

## "BY ORDER OF THE CZAR."

### THE ORIGIN OF THE BLOOD LIBEL.

#### THE END IN SIGHT.

The Russian correspondent of the South African Amalgamated Jewish Press (Mr. A. Mizri) writes to us from Kieff, on the 19th September last, as follows:—

Our *Rosh Hashona* brought us some good news. The Beilis trial is to be concluded shortly, and there is every reason to hope that it will end well. According to information received by me from well-informed circles, it is to be hoped that by the time this letter will reach you the Beilis affair will be at an end, and the accused liberated.

The enquiry conducted by the specially-appointed Commissioner Maskewitz established beyond any doubt that there is no ground for suspicion against Beilis in connection with the murder of the Russian boy Justschinsky, and that his arrest constituted a crime on the part of those who desired to connect him with the libel. It is interesting to note that the Kieff police have long considered the grounds upon which Beilis could be arrested, and in finding no justification for such step they asked for the assistance of the "Ochрана." The Ochрана, being in charge of the political department of the police, is not bound to have actual justification for arrests, and it was by the order of the Ochрана that Beilis was arrested in the general capacity of a "suspect."

Only after the Special Representative of the Police Department, Laidov, arrived in Kieff and pointed out to the judicial authorities that

#### IT WAS THE DESIRE OF THE CZAR

that the motives for the murder charge against Beilis should be ritual, that the specially appointed Chief Detective Krassovsky began to act in accordance with the instructions given to him by the Crown Prosecutor in that direction.

It appears, however, that the position changed now considerably, and that

#### EVEN IN THE HIGHEST QUARTERS

the conviction is very strong that no ritual charge could be framed against Beilis, and every such hope has now been given up. It was, therefore, ordered that the whole enquiry shall be brought to an end, as it has given very little credit to all official parties concerned.

It is also more than certain that the Crown will not take the trouble of looking for the actual murderers, as after what has happened during the last eighteen months, it appears it would discredit the Government in the eyes of its supporters, should it attempt to bring the real criminals to justice. It is probable that the whole material in connection with the Beilis trial will still be made use of until after the Duma election, with a view to

#### INFLUENCING THE PROGRESS OF THE ELECTION

It is also possible, on the other hand, that we shall see the end of the Beilis trial even sooner, as the whole blood-libel agitation proved so far to be most harmful and dangerous to its instigators.

That the trial *has* taken a new turn is also proved by the fact that the two principal witnesses, the late Chief of the Detective Department, Krassovsky, and the student Machalin, who have so ably assisted the famous Brasul-Brushkovsky in his attempt to prove the innocence of Beilis, were just released from prison, where they were kept for some time past.

That from the very first moment the whole libel had no foundation was manifest to all, and even the well-known Russian Anti-Semite and member of the Council of State, Pichno, was one of the first to publish in his newspaper *Kievlanin* the correct version in reference to the murder, and to point out the baseless ground for the charge against Beilis, but notwithstanding all this the authorities have made use of

#### VARIOUS "SHERLOCK-HOLM'S" METHODS

in order to trace some shadow of a suspicion with which Beilis could be directly or indirectly identified. Now that has all failed—the charge broke hopelessly down—and just at a moment when the Government hoped most to deliver a

death-blow to those who were in any way concerned with the defence of the innocent prisoner.

Something which has

#### NO PRECEDENT IN THE HISTORY

of judicial investigation actually happened in this case. The prosecution attempted to disqualify the advocates for the defence, Mr. Margolin. The prosecution attempted to at the truth, and who were best acquainted with all the details of the libel. A charge was laid for that purpose against one of the advocates for the defence, Mr. Grigorovich-Barksy (a Russian) on the grounds that he unlawfully signed the protest against the blood-libels. A similar attempt was made in reference to the other advocate for the defence, Mr. Margolin. The Prosecution attempted to disqualify Mr. Margolin on the charge of bribing certain witnesses in the trial. It was alleged that he attempted to bribe some of the Crown witnesses, and wanted to persuade them to give evidence which might benefit the defence. Had this charge been established, the name of Mr. Margolin would have been struck off the roll of advocates. Fortunately this absurd charge also broke down at the very beginning. It is interesting to note that the chief witness against Mr. Margolin was ago Vera Tscheberiak, whose name was closely identified with the gang of real murderers of Justschinsky. Instead, however, of supporting her original statement Vera, when confronted with Mr. Margolin and Mr. Brasul-Brushkovsky, withdrew it unreservedly, and has given further most valuable information which further established the innocence of Beilis.

I was fortunate enough to interview Messrs. Margolin and Brasul-Brushkovsky immediately after the above-mentioned official enquiry, and although they were not in a position to relate all the details of the enquiry, they seemed to be so perfectly satisfied with the result and were so pleased that one could have no doubt as to its importance. Mr. Margolin had no hesitation in expressing the opinion that there can be no doubt about Beilis's immediate release.

From what I can gather, Vera Tscheberiak is now protected by the leaders of the "Real-Russian" organisations in Kieff. She became quite intimate with Mr. Savenko, the well-known Russian Nationalist leader and Duma candidate. In fact, Vera Tscheberiak is conducting to a considerable extent

#### SAVENKO'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

and takes generally a most active part in the political propaganda of the "Black Hundreds." You will find her in the remotest parts of Kieff, carrying on an agitation among the lower classes of electors in favour of the Government. It is, of course, quite uncertain yet as to Vera's reward for such excellent services, but it is not too much to assume, that her present "campaign" will entirely whitewash her in so far as her position was affected by Mr. Brasul-Brushkovsky's exposures.

Could you, in your land of freedom and justice, have the least idea of such matters? Just imagine, Vera Tscheberiak, a well-known leader of a most dangerous criminal gang, a woman whose dangerous character is well-known to the authorities, one who was now conclusively proved to be directly connected with the murder of Justschinsky, if she was not the actual murderer, conducting an election campaign on behalf of a candidate put up for election in support of the Government, and

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Is this less interesting than the history of the Neapolitan Camorra?

#### UNDER DISTINGUISHED PAIRONAGE.

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