

From the Editor's Desk

Theodor Herzl and Asher Myers

A CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF THE JEWISH CHRONICLE
(1841-1961)

By JOSEF FRAENKEL

At the age of 27, Theodor Herzl applied for the post of Paris correspondent of the "Frankfurter Zeitung." He wrote to his parents: "Heine was Paris correspondent, too." He quoted other famous writers but not Moses Hess, the author of "Rome and Jerusalem," who once had been Paris correspondent of a German paper, for the name of Hess was unknown to Herzl. But the post was already taken and it was not until four years later, in 1891, that Herzl became Paris correspondent of the Vienna "Neue Freie Presse," the most influential daily of the old Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. As a writer he showed promise of becoming a second Heine but he forsook the path of fame to revolutionize the whole aspect of the Jewish problem and later also re-awakened the name of the forgotten Moses Hess.

In July, 1895, while working on the booklet "The Jewish State," Herzl returned to Vienna to become literary editor of the "Neue Freie Presse." It was the dream of poets and writers to be accepted as a member of the editorial staff of the "Neue Freie Presse." The paper was a power in political life of Vienna as well as in literature. An article in the "Neue Freie Presse" was almost a creed to thousands of people. And Herzl was soon one of its principal and favourite contributors. Karl Marx was once London correspondent of this paper and articles by Zola, Anatole France and Bernard Shaw appeared on its pages from time to time.

Herzl endeavoured to win over Moritz Benedikt, publisher and chief editor, to his political Zionism and tried in vain to persuade him to publish his article, "The Solution of the Jewish Question." Benedikt, who was born in Kwassitz (Moravia) and did not deny his Jewishness, was afraid that his paper might get the reputation of a "Jew's paper" were it to come out with a purely Zionist article, especially from its literary editor, but he advised Herzl to go to "Paris or London" to probe the attitude of the Jews there to his new plans. He hoped that their negative views would cure Herzl of his new 'delusion.'

In Paris Herzl's first convert was the writer Max Nordau and he too suggested a visit to London: "Try above all to gain 'The Jewish Chronicle' and I. Zangwill for our ideas," — he said.

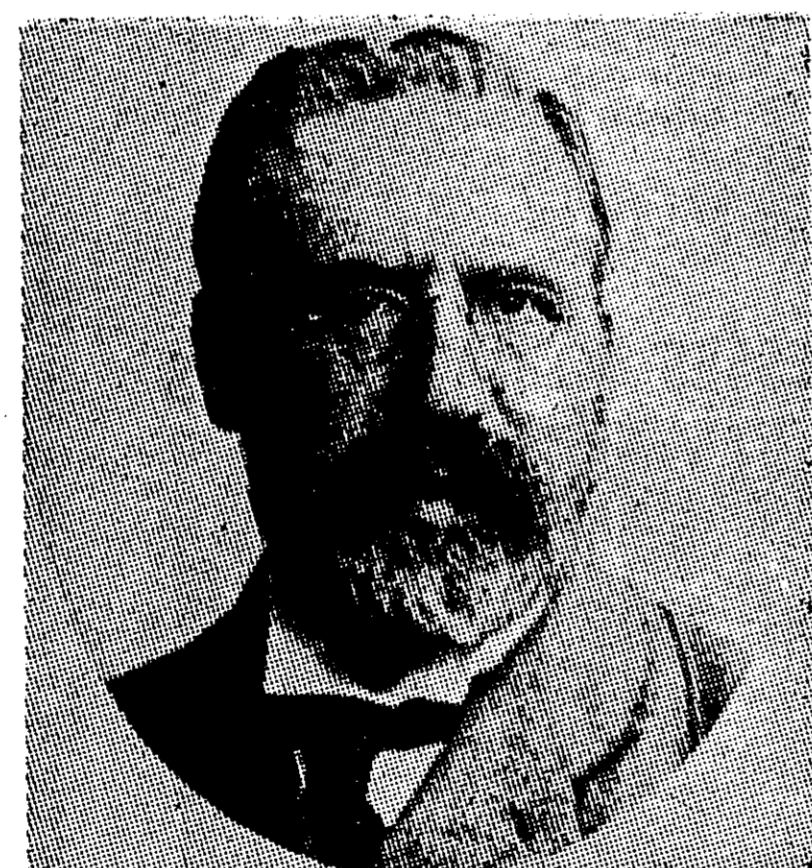
On November 21st, 1891, Herzl saw Zangwill who introduced him to Asher Isaac Myers, editor of the Jewish Chronicle, 1873-1902. Myers immediately recognized the greatness of Herzl's personality. Under the editorship of Myers, "The Jewish Chronicle" received a fresh impetus and came to occupy the most prominent place among Anglo-Jewish papers.

