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PINSK DRAINAGE PLAN HAS NO CLAIM TO SERIOUS ATTENTION AS MEANS OF ALLEVIATING JEWISH DISTRESS IN POLAND AND ONLY OBSCURES REAL IMMEDIATE AND PRESSING JEWISH PROBLEMS; POLISH GOVERNMENT DOES NOT REGARD IT AS A JEWISH QUESTION MINISTER OF AGRARIAN REFORM TELLS J.T.A. HEAD: NO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST JEWS BUT NO PRIVILEGES FOR JEWS WHICH WOULD ONLY CAUSE DISCONTENT AMONG POLISH PEASANTRY: NO INTENTION OF FOLLOWING SOVIET EXAMPLE OF ASSISTING IMPOVERISHED JEWISH POPULATION TO SETTLE ON LAND.

Warsaw, Mar. 18th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Pinsk drainage plan has no claim to serious attention as a means of alleviating the Jewish economic distress in Poland, and its only effect is to obscure the real, immediate and pressing Jewish problems. This view, which is general among the Jewish leaders here, was strengthened to-day by the declarations made by the Minister of Agrarian Reform, Professor Kozlowsky, in a conference which he had with Mr. Jacob Landau, the Managing Director of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Mr. B. Smolar, the J.T.A. Special Representative, and Mr. Mozes, the Director of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in Warsaw.

The Polish Government does not regard the Pinsk drainage plan as a Jewish question, the Minister made it plain in the course of the conference. Its aim is mainly to benefit the peasants who have not sufficient land for their needs, he explained. Of course, he said, we shall not discriminate against any nationality, but we do not intend to extend any special privileges to Jews, because that might cause discontent among the suffering Polish peasantry.

There is also the question of time. It must take at least 20 years, the Minister said, before the vast tract of marshland in the Pinsk area can be reclaimed and converted into fertile soil. Experiments are already being carried out, however, on the first section of 5,000 hectares. About 50 million American dollars are needed to carry out the project, and the Government intends to raise this amount as a loan, which will be repaid by the money received in payment for their farms from the settlers when the land has been put into fit condition for colonisation.

Asked whether the Polish Government has any intention of following the example of the Soviet Government, of alleviating the economic distress of the Jewish population by assisting the impoverished Jews to settle on the land, the Minister replied that Poland is in a different position to Russia. We cannot follow the Soviet system, he said. Our reclaimed marshlands must be sold to individual settlers. Everyone wishing to settle there will have to buy his land, and our guiding principle in this regard will be to sell land chiefly to such people who are trained land workers, while giving due consideration also to any applications received from people who have had no previous farm experience, but wish to engage in agriculture. It will cost approximately 2,000 dollars to settle a family on this land, the Minister stated, adding that facilities would be given at the same time to groups of settlers to colonise the reclaimed land.

JEWS IN AGRICULTURE IN POLAND.

Warsaw, Mar. 18th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Considerable advance in Jewish agriculture in Poland is reported here as the result of a statistical enquiry carried through by the O.R.T. (Society for Promoting Agriculture and Handicraft among the Jews) in 429 farms in the districts of Ignatovsky, Ivoniki, Otava, Ruginova, Szalucki, Paplevka, and Pelisht, which are provided with agronomical and financial assistance by the O.R.T. The 429 Jewish farmers own 2,684 morgen of land and rent another 283 morgen. They have 1,000 houses, barns, and stalls, 25 per cent. more than last March. There has been a very big increase in the livestock owned by these agriculturists. These 429 farmers have 243 horses, 24 per cent. more than last March, which is an increase of 64 per cent. since last March, with many sheep and other animals. They have also made big additions to their immovable inventory.

The O.R.T. activities in agriculture are conducted through the co-operatives, which have been formed in 11 points. Over a thousand Jewish farmers are organised in these co-operatives, and there is reason to believe that all of them have prospered to the same extent as those 429 among whom the enquiry has been made.

