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A MERRY PURIM IN PALESTINE: THOUSANDS OF ARABS COME TO TEL AVIV FOR CELEBRATIONS: CARNIVAL FUN UNDAMPED BY RAINFALL.

Tel Aviv, Mar. 3rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Thousands of Arabs from the neighbouring town of Jaffa and from other places were in Tel Aviv last night, taking advantage of the reduced railway rates, to join in the big Purim festivities here. Many thousands of Jews had come from all parts of the country, and there were also hundreds of tourists from abroad, the van of the annual tourist parties who visit Palestine for the Passover festival. Rain fell during the big carnival procession in the streets but in no way damped the spirits of the revellers. Fancy dress abounded, Queen Esther, Mordecai, Haman and Ahasuaras being the most popular masquerades, although there were many other costumes, largely of clowns and court jesters. Purim plays were performed in a number of halls and the celebrations went off joyously.

IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH ANY UNDERSTANDING WITH DR. WEIZMANN OR ANY OTHER JEW PALESTINE ARAB EXECUTIVE DECLARES AFTER ALL-DAY SESSION ATTENDED BY 30 MEMBERS: PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER INTERPRETING PALESTINE WHITE PAPER REJECTED: ANTI-JEWISH BOYCOTT DECISION CONFIRMED.

Jerusalem, Mar 3rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

It is truly impossible to arrive at any understanding with Dr. Weizmann or with any other Jew, the Palestine Arab Executive declares in a resolution which it has just adopted following an all-day session held here attended by thirty members of the Executive.

The session approved the statement made to Sir John Chancellor, the High Commissioner for Palestine, on February 16th, by the officers of the Arab Executive (reported at the time in the J.T.A. Bulletin), rejecting Mr. MacDonald's new interpretation of Palestine policy in his letter to Dr. Weizmann.

The meeting also ratified the decision to proclaim an Arab boycott against the Jews, and confirmed the resolutions adopted at various times by the Palestine Arab Executive and the Palestine Arab Congress denouncing the Palestine Mandate and the Balfour Declaration.

BEDOUIN ENCROACHING ON JEWISH LANDS MAY REMAIN ACCORDING TO NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER PENDING DECISION BY LAND COURTS.

Jerusalem, Mar. 3rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Bedouin squatters and grazers on the Jewish lands in the Haifa Bay area are permitted to remain there under a new administrative order, the J.T.A. is given to understand, the police being instructed not to interfere with them until the Land Court has given its decision in regard to their claims.

The order means that anyone is allowed to trespass on the property, the police interfering only if the trespasser causes a fight, a representative of the Palestine Economic Corporation, which owns the land in conjunction with the Jewish National Fund, said to the J.T.A. to-day, in commenting on the order. Vandalism is meanwhile being continued by the Arabs and already several thousand trees have been uprooted.

ARABS ASK JEWS TO SETTLE IN NAZARETH.

Jerusalem, Mar: 3rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

At least fifty Jewish merchants are wanted to rent shops and another fifty families to occupy houses, says a statement signed by ten leading Moslem and Christian residents of Nazareth, appealing to "Jewish associations" to restore economically the town in which Christ spent his youth, and to put out of action the tradesmen of the place who charge exorbitant prices and to wage war against the Arab money-lenders and usurers.

The ten signatories are: Taher Fahum, Mohamed Abdul Halim, Mohamed Sheriff, Omar Bedoui, Haj Daher Asaad, Said Abdul Halim, Yousef Sharib, Abdul Halim Ahmed, Abdul Hamid, and Abdul Halim Fahum.

Nazarenes, both Christians and Moslems, they say in a letter appearing in "Al Salaam" of Jerusalem, a Jewish publication in Arabic edited by Dr. Nissim Maloul, have been crying out for many years against the money-lenders of our city. They have appealed from time to time to the authorities and have now decided that the one thing that can save the town would be an infiltration of Jews. The writers, who are among the biggest property owners of Nazareth, declare they will let nothing dissuade them from the path on which they have embarked.

