

The JEWISH EXPONENT

A Weekly Journal Devoted to the

Interests of the Jewish People



Entered at the post-office at Philadelphia as second-class matter

Volume 69. Number 18. Whole Number 1686.

PHILADELPHIA, Ab 5, 5679.—August 1, 1919

Single Copies, Ten Cents
Four Dollars per annum

Mr. Marshall and Dr. Adler Return From France

Jews Now Equal Before the Law In All Countries Throughout the World

[SPECIALLY PREPARED FOR THE JEWISH EXPONENT]

THE return to this country last Friday of Mr. Louis Marshall, chairman of the Committee of Jewish Delegations at the Peace Conference, and Dr. Cyrus Adler, a prominent member of this committee was the occasion of a welcome on the part of the Jewish Communities of Philadelphia and New York that may be said to be unprecedented in the annals of our American Jewish history. Acclaimed as American Jewry's High Commissioners at the Peace Conference at Paris, the great work achieved by these men in the securing of human rights for the oppressed Jewish peoples in Eastern Europe, was given whole-hearted and unstinted recognition.

When Mr. Marshall went abroad, he went as one of the nine delegates elected by the American Jewish Congress at Philadelphia in 1918. The delegation consisted of Judge Julian W. Mack, of Chicago; Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, Mr. Marshall, Colonel Harry W. Cutler; Jacob de Haas; Rabbi B. L. Levintahl; Joseph Baroness; Nahum Syrkin; Leopold Benedict and Bernard B. Reichman.

At the conference was formed, known as the Committee of Jewish Delegations at the Peace Conference. Judge Mack was at first chairman of this committee, and with his departure for home Mr. Marshall was chosen to fill the place.

As Mr. Marshall and Dr. Adler stepped from the French line steamer La Touraine they were greeted by hundreds of representative co-religionists from New York, Philadelphia and other cities. Mr. Marshall, as chairman, was asked for a statement of the committee's work in Paris.

MR. MARSHALL'S STATEMENT

Mr. Marshall's prepared statement follows:

"The purpose of our mission to Paris was to co-operate with organizations from all parts of Europe to secure full civil, religious and political rights for the racial, religious and linguistic minorities of Eastern Europe. It is well known that these minorities have occupied an exceptional position in all East European countries. They have been deprived of the most elementary rights such as are guaranteed to all citizens of the United States, of England, of France and of Italy.

Treaty of Berlin a Failure

"In 1878 it was sought in the treaty of Berlin to secure rights of this character for the minorities of Rumania, but, unfortunately, the terms of the treaty were such that for forty years its provisions have not only been a dead letter, but have been defiantly violated. It is, therefore, considered of the utmost importance to secure new treaties to which the new and enlarged States of Eastern Europe should be parties, whereby these rights will not only be secured to minorities, but also that there should be such sanction for the treaties as would make them enforceable. This problem has been satisfactorily worked out.

"In the treaty with Germany it is provided in Article 93 that Poland shall enter into a treaty with the principal European powers which will guarantee these minority rights. In conformity with this provision in the German treaty, there was drafted a treaty to which the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan on one side, and Poland on the other, defined what these rights should be. Poland bound herself to carry out the stipulations of this treaty. First it defined citizenship and made all persons who were habitually residents in Poland, or who were born there, ipso-facto nationals of Poland without going through any preliminary proceedings. This was neces-

sary because of the unfortunate Rumanian experience.

"Next, the treaty provided for granting all civil, political and religious rights regardless of nationality, creed, race or language. It provided that all nationals should be equal before the law; that all inhabitants of Poland should be secure in their lives and liberties; that all Polish nationals should have the right to speak and write their own language not only in private but also in public; that they should have the right to maintain their own schools in which they might be taught in their languages, subject, of course, to the condition that they should also be required to become familiar with the official language of the country. They were also permitted to share proportionately in all funds raised by taxation for the purpose of supporting their schools and communal institutions. Those observing any day other than Sunday as their day of rest were also protected against compulsory desecration of the day.

"These and other similar provisions were declared to be obligations of international concern, the enforcing of which was made a part of the jurisdiction of the League of Nations. This is an important principle in international law. It is particularly necessary at this time in view of the desire of all thinking men to do all that is possible to prevent future friction which may lead to war or insurrection.

Rights Become Realities

"With this security it is believed that the rights of minorities will become realities, and that the oppressive and discriminatory laws which have characterized Eastern Europe for so many centuries will be eradicated forever. In other words, the rights of the individual and of the minorities will be safeguarded in the same degree as they have been in our Western civilization. When one considers that in each of the new European States there are millions of inhabitants who belong to these minorities, and who without these guarantees would be practically in a state of dependency upon the whims and caprices of the majorities, it will be appreciated how important this act of the Peace Conference is.

