

## GUEST EDITORIAL

## ISRAEL'S PRESENT POLITICAL MATURITY

Paul W. Thomas, "Pilgrim Holiness Advocate"

A series of very recent events indicates that the new State of Israel has reached a large measure of political maturity.

During the last week of January, just past, Great Britain, France, Belgium, Netherlands, New Zealand, Australia and Switzerland added their names to the list of the nations extending or planning to extend recognition to Israel. At the time this is being written, the number of nations who have granted official recognition is thirty-three. The admission of Israel to the company of the fifty-eight member nations of the United Nations seems assured.

A second item of importance is seen in the recent elections in Israel. On Tuesday, January 30 (1949), the citizens of Israel went to the polls to elect their first representative national assembly. From the press reports it appears that the party of Prime Minister Ben-Burion will lead the new nation. To his party, Mapai (a word made up of the Hebrew initials standing for Labor Party of Palestine), will fall the task of writing a permanent constitution for Israel.

On her home front Israel is confronted with the not-unhappy problem of providing homes for the thousands of Jews flocking to their homeland. A housing and resettlement program calling for \$225,000,000 has been launched by the Jewish Agency for Palestine to meet the new demands of immigration. The plan calls for 150 new settlements. Upwards of 6,000 prefabricated houses are being imported. The Jewish Agency is also undertaking agricultural colonization for about 8,000 families. Besides other immigrants, 180,000 refugee Jews are expected.

Press dispatches picture scenes of great joy and rejoicing among the Jews, particularly those released from the detention camps of Europe. How could it be otherwise! Our own hearts rejoice because the Word of God is being fulfilled. God is calling back these people from the nations among whom they have been scattered through these centuries of sorrow. Isaiah spoke of them as "A people robbed and spoiled."

The theme of Hebrew prophecy, so oft repeated, is that when God shall have finished the work and purpose of His judgments, He will have an Israel that is His own. In the face of the present worldliness and unbelief of present-day Israel, this may seem preposterous, but God's word cannot be broken. "In that day shall the branch of the Lord be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel. And it shall come to pass, that he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem: when the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and the spirit of burning." (Isa. 60:21).

With the new leadership that Israel is assuming and with all the actual and potential resources of this people, the regions possessed by these new Israelis may shortly come to know great temporal prosperity. Ezekiel's prophecy (Ezek. 38:8-13) seems to indicate

that Israel's end-time prosperity will be so great as to excite the cupidity of the godless nations about them.

The sands in the Gentile hour glass are swiftly running out. The coming of the Lord draweth nigh. "Be ye also ready!"

## ANNIVERSARY SERVICES

The Sixtieth Anniversary was observed in the Seal Cove Reformed Baptist Church on August 10th-14th inclusive.

Four former pastors were present—Revs. H. E. Mullen, F. A. Dunlop, B. C. Cochrane and G. R. Symonds. Other ministers present were: Revs. Ralph L. Sabine, P. H. Green and H. R. Ingersoll. Three former pastors were unable to be present—Revs. C. S. Hilyard, H. C. Mullen and E. A. M. Kierstead. There were various visitors from outside points.

Special singing was provided by a Ladies' Trio representing Bethany Bible College, and by the church.

The opening service was Wednesday evening, August 10th—the Sixtieth Anniversary. All the above mentioned ministers participated in this service, including the pastor, Rev. Ronald T. Sabine. The anniversary message was brought by the denominational superintendent, Rev. B. C. Cochrane.

Rev. F. A. Dunlop brought the message Thursday night, Rev. H. E. Mullen on Friday night, Rev. G. R. Symonds on Saturday night, Rev. H. E. Mullen on Sunday morning; and Rev. B. C. Cochrane on Sunday night. All these preachers were at their best.

Although we didn't see any definite results in any of these services yet we feel that the church was refreshed and the services were a real blessing.

The finances of the meeting were well met and a fine spirit of co-operation and fellowship existed. The church people graciously opened their homes to the visitors and all were royally entertained.

## VOICE OF THE HEART

Many years ago, a missionary pressed inland into a jungle region where the message of God's Word was completely unknown. During the long journey, his mind tossed over and over for a decision as to what he should say to these benighted people. Always the answer seemed to be: "Give them nothing but the Scriptures."

At last the destination was reached. The chief of the tribe, a swarthy pagan, called his people into the heart of the village. Through the aid of an interpreter, the missionary began reading from Romans 1—God's seething, uncompromising indictment of the human heart.

Almost at the outset the chief became restless. Then he laid his hand upon the ugly dagger attached to his loin cloth. Finally, when the missionary had read well into the chapter, the chief rushed forth, dagger blazing in the tropical sun. "You keep quiet!" he bel- lowed.

Naturally the amazed missionary wanted to know what was wrong.

"It's all right for you to tell of your new religion. But you are not fair. You have had spies watching me from some hiding place."

Of course the missionary denied this.

"Then," asked the chief, "how did you learn all those things about me?"

You see, God's Word had turned the spotlight upon his heart.—Youth for Christ Magazine.

## TIME TO PRAY

The world seems worse than usual.

China is going to hell in a basket. Chiang Kai-shek's government will prove to be the king of all ratholes down which our millions have vanished. We face the near certainty of a red China, of a somewhat different Communistic hue than Russia, but nonetheless antagonistic to our way of thinking.

Russia, for reasons known only to her mysterious oriental mind, has picked this optimistic moment after our national election to threaten the United States with even worse problems in Germany.

The final war between east and west, to see who will rule a wrecked, blasted world, looms closer daily.

And there is little to do except to continue patiently what we have been doing. To work for a united world, in sections at first, but ever expanding in co-operation. Meanwhile to prepare ourselves for whatever battle may be forthcoming. And to pray.

Mostly to pray. The world is learning how foolish are its material efforts to solve its problems. Maybe the unrest today will be the meaning of turning those efforts honestly toward the spiritual. —Ottawa (Kansas) Herald.

## Religious Rights Endangered

Five Congressmen have introduced bills in the House recommending that the government provide heavy penalties for any one sending literature through the United States mail which in any way attacks any religion, race or creed. These bills are in accord with the thinking of some people in our land today who have gone overboard on the "Brotherhood of Man" idea. These bills, if passed, would make it illegal and criminal to expose the heresies in other religions. This would be a direct violation of our Bill of Rights. If the bills are reported out of committee, every effort should be made to influence our Congressmen and Senators to vote against them. —Pentecostal Evangel.

## How to Use Tobacco

The Christian Advocate says that some time ago a tobacco company sent packages of cigarettes to some high school boys with this explanation: "We are sending you a package of our finest cigarettes. We hope you will use them to your satisfaction and want more."

One of the boys used the cigarettes, and wrote back: "I received the package of cigarettes, and used them to my satisfaction. I steeped them in a quart of water, and sprayed our bug-infested rosebushes. Every bug died. These cigarettes are sure a good poison. I want more next spring if any bugs survive."

This young fellow knew how to use tobacco. He used it to poison bugs, and not to poison himself!—Selected.

## ENOUGH TO BE MISERABLE

Aunt Dinah describes a young member of her church as having "jest 'nough religion to make her miser'ble—too much to be happy at dances an' too little to be happy in p'ar meet- in'."

Alas, the type is common—a troubled spirit that halts halfway, afraid to go back and unwilling to go forward. There is no peace in the borderland. The halfway Christian is a torment to himself and no benefit to others.—War Cry.