

PROF. EINSTEIN HERE, EXPLAINS RELATIVITY

**"Poet in Science" Says It Is a
Theory of Space and Time,
But It Baffles Reporters.**

SEEKS AID FOR PALESTINE

**Thousands Wait Four Hours to
Welcome Theorist and His
Party to America.**

A man in a faded gray raincoat and a flopping black felt hat that nearly concealed the gray hair that straggled over his ears stood on the boat deck of the steamship Rotterdam yesterday, timidly facing a battery of cameramen. In one hand he clutched a shiny briar pipe and with the other clung to a precious violin. He looked like an artist—a musician. He was.

But underneath his shaggy locks was a scientific mind whose deductions have staggered the ablest intellects of Europe. One of his traveling companions described him as an "intuitive physicist" whose speculative imagination is so vast that it senses great natural laws long before the reasoning faculty grasps and defines them.

The man was Dr. Albert Einstein, propounder of the much-debated theory of relativity that has given the world a new conception of space, and time and the size of the universe.

Dr. Einstein comes to this country as one of a group of prominent Jews who are advocating the Zionist movement and hope to get financial aid and encouragement for the rebuilding of Palestine and the founding of a Jewish university. He is of medium height, with strongly built shoulders, but an air of fragility and self-effacement. Under a high, broad forehead are large and luminous eyes, almost childlike in their simplicity and unworldliness.

Thousands Welcome Him.

With him as fellow-travelers were Professor Chaim Weizmann, President of the Zionist World Organization, discoverer of trinitrotoluol, and head of the British Admiralty laboratories during the war; Michael Ussichkin, a member of the Zionist delegation to the Paris Peace Conference and now Resident Chairman of the Zionist Commission in Palestine, and Dr. Benzion Mossinson, President of the Hebrew Teachers' Organization in Palestine.

The party was welcomed at the Battery by thousands of fellow-Jews who had waited there for hours.

The crowds were packed deeply along the Battery wall, waving Jewish flags of white with two blue bars, wearing buttons with Zionist inscriptions, and cheering themselves hoarse as the police boat John F. Hylan drew near. Dozens of automobiles were parked near the landing, and when the welcoming committee and the visitors had entered them they started uptown to the Hotel Commodore, preceded by a police escort. They turned into Second Avenue, where the sidewalks were lined nearly all the way uptown with thousands who waved hands and handkerchiefs and shouted welcome to the visitors.

Professor Einstein was reluctant to talk about relativity, but when he did speak he said most of the opposition to his theories was the result of strong anti-Semitic feeling. He was amused at attempts by reporters to get some idea of his theory by questioning him, and he did his best to make his answers as simple as possible. He spoke through an interpreter.

A Theory of Space and Time.

The interview took place in the Captain's cabin, where Professor Einstein was almost surrounded by seekers after knowledge. He was asked to define his theory.

"It is a theory of space and time, so far as physics are concerned," he said.

"How long did it take you to conceive your theory?" he was asked.

"I have not finished yet," he said with a laugh. "But I have worked on it for about sixteen years. The theory consists of two grades or steps. On one I have been working for about six years and on the other about eight or nine years.

"I first became interested in it through the question of the distribution and expansion of light in space; that is, for the first grade or step. The fact that an iron ball and a wooden ball fall to the ground at the same speed was perhaps the reason which prompted me to take the second step."

He was asked about those who oppose his theory, and said:

"No man of culture or knowledge has any animosity toward my theories. Even the physicists opposed to the theory are animated by political motives."

When asked what he meant, he said he referred to anti-Semitic feeling. He

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PROF. EINSTEIN HERE TELLS OF RELATIVITY

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would not elaborate on this subject, but said the attacks in Berlin were entirely anti-Semitic.

Dr. Einstein said the theory was a step in the further development of the Newtonian theory. He hoped to lecture at Princeton on relativity before he left the country, he said, as he felt grateful to the Faculty of Princeton, which was the first college to become interested in his work.

Poses for Moving Picture Men.

As the questioners gave up their attempts to seek further elucidation of the Einstein principles, the professor laughed and said:

"Well, I hope I have passed my examination."

