

## PART TWO: FOREIGN COUNTRIES

## I. BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

## 1. Great Britain

By SHABTAI ROWSON\*

Behind last year's happenings is the increasing tempo of war. This country's transition from its status of beleaguered fortress to that of advanced outpost of the United Nations has given a sense of simultaneous urgency and unreality to many of the discussions and activities that have proceeded. In general the trends noted last year have continued: the record of English Jewry in 5704 is again one of effort rather than achievement, of activity rather than accomplishment.

The triennial elections to the Board of Deputies (June, 1943) resulted in a greatly increased Zionist representation. This was the fruit of an intensive campaign conducted by the English Zionist Federation—a Herzlian "Conquest of the Community," to assert Zionist principles in regard to the affairs of the community and to prevent a repetition of the incidents of 1917 when the leaders of the Board attempted to put obstacles in the way of the realization of Zionist aspiration. The first trial of strength occurred in July when, after prolonged discussion and by 154 votes to 148, the Board resolved to discontinue a 65 year old agreement with the Anglo-Jewish Association under which there had been a Joint Foreign Committee, and to establish its own Foreign Affairs Committee. Zionists also scored successes in the elections of the Board's officers (President, Prof. Selig Brodetsky and members of its committees.

The abrogation of the agreement was not, however, well received and, within a few days, informal talks were commenced between the two bodies. The Anglo-Jewish Association itself set up its own General Purposes and Foreign Affairs Committee. Notification of its appointment was sent to the Foreign Office in a letter dated October 28, 1943, in which the Anglo-Jewish Association expressed the hope that the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs would be willing to

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extend to it the same facilities for placing its views before him as had been accorded in the past. The assurances were given. By the end of the year agreement had been reached, but a new obstacle intervened—the publication by the Board of a draft agreement with the World Jewish Congress. After sharp debate in January the two drafts were referred back for “textual amendment,” and, following more discussions, agreements were reached with both bodies in March. That with the Anglo-Jewish Association provided that the offices of the two bodies exchange information which, unless otherwise agreed, is to be treated as confidential; that delegates of the two organizations shall meet from time to time for exchange of views; that when major questions arise, the two bodies shall have “full consultation,” except in cases of emergency, when consultation is not practicable, when each body shall be free to act in its discretion; that there shall be a pool of the ideas and views of both organizations regarding post-war problems and policy, and that proposals by either of the two bodies shall be the subject of consultation before decisions are reached.

With the World Jewish Congress (European Division) the Board agreed to maintain contact for the exchange of information, such information to be treated as confidential. Both agreements remain in force for the duration of the current session of the Board (to 1946) unless either party in the meantime gives notice of withdrawal. Although it is too soon yet to see how they will work in practice, these agreements appear satisfactory because they take into account the reasons which led to the demand for the abrogation of the old, and they go a long way towards ensuring that the views of all elements are known before action is taken.

Behind the cleavage and the bitterness with which it was accompanied is the increasing democratization of the Board and the greater interest now taken in communal concerns, particularly foreign affairs. While the Board probably represents the rank and file of British Jewry, there are a number of sectional interests which feel themselves inadequately represented. It is impossible to be dogmatic about Anglo-Jewish organizations, but on the whole the Anglo-Jewish Association includes many of the old-established Anglo-Jewish houses, while in the World Jewish Congress are found

many of the recent arrivals from the Continent. Necessity makes strange bed-fellows: lined-up against the well organized Zionist caucus were the Anglo-Jewish Association, United Synagogue, Agudat Israel, Progressive Jews and Revisionists.

With this successful outcome the air has been cleared and communal life is returning to normal. Both the Board and the Anglo-Jewish Association are setting their own houses in order. Efforts are being made to overcome many of the defects that had become apparent in the constitution and procedure of the Board. The Anglo-Jewish Association has wakened from its lethargy and is becoming the focal point of non-Zionist activity. It claims a large increase in membership, though until now it has declined to publish any figures. All bodies are now actively preparing for post-war problems.

In foreign affairs activities were necessarily limited, though everything possible was done. Contacts have been maintained with Russian Jewry following the October visit of Prof. Mikhoels and Col. Pfeffer. In April, 1944 telegrams were exchanged between the Board and the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee in the U. S. S. R. for the third meeting of the Representatives of the Jewish People in Russia. Strong protests against anti-Semitism in the Polish forces were made in April and May in Parliament and in the press and by all responsible Jewish bodies. It became clear that British public opinion would not tolerate such a state of affairs in the Polish or any other Allied army on British soil. This incident was also the occasion for renewed demands for Jewish military units. A brief statement of principles for the regularization of the status of European Jewry was sent by the Board to the conference of Empire Prime Ministers in May.

