

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

(Cable and Mail Despatches)
Issued by the
JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY, LTD.

Ludgate House,
107/111, Fleet Street,
London, E.C.4.

Telegrams: Jewcorrau London.
Telephone: Central 6501-3.

Vol. XII. No. 220.

6 pages.

24th. Sept., 1931.

WAS MR. NORMAN BENTWICH RETIRED BECAUSE HE IS A JEW?: LORD PASSFIELD FOUND HIS RETENTION OF PALESTINE ATTORNEY-GENERALSHIP WOULD NOT DIMINISH ADMINISTRATION'S DIFFICULTIES IN PALESTINE MR. THOMAS TELLS COLONEL WEDGWOOD: HE WAS OFFERED PROMOTION TO HIGH COLONIAL JUDICIAL OFFICE ELSEWHERE BUT HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT POST OUTSIDE PALESTINE.

London, Sept. 23rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

You are aware of the peculiar racial and political conditions in Palestine and the difficulties with which the Administration has in consequence to contend, Mr. J. H. Thomas, the Secretary of State for the Colonies and Dominions, began, replying in the House of Commons this afternoon to a question by Colonel Wedgwood, who wanted to know the circumstances connected with the departure of Mr. Norman Bentwich from the post of Attorney-General in Palestine.

The late Secretary of State (Lord Passfield), Mr. Thomas went on, decided after most careful consideration, for reasons that in no way affected the personal character of Mr. Bentwich, that these difficulties would not be diminished by his retention of the office of Attorney-General. In these circumstances he (Lord Passfield) was anxious that employment for Mr. Bentwich should be found, and offers to submit his name for promotion to a high judicial office in the Colonial Service were made to him on two occasions. Mr. Bentwich made it clear that he would not accept a post outside Palestine and there was no alternative but to retire him on pension. The pension, he added, would date from November 1st.

Was Mr. Bentwich retired because he was a Jew? Colonel Wedgwood demanded. The Speaker intervened, however, and the question was not allowed.

Colonel Howard-Bury Wants To Have Mr. Bentwich Deprived Of His Pension: Urges Need Of Economy: Colonial Secretary Replies Question Cannot Be Considered.

Colonel Howard-Bury, the chief advocate of the Palestine Arabs in the House of Commons, then rose to suggest that seeing that it was proposed to retire the Attorney-General of Palestine eight years before he had reached pensionable age, and that in order to do this special regulations had been made to entitle him to a pension, the Colonial Secretary should, in view of the need for world economy, reconsider this expenditure. Mr. Thomas returned a terse "No, sir", to the suggestion.

PALESTINE DEVELOPMENT LOAN STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION MR. THOMAS EXPLAINS: QUESTION OF ASKING PARLIAMENT TO AUTHORISE LOAN DOES NOT YET ARISE: WILL BE CONSIDERED IN DUE COURSE IN LIGHT OF GENERAL FINANCIAL SITUATION: IF DEVELOPMENT SCHEME IS APPROVED DIRECTOR OF PALESTINE DEVELOPMENT WILL ADMINISTER IT: ALL QUESTIONS ARISING OUT OF SCHEME WILL BE RAISED WHEN MONEY IS NECESSARY.

London, Sept. 23rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

In reply to Mr. Fenner Brockway, the Chairman of the Independent Labour Party, who enquired whether it was still proposed to ask Parliament to guarantee a loan of two and a half million pounds for the relief of agriculture in Palestine, and if so, who would administer the scheme which the loan was intended to facilitate, Mr. Thomas said:

The projected loan is for development purposes, the details of which are under investigation. The question of asking Parliament to authorise His Majesty's Government to guarantee such a loan does not arise at the moment, but will be further considered in due course in the light of the general financial situation.

The scheme, if and when approved by His Majesty's Government, he added, would be administered by the Director of Development in Palestine (Mr. Lewis French).

When Colonel Wedgwood pointed out that a large part of the money involved in the scheme was for the purchase of land in Palestine from the Arab classes, Mr. Thomas replied that all these questions will be raised at the moment when the money is necessary.

THE SEALED ARMOURIES AGITATION IN PALESTINE: WAS DEALT WITH BY GOVERNMENT AND SITUATION IS NOW DESCRIBED AS QUIET MR. THOMAS DECLARES: INDEPENDENT LABOUR PARTY LEADER RAISES QUESTION CLAIMING THAT PLACING OF ARMOURIES CREATED TENSE SITUATION IN PALESTINE.

