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PALESTINE JEWISH ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS: BRIGHT SUNSHINE IN JERUSALEM FOR POLLS: STREETS CROWDED WITH ELECTION LORRIES AND VOTERS: 85,000 BALLOT PAPERS DISTRIBUTED TO ELECTORS VAAD LEUMI INFORMS J.T.A.: AGUDATH ISRAEL AND SEPHARDIC RABBIS URGE FOLLOWERS TO BOYCOTT ELECTIONS: SINFUL TO VOTE SINCE WOMEN VOTING ORTHODOX JEWS WARNED IN STREET POSTERS: REVISIONISTS LABOUR AND SEPHARDIM EXPECTED TO OBTAIN EACH ALMOST THIRD OF TOTAL SEATS WITH GENERAL ZIONISTS AND REST FORMING UNIMPORTANT MINORITY.

Jerusalem, Jan. 6th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

There is brilliant sunshine in Jerusalem to-day for the polling in the elections to the Palestine Jewish Assembly (Assefath Henivcharim) the first to be set up as a legally recognised body under the Palestine Jewish Communities Ordinance, which came into force on January 1st., 1928. The streets are filled with voters going to the polling stations, or carried there in motor cars, with motor-lorries rushing past plastered with election posters and last-minute street corner campaigners delivering election speeches. The hoardings are covered with election posters. Business is at a standstill. The crowds are in holiday-mood, everything serving to accentuate the fact that the Jews form a majority of the population of Jerusalem. The police were reinforced to help to preserve order, but there was no occasion for them to intervene. No disorder has occurred anywhere.

85,000 ballot cards were distributed throughout the country, the Vaad Leumi informs the J.T.A. About 10,000 people who are entitled to vote could not be traced. Voting cards have been supplied to all Jewish residents in Palestine who could be traced who registered in 1927 as members of Kenesseth Israel, the organised Jewish Community, established under the Palestine Jewish Communities Ordinance. Subsequent arrivals, who are estimated at about 10,000 adults, are not entitled to vote. There are 114 constituencies, without counting the separate districts in the large towns.

The Agudath Israel, whose members did not join the Kenesseth Israel, availing themselves of the right to form separatist Jewish communities provided in the Ordinance, is boycotting the elections, and has put out posters in the streets warning Orthodox Jews that it is forbidden to vote. The Sephardic Rabbis also put out placards warning Orthodox Oriental Jews that it is sinful to vote because women are taking part in the elections. Chief Rabbi Jacob Meir, the head of the Sephardic Community, is not, however, among the signatories to the prohibition. The Agudist opponents of the Vaad Leumi are exploiting in their boycott campaign the fact that Mr. Rutenberg himself, the President of the Vaad Leumi, is not standing as a candidate.

Few outstanding personages figure in the polls, which are identified by numbers. The Revisionists call their list, however, the Jabotinsky List. The General Zionists call their list the Ussischkin List, and the women who are contesting the elections separately, call their list the Henrietta Szold List. Incidentally Mr. Jabotinsky, Mr. Ussischkin, and Miss Henrietta Szold are all three at present out of Palestine.

The Yemenite Jews seem to be puzzled by the election issues and confused over the personalities of the respective leaders.

A conservative estimate of the result of the elections is that the Revisionists will poll about 30 per cent. of the votes cast, owing to the strong oppositionist feeling in Palestine Jewry at the present time. It is expected that the new Assembly will consist roughly of practically one-third Revisionists, one third Labour and one third Sephardim, with the General Zionists and the other groupings forming a very unimportant minority.

REDS BARRED FROM ASSEMBLY: COMMUNIST CANDIDATES AND CAMPAIGNERS  
"WORKING FOR "PROLETARIAN LIST" ARRESTED.

Jerusalem, Jan. 4th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Communists who have put up a list of their own, the "Proletarian List", as they call it, for the elections to the Palestine Jewish Assembly, are finding themselves subjected to strict police surveillance, and a number of their candidates and campaigners have been arrested.

Two of their candidates in Jerusalem, Abraham Schwartz and Miriam Eliash, have been arrested at an election meeting held here. Four others have been arrested here for distributing Communist literature in connection with the campaign, and two men and three women have been arrested at Haifa for distributing election circulars calling for support for the "proletarian List".

