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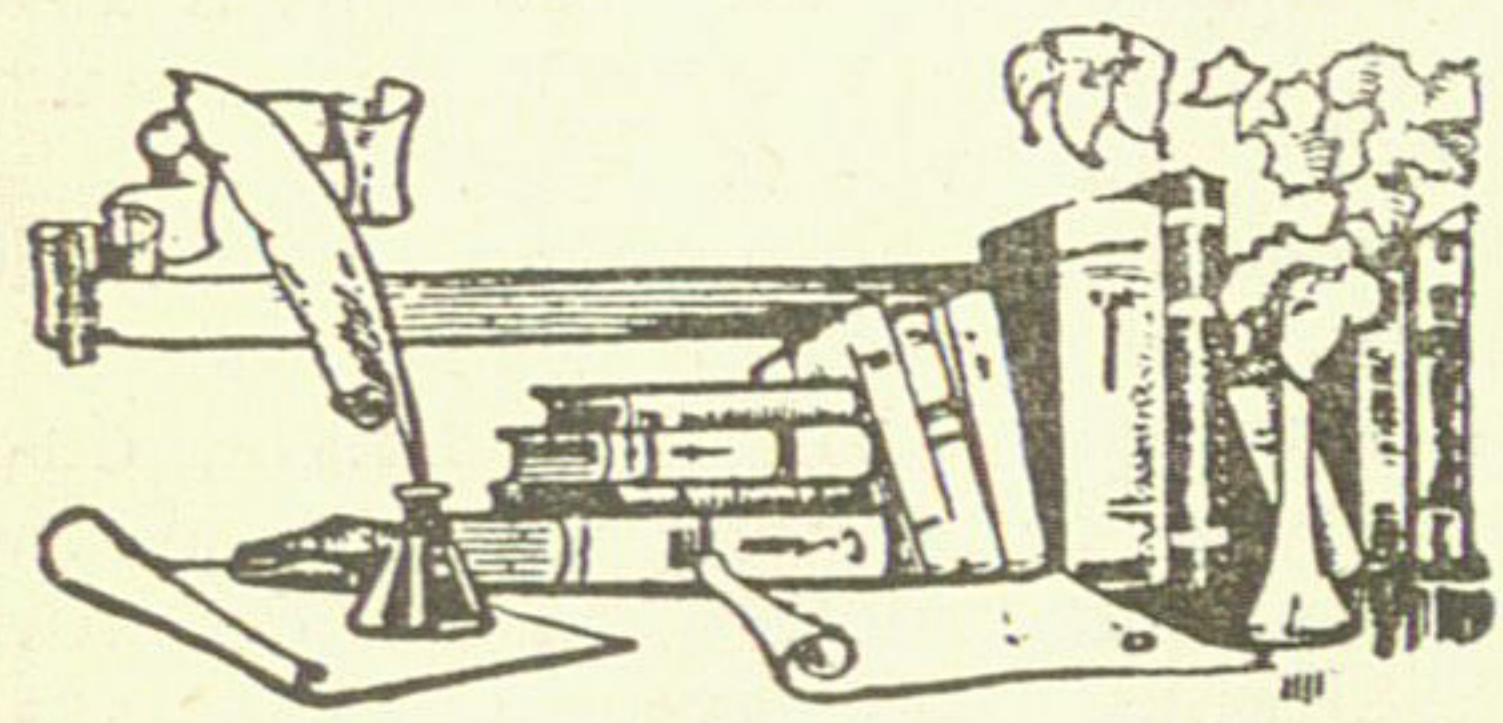
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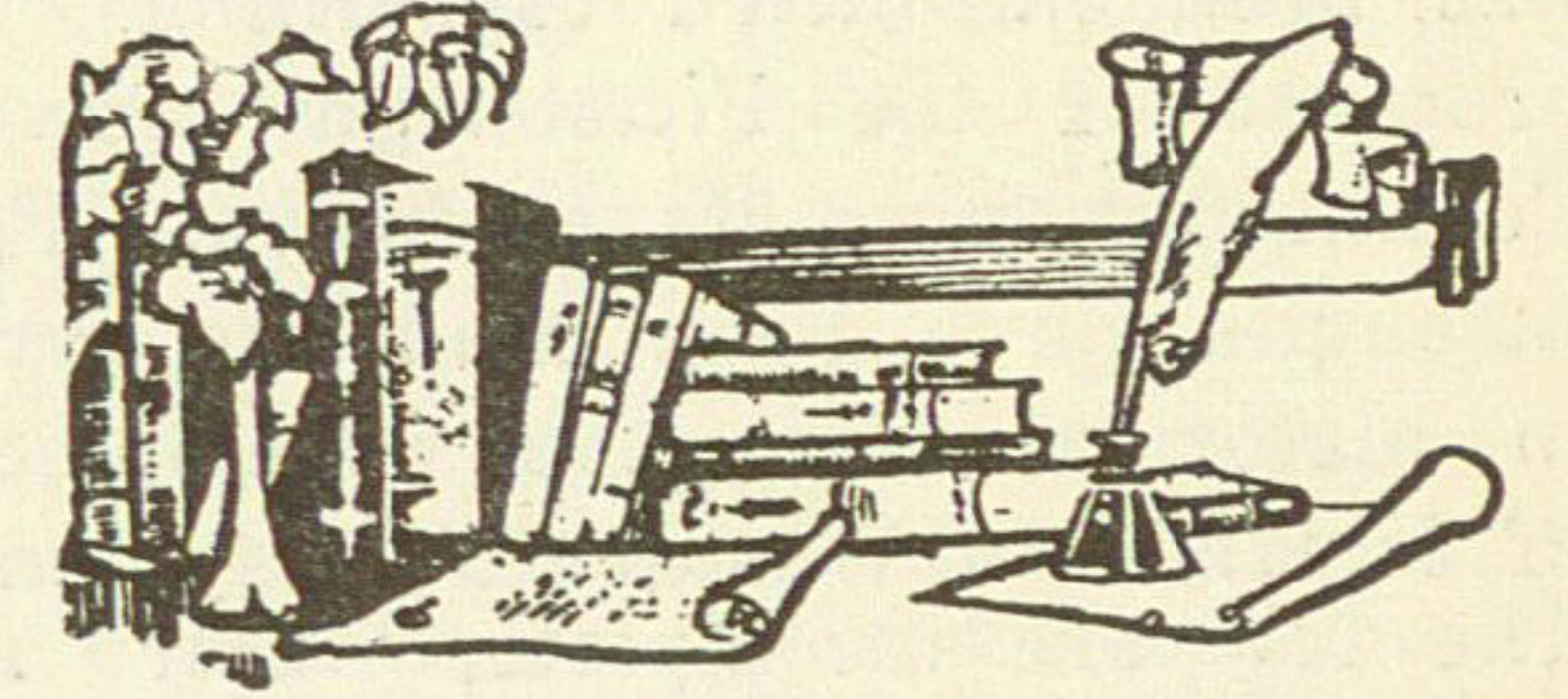
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## EDITORIAL

