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BARON DE HIRSCH CENTENARY.

London, Dec. 9th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

A hundred years ago, on December 9th., 1831, Baron Maurice de Hirsch, the great philanthropist who created the Jewish Colonisation Association (Ica), was born in Munich, the eldest son of Baron Joseph von Hirsch, banker to the King of Bavaria, and grandson of Baron Jacob von Hirsch, the first Jewish landowner in Bavaria, and the founder of the family fortunes.

When he was 24, Hirsch married Clara Bischoffsheim, the eldest daughter of Senator Raphael Bischoffsheim, of the banking firm of Bischoffsheim and Goldschmidt, of Brussels. He inherited a considerable fortune from his father and grandfather, and this was largely augmented by the dowry of his wife. With this money he embarked in railway enterprises on his own account in Austria, the Balkans and Russia. He secured a concession from the Turkish Government for the building of an important railway to connect Europe and the Near East. The great success which he achieved gained for him the reputation of being one of the leading captains of industry and financiers of Europe.

The late Oscar Straus, the only Jew to sit in a United States Cabinet, who met Baron de Hirsch when he (Straus) was United States Ambassador to Turkey and Hirsch was in Turkey in connection with his railway construction, described him as having "a large view of affairs, and clear and quick in judgment", as "a remarkable man, gifted with extraordinary powers, with a genius for large affairs" and as "enterprising and aggressive in his plans".

One Of The Wealthiest Men In The World: "Richer Than The Entire French Nation In 1871": Estimated To Have Given In Benefactions Between 18 And 20 Million Pounds.

Before he was forty Baron de Hirsch was one of the wealthiest men in the world, and it was about this time that he began to interest himself in the alleviation of Jewish distress.

"You are richer than the French, the entire French nation in 1871, and how many Jews were among them", Dr. Theodore Herzl wrote to Baron de Hirsch on one occasion when he was trying to enlist his aid for the Zionist movement.

Baron de Hirsch's munificent gifts for Jewish welfare purposes have been said to have been prompted by the death of his son, Lucien, in 1887, at the age of 31 (he is quite unlike me. He is very respectable and hates money, Baron de Hirsch said of his son to Lady Oxford and Asquith, according to her autobiography). My son I have lost, but not my heir -- humanity is my heir". Baron de Hirsch has been quoted as replying to a message of condolence at the time of his son's death. It was, however, about fifteen years before the death

of his son that Baron de Hirsch had begun to give large sums (a million francs at a time) to the Alliance Israelite for its work among the Jews of the Balkans and the Orient, and for years he regularly paid the deficits of the Alliance, amounting to thousands of pounds a year.

In 1882, still five years before the death of his son, he offered the Russian Government two million pounds for the establishment of schools in the Jewish Pale of Settlement, but the Russian Government, willing enough to take the money, refused him the control of the administration of the schools that he wanted. It was this attitude of the Czarist Government that finally brought Baron de Hirsch to the realization that the only helpful way of assisting the Jews of Russia was to enable them to emigrate from Russia and resulted in the formation of the Ica, through which in his lifetime and since he has taken millions of Jews out of Russia and built up the great Jewish settlements of the Argentine and Brazil, and important Jewish colonies in Canada and in the United States (Woodbine Agricultural Colony, for instance).

Lucien Wolf has estimated the total benefactions of Baron de Hirsch and his wife at eighteen million pounds. And of this eleven million pounds went to form the capital of the Ica, making it, as Lucien Wolf suggested, probably the greatest charitable fund in the world. Oscar Straus put Baron de Hirsch's benefactions alone at an even greater figure, exceeding 100 million dollars.

"In relieving human suffering", Baron de Hirsch wrote in an article on his charitable work, "I never ask whether the cry of necessity comes from a being who belongs to my faith or not; but what is more natural than that I should find my highest purpose in bringing to the followers of Judaism who have been oppressed for a thousand years, who are starving in misery, the possibilities of a physical and mental regeneration?"

A Territorialist.

Theodore Herzl did not succeed in winning Baron de Hirsch for the Zionist movement, and when he died on April 21st., 1896, Herzl commented in his diary: "The Jews have lost Hirsch, but they have me, and after me they will have someone else. It must go forward. I conceive the same matter differently, and I believe better, more strongly, because I do it not with money but with the idea".

