

SAVANNAH'S NEW SETTLEMENT

Isidore Kadis

The Savannah Jewish Community will soon possess a very handsome community social center, when the new building of the Jewish Educational Alliance, which will be completed in a month or so, will be opened.

The extension of Jewish philanthropic work especially along educational institutions has been very marked in recent years, particularly in the Southern communities.

When the Jewish Educational Alliance was organized in Savannah, it came as a result of a long felt desire among young and old for a common meeting ground. A center for recreation and intellectual advancement.

Due primarily to the efforts of Rabbi George Solomon, a very generous gift of \$25,000 was made by Col. Sigo Myers, for the erection of the Jewish Educational Alliance Building. However this munificent gift had to be almost doubled to make possible the construction and equipment of an adequate and up-to-date social center. The realization of two years' efforts will soon be brought to successful conclusion.

Prior to the opening of the building, a whirlwind campaign will be launched which will take place from October 11th to 15th, and which will have for its goal the raising of a \$15,000 completion and equipment fund and the securing of 500 members.

Plans are already under way for the organization of a large and representative committee of men and women for the promotion of the campaign, and marked enthusiasm is already evinced by the Campaign Organization Committee, of which Mr. B. Weitz is chairman. The members of the committee are: Messrs. Aaron Rauzin, Washington Falk, Judge Charles Feidelson, Morris Meyer, Rabbi Charles Blumenthal, Rabbi George Solomon and Max Blumenthal.

Mr. D. A. Byck is president of the Alliance and he has been very energetic in pushing the construction of the building. The Building Committee consists of Messrs. A. Schulhafer, J. Lichenstein, Max Blumenthal, Rabbi Solomon and Mr. Sigo Myers, who is chairman of the committee. Mr. H. W. Witcover is the architect of the new

building. At present the Alliance is being housed in temporary quarters and Mr. Isidor Kadis, formerly of Cincinnati, has been recently engaged as superintendent.

When the new building is opened, a host of activities based upon definite educational and social lines will be started. The local Hebrew School, under the able management of Rabbi Charles Blumenthal as well as the kindergarten under the auspices of the local section of Council of Jewish Women, will both be housed in the new Alliance building, which it is aimed to make a real community center.

The Cry of Israel

Israel's ailing, Israel's wailing, Israel's
crying for our help,
Israel's starving, they are carving, out her
heart—the Russian whelp.

In Galicia and in Poland and in luckless
Palestine,

None to save them, none to aid them, for
no Easter is their Queen,

And each day the wail grows louder,
shrieks from saber and from powder—

How much longer, Western Israel, wilt
thou still withhold thine aid?

L'Envoi

Ye, who dwell in this country.

Ye, who share prosperity;

Don't forget the loving God.

Planted freedom in our sod;

Let us then our God adore,

Helping ours of yonder shore.

Blessed, Blessed, Blessed, Blessed,
ever was Thy name,

Wake up Jewry of this country lest they
point at thee with shame!

For although six months have passed us
and the war its ruin has wrought,—

In the coffers of the pleading, only half a
million brought.

Wake up Israel! Wake up Israel! God
above. Are we asleep?

Or are we so self-contented that we heed
not ours who weep?

L'Envoi

Samuel Hausman.

JEWISH CHARITIES

IMMIGRATION FROM THE IMMIGRANT'S POINT OF VIEW

Philip Davis

Director of Civic Service House, Boston

We are in the habit of saying that there are two sides to every question, the so-called affirmative and negative sides. This habit hurts every great question to which it applies. First, it shuts out the thought that there may be more than two sides. Secondly, this habit of taking sides lines people up on one side or the other as though they were ready for battle and the subject becomes a battlefield. It is the old habit of taking sides on social and moral as well as national issues, and harks back to the ancient method of attempting to settle issues by combat or fight. In these days, fighting has given way to one-sided partisan debate as distinguished from the many sided, impartial discussion, which promises to supersede it in time. In debating the habit of taking sides and "fighting it out" is still preserved, in which the one side is supposed to be wholly right and the other side wholly wrong, and in which the right eventually triumphs over the wrong in approved melodramatic fashion with the audience applauding in "wild enthusiasm," as the papers would say. The habit of taking sides has its roots in gross selfishness. That is another reason why it is a bad habit. It perpetuates race struggle and postpones true democracy which is the mission of this country.