"We shall not be influenced by the lies and accusations of those who impute treason to the Fatherland to anyone who tries to fight against the economic crisis", they write. "We have taken an oath by God, by our Fatherland and history, that we shall carry out our programme in accordance with the dictates of our conscience and the general interests".

Four reasons are given for the decline of Nazareth: tradespeople have formed a sort of trust for fixing prices and exploiting their customers; Arab money-lenders charge not less than 100 per cent. and protest their customers' notes, later to sell their property at public auction, the money-lenders belonging to the class of 'well known nationalists'; exclusion of outsiders from Nazareth, which has caused a catastrophic reduction in the rentals of houses and shops; and Nazareth merchants corner merchandise which they buy from the Jews, only to re-sell the goods to their Arab townspeople at exorbitant rates.

"On behalf of the overwhelming majority of property owners and consumers", the petitioners conclude, "we declare that we would welcome a Jewish immigration, and we trust that the enlightened Jews with their financial and commercial associations will hasten to respond to our appeal. We have had enough of losses; we want a system of reciprocity and understanding; we are tired of the obstinacy of the money-lenders and shopkeepers who pursue a policy of boycott and preach hatred".

CONCEALED WITNESSES IN PALESTINE COURTS: IS THIS USUAL PROCEDURE
M.P. WANTS TO KNOW: COLONIAL SECRETARY HAS NO INFORMATION DR.
SPIELS SAYS BUT WILL MAKE ENQUIRIES.

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

In view of the fact that at the recent trial before the Deputy District Commissioner of Jerusalem of certain Arabs charged under the Prevention of Crimes Ordinance (they were accused of Communist activity, the proceedings being reported in the J.T.A. Bulletin at the time), the witnesses for the Prosecution were permitted to give evidence behind screens, Mr. P. Freeman, Labour member for Brecon, asked in the House of Commons this afternoon, would the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies state whether this was the usual procedure in Palestine, and what was the result of the trial and the sentence if any imposed.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has no information with regard to the trial in question, Dr. Drummond Shields replied, but enquiries will be made from the High Commissioner.

If this practice exists, Mr. Freeman pursued, will he consider the desirability of stopping it.

We will certainly look into the whole matter, Dr. Shields answered.

Is the Chief Justice aware that during the trial of certain Communists in Jerusalem, the accused were confronted by witnesses who were kept behind a screen and were therefore not seen by the prisoners, the "Palestine Bulletin" of Jerusalem asked in its issue of February 11th.

Is it not a principle of English justice, it asked further, that the accused should see the person accusing him? How can an accused person know whether the witness against him is not a personal enemy, or that his evidence is not in some other way tainted? How can the public be certain that the evidence of agents provocateurs is not being used? Is the Judge presiding at the trial in a position to draw his conclusions as to the credibility or otherwise of a witness whom he cannot see? Do not Judges judge from the behaviour of a witness in the box whether he is speaking the truth or not? In the case in question was the Court satisfied that the hidden witnesses were not reading from documents prepared for them? Could the court be sure that the witnesses had not made notes before the trial with which they were refreshing their memory behind the screen? Does the evidence of a man, a confessed Communist for three years, become more trustworthy by being given in secret? Will the Chief Justice take steps to prevent a recurrence of what appears to be repugnant to all ideas of proper legal procedure as understood in England?

FRIENDSHIP DRAMA IN MOSCOW STATE TRIAL: PROFESSOR RYAZANOV FAMOUS MARXIST AUTHORITY AND FRIEND OF LENIN EXPELLED FROM COMMUNIST PARTY ON TREASON CHARGE GOT INTO TROUBLE BECAUSE HE SHIELDED PROFESSOR RUBIN HIS PUPIL AND FRIEND RUBIN REVEALS IN COURT.

Moscow, Mar. 3rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Professor Rubin, one of the six Jews on trial in the big Menshevik conspiracy action here (who is incidentally a brother-in-law of the Bundist leader Abramovitch, who figures prominently in the act of indictment) confessed to-day under examination by the State Prosecutor, Krylenko, that it was on his account that Professor Ryazanov, the famous Bolshevik theoretician, who was dismissed from his post as head of the Marx-Engels Institute and expelled from the Communist Party for treason on the same day that the proceedings against the accused were announced, was brought into the affair, only because of his anxiety to shield him (Professor Rubin).

