

(Cable and Mail Despatches)
 Issued by the
 JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY, LTD.

Ludgate House,
 107/111, Fleet Street,
 London, E.C.4.

Telegrams: Jewcorrau London.
 Telephone: Central 6501-3.

Vol. XII. No. 58.

4 pages.

10th. Mar., 1931.

LITHUANIA AND HER JEWS: DANGER THREATENING STAATENLOSE AVERTED:
MINISTER OF INTERIOR GIVES WRITTEN ASSURANCE TO J.T.A. HEAD
THAT EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIONS WILL NOT BE APPLIED AGAINST
ALIENS RESIDENT IN COUNTRY BEFORE JULY 1929: NEW CITIZENSHIP
LAW WILL BE PUBLISHED NEXT MONTH NATURALISING STAATENLOSE EN
MASSE: NATIVES OF VILNA DISTRICT WILL BE GIVEN IMMEDIATE CITI-
ZENSHIP: JEWISH ANXIETY NOW ALLAYED.

Kovno, Mar. 8th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The order under which all non-citizens were to have been dismissed from their employment in Lithuania beginning next January, which has been causing anxiety among the Jewish population, including as it does large numbers of non-citizens, most of them Staatenlose who have been resident in Lithuania for many years and have no other home than Lithuania, has been practically annulled by the Minister of the Interior, M. Aravichus, in a written statement given to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, following a conference which he had to-day with Mr. Jacob Landau, the Managing Director of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, and Mr. B. Smolar, Special J.T.A. Representative, in the presence of the Kovno Chief of Police, M. Navakas, over whose signature the order was issued last January "notifying aliens living in Kovno City and District that I am calling upon the proprietors of enterprises employing aliens to arrange before January 1st., 1932 for engaging Lithuanian citizens in their stead".

In this written statement the Minister of the Interior makes it clear that the employment restrictions will be enforced only against such aliens who came into Lithuania after July 1929 and will not apply to anyone who was resident in the country before that date. Since most Jewish non-citizens have been resident in Lithuania for many years, they will not be affected by the new restrictions.

The Minister gave an assurance that those Jews who have been compelled by the authorities in the provincial parts of the country to sign pledges that they will not seek employment after January 1932 need have no fear, because the pledges will not be considered.

In reply to a question why the Government does not give citizenship to people who have been resident in Lithuania for more than ten years and are thus under the Constitution entitled to citizenship, the Minister announced that a new Citizenship Law will be published in April, after which the naturalisation of Staatenlose will be carried through en masse. The Minister also gave an assurance that all persons living in Lithuania who were born in the Vilna District will be given immediate citizenship.

Referring to the new law project for restricting the number of lawyers admitted to the bar, by making it a condition that they must first have worked in the courts for two years, the Minister gave a definite assurance that the project is in no way aimed against the Jews. The Jews find no difficulty in obtaining employment in the law courts in Lithuania, he said.

A considerable number are now employed in the courts, and there are even three Jewish judges. The intention of the bill, he explained, is only to improve the status of the legal profession.

The written statement given by the Minister of the Interior to the J.T.A. embodying these various assurances has had the effect of allaying Jewish anxiety and the general impression is that the Staatenlose question in Lithuania is now taking a favourable turn.

Mr. Landau and Mr. Smolar have also been received by the Minister of Justice, M. Zaunius.

POLISH GOVERNMENT CONSIDERING JEWISH LAND SETTLEMENT IN POLYSIA?

Warsaw, Mar. 8th (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The question of draining and colonising the swamps of Polysia has been under serious consideration by the Government for some time, the Yiddish daily "Moment" here states, adding that the Government has had in view not only the plan of Jewish settlement in this area, which has been mooted several times, but also another plan which previous Governments, too, have discussed, for settling there ex-soldiers who fought for Polish liberation.

The plan was not proceeded with previously, the "Moment" says, because the Governments of the day saw no possibility of raising the large sums of money required for draining the swamps. The National Democratic Governments, notoriously antisemitic as they were, had in mind, of course, only the settlement of ex-soldiers, not of Jews.

