

THE  
*Jewish Veteran*

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NOVEMBER



1936

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**SUPPLY DEPARTMENT J. W. V.**  
276 Fifth Avenue, New York City

# JUSTICE BRANDEIS REACHES EIGHTY

By B. MOSKOW

*(This page was reserved for an article by Justice Brandeis. In answer to our request, Justice Brandeis on October 30th, in his own hand writing responded: "Regret exceedingly Judicial office precludes acting on your courteous suggestion."—Ed.)*

THE Supreme Court of the United States has been termed the most powerful judicial tribunal in the world. During the past three years its opinions have been exceedingly important, at times changing the course of events. On the decisions shortly to be rendered by this Court depends in large part the philosophy of the entire New Deal.

On the bench of this Court sit what have been termed "Nine Old Men." Of these nine, two are Jewish, Justices Brandeis and Cardozo. Some bigots resent the presence of these two learned jurists on the Supreme bench. During the recent presidential campaign, anti-Semitic agitators frequently referred to them, and spoke of them as part of President Roosevelt's "Jew Deal" (Justice Cardozo was appointed by President Hoover).

Justice Brandeis was the first American of Jewish faith ever to grace the Supreme Court. He has graced that Court with distinction and honor for twenty years. He is its oldest member. On November 13th, 1936, he will pass his eightieth milestone. Who is he? Books have been written by and about him, of his philosophy and judicial interpretations. In our limited space, we are permitted to pay our respects only too briefly to this great American jurist.

## His Early Life

Louis Dembitz Brandeis was born in Louisville, Kentucky. His parents emigrated here from Prague, Bohemia. Both parents had an excellent cultural Jewish background. Like many Jewish pioneers, his father prospered, and Louis in his youth did not have to struggle with poverty. After the usual preliminary education in the Louisville schools, he spent several years as a student in Germany. Returning to America, he studied law in Harvard. He studied so well that the rules of the school had to be suspended to permit him to graduate when he was but twenty years of age—at the head of his class.

Addressing a class of students once, he advised them to plan their lives fifty years ahead. Evidently Justice Brandeis has lived his life following such a program. After starting the practice of law in Boston, he laid down a rule of simple living, to which the Brandeis family thereafter consistently adhered. He needed to devote only a part of his time to earning a living and the rest he was free to give to public causes.

## As A Lawyer

His practice grew almost magically and his local fame as an advocate and winner of causes was secure within two years. Presently he was battling the vested interests of New England on behalf of the class he thought down-trodden and exploited. To his door came a host of new friends—in overalls, without funds—to seek in his brilliant services the justice too costly for them to win elsewhere. Counselor Brandeis took many of these pitiful cases without charge. He became known as the poor man's counsel.

Moreover he had the temerity to attack the mightiest of all New England's institutions—the New Haven railroad. He hated all arbitrary power, and distrusted the trend of capital toward monopolies. He fought the combinations in steel, shoe machinery, transportation and finance, pointing out their threat to the liberties of labor and of the citizen. These attacks won him the hatred of many powerful groups, and the praise of the masses.

His public contributions are legion. He built up the Massachusetts system of savings bank insurance. He organized the Harvard Law School Association, in order to modernize the teaching of law.

## Elevation to Supreme Court

President Woodrow Wilson appraised his great ability and high character and sent his nomination to the Senate in January, 1916. His enemies used their utmost pressure to defeat his confirmation. "A Jew had never held such high office," "he was a radical," "he did not possess judicial temperament," etc., were some of the charges. The tension in the press for months ran high. It was not until June, 1916, that he was finally confirmed.

As a judge he has also excelled. His judicial interpretations have left their mark on the nation's fundamental law and have earned him the respect even of those who do not wholly accept his philosophy. He has always advocated the cause of "the little man." He has been happy in giving his whole time and strength in the public interest, in accordance with the pattern he had drawn as a young lawyer.

## His Interest in Zionism

In 1910 while acting as Chairman to settle a Clothing Strike in New York City, he became interested in the life of the East Side Jews. His interest in Zionism was aroused and in 1914, he was prevailed upon to accept the Presidency of the Zionist organization of the United States. He held that office until 1921.

