Australia*

JEWISH POPULATION

During the period under review (July 1, 1962, to December 31, 1963) the economic stress was followed by a period of renewed expansion, which encouraged an increase in the number of immigrants to Australia, including Jews. The population passed the 11 million mark. The Jewish population of 67,000 (.63 per cent of the total) was more than double that of 1945, when there were 28,000 Jews, postwar immigration having accounted for most of the increase. Most Australian Jews lived in Melbourne and Sydney, the capitals of Victoria and New South Wales, and their suburbs, with relatively small numbers in the capitals of the other states and very few in rural areas.

The most important Jewish centers were Melbourne, 33,000; Sydney, 27,000; Perth, Western Australia, 3,100; Brisbane, Queensland, 1,500; Adelaide, South Australia, 1,100; Hobart, Tasmania, 160, and Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, 140. Most of the migrants came from eastern Europe, but in recent years there was also an influx of Jews from South Africa and the United Kingdom. A substantial number from Israel were almost all originally from eastern Europe.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

Under the leadership of the Boards of Deputies in the various states and, on a national scale, the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (AJYB, 1961 [Vol. 62], p. 372) communal institutions continued to develop in accordance with the needs of the community. During 1963 numerous new buildings and institutions were completed.

In Melbourne a new synagogue was consecrated at South Caulfield, and the Old Age Home opened a new wing named after the late Rabbi Jacob Danglow. The Australian Jewish Welfare and Relief Society opened the new building of its Frances Barkman Home for children, designed to provide a variety of

* For meaning of abbreviations, see p. 361.
child-care services. A new school was opened in Kew (Bialek School), two in St. Kilda, by the Yeshiva and Yavneh Colleges, which also included new centers and synagogues. A modern sports center for Jewish youth was opened by the Judean League of Victoria. In addition, building commenced on a synagogue and communal center in Kew, and on a block of small flats for old people at St. Kilda.

In Sydney B'nai B'rith opened a lodge home, which quickly established itself as an activity center in the city, and a new wing was added to the Montefiore Homes for the Aged. A new synagogue was opened by the South Coast Hebrew congregation at Woolongong. In Perth the Liberal congregation dedicated a new temple.

The foundation stone for a Jewish community center in the national capital of Canberra was laid by Australian Prime Minister Robert Gordon Menzies in February 1962, in the presence of British Chief Rabbi Israel Brodie.

In August 1963 the Hebrew congregation of Hobart, Tasmania, celebrated the 120th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of its synagogue, the first in Australia.

On the 20th anniversary of the uprising of the Warsaw Ghetto in April 1963, a memorial to the six million Jewish victims of Nazi persecution was unveiled and dedicated at the entrance to the Jewish section of the Melbourne general cemetery in the presence of nearly 8,000 Jews.

Most of the buildings, like the growing network of communal institutions and activities, were financed by contributions raised within the communities; some funds came from CJMCAG.

**Social Services**

Since a large proportion of the Australian Jewish community consisted of newcomers, many of whom were still dependent on financial assistance from welfare institutions, CJMCAG-JDC support of essential services continued to be important. During 1963 CJMCAG provided £A133,250 ($298,000), of which £A113,650 ($254,000) was required for social services and £A19,600 ($44,000) was used for the building and development of educational facilities.

Services to newcomers were rendered by a number of organizations, both in Sydney and in Melbourne, under the leadership of the welfare societies. In Melbourne the work of various organizations was coordinated through the Jewish Social Service Council of Victoria, which was endeavoring to attract professional social workers to reorganize communal social services. With this end in view the council invited George Rabinoff, an American Jewish social worker and former Fulbright scholar at the University of Queensland, to lead a series of self-studies. From these a number of recommendations emerged, which social-welfare organizations were in the process of implementing and which were expected to serve as guidelines for the future.
Education

The day-school movement continued to grow. In Melbourne 2,300 Jewish children attended six Jewish day schools, among them Mount Scopus College with an enrolment of almost 1,500. In addition, nearly 2,000 Jewish children received part-time Jewish education in religious schools sponsored by congregations.

In Sydney and Perth Jewish day schools were receiving increasing support. Jewish organizations also conducted kindergartens for pre-school children. A Hillel Foundation was established in Melbourne in 1962, with Rabbi Boris Rackowsky as Hillel director at Melbourne and Monash universities.

Religion

The development of congregations in the suburbs where Jewish immigrants were settling continued at a rapid rate. Newly appointed to congregations in Melbourne were Rabbi Ron Lubofsky (St. Kilda Hebrew congregation), Rabbi J. Schick (Moorabbin Hebrew congregation), Rabbi I. Rudzky (South Caulfield Hebrew congregation), Rabbi Tarsis (Hascolah), Rev. Eric Cahn (Temple Beth Israel). In Sydney Rabbi Alfred Fabian, formerly of Brisbane, was inducted as minister of the North Shore congregation, and Reverend C. Schwarz was appointed to the North Shore Liberal congregation. Rabbi Fabian succeeded Rabbi Danglow as senior Jewish chaplain to the Australian military forces, following the latter’s death in May 1962; Rabbi Chaim Gutnick was appointed chaplain to the southern command, and Rabbi John Levi was also appointed chaplain. In Adelaide, South Australia, J. Rafolowitz was appointed rabbi to the Hebrew congregation, and a Liberal synagogue was founded in Adelaide. Rabbi B. Gottschall and Rabbi Tapooki were inducted as ministers in Brisbane, Queensland.

