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NEW GOVERNMENT STATEMENT IS REAFFIRMATION OF BALFOUR DECLARATION AGAINST WHICH WE MUST FIGHT ANEW SAYS PALESTINE ARAB PRESS: ARAB LEADERS SEEING HIGH COMMISSIONER TO SUBMIT FORMAL PROTEST: SINCE GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO JEWS EMPLOYING JEWISH LABOUR EXCLUSIVELY INTEND TO ASK GOVERNMENT SANCTION FOR BUYING ARAB GOODS EXCLUSIVELY GIVING LEGALITY TO ANTI-JEWISH BOYCOTT.

Jerusalem, Feb. 16th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The new Government letter on Palestine Policy is a reaffirmation of the Balfour Declaration, against which we must fight anew, is the general tone adopted by the Palestine Arab press.

The Palestine Arab Executive has applied for an interview for to-morrow (Monday) with the High Commissioner, Sir John Chancellor, probably to submit to him a formal protest against the new Government letter on Palestine policy.

The Arab leaders propose to put a request to the Government, it is understood, that in return for the Government recognition of the right of Jewish organisations to employ Jewish labour exclusively, it should sanction the right of Arabs to buy Arab goods exclusively, thus legalising the anti-Jewish boycott.

PALESTINE HEBREW PRESS ON NEW GOVERNMENT PRONOUNCEMENT: LABOUR DAILY "DAVAR" AND "HAARETZ" ON THE WHOLE SATISFIED BUT "DOAR HAYOM" DOES NOT THINK NEW STATEMENT IS COMPENSATION FOR BLOW STRUCK BY WHITE PAPER.

Jerusalem, Feb. 15th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The three Palestine Hebrew dailies all deal to-day with the new Government pronouncement on Palestine Policy contained in Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's letter to Dr. Weizmann, but while the "Haaretz" and the Labour daily "Davar" are on the whole satisfied, the Revisionist "Doar Hayom" takes the view that the new statement is no compensation for the blow struck at the Jewish work in Palestine by the White Paper.

The "Haaretz" summarises the improvements in the new Government letter over against the White Paper as being the recognition of the Jewish title to Palestine, the promised facilities for Jewish immigration and land settlement, the substitution of the phrase "displaced Arabs" for "landless Arabs" as having an immediate claim on the Government, and the right of the Jews to employment on public works. The "Haaretz" deplores that the control of land transfer remains temporarily in the hands of the High Commissioner, but in general it agrees with Dr. Weizmann that the basis of co-operation with the Government has been restored.

The "Davar" finds that the new Government letter contrasts favourably with the White Paper, but the second part of the negotiations, it concludes, will determine the value of the concessions obtained in respect to the questions of development, status of the Jewish Agency, and constitutional changes, but on the whole, the paper is satisfied that Dr. Weizmann's efforts have not been futile.

The "Doar Hayom" (with regard to which the publishers state to-day that the Revisionist editorship has now ceased, and that Mr. Ittamar Ben Avi, the former editor, is returning to his old post), takes the view that the new Government letter is no compensation for the blow of the White Paper, although it agrees that it has wiped out the antisemitism of the White Paper. This, it attributes, however, to the influence of the Jewish people, not of Dr. Weizmann, emphasising the efficacy of the big Jewish demonstrations against the White Paper which were held in New York, Warsaw, and in other places. The Government letter, the "Doar Hayom" concludes, does not provide the basis for the fulfilment of the Balfour Declaration, since the questions of immigration, land and labour are still based on the White Paper.

AMERICAN ZIONISTS DIVIDED IN OPINION ON NEW STATEMENT: USSISCHKIN NOT SATISFIED: JACOB DE HAAS AGAINST GOVERNMENT LETTER AS BASIS OF CO-OPERATION: BERL LOCKER OF POALE ZION RABBI MAYER BERLIN MIZRACHIST LEADER LOUIS LIPSKY MORRIS ROTHENBERG AND OTHERS REGARD IT AS SIGNIFICANT VICTORY FOR PRESENT: DR. WEIZMANN HAD NO RIGHT TO EXPRESS OPINION SOME SPEAKERS SAY AT SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING: SHOULD HAVE TOLD MR. MACDONALD ONLY CONGRESS CAN PASS JUDGMENT.

