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EXTENSIVE OPPOSITION TO BLANK DAY CALENDAR REFORM REVEALED IN
 REPORTS FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES SUBMITTED TO LEAGUE OF
 NATIONS CALENDAR REFORM COMMITTEE: HOSTILITY IN ITALY
 HUNGARY HOLLAND AND SWITZERLAND: COMPLETE INDIFFERENCE
 TO QUESTION IN ENGLAND: MANY PETITIONS RECEIVED URGING
 SAFEGUARDING OF FIXITY OF SABBATH.

Geneva, June 11th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Extensive hostility in some countries to the projected reform of the calendar by the insertion of blank days and complete indifference to it in others is revealed in the replies from the National Committees set up in various countries to "ascertain whether and in what form public opinion holds Calendar Reform to be desirable or possible", which have been received by the League of Nations Preparatory Committee on Calendar Reform now in session here for the purpose of considering these reports and drawing up on the basis of them a comprehensive report for submission to the Fourth General Conference of the League of Nations on Communications and Transit which will meet here in October to deal with the question of Calendar Reform. A number of countries have not yet sent in their replies. The reports in no case represent the views of the Governments of the countries concerned, but only of the National Committees set up to study the question of Calendar Reform, and they in no way bind the Governments by the views expressed in them.

Abandonment Of Age-Long Traditions Would Involve Serious Draw-
 backs And Advantages Appear Problematical Says Italian
 Committee.

In view of the fact that Italy is bound to be affected by this movement if it assumes an international character, the Italian Committee has replied, this Committee feels it its duty, firstly, to declare itself opposed to the reform of the calendar, on the grounds that the moment has not yet come for that reform and that it would involve serious drawbacks in consequence of the abandonment of age-long traditions, while its advantages still appear problematical; secondly, to reject reform proposals which involve an interruption of the cycle of weeks and the introduction of blank days, the division of the year into thirteen months, the adoption of a leap year of fifty-three weeks, and to recommend that the reform should be confined to providing for an even number of days in every month so as to have three equal quarters, each consisting of ninety-one days, and a supplementary quarter of ninety-two days; and lastly, if the question of the perpetual calendar and blank days arises, the Committee, while expressing itself as opposed to this reform, declares its readiness to defer to the decisions of the Church in the choice of the date most appropriate for these blank days, taking into account their possible relationship with the liturgical year. Similarly, as regards the stabilisation - necessary in a perpetual calendar - of the Feast of Easter and the movable Feasts depending on it, the Committee considers it expedient to defer to the decisions of the Church which would be prepared to refer the question to an ecclesiastical Council.

The Hungarian Committee declares itself "against the radical proposals which use blank days and disturb the ancient cycle of the sequence of weeks". The Committee, it says, can only recommend a calendar which would not offend the religious feelings of any of the churches in Hungary and which would ensure a smooth co-operation between the different churches and different strata of the population. Proposals containing the use of blank days are against our traditions and offend our religious feelings, it proceeds, and for these reasons, the Hungarian National Committee can only vote for a simple reform, aiming at the best possible equalisation of the yearly quarters.

The Committee further makes the observation, it continues, that at the present time, when the world is passing through a severe economic crisis, only such problems as are really urgent and which might alleviate the unbearable depressing handicaps which exist can be seriously considered. The radical proposals for calendar reform which would disturb public and private life the world over and which would cause unnecessary complications, do not belong to this category. The only questions for which a solution should be found are those of the stabilisation of Easter and of the movable festivals.

Scheme To Divide Year Into 13 Months Of 28 Days Represents Too Serious Disturbance Of Established Custom Belgian Committee Finds And Would Be Difficult To Get Public Opinion To Accept It.

The Netherlands Committee, of which Dr. A. A. Nijland, Professor of Astronomy at Utrecht University is Chairman, states that it "is definitely against the blank day and the thirteen-month year. It is against dividing the year into thirteen months, even should the blank day be accepted internationally".

It is thought desirable, the report adds, to maintain the Gregorian calendar, while not objecting to slight changes, such as equalising the quarters of the year. These would have 91 days (i.e., two months of 30 days and one month of 31 days). The month of February would have 30 days. The last quarter would consist of one month of 30 days and two months of 31 days, in order to include the 365th. day of the normal year.

The Belgian Committee, of which Professor Stroobant, Director of the Royal Belgian Observatory, is Chairman, says "the scheme to divide the year into 13 months of 28 days represents too serious a disturbance of established custom, and it would be difficult to get public opinion to accept it".

