

# Youth Gets Administered

This undertaking will need the vigorous cooperation of the citizens of the several states, and to insure that they shall have an important part in this work, a representative group will be appointed to act as a National Advisory Board with similar Boards of citizens in the states and municipalities throughout the country. On these Boards there shall be representatives of industry, labor, education and youth because I want the youth of America to have something to say about what is being done for them—*President Roosevelt upon signing the executive order establishing the National Youth Administration, June 26, 1935.*

ON August 1, President Roosevelt appointed the thirty-four members of the National Advisory Board of the newly created and much ballyhooed National Youth Administration. Not a single representative of a youth organization was among them.

The official press release announcing the Board declared that "the members are outstanding representatives of labor, business, agriculture, education and youth" and the Washington gentlemen of the press, who are wont to take the New Deal's word for anything, blandly informed the public in the evening papers that the young people of the nation had representatives on the Board.

Even a cursory examination of the membership of the Board would have revealed that aviatrix Amelia Earhart was probably the youngest thing around. But how were the newspaper boys to tell that? The official announcement didn't state the ages of the members or the names of the organizations they represented.

A really thorough examination would have revealed that the members of the Board were either Administration notables or insignificant unknowns and that only a few educational and social work representatives had the slightest familiarity with the problems of youth. Among those who are to act in youth's behalf are:

Henry Dennison, president of the Dennison Manufacturing Company since 1917. Business representative on the National Labor Board of early N.R.A. days.

Owen D. Young, Chairman of the Board of the General Electric Company.

Adolphe Augustus Berle, Jr., brain trustee extraordinary. Privately a member of the Board of Directors of the

Bankers' Trust Corporation, Institutional Securities Corporation, American Molasses Company and several foreign corporations.

Hiram Percy Maxim. Well known inventor of that notorious lethal gadget the Maxim silencer, the greatest contribution to gangsterism of the century. Less known and for good reasons, as the inventor of battleship armaments.

Bernarr Macfadden. The man who brought physical culture to America in 1898, when he established the Physical Culture Magazine. More recently the publisher of The New York Graphic, Liberty, True Story, True Romances, and The New York Daily Investment News.

Certainly the President can boast that he has appointed the Forgotten Man to the National Advisory Board of National Youth Administration, or, to be more accurate, that he has appointed an entire squadron of Forgotten Men. Who, pray, has heard of Kenneth Farrier, the Reverend Edward R. Moore, Miss Mae K. Sargeant, Thomas J. McInerney, Donald R. Murphy, Frank L. Boyden? This is not to say that they are not good men and true, perhaps indeed more concerned about youth's problems than Messrs. Dennison, Young, Berle, Maxim, Macfadden, but certainly the public should be informed of their qualifications, of the organizations which they represent.

And certainly the public should be informed of the extent of the relationship of the National Youth Administration with the new military school for homeless boys at Clyde, California—the first military school of its type in the country. Reports point to a very intimate relationship between the N.Y.A. and Clyde's unique "Citizen's Training Center."

According to an Associated Press dispatch Aubrey Williams, executive director of the National Youth Administration, pressed a key which sent an electric spark to explode a bomb—appropriately enough—at the dedicatory exercises of the school. The opening sentence of a feature article about the school in the Boise, Idaho News (July 24,) declares significantly:

The "save the next generation" project now in the limelight through President Roosevelt's National Youth Administration, already is marching along toward success here in this once-abandoned wartime shipbuilding town near Martinez.

The authorities of Clyde's Citizens Training Center make no attempt to hide the fact that military training is part of the center's curriculum. Full military regalia is worn by the 225 youths who have been recruited from the Federal transient shelters of California. The entire center is organized on military lines. The older boys act as corporals, sergeants, lieutenants and captains.

