FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 12, 1911

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT
MAYER SULZBERGER, Philadelphia

VICE-PRESIDENTS
JULIAN W. MACK, Washington
JACOB H. HOLLANDER, Baltimore

TREASURER
ISAAC W. BERNHEIM, Louisville, Ky.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
HARRY CUTLER, Providence, R. I.
SAMUEL DORF, New York
J. L. MAGNES, New York
LOUIS MARSHALL, New York
JULIUS ROSENWALD, Chicago, Ill.
JACOB H. SCHIFF, New York
ISADOR SOBEL, Erie, Pa.
CYRUS L. SULZBERGER, New York

SECRETARY
HERBERT FRIEDENWALD, 356 Second Ave., N. Y. C.

MEMBERS AND DISTRICTS

Dist. I: Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina. 2 members: Ceasar Cone, Greensboro, N. C. (1916); Montague Triest, Charleston, S. C. (1914).

Dist. II: Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee. 2 members: Nathan Cohn, Nashville, Tenn. (1913); ——— (1913).

Dist. III: Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico, Texas. 2 members: Maurice Stern, New Orleans, La. (1914); Isaac H. Kempner, Galveston, Tex. (1916).
Dist. IV: Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri. 3 members: Morris M. Cohn, Little Rock, Ark. (1914); David S. Lehman, Denver, Colo. (1916); Elias Michael, St. Louis, Mo. (1915).


Dist. VI: Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Wyoming. 4 members: Henry M. Butzel, Detroit, Mich. (1914); Emanuel Cohen, Minneapolis, Minn. (1915); Victor Rosewater, Omaha, Neb. (1914); Max Landauer, Milwaukee, Wis. (1912).

Dist. VII: Illinois. 7 members: Edwin G. Foreman (1914); M. E. Greenebaum (1913); B. Horwich (1912); Julian W. Mack (1913); Julius Rosenwald (1915); Joseph Stolz (1914), all of Chicago, Ill.; W. B. Woolner, Peoria, Ill. (1916).

Dist. VIII: Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia. 5 members: Louis Newberger, Indianapolis, Ind. (1915); Isaac W. Bernheim, Louisville, Ky. (1912); David Philipson, Cincinnati, O. (1914); J. Walter Freiberg, Cincinnati, O. (1916); E. M. Baker, Cleveland, O. (1913).

Dist. IX: City of Philadelphia. 6 members: Cyrus Adler (1913); Wm. B. Hackenburg (1914); B. L. Levinthal (1915); M. Rosenbaum (1915); Mayer Sulzberger (1913); Benjamin Wolf (1912).

Dist. X: Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia. 3 members: Harry Friedenwald, Baltimore, Md. (1915); Jacob H. Hollander, Baltimore, Md. (1915).


Dist. XII: New York City. 25 members: Joseph Barondess (1913); Samuel Dorf (1917); Bernard Drachman (1914); Harry Fischel (1914); William Fischman (1914); Israel Friedlaender (1913); Samuel B. Hamburger (1913); ——— (1917); Samuel I. Hyman (1916); ——— (1917); Leon Kamaiky (1914); Philip Klein (1917); Nathan Lamport (1913); Adolph Lewisohn (1915); J. L. Magnes (1915); M. Z. Margolies (1916); Louis Marshall (1916); H. Pereira Mendes (1916); Solomon Neumann (1915); Jacob H. Schiff (1917); Bernard Semel (1913); P. A. Siegelstein (1915); Joseph Silverman (1914); Cyrus L. Sulzberger (1915); Felix M. Warburg (1916).


Member at Large: Nathan Bijur, New York City (1912).
Representing the National Jewish Fraternal Congress: Sigmund Fodor, Samuel Kanrich, and Leon Sanders; representing the Union of Orthodox Rabbis: S. E. Jaffe; all of New York City (1912).

FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 1911


The minutes of the fourth annual meeting were approved as printed.

The chairman announced the appointment of the following committee on nominations: Isaac W. Frank, David H. Lehman, J. L. Magnes.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

As this is the fifth occasion on which we confer in annual meeting, it may be well to review some of the more important problems which confronted us at the inception of this Committee and to recall the manner in which we have dealt with them.

The Committee, you will remember, took its rise out of the necessities of our unfortunate coreligionists in Russia and Roumania and the requirement that an efficient organization be instituted to undertake a coordination of the means available in this country for meeting the ever-continuing emergency in Jewry. The Committee may be regarded therefore as having developed out of the pogroms of 1905, though by the time the Committee was organized, the immediate problems arising therefrom had been met
with unusual efficiency. But those who had the larger share in
organizing the relief work felt the need of instituting a permanent
organization that might be at hand to deal with a similar
emergency if it should ever again arise.

The past five years have witnessed no wholesale pogroms, though
the Czar and his ministers have devised and put in force other
modes of persecution not less deadly. For the swifter method of
mere murder, there has been substituted the more cruel process of
physical and mental starvation, of torture and inhuman repression.
The problems, therefore, of Russia and Roumania as they affect
the Jews of this country have been increasing rather than diminish-
ing.

The Committee, at the inception of its work, was confronted with
the necessity of dealing with the threatened enactment of re-
strictive immigration laws in our own country. Through the
efforts of those favoring a liberal immigration policy, the harsh-
ness of the laws proposed at the opening of the session of Congress
in 1906, was mitigated, and the act of February, 1907, was put
upon the statute books. Though not in any sense a restrictive
measure, it raised the head-tax from two to four dollars, and re-
tained the exclusion clauses of the previous act. Its most notable
provision was that empowering the appointment of a Commission
to investigate the whole question of immigration. This Commis-
sion, whose work was concluded at the last session of the Sixty-
First Congress, has now completed its report in forty odd volumes
which have not yet been published.

