

CURRENT OPINION

January, 1920: p. 88

AMERICA DENOUNCES THE SLAUGHTER OF JEWS IN POLAND AND UKRAINIA

ONE of the most sinister results of the war has been a new wave of anti-Semitism in Europe. Recent dispatches from Berlin describe street demonstrations against the Jews and speak of "a veritable pogrom atmosphere" in Munich, Vienna and Budapest. In Poland, Jewish blood has flown freely, amid scenes of horror described by Herman Bernstein and other writers in American newspapers. In Ukrainia the number of Jews massacred during the early part of the present year is estimated anywhere from 40,000 to 100,000. Dr. Abram Coralnik, who comes to this country representing the Ukrainian Jews, names 40,000 as the correct figure, and tells us that the total Jewish property destroyed amounts to \$200,000,000. From starvation and disease due to lack of food and medicine, he says, 100,000 Jews died in the Ukraine last winter out of a population of nearly 3,000,000.

In protest against the Ukrainian pogroms, parades and mass-meetings have been organized in leading American cities. At a meeting held in Carnegie Hall, New York, Secretary of the Navy Daniels declared, "No man is treated unjustly or persecuted that America is not concerned in it," and Rabbi Stephen S. Wise said:

"We remind the one hundred and more millions of our fellow Americans that this is the hour in which to make the mighty voice of America felt, and that, even as the decision of America doomed Prussianism, so ought the purpose of America suffice in this warning of the Ukraine against the continuation of these lawlessnesses and barbarities which have stained the cities and fields of the Ukraine with the blood of Jewish men, Jewish women and Jewish children."

At a meeting held in Philadelphia, Archbishop Dougherty, of the Roman Catholic Church, stated that more than a million of the faithful in his diocese were in entire sympathy with the great Jewish sorrow. He continued:

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"Many credible eye-witnesses attest to the fact that since the cessation of hostilities in the world war Jews are being massacred in the Ukraine.

"These massacres have not been the result of a sudden outburst of passion; they have not been fitful, nor local; they have been deliberate, systematic, continuous and general.

"Not only men but women and little children have been butchered in cold blood.

"An American correspondent of various great newspapers gives the following witness to the massacres: 'Commander Simoshenko, on February 15, 1919, ordered a massacre of all the Jews in Proskurov. Under his supervision, the slaughter was conducted in an orderly manner. The massacre began at three in the afternoon with a parade of the Cossacks. They marched with waving banners according to the ancient custom before going into battle; and in their march they sang, accompanied by a band of music. After the parade the killing began. It was carried out systematically and according to a prearranged plan. The Cossacks did not skip a single house in the Jewish quarter. Entire blocks, with all their inhabitants, were annihilated. The murderers would not permit their victims to die an easy death. They made sport of them, they tormented and subjected them to a slow torture. They used no firearms. They economized on bullets, strangled their victims with their hands, beat them with their fists and with iron bars, trampled them under their feet and stabbed them with bayonets. Some victims were found with thirty-six wounds each. The Cossacks began with the children, tortured them before their parents' eyes and then murdered the parents with weapons soaked in their children's blood. The bodies were found disfigured, mutilated or beheaded. A countless number of women were violated. The pogrom lasted six days. The cry of the Cossacks was "Death to the Jews." Commander Simoshenko forbade the removal of the wounded to the hospitals; nor did he permit burial of the dead on the second day of the pogrom. At the funeral of the victims the Cossacks made a fresh slaughter, after which they cast the corpses into wagons and threw them into one common grave.'

"The true motive for the massacres is greed, and perhaps race hatred also. The gluttonous eyes of the government and of the army devoured the belongings of the Jews;



GIVE OR WE PERISH
 AMERICAN COMMITTEE
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 CAMPAIGN for \$30,000,000

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they craved for the wealth of the rich and the savings of the poor, and then, under the cloak of patriotism, the nightmare of massacre and pillage took place.

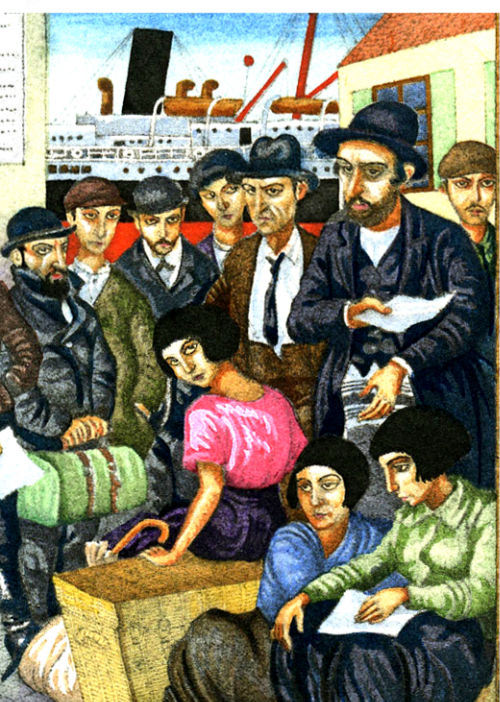
"Should any of those murderers blasphemously allege religion as a pretext, we wish to be the first to brand them as lying hypocrites, enemies of Christ and blots on the human race."



Arthur Szyk (1923)

An American committee, officially sanctioned, is soon to leave for the Ukraine; an American Consul-General, Mr. Evans Young, is shortly to leave for Odessa; and Secretary Lansing announces the intention of the State Department to make a thoro investigation of the reports of massacres of Jews in Poland and in Ukrainia and other parts of Russia. The official American attitude toward the brutality revealed is expressed in the following message from Mr. Lansing to Col. Harry Cutler, Chairman of the Jewish Welfare Board in this country:

"You are informed that the information in the possession of the Department of State indicates that while there is much lawlessness among certain regions in Southwestern Russia, arising from the civil war there in progress, and that Jews are massacred at times by irresponsible bands, there is, nevertheless, a systematic effort on the part of responsible leaders to restrain their followers from excesses. It is believed that there has recently been a considerable improvement in the general situation. The situation of the Jews and others in the regions in question is receiving the careful and systematic attention of this government, and every possible means will be adopted to relieve their distress. An American Consul-General, accompanied by an adequate staff, is being sent to Odessa, and it is hoped that



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through his efforts further information will be obtained concerning the general conditions and the situation of particular persons. The Department of State

offers its assistance to any organization desiring to send the people in the regions in question relief furnished by their relatives in the United States."

A BIT OF PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY

This manifesto was published in Southern newspapers by a Louisiana church, and is typical of the kind of appeals that American churches have been making in behalf of persecuted Jewry.

Because Christ Commands It

WE URGE EVERYONE TO HELP THE JEWISH SUFFERERS

BECAUSE THEY NEED IT. BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IN PAYING OUR DEBTS.

Humanity Owes Much to The Jews

Moses gave us the Moral Law; David voiced every cry of joy or sorrow of the human heart to God; Christ, after the flesh, born a Jew, taught in the Good Samaritan story—

THAT WHO NEEDS MY HELP IS MY NEIGHBOR

So, for Christ's sweet sake, HELP THE JEWISH SUFFERERS OVERSEAS with an open hand. In the U. W. W. campaign the Jews, knowing they would only get three million dollars out of the contributions, gave about twenty million dollars, and the Y. M. C. A. and the Red Cross were the beneficiaries of their liberality to about seventeen million dollars.

If not for sweet charity's sake, at least not to be put to shame, let us help those who, while giving to ours, never before have asked us to give to theirs.

**We Urge All Methodists to Give in the Name of Christ
Born of the House of David**

--First Methodist Church.