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ITS NOBLE WORK.

How an Alliance Assists Russian Refugees.

A SORE-OPPRESSED PEOPLE.

The Influx of Helpless Humanity Causing the Issuance of a More General Appeal.

The charitable Hebrews of this city are becoming greatly concerned over the influx of Russian refugees to this State. So far they have been able to handle the cases themselves, but the wave of distress is increasing in volume and may occasion a more general appeal on behalf of their noble work to the community at large.

An enormous amount of quiet work for these unfortunate refugees has already been accomplished by the "Jewish Alliance of California," which is composed of over 2000 of the elite among the business and society people of this city. It is aided by a "Women's Auxiliary," comprising nearly a thousand benevolent ladies.

The officers of the alliance are: P. N. Lilienthal, president; M. S. Eisner, A. Anspacher and Marion Leventritt, vice-presidents; B. Sheideman, treasurer; Isaiah Choynski, secretary; E. I. Wolfe, recording secretary; S. Dinkelspeil, financial secretary. The executive committee consists of: J. H. Neustadter, Lewis Meyerstein, Adolph Kutner, I. W. Goldman, J. Napthaly, I. H. Jacobs, Louis Blank, Samuel Polack, I. J. Aschheim, S. M. Marks, H. P. Bush, S. Sweet, Jules Cerf, Emanuel M. Heller, Julius Jacobs, Joseph Kahn, J. Greenebaum, L. Brown, Herman Levy. Among the prominent ladies in the auxiliary are: Mrs. A. S. Betteiheim, Mrs. Dr. D. Cohn, Mrs. L. Loupe, Mrs. H. Anspacher-Myers, Mrs. W. Hirschfeld, Mrs. M. L. Grinbaum, Mrs. Ignatz Steinhart.

Secretary E. I. Wolfe gave the following outline yesterday of the history of the alliance: "The movement began two years ago, when the Russian refugees began to arrive in numbers in New York and tens of thousands were expected. It was proposed in New York to organize sympathy all over the country, so that the distressed arrivals might be distributed to places where they could be established industrially.

"First of all, Mr. Lubin of Sacramento attempted to organize a colonization plan among land-owners, where the hapless ones might be placed on small farms fully equipped, to be paid for on long time. The company was incorporated and a few families placed on farms, but the scheme failed owing to a difference of opinion in San Francisco, which affected the subscriptions. Some thought the colony would attract more than California's fair share of refugees, and therefore preferred to contribute to the Eastern organizations rather than directly invite the exiles to California, while at the same time being willing to take care of all who came here in the natural course of events.

"But as the exigency became more apparent the present alliance was formed under the auspices of the Independent Order of B'nai B'rith. The dues are only 50 cents a month, but it was thought preferable to do the best with the funds thus realized rather than to raise a large sum by a general appeal. There was time for that when any paramount necessity arose. As the event showed this policy was wise, for the influx diminished and we were able to handle all the cases with the funds at our command.

"But within the last few months there has been hardly a week pass by without our being appealed to by families in distress. As the secretary says in a circular appeal for clothing:

Their influx is much larger than was anticipated, and still they come, nearly all being destitute. Though most of them obtain work soon after they get here, their earnings will barely procure bread for their families.

We are bound by the constitution of the alliance to assist none but genuine cases of Russian refugees. Our objects are briefly expressed in the constitution as follows:

The society has been organized in this city for the purpose of raising funds to assist the Jewish people in the East who are providing for and helping the thousands of our co-religionists who, exiles from Russia, are daily landing in the United States, and for the purpose of preparing to do the same for any of the unfortunate people who may find their way to the Pacific Coast, so as to make them self-supporting and to fit them for the duties and responsibilities of American citizenship. There has been nothing in years past, in this country or elsewhere, that so strongly appeals to the charitably inclined as the condition of these destitute and heartbroken people, who are compelled by the tyranny of Russian laws to seek homes among strangers in foreign lands.

We do what we can for these poor people—sometimes take a little house for them or set them up in trade, and we are nobly assisted by the ladies. The refugees are generally people of some little standing, who have had money in their own country and are willing to take any work. Some have been put to picking fruit. One man was assisted and has since paid back all that was advanced and joined the society. They are not a class that is likely to become a burden on the community; all they want, as a rule, is a little temporary assistance.

As the winter draws on our task becomes heavier and heavier, and we anticipate much difficulty in providing for all the heartrending cases which are certain to come within the scope of our work. If we find, as seems likely, that we must appeal to the public we have no doubt of a generous response.

