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MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.

Series II: Harold P. Manson File (Zionism Files), 1940-1949, undated.

Sub-series A: Main Manson File, 1940-1949.

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Sulzburger, Cyrus L., 1917-1942.

Cyrus L. Sulzberger

"Originally a vice-president of the Federation of American Zionists, he dissociated himself from the nationalist ideology. But he recognized the cultural value of the Zionist Movement, and after a visit to Palestine he threw himself actively into the campaign to raise funds for The Hebrew University, and was a member of the American advisory council." Universal Jewish Encyclopedia - C.L.Sulzberger v.10 p.99
article by Morris D. Waldman

He also met two fellow New Yorkers, Cyrus L. Sulzberger and his wife, (11) who became ardent Zionists after meeting Herzl and attending the Congress. Note 11, Zulzberger later became vice-president of the Federation of American Zionists but, according to Bluestone, resigned because of differences with the administration.
American Jewish Historical Society No. 35 "Memoirs and Scrapbooks of Dr. Bluestone-Grinstein." p.59

Never a avowed Zionist, so far as I know, the Zionist Organization has always had in him a friend, prepared to fight its battle especially in those days when to be a Zionist was not altogether the pleasantest thing. Unable to go along with Zionism in its political implications, he has always recognized its cultural value to American Jewry, and when anti-Zionism for a time sought to become militant in its attitude - even to the extent of discriminating against Zionists - he, like Louis Marshall and Oscar Straus and Felix M. Warburg - stood staunchly by that group of fanatic youngsters who were jeopardizing their careers for the sake of an ideal.

That he went to Palestine to see for himself, that he is now active in raising funds for the Hebrew University, that he contributes to Zionist funds, is characteristic of Cyrus L. Sulzberger, just as it was characteristic of him to address Zionist meetings, and to say there publicly that ^{he} is not a Zionist."

Cyrus L. Sulzberger is Seventy by A.H.Fromenson American Hebrew July 13, 1928
p.286

PALESTINE

February 1937

Arthur Hays Sulzberger

I have been told that I view pictures incorrectly, and that when I go through a gallery I should have an approach other than whether this or that picture is one which I would like to own. I admit that this is the way in which I appraise each canvas. I also admit that it indicates neither a real appreciation of art nor an understanding of the artist's purpose. It is a purely personal reaction -- one, however, which is real for me and implies at least a standard of my own.

There is undoubtedly something of this in my approach to the problems of Palestine, Zionism, and the Jews. I find myself up to now quite unable to view these problems objectively -- Arthur Sulzberger is continually intruding himself in my mental processes, and until I've worked out the degree to which this takes place I can't permit myself to trust my conclusions.

There is a land where people talk of a Jewish State -- where Judaism is a race. One man summed it up very clearly for me -- he had no thought, as some did, that the country could support the entire Jewish population of the world. He said rather that Palestine should be a Jewish State of one million to one million and a half Jews; that this State could be represented at the League of Nations, and as such supply a base for protecting Jews throughout the world in the same way that Holland protects its nationals no matter where located.

The Emir Abdallah of Transjordan with whom I lunched at Amman, gave expression to the same point of view in a somewhat different manner. He stated that Jews were regarded by the Arabs as the lowest of the low -- at one time he called them dogs -- at another, flies which, when brushed off, settled elsewhere -- and all because they had no land of their own, because they could always be driven away. (He hastened to assure me that this was not his own point of view, which it obviously was but represented rather the opinion of the Arab generally.) The answer was clear -- give the Jew a land of his own which he could defend and he would instantly grow in stature among people

where might is still the determining factor -- and where is it not? And again little Mrs. Wingate, the charming, vivacious wife of Captain Wingate of the British Intelligence Service, held that the Jew is disliked everywhere for reasons which she thinks are frequently to his credit. Give him this land, said she. He has indicated how he can wrest it from the wilderness in which the Arab has been content to leave it these many years. Let the Jew continue to develop his horticulture and his culture equally intensively, and a physical and spiritual wealth will again flow from the Holy Land.

