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BLOOD LIBEL ATTEMPT IN PALESTINE: APAB EXECUTIVE ORGAN REPORTS
 ALLEGED KIDNAPPING OF ARAB CHILDREN BY JEW SUGGESTING RITUAL
 MURDER MOTIVE: COLONEL KISCHE SEES CHIEF SECRETARY TO DEMAND
 ACTION AGAINST PAPER: POLICE INVESTIGATION ORDERED: QUESTION
 EXPECTED TO BE DISCUSSED BY HIGH COMMISSIONER IN EXECUTIVE
 COUNCIL.

Jerusalem, Mar. 1st. (Jewish Telegraphic agency).

An attempt to start a blood libel agitation in Palestine, for the first time, it is believed, since the famous Damascus blood libel affair had its reverberations in this country, was made to-day by the "Felestin", the organ of the Palestine Arab Executive, which, exploiting the near approach of Passover, in connection with which the annual crop of blood libels in various countries usually arises, displays very prominently a news item headed: "Arab Children Stolen By Criminal Jew; Has It Any Connection With The Blood Story?"

The "Felestin" reports under this heading that on Saturday evening it had a visit from a certain Mahmoud Ahmed al Sayed, a greengrocer living in Jaffa, who told the editor that he had met a Jew named Omar Levy near the Government Secondary School, wearing a large coat, which bulged suspiciously. On approaching nearer to the Jew, al Sayed alleged, he heard the sound of children crying. He demanded that the Jew should show him what he had under his coat. The Jew thereupon put down on the ground a boy of about five and a girl of about three, the children of an Arab named Said al Madhoun. Sayed said that he had struck Levy when he tried to explain to him that he was carrying the children for fun. He then had Levy arrested, the "Felestin" adds, on the charge that he had stolen the children, who were missing from Haifa.

Colonel Kisch, of the Jewish Agency, has seen Mr. Young, the Chief Secretary to the Palestine Government, the J.T.A. learns, to demand that the Government should take action against the newspaper for circulating this dangerous libel. Mr. Young has instructed the Jaffa authorities to investigate the report, and to notify him immediately whether it is true that a Jew named Levy has been arrested on this charge. The question is expected to be discussed to-morrow by the High Commissioner in Executive Council.

A similar story about a Jew having been seen carrying something that was seen to be moving and struggling and was finally revealed as a Christian child, started a blood libel agitation in Damascus as recently as July 1929, only a month before the Palestine outbreak. The Arabic and French press in Damascus and in Beirut reported that a 60 year old Jew named Chattah had been seen in the streets of Damascus carrying a sack in which something moved and struggled. He was stopped and asked to show what he had in the bag, and he insisted that he was carrying home a dog. He was not believed, however, the papers went on, and the bag was opened, disclosing a five year old Christian girl, bound and gagged. Chattah was arrested by the police, the reports added, and the child was returned to her parents.

On investigation by the police the story was completely exploded. It came out that Chattah had been falsely accused of trying to kidnap the child who had been standing by, because the mother had wanted to get out of paying for some clothes she had ordered him to dye for her. About a dozen people were sentenced for inciting a crowd against Chattah. There was another blood libel in Damascus just before Passover 1926, when an attempt was made to accuse the Jews of Damascus of killing a Christian boy for the Passover festival. There was also an attempt to start a blood libel in Damascus in 1892.

The great blood libel affair of Damascus took place in 1840, stirring the entire Jewish world. It was in part the reason for the founding of the Alliance Israelite Universelle. At that time Damascus together with Syria, including Palestine, belonged to Mohammed Ali, Khedive of Egypt, who had revolted against the Sultan of Turkey. Public meetings were held in London, Paris, New York and other places to protest against the blood libel. Especially important was the meeting called by the Lord Mayor of London at the Mansion House. As a result, Sir Moses Montefiore, and Isaac Cremieux and Solomon Munk of France were sent as mediators to Alexandria to plead with the Khedive. After repeated interviews with Mohammed Ali then obtained from him the unconditional release and recognition of the innocence of the nine persons who still remained alive of the 13 who had been imprisoned. They then went to Constantinople and obtained a Firman from the Sultan Majid declaring the accusation of ritual murder absurd.

