

VOL. V. NO. 126.

Thursday, May 4, 1939.

BRITAIN TO CONSIDER WORLD SITUATION IN FRAMING PALESTINE POLICY, COMMONS TOLD

LONDON, May 3. (JTA) -- Colonial Secretary Malcolm MacDonald, asked in the House of Commons today to postpone announcement of a decision on Palestine because of current international tension, promised that "the policy of the Government regarding Palestine will be considered in the light of the world situation and will take full account of our obligations towards both Arabs and Jews."

The question was put by Col. Josiah Wedgwood, Laborite, who asked whether it would not be politic, in the light of current tension and a protest signed by 200 members of the United States Congress against abandonment of the Balfour Declaration, to postpone any declaration of a new Palestine policy.

"I understand," the Colonial Secretary replied, "that reports have appeared in the American press indicating that such a statement has been signed. It has not been communicated to His Majesty's Government. Mr. Wedgwood may rest assured that the policy of the Government regarding Palestine will be considered in the light of the world situation and will take full account of our obligations towards both Arabs and Jews."

Col. Wedgwood then inquired: "May I ask whether this House will be consulted before any new settlement comes into operation?" Mr. MacDonald replied: "Nothing effective can be done unless and until it has the approval of this House."

The Daily Express, reporting that the British Cabinet would consider today the latest Arab proposals for solution of the Palestine question, said it understood that if the plans were adopted the Government would make a "generous gesture" to the Jews by offering them a rich area of land somewhere in the Empire for the establishment of a Jewish national home.

Amnesty for Mufti Rumored

NEW YORK, May 5. (JTA) -- The Associated Press, in a Jerusalem dispatch, said today there were persistent rumors of a general amnesty for the exiled ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin el Husseini, and other Arab exiles.

2 Battalions Arrive in Palestine

HAIFA, May 5. (JTA) -- The First Battalion of the Welsh Regiment and the First Battalion of the Argyl and Sutherland Highlanders arrived here today from Gibraltar.

POLES COUNTER NAZI DRIVE FOR DANZIG BY DEMAND FOR EAST PRUSSIA; SEE REIGH CHECKED

WARSAW, May 3. (Havas) -- Answering German demands for Danzig, one prominent Polish newspaper today called for the return of East Prussia to Poland, while the country celebrated the anniversary of the 1791 Constitution, the last promulgated before the final partition in 1795.

At the same time Government spokesmen expressed the opinion that Germany's drive for annexation of Danzig and an extra-territorial highway through the Polish Corridor to East Prussia has been checked by Poland's firm and unyielding attitude.

Illustrowany Kurjer Codzienny, independent pro-Government newspaper, argued today that East Prussia, separated from Germany proper by the Polish Corridor, should be ceded to Poland on historic, geographic and economic grounds. The newspaper claimed that the articles of the Versailles Treaty dealing with plebiscites in the regions now part of East Prussia indicated the creation of an East Prussian state entirely independent of the Reich.

"This essential point of the Versailles Treaty," it continued, "was not executed by the Inter Allied Commission and we are consequently justified in not accepting the results of the plebiscite which took place in these regions. Thus we have the right to demand a settlement of the question of East Prussia, which is linked historically, geographically and economically with Poland and the people of which speak a Slav dialect which has resisted attempts at Germanization."

All Polish cities were beflagged today on the occasion of the national holiday. Portraits of President Ignacy Moscicki, Marshal Edward Smigly-Rydz, inspector-general of the armed forces and "First Personage of the Republic, and Foreign Minister Josef Beck were displayed in most of the capital's shop windows. Military reviews took place in various cities but since most of the troops were not at their regular garrisons they were less impressive than in former years.

All newspapers devoted editorials to the anniversary, recalling that May 3, 1791 was also the date on which the Polish-Prussian alliance was broken. Under that alliance, it was claimed, Prussia sought to take from Poland the province of Posnan and the cities of Torun and Danzig.

Pending the speech of Foreign Minister Beck to Parliament on Friday, in which he is expected flatly to reject Chancellor Adolf Hitler's demands, real optimism was voiced in Government circles here. Poland's tactics in starting a "counter-offensive" to the German campaign has borne fruit, it was held.

Today the anti-German attacks in the Polish press took another tack. the Government organs, in their editorials and the selection of news dispatches, systematically stressed the anti-German demonstrations in various countries. From these reports, the press arrived at the conclusion that in Spain, Slovakia, Austria, Bohemia -- and even in the Reich itself -- the population is more and more openly demonstrating its antipathy to the Nazi regime.

