

## FOREIGN AND DOMINION NEWS.—Continued from page 9.

Col. WEDGWOOD: Can it be called a rumour? It is in all the papers this morning.

Mr. BONAR LAW: I do not know whether my hon. friend or anyone else thinks that is proof that it is a fact. (Laughter.)

## Anti-Semitic Meeting Broken Up.

ZURICH [F.O.C.]

The Anti-Semitic Union arranged a meeting in the Leopoldstadt district of Vienna with the object of founding a branch there. The spokesman of the anti-Semites, in his opening remarks, invited the Jews to go to Palestine and leave Austria en masse. Subsequently, the Socialists grew tired of listening to the attacks made on the Jews, and they stormed the platform and dispersed the anti-Semites.

## Young Jew and Flag.

It is reported by Greek circles in Constantinople that a Turk attempted to snatch a Greek flag which was being carried by a procession of Greek boy scouts in the Besiktash quarter of the city.

A young Jew, however, who was passing, buried himself against the Turk and recovered the flag. The young man was loudly cheered by the Greeks.

The *Judis*, commenting on the incident, warmly praises the action of the young Jew in question.—*Reuter*.

## The Fate of the Jewish War-Prisoners in Siberia.

The Copenhagen Zionist Bureau publishes an appeal from the Jewish War prisoners in Siberia to be released and sent to their homes. There are more than 5,000 Jews still in Siberia, and their condition is deplorable.

## The Chamber of Commerce in Jerusalem.

The Government has opened Chambers of Commerce in Jerusalem, Jaffa and Haifa. The President of the Chamber of Commerce in Jerusalem is the Governor of Jerusalem or his representative, and two other governmental officials are members of the Administrative Committee. The Vice-Presidents are representatives of the following banks: The Anglo-Palestine Company, the Credit Lyonnais, and the Anglo-Egyptian. Further, the authorities nominated four Jews, two Mohammedans and two Christians as members of the Committee.

## Jews on Vienna City Council.

For the first time Jewish national delegates have been elected to the City Council of Vienna. At the first sitting of the Council the delegates made a declaration that they, without seeking to jeopardise the German character of Vienna, are striving to obtain complete and effective equal rights.

## Jewish Secondary School in Vienna.

The first Jewish secondary school in Vienna will be opened next autumn; the Hebrew and English languages are made compulsory subjects.

## Anti-Jewish Disturbances in Germany.

The *Vossische Zeitung* learns from Dortmund that anti-Jewish excesses took place recently in that town. Many Jewish shops were plundered.

## Oil Lands Presented to Theological College.

Messrs. Travis Brothers, oil magnates, of Oklahoma, have presented oil lands, worth 150,000 dol., to the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary in New York, to enable the institution to meet its financial requirements.

Mr. Haasem Ezekiel has passed the final examination at Bombay University for the degree of Bachelor of Agriculture. He is the first member of the Bene Israel Community to obtain this degree.

## The Children's Famine in Europe.

From LORD HENRY BENTINCK, LORD BUCKMASTER, Miss MARY R. MACARTHUR, and Mrs. MCKENNA.

[TO THE EDITOR.]

SIR,—The Government has invoked the help of the British people in relieving the distress from famine in Europe and Asia Minor. Lord Robert Cecil has expressed the hope that the relief agencies appealing to the public under the Government's offer to double all voluntary gifts (up to £200,000) raised in the United Kingdom "will receive response that will bring to some millions of children a message of practical sympathy." "There is no doubt whatever," said Lord Robert in the Commons on the 21st ult., "that in large parts of Central Europe, including some parts of Germany, the children, the babies, are actually dying from want of food and want of milk. I do not believe that can be questioned."

Other distinguished men appeal to us. Lord Curzon sends out "an urgent call to the people of the British Empire to play their part in the great task of reconciliation and mercy." General Smuts asks us all "to exert ourselves to the utmost in the great work of saving the wreckage of life and industry." Sir William Goad, British Director of Relief Missions in Paris, writes to tell us that twelve and a half millions are being spent by our Government in Europe, and this sum will all be used up or allocated before the harvest. Still there will be urgent need, he says, for medical comforts and for supplementary food, particularly for the children.

Will you be so good as to allow us space to remind your readers that the Save the Children Fund (Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Buxton, 329, High Holborn, W.C. 1) has set itself the task of carrying this message to the nation? This is a national relief fund to be administered through the various excellent relief societies which are at work in different parts of the famine areas. The Fund is not confined to the limitations of the Government grant (Germany and part of Russia are excluded from benefit) but sends help which help is not limited, irrespective of nationality. Donations, however, may be restricted for any particular country. "What you have already done," writes Mr. C. K. Butler, head of the British Mission to Vienna, "has been and will be of incalculable benefit to the suffering."

