

# BATH HEBREWS CELEBRATE FEAST

## Ancient Ceremony is to be Carried Out in This City

Feast of the Tabernacle, or Feast of Ingathering, as it is sometimes called, was celebrated by Bath Hebrews for seven days beginning at sundown Sunday. Morning and evening services were conducted in Music hall by Rabbis Charles Arik and Morris Cohen.

This is the third of the great festivals on which, in ancient days, all males were required to make pilgrimages to the Temple at Jerusalem. The celebration of this festival begins on the 15th day of the seventh month (Tishri).

It is agricultural in origin as is evidenced from the name "Feast of the Ingathering," from the ceremonies accompanying it and from the season and occasion of its celebration: "At the end of the year when thou gatherest in thy labors of the field" and "After that thou hast gathered in from thy threshing floor and from the wine press," says the Bible.

It is more particularly a thanksgiving for the harvest, a general thanksgiving for the bounty of nature in the year that has passed, the Hebrews recently celebrating their New Year.

In Music hall an altar was erected and following the example of that great patriarch of the Hebrew race, Abraham, the local Hebrews took a palm branch and sprig of myrtle and willow branch in one hand and a fruit called ethrog in the other hand and marched around the altar. This is repeated every day and on the seventh day seven times, giving thanks to God for all things in joy.

Features of the feast are: The Lulab, or festive palm branch waved during the chanting of the psalms; willow-branches used to adorn the altar, around which the Hebrews march. The seven times around on the seventh day is to commemorate the seven days encompassment of the walls of Jericho; Hallel, or lulab chant recited each day; the Musaf, or special prayers recited each day and the Dukan or priestly blessing given the first two and last two days.

There is also the Sukkan or booth. Rabbi Arik erected one at the rear of his residence on High street, especially for the festival. It is thatched so that the interior is protected from the sun, while it allows the stars to shine through at night. This represents the ancient portable tents similar to that which served the Israelites as a sanctuary during their wandering in the wilderness and in the early period of their life in Palestine.

What really constitutes the dwelling of the Lord, according to the express words of the Old Testament, are the inner curtains, which give the structure its characteristic form inside.

At the end of the festival the Hebrews pray earnestly for rain which has a relation to the old custom of *Vation* of water traced to the very ancient practice of drawing and pouring out water at religious services. God is made to say: "Pour out water before Me on the festival in order that your rains for the year may be blest."

The festival attained its height on the evening of the first day.

## BATH'S CENSUS IS INTERESTING

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desirable are actually scarce today. The Directory company keeps a record of all vacant houses and flats and this matter can be easily verified by a glance at the street and house section of the book matter.

The results of the new canvass show the removal of 3,910 persons of both sexes, whose names appeared in the last directory. About two-thirds of these show the city or town to which they have gone and, in many cases, the new street address in those towns where they are now living. The rest are complete erasures, address being unknown. To this should be added the deaths in the past two years, although for population purposes these would more than be made up by the births. The encouraging matter in the figures is the enumeration of 2,096 new names which did not appear in the last directory. These are divided, of course, between new families who have moved into the city and persons who have become of age for directory purriages have taken place and the matter This data is the most accurate obtainable appearing on each page shows the changes in this respect, also.

As a result of the above records, the directory company gives Bath a population of at least 15,000 at present, allowing for all matter which appears in the books as information, but which would not count in the population estimates. This data is the most accurate obtainable for Bath today and it should give the residents cause for congratulation.

## DEBRIS MUST NOT BE THROWN INTO STREETS

If abutters would resist the temptation to throw lawn clippings, leaves and other debris into the streets, there would be less trouble about keeping gutters open and providing a free runway for surface water on Bath's newly repaired streets according to the Board of Highways and Sewers. This practice must stop says a member of the Board who protests it is not right that taxpayers' money should be used to haul off such debris for individuals. To allow it to remain clogs the gutters and prevents clear running of all surface water and is likely to do inestimable damage to city streets.

Miss Nina Martin enters the City hospital Thursday for an operation on her throat.