After D-Day the Board called on the Governments of the United Nations to hasten all measures for the rescue of continental Jewry and expressed the hope that the United Nations will provide asylum and opportunities for settlement in territories under their control and that no barrier would be placed in the way of a continuation of the task of rescue by Palestine. Numbers of Jewish youth are training for relief work overseas, one team already being in action in the Middle East. All youth movements are cooperating

in this work which is being carried out under the auspices of the Board. A Joint Distribution Committee office has been established in London for the relief of continental Jewry.

The position of aliens has improved. Most of the restrictions imposed in 1940 have been removed from friendly aliens and refugees from Nazi oppression, who are now liable for fire-watching duties. Nevertheless their legal status remains obscure; the Government still declines to grant British nationality to Austrian and German refugees serving in His Majesty's Forces, even if they are drafted for service overseas. The Guardianship (Refugee Children) Act was passed to provide for the guardianship of children who have come to the United Kingdom in consequence of war or persecution. In the debate on the bill it was revealed that of the 12,500 refugee children here, some 8,500 arrived in the years 1936-9. The intention is to use as guardians people who have been doing the voluntary work, and it is not essential that they be of British nationality. Lord Gorrell has been appointed guardian for children under the care of the Refugee Children's Movement. The Chief Rabbi will co-operate with him. Fears that refugee children were being converted to Christianity were set at rest by Prof. Brodetsky who stated that fewer than one half of one percent had been converted, in 50 cases out of 100 with the consent of their parents.

Public concern over the persecution of Jews on the Continent was widespread, and there was some impatience with the alleged inactivity of the Government. It was stated in the House of Lords on July 28, 1943, that Jews would be associated with the Intergovernmental Committee and, on the same day, Foreign Secretary Eden emphasized that the reason Jewish refugees were not entering Palestine was not shipping difficulties but the refusal of enemy governments to grant exit permits. In March, 1944, Parliament voted £50,000 as an installment of £500,000 to the Intergovernmental Committee and, in the debate, it was explained that for constitutional reasons (connected with the British doctrine of ministerial responsibility) a War Refugee Board could not be established here. There was, however, not the same need for it as in the United States owing to the existence of the Refugee Committee at the Foreign Office.

Strong condemnation of German anti-Jewish atrocities has been uttered by all Church leaders and by many others prominent in British public life as well as in the press and on the radio. The British Broadcasting Company has broadcast several special messages to European Jewry.

In March a debate took place in the House of Lords regarding European minorities. The Government spokesman said that the minorities themselves must play their part; they must not keep to themselves but must try to merge in the general population. The Government declined to make any unilateral declaration of policy. In a Lords foreign affairs debate on May 25, Viscount Cranbourne stated for the Government: "I am quite certain that His Majesty's Government will wish, in any way practicably possible, to afford the Jews some help in repairing the horrors they have gone through. If there are any steps they can take, in conjunction with other countries, to enable the Jews to recover from the suffering through which they have passed I feel certain they will be willing to do so."

In domestic affairs, the most important subject under discussion has been the Government's proposals for educational reconstruction. In the general recasting of the country's educational system after the war, religious instruction is to have a more defined place in the curriculum, and arrangements are to be made for denominational instruction where parents so desire. The Rt. Hon. R. A. Butler, President of the Board of Education, personally explained the implications of his proposals to the Deputies. He welcomed the community's efforts to take full advantage of the new scheme. Prof. Brodetsky described the proposals as either a great challenge to outstanding effort of reconstruction, or a condemnation to spiritual death. Although the scheme was generally welcomed, doubts were expressed by the Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations that it would only give the right to teach a syllabus agreed with the Church of England, and this could not be regarded as satisfactory. The National Council for Jewish Religious Education stressed difficulties arising from lack of accommodation. Other problems under consideration are the dearth of teachers and of funds. The Board of Deputies has set up an education committee to serve as a liaison with the authorized

Jewish educational bodies in the community. It will not be concerned with the conduct and administration of Jewish religious education.

There is little to report from religious life. Agreement has been reached with the Government's War Damage Commission regarding the payment of compensation for war damaged synagogues, of which the number has increased. The temporary structure for the Great Synagogue, destroyed in 1941, was consecrated in November, 1943. A complaint was made by the United Synagogue regarding certain undesirable trends among hazzanim and it was decided that in future no person shall be appointed hazzan unless he is both able and willing to carry out the traditional reading of the sacred scrolls. Sefardi efforts to reorganize are interesting; in February, 1944, the establishment was agreed to of a Board of Elders of the Sefardi Community of England to deliberate on matters of general Sefardi interest without interfering with the synagogue's individual autonomy. The presidency of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, which had been vacant since the death of Dr. Claude G. Montefiore in July, 1938, was filled by the election of Col. L. H. Gluckstein, M. P. At the annual general meeting in June a complaint was made that the relations between the synagogue and the rest of the community were not satisfactory. An important charitable merger took place in April when the old established Jewish Association for the Protection of Girls and Women amalgamated with the Jewish Board of Guardians. It was felt that this would lead to increased efficiency and economy of work. The supply of kosher food was still not without its problems, and difficulties were added by an irresponsible strike of shohetim for a wage increase. The Food Ministry has continued its sympathetic attitude towards the problems of the Orthodox and has done its best to ease them. The problem of mixed marriages has been stated not to be of great dimensions. The Beth Din had taken a very firm stand and was not prepared to assist conversions in order to enable such marriages to take place.

