

of America would make him change his mind about a big-league career in baseball. But it was all wishful thinking. Moe, at that time known as Morris, returned from Europe laden with scholastic honors from Oxford and the Sorbonne, and immediately set about the business of getting hired by some minor league club. He packed his diplomas and his knowledge of Sanskrit literature which he had picked up on his Continental brownings in a strong solution of camphor and donned the spikes of a common laborer in the bush leagues. But still the professors hoped that some day he would return to them.

After two years in the grapefruit circuits, he was bought by the Chicago White Sox as a shortstop. Naturally, he didn't get a varsity berth the first year up in the majors, but he fielded well enough and hit hard enough to stick through several seasons with the Chi White Sox as a utility infielder. One day a series of coincidences left the club with no visible catcher on the active list of players. Ray Schalk, a catcher himself, and the manager of the club at the time, looked up and down the players' bench, wondering whom he could put behind the plate. As we

have said Moe was a utility infielder and his future in that capacity didn't seem any too bright. In fact, all he could see ahead was several seasons in the shadow of the dugout and after that oblivion. So he grasped the sudden opportunity, stepped forward and offered his services as a catcher.

"What do you know about catching?" his manager asked.

"I know a little about everything," the amazing Mr. Berg replied.

That afternoon he put on a mask and protector and caught a capable game. From that time on he never played short stop again or any other position except catcher. He remained as a big league catcher for many years and in 1935 toured Japan with the American League all-stars. Today he is nominally a coach with the Red Sox, but he is also something more than that. He is the club's philosopher, expert observer and the settler of arguments.

Moe is well liked by players in the big league brigade. They respect him for being the most erudite scholar who ever wore a baseball uniform. Likewise, they find in him kindness and understanding sympathy and come to him for advice. Many of them have

suggested to their owners and to the presidents of both major league circuits that this world traveler, who for years has sought and found knowledge, in many lands, be given a job as umpire in the big game. But this, however, is not Moe's wish. He loves baseball but doesn't care for it from a spot behind the catcher's box. As for a life in the classroom? He had long ago decided the campus life was too sedate. Furthermore, he openly admits that though his knowledge is vast and varied, he knows more about baseball than about any other subject. There can be no question but that Berg is a strange anomaly in the world of sports.

Berg's best friends are a strange trio indeed. His dearest association made on the baseball diamond is none other than Al Schacht the former pitcher whose antics have made millions laugh and whose antics have earned him a fortune. Another of Berg's close friends is John Kieran, the sportswriter, the walking encyclopedia and the man who dubbed Al Schacht the "Clown Prince of Baseball". Third in this trio is Oscar Levant, the musical wizard who, though it is not as well known, knows almost as much about baseball as he knows about music.

Berg has long been a legend. One report related by Lou Gehrig shortly after the American League all-stars returned from their trek through the land of the Cherry Blossoms concerned the time the all-stars played in Tokyo. Berg was immediately invited to visit the university in that city and what is more, was a guest lecturer to the Japanese students on the grand old game of baseball. It is interesting to note that Berg addressed the students for one hour in their native tongue—Nipponese. Another anecdote that makes the rounds is the one about Berg and his run-in with the British Museum. Berg, pouring over some ancient Sanskrit manuscripts, recognized the hand of a forger. The curators and trustees were both amazed and chagrined but Berg was correct. The manuscripts no longer hold their cherished niche.

But Moe continues to have a good time. "If ever baseball gets boring, maybe I'll actually open up a law office. You know I once passed my bar examination."

As Alice would say, "Curiouser and curiouser". Moe Berg's education stood him in good stead. In between baseball seasons, he practiced law in New York, associated with the firm of Satterlee and Ganfield. In his spare time he was involved in business deals and once he even wrote a piece for the Atlantic Monthly on the art of catching ball. But then Moe was used to double duty because even way back in 1927 as a catcher for the Chicago White Sox he found time to study law at Columbia.

1927 to 1931 were his best years as a ballplayer. Then a knee injury he sustained took him out of action and he remained on a couch with the Red Sox. But his career as a traveller, linguist and adventurer was just beginning. He travelled twice around the world, on baseball missions to Japan and nearly ran into a load of trouble with the OGPU in Russia when he was found taking snapshots of the Kremlin. His

travels paid off because the veteran ballplayer was adding language after language to his repertoire of a half dozen which he already spoke perfectly. Although some of his teammates almost stood in awe of this intellectual giant, he always remained the professor and the guy who could always think of the five-letter word you needed when you got stuck on a cross-word puzzle.

Now the man who gave baseball intellectual standing, has finished his career. His unconditional release from the Red Sox leaves him free to devote himself to his Uncle Sam. At 39 with one career over, he is slated to join the staff of Nelson A. Rockefeller, co-ordinator of inter-American affairs. He'll probably play the role of goodwill ambassador for which his mastery of nine languages and his knowledge of international affairs have admirably fitted him. Uncle Sam was probably the only one for whom Moe Berg would have left baseball. Up till now he had turned down many attractive offers with the comment: "I would rather be a ballplayer than a bank president or a judge."

SPANISH POLICE ARREST HUNDREDS OF JEWS IN BARCELONA

Istanbul (WNS)—Spanish police have arrested hundreds of Jews in surprise raids on Jewish homes and enterprises in Barcelona, the Nazi radio reported this week. The arrested Jews were formally charged with having fought with the Loyalists in the Spanish civil war and with continuing their anti-Fascist activities. The report added that the Jews will be given the death sentence if found guilty by a special Fascist tribunal.

