

## WAR REFUGEES AT SEATTLE

Jack Sommer  
Seattle

Within the past three months Seattle has become the home port and destination point of hundreds of Jewish refugees from war-stricken Europe. Two steamship lines, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha and the Osaka Chosen Kaisha, alternate in weekly arrivals of their steamers at this port. On every steamer are from 30 to 60 of our brethren, mostly young, hardy men, representing all trades and professions. As a class, they will prove a valuable acquisition to our population and they all have the making of splendid American citizenship within them.

About 50 per cent. of the newcomers have friends or relatives in different parts of the United States and Canada and their stay in Seattle is naturally limited. However, the remaining 50 per cent. furnish quite a problem. While nearly every one possesses more or less means at the time of their arrival, yet the burning question is to place our brethren in jobs and positions where they may earn their living and also be of assistance to those they have left behind them.

In order to stimulate the Seattle Jewish community into activity to participate in this labor of brotherly love, a large number of Seattle Jewish residents have formed an association under the name of Jewish Immigrant Protective Society. The Society has for its objects the protection of the new arrivals; to furnish them with advice; to secure positions for them; to place them in communication with their friends and relatives within the United States; to co-operate with all similar organizations in the United States.

The Society maintains a home at Seventeenth Street and Yesler Way, where immigrants are welcomed as guests and furnished with proper conveniences free of charge at the time and immediately subsequent to their arrival in Seattle.

A large storeroom opposite the home has been converted into a recreation and lunchroom, where the new arrivals congregate and are furnished with lunches at a nominal price. There daily contingents of Seattle's old-timers of our faith wend their

steps to search among the new arrivals for their townspeople from back home.

Very pathetic are those meetings, which almost invariably end by the newcomer being urged to be a member of his Seattle townsman's household until he finds lucrative employment. However, all the work and activities of the Society is strictly on fraternal and social principles and partakes not of charitable lines, otherwise the work of the Society would be handicapped by immigration rules.

Mr. Jack Sommer, the Seattle representative of the National Desertion Bureau, accepted the temporary office of president of the Society and meets every incoming steamer having any Jewish brethren aboard. The United States Immigration and Custom officers of this district have thus far extended all possible courtesies to the officers of the Society. The local order of the B'nai B'rith has also appointed a reception committee for the immigrants, which committee performs valuable work in taking the immigrant's statistics at the time of his arrival.

There appears, however, an urgent and imperative need at this time for the establishment of a branch bureau in this city under charge of a competent specialist versed in the immigrant distribution service with a view of avoiding a congestion of unemployed immigrants and in order to consolidate the various local forces, who are each trying to solve a social and industrial problem, a condition which is still baffling the best joint efforts of our parent Eastern organizations.

True Judaism in America stands on the threshold of a glorious future; the immigrant of today is the citizen of tomorrow. It is up to every member of our faith to guide the newcomer's footsteps in the paths of good citizenship.

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## SOCIAL CENTER IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mrs. Victor S. Franken  
Chicago

The Chicago Woman's Aid is a departmental club, composed of 1138 members, meeting in the Sinai Social Centre. Its various departments are Art and Literature, Civics and Philanthropy, and Education.

Upon the excellent work of the Art and Literature Department, Mrs. F. Mandel, chairman, which this year, in addition to its usual work, is conducting study classes in music and art, we shall not dwell in the present sketch, but shall confine our brief outline to the activities of the other two departments, namely, the Civics and Philanthropy, and the Education.

The principal work of the Education Department, under the direction of the past president of the club, Mrs. M. L. Purim, consists in conducting a Social Centre in the John Smyth Public School, situated in a district densely populated by poor Jewish families. The work is in charge of two committees, one supervising the afternoon activities, taking charge of the study-room, game room, mothers' sewing class, storytelling hour, gymnasium, etc., and the other supervising the evening activities, taking charge of the dancing, cooking, manual training, classes in citizenship, Boy Scouts, public entertainments, lectures, gymnasium, etc. In addition to its Social Centre work the Education Department has two morning-study classes, the first, under the leadership of Dr. Emil G. Hirsch, on "A Study of Problems of the Day," and the second, in charge of members of the club, on "A Study of Problems of the Home." Further, a number of tours have been arranged by this Department to educational institutions of interest in the neighborhood. The most notable of these was a journey to Gary, Ind., for the purpose of visiting its famous public schools. The Committee on Public Affairs of the Education Department attends meetings of the Board of Education and the Sanitary District and keeps in touch with matters relative to municipal endeavors.

Equally as active as the Education is the Civics and Philanthropy Department of the Chicago Woman's Aid, under the lead-

ership of Mrs. C. Ullmann. Following is a list of its committees: Personal Service, Vocational Direction, Pure Food, Civic Service, Children's Entertainment, Michael Reese Hospital, Big Sister, Assisting the Blind, Bathing Beaches and Playgrounds, Housing, Waste, Public Comfort Stations, Inspection of Public School Basements and Fannie R. Adler Memorial Fund. While all of these committees are active, the Vocational Direction Committee is doing the most work. It is in the hands of Miss Ethel Kawin, who has had special training for her duties and co-operates with the Central Committee for Vocational Direction of the Board of Education.

It is difficult to write at present of the work of the Chicago Woman's Aid for the winter. Every branch of its varied activities has been carefully planned and is in charge of earnest and conscientious groups of members, who are converting good intentions into accomplishment.

#### Federated Jewish Charities, Dallas, Texas

The Federated Jewish Charities of Dallas, Texas, have expended during the past fiscal year \$4825.03, of which \$1427.92, or almost 30 per cent., went for administration purposes. As is the case with most cities of the Southwest, the bulk of the cases is composed of transients. The National Desertion Bureau is paid a very fine compliment, as is shown by the following:

"During the past year we have closed a case of desertion that has been on our hands for the past three years, at an expense of more than \$800. With the assistance of the National Desertion Bureau, advertising in the newspapers and the rabbi in a distant city, we finally reunited the family."

The Loan Fund reports a loss of less than 1 per cent.

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