

The Situation in Roumania.

VASTLY IMPROVED
CONDITIONS.

GOVERNMENT EARNS
GOLDEN OPINIONS.

London (J.T.A.).

Speaking at the last meeting of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, London, Mr. Lucien Wolf, the secretary of the Joint Foreign Committee, said he was sure the Board would be gratified to hear, as the Joint Foreign Committee had been gratified to hear, of the vastly improved situation in Roumania. The Roumanian Government, he declared, was earning golden opinions everywhere.

Mr. Wolf, in presenting to the meeting the report of the Joint Foreign Committee, said that the Committee had considered reports on the recent electoral campaign in Roumania, and the attitude of the new Government towards the Jews. Notwithstanding the refusal of the Union of Roumanian Jews to support the new Government, no fewer than ten Jews have been elected, seven to the Lower House and three to the Senate. Three of the new Deputies and one of the Senators elected on the Government list are Zionists. Of the remainder four Deputies and one Senator are non-Zionist, elected partly on the Government and partly on the Socialist lists, and the remaining Senator is the Chief Rabbi Niemir-over, who holds his seat ex officio. Party feeling ran high during the elections, and the Union of Roumanian Jews publicly complained to the Regency that their meetings had been broken up by hooligans employed by the Government, and that the Government was playing into the hands of the anti-Semites. These statements are of doubtful accuracy. As a matter of fact, the Government refused to come to an electoral understanding with the anti-Semites, and the result is that not a single one has been elected either to the Chamber of Deputies or the Senate. One report received by the Committee states that "so far the anti-Semitic movement has simply vanished from the streets and the universities." The Government has taken strong measures for the suppression of the anti-Semitic movement in the universities, and they compelled the Synod to issue a circular prohibiting the Moldavian clergy from participating in anti-Semitic organisations. The Committee has been specially gratified to learn that the Government intend to submit to Parliament a new citizenship law designed to solve the Staatenlose question in the annexed provinces. It will be remembered that this question was the subject of long negotiations between the late Government and the Joint Foreign Committee in 1924-7.

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The Editor,
S.A. Jewish Chronicle,
Box 2000, Cape Town.

WHY CHRISTIAN NAMES?

Sir,

I desire to call your attention to the forms of "Claim to be Registered as a Voter," which are now being distributed.

Question 1, as at present framed, must lead to either a penalty under the Electoral Act of 1918 for failure to furnish the required particulars or, more serious still, the acknowledgment by a Jew that he possesses a Christian name or names.

I have never been christened, so do not possess any Christian name. I have two first names which precede my surname, but they are not by any stretch of the imagination Christian names. If I do not fill in my first names, I am liable to a penalty of £100 or to 12 months' imprisonment without the option of a fine, or to both such fine and imprisonment. If I do fill in the form as printed, without a protest, I am acknowledging that I have Christian names, whatever that term means. Truly, "A Yid is in Golus." Please advise.

Yours faithfully,

ISAAC M. GOODMAN.

"Kenmare,"
Rochester Road,
Sea Point.

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(To our recollection this is the first time that reference has been made to this matter, although we, in common with many other co-religionists, have always recognised the absurdness and incongruity of Jews being requested, on Governmental and other forms, to state their "Christian" names. Jews are not alone in finding it difficult to comply with the request to which our contributor draws attention. The same difficulty presents itself to all those who do not subscribe to the Christian faith, and undoubtedly those responsible for the forms which are issued to a statistical-ridden public should devise some formula by which Jews and those of creeds other than Christian may not be required to state their "Christian" name or names. Surely it would be sufficient to request that one's "full name" be recorded, and, where necessary, that the surname be written first. We think this is a matter that should be brought to the notice of the Board of Deputies to handle, and we will have much pleasure in drawing the attention of that body to Mr. Goodman's timely complaint.—Editor, S.A.J.C.)

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