

Are Sephardic Jews of India Europeans?

INTERESTING DISCUSSION
IN HOUSE OF COMMONS.

London.

During a discussion in the House of Commons in the committee stage on the India Bill, Colonel WEDGWOOD asked if a Sephardic Jew or a Palestinian subject was of European race. He urged that the widest possible interpretation was needed.

Sir WALTER SMILES moved an amendment, providing that British subjects of the Sephardic Jewish community, including British subjects of mixed European and Sephardic Jewish descent but excluding Ben Israelites, black Cochin Jews and persons of mixed Jewish and non-European descent should be entitled to vote as Europeans. He said the Sephardic Jewish community was about 2,000 strong, with interests identical with those of European community. They belonged to many, if not all the European clubs, and were accepted everywhere as Europeans.

Major MILNER said that ethnologically this community were of white race. They were recognised by the European community as being to all intents and purposes of that community. They claimed that they were racially entitled to the political status of Europeans.

Mr. ORMSBY-GORE, First Commissioner of Works, said in reply that the Government takes the view, as at present advised, that it is impossible to single out one Jewish community from other Jews. To select 2,000 particular Jews in Calcutta and say that they should vote in a European constituency, and all other Jews in India should vote in general constituencies, seemed to the Government to be *prima facie* impracticable. He did not see any case for selecting this particular Jewish community, however distinguished, and putting them into a category by themselves.

He understood that the whole desire on the part of Jews had been to regard Jewry as one. Britain's whole effort in Palestine was to make no distinction between Jews from whatever part of the world they came.

LORD WINTERTON urged that once a special status was given to these people demands would be made for similar treatment by Hindoos and Mohammedans.

Colonel WEDGWOOD suggested that Lord Winterton might have a Jew amongst his ancestors.

LORD WINTERTON said: I am not aware of it, but if I were, I am very proud of it.

Mr. WEDGWOOD said there was no opposition to the amendment from any Jewish party and it had the approval of the English community in Calcutta.

Mr. ORMSBY-GORE said that he hoped that the amendment would be withdrawn. Because certain Jews were in a high social position they could not treat them differently from all other Jews. That must be a fundamental consideration. The British attitude to the Jewish people in this country and throughout the Empire was one of absolute friendliness.

(Continued in Second Column).

Jewish Agriculturists from Poland for Palestine.

Warsaw.

Mr. Zitkov, a delegate of the Histadruth Haovdim, the Palestine Jewish Labour Federation, has been on a mission here recruiting Jewish farmers who are willing to settle on the land in Palestine. He organised a group of thirty Jewish peasants in the Jewish colonies in Volhynia, which are carried on by the Ort, but difficulties arose over the sale of their land in Poland, which held up their departure for Palestine. The Ort headquarters thereupon sent the agronomist Schalit to Volhynia as its delegate, and Mr. Schalit helped them to sell their land, by granting Ort credits to the Jewish colonists who have bought the land, with which they paid the vendors in cash.—J.T.A.

Revisionist Plebiscite Postponed.

Paris.

The Revisionist plebiscite has been postponed from May 19th to June 2nd.

The question being put to plebiscite is:

The Revisionist World Union proclaims the immediate establishment of an independent Zionist Organisation, and instructs the Executive Committee to call in December, 1935, its constituent Congress on the basis of the Jewish State principle and the Herzl Shekel.

The result of the plebiscite will also decide whether the Revisionist Executive is to continue in office.

In order to acquaint the movement with the plans for the immediate future following the proclamation of the new independent Zionist Organisation, it is added, the President, Mr. Jabotinsky, and Dr. Schechtman and Engineer Koppelovitz, members of the Executive, are leaving for a tour of Poland, Eastern and Western Galicia, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Roumania, Lithuania and Latvia, to address public meetings.—J.T.A.

S.A. BOARD OF JEWISH EDUCATION. (CAPE COMMITTEE).

The South African Board of Jewish Education (Cape Committee) is about to compile a complete register of Hebrew Teachers and requests all teachers of Hebrew to communicate with the Secretary of the Board, P.O. Box 2578, Cape Town, when the necessary Registration Form will be forwarded to them for completion.

(Continued from First Column).

Sir WALTER SMILES, in asking leave to withdraw the amendment, urged that in view of the fact that the evidence on the subject was considered by the Joint Select Committee, the case was all the stronger for the Government's reconsideration of the claim of these people.

The amendment was then by leave withdrawn.—J.T.A.

Success of Jewish Violinist in Russia.

Moscow.

Henry Temianko, the young violinist who was selected as laureate at the recent international violin contest held in Warsaw, is having a tremendous success here in a tour of the Soviet Union.

There was an enthusiastic public of over ten thousand at his two concerts in Moscow, and as many at his four concerts in Leningrad.

The critics declare that he is the finest violinist now in Europe.

Temianko, who is a Londoner, has been engaged by the Warsaw Philharmonic Society for a two months' tour of the Soviet Union. He will visit Charkoff, Kiev, Odessa, Baku, Tiflis and other cities.—J.T.A.

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