



CONNELLSVILLE

Whose Middle Name Is Coke.



We know that Peter Stuyvesant was quite a shrewd real estate operator, having bought the Island of Manhattan from the Indians for twenty-four dollars. He probably held the championship in that regard. However, Zechariah Connell, who founded the town of Connellsville, was probably a close second. In 1806 he settled there, and when he died in 1813 he left the entire town to his family, who in turn divided it among themselves. This was some heritage as time has proven; because Connellsville is quite a prosperous town, as Pennsylvania towns go. And its coke industry is one of the marvels of the country. It is interesting to note that the bill incorporating Connellsville as a borough was drafted by the first physician of the town, Dr. James Francis, and was passed by the Assembly of 1806. According to present estimates the population of this thriving town, located 58 miles from Pittsburgh, is about 18,000. The valuation of the property in 1906 was over three million of dollars. The first Burgess was Daniel Rogers, and the present Mayor is John Dugon. Not a little of the initial enterprise in this progressive city was due to the vision and foresight of the original Connell, who aided in every possible way to stimulate building operations and to promote the growth of the town. Connellsville not alone can boast of leadership in the coke industry, but it is a big coal center, as well as in the production of glass, steel and iron. It is typical in every way of the industrial and mining cities of the Keystone State, noted for its marvelous industrial leadership.

Connellsville has six public schools, a Carnegie library, newspapers, high school, up-to-date fire and police department, hospitals, and everything else that is a part of the modern city.

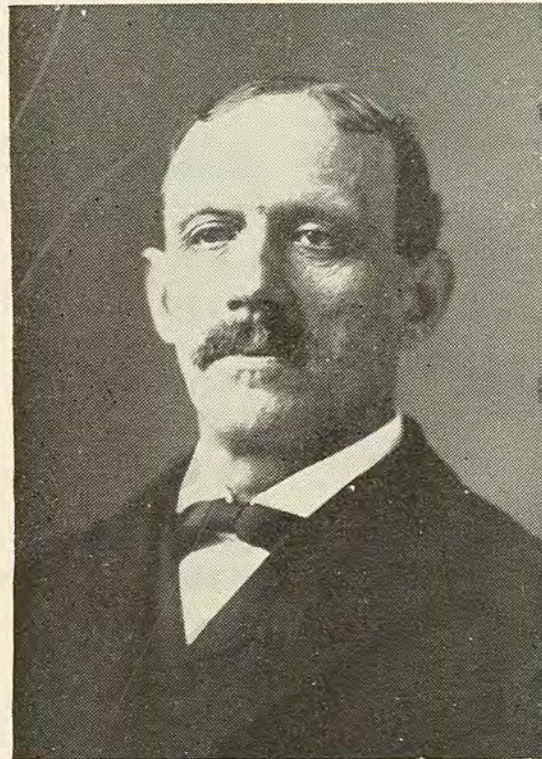
The Jewish Community.

About 60 years ago the first Jews settled in Connellsville, and among the first families were the Goldsmiths, who have always taken a prominent part in the development and promotion of Jewish life and Jewish interests in the city. There is a record of a Jew by the name of Gustav Boasch, or Basck, who lived even prior to 1859, but there is no authentic information extant about him or any other Jews who may have been there at the same time. There are at the present time only 75 Jewish families in the city, of

which not more than half a dozen are Reform. But we must say that this handful of Reform Jews, while they have no congregation and are too small for any organized group effort, yet have shown themselves alert to the needs of every worthy movement affecting our people, or the welfare of the city at large, and have contributed their effort, their thought, and their money to these various causes. In war work they rose splendidly to the opportunity to render patriotic service whether it was in the purchase of Liberty Bonds, War Stamps, or Red Cross aid, as well as Jewish War Relief, United

were always foremost in Jewish affairs. The present officers of the congregation are Jacob Rosenbloom; vice-president, H. Melnick; secretary, Sol Rosenfield; treasurer, Max Levin.

The first Rabbi was Rev. Edward Rubon, who later was succeeded by the Rev. S. Strause, and the present incumbent is Rabbi Slutzky. The number of members at present are 30. There is as yet no Sunday school, which rather serious omission will probably be remedied in the near future. There ought to be a religious school for the early development of the spirit of our faith.



Israel Aaron

One of the leaders of the Connellsville Jewish Community

War Work, or any other kindred movements.

About fifteen years ago an Orthodox congregation, "B'ne Israel," was organized, and ten years ago a synagogue was purchased. This was a commendable enterprise on the part of our Orthodox co-religionists, and showed their desire for the strengthening of their devotion to their religion.

The first president of the synagogue was Mr. Israel Aaron, and Mr. Aaron has always been one of the most progressive Jews of the city, and we can speak from personal experience of his readiness at all times to co-operate in every movement that was worth while. And in the same connection we cannot help but mention such names as Goldsmith and Kobacher, who

The Zionists are the largest organization in the Jewish community. Not alone the men, but the women are very much interested in the movement. And as evidence of the devotion to the cause, the women have organized a Hadassah Society which was organized this year at about the same time when the Zionist Chapter was created. The president of the Haddassah is Mrs. S. M. Levy, who is very much devoted to the cause; the vice-presidents are Miss Lena Katz and Mrs. William Herzberg. The secretary is Mrs. S. Rosenfield, and the treasurer is Mrs. H. Vogel. This society has done splendid work in connection with making garments for the poor in the region of the Euphrates and Tigris.