Recently the plan has been revived in connection with the movement among the Polish Jews in America to devise a means of saving Polish Jewry from economic ruin by settling them as agriculturists on the reclaimed land in Polysia, the Polish Ambassador in the United States, M. Filipowicz, sending a report to the Government on the subject in which he suggested that the American Jews would assist the movement by raising funds in America. Commissions on behalf of the interested Ministries, the Ministry of War, the Ministry of Public Works, the Ministry of Agriculture, etc. have been in Polysia recently studying the situation on the spot, the "Moment" says, and their reports are already in the hands of the Government. The Minister for Agrarian Reform, Professor Koslowski, is particularly interested in the question and has given special attention to the possibilities of Jewish colonisation in Polysia. Several prominent people in the Government Party are also interested in the matter, and an official statement from the Government may be expected shortly.

Apart from this story in the "Moment", it is suggested in some quarters that the Government is considering using the reclaimed land in Polysia for establishing convict settlements there, as at one time in Siberia, because of the lack of prisons in Poland.

The Polish Ambassador in the United States, M. Filipowicz, stated in a conference which he had with the American Jewish Committee in December that an enquiry was being made into the question of utilising the waste lands of Polysia, and that the Government was favourably disposed to the settlement of Jews on these lands.

Deputy Rabbi Dr. Thon, the President of the Club of Jewish Deputies, commenting at the time on the various promises made by M. Filipowicz, referred also to what he had said about the Government's intention to colonise Polysia. It interests us very much, he said, and we hope that it will be done. Although we are very sceptical, he added, we are pleased with M. Filipowicz's declarations, because, being made as they are, in the name of his Government, they are binding.

The Jewish newspapers in Poland also write at considerable length about M. Filipowicz's statements, and the Agudist organ, the "Togblatt", for instance, wrote that the reclamation of the Polysian swamps affords little comfort to the Jews because if the Government is going to raise the milliards of money necessary for the amelioration work it will mean a further burden of taxation.

POLISH ZIONISTS WILL FORM SEPARATIST JEWISH COMMUNITIES IF AGUDATH ISRAEL IS SUCCESSFUL IN FORTHCOMING JEWISH COMMUNAL ELECTIONS: ANNOUNCEMENT MADE AT MEETING OF POLISH ZIONIST COUNCIL.

Warsaw, Mar. 8th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Zionists will break away from the organised Jewish Communities, and will set up separatist Communities, if the Agudath Israel proves successful in obtaining domination of the communities in the elections, which take place all over the country in May, under the new Jewish Community Regulations recently enacted by the Government, against which the Club of Jewish Deputies and the Zionists have repeatedly protested on the ground that by establishing the Jewish communities on a purely religious basis, and giving them power to exclude non-orthodox Jews from membership, they give the advantage to the extreme orthodox elements who are organised in the Agudah.

An announcement to this effect was made to-day at the meeting held here of the Party Council of the Zionist Organisation of Congress Poland. A resolution was adopted calling on all local Zionist organisations to put up their own lists in the elections to the Jewish Communities and to form blocs with other Pro-Palestine groups, in order to fight against clericalism.

Meanwhile a new orthodox party has been formed under the name Adass Israel, organised by the Rabbi of Grodziesk and the Rabbi of Parcev, and a group of Hassidim of the Lubavitcher Rabbi, to contest the elections as a non-partisan orthodox organisation, which will put up its own candidates in opposition to both the Agudath Israel and the Zionist Mizrachi.

The Jewish Socialist Party Bund, which some time ago seceded from the Warsaw Jewish Community on the ground that it could not recognise the religious character of the Community, has not yet decided whether it will take part in the elections. Both the Left and Right Poale Zion, however, have decided to submit lists of candidates for election.

SPLIT IN POLISH ZIONIST MOVEMENT OVER NEGOTIATIONS WITH BRITISH GOVERNMENT: REVISIONISTS AND ET LIVNOTH MEMBERS WALK OUT OF PARTY COUNCIL MEETING LEAVING ONLY AL HAMISHMARITES WHEN RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED TO HAVE POLISH ZIONISTS REPRESENTED ON POLITICAL COMMISSION CONDUCTING NEGOTIATIONS IN LONDON.