The disastrous thinking and mischievous deeds for which this habit is responsible, are best illustrated by this great question of immigration. Those who are on the negative side or against immigration often style themselves as the truest patriots. They show you at the outset that it is their great love of country and its sacred institutions which impels them to take that side. Sometimes these so-called restrictionists even talk as though it is a love for the immigrant as well as a love of country which moves them to keep him from landing here for his own sake. The

fact is, however, that consciously or unconsciously the restrictionists are moved by sheer fear, blind unreasoning fear and grave concern for their own welfare. In some, the fear is roused on account of the number of immigrants we are receiving annually. Congressman Gardiner, the arch restrictionist, for example, told the writer in Washington that he has but one mission—to cut present immigration in half.

He and his cohorts regard immigration as an "invasion" to which it is frequently likened and which true to the ancient instincts must be fought every inch of its advance. Another clique of restrictionists fear the "new-comers" on account of their kind. It is not the immigrant they are fighting, but the foreigner or alien in him, the man who is unlike them, whom tradition distrusts. This is the whole trouble with most restrictionists. The more unlike them the immigrant is, the more they oppose him.

Being or believing themselves to be the purest English or Anglo-Saxon, they have instinctively adopted that type of immigrant as the standard and any variation from the standard is decried as a great menace to this country. The early English settlers did not object to more English, until the Dutch began to come. The English and the Dutch did not object to more English and Dutch, until the Irish began to come. This triple race has now discovered that they have something in common, being all Northwestern Europeans, and then and there removed their ban on all Northwestern Europeans and directed against the Southeastern Europeans. Today European-Americans are fighting Asiatic immigration as well as the Asiatic immigrant.

The Japanese and Chinese are denied the rights of citizenship, in spite of the

little phrase in the Constitution, which declares that all men were born free and equal. Clearly, the opponents of immigration are friends of themselves, who like their own company best.

Certain self-styled friends of immigration, those who publicly argue on the affirmative side, are often no less selfish at bottom than the avowed enemies of immigration. They, too, argue as though they are fighting the restrictionists in the interests of the country and wave their hands towards the "vast prairies" waiting development and the Western farms languishing for want of laborers. The truth is however, that they are too often the disguised steamship agents anxious for more business, employers anxious for cheaper labor and bankers anxious for higher rents—all of whom unite in a conspiracy to fleece the immigrant.

These forces have for years fought all legislation on the subject of immigration and are responsible for the postponement in securing relief against the standing issues, such as:

- (1) Illegal solicitation on the part of the steamship companies.
- (2) A more careful sifting of those who come here before landing.
- (3) The intelligent distribution of those who are permitted to land.
- (4) The adequate protection of newcomers against brokers, financial and political.
- (5) The complete revision of all naturalization laws long out of date.
- (6) The promotion of patriotism among our naturalized citizens, not by means of declaration and patriotic celebrations, but by means of constructive scheme of education and adequate program of social service, and, above all, a conscientious effort on the part of all the varied elements of our population to learn to live together and to give and take socially on a basis of equality.

Our failure as a nation to deal adequately with these important questions of immigration, is due to the fact, that we have been misled by both sides in the controversy. Moreover, we have been prevented through false information and some deliberate misrepresentation from recognizing the historic importance and signifi-

cance of immigration as a world-wide movement, of which our American immigration after all is only an episode in the westward march of the human race.

Consider the conventional reasons for and against immigration from the point of view not of its enemies nor of its self-styled friends, but from the point of view of the immigrant. Much time has been spent discussing causes.

The law of 1907, the most drastic, which has ever passed Congress, enumerates twenty-two different causes for which immigrants should be debarred, namely, idiots, imbeciles, feeble-minded, epileptics, insane (have been insane five years, or have had two attacks of insanity); tuberculosis (non-contagious); loathsome or dangerous contagious diseases, such as tuberculosis, trachoma, (favus and others); professional beggars, paupers, those likely to become public charges; those who obtain a surgeon's certificate of defect, mental or physical, which may affect the alien's ability to earn a living; contract laborers; accompanying aliens; those under sixteen years of age, unaccompanied by parent; assisted aliens, criminals, polygamists, anarchists, prostitutes and females coming for any immoral purposes; aliens who procure or attempt to bring in prostitutes or females for any immoral purpose; those under the passport provision, sec.1; and those under the provisions of the Chinese exclusion act.