Should a reform of the Gregorian calendar be carried out, it proceeds, the Belgian Committee would prefer the scheme of four equal quarters of 91 days (30, 30, 31) with one blank day for normal years and two blank days for leap years. Nevertheless, the Report draws attention to the fact that certain members of the Committee are of opinion that the interruption of the cycle of weeks would be regrettable, and that it would be difficult to get public opinion in Belgium to accept it. The Belgian Committee has decided unanimously, however, in favour of fixing Easter on the Sunday following the second Saturday in April.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Colombia, South America, has written to the League of Nations Committee that "the Ministry hopes to receive further documents on these subjects in order that it may be enabled to form a clear idea as to the convenience, utility and expediency of this reform, of which it is not as yet convinced either from the economic or from the social standpoint. It is of opinion that any simplification in these matters, if inadequately considered, might produce results entirely contrary from every point of view to those desired".

London Chamber Of Commerce Says No General Demand Exists For
Change Except Fixing Of Easter.

The British Committee, of which Lord Burnham is Chairman, reports that it sent questionnaires to 601 representative organisations in Great Britain and only 193 replied, a large number (63) declaring themselves opposed to any change, while 48 were indifferent (having no opinion to express), and of the rest who replied 19 were in favour of a perpetual 12 month calendar. The London Chamber of Commerce replied that there was no general demand for a change except for the fixing of Easter.

Present circumstances in Great Britain are very unfavourable to those who desire to interest public opinion in such a question as Calendar reform, the report points out. It is very difficult to obtain careful consideration of proposals which do not directly or immediately relate to the solution of the problems of the present economic crisis. The result of this is that public opinion has been less active and energetic than it would have been under normal circumstances.

The report includes a paragraph on the attitude of British Jewry, in which regard it says that "the Chief Rabbi stated that the Jews were not in principle opposed to a reform of the Calendar or the stabilisation of Easter but that it was of vital importance to Judaism that the length of the week be in no circumstances interfered with or the regular sequence of the seven-day week interrupted by a blank day. On that question there was no division of opinion in Jewry".

In view of the small number of opinions expressed in favour of one or the other scheme, the British report concludes, very little significance can be attached to them. The fact that so many bodies failed to reply is much more significant. In Great Britain the education of public opinion to overcome the natural forces of conservatism is a slow process. The Committee regrets that it can only present a report which is so inconclusive and indeed, negative, in character. The view expressed by the Association of Chambers of Commerce, and the failure of the Institute of Chartered Accountants to express any opinion at all, is significant of the pre-occupation of the business world with other and more urgent problems, or the absence of any widespread discontent with the existing system.

The French Committee reports that the trend of public opinion in France on the question is that religious circles are not taking up any very definite attitude. The archiepiscopal authorities of Paris will be guided by the opinion of the Sovereign Pontiff. The Chairman of the Protestant Federation of France has only expressed an opinion on the question of the fixing of Easter. This opinion is favourable. The Union of Jewish Associations of France and Algeria raises no objection of principle to the reform of the calendar, provided that the immemorial institution of the week and its uninterrupted continuity are safeguarded; that is to say, it is opposed to those proposals for the reform of the calendar based on the establishment of blank days, which would entail a movable Sabbath, and suggested, in order to meet this objection, the intercalation of an entire week every five or six years.

Scientific circles have not given a definite opinion, the report adds, but merely indicate the general lines which should be followed in carrying out the reform. Opinions in economic circles are divided. The replies received go to show that public opinion is still inadequately informed as to the consequences of a reform, which it regards not so much with hostility as with a certain mistrust, in view of the sweeping changes which it would make in the traditional habits of the people. National opinion, however, the report concludes, is particularly favourable to the stabilisation of Easter. Indeed, there is unanimous agreement on the point.

The replies received in Germany, the German Committee reports, show that strong interest in the reform exists in Germany, in spite of the fact that urgent problems arising from the present economic crisis primarily engage public opinion. Among the replies received from organisations consulted, nine-tenths were in favour of calendar reform. In general, organisations have shown a strong interest in the question. Unanimous preference has not been shown for either of the two principal reform schemes. The majority of the replies are in favour of a perpetual calendar of twelve months with two months of thirty days and one month of thirty-one days in each quarter. More than one-third of the replies are in favour of a perpetual calendar of thirteen months each of twenty-eight days. The necessity for stabilising Easter is unanimously recognised, even by those who are not in favour of a general reform. It is considered that this question is of utmost importance and that it should be solved even if general reform cannot be realised.