The Nazis are now forced to choose between two alternatives, the newspapers here claimed: either to renounce their imperialist plans which have mobilized world opinion against them or run the risk of a conflict in which the Reich can only emerge defeated.

It was also admitted in German quarters that the Nazi "bluff" of "the last territorial demand" no longer works. These sources agreed that if a Polish-German war broke out, Britain and France would come to Poland's help, not for Danzig but "to prevent extension of German hegemony." This, it was felt here, is also understood in Berlin.

KAHN HONORED AT PARIS BANQUET ON EVE OF DEPARTURE FOR U.S.

PARIS, May 5. (JTA) — Leaders in all walks of Jewish life paid tribute last night to Dr. Bernhard Kahn, retired chairman of the European Council of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, on the eve of his departure for the United States. Their tributes were voiced at a banquet to Dr. Kahn tendered jointly by the J.D.C., the Jewish Colonization Association, the HTAS-ICA Emigration Society and the American Foundation, with Morris Troper, new chairman of the European Council, presiding.

The principal address was delivered by Louis Oungre, head of the Jewish Colonization Association and dean of Jewish leaders in Paris, who was introduced by David Schweitzer, vice-chairman of the European Council. Other speakers included Prof. William Cualid, of the Alliance Israelite Universelle; Prof. A. Bezredka, of the Pasteur Institute; Prof. Jules Hayim and Meyer Blum, of the Jewish Agency for Palestine; Isaac Naiditch, of the Zionist Organization; Rabbi Eisenstadt, of the Federation of Jewish Organizations; Dr. Mark Wishnitzer, of the Hilfsverein; Madam Van Tyn, of the Dutch Relief Committee; Albert Levi, president of the French Refugee Relief Committee; Edouard Oungre and James Bernstein, directors of the HHAS-ICA; Dr. Ettinger, director of the Jewish Colonization Association, and R. Lambert. editor of the Universe Israelite.

The addresses were delivered in French, English, Hebrew, Yiddish and German. A group of guests announced that they would inscribe Dr. Kahn's name in the Golden Book of the Jewish National Fund.

In a speech that was begun in English, continued in German and ended in French, Dr. Kahn declared that he was not bidding a permanent farewell to his connections with European work since he intended often to bridge the distance between America and Europe. He expressed confidence that his successor, Mr. Troper, would follow J.D.C. traditions and principles.

Louis Oungre, expressing the hope that Dr. Kahn would pursue his work on behalf of European Jewry in America, praised his 40 years of activity "which coincided with the most troublesome years in Jewish history." He divided Dr. Kahn's work into three periods, the first that of the Hilfsverein, the second the wartime years when he took over the J.D.C.'s wide program, and the third "Germany's return to barbarism, with the unprecedented Jewish catastrophe." All three phases of Dr. Kahn's work, M. Oungre declared, would remain unforgettable among European Jewry.

In the United States, Dr. Kahn will take up the office of honorary chairman of the European Council of the $J_*D_*C_\circ$

MOSLEM YOUTH GROUP WARNS ITALY ISLAM WILL NEVER FORGET ALBANIAN SEIZURES

CAIRO, May 5. (Havas) - The Young Moslems Association tonight served warning on Italy that the Mohammedan world will never forget Fascist occupation of Albania, "an infamous blow against the independence of the last Islamic country in Europe." The Association declared in a communique: "It is the duty of Moslems to judge each power according to its deeds. The Islamic world knows how to demonstrate its gratitude as well as its indignation."

HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT ENACTS BILL PUTTING DRASTIC CURBS ON JEWS

BUDAPEST, May 5. (JTA) -- Parliamentary action was completed today on the Government's bill introducing drastic restrictions on the right of Hungary's approximately 600,000 Jews to earn a living, vote, hold public office and participate in the nation's cultural life.

The Lower House approved the bill by an unrecorded rising vote, which was announced by the clerk as "a large majority." The bill, as finally amended by a joint committee, was approved by the Upper House on Monday. The measure was introduced on Dec. 23 by the Government of Premier Bela Imredy, who later resigned when it was revealed that he was of part-Jewish origin, and sponsorship of the bill was taken over by the present regime of Premier Paul Teleki.

Replacing the present "Jew law" which restricts Jews to a general ratio of 20 per cent in most economic fields, the new measure limits Jews to 6 per cent in professions and cultural pursuits, bars them altogether from responsible positions in the press, theater, cinema and civil service posts and limits them to 12 per cent in private enterprises.