Professor Rubin tried desperately to save his teacher and friend from being dragged into the case, but Krylenko succeeded in showing that Professor Ryazanov had been aware of Rubin's menshevik activity, and had shielded him out of friendship for his pupil and co-worker.

Professor Rubin said that it was Professor Ryazanov who had indirectly warned him that his arrest was imminent, and an hour after he had received the warning he had handed Ryazanov a packet of Menshevik documents, ostensibly for scientific study, so that they should be in safe keeping. Ryazanov had hesitated for a few minutes, he said, before accepting the packet.

Krylenko tried to interpret his statement to mean that Ryazanov knew of the contents of the packet and had committed himself to the Mensheviks. Pressed by Krylenko, Rubin testified that he had known Professor Ryazanov since 1920, and that Ryazanov had helped him with his work and had protected him when he (Rubin) had been previously under arrest.

With tears in his eyes, Rubin pleaded that all that Professor Ryazanov had done for him was prompted entirely by his personal friendship, and that there was no political motive whatever for his actions. Ryazanov is in no way connected in the movement, he insisted. I plead guilty, he said, to having misused Ryazanov's good nature.

Krylenko retorted that Ryazanov was too astute a revolutionary not to have known the significance of his action in shielding a Menshevik and taking Menshevik documents into his safe keeping. If he did so, he said, the only conclusion is that he was bound to the Menshevik cause politically.

The "Pravda" refers to Professor Ryazanov to-day as "a Talmudist book-worm" and "a reader of Marx, but no Marxist".

ABRAMOVITCH SENDS SWORN STATEMENT TO MOSCOW THAT HE WAS NOT IN RUSSIA AT TIME ALLEGED IN INDICTMENT.

Berlin, Mar. 3rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Raphael Abramovitch, the Bundist leader and brother-in-law of Professor Rubin, who is mentioned in the act of indictment in the Moscow State trial, as having been in Soviet Russia in 1928, has sent to the Moscow Court a statement which he has sworn before a Commissioner of Oaths here, repeating the statement he has already made to the J.T.A., that he was not in Russia at the time mentioned.

I have not been in the Soviet Union since 1920, he declares in the statement, certainly not in the summer of 1928. From June 26th. to July 26th., 1918 I was at the Pension Wendenburg, in Plau, in Mecklenburg. From August 1st. till August 12th. I was in Brussels, attending the Congress of the Socialist International.

The Secretary of the German League of Human Rights, Herr Kurt Grossmann, has added a statement in which he declares: I was at Plau from July 12th. till July 30th., 1928, and I saw Abramovitch there every day of my stay.

CATHOLIC MOVEMENT IN LITHUANIA CONDEMNS ANTISEMITISM LEADER OF CATHOLIC PARTY DECLARES TO J.T.A.: ADMITS HOWEVER SEVERAL CATHOLIC PRIESTS BEEN ENGAGING IN ANTISEMITIC ACTIVITY.

Kovno, Mar. 3rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

An admission that several priests have been engaging in antisemitic agitation in connection with the conflict between the Catholic Church in Lithuania and the Lithuanian Government (reported recently in the J.T.A. Bulletin) was made to-day by Dr. L. Bistras, the leader of the Catholic Party in Lithuania, in the course of an interview with the J.T.A. representative here.

The leaders of the Catholic movement in Lithuania, however, he declared, are entirely opposed to any antisemitic tendencies. Unfortunately, several priests have attacked Jews, he said, alleging that they are supporting the Government in its stand against the Church, but in many cases this is due to a misunderstanding, and their action is certainly not supported by the Catholic Church or the Catholic Party in Lithuania.

"DOWN WITH JEWS!" BECOMING FREQUENT CRY IN PARIS: GROWING ANTISEMITIC ACTIVITY PRECIPITATED BY DREYFUS PLAY: SOPHIE TUCKER LATEST VICTIM.

