Tribune."

Mr. Nathan's will directed that his estate should be given to the "Jewish Colonization Trust" for the purpose of creating funds named after him for the restoration of the Jews in Palestine. Fifty years after his death the estate will be worth about \$250,000.

Unfortunately, however, there is no such organization as the "Jewish Colonization Trust." There are two other bodies with similar names, the Jewish Colonial Trust and the Jewish Colonization Association. Each of these societies contends that Mr. Nathan meant it. The first claim in the present action was filed by the Jewish Colonial Trust.

This claim is being opposed by the executors of the Jewish Colonization Association, Mr. Nathan's next of kin, and a representative of other organizations that might have an interest in the will. Lawyers for the Jewish Colonial Trust read evidence in court yesterday that asserted that the Trust is the principal body financing the Zionist movement in Palestine and that the activities of the Jewish Colonization Association are chiefly in Argentina.

ARREST RIGA PUBLISHER FOR SUPPOSED CONTRA-REVOLUTIONARY TACTICS

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Riga, Dec. 7.—Jacob Ginsburg, well known book collector of this city, was arrested today on a charge of contra-revolutionary tactics. Mr. Ginsburg is the owner of a valuable library which the Yevsekzia desired. He asked \$10,000 for sale of it. The charge for which he has been arrested is believed to be fabricated in order to enable the Yevsekzia to confiscate the library on legal grounds.

Also here, may be applied that which we call 'British fair play.'

"The whole Jewish world will strongly oppose such a measure. In normal times, a government cannot allow itself to do such a thing as suppression of a telegraphic agency. If the situation in Palestine is therefore even less than normal—and that, all will admit,—the government should not desire to suppress the J. T. A. and to seek instead of its non-partisan reports, to give us censored news. The Jewish world is entitled to get from Palestine news through Jewish sources, news not officially colored, but natural."

ARAB ADMITS JEWS TOOK SWAMP LANDS; SAYS BEST COASTAL LANDS TAKEN TOO

(Continued from Page 1)

stabbed. Maughanmen shocked the court by referring to the alleged man-handling of this Arab as "crucified."

Testifies Jews Attacked Him

The tenth witness was a fellow from Abdus, near Jerusalem, who declared that the Jews had stabbed him, cursed him and his religion and that he had only been rescued by a mounted policeman. Erligh's only question to him was whether the attack on him was at the same time as the one at the football field where Mirachi had been stabbed. Another resident of Lifta next took the stand and charged that Jews had attacked him and shouted "You Moslems demonstrated at our Wall yesterday." He testified that Corporal Parker, now acting as a witness at the Commission hearings, had saved him. An example of the witness's accuracy was presented when he declared that there were 5,000 Jews on the football field.

The fourth witness hailed from Bettsa Alata opposite Mekor Haim, a Jewish suburb of Jerusalem. This witness claimed that he was stoned by Jews while en route to Jerusalem on Friday, August 23. Erligh asked him whether he and other Arabs were armed with knives, swords, and clubs, especially turned out by carpenters at full speed. While the witness denied knowledge of this the Commission already had evidence to the contrary from every police officer.

Miss Luit Kurban, a Christian nurse, declared that Jews stopped the car in which she was riding as it passed the Italian hospital. A sheik from Anikarem claimed that the Jews spit on him while passing Bettsa on Friday but he made no mention of the attack on this Jewish quarter, where, Best, the British officer who tried to aid the Jews during the first days of the riots, had been killed.

Another fellow testified that he had spent all of August 23 in a cafe and that all he had heard was that at five o'clock in the afternoon the Jews had attacked the residents of Lifta. The last witness charged that the Jews had invaded his fig grove and that when he reproved them the Jews said "we will break your head, take your lands and curse your religion."

Merriman in his opening address characterized Aref Elarei as a "dolorous Arab agitator." The latter was a witness Friday afternoon, and stated he took no part in inciting Arabs to riot in Hebron. Merriman showed the Commission that he had been charged with the Mufti with incitation of riots in Jerusalem in 1920 and was not incited in the general amnesty that followed the riots. He was specially pardoned three months later. Since then he has been in the service of the government and is at present district officer of Beersheba. Silley asked the witness, "Were you in Hebron on August 16?"

"Yes," replied the witness. Merriman charged that Aref told the

Arabs there not to touch the Jews but to wait for instructions which would be given the following Friday.