New York, 16th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Administrative Committee of the Zionist Organisation of America held a special meeting to-day to consider the new Government letter, and after a long discussion a committee was appointed to draw up a resolution in conjunction with the American Committee of the Jewish Agency.

The speakers were divided in their opinions. Mr. Ussischkin, the head of the Jewish National Fund, who is now in America, was dissatisfied with the statement, and Mr. Jacob de Haas and Mr. Ab. Tulin were decidedly against accepting the Government letter as a basis of co-operation with the Mandatory Government. On the other hand, Mr. Berl Locker, one of the Poale Zion leaders, Rabbi Mayer Berlin, the leader of the Mizrahi, Mr. Louis Lipsky, former President of the Zionist Organisation of America, Mr. Morris Rothenberg, the head of the American Keren Hayesod, and Mr. Ab. Goldberg declared that they regard it as a significant victory for the present.

Other speakers at the meeting criticised Dr. Weizmann, contending that he had no right to express an opinion on the new Government letter, and insisting that he should have told Mr. MacDonald that the Zionist Congress is the only body capable of passing judgment on the new statement.

"Jewish Morning Journal" Says New Statement Completely Wipes Out White Paper: Hopes Second Part of Negotiations Will Be As Successful As First: "Day" Has Impression Both Mr. MacDonald and Dr. Weizmann Telling Jewish World - We Can't Say Much But If You Really Wish To Have Jewish Home Leave Protests And Pass To Deeds: No Bars To Be Clamped Down On Jewish Settlement And Immigration Says New York "Times": Lord Passfield Looks On Obstacles As Argument For Slowing Down It Says While Mr. MacDonald Would Clear Obstacles Away.

The new Government letter completely wipes out the White Paper, Mr. Jacob Fishman, the editor of the "Jewish Morning Journal" of New York, writes in an editorial, going on to express the hope that the second part of the negotiations between the Jewish Agency and the Government will be as successful as the first, in which case, he says, the Jews will have little ground for complaint.

In its Sunday issue, the Yiddish daily, the "Day", declares that in immigration, land purchase and other questions important concessions have been given to the Jews, and the Government letter indicates the goodwill of the British Government. The impression is obtained, it says, that both Mr. MacDonald and Dr. Weizmann are saying to the Jewish world: Our tongues are tied. We are unable to say much. But if you really wish to have the Jewish Home, leave protests and pass to deeds - go and build.

In the general press, the "New York Herald-Tribune" Sunday issue terms the new British Government letter a sharp change in the tone of British policy in respect to the Jewish National Home. It will not, of course, satisfy all Zionists, nor the Arab leaders, it admits, but in Dr. Weizmann's words, the basis for co-operation has been restored.

Under the heading "Palestine Clarified" the Monday issue of the "New York Times" publishes an editorial in which it says that the basic principles of the Jewish National enterprises in Palestine have now been re-asserted. Mr. MacDonald's commentary upon the double obligation of the Mandatory Power, that it is an obligation to the Jews as well as to the Arabs, it argues, re-affirms that there is to be no crystallisation of the Palestine experiment at its present stage. There are not to be any bars clamped down on Jewish land settlement and Jewish immigration into Palestine. Generally it may be said, the "New York Times" concludes, that while Lord Passfield looks upon the obstacles that exist as an argument for slowing down the Jewish experiment in Palestine, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald would rather set to work to clear away the obstacles.

NOT MUCH TO BE EXPECTED OF NEGOTIATIONS TO SECURE AGUDIST PARTICIPATION IN JEWISH AGENCY: WARNING AGAINST OPTIMISM ISSUED ON AGUDIST SIDE.

Vienna, Feb. 15th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

An objective examination of the position will not reveal any ground for encouragement in the matter of the recent negotiations with Jewish Agency representatives in Berlin to secure the participation of the Agudath Israel in the Jewish Agency, the Agudist "Juedische Presse" here writes, on the basis of information received in leading Agudist circles.

There is little likelihood, it says, of the cultural work in Palestine, and above all, the school system, being taken out of the sphere of activity of the Jewish Agency, and being transferred to the Kenesseth Israel, in view of the increased burden of taxation that would impose upon the Palestine population.

We therefore consider it our duty, it declares, to warn public opinion against any optimism in regard to a successful conclusion of these negotiations.

On the other hand, the paper says, there is no ground for the fears expressed among the Agudist youth that co-operation with Zionist bodies may mean for the Agudah a surrender of its principles and of its uncompromising attitude on religious matters.