And now insistently comes the question -- How does this affect Arthur Hays Sulzberger, an American by every standard, a Jew in his religious life only? America is, after all, the home of those who have selected it. It has no long line of reformed feudal lords who still secretly regard the land as theirs and the king as their creature. It has no inbred aristocracy. To America came those who sought a new life and among them, very early in the procession, came my forebears. In all the wars of America, and in the making of its laws, they played an honorable part. No one could say to them, you are a stranger here. No one could say, you do not belong. Judaism and Americanism never came into conflict. Their only association was that by being a good Jew just as by being a good Methodist or Catholic one became a better American.

The first effect of Palestine upon me, therefore, was one of deep resentment, for here dwelt an assortment of people -- Moslems, Christians, and Jews, who regarded the Jew as a race in search of its own land. The Arab, of course, did not wish the Jew to dominate, but the fact that he legitimately sought his own nation was not questioned. The ages since the religion and the land were one were "but as yesterday when it is past", and by the reasoning applied, if the Jew was to have this land as his own then in any and in every land save this he was a foreigner.

I have travelled pretty well over the face of the earth, but never have I felt so much a foreigner as in this Holy Land. To the streets of Cuzco, of Peiping. of Esneh or Nizni Novgorod I was attracted. Here was something different from that to which I was accustomed -- colorful -- ancient -- full of strange odors and strange sights -- strange peoples and strange ways -- but in none of them did I feel so much

a stranger. There I was an American viewing how the rest of the world lived -- seeking a view of their civilization -- comparing it with my own -- searching for common beginnings or collateral developments. But in Palestine I was told by every act, every thought and every gesture, "You are one of these people -- you are a foreigner in America -- here you belong". I looked at these Jews and knew it was not so. I was a Jew religiously, they racially and nationally. If there was to be any emotional conflict between America as my land and this as my land I must choose America, even if that were to mean that I can no longer be a Jew. Yet why should I not continue to call my monotheistic conception of Divinity -- Judaism?

Here was the philosophy of Woodrow Wilson being carried to a reductio ad absurdum. Are the Celts to be rebuilt as a nation, or the Angles or the Saxons? Must that which is England now have these groups ripped apart -- sifted from the Norman and other infiltrations, and each go back to its own original locale? Or are only Jews to be taken from the lands which they have made their own because their religious beliefs were sufficiently developed at the period of their dispersion that time has forced no fundamental changes upon their creed -- with the result that religiously they have held to themselves and are easily discernible.

With a full realization that countless Germans could make practically this statement, yet now find themselves in Palestine despite their theories, I must none the less state my own views. These are my prejudices. I have weighed them and set them down as frankly as I know them. Now to the problem itself.

Irrespective of whether or not I believe it to be an error for the Jew again to turn his face toward Jerusalem, the fact remains that after centuries of prayer he has been permitted to do so. The problem before us, therefore, is not should the Jew come to Palestine in large numbers and set up his own civilization. That is a fait accompli. The question is rather should the Jew be permitted to continue to enter Palestine in such quantities that he will outnumber the Arab, so that when the country is given a greater freedom by the Mandatory Power he will be able to shape his legislation entirely to his own ends by outvoting the Arab.

His way is that he
will outnumber Arabs!
"outvote" Arabs!

The Zionist answers this question affirmatively. He is justly proud of what he has accomplished in but a short time. Not only does he cause water to run from the rocks, but milk and honey again flow in the land, and the milk is pure and has a high yield of butter fat. A land which might have been populated chiefly with enthusiasts has, due to the Hitler regime, become a nucleus of brain power not only unique in this part of the world, but vastly more concentrated than in any land. With this enthusiasm and high order of intelligence, supported with funds from without and backed by British bayonets there can be no compromising as the Zionist sees it. Forward is the command!

