

(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. 79.

7 pages.

30th. Mar., 1932.

JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES TO CONTINUE: DECISION
ADOPTED AT NEW YORK CONFERENCE: CONDITIONS IN EAST EURO-
PEAN JEWRY WORSE NOW THAN DURING WAR AND POST-WAR PER-
IODS DR. BERNHARD KAHN DECLARES: JULIUS ROSENWALD'S
MEMORY HONOURED: TRIBUTES PAID BY PRESIDENT HOOVER LIEUT-
ENANT GOVERNOR LEHMAN AND FELIX M. WARBURG.

New York, Mar. 28th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The activities of the Joint Distribution Committee of America are to be continued, it was decided at the annual meeting of the National Council of the Joint Distribution Committee held yesterday at the Hotel Pennsylvania here, attended by 300 delegates from all parts of the country.

Reports were presented to the Conference by Dr. Joseph C. Hyman, the Secretary of the Joint Distribution Committee, and by Dr. Bernhard Kahn, the European Director of the Joint Distribution Committee, who indicated that the conditions in East European Jewry are now worse than they were during the war and post-war periods.

The Joint Distribution Committee has been re-organised in a National Council consisting of 475 members, with 48 directors and 15 Executive members.

Mr. Paul Baerwald, who was Treasurer since the inception of the Joint Distribution Committee, has been elected Chairman in succession to Mr. Felix M. Warburg, who has become Honorary Chairman, Mr. James N. Rosenberg has been elected Treasurer and Mr. Joseph C. Hyman Secretary.

Addresses were delivered by Dr. Cyrus Adler, President of the American Jewish Committee and Chairman of the Administrative Committee of the Jewish Agency, by Mr. B. C. Vladek, the Chairman of the American Folk-O.R.T. Organisation and Manager of the Jewish daily "Forwards", Mr. K. Hellman, Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, and Mr. David A. Brown.

The memory of the late Mr. Julius Rosenwald, the great humanitarian, who was one of the chief benefactors of the Joint Distribution Committee, was honoured by the gathering. Messages were received from President Hoover and from Lieut-Governor Lehman of New York State, expressing deep appreciation of Mr. Rosenwald's life-work.

Mr. Paul F. Warburg read a statement by his father, Mr. Felix M. Warburg, paying tribute to Mr. Rosenwald's great humanitarian work and spirit.

Addresses were also delivered by the Rev. R. Fosdick and other speakers.

The question whether the Joint Distribution Committee which was founded as a war-time emergency organisation should continue as a permanent organisation has been under consideration for several years. In 1927 Mr. Felix M. Warburg, writing to a Jewish paper in America which had urged the Joint Distribution Committee to constitute itself as a permanent body, said:

The proposition that the Joint should become a permanent body is very interesting and has come from a number of sides. I have stated at a number of meetings my opinion that the time has come when the Joint, created as an organisation for the relief of war sufferers, should go out of existence as such, but I expressed at the same time the hope that a body, similarly democratically organised, should succeed it, perhaps under the aegis of the American Jewish Committee, which is probably the most respected representative Jewish organisation in the United States. This latter Committee stated that it was not in a position to take over this work, but a number of other suggestions have been made which may or may not modify the scheme touched upon above.

While it is very flattering to have this demand come from a number of sides, I personally do not believe in self-appointed committees, which feel that they have the right to speak for Jewry at large. I believe that the mandate of the Joint Distribution Committee to relieve war sufferers has been filled to quite an extent, but there are, of course, innumerable things which American Jewry can do, not only city-wide, state-wide or even United States-wide, but our interest in the Jewish community abroad must be kept alive until the waters abroad have become calmer and, to use the popular language of the day, until they can paddle their own canoes without any danger of their being upset in the rough seas of political upheaval which still exist abroad.

Was Liquidated Eight Years Ago But Resumed Activities after
Only One Year Of Semi-Liquidation Because Of Urgent Need
In Russia And Eastern Europe Generally.

