

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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SYNAGOGUE DESECRATION IN LEEDS: SUSPICION RESTS ON GROUP OF CHILDREN: ARK TORN OPEN AND SCROLL OF LAW THROWN TO FLOOR: WHOLE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF LEEDS SHOCKED.

London, May 12th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Leeds police are hopeful of tracing the culprits responsible for an act of vandalism committed in the Leeds Talmud Torah, the "Yorkshire Evening News", which appears in Leeds, writes reporting that it has now been determined that the offenders, whoever they were, gained entrance to the Talmud Torah through an open window between the hours of 1.30 p.m. and 7 p.m. when the place was locked up.

It was at 7 p.m., when members of the old boys' classes of the Talmud Torah entered the room, the paper states, that the results of the senseless acts were discovered. Every room in the building had been ransacked and, although nothing had been stolen, the whole place was in chaos.

The worst act of all was the tearing open of the Ark in the synagogue. A Scroll of the Law had also been thrown to the floor, and religious vestments were lying nearby.

In the classrooms obscene writings had been chalked on the blackboards, teachers' desks had been opened and books and pencils strewn on the floor, and pictures had been torn from their hangings on the walls and despoiled.

Prayer Books had been scattered about the room and soil from plant pots had been thrown over them, while the plants had been uprooted.

Apart from the futility of the crime and the trouble it has caused to the members of the Talmud Torah, the "Yorkshire Evening News" says, the acts, especially the desecration of the synagogue, have shocked the whole Jewish community of Leeds.

It is not believed to have been the work of any person maliciously disposed towards the Talmud Torah, the "Yorkshire Evening News" has been informed, but the act of some irresponsible children.

Suspicion rests on a group of children in the district, it reveals, but as yet no clue has been found which definitely implicates them. Vigorous inquiries are being made, however, in an endeavour to bring to book the culprits as soon as possible.

MINISTER OF WAR AND REPRESENTATIVES OF KING AND GOVERNMENT  
ATTEND FOUNDATION STONE LAYING FOR HOSPITAL TO PERPETUATE  
MEMORY OF JEWISH SOLDIERS KILLED IN BATTLE FOR BULGARIA.

Sofia, May 12th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Minister of War, General Kissioff; Flight Lieut. Airanoff, Adjutant to the King, whom he represented; the Commandant of the Sofia Garrison, General Solaroff; representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Education and Public-Worship; the Mayor of Sofia, M. Boyan Natscheff; the President of the Bulgarian-Palestine Committee, General Nikiphoroff; General Lazaroff, General Sirmanoff; representatives of the Federations of Bulgarian Ex-Soldiers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Officers of the Reserve; representatives of many Jewish and non-Jewish organisations, and a great assembly of the general public, attended the ceremony of laying the foundation stones here for a monument to the Jewish soldiers who fell during the War fighting for Bulgaria, and of a hospital in which there will be a memorial slab giving the names of all the Jewish fallen. The Federation of Jewish War Veterans, and the Jewish Sick Fund, Bikur, Holim, and the Jewish Relief Organisation, Kupat Zedakah, have formed a joint committee to carry through the project.

Eight hundred members of the Sofia branch of the Federation of Jewish War Veterans paraded, with the Court Military Band at their head, and followed by the members of the Maccabee Jewish Sports Organisation with its band and banners.

The Rabbi of the Community, Dr. Hanannel, delivered an address, after which the document recording the laying of the foundation stone in Hebrew and Bulgarian was read out and placed with some coins in a cylinder, and buried under the foundation stone.

The Rabbi then dedicated the banner of the Federation of Jewish war veterans, and the Minister of War, unfurled it, and holding it up as he spoke, he addressed the gathering:

Representatives of all the authorities and of all sections of the Bulgarian population are assembled here, the Minister said, to honour the memory of those Jewish soldiers who fell fighting for our Fatherland. This banner bears the Jewish colours and the Bulgarian arms, and it will recall to you former Jewish soldiers your War Service, and your continued civilian service for the Fatherland.