The Zion Chapter was organ-

ized February 9 of the present year, and there are already almost a hundred members. The officers consist of President H. Goldstone; Vice-President E. Horwitz; Secretary J. L. Horwitz; Treasurer I. Aaron. The executive committee are: H. Goldstone, J. Kinsbursky, Mrs. Sol Rosenfeld, Mrs. S. M. Levy, Mrs. E. C. Horwitz, and Mrs. Julius Harris. Thus it will be seen that the Zionists believe in democracy in its widest sense, including the right of representation by women as will be noted by the representatives on the executive committee.

Some three years ago a B'nai B'rith Lodge was formed as a link in the chain of the Order in District No. 3, and the first president was Emanuel Horwitz; the present officers are President H. Goldstein, Vice-President Dr. Tucker, Secretary Dr. Lewis Shralow, and Treasurer L. Fetterman. There are twenty-seven members in the lodge, and they have done excellent work in promoting all Jewish causes that come under the jurisdiction of the Order.

But the greatest body of Jews in Connellsville is composed of the boys who went into the great war to fight the cause of their country and we take pride in publishing the list of those names on the honor roll. They will live imperishably in the minds of those for whom they fought.

The Honor Roll.

Morris Grodzin, Julius Grodzin, Jack Horwitz (wounded in action), Isadore Horwitz, William Bovitz (gassed and wounded), Joseph Bovitz, Joseph Glickman, Samuel Oppenheim, Lewis Levenson, Lewis Goodman, Barney Goodman, Isaac Goodman, Oliver Goldsmith, Jacob Farber, Nathan Levin, Hyman Levin, Aaron Caplan (killed in action), Henry Newberg, Adolph Hershberg, Jacob Gardner, William Scholnick.

This is an unusual representation for so limited a community and such a record goes far toward emphasizing the truth that the Jew is a patriot and that he will as quickly dedicate his life to the service of his nation as his neighbor. We honor these boys.

Connellsville Jewry has done its duty in every way. Sometime it is worth contemplating what another group of people numbering 75 families would do in a city of 18,000 population. Sometimes we marvel at the impression and the influence a

handful of our people make upon a community. We long have ceased to wonder at the great power our people wielded all through history, even though they were in the minority. They seek to make their power felt through the mind and education has always been their forte. But they have heart as well as mind, and this combination will make any group a factor in society at large. We feel sure that if a minute analysis could be made of

every phase of activity in which our Connellsville co-religionists have engaged, whether Jewish or non-Jewish in character, whether in business or civic life, that their record will be more than a creditable one. We hope that our brethren in the coke region will continue to realize the responsibilities they owe to their people and their faith, and maintain the excellent record that has been theirs as Jews and as citizens of this Great Nation.

The Pogroms in Poland

Great London Demonstration

By M. J. Woddis

(London Correspondent to the Jewish Criterion)

A largely attended meeting took place on Wednesday evening, April 9, at the Queen's Hall, under the auspices of the Zionist Organization, to hear the report of Mr. Israel Cohen on the result of his investigation of the pogroms in Poland. The chair was occupied by the Right Hon. Lord Parmoor, and messages of regret for inability to attend were received from the Chief Rabbi (who was absent through indisposition), Lord Rothschild, Lord Buckmaster, Sir John Pandles, M. P., the Bishop of Truro, the Bishop of Lianieff, Baron Barry, Prof. S. Alexander, Prof. J. H. Muirhead, Dr. John Clifford, Mr. Israel Zangwill, Mr. L. J. Greenberg, and others.

The chairman said that he wished to make it quite clear that injustices of this kind were not a question of special nationalities, but everyone who loved liberty in its true sense desired to protest against gross injustice of this character. The supreme test of an adequate system of civil liberty was the power to protect any unpopular body during times of national excitement, and one must suspect any claim for liberty when it was accompanied by an inability to protect from injustice a body which happened to be unpopular at a time of national excitement. If there were to have a League of Nations in its true sense and spirit, not merely a League which denoted an alliance between certain powers, it ought to exercise its powers in preventing outrages of this character from taking place in any of the new kingdoms which it was proposed to constitute.

Mr. Israel Cohen then delivered his report.

