

"MCKINLEY, ROOSEVELT, TAFT, AND WILSON: JEWISH POLITICS ENTERS THE MAINSTREAM"

William Jennings Bryan (July 9, 1896) – "Cross of Gold" Speech at Democratic Convention

"Having behind us the producing masses of this nation and the world, supported by the commercial interests, the laboring interests, and the toilers everywhere, we will answer their demand for a gold standard by saying to them: "You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns; you shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold."

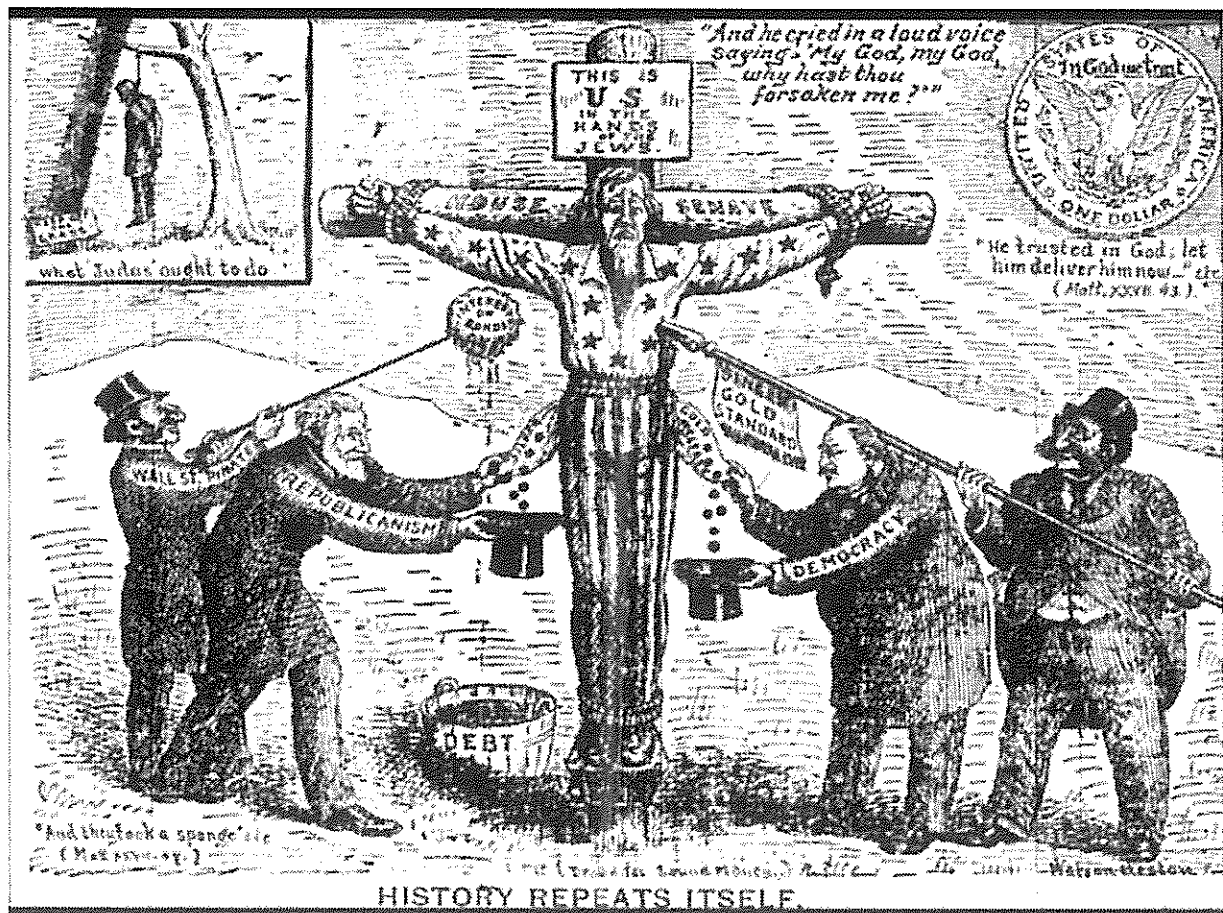
Mary Lease, Populist leader:

"Redemption money and interest-bearing bonds are the curse of civilization. We are paying tribute to the Rothschilds of England, who are but the agent of the Jews." (*New York Times*, August 11, 1896).