The center authorities insist, of course, that "no arms are used," that the major purpose of the center is to, as Dr. George O. Smith, originator of the institution, has said, "provide some place where disillusioned youth can take stock of himself, learn the rudiments of a trade, correct glaring educational deficiencies." According to a journalist who visited the center "the goal is to turn out youths desirable for apprentices in navy, coast guard and merchant marine . . . even aviation subjects are handled as part of the work." And according to the center's official regulations, the present group of cadets will be aided in entering C.C.C. camps as junior instructors, the army, the navy or the coast guard.

The success of the center so far, according to the Boise News writer, "indicates that the Citizens' Training corps plan of Dr. Smith will be easily applicable to all parts of America." Dr. Smith, let it be said, is an expert on such matters and will doubtless go far. He has been at this juvenile Americanization work since he left the army in 1919.

Already his program has caught the imagination and patriotic fervor of California; State Works Progress Administrator Frank McLaughlin has given it his endorsement. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Vierling Kersey seems to be particularly aware of the promising anti-labor significance of the entire National Youth Administration program.

"California youth," declared Mr. Kersey in The Los Angeles Examiner on July 22, "are loyal to, and proud of America and her institutions through a wholesome recreational and educational program and an opportunity for constructive expression of energy in return for life's necessities, they would not turn to the preachers of hatred and radicalism who seek them as converts."



THE WEEK IN GERMANY

Boris Grellick



# The Rise and Fall of Abraham Cahan

PAUL NOVICK

**A**BRAHAM CAHAN, editor of The Jewish Daily Forward, was seventy-five years old last month.

There was no fanfare, no celebration. The romantic press called it modesty. But love is blind and has no memory. Cahan *did* appear before Jewish workers not so long ago, May 5, at the opening of the convention of the *Socialist-controlled Workmen's Circle*. He was booed down. . . .

The "Patriarch" could not think of meeting his "flock" again; there was no festive mood inside the offices of the "great" newspaper either. The paper is fast declining. The Cahan-Lang-Hearst scandal has cost The Jewish Daily Forward a great deal. When the turmoil began—with the appearance of the Lang articles in the Hearst press—Cahan told a stormy meeting of the Forward Association: Give me a couple of weeks and it will all be forgotten. But his old tricks do not work any more. The anti-Soviet articles in the Hearst press of the then assistant editor of The Forward made a tremendous and lasting impression upon the workers—quite different from the impression Cahan hoped to create when he helped negotiate the contract between Lang and Hearst. And so The Forward, which has steadily declined for the last ten years, began losing ground more rapidly. Many thousands of readers gave it up in disgust. The Forward was condemned at public meetings throughout the country. The loss in prestige The Forward suffered among its own following was even more significant. Dissension was created within its own ranks. In an effort to remove Cahan, B. Vladeck, for years manager of the paper, handed in his resignation. A rumor has it that he was forced to withdraw it. Cahan triumphed, but The Forward is a house divided.

Cahan is going from one pyrrhic victory to another. In order to "justify" his Lang-Hearst deal, he introduced to Jewish workers a series of articles by Fred Beal which immediately found their way to Hearst. These will again have their repercussions among the readers of The Forward and Cahan will no doubt pick up another white-guard scoundrel. Cahan's hatred for the Soviet Union, for the Communist movement, knows no bounds. The man is mad with rage. It is his ambition in whatever is left of his life to besmirch the Soviet Union in any way possible. In his rage, he is smashing The Forward, but he cannot be stopped. Cahan is The Forward.

He possesses an instrument which is still powerful, not only among the Jewish masses. His tie-up with Hearst shows it. The Forward is a national, even an international cesspool of white-guard propaganda. It is a breeding ground for characters like Lang and Beal—to

be later turned over to Hearst. One may expect the Hitler press to pick up the Beal articles next. Cahan, like Hearst, cannot be ignored, no matter how disgusting the job of fighting him may be. A glimpse at the career of this man Cahan may explain a thing or two. How has he risen?

**C**AHAN became the editor of The Jewish Daily Forward on March 15, 1902. On that day, there appeared on the front page of The Forward the following "box":

## To the Readers

Tomorrow's (Sunday's) Forward will appear in eight pages. That is how it will appear every day from now on. There will be much more to read than heretofore and little by little improvements will be made in every department.