I recall many years ago when in the Army I was temporarily put in charge of the mess. The officer who have previously been responsible was one of those who should never have been commissioned. The kitchen was filthy, -- the store room worse -- the flies were everywhere. The colonel took me in, started to point out this and that, in fact everything needed some attention. I asked him please to give me two days and then return. Never have I done a job that was more fun than this where I started not at scratch, but way behind the line. But the handicap was actually in my favor, for while I had to rip out what was already installed, the contrast which I was able to create became all the greater. That, as I see it, is the opportunity which the Jews have in Palestine vis a vis the Arab and even my brief visit of one week permits me to bear testimony that they have seized it with both hands.

Nor is the Englishman oblivious of this improvement. These with whom I came in contact appreciate the cleaning up enriching process that is taking place. The British interest in Palestine will continue so long as the Suez Canal separates Africa from Asia Minor, and so long as Great Britain retains her farflung empire. And just so long the British will favor the Jewish development of Palestine up to the limit of where they believe it will weaken their position with the Moslem and Arab world. For it is unfortunate for the Zionist that the nearly million Arabs (predominantly Moslems) who live in the Holy Land have so many blood and spiritual brothers outside its borders over whom the British Flag flies either covertly or openly. Otherwise one senses that the British conception

of the "white man's burden" would find expression by removing all restrictions upon immigration and that the consequences would be entirely to the English liking. A Palestine controlled by the Jews could always be counted upon in the event of war, whereas war now seems but an invitation to a second Arab Revolt, this time against the British Empire.

Even the Arab in his calmer moments must admit that the Jew has benefitted the land. He refuses to admit, however, that he has benefitted the Arab. If the Arab has more money to spend it is because he has foolishly sold his land to the invader, and shortly he will be without both land and money. His leaders recall the promise of freedom which formed the basis for the Arab revolt during the War, and are unable to recall any exception made in the case of Palestine. That the Balfour Declaration promised this land to the Jews as a National Home is just too bad. It's always too bad when two people have been made promises that are irreconcilable. And so the Arab leaders say, "We are in the majority now and we intend to remain that way; what is more, we want a greater measure of autonomy so that the weight of our numbers can be felt against the Jew who up to now has received special attention."

The charge is made that these Arab leaders are insincere -- that despite their protests they have sold land to the Jews and will continue to sell if they get the proper price. Whether or not that is true seems to me to be immaterial. The fact remains and that they have in their possession a legitimate case/that they are taking a full measure of advantage from it throughout their world. The position of the Jew in Syria, Yemen and Iraq, the possibility of Jewish immigration into these and other Arab lands hang, as all here will admit, upon the removal from the Palestine Arab of the threat of Jewish numerical superiority. 14

There is in Palestine a small group of Jews and Arabs who, it seems to me, offer the best solution, if it can be called that, for this extraordinary problem. I question whether it can be called a solution because it is based upon compromise, a compromise which, for the time being at least, maintains the minority status of the Jew in Palestine. Their thesis comprises a truce over a limited period, say of ten years, in the hope that it may be renewed over further periods. It would be based upon the following main points:

Jews should retain minority status!

Arabs would welcome
in in fact if they
of J. movement before
was over

a) Fixing a satisfactory maximum of Jewish immigration over that period, say 40%.

At present the Jews number about 30% -- 400,000 to 1,000,000 Arabs. To increase to 40% would probably permit an annual immigration for the Jews of about 30,000 per year for the ten years. Allowing for a normal Jewish growth of 100,000 and 300,000 immigration, a total of 800,000 Jews would be involved. If the Arabs grow from their present 1,000,000 to 1,200,000, it will thus mean a total population of 2,000,000, with Jews 40% of the total. Thus very far from a complete restriction of immigration would be imposed thereby avoiding what would be a calamity in view of what has happened in Germany and other countries. Unrestricted immigration, however, would be the height of folly. Not only would it create a crisis in the Near East, but most certainly countries like Poland and Rumania would accentuate the effort to move their Jewish populations to this mandated territory. Palestine is and will always be unable to absorb the Jewish population of the world. It therefore should not be advertised as a Jewish homeland. Countries with large Jewish populations must be made to realize that they face only the alternatives of living with their Jews, or killing them either spiritually or physically. They cannot solve their problems by shifting them to the Holy Land.

b) Adequate safeguards for the fellah and the tenant farmer in land sales.