The great work is the first life-saving scheme of international scope, and it may well be the greatest plan that civilisation has ever conceived and executed. It can only succeed if people of all classes, parties, and nations will take their share with those of the Government.

## SIR LEON LEVISON!

## AN ASTONISHING DISTINCTION.

## WHO HAS BLUNDERED?

THE Honourable List, published on Wednesday, contained an item more surprising than any that we recollect to have occurred in any similar statements, surprising as these, on occasions, have been. It is that "the King has been pleased to signify his intention of conferring" a knighthood of the United Kingdom on

LEON LEVISON.—Has rendered valuable work in connection with the Russian Jews' Relief Fund. Public services during the war.

With the profoundest respect for His Majesty as the fountain of honour, we sincerely trust that the King will see fit to alter his intention.

For the conferment of a knighthood upon Levison would in our view be nothing short of a scandal. Mr. Levison, to whose activities the JEWISH CHRONICLE has from time to time for the last four years felt it a public duty to call attention, soon after the beginning of the war started a Fund for the Relief of Russian Jews. We showed that the Fund was closely identified with Mr. Levison's efforts for the conversion of Jews, he being a paid official of a Medical Mission in Edinburgh. For years, no accounts of this Fund or—when Russian Jews were no longer a popular "line" for philanthropists of this sort—its successor, the Palestine Jews' Fund, were forthcoming. They were pressed for by others besides ourselves, notably by *Truth*, but without avail, and at last they were demanded by the *Scotsman*. After some considerable shilly-shallying certain accounts were produced, which, even accepting the figures as they stood, were held to be anything but satisfactory, and, so far as we know, have never been completed.

## THE JEWISH VIEW.

But there is a more sinister aspect to this matter, at least from the Jewish point of view. The honour is to be conferred for what is spoken of as if it were service instead of, in fact, the grossest disservice to Jews. It is an honour paid to one whose whole life has been devoted to the luring of Jews from their faith by the methods repellent to every man of good sense, honour, and right religious feeling, and which are perfectly well-known to be associated with such missionary work as that in which Levison has been professionally engaged. There can be no reasonable doubt, too, that the whole purpose of the Funds with which Leon Levison's name is associated was not the benefit of Russian Jews or Jews in Palestine—either their spiritual or material benefit—but just the *kudos* which would accrue to missionary activity. It was so that those engaged in them would appear friendly to Jews, and so that it would be rendered by them the easier for Missionaries to worm themselves into the good graces of Jews. The proof for this we have from no less an authority than Levison himself. "Soon after his Russian Fund was started, and when Levison was giving assurances—necessary at the moment for his book—that none of the money collected would be used for the purpose of missionary work, a Christian lady wrote complaining to Levison that the money she had subscribed had been given because she wished it to be used for conversion propaganda among the Jews. Levison replied that he reckoned that if this money could be disbursed among Jews as from non-Jews, it would, in his view, be told the lady, "soften their hearts and ultimately open their homes for the work which you have at heart!"

## RUSSIAN JEWS' RELIEF WORK.

If, however, the distinction is being conferred for "valuable work in connection with the Russian Jews' Relief," and we ignore the sinister purpose which impeded Levison to establish the fund—if we assume it was really disinterested philanthropic work—is Levison the man to be chosen for honour in regard to that particular activity? We do not for a moment suppose that his lordship desires any "honour" recognition for his work; but if any is to be paid for strenuous labour for the relief of Russian Jews, then, surely, Lord Swaythling especially (like others connected with him as honorary officers of the Relief Fund) comes miles before Levison, whether we have regard to the amount collected or his own endeavours.

No! It is clear that someone has blundered. In the interests of the country, and in our own interests as Jews, we deem it our duty to call attention in no uncertain way to this scandalous matter; and we believe that in doing so we shall have the support of all who respect the Royal prerogative. We hope sincerely that it may yet be possible for the conferment of this knighthood to be re-considered, in the light of facts which we are convinced could not have been known to those who presented Levison's name to the King.

## THE "SCOTSMAN'S" COMMENT.

In its issue on Wednesday last the *Scotsman* observes:—

The announcement of the conferring of a knighthood on Mr. Leon Levison apparently refers to the gentleman whose name was previously mentioned with the controversy, in which also Miss Robertson was mentioned, about the administration of an Edinburgh fund and was chiefly concerned in the same few months ago. It was then contended that the object of the fund was to convert Jews, and that the money was to be used for the purpose of conversion propaganda among the Jews. The *Scotsman* says that the fund was established for the purpose of relieving the distress of Russian Jews, and that the money was to be used for the purpose of relieving the distress of Russian Jews.