

YOUR ATTENTION

FROM Saul Hayes

No. 265 CONFIDENTIAL

November 11th, 1947.

1. First Group of Tailors Arriving December 5th

We were advised by our overseas relief staff that the Canadian Inspecting Team started processing the DP's qualified for the tailor's movement and that the first group is likely to arrive on December 5th; by November 15th we shall be receiving the first lists of those approved by the Canadian officers and those who will be included in the first transport.

The Immigration Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources announced recently that approval has been granted for the admission to Canada of 15,021 displaced persons for group movements; the approval was granted in response to requests for workers submitted to the immigration-labour inter-departmental committee by Canadian industry. The announcement continued to say: "Up to the present 3,533 persons have come to Canada from European refugee camps under this group plan: 3,007 to work for lumber companies, 100 for textiles, and 426 as domestics. Requests dealt with by the committee have been for the following classes of workers: Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario - 2,000, Mining - 2,301, Railroad Maintenance - 705, Woodworkers - 4,210, Foundrymen - 114, Steel Workers - 375, Construction - 500, Domestics - 2,000, Clothing Industry - 2,316, Dressmakers - 200, Terrazo Workers - 100, Textiles - 200. About 25 per cent of the displaced persons admitted to Canada have been first-degree relatives of residents of this country. No quota has ever been placed on the numbers of displaced persons or other European immigrants who may enter Canada under provisions of the Immigration regulations which relate to relatives. On May 1, 1947, the scope of these regulations was further broadened to include the husband or wife; son, daughter, brother, or sister with their unmarried children; father or mother; or orphan nephews or nieces under 21; of any person legally resident in Canada and in a position to guarantee their full support. Requests to the Immigration branch for the admission of relatives from displaced persons camps number 21,217."

2. Statement of Mr. Michael Garber, K.C., on Jewish Holidays in Outremont Schools

At the graduation exercises at Strathcona Academy in the City of Outremont, held on October 31st Mr. John F. Roy, chairman of the Outremont Protestant Board of School Commissioners referred to the 5 year contract recently executed in connection with the education of Jewish children in Outremont and was reported as saying: "For years we labored to obtain grants for the education of Jewish and Protestant pupils in our schools and we are grateful to the present government for the response we received to these appeals. The situation in Outremont is of more than local importance. In the years to come the population of Canada seems destined to be increased by a large number of immigrants of diverse races and creeds, and if each one of them is entitled to follow the example of the Jews and abstain from school attendance on its own special religious holidays the result would be widespread confusion. The board expects Jewish children in future to attend school on holidays on which their

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parents go to business." Mr. Michael Garber, K.C., chairman of the Committee on Education of Jewish children in Outremont, commented on Mr. Roy's statement in a letter published in the "Star" on November 10th which reads as follows: "In reporting the proceedings at the graduation exercises at Strathcona Academy in your issue of November 1st, you quoted from the speech made by Mr. John F. Roy, chairman of the Protestant Board, in which he stated that the Board would henceforth expect Jewish children to attend school on certain religious holidays on which they had heretofore abstained. Under the Constitution as well as under the law of the Province (R.S.Q.c307), no child can be compelled to attend school on his "own special religious holidays." Jewish children have always abstained from school on their religious holidays even before any agreements were entered into with any Board. This right was confirmed in the agreements entered into in 1930 without much argument. Throughout the recent controversy about the renewal of the contract for the education of Jewish children, Mr. Roy publicly made the statement! "Our main problem is lack of adequate funds." It was only after the Provincial Government passed the necessary legislation to cover the deficit of the Board that the issue of Jewish holidays became a further stumbling block. The Board desired the holidays to be limited to three, but after considerable negotiation, the Honourable Mr. Cote added the proviso that further holidays may be granted upon the written request of a majority of Jewish parents of Outremont. The Board is attempting to prejudge the outcome of the petition by announcing its insistence that the Jewish children attend on the holidays forming the object of the petition. This will obviously lead to further controversy. When the announcement was made of the signing of the agreement, everyone concerned breathed a sigh of relief, hoping that peace would now reign in the Outremont schools. Alas, "peace, peace but there is no peace!" The Jewish parents of Outremont will not easily renounce ancient religious practices which are adhered to by the children in the schools of Montreal, Westmount and other municipalities. The next holiday is the Biblical Passover which, falling as it does on week-ends will entail only one school day instead of four. By that time, the petition will have been circulated amongst the Jewish parents and I am satisfied that an overwhelming majority of them will vote for the maintenance of Jewish traditions and religious precepts. Will the Board abide by the verdict of the parents?"

3. Mr. Jos. H. Fine Named King's Counsel

Mr. Jos. H. Fine, National Treasurer of Congress and co-chairman of the National Joint Public Relations Committee, was named King's Counsel; Mr. Fine is a member of the bar of the province of Quebec and administrator of the Joint Commission for the Dress Industry and of the Joint Committee of the Millinery Industry in the Province.

4. Rebirth of Arcand's Fascist Movement

The Montreal daily Press reported on a secret meeting in Montreal of more than 500 followers of Adrien Arcand who heads the National Unity party and who is the most violent exponent of anti-semitism and fascism in Canada. Arcand lashed out repeatedly at the Jews and Communists who, he said, were working hand in hand, and he also defended his theories that "only Christian-Social corporatism can save this country from these groups"; he was quoted as saying that "the moment has not arrived to go into action and for the party to campaign for adherents, but events may soon force the party to enter the fray"; he blamed the Jews for all the ills affecting the world and he said they were directly responsible for the last war. The Provincial and City Police stated that they intended to keep a very close watch on the activities on Arcand and his followers; it was pointed out that such meetings are not illegal since the rescinding of the war time Defence of Canada Regulations and that any illegality would come under the Criminal Code and would have to do with seditious utterances; the Press reported further that a copy of the Provincial Police report on the meeting was being forwarded to the Attorney General of the Province; it was noted that a considerable number of professional men, including doctors, notaries and lawyers, attended the gathering and a list of those who were there is being prepared by the Police according to press reports.