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Source: *Publications of the American Jewish Historical Society*, 1910, No. 19 (1910), pp. 125-150

Published by: The Johns Hopkins University Press

Stable URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/43057846>

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THE BEGINNINGS OF RUSSO-JEWISH IMMIGRATION TO PHILADELPHIA.

BY DAVID SULZBERGER.

In thirty years the movement of Jews from Russia to the United States has almost reached the dignity of the migration of a people. Prior to 1880 a Russian Jew was hardly ever seen in America. Now they and their descendants form the overwhelming majority of the Jewish people in the United States. It may be useful to the future historian of the Jews in America and not without interest to others that there should be recorded the steps that were taken in this country thirty years ago by the Jews settled here and by American citizens generally to welcome the immigrants and aid them in the very difficult period of their transplantation into a new soil. In Philadelphia it was the branch of the Alliance Israélite Universelle which undertook to organize this work and most of the statements here given are derived directly from the minutes of that organization. They present a record of brotherly feeling and humanity, of most devoted personal service and for that reason as well as because of their historical interest are deemed worthy of being handed down as part of the activity of an American community.

At a meeting of its board of directors, held at the office of the president, Moses A. Dropsie, on June 16, 1881, it was resolved that an urgent appeal be issued to the presidents of the Hebrew congregations of the city as well as to the presidents of the different lodges of the various Jewish orders of the district, asking their aid and urging them to appoint committees to make collections or to adopt any other means they may deem proper for the pecuniary relief of those who have so strong a claim on our sympathies and our means.

The secretary was instructed to forward circulars to all Israelites who are likely to aid in the proposed work.

Another meeting of the board was held September 28, 1881. The president informed the board that "the object of the meeting was to find ways and means to assist the Russian Jewish emigrants who would shortly arrive on our shores."

Philip Lewin moved to appoint a committee of six to carry out the above mentioned object with power to enlarge this committee.

The president appointed as the committee: Philip Lewin, Rev. Dr. Samuel Hirsch, Rev. Sabato Morais, A. Dannenbaum, S. Lederer and B. H. Feustmann.

At the meeting of the Board held January 3, 1882, it was resolved that the corresponding secretary be requested to address the parent society in Paris respecting the disposition to be made of the collections, suggesting that the influx of the Russian refugees required the expenditure of a large amount of money, and inquiring whether the parent society would be content that the receipts of this year be retained here.

Philip Lewin, chairman of the committee appointed by the president, made the following report at the annual meeting of the Society held February 12, 1882.

To the President and Directors of the Philadelphia Branch of the Alliance Israélite Universelle.

Gentlemen: As chairman of the committee to devise ways and means of receiving and caring for the Jewish refugees I beg leave to submit the following report [the report here recites the meeting of October 4, 1881, and other preliminary arrangements and the subsequent meeting, the appointment of the Employment Committee of Fifteen, etc.]:¹

The committee at New York made a serious mistake in their calculation that but 500 refugees would land in the United States by the first of January. In spite of letters and telegrams dispatched from New York to Paris, they were sent over in such large numbers that the New York committee, unable to procure

¹ There is no account of the meeting of October 4, 1881.

sufficient voluntary aid to attend to all the wants of these poor unfortunates, were compelled to effect an organization with paid officers.

The only excuse from Europe for sending them over in such numbers was that they were unable to hold them back.

It was not to be expected that New York City should retain all those who landed there; many were sent to other cities west and south; and the chairman of this committee felt called upon to have another interview with Judge Isaacs, also with Mr. Kuresheedt, the secretary,² and the result of this has been that although over 2300, including a large number of families, have already reached New York, only about 100 were sent to this city. Of that number there were four families with five children; the remainder were young able-bodied men, some few married, but having left their families in Europe until such time when they have earned sufficient to be sent further.

Mr. Arnold Kohn has been indefatigable in his exertions to procure suitable employment for the refugees; indeed I cannot bestow sufficient praise for his efforts in their behalf, but it took so much of his time from his business and family that he felt it his duty to resign as chairman of the Employment Committee.

However, the gentleman is still very active in the same worthy cause; it has become a labor of love with him and he cannot forsake it, and in conjunction with Mr. Isaac Saller, who although not even on the Employment Committee, from the very beginning devoted all his spare time in behalf of the Russians, is now acting as chairman of the committee, and Mr. Morris Newburger, who takes much interest in the refugees, found employment for quite a number of them; suitable places have been found for most of them.

Let it not be supposed that it is an easy matter to place them in positions in which they can earn their bread at once, the great drawback of those received here being that very few had learned any trade at all, and their inability to make themselves understood were the great obstacles which the Employment Committee encountered.

The committee was compelled to have some of them taught cigar-making, buttonhole-making by machine, etc., all of which has caused a large outlay of our funds; we had to provide for

² There is no account of a previous interview.

them for several weeks before they were enabled to earn enough to pay for board and lodging.

A number were sent to the country, especially to Mr. Marcus Nathan at Lebanon, Pa., who provides them with goods which they sell by peddling. Messrs. Sinsheimer and Deutsch, shirt manufacturers, also employ several. But few of our Jewish business houses were enabled to take them as help into their stores or factories; still a number were disposed of in that way and these were of no further trouble or expense to the committee or Society. There are still some 20 or more recent arrivals—for whom no employment has been found.

Of the \$3400 subscribed almost \$3000 has already been spent; it is evident, therefore, that should the emigration continue, and as it is claimed, in still larger numbers, a great deal more money will be required. But that is not all. As in New York we find we cannot work with volunteer aid alone.

