

Change the World

Kosher Meat From Ireland For the Palestine Rebels?

By Mike Gold

MAUD MALONE, our librarian on this newspaper, told me the other day that she'd read in an Irish paper how a boatload of kosher meat has been sent from Ireland as a gesture of admiration and good-will to the Jewish rebel fighters of Palestine.

I asked to see the item and Maud is looking it up. Maud is an old-time fighter for woman's suffrage, also an Irish American rebel against imperialism. She could never make such a thing up, and never tells a lie, and I know maybe she read it somewhere.



It is a good story, anyhow. I like it. I like the idea that thousands of Irish rebels who fought the Black and Tans when England tried to occupy Ireland are nostalgically looking at the Jews of Palestine now waging the same battle.

The politics of this fight may be all mixed up. Some of these Jewish fighters in Palestine would also fight trade unions, and communism, and Gentiles, just as bitterly. They are bourgeois nationalists, and often stupid and reactionary about it, as were many Irish rebels like De Valera.

Nevertheless, the world admired the heroes of Easter Week. They were fighting for human freedom in their own land against an alien invader.

A SMALL NATION, they took up arms against a huge, powerful, purse-proud empire, against the British ruling class, that has always outdone any Nazis in contempt for other peoples and races, including the Irish and the Jews.

British rulers then recruited a swarm of criminals and riff-raff into a storm troop called the Black and Tans, gave them good wages, a license to abuse, brutalize, freely murder all through Ireland.

The British rulers are notorious for bombing of little native villages and helpless folk. Their Empire is built on the blood, bones and slavery of millions of human beings.

But the Irish people heroically resisted that Black and Tan Terror in 1919. All the world, especially America, admired them for it.

Today the Jewish rebels stand up like another young David against the British Goliath. Whatever one's politics in the matter, one's human sympathies must go out to David, not to the

roaring imperialist brute and bully who seeks to slay him.

THE COMMUNIST PARTY of Palestine has recently issued a program that not too many Americans, including our best liberal commentators, have tried to study.

It offers, I believe, the only practical plan for getting the British out of Palestine, by uniting Arab and Jewish peoples in a bi-national state that could establish peace and prosperity for all.

Such a Palestine could swiftly modernize itself, set up the needed industries that alone can wipe out the dreadful backwardness and poverty of the Near East.

Recently, I read an article by a Palestinian economist which showed how this fear of modernization may be the real cause of the British terror in Palestine.

The imperialist motive is still the same as it was in 1776, when British manufacturers tried to prevent industrialization in America, since it might destroy their profitable monopoly.

THEY WANT an empire that buys their manufactured products at a monopoly price, and sells in return its own native products and raw materials at a depressed monopoly price.

India is being lost to the Empire only because a native industry has managed to grow up and now competes with the former monopoly workshop of the British Isles.

If all the Near East were to go modern and industrial under the influence of a new, self-governing Palestine, that would remove another big slice of monopoly profit from the Empire.

The British Empire is making this last stand, therefore, against the industrialization of former colonies. Hence, however much of the famous brutality and slander it expends, it must eventually lose out in Palestine, as it did in Ireland or the United States.

"The British Government is evidently unhappy about the way the United States is acting. It wishes we would stop sticking our nose into Palestine and start sticking it into Greece," quips Howard Brubaker.

This warning should not be lost upon Americans. In sending our money or troops to Greece, we are freeing the British Black and Tans for further brutalization of Palestine.