In order that the Commission might not be led into error respect-
ing Jewish immigration, your Committee, as soon as the Commis-
sion organized, communicated with that body, requesting leave to
present data that might be of use in the endeavor to reach a just
and unbiased conclusion. Upon invitation of the Commission, the
Committee, in cooperation with the Independent Order B'nai B'rith
and the Board of Delegates of the Union of American Hebrew Cong-
gregations, on November 7, 1910, submitted recommendations re-
specting the revision of the laws and regulations, which were com-
municated to you in our last annual report. That the Commission
considered these suggestions may be fairly inferred from the
presence in the Immigration Commission's report of several of
them, notably that respecting the method of appointing Boards of
Special Inquiry, which have to deal with all cases of appeals from
exclusion in the first instance.

The published preliminary abstracts of the reports of the Immi-
gration Commission evidence but slight desire to adhere to the
time-honored tradition that has made this country a refuge for
the oppressed of all lands. It was contended that on economic
grounds the increase of our population by immigration was too
rapid, and that some method of restriction should be adopted. The
Commission favored a reading and writing test as likely to effect most equitably the desired end. In reaching this determination, the object seems to be to decrease the immigration from Southern and Eastern Europe, which forms the bulk of our immigration. Opposition to immigration has always been against that coming in largest numbers. There was a time when the coming of the Germans and of the Irish was similarly opposed. The decrease of general immigration from Germany and Ireland has changed the ideas of those who formerly regarded the immigrants from those countries as a danger to this country. The restrictionists now affect to deplore the paucity of German and Irish immigrants, and hope to stimulate their coming by excluding as many as possible of other immigrants. The real situation is that there always have been persons hostile to immigration. As times change, these shift their arguments, but do not change their position.

Anti-immigration legislation is once again likely to be advocated. Already a bill has been introduced by Senator Dillingham, which contains, among other drastic provisions, one that establishes a reading and writing test.

It is pleasing to note that two advocates of restrictionist legislation, namely, Mr. John L. Burnett, of Alabama, the Chairman of the House Committee on Immigration, and Mr. Everis A. Hayes, of California, another member of that Committee, have put themselves on record as favoring the exemption from proposed restrictive measures of all victims of religious and political persecution. In view of the conditions, it is requisite that all those who favor the maintenance of this country's traditions exert their influence at the proper time to oppose drastic changes in our immigration laws.

THE PASSPORT QUESTION

For more than a generation after the Treaty of 1832 with Russia was made, no question arose as to its interpretation. Then came the change in Russia's policy towards her Jewish subjects. For semi-tolerance was substituted persecution soon to be followed by massacre. Almost coincident with Russia's change in her policy toward her Jewish subjects arose the refusal to visé the passports of American Jews. The members of this Committee are familiar with the efforts made by all our Secretaries of State to induce Russia to comply with the terms of the Treaty of 1832. You are equally familiar with the ineffectiveness of these efforts. To earnest and persistent remonstrance, Russia always replied by mere diplomatic evasions and postponements, which amount to a practical denial of redress or even of respectful consideration of the question. The plain fact is, therefore, that the situation remains just what it was forty-five years ago.
Your Executive Committee gave to this subject its most earnest consideration almost from its first meetings. Assured that no results were to be obtained from further recourse to the ordinary channels of diplomacy, it soon came to the conclusion that some other and more drastic method would have to be devised to make the Russian Government appreciate that the protests of the United States were not mere formalities. After much deliberation, it was determined to recommend to the President the abrogation of the treaties with Russia. This was a course permitted by the terms of the treaties, and was resolved upon as the most likely method of impressing upon the Russian Government that the United States is in earnest, and will no longer tolerate the continued violation of the Treaty of 1832.

Accordingly, a letter was despatched to President Roosevelt on May 18, 1908, which began the attempt on the part of your Committee to induce the Government to do something effective to terminate the controversy. The correspondence with Presidents Roosevelt and Taft and Secretaries Root and Knox was published in the last issue of The American Jewish Year Book. In addition, conferences were had with President Roosevelt and with President Taft, notably on February 15, 1911. On this last occasion, by invitation of the President, representatives of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Independent Order B’nai B’rith, and the American Jewish Committee had an extended conference with him.

As all our endeavors proved futile, we reluctantly reached the conclusion that the present administration was not willing to adopt any other measure than diplomatic representation, which promised no better results in the future than had been attained by it in the past. We, therefore, felt ourselves compelled to appeal to the people of the United States. This course was not lightly undertaken, and was determined upon after most serious deliberation. Our first public appeal was made in cooperation with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. The address delivered by Mr. Marshall at its Twenty-Second Council marked the opening of the campaign. It presented our position clearly and unmistakably, and in order that the people of the United States might be informed upon the question, nearly 35,000 copies were printed and sent to the press and the pulpit and to individuals of prominence and influence in all walks of life. This was followed by a similar distribution of a speech made in Congress by Mr. Herbert Parsons. Wide distribution also was given to an address on “The United States Passport and Russia,” by Judge Rufus B. Smith, President of the Cincinnati Bar Association, and to articles which appeared in the New York Times, the Outlook, the New York Evening Post, and the New York Evening Mail. In the last-mentioned newspaper the subject was
treated in a series of daily articles extending over a period of more than a month.

You will recall that immediately upon the convening of Congress in special session, Mr. William Sulzer, a representative from New York and Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, introduced a resolution providing for the termination of the Treaty with Russia. (See American Jewish Year Book 5671, p. 57.)

Similar resolutions were introduced in the House by Representatives William E. Calder, Francis Burton Harrison, and Henry M. Goldfogle, of New York; Alfred G. Allen, of Ohio; and Joseph W. Byrns, of Tennessee. In the Senate also the matter was the subject of a resolution introduced by Senator Culberson, of Texas, who had introduced the same resolution at the preceding session.

