

(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 6501-2.

Vol. XIII. No. 73.

5 pages.

22nd. Mar., 1932.

LUZZATTI'S BIRTH-TOWN HONOURS HIS MEMORY ON FIFTH ANNIVERSARY  
OF HIS DEATH: MEMORIAL TABLET UNVEILED ON FRONT OF HOUSE  
WHERE HE WAS BORN: "ILLUSTRIOUS APOSTLE WHO ACHIEVED  
ECONOMIC LIBERATION OF ITALIAN PEOPLE".

Rome, Mar. 20th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

A memorial tablet has been unveiled on the front of the house in the Venice Ghetto in which Luigi Luzzatti, the great Jew and Italian statesman, who was Prime Minister in 1910 and 1911, was born March 1st., 1841, the ceremony being arranged in connection with the fifth anniversary of his death, which will occur on March 29th.

The Government was represented, and the unveiling was performed by the President of the City of Venice, Dr. Mario Alvera, who paid tribute in his speech to the great services which Luzzatti had rendered to Italy, especially in the field of economic reform.

The memorial tablet describes Luzzatti as "the illustrious apostle, who strived for and achieved the economic liberation of the Italian people, and by his vast knowledge and his services rose to the highest positions in the Government of the country".

Senator Professor Luigi Luzzatti, who was known as the "Grand Old Man of Italian Jewry", was one of the foremost of Europe's elder statesmen and one of the greatest authorities in the world on economic and financial problems. He was only 22 when he was appointed professor of political economy at Milan University. At the age of 28 he became a member of the Government, as Vice-Minister of Trade and Industry. He was too young at the time to be even entitled to election as a member of Parliament. As soon as he reached the legal age for election he was returned to Parliament for his native city of Venice, and was entrusted by the Italian Government with the task of concluding important trading and financial agreements with the principal European States. In 1878 he compiled the Italian Customs Tariff, and he subsequently took a leading part in negotiating all the commercial treaties between Italy and other countries.

While Vice-Minister, he made the acquaintance of Bismarck, Gladstone and Thiers, and these great statesmen praised his tremendous financial abilities and political acumen and prophesied a brilliant future for him. Luzzatti's most important and fruitful period fell between the years 1874-1891, when his speeches in the Italian Parliament were acclaimed as among the finest examples in the Italian language of inspired political rhetoric. From 1890 to 1920 Luzzatti occupied continuously the post of Finance Minister, unaffected by the many different changes of Government. From 1910-11, he was Premier and as the head of the Government, effected a number of very important reforms. During the Great War and in the early post-war period he achieved great things in the field of social insurance, economics and public charity. He originated the law for compulsory

accident insurance, the bill for the saving of money, all the laws regulating emigration and nearly all existing legislation on co-operation. He was the founder of the Peoples' Banks in Italy and of the Italian co-operative movement. He introduced the Old Age Pensions Act into Italy, improved the system of elementary education, fought against malaria and inaugurated many hygienic measures. He extended the electoral vote, excluding only illiterates and endeavoured to apply the principle of decentralisation in State administration. During the War he established temporary homes for the Italian exiles driven from their homes by the Austrian invasion, he founded the National Institution for the Orphans of Peasant Soldiers killed in the War, and devoted himself entirely to the alleviation of the distress caused by the War.

Luzzatti also occupied at various times the posts of Minister of Agriculture, Industry, Commerce, and the Interior, and during his period of office regulated questions affecting drainage, irrigation, afforestation, technical schools, smallholdings, etc.

### Luzzatti The Jew.

Luzzatti wrote extensively on economics, politics and religion. He published monographs on Adam Smith, on the English Constitution and many works on Constitutional Law of which subject he was Professor for many years at the University of Rome.

One of his most notable books was "The Liberty of Conscience and Science" which has been translated into many languages. Liberty of conscience was a devouring passion with Luzzatti. He constituted himself the champion of all oppressed peoples. Regarded as the greatest orator in the Italian Parliament, he delivered speeches of fiery indignation against the Turks for the Bulgarian atrocities in 1875, and the Armenian massacres of 1894-95. He gave many years to the study of the disabilities of the Jews in various countries, and in his book "God in Liberty", he dealt at length with the persecutions of the Jews in Roumania and Poland and the continuous efforts which he made by intervention with the leading statesmen of Europe on their behalf. He expressed himself repeatedly in favour of the establishment of Palestine as a Jewish Homeland, and in an interview with the J.T.A. on his 85th. birthday he said: "I am delighted to hear that the position in Palestine is improving. I am glad to see that the Jews are turning their eyes towards Palestine, the land of our forefathers and are looking to it as a place of refuge and emancipation. I am proud when my opponents reproach me for using my friendship with Balfour and Clemenceau on behalf of my oppressed Jewish brethren.

It has always been a source of satisfaction to me", he continued, "that I intervened on behalf of the Jews of Roumania, Poland and Russia, and that I intervened in the Beilis Trial, when the barbarous blood libel was being spread against the Jews of Russia.