Many gentlemen feel for and sympathize with the poor refugees, but they cannot give the time it takes to hunt for work for them. The Employment Committee, or at least that part of the committee which has done nearly all the work so far, has in the last few days engaged the services of a gentleman, at a salary, who is expected not only to assist in looking after their wants when they reach here, but also to find employment for them if possible.

We believe that a great deal more could be accomplished if instead of the entire responsibility resting upon the shoulders of two or three gentlemen, more humanitarians could be found who would be willing to take hold of this matter and assist in procuring suitable employment for the emigrants.

If each one of 25 or 50 gentlemen would undertake to find work for one or two only, how quick our arrivals would be disposed of and the burden be taken from the few to whom it has actually become a burden.

But it seems that after the majority of people have given a few dollars, their charity is spent; their conscience is at rest, for they consider that they have done their duty to their God, to themselves and their fellow man.

Since the above was written the Associated Press reports that 300 Russian refugees left Liverpool yesterday on the "Illinois" for Philadelphia. If any doubt existed regarding the truth of this report, it was dispelled by the arrival of Mr. Kursheedt, the secretary, and Mr. Gerschall, the chairman of the Employment Com-

mittee of the Society at New York, in our city yesterday morning, for the purpose of consulting with and if possible aiding us with money and advice in reference to the reception and disposition of the expected arrivals.

All we have done so far will seem but a bagatelle with what is now expected of us. These poor and downtrodden people are now on the Atlantic and will be with us in a few days; prompt and active measures must be adopted at once in order to be prepared to receive and care for them.

A new and distinct organization ought to be effected, and if this cannot be done to-day, I would suggest that a general meeting of the Israelites of Philadelphia be called to meet no later than Wednesday evening. We need a head, a chairman who is able and willing to engineer this whole business; also a secretary and treasurer. Various committees ought to be appointed, on reception, on supplies, on transportation, etc.

A committee whose duty it should be to find a suitable building in which to lodge and feed the emigrants, ought to be appointed at this meeting; another to procure a steward or superintendent and such other help as will be absolutely necessary. The chairman of the various committees, by going over to New York, would learn much to assist them in the labor to be performed here.

We have a duty, a sacred duty, to perform and no one ought to shrink from it. Every one who can spare but an hour a day ought to come forward and offer his services for that hour towards this most worthy cause. The atrocities committed on these helpless people, who cry "Shema Yisrael," just the same as we do, in and out of trouble, ought to appeal to every Yehudi in this glorious land of liberty, where, thank God, such unheard of cruelties and persecutions are unknown—but I will leave this appeal to those better able by their eloquence to stir up the Jewish heart than my poor abilities permit me—I will only say: Israel, brethren, do your duty.

For the committee,

PHILIP LEWIN, *Chairman.*

PHILADELPHIA, February 12, 1882.

A letter was read from Isidore Loeb, secretary of the Alliance Israélite, dated Paris, January 19, 1882, authorizing the Philadelphia branch to receive and disburse for the benefit

of the Russian refugees all moneys collected or received in this city.

On motion of Wm. B. Hackenburg, the following was adopted:

WHEREAS, That in view of the constant arrival of the Russian refugees and the necessity of a large amount of money to properly care for them on their arrival and provide necessary means for their support, therefore

Resolved, That all the moneys now in the treasury, and that which may be received during this year, be appropriated for the care and support of such Russian refugees as may arrive or be sent to this city, as suggested by the Alliance Israélite Universelle at Paris.

Resolved, That a communication signed by the president and secretary, with a translated copy of the letter received from the Alliance Israélite Universelle at Paris, be addressed to the various district grand lodges of the Jewish orders whose headquarters are in this city, asking them, in view of the necessity of providing the required funds for the care of the Russian refugees who may be sent here from New York or arrive direct from Europe, to permit the payment of the collections annually made in their various bodies, into the treasury of this branch of the Alliance Israélite or its special committee instead of sending them to Paris.

On motion of David Teller the following was adopted:

That a committee of four be appointed in conjunction with the president, to wait upon the mayor, and request him to call a meeting of the influential citizens of Philadelphia at his office, to financially assist in providing for the Russian Jewish emigrants.

The following committee was appointed to take charge of the Russian refugees to arrive in this city, to provide a suitable building, engage a competent superintendent and make other necessary arrangements for their comfort and employment, and to call a general meeting of the Israelites of Philadelphia as soon as they deem it necessary and expedient, viz.: Philip Lewin, Lucien Moss, M. H. Pulaski, J. Binswanger, Simon Muhr, M. Newburger, Samuel Espen, Benny Salinger, Mayer

Frank, Arnold Kohn, Isaac W. Kahn, Leopold Hirsh, Herman Loeb, Levi Mayer, A. M. Frechie, Herman Heller, Simon A. Stern, M. Simon, Isaac Roskam, Louis Lang, Jacob May, Morris Stern, B. Abeles, Louis Hano, S. Bacharach, M. C. Hirsch, Samuel Weil, Alfred T. Jones.

The committee was given power to fill vacancies and add to their number.

On February 13, 1882, the committee held a meeting at which it was resolved to call it The Committee for the Relief of the Russian Refugees.

Mr. Philip Lewin, the chairman, read a telegram from Peter Wright & Sons, stating that 280 Jews had left Liverpool last Saturday on the steamer "Illinois" bound for this port.

