

JEWISH DEVELOPMENT OF PALESTINE LOOKED TO AS MEANS OF PEACE

Seek to Enlist Jewish Workmen in Rebuilding of Holy Land.

NEW YORK, Oct. 11.—Expressing their confidence that the Jewish development of Palestine would bring about enduring peace and understanding between the East and the West, leading American Jews last night enthusiastically welcomed Col. Joseph C. Wedgwood, D. S. O., member of the British Parliament who has just arrived in America as a representative of British labor to enlist the support of the Jewish workmen in this country in the rebuilding of the Holy Land. At a reception given him at the Hotel Astor under the auspices of the Palestine Foundation Fund (Keren Hayesod) last night Col. Wedgwood declared that British labor was acting solely in the interests of international justice in supporting the Jewish claim to Palestine. He has come to this country to

represent the Palestine Foundation Fund and will leave soon for a tour of the States.

Samuel Untermyer, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Palestine Foundation Fund, in welcoming the distinguished guest in behalf of the organization, pointed out that a Jewish homeland in Palestine offered an opportunity for Arab and Jew to find a haven from oppression and injustice, and to give the world a model for the conduct of government. He emphasized that the Jews were not to come into Asia actuated by revenge on the part of conquest, but with tools of civilization and culture. Mr. Untermyer added that the Jews were presented with an opportunity to show to the world a new method in the dealings of one race with another. The evil workings of a sinister and irresponsible Arab agitator, all come to naught, he declared, and a Jewish homeland in Palestine will be built on the basis of mutual interest, mutual respect between Arab and Jew.

Col. Wedgwood is widely known as a champion of Jewish rights as well as a labor leader and war hero. He served with distinction during the South African War and during the World War ranked as a commander of the Royal Navy Voluntary Reserve, and won the Distinguished Service Order. He has been a member of Parliament since 1906 and is Vice-President

of the British Labor Party. In 1918 he came to this country to confer with Colonel House in support of the Jewish claim to Palestine and since that time has been an ardent champion of the aspirations for liberation of all oppressed races.

In his speech, Col. Wedgwood pointed out his origin from a section of the British people which has a natural sympathy for the Jews restored as a nation in Palestine would be able to secure justice for both themselves and for all men. The British Labor Party he said, fought against every form of injustice and deplored particularly the appearance of anti-Semitism in America. The Jewish national spirit, he claimed, was an indispensable step toward the achievement of the international spirit which would mean peace, equality and justice for all men.

Mr. Untermyer in welcoming the guest said:

"I feel proud to be your spokesman tonight in extending our most heartfelt welcome to Col. Wedgwood who has come to our country as the representative of a large and important section of British opinion to aid us in our task of rebuilding a home for the Jewish people in Palestine. We are particularly proud to have the cooperation of a great leader of the British Labor Party, a man whose splendid career of public service to his country is marked by many a victory in behalf of popular rights."

"We are proud to have our great cause identified with the aspirations and interests of the progressive and forward looking people of Great Britain and supported so staunchly by the British Labor Party."

"And it is only natural that the sympathies of men like Col. Wedgwood should be enlisted, since our great cause represents a long step forward in the march of mankind towards justice. I believe that all men, all groups, all forces, who have the interest of justice at heart must espouse our cause. Col. Wedgwood is welcome to us Jews of America as a devoted champion of the cause of our oppressed people in all lands as a never-failing advocate of the Jewish homeland, as a leader of the party whose great influence has been at our service, and, we have every reason to feel sure, will continue to be at our service."

"It is a fact of very great significance that our people who have always been identified with the forward moving elements in all the lands where they dwell. Our people have always stood on the side of justice and progress and that has been our reward for this passion for righteousness of which we are possessed? Our reward has generally been bitter persecution in every conceivable form, ranging from the refined cruelties of social injustice to the grossest cruelties of expulsion and massacre. In their struggle against justice and progress, the criminal and reactionary forces of all lands have made the Jew first and principal target for their attack. The results are before our eyes at this moment. They are a Rathenau murder in Germany, a white terror directed primarily against the Jews in Hungary, ominous threats and excesses against the Jews by the reactionary forces in Poland, wholesale massacre in the Ukraine. We have up to the present apparently been doomed only to suffer for our espousal of the cause of justice and progress. What a change has now begun! For the first time we are being rewarded, for the first time we Jews may say that we are the beneficiaries of progress after having been for so long the victims of reaction. The support of our cause by men like Col. Wedgwood and groups like the British Labor Party is in this sense a turning point in the history of the relations of the Jews with other people."

