

EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

Conducted by Bertram Benedict

The essentially religious nature of social work is well shown by the fact that most rabbis devote much of their time to organizing new forms of social endeavors as well as supporting actively those forms which already exist. Indeed, it is difficult to know whether certain figures in American Jewry are primarily rabbis or social workers. This situation was sharply outlined at the recent conference of reform rabbis. The committee on synagogue and industrial relations had submitted a report advocating most of the progressive allevial measures now being agitated in this country. It was too much to expect that the report would be accepted; but at least it was not voted down. It was referred to a committee, which will report upon it next year. And the fact that Rabbi-Social Worker Stephen Wise was vehement and bitter in his defense of the report is a guarantee that the committee to which it was referred will not be allowed to bury it without some excitement.

The single-tax idea was brought to the fore at the Conference when a resolution was adopted extending sympathy to the family of Joseph Fels. Naturally, the resolution was not passed by a unanimous love-feasting vote. The rabbis, on the other hand, refused to consider an anti-prohibition resolution. The report of the committee on religious work in penal institutions announced that in twenty-one penal institutions in the Middle West there are only 125 Jews.

Information has been brought forward recently to show that immigration to Palestine has increased in the past several months. Naturally, and significantly, much of this new immigration is from the Balkan States.

The Educational Alliance of New York is conducting during this summer a course in vocational training for girls just out of the grammar school. The city board of education is co-operating. The classes will be concerned mostly in needlework and millinery.

EXCHANGE BUREAU

[Organizations and workers are invited to make free use of the Exchange Bureau. Notices are inserted without charge, and will be kept as long as the advertiser desires.]

Young Jewish man, with some experience in social work, desires some social work at the same time that he will be attending School of Philanthropy in the fall. Address B. B., JEWISH CHARITIES.

Have you an opening for a trained man, college graduate, New York School of Philanthropy student, with practical experience in settlement and relief work. Can furnish adequate references. Address X, JEWISH CHARITIES.

Visiting Nurse wanted, one having nursing as well as social service training preferred. Must be graduate, registered nurse and Jewish. Applications stating salary desired, experience and references should be addressed to Oscar Leonard, superintendent, United Jewish Educational and Charitable Association, St. Louis.

New Member

Federation of Jewish Charities, Akron, Ohio; Miss Ethel Haub, secretary.

PRESERVE YOUR COPIES

MEMBERS of the National Conference of Jewish Charities and subscribers to JEWISH CHARITIES are requested to save the copies of JEWISH CHARITIES sent them monthly, as the proceedings of the meeting at Memphis will be published in JEWISH CHARITIES, and will not be issued separately in book-form. An index will be printed with each volume of JEWISH CHARITIES, and those who will bind their volumes of this magazine will have the proceedings and other interesting matter in permanent form. It will not be possible for the office to supply extra copies, except in a case here or there; and we therefore ask you to

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JEWISH CHARITIES

TROUBLED EUROPE

✓ There are many ways in which the military upheaval in Europe may affect the Jewish social situation in this country. The influence on immigration will probably be our directest point of contact, and if Russia goes through a great contest, and specially if that contest is waged in Russian territory contiguous to Germany, there will be many to seek a home in America from the devastated district, and they will come still more impoverished, and with a reduced number of bread-winners per family. Even those who escape direct loss from the war will find economic conditions such as to force them to seek a home elsewhere.

Of course, these considerations refer to the mere by-product of war. The wholesale taking of life, the widespread destruction of property, the saddling of generations with a heavy debt, the creation of national animosities, the set-back to industry, commerce, science and to the development of civic life, are some of the larger items that go to make up the cost of war. That this frightful burden should be assumed for what must appear to American eyes to be a grossly inadequate cause, only shows that when passion is aroused, reason departs.

