

PART TWO: FOREIGN COUNTRIES

I. BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

By THEODOR H. GASTER*

1. Great Britain

THE chronicle of English Jewry during the past year is a record of effort rather than achievement, of activity rather than accomplishment. Disruption and disintegration, consequent upon the air raids of 1940, were all too apparent. Everywhere it was the same story: small groups of the Old Guard trying, almost pathetically, to maintain the whilom structure and services of the community while the broad masses, especially the younger element, were too busy with wartime activities or too much preoccupied by the changed circumstances of their lives to give time or thought to such endeavors. Every now and again a lone scholarly voice would cry in the wilderness for the maintenance of cultural interests, or issue Cassandra-like warnings of impending dissolution; but such spurts of enthusiasm as ensued would usually degenerate into a round of committees and contentions, quorums and quarrels, or exhaust themselves in oratorical but inconclusive conferences.

Nevertheless, if the record is, on the whole, uneventful, it is not without evidence of interesting and significant trends. Foremost among these is the growing movement toward centralization, alike on the religious as on the educational front. The time-honored project of a single United Synagogue for the whole of Great Britain came a step nearer to realization when proposals looking in this direction were approved by the two leading provincial communities, Manchester and Glasgow; while in the field of education a notable advance was the development of plans for a coordinated system throughout the country. On the other hand,

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such movements toward cohesion were counterbalanced by factional rivalry and internecine strife. The Board of Deputies and the Trades Advisory Council kept up a year-long feud over an allegedly unauthorized and impolitic statement issued by the latter; the Chief Rabbi's special council continued to function alongside of the main Joint Emergency Committee; the *shohetim* came into open conflict with the Board of Shehitah; partisans and opponents of the Jewish Army aired their differences vociferously.

Education

The problem of providing religious education for the young, especially for evacuees, continued to arouse concern, though considerable progress was reported. It was learned in August that the number of those receiving instruction at some three hundred centers established by the Joint Emergency Committee had increased from 3,800 to 10,000 between September 1940 and May 1942. Nevertheless, the fact remained that only one out of every three children had thus far been reached, while the budget of £85,000 (about \$380,000) available for an expanded program was only £2,000 (about \$9,000) in excess of what had been spent for educational purposes before the war. Especial concern was felt for adolescents past the age of confirmation. At a two-day conference held in London on August 2-3, it was decided to initiate a plan for coordinated Jewish education throughout the country and the establishment of a Youth Department of the Joint Emergency Committee. At the same time, the community was called upon to introduce a system of taxation with a view to raising £100,000 (about \$450,000) annually for this purpose.

Religious Life

There were a few interesting developments in the religious life of the community. In July, a joint meeting of presidents and executives of Manchester synagogues endorsed proposals to establish a central United Synagogue of Great Britain and, two months later, members of Glasgow congregations approved the creation of a similar body for their city. The

desire for unification also found expression in a request from Eire (five thousand Jews) that a new Chief Rabbi be appointed to succeed Dr. Isaac Herzog who left for Palestine in 1937. In London, plans were laid for erecting a temporary edifice to replace the bomb-wrecked Great Synagogue; and the Board of Deputies set up a Central Committee for Problems of War Damage to Synagogue Property. The United Synagogue, however, abstained from participation in that body.

Wartime conditions made further inroads into other aspects of religious life. In August, the Board of Shehitah found it necessary, in the face of determined opposition, to cut the salaries of *shohetim* and *shomerim*, on the grounds that less kosher meat was now being slaughtered. The following month, the government announced that while the kosher supply absorbed only 1 per cent of home-killed meat, and while it was therefore possible to give preference to kosher dealers, there could be no guarantee that Jews would receive their full ration. On the other hand, official arrangements were made to insure Passover supplies to all Jews, five pounds of matzoth being allotted to each person at a rationing value of one point per pound. Less serious, but curiously significant of the times, was the decision of the United Synagogue, in March, to "ration" choirs in its constituent synagogues by restricting their allocation to a maximum of £100 (about \$450) per synagogue per year.