The Joint Distribution Committee, which was organised in November 1914 as a war-time relief body to distribute the funds received by the American Jewish Relief Committee, the Central Committee for the Relief of Jews Suffering through the War and the People's Relief Committee, was not intended at the outset to be a permanent organisation. Steps were accordingly taken early in 1924 to liquidate its activities. The whole of the work of the Joint Distribution Committee in Russia was to have been liquidated by April 1st., 1924, when Dr. Joseph Rosen, then Director of the Joint's Reconstruction activity in Russia, and now head of the Agrojoint, was to have left Russia. The late Dr. Boris B. Bogen, the Director of the relief activity in Russia for the Joint Distribution Committee, closed his Department and returned to America. Before leaving Russia, Dr. Bogen distributed 200,000 dollars among the relief institutions which had been set up and maintained by the Joint, which was to represent the final sum allocated for relief work in Russia. Arrangements were also made to liquidate the work of the Joint Distribution Committee in Poland. In April 1924, the Joint's offices in Poland were closed down and its archives were transferred to the European headquarters which are in charge of Dr. Bernhard Kahn.

The Joint-Ica-Reconstruction Foundation was established in 1924 in order to take over the work of reconstruction previously conducted by the Joint Distribution Committee.

After only one year of semi-liquidation, however, the Joint Distribution Committee decided in May 1925, in view of the urgent need in Russia and Eastern Europe generally, to restart its relief activity. Dr. Felix M. Warburg, the Chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, issued a statement explaining that unhappily the hope which had been held in America that conditions in Eastern Europe would improve had not been realised.

In February 1929 the question came up again, the Joint Distribution Committee holding a referendum among a hundred thousand of its contributors and campaign leaders, asking them to say whether the Joint Distribution Committee should continue to exist after December 1st., 1929.

96 per cent. of the replies received in the referendum declared that the work of the Joint Distribution Committee must go on.

This was also the sense of the Conference of the Joint Distribution Committee held in New York in May 1929, at which a resolution to this effect was adopted, and a Re-organisation Committee was appointed to draft a new constitution and methods of operation for the Joint Distribution Committee so that the forms adhered to in 1914, when the emergency war need existed, should be replaced by a more permanent and "more orderly method", and the abolition of the three different constituent bodies, the American Jewish Relief Committee, the Central Relief Committee and the People's Relief Committee.

The National Council of the Joint Distribution Committee was formed last year to direct the relief and economic and social reconstruction work of the Joint Distribution Committee, and the present is the first annual meeting of the National Committee since its formation.

TEL AVIV EN FETE FOR MACCABIAD: TOWN IN HOLIDAY MOOD:
HOUSES SHOPS AND CARS DECORATED WITH ZIONIST FLAGS:
MACCABIAD HAILED AS ENCOURAGING PALESTINE IN THESE
HARD TIMES: TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION IN STREETS: 5,000
PEOPLE ATTEND MACCABIAD RECEPTION: SILVER CUP PRESENTED
IN AMERICA TO BEN YEHUDA GIVEN BY HIS WIDOW AS TROPHY
FOR MACCABIAD WINNER.

Jerusalem, Mar. 28th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Tel Aviv is in brilliant holiday mood to-day for the opening of the World Maccabiade Jewish Sports Festival. Houses, shops and cars are decorated with Zionist flags and with Maccabean symbols. The Hebrew papers hail the Maccabiade in their editorials as encouraging Palestine Jewry and all Jewry in these hard times.

A torchlight procession organised by the Palestine Maccabee Organisation was held last night in Tel Aviv in honour of the thousands of visitors who have arrived from all over the world to attend the Maccabiade. A big reception, attended by over 5,000 people was held afterwards at the Beth Am, at which Mr. Mayer Dizengoff, the Mayor of Tel Aviv, Dr. Selig Brodetsky, member of the Jewish Agency Executive, and Miss Henrietta Szold, spoke in welcome, and Mr. Lelewell, the President of the Maccabee World Organisation, and Mr. Nadar, the leader of the Palestine Maccabee, replied, declaring that by physical strength and love for Palestine all Jewish difficulties will be overcome.

