

Israel And Her Neighbours

Part I

by Louis Greenspan

EDITOR'S NOTE—

Louis Greenspan is a Halifax resident who spent a year in Israel studying history and languages on a scholarship awarded by Canadian Young Judea. He speaks Hebrew fluently and has made a first-hand study of the Israeli border problem. He is at present a graduate student in the Department of Philosophy.

This series of articles on the emergence of the Jewish state, and the issues between Israel and her neighbours is written in response to a number of questions from students both Jewish and non-Jewish. Also in reply to many opinions which appeared to me to be ill-considered and not based on an examination of the facts. I propose to describe the psychological and political forces which led to the establishment of Israel and then the issues which are the source of the present conflict with the Arab world.

The Psychological Background

At the end of the nineteenth century, the Jews of Eastern Europe were faced with a problem whose solution was as urgent as it was complex. "What", they asked themselves, "is our place in the Europe that is now coming to birth." The answer from the side of the Europeans was 'None'. In Russia the Czarist Minister of the Interior announced that one third of his country's Jewish population will be converted, another third slaughtered, and the rest were invited to leave.

The need to formulate some solution led to the following four ideologies.

One section of the Jewish population stated simply that we Jews always have been persecuted and always will be therefore when there is an outburst against us in one country, we will flee to another. It is this attitude that accounts for the large Jewish population in North America. On the other hand, as time went on for various reasons the Jews were unable to leave their countries of origin and were finally trapped in Eastern Europe and exterminated.

Another group of Jews claimed that the reason that there was so much hostility towards them was because they lived according to tradition and laws which made them different from their neighbours. These merely discarded the traditions and language of their own people and became good Frenchmen, Germans and so on. But they were shocked to be confronted with anti-semitic

outburst in the most liberal countries in the West, for example the Drefus affair in France. Finally the Nazis cared little how well a Jew spoke German, he was still a Jew and still to be hated.

A third group were convinced that the workers revolutionary groups were going to set up an ideal society in Europe in which the problems of the Jewish people indeed the problems of all people, would be eliminated. A number of Jews therefore joined the revolutionary movements, but were disillusioned to find that neither the people nor their party comrades were willing to receive them as Jews. In fact these parties condoned programs and outbursts of the part of their countrymen against the Jewish population.

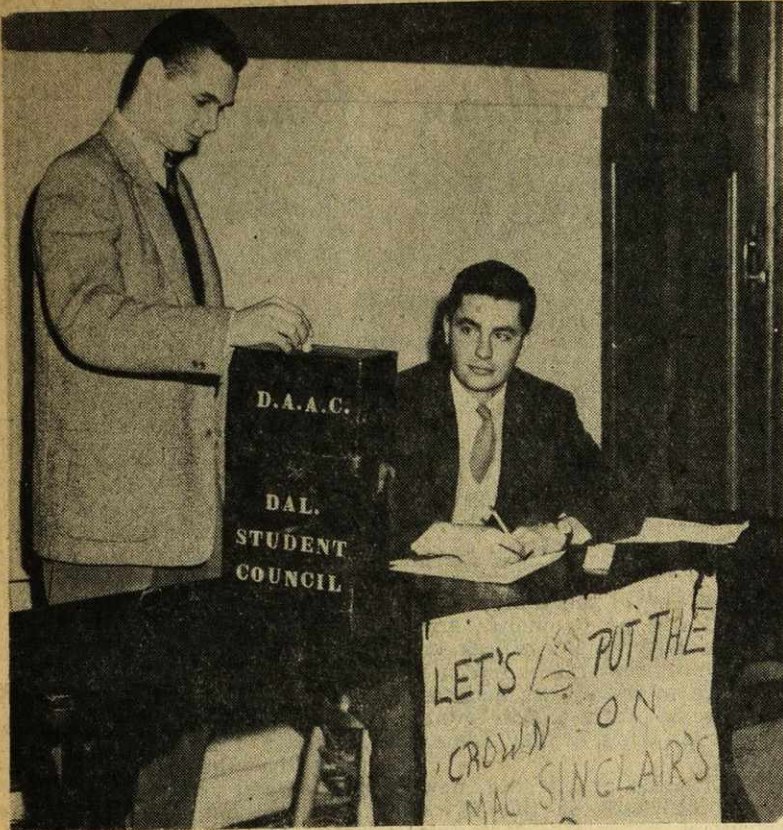
The fourth group, later to be called the Zionist movement, began with the premise that the Jews were a nation in exile. Thousands of years ago they had a homeland. But were banished from it by brute force. The people as a whole dreamed of the

