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DECLINING BERLIN JEWRY: TWICE AS MANY DEATHS AS BIRTHS IN LAST SIX MONTHS: ALARMING FACTS REVEALED BY LATEST STATISTICS.

Berlin, Mar. 19th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Berlin Jewry, grappling with the grave economic crisis and filled with anxiety because of the violent antisemitic agitation of the Hitlerists, finds itself menaced now also by a diminishing birth-rate and an increasing rate of mortality. During the last half-year period the figures which have just been published here reveal, there were for the total population of 174,000 Jews in Berlin 1,176 deaths and only 582 births.

The Federation of Jewish Communities in Germany issued a warning to the Jewish population of the country in 1927 drawing attention to the fact that "there is an annual excess of three thousand in the Jewish mortality rate in Germany over the number of births, with the result that there is a serious decline in the Jewish population of the country".

GRAVE ECONOMIC DISTRESS IN GERMAN JEWRY: SERIOUS REPORT FROM Breslau.

Berlin, Mar. 19th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The economic distress in Breslau and throughout Silesia and the Eastern parts of Germany has hit the local Jewish population particularly hard, the "Juedisches Wochenblatt" reports. Old established banking houses, numerous industrial and commercial firms of the highest integrity which have been for decades in Jewish hands have crashed. Veteran businessmen, who were once men of wealth, have lost everything and to-day have not even the means of earning a bare livelihood. Industrious employees have no idea where they are to get their next meal. The Jewish community in Breslau is making strenuous efforts to alleviate this distress and to maintain its welfare and educational institutions. Antisemitism is also a great danger, as is shown by the fact that in the last Reichstag elections in September the Hitlerists obtained in the Breslau district 24 out of every 100 votes cast. Hitlerism is going ahead with its sinister campaign.

In order to obtain an idea of the real gravity of the political and economic situation of the Jewish population in this area, the paper proceeds, the President of the Central Union of German Citizens of the Jewish Faith, Dr. Julius Brodnitz, Dr. Alfred Wiener, the Syndikus of the Central Union, and Herr Max Eisenkraemer, its Financial Director, spent a few days in Breslau recently. Dr. Wiener painted a gloomy picture for us of the general situation in the country based on the reports received by the Berlin head office from the various communities. Dr. Brodnitz told us that he was alive to the economic needs of the present moment, but he warned us not to throw up our hands in despair and become victims of the crisis mentality.

The President of the Breslau Jewish Community, Councillor Peiser, described to Dr. Brodnitz and Dr. Wiener the alarming economic situation of the Jews in Breslau and Silesia, and appealed through them to the Prussian Federation of Jewish Communities not to shut its eyes to the dangerous position of Silesian Jewry, but to take steps to send them immediate aid. Dr. Brodnitz assured him that the Central Union followed with great interest every effort made in the economic field to alleviate the economic suffering, but he explained that it was not the purpose of the Central Union to participate in such activities. The work of the Central Union was to fight against incitement and boycott, and according to its Constitution, for equal political and economic rights.

WHAT IS THE WAY OUT? ASKS ORGAN OF JEWISH ORTHODOXY IN GERMANY IN PESSIMISTIC SURVEY OF SITUATION.

Berlin, Mar. 19th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The economic distress of the Jews in Germany has been painted in very black colours by Dr. Guenther Stein, in the "C. V. Zeitung", the official organ of the Union of German Citizens of the Jewish Faith, the "Israelit", the organ of Jewish orthodoxy in Germany, writes in an editorial. He has certainly not exaggerated the position, it proceeds, and it is no consolation to have Martin Goetz explain to us in another issue that the Jewish distress is part and parcel of the general economic distress in Germany. Establishing the existence of this distress carries us no further towards its alleviation. What is to be done? Out comes the everlasting idea about helping the Jewish population to change their vocational status by settling on the land. The right of land settlement is conceded by the State, but the task of promoting Jewish land settlement in Germany must be assumed by the Jews themselves, the argument runs. The Jewish middle-class in the cities which is being uprooted will be transferred to the land, and given new opportunities there either as peasants, market gardeners or poultry-breeders. Goetz promises big benefits also from transferring Jews to handicraft. That sounds all very fine and very simple, the "Israelit" says, did we not know that German agriculture, too, is passing through a severe crisis at the present moment. Dr. Alfred Marcus asks with justice in the same issue whether it is possible for us to assume responsibility to-day with a clear conscience for transferring any large number of German Jews to agricultural occupations. The cultivated and arable areas of land in Germany have diminished in spite of all the various protective measures taken by the State. Comparisons with Russia, which had endless tracts of unoccupied and uncultivated land, simply calling out for cultivators, and which, after all, has an entirely different kind of Jewish human material, are beside the point, and Russia, too, has had no lack of disappointments in this regard. Marcus also reminds us of the political aspect of the question. He recalls the sharp opposition of German agriculture at the moment to the industrial forces in Germany. It would hardly be in the interests of the Jews and in the interests of Germany as a whole if we were to join this agrarian opposition to industry. The risk of transferring Jews to agriculture seems on all counts to be very considerable. But these considerations are, after all, dogmatic and can be left over for discussion later on when they become more actual. The real point is, have we any opportunity in Germany to-day for transferring to agriculture all the Jews in the big towns and cities of Germany who are walking about now helpless, hopeless, and on the verge of starvation. Nor must we forget that the position of the Jews in the small towns and in the villages has also grown very much worse. The complaints of economic distress from the country are proportionately just as numerous as from the city.