Anti-Jewish Agitation

There was a disturbing recrudescence of anti-Jewish agitation, attributed by most observers to the activities of whilom fascists recently released from internment. In November, a government campaign to recruit women fire-watchers in Liverpool was disrupted by the chalking of anti-war and anti-Jewish slogans on walls and sidewalks, while the following month it was reported in the London press that the emblem of the outlawed Union of British Fascists (Oswald Mosley's organization) was being worn at open-air meetings and the cry "Perish Judah" repeated. On January 7, 1943, the *Daily Express* stated that in recent months it had been receiving a stream of rabid, even obscene, anti-Jewish communications; while at the same time the

minister of the South Shields Hebrew Congregation unmasked a device of Jew-baiters in the Midlands whereby anonymous letters of anti-Jewish content were being sent to provincial newspapers from fictitious addresses.

More sinister was the emergence of a new British National Party, indulging in anti-Jewish propaganda. Demands for the banning of this and similar groups were made at mass demonstrations and by other means; and in September a debate on the whole question of anti-Semitism was initiated in the House of Lords on the motion of Lord Wedgwood. The government, however, with that unruffled calm which had once characterized official indifference to the Mosley menace, assured questioners that it was "keeping an eye on the situation." In May, Home Secretary Herbert Morrison stated in Commons that the British National Party possessed no more than one hundred active members and was therefore scarcely a menace.

But the eye in question was clearly short-sighted; for in December an "18B Publicity Council," organized by Captain Bernard Acworth to draw attention to the alleged unfairness of continuing to detain persons like Oswald Mosley and Archibald Ramsay, provided a further rallying point for released fascists and Jew-baiters. Speakers at a London meeting of that body included several well-known anti-Semitic *provocateurs*, all of whom had been but recently freed from detention, while copies of anti-Semitic publications were offered for sale. The name of Mosley was cheered and, according to one eyewitness, the fascist salute was given.

The appearance of these and other evidences of growing anti-Semitism did not escape the attention of more liberal elements. In April, a League for Unity against anti-Semitism was established in London, while the National Union of Journalists took occasion, at its annual meeting, to protest against the publication of anti-Semitic matter in the press. The following month, the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Churches went on record as demanding official action against anti-Semitism, while the Socialist Medical Association urged legislation against it. At the same time, the well-known humorist weekly, *Tit-Bits*, decided to ban "Jewish" jokes from its pages.

Refugees

The situation of refugees in Britain showed considerable improvement. In November 1942, the government announced that refugees who had completed engineering courses sponsored by the Ministry of Labor would be considered eligible for service in the Near East, and in the same month the British Legion declared its willingness to accept as members any refugees honorably discharged from the Pioneer Corps. It was learned on April 2, 1943, that only 300 persons still remained in internment, while some 7,000 were currently serving with the armed forces, and 90 per cent of a total 50-60,000 were engaged in war work.

The civic status of refugees remained something of an enigma. While Home Secretary Herbert Morrison declared in Commons, in July 1942, that in the view of His Majesty's Government, those who had been deprived of their German citizenship must still be classified as "enemy aliens," Viscount Cranbourne, speaking in the House of Lords on March 16, 1943, pronounced them "stateless." A demand that all refugees engaged in the armed forces or in war service be accorded citizenship was voiced editorially in *The Times* on April 5.

Reactions to Events Abroad

The sufferings of Jews in Axis-controlled countries aroused universal sympathy, press and public uniting in insistent, often angry, demands that the government open the doors to refugees and embark on an effective program of relief. On December 9, in the course of a Lords debate on postwar relief, the Archbishop of York called upon the government to announce retribution for the massacre of Jews in Poland, and two days later the International Federation of Trade Unions officially condemned German anti-Semitism and rebuked German laborites for their pusillanimous attitude. A resolution of sympathy for persecuted Jews was also passed at an official municipal gathering at Manchester, while both the *Manchester Guardian* and the *New Statesman* voiced demands that neutral countries receive Jewish refugees. The agitation reached a crescendo in the following

