

MESSAGES—Continued

MR. FREIMAN
for these principles and of tyrants who tried to destroy us as well as the cause for which we fought. But our survival as a people, in spite of these onslaughts, bears witness to the strength of that great spiritual force which has vanquished and survived any physical force ever raised against it. The faith which sustained us then will sustain us in these grave days, and the evil forces that now assail mankind will suffer the same defeat as they did in days of old.

Israel gave morality to the world, and Israel, during the forthcoming Holy Days will again rededicate itself to these same principles. We identify ourselves completely with that spirit and become a

part thereof, knowing that that light which shines within will bring us solace and hope, and a renewed strength which, God willing, will enable us to overcome our enemies.

A. J. FREIMAN,
President,
Zionist Organization of Canada.

MRS. GOTTLIEB
the unshaken faith and the heroic courage of the Yishuv in Palestine in this dark hour, and I am determined to carry on my share of the responsibility of the "Redemption of my people and my Homeland."

At the end of the "Neilah" service, there will be heard a resounding blast of the Shofar. For us living on this continent, the sound of the Shofar must

this year hold a profound and prophetic utterance. It will say to us: "Remember your brothers and sisters in Poland, Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Holland, Belgium, Norway, Russia, France, and in our beloved and impregnable little island, England—remember those who can no longer hear the sound of the Shofar. Darkness and silence has befallen them. Take up the challenge that is being given to you! Take the place of those who can no longer hear the Shofar, and say to yourselves, we must stand together, we must redouble our efforts so that we may help to bring to a successful victory the cause for which we all fight, the cause of democracy, the ultimate victory of the British Empire."

MRS. D. P. GOTTLIEB,
Western Vice-President,
Canadian Hadassah.

MR. BRONFMAN
in these troublous times, has been a paramount factor for Canadian Jewish unity, that unity, indeed, which on assuming the presidency, I saw both as its principal motivation and its chief purpose. I am grateful therefore, to my predecessors in this office, the late Lyon Cohen and the late S.

W. Jacobs, both of whom established a tradition of communal consciousness and a standard of public duty, which stands us all in such good stead in this hour of need.

Canadian Jewry faces the New Year with a firm conviction in the righteousness of our country's cause, and with an unshakable belief that with the

help of God, the right must ever and always emerge victorious! It faces it with a knowledge that history is full of the ghosts of vanished Hitlers, appearing on its pages under one alias or another, strutting their brief hour, and finally descending to that oblivion which is their just desert! It faces it with courage, knowing that the price

of liberty is the consent to sacrifice. And it faces it fortified with unity, unity within itself, unity with country and Empire, determined to use the phrase of Kipling, that

In the days of Armageddon at the last great fight of all

Our House shall stand together, and the pillars shall not fall!

SAMUEL BRONFMAN,
President,
Canadian Jewish Congress.

A decree forcing baptism on all Jewish children between the ages of four and 14 was issued by the Portuguese government in 1496.



Hudson's Bay Company
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Charm . . . beauty . . . originality . . . together with fine craftsmanship and every comfort feature mark these new "Janet Lee" shoes. See them! . . . try them! . . . wear them now! Take your pick of fashion-right colors in suedes, calfskins and pebbly crushed leathers.

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JEWISH EDUCATION IN WESTERN CANADA
(Cont. from page 8)

The Canadian Jewish Congress, there are approximately 4,200 Jewish children of school age in the four western provinces, of which 2,558 live in Manitoba, 632 in Saskatchewan, 600 in Alberta and 510 in British Columbia.

In Winnipeg there were 3,419 Jewish children of school age in 1931, and this number had decreased to 2,922 in 1936, and 2,376 in 1940.

In Regina the number of Jewish children of school age has decreased from 221 in 1931 to 157 in 1936, and as low as 115 in 1940, while in Saskatoon the number of Jewish children of school age has decreased from 171 in 1931 to 99 in 1936, and 78 in 1940. In other words, the number of Jewish children of school age has decreased during the past nine years by 33.5% in Winnipeg, 48.0% in Regina and 54.4% in Saskatoon.

That does not mean for a moment that the need for educational facilities has decreased. On the contrary the problem has become more acute, for the number of grades and age groups remains the same, but the number of children in each group and the number of parents personally interested decreases.


There are only five cities in Western Canada in which there are more than 100 Jewish children of school age, namely Winnipeg, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton and Regina. There are only three other Jewish communities in Western Canada with more than 20 and less than 100 Jewish school children, and only 11 other Jewish communities with ten or more Jewish children of school age.

The problem is serious enough in the smaller communities with less than 20 school children. It is still worse in the 181 towns and villages in Manitoba and Saskatchewan in which there are only one to three Jewish families. There are actually 103 villages in Saskatchewan in each of which there is only one Jewish child of school age, and 13 villages in Manitoba in which a similar situation exists.

All the talk in the world about the respective merits of Hebrew and Yiddish, Talmud Torahs, Peretz Schools and Folk Schools is of little use to these scattered Jewish families. They form more than 60% of the Jewish population of Saskatchewan and 22% of the Jewish population of Alberta. The situation is different in Manitoba where 90% of the Jewish school age population is in Winnipeg, and in British Columbia where 91% of the Jewish school age population lives in Vancouver.

Can we deal honestly with the problem of Jewish education in Western Canada under such circumstances, if we think solely in terms of large cities, and schools with one or more teachers? Jewish life in the smaller towns and villages never can be sound if there is no local provision for Jewish education, or if families are compelled to sell out and leave for the larger cities.

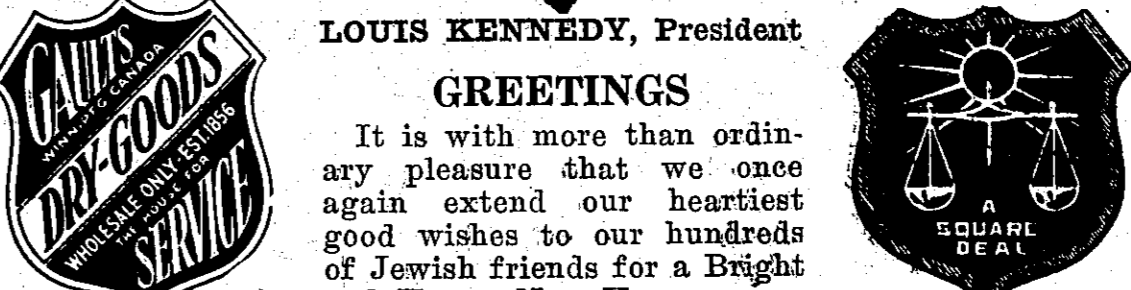
Groups may build educational fences between themselves, and say: "You play in your yard and I'll play in mine." Zionists, Poleds, Zionists, Peretz School supporters and others may permit themselves the luxury of keeping to themselves in one or more two larger cities, but that attitude becomes tragic when extended to the West as a whole.



LOUIS KENNEDY, President

GREETINGS

It is with more than ordinary pleasure that we once again extend our heartiest good wishes to our hundreds of Jewish friends for a Bright and Happy New Year.



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