Moses A. Dropsie, Esq., announced that he and several other gentlemen had visited the Trans-Continental Hotel in West Philadelphia, part of same being in good order and another part quite out of repairs; it might cost \$500 to place it in such condition as to make it tenantable for the immigrants. Messrs. Dobbins & Kingsley, the proprietors, had offered the use of the hotel gratis.

Mr. Dropsie further stated that he thought the depot of the Pennsylvania Railroad, at 32d and Market streets, would be preferable; that he had visited the mayor of this city and approached him on the subject; the mayor kindly promised to see the officers of the railroad company in person and would let us know the result.

Mr. Dropsie also spoke to the mayor about the intended meeting of the citizens at the latter's office and in consequence such a meeting will be called on Wednesday, the 15th inst., at 12 o'clock m.

The following auxiliary committee of ladies was appointed: Miss Nina Morais, Miss Rebecca Moss, Miss Josephine Moss, Mrs. Henry Cohen, Miss Amanda O. Levy, Mrs. Julius Sichel,

Mrs. Chas. Kaufman, Mrs. Abm. S. Wolf, Mrs. B. H. Feustmann, Mrs. H. S. Frank, Mrs. Adolf Rosenbaum, Mrs. Fanny Muhr, Mrs. Morris Pfaelzer, Mrs. Louis Hano, Mrs. E. S. Van Beil, Mrs. Benny Salinger, Miss Ellen Phillips, Mrs. J. H. Kahn, Mrs. Simon Pfaelzer.

February 14 another meeting was held; 32 ladies and gentlemen were present, Mr. Philip Lewin presiding and Alfred T. Jones acting as secretary.

Mr. Moses A. Dropsie stated that information would be given the next day whether the Pennsylvania Railroad depot could be obtained.

Mr. Simon Muhr was unanimously elected treasurer of this committee.

The following circular, issued by the mayor of this city, was read:

PHILADELPHIA, February 13, 1882.

Sir: The steamship "Illinois," which left Liverpool on Saturday, the 11th inst., for this port, has on board about 300 Russian refugees, fleeing from oppression, barbarity and cruelty disgraceful to mankind. Ordinary humanity requires that provision should be made for these unfortunate creatures. The philanthropic and benevolent citizens of Philadelphia have always cheerfully and willingly helped the unfortunate. The present emergency requires prompt and speedy action, as the refugees are expected to arrive here on the 22d. Our sister city of New York has nobly and generously responded to the cry for help to the large number of the Russian victims, that have recently landed here. You are respectfully requested to attend a meeting of citizens at this office on Wednesday, the 15th inst., at 12 o'clock noon, to devise ways and means for relief.

SAMUEL G. KING, *Mayor of Philadelphia.*

[The following account of the citizens' meeting at the mayor's office is taken from *The Jewish Record*, Philadelphia, February 17, 1882:]

THE RUSSIAN REFUGEES.

PREPARATORY MEETING OF CITIZENS AT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE—MASS-MEETING TO BE CALLED.

On Monday morning, at the request of the "Alliance," his Honor Mayor King issued a circular to some of our influential fellow citizens, inviting them to meet at his office to devise ways and means for the Russian refugees.

In accordance with the invitation, a number of citizens assembled in the mayor's chambers on Wednesday at noon.

Senator Horatio Gates Jones called the meeting to order and nominated Mayor King as chairman, and Mr. Wm. B. Hackenburg as secretary. This was unanimously agreed to.

The mayor read the call and said the meeting was for the purpose of appointing the proper committees and collecting the necessary funds for relieving the wants of those alluded to, when they arrive in the city, in order to give them shelter and some of the necessaries of life. There had been a committee of gentlemen appointed and he had been requested to call the meeting.

Moses A. Dropsie said those who had for the past nine months read the papers would know of the cruel conduct of the Russian people, not the Russian government. It was, perhaps, surprising to many that this should have continued for so long a time uninterrupted by the Russian government. "But," he continued, "when we remember that the state of Russian civilization is not in accord with the civilization with which we are surrounded, and when we remember that many of the Russian subjects can neither read nor write, that many of them are bigoted, prejudiced and lack that education which is so essential to the understanding of their own rights, it will be no longer surprising. The *London Times'* special correspondent sent a letter to that paper detailing an account of the outrages perpetrated on the poor Jews, outrages which in a short time rendered one hundred thousand people houseless. They were despoiled of their property and every thing that they held dear and sacred. Women were violated, men were maltreated, and the people generally subjected to every kind of persecution that an ignorant rabble could devise. The question presents itself, What was the Russian government doing all this time? But we must remember that the Russian government is supported by the Russian soldiery, who partake of the opinions and the prejudices of the Russian people." Mr. Dropsie referred

to the number of refugees which would soon arrive in this country, and submitted the following:

WHEREAS, The steamship "Illinois" is now bringing to the city of Philadelphia a large number of Russian refugees, driven by oppression and cruelty from their birthplaces and homes, and are seeking an asylum in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Common humanity dictates that preparation should be made for the temporary care and sustenance, while in the city of Philadelphia, of these and such other Russian refugees who may hereafter come as are destitute;

Resolved, That the beneficent inhabitants of Philadelphia be appealed to for pecuniary and other help to relieve the wants of those unfortunate beings; and be it further

Resolved, That the moneys collected by the treasurer to be appointed by this meeting be paid over to Mr. Simon Muhr, treasurer of the Executive Committee, for the relief of the Russian refugees.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Rev. James Morrow offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That this meeting of the citizens of Philadelphia, convened by the mayor, views with horror and indignation the shameful atrocities committed upon the Hebrew race in Russia. On the ground of simple humanity this meeting further expresses its deep compassion and heartfelt sympathy with the sufferers and with those who have been so inhumanly bereaved.