AFGHANISTAN JEWS ADMITTED INTO PALESTINE AFTER BEING SENT BACKWARDS  
AND FORWARDS FOR WEEK BETWEEN PALESTINE NORTHERN FRONTIER AND  
SYRIA: OTHERS ALLOWED BY FRENCH AUTHORITIES TO STAY FOR TIME  
BEING AT DAMASCUS.

Jerusalem, Jan. 4th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

After being sent backwards and forwards for a week between the northern frontier of Palestine and Syria, the future of twenty Jewish emigrants from Afghanistan holding tourist visas was provisionally settled to-day. The Jewish Agency obtained permission for a family of four and two single men to enter Palestine, and the rest have been given permission by the French authorities to stay temporarily in Damascus, where they were at first refused refuge. The group includes several women and children who have been suffering want and exposure during the past week, having no place where to rest.

FOUR ARABS CONVICTED FOR MURDER IN SAFED MASSACRE PARDONED BY HIGH  
COMMISSIONER JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY LEARNS.

Jerusalem, Jan. 4th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The High Commissioner, Sir John Chancellor, has given a pardon to four Arabs from Safed who were convicted for being concerned in the death of several Jews during the massacre in August 1929. Three of them, Haj Khalil Gheinan, Shukhi Ibrahim Khaled and Abdul Rani Kadoura, were serving life-terms for burning down the homes of the Jews Brenzin and Goldzweig, causing an aged Jewess, Scheindel Goldzweig to be burnt to death. The fourth prisoner, Salim Bastouni, was originally sentenced to a term of 15 years' imprisonment for burning down the house of the Jewish family Segal, but the sentence was afterwards reduced to five years. All four are stated to be over the age of 70, and released for this reason.

Solomon Goldzweig, the husband of the woman who was burnt to death, a man of over 72 years of age, when he appeared as a witness at the trial, refused to answer to questions put to him in Arabic, saying that it was the language of murderers. These people, he said, have been my neighbours, and I have been their friend for many years, and now they have left me widowed, desolate and broken-hearted. He had left his house when the riots began, he said, in order to ask a neighbour what he could do to assure the safety of his wife and himself. Suddenly he saw his own house surrounded by a mob setting fire to it. When he managed to make his way into the house he found his wife already dead.

PAN-ISLAMIC CONFERENCE TO BE HELD TO ORGANISE SUPPORT FOR PALESTINE ARABS SAYS IMPORTANT EGYPTIAN ARAB ORGAN: BROUGHT ABOUT BY INITIATIVE OF SHAUKAT ALI ONE OF THE ALI BROTHERS TO REPLACE CONFERENCE WHICH DID NOT COME OFF IN LONDON WITH AGA KHAN AS CHAIRMAN.

Jerusalem, Jan. 4th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Moslems of Egypt, Hedjaz, Syria, Iraq and Transjordan are organising a Pan-Islamic movement in support of the Palestine Arabs, and a special Conference is to be held shortly for this purpose, "El Ahram", of Cairo, one of the leading Egyptian dailies, reports: The Conference, which, it says, is to take the place of the projected London Conference for the same purpose over which the Aga Khan was to have presided, but which did not take place as arranged, is being called, the paper adds, on the initiative of Shaukat Ali, one of the two Ali brothers, the leaders of the Indian Khalifate movement.

The Aga Khan, who has been ill in Paris has now recovered and returned to London this (Monday) morning. The Moslem Delegates to the India Round Table Conference, who have not been meeting for some days, are resuming their meetings this afternoon, with the Aga Khan present.

DEATH OF MOHAMED ALI INDIAN MOSLEM LEADER AND PROMINENT SUPPORTER OF PALESTINE ARAB CAUSE.

London, Jan. 4th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Maulana Mohamed Ali, one of the two famous Ali brothers, who was representing British India at the Round Table Conference, and was the head of the Indian Caliphate movement, has died in London. He was critically ill for several weeks. When he spoke last November at the meeting on Palestine policy held in London on the eve of the Palestine debate in the House of Commons, with Mr. Jemal Russeini, Secretary of the Palestine Arab Executive, Lord Islington and others among the speakers, he announced to the gathering: I am a dying man, adding that he had undertaken the long journey to London although he knew he would probably never go back to India, because he wanted to do all he could for his country.

We Moslems, he said in the course of his speech; number one-quarter of the whole of humanity. Do you want to get this number against the forty million of the British people that talk of the Balfour Declaration?

