

FREEDOM OF CITY GIVEN TO EINSTEIN

**Aldermen Honor Relativity Discoverer and Prof. Weizmann
Despite Falconer's Protest.**

HE DEFENDS ADVERSE VOTE

Cites Courtesies to Dr. Cook, De Valera, Mannix and Mrs. MacSwiney as Mistakes.

Professor Albert Einstein, the noted mathematician and discoverer of relativity, and Professor Chaim Weizmann, British chemist, now have the freedom of New York City. It was voted to them yesterday at a special meeting of the Board of Aldermen, made necessary by the refusal of Alderman Bruce Falconer to consent to the passage of the resolution when it first came up on Tuesday, when the two scientists were welcomed by Mayor Hylan at City Hall.

Alderman Falconer cast the only negative vote yesterday, and in so doing said he was not actuated by race prejudice, but that he had in mind the dignity of the honor which has been given to some of the greatest Americans, and thought it should not be conferred on any one unless he were known to every person in the city. He said his first ancestor in this country came as secretary to Lord Cornbury, the first person to receive the freedom of the city, in 1702.

Alderman William T. Collins, leader of the Democrats, seized upon the mention of Alderman Falconer's ancestors with avidity and ridiculed it.

"We on this board are just as proud of our city and of the conferring of the freedom of the city on guests as is Alderman Falconer," he said. "It was only narrowness and bigotry that made the one member of this board object to granting the freedom of the city to Dr. Weizmann and Professor Einstein."

Alderman Falconer said that Alderman Friedman did him a great injustice in saying that his objection was based on race prejudice, and said that his private physician is a Jew and that many of his friends are Jews.

"In 1909," he said, "the keys of the city were unfortunately given by the Board of Aldermen to Dr. Cook, who pretended to have discovered the North Pole, but were afterward officially withdrawn from him. After that the freedom of the city was not again extended for ten years, until the second year of the Hylan Administration, when it was given to Eamon de Valera, at a meeting which occurred when I happened to be away from the city.

"Since that time it has been extended to Cardinal Mercier, King Albert of Belgium, the Prince of Wales, Archbishop Mannix and Mrs. MacSwiney. At the time the resolution was suddenly proposed in connection with Archbishop Mannix, I did not vote in favor of conferring the honor upon him.

"The next and last individual upon whom this honor was conferred was Mrs. MacSwiney. I did not vote for it, and if I had had a proper chance would have objected.

"I have been assured," he said, "that Professor Einstein was born in Germany and was taken to Switzerland, but returned to Germany prior to the war. He is consequently a citizen of Germany, of an enemy country, and might be regarded as an alien enemy."

Alderman Friedman told Alderman Falconer that Professor Einstein was not a citizen of Germany, but of Switzerland, and Alderman Vladeck, leader of the Socialists, also said that Professor Einstein was far from being a German citizen.

Alderman Ferrand, the Republican leader, in moving the question, said:

"For what has occurred I make no apology to this board or to the citizens of the city. It can be charged to no party. It can only be charged to an individual who is arrogant and ignorant. We will have to take it from whence it comes."

Professor Einstein visited the College of the City of New York yesterday, and attended a class in mathematics and physics, where he listened to an explanation of his theory by Prof. Edward Kasner of Columbia University. President Sidney Mezes, of the City College, and a number of advanced students were present. Prof. Einstein, who understands English, although he does not speak it well, complimented Prof. Kasner on his presentation of the subject, and later made a twenty minute talk.

It was announced at Princeton University yesterday that Professor Einstein would be the guest of the University from May 9 to 15 and would give five lectures in that time on relativity.