



By Maimonides Junior.

**JOINT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.**

Following on the interesting leading article which appear in the last issue of this newspaper entitled "Fraternal Consideration" it is interesting to note that a conference of Catholics, Jews and Protestants was held recently at New York at Temple Emanu-El for the purpose of discussing the question of providing week-day religious instruction to the children in New York. Mr. David Phillipson, the head of the Commission on Jewish Education, was in the chair. The Jewish delegates were Dr. William Rosenau, Dr. Abram Simon, Dr. Samuel Schulman, Rabbi Louis Wolsey and Rabbi George Zepin. Dr. Robert M. Hopkins, Dr. Harold Robinson, Mr. Russel Colgate, Mr. Thomas S. Evans and Dr. Hugh S. Magill represented the International Council of Religious Education, Dr. J. M. Artman, Dr. Hugh S. Magill, Dr. Harold Robinson, Professor Luther A. Weigle and Dr. B. S. Winchester the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, and the Rt. Rev. Joseph S. McClaney, Rev. Augustine Walsh and Rev. James H. Ryan the National Catholic Welfare Centre.

**LUCKLESS LITHUANIA.**

Judging by the tone of the report which the Jewish Telegraphic Agency is distributing from Kovno it seems that our people in Lithuania are to have more trouble. According to this news agency acting on the Czarist laws, which are still unrepealed in Lithuania, the Government has very unexpectedly issued an order fixing for June 27th elections for the appointment of presidents for each synagogue separately. The effect of this order is to abolish entirely the Jewish communities in Lithuania and to limit the organisation of the Jews to single congregations. It destroys completely the last remaining vestige of Jewish autonomy in Lithuania. Whether such is the case or not, of course, I cannot say, but it does seem to me that there is a tendency to exaggerate the Government's action. What is the exact meaning of such an action on the part of the Government in Lithuania is difficult of understanding in South Africa by the ordinary individual, and perhaps some of the more recent arrivals from Lithuania will be prepared to write me so that I can publish the exact effect in some future issue.

**THE NATIONAL QUESTION.**

The news reaches me that for the first time in the political history of Canada, a Jewish national candidate has come forward to contest the provincial elections now in progress there. Mr. Louis Fitch, K.C., Vice-President of the Zionist Organisation of Canada, is standing in the Jewish district of St. Louis as Jewish National Conservative candidate, with a specifically Jewish national programme. He is opposing the former member, Mr. Peter Berkovitch, who, is standing for re-election. Mr. Fitch, if elected will take an aggressive Jewish national stand whenever feasible.

I don't know whether I entirely agree with this attitude. Jewish national questions lie in Palestine not in Canada and it seems to me as if this policy could be easily over-worked. To apply the matter locally. Just fancy a Jew standing

for the Union Legislative Assembly on a purely Zionist platform with the avowed intention of forcing Jewish matters whenever feasible. To my mind such a standpoint is more applicable for a candidate for the Palestine Parliament, when such is created, than for a seat in the Legislature of either South Africa or Canada. Or, in fact, anywhere else other than in our own country!

**LEAVING PALESTINE.**

I learn from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, which is generally admitted to be a reliable source of information, that the figures for emigration and immigration in Palestine during the month of March have only now become available. According to these figures, 228 Jews entered the country during the month and 588 Jews left the country. In February 329 persons, including 280 Jews left Palestine and 220 immigrants entered the country. In January the number of immigrants was 181 and the number of emigrants was 536.

If one takes the trouble to count up the totals one finds that during the first three months of this year while 629 Jews entered Palestine no less than 1,404 left it. It is because of the astounding nature of this fact that I remark above "which is generally admitted to be a reliable source of information" as there may not be wanting those who are as astonished as I am. I am told that elsewhere in this issue appears an article reporting the conference in Berlin when demands were made for an alteration in the leadership of the Zionist Party and accusations levelled against those who are subordinating the real interests of the Palestine population to other views. Certain it is that this extraordinary difference in the "comings in" and "goings out" require some explanation.

**NO ANTI-SEMITISM.**

It is very satisfactory to learn that there is no such thing as anti-Semitism amongst the rank and file in Soviet Russia. At least so says the famous Jewish sculptor, Nahum Aronson of Paris, who is now in Moscow in connection with the presentation of his bust of Lenin to the State Museum. Speaking with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency representative there, he said that he had heard a great deal about a growth of anti-Semitism in Soviet Russia. He had visited a large number of places but he had seen no sign of anti-Semitism. He had been to Russian workers' clubs accompanied by his Jewish friends, and although he was easily recognisable as a Jew, both in appearance and in name, he had everywhere been received in the most friendly manner. There might be some anti-Semitism among the officials of the intellectuals, M. Aronson said, but there was no anti-Semitism among the masses of the people. There was no need to fear anti-Semitism in a country where the laws were all directed against anti-Semitism. In an attack by an anti-Semitic upon a Jew, the Jew would always find in Russia two non-Jews to take his part against the anti-Semite. M. Aronson added that he had never been a Zionist, but he had always held the view that Palestine ought to be a place of refuge for persecuted Jews. The Jews of Russia no longer needed a place of refuge. Speaking of the forth-

coming Schwarzbard trial, M. Aronson said that in his opinion Schwarzbard had done something of first-rate importance in directing the attention of the world to the sufferings of the Jews in the Ukraine under Petlura. It was unfortunate that Petlura had died, and that a pogromist had thus been glorified into a national martyr. M. Aronson said that he was certain that Schwarzbard would be acquitted by any French jury.

**A SCHOOL FOR "SHECHITA."**

It must be a matter of great concern to all those who take an interest in "kashrus" to learn that a school for Jewish ritual slaughterers was opened at Berlin recently under the auspices of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Prussia. The school is administered by a council consisting of three members of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Prussia and four rabbis, two in Berlin and one in Frankfort. Till now German Jewry has depended almost entirely upon ritual slaughterers brought in from other countries. It is intended now to meet the demand with a supply of ritual slaughterers born and educated in the country. Candidates for admission will be required to have a knowledge of Talmudic literature, must be strictly orthodox and will have to pass an examination in general knowledge.

The teaching of "shechita" is a very important matter and I have always held that "shochtim" have never received the proper respect due to their importance in the community. The dietary laws are so important a part of real Judaism that their proper observance is a matter of deep concern to those who are sincerely "frum." I wonder whether any of these "shochtim" who are to be taught their business properly will find their way out to South Africa? We could certainly do with a few, because the way in which some of the slaughterers kill the animals makes one wonder whether they ever received their "kabbalah"!

**The "Chronicle" Cake.**

No. 936.

We have received from Dr. Leon Bramson a cordial expression of appreciation for the presentation of the above cake. In the course of his remarks he writes: "I wish to thank you for your kindness in assigning to me the *Jewish Chronicle* cake which I much value. I take it as a sign of appreciation not to me personally, but to the great cause of the reconstruction work "Ort-Oze-Emigdirekt, which I represent in this country."

There are a quarter of a million unemployed in the Ukraine, according to the latest reports on the subject. A large proportion of the unemployed are Jews. Unemployment is particularly heavy among the Jewish population of Odessa, Kiev, Charkov, Jitomir and Mariupol.

Rabindranath Tagore, the famous Hindu poet, has sent a message to the family of the Jewish composer, Joel Engel, who died recently in Tel-Aviv, expressing his sympathy with them on their loss.

A memorial erected by the Vienna City Council to the Austrian Jewish inventor, Baron Robert Lieben, who died in 1913, was recently unveiled there. Lieben was the inventor of electric tubes, and a pioneer of the discovery of radio. He was a grandson of Baron Tedesco.

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