By reason of the fact that the extra session of Congress was called to consider a specific measure, no action on these resolutions could be had. But there is every reason to expect that Mr. Sulzer, who is Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the other representatives who have introduced resolutions, together with Senator Culberson, will energetically advocate the resolutions to abrogate the treaty at the session about to convene. We have also received assurances that ample opportunity will be given to us to appear before both the House and Senate Committees in advocacy of these resolutions when they receive consideration.

That the people of the United States are beginning to awaken to the importance of the question is evidenced by the passage in the Legislatures of fifteen States of resolutions on the subject. Ten State Legislatures, namely, of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Montana, Nevada, New York, and Washington, have gone on record as unqualifiedly in favor of the termination of the Treaty of 1832. Many great newspapers and numerous organizations of the country have stoutly advocated and defended this course.

At a clerical conference held under the auspices of the New York Federation of Churches, October 30, 1911, the following resolution was passed:

WHEREAS, It is and always has been the fundamental principle of this Government that the rights of its citizens shall not be impaired at home or abroad on account of religious belief; and

WHEREAS, Under the treaty between the United States and Russia negotiated in 1832, Russia claims the right to and does discriminate between American citizens on the ground of religious belief, and, as a consequence, several classes of American citizens, notably ministers of various denominations, and especially Jews are excluded from Russia, and American citizens of the Jewish faith are subject to the same class restrictions as the Government imposes upon its own inhabitants of the Jewish faith, all of which is contrary to the plain wording and meaning of such treaty;

Therefore, this assembly urgently requests the President to terminate said treaty at the earliest possible time, so that Russia may know that a
discrimination against any part of our people on religious grounds is contrary to the fundamental principles of our Government, and that we cannot admit such a discrimination without being false to American citizenship, which covers the Jew as sacredly as it does the Christian.

A National Citizens' Committee with headquarters at New York has been formed under the presidency of Andrew D. White, formerly Minister to Russia, with William G. McAdoo as Chairman of the Executive Committee, and Henry Green as Managing Director, and having a membership composed of distinguished men throughout the country, to protest against Russia's violation of the treaty and to endeavor to terminate the intolerable conditions arising therefrom.

But your Committee feels that much more publicity is required, and to further this end, we are making a wide distribution of a reprint of the article in the *Year Book*, and of other special articles on the subject.

The Jews of the United States are warranted in assuming that the only likelihood of a redress of their grievances is through an appeal to the intelligence, the patriotism, and the sense of justice of the American people. It behooves every member of the American Jewish Committee to use his best endeavors to bring about the passage of the resolutions now pending in the House and Senate. In every Congressional District representations should be made to the representative in Congress before he leaves his home; in every State, the Senators should be waited on. Such conferences of the people's representatives with their constituents must be productive of much good. They give opportunities to explain matters which in the hurry of business at Washington might be overlooked, and, in any event, personal conferences leave a more vivid impression than mere writings, which are liable to be buried in the mass of mail matter received by our Congressmen.

The helpful cooperation with other organizations in the past convinces us that the activity of others, in any manner they may deem best, will promote the end we have in view. All bodies and persons who feel an interest in the subject should be energetically engaged in making their sentiments known to their Senators and Representatives.

If the policy of the public presentation of this grievance be steadfastly carried out, there is every reason to hope that the wrong which we have so long suffered may be righted.

*Note.*—The success attending the movement to terminate the treaty with Russia is briefly recorded on pp. 196-210.

**JEWISH COMMUNITY OF NEW YORK CITY**

The Jewish Community of New York City, the Executive Committee of which forms the membership of the American Jewish Committee from District XII, submits the following report:
To the Executive Committee of the American Jewish Committee:

GENTLEMEN.—On the occasion of your Fourth Annual Meeting held on November 12 of last year, we had the honor of presenting to you a brief summary of some of the activities of our organization. Since then the Second Annual Convention of the Jewish Community [Kehillah] of New York City was held on February 26, and our Executive Committee then reported at length regarding the work of our body to the delegates of our constituent organizations assembled. Copies of the reports presented at this Convention were sent to all the members of the American Jewish Committee. Following this Convention, most of the activities reported on were continued by our organization, and some of the plans then presented were brought nearer to realization. We beg herewith to supplement in brief the reports which we sent to the members through the mails.

Religious Organization.—The Vaad Horabbonim, or Board of Rabbis, is now made up of twenty-five of the leading authoritative Rabbis of New York City. A comprehensive plan for the proper regulation of Kashruth and the elimination of the abuses which now beset us is being worked out.

As one of the preliminary steps in the direction of the proper regulation of Kashruth, we have made an investigation of all the Jewish butchers of New York City, and it is expected that most of these will join the various Boards of Kashruth to be formed in different districts of the city, which are to be under the supervision of our Vaad Horabbonim.

The Board of Rabbis appoints for every month a different Vaad Habrorarim, or Committee on Conciliation. Before these committees, many matters of dispute in Jewish Societies and Congregations, which otherwise would have been brought into court, are taken up for consideration and often satisfactorily settled.

We have continued to combat the evil of mushroom synagogues and the holding of religious services in unseemly places. During the last high holidays provisional synagogues under the auspices of the Kehillah were conducted. We also distributed among needy persons tickets for seats, which we purchased from regularly constituted synagogues. We also made a successful beginning in holding religious services for the children of the crowded districts of the city, and seven synagogues for children were conducted during the high holidays in the auditoriums and meeting-rooms of different Jewish institutions of the city.

We have also dealt with the question of Sabbath observance, but so far have only succeeded in arousing some interest in behalf of those Jews who observe the Jewish Sabbath and who wish to work or open their places of business on Sunday.

Education.—In our last report to the American Jewish Committee, we outlined, in brief, the purposes of the Bureau of Jewish Education of the Kehillah, which was then organized. This year's work in the Bureau of Education has been a record year. The success that the Bureau has met with has, of course, partly been due to the fact that there has been for years a crying need for such work. It will be impossible to give more than a mere outline of what the Bureau has been trying to do during the previous year.