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The Annual Election Meeting Of The Winnipeg Talmud Torah

As we approach the annual elections at the Talmud Torah we feel that the time is opportune to cast some light on the subject. It is our desire to convey to Winnipeg Jewry the need to come closer to the work of the Talmud Torah and to take a keener interest in the institution.

The Talmud Torah is the workshop where the Jewish spirit is fashioned; it is the laboratory where the Jewish soul is moulded and shaped. What Jew can afford to forego the duty of being present at the elections of an institution wherein lies the future of our Jewish youth?

The time has come when the matter "Talmud Torah" must broaden itself and become a communal problem. Every Jew who has Judaism at heart must come to the elections and see that people are elected who understand the responsibility of the position they hold. It is not a question of distributing honors or of going through the forms of an election. We must understand that it is upon the composition of the board that the entire program of the Talmud Torah hinges. I would consider it a great accomplishment if this year's election would elicit a strong and enthusiastic response from the city at large thereby making it a communal undertaking. Only then will the Talmud Torah become the central nerve of our community; only then will the Talmud Torah reach those heights upon which

a Talmud Torah should stand.

A complete report will be given on all branches of activity. Come and get acquainted with the entire machine of the Talmud Torah where approximately 850 children up to the age of 18 are taught. A report outlining the activities during the past years and particularly the previous term will be given.

The Talmud Torahs are now completing 30 years of existence. After three decades of hard work the institution is receiving a realignment, a new direction and a new soul. After 30 years of planning and research the local Talmud Torahs today find themselves

planted in healthy soil with splendid prospects for the future. The Talmud Torahs should and must become an integral part of the entire "Kehillah". Every Jew who is interested in the welfare of Judaism should be present at the annual meeting on Wednesday, April 29, at 8 p.m., when a clear picture of what has been accomplished and what prospects the future holds will be outlined. The Jewish community's interest in the Talmud Torahs would be the surest guarantee that they will grow and flourish and that new and rich chapters will be written in the history of our National Religious Education.

Remember that the elections have a significant meaning because the Talmud Torah wishes and is determined to place itself on a stronger and healthier footing. The program must be expanded and your active participation in the elections on Wednesday, April 29 will mean that you have given moral support which will be of great benefit to religious national education in our city. In anticipation of their co-operation I wish to thank all the Jewish residents of the city. Remember, make it a point to attend and participate in the activities of our Talmud Torah.—I. B. Cohen, principal.

Collective Thinking Necessary In World Of Future, B.B. Told

In a world growing smaller every day collective thinking is essential if we are to survive, A. V. Pigott told members of the B'nai B'rith luncheon club Tuesday in the Marlborough hotel. If we fail to take advantage of the new measuring rod for truth that science has given us we will fail and deserve to fail, the speaker said.

"We must learn to live with every race and creed on earth in the world of tomorrow," he declared. There are certain fundamentals we can all agree upon, the speaker added. It is neither difficult nor impossible as many have been led to believe that we cannot think collectively upon those things that matter most to us. The weakness of democracy has been that there was no plan for people to follow. Individualism had been rampant and people erroneously believed that the next man's welfare was no affair of their's.

"If we believe in democracy we must be prepared to make sacrifices for it, we must be prepared to take the world over after this war and run it if we want to have democracy," the speaker declared.

Samuel Freedman presided. E. M. Finkelman moved the vote of thanks.

B'nai B'rith-A.Z.A. Joint Meeting Is Highly Successful

The second annual joint meeting of the B'nai B'rith, A.Z.A. and Junior A.Z.A. was held on April 17 at the Royal Alexandra hotel.

Hart Green, Jr., B'nai B'rith president, extended a warm welcome to the guests. Meyer Milstock, Aleph Godol of the A.Z.A., and Bob Halparin, Aleph Godol of the Junior A.Z.A., spoke in reply.

Bar Mitzvah presentations were made by Rabbi Solomon Frank to Harvey Swartz and Herbert Adler. These presentations preceded a recorded address from Henry Monsky, Grand Lodge president of the B'nai B'rith.

A piano selection by Dickie Bell followed and another recording by Julius Bisno, executive director of the A.Z.A., was heard.

The feature of the evening was a symposium entitled "What are we fighting for?" Participating were: Aleph Sidney Kiffer, Aleph Manley Levitt, Aleph Archie Baker and Aleph Oscar Dirnfield.

Presentation of the advisor's 15-year service certificate to Past President L. E. Tapper was made by Sylvan Leipsic.

L. Zuken Dies At 53

L. Zuken, 454 Bannatyne avenue, well known resident of Winnipeg, died following a lengthy illness at the age of 53. The funeral was held Tuesday at 3 p.m., from the Chesed Shel Emes to the Independent B'nai Abraham cemetery.

Mr. Zuken came here in 1913 and was active in many organizations including the Independent B'nai Abraham, the B'nai Jacob and the Voliner landsman-schaft.

Surviving him are his wife and three sons, Cecil, Joseph and I. Zuken.

TALMUD TORAH NOTICE

The Annual Election Meeting of the Talmud Torahs of Winnipeg will take place at the Main Talmud Torah, on Wednesday, April 29th, at 8 p.m.

Reports will be given by the chairmen of the various committees. All members and friends of the Talmud Torah are urged to attend this meeting.

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