ANGLO-JEWRY'S SUPPORT FOR JEWISH RECONSTRUCTION WORK IN EASTERN EUROPE: BIG SYNAGOGUE CAMPAIGN INAUGURATED BY BRITISH O.R.T.-OZE COMMITTEE.

London, Mar. 18th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The scope of the Joint British Committee O.R.T.-Oze for the Reconstruction of East European Jewry, which was recently organised for the purpose of carrying on throughout the United Kingdom an extensive and systematic propaganda on behalf of the O.R.T. and Oze Societies and for raising funds for their work on behalf of East European Jewry (its first big public activity was the dinner addressed in London by Professor Einstein, Mr. Bernard Shaw, and other famous personages), was explained at a meeting of synagogue delegates which has been held at the house of Mr. Samuel Wallrock, the honorary treasurer of the committee, with Mr. Leon Rees, the Chairman of the Executive, presiding.

Lord Rothschild is President of the Joint British Committee, and the Chief Rabbi Dr. J. H. Hertz, Rabbi Mattuck, Miss Lily Montagu, and Dr. Redcliffe Salaman, are Vice-Presidents.

The initial plan of the Joint British Committee is to link up the whole of the country by a chain of sub-committees centred on the synagogues; and to this end every synagogue and synagogue official has been approached.

Lieutenant Colonel J. H. Levey, D.S.O., a member of the Executive, spoke at length on the conditions in Eastern Europe and the urgent need for action. Mr. Neville Laski, K.C., also a member of the Executive, said that in a question of such vital importance, for Jewry one could not possibly remain apathetic, if only on the grounds of common humanity. One had of necessity to be sympathetic at the spectacle of countless thousands threatened with ruin and disintegration, and the concrete form of sympathy was help.

A number of the synagogue delegates responded, and a resolution was unanimously adopted pledging full support to the activities of the Joint British Committee O.R.T.-Oze.

GERMAN ANTISEMITIC VANDALS SCORE THEIR CENTURY: HUNDREDTH JEWISH CEMETERY DESECRATED; WAR ON JEWISH DEAD GOES ON: TWO HITLERISTS ARRESTED.

Berlin, Mar. 18th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The antisemitic vandals who since 1923 have been indulging in the sport of desecrating Jewish cemeteries have now scored their century, the hundredth case of Jewish cemetery desecration being just reported from Schriesheim, near Heidelberg. A large number of Jewish tombstones have been demolished and others which have been left standing have been covered with filth.

Two members of the Hitlerist Organisation have been arrested and will be charged with the outrage.

EXTENDING HITLERIST MURDER CAMPAIGN IN GERMANY: JEW FATALLY STABBED BY HITLERIST STUDENTS: DON'T LIKE JEWS THEY SAY WHEN ARRESTED.

Berlin, Mar. 18th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

After the attempted assassination of the Hamburg Police Chief, Lassally, by the Hitlerist Police Sergeant Pohl, a young Jewish shop assistant named Arthur Knopf, has been stabbed by Hitlerist high school students in the town of Preussisch-Holland, in East Prussia, while they were going through the streets in demonstration. Knopf is in a critical condition and is not expected to live. On being arrested the students said that they stabbed him because they don't like Jews.

JEWISH COMMUNITY BUILDING BOMBARDED BY HITLERIST TROOPS: POLICE ARRIVE AFTER ATTACKING PARTY DISPERSED.

Berlin, Mar. 18th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

A crowd of Hitlerist troops formed up in military formation in the Rhineland town of Duisburg, following a Hitlerist meeting and marched to the Jewish Community Building, where they started a bombardment with stones, smashing every window in the place.

The police arrived on the scene when the attacking party had already completed its work and had dispersed.

THE WAY OF THE LAW IN GERMANY: JEW WHO FLED WITH HIS FAMILY FROM HOME TOWN AFTER ALL-NIGHT SIEGE AND FIRING AT HIS HOUSE BY HITLERISTS FINED ON GROUND THAT HE INCENSED POPULATION TO CAUSE THEM TO MAKE ATTACK: MEMBERS OF REPUBLICAN ORGANISATION WHO PROTECTED HIM FINED AND SENT TO PRISON WHILE ATTACKING HITLERISTS WITH ONE EXCEPTION ACQUITTED.

