

# DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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## BARON EDMOND DE ROTHSCHILD 86.

Paris, Aug. 19th, (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Baron Edmond de Rothschild, the "father" of Palestine colonisation, attained his 86th birthday today. The Baron, who was born in Paris on August 19th, 1845, the youngest son of Baron James de Rothschild, entered the Paris banking house of de Rothschild Freres on his father's death, which took place when he (Baron Edmond) was only 23, and he has continued to be associated with the firm in conjunction with his older brothers, Barons Alphonse and Gustave de Rothschild. He immediately began to interest himself in Jewish communal activities, and contributed generously to Jewish institutions in France and abroad. He was 35 when he became interested in Palestine. He was roused by the pogroms in Southern Russia in 1880, when large numbers of refugees came to Constantinople, with a view to organising groups to purchase land in Palestine and settle there as farmers. It was Joseph Feinberg, the leader of the pioneers in Rishon-le-Zion, the first of the Jewish colonies in Palestine, who obtained 50,000 francs from the Baron to enable the settlers to overcome their difficulties. The early settlers belonging to the Biku Society received generous financial and moral help from the Baron in the establishment of the important colonies of Petach Tikvah, Zichron Jacob, Hoderah, Rosh Pinah, Yesod Ha' Ma'aleh, and most of the older Jewish colonies in Palestine. Over thirty of these colonies were founded with his aid between 1880 and 1895. The administration of the colonies was carried on through the Jewish Colonisation Association (Ica), but it was entirely financed by the Baron. Finally, the Palestine Jewish Colonisation Association (Pica) was created in 1924, under the Presidency of Mr. James de Rothschild, M.P., the Baron's eldest son, in order to administer the Palestine colonies.

It has always been the ambition of the Baron to create a Jewish farmer, who not only would be well off in the material sense of the term, but who would become the Palestinian "par excellence," who could serve as a model to other farmers and who would be the heart and core of the Jewish settlers in the land of their ancestors. An interesting story is told in connection with his first visit to Palestine in 1895. After he had visited Petach Tikvah, about which he was very enthusiastic, he gave out that he would not visit Rishon-le-Zion because too many members of its younger generation had left the country to look for more congenial employment abroad than farming in Erez Israel. But being at heart desirous of seeing Rishon with his own eyes, he organised a clandestine expedition to the colony at midnight, with the intention of returning to Jaffa before daybreak. The secret was apparently not well kept, however, and when he entered the colony by a back road at midnight, the entire population -- men, women and children -- was there to give him a hearty though silent welcome.

Created Palestine Wine Industry.

His visit to Palestine in 1914 was made under better auspices. The Jewish colonies had then reached an unprecedented degree of prosperity and he came away enchanted with his colonies. The War soon followed, however, and crippled the development of the colonies, and in many cases there was a wholesale destruction of property there, from which they were not able to recover for years. As soon as the War was over, he threw himself into the work of restoration and development of the colonies, and he saw in 1925, when he again visited the colonies, to what a great extent the damage had been made good, and the colonies restored to a flourishing condition. The important Palestine wine industry, with the great wine-cellars in Rishon-le-Zion and Zichron Jacob, owes its development to Baron Edmond de Rothschild, and among the other enterprises which he has been instrumental in establishing are the big flour mills in Haifa and the silk factory at Rosh Pinah.

When the Baron visited Palestine in 1925, he was received on landing by Jewish and Arab horsemen who escorted him to Zichron Jacob, the colony which he has said, is dearest to him because it is named in memory of his father, and in the Synagogue he received the colonists of all the Rothschild colonies, and the representatives of the principal Jewish organisations in the country. Sir Herbert Samuel, who was then High Commissioner, was among those present, and in his speech he said that the Baron's visit was a great event in the history of Palestine, for the Baron was the benefactor of Jews and Arabs alike. Mr. Nahum Sokolov, the new President of the Zionist Organisation, who was also there, expressed to the Baron on behalf of the Jews of Palestine and the whole world the feelings of love and admiration in which he is held. All shops were closed, and the day was observed as a general holiday.

The Baron, in his reply to the speeches, appealed to the younger generation in Palestine to follow the path of their parents, and to remain on the land in Palestine and develop agriculture, instead of going into the cities or into other countries. He emphasised the importance of religion and of the Jewish traditions, which he urged should occupy the foremost place in the Jewish National Home.

