

designed to do a definite work, but always in harmony with our general purposes.

And on the material side the following two suggestions will make our financial basis more stable:

1. Members of the Association are urgently requested to propose new members, sending their names, connection, and other relevant data, also remittance for membership fee to our secretary-treasurer.

### OPENING OF THE HINTERLAND

Readers of JEWISH CHARITIES will peruse with interest Mr. Jacob H. Schiff's statement in regard to the closing of the Galveston Bureau for the reception and placing of Jewish immigrants. The Galveston office was established on what was considered a sound principle in the distribution and adjustment of immigrants—namely, diverting the stream from the overcrowded ports to that part of the country where crowding is unknown and where labor is in steady demand. Those in charge of the Galveston Bureau have remained true to their principles, and if the work has to be discontinued now it is not because it is not needed, nor because it was not well done, nor because it was not sufficiently supported. It retires apparently in the face of an imperfect sympathy, which it has not been able to overcome.

The exclusion of immigrants, as everyone knows, is not an exact science; the Government does not even pretend that it is done in a specially competent way by men who have ability to judge character or trained practice in weighing evidence. The fact that the fate of the immigrant depends upon the judgment of untrained judges, receiving a salary of \$1,800 a year, has been pointed out repeatedly as an injustice to the immigrants and a reflection upon our Government's interest in the rights of aliens. Again, inspectors are swayed by the views of the officers under whom they work, and an energetic commissioner of restrictive tendencies can run up the percentage of exclusions without saying a word to his inspectors. They know what he wants.

The large percentage of exclusions at Galveston, therefore, does not indicate that an inferior grade of immigrant was reaching that point. It rather reflects the mental

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2. Members are asked to send their yearly dues of \$1.00 to the secretary-treasurer and to pay such arrears as may be outstanding against them.

With cordial greetings,

DAVID M. BRESSLER,

*President National Association of Jewish Social Workers.*

attitude of the inspectors toward immigration in general, for our law is elastic enough to give free play to an inspector to indulge his feelings in this matter. The brief in the case of Ali Gegiow and others, lately filed by Mr. Max Kohler and his colleagues in the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, is an *exposé* of the methods of inspectors sufficient to account for any queer results obtained at a port of entry respecting exclusions. And this without any reflection upon the integrity of the inspectors.

That the officials of the immigration department were not more sympathetic with the Galveston attempt speaks more for their zeal for applying the exclusion features of the law than for their concern for the welfare of the admitted immigrant. This point has been made over and over again—that the Government is very alert and interested in the ceremony of admitting an immigrant, but neglects him after he is in and becomes a responsibility of the state. The Galveston Movement intended to make good the Government's neglect—desired to place the immigrant where he would be of greatest economic service to the country; but it was met with the ancient point of view that the admission of the immigrant, no matter where, was the whole thing. Those who have labored in behalf of the Galveston Movement can be comforted with the thought that their acts were no less patriotic than wise and sound, and they have further assurance that they have prepared a way for the immigrant, which he will keep open himself. And to Mr. Schiff, who has so generously supported the faith he had in the diversion of immigration from New York, the country is under obligations that will be understood and realized in time.

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## THE GALVESTON MOVEMENT

Jacob H. Schiff

The so-called "Galveston movement" was initiated in 1907 for the purposes of deflecting some part of the large emigration which has been flowing practically exclusively into the North Atlantic seaports—notably into New York—and directing it toward the Gulf, with the view of distributing these immigrants over the American "Hinterland" west of the Mississippi. Galveston was chosen as the most available port of entrance and a Jewish Immigrants' Information Bureau was established there under the auspices of a committee, which had its headquarters at New York and of which the writer of this was made chairman, with David M. Bressler as honorary secretary and managing director. The committee placed itself promptly after its organization into communication with the Jewish Territorial Organization, of which Israel Zangwill is the head, and an arrangement was entered into between that organization and the Galveston Committee, under which the former undertook to make propaganda in Russia and Roumania for acquainting intending emigrants with the advantages of going into the United States through Galveston, rather than to and through the overcrowded and congested North Atlantic ports. The Jewish Territorial Organization or "Ito," as it is popularly called, to this end established a number of committees in Russia under the able management of Dr. Jochelmann, of Kieff, where the headquarters of the "Ito" Emigration Regulation Department became located. It was stipulated, and this was carried into effect throughout, that, as demanded by the laws of the United States, no pecuniary assistance was to be extended to emigrants, but that the "Ito" and its committees should limit their activities to efforts destined to smooth the way of the emigrant, through a perfected system of supervision and advice, from the moment he left his home until his arrival at Galveston.

Reaching Galveston, immigrants are taken under the care of the Jewish Immigrants' Information Bureau. This bureau, originally established with Morris D. Waldman as its manager, who in turn was suc-

ceeded by Henry Berman and latterly by Maurice Epstein, gradually organized a system of agencies over the entire territory, extending from the Mississippi to the Pacific Coast, got in close touch with B'nai B'rith Lodges and kindred societies, from whom it obtained valuable support and co-operation, and thus it has been made possible to procure prompt employment for the immigrants, as these reached Galveston from time to time, and to distribute them over the large territory from the Mississippi to the Pacific Coast and from the Gulf to the Dominion boundary. The expense of the Galveston establishment, the maintenance of immigrants until employment had been found for them, the cost of transportation from Galveston to places of destination were all borne by the Galveston Committee, a sum approaching \$300,000 having been expended to date for the between nine and ten thousand immigrants which have come to Galveston and have been distributed by the committee.

This work, successful enough in itself, has, however, by no means been entirely smooth. The fact that only one line of transportation from Europe to Galveston was available—the North German Lloyd steamers from Bremen—placed the emigrant who wished to come to Galveston more or less at the mercy of this single steamship company, and while on the whole the accommodation the latter furnished was reasonably satisfactory, a journey of twenty-three days in steerage quarters brought in itself discomforts, which frequently led to not always unjustified complaints on the part of emigrants. But what has proved the greatest handicap was the attitude of the Federal Government, which, having an immigration station at Galveston, did not always show itself as sympathetic as the committee believed it was justified in expecting. The committee had assumed that its efforts to deflect immigration from the congested centers of the North Atlantic Coast and open a new route leading directly into the American "Hinterland," where the laborer is still much in demand, would meet with every encourage-