Perhaps the quickness with which armed Europe was set aflame may put an end to the argument that the most peaceful nation is one armed to the teeth. A country with magazines crammed with arms is too fatally "prepared" for eventualities to dawdle long over peace negotiations. What is the use of talking so much when you can blow things up? If the nations of Europe had to begin now to make military preparations for a great struggle, the last thing they would have thought of to meet the present situation would be war.

If out of the present embroilment would come a conviction that at least partial disarmament would better serve the purpose of civilization, as well as of national progress, a lesson of value might be taught

the world, and nations would come to realize that war is an anachronism among modern nations. It ought to be more out of date than the disastrous strike; or any proceeding where brute force takes the place of orderly discussion and negotiation.

One of the melancholy manifestations in connection with the cry for war has been the shouting by the masses, ignorant of the game that is being played, for a resort to arms. In Berlin patriots shout with joy at the idea of throttling the Muscovite in his lair; in St. Petersburg the feeling is returned with interest, while in Paris and perhaps elsewhere, the blood is thrilled at the smell of blood. These surging and excited masses will have to learn that war is hell, and that it can be carried on only at the expense of their blood and bones.

The war spirit has too great a start for the peace advocates to overtake it at once. From the caveman down to the airman, the resort to arms has been the one dependence in time of trouble, and human instinct turns in that direction at the first sign of a misunderstanding. In private affairs no one thinks of resorting to the fist to vindicate one's honor or dignity. When they cannot be defended otherwise, they are hardly worth while defending. Among nations, however, honor seems inextricably mixed up with powder and shells and other agencies of destruction. In national affairs we have not evolved nearly so far as we have in our dealings with each other.

A European war in which Russia is involved must inevitably create a great stir among her Jewish inhabitants, who constitute one-half of the Jews of the world. Accustomed as they are to feel that the hand of the government is never extended to protect them, they will regard with fear and trembling a crisis in which even the safeguards that they were used to will be withdrawn, leaving them not only a people without a country, but with burdens which humans are unable to bear.

RESULTS AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GALVESTON MOVEMENT

In a recent article Mr. David M. Bressler, general manager of the Industrial Removal Office, explains in detail the work of the "Galveston Movement," its direct achievements and the influence it will likely exert on future immigration.

After tracing the origin of the Bureau, which was a logical development of removal work, for distribution before the immigrant has attempted to adjust himself in a definite locality, seems so much more reasonable than readjusting him after he has located himself, Mr Bressler describes the operation of the Bureau and its connection with the Jewish Territorial Organization. The latter, through its agents in Russia, carefully sifted the immigrants who wished to go to America, dissuading the weak and the unfit, and directing with information and advice those fit to go, but in no case stimulating or inducing anyone to leave Russia for America. This is an important point and one that the Bureau strictly insisted upon and conscientiously carried out, as it did not wish in the remotest way to appear as an encourager of immigration to this country.

The Bureau took charge of the immigrant as soon as he was admitted to America, and placed him in a position that was obtained for him through the instrumentality of co-operating agencies which the Bureau had previously established.

"The manager and traveling organizers of the Bureau blazed the trail. Into every city and town of consequence they went forth spreading the idea and principles of the movement and arousing American Jewry to its task and its opportunity. The response was ready and, with singular rapidity, the network of committees grew larger. These committees kept in constant touch with the Bureau at Galveston, filing industrial reports and requisitions, and keeping it informed of all the fluctuations in the labor market. All this information was carefully collated and utilized in selecting the locality to which the immigrants were sent. Naturally, regard was paid to the industrial status of each immigrant, to his efficiency and experience, and special effort was made to dovetail these factors

with the needs and requirements of the receiving communities. Mechanics were placed with little difficulty; greater energy had to be expended in placing the merchant-peddler type, who, unable to speak English and without a practical trade, was yet as a rule a man of splendid caliber willing and ready to wrestle with his new environment.

"How they struggled and succeeded, how they acquired civic conscience and economic security—these belong to the spiritual history of the movement and constitute a contribution to the upbuilding of human life and character.