Asher I. Myers was also active in several organizations. He was one of the founders of the Maccabees, a society of intellectuals, interested in Jewish affairs, and he showed much understanding for religious and cultural matters. The leading members of the Maccabees included I. Zangwill, Herbert Bentwich, Solomon J. Solomon and Col. Albert E. W. Goldsmid, but Myers, officially the treasurer of the society, was its moving spirit. On Sunday, Nov. 24, 1895, the Maccabees arranged a dinner in

honour of Dr. Herzl, "Sub-Editor of the Neue Freie Presse" — to quote the invitation — at St. James's Hall Restaurant, where he could at last speak about his plans to the Jews.

At first Herzl considered Myers to be a follower and a political Zionist, and he invited him and a few others to discuss the establishment of a "Society of Jews" in London which should have as its aim the creation of a Jewish State. But Herzl's view on religion put a barrier between the two men and estranged Myers somewhat from his Zionism. Herzl wore a full beard, but he was not observant. He regarded himself a national Jew and did not envisage theocracy as the ruling power of a Jewish State. Myers' love for Zion, however, was largely based on religious sentiment, and because of his attitude the political discussion became a religious debate. "What is your attitude toward the Bible?" Myers asked Herzl, who replied: "I am a freethinker and it is my principle that everyone should be happy in his own way." When Herzl explained that a committee should direct the Zionist cause, Myers declared: "No, you are the man to lead. You must be the martyr of this idea. The Orthodox Jews will follow you, although they will consider you as a bad Jew. But the Jews will not wish to go to Argentina, but to Palestine."

Strange that no paper reported Herzl's first address at the Maccabees. But Asher Myers in spite of his opposition to political Zionism was deeply impressed by him. As an editor, Myers realized that Herzl's proposals would arouse the greatest interest in Jewish circles. Here was a controversial topic, which would produce lively discussion among the readers and he asked Herzl to write a summary of his hitherto unpublished pamphlet "The Jewish State." Thus it came about that Herzl's first article "A Solution of the Jewish Problem" was published in the Jewish Chronicle, on January 17, 1896. But the same issue also printed the first anti-Zionist editorial, "A Dream of a Jewish State" which drew attention to the article by Herzl, "a distinguished journalist and literateur of the first rank in Vienna, no dreamer of dreams but a practical man of the world, whose position on the staff of the 'Neue Freie Presse' commands attention for all he writes."



ASHER MYERS

When the Jewish Chronicle arrived at the editorial offices of the "Neue Freie Presse," Benedikt, the powerful editor-in-chief nicknamed "Maledikt," fought Herzl, his subordinate, whose very position was at stake. At first Benedikt was friendly and fatherly, then he tried persuasion and promises and, finally, threats, in order to prevent Herzl's publishing his pamphlet "The Jewish State." Herzl, however, remained firm and declared that his plans had already been published in the "Jewish Chronicle," which had

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also announced the publication of his booklet in the near future.

As long as Herzl was alive the "Neue Freie Presse" never mentioned Zionism or Herzl's Zionist activities. The "Jewish Chronicle," on the other hand, continued the discussion and almost every issue contained reports, commentaries or letters in connection with "The Jewish State." These expressions of opinions, though frequently unfavourable, were most important to the new movement since its greatest danger lay in being ignored. Asher Myers rendered Zionism a great service by keeping the debate alive, and true to its long-standing tradition of fairness, the "Jewish Chronicle" also printed pro-Zionist reports and letters overflowing with enthusiasm for political Zionism. The paper even published letters criticizing the Jewish Chronicle's opposition to Zionism. Myers, although an anti-Zionist, always respected Herzl's personality and they remained friends.

