

## THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 14, 1909

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### OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### PRESIDENT

MAYER SULZBERGER, Philadelphia

#### VICE-PRESIDENTS

JULIAN W. MACK, Chicago

JACOB H. HOLLANDER, Baltimore

#### TREASURER

ISAAC W. BERNHEIM, Louisville, Ky.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CYRUS ADLER, Philadelphia, Pa.

HARRY CUTLER, Providence, R. I.

SAMUEL DORF, New York

J. L. MAGNES, New York

LOUIS MARSHALL, New York

JULIUS ROSENWALD, Chicago, Ill.

JACOB H. SCHIFF, New York

ISADOR SOBEL, Erie, Pa.

CYRUS L. SULZBERGER, New York

#### SECRETARY

HERBERT FRIEDENWALD, 356 Second Ave., N. Y. City

### MEMBERS AND DISTRICTS

Dist. I: Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina. 2 members: Ceasar Cone, Greensboro, N. C. (1911); Montague Triest, Charleston, S. C. (1914).

Dist. II: Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee. 2 members: Jacques Loeb, Montgomery, Ala. (1913); Nathan Cohn, Nashville, Tenn. (1913).

Dist. III: Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico, Texas. 2 members: Maurice Stern, New Orleans, La. (1914); Isaac H. Kemper, Galveston, Tex. (1911).

Dist. IV: Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri. 3 members: Morris M. Cohn, Little Rock, Ark. (1914); David S. Lehman, Denver, Col. (1911); Elias Michael, St. Louis, Mo. (1910).

Dist. V: California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington. 3 members. Max C. Sloss, San Francisco, Cal. (1911); Harris Weinstock, Sacramento, Cal. (1912); Ben. Selling, Portland, Ore. (1912).

Dist. VI: Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Wyoming. 4 members: Henry M. Butzel, Detroit, Mich. (1914); Emanuel Cohen, Minneapolis, Minn. (1910); Victor Rosewater, Omaha, Neb. (1914); Max Landauer, Milwaukee, Wis. (1912).

Dist. VII: Illinois. 7 members: Edwin G. Foreman (1914); M. E. Greenebaum (1913); B. Horwich (1912); Julian W. Mack (1913); Julius Rosenwald (1910); Joseph Stolz (1914), all of Chicago, Ill.; Samuel Woolner, Peoria, Ill. (1911).

Dist. VIII: Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia. 5 members: Louis Newberger, Indianapolis, Ind. (1910); Isaac W. Bernheim, Louisville, Ky. (1912); David Philipson, Cincinnati, O. (1914); J. Walter Freiberg, Cincinnati, O. (1911); E. M. Baker, Cleveland, O. (1913).

Dist. IX: New Jersey, Pennsylvania. 9 members: Cyrus Adler, Philadelphia, Pa. (1913); Isaac W. Frank, Pittsburg, Pa. (1912); Wm. B. Hackenburg (1914); B. L. Levinthal (1910); M. Rosenbaum (1910), all of Philadelphia, Pa.; Isador Sobel, Erie, Pa. (1911); Mayer Sulzberger, Philadelphia, Pa. (1913); A. Leo Weil, Pittsburg, Pa. (1914); Benjamin Wolf, Philadelphia, Pa. (1912).

Dist. X: Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia. 3 members. Harry Friedenwald, Baltimore, Md. (1910); Jacob H. Hollander, Baltimore, Md. (1910).

Dist. XI: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont. 3 members: Isaac M. Ullman, New Haven, Conn. (1911); Lee M. Friedman, Boston, Mass. (1912); Harry Cutler, Providence, R. I. (1911).

Dist. XII: New York City. 25 members: Joseph Barondess (1912); Samuel Dorf (1911); Bernard Drachman (1913); Harry Fischel (1913); William Fischman (1913); Israel Friedlaender (1912); Daniel Guggenheim (1910); Samuel B. Hamburger (1912); Maurice H. Harris (1911); S. Jarmulowsky (1911); Nathan S. Jonas (1910); Leon Kamaiky (1913); Philip Klein (1911); Nathan Lampion (1912); Adolph Lewisohn (1915); J. L. Magnes (1915); M. Z. Margolies (1910); Louis Marshall (1910);

H. Pereira Mendes (1910); Solomon Neumann (1915); Jacob H. Schiff (1911); Bernard Semel (1912); P. A. Siegelstein (1915); Joseph Silverman (1913); Cyrus L. Sulzberger (1915).