Watson Heston cartoon (April 15, 1896) -

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:18960415_antisemitic_political_cartoon_in_Sound_Money.jp

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"While I was Police Commissioner an anti-Semitic preacher from Berlin, Rector Ahlwardt, came over to New York to preach a crusade against the Jews. Many of the New York Jews were much excited and asked me to prevent him from speaking and not to give him police protection. This, I told them, was impossible; and if possible would have been undesirable because it would have made him a martyr. The proper thing to do was to make him ridiculous. Accordingly I detailed for his protection a Jew sergeant and a score or two of Jew policemen. He made his harangue against the Jews under the active protection of some forty policemen, everyone of them a Jew! It was the most effective possible answer; and incidentally it was an object-lesson to our people, whose greatest need it is to learn that there must be no division by class hatred, whether this hatred be that of creed against creed, nationality against nationality, section against section, or men of one social or industrial condition against men of another social and industrial condition. . . ." [Theodore Roosevelt, *Autobiography*, 191-192]

Who Takes Revenge for Us (1899)?

Every respectable citizen, every good American and every true Jew, must and will vote for the Republican gubernatorial candidate-*Theodore Roosevelt*.

As citizens who are concerned with the welfare of their city and state, and as Jews, we direct this message to you. We will take for our text the verse in our Psalms: "Oh you murderous BabyIonia, may it be done to you, what you have done to us!" Babylonia sinned against the Jewish people. But how small is Babylonia's sins in comparison with the untold crimes which Spain committed against us! Babylonia came as an enemy and took us into exile. Spain did much worse. In Spain our ancestors, were good and useful citizens. They made rich Spain's treasury; outfitted the ships which discovered America and gave Spain the power which made her a mighty nation. How did Spain reward them? Spain took away everything her Jews had, and she sent her Jews to the dungeons of the Inquisition and to the fires of the auto da-fe. When Jews left Spain they were murdered on the road, as sheep are slaughtered by wolves. Those who remained as disguised Christians were slowly persecuted.

The cruelty and tyranny which Spain set loose, did not remain in its own land: Spain brought it to the new world -- Brazil, Mexico, Cuba -- Santiago, where Theodore Roosevelt met the Spanish face to face, were long stained by Spain's murderous and bestial methods. And until Theodore Roosevelt charged up San Juan hill, there still rang in our ears the cries and screams of Spain's brutality.

The long felt Jewish desire to see Spain fall was finally fulfilled. The Republican Party through its president gave the word that Spain should move out of the New World and the Republican gubernatorial candidate for New York State *Theodore Roosevelt* was one of the chief instruments of the late war. He worked day and night till he worked out all the plans for our navy, and when Admirals Dewey, Sampson and Schley chased the enemy, Theodore Roosevelt, at his own expense organized a Regiment of Rough Riders and went to the Battle Field to meet the foe. Under Roosevelt's command there were many Jewish Rough Riders. Roosevelt was like a brother to them. He recommended them to the president for promotions, and sang their praises to the world. .

Spain now lies punished and beaten for all her sins. But the *Party* which brought Spain her defeat, and the *man* who fought against her, now stand before the citizens of this State and ask whether they are satisfied with their work. The decision about President McKinley and the late war with Spain lies now in the hands of the citizens of this State in this present election. Every vote for the COLONEL OF THE ROUGH RIDERS is approval of McKinley and the war. Every vote for Roosevelt's opponent, who is also McKinley's opponent, is a vote for Spain, for Generals Weiler and Blanco'. . .

Can any Jew afford to vote against Theodore Roosevelt and thereby express his disapproval of the war against Spain? Can any Jew thus deny the joy of his nation in the entire world?

Vote for Theodore Roosevelt . . .

Vote to express your approval of Spain's defeat.

Jewish Members of the Republican State Committee.

[Abraham J.Karp]

Hotel Poinciana,
Palm Beach, Florida
February 20, 1911.

Mr. President:

I desire to take the first opportunity I can find since leaving Washington to thank you for the courteous hospitality extended to me, with others, at your family luncheon table last Wednesday and to assure you of the great pleasure it was to meet Mrs. Taft and your daughter....