He said he had been in Hebron that day to see about a dispute which had arisen between the Arabs of Hebron and Beersheba. Merriman thereupon read to the witness the Quinzy diary which reported that speakers at the mosque directed their audience to proceed to the offices of the district officer to protest the Balfour Declaration. Aref admitted he had been at the mosque. Merriman stated hundreds of Arabs followed instructions, again referring to the diary. Aref denied all knowledge of this procession. He said he did not see Taleb Marka at the mosque. Preedy led Aref to tell his rise from school teacher and journalist up to his entrance into government service in 1920.

He related that he had been promoted many times. Aref said, "I have many clippings from Jewish papers thanking me for my effort in their behalf." Preedy then asked, "Did you know that Zionists have attacked you in the English press?" The witness said he did not. He admitted being in Jerusalem on August 15 but said he was there on banking business and offered bank records as proof. He also admitted he saw the district officer of Hebron a half hour before he went into the mosque but not afterward. Smiling astutely, he denied being a notorious agitator.

Ragheb continued his instructing of the commission in elementary agriculture and tried to prove that the Jewish settlers were unsuccessful grain cultivators. They were good horticulturists, he said. He produced reports showing the output of grain fell when they took over Plain lands. Betterton drew attention in the same report to the rise, two years later, when Jews got to know the land. Ragheb stated, "The Arab fellah does not use expensive machinery or chemical fertilizers, but he can do well and better with grain land than Jews." Merriman pointed out that the use of the machinery was justifiable since Jewish output from the land became larger.

Ragheb agreed that Auni had cited the Arab objections when he said they were afraid the government would give vast forest lands free to Jews. He never heard that Jews had asked for these, he admitted.

The testimony continued on semi-economic grounds, Arabs failing to prove their contentions that the Jews were a liability to the land but were rapidly acquiring most of it.

After more than a fortnight of taking the testimony of the Arab side the Jewish side will be heard beginning today. Two officials, Arabs, were heard in secret on Saturday. They are Moslems vowing allegiance to the Grand Mufti, Hassan Shoukri, Mayor of Haifa and Sheik Aswarshkeri of Acre, authority on Moslem law.

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Canadian Town Chooses

First Jewish Mayor

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Corwall, Can., Dec. 7.—The city of Corwall has, for the first time in its history, a chief magistrate of the Jewish faith. Mr. Aaron Horovitz was elected by acclamation to the mayoralty. Mr. Horovitz succeeds Mr. Charles Larose in the chief magistracy of the city.

A year ago, Mr. Horovitz contested the mayoralty with Mr. Larose, and was defeated by a majority of approximately 400. This year, Mr. Larose, although nominated, declined to seek the honor of a second term, and Mr. Horovitz was unopposed for this position.

Legislative Commission

Honors Bloch as Political

Leader's Body Is Interred

The Legislative Commission on Revision of the Public Service Law, met in the Aldermanic Chamber of City Hall Monday only to adjourn immediately in respect to the memory of the late Maurice Bloch, Democratic leader of the Assembly who died Thursday, and who was buried yesterday.

Senator Warren T. Thayer, Republican, of Franklin County, made the motion to adjourn, saying, "It is with deep regret that I have heard of the death of Mr. Bloch, who was known by every member of this commission. He was a man of great ability and high ideals. I had known him for many years, and the more I knew him the more I liked and respected him. It is appropriate that we should adjourn in respect to his memory."

The motion was seconded by Assemblyman Horace M. Stone, Republican, of Onondaga.

Biblical Scholar Joins

Yeshiva College Faculty

Dr. Chaim Heller, renowned Biblical scholar, arrived last week to assume his duties as Professor of Bible and Biblical Literature at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary and Yeshiva College, it is announced by Dr. Bernard Revel, President of the Faculty.

Dr. Heller was formerly rabbi of Lumzo, Russia. He studied at the Universities of St. Petersburg and Berlin, at the latter of which he took his degree. He has recently been head of the Jewish research school at Berlin.

LIPSKY SAILS TO CONFER

WITH CHAIM WEIZMANN

Louis Lipsky, president of the Zionist Organization of America, sailed Saturday for London on the Majestic. Mr. Lipsky has gone abroad to confer with Chaim Weizmann, president of the World Zionist Organization. He is expected back before the first of the year.