"I was born a Jew", Luzzatti further said, "and I will return to God a Jew!"

In 1925, a Polish Senator named Buzek spread a report that Luzzatti had become a member of the Catholic Church. Luzzatti immediately issued a statement in which he said: "I would like to ask the Jewish Telegraphic Agency to deny emphatically this report. I have never conversed with Senator Buzek. The report is a pure invention. I am a Jew and am proud of my Judaism".

For a period of about sixty years, Luzzatti took a leading part in the government of Italy, and honours and decorations were showered upon him by the Governments of various countries. In July 1925, a new main street in Rome was named after Luzzatti, the King of Italy performing the opening ceremony.

In the closing years of his life he still continued to perform various public services. He acted on the Financial Commission of the Genoa Conference and as late as November 1925 he was appointed President of the International Congress to Fight Blasphemy, and Honorary President of the International Parliamentary Trade Conference.

The Italian Government gave him a State funeral, and the Italian press described him as the most representative man in Italy of the last generation. In Parliament the Prime Minister, Signor Mussolini, said that Luzzatti had been more closely bound up than anyone else with the previous half-century of Italian history. He was perhaps the most striking and representative figure of that period. The high place occupied by Italy among the nations in the matter of social legislation was in great part due to the work of Luzzatti. In the last few years, Signor Mussolini declared, he had frequently had cause to appreciate the wisdom of the counsels of Luzzatti which were being carried out by the Fascist Government, by means of co-operative organisation. Luigi Luzzatti, Signor Mussolini concluded, was one of those great men, wise and pure, who were ever an honour to the Fatherland, and deserved to be lamented and honoured.

BLOOD LIBEL CASE IN CZECHO-SLOVAKIA NOT YET ENDED: COURT FINDS CHARGES AGAINST JEWS NOT PROVED BUT REFUSES TO HAND DOWN ACQUITTAL VERDICT: COUNSEL FOR DEFENCE LODGE APPEAL: CHARGES WITHDRAWN BUT IN A WAY THAT LEAVES MATTER HANGING IN AIR JEWS PATER COMPLAINS: VELKA-BEREZNA BLOOD LIBEL AFFAIR CONTINUES TO BE PAINFUL EPISODE IN HISTORY OF CZECHO-SLOVAKIAN JUSTICE.

Prague, Mar. 18th. (J. T. A. Mail Service).

On March 16th. the law court at Velka-Berezna, in the Province of Carpatho-Russia, stopped the proceedings against the two Jews, Liebermann and Steinberger, (as briefly reported by cable in the J.T.A. Bulletin of the 18th. inst.). Liebermann and Steinberger appeared in court, and the State Attorney explained that the charge against them, that they had inflicted minor bodily injuries on the children Kostiá and Bogdan, for alleged ritual reasons, had been withdrawn, in view of the evidence given by Dr. Toman, the expert in the case, showing that the case presented by the gendarmerie was an invention, and since in the two years during which the proceedings had been going on no evidence had been obtained to support the accusation.

The civil prosecution against the two Jews would, nevertheless, be continued, it was stated. In spite of the invitation sent to the civil prosecution to appear in court, they did not, however, come forward, and the law court, therefore, decided on the ground of Paragraph 323 of the Penal Code, to withdraw the action against Liebermann and Steinberger.

Dr. Gati and Dr. Salamon, who appeared for the accused, asked that the court should in order to clear up the matter in the eyes of public opinion, formulate a verdict acquitting the accused, and giving the grounds for their acquittal. The application was dismissed, however, and the Counsel for the defence accordingly lodged an appeal.

Despite all the appeals and all the arguments against the blood libel proceedings in Velka Berezna, despite the repeated interventions made by Deputy Dr. Goldstein from the tribune of the Parliament in the interests of the Czecho-Slovakian Republic, demanding that this blood libel action should be stopped, nothing has been done in this direction, the "Selbstwehr", the organ of the Jewish Party in Czecho-Slovakia, complains. All our appeals went unheeded, it says. The gendarmes who drew up the protocol in which the charge was made that blood had been drawn from the children for ritual purposes have not been touched. For two years these proceedings have been dragged, and the Velka-Berezna affair has grown to be a world scandal.

We fail to understand, the paper says, why the court at Velka-Berezna, finding no ground for the allegation, should refuse to hand down a judgment acquitting the accused, instead of stopping the proceedings in such a way that the whole matter is left hanging in the air. The proceedings in connection with this blood-libel charge at Velka-Berezna are now closed, and the papers in the case are withdrawn, but the bad odour which this affair has engendered remains. The Velka-Berezna affair continues to be a very painful episode in the history of Czecho-Slovakian justice.