The second part of the Berlin negotiations, the "Juedische Presse" goes on, touched on the possibility of co-operation between the Agudah and the Jewish Agency in the political field. Such co-operation took place repeatedly in the course of the past eighteen months; it continues, especially in Palestine, insofar as the Political Executive of the Agudah, with the approval of the Rabbinical leaders, considered such co-operation as its duty in view of the critical political situation. It was strange, therefore, to the Agudist leaders to find the Agency representatives in the Berlin discussions considerably annoyed because the leaders of the Agudah had deemed it necessary by means of the publication of a memorandum which they had handed to the British Government to

explain their stand on the present situation. There was no ground for such annoyance, since it is obvious that the Agudath Israel, as an independent organisation, with a world-conception contrary to that of Zionism, is under an obligation to cast also its own wishes and views into the scales at a moment of fateful decision in respect to the shaping of the policy in Palestine. The representatives of the Jewish Agency at the Berlin discussions expressed a lively wish that the Agudah should place restrictions upon itself in matters of outside political representations, but their demand was categorically rejected by the Agudist representatives. What the Commission - without ratification, so far, by the Political Executive of the Agudah - did concede, is simply an obligation by the Agudath Israel, in view of the continuing difficult political situation, that for the present, it will undertake no independent outside political activity without first making a loyal attempt to reach an agreement with the Jewish Agency along the lines of common action. If the attempt does not succeed, the Political Executive of the Agudah is, of course, free to act independently as it finds advisable.

PALESTINE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO SEE REBUILDING OF JEWISH COLONY LAID WASTE IN 1929 OUTBREAK; OFFICIAL VISIT NEXT WEEK TO NEW BEER TUVIAH RISING ON RUINS OF OLD.

Jerusalem, Feb. 16th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Sir John Chancellor, the High Commissioner for Palestine will visit next week with a party the Jewish colony Beer Tuviah, which was destroyed in the riots of August 1929, and is now approaching the end of the reconstruction works, in order to see for himself how the colony is rising anew from its ruins.

The rebuilding of the colony is expected to be completed early in the spring, when the settlers will take up their residence there. A grove will be dedicated in memory of the two Jews who were killed in the Arab attack.

The reconstruction of the colony, the southernmost Jewish settlement in Palestine, is being carried out with funds provided by the Palestine Emergency Fund. When the new settlers arrived last September they found the old houses burned down and those not totally destroyed without roofs, the walls charred and dilapidated, the doors and windows frameless and every movable tile carried off. Some of the ruins were hastily repaired for winter habitation. The dispensary and school are housed in three buildings specially repaired for the purpose. The new buildings are being built of brick which is being manufactured on the spot. The new settlement is being constructed one and a half kilometres east of the site of the old Beer Tuviah.

The old settlers, too discouraged after their harrowing experiences at the time of the riots to take up the rebuilding, have been replaced by a group of members of the Agricultural Workers' Union - young, enthusiastic pioneers, many of them ex-legionaries.

RUTENBERG POWER-HOUSE DAMAGED BY FLOODS CAUSED BY TORRENTIAL RAINS.

Jerusalem, Feb. 16th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The opening of the Rutenberg Power-House, which is to harness the River Jordan for the supply of electrical energy may be delayed for a little time, as a result of a sudden flood coming down with extraordinary violence from the Yarmouk River, breaking through the Fall headrace canal on a thirty metre front, and damaging the outdoor transformer of the station. Repairs have been undertaken, to replace the damaged parts. The Power house and other parts of the works at Jisr el Mejamieh are undamaged.

In connection with this statement issued by the Rutenberg Office, the J.T.A. learns that the torrential rains in the Fauran are responsible for the accident.

The London office of the Palestine Electric Corporation (Rutenberg Company) informs the J.T.A. that it has received a cable from its Palestine office, according to which the damage is not serious, and is not likely to cause any considerable delay in the opening of the Jordan Power-house.

The first part of the development provided for the utilisation of the 50 metre fall between Lake Tiberias and Jisr el Mejamieh divided into two steps, with one power house near Jisr and the other near Abadieh, says a writer in the "Palestine Weekly" describing the Rutenberg Works on the Jordan. For the first Jordan Power-house, he proceeds, a dam was built near Delhamieh, retaining water to the depth of six metres, and another dam projected of the waterfall of the Yarmuk, the most important of the Jordan's tributaries, with a water catchment area of about 7,000 square kilometres to retain water to a depth of 8 metres. To this end there had to be constructed the intermediary Yarmuk reservoir, a canal nearly two kilometres long conveying the Jordan water into Jisr el Mejamieh pressure reservoir and penstocks, through which the Yarmuk and Jordan waters were to be caught by the dams above.