When he assumed leadership, the Zionist cause was dying and had dwindled to a mere handful. Under his guidance, it grew to tremendous strength. As a close friend of President Wilson, he was able to procure American prestige in regard to Palestine.

Although Justice Brandeis because of his position has taken no active part since 1921, he is still deeply interested in the Jewish Homeland, and Jewish welfare. His sage advice and counsel are frequently sought.

Although eighty years old, we are happy to report, that Justice Brandeis has the appearance, vigor and mental energy of a much

younger man. We wish for him many more years of health and service to humanity.

On his birthday, we salute Justice Brandeis. Deeply sympathetic with the lot of the common man, he has shown himself a great humanitarian. His every act and word, his devotion to his country and his fellow man stamp him as a great American. His vigorous protest against religious and economic persecution, his understanding and advocacy of our problems have labeled him America's outstanding Jew.

By LOUIS D. BRANDEIS

*The following Address was delivered by Justice Brandeis in June, 1915, before the Eastern Council of the Central Conference of Reform Rabbis. His words then were prophetic, and are even truer today.—Ed.*

There is no inconsistency between loyalty to America and loyalty to Jewry. The Jewish spirit, the product of our religion and experiences is essentially modern and essentially American. Not since the destruction of the Temple have the Jews in spirit and in ideals been so fully in harmony with the noblest aspirations of the country in which they lived.

America's fundamental law seeks to make real brotherhood of man. That brotherhood became the Jewish fundamental law more than twenty-five hundred years ago. America's insistent demand in the twentieth century is for social justice. That also has been the Jews' striving for ages. Their affliction as well as their religion has prepared the Jews for effective democracy. Persecution broadened their sympathies. It trained them in patient endurance, in self-control and in sacrifice. It made them think as well as suffer. It deepened the passion for righteousness.

The sole bulwark against demoralization is to develop in each new generation of Jews in America the sense of NOBLESSE OBLIGE. That spirit can be developed in those who regard their race as destined to live and live with a bright future. That spirit can best be developed by actively participating in some way in furthering the ideals of the Jewish renaissance; and this can be done effectively only through furthering the Zionist movement.

"It is high time that the Jews should realize that few things do more to foster anti-Semitic feeling than this very tendency to sail under false colors and conceal their true identity. The Zionists and the orthodox Jewish Nationalists have long ago won the respect and admiration of the world. No race has ever defied assimilation so stubbornly and so successfully; and the modern tendency of individual Jews to repudiate what is one of their chief glories suggests an almost comic resolve to fight against the course of nature."

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**Commander-in-Chief's  
 Message**

Dear Comrades:

Until I become acclimated to my new responsibilities, I prefer to take things slowly. Although the activities of the new administration may not be so apparent, much of our groundwork has been laid, so that progress in the future will be more obvious.

In line with my promises made, my appointments have all been made on the basis of ability and experience alone.

I have cut administration expenses "to the bone," without however, impairing our efficiency. My staff and myself have eliminated unnecessary trips. Until proper funds are available, I shall make only essential visitations to Posts and departments. When headquarters should be represented at any affair or event, I shall delegate my nearest officer. I trust the Posts will cooperate along these lines.

I am happy at the progress being made by several committees already. Especially gratifying is the work of the most important Finance Committee. Results are already apparent, and I hope the silver lining is not far off.

We have renewed our Boycott activities, and I expect before long under the able guidance of our chairman, J.W.V. will again take the lead in this important work.

Our Americanization program has been planned, and will be working shortly.

In spite of the restriction in size of the magazine, it is full of meat and life, and ably expresses the purposes of our organization.

The groundwork is also being laid on legislation in Washington, our National Charter, the Junior J.W.V., anti-defamation work, and other planks in our program.

Before closing, may I urge each post and comrade to try and be with me in Washington on January 20th, 1937, for the inaugural parade, so that we can make a desirable showing before our beloved President.

HARRY H. SCHAEFFER.

**Religion in Politics**

The recent Presidential campaign was replete with religious propaganda. It appears that every demagogue and anti-Semite supported one of the major candidates. A sharp editorial was submitted to the Editor, urging us to attack those Jewish leaders who supported this same candidate, and who failed to resent such anti-Semitic support.