ARE ROUMANIAN JEWS ROUMANIANS OR A NATIONAL MINORITY?:  
DISCUSSION OVER ORDER BY PREMIER THAT JEWS SHOULD NOT BE  
ALLOWED TO ADOPT ROUMANIAN NAMES: JEWISH NATIONALISTS  
FEAR PREMIER'S DECLARATION AGAINST STUDENTS ORGANISING  
ON NATIONAL LINES WILL BE USED TO PROHIBIT JEWISH NATIONAL  
CULTURAL STUDENT ACTIVITIES: PROFESSOR JORCA HAS REPEATEDLY  
DENIED JEWS ARE A MINORITY SAYS "DIMINEATZA": WHY THEN  
PREVENT THEM ADOPTING ROUMANIAN NAMES?: FORMER MINISTER  
POINTS OUT IN AUSTRO-HUNGARY ROUMANIAN STUDENTS ORGANISED  
AS ROUMANIANS SO "BY D'NY SIMILAR RIGHT TO MINORITIES IN  
ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, Mar. 20th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Prime Minister, Professor Jorga, has sent instructions to the Ministry of Justice that Jews are no longer to be permitted to change their names by adopting Roumanian forms, the Bucharest daily "Dimineatza" states. The order issued by the Prime Minister bears the Number 1161, it says, and declares that henceforth all applications made by Jews intending to change their names are to be returned to them and that in future only applications made by Roumanians for changing their names are to be considered.

We know that Professor Jorga does not agree that there are various categories of citizens, the "Dimineatza" comments. With regard to the Jews, he has repeatedly and unambiguously declared that they are not a minority. What then are the Jews? If they are not a minority, they are Roumanians. How can the Prime Minister then provide for different treatment for Roumanians and for Jews? Since the Government does not consider the Jews a minority, it must do everything possible to promote the efforts of the Jews to come closer to the Roumanian people, so why this order to prevent them adopting names which will make them more Roumanian? There seems to be a contradiction somewhere, if on the one hand the Jews are to be prevented from Roumanianising their names, and on the other they are to be denied their rights as a minority.

A great deal of discussion has also been roused by the statement made by the Prime Minister, Professor Jorga, in the Senate last week (reported in the J.T.A. Bulletin of the 18th. inst.), that students at the Universities must not

organise on national lines. Jewish Nationalist circles are perturbed, fearing that the Jewish "nationalist students will be prohibited now from forming organisations to engage in Jewish national cultural activities.

M. Ghika Popp, who was a member of the Maniu Government, has taken up the question in the "Adeverul". The right of students belonging to the national minorities to organise on national lines, he writes, is only one of the provisions constituting the general right of the minorities, which is recognised in almost all States, to organise on national lines. The students belonging to the minorities must not be hindered in their efforts to develop their own language, literature and culture. In the old Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Roumanian students had the right to organise in Roumanian student bodies, and they made us of that right. At the University of Graz there was the Carmen Sylva students' organisation; in Vienna there was the Romania juna; in Budapest the Petru Maior, and at Czernowitz University there were numerous Roumanian student bodies. The minorities in Roumania, M. Popp contends, must not be treated differently in this regard from the way in which Roumanians were treated in Austro-Hungary.

SEVERE DROUGHT IN PALESTINE, PRAYERS FOR RAIN BEING RECITED IN SYNAGOGUES, MOSQUES AND CHURCHES ON BOTH SIDES OF JORDAN.

Jerusalem, Mar. 20th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Palestine is suffering from a severe drought which shows no sign of breaking and there is great fear for the crops, both in Palestine and Transjordan. The entire rainfall this year has been only half the total rainfall of last year.

Special prayers for rain are being recited in all synagogues, mosques and churches, on both sides of the Jordan.

DR. EMANUEL NEUMAN ARRIVES IN PALESTINE. DR. HANTKE ARRIVES AT SAME TIME; DR. BRODETSKY EXPECTED.

Jerusalem, Mar. 20th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Mr. Emanuel Neuman, the American member of the Jewish Agency Executive, arrived in Jerusalem to-day. Dr. Hantke, Managing Director of the Palestine Foundation Fund (Keren Hayesod), who has been in Europe, returned to Palestine at the same time.

Dr. Selig Brodetsky, who is on his way to Palestine, is expected to arrive to-morrow, (Monday).

Mr. Emanuel Neuman proposes to remain in Palestine for several months, he told the J.T.A. to-day, unless he will be required at a meeting of the Actions Committee.

BIALIK HONOURED BY SPANISH ACADEMY.

Madrid, Mar. 20th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Following the recent presentation to the Spanish Academy in Madrid of the Hebrew translation of "Don Quixote" made by the famous Hebrew poet Bialik through the Spanish Ambassador in London, the well-known author, Senor Perez de Ayala and Professor Yahuda, the Academy has decided on the recommendation of Senor Rodriguez Marin, one of the greatest authorities on Cervantes, and other prominent members of the Academy to honour Bialik by electing him a corresponding member of the Academy. The President of the Academy, Professor Memendes Pedal has requested the Spanish Ambassador in London to transmit to Bialik the diploma of his membership and to convey to him the appreciation of the Academy for his literary work.

(NOT FOR PUBLICATION UNLESS BY PREVIOUS ARRANGEMENT).