Professor Einstein's interview came soon after he had escaped the moving picture men. As they ground away at their machines, ordering him about, he seemed at first bewildered, then amused. He posed with other members of his party and with Mrs. Einstein for nearly half an hour, and then almost ran away, shaking his head in exasperation and refusing to do any more.

"Like a prima donna," he exclaimed.

"He does not like to be what you call it, a showcase," said Mrs. Einstein. "He does not like society, for he feels that he is on exhibition. He would rather work and play his violin and walk in the woods."

"Do you understand his theory?" Mrs. Einstein was asked.

"Oh, no," she said, laughing, "although he has explained it to me so many times. I understand it in a general way, but in its details it is too much for a woman to grasp. But it is not necessary for my happiness."

Dr. Einstein was an inspirational worker, she said. When he was engaged on some problem, "there was no day and no night," but in his periods of relaxation he went for weeks without doing anything in particular but dream and play on his violin. Whenever he became weary in the midst of his work he went to the piano or picked up his violin and rested his mind with music.

"He improvises," she explained. "He is really an excellent musician."

Mozart and Brahms His Favorites.

On the ship, when a concert was held Dr. Einstein played selections from Mozart, of whose work he is particularly fond, on the violin. Brahms is another of his favorites.

"I never met Professor Einstein before this voyage," said Professor Weizmann, who is a great admirer of his fellow-scientist. "He has a singularly sweet and lovable nature, and is exceedingly simple in his habits of life. I have talked with him many times about his work, and he is glad to speak of it when he can find some one who is interested and at least partly capable of understanding it. I do not entirely for when I get beyond the atom I am lost."

"When he was called 'a poet in science' the definition was a good one. He seems more an intuitive physicist however. He is not an experimental physicist, and although he is able to detect fallacies in the conceptions of physical science, he must turn his general outlines of theory over to some one else to work out. That would be readily understandable to a man of science. He first became interested in mathematics when he was 14 years old, and his work is his life. He spends most of his time reading and thinking when he is not playing his violin."

Professor Weizmann also is accompanied by his wife. He and the other Zionist visitors, during their visit of several weeks, will endeavor to interest American Jews in the Zionist movement and obtain money and moral support for both the national Zionist idea and for the university.

Dr. Weizmann Explains Mission.

"It is a great satisfaction to me as President of the Zionist Organization to find myself for the first time in the United States," said Dr. Weizmann.

"The cause of the Jewish nation home in Palestine has from the first appealed to the generous instincts of the American people and owes much to the sympathetic support it has consistently received from leaders of public opinion in the United States."

"Our primary object is to confer with the American Zionists who have, under the distinguished leadership of Justice Brandeis, Judge Mack and other representative American Jews, rendered valuable services to the Zionist movement during the past few critical years. In the task of reconstruction in Palestine, for which the time has now arrived, it is confidently expected that the American Zionists will play an equally conspicuous and honorable part. In this connection we hope to enlist the active interest of American Jews in the Keren Hayesod, or Foundation Fund, the central fund for the building up of the Jewish National Home, to which Jews throughout the world are being called upon to contribute to the utmost limit of their resources."

"Professor Einstein has done us the honor of accompanying us to America in the interest of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Zionists have long cherished the hope of creating in Jerusalem a center of learning in which the Hebrew genius shall find full self-expression and which shall play its part as an interpreter between the Eastern and Western worlds. Professor Einstein attaches the utmost importance to the early inauguration of the Jerusalem university and

is prepared when the time arrives personally to associate himself within its activities—a course in which there is reason to hope he will be followed by other Jewish scholars and scientists of world-wide reputation."

Einstein to Work for University.

Professor Einstein will devote most of his time while here to advocating support of the university by American Jews.

"The establishment of such a university has been for a long time one of the most cherished plans of the Zionist organization," he said. "But for the outbreak of the war it would have materialized in 1914, when a site was actually purchased on the Mount of Olives. In 1918 the foundation stone was laid by Dr. Weizmann. Since then the university site has been extended and a building purchased in which it will be possible for a beginning to be made. There is also a library of 30,000 volumes which is rapidly growing."