The point here is that if the Jews offer a big price for land and it is sold, the Arab tenant farmer should be protected. Also an actual owner should be protected against his own short-sightedness.

c) Equitable distribution of labor and other employment among both communities.

d) Greater participation of both Jews and Arabs in government.

One point of the greatest importance, however, must be borne in mind -- the Jew who is now in Palestine must be permitted to live there in peace and dignity -- otherwise he will die, not of a broken heart, but fighting. That simple request of the Jew everywhere to be permitted to "walk with dignity" has here been granted. The verb may be changed to "die", but the attribute must and will remain unchanged. The Jew has sensed the strength that comes from standing shoulder to shoulder with a brother -- he has felt the power that comes from being once again a ruling class -- he has known the joy of group creation. And

Should not be advertised as J. Homeland.

so whether I think he should be a race or not, or a nationality or not, he has found something that binds him into a unit. I remember once arguing with Alexis Carrell that it was not race that held the Jews together, but an ability to comprehend by reason of like circumstances. Possibly that is the bond which now unites them. Its effect where propinquity exists, however, is very different than where the Jew is scattered in every land. In Palestine at least, he has been created into a nation -- a people with common ideals and aspirations, common traditions, common fears. Those very factors which make me an American in my land make him a Zionist in Palestine.

*but Pal. must be advertised as a
Jewel Homeland!...*



Zionist Army - Ed. N. Y. T. 1/22/42

A resolution intro. in the House of Reps. recently by M. Somers of N.Y. requests Pres. R. to petition Gt. Br. "to take such action as may be necessary to permit the organ. of all-Jew. military units in Pal." There has been no action on this resolution, but the proposal which it advances has received the endorsement of some members of the Govt, and a number of deeply sincere & well-meaning people, moved by sympathy for the suffering of Jews in Govt & Axis controlled lands, they are either urging its adoption or are lending their names to the Z. cause.

For 2 reasons we believe that these well-meaning people are mistaken and that it would be unwise for the U.S. to attempt to bring pressure to bear upon the Br. Govt in this matter. The 1st reason is practical. It is no secret that the Br. Govt is opposed to the plan for creating separate Jew. military units, tho it has welcomed the enlistment of Jews in the Br. forces & tho thousands of Jews are now serving under Br. colors in Pal. & N. Af. The reason for the reluctance to create separate military units is, of course, the long standing hostility of the Arabs in the middle East to the proposal to establish a Zionist state in Pal.

* the consequent fear of the Br. Govt that the creation of a separate Zionist army would provoke an Arab uprising precisely at a time when the defense of the whole M.E. area is already a difficult problem. True the Br. Govt itself is not free of responsibility for the situation that would be created. During the 1st World War it made contradictory promises to the Arabs & the Zionists, & these contradictions have lived to plague it ever since. But the unbroken record of the past is not in itself a sufficient reason for adding to the problems of the Br. Govt now by attempting to bring pressure to bear on it to go against its better judgment.

Our second reason for regretting indirect action & for opposing the use of official Amer. influence in this manner & to this purpose is theoretical rather than practical, but it seems to us to be still more important. The primary reason for the creation of a separate Zionist army at this time would be, of course, to establish a Zionist state as one

of the official war aims of the U. Nations
grant that Pal. has been a place of refuge
for a large no. of persecuted people, &
that when the war is over, there may be
some from Axis territories who will prefer
to migrate to it or to other lands rather
than face the unhappy memories assoc.
with the past. But the wisdom of
Zionist objectives has been questioned
by many people, including many
who are themselves of Jew, faith;
& much misunderstanding may
arise among people of other faiths
if this objection comes to be regarded
as an expression of the full hopes
of Jews & of those who would fight
the wrongs done them. These hopes
can't be achieved by the creation of
a Zionist state. They can be achieved
only by the fulfillment of the Atlantic
Charter - by the winning of a new
world in which Jews along with other
religions & national minorities may live
peaceably & happily in every nation,
enjoying the full rights of other citizens

twelve, and were down to six, which is the lowest ebb, by Nov. 11. Now they have risen, in the week ended Nov. 18, but risen only to seventeen. In all this period there was only one week of actual activity, and even in that week the sinkings were only twenty-five.