Cultural activities have been maintained, albeit under difficulties. Two large Hebrew miscellanies, appropriately named *Metsuda* (Fortress) as well as a volume of Hebrew

studies from Manchester University entitled *Melila* have been published together with a number of Yiddish works. Very little of this writing is done by British born Jews. Hebrew and Yiddish letters suffered a great loss with the death of the printer, I. Narodiczky. An interesting experiment has been started by the Joint Emergency Council for Jewish Religious Education which has initiated elementary and advanced correspondence courses in Hebrew. Support for both has been good. The Jewish Historical Society has continued to meet and is working on a scheme for the restoration of Continental Jewish libraries.

Interfaith activities have increased. The Council of Christians and Jews (formed in September 1942) has made headway. On his visit here, Dr. Israel Goldstein of New York approached Christian and Jewish religious heads with a view to joint action on the lines of interfaith cooperation in the United States. The United Synagogue decided to make a contribution to the Council of Christians and Jews as a token of appreciation of good work done, and recommended synagogues affiliated with it to identify themselves with the work by taking up corporate associate membership.

Although anti-Jewish agitation is said to have increased after the release of certain persons detained under the Defence Regulations, it has not reached serious proportions, and anti-Semitism is more a war-time aberration than a deep-rooted feeling. The general public realizes more and more that anti-Semitism is inherently dangerous to national morale. The Board of Deputies Defence Committee has watched developments, and is giving special study to the new situation likely to arise after the war when many of the current restrictions are removed. It was revealed that as part of the effort to counteract anti-Jewish prejudice, over two million leaflets have been distributed, of which over 50% have been strategically placed in non-Jewish hands. Nevertheless there has been considerable adverse criticism of the Board's activities, and the whole organization of Jewish defence is under review. In October, 1943, a Board sub-committee was appointed to examine the question of the necessity and the advisability at the present time of seeking to promote legislation to make the defamation of commu-

nities a legal offense. This sub-committee has reached a negative conclusion and the matter has been left in abeyance.

For security reasons details about Jewish war service are not available, though it is believed that the proportion of Jews mobilized is higher than their ratio to the total population. War Secretary Grigg announced in Parliament that there are over 40,000 Jews in the British Army and local forces in the Middle East, but he declined to give particulars of the distribution of Jews in the various corps or the number of Jews killed at the front. News of the resignation of the Senior Jewish Chaplain, Dayan M. Gallop, T. D., owing to ill-health, was received with regret. His place was taken by Chaplain I. Brodie, formerly Senior R. A. F. Jewish Chaplain in the Middle East. There have been many complaints regarding the inadequacy of the chaplaincy services, and more chaplains have been commissioned. The first permanent synagogue for the R. A. F. was consecrated "somewhere in England." Liaison between the British and the U. S. A. Jewish communities for forces welfare has been maintained, and over 160 communal welfare efforts were established and correlated in the United Kingdom. Hospitality was provided for 20,000 British and Allied soldiers for the High Holy Days, 40,000 for Hanukkah, and over 80,000 for Passover. These figures exclude those who were able to make private arrangements. The Balfour Services Club has continued to function in London where it has been joined by the Wedgwood Services Club in the East End. It was revealed that the Army's scheme of battle training was invented by Major Lionel Wigram, M. C., a London Jew who lost his life fighting in Italy, and the whole country was amused when another Londoner, Sergeant Sidney Cohen, R. A. F., became the uncrowned King of Lampedusa when that Italian island surrendered to him.

A number of Jews, both in the forces and civilians, have been honored by the Sovereign. Sir Samuel Joseph, last year's Lord Mayor of London, has been raised to the peerage. The knighthoods bestowed upon Leon Simon, the Director of the Post Office Savings Bank, and on Simon Marks, prominent Anglo-Jewish business man, gave particular satisfaction. Incidentally both new Knights are very active Zionists. A number of great friends of Jewry

passed away during the year; we may mention Lord Wedgwood, Lieut.-Col. Victor A. Cazalet, Lord Snell, Lord Davies, W. P. Crozier, editor of the *Manchester Guardian*, and Brigadier Orde Wingate, D. S. O. The community too has lost many of its sons and daughters.