Through the "Neue Freie Presse," Herzl won recognition in the non-Jewish world as a journalist and writer, as the author of many splendid feuilletons, essays and short stories. And through the "Jewish Chronicle," the Zionist Herzl became famous among the Jews in the East and West.

When Herzl died (1904) the "Neue Freie Presse" devoted several pages to his life and work. They mourned Herzl the journalist, the dramatist, the noble human being — and for the first time, mentioned Herzl the leader of the Zionist Organization. The Jewish Chronicle, in page upon page paid tribute to Herzl the author of "The Jewish State" who had united world Jewry, given Jews new hope and filled them with passion for an idea. For the "Jewish Chronicle," Zionism without Herzl was — as Zionism without Zion or a monarchy without a throne — quite inconceivable.

At the end of 1906 Herzl's most trusted friends and collaborators took over the "Jewish Chronicle," headed now by Leopold Greenberg. And when Chaim Weizmann and Nahum Sokolow, with the help of the leaders of the Zionist Federation, of Lord Rothschild and Jewish and non-Jewish friends of a Jewish State, tried to obtain the Balfour Declaration — this was possible because of additional support, of the Chief Rabbi, of the Haham and of the "Jewish Chronicle."

GREETINGS

We take the opportunity afforded by this season of good will to express to our many friends in Canada and the United States our sincere good wishes for the coming year. The continued interest through the years of business and professional men, community organizations, staff and loyal readers has afforded The Jewish Post the means to not only report the news and to record western Canada's history, but to bring the critical faculties of its editorial department to bear on the growth and development of both the Jewish Community and of this great Canadian nation.

In the spirit then of thanksgiving for the past, dedication to the present and optimism for the future we greet you all at the turn of the New Year.

HERZOGS TO VISIT WINNIPEG



MRS. YA'ACOV HERZOG

Ambassador and Mrs. Ya'acov Herzog will make their first visit to the Winnipeg Jewish community on February 6 under the sponsorship of the Israel Bond Organization. It was announced today by Maitland Steinkopf, M.B.E., Q.C., general chairman of the 1961 Israel Bond drive.

A reception at which His Excellency and Mrs. Herzog will meet the Winnipeg Jewish community is planned. Invitations will be available on January 2 at the Israel Bond office, room 201, YMHA building, 370 Hargrave street, phone WH 3-7309.

Rabbi, lawyer, military expert and diplomat, Ya'acov Herzog is a son of the late distinguished Chief



YA'ACOV HERZOG

Rabbi Isaac Herzog of Israel. Dublin born, he took his schooling in Jerusalem and London, and at the Hebrew University. He holds an M.A. in law, and practised law in Jerusalem until 1949 when he became councillor on Jerusalem affairs for the Israeli Foreign Ministry. Three years later he became director of the U.S. Division of the Foreign Ministry, adding United Nations affairs to his desk in 1956. From October, 1957, until June, 1960, when he became Ambassador to Canada, he served as Israel's Minister in Washington and Military Attaché to the embassies in Washington and Ottawa. Ambassador Herzog has written commentaries on certain tractates of the

Mishna, and translated certain Hebrew commentaries.

Mrs. Herzog was born in Tel Aviv to the Schachor family, distinguished in Eastern Europe and Israel for religious scholarship. She took her early schooling in Tel Aviv, and studied pharmaceutical chemistry at the University of Manchester, a profession she later practised in Israel.

Married in 1952, she served as representative of Israeli Women's organizations on the general federations of Women's Clubs in Washington. The Herzogs have two children, Shira, 8, and Eliezar, 6.

Keren Hatarbut 5th Youth Tour

The Canadian Association for Hebrew Education and Culture, which was the first Hebrew Movement in English-speaking countries to send members of its Youth Organization for a summer visit in Israel, will conduct again this summer its fifth annual youth tour within the general framework of the Summer Institute of the Jewish Agency. Students between the ages of 15 and 18 who have a good Hebrew background are eligible to participate. Those interested should communicate immediately with the Keren Hatarbut, 5234 Clanranald avenue, Montreal.

The tour will take place during the months of July and August. The fee of \$850 will include air transportation from New York to Lydda and return, seven weeks in Israel, activities, maintenance, field trips and stop-overs.