"Plans have been worked out both for the complete university of the future and for a comparatively modest beginning. The time has now come to insure the immediate realization of the latter. Such is the importance attached by the Zionist Organization to the spiritual values in the Zionist national home that even at this moment, when the organization is faced with tremendous tasks of immigration and colonization, and is concentrating all efforts upon the Palestine Foundation Fund, an exception is made in favor of the university to which a special branch of the fund is devoted."

"I know of no public event which has given me such delight as the proposal to establish a Hebrew university in Jerusalem. The traditional respect for knowledge which Jews have maintained intact through many centuries of severe hardship made it particularly painful for us to see so many talented sons of the Jewish people cut off from higher education and study, and knocking vainly at the doors of universities of Eastern and Central Europe."

Home For Spiritual Life.

"Others who have gained access to the regions of free research only did so by undergoing a painful, even dishonoring, process of assimilation which crippled and robbed them again and again of their cultural leaders. The time has now come when our spiritual life will find a home of its own. Distinguished Jewish scholars in all branches of learning are waiting to go to Jerusalem, where they will lay the foundation of a flourishing spiritual life and will promote the intellectual and economic development of Palestine."

"Notwithstanding the crude political realism of our times and the materialistic atmosphere in which it has enveloped us, there are visible none the less glimmerings of a nobler conception of human aspirations, such as were expressed in the part played by the American people in world politics. And so we come from sick and suffering Europe with feelings of hope, being convinced that our spiritual aims will command the full sympathy of the American nation and will receive enthusiastic approval and powerful support from our Jewish brethren in the United States."

The Zionists were met down the bay by a delegation from the Mayor's committee of welcome, Captain Abraham Tulin, who served as American liaison officer with General Mangin's army in the war; Dr. Schmarya Levin, who was member of the first Russian Duma and of the Cadet Party in Russia, and Magistrate Bernard Rosenblatt. They were delayed by the quarantine examination and were not able to board the Rotterdam until nearly 1 o'clock. On the way up the bay they had lunch with Professor Einstein, Professor Weizmann and others in the party, and remained with them on the ship until sundown. As it was the Sabbath their religion prevented them from leaving until that time.

Crowd Waits Four Hours at Pier.

At the pier were several hundred well-comers, although the ship was more than four hours late in reaching her pier. They gave the Zionists a rousing welcome before they went aboard the police boat John F. Hylan, which landed them at the Battery. The boat flew the Jewish flag in honor of the party. On board were L. Lipsky, Secretary of the Zionist Organization of America; L. Robison of the National Executive Committee; B. G. Richards, Secretary of the American Jewish Congress; M. Rothenberg, Chairman of the American Jewish Congress; J. Fishman, managing editor of The Jewish Morning Journal; W. Edlin, editor of The Day; Rabbi M. Berlin; David Pinski, editor of Die Zeit; John F. Sinnott, Secretary to Mayor Hylan; Henry H. Klein, Commissioner of Accounts; Judge Gustave Hartman, the Rev. H. Maslansky, Judge Jacob S. Strahl and many others.

An official meeting of welcome will be held at the City Hall on Tuesday at which Mayor Hylan, Frank L. Polk, George W. Wickersham, Magistrate Rosenblatt, Professor Einstein and Professor Weizmann will speak.

Among those on the Committee of Welcome are Nathan Straus, Arthur Brisbane, Chancellor E. E. Brown, Judge Benjamin Cardozo, Abram I. Elkus, James A. Foley, F. H. LaGuardia, Justice Samuel Greenbaum, William D. Guthrie, Mrs. William R. Hearst, Adolph Lewisohn, Alfred E. Smith, Leon Kaimak, Judge Otto A. Rosalsky, Benjamin Schlessinger, Oscar S. Straus, Senator Nathan Straus Jr., Marcus Loew, Dr. Bernard Flexner, Colonel Robert Grier Monroc, Herman Bernstein, Samuel Koenig and George Gordon Battle.

A meeting also will be held at the Metropolitan Opera House on April 10. Professor Einstein will not touch on relativity at these meetings, but it is expected that before he leaves the city he will speak before some scientific gathering, at which he will discuss his discovery.