The main reasons, which as you explained, led you to the conclusion that it was impractical to further act upon the pledges were:

First: That Russia's failure to live up to its obligation under the treaty of 1832 to honor the American Passport, through an application of a faith test, had though constantly protested against, been permitted to continue for so long a period of time, that it was now too late to enforce the only logical remedy, the abrogation of the treaty.

Second: That special interests had in the course of time acquired rights, and that commercial relations had become established which might be jeopardized, if existing treaties with Russia were denounced.

Third: That it was moreover feared, that in case of such action on our part, pogroms and massacres of Russian Jews, such as shocked the world in 1905, might be repeated.

As to the last horrible prospect, those at the Conference undertook to assure you, that we were ready to take the responsibility upon our own shoulders; that the Russian Government having by its cruel treatment of its Jewish subjects forced the Jew all over the world into an attitude of hostility, it was recognized by our coreligionists that in such a situation, as in war, each and every man, wherever placed, must be ready to suffer, and if need be, to sacrifice his life.

The fact that certain trade interests, notably the Harvester and Sewing machine industries we assume, might be the losers from the abrogation of the treaty under which we live with Russia, but which on her part she ignores whenever this suits her, will, I believe, be hardly accepted as a good and substantial reason for the maintenance of the treaty on our part, by the gross of the American people, who not only quickly resent insult to what our flag represents—equality for and justice to all who live under it, but desire moreover their government to adopt a firm attitude in the defense of the rights of every American citizen. The fact that the denial of the rights by Russia has heretofore been permitted to continue without positive remedial action, except repeated protests, is hardly a good reason why at some time our long patience should not come to an end. Nor has Russia at any time heretofore ignored our treaty rights in such flagrant and insulting a manner, as she now does, when she goes so far as not to hesitate to publicly announce that an Ambassador of the United States, when he confesses the Jewish religion can not enter her dominions, except as an exceptional favor and by a special permit [Schiff had Oscar S. Straus in mind]. And this is the same Russia which during the past few days has actually threatened China, which it is true, is weak, with war, because the latter as Russia claims, is ignoring the rights of a few Russian traders, secured to them under an old treaty, which until recently, as is stated, had not been considered of any value...

Notwithstanding the present discouragement we have received, I have the unshakable belief that at some time public opinion, that most emphatic voice of the American People, will compel the government to resent the continuous insult to them which Russia has only too long been permitted to inflict by the non-observance of its treaty obligations.

Very respectfully,
Jacob H. Schiff.
To the President,
Washington, D. C.

TO ALL JEWISH VOTERS

How will you vote this year?
 Practically all the great Jewish leaders throughout the country, men who never before avowed their politics, are this year united in supporting the Democratic party.

Why is it that in New York men like Jacob H. Schiff are supporting Sulzer, the Democrat, against their personal friend, Oscar Straus, the Progressive, and having made their choice, why do they come out in the open and proclaim it? It is because thinking Jews everywhere believe they owe a debt of gratitude to the Democratic party, and to Democratic leaders, and wish to help those who have aided them in the struggle for equality.

THREE PARTIES, WITH THREE LEADERS, ARE CLAIMING YOUR VOTE.
 Under absolutely normal conditions no one could ask a Jew to study the questions of the day other than as an ordinary citizen.

But the circumstances are exceptional. During the past few years two great special problems have been before the country, and while they should concern every citizen **THESE TWO ISSUES DO SPECIALLY CONCERN THE AMERICAN JEWISH CITIZEN.**

These two issues are **THE RUSSIAN PASSPORT AND IMMIGRATION.**

These are not personal issues, they involve the whole life of our community.

THE PASSPORT QUESTION.
 The agitation over the Passport Question was the biggest ever organized by American Jewish citizens, because it is the most vital problem we have to face. First there is the sheer human side to it. Because you are a Jew Russia treats indignantly upon you. She separates you from the rest of mankind as being unworthy of entering her borders.

Then there is the American citizen's side of it. You are entitled to the same privileges that every other citizen possesses. The government should afford you the same protection it gives to every other citizen, but as against Russia it did not do that, and in as far as it failed to compel Russia to accept an American passport, with a Jew's name on it, it failed to give you the full equality to which you are entitled.

You know this. Because you know it, because every Jew knew it, the demand for the abrogation of the Treaty of 1832 was supported by every Jewish organization, society and lodge in the country.