January and February, as news of Nazi atrocities in eastern Europe began to seep through. On January 3, churches in Great Britain observed a day of prayer in behalf of oppressed Jews, and during the following two weeks such diverse organizations as the National Conference of Scottish Students, the National Peace Council and the Executive of the Liberal Party lent their support to the clamor for action. They were joined in due course by the Oxford Union, The Scottish and Presbyterian Churches, the Council of Christians and Jews, the University of Manchester, the World Evangelical Alliance, the Church Assembly, the municipalities of Sheffield, Leicester and Chester and many other bodies. On January 24, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the Primate of Wales issued a joint manifesto calling on the government to take active steps and, on February 19, a meeting of protest was held in Cambridge Guildhall by representatives of Cambridge and London Universities. Others who lent their voices to the agitation were the General of the Salvation Army, the octogenarian David Lloyd George and Sir Neill Malcolm, former High Commissioner for Refugees, the two latter demanding unrestricted immigration of Jews to Palestine. On March 3, the United Services held a service of intercession in Westminster Abbey.

Meanwhile, there was considerable activity on the parliamentary and political fronts with regard to the Nazi atrocities. On December 17, the government announced that it was indeed giving attention to the problem and proposed in the near future to confer on the subject with the other United Nations. The substance of this statement was repeated on January 19, but there was a general feeling that such insistence upon international action was a mere "passing of the buck." Accordingly, on January 28, an all-party delegation waited upon Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, Home Secretary Herbert Morrison and Colonial Secretary Oliver Stanley to urge that Germany be approached to release Jews and that Great Britain transport, receive and maintain them. The government, however, was reported to have met these suggestions coolly. Thereupon 212 Members of Parliament sought a full-dress debate in Commons, and though this number rose to 277 after further indecisive statements by Eden on February 24, the request was sum-

marily rejected by the government on March 12. Aroused by these dilatory tactics, Britain's leading churchmen, academicians and public figures addressed a protest, some two weeks later, to Secretary Eden during his visit to Washington and, on March 23, the Archbishop of Canterbury introduced in the House of Lords a motion, which was subsequently passed, condemning Nazi atrocities against Jews and demanding government action. At the same time a Gallup public opinion poll revealed that 78 per cent of those canvassed were in favor of such relief.

British aid to refugees was summarized by Prime Minister Churchill in a statement to Commons on April 7. It was revealed that 682,710 refugees of all kinds had thus far been accommodated in British territories (exclusive of the Dominions), 400,000 being at present in India, and 150,000 in Great Britain itself. Jamaica had taken 3,000 from Gibraltar; Mauritius, 2,500 from Palestine and Greece; Cyprus, 4,830 mainly from Greece; and East Africa some 90,000, including 21,000 Poles from various countries. Further, since October 1939, the government had spent no less than £1,210,000 (about \$5,000,000) on refugee relief, while private contributions since 1933 had amounted to about \$9,500,000. Despite these figures, however, there was a general feeling in the country that the increasingly desperate situation of Jews in Axis countries demanded immediate and redoubled efforts; and the vague and nebulous results of the subsequent Bermuda Conference called forth expressions of disappointment both in a special parliamentary debate (May 19) and in most sections of the press.

English Jewry showed itself especially alive to the gravity of events overseas. A week of mourning was observed between December 5 and 13, the latter date being marked by services in all principal synagogues and by the closing of Jewish-owned stores. Mass meetings were held in many parts of the metropolis. A service of intercession, at which the Chief Rabbi delivered a moving sermon, was held in the cathedral synagogue of the Sephardim at Bevis Marks, London, and was attended by the Lord Mayor. Reaction was not confined to such religious forms of expression. On November 24, the Jewish National Fund resolved, at its eighteenth annual convention, to raise \$800,000 during the

coming year in behalf of "Jews released from ghettos," while in February the Board of Deputies offered a six-point program for the relief of Jews in Europe. This included an appeal to the government to facilitate immigration and provide transportation and maintenance. More far-reaching was the decision of the Joint Foreign Committee of the Board of Deputies and the Anglo-Jewish Association, on January 24, to set up a Consultative Council of voluntary organizations to work out a program for pre-armistice and post-war relief.

Aid to Jews in Russia also claimed the support of the community. A United Jewish Committee for this purpose was established in August, and was reconstituted in January for the purpose of providing medical supplies. Other relief measures included an agreement, in July, between the Board of Deputies and Polish Jewish bodies to send one thousand food parcels monthly to the Polish ghettos, and the launching, on August 21, of a United Appeal to raise £200,000 (about \$900,000) for war victims.

