

Wanted: A Homeland

Shortly, according to a dispatch from London, the United States, Great Britain, France, Holland and Brazil will confer in the British capital to discuss relief for Jews from Germany.

We hope the conference takes place. But the British dominions and the Soviet Union should also be present. For the British Empire and Russia together occupy approximately three-fifths of the habitable globe and what is needed is not a partial palliative but a permanent solution of the larger problem faced by Jewry as a whole.

Great Britain has long made a considerable show of her interest in this problem, as witness the Balfour promise in Palestine. But she doesn't always perform up to her promises. And when it comes to admitting Jewish refugees into her own tight little isles, she is extremely reluctant. There are only some 300,000 Jews among the 45,000,000 people of the United Kingdom, or one to every 150 inhabitants. And she doesn't want any more.

Russia, also vocally indignant over the plight of the Jews, has only about 2,250,000 of them in her European territory, or approximately one for every 60 inhabitants.

The United States, on the other hand, numbers 4,250,000 Jewish people among her citizens, or one for every 31 inhabitants. Poland, with 35,000,000 inhabitants, has 3,500,000 Jews, or a ratio of 1-to-10. And so on.

Somewhere, especially within the British or Russian Empires, there should be room for a Jewish state—something which world Jewry has wanted for a long time.

Today, we understand, Oswald Pirow, South African defense minister, is in Berlin for the purpose of discussing Germany's colonial demands. According to *The London Daily Mail*, "he will offer Herr Hitler new colonies for the kaiser's old ones." That is to say, he will offer portions of the French Cameroons, Portuguese Angola and the Belgian Congo—a typical piece of British generosity with other people's territory.

Yet it was the British who, after the World War, received the pick of Germany's colonies. Sooner or later, unless all signs fail, she is going to have to hand them back to the kaiser's successor, hence she might now make a virtue of necessity and turn over one of them to the Jews and let them build there a fine, new independent state, a homeland for their oppressed in all lands.

That, or something like it, appears to be the real need. Today it happens to be Germany, but tomorrow it may be some 15,000,000 of them in the world. And more than half of them live from day to day at the mercy of events. History proves that scolding their oppressors doesn't do any good, nor even the threat of war. What is needed, therefore, is a practical, permanent avenue of escape.