The Bureau made a careful study of the most important Jewish religious schools of New York, both from their financial and their educational aspects. The financial report has been issued under the title, "A Survey of the Financial Status of the Jewish Religious Schools of New York," and the results of the educational study will appear in a publication which is now
in press, under the name "A Brief Report of the Thirty-One Conferences Held by the Talmud Torah Principals' Association of New York in Conjunction with the Bureau of Education." These publications are to be sent to the members of the American Jewish Committee.

But the Bureau did not stop at mere study of the situation. It took immediate steps looking to the systematization and standardization of Jewish religious education in New York. The first step we took in that direction was to obtain a Text Book Fund in order to produce a uniform series of text books and literature for the various schools. A loan of ten thousand dollars ($10,000), known as the Text Book Fund, was obtained. But by means of text books alone the standardization could not be brought about. The various schools must have a sound financial basis and a good staff of teachers and the proper school organization to produce the desired results. The Bureau, therefore, has been making efforts to obtain a large Jewish Education Fund, calculated to bring in, from subscriptions, about three hundred thousand dollars ($300,000) per annum by the end of ten years. In order to start the work on a large scale at once, the sum of fifty thousand dollars ($50,000) per annum was needed. This sum is now practically assured.

In addition to the attempt to standardize whatever existing schools are ripe for standardization, and to help establish new schools particularly in sections where there are none, the Bureau has established a Board of License consisting of five examiners, representing the various educational institutions of New York cooperating with the Bureau, for the purpose of issuing temporary teachers' certificates or permanent licenses to those teachers qualified for the work. The work of this License Board gives promise of a better future for Jewish education in New York City.

In connection with our educational work, we have considered further the matter of giving public lectures, and have corresponded with Jewish students of the colleges and universities of this city, and have helped in the establishment of special educational classes for the Turkish Jews, who form quite a colony on the lower East Side, and who, not knowing either Yiddish or English, could not avail themselves of existing agencies for Americanization.

Social and Philanthropic Work.—The Kehillah took action with regard to the catastrophe of the Washington Place fire, in which many Jewish lives were lost. We have considered further the matter of the social evil, and have taken steps to cooperate with all existing agencies to combat this evil. We have been instrumental in having a number of indigent Jewish children transferred from non-Jewish to Jewish institutions. The matter of the treatment of Jews in non-Jewish hospitals having been called to our attention, we have made an investigation of the complaints, and have also looked into the question of securing better chaplain attendance and services for Jews in city and State institutions. The problem of delinquent Jewish girls formed the subject of some correspondence with the Jewish Protectory and with other Jewish bodies.

Our Employment Bureau for Handicapped Jews has continued to carry on its good work in cooperation with the United Hebrew Charities and the Jewish Protectory and Prisoners' Aid Society. We have cooperated with the Committee which is endeavoring to extend the work for Jewish deaf mutes.

At the suggestion of your Committee, we have taken steps to encourage naturalization on the part of our immigrant brethren. A tentative plan has
already been formulated, but in this, as well as in the carrying out of some of our other plans, we are hampered by lack of funds.

To attract greater attention to the work of the different Jewish organizations and philanthropic institutions of this city, and to fill the want for a comprehensive and classified list of all the congregations, societies, and lodges, and the various social agencies of our population, we are now engaged in preparing a Jewish Communal Directory, which will be issued the first of next year.

This is, in brief, a summary of the leading activities that have engaged our attention since our Convention in February last. We have, in addition, been called upon to take part in various activities concerning the Jewish population, and have rendered assistance in arranging numerous difficulties which have arisen. We are a sort of clearing house, directing many Jews to Jewish institutions of whose existence they do not know.

I have the honor to remain,

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) J. L. Magnes,
Chairman, Executive Committee.

JEWISH COMMUNITY OF PHILADELPHIA

The Jewish Community of Philadelphia was established on June 10, 1911, and held its first Convention on November 5, 1911. By its Constitution, as in the case of the New York Jewish Community, provision is made for its affiliation with the American Jewish Committee. That provision is as follows:

ARTICLE VIII. RELATION TO THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

1. The representatives of the American Jewish Committee from the city of Philadelphia shall be elected by the Executive Council of the Community from among the delegates, in such numbers, and at such times as shall be provided by the By-Laws of the American Jewish Committee.

2. The American Jewish Committee shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all questions affecting the Jews generally, not of purely local character.

3. The Jewish Community of Philadelphia shall have jurisdiction over all questions of a local character, or which shall specifically affect the Philadelphia Community.

4. Any person, who shall have been elected a member of the American Jewish Committee, shall continue to complete his term of office in that Committee, notwithstanding the fact that he may not have been reelected a delegate.

It is submitted to you for such action as may be deemed requisite.

AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK

Since 1909, the American Jewish Committee has cooperated with the Jewish Publication Society of America in the preparation of the American Jewish Year Book. The manuscript for the volume has been prepared in the office of the Committee, and the Committee has paid the cost of publication in excess of $1500. In view of the fact that the growth of the Publication Society increased the cost of the Year Book and, consequently, the annual subvention of
the Committee, a new arrangement has this year been entered into with the Publication Society. Under its terms, the Committee agrees to pay $1000 annually toward the cost of publication, in consideration of which 500 copies of each issue are placed at its disposal. The Publication Society is to continue to publish the work as heretofore.

In the current issue, as you are by this time aware, the leading article deals with the Passport Question. It is a résumé of the early history of the controversy and contains a full account of the correspondence of this Committee with the Presidents and Secretaries of State, most of it now made public for the first time.