Warsaw, Mar. 8th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The representatives of the Revisionists and the Et Livnoth walked out as a protest from the meeting of the Zionist Party Council to-day when it adopted a resolution moved by Deputy Gruenbaum, the leader of the Al Hamishmar Party, who is also President of the Polish Zionist Organisation, that the Polish Zionists should be represented on the Political Commission of the Zionist World Organisation which is acting together with the Zionist Executive in the negotiations in London with the British Government.

Deputy Gruenbaum spoke for three hours on the political situation, in urging his resolution. Mr. Kutzenok, on behalf of the Revisionists, contended that the Central Committee of the Polish Zionist Organisation does not represent the feelings of the Polish Zionists, and he demanded that another All-Polish Zionist Conference should be held, to accept the resignation of the Central Committee.

Dr. Gottlieb, on behalf of the Et Livnoth, questioned the right of Deputy Gruenbaum to represent the Polish Zionists. The Et Livnoth, he declared, is on principle opposed to participation in the Political Commission.

He, too, demand that Dr. Weizmann should resign, Deputy Gruenbaum declared in his reply, but we support Dr. Weizmann in his struggle with the outside forces.

As a result of the secession of the Revisionists and the Et Livnoth, the Polish Zionist Party Council consists now only of members of the Al Hamishmar Party.

THERE IS ALWAYS DANGER OF DISTURBANCES IN PALESTINE AT EASTER DR. DRUMMOND SHIELS SAYS IN HOUSE OF COMMONS; PALESTINE ADMINISTRATION WELL AWARE OF THAT AND MAY BE RELIED UPON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS.

London, Mar. 9th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

I am aware that there is always a danger of these disturbances at Easter. The Palestine Administration is well aware of that and may be relied upon to take all the necessary precautions, Dr. Drummond Shiels, the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, said in the House of Commons this afternoon in reply to a question by Mr. G. F. Shillaker, Labour member for Acton, who wanted to know whether his attention had been called to the danger of religious disturbances in Jerusalem at Easter, and what steps it was proposed to take to ensure that there shall be no rioting or breaches of the peace.

The Colonial Secretary's attention has not been specially drawn to this matter, Dr. Shiels said, but the local authorities will take whatever steps may be necessary.

NO DEATH SENTENCES IN MOSCOW TRIAL: SIX JEWISH PRISONERS ALL SENTENCED TO TERMS OF IMPRISONMENT TO BE FOLLOWED BY EXILE.

Moscow, Mar. 9th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

After delaying the handing down of the verdict which was expected at 10 o'clock this morning, till 5 o'clock this afternoon, the Supreme Court sprang a surprise by passing no death sentences on any of the prisoners in the big Menshevik trial, obviating in this way any necessity for the formulation of a commutation of the death sentence.

All the fourteen accused have been sentenced to imprisonment. Ginsburg, the only Jew among the accused for whom Krylenko, the State Prosecutor, demanded the death penalty, is the only Jew receiving the maximum term of 10 years' imprisonment, to be followed by 5 years' exile. Sokolovsky has been sentenced to 8 years' imprisonment and 2 years' exile; Berlatsky to 8 years' imprisonment and 3 years' exile; Zalkind to 8 years' imprisonment and 3 years' exile; Rubin to 5 years' imprisonment and 2 years' exile, and Teitelbaum to 5 years' imprisonment and 2 years' exile.

FIRST JEWISH DAILY NEWSPAPER IN FAR EAST STARTS PUBLICATION IN TIENTSIN.

Farbin, Feb. 15th. (J.T.A. Mail Service).

The first Jewish daily newspaper in the Far East started publication to-day in Tientsin. It appears in Russian and is entitled "Utro" (morning). Dr. L. Bichowsky is the editor.

Tientsin is about two hours' journey from Peking, and is situated in the centre of China. It has a Jewish population of about 1,200 persons. There are foreign concessions and settlements there which are exempt from Chinese jurisdiction, and enjoy extra-territorial rights. The Russian White Guardists do not possess so much power there as in Manchuria, which explains why it was found possible to publish a Jewish daily newspaper there, and not in Harbin, where the Jewish population is much larger.