"In speaking of this invaluable support we must be mindful of

all the reasons for this support. We must be mindful of the fact that one of the reasons why the progressive forces of Great Britain and the rest of the world have endorsed and supported the rebuilding of Palestine as a home for the Jewish people is that the Jews are expected to make of Palestine a model land, a land where there shall be no oppressors and no oppressed, a land built on the foundations of social justice and of interracial justice. With regard to interracial justice, I want to emphasize the fact that we Jews have an opportunity to mark out new paths in the dealings of one race with another, and we are determined that all the evil propensities of sinister and irresponsible Arab agitators shall come to naught, and that the Jewish homeland in Palestine will be built on the basis of mutual understanding, of mutual helpfulness and mutual respect between Jew and Arab."

"Such then are the hopes and expectations which the world has lodged in our enterprise, and we Jews must be keenly alive to the responsibilities imposed upon us. We have an opportunity not only to provide a home for our homeless people, but to make that home represent a milestone in the progress of the human race towards social and interracial justice."

"There is another opportunity which our movement presents to us, an opportunity which has been frequently pointed out, but which needs to be emphasized at this time. It is the opportunity of that region of the world which Europe touches Asia have aroused apprehensions in many minds that the East is again about to engage in a life and death struggle with

the West. Again we hear the old talk about the inevitable conflict between the East and the West. I do not share these apprehensions. I do not believe that Europe will again be overwhelmed by Asia. The time has arrived in the history of the world when the East and the West will meet and understand each other. And the principal agency in bringing about such an understanding will be the Jews. True the Turks may return to Europe, but the Jews are returning to Palestine. They are returning to Palestine with the power of England and the sympathy of the civilized world behind them, and so we Jews are not disturbed. At the present moment England stands almost alone against the threat which still exists. She stands alone with the moral backing of America."

"Asia will not come to Europe; but Europe, through the agency of the Jewish people, will come to Asia; and the Jews are going to Asia not actuated by revenge or the lust of conquest, not with fire and sword, but with the tools of civilization and culture with the school and the university, the railroad and the tractor and hydro-electric equipment. The instrument through which the Jews of the world are enabled to realize this great mission of civilization is the Palestine Foundation Fund. A year ago I said: 'The Keren Hayesod stands high above and beyond and far removed from the strifes and discords of party or politics. Its platform is big and broad—it is one in which Jews of all shades of opinion find a common meeting place.' Events which have occurred since have served to vindicate the truth of this

statement. In ever greater numbers, Jews of the most diverse shades of opinion and outlook are coming forward to support the Keren Hayesod. Men of great prominence and influence who are anxious to do their share for the rebuilding of Palestine—and who have not found the suitable instrument are realizing that the instrument is here in the shape of the Palestine Foundation Fund. Some of them have gone to Palestine and seen with their own eyes the beneficent work which one fund is doing there. They have come back, and regardless of general views they may hold and regardless of their interpretations of Jewish life, they declare that this fund is the instrument through which the Jews can rebuild Palestine."

"I would ask all Jews interested in the rebuilding of Palestine—and what Jews are not?—how else can you insure the economic and cultural growth of Palestine except through the Palestine Foundation Fund? What other means are there for receiving and assisting the immigrants when they arrive, for finding them employment and in various ways giving them a helping hand in their great adventure? What other means are there for maintaining the large educational system of Palestine without which no Jewish settlement is possible, since the Jew will not go where his children cannot have an education? How else provide for the sanitation of the land, for the system of hospital and clinics, which are supported by our fund? What would become of the large number of colonies where the Jewish pioneers are settled and trained to become modern farmers but

for the agency of the Keren Hayesod?"

"I have mentioned only a few of the large works of culture and civilization which the Foundation Fund is doing in Palestine and which are making out of a waste and neglected land, a modern land in every sense of the term."

"In this labor of civilization and humanity our distinguished guest has come to our country in order to assist us. We are confident that our movement will benefit through his presence not only in the great financial returns which will come to the Keren Hayesod, but

that it will grow in prestige and power, the prestige which it was bound to acquire from the advocacy of progressive and potent thought and action."

"Let us here tonight, under the inspiration of this auspicious occasion, dedicate ourselves anew to the great task we have undertaken for the rehabilitation of the Holy Land, for the building up of the House of Israel, or the honor and glory of the Jewish people."

Among others who spoke were Norman Hengood, Morris Hillquit, Morris Rothenberg, Jerome T. Hunt and I. Zar.

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