Paris, Mar. 3rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Antisemitic scenes are becoming more frequent in Paris than they have been for years, precipitated by the Dreyfus affair play at the Nouvelle Ambigue Theatre. "Down with the Jews" is heard very often these days in Paris, not only in the streets in the immediate vicinity of the theatre, but also in other parts of the city, and not only in connection with the Dreyfus play.

Antisemitism is beginning to assume a form unknown here since the days of the Dreyfus affair, and the Camelots du Roi aided by groups of hooligans anxious to make use of any pre-text for stirring up trouble are exploiting every opportunity of starting anti-Jewish demonstrations.

Every public announcement of Jewish activities seems to be able now to bring together a group of antisemitic demonstrators. Some posters put up outside the Empire Music Hall to-day to announce the appearance of Sophie Tucker, the famous music hall artist in her song "My Yiddishe Kome", have been torn down and an attempt was made to break into the music hall while she was on the stage. This was prevented by the police, however.

It is possible that the Government will be asked to take measures to prevent the further development of such incidents. In some Jewish quarters, however, it is felt that the manifestations are worked up by small groups of people who have no real support and that to take them seriously would be the best service that could be paid to the movement, which if it finds itself ignored will soon collapse.

Thirty years ago many towns in France resounded to the cries: "Down with the Jews", Deputy Maurice Sibille, the oldest member of the French Chamber said in presiding by seniority at the opening of the new Parliamentary session about a fortnight ago. But the war, he went on, saw Freethinkers, Jews, Catholics and Protestants all doing their duty side by side, with the friendship born of the trenches. After the Armistice the custom grew up of soldiers commemorating their dead comrades by going from the Catholic Cathedral to the Protestant Church and to the Synagogue, so that all the fallen, whatever their religion, should be properly honoured. The old prejudices, Deputy Sibille said, have now completely disappeared.

GOVERNMENT AMENDMENTS TO POLISH CONSTITUTION WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT JEWISH INTERESTS SAYS STATEMENT PRESENTED TO SEYM BY JEWISH DEPUTIES: IMPOSSIBLE FOR JEWS EVER TO HAVE SIXTH OF TOTAL NUMBER OF SEATS IN SEYM "HIGH UNDER NEW ARRANGEMENT" WOULD PREVENT THEM PUTTING ANY INTERPELLATIONS.

Warsaw, Mar. 3rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The restriction of the right of putting interpellations in the Sejm to groups of Deputies numbering at least one-sixth of the total number of Deputies, would make it impossible for small groups to put interpellations at all, though they represent the interests of a compact section of the population, says a statement by the Club of Jewish Deputies presented in the Sejm to-day in opposition to the Government proposals for amending the Constitution, which the Sejm began to consider to-day. The total number of Deputies in the Sejm is 444, the statement says, and there is no chance of the Jewish population of Poland ever being able to return 74 Deputies to the Sejm.

The Club complains also that the proposed restriction of the right of immunity enjoyed by Deputies is excessive. The Jewish population, it says, has been engaged for years in a long and arduous struggle for Jewish cultural, political and social rights, and this struggle would be made entirely impossible if the rights of the Deputies would be restricted in such a way that the attainment of the Jewish postulates would become altogether dependent upon the goodwill of the Government authorities.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND COLLECTIONS NOT AFFECTED BY INCOME TAX ACTION IN HIGH COURT: QUESTION AROSE ONLY IN CONNECTION WITH INTEREST ON CERTAIN SECURITIES HELD BY FUND.

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

The normal collections and income of the Jewish National Fund in Great Britain and Ireland are in no way affected by the decision handed down by Mr. Justice Rowlatt in the King's Bench Division yesterday, the J.T.A. is informed. The question of income tax arose only in regard to a claim by the Revenue Commissioners on the interest on consolidated securities, amounting to £32,000, held by the Keren Kayemeth Le Israel, Ltd. No interest is claimed, however, on the normal collections of the Fund.

The J.T.A. further understands that the advisability is being considered by the Head Office of the Jewish National Fund in Jerusalem of carrying the appeal to the House of Lords.