The President of the Federation of Jewish Ex-Soldiers, M. Buco Bassan, then delivered an address, in which he spoke of the services of the Jewish soldiers during the war.

The Federation of Jewish War Veterans was established in 1924, to assist needy members, the widows and orphans of fallen Jewish soldiers and to erect a monument to their memory. The first President was Colonel Avram Tadger, who held office till last year. The Federation is comprehensive, including Jewish officers, non-commissioned officers, soldiers, and wounded ex-servicemen. The Sofia branch has a membership of about 1,000, and there are branches in most other towns of the country. A register of Jewish soldiers who fell in battle is being compiled, and 1,200 names of Jewish dead have already been entered. It is believed that about 2,000 Jewish soldiers fell in battle for Bulgaria out of a total Jewish population of 43,000 souls at the time of the war.

FACILITATING MIDDLE-CLASS SETTLEMENT IN PALESTINE: NEW INSTITUTION BEING ESTABLISHED BY JEWISH AGENCY.

Jerusalem, May 12th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The establishment of a new institution to facilitate middle-class rural settlement in Palestine was under discussion to-day at a conference between the members of the Jewish Agency Executive in Palestine with the heads of the economic and financial bodies, presided over by Mr. Emanuel Neumann.

Great importance is attached to this project, which is expected to materialise shortly.

The Palestine Jewish Agency Executive has after several sittings divided the various functions among its members as follows: Dr. Ch. Arlossoroff, Political Department; Dr. Maurice B. Hexter, Agricultural Colonisation Department; ex-Deputy Farbstein, Department for Trade and Industry and Middle-class Settlement; Dr. Werner Senator, Treasury and Department of Immigration and Labour, and Mr. Emanuel Neumann will be in charge of a new Department to be created for dealing with Financial and Economic matters.

JEWISH EX-SOLDIERS BEING SETTLED ON LAND IN PALESTINE.

Jerusalem, May 12th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Jewish National Fund has allocated 2,000 dunam of land in the Wady Havarit area for the settlement of a hundred Jewish ex-legionaries who fought in Palestine in the British Army during the War.

£63,000 RAISED FOR KEREN HAYESOD IN SOUTH AFRICA DURING DR. WEIZMANN'S CAMPAIGN: DR. WEIZMANN SAILS ON RETURN TO LONDON.

Cape Town, May 13th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Dr. Ch. Weizmann and Mrs. Weizmann are sailing today on their return to London.

£63,000 have already been raised by the Keren Hayesod campaign during the period of Dr. Weizmann's stay in South Africa on its behalf.

Dr. Alexander Goldstein is remaining in South Africa to continue the campaign.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN SOUTH AFRICA: POTCHEFSTROOM UNIVERSITY BILL PASSES SECOND READING IN PARLIAMENT: MR. MORRIS ALEXANDER DENOUNCES BILL AS UNFAIR TO JEWISH POPULATION: MR. MORRIS KENRIDGE SEES IT AS BEGINNING OF MOVEMENT TO AMALGAMATE STATE AND CHURCH: WE MUST NOT TAKE STEPS LEADING TO SEPARATE UNIVERSITIES FOR SEPARATE GROUPS AND EVENTUALLY SEPARATE SCHOOLS SAYS MR. HOFMEYER.

Cape Town, April 22nd. (Jewish Mail Service).

The Bill introduced in the House of Assembly to change the name of the Potchefstroom University College to the Potchefstroom University College for High Christian Education (against which the South African Jewish Board of Deputies submitted a petition to Parliament - as reported in the J.T.A. Bulletin of March 15th. - ), has passed its second reading with a Nationalist (Government) majority of 63 votes to 45.