For Zionism the year has been one of hard work and solid progress, though it has not been marked by any spectacular events. In 1943 the English Zionist Federation aimed at a membership of 50,000. Its achievement of 20,000 over its initial 5,500 served as a spur for further endeavors. Its 43rd annual conference, in January, 1944, adopted important resolutions calling for the creation of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth, and declaring that the Federation would welcome a solution which would ultimately give the Jewish State a place within the framework of the British Commonwealth of Nations. It also called for the abrogation of the 1939 White Paper and protested against attempts to deprive the Jews of Palestine of the means of self-defence. Consisting of 742 delegates as against 439 last year, the conference was the largest in the history of English Zionism. The E. Z. F. now comprises 204 Zionist societies, 55 synagogues, and 25 Friendly Societies, together with 16 Poale Zion and 11 Hechalutz groups. Resolutions similar to the "Biltmore Resolution," adopted by the Extraordinary Zionist Conference held in New York City in May, 1942, were adopted by nearly all other Zionist bodies here. Of non-Zionist organizations, the Board of Deputies proposals regarding Palestine have not yet been made public. The A. J. A. has adopted a statement by its chairman Leonard Stein which, while asking for the withdrawal of the White Paper and of the restrictions on Jewish immigration, refrained from advancing any constitutional proposals. The Association has set up a Palestine sub-committee to consider its attitude.

In 1943, £740,000 was raised for Zionist funds, including J. N. F. (£384,000), Keren Hayesod (£238,000), and Youth Aliyah (£118,640). The E. Z. F. Conference resolved on the creation of a United Palestine Appeal with a first year's target of £1,000,000 for 1944. Of other pro-Palestine funds, the Old Yishuv War Fund sent £6,025, and the Friends of the Hebrew University over £17,000, to Palestine.

## 2. Canada

By DAVID ROME\*

The most significant interests of Canadian Jewry during the past year continued to be the effort for victory and the relief and rescue of Jewish war refugees. In all its activities, the Jewish community of Canada was encouraged by a diminution of anti-Semitism and the development of a widespread and sympathetic understanding by non-Jews of Jewish needs and of the identity of the interests of the Jewish community with those of the country as a whole.

### War Activity

During this period Canadian troops led the invasion of the continent of Europe from the south, through Sicily and Italy, and from the north through Normandy. Canada's air force, very popular among Jewish volunteers, struck heavy blows at Germany. Its navy participated in eliminating the menace of German undersea warfare.

In the achievement of the Canadian forces, the Jewish men and women of the Dominion played a significant part. Enlistments registered by the Bureau of War Records of the Canadian Jewish Congress, up to May 21, 1944, totaled 14,864; comprising 431 seamen, 9,289 soldiers, and 5,144 airmen. The exact number of Jews overseas with the Canadian forces is not available, but it is known to be high. The number of Jewish chaplains has increased during the past year from three to eight. Major S. Gershon Levi, pioneer Canadian chaplain, has been ministering to the Jewish men overseas since 1941 and last year was joined by three more rabbis: Capt. Isaac Bertram Rose who is now in Italy, Capt. David Monson, and Squadron Leader Jacob Eisen.

The record of the awards and decorations Jewish servicemen acquired during the year is testimony of their valor. Flying Officer Sydney S. Shulemson, R. C. A. F., of Montreal became the first Canadian Jew to be admitted to the Dis-

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tinguished Service Order; two more Canadian Jews were admitted to the Order of the British Empire (military division); one added the bar to his Distinguished Flying Cross; five more won the Distinguished Flying Cross and another won the U. S. decoration of the same name; two, the Distinguished Flying Medal; three, the British Empire Medal; one, the Air Force Medal; and six were cited in dispatches. This contribution to victory was not without tragic cost. Jewish casualties increased to 291 including 64 soldiers, 7 seamen, and 220 airmen. Of this number, 98 were killed, 61 are presumed dead, 38 are missing, 23 died, 33 were wounded, 38 are prisoners of war.

The press of the Dominion carried news reports concerning Jewish military and civilian activity and frequently editorialized concerning the extent of Jewish participation in all phases of patriotic endeavor. Overwhelming evidence to the contrary is gradually silencing the slander, current in earlier years, that Jews are not sharing in the war effort. A periodical *Jews in Uniform* is being published by the Congress to record the achievements of Jewish servicemen and an account of the part played by Canada's Jews in the war will soon be published in book form.