With each edition of the Year Book such changes are made in its contents and arrangement as experience proves advisable. This year, two of the lists, those of American Jewish Bibliography and of Articles of Jewish Interest, have been omitted, as it has been found impracticable to make them even approximately complete, and their inclusion would have extended the Year Book to undue length. With only these omissions, the usual lists and tables have been continued which are of value to all those interested in the communal and religious life of our people. The Year Book is especially valuable to this Committee, as it contains in permanent form the annual reports of the Committee.

PRESS REPORTS OF RUSSIAN AFFAIRS

On numerous occasions during recent years, attention has been drawn to the inadequacy of the news respecting Russian affairs in the columns of the daily papers. Important occurrences especially affecting the Jews of Russia have often been ignored, or, if reported at all, have omitted salient facts. On the other hand, the Russian Government has had little difficulty in having its own version of events reported and given wide publicity. Those who read the Jewish papers published in Europe, notably the London Jewish Chronicle, have been aware for a long period that no adequate accounts of the fiendish persecutions to which our coreligionists in Russia are subjected ever reach the columns of the American papers.

We have endeavored from time to time to effect a change in this condition of affairs, and it is believed that as a result of these efforts some improvement in the Russian service may be anticipated. The members of this Committee are in position to assist in bringing about the desired results, if they will, whenever the opportunity arises, confer with the editors of the newspapers in their cities, and request that a more adequate treatment be accorded a subject in which the Jews of this country are so vitally interested.

At the present time steps are being taken to secure news from Russian newspapers covering a certain period of time for compari-
son with the despatches appearing in the American press, in order that the shortcomings of the latter's Russian service may be further demonstrated.

INCORPORATION

It was considered advisable by your Executive Committee to incorporate the American Jewish Committee, and steps were taken to secure a charter from the Legislature of the State of New York. The act of incorporation of 1911 is published in the current issue of the American Jewish Year Book.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee held on March 19, 1911, in accordance with Section 3 of the Charter, the members of the Executive Committee were divided by lot into three classes as follows:

I. To serve until January 1, 1912.
   Mayer Sulzberger.
   Isaac W. Bernheim.
   Samuel Dorf.
   Julius Rosenwald.
   Cyrus L. Sulzberger.

II. To serve until January 1, 1913.
   Julian W. Mack.
   Cyrus Adler.
   J. L. Magnes.
   Jacob H. Schiff.
   A. Leo Weil.

III. To serve until January 1, 1914.
   Jacob H. Hollander.
   Harry Cutler.
   Isador Sobel.

The incorporation of the Committee necessitated certain amendments to the By-Laws, which will be presented. The Executive Committee recommends in addition a further amendment whereby the process of enlarging the constituency of this Committee, which has been steadily increasing since its inception, will be still further developed. It is recommended that the following be incorporated in the By-Laws:

The Executive Committee is authorized to invite the National Jewish Fraternal Congress, representing thirteen Jewish Fraternal Orders, to elect three of its members to be members at large in the American Jewish Committee, and the following organizations, to elect one representative each to be members at large in the American Jewish Committee: The Independent Order B'nai B'rith, the Board of Delegates of the Union of Ameri-
can Hebrew Congregations, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Union of Orthodox Congregations, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Union of Orthodox Rabbis, the National Conference of Jewish Charities, and the Federation of American Zionists.

In order to provide for the new members at large to be elected, the Executive Committee recommends that the By-Laws be amended to provide for twenty members at large instead of ten.

FINANCES

The contributions for the support of the Committee during the past year, while considerably below the quotas assigned to the several districts, have nevertheless enabled the Committee to carry on its work, by the practice of rigid economy.

The quotas assigned are as follows:

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Total, $10,500.

Owing to the confidential character of the work of the Committee, especially with respect to the Passport Question, it has not hitherto been possible to acquaint the public fully with the nature of the work we have engaged in. Accordingly, it was not thought advisable to make an appeal for contributions to any large number of persons. But the change of policy determined on with respect to the Passport Question, removing it from the realm of diplomatic correspondence to that of public discussion, has enabled your Committee to make an experiment in appealing to Jews all over the United States for support. Our first attempt was made by circularizing the members of the Jewish Publication Society of America, asking them to become annual contributors at one dollar each. The results have been fairly satisfactory, as, out of a membership of the Publication Society of between 7000 and 7500, 1007 persons responded by contributing $1340.40. We have thus established a large contributing annual membership throughout the country. A number of persons have generously contributed considerable sums in excess of the amount asked for. In view of the results attained, it may be well to consider the advisability of extending our efforts to persons other than the members of the Publication Society, to aid in procuring the amount requisite to carry on the work of the Committee during the ensuing year.
RUSSIA

The cruel treatment accorded our brethren in Russia by the Government shows no diminution in its intensity. Though the spirit of liberalism, upon which such high hopes were based, can never be entirely crushed out, it has made little effective progress in past years. Under Stolypin the triumph of the methods of reaction and repression was complete.

As a consequence, the course of events affecting our coreligionists in Russia is a weary and heartrending chronicle of the breaking up of homes by expulsion from towns in which they have lived often for decades, of their deprivation of the means of livelihood, of the imposition of galling restrictions upon all means of education, and of ceaseless interference with the conduct of their own communal affairs. Students, professional men, artisans, merchants, all were made to feel the heavy hand of Stolypin. Reactionary Governors and administrative officials have seized upon the slightest pretexts for depriving the Jews of the few rights left to them.

The fiendish "Black Hundreds" carry on campaigns of terrorism and annihilation throughout the provinces, unrestrained by any governmental agencies or any regard for law or decency of conduct.

All over the Empire, from the Baltic to the Caucasus, in Siberia and in Central Asia, cruel and relentless officials are expelling Jews who settled outside the Pale during the years when the laws were not so strictly enforced. These unfortunates, leaving behind them the little property they had been able to amass, have no other recourse than to flock to the congested towns in the Pale, where the pressure has already reached a point beyond human power to bear.

