

Sophie Irene Loeb



Ukrainian-born **SOPHIE IRENE SIMON** (1876-1929) was six when brought to America. Twenty when she married Anselm Loeb, she divorced him fourteen years later and moved to New York City, where she called herself Miss Loeb and became an *Evening World* reporter. Exposure to social problems made her an ardent champion of public support for destitute mothers and their needy children. Appointed to a state commission to study the question, Miss Loeb visited Europe to gather more information about welfare legislation and was largely responsible for the relief law New York State passed in 1915. Subsequently she was named to New York

City's Child Welfare Board and to a commission to codify New York State's welfare laws. As a member of the Child Welfare Board, she took pains to meet in person many of those who needed public relief and to keep administrative costs as low as possible. In 1925, as founder-president of the Child Welfare Committee of America, Miss Loeb went to Switzerland to address the First International Congress on Child Welfare. She sponsored many other social causes as well and, when the *World* sent her to Palestine in 1925, documented her Zionist sympathies by publishing *Palestine Awake: The Rebirth of a Nation*.