THE ZIONISTS.

The occasions and the opportunities for making and remaking history which the worldwide war presents are everywhere objects of absorbing interest, but perhaps they have nowhere been more attentively studied than by those of the Jewish race who look upon the impending fall of Jerusalem and the establishment of a British protectorate in Palestine as offering the promise of a restoration of the Jewish nationality. This aspiration, to which the name of Zionism has usually been given, is by no means universal among the Jewish people, many of whose leaders see dangers lurking in the attempt to realize the dream of a political establishment. Multitudes of orthodox Jews still cherish the belief that the return to Zion is to be preceded by the coming of ELIJAH, and among these there is either indifference to the proposed establishment of the Jewish State or doubt as to the wisdom of the movement.

Jews have wept as they remembered Zion, but those of modern ways of thinking understand that the course of history is not easily retraced. Giving due weight to the influence of national feeling, locally acquired, upon their co-religionists in the countries where they have lived during "diaspora," or dispersion, they fear that the Zionist project might involve the possibility of a recurrence of anti-Semitism. It is a question of the greatest importance to the future of those of the Jewish faith and manifestly one to be decided by cool judgment rather than by the impulses of enthusiasm. A study of the practical working of attempts at repatriation wherever they have been made would serve as a safeguard against errors which might be committed under the guidance of yearning and idealism. The proposal has been made that the problem might be solved by the establishment of colonies in Palestine under the protection of Great Britain and France and the United States, and this suggestion has met with a good deal of favor among Jews who have given consideration to the practical side of the Zionist movement.

HAIG NEARING BELGIUM.

The advance of the British Army almost to the gates of Cambrai puts General HAIG well in the lead in the push for the Belgian frontier, and it suggests an inquiry into the progress the Allies are making in their joint operations to expel the Germans from French territory. Something like a deadlock still exists on the line Ypres-Dixmude-Nieuport to the north, although there are signs of a breakup east of shell-scarred Ypres, and the British are still outside Lens; but from Arras to St. Quentin trench warfare, as a problem for the British offensive, is practically nonexistent; or, to put it in another way, when the British decide to push on the enemy fails to hold them back. The operations are in such a fluid state that to speak of trench warfare in connection with them conveys no suggestion of a deadlock.

With Cambrai in front of him, Sir DOUGLAS HAIG's memories of the retreat from Mons must be less bitter when he reflects that the British are now headed for the Belgian frontier, which is not very far away. Sir JOHN FRENCH's expeditionary army was driven back in ten days 140 miles, from Mons to Lagny and Courtagnon, the latter south of the Marne and thirty miles southeast of Meaux. Most of

few miles; in the Spring of this year Bapaume and Péronne were captured, another gain on the road back to the Belgian frontier, but still only a few miles. Then came the battle of Arras, which placed Cambrai within striking distance; but it was not until the Battle of the Tanks, which has set all the world wondering, that several miles in one day, in this case six, could be marked up to the credit of the patient and resourceful HAIG. Today a British airman at a high altitude should be able to see in a clear medium the plains of Belgium through his binoculars. Another blow such as the British have struck in the neighborhood of Cambrai and it will not be a long way to the frontier.

THE RAILWAY SETTLEMENT.