In declaring that he stood solidly together with the Palestine Arabs in their opposition to the Jews in Palestine, Mohamed Ali added, however, that he was no enemy of the Jews. I have no prejudice against the Jews, he said. At one time I lived in London for four years with relatives of the late Chief Rabbi, Dr. Adler, and the late Israel Zangwill was one of my friends.

DEATH OF PROFESSOR LEON KROLL PROMINENT MEMBER OF OLD RUSSIAN LIBERAL PARTY AND FORMER HEAD OF ANTI-BOLSHEVIST GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH OF RUSSIA.

Paris, Jan. 4th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Professor Leon M. Kroll, a prominent member of the old Russian Cadet (Liberal) Party, and one of the closest political associates of its leader, Professor Paul Miliukov, who after the first Revolution was Foreign Minister under Kerenski, has died here to-day at the age of 62.

Professor Kroll was a member of the Russian Constituent Assembly. In 1918 he was arrested and expelled from the country by Admiral Koltchak, the head of the White Forces, and he came to Paris, where he remained as a permanent resident. He was at one time the head of the anti-Bolshevist Government formed at Ekaterinburg.

Professor Kroll continued to follow with interest the developments in Jewish and general life in Russia and he contributed articles dealing with them to various papers, including the Yiddish monthly "Zukunft" in New York. He recently published an article there on the prospect of Jewish land settlement in France.

COMMUNIST WAR ON JEWISH DEAD: GRAVES OF BA'AL SHEM-TOV AND HIS  
GRANDSON RABBI NACHMAN OF BRATZLAV TO BE DUG UP SAYS RIGA  
REPORT.

Warsaw, Jan. 4th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Jewish Communists have decided to carry out their plan contemplated for some years, of digging up the graves of the Ba'al Shem-Tov, the founder of Hassidism, situated in the Jewish cemetery of the Ukrainian town of Miedzybozh, and of his grandson, Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav, one of the great leaders of Hassidism, situated in the Jewish cemetery of Uman, also in the Ukraine, Jewish Rabbinical circles in Riga, who are in touch with leaders of Jewish religious life in Soviet Russia have learnt, communicating their information to the Rabbinical authorities here.

Reports that the Communist authorities intend to dig up the graves of the Ba'al Shem-Tov and of Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav have been received on a number of previous occasions. In the early part of 1929, a report came to Riga that the local Soviet of Miedzybozh was digging up the Jewish cemetery to lay it out as a public park. Many graves had already been dug up, it was stated, but the digging operations had stopped at the Mausolaum of the Ba'al Shem, which had not been touched. It was not known, the report said, whether the digging had been finally stopped, or was to be resumed.

The Jewish Communist papers have repeatedly protested against the Soviet authorities for allowing the tombs of the Ba'al Shem and of Rabbi Nachman to be used as places of pilgrimage by the Hassidim, who they said, flock there in large numbers. The leaders of the Bratzlav Synagogue in Uman, they wrote, were with the permission of the Soviet authorities printing Hassidic literature for the use of the pilgrims. The graves must be done away with, they urged, because they are breeding places for religious activities.

The practice of diggin up cemeteries for the purpose of laying out the grounds as public parks has been adopted by the Soviet authorities in a number of places. Some years back there was a great outcry when the White Russian authorities started covering over the Jewish cemetery at Liachovka, in Minsk, and laying it out as a municipal park. In 1928 the same thing happened at the so-called Vilna Jewish cemetery in Minsk, near the Vilna Railway Station, where the authorities decided to build a University city. The religious Jews held a meeting and decided to dig up the graves in the cemetery, where many famous Rabbis, including Tevele Minsker and Rabbi Zisele Rappaport, are buried, and to convey the remains to the new cemetery for reinterment. Almost the entire Jewish population came with sacks, it was reported, to collect the bones, and followed in the procession which carried them to the new cemetery. In Perditchev, too, in the summer of 1929, the local Communists started digging up the 200 year old Jewish cemetery to lay it out as a public park. Workers engaged in the excavation work and policemen were attacked by crowds of Jews, who threw stones at them, demanding that they should stop the work. The city authorities admitted that the cemetery was ancient but contended that the gravestones had fallen into decay and that the place had become a centre for spreading disease. In the small town of Gorovitchi there were serious disturbances reported not long ago, when the Jewish population collected in force to try to prevent the local Soviet building a military barracks and a Jewish school on land which was formerly a Jewish cemetery. The police and the fire brigade had to be called out to disperse the crowd.