In the political field, Jews are permitted to vote only 30 days after Parliamentary and municipal elections. Jewish deputies in the Lower House are limited to 6 per cent of the total and they are barred from the Upper House entirely. Foreshadowing a revision of Jewish citizenships, the law empowers the Minister of Interior to deprive of Hungarian citizenship all persons naturalized after July 1, 1914, and authorizes the Government to regulate the question of Jewish emigration and transfer of Jewish capital from the country.

Amendments adopted at the behest of the Upper House provide for (1) establishment of a special body to grant Jews exemptions from the operation of the law when in the nation's interest, (2) excludes from the category of "Jews" all persons baptized before Aug. 1, 1919, whose parents were born in Hungary prior to 1849, and persons born Christians whose parents were baptized before Jan. 1, 1919. Such persons remain subject, however, to various other restrictions.

REICH PURGE OF JEWS NOT CAUSE FOR WAR BY U.S., MONTANA CONGRESSMAN TELLS HOUSE

WASHINGTON, May 3. (JTA) -- Representative J. Thorkelson (Rep., Montana) declared on the floor of the House today that "the so-called Hebrew purge in Germany is not a cause for war by the United States." He asserted that Jews in the Reich were better off than many Americans

"I am firmly convinced that Hebrews with German citizenship prefer to remain in Germany," he declared, holding that the United States "should not meddle in German affairs nor in the disposition of her citizens."

"It is quite possible that Hebrews in the United States owning property in Germany acquired during inflation are being pinched now because of the manner in which they came into possession of their holdings," Mr. Thorkelson said. He charged that in Washington more than half of commercial business and real estate were now owned and controlled "by the same group now agitating for liberal immigration from Europe. They play a sympathetic tune on the public's heart strings, so the door to immigration is left open."

J.T.A. NEWS -5- 5/4/39.

LONDON POLICE PROBE THIRD DESECRATION OF SYNAGOGUE

LONDON, May 3. (JTA) -- Police were investigating today the throwing of a pig's head into the entrance of the East London Synagogue, the third such synagogue desecration in recent weeks.

JEWS NEVER SO POPULAR WITH CZECH PEOPLE AS TODAY, CORRESPONDENT FINDS

NEW YORK, May 3. (JTA) -- A Prague dispatch to the New York Times reported today that "Jews have never been so popular with ordinary Czech people as today."

Reporting on the National Unity Party's "remarkable success" in its campaign for members, the correspondent continues: "On all sides one hears tributes to the people's spirit, and the warmest of these come from Jews, notwithstanding the fact that they know severe legislation against them has a place in the government's program. Jews have never been so popular with ordinary Czech people as today. Sympathy and practical help are extended to these people, who are known and know themselves to be doomed."

CITY COUNCIL ASKS CONGRESS TO PASS WAGNER-ROGERS BILL

NEW YORK, May 3. (JTA) -- The City Council yesterday unanimously adopted a resolution, introduced by the American Labor Party group, to memorialize Congress to pass the Wagner-Rogers bill for admission to the United States of 20,000 refugee children of all faiths from Germany.

OVER HALF OF REICH JEWISH YOUTHS RETRAINED FOR EMIGRATION, MAGAZINE REPORTS

NEW YORK, May 3. (JTA) -- More than half of the Jewish youths in Germany at the end of 1938 have been retrained for future emigration as artisans, manual workers and agriculturists, according to an article by Dr. Rudolph Stahl in the second issue of Jewish Social Studies, quarterly journal of the Conference on Jewish Relations. The article, "Vocational Retraining of Jews in Nazi Germany, 1935-1938," states that there are now about 60,000 Jews between the ages of 15 and 30 in the Reich.

Other articles are "The Use of Death Records to Determine Jewish Population Characteristics," by A.J. Jaffe; "The Austrian Government and the Hasidim During the Period of Reaction (1814-1848)" by Raphael Mahler and "The Opposition Parties in Poland and Their Attitude Towards the Jews and the Jewish Problem" by Joel Cang.

"ISMS" BILL MODIFIED FOR SUBMISSION TO STATE SENATE

ALBANY, May 3. (JTA) - Senator William C. Martin, Syracuse Republican, today substituted the Devany "isms" bill, already passed in the Assembly, for his companion measure in the Upper House. He amended the measure slightly, setting forth the specific steps a person must take to get a hearing if charged with seeking governmental overthrow.

As amended, the petitioner must obtain an order, signed by a Supreme Court justice, within four months of the filing of charges. Testimony will be taken in open court, with the burden of proof resting on the person making the charge. The bill bars those seeking governmental overthrow from holding civil service or teaching jobs.

e p