Mrs. Ben Jehudah, the widow of the famous Hebrew lexicographer, has given to the Maccabee World Organisation the silver cup which was presented by the American Young Judea Organisation to the late Mr. Ben Jehudah when he returned to Palestine in 1919, and the cup will be awarded to the winner of the present World Maccabiade.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND APPEALING TO PRIVY COUNCIL AGAINST
REFUSAL TO GRANT IT EXEMPTION FROM INCOME TAX: WILL BE
REPRESENTED BY MR. NORMAN BENTWICH.

Jerusalem, Mar. 28th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Mr. Norman Bentwich, former Attorney-General for Palestine, who is now Weizmann Professor of International Peace at the Hebrew University, will appear for the Jewish National Fund before the Privy Council, the highest court in the Empire, when it hears the appeal of the Jewish National Fund against the judgment of the Appeal Court confirming the decision of the Income Tax Commissioners that the Jewish National Fund should not be exempted from income tax on the ground that it is not a charity. The appeal is expected to be heard by the Privy Council during April.

∴ Sir John Simon, the present Foreign Minister, appeared for the Jewish National Fund when the case was heard by the Appeal Court last May. The appeal turned on the refusal of the Inland Revenue Commissioners to grant the Fund exemption on the interest of £32,000 consolidated stock owned by it and representing donations.

There was no question, Sir John Simon said, that the Association did not - and could not by its Constitution - make any profits. The question was whether or not the case was one which justified the application of the phrase "charitable purposes", and the four divisions which they had to consider were: Trusts for the relief of poverty; trusts for the advancement of education; trusts for the advancement of religion; trusts for other purposes beneficial to the community not falling under any of the preceding heads. The organisation received the offerings of Jews in various parts of the world, and considerable sums came into its hands. Its objects, as members of the Jewish faith most stoutly maintained, were definitely religious, in view of the fact that it was an essential part of the Jewish faith and a fundamental tenet of the Jewish religion that they should assist the settlement of Jews in the Holy Land. That was regarded by good Jews as a definite part of their religious duty, and that was the main purpose for which this money had been used.

The Master of the Rolls, in giving judgment, said that the objects for which the Association was established, set out in the memorandum, were very wide. It could build, control and superintend railways, factories and workshops; purchase, develop, deal with and turn to account mines, minerals, and precious stones; purchase and acquire any personal property; purchase and carry on businesses suitable for the purposes of the Association and acquire concessions in the represented region.

He agreed with Mr. Justice Rowlatt (against whose judgment the appeal was brought) on the question of religion. The promotion of religion meant the promotion of spiritual teaching in a wide sense and the maintenance of the doctrine upon which it rested and the observance which served to promote and manifest it; not merely a foundation or cause to which it could be related. Religion, as such, found no place in the memorandum of the Association. There were some items in the details exhibited in the case of expenditure upon schools, but in his judgment the Association failed to establish that it fulfilled the requirements under the head of education.

The Association was not established for religious or educational purposes only, and similarly he found that the relief of poverty did not fit the purposes of the Association. It was true that a scheme which dealt with settling Jews upon land in a new country, away from unhappy surroundings, might be interpreted as mitigating poverty and as being of service to persons in need and distress. He, however, agreed with Mr. Justice Rowlatt that it was not the improvement of the position of poor Jews and their families which was the characteristic purpose of the Association; it was rather the repopulation of the Holy Land and other land in a wide area around, so that once more the population of that district might be Jewish. That was the aim and primary object of the Association.

A careful survey of the principles to be applied, the Master of the Rolls added, led him to the conclusion that the Commissioners were right in law and that the judgment of Mr. Justice Rowlatt must be upheld. The yearly interest received by the Association upon this fund could not be held to form part of the income of a body of persons or trust established for charitable purposes only.

Lord Justice Lawrence and Lord Justice Slesser agreed.