The Damascus blood libel arose in connection with the disappearance of Father Thomas, the Superior of a Franciscan Convent, together with his servant. The French Consul at Damascus, who was an enemy of the Jews started investigations in the Jewish quarter. A confession was extorted from a Jewish barber named Negrin and several of the most notable Jews were imprisoned and tortured. Their teeth and beards were pulled out and they were tempted with offers of gold to confess to an imaginary crime. The incited populace fell upon the synagogue and destroyed the Scrolls of the Law.

In September 1929, when Palestine was in a state of ferment after the outbreak a few weeks previously, a number of Christian boy scouts in Haifa were arrested on a charge of spreading a blood libel, but were released on account of their youth, after their parents had deposited a sum of money as security for their further good behaviour. The boys had been going about spreading a story that the Jews of Haifa had killed an Arab for ritual purposes and had concealed the body in the vicinity of Hadar Hacarmel.

One of the Bishops of Jerusalem, Bishop Alexander (died 1845), who had himself been born a Jew, was once the first signatory to a solemn protest signed by 58 converts against the blood libel, in the course of which they declared: "We, the undersigned, by nation Jews, and having lived to years of maturity in the faith and practise of modern Judaism, but now, by the grace of God, members of the Church of Christ, do solemnly protest that we have never directly nor indirectly heard, much less known, among the Jews, of the practice of killing Christians or using Christian blood, and that we believe this charge, so often brought against them formerly, and now lately revived, to be a foul and Satanic falsehood".

"FELESTIN" SUSPENDED.

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

The High Commissioner has to-day suspended the "Felestin", the J.T.A. learns, for publishing the blood libel story, and has directed the Attorney-General to consider the advisability of taking criminal proceedings against the paper for libel.

PALESTINE ARAB EXECUTIVE WAS NOT CONSULTED BY GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTION WITH LETTER TO DR. WEIZMANN MR. MACDONALD EXPLAINS IN HOUSE OF COMMONS: LETTER DEALS ONLY WITH INTERPRETATION OF CERTAIN PASSAGES IN WHITE PAPER WHICH WERE SUBJECT TO MISINTERPRETATION HE SAYS: WAS NOT CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO CONSULT ARAB EXECUTIVE IN EXPLAINING POLICY ALREADY ANNOUNCED.

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

The letter deals only with the interpretation of certain passages in the statement of policy presented to Parliament in December last which at once became the subject of misconception. It was not in the circumstances considered necessary to take the Arab Executive into consultation in explaining and elucidating the policy already announced by His Majesty's Government, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, the Prime Minister, said in the House of Commons this evening in reply to Colonel Howard-Bury, who had addressed a question to him as to whether the Arab Executive was in any way consulted or an agreement reached with them before he had written his letter to Dr. Weizmann.

GOVERNMENT WANTS INCOME TAX FROM JEWISH NATIONAL FUND: ATTORNEY-GENERAL DISMISSES IN HIGH COURT FUND'S CLAIM TO BE CHARITY ENTITLED TO EXEMPTION; COUNSEL ARGUES IT SETTLES REFUGEES FROM PERSECUTIONS AND MASCACRES ON LAND IN PALESTINE; ATTORNEY-GENERAL RETORTS PURPOSE IS POLITICAL AIMING TO ESTABLISH IN PALESTINE JEWISH NATIONAL HOME; SETTLERS NOT ALLOWED TO DISPOSE OF PROPERTY TO NON-JEWS; FACT OF ORGANISATION PERFORMING USEFUL PUBLIC SERVICE DOES NOT MAKE IT CHARITY: HEARING ADJOURNED.

