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NEARLY 4½ MILLION JEWS IN AMERICA: LESS THAN A QUARTER MILLION
 50 YEARS AGO BEFORE MASS EMIGRATION FROM RUSSIA STARTED;
 NEW FIGURES PUBLISHED BY AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE.

New York, May 24th (Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

There were 4,228,000 Jews in the United States of America at the end of 1927, which is 3.4% of the entire population of the country, according to statistics which have just been made public here by the American Jewish Committee.

50 years ago, before the beginning of the Jewish mass-emigration movement from Russia to America after the pogroms and the May Laws of 1881, there were only 230,000 Jews in the United States.

2,438,944 Jews entered America as immigrants during the period 1881-1930, while 113,099 Jews emigrated from the country in the same period. 11,526 Jews entered the United States during 1930, most of them relatives of residents already in the country.

85% of the Jewish population of America live in cities with a population of over a hundred thousand, the figures reveal.

The figures given correspond roughly to the general idea held regarding the number of Jews in the United States. At the annual meeting of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (Hias) which took place in New York in March, and was at the same time a celebration gathering marking half a century since the beginning of mass immigration from Eastern Europe to America, Mr. Abraham Herman, the President of the Hias said that in 1881 when the mass immigration movement began, the total Jewish population of America was about 250,000 out of a total of 45 million, and to-day there were approximately 4½ million Jews in America out of a general population of 120 million.

The Bureau of Jewish Social Research published in 1928 some statistical tables giving the results of a Jewish Communal Survey of Greater New York, which had been undertaken in 1926 at the direction of a Citizens' Committee of which Judge Otto A. Rosalsky was chairman and Dr. Lee Frankel chairman of the executive committee, and carried out by a staff of 50 research workers. According to this survey the Jewish population of Greater New York alone was 1,728,000, about 30% of the city's total population.

The survey included a study of mortality among the Jews and a valuation of communal resources in child care, health work, Jewish education, etc. According to this, the population of New York City increased in the decade from 1915 to 1925 by 16.4% and the Jewish population increased in the same period to the same extent.

The death rate among the Jewish population was shown to be lower than among the general population, but because of the lower-birth-rate, it was pointed out, and because the Jewish population which is a young group will, as the years advance, be hard-hit by degenerative diseases to which the population is subject unless effective measures are taken to fight the diseases, since it is unlikely that the Jewish population will find itself replenished from Europe on account of the immigration restrictions, the future will see New York's Jewish population dwindling in proportion to the general population.

NEW NEP IN RUSSIA?: DECREE ISSUED BY SOVIET GOVERNMENT REDUCING TAXES IMPOSED ON ARTISANS AND PUTTING STOP TO ARBITRARY TAXATION METHODS OF LOCAL TAX AUTHORITIES.

Moscow, May 24th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

The Central Executive Committee of the Soviets issued to-day a new tax decree which looks like proving a boon for tens of thousands of Jewish artisans and mechanics throughout the Soviet Union.

The decree reduces the taxes imposed upon such artisans by one third. It also puts a stop to the arbitrary methods hitherto employed by the local tax authorities in taxing artisans. Henceforth the Commissariat of Finance in Moscow will itself determine the amount of taxes to be levied on such artisans, and the local tax committees are no longer permitted to determine the amount of taxes to be imposed on an artisan according to their estimate of his gross turnover of business.

The decree has been issued because it has been found that the local tax committees are frequently able to ruin an artisan or mechanic by claiming that his turnover is larger than he has declared and piling heavy taxes upon him, making it impossible for him to continue his work. The Central Executive Committee now definitely orders that wherever it is found necessary to fix the tax in accordance with the business turnover of the artisan this should be done only on the basis of unquestioned figures, showing the exact income, and not dependent on mere guesswork as was done in the past.

Many see in this unexpected move taken by the Central Executive Committee a tendency on the part of the Soviet Government to experiment with a temporary and restricted form of a new Nep.

JEWISH FAMILIES BACK IN HEBRON WELCOMED BY ARAB NEIGHBOURS.

Jerusalem, May 24th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

The 24 Jewish families who recently returned to Hebron, after the town had been left for almost two years without any Jews since the Jewish population fled after the massacres of August 1929, celebrated the Pentecost festival this week amid the felicitations of their Arab neighbours, who welcomed the returning Jews, one of the returned Hebron Jewish refugees has informed the J.T.A.