The Jewish National Fund immediately stated to the J.T.A. when the judgment was handed down at the time that it intended taking the matter further. The Fund, it is understood, is concerned particularly with the principle on which its claim for exemption from income tax is based, and is specially interested in obtaining a ruling in regard to future contributions and chiefly legacies, in view of the heavy claims of death duties.

JEWISH DEPUTY DESCRIBED BY ROUMANIAN PREMIER AS "WORST ANTISEMITE": PREFECT OF JASSY REFUSED INFORMATION ON JASSY DISTURBANCES TO DEPUTY LANDAU BECAUSE HE FEARED HIS PRESENCE IN JASSY MIGHT PROVOKE FURTHER TROUBLE PROFESSOR JORGA SAYS.

Bucharest, Mar. 28th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

People like Deputy Landau are the worst antisemites, Professor Jorga, the Prime Minister, said in Parliament today, when he read out a report on the recent disturbances in Jassy from the Prefect of Jassy. The Prefect had refused to give any information about the occurrences to Deputy Landau when he was in Jassy investigating the matter, the Premier explained, because he was afraid that Deputy Landau's presence in Jassy might provoke further trouble.

The Culture House in Jassy, from which the members of the Iron Guard marched out when they started the disturbances, and Jassy University have both been reopened, although Professor Jorga, it is stated, demanded that they should be kept closed.

ROUMANIAN GOVERNMENT PAYS OUT PROMISED SUBSIDIES TO JEWISH COMMUNITIES.

Bucharest, Mar. 28th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Ministry of Finance has at last paid out a sum of 1,600,000 lei of the Government subsidy promised for the year 1931 towards meeting the needs of the Jewish Communities in Roumania. The sum has been paid over to Dr. W. Filderman, the President of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Old Roumania, who will transmit their share to the Jewish Communities in the provinces of Bukovina, Transylvania and Bessarabia.

The Government's action in paying over the promised subsidy has given rise to a great deal of satisfaction among the Jewish population, particularly at the present time of economic crisis when the Jewish Communities are in serious financial difficulties.

FAMOUS YIDDISH POET AND CULTURAL WORKER ELIEZER STEINBERG
DIES IN CZERNOWITZ AFTER APPENDICITIS OPERATION.

Bucharest, Mar. 28th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Eliezer Steinberg, the outstanding Yiddish poet and cultural worker in Roumania, has died at Czernowitz at the age of 52 after an operation for appendicitis.

Eliezer Steinberg was born in Bessarabia in a Hassidic family. He was a stepson of Jehudah Steinberg, the great Yiddish writer, who died in 1908, and who was his father's brother.

In 1919 he was called to Czernowitz to take over the leadership of the Yiddish cultural activity which was started in Greater Roumania. He was an indefatigable propagandist for the Yiddish language and Yiddish culture. He founded a Yiddish studio Theatre in Czernowitz, and travelled all over Roumania lecturing on Yiddish culture and Yiddish language, and on the Jewish political situation in Roumania.

In 1928, he went to Brazil, on the invitation of the administrators to take charge of the work of the Yiddish school in Rio de Janeiro.

His fables and his children's verses are considered among the finest in the Yiddish language. He also worked on a number of Biblical subjects and folk legends. His best known work in this field is "Father Abraham", a dramatised legend in four acts, and his "Rabbi of Berdichev" is one of the first attempts at a Yiddish opera. He also adapted for the stage Peretz's "Night In The Old Market Place" and "The Golden Chain".

Steinberg was a fierce antagonist of the cult of Hebraism, but he was well acquainted with the language and wrote a good deal in it, publishing children's tales and poems in Hebrew. One of his Hebrew selections was published in 1920 by the Zionist Federation in Bucharest. He also translated a volume of old and new Hebrew literature into Yiddish, and introduced a new method of studying Hebrew through the medium of Yiddish.

DEATH OF CHONEN MINIKES PUBLISHER OF "MINIKES YOM TOV BLETER":
AN ERA IN YIDDISH LITERATURE.

