

THE BALTIMORE CONFERENCE

Editor of Jewish Charities.

Sir: Opening up my mail the other morning, I found a letter from Mr. Isaac Aaronson, head worker of the Jewish Educational Alliance of Baltimore, enclosing a check representing 125 new membership subscriptions from among the volunteer and professional social workers of Baltimore.

I stared in open-eyed wonder. Not that membership in the Association is such an infrequent thing or comes so grudgingly; we have good reason to be thankful for the steady and substantial progress made by the National Association of Jewish Social Workers. But this, what may be called, gigantic subscription from the men and women of one city establishes a precedent important enough to be commented upon in your columns.

The Association has never had a publicity bureau, nor any committee especially charged with propaganda work. The activities of the Association, the work of its members as units and as members of it, and the conferences we have held, have slowly, but surely, begun to impress socially-minded men and women throughout the country. And this is the important achievement that Baltimore's contribution represents. Many of the new members from that city are not professional or "scientific" social workers. They have few theories, little cut and dried routine, and no

illusions. What they are doing springs from the heart and is buttressed by the head.

For these workers, the Association stands as the symbol and embodiment of the sustained, progressive and unyielding social vision which animates American Jewry, and which is attempting to translate itself pragmatically in a thousand and one human ways, looking not only for mere uplift or edification, but for tangible, social and economic benefits.

I do not want to draw invidious distinctions; but I think the Association—all of its members—feel like shaking the hands of Baltimore and resolving to emulate its example in their own respective cities.

Another word I wish to add: The Conference recently held by our Association in Baltimore was noteworthy for the co-operation of your citizens. Hospitality could go no further. A ready and helping hand was at our beck and call. We were made to feel at home, and in writing of the splendid contribution just made by Baltimore Social workers to the Association, I think it proper to make this grateful acknowledgment of the whole-hearted and inspiring reception they gave our members at the Conference.

Very truly yours,

DAVID M. BRESSLER,
President.

New York, August 5, 1915.

A CITIZENSHIP SURVEY

The Civics and Citizenship Department of the Chicago Hebrew Institute is contemplating an extensive survey regarding the citizenship situation of Jews in Chicago. The city has been divided up into districts, and the most thickly populated of these districts, having the largest Jewish population, will be investigated first, by a house-to-house canvass, made by an intelligent investigator having thorough legal training.

The object is to find out who is and who is not a citizen of this country among the Jews in that city. From those who are not citizens, the following facts will be ascertained:

- (1) Why they have not become citizens.
- (2) Whether a Declaration of Intention

has been made, and the taking out of second papers has been neglected.

- (3) If not a citizen how long have they been in this country.
- (4) Their social status.
- (5) Their occupation.

In order that this survey may carry a constructive character, a pamphlet has been prepared, which has been translated into Yiddish, and which will be left in the home by the investigator, with the request that the pamphlet be turned over to the head of the family, if the information was received from the wife or other person acquainted with the facts.

This information will not be limited to men, but in such instances, where there is no head to the family, the woman will be encouraged to acquire her citizenship.

The following is the pamphlet which has been translated into Yiddish, as a means of propaganda for encouraging those who have not acquired citizenship, to do so without delay.

If you immigrated to the United States to escape the oppression and lack of opportunity in the war ridden monarchies of Europe, and intend to remain here and enjoy the benefits and opportunities this country offers you—

You Should Become a Citizen!

—So that you may have a voice in the government of this great land through the franchise right—the vote—that you may have the equal privilege with all Americans in selecting the President, Governor, Senators, Judges and all public officials who govern us.

—So that your wife and your children may become citizens (through your citizenship) and enjoy equal privileges with the native-born.

—So that you and your children may be eligible to hold public office.

—So that you and your children may be eligible to enter the employ of the government of the nation, state and city through the Civil Service.

—So that you may visit your old home abroad, or travel in foreign lands under an American passport and under the protection of the American flag.

—So that in case of trouble in foreign lands, you may seek the aid of the United States Department of State through its ambassadors and consuls all over the world.

If You are not a Citizen of the U. S.

—You are an "alien," or foreigner, and you are subject to laws restricting the property holding rights and other rights of aliens.

If the country of your nativity should become engaged in war with the United States, you will then be termed an "alien enemy," and you may be deprived of many rights that you now enjoy.

If you are not a citizen of the United States, then you are a subject of a czar, an emperor, or a king, and you still owe allegiance to him.

You should become a citizen of the United States of America, so that you may forever throw off allegiance to and all

claims upon you by the monarchs of Europe.

You should become a citizen of the United States of America because it is the only way you can show your gratitude for the wonderful freedom and opportunity it gives and offers you.

The Chicago Hebrew Institute conducts for your benefit, at great expense, a

Bureau of Civics and Citizenship

in charge of a competent lawyer for the purpose of giving you information and aid in the process of becoming a citizen. It furnishes all the necessary blanks and papers, and will take the trouble to find out information regarding your arrival, etc.

This service is absolutely free of charge, and you should avail yourself, at once, of this privilege, and learn "How to Become a Citizen."

For those who have taken out their "first" papers, and are ready to make application for the naturalization or "second" papers, a course of lectures is given on the history, organization and government of this country, for preparation for the examination that one must pass before he becomes a citizen. This is likewise free of charge.

The Bureau of Civics and Citizenship of the Chicago Hebrew Institute will also be of aid to you in giving you advice as to the proper method of remedying conditions of health, morals, and protection in your neighborhood.

If your garbage is not collected properly or on time;

If the street in front of your house is not kept in proper condition;

If you are annoyed by unruly bands of loafers;

If you do not have proper police protection for your person or property;

If you desire any particular nuisance abated;

The Bureau of Civics and Citizenship will inform you of the proper methods of placing your complaints before the proper public authorities.

The Bureau of Civics and Citizenship is open for your service six days a week.

Lectures on Civics for prospective citizens and others interested in learning about our government, are given three times a week.