

MINNESOTA LODGE, No. 157,

I. O. B. B.

BY H. D. FRANKEL

Past President, District No. 6

In the galaxy of stars in the Bnai Brith firmament none shine more brightly than Minnesota Lodge, the first in the great Northwest. Fifty-two years ago a little band of co-religionists, realizing the need of joining together to protect and defend the Jewish home and the fair name of Judaism, decided to become a link in the great fraternal chain of the Independent Order Bnai Brith, which was destined to become the standard bearer of the faith in later years, throughout the world.

Of the charter members away back there in the early days, only one real member still remains and his hoary head today has not a whit less zeal for the order. Honored and revered by all Levi Lovenstein still attends an occasional meeting and adds his sage counsel to the affairs of Minnesota Lodge. Max Frankel, later pres-



GUSTAVUS LOEVINGER
President, District Grand Lodge

ident of the lodge, and still one of the men the present leaders look to for guidance, was the first initiate joining at the second meeting the lodge ever held.

Isadore Rose, Henry Williams, Daniel Aberle, Marcus Warshauer, Leo Gottfried, M. Straus, and a hundred others now gathered to their fathers, men of energy and men of determination, in whom the spirit of loyalty to the faith came first, all put life into the infant lodge in the old and trying days.

For years the lodge struggled and kept up a membership of about twenty. Then Minneapolis members who used to drive ten miles in sleighs so as not to miss a single meeting, decided upon a lodge of their own, and the local lodge had to scurry around to get new members so that the charter could be maintained, and the work so much needed, advanced.

Some younger men were admitted and these, too, grew older, and the lodge simply held on in the years before the Spanish-American War.

Then, headed by Max Frankel, Michael Frankel and Louis Goodkind, a campaign was made to get sons of older members to join, and Louis R. Frankel, Benjamin Hirschman, Ben Calmenson, and the writer joined.

It was only a year or so, before these men began the work of thoroughly canvassing the city for its young active earnest men, and before the end of 1900, the lodge had nearly fifty members. In two years more, this was doubled. Brother Ben Calmenson died in the midst of the work, mourned by all. Brother Sylvan Hess also joined about this time, and rose to the presidency of the district. One

grand secretary, and three grand presidents have come to District No. 6 from Minnesota Lodge. Brother Gustavus Loevinger, the esteemed present executive, and the writer having been so honored.

Maurice B. Blehert, Abe M. Calmenson, Henry Weiler, B. W. Wilencheck, Dr. Myron Sherper, Maurice W. Stoffer, Milton P. Firestone, Mose Skorish, Jesse B. Calmenson, Dr. S. N. Mogilner, Isidor Goldberg, Dave Ruvelson, and many others too numerous to mention, worked energetically and in their various terms of office brought the membership up to two hundred and fifty in 1921. Then the lodge, celebrating its golden anniversary, entertained the Grand Lodge officers and the General Committee of the district, and in a whirlwind campaign brought the membership for its golden anniversary to over 550.

The Lodge has twice entertained Grand Lodge conventions, has followed the work of the Order, and been its faithful adherent in every way, fostering ideals and principles of the Order and with its fine live membership is ever ready to do that which is best for the Lodge, and the Order, and the Faith.

The present officers are: Dr. L. R. Weiss, president; John Sidletsky, vice president; Albert Shepard, financial secretary; David Nahinsky, recording secretary; Morris Feldstein, treasurer.

THE TEMPLE AARON TALMUD TORAH

The Temple Aaron Talmud Torah is a product of the general and broad awakening of the Jewish consciousness which has been going on, during the last decade, within the folds of American Jewry. In its development are clearly marked out the various stages of evolution which the idea of Jewish education passed through since it became an important problem to Jewish communal leaders.

Six years ago the then officers of the Temple Aaron issued a circular announcing the organization of a Hebrew School wherein we find the following sentence: "The children at this school will be taught to read, to write and to translate Hebrew into English and English into Hebrew."

Three years later, however, being imbued with the spirit of the new era that came upon American Israel as a result of the great upheaval of the World War and being conscious of the historic role that the American Jews are destined to play in Jewish life, the school, under the leadership and inspiration of Rabbi Kleinman,

enlarged its scope, and radically changed its system. A revived motto has been inscribed on its banner, viz: "To produce intelligent Jews." This is the supreme aim of the Temple Aaron Talmud Torah.

It means, in the first place, that the pupils of the school are to be made acquainted with the glorious past of our people, with the martyrdom of our forefathers and with the moral, religious and national principles of Judaism as expounded by our prophets. It means, in the second place, to acquaint them with current Jewish problems, to make them understand modern Jewish life. Finally, it means, above everything else, to inculcate upon our youth the spirit of social responsibility.

In order to carry out these aims, the Temple Aaron Talmud Torah is offering a six-year course of study which includes the following subjects: Hebrew Language,—Reading, Writing, Grammar and Composition. This course begins with simple conversations and leads up to a brief survey of the old and new Hebrew literature.

Bible—This course includes the Pentateuch, the early prophets and ends up with Isaiah.

History—A two-year preparatory course for the lower classes and a two-year advanced and thorough course of Jewish History for the upper classes.