Cattle trading, which is the principal occupation of the village Jews, and which is very near to agriculture, has broken down. People have stopped their flight from the land, not because conditions on the land have improved, but because the conditions in the cities have become even worse. There is hardly an agricultural community which could afford to keep a teacher if it did not receive aid from the Federations of communities.

The land-settlement movement says that its aim is something different. The Jews are not to live in the villages as traders, but we are to settle them as Jewish peasants, as if such a thing could happen suddenly overnight. Since Hitlerism has taken such a strong hold of the village populations, could we expect such a thing to be done without some very violent collisions?

Then what are we to do? the "Israelit" asks. Are we to establish purely Jewish villages, with all the land and equipment that this requires? Where and how can it be done? At the same time, it concludes, these considerations do not exclude the possibility of a small-scale transference of Jews to agriculture. That can and must be done. People who have some knowledge of agriculture, especially of dairy-farming and of poultry-breeding, and artisans as well, will find the villages not exactly gold-mines, but they will be able to work the land and earn their bread, and inasmuch as they will be ensuring their own economic existence, they will be introducing new blood into these small communities and maintaining their spiritual existence. To work for such an aim would be a very worth-while task for all who are concerned for the future of the Jews both in town and on the land.

THOUSANDS OF JEWS IN POLAND IN DANGER OF GOING WITHOUT MATZOTH
THIS PASSOVER: JEWISH SITUATION WORSE NOW THAN DURING WAR SAYS
APPEAL: 9,600 APPLICANTS FOR MATZOTH REGISTERED WITH WARSAW
JEWISH COMMUNITY.

Warsaw, Mar. 19th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Thousands of Jews in Poland will be left this Passover without matzoth, if immediate relief is not sent them from abroad. The Beth Lechem Organisation here, which during the year sends its carts through the streets of the Jewish quarter of Warsaw, distributing free bread and tea to the needy, issued an urgent appeal to-day calling on Polish Jewry to raise as much money as possible by its own efforts, to prevent such an unprecedented situation as would be created by Jews in Warsaw being left unprovided with food for Passover. The Jewish situation in Poland is worse now than in the war period, the appeal says, and the relief from America has completely stopped. The number of Jews applying this Passover for charity is the largest ever known in Polish Jewry. It is more than ten times the number last year. Thousands of hands are stretched out for aid, and among the suppliants are hundreds of people who not long ago were themselves big contributors to various charity organisations.

9,600 applications for Passover relief have been registered this year by the Warsaw Jewish Community, a figure never before approached in this city.

The Federation of Jewish Relief Organisations in Great Britain has assigned £3,000 for Passover relief and the provision of matzoth in Russia and Poland this year. Of this amount £2,400 is going to provide Passover food for the Jews in Russia and the other £600 has been sent to Poland. Most of the money has been sent to the provinces, and Warsaw itself is receiving nothing, the view taken by the Federation being that a large Community like Warsaw should be able to raise the necessary funds from among its own members. £60, however, has been sent for distribution in the Warsaw suburbs, £80 has been sent to the Vilna district, and £50 to Lodz and district, the balance going to the small townships.

SITUATION OF JEWS IN POLAND HAS SINCE WAR CHANGED NOT FOR BETTER
BUT FOR WORSE.