"The work of the Bureau by years may be summarized as follows:

Year	No. Distributed
1907.....	866
1908.....	135
1909.....	418
1910.....	1193
1911.....	1355
1912.....	1522
1913.....	2918
1914 (to July 1st).....	925
Total	9332

"With the anticipated arrivals up to October 1, 1914, it may conservatively be stated that fully 10,000 people will have arrived at Galveston by the closing date.]

"It would be interesting to study in detail the distribution of the immigrants arriving at Galveston from 1907 to 1913, inclusive, by States, and the following table is for the first time presented to the public as an accurate statistical summary:

Arkansas	155
Colorado	284
Illinois	283
Iowa	1225
Kansas	208
Louisiana	296
Minnesota	997
Missouri	1099
Mississippi	35
Nebraska	641
North Dakota	35
Oklahoma	245
Tennessee	191
Texas	2134
Wisconsin	48

"Following is a table of the more important industrial pursuits engaged in by the immigrants distributed by the Bureau:

Bakers	143
Blacksmiths	120
Butchers	202
Carpenters	418
Clerks	537
Dressmakers	343
Laborers	332
Locksmiths	183
Merchants	422
Painters	146
Shoemakers	463
Shoe Upperers	166
Tailors	600
Tanners	132
Tinners	114
Unskilled	765

"If we scan the wage lists of the Bureau immigrants for the last two years (to bring the figures up to date), we find that notwithstanding the fact that the men placed by the Bureau could not speak English, they commanded reasonably satisfactory wages in the communities where they located. For blacksmiths we find an average wage of \$15 per week; for carpenters, \$12 to \$15; for laborers, \$9; for locksmiths, \$12; for painters, \$15; for shoemakers, \$10, and for shoe upperers, \$12.

"Considered in the light of the legitimate possibilities of the movement, the foregoing figures of the total distribution effected by the Bureau may prove somewhat disappointing. For the work of the Galveston Bureau, had it been unimpeded, could have substantially altered the ratio of immigration between the several ports of entry of the United States."

"The difficulties that have retarded the work are, as explained by Mr. Bressler, mainly two: lack of encouragement on the part of the immigration authorities of this country, and the failure of the steamship line to improve the service so as to make the long voyage more bearable. As to the first reason, its influence can be shown mathematically in the rejection at Galveston of proportionately four times as many selected immigrants as are rejected by other ports handling the ordinary run. This is

one of the cases in which figures do not lie. As to the steamship service, some slight concessions were obtained for immigrants, but the voyage remained very long and very uncomfortable.

Mr. Bressler thinks the authorities were particularly lacking in vision in not apprehending the significance and the potential value of an agency that distributes at the source, and those who have experience with immigrants will share his view. However, it is the function of the private organization to show the way, and perhaps the Government will wake up some day and realize how signally it failed to grasp a real opportunity.]

[Besides the 10,000 individuals that the Bureau will have diverted from the congested ports by the time it concludes its labors on September 30th, Mr. Bressler points out that the children of the immigrants will grow up in the great American spaces and not in the crowded quarters of great cities, and that this gives a qualitative result to the work that should not be overlooked.]

"In concluding, the writer feels it incumbent to say that the obstacles which the Galveston movement encountered should not render us discouraged or indifferent. Every movement has experienced and is still experiencing the obstacles created by lack of social vision or indifference. We cannot hope as yet for that far-sightedness which will enable everyone to perceive the social significance of a movement. But the tendency is in that direction. [One need not be a Utopian to indulge the hope that the work of the Galveston Bureau and of similar institutions will have profound influence in shaping Government policies regarding immigration. It may be that not in the distant future our Government will realize its responsibility toward the immigrant and instead of throwing barriers in the way of his admission, will embark on more constructive principles, bending its energies to a proper absorption and distribution of the immigrant rather than to his exclusion. What a private agency has accomplished in the face of all discouragement and difficulty should be an experience by which our National Government might well be guided.]