The end of the construction has practically been reached, he states, and Jordan energy is expected soon to be supplied to Haifa. Somewhat later power will be carried by high tension transmission lines to the Jaffa district. The Jordan power-house consists of three 8,000 horsepower turbine generator units, a fourth to be added later when definite data on the amount of water available will be obtained. This power-house will utilise the unregulated waters of the River Yarmuk, supplementing them in the quantities necessary, especially in summer, by the Jordan waters stored in Lake Tiberias. All the civil engineering works are designed for full capacity, the generating sets being added gradually with the increase of consumption of energy. The second power-house at Abadieh will be erected when the requirements for power approach the maximum capacity of the first. Both will then utilise all the waters of the Jordan and Yarmuk, the joint effluent of which will be drawn through Lake Tiberias and passed through the turbines of both power-houses. If necessary a third power-house will be situated to the north of Lake Tiberias and will utilise the Jordan fall of 200 metres, which occurs in the short distance between Lakes Meron and Tiberias.

The Company point out that the scheme guarantees cheap and abundant power for the future development of Palestine, and that not the least interesting feature of the enterprise is that it reverses the usual sequence of supply awaiting the demand. Put, in many other respects the execution of the Rutenberg project is unique. Although costing more than on the continent, all machinery has been acquired from England. Labour which has carried these complicated operations was in the beginning mostly unskilled. Much training and organisation were necessary before efficiency reached a point enabling, for example, the erection in six months of the Yarmuk dam, with its 4,200 cubic metres of concrete, and the very difficult excavation of some 5,300 cubic metres of foundations. This is a work which the Company say would be a record under the best European standards.

THE POSITION OF THE DEAD SEA CONCESSION: GOVERNMENT STILL AWAITING REPLY FROM FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO ITS ARBITRATION PROPOSAL ON FRENCH CLAIM MR. HENDERSON TELLS HOUSE OF COMMONS.

London, Feb. 16th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

I am awaiting a reply from the French Government to the proposal for arbitration which has been made to them by His Majesty's Government, Mr. Arthur Henderson, the Foreign Secretary stated in the House of Commons to-day when Colonel Howard-Bury again asked what the present position is with regard to the negotiations with the French Government in regard to the Dead Sea Concessions granted to Mr. Moses Novomeysky.

The British Government has never admitted the validity of the claim put forward by the French Government on behalf of a pre-war concession held by French nationals for extracting mineral salts from the Dead Sea, it has been stated officially, and the French Government was informed as far back as April 1928 of the reasons for which the British Government is unable to recognise the validity of the concession. The French Government thereupon asked the British Government if it is ready to submit the question to The Hague Court of International Justice, and correspondence on the subject is still pending. The question has been frequently raised in the House of Commons, generally by Colonel Howard-Bury, who on one occasion suggested that an injunction should be served on Mr. Novomeysky for working the concession before the matter was decided by the International Court of Justice.

MELCHETT WILL DENIAL: CONTENTS UNKNOWN DOWAGER LADY MELCHETT DE-CLARES.

London, Feb. 16th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Dowager Lady Melchett declares that statements published yesterday (in the "Sunday Express") as to the supposed contents of the late Lord Melchett's will are "absolutely unauthorised and in the very worst taste".

"I have never even seen the will, and no decisions have been taken yet regarding the disposition of the estate," the Dowager Lady Melchett added. "No member of the family knows what is in the will", she said, "and I am as unaware as everyone else of what it contains".

Major H. L. Nathan, M.P., a friend of the late Lord Melchett, also said that the statements regarding the will were unauthorised, and that the full accurate particulars would not be available for a few weeks.

JEWISH BAKERS IN POLAND FEAR ELIMINATION BY COMPULSORY INTRODUCTION OF MACHINE BAKERIES: HUNDRED JEWISH BAKE-HOUSES CLOSED DOWN IN BIALYSTOCK: RECOGNISE NEED OF MODERNISING BAKING INDUSTRY CONFERENCE OF JEWISH MASTER BAKERS SAYS BUT WE HAVE NO MONEY FOR CARRYING THROUGH IMPROVEMENTS.

