

## HENRY FORD'S ANTI-SEMITIC CRUSADE

**H**AS international anti-Semitism struck the United States? The question is worth considering in connection with the appearance in Henry Ford's paper, the *Dearborn Independent*, of a series of articles attacking the Jews. These articles are linked by several critics with an amazing pamphlet, lately published in London and entitled "The Jewish Peril." Speculation is rife as to why Henry Ford has seemingly lent his name to just this kind of a crusade. We have not seen any editorial comment justifying his attitude. William Hard, in an article in the *Metropolitan* inspired by the London pamphlet, derides the "great Jewish conspiracy." The *American Hebrew* is intensely indignant, and answers in detail what it describes as "wicked half-truths and unabashed lies, the like of which we have never seen in an American English publication."

The articles in the *Dearborn Independent* are unsigned, but the Dearborn Publishing

Company and its officers, Henry Ford, president, C. J. Ford, vice-president, and E. B. Ford, secretary-treasurer, in response to a telegraphic query, accept "full responsibility" for their publication. The first article is entitled "The International Jew: The World's Problem." The second describes "Germany's Reaction Against the Jew." The third deals with "The Jew in the United States." They set out to show that the vengeful Jews of the world are united to capture and govern the world. This vengeance has already been wreaked not only upon Russia, where, at the present time, "every commissar is a Jew," but upon Germany, where, according to the argument, Jewish power is strongly enthroned. "In England the Jew is charged with being the real world ruler who rules, as a super-nation over the nations, rules by the power of gold, and who plays nation against nation for his own purposes, remaining himself discreetly in the background. In

America it is pointed out to what extent the elder Jews of wealth and the younger Jews of ambition swarmed through the war organizations—principally those departments which dealt with the commercial and industrial business of war, and also the extent to which they have clung to the advantage which their experience as agents of the government gave them."

The writer of the article dealing with Germany tries to show that "the main source of the sickness of the German national body is charged to the influence of the Jew." The collapse which followed the armistice, the German revolution, from which the Germans are prevented from recovering, is "the result of Jewish intrigue and purpose." When he comes to definite specifications, the writer says:

"What occurred immediately upon the change from the old regime to the new? The cabinet composed of six men, which substituted the Minister of State, was dominated by the Jews Haase and Landsberg. Haase had control of foreign affairs; his assistant was the Jew Kautsky, a Czech, who in 1918 was not even a German citizen. Also associated with Haase were the Jews Cohn and Herzfeld. The Jew Schiffer was Financial Minister of State, assisted by the Jew Bernstein. The Secretary of the Interior was the Jew Preuss, with the Jew Dr. Freund for his assistant. The Jew Fritz Max Cohen, who was correspondent of the *Frankfurter Zeitung* in Copenhagen, was made government publicity agent.

"The kingdom of Prussia duplicated this condition of affairs."

The writer intimates that "it is impossible for the Jew to be a patriot." As he puts it:

"The Jews of Germany were not German patriots during the war, and altho this will not appear a crime in the eyes of the nations who



THE BOLSHEVIST AND THE BANKER

Boardman Robinson's conception (in the *Metropolitan*) of the way in which the anti-Semite regards the Jew.

were opposed to Germany, it may throw some light on the Jew's assertion of patriotic loyalty to the land where he lives. Thoughtful Germans hold that it is impossible for the Jew to be a patriot."

Passing on to speak of the Jews in America, the writer traces their increase, during a period of fifty years, from 50,000 to more than 3,300,000. Luis de Torres, the first man to set foot on American soil, was, it seems, a Jew and, incidentally, the discoverer of the use of tobacco. He "may be said to be the father of Jewish control of the tobacco business as it exists to-day." At the present time, New York City is a citadel of Jewish strength. "The very land of the city is practically the holdings of the Jews.

A list of the property-owners of the Metropolis reveals only at rare intervals a Gentile name." The writer continues:

"To make a list of the lines of business controlled by the Jews of the United States would be to touch most of the vital industries of the country—those which are really vital, and those which cultivated habit has made to seem vital. The theatrical business, of course, as everyone knows, is exclusively Jewish. Play-producing, booking, theater operation are all in the hands of Jews. This perhaps accounts for the fact that in almost every production today can be detected propaganda, sometimes glaringly commercial advertisement, which does not originate with playwrights, but with producers.

"The motion picture industry.

"The sugar industry.

"The tobacco industry.

"Fifty per cent or more of the meat packing industry.

"Upward of 60 per cent of the shoemaking industry.

"Men's and women's ready-made clothing.

"Most of the musical purveying done in the country.

"Jewelry.

"Grain.

"More recently, cotton.

"The Colorado smelting industry.

"Magazine authorship.

"News distribution.

"The loan business.

"These, only to name the industries with national and international sweep, are in control of the Jews of the United States, either alone or in association with Jews overseas."

The culmination of the argument appears in a passage which purports to tell how Gentile Germany and Russia look at the entire Jewish question:

"Judaism is the most closely organized power on earth, even more than the British Empire. It forms a State whose citizens are unconditionally loyal wherever they may be and whether rich or poor.

"The name which is given in Germany to this State which circulates among all the states is 'All-Judaan.'

"The means of power of the State of All-Judaan are capital and journalism, or money and propaganda.

"All-Judaan is the only State that exercises world government; all the other states can and may exercise national government only.

"The principal culture of All-Judaan is journalistic; the technical, scientific, literary

performances of the modern Jew are throughout journalistic performances. They are due to the marvelous talent of the Jews for receptivity of others' ideas. Capital and Journalism are joined in the Press to create a political and spiritual medium of Jewish power.

"The government of this State of All-Judaan is wonderfully organized. Paris was its first seat, but has now been moved to third place. Before the war London was its first, and New York its second capital. It remains to be seen whether New York will now supplant London—the drift is toward America."