London, Sept. 23rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Mr. Fenner Brockway also raised the question of the sealed armouries in Palestine. Was the Colonial Secretary aware, he asked, that the placing of sealed armouries in various parts of Palestine had created a tense situation in Palestine, leading to a strike throughout the country on August 23rd., and would he state the number of armouries established, the names of the places in which these armouries were located, and what was the armament which they contained.

I am aware, Mr. Thomas replied, that there has been a protest against the decision taken so long ago as April 1930 to re-establish sealed armouries in the Jewish colonies. This protest led to some local excitement about a month ago, he added, but the situation was dealt with by the Palestine Government, and is now described as quiet.

WHAT DOES PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN DEFENCE COST BRITAIN?

London, Sept. 23rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Colonial Secretary was also asked by Mr. Fenner Brockway what was the size and composition of the forces, including police, now maintained for the purpose of defence in Palestine and Transjordan, the extra cost of the employment of British forces in Palestine and Transjordan during the present year, and the additional grant-in-aid towards the cost of the Transjordan Frontier Force.

In reply Mr. Thomas referred Mr. Brockway to the annual report on Palestine and Transjordan for 1930, issued by the Colonial Office, and to the Colonial and Middle-East Services Report for 1931.

HEAVY SENTENCES FOR BERLIN POGROMISTS.

Berlin, Sept. 23rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Very heavy sentences were imposed on the Hitlerist rioters who took part in the anti-Jewish excesses on Rosh Hashanah, when the trial was concluded at 5 o'clock in the early hours of this morning, after an all-night session.

Twelve have been sent to prison for a year, eight for 15 months, two for 17 months, one for 21 months, and four for 9 months. The others were acquitted owing to lack of sufficient evidence against them.

The President of the Court in announcing the sentences, said that they had been found guilty of a disturbance of the public peace, and of conspiracy against religion.

.. Last year, when the anti-Jewish rioting occurred in Berlin on the day of the opening of the new Reichstag, to which the Hitlerists had succeeded in returning 107 Deputies, nineteen of the rioters were put on trial the following day before a court of summary jurisdiction, and two were sent to prison for six months and twelve for terms ranging from three weeks to three months, the other five being acquitted.

WE DO NOT FIGHT INDIVIDUAL JEWS BUT JEWISH CAPITALIST SYSTEM
COUNT HELLDORF COMMANDANT OF HITLERIST STORM TROOPS IN
BERLIN TELLS COURT: IS THAT WHY YOU SMASHED UP THE REI-
MANN CAFE WHERE THE POOR JEWISH ARTISTS GO PUBLIC PROSE-
CUTOR RETORTS.

Berlin, Sept. 22nd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Count Helldorf, the Commandant of the Hitlerist Storm Troops in Berlin, and his Chief of Staff, Ernst, who surrendered to the court yesterday and were expected to be tried together with the rioters, on the charge of having directed the excesses, will be tried separately on Friday. They were called as witnesses, however, during the closing stages of the trial.

Both argued that they had not known anything of what had happened in the Kurfuerstendamm district on Rosh Hashanah. They had been there on their usual nightly tour of inspection, Ernst declared, when the Public Prosecutor pointed out that they had been seen there in their motor car during the height of the riots. He adopted a very arrogant and swaggering attitude as he insisted that no orders had been given to the storm troops to gather at the Kurfuerstendamm and that no commands or passwords connected with anti-Jewish attacks had been issued.

Count Helldorf, who is a former army officer, was much more courteous in his bearing, as he gravely assured the court that he drove along the Kurfuerstendamm that night only to order back to their homes any Nazi storm troopers whom he might find there.

But who called out the Nazi storm troopers to the Kurfuerstendamm? the President of the court interjected.

Perhaps a Communist spy managed to obtain our password and used it to inveigle our men to the Kurfuerstendamm to create trouble, he replied.

That is impossible, the President of the court retorted, because the storm troop pay-offices issued their fares to the storm troopers.

Count Helldorf then began to argue that the demonstration had not been of an avowedly antisemitic character. Most of the Nazi storm troopers had not even known that it was Rosh Hashanah, he said. We National Socialists do not fight against individual Jews, he went on, but against the Jewish capitalistic system.

Is that why you smashed up the Reimann Cafe? the Public Prosecutor, Dr. Stenig, cried jumping to his feet. The Reimann Cafe is well-known as a meeting-place of Jewish artists, who are notoriously poor, so that the point went home.

SEIZE ALL SYNAGOGUES AND CHURCHES: NEW CAMPAIGN STARTED IN WHITE RUSSIA.

