

(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. 296. 5 pages. 24th. Dec., 1931.

FIFTY YEARS OF HOVEVEI ZION COMMEMORATED IN BIRTH-TOWN BIALY-  
STOCK: GATHERING OF SURVIVORS AT GRAVE OF RABBI SAMUEL  
MOHILEVER.

Warsaw, Dec. 22nd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The fiftieth anniversary of the Hovevei Zion movement which preceded the Zionist Organisation founded at the First Zionist Congress in Basle in 1897, was observed to-day in Bialystock, where the movement started, the commemoration centring round the figure of Rabbi Samuel Mohilever, one of the founders and leaders of the Hovevei Zion, who was the Rabbi of Bialystock, where he died in 1898 and is buried.

A group of survivors of the Hovevei Zion movement, among them Rabbi Isaac Nisenbaum, who was Rabbi Samuel Mohilever's secretary, ex-Senator Rabbi Rubinstein, Chief Rabbi of Vilna, Mr. Zvi Prilutzki, Dr. Z. Bychowski, Mr. L. Levin-Epstein and Dr. M. Feldstein came to Bialystock for the occasion, and Deputy Isaac Gruenbaum, Dr. Mayer Klumel, and Dr. Davidsohn headed the members of the Central Committee of the Polish Zionist Federation.

A special service was held in the Beth Samuel Synagogue, which is named in memory of Rabbi Samuel Mohilever. The members of the Zionist Organisation in Bialystock and the pupils of the Hebrew High School and the Jewish People's Schools in the town, together with the visitors then went in procession to the cemetery to the grave of Rabbi Samuel Mohilever, where speeches were delivered by Rabbi Nisenbaum and Dr. Klumel.

A memorial tablet has been unveiled bearing an inscription recording that the Hivat Zion movement was founded in Bialystock 50 years ago.

It has been decided to commemorate the anniversary by raising a fund for the Jewish National Fund to establish two colonies in Palestine, which will be named Hivat Zion and Bilu, the latter in honour of the first settlers belonging to the Bilu group who came to Palestine in 1882.

It was in 1875, on the occasion of the celebration of the 90th. birthday of Sir Moses Montefiore, that Rabbi Samuel Mohilever openly declared himself an adherent of the colonisation of Palestine. After the great persecution of the Jews in Russia in 1881, he accompanied the refugees to Lemberg and proposed to the Emigration Committee there that they should be sent to Palestine. Soon after he founded the first Hovevei Zion Society, and for some years after he undertook frequent journeys to Western Europe to win adherents for the movement. He succeeded in obtaining the support of Baron Edmond de Rothschild, who commissioned him to select a number of Jewish families in Russia to go out to Palestine as colonists. The colonies of Ekron and Rishon-le-Zion were thus founded. The Kvuza "Gan Shmuel" (Garden of Samuel) in Palestine is named after him. Rabbi Samuel Mohilever was in Palestine in 1890, and with the aid of some wealthy Russian Zionists he bought 1,556 acres of land near Jaffa and founded the colony of Rehoboth.

When he heard in 1891 that Baron de Hirsch intended founding Jewish colonies in the Argentine, he went to see him in Paris to urge him to choose Palestine instead of the Argentine as the country of Jewish colonisation, but he was not successful.

When the political Zionist movement was founded by Herzl, Rabbi Mohilever became an adherent of Herzl, and intended to take part in the First Zionist Congress in Basle as the leader of the Russian Zionists. He fell ill, however, and was unable to undertake the journey and sent a letter of greeting. The day before his death he wrote a letter to all friends of Zion recommending the foundation of the Jewish Colonial Trust and the colonisation of Palestine.

Rabbi Samuel Mohilever's son, Rabbi Joseph Mohilever, also a Zionist, succeeded him as Rabbi of Bialystock in 1902.

Fifty years ago, in pre-Zionist Organisation times, began the *Lovevei Zion*, a movement to return to the land, the Jewish National Fund said in its Rosh Hashanah message to its supporters issued last September. In the same year the first Bilu group arrived in Eretz Israel. This year, too, it went on, we celebrate the completion of 30 years of the Jewish National Fund. These two anniversaries mark epochs in Jewish life, and the Jewish National Fund the world over will celebrate these anniversaries in fitting fashion.

At the end of October, the survivors of the Bilu settlers in Palestine issued an appeal urging support of the Jewish National Fund as the most appropriate way of celebrating the 50th. anniversary of the Hivath Zion movement, and in this connection the Jewish National Fund headquarters in Jerusalem announced a few days later that it had decided that its next full-size settlement to be established in Palestine will be named Hivath Zion in honour of the anniversary.

