

gregations is embarking on a ten year's program of expansion, and it is of prime importance that these, its chief departments, be assigned ample appropriations.

The Synagog Pension Fund, for superannuated rabbis, begun with a \$10,000 donation by Jacob H. Schiff, was discussed already at the Boston Council. At that time statistics were presented, proving beyond a shadow of doubt the need for establishing such a pension fund. As opposed to frequently heard insinuation to the effect that American rabbis receive unwarrantedly high salaries, the data submitted indicated a prevalence of low salaries and the dread prospect of destitution in the event of old age or physical incapacity. Little honor would American Jewry deserve unless proper measures are taken to safeguard its spiritual leaders from the possibility of economic distress. The President's Message to the Council embodied the suggestion that for a space of ten years an annual sum of \$100,000 be set aside, until unwards of a million dollars has accumulated, —the minimum amount, according to the calculation of experts, that will that the entire matter be referred to a mighty project, however, and must be handled with circumspection. Therefore, at Sunday's meeting of the executive board, the motion was passed that the entire matter be referred to a committee to report at the next regular meeting of the executive board. By the time of the next meeting, it will be known how many congregations will join in the Fund. Thus the promise is held out that in the near future this ambitious scheme of the Union will become an actuality.

The Executive Board, moreover, took definite action on another feature of the president's message to the Boston Council. This concerns the establishment of a \$500,000 Synagog Building Loan Fund by setting aside annually, for ten years, a sum of \$50,000 out of the funds of the Union. From this Synagog Building Loan Fund, loans at nominal rates of interest will be made to congregations desirous of erecting synagogues. The fund will be at the disposal of Jewish congregations of all shades of conviction, and not merely restricted to reform congregations. The idea is conceived in the traditional spirit of Judaism. Though a few years ago not even the most optimistic looked forward to it, now we can be sure it will materialize. At Sunday's meeting the President was authorized to appoint a commission of five with instructions to report a plan of action to the next session of the Executive Board.

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations has never been oblivious to the needs of Jewish brethren in other lands. And now, when despite the triumph of American and Allied ideals, bitter persecutions of Jews are occurring in backward European countries, the Union is eager to see Jewish civil and religious rights internationally recognized. An unusual opportunity for upholding the Jewish cause presents itself in the coming meeting of the assembly and Council of the League of Nations, scheduled to take place at Washington in October, 1919. Accordingly, the Executive Board authorized the President to appoint a commission to submit the Jewish question before the international body. It is hoped that this contemplated action of the Union will be instrumental in putting a definite stop to the outrages being perpetuated in Poland and elsewhere.

Upon invitation from Buffalo, the next biennial session of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in that city in 1921.

MRS. LEVISON DIES.

Mrs. Harry Levison, a resident of Fort Worth for over twenty years, died Wednesday afternoon after being in poor health for the past two years. Mrs. Levison was a young woman of only 45 years old. She was survived by her husband, Harry Levison, one daughter, Nellie, three brothers, Nat, Sam and William Prager of Dallas, and two sisters, Lena and Bertie Prager of Dallas. The funeral was held from the residence at 10:30 a. m. Friday, and conducted by Rabbi Fox. Pallbearers were H. Lederman, Joe Goldgraber, James Brown, Oscar Seligman, Simon Greines and Louis Morris.

THE PALESTINE MARITIME COMPANY.

The Agudath Hamayim is the name of a new corporation that has just been established in Palestine. The purpose of this organization is to exploit all of the waterways in Palestine and the Mediterranean Sea, with special attention to the development of the fishery industry. This organization contemplates the opening of a maritime school which will teach navigation and fishery.

The Agudath Hamayim, though of recent origin, has undertaken a number of practical enterprises, and has stimulated the organization of several groups of fishermen, especially on the River Ekron. Other groups of fishermen have been established at Tyre, near Haifa, on Lake Kinnereth, on the River Shurk, and on the River Chederah. These groups will find a ready market for their "catches" at Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Jerusalem, and in the Judean colonies.

Jews have also been encouraged to become boatmen at the Port of Jaffa, where Arabs have heretofore had the monopoly. Major James de Rothschild is very much interested in the development of the Agudath Hamayim and has given out some land near Kantara. The ICA has also promised its support, and the British Military Administration in Palestine has donated its building near Ekron as a shelter and boathouse for the Jewish fishermen.

FEDERATION OF SISTERHOODS SERVES MEALS AIDING WAR SUFFERERS

The members of the Mt. Sinai Sisterhood, El Paso, Texas, in co-operation with other Jewish women's organizations of the city, turned their skill in the culinary art into money for the relief of Jewish War Sufferers.

They served public mid-day meals and afternoon teas for five days, at the "Gift Shop," a building which has been erected in a park for Red Cross activities, and part of which is loaned to Church and other organizations for charitable and civic purposes.

TAFT DENIES INTERVIEW.

Hon. William H. Taft has denied the authenticity of the interview that appeared recently in the New York Day, in which he is quoted with the statement that he is a Zionist.

Mrs. M. Liebman of Dallas is visiting her children, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sanger of Fort Worth.

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