According to an article published a few years ago by a sleeping-car attendant named Fusserl, who among many other notabilities travelled at various times with both Herzl and Baron de Hirsch, Baron de Hirsch differed, however, from Herzl only in being a Territorialist instead of a Zionist.

Baron de Hirsch was in agreement with Dr. Herzl's basic idea, that the Jews should establish a country of their own, but did not join him in his plan only because Dr. Herzl had bound himself to Palestine as the place of Jewish settlement. Fusserl wrote in recalling a talk on the Jewish question which he had had with Baron de Hirsch in 1895, during his journey to Rome, shortly after Hirsch's conversations on the subject with Dr. Herzl. Although in agreement with Dr. Herzl, Fusserl claimed, the Baron considered the selection of Palestine unadvised, because of the big sea of Arab population in Palestine and the adjoining countries, which he believed would bring about the failure of any Jewish settlement scheme in Palestine. He felt that the Jews would always remain a minority people in Palestine, without being able to become self-governing, and he therefore took the view that it was not desirable

that the Jews should leave the countries in which they were resident. But if Dr. Herzl would succeed in finding an unpopulated country where Jewish self-government would be possible, he said, according to Husserl, I am ready to give my whole fortune in order to bring about the realisation of his idea.

The Ica.

A few years ago (in 1926) it was suggested in a number of Jewish papers that the Ica was not doing what Baron de Hirsch had intended it to do with his millions. The publication of Baron de Hirsch's will, however, showed that it makes no stipulations as to the methods in which the Ica is to administrate the funds entrusted to it, and the only statement of the purposes for which the Ica has been established is contained in Article 3 of its Charter (the Ica being incorporated in London under the Companies Acts), which was drawn up by Baron de Hirsch himself, and which reads:

"To assist and promote the emigration of Jews from any parts of Europe or Asia and principally from countries in which they may for the time being be subjected to any special taxes or political or other disturbances, to any other parts of the world, and to form and establish colonies in various parts of the world, and to form and establish colonies in various parts of North and South America and other countries for agricultural, commercial and other purposes", as well as "to establish and maintain or contribute to the establishment and maintenance in any part of the world of educational and training institutions, model farms, loan banks, industries, factories and any other institutions or associations which in the judgment of the Council may be calculated to fit Jews for emigration and assist their settlement in various parts of the world, except in Europe, with power to contribute to the funds of any association or society already existing or hereafter formed and having objects which in the opinion of the Council may assist or promote the carrying out of the objects of the Association".

Dr. Louis Oungre, the Director of the Ica, pointed out at the time in the same connection that "Baron de Hirsch founded the Ica during his lifetime. He was its first President, retaining that post right up to the day of his death. So there was no need for him to have waited for his will before he laid down the Ica's principles and programme of activities", adding that "the publication of Baron de Hirsch's will has confirmed this".

"The Ica's work of colonisation and credit-aid", a prominent Jewish journalist wrote a few weeks ago, "is carried on in seven overseas countries - the Argentine, Brazil, the United States, Canada, Cyprus, Turkey and Palestine, and also in several European countries like Russia, Poland, Roumania, and Latvia, and if we add the activities of the Joint-Ica Foundation, which is at work in Lithuania, Bessarabia, Transylvania, Esthonia, Austria, and Bulgaria, and of the Hicem Committees, which are functioning in all the countries of emigration and immigration, we find that the Ica actually encircles the globe, or at least the Jewish portion of it".

Before the war, when Russia was still the greatest centre of Jewish life in the world, "it was the Ica", Advocate Sliosberg, who was then one of the great figures in Russo-Jewish life, has written, "which created the Jewish co-operatives in Russia, and in that way consolidated the whole of Jewish life prior to the Revolution. And it was the Ica also", he added, "which promoted the Jewish agricultural colonies in Russia".

Progressing Everywhere Ica President Sir Leonard Cohen Says.

