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CRITICAL STATE OF ZIONIST FINANCES: PALESTINE JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE MEMBERS RETURNING MONTH'S SALARY TO ZIONIST FUNDS PENDING AUTHORITATIVE DECISION ON SALARIES QUESTION.

Jerusalem, Jan. 1st. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

In view of the critical state of Zionist finances, and pending an authoritative decision on the question of salaries (an emergency meeting of the Actions Committee of the Zionist World Organisation has been called in London for Monday week, the 12th. inst., to consider the critical financial position and to take effective action), the members of the Executive of the Jewish Agency have decided, the J.T.A. learns, to return one month's salary for the current year to the Palestine upbuilding funds, apart from their usual contributions to the Keren Hayesod, the Jewish National Fund and the other funds engaged in Palestine upbuilding work.

The Finance Commission of the Jewish Agency held two meetings in Berlin last week to consider the situation created by the world-wide economic crisis. Dr. Bernhard Kahn, European Director of the Joint Distribution Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Finance Commission of the Jewish Agency, who has just returned from his stay in the United States, reported on the preparations which are now being made there for the next drive for Palestine funds, and a plan of economies in the budget of the Jewish Agency was drawn up by the Commission for submission to the Jewish Agency Executive in London and Palestine.

Mr. Simon Marks, who is the Zionist Vice-Chairman of the Finance Commission of the Jewish Agency (Dr. Bernhard Kahn represents the non-Zionists) reviewing the position of the Keren Hayesod at the recent English Zionist Conference, said that it was his duty to divert attention from political questions to the grave financial situation, which if it was not taken in hand, may lead to a greater catastrophe than any White Paper that any Government could issue. Speaking of the findings of the Finance Commission of the Jewish Agency at its last meetings in Berlin, Mr. Marks said that it was revealed there that they had an estimated £145,000 to meet an expenditure of £340,000. This meant that if they were to cut down and retrench in Palestine considerable hardship would ensue, but even if they were to cut down, they could perhaps save £50,000 but yet there would be an estimated deficit of £140,000. Can we Jews, asked Mr. Marks, in spite of adverse conditions, rise to the occasion? Is a mere £140,000 to bring so much ruin in its train? Political changes are certainly beyond our control, but economic changes should be within our control.

Dr. Weizmann, too, in his message to this Conference, spoke of the financial crisis, "one of the severest which the world has ever experienced, and of which the end no one can as yet foresee", urging that "the political movement and its achievements are nullified if we lack the economic and financial means for carrying out our work".

Jewish Agency Official Salaries.

The Jewish Agency Executive in Palestine, and the head offices of the Keren Hayesod and the Jewish National Fund have been publishing their salaries lists, and the Palestine Hebrew Press has in welcoming their action expressed the hope that all the other Jewish institutions in Palestine, including the banks, will follow their example, and publish lists of the number of their officials and the amount of their salaries. At the same time the Hebrew papers in Palestine have taken the view that the salaries of the Executive members and Directors of the Funds are excessive, and in view of the financial crisis should be cut.

In the early part of 1927, at the time of the prolonged economic depression in Palestine, which Mr. Leib Jaffe, Director of the Keren Hayesod, then described as "the gravest that has ever faced us", adding "we find ourselves in a period of dire emergency", there was similarly a wave of criticism against the Zionist Executive, also in connection with the question of the salaries of the officials of the Zionist Organisation and Colonel Kisch issued a statement dealing with "the unjust and ill-founded charges which have been raised in many quarters against the officials of the Zionist Organisation. These charges which have been repeated in the Jewish Press both in Palestine and in the Diaspora", he said, "may be summarised as suggesting that the Zionist Executive and its dependent institutions, the Keren Hayesod, the Jewish National Fund, etc., are greatly overstaffed with idle officials who live in luxury and make no sacrifice for the common interest during the present distress. I do not hesitate to say, and I can speak with some knowledge of the subject," Colonel Kisch declared, "that the staff which we employ is by no means excessive for the work which it has to do and which, but for the exceptional devotion and zeal of the staff, would not be effectively dealt with without a considerable increase in personnel. I should add that many members of the staff remain extra hours in the office after closing time, while others regularly take office work to their homes to do at night. No overtime salaries or allowances are paid.