day in which they would be returned to the land of their forefathers, an idea which runs through the Hebrew prayer book and the Hebrew prophets.

The Zionists claimed that the Jewish people were like ghosts, corpses wandering the face of the earth, but refusing to lie down. This situation is an unnatural one and accounts for the hostility of their neighbors. Since it is impossible to deny one's Jewishness what has to be done, in that the Jews must set up a state in their ancient homeland, which was now simply a vague dream had to be translated into a political reality.

It was from these beginnings the State of Israel was brought into being. The problems confronting the Zionists seemed inseparable. How could a people who have lived in cities for two thousand years become farmers? Where would there be an army to defend the Jewish state? Who would be its workers, its policemen, its garbage collectors and so on.

However, over a period of fifty years the task was accomplished. How this was done will be subject of the next article, for it is clear that a vague dream, based on a historical situation that existed two thousand years ago does not constitute a legal or political claim to any country. Nor could it have been the argument put forward to the U.N. in 1947 as justifying the establishment of Israel.



Shown above are Dave Fraser (right) and Doug Pittet casting votes in the Law School elections held last week. They comprised part of the eighty-four percent of the law faculty who exercised their franchise in the annual balloting.

THE CAULDRON by Jim Goring

The Registrar at Queen's University has announced that tuition fees will rise. Starting September 1957, the cost of first and second years Applied Science will be \$450.00, and \$500.00 for each succeeding year. Premed will cost \$350.00 per year; medical fees will be \$500.00 per year. At present only 40% of university costs are met by student fees.

Laval University . . . (Le Carabin) . . . Front page exhibits a sketch of "Le Grand Seminaire de Quebec" a mammoth on building college unit to incorporate both church and scholastic activities.

University of New Brunswick . . . (Brunswickan) . . . The Students' Representative Council has its hands full . . . NFCUS Chairman brought up on the mat; and the Plebiscite on Hungarian Student Relief has been postponed due to a mix-up with the University Administration.

And from further exchanges it is reported . . .

Le Quartier Latin . . . (Montreal) . . . University of Toronto students journey to Montreal, reciprocating a visit made by Montreal to Toronto in November 1956. This promotes good intervarsity relations.

Model Parliament Hill . . .

Toronto University . . . (Varsity) . . . The Engineers, given raw deal at the polls, turned Toronto campus into a 'police state' — the regime lasting a scant 24 hours. University of Saskatchewan . . . (The Sheaf) . . . 1915 is recalled as the year a young 19-year-old Arts student made his mark as Leader of the Opposition. It was predicted that he would go on to lead the Opposition in Ottawa. And he did, for he is John G. Diefenbaker.

McGill . . . (The McGill Daily) . . . A model United Nations Security Council session was held for the third consecutive year under the auspices of the McGill United Nations Club.

Helter - Skelter - Unrelated . . .

The Tri-Service Ball, at McGill, the splash occasion for the military and in the past seven years a huge success, in this year is slated for February 1. At Queen's, the year book the "Tricolour" has come under attack from the Kingston Labour Council. Their main beef is that the Tricolour is published in Kansas City, Missouri. "True Confessions of a Postal Worker" or "The inside story on 'Suburb R'" was an account of work in the Post Office during the Christmas vacation. Rather amusing, and very well written in the Ryersonian from Ryerson Tech. in Toronto. The University of Alberta has greeted the reappearance of the Ballet Club which, the Gateway states has a new lease on life with thirty active participants.