Dist. XIII: New York (exclusive of the City). 2 members: Abram J. Katz, Rochester (1913); Simon W. Rosendale, Albany (1911).

Members at large: Nathan Bijur, New York City (1910); Isidor Straus, New York City (1910).

### THIRD ANNUAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 14, 1909

The third annual meeting of the American Jewish Committee was held at the Hotel Astor, New York City, on Sunday, November 14, 1909. The President of the Committee, Judge Sulzberger, called the meeting to order, and the following report of the Executive Committee was read:

#### MEETINGS

Meetings have been held on January 1, March 13, August 25, and November 13, 1909.

#### DEATH, RESIGNATIONS, ETC.

Your Committee reports with regret the death, on December 8, 1908, of the member from District I, Moses H. Cone, Esq. At the meeting held on January 1, 1909, the following minute was adopted:

"The Executive Committee of the American Jewish Committee has learned with deep sorrow of the death of Moses H. Cone, of Greensboro, N. C., one of the original members of the Committee.

"The Committee herewith expresses its appreciation of the loyalty and understanding with which Mr. Cone placed his services at its disposal.

"A great merchant, the organizer of an important industry in a district far removed from the scene of Jewish activities, he was nevertheless ever ready to act for his people with vigor and devotion.

"By his unhappy taking off in the prime of life, the Committee has lost a valued supporter, the Jewish community a sympathetic friend, and the country a public-spirited citizen."

As Mr. Felix Fuld, of Newark, N. J., who at the last annual meeting had been elected a member from District IX, declined to serve, the vacancy in that district was filled by the transfer of Dr. Cyrus Adler, who had removed from Washington to Philadelphia.

We beg to announce that during the year Messrs. Edward Lauterbach, Morris Loeb, Joseph H. Cohen, of District XII, and Emil G. Hirsch, of District VII, tendered their resignations, which were accepted with regret.

The terms of the following members expire this year:

District I, Montague Triest, Charleston;  
 District III, Isidore Newman, New Orleans;  
 District IV, Morris M. Cohn, Little Rock;  
 District VI, Henry M. Butzel, Detroit, Victor Rosewater, Omaha;  
 District VII, Edwin G. Foreman, Joseph Stolz, Chicago;  
 District VIII, David Philipson, Cincinnati;  
 District IX, William B. Hackenburg, Philadelphia; A. Leo Weil, Pittsburg.

Their successors should be elected at this meeting. Also, there are vacancies in Districts I and X, which should be filled.

Attention is again directed to the fact that Oklahoma is a state of the Union, and that no provision has been made for giving that state representation on the Committee, although Arizona and New Mexico are included in District III.

#### THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF NEW YORK CITY

In accordance with the resolution adopted at the last annual meeting, approving a plan for the formation of the Jewish Community of New York City, the New York members held conferences with the representatives of the proposed organization for the consideration of methods of organization. These conferences were followed by a call to all Jewish organizations in New York City for a constituent convention. After several sessions held on February 27, and 28, March 6, and 27, and April 10, the convention adopted a Constitution, and elected an Executive Committee of twenty-five and an Advisory Council of seventy. The members of the Executive Committee, who, according to the plan approved by you, thus became members of the American Jewish Committee, are as follows: Joseph Barondess, Nathan Bijur, Benjamin Blumenthal, Samuel Dorf, Bernard Drachman, Harry Fischel, William Fischman, Daniel Guggenheim, Samuel B. Hamburger, S. Jarmulowsky, Nathan S. Jonas, Leon Kamaiky, Philip Klein, Nathan Lamport, J. L. Magnes, M. Z. Margolies, Louis Marshall, H. Pereira Mendes, Solomon Neumann, Jacob H. Schiff, Bernard Semel, P. A. Siegelstein, Joseph Silverman, Isidor Straus, and Cyrus L. Sulzberger. The recent election of Mr. Bijur as justice of the Supreme Court has, under the rules of the Community, created a vacancy which is to be filled by that body.

