

APPENDIX B.

REPORT CONCERNING SUFFERING JEWS IN SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE AND FIRE.

Philadelphia, May 6th, 1906.

In response to appeals for aid, received from representatives of the Jewish community of San Francisco, to assist in the immediate relief of destitution caused by the earthquake and fire in that city and to provide means for the rehabilitation of individuals and families who had lost all their means of livelihood through the calamity, a meeting was called by President Julian W. Mack, of the National Conference of Jewish Charities at the Hotel Bellevue-Stratford, Philadelphia, on Sunday morning, May 6th, 1906.

There were present a large number of persons prominently connected with the charitable organizations of the leading cities of the country, and after a full discussion it was resolved that Dr. Lee K. Frankel of the United Hebrew Charities of New York City, and Dr. J. L. Magnes, Rabbi-elect of Temple Emanu-El of New York, be appointed a Committee of the National Conference of Jewish Charities to proceed to San Francisco to investigate the conditions existing there, and after such investigation to report to the President of the National Conference of Jewish Charities concerning the advisability of issuing a general appeal to the Jews of the United States for the relief of the Jewish community of San Francisco. The Committee at once went to San Francisco and after full investigation submitted the following report:

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE INTO THE CONDITION OF THE JEWISH SUFFERERS FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE.

Mr. Nathan Bijur, President National Conference of Jewish Charities.

SIR: The undersigned beg to present herewith their report as the Committee appointed by the Executive Committee of the National Conference of Jewish Charities on May 6th, 1906, to ascertain the requirements of the Jewish community of San Francisco, as a result of the earthquake which visited that city on April 18th, 1906.

This Committee was appointed under the following resolution adopted by the Executive Committee on the above mentioned date:

"RESOLVED, That the Executive Committee of the National Conference of Jewish Charities be authorized to ascertain the requirements of the Jewish community of San Francisco, both as to its general future needs and as to the work of re-construction and support of institutions, and when ascertained, that the National Conference of Jewish Charities submit the facts to representatives of the entire Jewish community for the purpose of raising the necessary funds, should funds be required."

In pursuance of this resolution, we left New York on Monday, May 7th, 1906, arriving in Oakland on Friday, May 11th, 1906. On the same evening, we had an interview with the Rev. Dr. Jacob Voorsanger of San Francisco. Among other things, Dr. Voorsanger expressed his opinion that the officers of the official Jewish Relief Committee of San Francisco had as yet been unable to gather any statistical information regarding the damage which had been incurred by the Jewish community of that city or of the number of families that had been rendered homeless. Dr. Voorsanger was, however, of the opinion that there were at least 10,000 homeless Jews in San Francisco and that a relief fund of at least \$30,000 to \$40,000 would have to be raised from the Jews of the United States.

On Saturday morning, May 12th, in company with Dr. Edward T. Devine of the National Red Cross, and Dr. Voorsanger, we visited the various camps in San Francisco. At the Camp at Bay and Van Ness Avenue, there were no Jews. At Camp No. 2 in Harrison Square we found 5 families of Jews. In the Camp at San Bruno Road, approximately 600 Jews were being fed. At the Camp in Golden Gate Park, Miss Nettie Pawson, the manager, estimated that she had approximately 400 Jews in charge. Inspection on our part of the various tents and shacks in these camps confirmed these figures.

In the afternoon we had a conference with the Executive Committee of the Jewish Relief Committee, composed of representatives of the Jewish Board of Relief, the Independent Order B'nai Brith, and others. At this meeting, we reported that one of us (Dr. Frankel) had interviewed Dr. Edward T. Devine, the Special Representative of the National Red Cross, and had obtained from him a statement to the effect that in his opinion the Finance Committee of the Relief and Red Cross Funds would ultimately deem it necessary to appropriate a considerable portion of the Relief and Red Cross Funds for re-habilitation purposes, along non-sectarian lines, and that therefore there would probably be no need for a special Jewish Fund for purposes of re-habilitation. We informed the Committee that from the inspection of the camps which we had made we were of the opinion

that there was no need of a special fund for the immediate relief of Jewish sufferers. This was conceded by the Executive Committee.