It is incontestable that in the domain of colonisation we are progressing everywhere, Sir Leonard L. Cohen, the President of the Ica, said in presenting the annual report to the 1930 general meeting of the Association. The prosperity of our groups in the Argentine is certain, he declared. We have set up in this country an agricultural Jewry, flourishing and free. To-day, our colonists are citizens (180 received their papers in 1929 and 1,250 held citizenship papers by the end of the preceding year). The development of the co-operatives, which play so great a part in the life of the Argentine groups, has been wonderful. They continue to progress.

In Brazil, too, in Canada and in Palestine, he went on, our colonists are working, becoming agriculturists, and improving their position with every year. We have fought against the elements, sometimes against a certain pessimism which is understandable after the sufferings and the disillusionions in which Jewish history is rich.

But if it is sometimes difficult to show year after year that degree of progress which we should always like to exhibit, yet we are happy to say that we no longer have to record any cruel set-backs and mortifications. It is consoling in speaking of Palestine to be able to state that our colonies were affected only very slightly by the disturbances of last year (1929) and that our colonists did not suffer in person.

The success attending our work in the overseas countries, Sir Leonard continued, has enabled us to proceed with our search for new areas for our colonisation activity. We have been impelled to this by the results of the war and the devastation of the Jewish settlements of Central and Eastern Europe. In this way we have come to engage in colonisation on the spot, that is to say, to consolidate the existing populations where they are living. That is the reason for our work in Poland, Russia, and Roumania.

There is in Poland a very thickly populated Jewish agricultural area of hard-working people, especially in the Eastern zones and in Galicia. We brought help to 35 colonies, which were severely tried by the economic crisis and the destruction of the harvests. There were in particular important advances made in 1,413 Jewish farms. This activity is carried on in the pre-war Russian territory. There are also in Eastern Galicia, in the districts of Stanislaw, Lemberg, and Tarnopol, about 8,000 families of Jewish peasants who have equal need of our aid. In order to be able to engage in this work we are compelled to conduct activities in countries where the price of the land and the poverty of the colonists render our work more difficult, but at the same time it is work of the greatest benefit in the fullest sense of the word.

In Roumania we have also given assistance to large numbers of Jewish colonists. There are nearly 4,000 Jewish colonists in Bessarabia in 31 colonies, cultivating more than 27,000 hectares of land. We have endeavoured to raise their standard of living, to instruct them in the working of the land and to help them to expand the area of land they have under cultivation by buying new plots.

I shall not dwell upon our work in Russia, Sir Leonard proceeded, which is so difficult and so necessary. I only want to say something of what is termed the New Colonisation. By December 31st. last 2,362 families have already taken firm root in the Ica colonies. They have become veritable land-folk and are creating a new class of Jewish cultivators of the land whose future may be regarded as assured, unless something happens to take them out of our control.

This is what we have accomplished in the matter of colonisation.

Outside Europe At Least 20,000 Families Of Jews Placed On Land.

In other countries outside Europe, he proceeded, we have placed at least 20,000 families of Jews on the land. At this very moment, as a result of the efforts of the Ica, there is a Jewish peasant population in existence of at least 100,000 persons, without counting those who have come on the land without our direct aid and who have equally received facilities from us in the practice of agriculture. I ask you, Sir Leonard said, is it possible to say after this that Jews do not know how to become agriculturists?

From its very inception, Sir Leonard continued, the Ica has engaged in the training of skilled workmen and technicians in the attempt to reduce the large numbers of our people who have no profession in hand. This work rests on a really solid foundation, and is no longer talked about, because we have grown accustomed to its regular work and the services which it renders. Thanks to our schools, our professional courses, and our patrons (who take in the apprentices trained in the particular branches of work) in Poland, Bessarabia and Russia, we have snatched thousands of young Jews from idleness and from poor and uncertain labour and misery.

There remain two important enterprises, Sir Leonard said, our credit-aid work and emigration. It will always be one of our finest titles to virtue that our Association introduced the huge masses of the Jewish proletariat of Eastern Europe, to the inestimable benefits of co-operation, under one of its most successful forms, the Credit Mutuel. In Russia we are pursuing the reconstruction of our pre-war achievement and each year we register some new progress there. In this one country alone, the cassas maintained by us have given assistance last year to 89,785 people. I recall that 28 years ago, when I became a member of the Ica, we maintained in the vast Russian Empire, including Poland, only 13 cassas, with 7,600 members.