The relationship of the American Jewish Committee to the new body is established in Article V of the Constitution of the Jewish Community of New York City, as follows:

V. RELATIONSHIP TO THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

"1. The twenty-five members elected by the Jewish Community of New York City as the Executive Committee thereof, shall at the same time constitute District XII of the American Jewish Committee.

"2. The American Jewish Committee shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all questions affecting the Jews generally, not of a purely local character.

"3. The Executive Committee of the Jewish Community of New York City shall have jurisdiction over all questions of a local character, or which shall specifically affect the New York Community itself, subject, however, to the right of any two members of the Executive Committee, who shall at the same time be members of the Executive Committee of the American Jewish Committee, to appeal to the latter from any action determined upon, if they shall certify that in their opinion the action proposed to be taken shall infringe upon the jurisdiction of the American Jewish Committee, in which event a special meeting of the Executive Committee of the latter shall be held within ten days to consider such appeal. All action by the New York Community as to the subject matter of the appeal shall be suspended until the decision of the appeal, which decision shall be final.

"4. It shall not be within the province of any member of the Executive Committee of the American Jewish Committee chosen from any other district, to take such appeal or to interfere with the action of the New York Community.

"5. Any person, who shall have been elected a member of the American Jewish Committee, shall continue to complete his term of office in that Committee, and as ex-officio member of the Executive Committee of the Community of New York City, notwithstanding the fact that he may not have been re-elected a delegate."

ADVISORY COUNCILS

The formation of the Jewish Community of New York City superseded the Advisory Council for District XII. As considerable difficulty had been met with in organizing the advisory councils of the several districts, and as it was considered that New York's experiment might form a model for other communities, the work of perfecting the advisory councils has been suspended until such time as experience may prove whether New York's example will be followed elsewhere or not.

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

At the last annual meeting, the following resolution was passed: "That the Executive Committee be empowered to divide the present District No. XII into such districts as may be deemed expedient, and to make such other amendments to the Constitution as may be found necessary—such amendments to be submitted for ratification either to the next annual meeting of the General Committee, or to a special meeting, should one be called."

Accordingly, the following amendments to the Constitution are hereby recommended:

"Under article entitled 'District Representation,' add the word 'City,' after 'New York,' change '17' to '25,' and add 'XIII, New York State, exclusive of the city, 2 members.'

"Under article entitled 'Members,' in line 1, after the word 'committee,' add the words, 'excepting members at large,' and add at the end of the second paragraph 'excepting that the Executive Committee of any organized community formed in accordance with the purposes of this Committee, and in the manner and upon the terms prescribed by it, shall constitute the members of the Committee from the District.'

"At the annual meeting, members at large, not exceeding ten in number, may be elected who shall serve for one year, provided that not more than three shall be elected from any one district.'

"Under the article entitled 'Vacancies,' after the word 'occurs,' add 'or if not so filled, by the Committee at the annual meeting.'

## FINANCE

During the past year, your Committee pursued the same method for the collection of funds as was followed in previous years. According to a resolution of this Committee at its last annual meeting, the various districts were assessed as follows:

District	Quota	District	Quota
I	\$200	VII	\$1300
II	200	VIII	500
III	200	IX	1200
IV	200	X	300
V	200	XI	500
VI	200	XII	5000

This year a plan of subscription was adopted in New York City and State by which the entire assessment was subscribed payable in installments of fifty per cent immediately, twenty-five per cent at the expiration of six months, and the balance three months thereafter.

Your Committee is glad to be able to state that the support received from the other districts has been more satisfactory than

heretofore, and hopes for the continuation of this interest on the part of the members.

#### THE PASSPORT QUESTION

During the winter of 1908-9, your Committee watched with interest the progress of the extradition proceedings brought by the Russian Government against Jan Janoff Pouren and Christian Rudowitz, two of her subjects who had sought an asylum in America. In their important features, both cases were practically similar. Both Pouren and Rudowitz were charged by the Russian Government with the commission of murder and arson, criminal offenses which are extraditable under the treaty of 1887. Both refugees were acquitted of these charges after important and difficult legal battles. During the trials of the refugees, there was considerable agitation from many quarters for the abrogation of the existing extradition treaty between this country and Russia. The importance of this move in relation to the passport question can be readily appreciated.