In Closing . . .

Dave Brubeck, one of the greatest jazzmen of our day, will be on hand to entertain at Queens on March 7. The jazz concert, under the auspices of the Arts Society, has awakened much interest in music generally.

CORRESPONDENCE DEPARTMENT

"The Gazette"
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London, Ontario.
Monday, February 4, 1957.

Mr. Jim Goring
God knows what editor of the:
Dalhousie Gazette,
Antigonish, Nova Scotia.
Dear Mr. Goring Sir,

It was with all heart-felt feelings that I wread your fine colume 'The Chauldren' in the Gazette (not ours) dated as of January 24, 1957. Reading to the bottom of said masterpiece I comes to a reference to the fact that some idiot in a central Ontario (make that Canada) CUP colume referred to Acadia University as being from that fine distrist of Antigonish. Now since this drastic error, it has been brought to the attention of same idiot that this sort of thing is not taken to in the lightest of vains way down there in your fine fishing village. I must apologise with all humidity and wish to submit to you, my fine observant CUP buddie, the correct reading for said article "Acadia University and their staunch rivals at Dalhousie in Antigonish, Nova Scotia."

I sure hope that any feelings that might have been disrupted by the error have now been cleared up. The clot who made calamitous mistake will be removed from the staff as soon as your dis-cobery is brought to his attention. I don't know when this will be because our head man has not been heard from since the convention, but when he (IF) he shows up, you can be sure Nova Scotia will rate as the first in his immediate business, I mean after all, how are we going to create national unity and all that if we don't even know where our fellow journalists hang their hats and heads.

All the best to all the loyalists,
(send us some whale meat)

Yours from Upper Canada (30 degrees below)

BUTCH POWELL,
Gazette CUP Editor.
(soon to be replaced)

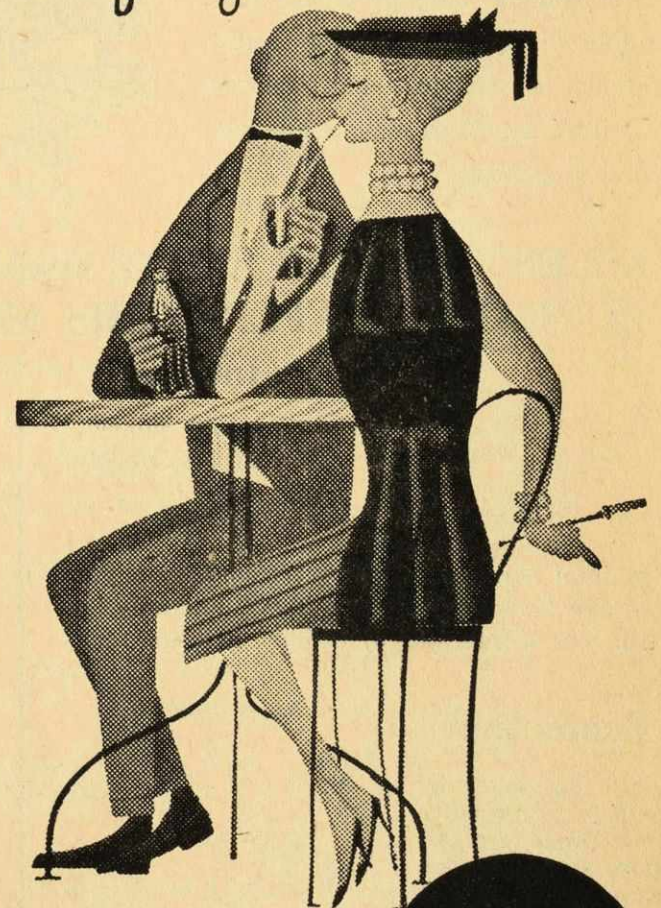
BP: bp
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