"There remains," Colonel Kisch went on, "the question of the contributions of the staff to the common welfare, both generally and with reference to the present crisis. I would first mention that not only does the whole staff pay Maasor to the Keren Hayesod, but that whenever there is a collection for any national purpose, as, for example, inscribing a name in the Golden Book of the Jewish National Fund, the first address to be visited by the collectors is that of the pikidim, and such appeals invariably meet with a generous response. On the occasion of the recent collection of the Moazath Poalei Jerusalem for the unemployed, unmarried officials of the Palestine Zionist Executive all gave 12 days' salary to the workers' relief funds, and married officials gave nine days' salary. Finally, it is with regret that I have to record that the officials have received no salaries for the last three months, and have loyally accepted this suspension of what had become due to them. It is a deplorable thing that the Executive has been obliged thus to hold up the salaries earned by the officials by continuous and steady work under conditions of great pressure, and were it not for the devotion of the officials and for their desire to share the distress of their comrades in the field of labour, such suspension of salaries would have produced demoralisation, which has happily been entirely absent. Instead of attacking and criticising the officials, Jewish labour in Palestine and supporters of Zionists funds everywhere should appreciate both the work they are doing and the sacrifice they have made. It seems to me that the Jewish public ought to have helped the Executive to create a Civil Service of expert officials devoted to the national aspirations and honoured by the public for their labours."

GRAVITY OF JEWISH AGENCY FINANCIAL CRISIS SHOWN BY WITHHOLDING OF 1,500 IMMIGRATION CERTIFICATES GRANTED BY GOVERNMENT LAST NOVEMBER: INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED NOT TO DISTRIBUTE CERTIFICATES TO IMMIGRANTS UNTIL PLANS PROVIDED FOR GIVING THEM EMPLOYMENT ON ARRIVAL IN PALESTINE.

Jerusalem, Jan. 1st. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The gravity of the financial crisis experienced by the Jewish Agency Executive here is reflected in the delay which is occurring in the matter of putting to use the 1,500 labour immigration certificates which were granted early in November by the British Government at the time the last session of the Actions Committee was in progress. Instructions have been sent out to hold back the issuing of the certificates to immigrants, until the means are provided for giving them employment promptly on arrival in Palestine. The J.T.A. learns that because of the almost unprecedented financial stringency, the Jewish Agency authorities have recommended that the certificates should not be distributed. Dr. Wernher Senator, member of the Jewish Agency Executive in charge of the Treasury, who was previously General Secretary of the European Office of the Joint Distribution Committee, is leaving here to attend the emergency meeting of the Actions Committee in London on the 12th. inst.

When Colonel Kisch announced at the meeting of the Actions Committee in November that there was good reason to believe that of the 2,100 certificates asked for by the Jewish Agency Executive under the Labour Schedule for the next half year, 1,500 would be authorised by the Colonial Office. He added that the financial position of the Jewish Agency in Palestine, however, was extremely grave, and it would be a bitter irony if there were no funds to finance the immigration of these Haluzim.

JEWISH IMMIGRATION TO PALESTINE: 228 JEWS ENTERED COUNTRY DURING NOVEMBER AND 86 LEFT.

Jerusalem, Jan. 2nd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

228 Jews, 115 Christians, (including 33 British police) and 10 Moslems entered Palestine during the month of November, it is announced to-day. 86 Jews, 46 Christians, and 40 Moslems left the country during the same month. 31 prospective immigrants were refused admission.

ELECTIONS TO PALESTINE JEWISH ASSEMBLY MAY BE POSTPONED FOR SEVEN DAYS.

Jerusalem, Jan. 1st. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The elections to the Assefath Hanivcharim are likely to be postponed for seven days, as a result of the desire expressed by the Sephardim to waive their claim to a separate ballot and the complaints made by the Revisionists that thousands of voting cards are still undistributed in various parts of the country.

REPORT OF MR. RUTENBERG'S RESIGNATION FROM PRESIDENCY OF VAAD LEUMI DENIED: NOT STANDING FOR ELECTION TO ASSEFATH HANIVCHARIM.

Jerusalem, Jan. 2nd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The reports of Mr. Rutenberg's resignation from the Presidency of the Vaad Leumi, which have appeared in Jewish papers in England and America are denied on enquiry by the J.T.A. What is really happening is that Mr. Rutenberg has decided not to stand as a candidate to the Jewish Elected Assembly (Hasefath Hanivcharim).

JEWS ARE ALIENS OUTSIDE PALESTINE SAYS BIALIK AT WELCOME RECEPTION IN LONDON: AT HOME ONLY IN PALESTINE: IN DIASPORA THEY CREATE TREASURES FOR OTHERS LEAVING THEM OFTEN BEHIND AS IN SPAIN AT EXPULSION: IN PALESTINE JEW WHILE PURSUING HIS OWN PRIVATE AVOCATION FEELS HE IS ALSO PURSUING COMMON JEWISH GOOD: SAYS PITY PALESTINE LEFT TO BE BUILT BY SHEKEL: TRUE ZIONIST IS HE WHO LIVES IN PALESTINE AND GIVES HIS ALL AND HIMSELF TO PALESTINE.