The present administration is pledged to bring about the final solution of that question. Mr. Rockhill, our ambassador at St. Petersburg, is especially charged with this task, and your Committee feels encouraged to hope that some progress will be made in regard to this much-discussed and important matter in the near future.

#### IMMIGRATION

Although several strong restrictionist speeches were made in both houses of Congress during the past year, no serious attempt was made to enact restrictive legislation, outside of the introduction of an amendment to the Tariff Bill providing for the increase of the immigrant head-tax from \$2 to \$10. As soon as this amendment was introduced, your Committee entered a vigorous protest against this attempt to enact piecemeal legislation on a matter of such importance and magnitude as immigration.

#### ELLIS ISLAND

For several months during the past summer the situation at Ellis Island was distressing, and necessitated some action on the part of your Committee. On May 18, 1909, William Williams was appointed by the President to succeed Robert Watchorn, resigned, as Commissioner of Immigration at the Port of New York. On June 30, 1909, Mr. Williams issued a notice to the steamship companies engaged in the transportation of immigrants to this country, in which he said, among other things, that "in most cases it will be unsafe for immigrants to arrive with less than

\$25 (besides railroad ticket to destination), while in many instances they should have more." This notice was also posted in the rooms of the Board of Special Inquiry, whose duty it is to consider individual cases and render a decision on the immigrant's right to enter the country. During July, the number of deportations on account of likelihood of becoming public charges was unprecedentedly large, being relatively double the number of deportations for the same month in 1908. This situation gave rise to much indignation and agitation on the part of the Yiddish press of New York City. Meanwhile, four immigrants who were about to be deported without due process of law secured counsel, and habeas corpus proceedings were instituted in their behalf by Messrs. Max J. Kohler and Abram I. Elkus, of the New York bar. Before the trial was concluded, however, the Commissioner reviewed the findings in the four cases and the immigrants were admitted.

Your Committee kept itself fully advised of everything that was done in connection with the matter, was able to furnish Messrs. Kohler and Elkus with valuable data to assist them in their cause, and bore the expense of printing their most valuable brief. A meeting was held in New York City on August 25, 1909, and after a thorough discussion, your Committee decided to call a conference of interested bodies for a discussion of the situation with a view to the publication of a statement of the conditions, in order to prevent aimless and baseless agitation. This Conference was held under the auspices of the Jewish Community of New York City, and prepared the following statement:

"In view of the recent agitation in the Jewish Press concerning the administration of the Immigration Law and the action of various bodies in bringing phases of this to the attention of the authorities, the American Jewish Committee, after a careful consideration of the subject by its Executive Committee, deemed it advisable and necessary to call a Conference, in New York City, of a few organizations interested in the subject. It therefore requested the Chairman of the New York Jewish Community to invite to such a Conference the representatives of the Grand Masters Association which had previously moved in the matter, the Grand Master of District No. 1 of the Independent Order of B'nai B'rith, a representative of the American Jewish Society for the Regulation of Immigration, and Max J. Kohler, Esq., of Counsel in a recent test case. These, with two representatives each, of the Community and the American Jewish Committee, met and exhaustively discussed the subject. It was felt that a decided misapprehension existed here and abroad on many points, and, in order to clarify the situation, a statement should be issued pointing out these misapprehensions.



"The Immigration Laws of the United States, aside from those dealing with Chinese (with which the present statement does not concern itself), were primarily intended to regulate immigration. They are designed to exclude those persons only who would inflict injury upon the body politic, either physically, mentally or morally. They are arbitrarily exclusive solely of those who come within the definition of contract labor. Roughly speaking, there have been admitted into the United States within the past twenty years an average of nearly 500,000 persons per annum, and there have been deported about 10,000 per annum. The permanent addition to our population by reason of immigration by no means equals the number of immigrants, because there constantly is a large emigration, which in 1908 almost equalled the entire immigration for that year. What it is desired to point out in the first instance is, that the immigration laws of the United States are not restrictive but regulative, and that the statements, made here and abroad, to the contrary, are practically without foundation. The head tax has not been designed as a restrictive measure, but was intended to meet the cost of regulating immigration. Deportations, while constituting a small percentage of the total immigration and though in the aggregate inconsiderable, are naturally of the most serious importance to those directly involved as well as to their relatives and friends; yet it is fully believed that in a large majority of instances the deportations which have occurred were necessary under the law. Nor should it be forgotten that the law must be administered by individuals, and that the administrative processes employed, in view of the fact that the public welfare is involved, are from the very nature of the case more summary than American citizens are accustomed to expect where grave issues are involved.