The very next year, that law debarred, 11,000 immigrants for these causes.

The law of 1907 further provides that any alien within the United States may be ordered deported within three years' time, if he is found to have fallen into any of these classes. One year after the law was passed, 2000 people were deported for these various seasons.

The present head tax is \$4.00. This fund represents many unspent millions.

The exhaustive manifest which the steamship company must make for every steerage passenger, covers twenty-two items of information. In the light of this information in the manifest, the immigrant is examined and he may be immediately deported or detained, and if necessary, he may be required to give bonds or guarantee prior to landing.

In short, we now have every reasonable restrictive measure—(1) a head tax; (2) a money test; (3) a physical test in doubtful cases; (4) a character test; (5) a race test. What other restrictive measures or tests could be added to these? Many administrative amendments may be desirable, and, if shown to be desirable, should by all means be enacted. Further regulation of the steamship companies in restraint of illegal trade or practises, should at all times, be encouraged. What besides? Some urge the exclusion of Socialists, others the exclusion of bachelors. Similar inane propositions could be multiplied, but the people who make them must not be taken seriously. The only people who really mean to be taken seriously are those who urge (a) the exclusion of certain races such as of Southeastern Europe; (b) the total suspension of immigration for a fixed period; (c) the limitation of numbers; (d) the educational test. Obviously, all these propositions are debatable. If the people who advocate these measures could tell us how they can be practically worked into law and enforced, then we might be ready to discuss them, but not until then. These measures are really not restrictive, but exclusive, and the question involved in them all is this: Shall our country depart from its time-honored principle of selection by the exclusion of "non-desirables" and fall into a policy of exclusion grounded on prejudice? In other words, the question is: shall the immigrants, other than those now debarred, be excluded because of prejudice against a certain race or races, or for lack of skill, or knowledge or money, etc., or shall the natural law of selection tempered by the human law of fair dealing prevail?

BOOK REVIEWS

By Charles S. Bernheimer

SOCIAL SERVICE

The volume entitled "The Field of Social Service," edited by Philip Davis (Boston: Small, Maynard & Company, \$1.50 net) is the outcome of a course in social service in Boston, primarily intended for volunteer social workers. It includes a brief dis-

cussion on a variety of subjects, each by an expert in his or her respective field. The Jewish contributors are Meyer Bloomfield, on "The Vocational Movement in Education—its Social Significance"; Dr. Lee K. Frankel, on "Organization of Charity"; and Rabbi Harry Levi, on "Religious and Social Service." The volume, besides being descriptive of various phases of social work and service, contains as a supplement a discussion of salaried positions in social work, each also by a representative worker familiar with the field. Finally, there is a supplement on "Opportunities for Training in Social Work." The volume, while having the disadvantage of lack of unity and cohesiveness on account of its composite character, the result of many hands, nevertheless, contains much that must be helpful and suggestive to the young social worker.

PROFITABLE VOCATIONS

Eli W. Weaver, a teacher of the Boys' High School of Brooklyn, for many years has been a real and experienced vocational guide to a number of students. He is chairman of the Students' Aid Committee of the New York High School Teachers' Association and was for a period director of the Vocational Guidance and Industrial Educational Bureau of the Buffalo Chamber of Commerce. His book entitled "Profitable Vocations for Boys" (\$1.00 net) as well as one on "Profitable Vocations for Girls" (75 cents net, New York: A. S. Barnes Company) are studies of a number of worth-while occupations which may be recommended respectively to boys and girls.

The method of the volumes is to describe from actual experience how young people, with the aid of advice on the part of teachers and others interested, have succeeded in building up careers that have given them a competence. There are also suggestions calculated to make young people think as to the details of possible occupations.

The matter, which has been carefully compiled under Mr. Weaver's direction, is a compact body of knowledge, a real contribution to the subject of vocational guidance which has become so vital a problem with us in America. Teachers, social workers, parents and young people themselves will find these volumes valuable aids in helping to steer into competent careers.