

# The Jewish Outlook.

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## JEWISH CALENDAR

Sunday, Dec. 18.....	Fast of Tebet.
Saturday, Jan. 7.....	New Moon Sh'bat.
Sun.-Mon., Feb. 5-6.....	New Moon Adar.
Tu.-Wed., Mar. 7-8.....	New Moon 2d Adar.
Monday, March 20.....	Fast of Esther.
Tu.-Wed., Mar. 21-22.....	Purim.
Thursday, April 4.....	New Moon Nissan.
Thursday, April 20.....	1st day of Passover.
Fri.-Sat., May 5-6.....	New Moon Iyar.
Tuesday, May 23.....	Lag B'Omer (33d day of Omer).
Sunday, June 4.....	New Moon Sivan.
Friday, June 9.....	1st day of Pentecost.
Mon.-Tu., July 3-4.....	New Moon Tammuz.
Thursday, July 20.....	Fast of Tammuz.
Wednesday, Aug. 2.....	New Moon Ab.
Thursday, Aug. 10.....	Fast of Ab.
Thurs.-Fri., Aug. 31.....	
Sept. 1.....	New Moon Ellul.
Saturday, Sept. 30.....	New Year (5666).

DECEMBER 16, 1904.

## EDITORIAL.

### Russia's Constitutional Fitness

Says the London Times: "The masses of the Russian people are unfit for constitutional government of even the most conservative kind, as constitutional government is understood in western Europe. They may become ripe for it some day, but that day will not dawn in our time."

In the twentieth century a Christian nation not fit for self-government! Just think of it! Church and state have certainly acted in harmony here and what a result! No one can say as much for Japan, but then the Japanese are heathen.

### Shall There be Peace

When Isaiah, living in the eighth century, before the Christian era, announced to the peoples that "they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more," he was not considered as uttering blasphemy, but rather as bringing a divine message for Israel and all the world.

Three centuries later that mighty intellectual and moral genius of the Greeks, Socrates, speaking to a less spiritual-minded and less morally earnest people than did Isaiah, was rewarded with that immortal cup of poison.

And now, twenty-six hundred years after Isaiah's preachment, the European newspapers, according to extracts in the Literary Digest, consider Mr. Roosevelt's peace conference as species of blasphemy. We read:

"In any event, we would give to our friends of peace once again the good advice to cease their propaganda. It beats in vain against the force of those considerations which make war inevitable. The impulse to make war is so intimately associated with the impulse of self-preservation among nations that the effort to eliminate it is as hopeless as would be an attempt to extinguish human selfishness as the mainspring of all human effort and achievement by merely denouncing it as inhuman and immoral. Only fools could think of undertaking such things. Ever since there began to be such a thing as world history, the development of nations and peoples has, as a rule, been accomplished by means of war. Why should there be a change all at once? Since we must regard war, in view of the philosophical-historical conception of Moltke, as 'an element in the divine order of the world,' it follows that those who would do away with it are acting in opposition to Divine Providence."

O, Isaiah, thou shouldst be living at this hour. The world hath need of thee.

Truly one would believe such expressions as in the above citation to be a joke were they not written in so serious a vein. Now from the philosophic interpretation of the evolution of society as set forth by Spencer and others, it is perfectly plain to the thinking mind that society from the indefinite homogeneous state in which every family like every germ cell and every egg was alike in all its parts, every family sufficient unto itself, its own farmer, bootmaker, clothier, etc., has developed into the present state through gradual unfoldment in which every individual like every cell in the organ or body is but a part contributing its share towards the proper functioning of the body social. And this body social has grown from city to state to nation. If the doctrine

of evolution has any meaning, it must mean that all nations shall grow into one "humanity," one grand harmonious social body in which it will be as impossible for one nation to war with another and retain the integrity of humanity as it is now for the lung of an individual body to war with the liver and retain the integrity of the man. Or in other words, as the Hebrew prophet put it: A time shall come, must in the course of social evolution come, when "they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

The Jew has a mission and that mission is peace!

Anent this Jewish mission let us turn again to the Jewish home.

Our friend and schoolmate, Rabbi W. H. Fineschreiber does us the honor to criticize an editorial on "Zangwill and Zionism" in a newly launched publication, the Tri-City Advocate. He promises to prove that "Zionism is eminently practical and that the enemy, by grace of controversy, is absurdly idealistic." Our friend argues that because Moses, the first Zionist, married a non-Jewess, Zangwill's step in that direction is quite pardonable.

Comparisons are usually odious and in this case it is extremely so. It is almost absurd to argue on this subject. We might go further and show that David danced before the ark; that Jephtha sacrificed his daughter; that the priests offered animal sacrifice; that Jeroboam set up a bull to be worshiped, etc., and that therefore anyone doing any one of these things is acting in harmony with Biblical examples. We need not be told that our Judaism to-day is not the Judaism of Moses, nor are standards of right the same, nor are our "feelings" of moral right the same (note the difference between moral or religious "idea" and moral or religious "feeling"). Every Jew knows that Moses married a non-Jewess, and yet can our friend show us a Jewish pulpit, the occupant of which is married to a non-Jewess, or can he show us a Jewish congregation that would retain its spiritual leader after he had so married? And this not because the congregation is ignorant of the fact that Moses, our great spiritual leader, Zionist, liberator, etc., married