The news and all articles will be written in pure plain Jewish Yiddish, and we hope that every line will be interesting to the entire Yiddish-speaking people, young and old.

In tomorrow's issue there will be found articles:

1—About Irish or Italian gentiles who have become converts to Judaism because of girls of the Jewish Quarters. These are true occurrences, remarkable love stories collected from our life here in America.

2—About poor Jews who send their children to college or to High School.

3—Usurers in the sweat shops. Tricks employed by the bosses to get the Jewish workers into their hands.

4—From here and there. A new department in The Forward which will contain little sketches, short and snappy remarks, stories, anecdotes, jokes, remarkable things happening the world over.

5—There will be more news than heretofore. All other departments will be left as they are. The new novel, *The Usurer's Daughter* (from Jewish life in Russian Poland and in America), will begin Saturday.

This was the program laid out by Cahan while taking over the socialist Forward. The "pure plain Jewish Yiddish" meant the polluted "Americanized" Yiddish used by Cahan, which is neither Yiddish nor pure. Cahan's contempt for Yiddish—the vehicle of his success—has been too often pronounced in the columns of The Forward. It can perhaps only be matched by his contempt for the readers of The Forward.

But paragraph No. 1 in Cahan's program was the thing. It was amplified two weeks later, March 29, 1902, by the following announcement on an inside page of The Forward:

## To the Readers

First, about the news as printed in The Forward. 1: The very latest news. 2: The most interesting and most important news to be found in the entire world. 3: A lot of Jewish news, particularly news about the present turmoil in Russia against the Czar.

Second, about special articles which we will print about matters of concern to everybody, or

which are interesting to know. We have collected piles of facts about marriages in the Jewish Ghetto (quarters), about girls of the Ghetto who remain unmarried, about girls who marry too young, about the old bachelors of the Ghetto—various interesting reasons why a girl stays unmarried. For instance, are all unmarried girls not pretty? The answer is "No." And there is a lot to tell.

Class struggle? The toiling immigrant's miserable existence? Unions? The Socialist Party? The new editor of the struggling socialist paper on the East Side who had just come from five-years' apprenticeship in the yellow New York English press was bent on making a success of the paper with Hearst's methods. "What is a Pretty Woman?", "Men Who Boss Their Wives," "Wives Who Boss Their Men," "Unmarried Girls," "Three Unmarried Girls," "What Price Beauty," "Too Young Brides," "Little Girls Who Get Married," "The Bride Who Was Spanked"—these were the "feature" articles let loose by the new editor. Where the struggle of the tailors for a 25 percent raise got only seven lines, a story: "Did Florence Burns Eat Supper With Walter?" got a full column.

Cahan started The Forward along the easiest way toward financial success, over the protests of many socialists. Some readers broke through the columns of The Forward with their protests. (Cahan did not have a full grip yet.) One asks (March 29, 1902) whether the new "features" have anything to do with scientific socialism. . . . Another contends (March 31) that a socialist paper cannot be the organ of *all* Jews. "A socialist paper must be socialistic and must be a workers' paper." This reader was answered in a long editorial on April 2, to the effect that "for this purpose we never needed here and do not need now a daily Jewish newspaper." The Forward, the editorial contends, is a "socialist paper, not of a group, not of a sect, not even of a party, but a paper to sow and to disseminate socialist thought, to preach the socialist system among the great mass."

And so the "socialist system" for *all* Jews was preached with the aid of material very often surpassing Hearst in vulgarity and salaciousness. The "Bundle of Letters" (letters from the lovelorn, with editorial advice) introduced in the revolutionary year 1905 (and kept up ever since) became a pillar of Cahan's "socialist system."

The crowning glory of Cahan's career as a sensational yellow journalist was his great effort at Flemington, N. J., not so long ago. Cahan would not trust his staff alone to cover the Hauptmann-Lindbergh trial (he had several "hands" there, too). The seventy-five-year-old "patriarch" more than once was on the verge of fainting in the suffocat-