Pro-Palestine Activities

There was considerable activity on the Zionist front. It was announced on October 14 that the combined income of the Jewish National Fund and the J. N. F. Charitable Trust for the financial year 5702 had reached a record level of £130,657 (about \$588,000), representing an increase of £40,000 (about \$180,000) over the preceding twelve-month period. At the beginning of the financial year, 313 plots had been taken up in the farm city scheme, but by the end of 5702 no less than 622 had been disposed of.

An Anglo-American committee maintained activity throughout the year in favor of the establishment of a Jewish Army. Nevertheless, there was evidence that the government was pursuing Fabian tactics in implementing its promises for the formation of Jewish battalions. Following a precedent set in World War I, it was officially announced in Commons, in September, that the battalions in question would not be permitted to wear a distinctive badge; and, on October 6, charges of indifference and obstruction were answered evasively by the Under Secretary for War.

2. South Africa

The principal events in the life of South African Jewry during the past year were on the Zionist front. It was reported on March 5 that a joint delegation of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies and the Zionist Federation had waited on Prime Minister Jan Smuts with a petition that the British Government be urged to open Palestine to Jewish refugees and to induce neutral countries to receive them. The Premier was stated to have given sympathetic attention to this approach and to have advocated the formation, after the war, of a Near Eastern Semitic Confederation, into which a Jewish Commonwealth of Palestine might be incorporated. On March 23, under the auspices of the South African Zionist Federation, a nationwide "plebiscite" was held throughout the Union of South Africa, the Rhodesias, Kenya and the Congo, in which every Jew over 18 was asked to sign a petition for the annulment of the Palestine White Paper of 1939. The canvass proved an overwhelming success, crowded mass meetings taking place simultaneously in Johannesburg, Durban, Bloemfontein, Kimberley, Bulawayo and other leading centers.

No less significant was the Zionist Federation's official repudiation, on October 9, of the Ihud program advocated by Dr. Judah L. Magnes. A public appeal for the formation of a Jewish Army was launched in December by the South African New Zionist Organization, and was signed by eighteen thousand persons. Three months later, the same body submitted to the government a memorandum claiming recognition of the Jews as a distinctive people and demanding the establishment of a Jewish National Council to represent Jewish interests at the Peace Conference. On March 4, it was announced that South African Zionists had agreed to finance the erection, after the war, of a Menahem Ussishkin Memorial Hall on Mount Scopus, Jerusalem, to accommodate Zionist congresses.

Other events of communal interest included the launching of an intensive Mizrachi campaign in July, the holding of the first South African Mizrachi Conference on August 26, and the appointment in February 1943, of a commission on Jewish instruction under the auspices of the South African

Board of Jewish Education. A day of mourning for Jewish victims of the Nazi terror was observed nationally on December 29, services being held and mass meetings conducted in the principal cities.

The anti-Semitic situation was somewhat less acute than in previous years, the connection between Jew-baiters and pro-Nazis having become more overt and apparent. Nevertheless, the rabid Nationalist Party persisted in its efforts to squeeze Jews out of economic life. On March 9, it served notice in parliament of its intention to introduce a bill limiting Jews in trades and professions, and in July anti-Semitism bulked large in its election campaign. No less sinister was the attempt of the Ossewa Brandwag (Oxwagon Guards) to inject "racial" issues into South African politics. Back in March that party opened a propaganda drive designed to warn Afrikaners against "admixture . . . with Jewish blood." On the other hand, an interfaith Goodwill Day was nationally observed on March 7.

The services of Jews in the war effort were summarized by Premier Jan Smuts on January 31. Of the 33,650 Jews over twenty years of age registered in the census of 1936, some 8,366 (about 9 per cent) were currently serving in the armed forces, 2,200 having been sent abroad. Jewish casualties listed by the Board of Deputies numbered, as of December 1942, 882. Of these, 164 had been killed; 202 wounded or injured; 345 taken prisoner, and 171 were reported missing. Twenty-one Jews had been decorated, and three mentioned in dispatches.