Polish Committee Says Advantages Of Reform Plan Justify Overruling Of Opinions Of Large Masses Of Population Who Are Opposed To Reform.

The Czecho-Slovakian National Committee on Calendar Reform has reported in favour of a calendar of thirteen months.

The Polish Committee reports that the representatives of the Catholic Church in Poland have not expressed themselves either for or against the reform, as their opinion is based on that of the Vatican. The views of the other Christian Churches in Poland coincide with those of the economic circles. The Jewish organisations are definitely opposed to the proposed reform.

Scientific circles are opposed to plan B on account of the blank days, the report says, since it is essential for astronomical and chronological reasons that continuity should be maintained in the calculation of the days.

The Polish Committee concludes that it is of opinion itself that as far as possible the reform should be carried out in accordance with Plan C. (perpetual calendar of 13 months), as the clearness and simplicity of this plan will facilitate international relations. The advantages of this plan justify the reform of the calendar and the overruling of the opinions of large masses of the population who are opposed to the reform. The Committee considers it preferable, it adds, in view of the climatic conditions in Poland, that Easter should be fixed for the Sunday following the third Saturday in April.

In Portugal, the report from that country says, 299 bodies were consulted, but only 65 replied, 14 being against the reform of the calendar. Although a certain apathy seems to be indicated by the above figures, the Committee says, we are definitely of opinion that the replies received, which are from important bodies in economic circles, indicate that the Portuguese public is in general in favour of calendar reform and a 13 month year.

The greatest circumspection must be exercised in approaching this subject, the Swedish Committee reports. Changes should be made in the present system only if they would bring undoubted and genuinely important advantages. The Swedish Committee considers, however, that the studies undertaken in this sphere should be continued, in order to elucidate the problem in all its aspects. It regards it in particular as highly desirable that the question should, as far as possible, receive a uniform solution, in order that the different countries may be able to adopt concordant provisions in this respect.

The thirteen-month calendar finds practically no support in Switzerland, the Swiss Committee reports. It was rejected by the great majority of the authorities and associations consulted. Simplification of the Gregorian calendar would be useful and desirable, it adds, so long as unnecessary changes in established custom are avoided.

American Committee Reports On Objections Raised By Religious Leaders Of Jews And Two Saturday-Keeping Christian Sects To Interrupting Continuity Of Week.

The American Committee reports that it conducted three special enquiries and made two reports, the main report in 1929 and a supplementary report in 1931, and found the prevalence of a demand for calendar improvement on the part of a large and representative body of American opinion, especially in economic, scientific and educational circles. Replies were received from 1,433 national State and city organisations of all classes, 80.5 per cent, of the replies being in favour of a reform. The plan preponderantly favoured was the calendar of thirteen equal months, fixed and perpetual.

Owing to the objections raised by religious leaders of the Jews and of two Saturday Sabbath-keeping Christian sects to interrupting the continuity of the week, the report adds, the Committee made an enquiry in religious circles. It sent a questionnaire to a representative list of Protestant ministers and found that, exclusive of the Saturday-keeping sects, 82 per cent. had no religious objection to breaking the continuity of the week.

A large number of petitions have been received by the League of Nations Committee on Calendar Reform from various bodies urging the safeguarding of the fixity of the Sabbath. Among these bodies are the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of America and Canada, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Order B'nai B'rith, the Agudath Israel, the Jewish Sabbath Alliance of New York, the Rabbinical Council of New York, the Administration of the Zionist Organisation of America, the Executive Committee of the American Jewish Congress, the Executive Committee of the Hadassah Women's Zionist Organisation of America, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, the Free Synagogue of New York and the Council of Jewish Women in America.

PALESTINE BEFORE THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS: DR. DRUMMOND SHIELS LEAVES FOR GENEVA TO REPRESENT GOVERNMENT DURING EXAMINATION BY MANDATES COMMISSION.

London, June 12th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Dr. Drummond Shiels, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, leaves to-day for Geneva, the Colonial Office announces, to attend the session of the Permanent Mandates Commission, as accredited representative of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, for the examination of the Annual Report on Palestine. Mr. Mark Young, Chief Secretary, Palestine. Mr. R. V. Vernon, and Mr. O. G. R. Williams, of the Colonial Office, will be associated with him as accredited representatives.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS CIRCLES SURPRISED AT PALESTINE GOVERNMENT'S ENFORCEMENT OF WAJLING WALL DECISIONS WHILE MANDATES COMMISSION MEETING TO CONSIDER PALESTINE SITUATION: BRITISH DESIRE TO CONFRONT IT WITH FAIT ACCOMPLI SEEN BY CORRESPONDENT OF GERMAN PAPER.