Moscow, Sept. 22nd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Resolutions demanding that all the ten synagogues in Minsk, the capital of White Russia, the big Greek Orthodox Cathedral, and the Roman Catholic Church should be seized and converted into homes for students and into workers' clubs, are being adopted daily at meetings of workers, employees and students held in Minsk, while similar resolutions demanding the seizure of the synagogues and churches in their own localities are being adopted at meetings held in Homel and other towns throughout White Russia. The whole campaign bears evidence of being carefully organised with a view to giving it the appearance of a unanimous demand of the working class populations of these towns and thus making it possible for the anti-religious leaders to exert pressure on the authorities to yield to the voice of the people.

Despite the insistence of the campaign, it is not expected, however, that the authorities will accede to the demand.

It is a shame that while these nests of counter-revolution, the synagogues and the churches, are standing empty, because they have no worshippers, the resolutions say, the workers who are fighting for Socialism should have no places in which to meet for cultural purposes. We demand, therefore, that the authorities should take energetic action and proceed to confiscate these buildings, and to place them at the disposal of the workers.

A MOSCOW SYNAGOGUE BECOMES BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT ELECTRICITY TRUST: NOT CONFISCATED SINCE SYNAGOGUE HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO BUILDING GIVEN FOR PURPOSE, IN SAME DISTRICT PRESIDENT OF MOSCOW JEWISH COMMUNITY EXPLAINS: POINTS OUT DESPITE REPEATED DEMANDS OF JEWISH COMMUNISTS AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT PERMITTED CONFISCATION OF MOSCOW GREAT SYNAGOGUE.

Moscow, Sept. 22nd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Workers' Synagogue in Moscow has had to vacate the synagogue building and transfer its activities to a smaller building in the same district. The Electro-Trust, a Soviet State enterprise, finding itself in need of a building for a branch office in the workers' district, applied to the court for an order to enable it to take possession of the Workers' Synagogue. The application was granted by the lower court, and without waiting for confirmation by the Supreme Court, the administration of the Trust immediately took possession of the synagogue building.

The synagogue administration thereupon lodged a protest with the authorities, who immediately placed another building in the same area at its disposal for use as a synagogue. The highest Soviet quarters have expressed their regret to the synagogue administration at the hastiness of the Trust administration, and have added an assurance that had the matter come to their notice earlier, the synagogue building would not have been seized.

Mr. Albert Fuchs, President of the Moscow Jewish Community for many years and Chairman of the Jewish Burial Society in Moscow, speaking to-day with the J.T.A. representative here, said that what had happened could not be described as an act of anti-religious persecution. On the contrary, he said, the representatives of the Supreme authorities and also the Moscow city authorities have always been very attentive to the needs and requirements of the Jewish Community of Moscow. Despite the repeated demands of the Jewish Communists, he said, the supreme authorities have consistently refused to allow the Moscow Great Synagogue to be confiscated for conversion into a workers' club.

In the same way, he went on, the Moscow City authorities have met the wishes of the Moscow Jewish Community in the matter of the Jewish cemetery. When all the cemeteries, Jewish and non-Jewish alike, situated within the boundaries of the city were closed down, he said, the Moscow Soviet set aside a field about 18 kilometres outside the city for the purpose of a Jewish cemetery, and gave the Moscow Jewish Community complete control of the cemetery.

The Commissariat of Trade, he added, has also given the Moscow Jewish Burial Society a permit to import a motor-hearse from abroad, without having to pay customs dues. You see, therefore, Mr. Fuchs concluded, that there is no question here of persecution of the Jewish religion by the Soviet Administration in Moscow.

Mr. Fuchs was arrested in February 1929 on a charge of irregular activity in connection with the Labour Credit Institution in Moscow, with which he is associated. The charges against him were disproved, however, and he was immediately released. It was stated at the time that the arrest was not connected in any way with his Jewish communal work.

DEMAND FOR CONFISCATION OF MOSCOW GREAT SYNAGOGUE RENEWED IN
RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT MOSCOW ANTI-RELIGIOUS MASS MEETING
HELD ON KOL NIDRE NIGHT.

Moscow, Sept. 22nd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The demand that the Moscow Great Synagogue should be seized and converted into a Jewish labour club has been made again in a resolution carried unanimously at the anti-religious mass meeting held here on Kol Nidre night. A Jewish worker who proposed the resolution, said that when a delegation of workers went last year to put the same demand to the Chairman of the Moscow Soviet, M. Uchagov, he had replied that so long as the Moscow Cathedral "Chros Spositelia" was not confiscated, there could be no question of confiscating the Great Synagogue. Now, when the "Chros Spositelia" has been pulled down, he proceeded, we demand that the Great Synagogue, too, should be given up to us for a club.