Welfare Fund Dinner Plans Set

Representatives of all agencies affiliated with the Jewish Welfare Fund of Winnipeg are participating in a concerted effort to encourage as wide an attendance as possible at the forthcoming annual dinner meeting of the Fund, Irwin Green, chairman of the arrangements committee, announced this week.

The dinner, open to men and women, will be held Thursday, Jan. 18, at 6:30 p.m. in Rosh Pina synagogue, and will be preceded by a reception at 5:30 p.m.

Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig, head of the International Affairs Department of the World Jewish Congress and its permanent representative at the United Nations, will be guest speaker. An orator and writer of international renown, Dr. Perlzweig is one of world Jewry's most distinguished diplomats.

The annual meeting will also install the new officers of the Welfare Fund and will hear reports of its various committees.

Tickets are now available at the YMHA, executive offices of the Welfare Fund, and from dinner committee members.

Kushner Elected

Montreal — Mayor C. N. Kushner of West Kildonan has been elected interim president of the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities. He was elected by the federation's executive to fill out the term of former mayor Percy Scourrah of Victoria.

Lillian Freeman Chapter of Hadassah announces that Mrs. A. R. Druxerman, 300 Park boulevard, Tuxedo, was the winner of the European Tour contest raffle. Charles Dojsack of Continental Travel Bureau made the draw.

Club Notes

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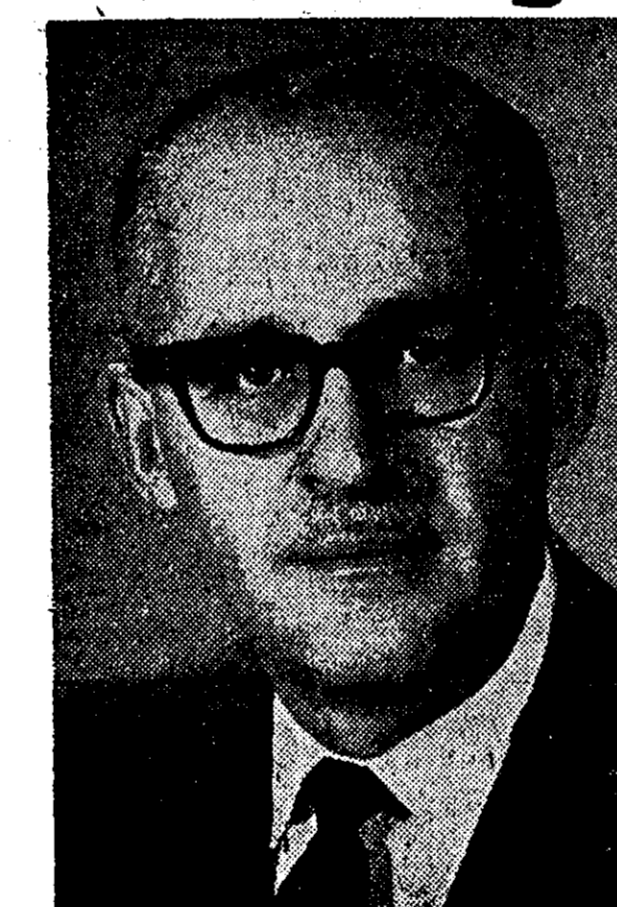
PLAN MEDICAL AID LUNCHEON

A group of Medical Luncheon leaders is shown examining some of the medical and physiotherapy equipment that will be purchased in Canada, for Israel, with proceeds of the luncheon. The event, set for Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 12:30 p.m. at the Royal Alexandra hotel, will be convened by the wives of Winnipeg's Jewish doctors, dentists, pharmacists, optometrists, and allied professions. Shown above in the group are (right to left): Mrs. N. I. Corne, co-chairman of arrangements; Mrs. I. Wolch, luncheon treasurer; Mrs. H. A. Allen, Medical Aid Luncheon chairman, and Mrs. S. Steadman, publicity.

A feature of the affair will be teen age fashion show of authentic Yeminite and other Israeli fashions, and of Canadian teen fashions from Queen's & Teens. Four generations of Hadassah families will be on hand to witness the show.

Dr. N. I. Corne, wellknown Winnipeg community leader, will deliver a message.