Mrs. Dr. D. Cohn, one of the most interested members of the auxiliary, gave some interesting details of the work being carried on. Mrs. Cohn traveled recently through Russia and her experiences among the persecuted and evicted Hebrews of that empire have rendered her sympathy peculiarly alive to the touching needs of refugees to these shores of liberty.

"No one can imagine the oppression of which our poor people are the victims in Russia," she said yesterday. "Most of them have a 'gutte,' or small holding, from which unless they change their religion they are liable to be ousted any day. They sell out at a loss rather than apostasize and are cheated en route of all their little capital, landing here with their little ones absolutely destitute.

"The auxiliary is quite enthusiastic. I, myself, secured ninety-eight members, which is simply a sample of how willing we all are to work. Some of us drum up subscriptions and others old clothes—the clothes-closets in this house are quite empty of anything available. If people only knew how welcome clothes were they would ransack their wardrobes for us.

"I could give scores of instances of assistance rendered to these people where the event showed that it was deserved and appreciated. One man we set up as a shoemaker, or rather cobbler, and asked all our friends to send him their footwear that needed repairing. The result is that he has so much work that patrons and patronesses have to wait upon him. His work is first-class, too, and he is thoroughly grateful.

"Another man arrived here with a wife and cartload of children—these people always have a big lot of children—utterly destitute. They got a little fruitstore near here, although one could have bought out the whole stock for a dollar. One day I went there and the woman told me her husband was ill. I told Dr. Cohn, and he found the man dangerously ill, and there were the wife and children unable to earn a cent or provide a physician, literally starving. Kind neighbors interested themselves, and the family is out of absolute want.

"Other men we have set up as ink-manufacturers, umbrella-makers — anything they can do. There are of course black sheep among them as in every large class, but these are soon found out and their supplies immediately cut off. As a rule, those who come to us are thoroughly deserving cases who have been thrown upon the liberality of this enlightened continent through no fault of their own, but through religious intolerance and unreasonable despotism.

"They are intelligent, many of them speaking two or three languages, and it is heartbreaking to see them and their innocent little ones in a foreign land merely asking to be allowed to live. People only require to know the truth to experience and express the warmest sympathy with our aims."

The alliance has issued a circular from which the following is an extract:

The Jewish Alliance of California desires to thank all those, Jews and Christians, who have so promptly and generously responded to the appeal of its relief committee for cast-off garments to clothe the almost naked Russian refugees, who are cared and provided for by the alliance. The good work of clothing them must be carried on, and garments of all kinds are needed—for a baby in arms or a patriarch. Men, women and children of all ages are barefooted and nearly naked. A note to any member of the relief committee will receive prompt attention. The committee consists of: A. Anspacher (chairman), I. W. Goldman, A. Kutner, Samuel Polack, Herman Levy, Mrs. A. S. Betteiheim, Mrs. Dr. D. Cohn, Mrs. L. Loupe, Mrs. H. Anspacher-Meyers, Mrs. W. Hirschfeld, Mrs. M. S. Grinbaum, Mrs. Ignatz Steinhart.

CLOSING UP BUSINESS.

Huntington, Hopkins & Co. Will Permanently Retire.

The firm of Huntington, Hopkins & Co. is getting its affairs in shape to retire from business. Half of its force of employes has already been discharged, the bar iron and steel branch of the business has been disposed of to George W. Gibbs & Co., and Crane & Co. have assumed charge of the plumbers' supply business, occupying a portion of the storeroom of the firm for that purpose. Miller, Sloss & Scott may take what is left, that firm having purchased the Sacramento branch of Huntington, Hopkins & Co. some months ago.

A member of the firm said yesterday that the cause of the discontinuance of business was that Messrs. Gallatin, Miller and Frye felt that they were getting too far along in life to longer continue in active business pursuits.

The statement published in one of the morning papers that one cause of the change was the competition of Chicago in iron goods was pronounced by a member of another large house dealing in the same kind of goods to be untrue. He states that the low rates from the East which the competition with the railroad by sea has brought about has enabled such dealers to undersell Chicago and other Eastern points in California markets.

A BAY MYSTERY.

Strange Disappearance of the Scow Ætna.

She Left for Oakland With Coal and Had Not Materialized Up to Last Night.

What has become of the scow-schooner Ætna?

At a late hour yesterday afternoon not a sign of her could be seen about the bay, and she had not arrived at her destination, Oakland Creek, although she sailed away for the estuary at 5:30 o'clock Wednesday evening from Main-street wharf.