Some understanding of the magnitude and intensity of the relentless persecution may be gathered by a perusal of the pages of the YEAR BOOK devoted to Russian affairs. The barest recital of events fills more than thirty pages, every one of which contains item after item of expulsion, of persecution, of restriction, and of repression. This melancholy record can be read only with feelings of horror and dismay at the ultimate effect of such inhuman and incessant hounding upon a helpless population.

A ray of hopeful light was momentarily cast upon this dark picture when, in February last, 166 members of the Duma joined in the introduction of a bill abolishing the Pale. But these liberal-minded men were only a handful, and could not prevail against Stolypin, whose mandate controlled the subservient majority. No result has therefore been attained, and the only apparent effects have been an increase in the passionate outbursts of anti-Jewish invective and a strengthening of the forces of persecution.

JEWS OF TRIPOLI

In March, 1911, reports appeared in the American press to the effect that the Jews of Tripoli were suffering from famine and cholera, and were urgently in need of assistance. A request sent
to the Alliance Israélite Universelle for information as to this report brought forth the reply that the matter was receiving attention, and the necessary funds were being provided by the Alliance and other organizations of Europe.

JEWS OF GALICIA

In February, 1911, your Committee received an invitation from the Jewish Colonization Association (ICA), to send a delegate to a convention of representatives of Jewish organizations. At a preliminary meeting which had been held at Vienna on October 31, 1910, the ICA had determined to endeavor to organize an association for the amelioration of the spiritual and economic condition of the Galician Jews, whose situation during recent years has become more than ever distressful.

At its meeting on February 19, your Committee determined that by reason of the great distance which separates us from the seat of the work, and the large and important problems constantly pressing upon the Jews of the United States, it was not feasible for us to be represented by a delegate in the new organization, and this determination was communicated to the ICA.

WASHINGTON OFFICE

The Washington office has been continued, and has, as heretofore, proved of great usefulness in keeping your Committee informed of affairs in Washington.

INFORMATION AND STATISTICS

Besides the preparation of the manuscript for the AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, the routine work of the office of the Committee has, as heretofore, consisted in the gathering, indexing, and filing of articles and a few books of interest to Jews. During the year, 2479 articles were indexed, for which 3552 cards were written. This brings the total of articles on file up to 10,627, and of index cards to 15,194.

This collection has again demonstrated its usefulness during the discussion of the passport and immigration questions.

DEATH OF SAMUEL WOOLNER

Your Committee reports with sorrow the death on January 14, 1911, of Samuel Woolner, a member from District VII. Mr. Woolner was a member of the Committee from the date of its organization and cooperated with zeal in furthering its work upon all occasions when called upon to render service. Appropriate messages of condolence were sent to his family at the time of his death.
VACANCIES

The terms of the following members expire this year:
District I, Ceasar Cone, Greensboro.
District III, Isaac H. Kempner, Galveston.
District IV, David S. Lehman, Denver.
District V, Max C. Sloss, San Francisco.
District VII, Samuel Woolner, Peoria (deceased).
District VIII, J. Walter Freiberg, Cincinnati.
District IX, Isador Sobel, Erie.
District XI, Isaac M. Ullman, New Haven, and Harry Cutler, Providence.
District XIII, Simon W. Rosendale, Albany.
Members at Large (elected for one year only): Nathan Bijur and Isidor Straus, New York.

MEETINGS

Meetings of your Committee have been held on February 19, March 19, April 23, and November 11, 1911.

Respectfully submitted,
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

ACTION ON THE REPORT, ETC.

Upon motion, it was resolved that the report of the Executive Committee be received, and that its recommendations be considered seriatim.

Upon motion of Mr. Marshall, it was resolved that the Charter of the American Jewish Committee, embodied in Chapter 16 of the laws of 1911, of the State of New York, be and the same is hereby accepted by the American Jewish Committee, and that the action of the Executive Committee, which had accepted the Charter, be ratified and confirmed.

Upon motion of Mr. Marshall, it was resolved that the changes in the By-Laws of the American Jewish Committee made necessary by the adoption of the Charter, which have been proposed by the Executive Committee, be and the same are hereby ratified and adopted by the American Jewish Committee.

Upon motion, it was resolved that Article VIII of the Constitution of the Jewish Community of Philadelphia, setting forth the relation between that organization and the American Jewish Committee, be ratified by the American Jewish Committee. It was further resolved that the State of Pennsylvania, now constituting District IX of the American Jewish Committee, be divided into two districts, namely, District IX, to include the City of Philadelphia, to be entitled to six members in the American Jewish Committee; and District XIV, to include the State of Pennsyl-
vania, outside of the City of Philadelphia, and the State of New Jersey, and to be entitled to two members in the American Jewish Committee.

It was further resolved that the amendments to the By-Laws, proposed by the Executive Committee, providing for representation on the Committee of delegates from national Jewish organizations, as members at large, and increasing the number of members at large from ten to twenty, be adopted.

Discussion on the Passport Question followed. Judge Sulzberger stated that a delegation of Jewish citizens of Philadelphia had called upon Senator Boies Penrose, of Pennsylvania, and had made representations to him on the subject, and had secured his promise of hearty cooperation. Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, had also been approached in a similar manner. Mr. Marshall announced that a delegation of New York citizens would call on Senators Root and O'Gorman on November 17, 1911. Ways and means were determined upon to further the plans of bringing about the termination of the Russian Treaty.

The Committee on Nominations made the following report:

OFFICERS

President ........................................... Mayer Sulzberger
Vice-Presidents ...................................... Julian W. Mack
                                                Jacob H. Hollander
Treasurer ........................................... Isaac W. Bernheim

For members of the Executive Committee for three years from January 1, 1912:

Isaac W. Bernheim  Julius Rosenwald
Samuel Dorf  Cyrus L. Sulzberger
Mayer Sulzberger

To fill vacancies and expired terms:
District I, Caesar Cone, Greensboro.
District III, Isaac H. Kempner, Galveston.
District IV, David S. Lehman, Denver.
District V, Max C. Sloss, San Francisco.
District VII, W. B. Woolner, Peoria.
District VIII, J. Walter Freiberg, Cincinnati.
District IX, Isador Sobel, Erie.
District XI, Isaac M. Ullman, New Haven, and Harry Cutler, Providence.
District XIII, Simon W. Rosendale, Albany.

