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Financing the Rutenberg Plan

By JUDGE JULIAN MACK, CHAIRMAN, PALESTINE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

(The coming to the Twin Cities this month of Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the Central Committee Palestine Development Leagues, on behalf of the financing of the Rutenberg Plan, makes timely the publication of the address of Judge Mack delivered before a group of Jewish financiers last June in New York at the Hotel Pennsylvania in Mr. Rutenberg's Room. All interested in the upbuilding of Palestine will find it informative to give this address a careful reading.—Editor's Note.)

Jews from Eastern Europe and Jews from Central Europe and Jews from some other parts of the world are going to Palestine. They are going to Palestine because they want to go in part; they are going to Palestine because they cannot with safety to life and limb, or to peace of soul stay at home; and they are going to Palestine partly because they prefer to go to Palestine rather than any other place and partly because there isn't any other place on earth to which they can go. We have closed the doors in America. In the last ten months some 45,000 Jews have come to America. There have been times when a million immigrants came in a year. The probabilities of even lowering the present quota are great. Canada the same; Western Europe the same; South America doesn't offer the opportunities. Some people are talking about Mexico, Cuba. That is in the distant future. And the nations of the world have said, the opportunity shall be given to the Jews in Palestine, under Great Britain's mandate, on behalf of the League of

Nations. Now, it does not make any difference what the ultimate future in Palestine is to be so far as we are concerned. We, as an organization, are concerned only with this—there is the land of our fathers; there are our brethren going and wanting to go there by the hundreds of thousands—there is a land which, if developed, if fully developed so that it may be not only brought to its highest powers agriculturally, but also industrially, is capable, according to the best experts, of maintaining in decency anywhere from three to six million people.

Let us assume that it is not the solution of the Jewish problem at all. Opinions differ. Let us assume that the minimum that I have given you is wrong; that it is only a million Jews that can go there. Even if there be only that many—it is the one ray of hope offered our brethren who are in the blackest of despair in Eastern Europe. And that is the basis of our activities. That is the reason why we believe there is a duty on the part of prosperous Jewry all over the world, but primarily in America, of course, to help lay the foundations on which that million or two million or five million Jews can build, and can build for themselves, a home and life and civilization and industry and agriculture, that will make them self-supporting, that will not bring fortunes to the individual, but that we trust will keep whatever million there may be there, from slum life or from the overcrowded conditions that prevail in the Jewish centers of Eastern Europe and even in this country.

Charity Work

There is much that is to be done, and will continue to be necessary in the way of charity. For some time to come, assistance must be given both to the present population and those new immigrants. They have their orphans, widows and aged; they need some help in the schools and sanitation. But you cannot build up a land on charity. You cannot make the Jews over there self-sustaining or self-respecting on charity. And the finest thing about the generation of pioneers, and they have been pioneers for forty odd years, both the present and new generation of pioneers, young men and women, university bred, trained to be physicians, engineers, lawyers, architects, and what not, who are tramping down through Eastern Europe seeking Palestine, and despite all hardships and suffering, rejoicing when they get there—these Chaluzim—I say the finest thing about the old and new, is that they do not want charity. What they do want, what they ask the Jews of the world, is that we who can afford it, have some stake with them in Palestine,

that we who are not going there, evidence our kinship and our feeling towards them and recognize our duty both to our ancestry and our descendants by doing something that will enable the Jews who go to Palestine to be the kind of Jews of whom we can all be proud. Because the world has decided—it is not open to question any more—they are going to be held up as the typical Jews, these Jews of Palestine, and we in a measure are going to be judged by them. We always are judged as a people, seldom individually.

The P. D. C.

Now, there are organizations that are attending to the charity end of the work. We who started the Palestine Development Council, started it because we believed that in the nature of things, any charity work must be clearly and absolutely differentiated from constructive investment business—that the two cannot be intermingled in any sense whatever, that the differentiation ought to be marked as we have come to believe in the course of the last year, by an entirely different organization, that marks in itself more clearly than anything else the distinction between the two things, and between the two we believe the business upbuilding of that land is the more important. And because of that, a year ago, on the 4th of July, when some of us gathered together to make concrete these thoughts, we decided to create a business organization. We started a million dollar Delaware corporation for the purpose of giving credits in Palestine because that, at the time, was thought by Sir Herbert Samuel and others to be the most essential thing, and to give credits first in the way of helping the Credit Unions, because we all believe that in a little land like that, it was more essential to foster the spirit of cooperation by cooperative enterprise than to do anything else. And then as a second business undertaking, the next most essential thing was credits for building of homes. When we set out on the first undertaking we found immediately that other organizations interested in Jewish work like the Reconstruction Committee of the Joint Distribution Committee and the I. C. A. (Jewish Colonization Association) of Paris, which spends Baron Rothschild's money in Palestine, and composed primarily of non-Zionists, like the London Economic Board of which Sir Alfred Mond and Sir Robert Waley-Cohen are at the head, which has on its directorate some of the wealthiest Jews of Great Britain, and mostly non-Zionists—agreed with us on these fundamental questions and were ready to join hands with us in establishing this first Credit Union

Bank. We have gotten together; we have selected a manager, and Mr. Sol Rosenbloom who has been out there for the last 5 months in our interest, has cabled letting us know that the thing is going—work has begun.

The Rutenberg Concession

And now, in the last two months, Mr. Rutenberg has come. And Mr. Rutenberg has brought with him what you see on the walls here which is the concrete expression of his fundamental ideas. That fundamental idea is that Palestine, a land without coal and as yet without developed oil, has in the falls of the river Jordan and its tributary streams the power essential to build up industries in the land, the power essential to supply the light and heat necessary, to be developed from these waters. For two years he has been working out a great hydro-electric development scheme which has met with the approval of the present government of Palestine, the High Commissioner, who submitted it to British engineers, the Colonial Office which is in charge of Palestine, Baron Rothschild who submitted it to French engineers and ourselves, the Palestine Development Council, who have on our board of trustees an eminent hydro-electric engineer, one of the vice-presidents of the great General Electric Company of America, who has personally gone over the whole matter and all the documents with Mr. Rutenberg, and called in the leading engineers of the General Electric. I refer, of course, to Dr. Loewenstein.



JUDGE JULIAN MACK



RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER