

SIR AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN AND THE JEWS: SPEECH TO ANGLO-PALESTINE CLUB.

London, Mar. 17th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The sudden death of Sir Austen Chamberlain deprives British Jewry of a good friend and a champion of the Jewish people's rights.

Few will forget the stand made by Sir Austen in the House of Commons three years ago, when the question of Treaty revision in favour of Germany was raised.

What was this new spirit of German nationalism? Sir Austen asked. The old Prussianism with an added savagery, the racial pride, the exclusiveness. Were they going to discuss revision with a Government like this? While Europe was menaced and Germany was afflicted by this narrow aggressive spirit, when it was a crime to speak in favour of peace, when it was a crime to be a Jew, was that a country to which Europe could afford to offer equality of status?

A month later, when the Nazis had shocked the world with their manifestations of racial hatred, Sir Austen said:- "The spirit which manifested itself in the proscription of a whole race within the boundaries of Germany is a spirit which, if allowed to prevail in foreign affairs, would be a menace to the whole world."

During a memorable speech at the Anglo-Palestine Club on March 9th., 1934, Sir Austen said:- "I frequently pass by the statue of Oliver Cromwell outside the Houses of Parliament, which was presented by Charles Wertheimer in recognition of the protection afforded by Cromwell to the Jews. The welcome Cromwell extended to the Jews expelled from Spain and Portugal left a profound mark. The Charter which was yours in origin has become mine also, since I am a Nonconformist. Would England be the England we know had the Huguenots expelled from France or the Jews from Spain and Portugal not come here? I come of Nonconformist stock. The Nonconformist blood is strong in me, and I loathe persecution with my whole being. It is because of that hatred of persecution which is in the blood of all my countrymen that England stands where she does. Take that away and little remains of the greatness and might of the British Empire. Have we not learned that it is impossible to reconcile people by force, or to build soundly but on consent? The wider we have welcomed all, whatever their origin, the deeper has the current of our national life flown.

To Jews I Say Be Of Good Cheer All That Is Best In The World Is On Your Side.

"Politics are governed not by logic but by passion and sentiment," Sir Austen went on. "Can Germany afford to disregard the public opinion of the world and yet stand up for her claims? What can be her claims if she denies justice to a minority within her own frontiers? It is difficult to speak without passion on a subject on which I feel so strongly.

"I would address myself to Germany not with a plea for the Jews, but with a plea for the Germans themselves, not to impoverish Germany as Spain was impoverished by pursuing a policy that cannot but cause dislike.

"We would like to meet Germany, but what concessions can we make to a nation which does not tolerate its own citizens? What mercy could we expect if they dominated the world?"

Finally Sir Austen said:- "To Jews I say, be of good cheer. Among your characteristics is a power of stubborn and patient resistance to wrong. On this occasion all that is best in the world is on your side and supports your cause."

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