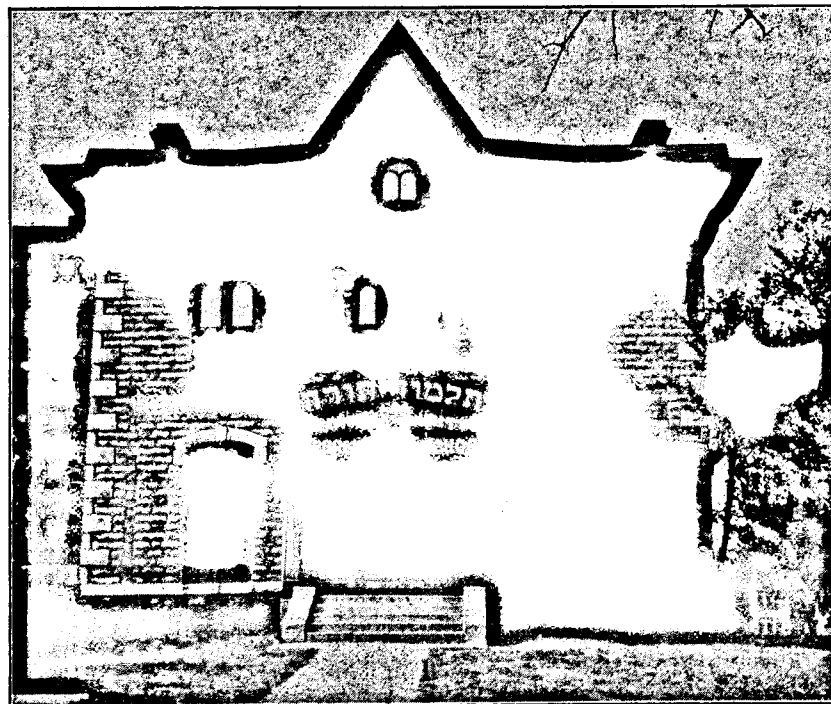
Current Problems and Events—This course is given during the fifth and sixth years. The pupils of these classes are familiarized with the most important modern Jewish movements.

Junior Synagogue—Beginning with the third year the pupils attend Sabbath and Holiday services. They are taught not only how to chant the prayers, but also to understand and appreciate them.

Celebration of Festivals—All important Jewish holidays and festivals are celebrated by the children of the Talmud Torah in various manners, the object of which is very obvious.

These are, in brief, the aims and purposes of the Temple Aaron Talmud Torah. Thus far, the school succeeded in organizing six classes with a staff of three trained teachers.

The School is administered by a Board appointed by the Temple, which at present is headed by the indefatigable S. J. Goldberg, chairman; Rabbi P. Kleinman, secretary; H. J. Butwinnick, financial secretary; and D. Blumenfeld, treasurer. Members of the Board are H. Rosenthal, Louis Hertz, Arnold Karon, Samuel Zneimer, A. B. Goldberg, Mrs. S. J. Goldberg, Mrs. David Hertz and Mrs. Jacob Rosenfield.



CAPITOL CITY HEBREW SCHOOL, 137 W. College Ave.

But the Temple Aaron, the institution which founded and has been maintaining the Talmud Torah, realizing the paramount importance of Jewish education as a factor to perpetuate Judaism, and recognizing the fact that this is the only institution of its kind in the city of St. Paul, stands ready to spare no efforts in order to bring the Talmud Torah to the highest perfection. But it can only do so by having the moral and material support of the Jewish Community of St. Paul.

The Temple Aaron Talmud Torah is a living challenge to all our local communal workers. What do they think about the Problem of Jewish education in St. Paul?

Let them speak!

THE CAPITOL CITY HEBREW SCHOOL

BY MRS. PHILIP GREENBERG

More than thirty years ago the foundation of the present organization of the Capitol City Hebrew School was laid in the Sons of Jacob Synagogue, Wabasha and College Ave.

For many years the Jewish youths received instruction in this school from tutors supported by the parents, while the Synagogue provided the necessary rooms and additional expense of light and heat.

As the population grew, the place proved inadequate both as to size and convenience, so in 1911 a group of men organized to build a Talmud Torah to be called the Capitol City Hebrew School.

During the year that they were looking about for a proper location, and while the Sons of Jacob Synagogue, better known as the College Avenue, Schul was being repaired, the Talmud Torah was housed in the Sons of Abraham Schul, corner of Tenth and Minnesota streets.

After a year or more of hard work in finding a suitable site, they finally bought the present building at 137 W. College avenue, easily accessible to the residents of the West Seventh street district, Rondo street and lower town, and formerly the Eleanor Miller School of Dramatic Art.

At this time a Ladies' Auxiliary was formed. This organization has grown considerably, and is instrumental in raising funds and providing social entertainment for the children. Also, through their efforts the building has been freed from debts, and they have helped to pay other current expenses. Not only is the auxiliary a financial help to the organization but it is also a spiritual and social factor in the community. It brings the mothers in closer touch with the Hebrew School and teachers, and also with one another.

The School has an attendance of about one hundred twenty-five to one hundred and fifty boys and girls. Services are held in the large pleasant chapel on Saturdays and holidays, and are attended by the majority of the boys and girls.

Children who are unable to pay the tuition fees are gladly accepted free of charge and provided with the necessary books.

The School is liberally supported by the Orthodox class. The same group of zealous workers who first organized and built the Talmud Torah are still loyal and untiring in their efforts to carry on the work, and are hoping to build a new school in the near future.

The School employs three teachers, headed by A. B. Sokolov, principal and the method used is Hebrew-English. The present officers of the organization are Messrs. Alex Silver, president; B. Cornfeldt, vice president; Max Goldberg, secretary; and John Malkin, treasurer.

In the Ladies' Auxiliary the officers are Mesdames H. Capilovich, president; I. Feinstein, vice president; Leon Salet, treasurer; and Philip Greenberg, secretary.

(Continued on page 53)