London, Jan. 1st. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Jews feel alien outside Palestine, Mr. Ch. N. Bialik, the Hebrew poet Laureate said, speaking last night at a reception given in his honour at the Kingsway Hall, presided over by the Rev. J. K. Goldbloom, Chairman of the Executive of the English Zionist Federation. The treasures which Jews build up in the countries of the Diaspora, he said, are constantly passing out of Jewish hands. Often, as in Spain, at the time of the expulsion, they have to go and leave all they have accumulated behind. And even in other ways Jewish treasure is constantly passing out of Jewish hands.

In Germany through intermarriage 11 milliards of Jewish money had passed to non-Jews. That was the Jewish indemnity paid to Germany. It was worth recalling, he thought, that the indemnity which France had paid to Germany after the war of 1870 had amounted only to five milliards. The same thing was happening in Jewish life in Russia, in America, and elsewhere. Nothing stable could be built up by Jews in the Diaspora. They were not creating for themselves, but for others. What Jews achieved in various fields of activity was not accounted to Jews, but to the people of the country in which they lived. In the Diaspora, also, the Jew came into a foreign heritage. He continued work that had been started by others. He was not creating anything that was distinctively Jewish. The Jewish people must cease to be a mere imitator aping the ways and the civilisation of other peoples.

In Palestine, Bialik went on, the Jew, while pursuing his own private avocation, felt that he was pursuing at the same time the common Jewish good. The Jew in Eretz Israel had the feeling which he had never had before, that what was being created there was for the common Jewish good. It was not as in the Diaspora, where there was a clear line of demarcation between the private good and the national good. It was that spirit that made the heart glad when one passed Jewish workmen building a new house in Palestine. You might pass thousands of houses being built in the Diaspora, he said, and it was of no moment, but in Palestine it was a joy to feel that another vacant stretch of land was being built over - for the benefit of the community at large.

Another reason for joy and pride in the work in Palestine, Bialik said, was that only in Palestine did one get the feeling that the permanence of Jewish possessions and Jewish treasures was being safeguarded. It put an end to the process of the last 2,000 years of Jewish history, during which there had been that constant transition of Jewish treasures from Jews to non-Jews. Palestine was changing all that. The expression of Jewish life was being given permanence there. The Jew in Palestine felt that he was engaged in work that was deeply spiritual and creative. In the work of the Jew in Palestine, and in the work of Jewish culture there, he said, he included the shoemaker, the builder, and the artisan together with the artist and the poet. All were builders in Zion. It was only a pity that the upbuilding of Palestine was thought by some to be a matter of contributing to Palestine funds, or buying a shekel. The true Zionist, he said, is the man who lives in Palestine and gives his all, who gives himself to Palestine.

NISSIM BEHAR VETERAN ALLIANCE ISRAELITE WORKER FOUNDER OF ALLIANCE SCHOOLS IN ORIENT DIES IN NEW YORK AT AGE OF 83.

New York, Jan. 1st. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Mr. Nissim Behar, who played a very prominent part in the educational and humanitarian work of the Alliance Israelite Universelle and was the founder of the Alliance Schools in the Orient, has died here in his 83rd year. A native of Jerusalem, Mr. Behar was himself a pupil of the Alliance Normal School in Paris. He had studied also at the Yeshibah in Jerusalem and at the Camondo School in Constantinople. He came to the United States about 30 years ago, being sent there by the Alliance Israelite in connection with the Russian Jewish passport question in America, to which work he devoted the first five years of his residence in the country. Since 1905 he was dealing with the problems of Americanisation, immigration and various other Jewish questions. He was active in many organisations, and was the founder and Managing Director of the National Liberal Immigration League. He was also the originator of the idea of a Federation of Jewish Organisations and of the Jewish Big Brother Associations.

On the occasion of his 80th birthday in February 1928, Mr. Behar was given a testimonial dinner in New York, attended by over a hundred prominent American Jews, and on his 81st birthday, in 1929, an anonymous donor announced his decision to give a sum of 100,000 dollars to the Alliance Israelite Universelle for the establishment of a fund in honour of Mr. Nissim Behar to be used for a boys' and girls' school in Palestine to bear his name.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY'S MEDAL AWARDED TO DR. HERBERT LEVINSTEIN.