The conference between the President and the railway trainmen puts everything in the way of settlement without, in fact, settling anything except that there shall be no strike. With that settled, the greatest obstacle to granting the trainmen all that they ought to have disappears. So long as they negotiated under threat of a strike they prejudiced their own cause by the appearance of asking for what they wanted with a threat of action contrary to the public interest. On the other hand, the unreserved submission of the railways to the President's award created a presumption in their favor which it was necessary that the trainmen should remove, if they wished to appeal to public opinion on terms of equality. Under such conditions, the trainmen could not hope to obtain treatment so considerate as that which will be accorded them now that the antagonism created by their menace has been removed.

It does not follow that the trainmen will or should receive all that they asked. It is conceded that they ought to have generous treatment. The railways must be kept running, and the wages necessary for that purpose must be paid. It is idle to argue about it. There is no alternative. But that is different from conceding that the trainmen's demands must be satisfied. Nobody is asking the trainmen to man the railways at a sacrifice to themselves. But the trainmen have no standing to ask that the railways shall be operated at greater cost than is necessary. No blame attaches to them for asking more than the railways can pay, or, perhaps, more than the trainmen expected to get. That is the customary manner of procedure. As unionists they are not guardians of public interest. As unionists it is their right, even their duty, to make the best collective bargain they can. Only in their capacity as citizens is there ground for suggesting to them that there are economic limits to humanity.

This brings out the difference between the situation of the President and either the railways or the trainmen, alone or together. The President is charged only with the public interests. Wages and profits are nothing to him as President. He must keep the railways running with prime regard to the public interests. The antagonisms between labor and capital, the equal necessity that both shall have a living wage, can be considered only secondarily. It might be necessary that the public should contribute to the cost of keeping either party to the wage contract in working condition. That would be better than to have the railways inefficient because either side of the contract had been starved into incapacity for work. But before giving assistance from public funds there ought to be a demonstration of its necessity. If the joint product of the railways and the trainmen can earn the upkeep for both of them, it would be better than that outdoor relief at the common cost should be given either or both of them. That solution would be both economic and humane.

eyesore to the vigilant Tammany watchdogs of the treasury.

Tammany talks of going to Albany next year to ask the Republican Legislature to abolish the Court House Board, whose members are getting no pay, and to ask for legislation, "if any legislation should be necessary," to kill the new Court House for all time. Thus Tammany is to show its passion for "economy," and if the Legislature, as is certain, finds a city too poor to build a Court House too poor to indulge the Monte Cristian dream of municipal ownership, why, Tammany can point to the defeat of its efforts therefor by wicked Republican partisanship.

It is hard to believe that the intelligent leaders of Tammany are making anything more than a political manoeuvre. The Judges and the lawyers who complained so bitterly about conditions in the ramshackle Tweed Court House will have something to say about the "abandonment" of a project which the Board of Estimate postponed more than a year and a half ago on account of the risen and rising cost of construction and the shrinking of the city's borrowing limit caused by the subway appropriations. The site cannot be given up unless the Legislature changes its mind, a contingency not to be apprehended. The State had the power, and by statute exerted it, to provide for the erection of a Court House where courts are to sit which are a part of the State judiciary system. The act is mandatory. The Board of Estimate had no choice in the matter. In 1915 the Corporation Counsel held that "the State has imposed a mandatory duty to erect a Court House under this act, and that the project cannot be abandoned."

So much for the Tammany pretense of doubt if legislation is needed to end the new Court House project. It is needed, and it cannot be had, and Tammany knows it. The State will see that its courts are adequately housed, when a more propitious time for building comes.

Since Tammany is now proposing to act in accordance with the legends which it has spread about the new Court House, it may interest the public to hear the true story. In 1902 the movement for a worthy successor to Mr. TWEED's monument began. In 1903 the Legislature required the appointment of a Court House Commission and the provision by the city of funds for site and structure. In October, 1911, when Judge GARNER was Mayor, these requirements were made severely mandatory, and the time to choose the site was limited to six months. From that time to this, the city has done what the Legislature prescribed. The Corporate Stock Committee of the Fusion Board of Estimate at the time was against the project and wished to remodel the Tweed Court House. The Judges, various civic bodies, most of the newspapers, insisted on the other plan. It was the Legislature, by them persuaded, that approved that plan and the work on it.