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

The question whether the Jewish National Fund is a charity entitled to exemption from income tax was raised in a Revenue Appeal brought by the Fund to-day before Mr. Justice Rowlatt in the King's Bench Division, the hearing being adjourned. The Commissioners for the Special Purposes of the Income Tax Acts had previously ruled that it was not a charity.

Mr. A.M. Lyster, K.C., for the Fund, said that it was not formed for profit. Its object was to acquire land in Palestine and to settle Jewish people upon it. It obtained large funds from voluntary collections among Jews, and primarily the point of view of the founders was to form a religious trust. The funds were used for settling poor people on the land in Palestine, and produce in rather a primitive country the beginnings of a civilised community. The people so settled were refugees from persecutions and massacres, such as Yemenite Jews and Russian Jews. In the circumstances the association maintained that it was a charity inasmuch as its objects were for the benefit of a large class of the community, for the relief of poverty and for religious purposes. From whatever angle it was viewed, it was carrying out charitable duties in the eyes of the English law. In addition to acquiring land and letting it to the settlers it had installed a water supply, planted forests, cultivated plantations, erected homesteads for workers and trained and found employment for the settlers. It had also granted land for and advanced money in connection with the erection of synagogues, orphanages, hospitals, social clubs, schools, and other religious, charitable and educational institutions.

The Attorney-General, Sir William Jowett, K.C., for the Crown, said the question was not what the association did do, but what it was authorised to do by the terms of the trust. Looking at the association's powers under its memorandum and articles of association, it was obvious that the underlying intent and purpose was political. The object was to establish in Palestine a Jewish National Home. The settlers were never to have absolute ownership of the land to avoid the risk of any settler disposing of the property to any member of the non-Jewish community. From a Revenue point of view it was important that it should not be said that when persons gathered together for a semi-political purpose they could gain exemption. The fact that an organisation was performing a very useful public service did not make it a charity.

SEARCH FOR ARMS IN PALESTINE: HADASSAH HOSPITAL IN SAFED AND SCHOOL-HOUSE IN MIZRACHI COLONY SEARCHED: ALSO HOME OF ARAB EXECUTIVE LEADER IN TULKAREM.

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

There is a great deal of indignation among Palestine Jews to-day over the news that a search for arms in which nothing whatever has been found, has been carried out by the police in the Hadassah Hospital in Safed (whose medical officer, Dr. Isaac Mamaan, was one of the victims of the Safed massacre of August 1929) and in the school house of the Mizrachi colony Hittin, near Tiberias.

At the same time a search was carried out by Mr. Riggs, of the Chief Detective Bureau, at the home of Selim Bey Abdul Rahman, of Tulkarem, an extremist member of the Palestine Arab Executive, who served a six months' sentence after the August riots. Mr. Riggs was looking for seditious literature, and closely questioned Abdul Rahman concerning an alleged secret meeting at his home. A large quantity of papers was seized.

TRUMPELDOR DEATH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED BY SEPARATE PILGRIMAGES TO HIS GRAVE BY PALESTINE LABOUR AND REVISIONISTS.

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

Tel Hai Day, marking the anniversary of the death of Captain Trumpeldor, who died in Tel Hai in March 1920, defending the colony against Arab raiders, is being observed by two separate pilgrimages to his grave at Tel Hai, arranged separately by the Palestine Labour Organisation and the Palestine Revisionists, the first honouring him for his connection with the Haluzim movement and the second for his connection with the Jewish Legion and the Zion Mule Corps.

A big meeting in honour of Trumpeldor was also held at Ramat Rachel, outside Jerusalem, where the Labour Battalion bearing Trumpeldor's name is settled. It had been intended to arrange a big procession, but this was prohibited by the police. Several hundred workers were present at the meeting.