Berlin, June 11th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

League of Nations circles are surprised, says a message appearing in the "Frankfurter Zeitung", that Sir John Chancellor, the High Commissioner of Palestine, has been in such a hurry to proclaim the decisions of the International Wailing Wall Commission in force immediately on publication, at the very moment when the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations was opening its session to examine the Palestine situation. The British Government apparently wanted to confront the League with a fait accompli, the message adds, but in spite of that, either the disappointed Moslems or the Jews will make a formal protest to the League of Nations.

PALESTINE HIGH COMMISSIONER SYMPATHETIC WITH ORTHODOX JEWS OBJECTING TO JEWISH TEAMS PLAYING FOOTBALL ON SATURDAY BUT GOVERNMENT CANNOT INTERVENE WHERE PUBLIC OPINION FAILED TO INFLUENCE JEWISH TEAMS: SIR JOHN CHANCELLOR'S REPLY TO CHIEF RABBI KOOK AND RABBI SONNENFELD IN JOINT DEPUTATION.

Jerusalem, June 11th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Chief Rabbi Kook and Rabbi Sonnenfeld, the aged head of the Agudath Israel Community in Palestine, went on a joint deputation to-day to the High Commissioner, Sir John Chancellor, to ask the Government to intervene in order to prevent football matches being played by Jewish teams on Saturdays.

Sir John replied that he sympathised with the Rabbis in their perturbation at the desecration of the Sabbath, the J.T.A. learns, but that he could not promise to intervene in the matter, since public opinion had failed to influence the Jewish teams not to play their matches on the Sabbath.

DEPUTY GRUENBAUM RESIGNS PRESIDENCY OF POLISH ZIONIST FEDERATION IN VIEW OF CONGRESS ELECTIONS RESULTS SHOWING POLISH ZIONISTS DO NOT ACCEPT HIS POLICY: CENTRAL COMMITTEE POSTPONES CONSIDERATION OF RESIGNATION TILL AFTER CONGRESS.

Warsaw, June 11th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Deputy Isaac Gruenbaum, the leader of the Radical Hamishmar Zionist Organisation, tendered his resignation of the Presidency of the Polish Zionist Federation (as foreshadowed in the J.T.A. Bulletin of the 11th. inst.) to-day to the Zionist Central Council in Poland, giving as his reason the results of the Polish elections to the Zionist Congress, which show, he said, that the Polish Zionists do not accept his policy and do not approve his action in joining the London Political Commission of the Zionist World Organisation.

The Central Council has decided to postpone consideration of Deputy Gruenbaum's resignation until after the Congress.

OFFICIAL RESULTS OF ZIONIST ELECTIONS IN CONGRESS POLAND AND WESTERN GALICIA.

Warsaw, June 11th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Zionist Labour list has obtained 11 seats in Congress Poland, the Revisionists 9, the Mizrahi 7, Al Hamishmar 5 and Et Libnoth 1, the final figures which have just been made public here show.

Warsaw, June 11th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

In Western Galicia and Silesia, the General Zionists have obtained 7 seats, Labour two, the Mizrahi one, and the Revisionists one, according to later figures received here this afternoon.

The earlier report had given the General Zionists only six seats, the Mizrahi two, Labour two and the Revisionists one.

ZIONISTS MIZRACHI AND NON-PARTY RELIGIOUS GROUP ABSTAIN FROM MEETING OF NEWLY-ELECTED LODZ JEWISH COMMUNITY BOARD: AGUDIST DEPUTY MINZBERG RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT.

Warsaw, June 11th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Zionist, Mizrachist and Non-Party Religious Group representatives absented themselves from the first meeting of the newly-elected Board of the Jewish Community of Lodz, held to-day. Of the 26 members, only the 16 Agudist and Folkist representatives were present.

The former President of the Lodz Jewish Community, Deputy Minzberg, one of the leading members of the Polish Agudath Israel, has been re-elected as President of the Lodz Jewish Community.

LIBERAL JEWS BACK IN CONTROL OF BERLIN JEWISH COMMUNITY.