The result of that nation-wide protest, in which thousands of non-Jews joined, was that on December 17th, 1911, Russia received notice from the United States government that owing to her failure to live up to the equality clause of the Treaty of 1832, that Treaty would be abrogated on January 1st, 1912.

The sudden blow was a staggering one to the prestige of Russia. She did not believe that our government was in earnest, she had witnessed so many futile attempts to call her to account that she did not believe the American people meant business. Even now, according to the press despatches, she is seeking an extension of the nearly defunct treaty in the evident hope that some twist in American political conditions will enable her to avoid treating the American Jewish citizen who would cross her frontiers as she treats his non-Jewish neighbor.

From this it is clear that the fight is not at an end, but it is only proper that we should look at the incidents that have brought us thus far. There are three ways in which such an issue can be handled.

- (1) To take serious and drastic action.
- (2) To procrastinate in the hope that the agitation for redress will die out.
- (3) To try and side track the whole matter.

WHO DEMANDED DRASTIC ACTION?
 —THE DEMOCRATS

WHO TRIED TO PROCRASTINATE?
 —THE REPUBLICANS

WHO TRIED TO SIDETRACK?
 —THEODORE ROOSEVELT
 Leader of The Progressives

Here are the facts which prove the above statements:

According to the records of Congress the first demand for congressional action on the passport question was made in 1879. A joint resolution, submitted by Democrats, passed both houses. From then on the matter was renewed every few years, and each time the initiative was taken by a Democrat. There was no real public opinion behind these men, they acted as men opposed to Russian discrim-

ination against a certain class of American citizens. In 1908 the agitation suddenly took shape. In May, 1907, MR. ELIHU ROOT, as Secretary of State, issued a circular to his subordinates informing them that he practically agreed with the Russian contention, to use his own words: "This Department will not issue passports to former Russian subjects or to Jews who intend going to Russia."

The Jewish Year Book (Page 22, 5672), calls this "a Russophile policy." Now Mr. Root was at that time a member of Mr. Roosevelt's Cabinet and the issue of this circular did not become known till the early part of 1903, and the real agitation then began amongst the Jews, and has not concluded even now.

The congressional supporters of abrogation, with one exception, were all Democrats but except that Mr. Root withdrew his objectionable order, no real headway was made until in 1911, when the Democrats came into control of the House of Representatives.

MR. SULZER, Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Relations, made the question his own, and Senator Cullerton of Texas, took up the fight in the Senate. The result was the notice of abrogation of the treaty issued by President Taft on December 17th, 1911, after the Democratic House had almost unanimously voted so to do. Here you have a clear Democratic record, for drastic action, made not only in Congress but by Democrats in every State Legislature, as here in Massachusetts in 1911.

which Russia had failed to observe, the treaty should be submitted to The Hague Tribunal for interpretation. There was only one reason for this suggestion, to sidetrack the claims of American Jews to the fullest citizenship. Nothing would have been heard of the matter for years, and the old Republican policy of procrastination would have been in full blast again. Besides it meant that there was some reason, some sound argument for Russia's discrimination against the Jews. The question of the Jew's citizenship is the only one that Mr. Roosevelt has so far conceived to be "justiciable" and therefore suitable for settlement by The Hague Tribunal.

And here is a remarkable chain of coincidence. The only objection there was to giving Russia notice that the Treaty of 1832 would be abrogated was that if no treaty were substituted difficulties might arise in the trade relations with Russia. The United States does about \$18,000,000 of trade with Russia each year. Now the bulk of this export trade is carried on, according to the evidence presented to the House Committee on Foreign Relations, with American trusts who have received charters permitting them to operate in Russia.

AT THE HEAD OF THESE TRUSTS, ACCORDING TO THE EVIDENCE, IS THE HARVESTER TRUST, AND AT

THE IMMIGRATION QUESTION.

The attempt to restrict immigration has been a source of trouble to thousands of Jewish families. It is one of those things that we cannot get away from even if we wish to. It is constantly disturbing our peace of mind. Now the policy of the parties has been clear and consistent on this question.

On the one hand every restrictive measure has originated amongst the Republicans, while resistance to such measures has come almost entirely from Democrats, either in the House or in Committee.

