

The American Outlook

by

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The Kosher Racket

Washington, D.C.

THE Federal Government, having finally realized the futility of coping with the existing conditions in New York, has stepped into the Kosher Poultry Industry picture.

It has instituted a system of licensing all poultry dealers and is using the efficient G-Men (special Government Agents) to clean up this age old mess. To the stranger outside the American border, the chicken industry is looked upon as a petty concern. A few facts, however, will demonstrate the fertility of this field for the crooked racketeer. There are in the State of New York more than 2,500,000 Jews. Fully 75 per cent. of this group practice Kashruth and Schechita. In Chicago there are 500,000 Jews, Detroit has 60,000 Jews and when one takes into account the heavily Jewish populated cities of Boston, Philadelphia and Pittsburg, let alone large numbers of Jewish citizens in the innumerable small towns of the Eastern and Mid-Western States, one can readily see what the buying power of such a mass of people can achieve.

Practically, this entire Jewish population draws on the city of New York for its poultry and Kosher necessities on the day before the Sabbath eve. Millions of dollars change hands across the counters of the Jewish merchant on Friday eve. Following the demise of our unlamented liquor laws, the Jewish racketeer looked about for new fields and sensing the naivete of his own people in anything which touched their own ethics, he was eager to dip his hands into this potential pot of honey. To say that he has thus far gorged himself, is putting it mildly. American Jewry is breathing visible sighs of relief now that the Government has decided to clean house.

Olympics—An Armed Camp

Chicago, Illinois.

IMMINENT rumblings are being heard on the North Atlantic and Pacific seaboard concerning the question of American participation in the 1936 Summer Olympiad in Berlin. In New York the leaders of both sides are seemingly hitching themselves for what promises to be an interesting affray. The American correspondents who were assigned to cover the Winter Olympics in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, reported on the appearance of the Olympic resort as being that of an armed camp. Combined with several "faux pas" committed by the Nazi Minister of Propaganda, the American newspaper men have returned with a bad disposition toward Nazi domination of this Olympiad. Judging from daily articles of the leading correspondents, they are feeding fuel to an already roaring blaze.

Towards Orthodoxy ?

Cincinnati, Ohio.

IN a nation-wide survey conducted by the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods and the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, information has reached me that there has been a significant swing toward traditional orthodoxy among the members of Reform congregations throughout the land.

On the basis of replies from 2,851 individuals, the survey discloses that many Reform Jews regard the existing Reform service as stereotyped and lacking in inspiration. The majority favour a return to an emotional appeal through the traditions of Orthodoxy and want a revival of the pageantry in the synagogue and a less intellectualised and more emotionalised service. Many have evinced desires for increased participation of individuals in the service through responsive readings, increased congregational singing, traditional Jewish music in the service and the use of an exclusively Jewish choir.

Going to War—No !

New York City, N.Y.

WAR! No War!

The headlines of newspapers glare forth in heavy black type with contradictory statements. Down in Little Italy and elsewhere the price of imported olive oil soars upward and on the stock market the delicate indicator of each new turning in the financial situation showing cotton, oil and steel are worth a little more than they were a month ago. Life, however, goes on in this country with the usual excitements and pastimes and with the usual work. The male population is more preoccupied with the opening of the baseball season than with the probability of shouldering a gun. Wherever I go I find Jews vitally discussing the natural propensity of war. Their inherent pacifistic tendencies have placed them squarely behind the Administration in upholding the recent iron-bound Neutrality Act.

America will never bear arms because of her Jews. Many anti-Zionists have seized this opportunity to criticise Great Britain for what they claim are apparently selfish motives. The majority of Jewish leaders, however, expressed in their recent addresses, sincere fears of Fascist influence in North Africa and Asia Minor.

A Pogromist Repents

Buffalo, N.Y.

AMERICAN Jewry is still pinching itself over the sudden repentance of Stefan Koltchak, a Pole, now living in the United States, who recently attempted to reimburse a poor Polish family for a crime he committed against them during the pogroms in 1919. During the riots of that

year, Koltchak, who was one of the participants, killed the husband and parents of the woman to whom he sent a cheque for 10,000 dollars last week as compensation for his regrettable act. The reaction here was not only of esteem for Koltchak's impulsive gesture, but was mingled too, with amazement. Non-Jews seem especially gratified with the practical example of Koltchak's penitent change after being subjected to a virus of tolerance and fair play.

The Furtwangler Incident

New York City, N.Y.

THE following cablegram has just been received with a sigh of relief from Luxor, Egypt, by the directors of the New York Philharmonic Symphony Society:

"Political controversy disagreeable to me stop Am not politician but exponent of German music which belongs to all humanity regardless of politics stop I propose postponement of my season in the interests of Philharmonic Society and music until public realizes that politics and music are apart if quote press quote verbatim. Furtwangler."

A short time ago, after the Philharmonic Society had engaged Conductor Wilhelm Furtwangler to succeed Arturo Toscanini as the orchestra's general director, the announcement of Furtwangler's appointment raised a storm of national protest. Angry groups organized to boycott next season's concerts. World famous musicians served notice that they would not solo with the Philharmonic if its leader was to be a man who had accepted and profited by the German Nazi regime.

Herr Furtwangler's "postponement" of his season with the New York orchestra was regarded by United States Jewry as a signal success in its determined effort to boycott Germany and her products.

All subscribers alike have agreed that the orchestra's directors had been ill-advised to invite Herr Furtwangler in the first place. William J. Henderson, music critic of the New York Sun, called attention to the fact that at least one-half of the Philharmonic's patrons are Jews.

Said Mr. Henderson: "It is manifestly impossible that the sons and daughters of Israel can dissociate their feelings from their artistic judgment at a concert directed by a man whom they regard as an enemy of their race. To avoid painful experiences they will take the simple and logical course of staying away from these concerts. If they abandon the Philharmonic-Symphony Society, it will perish. There is no musical enterprise of any kind whatever that can prosper in this great city without the support of the Jews . . ."