The Canadian Jewish Congress coordinated the war activity of Canada's civilian Jewish population. Hundreds of thousands of servicemen and women have benefited from the social centers which the Congress has established throughout the country. Six more centers were established during the past year, bringing the total to sixteen. In spite of the difficulty of obtaining furniture the Congress is continuing to furnish the recreational quarters of the Canadian army, navy and air force throughout the dominion; over 1,500 such quarters have been thus equipped.

The religious welfare committee of Congress continues to operate as the lay body cooperating with the chaplaincy. It publishes and distributes "The Book of Jewish Thoughts," edited by the Chief Rabbi of the British Empire; "Readings from the Scriptures"; a new religious calendar; and a series of tracts on Judaism and on Jewish holy days.

Typical of the civilian war effort of the community was the work of the Congress Patriotic Committee for the Red

Cross Blood Bank. Under the chairmanship of Allan Bronfman, this committee had embarked upon a program of enrolling 500 blood donors in Montreal; before the conclusion of the project it had secured 2,900.

### Refugee Settlement

Reports of the sad fate of Jews overseas stirred the Canadian community to its depths. The reaction was slightly mitigated because for the first time since the outbreak of the war the Jews of the Dominion were enabled to welcome several hundred Jewish refugees to whom the federal government gave asylum. Following representations by the Canadian Jewish Congress, T. H. Crerar, Minister of Mines, announced in the House of Commons, in November 1943, that Canada would admit a number of refugees from Spain and Portugal. Odillon Cormier, special representative of the Immigration Branch of the Canadian Government, was sent to the Iberian Peninsula to examine candidates for immigration and, on the eve of Passover, the first group of 274 refugees arrived aboard the *S. S. Serpa Pinto*, which docked at Philadelphia. Admission was for the duration of the war, and pledges for the support of the newcomers were forthcoming from the United Jewish Refugee and War Relief Agencies and the Canadian National Committee on Refugees with which the Jewish Immigrant Aid Society of Canada was associated. The transportation of the group was paid for by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the HICEM, but all costs of reception, settlement, and care of refugees were borne by the United Jewish Refugee and War Relief Agencies, an affiliate of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

The refugees were met on board ship, were assisted with their clearance papers, and escorted to Montreal and then to Toronto. Reception committees in these cities welcomed and housed them, completed arrangements regarding alien and national registration and assisted in their compliance in other wartime Dominion legislation. Few difficult adjustment problems arose and within a few weeks jobs were found for nearly all. Community organizations, notably the

National Council of Jewish Women and the free loan institutions, cooperated fully in the rehabilitation of these refugees. The press of the Dominion welcomed the newcomers, commended the government for admitting them, and urged that many more be permitted to enter the country.

Two months later, a smaller group of seventy-eight arrived, again aboard the *S. S. Serpa Pinto*. Their passage across the Atlantic was marred by a tragic incident. Although the ship bore a neutral flag and had a safe conduct, it was stopped on the high seas by a German submarine whose commander ordered the passengers into lifeboats. After a night on the open sea, the passengers were permitted to return to the ship and to continue their voyage. In the panic of debarkation, however, three lives were lost, one casualty being the baby daughter of a refugee family.

Several Jewish families were repatriated aboard the *S. S. Gripsholm* from Japanese civilian camps. In this group was General Morris Abraham Cohen, English-born Canadian Jew, who had achieved considerable fame because of his services in the military forces of the Chinese Republic. The integration into the community of the refugees who had been brought to Canada from Britain, where they had been interned after Dunkirk, continued during the year. One index of such progress was the removal of the special employment status of the refugees and their inclusion in the National Selective Service roster which has jurisdiction over the employment of all Canadians. A number secured permission to join the Canadian army. Representations are being made by the Central Committee for Refugees to facilitate their securing Canadian nationality.

Much of the credit for the improved attitude towards refugees in the Dominion is due to the non-sectarian Canadian National Committee on Refugees which, under the leadership of Senator Cairine Wilson, carried out a number of important projects during the past year. This committee not only cared for the non-Jewish refugees who reached the country but sponsored a mass petition favoring the admission of refugees from the Iberian peninsula.

The Canadian National Committee was successful in

securing several hundred thousand signatures endorsing this proposal. This effort helped shape public opinion on the refugee question and by enlisting the support of hundreds of community leaders, teachers, churchmen, labor leaders, journalists and political figures encouraged the government to admit some of those who sought a haven. A counter-petition sponsored by the Ligue Nationale of the province of Quebec urged the government to adhere strictly to the provisions of existing immigration legislation. The Prime Minister stated in the House of Commons that the identical wording of the anti-immigrant petitions submitted by some 1,600 municipalities and parishes in the province indicated that they emanated from an obvious source. Later, during the Quebec election campaign, Omer Cote, one of the Duplessis supporters, admitted that he had personally engineered the counter-petition.

