

THE JEWISH POST

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in Winnipeg and Western Canada)

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Trouble in Turkey

News that the Turkish Minister of the Interior has dissolved all Jewish communal councils will come as a severe shock. The Council of National Unity, which has ruled Turkey since the revolution of this May, has been correct, and even cordial, in its treatment of the 40,000 strong Jewish community. The new measures, however, are calculated to make its continued functioning virtually impossible, since synagogues, schools, orphanages, hospitals and all the many other institutions which form the basis of community life cannot possibly see to their own separate finances and administration. Moreover, in a poor country like Turkey these facilities are far more essential to individual and community alike than in an affluent welfare state.

The fact that similar measures are being adopted against the other large non-Moslem minority groups, the Greeks and Armenians, is no consolation. It is difficult to conceive of any justification for these measures. Jews have maintained their own communal life in the Ottoman Empire since they settled there at the Sultan's invitation in the fifteenth century. These arrangements relieve the State of a financial burden and they create no political or national problem of any kind. It is to be hoped that General Gursel, who has shown a cordial and understanding attitude to the Jewish communities needs and problems in the past, will give his attention to this new contretemps and set the community's mind at rest. —J.C.N.S.

Forty Fruitful Years

One of the world's most unusual labor organizations is celebrating its fortieth anniversary. It is Histadrut, the Israeli Federation of Labor, which combines the functions of a union, an employer association, an agency of economic development and a generator of democratic impulses in the strife-racked Middle East.

The theme of its anniversary observance, "Forty Years That Changed a Wilderness," epitomizes the contribution Histadrut has made to the building of Israel's industry and agriculture and to the creation of work opportunities for the hundreds of thousands of uprooted Jews who sought refuge there. In this endeavor it has pioneered in many forms of cooperative industrial development that are being studied as models by other emerging countries, in which economic worries menace political stability.

Histadrut deserves good wishes for its manifold experiments in democracy and economic fulfillment it has undertaken. —New York Times

A Card a Day

With the granting of permission by the Winnipeg Civic Charities Endorsement Bureau to the B'nai B'rith Organization and to Hadassah-Wizo for the running of the Newspaper Bingo, two vital projects will receive substantial aid in meeting their equipment needs in order to provide important services both here and in Israel.

B'nai B'rith Community Camp, situated in the Lake of the Woods area, will be enabled to continue with the building and renovating necessary to assure proper accommodations and facilities

From the Editor's Desk

BY
MELVIN FENSON
SPECIAL JERUSALEM
CORRESPONDENT FOR
THE JEWISH POST



Jerusalem

On an early evening trip to Tel Aviv last night, two high school girls flagged me down for a lift to a Kibbutz in the Jerusalem corridor. Whereas the AAA and its worldwide affiliates caution firmly against taking hitch-hikers into your car, in Israel giving lifts to "trrrremptim" is officially encouraged, a cheap way of providing for Hebrew conversation practise, and a fine way to follow the injunction of the Government Tourist Corp., "meet the people." The two young seniors of the Rechavia Gymnasium were my guests, more or less through the agency of Abba Eban, Israel's Minister of Education, who took over the post left vacant when Zalman Aranne resigned in chagrin at his failure to end a jurisdictional dispute involving the high school teachers. The oratorical flights that won him the acclaim of the UN apparently impressed the teachers union representatives sufficiently to allow schools to open on schedule this year without the strikes that have become a regular feature of the pedagogical scene. But a one-day strike tomorrow will close the high schools, and while the Cabinet will mull over the implications of this warning gesture, my two young passengers hope to find a day's work at Kibbutz Harel's plantations. With this in view, two youngsters had set out, in the dark of evening, to travel through the corridor to a border kibbutz . . . planning to find another lift home later the same night. My guess is few other daughters of Jerusalem would be following their example. Most high school seniors would probably welcome the unplanned free day to review the novels of Kafka and Flaubert, or twentieth century history, or other subjects that make senior year at the academic high schools here sound like a sophomore college course in the U.S. or Canada. The quality of academic achievement is one of the overwhelming impressions scored on the newcomer here. The utter chaos that reigns in lieu of school discipline is another. The chaos is explained post-facto by Israelis as the deliberate outcome of two generations of education designed to breed military heroism, disdain for (Mandatory) authority, and the free independent personality structure that contrasts so sharply with the image of the "mathmid" or eternal student. On the subject of academic achievement, there is apparently an unconscious reversion to the stereotype of the cheder and the selfsame objectionable 'mathmid' in the fetish of study, homework assignments, and an almost ruthless competition among teachers to drain the last drops of achievement from the overworked brains of their students. One parent . . . a very secular 'Yecke' physician complained this week that his son's high school (Israel's model school) is nothing but a glorified cheder. Athletics, clubs, school societies, extra-curricular activities are all un-