Cultural Activities

There were a number of successful lecture tours by such personalities as Israeli art critic D. B. Malkin and Mrs. Chaika Grossman, a survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto visiting Australia. B’nai B’rith President Label Katz visited Australia for the dedication of a district grand lodge and addressed large audiences in most cities. Former Chief Rabbi of South Africa Louis Rabinowitch and Rabbi Martin Berman of the United States, visiting on behalf of UIA, drew large audiences at numerous public functions arranged for them. Another visitor was Menahem Beigin, leader of Herut in the Israeli parliament.

A Jewish Arts Society was established in Melbourne to encourage Jewish artists and arrange exhibitions of their works. Among such exhibitions were those of woodcuts by Jacob Pins and miniatures by Dave Tuchinsky, as well as works by local Jewish artists. Ernest Bloch’s oratorio, “Avodat ha-Kodesh,” was performed by the Victorian Symphony Orchestra and special choirs, under the sponsorship of Victoria’s B’nai B’rith Lodges.
Jacob Waislitz, Melbourne resident for 25 years and a leader in the development and maintenance of an amateur Jewish theater, was honored on his 70th birthday.

Antisemitism

Australia was on the whole free from serious antisemitic manifestations, although Eric Butler's Social Credit movement and the New Times magazine continued their anti-Jewish publicity campaigns. A National Socialist Workers party made its appearance, under the nominal leadership of a certain Graham Royce; no other names were publicized. After an initial spate of publicity little was heard of this group, although it continued to meet, and Jewish organizations remained vigilant. In Sydney and Melbourne "Juden raus" stickers were found on a number of public buildings. In Melbourne two German immigrants were convicted of assault on two elderly Jews. Another source of antisemitic propaganda was a group of Croatian immigrants said to maintain links with the Ustashi movement, a Croatian national movement with Nazi ideology.

Community Relations

Considerable attention was given to the problems of Russian Jewry. The Victorian Jewish Board of Deputies was active in bringing the situation to public attention, and as a result Australian representatives to the UN raised the matter at a meeting of the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee of the General Assembly. The manner in which this question was handled caused some differences of opinion between the Victorian and New South Wales Jewish leaderships, resulting in unfortunate clashes at the 1962 Conference of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry. The chairman of the Victorian Jewish Board of Deputies public relations committee, Isi Leibler, was active in promoting a better understanding of the Jewish position, particularly in Catholic circles. He delivered a paper on the Jewish image at a Christian Social Week organized under the auspices of the Institute of Social Order, a Jesuit educational institution. He also published an article entitled "Christianity, Auschwitz and the Jews" in a widely read weekly magazine, the Bulletin. An article by Father W. G. Smith examining and condemning antisemitism was also published in the February 1963 issue of the Catholic Journal, Social Survey.

Relations with Israel

Australian Jewry maintained its strong ties with the State of Israel. UIA raised £A207,798 ($467,550) in 1963 compared with £A279,233 ($628,275) the previous year; JNF, £A183,788 ($413,523) compared with £A140,684 ($316,539). Australian Jewry's bonds with Israel were also strengthened through increased tourist activities. Trade links were expanded through the establishment of a wooltops plant in Ashdod, Israel, by a syndicate of Melbourne Jewish businessmen. An Australian trade mission visited
Israel in May 1963, and an Israeli trade mission was in Australia at the time of writing.

Moses Yuval, the first Israeli ambassador to Australia, was succeeded by David Tescher, and Nahum Astar was appointed consul-general for the State of Israel.

**Personalia**

Sam Cohen, Q. C. (Labor party), became the first Jewish member of the senate in the history of Australia when he was so elected by the State of Victoria in the 1961 Federal elections. In the same elections Sydney D. Einfeld (Labor party), former president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry and of the Federation of Australian Jewish Welfare Societies, was elected to the House of Representatives from the Philip district of Sydney. In the December 1963 elections Einfeld lost this seat to a candidate of the Liberal party. Baron D. Snider continued as a member in the Victorian State parliament. He headed the Australian trade mission to Israel, and also served as chairman of a committee set up by the Victorian Jewish Board of Deputies to report on the desirability and possibility of establishing a Jewish hospital in Melbourne. In New South Wales Abram Landa served as minister for housing and Asher Joel was a member of the state Legislative Council.

In the 1962 Queen’s Birthday Honors list, Rabbi Herman M. Sanger of Temple Beth Israel, Melbourne, was awarded the Order of the British Empire and Sir Adolph Basser, a well-known Jewish philanthropist, was knighted.

Sam Landau, a prominent member of the Canberra Jewish community, was appointed permanent head of the Department of the Navy, the first Jew attaining this high public-service position in Australia.

The death of the dean of the Australian rabbinate, Rabbi Jacob Danglow, at the age of 82 and after a ministry of over 50 years at the St. Kilda Hebrew congregation, occasioned widespread expressions of admiration for his services in the Jewish and in the general communities.

WALTER M. LIPPMANN