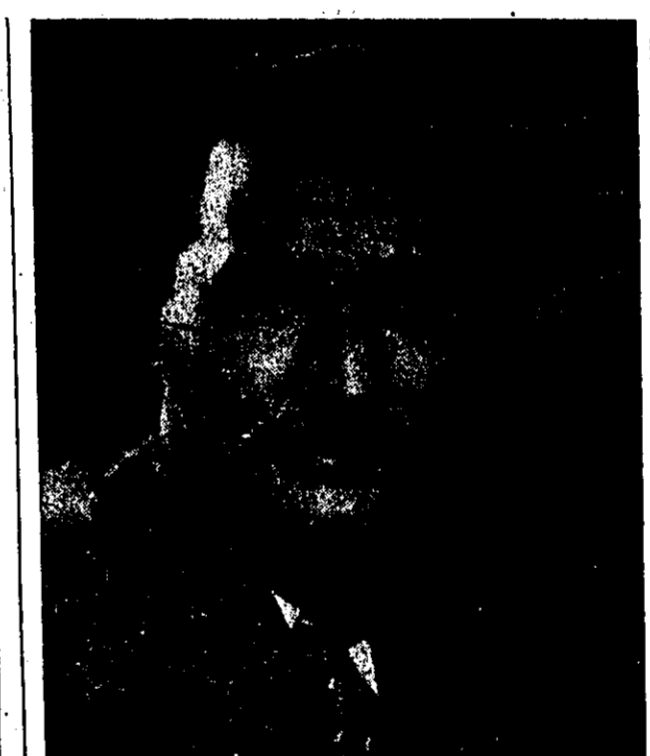
Goldberg Tribute January 7th



E. J. ARONOVITCH

William Goldberg will join a host of distinguished Jews who have been honored with the establishment of a B'nai B'rith Youth Fellowship, among whom are: Bernard Baruch, elder statesman to presidents; General David Sarnoff, chairman of the board, RCA; Leonard Goldenson, president of ABC Paramount Pictures; Abe Fineberg, chairman of the board of directors, Brandeis University; David Borovitz, Chicago industrialist; Dr. Louis L. Mann, a founder of the B'nai B'rith Hillel movement; and Ervin Lavine, incumbent president of B'nai B'rith District Grand Lodge No. 6.

E. J. Aronovitch and Irwin Dorfman, Q.C., co-chairmen of the William Goldberg Fellowship Trustee



IRWIN DORFMAN, Q.C.

Committee, stated that the proceeds of these fellowships are used for the development and expansion of the B'nai B'rith youth service program, encompassing the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation and B'nai B'rith Vocational Guidance.

These funds meet the challenge of the ever increasing demands of youth for a program of Jewish enlightenment. Over 150 major universities, representing thousands of Jewish students, are awaiting the establishment of Hillel Foundations. Over 28,000 teen-age boys and girls are on waiting lists for admission to the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization.

Through the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations, an opportunity is afforded Jewish students on campus to retain and deepen loyalties of Judaism. By means of religious

services, Jewish libraries, lectures, forums and debates, Jewish students learn to appreciate the heritage of their Jewish culture.

The Hillel Foundations offer annual awards to students in the field of group relations; interfaith scholarships; work incentive scholarships to worthy students. At the University of Manitoba B'nai B'rith Hillel has established a Chair of Judaic Studies. Over 40,000 boys and girls make up the largest Jewish Youth Organization in the world, operating in B'nai B'rith Youth Organization under competent professional leadership. This program develops the Jewish communal and civic leaders of tomorrow. Members of BBYO co-operate with community fund-raising and other campaigns and participate in brotherhood activities. Another program of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization is Jewish education, with particular stress placed on the observance of Holy Days, attendance at religious services and personal identification with Jewish life.

Trusteeship may be purchased through a contribution to the B'nai B'rith Youth Service Fund of \$100 or more (tax deductible). Trustees' names will be inscribed on a plaque which will be presented to Mr. Goldberg. Subscriptions may be purchased through contributions of \$25. All contributors will receive two complimentary reservations to the testimonial dinner. More information may be acquired by calling the B'nai B'rith office at WH 2-8313.



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