

Missionary Influence in Palestine.

United Jewish Action Required.

Conversionist Propaganda in New York.

THE GOODWILL MOVEMENT.

THE AMERICAN RABBINICAL MOVEMENT.

New York (J.T.A.).

In his presidential message to the 40th Convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, held in Detroit, at which there were three hundred Rabbis present, Rabbi H. G. Enelow, the President, urged that the Convention should express opposition to the attempt made in some quarters to represent Palestine as the only homeland of modern Jews. Wherever Jews lived and enjoyed citizenship, he said, there was their homeland.

Rabbi Enelow recommended the Conference to express sympathy with every effort made to restore Palestine as a home for such Jews as may live there and can be added to its population, and particularly with non-political institutions, such as the Hebrew University and the like.

He called upon the Convention to go on record as favouring the disentanglement of the Jewish Agency from all political connections and commitments, and its development as an international non-political, non-partisan society for the advancement and protection of Jewish work in the Holy Land.

Recently, under the tireless leadership of Mr. Louis Marshall, he proceeded, a plan had been proposed for the inclusion in the Jewish Agency of Jewish non-nationalists, but political entanglements had never been good for Jews or Judaism. It was not for American Jews to bother about England's plans in Palestine. It was not their task to interfere or participate in its political aims or needs there. It was Palestine was or was not to become a Seventh Dominion in the British Empire. Yet the Jewish Agency would be involved in all such questions if it retained any political characteristics or implications.

Under British rule, Dr. Enelow added, fair treatment might have been expected for a Jewish organization devoted to the welfare of Jews and Palestine, and freed from political entanglements, the Jewish Agency might have reduced the hostility of the non-Jewish population of Palestine and the outspoken or secret antipathies of other elements, and might more safely have counted on the whole-hearted support of the Jews of America and other countries.

United Jewish action to combat missionary influence in Palestine, where many Jewish children attend the missionary schools, was another point urged by Rabbi Enelow in his presidential message.

Rabbi Solomon Foster, speaking on behalf of the Synagogue Council, drew attention to the missionary propaganda which is being carried

on in New York and in other large centres, where many Jewish souls are neglected and left to Christianising influences. Rabbi Foster recommended that a broad educational campaign should be organised for the purpose of counter-acting this missionary activity.

A decision to carry on a vigorous fight against missionary activity in Palestine was adopted last February by the All-Palestine Conference of the Independent Order B'nai B'rith.

Five hundred and twenty-four Jewish children were stated in the 1928 report of the Education Department of the Palestine Government to be attending missionary schools in Palestine.

The Christian missionary activities in New York and other American cities have been constantly called attention to by the American Jewish leaders. At the beginning of the present year Rabbi Israel Goldstein, pleading with the Home Missions Council to abandon its conversionist activities, pointed out that Jewish feeling was especially offended by those Christian missionary activities which bring Jewish children under their influence. The Home Missions Council in its reply to Rabbi Goldstein declared that "to neglect proselytising would be a direct violation of the central command of our religion."

Mr. Louis Marshall, in the course of a long correspondence with Dr. Anthony, the originator of the Goodwill Movement between Christians and Jews, complained that Christian clergymen working in the Goodwill Movement are winning the confidence of young Jews and unjustifiably exploiting the opportunities thus created when they continue their missionary work.

Rabbi Foster, who has now raised the matter before the Central Conference of American Rabbis, which, with the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, composes the present Joint Conference on Goodwill between Jews and Christians, writing in the Newark "Jewish Chronicle," pointed out that the Federal Council of Churches of Christ, appealed to by the Jewish members of the Joint Conference, of whom he is one, to discourage missionary activities, voted against the appeal. Some of the leaders, he wrote, may personally refrain from active service in proselytising the Jews, but they are not averse to having others follow in the procession to look after such details.

Despite the recent assurances of undisturbed worship for the Jews at the Wailing Wall, neighbouring Arabs have again created a disturbance by beating drums and playing flutes while the Friday evening service at the Wall was going on.

American Zionist Convention.

PLEDGES SUPPORT TO WEIZMANN.

THE EX-LEGIONARIES APPEAL.

A COLONY IN PALESTINE.

Detroit (J.T.A.).