Trumpeldor, who was only about thirty-six years of age when he died, had distinguished himself by his bravery in the Russo-Japanese War. He was the only Jew in the Czarist army who was raised to the rank of officer. He lost an arm in the fighting at Port Arthur. After the war he settled in Palestine and worked there on the land. When Turkey entered the Great War he escaped to Egypt, and helped to form the Zion Mule Corps, being second in command to Colonel Patterson, who in his book "Gallipoli" speaks of him as one of the bravest men he ever met.

Trumpeldor, who defended Tel Hai with a handful of demobilised soldiers of the Jewish Battalion and Haluzim, was wounded by the first shots from the Arab side, three bullets striking him. For two hours he continued, wounded as he was, to direct the defence and finally the Jews forced the Arabs to retreat with a loss of five dead and about fifteen wounded. Of the defending force, three men, Tocker, Munter and Sharo, and two girls, Deborah Drichler and Sarah Chisick (whose brother was killed in the defence of Beer Tuviah in the August outbreak of 1929), were killed, and three men, Zulotti, Galubov and Goldberg were wounded. Trumpeldor's condition was seen to be hopeless and when asked how he felt he answered: "Easy; it is good to die for our country".

As soon as the attack was beaten off, the group decided to leave Tel Hai immediately for Giladi, which was a better strategical position. On the way Trumpeldor died while being carried by his comrades. Before he breathed his last, he was asked how he felt and he replied in a faint voice: "It is good to die for our country".

PURIM CELEBRATIONS IN PALESTINE TO CONTINUE ENTIRE WEEK: ILLUMINATIONS AND FIREWORKS IN TEL AVIV AND BIG CARNIVAL.

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

The country-wide Purim festivities, which this year are expected to be on a very extensive scale and to continue throughout the week, were started off last night by a big ball held at the King David Hotel here.

In Tel Aviv more than 15 big functions have been arranged, and the annual street carnival is to be of specially big dimensions this year. The commencement of the celebrations on Monday evening will be announced by the sirens of the Tel Aviv Fire Brigade. The illuminations and fireworks, however, were started last night already.

70TH. BIRTHDAY OF MAYER DIZENGOFF TEL AVIV MAYOR AND FOUNDER OF ALL-JEWISH CITY BEING CELEBRATED THIS WEEK.

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

Tel Aviv is celebrating this week the 70th. birthday of Mr. Mayer Dizengoff, the Mayor of Tel Aviv, one of the founders of the All-Jewish City and a former member of the Zionist Executive.

He is publishing in this connection his memoirs of the war period in Tel Aviv, the proceeds to go entirely for the Palestine Museum, which is being established in his house in Tel Aviv, in commemoration of his wife who died recently.

JEWISH-ARAB UNDERSTANDING IN SIGHT IN PALESTINE SAYS FORMER POLISH CONSUL IN PALESTINE ARRIVING IN AMERICA TO TAKE UP POST.

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

A Jewish-Arab understanding in Palestine is in sight, because the Arabs realize the benefit which they derive from the Jewish economic activities in Palestine, M. Titus Sbyszewski, former Polish Consul in Palestine, who has arrived here to take up the post of Polish Consul in Chicago, said in an interview with the J.T.A. here to-day.

M. Sbyszewski was full of praise of the Jewish work in Palestine. He is being feted all this week in New York at banquets arranged in recognition of his friendliness to the Jews during his period of office in Palestine. He will continue to be in friendly relationship with the Jews of America, M. Sbyszewski assured the J.T.A.

FIFTY YEARS OF JEWISH MASS IMMIGRATION TO AMERICA CELEBRATED IN NEW YORK SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH PASSING OF NEW BILL BY HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CUTTING DOWN IMMIGRATION TO 10 PER CENT.

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

Fifty years of Jewish mass immigration to America was commemorated to-day at the 22nd. annual meeting of the Hias (Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society of America) held at the Astor Hotel.

Congressman La Guardia, of New York, in addressing the meeting, protested strongly against the attempt of the House of Representatives yesterday to adopt without any discussion the immigration restriction bill which aims at cutting immigration to the United States by 90 per cent. It is expected that the bill will be passed in the House at to-morrow's session, but Congressman La Guardia said that he hoped that the Senate would still step in and prevent the bill becoming law.