Warsaw, Feb. 15th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

100 Jewish bakehouses have been closed down in Bialystock in the process of enforcing the Government order requiring the mechanisation of the baking industry. Following a special meeting of the City Council, a delegation headed by the President of the Municipality visited the District Governor, M. Koscialkowski, to plead with him not to order any more bakehouses to be closed down. The District Governor promised that no further closing orders would be issued, but held out no hope of those already closed being allowed to reopen.

The Jewish master-bakers throughout Poland are holding a conference here attended by 140 delegates to consider what action can be taken to fight against the danger which threatens them on account of the Government decision to demand a change-over to machine bakeries everywhere in the interests of hygiene and improved production.

The speakers at the conference take the view that they recognise fully the need of modernising the baking industry, but that the Jewish bakers are too poor to be able to introduce all the modern installations insisted on by the Government, and that unless the Government recognises their special difficulties and permits the process to be gradual, or provides the Jewish bakers with credit loans to enable them to purchase the new installations, pointing out that in many cases such credits are provided by the Government to non-Jewish bakers, the Jewish bakers will find themselves unable to carry on their work and thrust out of their present positions and deprived of their means of livelihood.

NON-RELIGIOUS JEWS IN WARSAW ALLOWED TO CONTEST JEWISH COMMUNAL ELECTIONS IN MAY DESPITE GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS CONFINING ELECTION RIGHTS TO RELIGIOUS OBSERVANT JEWS.

Warsaw, Feb. 16th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency):

Regardless of the new Jewish community regulations issued by the Government depriving non-religious Jews of the right to vote or stand for election to the Jewish communities, the Executive of the Warsaw Jewish Community has decided not to eliminate any members of the Jewish Community from the electoral lists for the next elections ordered by the Government to take place in May.

In Lodz, the authorities have dissolved the Board and the Executive of the Lodz Jewish Community, on account of the continuous conflicts between the two bodies, it is stated, and has appointed a new Executive headed by the former President, Deputy Minzberg, an Agudist leader and a member of the Government Party in the Sejm, with five Agudists, two Zionists, and one Bundist, belonging to the old Executive, leaving out the representatives of the non-partisan orthodox and the Left Poale Zionists.

The Bundists seceded from the Warsaw Jewish Community in 1929, declaring in their statement at the time that they did so because they had found it impossible owing to the attitude of the Zionist and Agudist majority to carry out their purpose of converting the Jewish Community into a secular, national-cultural autonomous organisation, with its charity activities converted into social-aid work and the Jewish school system secularised. At the very first meeting of the Community held in 1924 the Bundist fraction submitted a formal protest against the religious character of the Community, insisting that in their view it was the representative body of the whole Jewish population and not merely of its religious section. Some time ago, the religious groups protested against an article in the Bundist organ declaring that the Bundist aim in the Community was to fight against Jewish clericalism. There was also an outcry over a public statement by the Bundist leader, Councillor Ehrlich, a member at the time of the Community Board, that he does not belong to the Jewish faith. Much feeling was also caused by the refusal of another Bundist member of the Community Board, M. Altor, to have his infant son circumcised.

DEATH OF ISAAC SHAPIRO PROMINENT YIDDISH JOURNALIST IN POLAND.

Warsaw, Feb. 15th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Isaac Shapiro, one of the leading Yiddish journalists here, has died at the age of 67. He was at first intended to be a Rabbi, but he had a yearning for secular knowledge, and finally he went to Warsaw when he was 19, and tried to enter the University. He took up journalism, first on the orthodox paper "Hakol" and afterwards with Spektor on the Yiddish daily "Die Naje Welt". He was later on the "Hajnt", and during the German Occupation of Poland was editor of the extreme orthodox daily "Dos Yiddishe Wort", published with the aid of the German Rabbis. He was on the Agudist paper "Der Jud" until it closed down, when he joined the "Moment".

DEATH OF LOUIS MANN FAMOUS AMERICAN ACTOR.

New York, Feb. 16th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Louis Mann, the famous actor and playwright, died to-day at Mount Sinai Hospital at the age of 66, following an operation for intestinal ailment.

He made his first appearance on the stage at the age of three in New York City. He appeared with Booth, Salvini, and other great actors, and appeared in Oscar Wilde's first play "Vera, the Nihilist".

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