French-speaking Canadians, who constitute a large proportion of the Dominion's population concentrated in, but by no means confined to, Quebec province, are almost unanimously opposed to immigration. This is true of nearly all groups among them but anti-immigration sentiment is more extreme among the more nationalistic elements in the Union Nationale and the Bloc Populaire. To a large extent, opposition is directed against immigration not only of Jews but also of any people whose presence would diminish the French-Canadian ethnic proportion in the Dominion. These people are, in a sense, as anti-Anglo-Saxon as they are anti-Semitic.

During the past year the anti-Jewish prejudices of the French-speaking element were stirred by the Hon. Maurice Duplessis, ex-Prime Minister of the Province, who circulated what he claimed was a letter addressed to the Zionist Organization in Canada "revealing" a plot by the "International Zionist Fraternity" to settle one hundred thousand Jews on farms in the province of Quebec. Although the letter was unmasked as a forgery, Duplessis continued to make use of it and the canard played a part in elections in the province in August, 1944. French Canadians who are not anti-immigrant are few, but their influence is probably far greater than their number. Jean Charles Harvey, editor of *Le Jour*, Montreal, is their spokesman.

## Fund Raising and Overseas Relief

Overseas relief needs were met by the Jewish community through the United Jewish Refugee and War Relief Agencies. The budget of this organization was increased during the past year to a record \$500,000. Except for relatively small expenditures for refugee settlement in the Dominion and the grant of \$15,000 to the World Jewish Congress relief program, most of this money was contributed to the international relief program of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. For the first time since the outbreak of the war, permission was secured from the federal authorities to transmit funds outside the sterling area; \$50,000 was sent to Teheran, largely to extend the Joint Distribution Committee program of sending parcels to Jewish refugees in the U. S. S. R.

Funds contributed to Palestinian causes last year reached a new height with the United Palestine Appeal collecting \$436,283; the Youth Aliyah, \$188,550; other Hadassah Funds, \$56,750; and the Jewish National Fund, \$111,390. The Labor Zionist groups, including the Pioneer Women's Organization, raised over \$100,000 during the year. The Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University were organized, under the chairmanship of Allan Bronfman of Montreal, following a tour across the Dominion by Professor Walter Fischel of the faculty of the Hebrew University. A considerable sum was collected for the University.

An interesting development in fund-raising for relief purposes was the extension of appeals among the broad Jewish masses. Typical are the Mo'ess Chittim drive which raised over \$30,000 in Montreal alone, and the Pidyon Nefesh project in that city in the course of which over six thousand homes were canvassed in one morning for contributions to United Jewish Relief. In the latter drive over \$10,000 was raised. In Toronto, the United Jewish Relief Conference similarly broadened the base of its financial support and, in Winnipeg, the People's Relief Committee continued its weekly house to house collections.

The Canadian Jewish Congress has been recognized as the official agency of the Canadian Jewish community in matters of refugee relief and Saul Hayes, the national

executive director, was appointed to the executive board of the official council of Canadian volunteer agencies in Ottawa which advises the Government in matters relating to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA). The Canadian Jewish Congress has undertaken to supply the overseas staff of UNRRA with at least three workers. Sir Herbert Emerson, high commissioner for refugees of the League of Nations, and director of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, also established relations with the United Jewish Refugee and War Relief Agencies.

Canadian interest in the fate of Jewry overseas was enhanced by the radio broadcast from the Rome synagogue on July 23, arranged by the American Jewish Committee and heard in Canada over the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation network.

### **Anti-Semitism**

Anti-Semitism in Canada declined considerably during the past year. There was scarcely any anti-Jewish propaganda in the press; on the contrary, newspaper editors commented concerning the evil and danger of anti-Semitism. They stressed also the horror of the German atrocities, as well as the contribution of the Dominion Jewish community to the national war effort. The favorable press reception given the arrival of the refugees is a reflection of this friendlier attitude.

Government officials in most provinces showed increasing awareness of the menace of anti-Semitism and were generally alert to manifestations of it. Although deviations from this policy were to a large extent localized in the province of Quebec, anti-Semitic propaganda and its effects were elsewhere apparent. The Social Credit party, which is in power in the province of Alberta, does not manifest any anti-Jewish prejudices there; but several of its spokesmen, including Norman Jacques, M. P., indulge in repeating Nazi libels.

