

4,500 Jewish Ex-Servicemen at Reunion Service

A Remarkable Demonstration of Loyalty

London, November 6th.

"AT this moment when so many of your faith are going through difficult times, I am very glad indeed to be associated with this remarkable demonstration of loyalty and good comradeship; loyalty to your King and country and good comradeship to all who fought in the Great War."

The above words were spoken by Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Roger Keyes, at the Reunion of Jewish ex-Servicemen held last night at the Albert Hall. This took place after the memorial service on the Horse Guards Parade conducted by the Chief Rabbi, Dr. J. H. Hertz, and Rabbi Dayan Gollop, the senior Jewish Chaplain to the Forces. Sir Roger Keyes had inspected the parade, of which Colonel J. H. Levey was in command.

Four thousand five hundred Jewish ex-Servicemen, including detachments from the provinces took part, and after the service the men marched to the Cenotaph, where wreaths were laid by two of the Jewish V.C.'s, Lieutenant Keyser and Private Jack White.

Major J. B. Brunel Cohen, the Treasurer of the British Legion, who presided at the Albert Hall Reunion, read a telegram of greeting which had been sent to His Majesty, and His Majesty's reply.

"Going round your ranks to-day and noticing the high proportion of decorations for meritorious service, proved to me the fighting spirit of the Jews," Sir Roger continued his speech.

"Jew and Englishman."

LORD MELCHETT said that it was the first time he had attended the service and parade, and he agreed to the necessity and desirability of the function.

"In these times the question arises—how can you be a good Jew and a good Englishman? A man cannot be a good anything unless he is true to himself. No one of us can be a good anything unless we are good Jews. Those who are not good Jews will never be good Englishmen. And those of us who are, always will be.

"The last time I was in this hall," Lord Melchett went on, "was on the occasion when that distinguished exile, Professor Einstein, was present on this platform. I was proud that he was not only supported, but led by the most distinguished scholars and scientists of this country. I think that the tribute we have had this afternoon to the fighting quality of Jewry is one that should make us all proud. If ever we were called upon again, the Jews of this country would make the same responses as they made in 1914.

"It is a great thing to see a gathering of this kind, as proof of our loyalty to England and of loyalty to our race."

Captain Neville Laski, K.C. (President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews), said: "I came today as a public servant; I go away a converted man. I believe that these parades do good within and without the community. I think it is of importance equally to our friends as well as to our enemies, by showing the part we have played in the war. It serves to remind us of the duties we always owe as citizens of this country. We must remember that as we are Jews we are also Englishmen. And we must also remember that as Englishmen we always have a duty before us. We are bound to shoulder 100 per cent. of its responsibilities.

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"We have the same ideal of service before us as an Englishman who is not a Jew. The only thing that distinguishes us from them is our faith and nothing more."

Jewish Front Soldiers.

THE CHIEF RABBI said he had received a telegram from the Federation of Jewish Front Soldiers of Austria sending their fraternal greeting to the Jewish ex-Servicemen of England. Last year he had read of the pride that filled the Jews in other countries that the King's Regiment played the "Adon Olam" and that thousands of men were present at that service, and the service was broadcast.

Major Brunel Cohen said that this was the fourth parade, and it had been honoured by some important representatives of the British Army or Navy. The first year they had General Sir Ian Hamilton, the second year Field-Marshal Lord Allenby, and last year General Sir Webb Gillman.

"This year they could say that there was no Jew absent whom they would like to have there, and when there are so many parades at which Jews are welcomed and to which Jews do go, but at which they are unable to take part according to their own religion, they realised the desirability of having their own service according to the Jewish religion, a service where they could all assemble and sing their own hymns, and say their own *Kaddish* as they were brought up to do. This was the reason of the increased success of the Jewish parade from year to year."

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