

The American Jewish World

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JEWISH CALENDAR

5682-1921

Rosh Hashanah.....	Monday, Oct. 3
Yom Kippur.....	Wednesday, Oct. 12
1922	
*Rosh Chodesh Tebet.....	Sunday, Jan. 1
*Fast of Tebet.....	Tuesday, Jan. 10
*Rosh Chodesh Shebat.....	Monday, Jan. 30
*Rosh Chodesh Adar.....	Wednesday, March 1
*Fast of Esther.....	Monday, March 13
Purim.....	Tuesday, March 14
Rosh Chodesh Nisan.....	Thursday, March 30
Pesach, First Day.....	Thursday, April 13
Pesach, Seventh Day.....	Wednesday, April 19
*Rosh Chodesh Iyyar.....	Saturday, April 29
Lag B'Omar.....	Tuesday, May 16
Rosh Chodesh Sivan.....	Sunday, May 28
Shabuoth.....	Friday, June 2
*Rosh Chodesh Tammuz.....	Tuesday, June 27
*Fast of Tammuz.....	Thursday, July 13
Rosh Chodesh Ab.....	Wednesday, July 26
*Fast of Ab.....	Thursday, August 3
*Rosh Chodesh Ellul.....	Friday, August 25
Rosh Hashanah 5683.....	Saturday, Sept. 23

* Observed also on preceding day.

EDITORIAL

PURIM—LEST WE FORGET

"Why don't you tell us something new, instead of always harping on the old ideas of Purim," a Jewish publicist was once asked by a reader who felt that refreshing the memory even once a year was too much of a strain. To which the publicist replied: "Mordecai and Esther would be willing to change their tune if Haman changed his." Some such thought must come to the Jew at Purim-tide this year. Haman's tune is still unchanged, the only thing new is his identity. Perhaps last year's Haman is not the same. He who figured so largely in the Jewish press is hardly ever referred to now. He has either recognized that his plan is futile, or has relegated his activities to other Jew-baiters. But the tactics are the same, whether it is the plutocratic would-be remodeler of the world, or the press-magnate with political grudges to settle. There is no pretense at fairness in battling the Jew. In this regard all Jew-baiters, ancient and modern, are true to form. Without misrepresentation, without distorting the truth, without destroying character and slaying reputations the enemy of the Jew would not be in his element. From Amalek, Haman's traditional ancestor down to his most recent spiritual descendent, the Jew-baiter fights like a coward. Well does the Jew

repeat on the Sabbath before Purim "Remember what Amalek did to thee unto thee . . . how he met thee by the way and smote the hindmost of thee, all that were enfeebled in thy rear, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God" (Deuteronomy 25:17, 18). So why expect the modern enemy of the Jew to be a respecter of person, age or sex; scrupulous as to his method or possessed of the finer sensibilities that would make him a foeman worthy of one's steel?

But this sameness in the nature and methods of the Hamans need not discourage the Jew. If his foe is still the same, so is his Protector. It has often been claimed that the book of Esther is a non-religious book since it does not even once mention the name of God. True. There may be no direct allusion to God, but there are several indirect references. Mordecai tells Esther: "If thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then will relief and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place." Even more convincing is the retort of Esther: "Go gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me. . . . I also . . . will fast in like manner." If this does not refer to the belief of Mordecai and Esther in a God who can save and who is impressed by fasting and prayer, then what does it mean? That the Jew is living to take stock of his present-day adversaries and to recall those who had threatened him and whom he has survived, is best proof not only of his dependence on God, but of his deliverance by God.

Yes, our foes will not let us forget about Haman. We must remember him and his breed whether we will or not. All the more eager then should we be to remember the kind Providence that has kept us and preserved even unto this day.

THE NON-JEW AND WAR RELIEF

It is gratifying to note the response of the non-Jew to the plea of the Jewish War Sufferers. In some of the smaller cities, where the number of Jews is limited, the bulk of the subscriptions have come from the non-Jews. This is especially gratifying, in view of the campaign of villification of the Jew that had been so well financed and widely spread throughout the land in the last two years. It proves that whatever the feelings with which the creed of hate was read, it did not make the average American citizen deaf to the plea of suffering Jews in Europe.

