

selves minor disadvantages, all have a demoralizing effect, which effect is accentuated when the newcomer is subjected to close official scrutiny on landing. Minor defects are raised into prominence and, in his wornout condition, he may face a possible certification of poor physique and eventual deportation. Such a result would not be calculated to popularize the new route and, therefore, too much emphasis cannot be laid on the need for a steamship service to New Orleans which, in point of swiftness and reasonable comforts, will compare favorably with the service to the Northern seaports. The steamship companies should realize that this is the *sine qua non* of the great project in hand.

Of practical importance is the need for railroad service and rates which shall encourage the immigration westward of those of the newcomers who have relatives or friends in the interior. Many will probably use New Orleans as the initial destination with the object of penetrating westward. Of these, it may be said that they are in most cases not over-supplied with money. Every rouble, mark or franc counts. It is therefore essential that the railroad rates from out of New Orleans be not higher than the rates prevailing from Galveston, which is already a port of landing for European immigration. At present they are not equalized and it would be the part of wisdom of the railroad companies to anticipate the demands that will be made on them should the steamship service between European ports and New Orleans as port of entry, be established, and equalize the rates referred to.

Another important factor which will tend to increase railroad traffic will be the opening of the Panama Canal. This event will give an impetus to travel southward, especially for those who wish to reach the coast without the inconvenience of a long voyage clear around the isthmus. Because of the well-known railroad facilities of New Orleans and its being a terminal of importance, it follows that if the rates will be as reasonable as the service is efficient, that a stimulus will be given to the railroad journey from New Orleans to the coast.

Together with these problems of transportation, there is also the need of properly receiving the immigrant at New Orleans,

as the port of entry. To make his start easier, to protect him against possible exploitation either of money or productivity, it is necessary that a bureau be established in New Orleans to guide the immigrant and to place him where he will prove of greatest value, not only to himself, but to the South and to this country. Properly directing the Jewish immigrants arriving at Galveston has been one of the great factors in the successful distribution effected by that movement, and too much stress cannot be laid upon the value of a properly equipped bureau in the city of New Orleans which shall befriend the new immigrant and guide him into those channels where his potentiality may best be realized.

The foregoing review but fringes the subject, but we hope that some of its importance has been conveyed in this article.

Many Children Cared For

The annual report just issued of the Hebrew Orphan Asylum of New York says that the institution has 1,319 children in its charge and boards 225 children in addition to those within its walls, and also assists in the support of 340 children in the homes of mothers, making a total of 1,884 children in care of the charity. Relief is also granted to widows so as to keep families intact, and with this object nearly \$30,000 was spent last year. The total expenditure exceeds \$300,000, and there is a deficit of \$57,878, which it is hoped to wipe out.

The Asylum has a country branch at Valhalla, N. Y., located on a farm of seventy-seven acres, and it is hoped that a large proportion of fruit and vegetables used in the institution will be raised on this farm. Encouragement is given to boys who desire to take up agricultural work. The president of the society is Louis Stern, the treasurer Martin Beckhard. Mr. Solomon Lowenstein is superintendent.

Rabbi Theodore F. Joseph of Allentown, Pa., gave an illustrated lecture on Lincoln in that city for the purpose of founding a social settlement. A considerable sum was realized to serve as a nucleus. Efforts are now being made to find a suitable house so that the settlement center may be opened at an early date.

STATE PENSIONS TO WIDOWS

The Campaign in Maryland

BY SOLOMON BAROWAY

A matter of great importance is now engaging the attention of social workers all over the country, which is destined to become an important factor in our relief work. It is the pensioning by the State of widows, who, on account of poverty, were heretofore obliged to part with their little ones whom they placed in institutions. The idea of institutional care for fatherless children having competent mothers has of late undergone a great change. It is now recognized everywhere that mothers who are mentally, morally and physically normal, are the best guardians of their children, and should be adequately helped to raise the children in their own homes, instead of sending them to institutions. The recognition of this fact has been widespread and has assumed the character of a national movement. The impetus to this movement was given by the White House Conference on the care of Dependent Children, in January, 1909, where a resolution adopted reads as follows:

"Home life is the highest and finest product of civilization. It is the great molding force of mind and character. Children should not be deprived of it, except for urgent and compelling reasons. Children of parents of worthy character, suffering from temporary misfortune, and children of reasonably efficient and deserving mothers, who are without the support of the normal bread-winner, should, as a rule, be kept with their parents, such aid being given as may be necessary to maintain suitable homes for the rearing of the children. This aid should be given by such methods and from such sources as may be determined by the general policy of each community, preferably in the form of private charity, rather than of public relief. Except in unusual circumstances, the home should not be broken up for reasons of poverty, but only for the considerations of inefficiency or immorality."