Warsaw, Mar. 19th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The situation of the Jewish population in Poland did not change for the better after the war, but for the worse. The number of people who are in want has grown not less but more, very much more, the "Folkshilf", the organ of the Jewish Loan and Savings Banks and of the Jewish social welfare work in Poland, writes. The altered post-war conditions, it continues, has made it necessary also for the Jewish Communities to change their method of relief work. We no longer have to deal with sharply-defined categories of poor people, whom it is enough to give a few shillings or some food. We have to deal now with an entirely different class of people. The changes of occupation among the Jewish population and their altered social structure, the prolonged economic crisis, which has revealed the economic weakness of the Jewish masses, all compel the Jewish Communities to revise their previous philanthropic methods and adopt a new, modern and productive form of relief work. There are also changes of a psychological character to be considered. We can no longer dispense relief in the manner of the old philanthropists in their dealings with the poor. We find among the applicants for relief now people who once occupied an entirely different position in society, who have come down in the world through no fault of their own - victims of the economic crisis. The relief work of the Jewish Communities must be directed along two lines now - relieving the so-called professional poor and relieving those people who were once well-to-do people, and have become impoverished only because of the economic crisis. In the case of the first category, too, there are ways of organising the relief work on more modern and rational lines. This element is not always made up of lazy good-for-nothings. If proper work is undertaken, it should be possible to transform this type of professional schnorrer into a productive element, and the Jewish Communities must proceed to the productivisation of these people by pushing them into work, instead of training them to be parasites, living on doles and charity. As for the second element, these are mostly honest working people or professional men or traders who have lost their capital or have been thrust out of their economic positions. They need such aid which will give them a chance of resuming to some extent at least the positions which they once held or finding new openings. We must not forget, the paper concludes, that this second element embraces nowadays the great majority of our Jewish middle-class, especially in the small towns; that will give us an idea of the real extent and importance of organised social relief work.

IN SOUTH AFRICA TOO: NOTABLE INCREASE IN SUICIDES AMONG SOUTH
AFRICAN JEWS BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES.

Johannesburg, Feb. 27th. (J.T.A. Mail Service).

I regret to observe there is a notable increase in the number of suicides among Jews in this country, Hamabit writes in the "Zionist Record" here. Within recent months in Johannesburg, he says, no less than six Jewish merchants have sought death by their own hand because they were unable to face the financial difficulties with which they were confronted. In the past the act of suicide has been very rare amongst Jews, and we used to pride ourselves upon this fact, for there has always been something in the composition of the Jew which made him meet his troubles with courage. A stiffening of courage in the face of adversity is a quality which appears to be needed these days by a certain type of South African Jew.

NO ANTISEMITISM IN PARIS UNIVERSITY DEAN OF MEDICAL FACULTY
TELLS J.T.A.: DECLARES NUMERUS CLAUSUS PASSAGES IN HIS
LETTER PUBLISHED IN BUCHAREST PRESS ARE FORGERIES AND DID
NOT OCCUR IN HIS LETTER.

Paris, Mar. 19th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

There is neither xenophobia nor antisemitism in Paris University, Professor Balthazard, the Dean of the Medical Faculty at Paris University, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency to-day, when it approached him with regard to his letter published in the Bucharest press recently announcing that Paris University is about to enforce a numerus clausus against Roumanian students of Jewish origin (given in the J.T.A. Bulletin of the 17th. inst.).

I authorise you formally to deny the authenticity of the passages in the letter which speak of the numbers and status of the Roumanian Jewish students in Paris, Professor Balthazard said. No such passages occurred in my letter, and they are pure inventions.

The position is as follows: A bill is being introduced in the Senate to place Roumanian students who wish to practise in France under the same conditions as any other foreign physicians, namely, that they must pass the final secondary examination under French regulations, but there will be no discriminations against Jewish students, nor will Roumanian students be placed under worse conditions than students of other nationalities. Nor is there any intention to make the general conditions governing the admission of foreign students any more difficult than at present.

Jewish circles in Paris, which were greatly excited by the J.T.A. publication of Professor Balthazard's letter as it appeared in the Roumanian press, have now been somewhat pacified by Professor Balthazard's declaration. Professor Balthazard is said to be himself of Jewish origin, though no definite confirmation of this is available, and he has rendered considerable services to Jewish interests. He has in general been known as a man of extremely liberal views, and Jews here were therefore astounded by the kind of remarks attributed to him in the letter as published in Bucharest.