Baron de Rothschild's Part In The Pre-Balfour Declaration Negotiations.

The Baron played an important part also in the negotiations which resulted in the issue of the Balfour Declaration. Lord Bertie, who was the British Ambassador in Paris during the War, reported in his diaries, which were published in 1924, an interview which he had on January 23rd, 1915, nearly three years before the Balfour Declaration, with Baron Edmond de Rothschild and Dr. Weizmann, whom he describes as "a Russian co-religionist of his, established in Manchester". Lord Bertie was not sympathetic to the views for which they sought his support. They came to talk about, what I think, is an absurd scheme, he wrote, though they say it has the approval of Lloyd George, Lord Grey, Sir Herbert Samuel, and Lord Crewe. They did not mention Lord Reading. They contemplate the formation of Palestine into an Israelite State, under the protection of England, France, or Russia, preferably of England. Baron Edmond de Rothschild has spent a great deal of money on the establishment of Jews in Palestine, Lord Bertie remarked further. It is his hobby. He does not wish to go thither himself, for he has become French, he says, but there are thousands of his brethren who, for material and sentimental reasons, long to leave the countries where they are now and go to the Promised Land. The Jews, they say, are the only people capable of reclaiming Palestine by intensive culture. However, Lord Bertie concluded, this scheme, like many others, is a counting of the chickens before the issue of the War.

Honorary President of the Jewish Agency.

When the extended Jewish Agency was formed in August 1929, Baron Edmond de Rothschild was elected Honorary President, and in that capacity he has shown great interest in the continued upbuilding work which is being carried on in Palestine. He followed with interest the negotiations which resulted in the extension of the Jewish Agency, and on their conclusion, he saw Dr. Weizmann in Paris, and congratulated him on the achievement. Immediately after the sessions of the Joint Palestine Survey Commission, which preceded the formation of the Jewish Agency, Mr. Felix M. Warburg, one of the members of the Commission, saw the Baron in Paris, and conveyed to him the results of the meetings of the Commission. I was very happy, he told the J.T.A., to find the Baron in good health and so keenly interested in the Palestine work. I discussed with him the economic problems of Palestine reconstruction.

When the Passfield White Paper was published last October, the Baron sent a letter to Dr. Weizmann in which he wrote: In my capacity as Honorary President of the Jewish Agency, and as the founder of the first Jewish colonies in Palestine, I fully associate myself with the protest which you have made against the British Government's Statement of Policy. The principles laid down in that are contrary both to the spirit and the letter of the Mandate for Palestine, which is based on the Declaration made by Lord Balfour, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in the name of his Government. The Jews of the whole world are in a state of consternation, and I share their distress, but when engaged in defending a cause so noble and as great as ours, one is justified in having confidence in a better future."

Last February, when the Jewish Agency found itself in financial difficulties, Dr. Weizmann saw the Baron in Paris, and informed him of the position, and asked for his help. An official statement that was issued by the Jewish Agency, stated that the Baron had returned a favorable reply to Dr. Weizmann's request for help, and that the Jewish Agency greatly appreciated the generosity of Baron Edmond de Rothschild, and the spirit in which he had acted.

In Palestine, the Baron is interested also in the archeological wealth of the country, and he financed the first expedition to carry on excavation work on Mount Ophel, the site of the City of David. Professor Raymond Weil, the head of his expedition, conducted excavations twice, in 1913-14 and in 1924, unearthing four of the thirteen tombs in which David and his descendants were buried. In 1929, Baron Edmond de Rothschild presented many of the archeological objects which were excavated by Professor Weil to the Hebrew University.

The Baron's Important General Benefactions.

From his earliest youth, Baron Edmond de Rothschild has taken a deep interest in art and science. At the age of 13, he began collecting engravings, and he has formed one of the most important collections of engravings and paintings in France. In recognition of his artistic knowledge, he was elected in 1906 a member of the French Academy of Fine Arts, in succession to Bouchot, the Keeper of Engravings at the State Museum. He has lectured to the Academie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres. On this occasion he presented to the Academy a work by Andre Blum -- one of the foremost French scholars in the domain of history of art, a coreligionist and the principal custodian of Baron Edmond's art collections -- containing conclusive proofs of the genuineness and age -- about 1230 -- of an engraving made in France, thus establishing the priority of French wood-engravers over those of Nuremberg. Until that year (1927) Nuremberg was generally supposed to be the place of origin of this genre.