Mr. Thomas A. Price said that the meeting should give expression to its abhorrence in such form as would reach the parties against whom they were expressing their indignation. As citizens of the United States, he thought they might express their opinion that it was within the power of the government to express its abhorrence at such atrocities. But the more practical thing for them to do was to meet the emergency presented by the arrival of these refugees. "We cannot afford," said he, "to allow the Jews to do this work alone, even if they were able and willing; it is our business to help."

General Collis said the people of America could not speak in any hesitating voice respecting the outrages inflicted on the Jews. He moved the following:

Resolved, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be requested to take such steps as they may deem advisable to obtain from our government a protest against the treatment now

inflicted upon the Jews in Russia, and an appeal to the Russian government for such action as shall secure the protection of the lives and properties of these unfortunate people.

"This meeting," said General Collis, "will only form the nucleus for a town meeting, where the people generally can express their sentiments."

Rev. C. H. Kimball spoke in favor of the resolution and said that he considered the meeting a sort of preliminary one to the mass-meetings which would surely follow. He said the refugees must be provided for, but it seemed to him that such action would be a comparatively small part of the matter, and that the people who could not leave Russia should in some way be protected.

Senator Horatio Gates Jones said in her charity now Philadelphia would strengthen her claim to the title of City of Brotherly Love. He paid a high tribute to the Hebrew people, and said in every nation wherein these people lived they had been the cause of its prosperity.

Rev. R. H. Harper said that he wanted to express his horror at the treatment of the Jews, and, at the same time, his approval of the resolution. He said that he attended the meeting because he was personally interested in the matter, and because he wanted to speak for most of the Christian ministers. For months past he had been reading with astonishment and regret of the persecutions of these people, not only in Russia, but in other countries, and he thought it was time for the people of this land to express their sentiments as, for years gone by, these people have been persecuted in every land, and there was some little of it in our own country.

Rev. C. H. Kimball stated that eighty millions of dollars worth of property had been destroyed and outrages committed upon 70,000 of these people during the last nine months.

Dr. Morrow's and General Collis' resolutions were then unanimously adopted.

General Collis said: "I suppose the practical part of the business now would be to open a subscription list; and appoint a Committee of Finance to collect what money they can at the present time, and continue their efforts to get more hereafter."

Wm. V. McKean suggested to General Collis that the plan of opening subscriptions at once did not always work well, and that it would be better to withdraw that part of the motion. "Gentlemen have come here," he continued, "at the call of the mayor for

a specific purpose, and they may not be prepared to say at once what they will do. It will be sufficient to appoint a Committee of Finance, and then let the contributions come in another way. If there was an immediate exigency upon us, and money was wanted to-day, right at this moment, it would be different."

General Collis having withdrawn that part of the motion, Mr. McKean continued: "I think a town meeting should be held in every city in this country to express the indignation and horror of the American people at these atrocities committed upon the Russian Jews. I happen to have been one of those who had opportunities to look into the details of these awful barbarities. They cannot be magnified, and in their base brutality are beyond anything I ever read, even in the darkest of the dark ages within the last two thousand years.

"You might, if you go back beyond that time, find something worse, but I do not think there is anything within the period to parallel what has been perpetrated in Russia on the Jewish people. Even in this meeting, composed exclusively of men, no one could put these outrages into words without shame—of the awful crimes committed upon the Jewish women. They cannot be put into print in a decent newspaper. Nobody can have an idea of these cruel barbarous acts unless he is familiar with the details.

"The people who are fleeing to our shores have not only suffered these unspeakable outrages in their own persons, but have been despoiled of their property, left without the means of sustaining life, and driven from their homes, to go out to the rest of the world penniless, helpless fugitives. Their condition has in it every element that appeals to the generosity of all mankind, but peculiarly to American hospitality."

Mr. Price thought it would be advisable that the mayor should consult with the members of the society already organized, and then appoint a Committee of Finance to consist of 12 members, which was adopted by the meeting and so ordered, with the addition of an amendment giving the Committee of Finance power to call a public meeting to take further action.

Mr. Dropsie read a list of subscriptions which showed that \$5000 had already been subscribed and the meeting adjourned.

February 15, 1882: Wm. B. Hackenburg gave an account of the enthusiastic meeting held at the mayor's office that morn-

ing and read a list of names of donors to the relief fund amounting to \$5500.

Lucien Moss presented a letter from the Pennsylvania Railroad Company addressed to him, wherein the company tender the use of the main room restaurant and kitchen of their depot, 32d and Market streets, Philadelphia, for the refugees who may arrive on the steamer "Illinois" and also for those who may arrive later.

It was reported that Mr. A. Heller, 22 North 4th Street, had kindly placed a large room at the disposal of the Committee on Supplies for the reception of old clothing.

The chairman stated that he had caused the insertion of a notice in *The Jewish Record*, asking for the donation of such clothing and informing intending donors that by leaving word at the office of Mr. Heller, a wagon would be sent to receive the gifts.

Meeting, February 19, 1882: Mr. Lewin, the chairman, announced that instead of 280 there would be 325 refugees to arrive.

Mr. Binswanger, chairman of the Committee on Furniture, reported that the work assigned to them has been nearly completed and described how the rooms had been divided and furnished.

Mr. Wm. B. Hackenburg stated that he had seen Dr. Mor-ton, who would organize a medical corps, which would gratuitously administer to those who would require attention. Messrs. Warner & Co. will furnish drugs and medicines gratis.