"Recently, greater stringency has been exercised at the Port of New York in the interpretation of that clause of the Immigration Law which excludes those likely to become a public charge. In a group of cases manifest injustice had been done. Messrs. Max J. Kohler and Abram I. Elkus, in behalf of certain individuals who had been ordered deported, secured from the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York writs of habeas corpus. Before the matter could be settled in court, the findings were reviewed by order of the Commissioner of Immigration at the Port of New York, and the petitioners were admitted. The points made in the brief presented were that these immigrants were excluded under a notice of the Commissioner which indicated that it would be unsafe for immigrants to arrive with less than \$25; the notice of the Commissioner also stated that the applicants must likewise satisfy the authorities that they would not become charges on public or private charities, and that

gifts to relatives after arrival, unless from parent to child, would be treated as private charity. It was contended that this notice had virtually the force of an instruction; that it was not warranted in law, and that it had undue influence upon Boards which were supposed to exercise quasi-judicial powers. It was argued that these instructions were illegal; that the members of the Boards of Special Inquiry were not free agents; that counsel was improperly denied before the Boards and on appeal; that evidence was improperly excluded on appeal by the Commissioner and illegal evidence admitted; and communication with relatives and friends unlawfully restrained.

"None of these points and others germane to the subject, which were elaborately discussed, were passed upon by the court for the reason already stated. Messrs. Kohler and Elkus, however, were invited to submit this brief to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor together with their views as to necessary reforms with regard to methods of administration, and they accordingly made suggestions, sixteen in number, looking to improvement of the situation. In view of this, and the fact that the situation has improved, it was the opinion of the Conference that further agitation directed against the officials having in charge the administration of the Immigration Law at the Port of New York was unwise.

"Changes are likely to be slowly made, however, especially because of the fact, which it is important to bear in mind for a variety of reasons, that a Congressional Commission was appointed more than two years ago to study the whole question of immigration. This Commission will, in all probability, make a report to the next session of Congress. No credence is to be given to the various forecasts of the report which have, from time to time, appeared in the daily press. The members of the Conference have full confidence in the ability and fairness of the Commission, but of course reserve the right to be heard before the Committees of Congress upon any bill based upon the report of this Commission. Instead of making charges against the administrative officials of the Government, at this time, the advisable course is to take up the matter with representatives in Congress, when the subject properly comes before that body.

"The increased stringency in the administration of the law, of which complaint has been made, has in fact produced a result much less striking than might have been supposed, in view of the recent agitation. Thus, for example, during the month of July, 1909, there were 8155 Jewish immigrants who came to the Port of New York, of whom 280 were deported, and although the number of deportations shows a larger percentage than during any previous like period, these figures do not justify the statement which has been made in a portion of the Jewish press, that

America is closed to the Jews. On the contrary, it is the firm opinion of the members of the Conference, that, whilst in the administration of the law, errors of judgment have undoubtedly occurred on the part of the Commissioner and of his subordinates, no race or religious prejudices have been evinced by them.

"A new point has recently arisen, with regard to tickets paid for with the money of others than the immigrants, and a most unwise agitation against the Commissioner of Immigration has been launched upon this point. In effect, the law imposes on the immigrant whose passage is paid in whole or in part with the money of another, in an emphatic way, the burden of proving that he does not belong to one of the excluded classes. In all cases arising under the statute the burden of proof is placed upon the immigrant, in that he must show that he does not belong to one of the excluded classes, but the rule is stated with greater emphasis with regard to those whose passage is prepaid by another, because of the probable presumption that such an immigrant is more likely to become a public charge. Here, therefore, the attack is not upon the administration of the law, but upon the law itself, a course which the Conference deems not only unwise but reprehensible. There have, however, been occasional errors in administering this provision of the law, because of error on the part of subordinate inspectors in construing it. They have, in some instances, erroneously confused this provision, concerning tickets paid for with the money of others, with 'prepaid tickets' generally, instead of confining it to cases where the money for the ticket, in whole or in part, was a gift to the immigrant. They have also occasionally misconstrued the provision requiring affirmative evidence in such cases, overlooking the fact that it is the duty of the Boards of Special Inquiry to question such immigrants themselves so as to show that they are not within any of the prohibited classes, where such is the fact, and that the immigrant's own evidence, except in special cases, constitutes the requisite 'affirmative evidence.'