The wisdom embodied in this resolution appealed strongly to the hearts and minds of people all over the country, who at once felt the injustice done by the separation of dependent children from capable mothers for reasons of poverty. The agitation for

realizing the principles contained in the resolution became general, but it was recognized at the same time that private charity alone, without State subsidy, is powerless to bring the idea to fruition. It would be a senseless proposition to insist on a widow raising her children at her own home without giving her adequate means to provide a decent home for them. The realization of the inability and failure of private charity organizations to extend adequate relief to widows with dependent children was instrumental in passing mother pension laws in seventeen States and two cities. In eight States acts are pending. In many other States widows' pensions are contemplated, and commissions have been appointed to study the question. This question was under discussion at the National Conference of Charities and Corrections, at Cleveland, where Judge Pinkney of the Juvenile Court of Chicago explained how the pension act has become a blessing in that city to dependent children and their mothers alike. The Maryland Conference of Charities and Corrections, to be held in this city on November 19th, 20th and 21st, has mothers' pensions on its program. Three meetings have been set aside for "The Widow and the States," and your superintendent will read a paper, giving his views in favor of widows' pensions.

It should not be thought that the advocates of the measure have smooth sailing in getting pension laws for widows on the statute books. Great opposition has been manifested in many States, and, strange as it may seem, from quarters from which only co-operation and sympathy should have been expected, from social workers themselves. The opponents admit the inadequacy of relief granted by private charities to widows, but are basing their opposition on other grounds. They claim that widows' pensions would not diminish the number of commitments to institutions; that what we call "pension" is really nothing more than public charity, for the word "pension" implies payment for services rendered in the past; it also implies, without any reference to the needs of the individual receiving it, a fixed

rate of payment, and implies no responsibility for what happens; that the administration of public relief without proper and efficient supervision would be fraught with abuses and would be harmful and damaging; that it would dry up the sources of private charity; that the now charitably inclined would leave it all to the State; that mothers' pensions would discourage self-reliance and self-help on the part of mothers; that it would create a new class of dependents.

Some of these objections are mere pessimistic predictions, and only time can tell whether they are justified. Thus far the investigations made by the opponents themselves have not materially strengthened their position. Mr. C. C. Carstens of the Russell Sage Foundation, who investigated "mothers' pensions" in Chicago, was unjust and unfair in reporting that under the new law there has been an increase in commitments of children to institutions. Mr. Wm. Hard has proven the contrary; that there has actually been a falling off in the number of commitments.

As to the terms "State pension" or "State relief," it is really immaterial as long as the object is accomplished. Under either of these names a widow aided by the State would be enabled to rear her children decently at home. But it is not charity that the advocates of mothers' pensions are asking from the State. They are asking compensation to mothers for their civic duty to the State while they are engaged in preparing their children for future citizenship, and it matters a great deal to the State what quality of citizens it is going to have. Education is a duty which the State has a right to enforce: in so doing the State becomes the overparent of the child, protecting him against parental neglect, and, by training him to fill his place as a grown-up person in the social system, it grants him equality of opportunity, which he may claim as his right as a future citizen. But while conceding to the child the right of equality of opportunity, the State must not ignore the means leading to the attainment of this right. It is the function of the State to secure the conditions upon which mind and character may develop themselves; it should also be its function to grant the opportunity for developing a healthy soul in a healthy

body. The State should be the guardian of the child's health as well as of his morals. It should see to it that his standard of living is conducive to health, growth and happiness. It should, in self-interest, be "casting bread upon the water," which in course of time it will find more than repaid in good citizenship. It is this belief slowly penetrating the public mind, which has turned it to new thoughts of social regeneration. It is this new conception of the relation and duty of the State to the citizen—the clear foresight and the forethought of the national conscience for an improved and higher quality of citizenship—which resulted in placing mothers' pension laws upon the statute books of many States. It is this new conception that has changed our outlook in regard to State aid to the child. It is no longer considered charity, but justice that the State is rendering to the child—the future citizen.