New York, Mar. 28th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Chonen Jacob Minikes, the publisher for over 30 years of the famous "Minikes Yom Tov Bletter", which appeared before each Jewish holiday and provided the most popular reading matter for the Yiddish-speaking masses in America, died at the Beth Israel Hospital here yesterday.

Minikes was born in Vilna 65 years ago. He studied at the world-famous Yeshibah at Voloszhin, where he became acquainted with the late S. L. Zitron, the Hebrew writer and former editor of the "Hagadol", who died in 1930. After some time he went to Germany, where he became a follower of Rabbi Israel Salanter and of Dr. Ezriel Hildesheimer. In Berlin he founded the Hebrew Union "Ahavath Zion", and was in correspondence with Peretz Smolenkin, who published his first articles. He was also an active worker in the Shetler which was founded in Berlin by the Hilfsverein der deutschen Juden for the pogrom refugees from Russia.

In 1888 Minikes went to America, where he became connected with the Yiddish Theatre. He also took a very prominent part in the organisation of the Jewish trades unions in America, and was active in various Jewish philanthropic and cultural institutions, but principally in the I. L. Peretz Yiddish Writers' Organisation.

He was best known, however, for his "Minikes Yom Tov Bletter", which started publication in 1897, and constitute an era in Yiddish literature. The publication had a circulation of as much as 30,000 copies, and it contained contributions by practically all the best-known Yiddish writers throughout the world. Minikes himself wrote and published a great deal, articles, stories and translations. In 1916 he published an Album of Yiddish writers in America whose work had appeared in his "Bletter".

DR. ALKALAY HEAD OF JEWISH COMMUNITY IN JUGO-SLAVIA ATTAINS
70TH. BIRTHDAY.

Belgrade, Mar. 28th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Dr. David Alkalay, one of the leading figures in Jugo-Slavian Jewry, celebrated to-day his 70th. birthday. Messages of congratulation have poured in on him from Jews and non-Jews all over the country, and his admirers have commemorated the occasion by inscribing his name in the Golden Book of the Jewish National Fund.

Dr. Alkalay was born in Belgrade. He studied in Vienna and Tuebingen, and took up law. He was the first Jewish advocate in Serbia, with a doctorate degree. He was for 17 years at the head of the Sephardic Community in Belgrade, which he re-organised and adapted to modern conditions. He founded many of the principal Jewish welfare institutions, and it was owing to him that the new Sephardic Synagogue in Belgrade was erected, which was opened by the late King Peter the Great.

Dr. Alkalay has been a prominent figure in the Zionist movement since its foundation. He was a member of the Jewish Student Union "Kadimah" in Vienna, which was the first Jewish group to accept the ideas which Dr. Herzl laid down in his "Jewish State". He was one of Dr. Herzl's collaborators, he attended the First Zionist Congress in Basle, and was a member of the first Actions Committee. Dr. Herzl immortalised him as "Herr Aladino" in his "Old-New Land". He was also one of the founders of the Jewish Colonial Trust, and he organised the first Maccabiade in Serbia. Since 1924, Dr. Alkalay has been President of the Jugo-Slavian Zionist Federation. It was on his initiative that the movement was started in 1930, for planting the King Peter Forest in Palestine.

Dr. Alkalay plays also a very distinguished part in the general political and cultural life of Belgrade. He has been decorated with the Order of the Jugo-Slavian Crown, and has received many other distinctions.

The Alkalays are an old Sephardic family, who left Spain at the time of the Expulsion in 1492 and came to Belgrade by way of Salonica and Sarajevo. A famous member of the family was Rabbi Judah Ben Solomon Hai Alkalay, who died in 1878 at the age of 90, and who was one of the precursors of the Zionist movement. He was Rabbi in Zemlin, in Croatia, where Dr. Herzl's parents afterwards lived. In his work "Goral la-Adonai" published in Vienna in 1857, he urged the restoration of the Jews, suggesting the formation of a Joint Stock Company to induce the Sultan to cede Palestine to the Jews as a tributary country.