ties for the hundreds of children who attend the camp each summer. Certainly the Jewish community would wish to maintain nothing less than the best of physical standards for its children's activities. Hadassah, which has always volunteered to provide needed services and facilities for those less fortunate, have for some time been hard pressed for proper equipment at their Post Polio Rehabilitation Centre in Sarafand, Israel. The "extra" funds which can be made available through the Newspaper Bingo will mean much to many in Israel who have to overcome the ravages of polio . . . certainly a project which merits cooperation from all of us.

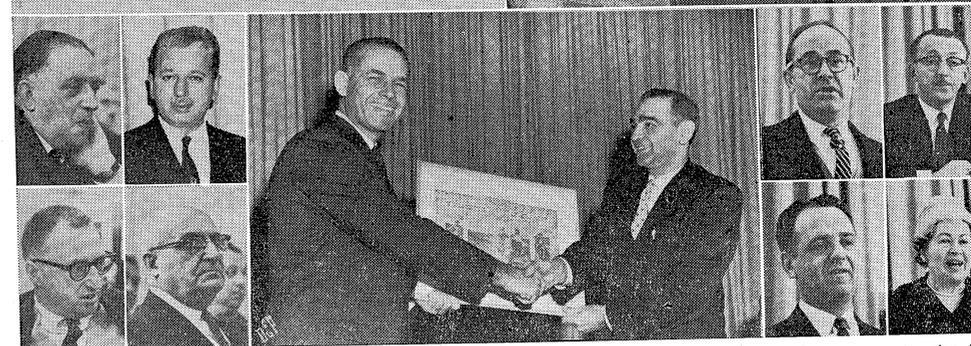
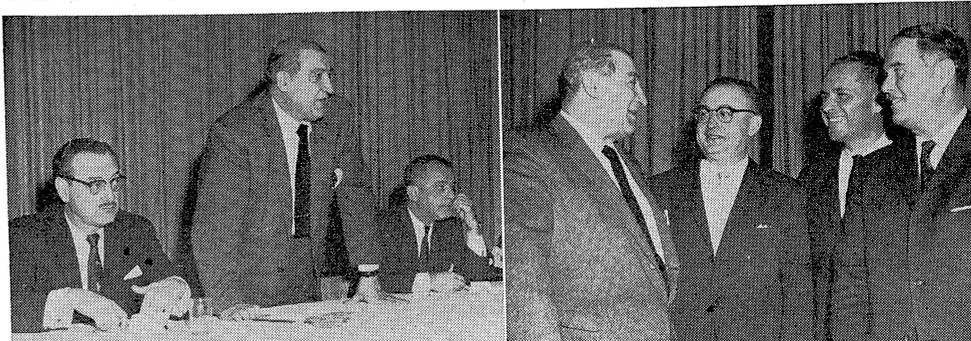
The daily press publicizes the contest progress regularly. It can be fun and even rewarding to be part of it. An extra card a day can also mean the assurance of continued services in important areas of our community concern.

known, or left to other agencies. The homework load is crippling; the boy looks wan and drawn, as a Yeshiva bocher should, but not a lively high school student. There seems to be no coordination among teachers regarding examination schedules. The accent has been placed on subject and content almost to the elimination of educating the child.