Anti-Semitism in Quebec province continued to be more flagrant than in other parts of the country. Its most

sensational aspect was a fire set in the new synagogue of Quebec city on the eve of its consecration. This criminal act aroused the widest indignation throughout the country especially since it was well-known that the city council of Quebec had taken measures, including litigation, to prevent the erection of the synagogue. Even though responsible opinion is generally slow to express displeasure with anything that affects Quebec, one of the "touchy" problems of Canada, the English-language press was unanimous in condemning this act of arson. In the House of Commons, where the matter came up for discussion, the Prime Minister as well as leaders of opposition parties spoke out in no uncertain terms. In contrast to the attitude of forthright condemnation voiced by the English-language press, French-language newspapers sought to minimize the extent of the damages and protested against the "undue" publicity given to the fire. An inquiry commission was set up by the city, but it adjourned without publishing its findings.

The sensational statement by T. D. Bouchard, who was Minister of Transport in the Quebec cabinet before being elevated to the Dominion Senate, that a separatist secret society is using anti-Semitism as an instrument to achieve its ends aroused great interest and served to highlight the national importance of the anti-Jewish propaganda in Quebec. The outcome of the provincial elections in the province of Quebec in August with the return of Duplessis to the premiership though with a small majority after a campaign in which the "Jewish issue" appeared, did not lessen apprehension.

Two efforts were made to outlaw anti-Semitism by legislation. In the Province of Ontario, legislation was enacted to prohibit the publication of notices or advertisements that service or employment will be given to non-Jews only. This legislation was passed with little opposition in the legislature, despite some outcry against it by militant Protestant groups in the province. It has not yet been tested in the courts. In the field of federal legislation, Angus MacInnis, C. C. F. member, sought to introduce a measure banning anti-Jewish agitation in the Dominion. His proposal aroused great opposition as an infringement upon civil liberty and the bill did not reach a second reading.

### Other Communal Activities

As the end of the war approached, Canadian Jewry intensified its planning for the post-war period. An extensive organization was established for this purpose by the Canadian Jewish Congress and a number of surveys are now under way to ascertain the post-war needs of the Jewish community. These are concerned with the investigation of the contribution of refugees to the war and post-war economy of the Dominion; the feasibility of legislation to protect Jewish rights; and probable developments in anti-Semitism after the war. Special attention is being given to the problem of the rehabilitation of the Jewish servicemen after demobilization.

In the field of education, the Canadian Jewish Congress continued its research and advisory activities and published a number of teacher aid materials and reports of investigations. Typical of the latter was M. Menachovsky's survey of the influence of the war upon the interests and attitudes of pupils in Jewish schools. The Canadian Jewish Congress maintains close ties with the Youth Commission of the Dominion, and Ben Sadowski of Toronto and Saul Hayes of Montreal are members of this body.

A great deal of interest was aroused in the celebrations, sponsored by the Archives Committee of the Canadian Jewish Congress and the Canadian Jewish Historical Society, marking the centenary of Ezekiel Hart, first Jew to be elected (1809) to a legislature in the British Empire. Mayor Adhemar Raynault addressed the meeting in Montreal and newspapers throughout the country, French and English, devoted considerable editorial space to the proceedings. The visit to Montreal and Toronto of S. Michaels and I. Pfeffer, the first representatives of the Russian Jewish community to come to Canada in a quarter of a century, aroused great interest throughout the country.

The passing of Archibald J. Freiman of Ottawa, president of the Zionist Organization of Canada for more than a quarter of a century, marked the close of a great chapter in the history of Canadian Zionism. For many years Freiman was the universally recognized head of the entire Jew-

ish community and he was held in great esteem by all sections of the Canadian people. His devotion to Zionism and that of his wife, Mrs. Lillian Freiman, O. B. E., who pre-deceased him by three years, did much to contribute to the Zionist awareness of Canadian Jewry.

Shortly before his passing, the regular convention of the Zionist organization of Canada met in Montreal and elected a praesidium of Michael Garber, K. C., and Samuel E. Schwisberg, K. C. of Montreal, and Samuel J. Zacks of Toronto. Among the most important activities initiated by the Zionist movement during the past year was a very successful public relations program to draw attention to the iniquity of the British White Paper of 1939 on Palestine. A pro-Palestine committee composed of scores of leading Christians and a pro-Zionist ministerial group have been formed. Several leading Zionists toured the country and addressed various non-sectarian groups on Zionism and related problems.

### 3. South Africa

By EDWARD N. SAVETH\*

THE Commonwealth elections of July 7, 1943 constituted an endorsement of Prime Minister Smuts' pro-allied policy, and a repudiation of the Nationalist party, whose tenets include anti-Semitism. Eight Jews were elected to office in the triumph of the Unity Party, and Leopold Greenberg was appointed Justice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, becoming the first Jew to attain this position.

In a parliamentary debate on immigration legislation, March 1, 1944, a Nationalist Party deputy urged that a ban be placed on the further admission of Jews into South Africa and that refugees previously admitted be compelled to return to their native lands immediately after the termination of the war.