Berlin, Mar. 18th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Last August a group of Hitlerists in the small Rhineland town of Dolgesheim besieged during the night the home of a Jewish resident named Frank who had been living there for 36 years, firing at the house and putting the inmates into a state of terror. Attempts were made to rush the house, and threats were made that everyone caught inside would be killed. The assault was started at three o'clock in the early hours of the morning and was kept up all through the night. Frank and the members of his family barricaded themselves into the garret. The local gendarmerie took no measures to protect the house, because they were so largely outnumbered, and called reinforcements from Mayence. Several members of the militant anti-Hitlerist organisation, the Banner of the Republic, came to Frank's aid, and helped to keep off the mob until the arrival of the reinforcements. Twelve Hitlerists were arrested, and taken to the prison at Oppenheim.

As soon as the siege was raised, the Frank family, fearing for their lives, fled to Worms, where they are now living.

The district court at Mayence has now fined Frank 100 Marks, finding him guilty of causing a breach of the peace, on the ground that he had incensed the local population by his attitude. This was done in spite of the evidence given by the Mayor of Dolgesheim, that the Franks had been quiet residents and had never interfered in local politics, and of Frank himself, who swore that he had taken no part in the conflict between the local organisation of the Banner of the Republic and the Hitlerists, and had only asked the Banner of the Republic people to protect his house when he was warned that the Hitlerists were going to attack him because he was a Jew, and the police to whom he had applied first had said that they could not give him any protection.

One of the men of the Banner of the Republic who helped to protect the Frank house, has been sentenced to one month's imprisonment, and three other "Bannermen" have been fined a hundred Marks each.

The Hitlerists who were arrested for attacking the house have been acquitted, with the exception of one peasant, who has been fined a hundred Marks.

LAW COURTS GIVE NO PROTECTION TO JEWS: NO ONE DARES IN GERMANY TO-  
DAY TO RENDER HIMSELF SUSPECT OF PRO-JEWISH SYMPATHIES: JEWS  
LEFT TO MERCY OF HITLERIST MOB SAYS "JUEDISCHE RUNDSCHAU":  
ASTONISHING WE HAVE NOT HAD POGROMS IN GERMANY LIKE ONCE IN  
CZARIST RUSSIA.

Berlin, Mar. 18th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

It cannot be disputed that Hitlerist aggression assumes its most violent form when it is directed against Jews, the "Juedische Rundschau" here writes. That is not surprising when we remember that the Hitlerist papers have for years been inciting the lowest instincts of the mob against the Jews. The law courts do not react with sufficient energy against this propaganda, which is now leading to bloodshed.

It is in fact a matter of surprise that things being what they are we have not had pogroms in Germany like once in Czarist Russia. It is constantly happening nowadays that not only the lower courts, but the very highest treat the Hitlerist vandals with the utmost mildness. This laxity in the face of the insults heaped up against Judaism, Jewry and the Jewish Community, and the refusal to concede the right to the Jews to bring actions against those who libel them and incite the people, has resulted in convincing Hitlerist circles that outrages against Jews may be undertaken with much less risk than against other people. So we have Jews constantly attacked, molested in the streets, Jewish places of worship and cemeteries desecrated, a boycott preached against Jewish businessmen and all that is connected with Jews and Judaism vilified and all with no redress. We must not shut our eyes to the fact that Hitlerist ideology has spread in Germany to an extent that would have seemed incredible a few years ago. Even parties and authorities who are not anti-Jewish find themselves obliged to take account of the anti-Jewish mob feeling, which is spreading among all circles of the people. Without any discriminatory laws against Jews, we Jews are to-day treated in actual practice in Germany as second-class citizens. No one dares to appoint Jews as officials. People are afraid to give positions to Jewish scholars of the highest qualifications and attainments. People are afraid to become suspect of being protectors of the Jews. Things have gone so far that people are afraid to be just to Jews. And wherever Jews still hold public positions in spite of the Hitlerist propaganda of anti-Jewish hatred, the Hitlerists consider it as an affront and an act of provocation, with the expressed approval of the non-Hitlerist Right. The attempt made on the life of Police Chief Lassally in Hamburg by Police Sergeant Pohl is of particular significance. It is the act of an incited antisemite against a Jew. The shot fired in the Hamburg police headquarters is a shot fired against the Jews of Germany.