London, Jan. 2nd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Dr. Herbert Levinstein, of Manchester, the distinguished chemist, has been awarded the medal of the Society of Chemical Industry, a distinction which holds high place among scientific honours, and is one of the most coveted scientific honours of the world. The Journal of the Society, in making the announcement, says:

Dr. Levinstein's undoubted claim to the society's medal is his capable and valuable work in the dyestuff industry. Already occupying an important position in the dyestuff industry during the lifetime of his father, Mr. Ivan Levinstein (a President of the Society of Chemical Industry), when the latter died, in 1916, Dr. Levinstein shouldered the heavy burden of work and responsibility then confronting him. These were strenuous times, for the makers of dyestuffs were not only turning out dyestuffs but munitions of war as well, in spite of obstacles that five years previously would have been considered insuperable. This has been his greatest and finest piece of work, his twenty years of devotion to the dyestuff industry, and it is this which has caused the society to confer upon him the distinction of its medal.

Dr. Levinstein did much valuable work during the war on the Chemical Warfare Committee, and became known as one of the greatest poison-gas experts on the Allied side.

Dr. Levinstein, who is the eighteenth recipient of the honour, is a Past President of the Society of Chemical Industry and also of the Society of Dyers and Colourists and the British Association of Chemists.

The medal is awarded not more frequently than once every two years for "conspicuous services to applied chemistry by research, discovery, invention, or improvement". The presentation of the medal will be made during the jubilee celebrations of the Society of Chemical Industry to be held in London next summer.

Dr. Ludwig Mond, the father of the late Lord Melchett, was one of the previous holders of the medal.

TRIBUTE TO LORD READING: NOTABLE WORK IN RECONCILING HINDU-MOSLEM CLAIMS AT INDIA ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE.

London, Jan. 2nd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Lord Reading, former Viceroy of India, who is one of the British representatives at the India Round Table Conference now meeting in London, has accomplished notable work in smoothing the path of the minorities Sub-Committee, which is trying under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, to work out a means of reconciling the conflicting claims of the Hindus and Moslems, the "News Chronicle" states to-day, adding that he was referred to yesterday by one of the Indian delegates, as "the great compromiser".

INSTILLING RACE HATRED IN CHILDREN: PROBLEM DISCUSSED AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS.

London, Jan. 2nd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

At the annual conference of educational associations meeting at University College, London, yesterday, Dr. George H. Green, Lecturer in the Department of Education in the University College of Wales, addressing the League of Nations Union Section, on the question of racial prejudice among children said that in Welsh schools in which an investigation had been carried out, the children at the age of seven had a stock of racial prejudice which persisted unchanged throughout their school life. Between four and five thousand papers were distributed to elementary, central, and secondary schools. The outstanding result was that the children investigated, ranging in age from seven to 18, were prepared, almost without exception, to ascribe good and bad qualities to whole groups of people and to prefer people to others on the ground of their national or racial origin.

Dr. Green said that he felt sure, though he had no evidence of this, that the prejudice went on through the university years. Indeed, Professor Thorndike suggested to him last year that if he could test the members of the Ninth International Congress on Psychology, then meeting at Yale, he would obtain much the same results as he obtained with the children of the elementary schools of Wales.

There could be no doubt, Dr. Green said, that within a narrowly limited field the film had done a great deal to crystallise and make definite a whole body of dislike of aliens. Dislike of the German had been made definite by actual pictures of warfare which showed cruelty and cowardice. That was a direct result of the American war film. If children had an unfavourable opinion of, say, Spain, and considered that the Spaniards were cruel, and cited the bull-ring and the Inquisition - as they had done in the test papers - it was useless for the teacher to assert that the Spaniard was neither cruel nor cowardly. What was to be aimed at was the building up of a stable attitude of a friendly character. The earliest step in education for international understanding was the leading of the child to the realisation of the economic unity of mankind.

Even men of science discourse on Nordic, Teutonic and Latin qualities with gusto, the "Daily Telegraph" writes in an editorial on the lecture to-day, and all such discussions, though they may be based on judiciously sifted data, are salted with prejudice. History has shown over and over again that sudden outbursts of international enmity have come from childish causes. It is useless to search too earnestly for particular antidotes. One or two were suggested yesterday, but they are not promising. To obtain freedom from this as from other prejudices is the great end of that self-knowledge to which all education should finally be directed.

The step from schoolboy to citizen is nowadays a short one, the "Manchester Guardian" comments in an editorial, and it is disquieting to envisage as does this inquiry the international attitude with which the young voter faces his responsibilities. Unreasoning dislike of the foreigner is one of the oldest and most evil of the forces that have animated mankind.

Sir Philip Hartog, Past President of the Friends of the Hebrew University, presided at the meeting of the English Education Section at the Conference.

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