In subordinating our participation to the effective local contributions made in the form of subscriptions, to the establishment of depots, and the creation of reserves, Sir Leonard said, we have gradually come to the significant result that our actual financial participation represents in many cases only a third and sometimes only a quarter of the total funds engaged in this enterprise. In the near future the cassas will expand beyond all bounds. They will themselves be rich enough to dispense with our capital sums. And when that happens we shall be able to revive popular credit in other countries, and thus continue our work of releasing the Jewish masses from misery.

World Knows What We Have Achieved In Argentine But Less Informed
Of Result We Have Achieved In Brazil : Judaism Did Not
Exist In Brazil Before The War.

The world knows what we have achieved in the Argentine, Sir Leonard said. It is less informed of the results we have achieved in Brazil. Judaism did not exist in Brazil before the war. Always engaged in seeking new openings for Jewish emigration, our Association endeavoured over a period of seven years to prepare the ground, to help the formation

of Jewish communities and their development. Everywhere schools, synagogues and institutions of every kind have been opened. The immigrants come into the country in great numbers and without difficulty manage to take their place in the centre of this Brazilian Jewry which is our work and our creation.

The Ica has achieved a recognition, Sir Leonard concluded, of which we have a right to be proud. We have a mission to fulfil. We shall do our task and seek always to go forward.

A Nephew Of Baron De Hirsch.

What Baron de Hirsch's vast bequest and his establishment of the immense machinery of the Ica has meant in the lives of many thousands of Jewish families was brought home graphically a few weeks ago in a report headed "A Nephew Of Baron de Hirsch", appearing in a number of Jewish papers in America, in which Dr. Weinstein, described as the most important Jewish communal worker in Chile, one of the South American countries in which the Ica has been building up Jewish life, who is now President of the Jewish Immigrant Aid Committee of Chile, explaining why he has taken on this job, wrote: "Forty years ago my father became a man, thanks to Baron de Hirsch. My father succeeded admirably, and when he died he left behind him a large family of respected citizens of Chile. What would have happened to me if Baron de Hirsch had not helped my parents to leave Russia? I want to pay back my debt. As a Jew, I think it is my duty to help others to escape misery and persecution and settle in our country. In that way I gratefully repay the debt contracted as a nephew of Baron de Hirsch".

In the Argentine, where the number of "Baron de Hirsch's nephews" is immeasurably greater than in Chile, the Jewish farmers of the Argentine at their last Congress at San Salvador decided to erect a monument there to Baron de Hirsch, and to commemorate his centenary by publishing a history of the Jewish colonisation of the Argentine and raising a fund to buy land in the Argentine on which to settle more Jewish families from Eastern Europe.

CHECKING HITLERISM IN GERMANY: JEWISH OPINION REASSURED BY PREMIER'S STRONG STATEMENT: UNIFORMS BANNED ARMS MUST BE GIVEN UP AND MARTIAL LAW WILL BE DECLARED IF NECESSITY ARISES DR. BRUENING DECLARES.

Berlin, Dec. 8th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Jewish opinion in Germany which has been alarmed by the growing strength of Hitlerism, and the threats thrown out by Hitlerist leaders of their coming capture of power, possibly by a coup d'etat, has been reassured to-day by the drastic warning addressed to the Hitlerists over the wireless by the Federal Prime Minister, Dr. Bruening, in explaining the new decrees issued by the Government, that the Government will not tolerate any attempt by the Hitlerists, whom he described as visionaries feeding the people on illusions, to seize power in the country, and declaring that the Government will not hesitate to proclaim martial law if necessary.

Hitler's constant declarations that his movement will proceed only by legal means are worthless, the Premier said, while other leaders of his movement are continuing to incite people to bloodshed.

The new decrees among other provisions ban the wearing of uniforms by Hitlerist storm troopers or by any other political organisations, Republican, Socialist or Communist. All weapons must be given up, and severe penalties will be imposed on people found in possession of arms, and all mass meetings are prohibited from December 20th. to January 3rd.

