

DULUTH RABBI URGES LOYALTY TO TRADITIONS

New Head of Hebrew School Sees Necessity in Jews Holding Identity.

"As Americans, we Jews can best serve America by being loyal to our traditions and to our faith—it would be a distinct loss to the world if the Jewish people were to lose their identity through assimilation or intermarriage," said Rabbi Israel Lebendiger in an interview yesterday. Rabbi Lebendiger was recently selected by the Jewish organizations of Duluth to superintend the Moses Montefiore Hebrew school, Third avenue East and Third street, and to organize a Jewish community center and other bodies for the advancement of Jewish culture.

Sees Persecution.

"At the bottom of the massacres and pogroms in Europe is an effort on the part of the persecutors to force the Jews to give up their religion, customs and traditions," said the rabbi. "In Hungary masses of Jewish people have become assimilated and adopted other religions to avoid heartless persecution.

"Radicals among the Jews have affiliated with other movements and have given up hope of a solution for the problems, but the bulk of the Jews in eastern Europe remain loyal to their race and culture."

Rabbi Lebendiger added that the Balfour declaration giving Palestine to the Jews has heartened many Jews and has brought many converts to the ranks of Zionists, seeking to establish a homeland. He said that with a homeland established much of the strife against Jews would cease.

Prominent Jews.

"Today, many Jews are prominent in science and politics but the world does not know they are Jews, whereas it would be known should the Jews have a strong representative homeland of their own," said the rabbi. "As an instance, take nine-year-old Rzeszawski, who has been proclaimed the 'Polish chess wizard,' yet the lad is a Jew. Similarly, many others are Jews, yet it is not known."

The rabbi received his early rabbinical education in the old country where he obtained "Hatarath Huraah," which grants him authority to render ritual decisions. He attended Columbia college in America and graduated with a bachelor of arts degree. He graduated from the Jewish Theological seminary of New York city as rabbi. He served as rabbi in Youngstown, Ohio, and Union Hall, New Jersey, and was at the latter place when called to Duluth. He is the author of "The Minor in Jewish Law."

Rabbi Lebendiger will speak tonight at a meeting of the Jewish Center league for young men and women in the Talmud Torah hall. Officers will be elected and a program of activity outlined. The meeting will be public.