L. T. Hobbhouse, professor of sociology in the London University, has the following to say in regard to our contention: "The newer conception of rights and duties comes out clearly in the argument of the Poor Law Commissioners, that if we take in earnest all that we say of the duties and responsibilities of motherhood we shall recognize that the mother of young children is doing better service to the community and one more worthy of pecuniary remuneration when she stays at home and minds her children, than when she goes out charring and leaves them to the chances of the street or the care of a neighbor. In proportion, as we realize the force of this argument, we revise our view as to the nature of public assistance in such a case. We no longer consider it desirable to drive the mother out to her charring work, if we possibly can, nor do we consider her degraded by receiving public money. We cease in fact to regard the public money as a dole; we treat it as a payment for a civic service, and the condition that we are inclined to exact it precisely that she should not endeavor to add to it by earning wages, but rather that she should keep her home respectable and bring up her children in health and happiness."

Conditions in Maryland are about the same as in other States. Our charities are probably not doing less for the poor than

other charities. I am making a study of the amounts of relief granted to our widows and the amounts of their own income, but am unable to cite figures for the present. There is no doubt, however, that the State will have to be called upon in order to do justice to the widow and her children. Private charity must confess that it has utterly failed to provide adequate means for the healthy growth and existence of future citizens. The State of Maryland will have to assume the burden that other States have assumed. The question of the administration and supervision of State pensions by State officials, which is objectionable to our opponents, is not beyond solution. All our charities should support a bill which will leave the supervision to the organized private charities. Something of this sort is being done in Chicago and can be done in Baltimore. With State aid in addition to charitable relief, our widows will be enabled to provide decent homes for their children, and we may expect a coming generation of healthy, useful and independent citizens.

Mr. Seman's New Appointment

On September 30th, after a service of twenty-two months, Mr. Philip L. Seman resigned his office as assistant manager of the Industrial Removal Office to accept the position of superintendent of the Chicago Hebrew Institute.

Several other offers had come to Mr. Seman while he was associated with the Removal Office, but, without exception, he declined them, even though in doing so he sacrificed the material advancement which they held forth. The activities of the Removal Office appealed to him as offering a field for constructive philanthropy, which the promise of greater material reward in other fields of endeavor could not counterbalance. Only the fact of the yet relatively undeveloped, but highly promising opportunities for constructive work, though along other lines, offered by the Chicago Hebrew Institute, and the cordial attitude of its directorate toward him, finally prevailed with him to resign, with deepest reluctance, from the work to which he had given unstintedly of everything that was best and ablest in him.

Mr. Seman's engagement as assistant manager of the Removal Office was directly due to the upward swing which its activities took after the last effects of the 1907 industrial depression had practically disappeared. The return of normal industrial conditions made it fairly certain that in due course the high-water mark reached by the Society in 1907 (previous to the panic) would again be eventually reached. Mr. Seman, therefore, was given an ample opportunity, under the most favorable conditions, for the fullest exercise of his energy, ambition and powers of concentration, and this opportunity he was not slow in embracing. In his capacity as assistant manager, he was in direct contact with every phase of the work, and he was equally proficient in his sympathetic attitude to and judgment of those who sought the Society's services, as he was in organizing effective co-operation of interior communities. In a word, Mr. Seman contributed his full share to the results obtained by the Society during his tenure of office.

Intimate contact with Mr. Seman revealed the fine qualities of his heart and mind. Of rugged honesty and sincerity, his innate sense of justice and proportion should prove powerful assets in whatever field of endeavor he may be called to. His career will be followed by the many admirers and well-wishers which his fine character and good work have justly earned for him, with not only deepest interest, but with a sense of personal pride.

Active Work

The Brooklyn Federation of Jewish Charities is conducting a most active campaign for the increase of its subscription list. Perhaps no city has ever devoted more time and energy than is now being displayed in the attempt to make the annual subscription list \$200,000. The campaign includes not only personal solicitation and public meetings, but also a most generous mail campaign, which has been conducted with great skill and intelligence. Some day the history of this piece of work from the solicitor's point of view should be written up for the benefit of other cities needing increased subscriptions.