There is only one Government in the country, Dr. Bruening declared, and no one except the President of the Republic and the Government, supported by the armed forces of the State will be allowed to exercise authority in the State. No one but the spokesman of the Government, the Premier added, alluding to the interview given on Saturday by Hitler to correspondents of the English and American Press, in which he outlined the policy of a Hitlerist Government, has a right to speak to foreign opinion in the name of Germany.

In Jewish quarters information has been obtained according to which Hitler before he gave his interview to the English and American Press correspondents struck out all questions which they had put to him regarding the Hitlerist policy towards the Jews, in that way evading the question for foreign public opinion, while leaving himself free to act against the Jews when the Hitlerists come into power.

Dr. Bruening's speech has had the effect of demonstrating that despite the Hitlerist gains in recent months, the anti-Hitlerist forces are still stronger and in power, and that the Hitlerists do not command even now more than a minority of the population.

NAZIS HAVE NOT REACHED ZENITH OF THEIR POWER SAYS DR. WALLACH
VICE-PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL UNION OF GERMAN JEWS ON VISIT
TO AMERICA.

New York, Nov. 25th. (J.T.A. Mail Service).

The Nazi movement has not yet reached its zenith in Germany and even more sweeping victories are predicted for the Nationalist Socialists as long as the present crisis prevails, Herr Ernest Wallach, Vice-President of the Central Union of German Citizens of the Jewish Faith, who is now on a visit to the United States, said in an interview with the J.T.A. here.

Those who believed that the Nazis had reached their summit with the elections of 1930 are now disillusioned, Herr Wallach said. The National Socialists may achieve extraordinary victories in all the elections wherever they occur - in states, districts or communal legislatures.

The so-called middle parties, Herr Wallach explained, are steadily being relegated to the background. The reason for this, he said, is that the middle parties, unlike other parties in Germany, do not represent certain definite classes with specific limited interests. The voters, who seek representation for their specific interests are gradually estranging themselves from the middle parties and support those parties which make the most radical promises.

The largest group in Germany to-day, he went on, consists of the most hard-pressed elements who believe that there is no way out of the present economic depression. For that reason a party with a sense of responsibility, which refuses to make promises which it cannot later fulfil, does not receive any support at present. "The voters swerve to the radical wings of both the "Right" and "Left" parties, where they are told that only the destruction of the present system can remedy the situation," he said.

Discussing the position of the Jews in the light of the present political developments in Germany, Herr Wallach said that German Jewry has largely been dependent for the maintenance of its rights upon the battle waged on its behalf by the Central Union. "The Central Union, which has conducted a battle for Jewish rights for forty years will not permit itself to be dismayed by the new tremendous difficulties of the present moment", he declared.

The Central Union does not fight a party battle or against party programmes whether they be "Right" or "Left" in tendency, he said. It is concerned simply with the protection of Jewish rights.

The extent to which the Nazi movement endangers these rights, he explained, may be seen from an address delivered by the Nazi Deputy, Gregor Strasser, on October 23rd., when he interpreted the Nazi ideas of a Government policy as follows:

A National Socialist Government in Germany means that the rule of Jews in Germany is at an end; the expulsion of the Jews from every field of endeavour. The first Nazi Minister spells the end of Jewry in Germany.

It is the aim and the endeavour of the Central Union to bring about such a policy in Germany whereby Jewish citizens will be enabled to remain and work wherever duty and inclination summon them, Herr Wallach continued, a state of affairs under which the Jew as a Socialist should be able to join Socialist parties without having the appellation "Jewish Marxist" flung at him; whereby the liberal-minded Jewish citizen should be permitted to vote for a Party of the Centre, and the Conservative Jew, for a Conservative Party. At present there is not a single Conservative Party in Germany to which a self-respecting Jew can belong.

The Central Union has been fighting for some time to the end that Jews need no longer engage in political combats since the question of their equal rights is not now dependent upon Parliamentary equilibrium, or Government coalitions and is no longer subject to political victories or defeats.

In this aim, moreover, he concluded, the Central Union is in harmony with the majority of the German people to whom the well-being, and the inner peace of the German nation and fatherland is of paramount importance.