3. Australia

There is little to report from Australia, but that little is not without interest. It was announced in Commons on August 6 that, in accordance with its revised policy, the British Government had authorized the return to England of some 1,100, or approximately one-half, of the German refugees deported to Australia during the panic of 1940. In addition, 500 had been released in the Commonwealth, and 119 had migrated to other countries. Fewer than 600 therefore remained in the camps.

Plans indorsed by the West Australian Government in 1940 for the settlement of fifty thousand Jews on a seven-

million acre tract in the Kimberleys received further support when 15 prominent Australians, members of a newly formed Kimberleys Committee, addressed a joint appeal to the press on November 11. Five months later, on the eve of his departure for London, I. N. Steinberg, secretary of the Freeland League, issued an encouraging report on the progress of this scheme since October 1939.

Further measures to arrest the menace of anti-Semitism were represented by the formation, on November 10, of a Council of Jews and Christians, constituted after the model of its English prototype, and by the establishment, on January 26, 1943, of a Jewish Council to Combat Anti-Semitism.

A communal development of far-reaching interest was the establishment, in April, of a New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies. Some forty organizations participated in the creation of this body.*

4. Canada

By DAVID ROME**

IN THIS fourth year of the war for Canada the energies of the Jewish community were absorbed by the effort for victory and the search for means to assist the Jewish victims of the war. The War Efforts Committee of the Canadian Jewish Congress maintained a complete record of Jewish contributions to the Dominion's war effort and carried on a program of considerable scope, especially when one considers the relatively small number of the Canadian Jews.

The problem of enlistments declined in importance as conscription was more generally put into effect. There was a diminished circulation of the libel that Jews are not enlisting in numbers that accord with their population. Such a criticism was made in the Toronto City Council by Alderman Leslie Saunders but was more than amply answered by Mr. A. B. Bennett, president of the Central Division of the Canadian Jewish Congress, on the basis of statistics compiled by its Department of War Records. This department reports

*For Anniversaries, Appointments, Honors and Necrology relating to the British Commonwealth, see Supplements, pp. 365 ff., foreign sections.

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that the total of Jews in the combat services of the Dominion is nearing 11,000, of which all but 1,000 are voluntarily on active and unlimited service. Jews form 1.5 per cent of the population of the country. In the Army and Navy they form a smaller percentage, but in the Air Force they are 3 per cent, and in the overall total they are considerably more than 1.5 per cent (according to a Sessional Paper tabled in the Dominion House of Commons). Jewish casualties have reached a total of 156, of whom 62 were killed in action, 9 died, 25 are presumed dead, 33 are missing, and 27 are prisoners of war. They are divided among all the services: 112 from the Air Force, 40 from the Army, and 4 from the Navy. In addition, many Canadian Jews are serving with British, Palestine and American combat forces. Fourteen Canadian Jews have received military honors and these represent the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, and the volunteer fire fighting force.

The admission of Mrs. Samuel Bronfman of Montreal into the Order of the British Empire serves to bring to mind the fine patriotic activities of the civilian men and women of the community. The Jewish branch of the Red Cross, which Mrs. Bronfman heads, performed a fine service in this war year and it was matched by the activities of the Women's Division of the Canadian Jewish Congress. This group sent thousands of gift boxes and millions of cigarettes to men overseas and the countless letters of thanks from servicemen are eloquent testimony to the usefulness of this work.

The Canadian Jewish Congress continued to furnish the recreation quarters for the combat services as gifts to the government. The number of such quarters and huts furnished has reached fifteen hundred, although the program has had to be curtailed because of the limited supply of furniture available. The women of the Jewish communities of Canada also operate a chain of servicemen's centers which the Canadian Jewish Congress has established. A year ago, the Congress, together with other groups, established a center in Toronto for servicemen of all countries and of all faiths. Since then, similar centers have been opened by the Congress in Montreal, Winnipeg, Halifax, Saint John, Moncton, London, Kingston, Brandon, Victoria and Vancouver.

In addition, the Congress has contributed to the establishment of the Balfour Services Club, in London, England, for the Jewish men of the United Nations.