Berlin, June 11th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Seven Liberals, three Zionists and one Conservative were elected as the new Executive of the Board of the Berlin Jewish Community at the meeting of the Board held to-day, with Herr Heinrich Stern, the President of the Federation of Liberal Jews in Germany, in the chair. Thus the Liberal Jews who from the foundation of the Community controlled its affairs until the Zionists won the control from them at the elections in 1926, have again taken charge of the leadership of the Community.

Herr Wilhelm Kleemann, Director of the Dresden Bank, will, it appears certain, be elected the new President of the Berlin Jewish Community.

WORST EVIL THAT JEWISH PEOPLE SUFFERS IS DISORGANISATION: HOPELESSLY SPLIT IN MANY WARRING PARTIES MR. LEO SIMON GERMAN JEWISH LEADER COMPLAINS URGING CREATION OF ORGAN ENTITLED TO REPRESENT JEWS AND ACT ON THEIR BEHALF.

Berlin, June 11th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The worst evil from which the Jewish people suffers is disorganisation, Mr. Leo Simon, a leading figure in Jewish life in Germany and a prominent German industrialist, said in an interview with the J.T.A. here, urging the convocation of a conference of leading Jews. We are hopelessly split, he said, in many warring parties, each proclaiming their partial solution as an all-round panacea. The Jewish Community in my opinion will never be able to cope with the grave problems which confront it until it at last creates an organ fully entitled to represent it and to take action on its behalf. Never was the need for such an organ as pressing as to-day. Not only has the economic crisis played havoc with the Jews, but an ever-growing antisemitic movement strives to destroy the equal status of the Jew as a citizen. Never in modern history has world-Jewry faced such cataclysms of misfortune and never, therefore, has sound, wise and statesmanlike leadership been so necessary as to-day.

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No group can hope to battle successfully against powerful odds if it remains disunited. I daresay that no people have proved to be so-unpolitical as ours. How many clever arguments have been invented by us to prove that organisation, union of forces, combining of our resources are unnecessary, superfluous, and even harmful? In this dire hour of our history, our best men in every country should meet and in mutual consultation work out plans for improving the lot of our people.

I believe in the energy and resourcefulness of our race to find a way out of even the most desperate situation. How deplorable and suicidal is this process of mutual strife among ourselves that Jewish life in most countries represents.

In Poland, Roumania, or Germany, everywhere we find our Jews fighting each other with ferocity, although the fate of our entire community - spiritually as well as economically - is everywhere at stake.

The Jew cannot commit a greater folly than to fail to organise himself because of the fear of antisemitic libels. We must cease to be governed by fear. No group can afford to forego its self-defence because of the fear of misinterpretation. For a people whose very religion is universalism, the brotherhood of man, to fear internationalism means that it is placing opportunistic considerations above the essence of our best teachings.

Catholics, Socialists, international movements for the promotion of peace, do not hesitate to emphasise strongly the international character of their causes. Only we Jews are afraid of our very shadow. If the Jewish position in one country breaks down, if antisemitic measures are taken in one State, it undoubtedly affects the position of the Jews in other countries, and yet we hesitate to help each other in our common battle. Only when we cease this short-sighted policy and succeed in creating Jewish unity, will we be better prepared to face this world, which is so rich in difficulties and enemies for the Jews.

ANTI-JEWISH CAMPAIGN BY ALL MEANS EVEN LIES: DECISION OF GERMAN COURT IN ACQUITTING LOCAL HITLERIST LEADER FINDING HIS LIE IN PUBLIC INTEREST.

Berlin, June 11th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

What action is the Government going to take in this matter, Deputy Dr. Hamburger, a Socialist member of the Prussian Parliament, asked to-day in drawing the attention of the Minister of Justice in the House to a case which came up recently before the District Court at Glatz, with Judge Lehmann presiding.

A Hitlerist Town Councillor named Koehler had while acting as Chairman of a Hitlerist public meeting declared that a local Jewish merchant named Ellguther had paid 200 Marks to get a mob to break up the meeting. The Court found that Koehler's allegation was a pure invention and that Ellguther, who was entirely innocent of the charge, had in consequence suffered both moral and material damage, and yet it decided that Koehler was to be acquitted, "because he had acted in the public interest as the leader of the Glarz local group of the Hitlerist Party, which fights against all that is Jewish, and felt, therefore, that it was his duty by all means to convince his Party members that it is essential to conduct an anti-Jewish campaign".

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