Upon nomination of the Executive Committee, Messrs. Nathan Bijur and Isidor Straus were elected members at large for one year.

There being no other nominations, upon motion the Secretary was requested to cast one ballot for the nominees of the Committee on Nominations.
Upon motion of Mr. Weil, it was resolved that the Executive Committee redistrict the American Jewish Committee so as to give each State of the United States at least one representative, that no State of the Union shall be unrepresented, and that the total number of additional members shall not exceed fifty.

Upon motion of Mr. Weil, it was resolved that the Executive Committee be instructed to prepare a list of prominent Jews throughout the country, and that they apportion the men on the list into respective groups, and invite the several groups to contribute varying amounts annually to the American Jewish Committee.

Dr. Neumann moved as an amendment to this motion that there shall be one class, the members of which shall contribute one dollar annually.

The motion and amendment were carried.

Dr. Magnes pointed out the advantage of a better knowledge on the part of European Jews of the affairs of American Jewry, and suggested that the American Jewish Committee take under advisement the subventioning of a publication in the Hebrew language, in which full information of Jewish activities in this country may be given.

After discussion, it was resolved that this matter be referred to the Executive Committee for consideration.

Upon motion, adjourned.

**ACT OF INCORPORATION**

**LAWS OF NEW YORK.—By Authority**

Chapter 16

**AN ACT to incorporate the American Jewish Committee**

Became a law March 16, 1911, with the approval of the Governor. Passed, three-fifths being present.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Mayer Sulzberger, Julian W. Mack, Jacob H. Hollander, Julius Rosenwald, Cyrus Adler, Harry Cutler, Samuel Dorf, Judah L. Magnes, Jacob H. Schiff, Isador Sobel, Cyrus L. Sulzberger, A. Leo Weil, and Louis Marshall, and their associates and successors, are hereby constituted a body corporate, in perpetuity, under the name of the American Jewish Committee; and by that name shall possess all of the powers which by the general corporation law are conferred upon corporations, and shall be capable of taking, holding and acquiring, by deed, gift, purchase, bequest, devise, or by judicial order or decree, any estate, real or personal, in trust or otherwise, which shall be necessary
or useful for the uses and purposes of the corporation, to the
amount of three millions of dollars.

Sec. 2. The objects of this corporation shall be, to prevent the
infraction of the civil and religious rights of Jews, in any part
of the world; to render all lawful assistance and to take appro-
priate remedial action in the event of threatened or actual in-
vasion or restriction of such rights, or of unfavorable discrim-
ination with respect thereto; to secure for Jews equality of
economic, social and educational opportunity; to alleviate the
consequences of persecution and to afford relief from calamities
affecting Jews, wherever they may occur; and to compass these
ends to administer any relief fund which shall come into its
possession or which may be received by it, in trust or otherwise,
for any of the aforesaid objects or for purposes comprehended
therein.

Sec. 3. The business and affairs of said corporation shall be
conducted by a board of not less than thirteen or more than
twenty-one, to be known as the executive committee, and the
persons named in the first section of this act as incorporators,
shall constitute the first executive committee of said corporation.
At the first meeting of said executive committee held after the
passage of this act, the members thereof shall be divided into
three classes, the first of which shall hold office until January
first, nineteen hundred and twelve, the second for one year there-
after, and the third for two years thereafter, and such members
of said executive committee as may be thereafter added to said
committee shall in like manner be apportioned to said three
classes. At the expiration of the term of any member of the
executive committee his successor shall be elected for the term
of three years. All vacancies which may occur in said committee
shall be filled until the ensuing election by said committee. An
annual election for the members of said executive committee shall
be held at such time and in such manner as shall be fixed by the
by-laws to be adopted by said executive committee. At all meet-
ings of the executive committee one-third of said committee shall
constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but no by-
law shall be adopted, amended or repealed without the presence
of a majority of the members of said committee for the time be-
ing; provided, however, that the by-laws with respect to mem-
bership in the corporation shall not be altered, revised or amended
except as provided in section four of this act.

Sec. 4. The members of said corporation shall consist of the
persons who shall be designated and chosen for membership by
such method or methods and by such organizations, societies and
nominating bodies as shall be provided in by-laws to be adopted
for that purpose by the executive committee, such by-laws being
however, subject to alteration, revision or amendment at any
regular meeting of the members of the corporation or at a meeting
called for such purpose; provided that thirty days notice be given of the proposed change and that such alteration, revision or amendment shall be carried by a majority of at least twenty votes; and not otherwise.

Sec. 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

BY-LAWS
Revised November 11, 1911

I. DISTRICT REPRESENTATION

The members of the Corporation, who for purposes of convenience shall be known as the General Committee, shall be chosen in the manner hereinafter provided from the several districts hereinafter enumerated and described as follows:

I. North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida. 2 members.
II. Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi. 2 members.
III. Louisiana, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico. 2 members.
IV. Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, Colorado. 3 members.
V. California, Washington, Oregon, Utah, Idaho, Nevada. 3 members.
VI. Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Michigan. 4 members.
VII. Illinois. 7 members.
VIII. Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia. 5 members.
IX. City of Philadelphia, New Jersey. 6 members.
X. Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, District of Columbia. 3 members.
XI. Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island. 3 members.
XII. New York City. 25 members.
XIII. New York, exclusive of the city. 2 members.
XIV. Pennsylvania, exclusive of Philadelphia. 3 members.

II. MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE.

The General Committee, excepting members at large, shall be divided into five groups by lot, which groups shall hold office for one, two, three, four, and five years respectively, their successors to serve five years.

In District XII, the members of the Executive Committee of the Jewish Community of New York City, not more than 25 in number, shall constitute the members of the Committee from that District. In District IX, the members of the Committee, not more than six in number, shall be elected by the Executive Council of the Jewish Community of Philadelphia.

Members whose terms expire shall be succeeded by residents of the same district, and shall be elected by the Advisory Councils of the respective districts, or by such method as may hereafter be adopted by the Committee.
Elections by the Advisory Councils shall be held on or before October 1 of each year, and the Secretary of the Committee shall be notified of the results on or before October 15 of each year.

At the annual meeting, upon nomination by the Executive Committee, members at large, not exceeding twenty in number, may be elected, who shall serve for one year, provided that not more than five shall be elected from any one district.

The Executive Committee is authorized to invite the National Jewish Fraternal Congress, representing thirteen Jewish fraternal orders, to elect three of its members to be members at large in the American Jewish Committee, and the following organizations to elect one representative each to be members at large in the American Jewish Committee: The Independent Order B'nai B'rith, the Board of Delegates of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Union of Orthodox Congregations, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Union of Orthodox Rabbis, the National Conference of Jewish Charities, and the Federation of American Zionists.

III. OFFICERS

The officers of the General Committee shall be a President, two Vice-Presidents and a Treasurer, selected from among the members, and a Secretary who need not be a member of the General Committee, and who shall be elected by the Executive Committee, unless otherwise ordered. The officers shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected.

IV. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The General Committee shall elect not less than nine nor more than seventeen members who together with the four officers, to wit, the President, Vice-Presidents and Treasurer, shall constitute the Executive Committee, one-third of the membership of which shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

The Executive Committee shall, whenever it shall deem it advisable, report its proceedings or such part thereof as it shall determine to the members of the General Committee by mail, and shall render a complete report of all matters considered and acted upon, at the annual meeting of the committee. Special Committees may be designated by the Executive Committee from the body of the General Committee, which Special Committees shall report to the Executive Committee from time to time.

V. MEETINGS

A stated meeting of the General Committee shall be held annually on the second Sunday in November at the City of New York, unless the Executive Committee in their discretion determine otherwise. Special meetings shall be called upon the written request of twenty-five members of the General Committee or may be called by the
Executive Committee of its own motion. Twenty-one members shall constitute a quorum of the General Committee.

Regular meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at least once every three months. Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be held at the instance of the chairman or at the request of three members of that committee.

Notice of special meetings of the General Committee or of the Executive Committee shall be given by mail or telegraph to the members, stating as nearly as possible, within the discretion of the Executive Committee, the purpose for which the meeting is called.

VI. VACANCIES

Vacancies caused by death, disability or resignation, shall be filled by the Advisory Council or other elective body of the district in which the vacancy occurs.

Upon the occurrence of a vacancy the Secretary shall notify the secretary of the district in which the vacancy exists, and an election shall be held by the Advisory Council or other elective body of such district, within one month from the time of receiving such notification, and the Secretary shall be promptly notified of the result.

In default of action by the Advisory Councils, or other elective bodies, vacancies in the General Committee may be filled at the annual meeting.

VII. OFFICES AND AGENCIES

The principal office of the General Committee shall be established in the City of New York, and other offices and agencies may be established outside of New York as the General Committee or the Executive Committee may from time to time deem necessary.

AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws, except as limited by the Charter, shall be subject to alteration, revision or amendment at any regular meeting of the General Committee or at a meeting thereof called for such purpose, provided that thirty days notice be given of the proposed change, and that the motion for amendment be carried by a majority of at least 20 votes.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

I. GENERAL POWERS

1. There shall be organized in each district, in the manner hereinafter provided, an Advisory Council for the following purposes:

2. To take such action as shall from time to time be expressly delegated to it by the General or Executive Committees.

3. To report promptly to the General or Executive Committees with respect to any subject that shall be referred to it for information or investigation.
4. To consider such matters of Jewish interest as shall be brought to its attention through any agency, and to make such recommendations thereon to the General or Executive Committees as shall be deemed advisable, but in no case to initiate, authorize or take any action except as specially thereunto delegated as hereinbefore provided.

II. MEMBERSHIP

1. On or before October 1, 1907, the members of the General Committee from each district shall nominate to the Executive Committee ten Jewish residents of such district for every member of the General Committee allotted to said district, and upon confirmation of such nominations by the Executive Committee, the persons so approved, together with the members of the General Committee from said district, shall constitute the Advisory Council thereof. Should the Executive Committee reject any nominee, new nominations shall be submitted for approval until the membership of the Advisory Council shall be complete. The General Committee or the Executive Committee may, by resolution adopted at any meeting, authorize an increase of the membership of the Advisory Council of any district, in which case the additional members shall be chosen in the manner hereinbefore provided, or their election or appointment by such Advisory Council may be authorized.

2. Upon receiving notice of their selection members of the Advisory Council of each district shall organize in the manner designated by the members of the General Committee of each district. Each Council shall elect a chairman and such other officers as shall be deemed necessary. The members of said Council other than those who are members of the General Committee shall be allotted by the Secretary into five groups, who shall hold office for one, two, three, four and five years respectively, and thereafter elections shall be held annually by the members of the Council to choose successors to those whose terms shall have expired, for a term of five years. Meetings of each Council shall be held from time to time as it shall by rule provide.

3. All vacancies occurring in the membership of the Advisory Council subsequent to the formation of the original Advisory Council of each district, shall be filled by election by the Advisory Council of each district.

III. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF GENERAL COMMITTEE

Vacancies in the General Committee shall be filled by the Advisory Councils of the respective districts.

IV. EXPENSES

The expenses of administration of each Advisory Council shall be borne by its district.