The National Religious Welfare Committee of the Congress has also done much for the well-being of the men in the services. The committee has official status in the appointment of chaplains for the services. In addition to Captain S. Gershon Levi, the first Canadian Jewish rabbi to serve with a Canadian army overseas, the men are also being served by Captain Samuel Cass whose field includes the Army and Navy, and Flight Lieutenant Eisen of the RCAF. They are assisted by part-time chaplains in Saint John, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Kingston. These chaplains do a great deal of social welfare work, organize and conduct religious services and distribute much of the literature published by the Congress for the men in the services. Among the latter are a Jewish Servicemen's Calendar, a Canadian-printed edition of Chief Rabbi Hertz's *Book of Jewish Thoughts*, and more recently an edition of selected readings from the Scriptures (the last with the cooperation of the Montreal lodge, B'nai B'rith). The Congress also supplied Passover Haggadahs to the men; the government issued a Jewish prayer book.

Canadian Jewry exerted every effort to bring assistance to the Jewish victims of the war. Its United Jewish Refugee and War Relief Agencies, an "arm" of Congress, conducted an intensive campaign for funds and raised a total of \$350,000.00 during the past year. This organization carried on a limited refugee aid program in Canada, extending loans to refugee farmers and urban immigrants, assisting in resettlement cases, maintaining unemployed refugees, etc. But this phase of the work has necessarily become limited because there has been practically no refugee immigration into the country since Pearl Harbor. Another refugee problem was created by the release of the internees. Nearly one thousand of the interned refugees who had been brought to Canada for safekeeping from England after Dunkirk have been freed in Canada as a special category of refugees for the duration of the war, under the auspices of the U. J. R. and W. R. A. and the specially formed, semi-official, Central

Committee for Interned Refugees. Indeed, the number of those released has been so considerable that few still remain in the camp and its closing is now being contemplated. Each of these hundreds of individuals is being given every care and assistance in facilitating his adjustment and as a result they are making a considerable contribution to the life of the country. The Central Committee is also maintaining their records and is seeking to regularize their legal status.

But the bulk of U. J. R. and W. R. A. receipts have been devoted to overseas relief, almost entirely through the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. In conjunction with this body, sums have been forwarded to various Empire countries, notably Palestine, where over \$100,000 was sent in the spring of 1943. The U. J. R. also sent shipments of blankets and soap to Russia, cooperated in sending food parcels from India to the Soviet Union, and subsidized the ORT and the World Jewish Congress relief programs.

THE reports of unprecedented cruelty which the Jews of Europe were suffering at the hands of the Nazi occupation forces stirred the Jews of this country very deeply. These feelings were given expression at a series of meetings of protest and rededication to victory held under Congress auspices on October 11 in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Halifax. Messages of sympathy were sent to the Jewish community by the spokesmen of various United Nations as well as by the Government of Canada and by leaders of the church, the press, and public life. On December 2, the Congress sponsored a very impressive Day of Mourning in memory of the thousands of modern Jewish martyrs. The general public displayed the deepest interest and sympathy. That same month the Prime Minister of Canada, the Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King, associated this Dominion with the United Nations' declaration of protest against the atrocities and pledged the full resources of the country in the effort for victory and the ultimate punishment of the criminals. This statement was received with gratification by the Jewish community and Saul Hayes, national executive director of the Canadian Jewish Congress and of the U. J. R. and W. R. A., thanked him in an open letter.

Like other Jewish communities of the free world which sought to formulate a practical program for aiding the Jews of Europe, the Canadian Jewish Congress formulated, in April 1943, a three-point program which in substance demanded (a) the admission of Jewish refugees into Canada, (b) Canadian initiative in setting up an international system of feeding the Jews of Europe along the lines of the food shipments from Canada to Greece, and (c) Canadian participation in any international plans that may be evolved for the relief of the Jews of Europe and their admission to other countries, especially Palestine.

Before the convening of the Anglo-American Refugee Conference in Bermuda, it had been suggested that this conference would take place in Ottawa. The Canadian Jewish Congress prepared detailed plans for the expression of Jewish and general opinion on the urgency of the problem to be timed with the convening of the conference, including the sponsoring of a mass petition by the Jews of Canada. When it became known that the conference would be held in Bermuda, the Congress transmitted its views through the World Jewish Congress.