Site after site had been selected and rejected, for cause. The present site, the least expensive and most convenient suitable site, was chosen on the advice of expert engineers and architects. Collect Pond as a hidden enemy of sound and cheap foundation of the proposed Court House is mere cock-and-bullism against categorical engineering authority. More land than was needed was bought, by taking advantage of the principle of "excess condemnation." Thus the land not needed will ultimately be sold at the increased valuation which a great improvement is sure to produce. This is a financial consideration which Tammany will do well to bear in mind. The cost of the previous sites studied by the Court House Board ranged from \$12,000,000 to \$18,000,000. The cost of the actual site, when the "excess" land has been

of an important defeat into a glorious victory.

Perhaps this should be called a method of delaying news—of letting the facts come out slowly in order that their force may be weakened—rather than an attempt permanently to misinform. Certainly not all Germans will refrain from looking up on their maps the names of the villages mentioned in the official outgivings, and these are enough to reveal just how large was the area described as "a little ground," and they can discover, by measuring the distance between Cambrai and Fontaine Notre Dame, how far beyond the Hindenburg line the British had penetrated before they reached a place they could not hold.

Investigation of this sort takes time, however, and a majority of the German population have neither the inclination nor the facilities for making it. They prefer to accept the news as provided by their masters, and, as the truth slowly filters down to them, they can postpone its acceptance by the ever-convenient exclamations about "British lies." In these battles along extensive fronts, too, there are always points where the attack is a complete or comparative failure—where the losses of the assailants have been heavy. These points are always mentioned in the German reports, and mentioned as if they were the whole battle.

The German press of necessity permits itself to be used for the concealment and distortion of facts, and there was evidence yesterday to show that the papers went even further than did the military publicity officers in minimizing the severest reverse yet suffered on the western front. But, after all, such expedients are nothing less than desperate, and terrible will be the penalty for them except in one contingency—ultimate victory for those who resort to them.

Cynics who observe that recent changes in the bills of fare offered by many New York hotels have not been accompanied by a congruous lowering of prices may say—and in fact do—that the smaller portions and the absence of certain foods are not wholly unrelated to a yearning on the part of the hotel keepers for larger profits.

How much of basis there may be for this suspicion in some cases is a matter of small consequence—of none at all, indeed, in comparison with the unquestionable fact that these changes have resulted in the saving of meat by the hundreds of tons and of wheat by the hundreds of bushels every week since they began.

The exact figures showing the amounts of various foods that thus have been left available for export to our allies, and for diminishing scarcity and therefore prices in the domestic market, have come from the Federal Commissioner in Washington, and the totals as printed yesterday were impressive. No patrons of the hotels and restaurants that have established wheatless and meatless days have suffered at all from hunger in consequence, nor would there be any painful deprivations if this excellent example were followed by all other establishments of the same kind.

The number doing it is steadily increasing, but in this field, as in so many others, it seems that the presence and activity of the alien enemy have been revealed. For while some of the providers of public tables have merely been slow in joining the movement, others have refused to do so because they are out of sympathy with its object, which is, of course, to increase the military efficiency of Germany's foes. That there are places where that feeling of antagonism prevails is definitely charged by those who ought to know, and presumably do know, of what they speak. In those places not only is it asserted that no efforts to save are made, but that there is carried out a deliberate purpose to consume more than the ordinary quantity of just the foods in regard to which economy should be practiced.

The accusation probably cannot be proved definitely. It is too plausible, however, to be dismissed as incredible by anybody who reads the daily revelations of what a minute, but industrious and not negligible, fraction of our population is doing.

While protests against the exemption of baseball players from military service lack the unanimity in baseball circles they would have if all of the league officials, club managers, and players were as wise and as patriotic as they should be, it is yet encouraging to observe that the true quality of President JOHNSON's astounding proposal is appreciated in those circles as well as out of it. And of its originator it can at least be said that it has not taken him long to realize his mistake. For already he is saying that his purpose in formulating his demand was merely to start a discussion of the subject.

