
Report of the Jewish Translator-Secretary to the National Committee of the Socialist Party of America, May 1913.

by J.B. Salutsky

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1. Organization.

To the National Committee, Socialist Party:

Dear Comrades:—

At the convention of the Jewish Socialist Party branches, which was held at Paterson, NJ, from May 30th to June 2nd, 1912, it was decided to form the Jewish Socialist Federation, which should affiliate with the Socialist Party along the lines laid down by the Indianapolis Socialist Party Convention.

This decision was later ratified by a referendum vote of the membership, and on July 31st the Jewish Federation of the Socialist Party came into existence. The National Executive Committee of the party immediately granted the requested affiliation, but it insisted that the Translator-Secretary of the Jewish Federation serve in the national headquarters, in Chicago, which requirement the organization was not in a state to meet before the presidential campaign was over, as the Federation was engaged in most extensive campaign agitation. It was therefore not before November 20th that the Secretary of the Jewish Federation could take up his duties as Translator-Secretary in the National Office.

At the time of affiliation the Jewish Federation was composed of 24 branches, with a total membership of about 800. Since then the organization kept on growing all the time, so that at present, after nine months of continuous and systematic work, the Federation consists of 68 branches in 19 states, distributed as follows:

Connecticut 5

District of Columbia	1
Illinois	6
Indiana	1
Massachusetts	17
Maryland	3
Maine	1
Michigan	1
Minnesota	1
Missouri	1
Nebraska	1
New York	6
New Jersey	8
Pennsylvania	6
Ohio	3
Rhode Island	2
Tennessee	2
Virginia	1
Wisconsin	2

Twenty out of these were organized under the direct influence of the Federation. Not less than 20 out of the remaining were extremely weak until our present form of organization was started, and it is the incessant work of the Federation which transformed these organizations into live and active agencies for the spreading of Socialist thought and action.

The total membership of the 68 affiliated branches amounts to 2,700, the number of members in good standing on April 1st being 1,993.

2. Due Stamps.

The sale of due stamps to the affiliated branches was begun on December 1st. The following figures show the disbursements to the National and State

Offices since then:

	<i>stamps sold</i>	<i>— Paid to —</i>	
		<i>Nat. Office</i>	<i>State & Co.</i>
Dec. 1912	1,545	\$77.25	\$77.01
Jan. 1913	1,990	99.50	98.25
Feb. 1913	1,280	64.00	65.10
March 1913	1,701	85.09	72.67
April 1913	1,369	68.49	63.67
TOTALS	7,885	\$394.29	\$376.70

The sale of stamps during February, March, and April did not keep pace with the steady growth of our membership. This is chiefly due to the big strikes in the different trades of the needle industry, which involved not less than 50,000 Jewish workingmen all over the East in a long and tenacious fight against the bossdom. But all these strikes resulted in considerable economic gains for the workers, and our organizations are rapidly recovering from the temporary weakness. The Federation will try to derive the proper advantage from the favorable situation created by the economic victories of the Jewish workingmen.

3. Agitation and Propaganda.

The most extensive agitation and propaganda work was done during the presidential campaign. Eight speakers were engaged by the Federation, and besides the meetings addressed by them, many other meetings were arranged direct by the branches. During the months which followed the campaign, two lecturers were employed, and extensive tours arranged for them, so that almost at every considerable Jewish settlement two or more mass-meetings were held. Besides, the Secretary of the Federation and many other lecturers have filled many other short speaking engagements. The number of meetings arranged under the auspices of the Jewish Socialist Federation was:

- 88 during September and October [1912].
- 22 during January [1913].
- 80 during February, March, and April [1913].

These numbers do not include the many mass-meetings and lectures arranged by the branches directly. Many of the branches have arranged between ten and

fifteen lectures each; such as New York, New Haven, Newark, Chicago, Pittsburgh, and others.

4. Literature.

The following leaflets and pamphlets were printed during the last eight months:

Party Platform, 8-page leaflet	100,000
Address of Acceptance, Eugene V. Debs, 4-page leaflet	65,000
The Cause of Your Poverty, M. Baranoff.....	95,000
Down with the Hands, Eugene V. Debs, 4-page leaflet	50,000
The Growing Grocery Bill, Allen Benson, 32 pages	10,000
May Publication, 24 pages, magazine size ...	10,000

A series of other publications are under preparation, and everything possible will be done to meet the ever-growing demand for literature. The total sale for literature for the eight months amounts to \$1,700.

Among the special activities of the Federation the following are worthwhile mentioning:

1. Special care taken on many occasions to get the women into the party movement.
2. A call issued to all the affiliated branches to strengthen the naturalization work among the men, as well as the women, immigrants.
3. A call issued to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the death of Karl Marx; many meetings were arranged for this occasion.
4. A call issued to celebrate the first of May; the result was that real great meetings were held in almost every city; the May festivals were inspiring; a great and successful meeting arranged in Chicago by the Federation cleared \$150.
5. A call for assistance for the Paterson strikers was issued, and the results are very satisfactory.

In conclusion I wish to state that we have every reason to believe the Jewish Federation will grow before very long into a strong and big organization within the Socialist Party. And it is high time that it be so. Three hundred and fifty thousand Jewish workingmen in the radical Workingmen's Circle — this is sufficient reason for having at least ten times as strong a party organization as the one we have.

The party constitution, which gave legal standing to the Language Federations, has done a real great service to the Socialist elevation of the immigrant masses, and it is up to the minor subdivisions of the party not to interfere in any way with this great process of organizing the foreign workingmen of this country into the party of international Socialism.

Unfortunately, some of the locals have not yet fully realized the importance of the fact, and they are trying to clog the wheels of our "foreign" movement. Such was the case in San Francisco, where the city central organization, for reasons unknown and inexplicable, decided not to allow any naturalized comrade to remain in a foreign-speaking branch.

We hope that the National Committee will see that such direct violations of the party constitution shall not be allowed. The party is big enough to be great.

Fraternally submitted,

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Translator-Secretary

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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