The *American Hebrew*, in heated reply to the Ford articles, flatly contradicts many of the statements made. Jewish control of the press and of capital it pronounces mythical. The assertion that "every commissar in Russia today is a Jew" is dismissed as untrue. The aspersions on Jewish patriotism are met by the declaration: "We can bring tens of thousands of English, French and American men from Ypres, the Marne, and Vimy Ridge, from Chateau Thierry to St. Mihiel, to Sedan, who will peel off their coats, roll up their sleeves and cast, in quick action, into the teeth of Mr. Ford and his author the assertion that 'it is impossible for the Jew to be a patriot.'" With reference to the statement regarding a preponderance of Jews among the landowners of New York, the *American Hebrew* asks: "Has anything more deliberate been palmed off on the American reading public? Have Ford and his anti-Semitic propagandists ever heard of Astor, Bennett, Brady, Clafin, Eno, Gould, Havemeyer, Juillard, Sage, Spencer, Trask and Vanderbilt?" With further reference to "the bogey of Jewish control" in America, the *American Hebrew* says: "Of course, statistics and names are absolutely lacking. When Mr. Ford publishes these names and statistics in his *Dearborn Independent*, we should like to have him also publish the names, statistics, and especially the religious affiliations of those who control such essential industries as these: Automobiles, coal, food-stuffs, finance, iron, oil, steel, transportation."

As the best antidote to the Ford articles, the *American Hebrew* and the American Jewish press generally recommend a reading of William Hard's "Great Jewish Conspiracy" article in the *Metropolitan*. Mr.

Hard makes fun of the alleged Jewish plot to overthrow the powers and principalities of the world and to set in their place "a great Jewish autocracy or secret super-government or something." He argues that the Jews are too much divided among themselves to be able to present a united front.

In Washington, Mr. Hard reminds us, Baron Gunzberg, a Jew, is fighting the dictatorship of the proletariat as a faithful official in the anti-Bolshevik Russian Embassy of Ambassador Bakhmetev. In New York, the anti-Bolshevik propaganda campaign is conducted through the Russian Information Bureau by a Jew—Mr. Sack. Among the contributors to Mr. Sack's magazine are Jacob H. Schiff and Stephen S. Wise.

Rabbi Wise is a Zionist. If there is anything on which the Jews might be in theory expected to unite, it would be Zionism. Mr. Hard asks us to observe the working of that theory in life:

"The Jews of the extreme 'Left' refuse overwhelmingly to be interested in Zionism. The rich Jews are interested so tepidly that for quite a while now, as I utter these words, the Zionist Organization in America has been trying to raise the sum of \$10,000,000 without succeeding in raising half of it. The Zionist Movement has grown and spread its branches and come to flower without any indebtedness to the extreme 'Left' and only lately with any to the extreme 'Right' in any degree worth mentioning. For years Theodor Herzl, founding modern political Zionism, pleaded it in vain to the mass of wealthy Jewry.

"At this minute in New York it is notorious that the extreme Right among the Jews is still heavily streaked with indifference to Zionism or even with hostility to it and meanwhile in Russia it is notorious that Trotsky repudiates Jewish nationalism—namely Zionism—along with every other nationalism and that the Zionist branch of the Moscow Jewish Social Democratic Party has bitterly attacked the Bolshevik government—as quoted for instance in the Moscow *Izvestia* of September 7, 1918.

"This Jewish people has radicals like Karl Marx and Tories like Disraeli and nationalists like Miller and internationalists like Trotsky, and on its own essential historical compelling project of a national home in Palestine it is a hail storm of dispute, first on the project itself and then on every detail of it as it is consummated, with Israel Zangwill believing in a national home but trying to establish it some-

where in Africa and finally rending his clothes and crying, 'I have wasted my life trying to unite the Jews.'

"The sheer, bare, unadorned fact is that this people has been a stiff-necked and individually self-opinionated and socially quarrelsome and factious people ever since the murmurings against Moses in the wilderness down to the last volley of language between a Jewish ribbon-manufacturer and a Jewish trade-union shop committeeman on the East Side of New York."

In a signed editorial, published in the Hearst papers, Arthur Brisbane regrets that "race hatred, taking a new lease of life, appears in the Far West in a weekly newspaper owned by Henry Ford, one of the most useful citizens in this country." He adds:

"Hatred of Jews and ignorance concerning them that marked the Middle Ages disgrace any man in this age, and are especially unworthy of such a man as Henry Ford.

"What cunning instigation persuades Mr. Ford to deal with a subject he does not understand, to attack a race of whose achievements and history he is ignorant, and to use the great influence of his name and the slight influence of his newspaper harmfully?

"Mr. Ford should remember how he himself has been ignorantly or maliciously attacked and hated. As an antidote to prejudice and lies handed down through centuries there are here offered to Ford and others a few facts.

—"You are told that Jews reap the harvest of those that dare, that they do not take risk on their own account.

"What about the Phœnicians? They were of the Semitic race. They were first to sail from the Mediterranean through the Straits of Gibraltar out into the wild Atlantic.

"They were first to open the tin mines of England, first daring explorers in many lands.

"And they WERE FIRST TO NAVIGATE OUT OF SIGHT OF LAND, traveling at night by the stars—they had no compass—risking shipwreck in fog or cloudy weather.

"Does that show lack of enterprize or physical courage?

"Men ask, 'What have Jews contributed to the intellect of the world?'

"Three books have influenced the human mind above others—Homer, Æsop's Fables and the Bible.

"The Jews wrote the Bible and gave Christianity to the world. The mother of Christ was a Jewess—especially chosen, undoubtedly, for nobility of character and purity of soul.

"That fact alone should make 'Christians' hesitate to condemn Jews indiscriminately."