The question of support for communal institutions was next considered. It was held by the members of the Committee that the Orphan Asylum, the Old Folks' Home and Mt. Zion Hospital required no outside support. The various relief societies, comprised in the Hebrew Board of Relief, had expended in the last year about \$40,000. The Committee was of the opinion:

1. That the annual income would be reduced 75 per cent.
2. That the amount needed for the coming year for relief purposes would be at least double.
3. That the reserve funds of the various relief societies would be available at once and could be applied for relief purposes.

In the opinion of Mr. Albert Meyer, the Treasurer, these funds amounted to about \$90,000. The Committee was not agreed, in view of the statement and facts presented, whether a general appeal to the Jews of the United States should be made, and finally adjourned, after having adopted the following resolutions:

"RESOLVED, That this Committee communicate by telegram with the United Hebrew Charities of New York, requesting them to permit Dr. Lee K. Frankel to remain in this city and to assist this Committee in its work of reorganization."

"FURTHERMORE RESOLVED, That Drs. Frankel and Magnes be requested to procure more definite information than they now possess, as to what disposition will be made of the Relief and Red Cross Funds in the matter of re-habilitation.

In order to obtain more information respecting the condition of Jews in the various camps, one of us (Dr. Magnes) visited the various camps in Oakland on Sunday, May 13th, 1906, and from information which he had gathered, was of the opinion that about 200 Jewish families, refugees from south of Market Street, San Francisco, were housed in Oakland and its environs. Temporary provision for these was being made by the Relief and Red Cross Funds and by the local Jewish community.

The other (Dr. Frankel) in company with Dr. Devine, visited the Camp in San Bruno Park, near the town of San Mateo, and the towns of Santa Clara, Palo Alto, Redwood City and San Jose. In none of these places could any number of Jewish sufferers be found.

On Monday, May 14th, we conferred with various members of the Hebrew Board of Relief and other representatives of the community. Mr. Asheim, Grand Secretary of District No. 4.

I. O. B. B., informed us that \$14,000 had been received from various lodges throughout the country, for relief of the members of the Order. In an interview with Dr. M. S. Levy, of the Geary Street Temple, we were informed that his synagogue, which was almost completed, was destroyed by the earthquake with a loss of \$60,000. He was of the opinion, as was every one, that the time was not appropriate to ask aid for synagogues destroyed. On the basis of 300 Jewish interments during the year, Dr. Levy estimated the Jewish population of San Francisco to have been 20,000, of whom no less than 5,000 lived south of Market Street, where the more recent immigrants had settled. This estimate was at variance with those usually made, which range up to 35,000 Jews living in the city of San Francisco and up to 12,000 living in the section south of Market Street.

In the afternoon we interviewed Mr. P. N. Lilienthal, of the Anglo-California Bank, who was of the opinion that no special fund for the relief and rehabilitation of Jews was needed. Mr. Lilienthal was of the impression that opportunities for employment were as good for Jews as they were for others, and that the general fund would be distributed equitably.

Further inspection of the camps in the Protrero Road and other places on Tuesday morning, May 15th, confirmed our original impression that no special immediate relief fund for Jews was needed.

In the afternoon we again met with the Executive Committee of the Jewish Relief Committee, at which one of us (Dr. Frankel) presented a letter from Dr. Devine, the special representative of the National Red Cross, giving the result of a conference which he had had with Mr. James D. Phelan, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Relief and Red Cross Funds.

After this letter was read, it was agreed by the Executive Committee that the problem of the support of the relief societies would be met by using the reserve funds of the various societies, and by increased subscriptions, if necessary, from the wealthier element of the community. Resolutions to this effect were adopted.

Finally, we were instructed to telegraph to the Executive Committee of the National Conference of Jewish Charities that after careful consultation and consideration of the situation, the Executive Committee of the Jewish Relief Committee had come to the conclusion that no immediate appeal for funds in behalf of the Jewish sufferers in San Francisco was necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

LEE K. FRANKEL.
J. LEON MAGNES.