Mr. Hackenburg further stated that the Committee on Finance had been organized and would meet at the mayor's office on the Tuesday following (February 21) at noon. The subscription up to date amounted to \$7700.

Mr. Simon Loeb, chairman of the Supply Committee, stated that all necessities had been purchased except clothing of which he thought enough would be donated.

Mr. Lucien Moss stated that the Pennsylvania Railroad would have a number of cars and a locomotive standing ready at the wharf to transport the immigrants forthwith to the depot; also that he obtained permission to go with some of the committee down the river on the revenue cutter to meet the steamer.

A letter from Mr. Funk, of the Pennsylvania Railroad, was read in which that gentleman promised to do all in his power to assist the committee.

It was resolved to send letters of thanks to Mr. Kingsley and Mr. Dobbins for their kind offer of the Trans-Continental Hotel and to the Pennsylvania Railroad.

A telegram from Mr. Hamilton Disston to Mayor King was received, which read as follows:

Learning that a vessel will soon arrive in Philadelphia with fifty Jewish families who have been compelled to leave Russia on account of persecution, I, therefore, on behalf of our company offer to give to each family forty acres of land in our purchase as a token of sympathy and to assist their friends in placing them in a position of comfort in a free land.

(Signed) HAMILTON DISSTON, *President*.

On motion of Simon Muhr it was carried that the secretary be requested to tender the thanks of the committee to Mr. Disston for his liberal offer and the president appoint a committee of three to confer with Mr. Disston upon the practicability of carrying this project into effect. The chairman appointed Simon Muhr, Lucien Moss, Simon A. Stern and Benny Salinger, the secretary.

It was resolved that the Committee on Reception work out a plan for the regulations required at the West Philadelphia depot in regard to the admission of visitors and all other rules and regulations which may be necessary for the government of the refugees, the president to be an *ex officio* member of the committee.

On February 26, 1882, a meeting of the Employment Committee was held at the Pennsylvania Railroad depot, West Philadelphia. Mr. A. Goldsmith was chosen permanent chairman and Mr. M. K. Cohen was elected secretary, to take charge of the office and to be at all times at the service of the committee.

Mr. Gabriel Shoyer, 517 Arch Street, offered a large room at his place gratuitously, to be used as an office for this committee, which offer was accepted with thanks.

February 28, 1882: A meeting of the General Committee was held, Mr. Philip Lewin presiding; 20 ladies and 36 gentlemen were present.

Mr. I. Binswanger read the report of the Committee on Furniture, stating that the work of the committee was finished, the expense incurred was \$3604.09 and enumerated the separate items.

Mr. A. Goldsmith, chairman of the Employment Committee, stated that 55 of the refugees had obtained employment.

Mrs. S. Pfaelzer stated that she had placed only one girl so far.

A letter from Mr. Wm. B. Hackenburg, secretary of the Committee on Town Meeting, was read, wherein he requested the presence of 25 refugees on the stage of the Academy during the meeting. It was resolved that it was the sense of this meeting that the refugees should not be placed on the stage and that the program should be changed in that respect.

Letters were received from Mr. Oppenheimer, offering a benefit for the refugees at the Philadelphia Skating Rink, and from the Eighth Street Theatre for a similar purpose; both offers were declined with thanks.

The treasurer, Mr. Simon Muhr, stated that all the money the refugees had in their possession amounted to \$150 and that he had taken charge of the same.

At the meeting of the committee held March 21, 1882, Mr. Simon Muhr stated that Mr. Freitag, of Ohio, would not be here, that the idea of engaging him had been given up, and that he would go to Florida himself, examine the land and report forthwith.

A resolution was adopted that if Mr. Muhr deemed it advisable and expedient he be authorized to locate the colony and make all necessary arrangements.

A committee meeting was held April 1, 1882. Mr. Simon Muhr, who had just returned from Florida, gave an elaborate and interesting account of his observations there, the substance of which was, that he had not concluded in his own mind if he should recommend the colonization of the refugees there; but that a Mr. Robinson, who lives in Florida, and in whom he had the utmost confidence would visit the land and give his opinion, also information as to the cost of transportation, dwellings, utensils wanted, etc.

This information he expected to receive in a few days.

A letter from Mr. Djalinski was forwarded by the Florida Land Improvement Company, wherein he furnished a description of the climate in Florida and gave his opinion that only skilled workmen or farmers were wanted there.

A motion was made by Arnold Kohn, seconded by A. M. Frechie, that the colonization scheme be abandoned, and that employment for the refugees be found as soon as possible.

On motion, the consideration was postponed until the next meeting.

At the committee meeting of April 5, 1882, Mr. Simon Muhr reported that he had not heard from Mr. Robinson.

Mr. Kohn's motion to abandon the colonization scheme was considered and after two hours' discussion was carried.

A vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Muhr for the time and money spent in going to Florida.

The following reports were received at the committee meeting held May 9, 1882:

Report of Lucien Moss, chairman of the Committee on Reception and Transportation, stating that he had a letter from O. E. McClellan, informing him that the West Philadelphia depot had been turned over to them in a clean and satisfactory condition.

Mr. Simon Loeb, chairman of Committee on Supplies, showed an expenditure of \$5063.38 for clothing, eatables, etc.

Mr. I. Binswanger, chairman of the committee on building and furniture, stated that \$277 had been realized by the sale of furniture contained in the West Philadelphia depot, consisting of wash tubs, basins, etc.

