

Will Jews Regain Possession of Palestine?



RABBI STEPHEN S. WISE, ZIONIST.

By ROBERTUS LOVE.
RECENT dispatches carry the news that the Jews are flocking into Palestine from all parts of the world. The dream of centuries, the establishment of a Jewish nation in the land which was the ancient home of the Hebrew race, appears to be almost upon the eve of fulfillment. Zionism, which term describes the organized movement for the return of the Jews to Palestine, is responsible in large measure for the recent influx of Jews into the Holy Land, but the proclamation of the constitution in Turkey last year is the thing that seems to have made possible some sort of Jewish preponderance in Palestine.

It is said that in Jerusalem four-fifths of the population of about 100,000 belong to the Jewish faith and race. Tens of thousands of Jews have settled at Yafa, Tiberias, Safed, Haifa and other Palestinian towns, while in the country districts many colonies of Jewish farmers have been established. "Almost the whole extensive plain of Esdraelon has been bought up by them," writes a correspondent. "Their prosperous colonies spread from Dan to Beersheba and even farther south to the outskirts of Egypt. Thousands

are escaping from Persia to find shelter and protection in the Holy Land, while every ship from Odessa carries hundreds of them."

Zionists Buying Palestine.
 Jewish capitalists and syndicates of Zionists are buying lands in the valley of the sacred river Jordan, once the private property of Abdul Hamid, the deposed sultan of Turkey. Agents of these syndicates are reported as being distributed all over Palestine. They are purchasing rich properties from Mohammedans who since the revolution in Turkey have been in disfavor. The Mohammedan is yielding to the Hebrew throughout the Holy Land. The Jews already may be said to rule Palestine in everything but the actual government, and they have increased hope of dominating that.

As indicated by the overwhelming preponderance of Jews in the population, Jerusalem now is essentially a



JEW AND GREEKS MINGLING NEAR CHURCH OF HOLY SEPULCHER, JERUSALEM.

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JEW'S LANDING AT Yafa.

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MARKET ON DAVID STREET, JERUSALEM.

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ISRAEL ZANGWILL, ZIONIST.

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English speaking world in the early days of the movement.

Opposed by Noted Rabbis.
 Zionism is opposed as impracticable by Rabbi Leon Harrison of St. Louis, Rabbi Samuel Sale and several other noted preachers of the race. They have considered the Zionists dreamers and visionaries. Zionism, aside from the ancient desire of the Jews to possess Palestine, grew out of the persecutions of the Jewish people in Russia and other nations where anti-Semitism is rampant. Many thousands of these persecuted Jews have made their way to America, but many other thousands have found refuge in Palestine. The Zionists are spending much money to enable the downtrodden Jews to get to Palestine and gain a foothold.

It is not believed that any considerable number of Jews will leave the United States to settle in Palestine. There are now in this country approximately 1,500,000 Jews. About one-fifth of the 4,000,000 people in New York city belong to that race. Throughout the land the Jew is found prominent and prosperous in almost every line of industry. He has sat in both houses of congress. He has been in the cabinet. Oscar S. Straus, who was secretary of commerce and labor under Roosevelt and now for the second time is ambassador to Turkey, was the first Jew to become a cabinet minister. His brother, Nathan Straus, is one of the nation's most noted philanthropists.

Isidor Rayner, the eloquent senator from Maryland, is a Jew. Julius Kahn, an aggressive congressman from San Francisco, is a Jew.

Benjamin Disraeli, Lord Beaconsfield, one of the most celebrated of England's prime ministers, proved that the Hebrew in politics and statesmanship can become a maker of history. To the stage the Jewish race has contributed Sarah Bernhardt and other famous persons. The American theater is almost entirely in the hands of Jewish managers. In literature the list of Jewish names is long, including Zangwill, Georg Brandes, Catulle Mendès, Lombroso, Sidney Lee and many others of familiar mention.

Virility of Jewish Race.
 The virility of the Jewish race is one of the wonders of the world. Despised, persecuted, ruthlessly downtrodden for centuries by national decree and by individual prejudice, the Jew has made his way to opulence and power, to the respect and veneration of the thinking world. The Jews are people who hang together. That ancient, ineradicable national feeling has kept them one people wherever they have wandered. The orthodox Jews cling to their religion with a firmer tenacity perhaps than do any other religionists.

The signs of the times in Palestine seem to indicate that things will be happening there ere long which will vindicate the so called visionaries of Zionism.

Jewish city. More than a hundred Jewish schools have been established there. Banking is monopolized by Jews. They are dominant in every branch of trade and industry. Recently the Turkish government has found it necessary to organize a company of Jewish gendarmes to co-operate in policing the city. From Europe and America, it is reported, large sums of money are being sent into Palestine to enable the poorer Jews, the persecuted refugees from Russia, Roumania and Galicia, to build homes and establish themselves on the farming land. Hospitals, invalid homes and synagogues are springing up here and there.

The Church of the Holy Sepulcher still belongs to the Moslems, of course, but photographs show many Jews mingling in the throngs incident to the worship of the various Christian bodies who hold services there.

A recent correspondent declares that land has quadrupled in value since the Jews began to flock into the country.

Harvests such as the ignorant natives never imagined have been produced by the up to date Hebrew farmers, who have supplanted the ancient tools of agriculture, with modern implements.

What Zionism Means.
 A Zionist banking and commercial institution called the Anglo-Palestine company is engaged in a determined campaign in behalf of Zionism. The Turkish government is facing a problem which engages the interest of mankind throughout Christendom. Zionism is an organized effort to restore the rule of Judaism in Palestine if possible, and, failing that, to acquire land-holdings to such an extent that the Holy Land will be a Jewish nation in everything but government. Some years ago a movement for the purchase of Palestine from the sultan was set on foot. The plan embraced autonomy for the Jews, with all the great nations uniting in a protectorate. The United States was to join the Euro-

pean powers in this capacity. There was a branch of Zionism which contemplated the creation of a nation of Jews in East Africa, where a large area of land was offered. After several conferences this proposition was rejected. The Jews could not and would not be turned away from their determination to possess their ancient fatherland.

The present Zionist movement is only about fifteen years old. The late Dr. Theodor Herzl was at the head of the project in its incipency. Max Nordau also took a prominent part. Israel Zangwill, the novelist and playwright, is one of the most enthusiastic of European Zionists. In America one of the leaders is Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, pastor and founder of the Free Synagogue in New York. Rabbi Wise was pastor of Beth Israel congregation in Portland, Ore., for several years. He is a native of Budapest, but has lived in America nearly all his life. He served as secretary of Zionism for the