This physician parent does not represent the more characteristic parental view which, while conceding the grueling pace of high school studies, derives a quiet satisfaction from seeing their youngster survive the ordeal. If a Canadian or American touches this sensitive theme, he is reduced to the status of a half-civilized savage from the land of TV bromides, university football scholarships, and crude caricatures of comics-reading capitalists cavorting in Cadillacs. One such recent discussion included parents who had had contact . . . either personal, or through the experience of their children . . . with good academic secondary schools in Belgium, France, Germany, England, Holland and Austria. All reported that standards there were high . . . apparently far more exacting than in Canada, or the United States. The universally accepted conclusion was that in matters of the intellect, Israel dare not be outdistanced by any other land. "We must be the best . . ." uttered with the finality of magistrate's gavel. The fact that the United States, of all countries mentioned, has the largest percentage of high school age students in school; that Israel has no compulsory high school attendance law; that annual high school fees here for those who pay are nearly one-sixth the average industrial worker's income; that percentage-wise the more than 50% of the land's population hailing from oriental and Sephardic communities contribute very few of their children to the total high school population, these factors were accorded very little weighting. The selectivity that is for all intents and purposes fully operative . . . ethnic, economic, intellectual . . . and which results in a strictly limited group of candidates entering the academic high schools, is an incontrovertible fact. The shortage of schools . . . with classrooms cramming up to 55 pupils (an endemic condition from grade one to grade twelve) in itself induces school administrations to favor any available restrictive measures, and encourages teachers to maintain a level of achievement that will discourage 'borderline' admissions.

The former director-general of the Ministry of Education, Dr. Moshe Avidor (a Columbia University graduate) recently told a visiting group of American fund-raisers that Israel's school population rise from 95,000 to nearly 600,000 in the twelve-and-a-half years since statehood has thus far affected largely the grade schools. As the immigrant generation influx begins to knock at high school doors for admission, new strains and stresses will be felt. He held up for emulation the situation of countries like England, where only 16% of the high school age group are in academic schools . . . others turn to trade courses, or industrial apprenticeships. Whether the people of Israel will be content with such a situation, and whether the best interests of the country will be served by so sharply divided educational groups, remains to be seen. To use unnecessarily high secondary school standards as an instrument for perpetuation of existing social and ethnic inequalities can easily lead to a stratification of classes shockingly opposed to the egalitarian ideas to which Zionism has been rendering lip-service for sixty years. What is needed is a world-wide recognition, among Diaspora Jewry, that financing the expansion of secondary school opportunities for all is as essential in the long run, as industrial development, immigrant absorption, and university-level education and research. If a new objective and form of fund-raising for Israel is needed today, it likely will be found in this field. Once enough desks and seats, teachers and books, classrooms and budget is found to reduce class-size limits to thirty-five, there is little doubt that the fetish of supreme academic standards will pass. That should put a spot of colour into the wan cheeks of the overworked student today.

Mid West Z.O.C. Holds Annual Confab



SCENES FROM THE CONFERENCE: top left — a view of the "Great Debate" with panelists Harry Wolfson and Sinai Leichter, and Samuel J. Drache, Q.C., moderator. Top right — Mr. Drache is joined by Max Melamut, ZOC executive vice-president (at right) in congratulating Leo Bokofsky, newly elected executive chairman, and Andrew O. Schwartz, chairman of the Mid West region. Bottom centre, Mr. Schwartz presents certificate inscribing Frank Marantz in the Golden Book of the JNF in Jerusalem, in recognition of his devoted

and exemplary service as chairman of the mid west region from 1956 to 1960.

Candid shots include: at left, I. Chertkov of Vancouver, Wolfe Margolis of Edmonton, Les Rephael of Vancouver and Samuel Promislow of Regina; at right, Rabbi Dr. Milton Aron, Canadian chairman, JNF Foundation; Ralph Hamovich, regional director, ZOC; S. N. Cohen, Winnipeg Israel Bond chairman, and Mrs. J. M. Bernstein, Manitoba regional chairman of Hadassah.

Mid West Region Zionist Organization of Canada evaluated its past year's activities last Sunday as participants in the annual conference considered its progress in fund-raising through UJA, Jewish National Fund and Israel Bonds sales, cultural and educational programs and public relations activities.

Youth Program

Of considerable interest was the report of Mrs. J. M. Bernstein who reviewed the progress of Hadassah's youth committee, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Zalman Schachter, in reorganizing Young Judaea and revitalizing its activities. The conference resolved to aid in the promotion of this youth program, to recruit leaders and to lend financial help for facilities, equipment and program. The ZOC Youth committee under the chairmanship of Rabbi Philip Shnainson was charged with the responsibility for following up on behalf of the Region.

Reports

A report from S. N. Cohen, general chairman of the Winnipeg Israel Bond committee, indicated that results to date approximate \$400,000. Rabbi Milton Aron, national chairman of the Jewish National Fund Foundation, emphasized the importance to the Zionist Movement of the JNF since it provided three avenues by which a relationship with Israel can best be maintained— a) education; b) visiting Israel, and c) possessions in Israel.