ELECTION DAY IN PALESTINE: THIRTY THOUSAND SHEKEL PAYERS ELECTING 30 DELEGATES TO ZIONIST CONGRESS: FIGHT MAINLY BETWEEN LABOUR AND REVISIONISTS: ELECTION BOARD SPRINGS SURPRISE BY DISQUALIFYING TEN LEADING REVISIONISTS CANDIDATES FIVE MIZRACHISTS AND THREE YEMENITES.

Jerusalem, May 24th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Thirty thousand shekel payers in Palestine are to-day electing thirty delegates to the Zionist Congress which opens in Basle in about a month from now. The campaign is most keen between Labour and the Revisionists, but the General Zionists are more active this time than they were in the elections to the Palestine Jewish Elected Assembly.

A sensation was caused here about midnight by a decision announced by the Election Board disqualifying ten of the leading Revisionist candidates, and five Mizrahist candidates on the ground that they had not contributed to the Keren Hayesod. Three Yemenite candidates have also been disqualified for failing to provide the necessary documents. Among the disqualified Revisionist candidates are Dr. Wolfgang von Weisl, Mr. Abraham Weinsahl, his brother, Mr. Jacob Weinsahl, and Mr. Alexander Yevserov.

SAFEGUARDING INTERESTS OF NATIVE-BORN PALESTINIANS: PROGRAMME OF "DOAR HAYOM" PASSING TO CONTROL OF NEW GROUP: WILL ALSO ADVOCATE CANTONISATION OF PALESTINE MR. BEN-AVI "DOAR HAYOM" EDITOR SAYS.

Jerusalem, May 24th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Safeguarding the interests of those Jews who were born in Palestine is the principal plank in the policy of the Hebrew daily "Doar Hayom" beginning from to-morrow, (Monday) when the paper passes to the control of a group consisting of the B'nai Benjamin, the organisation of Palestine farmers who were born in the country, sons of the old Palestine colonists, and of the organisation of the Palestine-born town population which is headed by Mr. Ben-Avi, the editor of the "Doar Hayom", who made this announcement to-day to the J.T.A. here.

The "Doar Hayom" was for a considerable time the organ of the Revisionists, until it passed back about three months ago to the editorship of Mr. Ben-Avi, its founder and first editor, the Revisionists starting a new daily of their own, "Haam".

The "Doar Hayom" will also advocate the cantonisation of Palestine, and the transfer of the Palestine Mandate from Great Britain to the League of Nations as such.

Mrs Mary Fels of New York, the widow of the famous millionaire-single-tax advocate, Joseph Fels, who was a leader of the Jewish Territorial Organisation (Ito) and a close friend of the late Israel Zangwill, is a Vice-President of the B'nai Benjamin, whose work she has helped considerably. She gave at one time 40,000 dollars for the B'nai Benjamin Bank and 10,000 dollars for a B'nai Benjamin Agricultural Fund named in honour of the late Aaron Aaronson, a member of the famous Aaronson family including the late Sarah Aaronson and Captain Alexander Aaronson who did a great deal during the war to bring about the British victory in Palestine.

The B'nai Benjamin, of which I am Vice-President, Mrs. Fels said in 1925 when she established the Joseph Fels Foundation to promote the rebuilding of Palestine as the Jewish National Home and to spread the ethical teachings of the Bible, is an organisation of the Jewish young farmers of Palestine, who share my faith that the Jewish problem as such cannot be solved by the mere physical resettlement of Palestine, but must be linked with a spiritual awakening of both Jews and Gentiles, and a revival of the ethical and religious life of Israel. Captain Alexander Aaronson D.S.O. who is a prominent B'nai Benjamin, and a Vice-President of the Joseph Fels Foundation, once wrote to the J.T.A. to urge the claims of the young Palestine-born Jews who belong to the B'nai Benjamin, pointing out that "Palestine already has generations of sons whose fathers consecrated their Jewish claim to Palestine with their sweat and blood and tears and helped to resurrect Palestine long before the Zionist Basle Programme was enunciated, generative who with their wisdom, courage and blood helped the British troops to liberate Palestine and who could proudly stand up to receive the Balfour Declaration as a reward for services already rendered, and as a token of what Great Britain still expects of the Jews".