Mr. Louis Hano, chairman of the Employment Committee, made an additional report to that of Mr. A. Goldsmith, which had been rendered at a former meeting in which he showed an expenditure of \$7221.29.

Mr. Lewin, chairman of the General Committee, thanked all the members for the work done by them and for the assistance and courtesy extended to him, expressing the hope that they would not have to be called together again, but should the occasion require, he was confident that he would find them as willing and devoted to the cause of humanity and Judaism as on this occasion.

Mr. Simon Muhr stated that he could not render an itemized account at present, but that he had received about \$25,000 and expended \$18,000, leaving a balance of about \$7000 in his hands.

Messrs. L. Hano and M. Simon were appointed to attend to the wants of those refugees who still remained in Philadelphia.

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Philadelphia Branch of the Alliance, held September 28, 1884, the president stated that he had called the meeting to draw their attention to the large immigration of co-religionists to this country, caused by the fearful persecution they suffer in Europe; many of those arriving were quite destitute; in order to prevent their

being returned—the commissioner considering them paupers—Mr. Simon Muhr went their security.

He further stated that a meeting had been called by immigrants from Russia, Roumania and Poland, at Wheatly Hall, at which the prime mover was a Mr. Judalsohn, the intention being to form an organization for mutual assistance.*

At the annual meeting of the Alliance, April 19, 1885, the minutes showed that the collections made by the Society were applied in assisting the immigrants. A motion was carried that the expenditures for the Alliance colony in New Jersey be approved and that the Central Committee in Paris be notified of our action.

[From *The Jewish Record*, March 10, 1882.]

THE TOWN MEETING.⁴

THE ACADEMY CROWDED—THE GOVERNOR OF PA. PRESENT—THE MAYOR OF PHILADELPHIA, CHIEF JUSTICE SHARSWOOD, AND OTHER DISTINGUISHED OFFICIALS AS VICE-PRESIDENTS—PROTESTS AGAINST THE RUSSIAN ATROCITIES—SYMPATHY FOR THE REFUGEES, ETC.

A large audience, comprising many of the best citizens of Philadelphia, assembled at the Academy of Music last Saturday evening (March 4, 1882), in response to a call to express sympathy for the Russian refugees and to protest against their inhuman treatment. Many of the most prominent citizens of Philadelphia were upon the stage, foremost among whom was Governor Hoyt.

General Charles H. T. Collis called the meeting to order a few minutes after 8 o'clock, and on stating its object made a brief but eloquent address. He then announced the following list of officers:

President, Hon. John Welsh; vice-presidents, Chief Justice George Sharswood, Hon. Samuel G. King, mayor of the city, Alex.

³ The meeting finally resulted in the organization of the present Jewish Immigration Society, of which Mr. Louis E. Levy, of Philadelphia, is president.

⁴ Contributed by WILLIAM B. HACKENBURG.

Biddle, John C. Bullitt, Geo. Bullock, George Burnham, Hon. James Campbell, J. L. Claghorn, Clarence H. Clark, Lemuel Coffin, B. B. Comegys, Tunis Conway, Jay Cooke, John Dobson, M. J. Dohan, Francis A. Drexel, A. J. Drexel, Hamilton Disston, Thomas Dolan, R. J. Dobbins, Conrad B. Day, W. L. Elkins, Edwin H. Fitler, Frederick Fraley, Dr. Albert Fricke, Rev. W. H. Furness, P. C. Garrett, Henry C. Gibson, Franklin B. Gowen, I. Z. Gregg, Prof. S. W. Gross, M. D., W. W. Harding, Geo. L. Harrison, Charles Hartshorne, Chas. A. Hardy, Thomas G. Hood, Samuel B. Huey, James Hunter, John O. James, Hon. Horatio Gates Jones, Dr. William V. Keating, J. E. Kingsley, E. C. Knight, Henry Lewis, Jas. Long, Clayton McMichael, A. K. McClure, Geo. D. McCreary, W. V. McKean, Chas. McKeone, Clark Merchant, E. Coppee Mitchell, John W. Moffy, Dr. Thomas G. Morton, Dr. E. Morwitz, Dillwyn Parrish, Jos. Patterson, Prof. Wm. Pepper, M. D., Samuel C. Perkins, Charles Platt, Eli K. Price, Dr. T. B. Reed, C. F. Repplier, Geo. B. Roberts, Edward Robins, E. A. Rollins, Jos. F. Sinnott, Wm. M. Slingerly, Chas. E. Smith, Edward T. Steel, Hon. Wm. S. Stokley, George H. Stuart, James F. Sullivan, Michael Tracey, Chas. E. Warburton, W. G. Warden, William R. Warner, Francis Wells, I. V. Williamson, Robert N. Wilson, Dr. Casper Wistar, Charles Wheeler, Richard P. White, George Wood, William Wood, David Young.

SECRETARY WILLIAM B. HACKENBURG.

REMARKS OF HON. JOHN WELSH.

Mr. Welsh, previous to taking the chair, said: "Never before have we been called upon to take into consideration the condition of a large body of men, women, and children, who have come to us, not of choice, not as exiles but as refugees, driven from their native soil, robbed of their property and wronged most grievously in their persons. Their presence has excited us to feel that sympathy which is one of the greatest joys known to man, and we are here to encourage in each other and in the community in which we live that interest in them, which will enable them to renew their regular occupations, provide for themselves, and to find homes in the land of their adoption, on which they may hereafter live securely and enjoy all the privileges which we ourselves enjoy."

Mr. John Wanamaker, who was very warmly greeted, on behalf of the committee, offered the following:

RESOLUTIONS.