Representations were also made to the Prime Minister who assured Samuel Bronfman, the national president of the Congress and of the U. J. R. and W. R. A., of Canada's readiness to do its share together with other United Nations when rescue measures became practicable. The Congress also presented its recommendations to the government in an interview between the Minister of Mines and Resources and a delegation of Congress headed by Mr. Bronfman. Shortly afterwards the Prime Minister restated his position on refugee immigration in a full-length speech in the House of Commons.

One encouraging aspect of the tragic problem is the deep interest and sympathetic and active assistance offered by so many influential non-Jewish Canadians. The National Committee on Refugees, headed by Senator Cairine Wilson, held a consultative conference with representatives of the Congress in Ottawa and subsequently submitted a memorandum to the government along the lines of the three-point program. Members of the N. C. R. raised the problem

very boldly in the House of Commons and the Senate and brought it before the entire country in lectures, radio speeches and pamphlets. A memorable radio address by Mr. Watson Thomson of the University of Manitoba was broadcast over the national network of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Important and strongly worded resolutions were adopted by the city councils of Montreal, Toronto and Kitchener, and by the legislature of Manitoba; the Anglican Synod of Montreal spoke out on the subject and countless organizations as well as prominent churchmen and men in public life urged the government to act. Press opinion was vehement, unanimous and numerous enough to fill a forty-eight page booklet published by the United Jewish Refugee and War Relief Agencies.

ANTI-SEMITISM in Canada had few manifestations, though it cannot be said to have disappeared. The press, both English and French, has shown a friendly interest in Jewish problems and activities, especially in the plight of the Jewish victims of the war. One notable achievement in the fight against anti-Semitism was the securing of an administrative order by the National Selective Service Board banning discrimination in employment on the basis of creed, color, or race. This order was released after representations by a Congress delegation consisting of Mr. Hayes and Prof. J. Finkelman of the University of Toronto.

The one problem which arose in this field was in Quebec City where the City Council continued to prevent the Jews of that community from erecting a synagogue. The latest step of the Council has been to adopt an expropriation bill against the site of the proposed synagogue on the pretext that the land is needed for an extension of an adjacent park. The Quebec community assisted by the Canadian Jewish Congress is contesting this act in the courts and before the bar of public opinion.

No NATIONAL conventions were called by Jewish organizations in the Dominion. The only conferences, aside from frequent meetings of executive bodies, were the divisional conferences of Congress. The Central Division met in

Toronto in October, the Eastern Division in Montreal in January, and the Western Division in Winnipeg in May. Education conferences took place in Toronto in June and in Montreal in August (1943).

Zionist fund-raising continued to meet with an increasing measure of success, testifying again to the deeply rooted Zionist sentiments of Canadian Jewry. The U. P. A. and J. N. F. netted \$235,000; Hadassah passed \$150,000; and Labour Zionists raised over \$100,000. The visit to Montreal and to Toronto of Dr. and Mrs. Chaim Weizmann was the high light of the year in Canadian Zionism.

In community organization, a development that may in time achieve important results is the first exploratory step toward forming a consultative council of Jewish welfare funds in the Dominion.

Politically there is interest in the affiliation of the Labour Zionist movement in the province of Quebec with the Canadian Commonwealth Federation (Socialist Party in Canada). This affiliation took place just prior to the by-election in the Montreal Cartier constituency where the traditionally Jewish seat made vacant by the death of Peter Bercovitch, K. C., M. P., was to be filled. In civic elections during the year, J. Salsberg of Toronto and M. Buhay of Montreal were elected aldermen. Important official appointments included Prof. J. Finkelman as registrar of the court of labor relations of Ontario, and Louis Rasminsky of Montreal as chairman of the Management Committee, Bank of Canada.

The 1941 census figures published by the Dominion Statistician reveal that while the number of Jews in the country increased from 156,726 to 170,120 since 1931, their percentage in the population has declined from 1.5 per cent to 1.47 per cent, and their rate of increase was the lowest in the history of the community. In the provinces of New Brunswick, Manitoba and Saskatchewan their numbers have actually decreased, and in Quebec their percentage in the population has become smaller.