A resolution pledging continued support to Dr. Weizmann and felicitating Mr. Louis Marshall, Mr. Felix M. Warburg and Dr. Weizmann on the Jewish Agency consummation has been adopted unanimously at the Convention of the Zionist Organisation of America, which is now in session here.

Following some discussion, a decision was taken to draft a strong resolution protesting against the anti-Zionist persecutions in Soviet Russia.

The American delegation to the Zionist Congress has been instructed to urge that immediate steps should be taken to settle on the land in Palestine former members of the Jewish Legion who served in Palestine during the war, and that a sum of 100,000 dollars for this purpose should be included in the coming budget.

The Convention had before it an appeal submitted by the Jewish Legionaries Association of America, urging it to take action to bring before the Zionist Congress the motion for the creation in Palestine of a colony of legionaries, so that the Congress should transmit it to the Jewish Agency Council as one of its tasks.

In 1917, the memorandum stated, several thousand Jewish young men in America organised under the British colours as a military unit to effect the liberation of Palestine. After the armistice, at a poll taken before demobilisation, close to one thousand men of this unit gave notice of their intention to remain as colonists in Palestine. Their idea, at that time, was to organise a chain of settlements to perpetuate their work and to develop by peaceful arts what the force of their arms had helped to wrest from the Turk. For various reasons, this idea was discouraged and the greater number of these young men returned to their homes in the United States, as repatriated troops of the British Expeditionary Forces in Palestine. Several hundred hardy souls remained, however, unwilling to submit to repatriation, and anxious to add the fruits of their toil toward the upbuilding of the Jewish National Homeland. Through ten years of hardship, living through the fears and hopes attendant upon the beginning of the realisation of the age-old dream of the Jewish people, these young men suffered privation and discouragement in anticipation of a time when a grateful people would recognise their services and in its own interests help them settle in the land of their ancestors as colonists in their own right.

For ten years the American Legionaries who remained in Palestine demanded of the Palestine Govern-

ment that it should settle them on the land. The Zionist Organisation joined in this demand, but so far not even a promise has been obtained from the Palestine Government. The American legionaries, finding their claims ignored by the Government, appealed to the Jewish National Fund asking for a stretch of land for a colony. After long negotiations with the National Fund in Palestine, this request has been granted. The Jewish National Fund has assigned a stretch of land in the plantation zone for the settling of 100 legionaries. The land is situated in the valley of Sharon, which has recently been acquired by the National Fund with money provided by Canadian Jews. The sum of 100,000 dollars per annum for five years, the memorandum said, will suffice for the settlement of 100 legionaries, including the cost of the land, equipment, preliminary financing and housing, twenty legionaries being colonised each year.

At the last Zionist Congress a memorandum to similar effect was submitted by the Organisation of American Legionaries in Palestine. It recalled that after demobilisation the ex-legionaries had defended Tel Hai under Trumpeldor, and protected the people in the pogroms in Jerusalem and Jaffa. We have been wandering, it said, from place to place, from employer to employer. When we were marching in the streets of New York before we embarked for Palestine to fight, solemn promises were made to us by enthusiastic speakers, but nothing has been fulfilled. We are only a few who have remained behind, when the thousands of comrades who served with us in the Legion left the country broken-hearted. We appeal that some compensation should be made for the evil done to those of our comrades who have had to return to America, and that they, too, should be enabled to settle on the land which was their desire.

When Lord Melchett was in Palestine in March, 1928, it was reported there that he had submitted a memorandum to the Government urging a grant of land for colonising the ex-soldiers in Palestine, and promising his assistance in carrying out the project.

Menassah Friedlander, the 18-year-old Jewish boy, who has been standing his trial in Berlin for manslaughter, having shot dead his younger brother Valdemar and Valdemar's friend, Tibor Foeldes, has been sentenced to six years' imprisonment. The State Attorney had asked only for five years' imprisonment. The defence urged that the boy should be set free and allowed to go home to his sorely tried parents.

Yeshibah students working in the agricultural Kvutzah (labour settlement) on the Hebron Road (the famous Slabodka Yeshibah is now situated in Hebron) have beaten off an attack made on their Kvutzah by armed Arabs, who fled, leaving behind all the cattle of the Kvutzah which they had removed from the stables to carry off with them.