We, the citizens of Philadelphia, assembled this fourth day of March, 1882, to give voice to our feelings in regard to the causes which have recently led a large number of Jewish citizens of the Empire of Russia to emigrate to this city, do say:

That for several months past, the stories of barbarous and inhuman atrocities, said to have been committed upon undefended and defenceless Jews at their homes in Russia were too shocking to justify the belief that they were wholly true.

Careful investigation, however, pursued with integrity and without prejudice, has verified the worst that has been heard, and to-day we are brought face to face with the surviving victims, whose recitals of their persecutions have sickened our hearts and quickened our indignation. The poor creatures tell of their village homes laid waste by the torch of the intolerant and infuriated mob; of the cruel torture and murder alike of the aged, and infirm, and the infant at the mother's breast; of a drunken and wanton soldiery brutally assaulting their wives and their daughters in open day upon the public streets. And such stories of pillage, plunder, rapine and robbery as should be remanded, from the chronicles of a civilized and Christian nation in the nineteenth century, back to the records of the darkest ages.

These narratives of woe have inspired the American people with horror.

Our humanity impels us, our history requires us to extend a welcome to the downtrodden and oppressed; and our manhood will not permit us to hear the evidence of such atrocity without proclaiming our solemn protest against it.

The genius of our institutions, founded on the right of man, recognizes and asserts a common right of brotherhood, and though the general policy of our government avoids interference with the internal administration of another government, yet when these unfortunate exiles seek a refuge upon our soil, our shelter and protection to them is incomplete unless we rise above the polite and conventional forms of diplomacy, and present their wrongs with such zeal and through such a channel as *shall command an audience and beget redress*; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we call upon the benevolent, charitable and God-fearing people of this city and State to contribute liberally of their means to provide food and raiment and shelter for the unfortunate exiles who are now here and may yet arrive in our city.

Resolved, That we earnestly request the President of the United States to present to the government of St. Petersburg the solemn protest of the people of Pennsylvania, in common with the sovereign people of the United States whom he represents, against the present treatment of the Hebrew race within the Russian Empire.

Resolved, That we call upon our Senators and Representatives in Congress, to whom the sovereign power of the people is delegated, to take such immediate action as shall strengthen the hands of the executive and his ministers in making this protest.

Resolved, That copies of this declaration and these resolutions be forwarded to His Excellency the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, our Senators and members of Congress, and His Excellency the Russian Ambassador to Washington.

LETTERS OF REGRET.

Mr. Hackenburg read the following letter from Archbishop Wood:

PHILADELPHIA, February 25, 1882.

MR. WILLIAM B. HACKENBURG, *Secretary*.

Dear Sir: I regret that circumstances, over which I have no control, will prevent me from availing myself of the courteous invitation extended to me in your esteemed note of yesterday.

It would be superfluous for me to say that we sincerely sympathize with the persecuted refugees, whose cause you have so warmly espoused, and that we wish you every success in your efforts to console and comfort them in their distress and destitution.

It will afford me much pleasure to contribute my quota to the fund created for their relief. Again expressing my regret, I am, dear sir,

Your most obedient servant,

JAMES F. WOOD, *Archbishop of Philadelphia*.

A letter was also received from Hon. H. H. Bingham, Representative in Congress from the First Congressional District of Pennsylvania, expressing his great disappointment at not being present.

The chairman then introduced Right Rev. William Baron Stevens, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of the diocese of Pennsylvania. The distinguished prelate, on advancing to the front of the stage, was received with great applause.

BISHOP STEVENS' ADDRESS.

He said among other things: "The resolutions as well as the address of Mr. Welsh notified you of the exact purpose of our meeting. It may be summed up, perhaps, in two words, 'sympathy and protest'—sympathy with the sufferers, protest against persecution. The sympathy we have is to a persecuted people, and surely that sympathy can come from no hearts more thoroughly and in a more outspoken manner than from American hearts, and especially towards that race who are God's chosen people. Who are these people who are thus outraged and persecuted with barbarities that would almost astonish a savage? Who are these people who are thus fleeing from their homes to preserve their honor and their lives? Are they from Africa? of those who have never had the advantages of civilization or refinement? Are they barbarians, exciting the anger of that nation—civilized nation as it is called—of Russia? No; they are the people of God, and had the literature and power, nation and temples thousands of years before Russia existed as a nation, and thousands of years before this great Russian Empire, as it now is, stretched out its hands with barbaric force. They are the people who had the worship of God when all the world was in heathen darkness; they had God for their king, and it is of these people that we now come to speak, and it is the descendants of these people we are now stretching out our arms to receive. Let us thank God that we can do this and can lay aside every prejudice and feel that we stand to them as brothers in the great family of man. It becomes us also, it seems to me, as American people, to give a cordial welcome and deep sympathy to these people. It is a remarkable fact in history that every great nation in Europe has, at various periods, ranging from the year 325 down to the present time, more or less persecuted the Jews. But it is also a fact, and of that I am proud, that there is not now

upon our statute books a single ordinance against the Jews, and not on our records a single drop of blood shed of the Hebrew race. We bid the Hebrew welcome here; we bid him welcome to our privileges, our literature and advantages, so he can come here and take his place as a citizen, exercising all the rights and privileges as if he were to the manor born."

BISHOP SIMPSON'S REMARKS.