We feel that we have become open prey. We are left to the mercy of the Hitlerist mob, the "Rundschau" concludes. We see now the harvest that has been sown for years by the enemies of the Jews among the masses of the people. Whatever our views on inner Jewish questions, all Jews must join together now to put a stop to this laissez-faire in Germany in regard to the Hitlerist antisemitic agitation. We recently heard some very fine words from the Prime Minister, Dr. Bruening, but we have not yet heard any voice of warning from these high places against the martyrdom to which the Jews of Germany are subjected because of the unrestrained bestial mob antisemitism.

GREAT LOSS OF RESPECT AMONG JEWS FOR SPIRITUAL VALUES SAYS FAMOUS YIDDISH LITERARY CRITIC NIGER AT BERLIN RECEPTION: JEWS READING FEWER JEWISH BOOKS NOT BECAUSE OF INROADS MADE BY ALIEN CULTURE BUT BECAUSE READING ALTOGETHER FEWER BOOKS: URGES AMERICAN JEWRY MUST FIND SPIRITUAL HOME IN AMERICA: ONLY HOPE IS THAT MINORITY OF CREATIVE PEOPLE SHOULD RESTORE CONTACT WITH MASSES.

Berlin, Mar. 18th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

American Jewry must find its spiritual home in America, for only in that way can there be any spiritual creative life, Mr. S. Niger, the well known American Yiddish literary critic who is now visiting Europe, said in replying to the greetings at a reception given here in his honour, attended by Dr. Leo Bramson, the President of the O.R.T. World Federation, Dr. Singalovsky, Dr. Gergel, Dr. Julius Prutzkus, the Yiddish poet Daniel Czarni, who is Niger's brother, and others.

The danger facing Jewish culture in America was not assimilation and Americanisation, Niger went on. Jews were reading fewer Jewish books, not because alien culture was making such inroads, but because they were reading altogether fewer books. Jewish children were not sent to the Jewish schools which were being maintained at such enormous expense and sacrifice, only because the parents did not bother with spiritual problems. The great problem was the decrease in numbers and quality of the minority of Jewish intellectuals. It must be admitted, he said, that there was a tremendous loss of respect among Jews for spiritual values. The people who were creatively active were isolated. The only ray of light that he could see in the present situation was that the new generation of Jews talented in literature would be able to restore the failing contact between the great mass of the people and the minority of those who are spiritually creative. It was his aim, he said, to unite European and American streams in Jewish intellectual life.

BAN ON POLYGAMY PRONOUNCED BY RABBI GERSHOM NO LONGER VALID AND JEWS MAY NOW HAVE MORE THAN ONE WIFE: ARGUMENT IN BIGAMY CASE IN JERUSALEM DISTRICT COURT: JUDGES REFUSE TO ACCEPT REASONING AND FINE ACCUSED.

Jerusalem, Mar. 18th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The ban on polygamy pronounced by Rabbi Gershom in the year 1000 is no longer valid and Jews, Ashkenazic and Sephardic alike, may now marry more than one wife, was the argument put before the District Court of Jerusalem by a Jewish lawyer defending Alexander Lubling, son of a Sephardi father and an Ashkenazi mother, who was tried for bigamy, having taken a second wife before obtaining a divorce from the first.

Rabbi Gershom's famous edict against Jews living in Europe taking more than one wife had been a temporary provision intended to remain in force until the end of the year 5000, and we are now in the year 5691, the Counsel argued.

The second wife gave evidence that she had been aware of her husband's first marriage but it had made no difference to her.

The judges refused, however, to accept the reasoning, but only fined Lubling £2 and costs.

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