Summary of Mr. Israel Cohen's Report on the Pogroms in Poland

Mr. Israel Cohen said that he had gone out to Poland as special commissioner of the Zionist Organization to investigate the pogroms in consequence of the incredulity expressed in some quarters concerning the reports that had reached this country last November. He visited Cracow, Warsaw, Lemberg, and some smaller towns, spoke with countless victims of the outrages, inspected houses, shops, and synagogues that had been looted, damaged or demolished, discussed the situation with Jewish representatives in every place, and interviewed the leading members of the Polish Government, particularly General Pilsudski, the head of the State, and M. Paderewski, the Prime Minister. He found that anti-Jewish outrages had occurred last November and December in 130 towns, townlots and villages in Western Galicia and Congress Poland. They began in Galicia immediately after the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy and the withdrawal of Austrian authority, whilst those in Congress Poland began after the cessation of German rule. The simultaneous out-

break was due to a long existing antagonism on the part of the Poles towards the Jews, arising partly from economic and partly from political causes, which had been kept in check as long as both nations were equally subject to another power. This antagonism had been systematically fostered by M. Roman Dmowski, leader of the National Democrats, particularly in the form of a severe economic boycott of the Jews. The antagonism was intensified during the war, and as soon as the Poles felt they were masters in their own home, they began attacks upon their Jewish neighbors. In most places the attacks were assaults by the townsfolk, peasants and bandits upon Jewish dwellings and shops for the purpose of plunder, whilst in other places they took the form of military expeditions organized to punish alleged Jewish disloyalty towards the Polish State. The outrages varied greatly in gravity: some of them included murder, arson and rape in addition to looting, assaults and desecrations, whilst most of them were confined to looting and assaults.

The Polish troops, instead of defending the Jews and their property, remained either passive or participated in the plundering expeditions. The attempts of the Jews to defend themselves were frustrated by the Polish military and civil authorities. As soon as the news of threatened disturbances in neighboring towns reached the Jews in Cracow they organized a militia numbering close upon 1,000 for the defense of their brethren. The Polish Liquidation Commission, which assumed the Government of Galicia, agreed to the formation of this corps. The Jewish militia were supplied with arms, and detachments were sent to various towns, but only in a very few cases, and then only for a very brief period, were they able to render any protection. For the military commandant in Cracow, General Roja, objected to the creation of the Jewish militia, and ordered that it should be disarmed and dissolved both in Cracow and in the provincial towns to which detachments had already been dispatched. Moreover, the local Jewish communities were not allowed to form any self-defense corps, nor were Jews admitted to the town militia, so that they were at the mercy of any armed band that chose to attack them.

Mr. Cohen said that the most serious pogrom was that at Lemberg, but he first of all dealt with the pogroms at Przehysl, Kieloo, Brzesko, and Chrzanow. The riot at Przemysl was begun on November 11th, immediately after the city was captured by the Poles. The excuse given was that the Jews had shot with a machine-gun at the Poles—an accusation for which not the least proof was offered. The Polish authorities disarmed and dis-

banded the Jewish militia, and uniformed legionnaires took active part in the sacking of shops and houses, the profanation of synagogues, and the assaulting, arresting, and robbing of Jews, of whom several were killed. The climax was reached by the demand of a contribution of three million Kronen (about £120,000) from the Jews by the commandant, Colonel Tokarzewski, who threatened that if the money was not forthcoming within three days his soldiers would get it by force. The commandant had shot his bow too far; his outrageous demand led to his recall. At Kielce the Jews held a public meeting on November 11 to proclaim their satisfaction at the creation of an independent Poland and to demand Jewish national rights. The lying rumor was spread that anti-Polish speeches were delivered, with the result that an anti-Jewish riot was started by the Deputy Commandant of the Town Militia, in which four Jews were killed, over 250

wounded, and numerous shops were plundered. At Brzecko the Jewish self-defense corps was disarmed by the Polish militia, houses were plundered and set on fire, many Jews were severely wounded and several killed. The same methods were employed at Chrzanow, except that no houses were set on fire. Mr. Cohen was at Chrzanow on January 6, and still saw chalked on the walls of some houses, "Here lives a Pole," "Here lives a Catholic"—the inscriptions intended to secure immunity for the occupants.

At Ustrzyeki Colonel Sroboda demanded the payment of 300,000 kronen (£12,000) within an hour, otherwise he threatened to bombard Jewish houses from an armored train. He was given 60,000 kronen to avert disaster, and though the Cracow Government declared his action illegal he extorted another 90,000 kronen—thus obtaining over £5,000.

A diabolical originality was displayed in certain places in the brutali-

Compliments of

Connellsville Foundry, Machine & Steel Casting Co.

Connellsville, Pa.

Orpheum Theatre

MIKALARIAS & MARAKAS, Props.

HIGH CLASS PHOTO PLAYS

BELL PHONE 599

North Pittsburg Street

Connellsville, Pa.

Compliments of

TRI-STATE CANDY CO.

Manufacturers and Jobbers

140 W. Peach Street

CONNELLSVILLE, PA.

BOTH PHONES

F. C. ROSE ICE CREAM COMPANY

MANUFACTURERS AND SHIPPERS OF

ROSE'S ICE CREAM

ICES, BRICK CREAM IN COLORS & FRUIT CREAM

CONNELLSVILLE, PA.

Office
Bell Phone 158
Tri-State 245

J. E. SIMS

Residence
Bell Phone 150
Tri-State 359

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

OFFICE NEXT TO P. R. R. DEPOT
RESIDENCE, 336 N. PITTSBURG ST.

CONNELLSVILLE, PA.