We were tempted to print the editorial, signed by the contributor, since it contained so many truths. Fearing misconstruction of our purpose, and unnecessary controversy, we decided against its publication.

Now that the election is over, however, some comment is apropos. The framers of J.V.'s constitution were wise to conceive how easy our organization might be wrecked on the rock of politics, and banned politics. Violation of this prohibition by our comrades has been rare indeed.

It might be well to remind our friends and neighbors that Jews never act politically or economically as a unit. Jews are divided sharply among themselves on such questions as are any other racial or religious groups. It will be found that Jews engaged in industry and banking are generally conservative and very probably Republicans—the employes and professionals, who are the liberals, may generally be found advocating Democratic doctrines.

Much as the demagogues may rant, there is of course, no "Jewish Vote." The Jewish vote is a myth. It will be found that Republican and Democratic office-holders among the Jews are about evenly divided. Jews participate as Americans, within their respective parties. Although J.W.V. takes no part in politics, we are vigorously opposed to attempts to segregate Jews politically on religious grounds. Nor do we want Jewish political candidates attacked because of their faith. Both of such symptoms are un-American.

In the recent election, undoubtedly both Republican and Democratic candidates were free of any racial or religious bias. Unfortunately, we cannot say the same for many of the backers of one of the candidates. Many of the violent anti-Semitic organizations rallied to his support. Among them was the official Nazi group in the United States. Lined up with them, were the demagogues, William Dudley Pelley, James True, Fritz Kuhn, Father Coughlin and Rev. Gerald Smith. It appeared that every anti-Semite, and un-American organization in the country was plumping for this candidate's election. Many Jews therefore can be pardoned if they hesitated to vote for that candidate.

Were the Jewish leaders who supported this candidate under a duty to speak out, and ask their candidate and their party to repudiate frankly the support of these anti-Semitic groups? We think so. By remaining silent did they not deliberately aid and give comfort to the enemies of the Jewish people? We think so.

It may not be too late for these Jewish leaders even now to denounce these Jew-baiters. Their failure, after the election to

**Armistice Day**

Another Anniversary. Eighteen years past. Have the hopes of November 11, 1918, been fulfilled? Has the sacrifice of ten million lives been in vain?

Has the World been Made Safe for Democracy? The existing Democracies can be counted on one hand. Reaction and oppression is on the march. Communism, Fascism and Nazism are sweeping Europe. These movements of hate and destruction are attempting to gain a foothold in Great Britain, United States and other Democratic countries.

Has "A War to End All Wars" been achieved? Since the Armistice, several wars have been going on constantly in some parts of the world. Early this year, we had the Italo-Ethiopian War. Now civil war rages in Spain. A race in armaments is being run in all the countries. The entire world is sitting on a keg of powder and the first spark may set off the keg embroiling the world in a war that will make the last war look like child's play.

The World Court and the League of Nations, the most promising safeguards against Wars, has been found sadly wanting. Hitler has made the Versailles Treaty a "Scrap of Paper." Minority peoples in all countries are without rights. Jews everywhere are oppressed and persecuted.

And so this Armistice Day sees most of the ideals for which America fought unfulfilled.

But we must not be discouraged! In fact, we must not fail to carry on for those who died in Flanders fields, and for those wounded and disabled, in and out of Hospitals, for whom there has been no Armistice.

Let us therefore, again rededicate ourselves to American ideals. We can keep forever fresh the graves and memories of our fallen comrades; comfort the sick and disabled, take care of the families, widows and orphans of our unfortunates; combat alien "isms" and do our utmost to retain our democratic form of government and American institutions.

Comrades! Our Duty Is Clear!

We will keep faith with those who have died and we will carry the torch which THEY flung to us!

We, Jewish War Veterans will always remember to combat the powers of bigotry and darkness—and will be ever alert to fight the battle of righteousness and liberty.

**CONTRIBUTORS ATTENTION!**

**It will be our aim to have this magazine mailed by the tenth of each month. In order therefore, to digest and publish your contributions, they MUST BE received BEFORE the first of the month.**

—Ed.

do so, should forfeit their right hereafter to act as spokesmen for American Jewry.

May the results of the last election be a lesson for the future, that it pays to keep religion out of politics.