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EDITORIAL**BRANDEIS ON THE SUPREME BENCH.**

President Wilson's choice of Louis Brandeis as Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court came as a great surprise to the country. It seems that in certain quarters it produced an effect like the explosion of a bomb shell. The conservative press, representing the big financial and commercial interests of the country, at once assumed a hostile attitude. The President could not have made a worse choice, some of them plainly said. The prediction was freely made that there would be all kinds of opposition to the appointment in the Senate. Some senators were actually quoted as ready to defeat the President's wish. At the present writing it is not known what action the Senate will really take in the matter, and how strong the opposition really is. We predict that the appointment of Brandeis will be confirmed without much ado. President Wilson is too sagacious a leader to make such a startling move without having ascertained that he would receive the necessary support.

Whence comes the opposition to Brandeis, and why? Brandeis is a persona non grata to the big financial interests of the country, because he has always represented the people's interests over against them. And he has fought the people's fight not as an orator, or demagogue, or politician, but as a very practical, hard-headed lawyer in some

very concrete instances. He fought and won. He left bruises and scars on the opponent's hide. They naturally hate to see such a man elevated to such a position. It is not that they are afraid that Brandeis will do them further harm. They know very well that Brandeis as Associate Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court will have an altogether different part to play than was his part as the people's lawyer. The Supreme Court is naturally a conservative body, and must necessarily be so. Brandeis will leave all his radicalism behind as soon as he crosses the threshold of that august tribunal. We may trust his good common sense for that.

They are opposed to his occupying such a position because of its moral effect. When a man like Brandeis is politically rewarded with an exalted position, the fact naturally lends courage and strength to the cause of social progress and economic emancipation in this country. Other popular leaders and pleaders will take heart. From the point of view of the big financial interests a man like Brandeis should be politically punished instead of rewarded.

President Wilson knows all that. But he also knows that as far as the masses of the people are concerned, there is nothing he could do that would please them more and win their confidence in a higher degree than such an appointment. So much for the wisdom of the President's choice.

To us Jews the matter is most gratifying. America is still the citadel of political freedom for all human beings. The fundamental principles and traditions of this country are still sacred to this nation. We venture to say that not a voice will be raised in opposition to Brandeis because of his being a Jew, and his not being an adherent of the religion of the majority, although there are many who would probably like to disqualify him on that account. This should give pause to all faint-hearted and discouraged Jews who cherish political ambitions, and should set them athinking. The really worthy Jew can always get his deserts in this country. This has been demonstrated many times before. It is demonstrated anew in the case of Brandeis. Not that an honest man would ever barter his religious convictions for a mess of pottage, for any preferment, honor and glory. But here and there we find some unprincipled brothers to whom the attainment of the object of their

ambition is above everything else, who do not allow a little thing like religion to stand in their way.

To us it is gratifying to know that the choice for the high position has fallen on a man like Brandeis, who, we firmly believe, will always be a credit to the Jewish people. Brandeis is a loyal American to the core. To him the welfare and the progress of this country, the peace and prosperity of this nation, are above all other interests. To what extent he will henceforth be able to give his services to the Jewish people is problematical. But should American Jewry in some emergency need a leader and a spokesman, there is surely no man better qualified for it than Louis Brandeis.

THE COMING CONGRESS.

From many cities reports reach us of organizations being perfected for the purpose of electing delegates to the forthcoming Jewish Congress. St. Paul is among them. This is now one of the most important matters before American Jewry. It is the one measure of preparedness that we need. When the war comes to an end we must have a body of representative men, not self-appointed, but duly chosen by the people, who shall speak on our behalf, and present our demands concerning the oppressed millions of our brethren. These demands must be formulated beforehand. There should be no working at cross-purposes.

But in order to make the Congress truly representative of all the Jews of this country, it is imperative that every Jewish community send delegates to it. It is equally imperative that all Jewish organizations of each community, if possible, unite in such action. That would give the Congress the power and dignity of the one body truly authorized to speak for American Israel.

It is to be regretted that Minneapolis has as yet taken no action in the matter, save that of calling a mass-meeting some time ago, which, however, was attended only by one section of the community, and, by resolution, declaring itself in favor of the Congress. We suggest that a meeting be now called by some leading organization, say the Bnai Brith lodge, of representatives of all religious and fraternal societies, to formulate the ideas and wishes of the Minneapolis community, and to elect delegates to present these ideas at the Congress. It may be well to invite Fargo and Grand Forks to send representatives to such a meeting. We trust that the officers of the Minneapolis lodge will avail themselves of the opportunity of rendering the community a service.