In 1921 Baron Edmond gave ten million francs to establish the Edmond de Rothschild Foundation for scientific research, directing that physics and chemistry should equally benefit. Six years later he decided greatly to extend the scope and means of the Foundation and gave another thirty million francs to that foundation. The Foundation Institute, which adjoins the Curie Radium Institute and the Pasteur Institute, is conducted very much on the lines of the Rockefeller Foundation, with the different sections under the charge of three eminent authorities in the respective fields of physics, chemistry, and biology.

In 1920, the Baron founded in London a branch of the Institute of France, for the purpose of promoting friendship and collaboration between France and England, and in 1928 he gave it a sum of six million francs.

Mr. James de Rothschild.

The Baron's eldest son and heir, Mr. James de Rothschild M.P., maintains his father's interest in the Palestine work, and he constantly takes an important part in Palestine developments. As President of the Palestine Jewish Colonisation Association (Pica) and in his capacity as a member of the British Parliament, he has repeatedly given practical demonstration of his Palestine interest. An outstanding occasion was the speech which he delivered in the House of Commons last November, in the debate on the Passfield White Paper, when he said inter alia: I am qualified to address the House on these matters, for by the accident of birth I happen now to be Chairman of the Palestine Jewish Colonisation Association, of which much is written both in the White Paper and in the Hope Simpson Report, while it has been referred to several times tonight. Secondly, during the War, in 1918, I was detailed by Lord Allenby to recruit the Jewish Battalion in Palestine. There were then, in that part of Palestine which had been conquered by the British Army, about 18,000 to 20,000 Jews. They were mostly in Jerusalem, and a few of them in the surrounding colonies, but the greater number had already been deported to the north, to Syria, Damascus, and Konia, by the Turks. In just over a fortnight, out of this population of 20,000 a great number over age, and a great number tired out by the fatigues and the hardships of a long famine during the War, a thousand men came forward, solid good soldiers, who were enrolled in the 40th. Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers. These men fought in the British Army. I know that today these men who wore the British uniform are the only soldiers who served in the British Army to whom no offer was given to settle on the land. While out of a population of 20,000 Jews in Palestine, a battalion of 1,000 men was recruited in a very short time, if my memory serves me right, out of several 100,000 Arabs who were then in Palestine, only 165 volunteered and went to help the Emir Feisal in his campaign. I do not want to put one patriotism against the other, but still, if there is any measure by which patriotism can be judged, it is only that of sacrifice.

I am qualified to approach this question, I think, from another point of view, Mr. de Rothschild said, namely, that I have inherited a long tradition of Palestinian colonisation. The Pica was founded about 50 years ago. It was the first manifestation of practical Zionism. In those days, when it was founded the word "Zionism" did not exist, and I, personally, rather fight shy of any words ending in "ism", like Capitalism and Socialism. It was the first manifestation of this movement, because the men and women who went to Palestine then as settlers chose to go there in preference to going to the Argentine or New York. There have been comparisons raised both in the White Paper and in the Hope Simpson Report between the Pica colonies and the colonies of the Zionist Organisation and the Jewish National Fund, he went on. They do not touch the heart of the matter of the White Paper, and I should like to mention that Baron Edmond de Rothschild, the founder of the Pica, associated himself with Dr. Weizmann, when he resigned the office of head of the Jewish Agency and the Zionist Organisation.

JEWS OF PALESTINE TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN PALESTINE CENSUS SAYS  
VAAD LEUMI.

Jerusalem, Aug. 19th, (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Jewish communities in Palestine are called upon to assure the fullest participation of the Jews of Palestine in the approaching census, says a resolution adopted tonight by the Vaad Leumi, the Palestine Jewish National Council.

At the same time, the Vaad Leumi has approved the action taken by the Executive to safeguard the Jewish interests in connection with the census, and has decided that steps should be taken through the Immigration Department of the Jewish Agency to enable all who are entitled to do so to benefit by the immigration amnesty, under which the Palestine Government will legalise the stay of all persons who entered the country illegally since 1922.

YADJUR MURDER MYSTERY WILL BE SOLVED IN 48 HOURS PALESTINE POLICE  
SUPERINTENDENT ASSURES JTA.