Mrs. J. M. Bernstein brought greetings from Hadassah-Wizo.

Canadian Zionism

In an address, in which he pre-

sented his impressions and evaluation of the national conference recently held in Montreal, Max Melamut, executive vice-president of the Zionist Organization of Canada, pointed out the relatively homogeneous nature of the Canadian Jewish community — socially, culturally and economically. The Canadian Jew is more committed to both his Jewishness and to Zionist philosophy than elsewhere. A grass roots movement in Canada, Zionism seems to have little or no sharp ideological differences, and what there is ambiguous and undefined. Canadian Jews like those elsewhere in the world, are attempting to frame definite questions and to find helpful answers.

The "Debate"

In an attempt to resolve, at least in part, the basic questions facing world Jewry and the Zionist Movement in particular, Harry Wolfson of Toronto and Sinai Leichter of Israel presented arguments to define the respective positions of Prime Minister Ben Gurion and the leaders and philosophers of the World Zionist Movement. Basic to the resolution of these respective positions were the questions of whether the Zionist movement and program were related only in terms of building Israel or not — or whether its basic tenets were related to Jewish survival and continuation of "Jewishness" and of the Jewish people in both Israel and Diaspora.

The conference was concluded with a "cocktail reception" to honor Samuel J. Drache, Q.C., recently

See ZOC CONFERENCE, page 15

Bonds Campaign Nearing Record



Samuel N. Cohen, general chairman of the Israel Bond Drive in Winnipeg, has announced that sales in the current campaign have passed the \$400,000 mark.

This record was only surpassed in the first drive, but Mr. Cohen pointed out that it still falls short of the \$500,000 target.

He said that the purchase of bonds does not constitute donation or charity, in that it is a business transaction through which the purchaser is paid interest on his investment.

"By coming to the economic assistance of the State of Israel," Mr. Cohen said, "Bond buyers are also doing themselves a service as well as the State of Israel."

Slate Annual Tea



MRS. GEORGE GRUBERT

Mizrachi Women's Council will hold its Annual Tea Sunday, Dec. 11, from 2 to 6 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Grubert, 84 Scotia street. The Sponsors committee is headed by Mrs. Joseph Wolinsky and includes Rebetzin A. Kravetz, Rebetzin Herson, Rebetzin Schwartzman and Mesdames H. Gogdonoff, J. Chernick, S. Chernick, R. Cooper, N. Fredman, Q. Goltsman, I. Gilbert, C. Glassman, S. L. Glassman, S. Gruber, A. Kane, I. Kirschner, P. Kravetsky, E. B. Levin, I. Leszcz, M. Lyons, F. Marantz, J. Marantz, R. Matlin, J. Margulius, F. Moser, H. Mozersky, H. Odwak, B. Odwak, R. Olin, B. Rayter, M. Roberts, M. Rubinfield, Z. Schachter, H. Schloss, L. Shaffer, L. Sommer, I. Sirluck, J. Steinberg, M. Steiman, D. Thompson, S. Tax, R. Weinstein, P. Wilder and F. Zelbovitch.

\$10. Bldg. Fund Dinner Dec. 12



MRS. S. FINK

... organizations chairman

Plans have been finalized for the \$10 Building Fund Dinner to be held Monday, Dec. 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the Skyview Room, Marlborough hotel.

Mrs. I. Parr, dinner chairman, has announced that the total proceeds of the Building Fund campaign will go towards the building of a Bet Elisheva Centre in Jerusalem as one of the major projects marking the 35 anniversary year of Pioneer Women. The Centre will be erected in memory of Elisheva Eshkol, one of the pioneering leaders of the Moetzet Haposalot in Israel, and will include all facets of Pioneer Women activities in Israel —



MRS. I. PARR

... dinner chairman

a baby home for children of working mothers, a vocational training centre for women and girls, and a cultural centre that will comprise a community hall, library and reading hall.

Highlight of the dinner will be an opening 35th anniversary ceremony directed by Mrs. J. Linhart. Featured will be a musical and pictorial presentation by Mr. and Mrs. J. Breiman.

Mrs. S. Fink, organizations chairman, has reported all Jewish women's organizations are participating. Several have undertaken to provide scholarships for students in the Bet Elisheva Centre.