Wednesday night the bay was as smooth as a mill pond, scarcely a breath of air ruffling its even surface, and a very gentle swell that rolled in through the Golden Gate was the only movement in the way of an undulation.

But the Ætna is gone. Whether she sailed away for some hidden cove on the other side of Angel or Alcatraz Island, spread out her sails, wing on wing, and was fanned away for San Pablo, or has gone to the bottom with her crew of two men, is what is bothering the scow's owner and spreading anxiety among the friends of Captain Johnson, who generally steered the Ætna during her dangerous voyages across six miles of bay water.

When the Ætna left Main street she had on board a load of coal and was pretty deep down in the water. She spread sail, stood away for the Oakland side, drifted slowly into the stream and when darkness closed in she was well over toward the creek entrance. Since then she has not been seen or heard of.

Mrs. Ketchell is managing owner of the Ætna. She detailed an agent to look for the scow as the vessel had not reached Oakland at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

Every wharf on the water front of San Francisco was inspected, but not a sign of the missing schooner could be discovered. Inquiry was made at Berkeley and Alameda, but no Ætna materialized. Much conjecture was indulged in by those who heard of the mysterious disappearance of the schooner, and it was suppositionally stated that she had "turned turtle" and gone to the bottom. It is not an impossibility by any means that this surmise is correct. If the vessel had been heavily laden and in addition carried a deck-load, as bay scow-schooners often do, she might have been capsized by a heavy swell from a passing ferry-boat.

The tide was running very strong Wednesday night and the Ætna may possibly have drifted toward the Contra Costa or Marin shore.

One man assisted Captain Johnson in handling the Ætna. The vessel is a scow-schooner of 22 tons gross register and was built in this city in 1885. She has been used to carry coal from Main street to the Davie Ferry Company's wharf in Oakland.

A LIVELY SESSION.

Some Disturbances at the Meeting of the Hale & Norcross Mining Co.

A special meeting of the stockholders of the Hale & Norcross Silver Mining Company was held yesterday to decide what disposition should be made of a number of shares purchased by the company at sales for unpaid assessments. The blocks of stock in question comprised 26,451 shares.

There were about 72,000 shares represented at the meeting. Three propositions were made for the disposal of the stock. Attorney Wells wished it divided among the other shareholders. E. Tingman thought it should be retained on the books of the company pending a higher market value, and J. W. Twiggs moved that the stock be sold at the Stock Board at not less than 50 cents a share. The latter suggestion was adopted by a vote of 63,278 shares.

Several lively scenes occurred during the meeting. A stockholder named Mrs. Callahan denounced President Messer and the other directors in such vehement terms and made such a continual disturbance that she was ejected by a policeman present. She returned to get the names of every one present as witnesses in the suit for damages which she stated she would commence against Mr. Messer for ejectment.

Mason-Street Synagogue.

The Mason-street Synagogue has elected the following named officers: President, A. Altmayer; Vice-President, L. Lazau; Secretary, M. Watterman; Treasurer, B. Reiss; directors, E. Raas, L. Klein, L. Blum, T. Stern and S. Adler. Rev. David Meyerson was unanimously re-elected to the post of cantor. A new and progressive rabbi will be engaged at once by the congregation, which hopes soon to build a magnificent temple in the neighborhood of Van Ness avenue.

Successful Teachers.

At the recent examination of applicants for teachers' certificates, held during September last, the holders of the following numbers were successful: Nos. 2690, 2692, 2696, 2697, 2698, 2699, 2700, 2701, 2702, 2705, 2706, 2707, 2708, 2714, 2716. No. 2711 received a special certificate in mathematical drawing; No. 2694 received a special certificate in German; No. 2695 received a special certificate in French. The successful numbers were announced at a meeting of the Board of Examiners held yesterday afternoon.

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SEE!!

The Singer Manufacturing Company's Four Great Exhibits at the World's Fair. The magnificent white and gold pavilion in Machinery Hall contains 194 machines, no two alike, showing all kinds of manufactures, from the widest inch-thick rubber belt to sewing in the thumb of a dainty silk glove.

In the Leather Building are two other large exhibits, illustrating over sixty-eight processes in shoe and leather work. The Family Sewing Machine Exhibit in the East Gallery, Manufactures Building, contains over 4,000 square feet of floor space. The first floor is devoted to Family Sewing Machines. The second floor is exclusively art work—a suite of three rooms—a modern reception hall, Henry VIII dining room and a XIX century bed chamber, are literally crowded with tapestry pictures, curtains, point laces, etc., etc., all made with the Singer Sewing Machine, without attachments.

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