CHARLES H. JOSEPH



### THE FEDERATION MEETING

The meeting of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies which will be held Sunday evening in the Assembly Rooms of the Temple will be of special interest introducing the new Executive Director of the Federation, Dr. Ludwig Bernstein, of New York, who will discuss the fundamentals of the modern federation. There is every reason why this meeting should be largely attended because after all is said the Federation work vitally affects the well-being of every member of our community. It comprehends a program of activity that embraces all philanthropic undertakings and should therefore invite the interest of all who are in any way interested in the welfare of the Jewish group. It is understood that some special announcements are to be made that should receive the attention of those who are identified with our communal life.

### IN CHINA

In a discussion with Prof. Peng Chun Chang, a member of the Chinese Educational Commission to this country who was a visitor in Pittsburgh this week we learned that there are some Chinese Jews who have become completely assimilated with the customs, the traditions and the religious thought of that country. In other words they have completely lost their Jewish identity; on the other hand there are those who are Chinese Jews who are Chinamen in every respect except that of religion and who still adhere to the tenets of Judaism. This is in keeping with the thought that has been so generally expressed by our more thoughtful leaders and teachers that after all the basis of Jewish identity should be religious and racial. Men may so change under the influence of environment that racially speaking they have lost every prestige of the Semitic type yet religiously they will be Jews. Of course in China there is a group of modern Jews that are not Chinese in any meaning of the term; they have simply taken up their residence there. In fact in Shanghai there used to be and may be even now a Jewish paper printed in English.