That the government of General Smuts was not responsive to such extremism is manifest in the reply of the Minister

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of the Interior that a complete stoppage of immigration would not be initiated. He also declared, however, that the government intended to provide jobs for demobilized soldiers before considering the problem of large-scale immigration.

Early in July, 1943, the executive council of the Jewish Board of Deputies set up a special committee to mobilize Jewish and non-Jewish opinion in support of measures for the relief and rescue of Europe's Jews. On September 1, Isaac Gruenbaum, executive member of the Jewish Agency, Jerusalem, submitted a memorandum to the government on the refugee and Palestine questions. Approximately three weeks later, Prime Minister Smuts told representatives of a Jewish labor group that the United States and Great Britain were doing everything possible to facilitate the transportation of refugees to neutral countries. Concerning the admission of European Jews into South Africa, the Prime Minister asserted that "the food situation and other pressing local problems" made such a policy difficult.

The prospect of a world freed from persecution wherein "Jewry will regain Zion" was depicted by General Smuts in a message to the August, 1943 meeting of the South African Zionist Federation. The meeting unanimously endorsed the American Zionist Biltmore program providing for the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine after the war, with immigration controlled by the Jewish Agency. Early in 1944, there was friction in Zionist ranks owing to the demand by the Association of non-Party Zionists for the elimination of party representation from the executive of the Federation. This proposal was tantamount to a repudiation of the agreement reached in 1942 between the New (Revisionists) and the Old Zionists whereby the New Zionist Organization joined the older group after having been granted "fair and adequate representation" as a party. At the August meeting, however, resistance by the Mizrachi, Poalei Zionists, and Jewish State Party brought about the defeat of the aspirations of the non-party group.

Other Zionist activities included the formation of a League for Labor Palestine, and the repudiation by the Zionist Federation of the Revisionist program and of the rumored Palestine partition project.

#### 4. Australia

By EDWARD N. SAVETH

DURING the year under review, the mere handful of 38,000 Jews in the Australian population of about 7,250,000 experienced only sporadic and relatively insignificant manifestations of anti-Semitism. On July 1, 1943, the Australian Council of Trade Unions adopted a resolution denouncing anti-Semitism which it said "has been noticeable here recently." In the middle of August, the chairman of the Discharged Soldiers' Organisation in Shepperton charged that Jews were attempting to capture political and economic control of the district by purchasing land owned by men in the armed forces. The falsity of this accusation was demonstrated by the member of Parliament for Shepperton who revealed that, out of 84 land purchases recently concluded, only five were by Jews. In April, 1944, a move by a number of affiliated unions to strike out the resolution adopted in July by the Council of Trade Unions, was defeated.

The Conference of the Australian Labour Party in Canberra, December 16, 1943, voted down a motion condemning the oppression of minorities in Europe and urging Jewish representation at the peace conference. Rejection of the resolution did not necessarily have a hostile implication, because many present were strongly opposed to anti-semitism but were unwilling to recognize Jewish minority representation at the peace conference.

On October 21, 1943 the Commonwealth government announced that a new status had been granted enemy aliens who entered the country to escape religious or political persecution. Hereafter, they would be permitted to serve in the armed forces, take war industry jobs, and participate in other activities vital to the war effort. Meanwhile, the prospects for increased Jewish immigration into Australia improved considerably. Archbishop Daniel Mannix asserted, in November, 1943, that the Catholic church is willing to facilitate the immigration of Jews into Australia. Later that

month, a mass meeting under the auspices of the League of Nations Union in the town hall of Hobart, Tasmania, adopted a resolution appealing to the Australian government to cooperate with other nations in offering asylum to Jews able to flee occupied Europe. In February, 1944, the Commonwealth government permitted 150 Jewish refugee children to enter the country.

In September, 1943, the formation in New South Wales of the interdenominational Pro-Palestine Committee was announced. This committee issued a six-point program calling for full implementation of the Balfour Declaration. In November, Australian Zionists angrily assailed the statement of Sir Isaac Isaacs, former Governor-General of Australia, urging that the fight against the White Paper be postponed, in order to avoid jeopardizing allied chances of victory by arousing Moslem antagonism.

Although the government of Western Australia officially approved the project for the establishment of a large-scale Jewish settlement in the Kimberleys region, the Commonwealth government has yet to acquiesce in the scheme. In Sydney and in Melbourne, committees of the non-Jewish Friends of the Jewish Kimberleys Project were formed.

Pilot Officer Max Falstein, sole Jewish member of the Australian Parliament, was re-elected in August, 1943, with an increased majority, despite efforts by the opposition party to capitalize Falstein's support of measures for the admission of refugees. Australian Jewry, through its advisory boards in the various States, supported the Board of Deputies of British Jews in protesting the release from prison of the fascist agitator, Sir Oswald Mosley.