Jerusalem, Aug. 19th, (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

A solution of the mystery of the Yadjur murder outrage, (which occurred on Sunday evening, April 5th when several Jewish workers returning from Haifa to the Labour Settlement at Yadjur where they lived, were ambushed and shot dead), may be expected within 48 hours, Police Superintendent Partridge told the J.T.A. here today.

The Superintendent bases his belief on the arrest of the three Bedouins, which was made a fortnight ago, by a detachment of 150 British and Palestine Police who surrounded their camp near Jeddah. They were arrested on suspicion of having been concerned in the murders, but now the suspicion has been strengthened by the discovery of concealed arms in a cave which the suspects are believed to have used.

.. The outrage was immediately followed by the arrest of several Arabs belonging to the Arab village of Yadjur, near the Jewish settlement, and the police issued a statement that their information went to show that the Jews had been the innocent victims of an Arab feud, and that the outrage was neither anti-Jewish nor in any way political. About a fortnight later, Saleh Shubain, belonging to an Arab village near Safed, a member of the notorious band of brigands headed by Ahmed Tapish, which operated extensively in the Safed district during and after the 1929 massacres, was arrested, and a further police statement was issued, which tended to suggest that the Jews had fallen as innocent victims of a gun-men's feud. Shubain's brother, it was stated, was awaiting execution for the murder of a Druse family in Mount Carmel. He threatened to avenge his brother's death by killing the inhabitants of the villages from which the witnesses against his brother came. The village was, however, carefully guarded by villagers and police, and the gangsters, returning baffled, with murder in their hearts, suddenly encountered a cart of singing Jews and emptied into them their rifles, which had been intended to avenge the imminent death of their kinsman.

The Jews were not satisfied, however, with the explanation. "The murderers have not yet been definitely traced," the Palestine Labour daily, "Davar" wrote. "The cause for alarm which the attack at Yadjur gave to all Jewish settlements still holds good. Meanwhile attempts are made to explain and explain away the gruesome incident in a variety of fashions, each calculated to obscure the issue."

PHILIP HALSMANN WANTS RETRIAL: CANNOT LIVE UNDER CLOUD OF PARRICIDE  
CONVICTION: LAW AUTHORITIES WILL DECIDE NEXTMONTH WHETHER TO  
GRANT HIS APPLICATION.

Vienna, Aug. 19th, (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Innsbruck Law Court, which convicted the Jewish student, Philip Halsmann, and sentenced him to ten years imprisonment, afterwards reduced to four years, on the charge that he had murdered his father, who was killed while they were mountain-climbing during their holidays in the Austrian Tyrol, has received an official application from Halsmann, who after he was set free by a free pardon given him by the Austrian Government a few months back, is now continuing his studies at Paris University, in which he asks it to reopen his trial, in order to consider important new evidence which his legal advisers have obtained.

The Austrian law authorities will decide early next month whether the application should be granted, and if so, where the new trial should be held.

Philip Halsmann points out in his application that he did not ask for the pardon which was given him, and that he refused to sign the appeal for it, because he did not want to be released with the stigma of parricide still upon him. He will not rest, he says, until it has been established by a court of law, that he did not kill his father.

The antisemitic papers have already utilised the opportunity to start a new agitation, on the ground that the Austrian judicial authorities had no right to step in and extend a free pardon to a foreign Jew, when his guilt had not been disproved.

ANOTHER GERMAN SYNAGOGUE DESECRATED.

Berlin, Aug. 18th, (Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

The Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue in Hamburg was entered during the night by vandals, who smashed the windows to gain entrance. A great deal of the interior furniture was demolished, but nothing was taken away.

JEWISH WELFARE WORK IN FRANKFURT MAY HAVE TO BE COMPLETELY STOPPED FOR  
LACK OF FUNDS: HUNDREDS OF FAMILIES WILL BE LEFT DESTITUTE  
SAYS EMERGENCY APPEAL.

Berlin, August 18th, (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The entire welfare work conducted by the Jewish Community of Frankfurt is in danger of being completely stopped, because of the lack of funds, says an emergency appeal issued by the Representative Assembly of the Frankfurt Jewish Community.

The Jewish welfare work in this city is in a critical condition, the appeal continues, and if it has to be stopped, hundreds of Jewish families, men, women, and children, will be left destitute in the streets. Hundreds of needy children will be deprived of medical attention. Thousands of people will starve, and it is impossible to predict the terrible state to which Frankfurt Jewry will be reduced. Only immediate and generous help can avert this black outlook.