GROUP OF AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS FORMULATE PROJECT FOR ADVANCING JEWISH WORK IN PALESTINE: ANNOUNCEMENT TO BE MADE WHEN CONGRESS RECONVENES IN NEW YEAR.

New York, Dec. 22nd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

An important group of Congressmen and Senators belonging to all Parties have formulated a project as a result of a Conference held in Washington, in which a number of leading Zionists in New York participated, the details of which have not yet been divulged, but which it is said will be of great significance for the future work on behalf of the Jewish National Home in Palestine. An announcement, it is stated, will be made when Congress reconvenes in the new year.

A National Conference of prominent non-Jews in America will shortly be held, it is added, in order to discuss measures for promoting the Jewish work in Palestine.

Pro-Palestine Committee in United States.

Mr. Emanuel Neuman, the American member of the Zionist World Executive, revealed to the last American Zionist Convention held last month in Atlantic City that a Pro-Palestine Committee, consisting of important personages in American political life and in other branches of activity will shortly be formed in the United States.

He explained that he had held conversations with leading figures in American life and that Senator Borah, for one, had expressed his strong approval of such a project, in a letter addressed to Mr. Neumann, which he read to the Convention.

My impression is, Senator Borah's letter read, that such a Committee could be helpful in the dissemination of accurate and reliable information about Palestine and in giving encouragement to the movement. There can be no doubt that the movement at this particular juncture needs the co-operation and support of all those who are in sympathy with it. I want you to know that I am in sympathy with your work and to the extent of my time and ability, I shall always be glad to help.

We must constantly strive for co-operation with the Mandatory Power, though it always takes two to co-operate, Mr. Leuman said in the course of his speech. It would be a grave error, however, he added, to rest our cause solely upon that relationship rather than upon the broadest international basis. America has played vitally important parts at critical moments, he said, in strengthening the hands of the friends of the Jewish National Home in England and elsewhere, and America must continue to play that role.

#### Resolution By U.S. Congress And Senate In Favour Of Jewish National Home In Palestine.

In 1922, the United States House of Representatives and Senate, on the motions of respectively Congressman Hamilton Fish and the late Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate, the position held at present by Senator Borah, adopted a resolution in favour of a Jewish National Home in Palestine, which was signed the following week by President Harding.

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled", the resolution read, "that the United States of America favours the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of Christian and all other non-Jewish communities in Palestine, and that the holy places and religious buildings and sites in Palestine shall be adequately protected".

#### President Hoover's Attitude.

President Hoover, who was Secretary for Commerce in the United States Cabinet at the time, issued a statement in which he said:

I would not wish in any measure to seem desirous of putting up any objection to any individual or nation bent upon the satisfaction of the instinctive hunger for self-expression that is inherent in us all, and which our American individualism aims in all directions to accord. Yet I would entertain a sense of distinct disquietude if I thought that America were to lose the influence and attainment of such preeminent men as Oscar Straus, the Messers. Warburg, Marshall, Schiff, Mandels, Morgenthau, Doctors Flexner and Carrell and hundreds of other Jews who have risen high in the opinion of our countrymen, and who are as much a part of our national life as peoples of any racial extraction. Nor can I believe that men of this character could attain such service and usefulness in any place except the United States, nor that they have any desire to be considered apart from the American people.

As an axiom for the less fortunate masses of Jewish people I would entirely sympathise with the aspirations of the New Palestine. We all agree that America must be the real Homeland for any race that joins us and that any stimulation of religious sentiment and desire to assist the less fortunate is constructive.

A day or two after his election as President, in November 1928, President Hoover sent a message to the United Palestine Appeal Conference held in Boston, in which he declared "I am heartily in accord with the effort to recognise Palestine, and I should like to help the drive for funds".

In May 1929, President Hoover received at White House Mr. Mahan Sokolov, the President of the Jewish Agency, who is now again on his way to America, and assured him of his great interest in the Zionist movement and his sympathy for the work which it is accomplishing in Palestine. Mr. Sokolov was also received the same day by Mr. Curtis, the Vice-President of the United States, who, it was afterwards revealed, was the prime mover in securing the adoption of the resolution in favour of the Jewish home in Palestine sponsored by Senator Lodge and Congressman Fish. Vice-President Curtis was a member of the Senate at the time, and persuaded Senator Lodge on account of his position as Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee to act as the official sponsor of the resolution, of which he was the "father".