The Dillingham Bill with its proposed educational test was the latest of these Republican attempts to close the doors. The struggle over it lasted from the beginning of the year right up to the end of the congressional session. The fight against it has been consistent and expensive. But the Republicans are unshaken by defeat for **IN THEIR NATIONAL PLATFORM, AT CHICAGO, THEY PLEDGED THEMSELVES TO BRING IN MEASURES FOR THE RESTRICTION OF IMMIGRATION.** There can be no mistake about it—they have adopted a restrictive policy. Not only that Commissioner Williams, a Republican appointee at Ellis Island, was permitted to administer the law in accordance with a harsh and even illegal interpretation which was only overcome by using the power of a writ of habeas corpus to prevent deportations which were resulting from his illegal ruling.

Mr. Williams followed this up by making a report in which he so insulted a group of East Side New York Jews that they had to go to the length of making a census of their district in order to prove that his charges were untruthful. Mr. Taft has failed to censure him for his unwarranted slanders and aspersions upon the Jews. By itself this might be ignored in the pressure of other matters, but when we examine the conduct of the chief Republican administrator of the immigration laws, and we find that it is even more cruel than the harsh law itself, and that the party is pledged to follow this policy in the future, only more so, then we have as voters a very clear issue before us.

We cannot mistake these facts for campaign speeches. We owe it to the Democrats that the laws are not more restrictive than they are, and we therefore owe it to ourselves to vote for the party which is pledged in favor of reasonable liberality towards immigration.

The Progressives have announced no distinct policy on the question of immigration and the best that can be said for Mr. Roosevelt is that he has taken no marked interest in the problem. When he was President he in no way deterred the restrictionists, and it was then just as necessary to fight against the various cruel plans to keep able bodied people out of the country, as has been the case during the Taft administration.

You are as much interested in the general issues of the campaign as any other citizen. We have, however, felt it our duty to explain why the most prominent Jews in the country are outspoken in their support for Wilson. You know that we have no personal axe to grind. They are identified with every patriotic Jewish effort; they have born the brunt of the great agitations during the last few years, and we urge you, when you step into the voting booth to be guided by the same high minded motives and

WHY

**JACOB H. SCHIFF
 SAMUEL UNTERMAYER
 HON. ABRAM J. ELKUS
 NATHAN STRAUS
 HENRY MORCENTHAU
 SOLOMON SOLIS COHEN
 AND THOUSANDS OF OTHER THINKING JEWS
 WILL VOTE FOR
 WILSON**

Few Republican names of prominence are associated with this agitation, the Republican party had no mind to take action on the question, and even when towards the end of 1911 it became evident that the agitation could no longer be trifled with the party tried to avoid action, and its leader, President Taft, sought every means to avoid definite action. Ten pages of the Jewish Year Book 5673 are occupied with the more recording of the protests between July and December 1911, when the House adopted the Sulzer resolution. Mr. Taft had been urged over and over again to act, but he delayed and delayed until the attitude of Congress finally compelled him to yield.

It was unquestionably because they realized that Mr. Taft was lacking in force, and the Republican party unwilling to take positive action that the leading Jews turned towards the Democrats.

As already stated when Mr. Roosevelt was President he did not act on the question. On the contrary, despite his vaunted admiration for the Jews, he permitted his Secretary of State, Elihu Root, to pen that circular, already referred to, which released Russia from compliance with the treaty. That was not a friendly act, NOR WAS IT A SQUARE DEAL.

On October 1st, 1911, when Mr. Roosevelt was already a Progressive, he made a deliberate attempt to sidetrack the question by an article in "The Outlook," in which he suggested that instead of denouncing the treaty

THE HEAD OF THE HARVESTER TRUST IS THE MR. PERKINS, who according to his own evidence before the Senatorial Committee on Campaign Expenditures, has for years pinned his faith upon the sagacity of Mr. Roosevelt. Does this not look to you like a remarkable coincidence?

Now Mr. Vote this is a skeleton record of a current chapter of American and Jewish history. You can verify every statement from the congressional records, from the American Jewish Year Book, and from the newspapers. The question is: Whom shall you vote for?

**THE MAN WHO PROCRASTINATED,
 THE MAN WHO TRIED TO THROW
 YOU WITH FAIR WORDS,
 OR FOR WILSON, WHO STANDS FOR
 THE PARTY THAT CAUSED THE
 TREATY TO BE ABOGATED.**

VOTE FOR WILSON

**And All the Candidates of the Democratic Party
 CHARLES B. STRECKER,**

127 Throddis Street
 Brooklyn