SITUATION IN GERMANY WILL BECOME WORSE DURING WINTER BUT
HITLERISM WILL NOT SPREAD AND ANTISEMITISM WILL GRADUALLY
SUBSIDE SAYS GERMAN EX-MINISTER.

New York, Nov. 25th. (J.T.A. Mail Service).

The situation in Germany will no doubt become worse during the coming winter, but Hitlerism will not spread and antisemitism will gradually subside, Dr. Albert Suedekum, former Prussian Minister of the Interior, declared to-day in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency here.

Dr. Suedekum, who is in the United States on a short visit, is a member of the "Abwehr Verein", an organisation of non-Jews in Germany engaged in combating antisemitism there.

The belief prevailing in the United States that Hitler will this winter join the German Cabinet is absolutely unfounded, Dr. Suedekum stated. As long as Bruening is in power there can be no hope for the Hitlerites to enter the Government.

Asked whether new antisemitic outbreaks may be expected in Germany, the former Minister of the Interior replied that skirmishes of a slight nature may be attempted by the Hitlerites, but the police are well prepared, he said, to put down such attempts.

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The crux of the situation in Germany to-day rests on the reparation question, Dr. Suedekum explained. We are not in a position to pay our war reparations, and the world must understand that we cannot pay them. Should we be freed of our war debts, the economic situation in Germany will eventually revert to normal. Hitlerism will then entirely disappear, for there is really no place in Germany for a movement such as Hitler and his followers now advocate.

HESSE PARLIAMENT WITH CENTRE SUPPORT ELECTS HITLERIST PRESIDENT;
BUT COALITION HITLERIST GOVERNMENT SAID TO BE UNLIKELY.

Berlin, Dec. 8th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Parliament of the State of Hesse, where the Hitlerists recently obtained a big election victory, has by a majority of votes, including those of the Centre (Catholic) Party, of which Dr. Bruening is a leading member, elected one of the Hitlerist Deputies, Professor Werner, as President of the Diet.

There is no likelihood of the Centre Party, however, supporting the Hitlerists in forming a Coalition Government in the State of Hesse, it is stated.

FORAK RELEASED: ACQUITTAL UPHeld BY CZECHO-SLOVAKIAN SUPREME
COURT.

Prague, Dec. 8th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Supreme Court sitting at Bruenn has in secret session to-day rejected the appeal brought by the Public Prosecutor against the acquittal of the former Czech-Legionary, ex-Corporal Karl Forak, who was charged with the murder of seven Jews during the time of the Bolshevik invasion in 1919.

The Supreme Court has upheld the acquittal and Forak was accordingly released to-day from prison.

PALESTINE MOSLEM CONFERENCE: BREAK BETWEEN MUFTI AND SHAUKAT
ALI SAID TO BE WIDENING.

Jerusalem, Dec. 8th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The first hint of a possible split in the Moslem Conference meeting here came to-day, with the refusal of the Egyptian delegates to accept nominations to any of the Conference Committees. The "Felestin", the organ of the Palestine Arab Executive, gives it as its opinion to-day that the present Conference should be regarded as only a preliminary to a bigger and better Congress to be held preferably in Egypt.

It is generally conceded that the Mufti has lost the support of the Egyptian and Indian delegates, including Shaukat Ali, whose non-election to any office except the Chairmanship of the Organic Law Committee, is being discussed widely. Another Indian Moslem delegate, Sir Iqbal Shah, has expressed himself most critically of the idea of a Moslem University in Jerusalem, considering Jerusalem unsuitable and the present time unripe. The Conference has, nevertheless, decided in favour of a Moslem University in Jerusalem.

After an address delivered to the Conference to-day on the sanctity to Moslems of the Buraq (Wailing Wall), all the delegates swore to defend all Moslem Holy Places with all their power.

An all-day debate took place on the question of the Hedjaz Railway, which was built to carry pilgrims to Mecca, and a resolution was adopted demanding the return of the railway to the Moslems and declaring that if this is not done within six months Moslem opinion will appeal to the League of Nations, and if this fails, the Moslem world will boycott all British, French and all other European goods.