Successfully Started Discussion.

ART NOTES.

First Exhibition of the Taos Society of Artists.

The Taos Society of Artists is holding its first exhibition at the Hotel Majestic. The art colony of Taos is very well known throughout the United States and this society, formed two years ago, comprises nine members, E. Irving Couse, Bert G. Phillips, Ernest I. Blumenschein, J. H. Sharp, W. Herbert Dunton, O. E. Berninghaus, Victor Higgins, Walter Ufer, and Julius Rolshoven. The Taos Indian is shown in the paintings engaged in his various activities, remarkably mild in aspect for a type that has resisted invasion and change through many centuries. Walter Ufer paints a Laguna Indian interior which testifies also to a high degree of cleanliness, the clothes of the inhabitants and the walls of the primitive shelter wearing a shining morning face innocent of either dirt or untidiness. Mr. Rolshoven's portraits of "Summe Deer," "Eagle," and "Rain Cloud," are as dashing as Mr. Henri's, but have a certain surface polish and finish which the painter of sophisticated types is more apt to avoid, one may infer, than the painter of the so-called "savage." The pure blues and blond yellows in the street scenes by Victor Higgins interpose the color of New Mexico with a charming radiant delicacy. Mr. Berninghaus strikes a pleasant narrative note in "His Favorite Pony," and the bluish pallor of his color is echoed in Mr. Dunton's "The Range Rider." Mr. Couse and Mr. Blumenschein are well known to gallery visitors. The exhibition as a whole has the interest of new subject matter, but the painting is done in the spirit of illustration, perhaps the right spirit, when it is an affair of making records of a race certain to vanish. The exhibition closes Dec. 22.

Paintings by Violet Mege.

A young Algerian painter and sculptor, Violet Mège, is exhibiting her work at the Touchstone Gallery. When very young her talent was recognized as unusual, and she was sent to Paris as a protégée of the French Government working there for several years. Her pictures in the present exhibition are divided into the Algerian group, the French group, and the American group, but the division brings with it no special evidence that the artist is sensitive to the spirit of place. She carries her Algerian atmosphere with her when she is painting an American "Red House" as when she is painting the Seine and the Luxembourg. One feels her, indeed, rather more radically different in these paintings than in those made in her native country, which have no surprises but are vivid sketches of the picturesque places dear to the Occidental. Her portraits are her strongest achievements. "The Student Girl" showing a very serious effort toward characterization. The exhibition is well worth visiting and lasts until Dec. 1.

PAY FOR PRISONERS.

The Law of Nations as Explained by the Adjutant General.

To the Editor of The New York Times: A letter recently appeared in your editorial page from a gentleman much disgruntled over what fat salaries he had heard were paid the interned Germans, salaries far in excess of what our boys are receiving while fighting for our country and its Government, which these insolent Germans have been doing their utmost to hamper and destroy.

I was seriously concerned myself at such seeming injustice and wrote to the War Department to make inquiry, receiving the inclosed letter.

E. H. B. LATHROP.
Hillsdale, N. J., Nov. 22, 1917.

[Inclosure.]

War Department,
The Adjutant General's Office,
Washington, Nov. 19, 1917.
Mr. E. H. B. Lathrop, Grey House,
Hillsdale, N. J.

Dear Sir: Referring to your letter of the 15th instant, in which you make inquiry concerning the treatment by this Government of German prisoners of war, I am directed by the Secretary of War to advise you as follows:

International law provides that a captor nation pay commissioned prisoners of war a certain amount which is used to defray the cost of their food and clothing, and for the purchase of any other articles permitted them by prison regulations. Upon the conclusion of war the amounts so expended shall be refunded to the captor Government by the prisoners' own Government. International law further provides that enlisted prisoners of war shall be clothed and fed by a captor nation and shall be paid for certain labor performed by them. This money is not given to the prisoners, but is used to better their condition, and reimbursement by their own Government is not an indemnity.

The rules of international law just given are being complied with by all of