Mr. Ben-Avi, who is the son of Eliezer Ben Yehuda, the great Hebrew lexicographer, explained his Palestine cantonisation plan in the "Palestine Weekly" of the 8th. inst. Taking a map of Palestine, he said, one is struck by the astonishing fact that the 140 Jewish settlements in Palestine as though by design, have gathered along a line which strongly resembles a reversed S. One can say to-day that, but for some patches of land which are not yet in Jewish possession, the million and a half dunams which Jews have acquired in the past fifty years form a sort of continuous chain of Jewish regions tightly bound together economically as well as politically. Most of the Jordan Valley is in Jewish ownership, with the dominating control of the Rutenberg Power Works; there is a considerable area of the new Bay of Haifa development zone under Jewish settlement, which also covers seventy per cent. of the Plain of Sharon and eighty per cent. of the Plain of Esdraelon.

If to all these be added the fact that Jerusalem, Haifa and Tiberias have Jewish majorities, that in Haifa the 21,000 Jews come first and the Moslems and Christians second and third respectively, and that in Tel-Aviv there are 48,000 Jews, one has indicated the whole truth of the present situation of the Jews in Palestine. If it be true, therefore, that in rural areas the Moslems predominate, Jews coming second and Christians third, it is none the less true that in urban centres Jews and Moslems are about equal in number. There should be no special difficulty then, Mr. Ben-Avi went on, to create a series of Jewish cantons on the Swiss model, which would be self-contained from the economic standpoint and at the same time politically quite autonomous. In short what the French have so well done for the Christians in the Lebanon by creating the Lebanese Republic, the British could certainly have done for the Jews.

Asked what he thought world Jewry would say to such a whittling down of its hopes, Mr. Ben-Avi replied that it would need some national courage; but it would be better, he thought, to live in peace with one's neighbours in a safer "Judea" than to be constantly at issue with a problematical All-Jewish State, which, he said, practical politics shows is an impossibility.

SIR HERBERT SAMUEL NOT ENTERING LABOUR GOVERNMENT: MR. LLOYD GEORGE SAYS HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT IT AND PRIME MINISTER REFUSES TO DISCUSS REPORT.

London, May 25th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

The rumour has gone about that a Liberal-Labour Coalition is being formed, with Sir Herbert Samuel as a member of the Cabinet, the "Daily Herald", the Labour daily writes to-day, referring to yesterday's report in the "Sunday Express". The fact, it says, is that the question has never even been discussed. Mr. Lloyd George declares flatly that he knows nothing about it.

The "Daily Mail" also refers to the report to-day. Mr. Lloyd George knows nothing of it. This statement was made yesterday at Criccieth, Carnarvonshire, by the Liberal leader's secretary, it writes, concerning the report that Sir Herbert Samuel would join the Socialist Cabinet. The rumoured proposal to form a Liberal-Socialist Coalition was described as unfounded.

The Prime Minister, the "Mail" adds, declined to discuss the statement that Sir Herbert Samuel may join the Cabinet.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR LEHMAN AWARDED GOTTHEIL MEDAL AS AMERICAN WHO DID MOST FOR JEWS DURING PAST YEAR.

New York, May 10th. (J.T.A. Mail Service)

The Richard Gottheil Medal, which is awarded annually by the Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity to the American, regardless of creed, who is judged to have done most for Jewry and Judaism in the preceding year, was presented last night to Mr. Herbert H. Lehman, the Lieutenant-Governor of New York State in recognition of his philanthropies and his contributions to Government.

The presentation was made by Mr. Harold Riegelman, Past President of the fraternity, the oldest and largest of the national Jewish Greek Letter college fraternities, at a dinner marking the thirty-third anniversary of its foundation.

Lieutenant-Governor Lehman is the sixth recipient of the award since it was established in 1926 in honour of Professor Richard J.H. Gottheil of Columbia University, who was for ten years President of the Fraternity. The medal was presented last year to Mr. Felix M. Warburg. The other recipients have been Mr. Julius Rosenwald, Mr. Aaron Sapiro, Mr. David Brown and Rabbi Stephen S. Wise. The selection is made each year by editors of Jewish newspapers of the United States and Canada.