Mr. Morris Alexander, one of the Jewish Deputies, in opposing the Bill said:

The Potchefstroom College comes under the Act of 1916 and 1917 under which no test whatever of religious belief can be imposed on any person as a condition of his becoming or continuing to be a professor, lecturer, teacher or student of the University, or of his holding any office or emolument or exercising any privilege therein, and it is laid down that no preference shall be given or advantage withheld from any person on the ground of his religious belief.

We belong to a small minority, and we regard that provision in the Act of 1917 as the magna charta of the religious minority of this country. We say that this is the thin edge of the wedge. The next step will be the abolition of the conscience clause, and the next step will be that this will be an institution for certain people of a certain religious denomination.

I am not speaking for myself, but for the organised Jewish Community of South Africa, representing 140 Jewish institutions and congregations throughout the Union, and I speak on behalf of the whole of the Jewish Community of South Africa, who feel alarmed about the example this Bill would be setting to others who want to bring in similar legislation.

What Position Might We Have Been In If Instead Of 95 Per Cent Christian Majority Jews Would Have Had 95 Per cent Majority Over Of Bill Asks.

The Rev. Mr. Fick, a member of the Nationalist Party, said: The most important objection which will be seriously raised in the House is a protest from the side of our Jewish friends. Our Jewish friends consider that we are by the insertion of the word "Christian" insulting the Jews, that by that word we are going to boycott the Jew from the institution, and that we are going to render it impossible for the Jew to make use of the institution. I can thoroughly appreciate the fact that the Jew is not fond of the word "Christian", but it passes beyond my comprehension that the Jew should be nervous of the inclusion of the word "Christian" in the name of the institution. I regard it as an insult that the Jew can have such a suspicion of the Afrikaner.

If the Jew has that suspicion of us, then we on our side also have the right to have a suspicion of him. If the Jew wishes to harm us thereby, he must bear in mind that by so doing he will get the worst of it in this matter. He must not touch that tender chord with the Afrikaner by saying that he is afraid of the word "Christian".

As the Minister of Education, Dr. Malan, has said, 95 per cent. of our population have Christian tendencies. What position might not we have been in if the situation had been reversed, and if the Jews had a 95 per cent. majority?

Mr. Hofmeyr, former Administrator of Transvaal, and one of the leaders of the South African Party headed by the ex-Premier, General Smuts, spoke in opposition to the Bill.

Let us keep our Universities, he said, as places where the difference of language, nationality and religion can be co-ordinate, and where there will be an opportunity for the cultivation of a proper, real feeling of unity. Let us regard them as the most effective measures we have for the building up of the indivisible South African nation. And therefore we must not take steps which will lead us in the direction of separate Universities for separate groups, and eventually separate schools for separate groups. It is in the interest of that feeling of unity, and also of the freedom of conscience of our Universities that I ask this House to reject the Bill.

I think that the public will rub its eyes a bit when it reads that one actually has to plead in this House for the acknowledgment of the word "Christian"; Dr. N. J. van der Merwe, said, and still more that a person like Mr. Hofmeyer strongly opposes it. The word Christian has such a general meaning in South Africa that it has become the basis on which our whole political life has practically been established. "We acknowledge the Christian Morality for the State as well. Every afternoon when the House meets, a prayer is read here which is a Christian prayer. I do not know whether our Jewish friends have any objection to that.

There are, as is here indicated, students at the Potchefstroom College who are Jews. There has never yet been any complaint that violence has been done to their consciences. That word ought really to be in the name of every University College in South Africa, and without its being a denominational test, simply because our people are a Christian people and because they want the spirit of our Universities to be of a Christian character.

Mr. Morris Kentridge, another Jewish Deputy, opposing the Bill, said that he saw the Bill as the beginning of a movement to amalgamate State and Church, to the detriment of both.

#### JEWISH CEMETERY IN BARCELONA.

Barcelona, May 12th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

When the law for the separation of the Church and State in Spain was passed, including provisions for the secularisation of cemeteries, the Jewish press abroad expressed the fear that the law might make it impossible to maintain separate Jewish cemeteries.