"Treaties similar to that which has been signed by Poland will be entered into with Rumania, Czecho-Slovakia, Jugo-Slavia, Bulgaria, Austria and Greece, and the principles laid down in these treaties will ultimately be applied to the territory of Russia. For the first time, therefore, in East European life will the principle of equality before the law become a part of the life of the several nations that have been carved out of that domain. It is also believed that these guarantees will not be mere paper constitutions, but that they will become living, potent actualities through the operation of the League of Nations.

"It is a pleasant duty for me to make the statement publicly that this result could not have been achieved had it not been for the active, untiring and sympathetic interest of President Wilson and of the other members of the American delegation, and of the leading statesmen of Great Britain, France and Italy.

"I wish also to emphasize that the rights which have been secured have not been effected in favor of the Jews alone, but for all minorities, thus affecting Lithuanians, Ukrainians, Czecho, Jugo-Slavs, Rumanians, Poles. In fact, every one of the peoples that are scattered through Eastern Europe. Representatives of various of these peoples co-operated with the organizations which I represented, and on the several committees which thus sought to bring about emancipation. On these committees were citizens of England, France, Italy and of the various States from which it was sought to secure these charters of liberty and equality

which promise to bring about prosperity, happiness and fraternity, where hitherto there has existed racial hatred, intolerance and oppression."

PALESTINE NEEDS YEARS TO DEVELOPE, SAYS MR. MARSHALL

Mr. Marshall, in a newspaper interview, given out on the day of his return, expressed the opinion that the future Palestine will not be a separate state, but will be ruled by Great Britain, under a mandate.

Mr. Marshall made it clear that he was not speaking as a Zionist, although he is in sympathy with many of the Zionist ideals, but as an American Jew, interested solely in safeguarding the rights of all minority races.

He was asked whether he thought Turkey would protest against taking Palestine away from her.

"No," he said, "I think that in view of the fact that Turkey has been occupied by the British army it will recognize the right of the peace conference to dispose of the territory which has been seized. I imagine that what will principally concern Turkey will be to secure for Mohammedans and for other Turkish subjects that measure of justice which the League of Nations conference to settle the inhabitants of the respective territories whose political future is to be determined."

"Do you believe that migration of Jews from this country and Europe to Palestine will be large?" he was asked.

"Ultimately there will be a very considerable migration from various parts of the world to Palestine," he replied. "However, I do not believe that will be for some years to come. It will be necessary to develop industry which will enable the newcomers to earn a livelihood and to become self-sustaining."

"It would be unfortunate if a considerable number even of the most vigorous people should at this time seek to colonize Palestine, because the economic conditions are not so developed as to permit of the absorption of any considerable number."

Mr. Marshall said the attitude of the Allied statesmen at the peace conference toward the Jewish question had been of the most friendly and helpful nature.

"The question which I presented, however," said Mr. Marshall, "was not specially a Jewish question, but a question of rights of minorities. I found generally that the attitude of all Allied statesmen with whom I came in contact was what one might have expected, that of the most complete and unqualified sympathy for these minorities and the desire that they should be accorded the same treatment as minorities have received in modern times in the United States and Western Europe.

"I found them especially receptive with respect to the Jewish people, and there was evinced a genuine desire to relieve them of their age-long burden of oppression."

DR. ADLER GREETED HERE

As Dr. Cyrus Adler stepped from the train at North Philadelphia on Friday evening he was welcomed by the trustees of the Jewish Publication Society and by the Governors of the Dropsie College, of which institution he is President. Dr. Adler looked sunburnt and robust, as though his four months abroad had been most beneficial to him. At his home there was an engrossed letter of greeting from the faculty of the college.

In response to a request from the editor of The Jewish Exponent, for a statement of what had been accomplished in Europe by the Jewish Committee, Doctor Adler prepared the following:

STATEMENT OF DR. ADLER.

It is a gratification to be able to tell the Jewish public, through the medium of the Jewish Exponent, that at the greatest Assembly of the Nations the emancipation of the Jews in Eastern Europe has been secured, and that the Jews will now be equal before the law in all the countries of the earth. It is even a deeper gratification to be able to report that this result has not been attained through any separatist action but by the establishment of the principle of the rights of racial, religious and linguistic minorities.

This principle has been clearly enunciated in the treaty with Germany already signed and in the treaty with Austria which is still pending.

These treaties provide for supplemental treaties between the Principal Allied and Associated Powers (America, England, France, Japan and Italy) and the states affected.