Bishop Simpson, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was the next speaker, and began his remarks by saying: "I can most cordially endorse the beautiful and forceful words to which you have just listened. I came to second, if I may, the resolutions of sympathy and protest, to which you have listened. I feel, indeed, that we can but feebly comprehend the sufferings of these injured people. Were it possible for us to look into the south of Russia to-night, and to behold the ruined fields, burned villages and outraged families, those that are driven friendless and homeless from the circles which they filled, we should then feel something of the intensity of sympathy that ought to be invoked in behalf of the refugees that have come to our shores. We cannot see that picture, but we may fancy it at least. I am glad as an American citizen that we can welcome these people among us, and I am glad the history of our country has been such thus far that we can extend a welcome to all oppressed persons who have come to our shores from all nations.

"The causes of these persecutions are traced to two leading facts: First. That these people are not of the same religion as the Russian people and because of the diversity of religious views they are persecuted. I am glad that, as a nation, we are in a condition to offer an asylum for all such. We have gained the point which other nations are striving for—the total separation of Church and State—and I rejoice this evening that we require no religious test whatever. Let a man believe what he may, if he conducts himself as a good citizen, we acknowledge his right to his creed, be it what it will. But I have thought with regard to these persecutions that they are but preparations for a higher rise of nations. It seems to me to be the plan of God that evils call for their own cure, and so it seems to me that this persecution of the Jews, coming from the heart of Russia, will rouse the minds of the world that it is time totally to separate once and forever Church and State in all lands. I think I can see that these are

but steps which, under the Providence of God, will lead to the amelioration of the human family.

"I am glad we can utter our protest, and I think a protest coming from our shores will have more influence than if it came from other lands. We have been the friends of Russia; there has never been trouble or conflict. We received the Grand Duke Alexis and paid him proper honor, and I cannot forget that in the time of our struggle, and when a cloud was hanging over our eastern coasts, and England and France were frowning, I can never forget that Russia sent ships of war, with sealed orders, to protect us in case of attack by foreign nations. She has been our friend and we have been hers and we can speak to her plainly."

ADDRESS OF REV. IGNATIUS HOBTMANN.

This eminent Catholic priest, upon being introduced by the president, said:

"I am sorry that my venerable and beloved superior, the Archbishop of Philadelphia, could not be here in person to express the sentiments of sympathy he has for those poor Russian refugees and for their oppressed countrymen at home, but I am addressing you with his cordial approval. I maintain that where the rights of man are violated, when justice is trodden under foot, when reason is banished and brutal violence is allowed to hold sway, then it becomes the sacred duty of every man to rise up and do what he can for the relief of the poor victims of oppression, and therefore it is that I maintain that there are laws, higher, far higher, than national laws. I mean the laws of humanity, the laws of God. When these sacred laws are violated then I am injured, you all are injured, and it becomes not only our right, but our bounden duty to protest, and as far as in us lies, to do what we can to remedy the evil, and by so doing we show at the same time the only true friendship we have for the oppressors. We are assembled not merely to protest against outrages committed against Russian Jews, not merely to give expression to the sympathy we feel for them, but to show that sympathy practically by the relief we will afford them.

"I think that the curse of the nineteenth century is the eternal prating about our rights without thought of our duty. Did we but do our duty our rights would take care of themselves. Were governments only just in their execution, then the rights

of all their subjects would be safe and sound, and we would not be here this evening to protest against the treatment of the Jews. There may be causes for the hatred to the Jews existing, not only in Russia, but also in enlightened Germany, but these can be no excuse for the fearful crimes committed. It gives me special pleasure to be here this evening, as a Catholic priest, and I am simply treading in the footsteps of all the Roman Pontiffs from the sixth century down, who have been the best friends and protectors of the persecuted Jews. Whenever the Jews were in danger they always looked to the Pope for help, and, what is more, they never looked in vain. As a man I protest against the violation of the rights of our common manhood; against the triumph of mob law; against the outrages that have been committed against our common humanity. As a native of this City of Brotherly Love I welcome the Russian refugees to our midst, and I can only express the wish that they will all prove to be good citizens in their adopted land, and one thing they can depend upon, they will never be persecuted here on account of their religion."

OTHER SPEAKERS.

Rev. Dr. George Dana Boardman, pastor of the First Baptist Church, was the next speaker. He said he rejoiced in the fact that the meeting was styled a town meeting, for he liked the New England way of calling the people together. He felt it a privilege to enter his protest against the persecution of the Israelites by the Russian people. His sympathy had been enlisted because they are men, bone of his bone and sinew of his sinew. They, like him, have their affections and passions, and possessed the same senses as he. Again, they were God's chosen people before all others. He referred to the fact that the place where the remains of Abraham are buried, cannot be approached by the Hebrews; but he trusted the time would come when all peoples, whether Jew or Gentile, Greek or Roman, would be permitted to have the same enjoyment of approaching the great sacred places of antiquity. With all his heart he approved of the resolutions, and to the persecuted Jews he bade them welcome to this country.

He was followed by Ex-Mayor Hon. R. Vaux, who said that the American people always sympathized with the helpless minority, and then made a powerful appeal for the display of generosity as well as sympathy.

Mayer Sulzberger, Esq., was the last speaker, and referred to the force of public opinion when enlisted in such a cause, saying: "If the force of public opinion of Philadelphia be but small, if the force of the public opinion of the United States be unheeded, then we shall still protest, and let our protest be heard before the civilized world."

Just previous to the adjournment of the meeting, Moses A. Dropsie, Esq., offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the president of this meeting appoint a committee of five citizens to lay before the President and Congress of the United States the resolutions of this meeting, and take such action in furtherance of its objects as they deem proper and necessary.