

MONTREAL JEWISH COURT OF ARBITRATION

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Montreal

As a result of an agitation which had been proceeding for several months in the "Canadian Jewish Eagle," a daily Yiddish publication, for the establishing of a Jewish Arbitration Court in Montreal, Mr. S. W. Jacobs, K. C., president of the Baron de Hirsch Institute, called together on June 29th last, a meeting of prominent Jewish citizens for the purpose of discussing plans for the formation of such a court.

At this meeting a report was submitted of the work accomplished by the Jewish Arbitration Court of Toronto, which had been in existence for nine months, during which period 345 applications had been made. Of these 135 were disposed of by the Court, seven were pending and 203 were rejected.

An interesting account of his work as private arbitrator, was given by Rabbi Hirsch Cohen, who reported that he had settled an average of 150 cases a year. On only one occasion was his decision reversed by a Court of Law and then only on a technicality. His experience was that the parties obeyed the decisions rendered in each case. About 75 percent of the cases which submitted themselves to arbitration had first been to the regular courts, but tiring of the many delays there encountered, the parties decided to avail themselves of quicker means for settling their disputes.

The meeting finally decided to approve of the establishing of a Jewish Arbitration Court in Montreal and forthwith an independent committee was appointed to formulate the necessary plans, etc. It was essential in founding the Arbitration Court that no conflict should occur with the work of the regular courts and for this purpose men of sound legal knowledge were necessary. Luckily the committee secured the chairmanship of Mr. Maxwell Goldstein, K. C., one of Montreal's distinguished and most erudite of lawyers, who has devoted considerable time and study to the establishment and work of the Court, since he was called upon to act.

At a subsequent meeting rules of the General Committee were adopted.

At the request of the Committee, the Baron de Hirsch Institute placed at the disposal of the new Court a special room, and has since fitted it up as a Court Room with anterooms adjoining. This arrangement has met with the approval of all concerned.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee held on July 11th, the following honorary officers were appointed: chairman, Maxwell Goldstein, K. C.; first vice-chairman, Lyon Cohen; second vice-chairman, Michael Hirsch; secretary-treasurer, David Dainow; clerk of the court, Isidore Friedman; honorary notaries, L. Tannenbaum and H. E. Hirschorn; court crier, J. Solomon.

An appropriate form of application for signature by both parties was adopted.

It is intended that the Court shall be self-supporting and that any surplus shall be handed over to the Baron de Hirsch Institute.

For this purpose each applicant is asked to pay a deposit as a contribution towards the cost of running the Court. Tentative rules on the scale of deposits are as follows:

"In all cases where the amount involved is less than \$100, the amount of \$2 shall be demanded as a preliminary deposit; where the amount is over \$100, the sum of \$5 shall be demanded. In cases where no sum is involved, the amount of preliminary deposit to be left to the discretion of the chairman of the Executive Committee, and in all cases the Court could fix the amount of the full or final deposit which was to be applied to the payment of the costs of the Court."

On Wednesday, July 21, 1915, the first sitting of the Court was held. The presiding judge was Mr. Maxwell Goldstein, K. C., with Rabbi Hirsch Cohen and Mr. Isaac Lande as assistant judges. The first case called for hearing was that of a claim for salary. Both parties had submitted to arbitration, had paid their deposits and had signed an application which was before

the Court. The applicants who appeared announced that they had settled their dispute prior to the court opening and the case was declared canceled. However, the calling of one party to the Court by the other, had in this case, had the excellent effect of getting them to privately settle their difference which, after all, is the real aim of arbitration.

The second case was that of a boy who had been assaulted by another lad of his age and who lay seriously ill in a hospital ward. The case had been up for judgment in the Juvenile Court, which had recommended that the parties apply to the newly formed Jewish Arbitration Court. The parents of both boys thereupon submitted to arbitration and each paid the small deposit asked. Both sides were given a fair hearing and their witnesses heard. The award by the judges was that the injured lad's parents shall receive the sum of \$25 as

compensation, to be paid in instalments. This is now being done, as result of which the case has been withdrawn from the Juvenile Court, and incidentally the attention of the "Big Brothers' Society" has been drawn to the erring lad, who is now being taken in hand.

The Arbitration Court has already had four sittings, and has disposed of nine cases, involving a variety of questions. For example, at the last sitting of the Court, the following claims were heard: (1) settlement of partnership difficulties (2) liability of pledgee for pledged jewelry stolen in his possession. (3) claim of Talmud Torah teacher for his salary against the trustees personally.

The aim of the arbitrators is not only to act as judges in the cases, but to serve as guides to the parties and effect in them a realization of the benefits of a peaceable settlement of their disputes.

CONFERENCE OF WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

Boston is attempting a conference of Jewish Women's Organizations in that city, and the combined societies now number a membership of 4000 Jewish women.

The president of the organization is Mrs. Daniel Frank. The other officers are: first vice-president, Mrs. Harry Liebman; second vice-president, Mrs. Ely Feibelman; third vice-president, Mrs. N. A. Pelonsky; treasurer, Mrs. Aaron Hailparn; recording secretary, Mrs. L. E. Laskey; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Charles Wyzanski; auditors, Mrs. M. Benjamin and Mrs. L. Sonnabend.

Mrs. L. Goldman is chairman of the calendar committee; Mrs. A. L. Gordon, chairman of the membership committee, and Mrs. Ely Feibelman, chairman of publicity and propaganda.

The following by-laws have been proposed:

Article 1. The Association shall be called Conference of Jewish Women's Organizations.

Article 2. Its objects shall be to expedite work which is of common interest, to consider all new work reported by one or more of the organizations, and to present the work of such organizations as desire co-operation.

Article 3. Each organization shall appoint three (3) delegates and three (3)

alternates, but no delegate or alternate shall represent more than one organization.

Article 4. The officers shall be, a president, three (3) vice-presidents, treasurer, recording secretary and corresponding secretary.

Article 5. The officers shall be elected biennially and shall not be eligible for re-election. The vice-president shall succeed the president; only qualified delegates shall be eligible to hold office in the organization; after the officers have been elected, the respective organizations represented by these officers shall choose the delegates to serve in their places for the unexpired term; officers shall have the privilege of voting on any question, but shall vote as members of the conference, and not as representatives of the organization from which they were accredited.

Article 6. All actions shall be determined by the organizations comprising the conference.

Article 7. Committees shall be appointed or elected as required. The power of these committees shall be limited to investigating and reporting.

Article 8. The dues shall be five dollars (\$5) per annum for each affiliated organization.