Are we assuming too much when we interpret the response of the non-Jewish officials, individuals and press as a vote of confidence in spite of the campaign of misrepresentation. It would indeed, have been pitiful if the campaign against the Jews had resulted in hardening the

heart and closing the purse of the non Jew to the abject, miserable victims of war and persecution in Europe. Blessed indeed, is America, the land where a non-sectarian citizenship can whole-heartedly unite in the cause of suffering humanity.

One hundred Jewish Orphans are to be taken from the Ukraine to Palestine to be brought up as farmers by Israel Belkin, a Palestinian Pioneer, who has founded an agricultural school near Jaffa. This news item we commend to the attention of those who think that Zionism and War Relief need be hostile to each other. On the contrary, they must co-operate fully and whole-heartedly. Give War Relief to the maximum and save the sufferers, especially the children, for something better. But build up Palestine so that Jews can go there and living in security develop a culture that will be worthy of the Jew. But Keren Hayesod and Jewish War Relief should be co-operative rather than competitive.

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization is now a decade old, or better, a ten years young. Beginning with one society it now has 138 chapters and 30 Junior Units. The Jewish inspiration it has given its members in America is beyond estimate, but naturally its finest work has been done in Palestine. There it has provided hospital, extension and dispensary service, established clinics, and latterly opened infant welfare stations with free milk distribution in connection. Thus far the work has been curative, but now it is also branching out into preventive activities. One can hardly imagine a more alluring activity for the women and young women of America than the program of blessed healing which Hadassah is planning and achieving in Palestine.

—C. David Matt.

JEW AS FARMERS

Gabriel Davidson, general manager of the Jewish Agricultural and Industrial Aid Society, has issued a report concerning its work. The society's goal has been, to quote the report, "to build up a substantial, progressive and permanent Jewish farming class in this country." Twenty-two years ago, when the organization began to function, there were 216 Jewish farm families in the United States. Today the number exceeds 60,000. In 1900 the total acreage owned by Jewish farmers was 12,029. Today more than 1,000,000 acres are farmed by Jewish hands, and the real estate and personal value of these holdings are above \$1,000,000.

The society's farm settlement bureau gives advice, guidance and aid to those who desire to buy farms and who intend to take

up farming as a life work. The extension department maintains a staff of agricultural experts. During 1921 these experts visited 1,499 farmers, held 122 meetings, illustrated lectures, demonstrations, field days and extension schools. In addition to this, advice and aid were given to 1,788 farmers who sought individual consultation at the central office.

The sanitation department has carried on for three years a campaign in New York, Connecticut and New Jersey. It has obtained marked improvement in sewage and garbage disposal, protection of water supplies, food protection and fly prevention in the thousands of Jewish farm homes. The society's farm labor bureau has obtained employment for 13,561 Jewish young men since its establishment in 1908. Last year this bureau placed 608 men. The farm loan department, since its establishment in 1900, has granted a total of 6,154 loans, aggregating \$3,805,000, and covering thirty-eight states. These loans are made on substantial securities—second, third, fourth or even fifth mortgages. The repayment is spread over a long number of years, and there is no exaction of bonus or commission or payment of renewal charges. The society's losses during the entire twenty-two years of its history have been only a fraction of 3 per cent.

Mr. Lloyd George must, indeed, be gifted with a sense of humor. He, of course, had to be officially represented at the London services in memory of the late Pope. So, as he could not attend himself, he delegated a Jew, Sir Philip Sassoon, to represent him, a Protestant, at a Catholic service.—Hebrew Standard.

100,000 JEWS FOUGHT FOR GERMANY

Berlin (J. T. A.)—A book which has just been published here proves that during the war the number of Jewish soldiers amounted to 100,000. Eighty thousand of them were engaged in battles, 12,000 were killed, 35,000 awarded medals for courageous conduct, 23,000 were promoted as a reward for their bravery.

The book was published in order to discredit the anti-Semitic campaign which has been waging throughout the whole country, accusing the Jews of cowardice and of not having done their duty during the war. The book proves that out of the 6,000,000 Jews in Germany, about 16 per cent joined the army, while only 10 per cent of the other part of the population participated in the war.

Mrs. Ephraim Lederer has been re-elected first vice-president of the Woman's Democratic Club of Philadelphia.