### WE DON'T WELCOME MR. CHESTERTON

We notice that Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert K. Chesterton have just arrived from England and will tour the country, the former to deliver a series of lectures. Now while we have no wish to prejudice this brilliant English writer in the eyes of any portion of the American public yet in justice to ourselves and to the Jewish people we cannot permit the opportunity to pass without calling attention to the fact that Chesterton has been patiently an anti-Semitic writer. He has written some very very nasty things about the Jews and for which there was neither warrant nor justification. We want our readers to know this and would like to have Mr. Chesterton deny if he can the truth of our statements. We feel too that intellectual men, especially men who write and have a large following should not permit their prejudices to color their writings to the extent of influencing readers in the direction of class hatred. For a fanatic like Tom Watson, or a fool like Ford to do such things is understandable but for a man like Gilbert Chesterton to poison his pen with anti-Semitic hatred is inexcusable. We feel that we are doing our duty in making these statements in these columns and we would be glad to hear from Mr. Chesterton on the subject.

### THE RIGHT STEP

At a meeting of Jericho Lodge of the Independent Order B'nai B'rith held last Sunday it was unanimously resolved to have a committee of three appointed to confer with similar committees from the two other Pittsburgh lodges for the purpose of consolidating the three lodges into one lodge. This idea is gaining favor in every large Jewish center in the country as there is no warrant for several lodges in one Community. Better and more effective work can be done and then the duplication of expenses is eliminated. But this undertaking will be successful only if the men behind the movement are big enough to realize that they should not endeavor to secure advantage of any kind for their own lodges but have in mind only the welfare of the B'nai B'rith. In connection with this movement a companion undertaking will be the campaign for two thousand members for the Pittsburgh Lodge. It should not be at all difficult and we feel sure that with the proper amount of interest and enthusiasm in the work the Order will realize its aims in that direction.

### WE APPLAUD GOV. EDWARDS

Governor Edward I. Edwards addressed himself to the opening session of the New Jersey Legislature on the subject of the "blue law" bills that piece of iniquitous and fanatical legislation promoted by persons who are perniciously active in minding everybody else's business and promoting everybody else's morals and standard of ethical conduct but their own. We applaud the straight from the shoulder blows at these dogma-ridden irreligious men who have killed the spirit of religion and are trying to make the world better by feeding them husks.

#### The Governor said:

"Recently there appeared in the public press announcements by apparently authorized representatives of some of those organizations, efforts would be made in the Federal Congress to procure the passage of resolutions submitting a further amendment to the Federal Constitution with reference to the observance of Sunday.

"The cheerful prospect was held out it would be the effort of those persons to prohibit not only the transaction of any business on Sunday, but also the engaging in recreation of any sort, so that a man would have but one alternative; namely, go to church. That spirit is so entirely un-American that I am sure it can never prevail.

"I understand as a part of the program they plan to present to the Legislatures of the several States bills either reviving the so-called 'blue laws' where they have been repealed, or strengthening them. I regard it as my duty to suggest to the Legislature no such bills should be enacted into law. It has been the vain but futile hope of misguided people for many years to be able to legislate morals into a community.

"I believe it to be to the advantage of the churches such legislation should not prevail. Sumptuary legislation upon questions of morals, restraining the liberty of the individual to worship God in his own way and to take such recreation as may be necessary to his well-being, may cause a reaction that will be detrimental to religious observance and will in itself be demoralizing to the community. I therefore suggest to you that if such bills appear they be not approved.

Not only am I opposed to any extension or amplification of the Sunday law for the reasons stated, but I believe it should be liberalized. The difficulty inherent in our present Sunday law is the sentiment of the people in many localities is opposed to its enforcement, with the result it becomes unenforceable at the hands of grand juries and it is therefore publicly condemned.

"This situation is undesirable because it breeds a contempt for law, and its results strike at the very basis of our system of government. While the settled policy of the State has at all times been directed to preserving the sacred character of the day, as one of rest, the necessities of modern life have resulted in compelling the people to take advantage of the Sunday as an opportunity for recreation and amusement. Golf playing and driving on Sunday are generally indulged in by those who can afford that species of recreation, but that does not include the vast masses of the people, who seek other and less expensive methods of recreation.