TEL AVIV TO LOSE ITS DISTINCTIVE JEWISH POLICE FORCE?:  
MAYOR DIZENGOFF COMPLAINS TO HIGH COMMISSIONER SIR  
ARTHUR WAUCHOPE AGAINST DECISION TO MERGE IT IN  
GENERAL PALESTINE POLICE FORCE.

Jerusalem, Dec. 22nd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Mr. Mayer Dizengoff, the Mayor of the Jewish township of Tel Aviv, complained to-day to the High Commissioner, General Sir Arthur Wauchope, when he paid his first official visit to the town, against the decision of the authorities to merge the Tel Aviv Police Force with the general Palestine Police Force, objecting that the abolition of this distinctively Jewish police force, the only one in the world, using Hebrew as the language of command, would be regarded as a blow to the Jewish development in Palestine.

NISSIM BEHAR "JEWISH CONSUL IN AMERICA" REINTERRED IN PALES-  
TINE BESIDE HIS FATHER.

Jerusalem, Dec. 22nd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The body of the late Nissim Behar, who was the representative of the Alliance Israelite Universelle in New York and the founder of the Alliance Schools in the Orient, who died in New York on January 1st., almost a year ago, in his 83rd. year, arrived in Palestine to-day, having been placed on board the s.s. "Providence" in New York on December 4th., for removal to Palestine to be re-interred here, according to his wish expressed in his last testament.

A short service was held in Tel Aviv, after which the body was brought to Jerusalem, where a procession was formed at the Alliance Israelite School, and it was accompanied to the cemetery on the Mount of Olives, where it was interred in a grave at the side of that of Nissim Behar's father.

Dr. David Yellin, Mr. Joseph Meyuhas and Mr. Eliezer delivered memorial addresses in which they paid tribute to the work of this "Jewish Consul" in America.

THE CRISIS IN FRENCH JEWRY.

Paris, Dec. 21st. (J.T.A. Mail Service).

Paris Jewry is gradually beginning to realise how serious the crisis is, the Yiddish daily "Pariser Fajnt" writes in an editorial to-day. Things have never been so serious with us as now. The Jewish population of France is facing a very critical time. Not only the livelihood of the Jewish population is in danger, but entire Jewish branches of industry and trade are being wiped out, and Jewish workers and artisans, merchants and small traders, and industrialists are all in danger of finding themselves without any means of earning their bread. The new laws against aliens which are being drafted in Parliament will directly and indirectly aim a blow at a considerable section of the Jewish immigrant population in France. The Jewish public in France must consider the situation and be prepared for any eventualities. The appeal to help the victims of the crisis has had a good response. Private individuals and organisations are contributing to the fund. But it is only a beginning, and the trouble has hardly yet been tackled. Every Jew in Paris must realise that the lives of Jewish men, women and children are at stake, and that the whole of Jewish life in France is in the balance.

A bill for the protection of French labour, which gives the Government wide powers of control over the employment of foreigners in industrial and commercial undertakings, was adopted by the Chamber late last night.

The bill empowers the Government to fix the proportion of foreigners employed in such undertakings, and enjoins that in no case shall the proportion exceed 10 per cent., while in the case of the public services the proportion is limited to 5 per cent. No foreigner may be employed unless he is in possession of an official permit, which will only be issued with the approval of the Labour Exchanges. Political refugees and exiles, the foreign fathers of families settled in France, and ex-service men of the Allied Armies are to be entitled to the permit.

YIDDISH CULTURE IN AMERICA.

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

The second annual convention of the Yiddish Cultural Society in the United States, which was concluded here to-day after being in session for three days, has adopted a number of resolutions aiming at the strengthening of Yiddish culture in the United States.

The Conference has decided upon the establishment of a general cultural fund with the co-operation of Jewish cultural organisations throughout the country. A weekly magazine named "Yiddish", devoted to the interests of the Society, will shortly start publication. It has also been decided to found a co-operative Yiddish publishing house.

GENERAL STRIKE OF OFFICIALS OF ALL JEWISH RELIEF ORGANISATIONS  
IN WARSAW.

Warsaw, Dec. 23rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

A general strike was declared here to-day of all the officials of the Jewish relief organisations, who have gone out in sympathy with the officials of the Jewish Health Organisation Toz, against the decision of the Executive of the Toz to make further reductions in the pay and in the numbers of its officials for economy reasons.

(NOT FOR PUBLICATION UNLESS BY PREVIOUS ARRANGEMENT).