The J.T.A. representative here is now informed in authoritative quarters as follows: Before the proclamation of the Republic the dead of Jewish faith were buried in the ordinary civil cemetery. A few months ago the Jewish Community of Barcelona obtained a special section of the cemetery at Las Corts, a suburb of Barcelona, which has been divided off for Jewish interment. This Jewish cemetery is maintained by the Barcelona municipality, and the Jewish Community is not required to contribute towards its upkeep. Jewish dead will be buried in this cemetery, at the expense of their family, and if the family is unable to pay the Jewish Community will be required to bear the cost. Only three burials have taken place so far in this new cemetery.

The establishment of the Republic is, therefore, in no way prejudicial to the exercise of Jewish customs, the statement says, but on the contrary, the Jews are given greater liberty and facilities for freely exercising their religion, in a way that was not possible in the days that preceded the separation of the State and the Catholic Church.

#### WORK IN BUREYA JEWISH REGION NOT SUFFICIENTLY ATTENDED TO "WHITE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT RECORDS IN DECREE INSTRUCTING WHITE RUSSIAN SOVIETS AND COMMISSARIATS TO HELP PROMOTE BUREYA DEVELOPMENT."

Moscow, May 12th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The White Russian Comzet (Government Commission for Jewish Settlement) has not done sufficient for the development of the projected Jewish region in Bureya, the White Russian Central Executive Committee states in an official decree, declaring that the creation of a Jewish autonomous region in Bureya is of great political importance, and instructing its Committee for National Minority Affairs to take over the work of supervising the development of Bureya, in order to ensure its more rapid growth to enable it to be proclaimed a Jewish autonomous unit.

The decree provides that a special expedition should be sent out to Bureya soon, to establish what it is necessary to do to further the development of the work in Bureya.

Every local Soviet and Government Commissariat in White Russia is instructed in the decree to take a direct and effective interest in helping to promote the development of Bureya.

#### JEWISH COLONISATION SOCIETY OZET ON VERGE OF LIQUIDATION.

Berlin, May 12th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Jewish Colonisation Society (Ozet) in the Soviet Union, which in the last few years has been restricting its activities to Bureya, is now on the verge of liquidation, according to information received here from Moscow.

The Moscow Yiddish Communist daily "Emess" publishes an editorial which amounts to a warning that the position of the Ozet is becoming dangerous. A large number of Ozet branches in Central Russia and in White Russia are practically dead, it says, notwithstanding the efforts made to keep the Ozet alive by drawing up plans for increasing its membership, and creating for it an income of a million roubles in the form of membership dues. These plans have not materialised, it says, although four months have elapsed since they were drawn up. The entire future of the Ozet depends upon the success of these plans, the "Emess" declares, and urgent measures must be taken to revive the work of the Ozet. The Ozet, it says, must be reorganised, and a new working apparatus must be created for it.

#### AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT PROHIBITS IMPORT OF ALL PALESTINE GOODS.

Vienna, May 12th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

In view of the difficult position of the National Bank, the Government has prohibited the import into Austria of foreign luxury articles, and even of a number of articles of necessity, with the result that the import of Palestine products into Austria is completely stopped.

Palestine has, in the last few years, been obtaining an increasing market in Austria for its fruit and other products. In a few days it will be impossible to buy anything in Austria that comes from Palestine. Palestine oranges and other citrus fruits are already unobtainable, and almonds, Palestine chocolate, and Palestine soap produced by the Shemen Company will be unobtainable in a few days.

It is believed that the Palestine Government will lodge a protest against this prohibition of Palestine imports, or will retaliate by prohibiting the import of Austrian goods into Palestine.

Similar action is contemplated by other countries which have been hit by the prohibition, it is stated.

The Austrian Government claims that it was necessary to take this action because there is no foreign valuta in the country now with which to pay for foreign imports.

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