One such supplemental treaty, that with Poland, has already been signed. It provides for full and complete protection of life and liberty to all inhabitants of Poland without distinction of birth, nationality, language, race or religion; insures the free exercise, public or private, of any creed; makes no distinction of all persons habitually resident at the date of the coming into force of the treaty in territory which is or may be recognized as forming part of Poland. It declares that all persons born in Polish territory who are not born nationals of another state shall ipso facto become Polish nationals; guarantees that all shall be equal before the law and shall enjoy the same civil and political rights without distinction as to race, language or religion; that differences of religion shall not be a prejudice in the enjoyment of civil or political rights or the admission to public employments, or the exercise of professions and industries; that there shall be no restriction in the free use of any language in private or public intercourse, in the press or at public meetings, adequate facilities for the use of any language either oral or in writing before the courts; guarantees to racial, linguistic or religious minorities, equal treatment, security in law and in fact, and, in particular, equal rights to establish, manage and control at their own expense charitable, religious and social institutions, schools and other educational establishments with the right to use their own language and to exercise their religion freely; provision in the public educational system in towns and districts where there are a considerable proportion of persons of non-Polish speech for adequate facilities, for insuring that in the primary schools, instruction shall be given to the children of such Polish nationals through the medium of their own language. The Polish Government, however, has the right to make the teaching of the Polish language obligatory. The minorities are assured equitable share in the enjoyment and application of the sums which may be provided out of public funds for educational, religious or charitable purposes. This is a rough summary of the first nine articles of the treaty. Articles 10 and 11 provide especially for the Jewish Community and are as follows:

Article 10

"Educational committees appointed locally by the Jewish communities of Poland will, subject to the general control of the State, provide for the distribution of the proportional share of public funds allocated to Jewish schools in accordance with Article 9, and for the organization and management of these schools."

"The provision of Article 9 concerning the use of languages in schools shall apply to these schools."

Article 11

"Jews shall not be compelled to perform any act which constitutes a viola-

tion of their Sabbath, nor shall they be placed under any disability by reason of their refusal to attend courts of law or to perform any legal business on their Sabbath. This provision, however, shall not exempt Jews from such obligations as shall be imposed upon all other Polish citizens for the necessary purposes of military service, national defense or the preservation of public order."

"Poland declares her intention to refrain from ordering or permitting elections whether general or local, to be held on a Saturday, nor will registration for electoral or other purposes be compelled to be performed on a Saturday."

The sanction for all this is contained in Article 12 of the treaty, which, because of its great importance and from the fact that it establishes a new principle in international dealings, I also give in full:

Article 12

"Poland agrees that the stipulations in the foregoing Articles, so far as they affect persons belonging to racial, religious or linguistic minorities, constitute obligations of international concern and shall be placed under the guarantee of the League of Nations. They

shall be placed under the guarantee of the League of Nations. The United States, the British Empire, France, Italy, and Japan hereby agree not to withhold their assent from any modification in these Articles which is in due form assented to by a majority of the Council of the League of Nations."

"Poland agrees that any member of the Council of the League of Nations shall have the right to bring to the attention of the Council any infraction or any danger of infraction of any of these obligations, and that the Council may thereupon take such action and give such direction as it may deem proper and effective in the circumstances."

"Poland further agrees that any difference of opinion as to questions of law or fact arising out of these Articles between the Polish Government and any one of the principal Allied and Associated Powers or any other Power, a member of the Council of the League of Nations, shall be held to be a dispute of an international character under Article 14 of the Covenant of the League of Nations. The Polish Government hereby consents that any such dispute shall, if the other party thereto demands, be referred to the Permanent Court of International Justice. The decision of the Permanent Court shall be final and shall have the same force and effect as an award under Article 13 of the Covenant."

Similar treaties have been drafted with Rumania, Czecho-Slovakia, Jugo-Slavia and Greece and any form of government recognized in Russia will have like provisions annexed to the act of recognition. The Rumanian treaty will be more specific than the others because of past bitter experience.

I strongly urge that we all recommend to our brethren in Poland and elsewhere a complete acceptance of these new relations in form and in fact. The safety and welfare of the Jews is bound up with the welfare of the States in which we live. There have been many painful experiences of the Jews in Eastern lands for a long period of time. The new era is now dawning and we must all urge that bygone be bygone and that the Jews of all lands, and particularly of Eastern Europe, should show their willingness to co-operate in making the new order in the States in which they live successful.

There is one point which I deem it especially important to make clear. The national rights, for the Jews in Eastern Europe which were "demanded" by the various Jewish congresses in Europe and America were not granted, though following the wishes of these assemblages, an honest effort was made to secure them. It is the height