The Roumanian Legation here declares officially that it has no knowledge of any enquiry having been addressed to it with regard to the number of Roumanian students in Paris of Jewish origin, and adds that it knows nothing of Professor Balthazard's letter.

It is incredible, the Yiddish daily "Pariser Hajnt" writes, that Paris University, known for its hospitality and tolerance should put such a question, and go into the antecedents of the Roumanian students to find out which are Jewish and which are Cuzists. It is incredible that there should be any official in the French Republic to pose in an official letter the question "Jew or non-Jew?". It is impossible to believe it of free, generous France, that the numerus clausus question could be raised here officially and that Roumanian professors, colleagues of Cuza's should be asked to come here in a mixed commission to say which Roumanian students are to attend Paris University. Professor Balthazard is well known for his friendliness to foreign Jews, and he is himself of Jewish origin, and such an attitude on his part seems altogether out of the question.

RABBI SONNENFELD ISSUES APPEAL FOR PEACE TO PALESTINE POPULATION:
AS ONE WHO HAS LIVED IN HOLY LAND FOR SIXTY YEARS I TURN TO
ALL RESIDENTS REGARDLESS OF RACE OR RELIGION TO ERADICATE
HATED RIVALRY AND UNFOUNDED SUSPICION.

Jerusalem, Mar. 19th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Rabbi Sonnenfeld, the leader of the Palestine Agudath Israel, issued an appeal here to-day under the heading "Truth and Peace", deprecating the racial hatred and quarrels among neighbours, which, he says, have for the last two years been poisoning the air of Palestine and destroying brotherly love. As one who has lived in the Holy Land for sixty years, he writes, I turn to all residents, regardless of race or religion, whom the Divine Providence has enabled to sojourn in this holiest of lands, to heed my call, which comes from an aching and a broken heart, and to have pity on this blessed country and on the remnants of all nations living therein and to eradicate all hatred, rivalry and unfounded suspicion.

The leaders of the Jewish people of Palestine will be the first to urge peace, the eighty-year old Rabbi concludes, and I am sure that the hearts of the leaders of the Arab people will respond.

The appeal, it is hoped here, will be effective in allaying the anxiety which always exists in Palestine with the simultaneous approach of the Passover, Easter and the Koslem Nebi Mousaa Festivals, and in providing an opportunity for a rapprochement between the various sections of the population.

SOKOLOV MONTH OF THE ZIONIST ORGANISATION.

London, Mar. 19th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Executive of the Zionist Organisation informs the Jewish Telegraphic Agency to-day that the special propaganda campaign known as the Sokolov Month, in honour of Mr. Nahum Sokolov's 70th birthday, is meeting with great success in several countries. According to reports received from Mr. Felix Rosenbluth, member of the Executive, who is at present touring Eastern and Central Europe and has already visited Warsaw, Lemberg, and Cracow, preparations are made everywhere to secure by the united efforts of all Zionist parties an appreciable increase in the membership of the local Federations and in the numbers of shekolim sold. In Congress Poland it is hoped to achieve the quota of 120,000 shekolim, while the Federations in East and West Galicia, which have already achieved record figures, have pledged themselves to continue their efforts. The idea of establishing united organisations, comprising Zionists of all parties, has found strong support in both East and West Galicia. It is intended to call a conference in the near future to discuss the most urgent organisation problems prior to the Seventeenth Congress. Mr. Rosenbluth, who conferred everywhere with local Zionist leaders and with the Young Zionist organisations, reports an encouraging growth in the membership of the junior societies, especially the Hechalutz, and also among the so-called General Zionists. Mr. Rosenbluth is proceeding to Czernowitz, Jassy, Bucharest, Vienna and Mährisch-Ostrau.

DEATH OF JEWISH EX-MAYOR OF CZERNOWITZ WHO WAS ENNOBLED FOR WAR
SERVICES TO AUSTRIAN EMPIRE.

Vienna, Mar. 20th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Dr. Salo von Weisselberger, who was in 1913 Mayor of Czernowitz, the capital of the Roumanian province of Bukovina and before the war an Austrian city, died here to-day at the age of 64. He was dragged to Siberia in 1914 as a hostage by the Russian invaders and on his return as an exchange prisoner the Emperor ennobled him for his brave stand against the invading Russian army. He was afterwards Senator for Czernowitz in the Roumanian Parliament.

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