"The members of the Conference, while deeming it to be the proper policy to maintain the rights of those entitled under the law to enter our ports without let or hindrance, and to the extent of our power to resist any harsh, unwarranted or illegal interpretations of the law whenever brought to our notice, and whenever new legislation is proposed, as is likely, to take counsel with all interested in order to procure wise and humane laws and regulations, unite in the determination that they will not under any circumstances countenance any endeavor to land those who are not entitled under the laws to enter, even though in some cases such exclusions are repugnant to our sense of humanity. This conclusion is deemed to be correct not only because it is in recog-

nition of and obedience to the law, but because in a large sense the immigration policy of the United States has been so entirely humane that minor hardships must be endured in the interests of the many.

"Finally, it was the view of the Conference that it is advisable in the interest of intending immigrants that the confusion now prevailing in Jewish circles should cease, and to that end it was decided to make this statement in the interest of the immigrants. If any case of individual injustice, so far as the administration of Ellis Island is concerned, is brought to the attention of the Jewish Community of New York City, 356 Second Avenue, steps will be taken to procure a fair hearing. For any case outside of the Port of New York, complaints may be made to the American Jewish Committee, 356 Second Avenue, or to the Board of Delegates on Civil and Religious Rights of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, care of Simon Wolf, Esq., Washington D. C."

#### AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK

Your Committee continues the preparation of the American Jewish Year Book, which is published by the Jewish Publication Society of America. The Year Book 5670 (1909-10) was issued in September last. It was considered advisable to supplement the material on the passport question printed in Year Book 5665 (1904-5), by printing in the current issue an article on "The Passport Question in Congress," which is a compilation of all the resolutions introduced into or passed by either branch of Congress, together with other documents pertinent thereto.

The experience of the Jews of New York City in connection with the formation of the New York Jewish Community, aside from the intrinsic importance of the event itself, may serve as a guide to other cities which may desire to form similar organizations. Notwithstanding the short period of its existence, the Jewish Community of New York City has proved itself an efficient and useful power in communal affairs. It has, therefore, been deemed advisable to print in the present issue of the Year Book an extended account of the manner of its formation, together with its constitution. Besides these special articles, and one on the Year 5669, by Albert M. Friedenberq, Esq., the Year Book contains the usual lists, calendars, and tables which have been found to be the most useful aids in Jewish communal work.

During the past year, the number of Jewish organizations of which we have information has been increased by upwards of four hundred. Besides this increase, numerous changes in older organizations have been noted, and the data now in the hands of your Committee will serve as a valuable basis for a new directory of organizations, to supersede the one which was compiled two

years ago, should this Committee decide to have a new directory prepared.

In view of the attention which has been attracted to the agricultural activities of the Jews in this country, it is expected that a special article in the next Year Book will deal with that subject.

#### INFORMATION AND STATISTICS

During the past year, your Committee has continued the practice of collecting, indexing and filing articles in the Jewish and general press, which are considered of value or interest to Jews. 2447 articles have been indexed and filed, and 3396 index cards have been written. At the present time, the number of articles which are on file in your office is 5637.

Besides these shorter articles, a few books have been purchased from time to time. Your Committee has continued to pay special attention to procuring data respecting immigration questions.

#### THE CENSUS BILL

On January 9, 1909, an amendment to the Census Bill was introduced providing that the census enumerators should ascertain, among other things, the *race* of all inhabitants of the United States. As the classification of races adopted by the United States Immigration Commission would most probably have been used, and as this classification is, in the opinion of many members of the Committee, open to serious objections, it was deemed proper to protest against the inclusion of the word "race" in the Census Bill.

To our Government, American citizens are natural-born or naturalized. It should know no further distinctions, and as the bulk of the population are American citizens and residents of the United States who aspire to citizenship, racial questions have no place in the census.

