THE WAR AND THE JEW: A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE WORLD'S SITUATION AND THE JEWS' PLACE IN IT

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S. B. ROHOLD

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A GREAT UNIVERSE, BUT NO PLACE FOR ME!



NOT WANTED!

The War and the Jew

A BIRD'S BYE VIEW OF THE WORLD'S SITUATION AND THE JEWS' PLACE IN IT

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PREFACE

The author of the following pages may be truly described as "an Hebrew of the Hebrews."

He was born in Jerusalem, the sor of a Jewish Rabbi, who was so intense a nationalist that he would use no language but Hebrew. Born of such parentage, he maintained, as a Christian, the full fervour of Jewish patriotism. That love of his own people, which flamed in the heart of the Apostle Paul, has inspired the author's whole Christian life and ministry, and glows with the utmost ardor in these pages.

In the midst of incessant and laborious toil, as head of a Hebrew Christian Church, with manifold educational, social, and philanthropic enterprises, he has found time to acquaint himself with the situation of his people throughout the World, and especially in those countries which are involved in the present awful conflict. He has compressed into a few pages some of the most telling facts of that situation. He is well aware of the feelings, with which Jews are regarded in all the lands of their dispersion, ranging all the way from coldness and suspicion to dislike and bitter enmity. But he proves, and illustrates by abundant evidence, two amazing facts.

First: Jews are among the trusted servants of all the Powers now engaged in war.

Second: Jews are loyal to the coun-

tries of their nativity, and are to be found, by the thousands, fighting in the armies of their various nationalities.

Mr. Rohold is a loyal citizen of Canada, and subject of King George: and is enthusiastically on the side of the Allies in this great conflict for justice and freedom. But he writes with a deep sense of the tragedy, in which, in a peculiar sense, the war has involved the Jew. Men of Jewish race are confronting one another as enemies on the battlefield. In Russia, too, another drop of bitterness is added to the cup, which the Jew has, in these days, to drink. The tale of the deportations of Jews from one part of Russia to another is very terrible. Mr. Rohold is careful not to lay the blame on the Russian people, but on the bureaucracy, which, in its harassing of the Jews, as well as in its treatment of the Finns, has been acting under German instigation.

One momentous question, which arises out of the facts presented to us in these pages, is this: Will the War issue in the amelioration of the lot of the Jews, in those lands, where they have lain under suspicion and disabilities, where, none the less, they have poured out their treasures and their lives on behalf even of those who have persecuted them?

We are prepared to stake our all for Belgium and for Serbia. Is there nothing to be done to secure for the Jew just and equitable treatment? It is to ask that question that Mr. Rohold has written these brief but pregnant pages.

Readers will note with interest his treatment of one aspect of the Jewish question, viz., the future of Palestine. His suggestion, that it should be taken from Turkish control and constituted an independent State under the suzerainty of Egypt, is deeply interesting, in view both of Old Testament prophecy and of modern international politics.

It may be added, as a minor point of interest, that Mr. Rohold was brought up, speaking three languages: Hebrew with his father, Spanish with his mother, and Arabic with his playmates. Yiddish is the speech in which his pastoral and missionary work is done.

To these he adds cultivated and fluent English. He is himself a remarkable instance of the intellectual