A second Jewish worker who supported the resolution said that it was not the first time that the Jewish workers were demanding that the synagogue should be given over to them for the purposes of a club, or that it should just be closed down. But every time that the demand was put to the Moscow Soviet, they were told that there were 40 times 40 churches in Moscow, so that if a few were taken over for cultural purposes, or were pulled down, because they were impeding traffic, there were still plenty left for use by the faithful. Synagogues were in a different case, they were told, because there were only a few, and they could therefore not be closed down without violating the feelings of the believers. We workers refuse to accept such an explanation, he declared, and we demand of our representatives in the Moscow Soviet that they should carry out the wishes of their electors.

There was an attendance of over 2,000, mostly young people, at the anti-religious mass meeting which was held in the Collonade Hall of the Moscow Trade Union building. Ex-Cantor Shulman, once a famous Cantor, who recently renounced Judaism, sang anti-religious songs, and delivered a speech. For nearly 40 years he had been a cantor, he said, and had conducted services in the chief cities of Europe and America. Only last year, he had conducted the services on the Jewish High Holy Days in the Odessa Great Synagogue. He had now realised, however, how foolish that was, and he had broken with religion and with synagogue.

Another speaker was the Secretary of the International League of Militant Atheists, a German named Kay, who dealt with the anti-Jewish excesses which had occurred in Berlin on Rosh Hashanah.

HARBIN IN CENTRE OF CHINESE-JAPANESE WAR: A LARGE JEWISH
COMMUNITY FREQUENTLY THREATENED BY WHITE RUSSIAN POGROMISTS:
SOVIET COMPLICATIONS FEARED WHICH MAY AFFECT ALSO JEWISH
REGION OF BUREYA.

London, Sept. 23rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The situation in Harbin, following a report that Japanese troops are menacing this important town, which is the terminus of a branch line of the Trans-Siberian Railway from Vladivostock, is causing anxiety here, particularly as its occupation, in view of its important Russian interests may bring the Russian Government into the present Sino-Japanese conflict. The Japanese Government has rejected to-day an offer made by the League of Nations Council to investigate the dispute with a view to settling it peacefully.

Harbin is a large Jewish centre, and in recent years has been steadily growing in importance in point of Jewish population. The situation there has, however, been frequently one of considerable anxiety for the Jewish population on account of difficulties between the Chinese, Japanese and Soviet Governments, and the presence of large numbers of "White" Russians, who in Czarist times and during the civil war were active pogromists. About two years ago, during the Chinese-Soviet conflict, when the Soviet officials were evacuated from the city, the Soviet official news agency Tass circulated a number of reports to the effect that the Jewish Community in Harbin was in fear of pogroms, because of the attitude of the White Guards. Many Jewish families were said to be leaving Harbin because of the panicky situation.

The former White General Semenov, who held Siberia in 1921, carrying out numerous butcheries of Jews there, was said to be holding himself in readiness to start activities again with the outbreak of fighting. The notorious pogromist leader, Tashkoff, who had carried out numerous pogroms during the Denikin regime, was said to have assumed a command in the Chinese army to fight against the Soviets.

The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (Hias) in New York received a report that on account of the Chinese-Russian conflict hundreds of Jewish emigrants were stranded in Harbin in an extremely precarious situation. This report was soon after contradicted, however, by a later message from the Hias office in Harbin that there was no cause for anxiety for the moment.

The Bureya Jewish colonisation area in Siberia, is not very far from Harbin. The city of Chabarovsk, which is the chief town of the district, is less than 300 miles away, on the Amur River, and if Soviet Russia came into the conflict Bureya might be affected. During the Chinese-Soviet conflict of 1929, Chabarovsk became a centre for Soviet troops proceeding to Manchuria, and there was a report going about in connection with the unsettled situation that an anti-Jewish disturbance had broken out in Bureya itself. Soviet troops passing through Bureya to the frontier and also local peasants were said to have been attacking Jewish settlers. The Government Commission for Jewish Land Settlement (Comzet) issued a statement, however, declaring that nothing disturbing had occurred.

PALESTINE REPORT ADOPTED BY LEAGUE OF NATIONS ASSEMBLY WITHOUT
DISCUSSION.

Geneva, Sept. 23rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The League of Nations Assembly adopted to-day without discussion the reports on minorities and mandates submitted by its Sixth Committee, including the references to Palestine (which were given in yesterday's J.T.A. Bulletin).

(NOT FOR PUBLICATION UNLESS BY PREVIOUS ARRANGEMENT).