For this reason, your Committee deemed it important to protest against the investigation of race affiliations by the Census Bureau. The Bill was referred to a conference committee of both houses of Congress, and the word "race" was eliminated from the Census Bill.

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

The situation of the Jews in Finland, though of importance and another indication of Russia's policy of oppression, was not published in the daily papers served by the Associated Press, until your Committee had drawn their attention to it. It was felt by your Committee that Russian matters and, especially, Russian-Jewish matters were not receiving the attention from the press which their importance and interest would seem to

warrant. Your Committee accordingly addressed a letter to the Directors of the Associated Press, calling their attention to the noticeable paucity of Russian and Russian-Jewish news reaching this country. Your Committee was assured that the matter would be looked into and that, if possible, the service would be improved.

#### FINLAND

During the winter of 1908-9, a policy of oppression and expulsion of the Jews was inaugurated by the Government of Finland. Your Committee, on being apprised by cablegrams from the *Hilfsverein der deutschen Juden* that the situation was critical and distressing, immediately gave the report wide publicity in the daily press of the United States. Notwithstanding these efforts and those of our co-religionists in other countries, no substantial improvement in these conditions has been reported. *Shechitah* has been prohibited, and restrictions of the right of residence of other than native-born Jews to periods of three months, or, by special permit, six months, have been imposed and do not appear to have been removed.

#### THE WASHINGTON OFFICE

The Washington office has been continued and has proved of great usefulness in keeping us informed of affairs in Washington.

#### RUSSIA

On July 7, 1909, despatches were published in several papers, reporting a Jewish massacre in Bessarabia. Your Committee promptly communicated with the Department of State for confirmation of the report, and was informed that the Consul at Odessa, in a cablegram to the Department, reported the rumor unfounded. The Jewish press was apprised of the contents of the cablegram, and much anxiety was thus allayed.

Upon receipt of reports of a massacre at Kieff, in September, 1909, the Department of State was again communicated with, and we were informed that the rumors were founded on a slight disturbance, which had been immediately quieted without any serious results.

#### ROUMANIA

The recent political imbroglio in the Balkan peninsula seemed to offer an opportunity for a move toward the emancipation of the Jews in Roumania. For several months during the past winter, there was talk of a conference of the Powers signatory to the Berlin Treaty in order to consider the breach of that treaty

by Austria and Bulgaria. The former had annexed two Turkish principalities, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the latter had declared its independence of the suzerainty of Turkey. As Roumania was made a sovereign state by the Treaty of Berlin, and as, in its treatment of the Jews, it has been consistently violating one of the most important articles of that treaty, this Committee in common with the *Alliance Israélite* of France, the Conjoint Foreign Committee of England, and the *Hilfsverein* of Berlin, thought that it would be well to make an attempt to bring this matter to the attention of the proposed conference of the Powers. Both the English and the French organizations addressed their respective Governments on the matter, and both met with the reply that the alleged disabilities of the Jews in Roumania would be investigated, but that this subject was not germane to the matters which a conference of the Powers would be called upon to consider.

Your Committee learned also that this Government had in view the negotiation of a treaty of extradition with Roumania. This was considered as another opening for the consideration of the Jewish question in that country, and your Committee, therefore, addressed a letter to the Department of State asking for a confirmation of the report that such a treaty was contemplated, and that if such were the case, your Committee be permitted to present a memorial on the subject, before any negotiations were concluded. The Department of State replied that the Minister to Roumania was charged with the negotiation of such a treaty upon his arrival at his post. But no further advices have been received as to the progress of the negotiations.

#### THE ITALIAN EARTHQUAKE

In common with other organizations of its kind, your Committee viewed with profound sorrow the disaster which befell Italy due to the earthquake in Sicily and Calabria in December, 1908. The question of rendering assistance to the Italian people who were made homeless and destitute by the disaster was discussed at some length. It was determined that, as the collecting of funds was in the hands of a capable organization, the American Red Cross Association, the following appeal be issued to the Jewish people:

"The American Jewish Committee, in executive session assembled, expresses its deep sympathy with the Italian people in their distress. On behalf of American Jewry, it sends the Italian people messages of encouragement and brotherhood, with the prayer that they may be strong and hopeful of the future.

