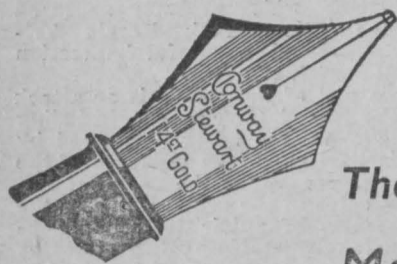


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BY BEN DOR

A Cantor Had A Royal Claim To Labrador

"TWO Islands, a cantor, and England," is the title of a piquant historical titbit unearthed by A. Almi, writing in the American Yiddish newspaper, the "Journal", in an article on the recent decision of Newfoundland to join the nine provinces of Canada and make a full "minyan". Labrador is another former British isle which now belongs to Canada, but it was recently claimed by a "chazzan". How does a cantor come to claim an island?

Well, when William of Orange was called to the British throne in 1687, he borrowed money from an Amsterdam banker, Moses Penia. As security, the monarch officially ceded Labrador to Penia. The banker never pressed his claim, but his grandson, a cantor who migrated to Montreal, did. The authorities contested the claim, and the litigation was still going on when Cantor Penia died a few years ago. What a wonderful place Labrador would have been, muses Almi, for a cantor to practice for the High Holy days!

From "Fantasy" To Reality

BARON DE HIRSCH believed that the solution to the Jewish problem lay in the colonisation of Jews on farms. Among other places, Vineland, New Jersey, America, became the scene of one of the Baron's colonies.

When Dr. Herzl met Baron de Hirsch and expounded his idea of a Jewish State to him, the latter described it as a "fantasy".

An ironic footnote to the Herzl-Hirsch encounter is contained in the announcement that Jews in the general vicinity of Vineland have formed a group which would migrate to Israel and establish a colony there which would specialise in poultry farming. The group consists of 15 families.

Hated By Jews and Germans

PROBABLY the unhappiest people in Germany are not the DP's, but the Jewish apostates, who are rejected by Jews and Christians alike, says a writer in the "Jewish Morning Journal". These ex-Jews have appealed for help of British ex-Jews, who are doing much better (many of them are swelling Mosely's ranks). Recently an American missionary, F. Michaelson, has come to their rescue, establishing a church exclusively for Jewish converts to Christianity.

This has aroused the resentment of other missionaries who charge Michaelson with encouraging Jewish chauvinism among the nouveaux Christians. Missionaries have established themselves near DP camps, but business has not been good.

Many of the German converts, whose apostasy dates back before Hitler, are fiercely anti-Semitic, and can't understand why they are the targets of anti-Semitism. But they are still disliked by the Germans. Some former Jews are themselves Christian pastors now, but they still suffer from discrimination and ridicule.

Pulpit on Wheels

THE Sabbath Observance Council has announced that its pulpit on wheels has reached an audience of more than 50,000 in covering 3,000 miles in metropolitan New York and New Jersey since it started eight months ago.

Rabbi Irving Kurtz, administrative director of the group which sponsors Sabbath House, said that everywhere on its tour Sabbath House has made a "profound impression".

The vehicle becomes a literature-distribution station when it stops at street intersections. Speakers from the Sabbath House rostrum, speaking at stops, stress the desirability of Sabbath observance.

Sponsors include most of the American Jewish orthodox rabbinical and lay groups.

WANTED—

A Chief Rabbi

THE leaders of Turkish Jewry are considering a new approach to the Government in their efforts to find a solution to a 17-year-old problem—how to fill the post of Chief Rabbi, which has been vacant since the death of Gaon Haim Bejarano in 1931.

The authorities have repeatedly refused the Jewish Community's request for permission to bring in a spiritual leader from outside, and there is little hope of finding a suitable applicant within the country, since the ban on religious instruction in Turkey has led to an acute shortage of qualified Rabbis.

It is now suggested that permission be sought from the authorities for the appointment of a Chief Rabbi from overseas, who would be granted Turkish nationality.

To Avoid Pilpul

THE decision that the Israeli Parliament is to consist of 101 deputies is a compromise between two views based respectively on the Jerusalem and Babylonian versions of the Talmud.

According to the former, the Great Assembly, which governed the Jewish State in part of the post-biblical period, had 85 members, while, according to the latter, it had 120 members.

Not wishing to be drawn into a talmudic discussion, the Committee compromised on 101.

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