The agreement which the Hias has with the Emigdirekt (United Jewish Emigration Society) for the continuation of its activities abroad, was approved by the meeting, which was attended by 1,500 people.

AUTHOR OF "EILI EILI" FAMOUS YIDDISH IMMIGRANT SONG DIES IN
OBSCURITY IN NEW YORK AGED 74: BROUGHT ACTION SIX YEARS AGO
TO ESTABLISH HIS CLAIM TO AUTHORSHIP VALUING SONG AT HALF
MILLION DOLLARS.

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

Jacob Koppel Sandler, the author of the words and music of "Eili, Eili", the famous Yiddish song describing the fate of the immigrant Jewish masses in the early days of Jewish mass immigration to America, has died here in complete obscurity. Sandler, who was 74 years of age, came to America 43 years ago, arriving for a time as a music teacher and a choir-master. He wrote "Eili, Eili" as part of a Yiddish play called "Sons of Moses", which was a complete failure. The song was lifted by someone afterwards and became a great success. Sandler had not copyrighted it and he went about complaining that other people were making fortunes out of its sale. In 1925 he brought a legal action to establish his claim to the authorship, fixing the value of the song at half a million dollars, but nothing could be done then.

CITIZENSHIP FOR ROUMANIAN STAATENLOSE: NEW BILL BACKED BY MANY
NON-JEWISH DEPUTIES INTRODUCED IN PARLIAMENT BY JEWISH
MEMBER OF GOVERNMENT PARTY.

Bucharest, Mar. 1st. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Deputy Rosenberg, a Jewish Deputy belonging to the Government Party, has introduced a bill in the Chamber placing the initiative on Parliament in taking action to give wider facilities under the existing Citizenship Law to enable those persons who were living in Roumania at the time that the new Provinces were unified with Old Roumania to become citizens, if they did not opt for any other State after 1924, or if they even opted for foreign citizenship, did not leave the country or become foreign subjects.

The bill which provides for the applicants for citizenship appearing before a judge or a Government authority to establish their claim, without the setting up of any special citizenship tribunals, is backed by a number of non-Jewish Deputies as well as by the Jewish Deputies.

DISPUTE OVER APPOINTMENT OF RABBI IN POLISH TOWN LEADS TO SHOOTING
BETWEEN AGUDISTS AND OTHERS OUTSIDE SYNAGOGUE ON SABBATH ONE
INJURED.

Warsaw, Mar. 1st. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Following a dispute between members of the orthodox group belonging to the Agudah and Zionists and others in the town of Lukov, in the district of Siedlee, a young Jew named Gershon Slizak, 20 years of age, was shot at and seriously wounded by a revolver shot fired by Jacob Gruenblatt, 45 years of age, who is reported to be an adherent of the Agudah.

The Jews of Lukov had to elect a Rabbi. The Zionists, Mizrachists, and the organisations of Jewish artisans and merchants got their candidate elected. The Agudists refused to recognise the new Rabbi and appointed another Rabbi of their own. The President of the Lukov Zionist Organisation, speaking over the telephone to-day with the J.T.A. here said that the Agudah was warned that their Rabbi would not be admitted to the Synagogue. Heedless of the warning they brought him to the synagogue on the Sabbath for the service, and a dispute broke out at the entrance. Gruenblatt pulled out a revolver and shot at Slizak, who is a non-partisan. The police have opened an enquiry.

JEWISH CHAPLAIN TO POLISH ARMY TO BE PROMOTED GENERAL?

Warsaw, Mar. 1st. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Rabbi Colonel Joseph Mieses, Chief Jewish Chaplain to the Polish Army, is to be promoted a General in the next few days, the press here reports. Rabbi Mieses would in that case be the first Jew to hold the rank of General in the Polish Army.