"We call upon the Jews of America to open wide their purses and to contribute what they can to the funds now being gathered

by the American Red Cross Association. Let every Jew do his duty by his stricken Italian brother.

"Contributions should be sent to the nearest local Red Cross treasurer, or to the National Red Cross treasurer at Washington, D. C."

#### CONCLUSION

Notwithstanding the present conditions of the Jews in Russia and Roumania, there seems to be room for the hope that, with the aid of Western governments, and the gradual development of a larger spirit of liberality in the countries of oppression, there may soon come the beginning of a movement which will ultimately, though slowly, tend to the betterment of conditions. It will require the best efforts of all friends of liberty and justice everywhere to obtain even small results in a short time.

#### ACTION ON THE REPORT

On motion, the annual report of the Executive Committee was received.

On motion of Dr. Adler, the minute of the Executive Committee in regard to the death of Moses H. Cone, of Greensboro, was adopted by the Committee as expressive of the esteem in which Mr. Cone was held.

The amendments to the Constitution of the Committee recommended by the Executive Committee in its report were discussed and adopted as follows:

"Under article entitled 'District Representation,' add the word 'City' after 'New York,' change '17' to '25,' and add 'XIII New York State, exclusive of the city, 2 members.'

"Under the article entitled 'Members,' in line one, after the word 'committee,' add the words, 'excepting members at large'; and add at the end of the first paragraph: 'In District XII the Executive Committee of the Jewish Community of New York City, not more than twenty-five in number, shall constitute the members from that District.' At the end of the second paragraph of the same article, add: 'At the annual meeting, upon nomination by the Executive Committee, members at large, not exceeding ten in number, may be elected, who shall serve for one year, provided that not more than five shall be elected from any one District.'

"Under the article entitled 'Vacancies,' at the end of the second paragraph, add: 'In default of action by the Advisory Councils, vacancies in the Committee may be filled at the annual meeting.'"

The report of the treasurer was read, and, on motion of Mr. Marshall, it was accepted and ordered audited. The Chairman appointed Messrs. Henry Fischel and Joseph Baroness, both of New York City, auditors.



It was resolved that the respective districts be assessed for the ensuing year as follows:

District	Quota	District	Quota
I	\$200	VII	\$1300
II	200	VIII	500
III	200	IX	1200
IV	200	X	300
V	200	XI	500
VI	200	XII	5000
		XIII	500

Officers were elected as given on p. 338.

The following were elected to fill vacancies or expired terms:

District I: Montague Triest, Charleston, to succeed himself, term expiring 1914.

District III: Isidore Newman, New Orleans, to succeed himself, term expiring 1914. (Maurice Stern, of New Orleans, has been elected to succeed Mr. Newman, who died November 30, 1909.)

District IV: Morris M. Cohn, Little Rock, to succeed himself, term expiring 1914.

District VI: Henry M. Butzel, Detroit, and Victor Rosewater, Omaha, to succeed themselves, term expiring 1914.

District VII: Edwin G. Foreman and Joseph Stolz, Chicago, to succeed themselves, term expiring 1914; M. E. Greenebaum, Chicago, to succeed Emil G. Hirsch, resigned, term expiring 1913.

District VIII: David Philipson, Cincinnati, to succeed himself, term expiring 1914.

District IX: William B. Hackenburg, Philadelphia; A. Leo Weil, Pittsburg, to succeed themselves, term expiring 1914.

There being no other nominations, the Secretary was requested to cast one ballot for all the nominees of the Committee on Nominations.

Upon the request of Mr. Weil, it was resolved that his election by the Committee be subject to the action of the Advisory Council of his District, to whom the question of electing a successor to himself should be referred. The Secretary announced that the Executive Committee recommended the election of Nathan Bijur and Isidor Straus as members at large. Elected unanimously.

After a discussion of the general welfare of the Committee, it was resolved that the address delivered by Louis Marshall, Esq., on January 20, 1909, before the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and a copy of the Third Annual Report, together with a letter of transmittal, be widely distributed.

It was also resolved that a standing Committee on Immigration be appointed to endeavor to co-ordinate the work of the various bodies engaged in guarding the interests of immigrants. Mr. Bijur, Mr. Kamaiky, and Mr. Barondess were appointed on this Committee, with Mr. Marshall as counsel.