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CIRCUMCISION ON TRIAL IN SOVIET RUSSIA: MINSK MOHEL ACCUSED OF CAUSING DEATH OF CHILD HE CIRCUMCISED DEFENDED BY DOCTOR PAYING TRIBUTE TO HIS SKILL: MOHEL HOLDS HIMSELF WITH DIGNITY IN COURT: REPUTES CHARGE OF USING NEGLECTED RUSTY INSTRUMENTS: SHOWS THEY WERE STERILISED AND THAT HE STERILISED HIS HANDS AND USED PROPER MEDICAMENTS PURCHASED AT SOVIET DRUG STORE: MOTHER OF DEAD CHILD DEFENDS MOHEL AND FATHER DENIES CHARGE-SHEET STATEMENT THAT CHILD WAS CIRCUMCISED AGAINST HIS WILL.

Moscow, Mar. 25th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The trial of the Mohel Jonah Radunski, who was arrested in Minsk, the capital of White Russia, at the beginning of this month, on the charge of causing the death of the child of a Jewish worker named Tchertock by carrying out the "barbaric rite of circumcision" against the will of the father, is not shaping on the lines intended by the local Jewish Communists, who had announced it as "a great demonstration against clericalism and medievalism".

From reports in the Minsk Yiddish Communist daily "Oktiabr", Radunski is bearing himself with great dignity in court, producing evidence to show that he is an expert Mohel and that the allegations that his instruments were neglected and rusty are untrue. He showed that he had sterilised his instruments and had sterilised his hands, using all the proper medical and surgical precautions, and buying his medicaments from the Soviet drug store.

A local medical man, Dr. Churgin, gave evidence bearing out his statements, and paying high tribute to Radunski's skill.

The mother of the dead child also gave evidence strongly in favour of the Mohel, defending him in every way, and the father of the child, Sholom Tchertock, a builder's mason, 23 years of age, denied the statement made by the prosecution that the child had been circumcised against his will. He had not objected to the circumcision of his child, he said. He had merely told his wife that she could do as she pleased about it.

Although the hearing of witnesses was closed at the first session, which lasted, however, through the night, until 2 o'clock in the morning, the trial is being continued, the Prosecution still holding to the belief that it will be possible to convert the trial into a big anti-religious demonstration.

How Jewish Communists Formulated Charge: "No Doubt He Is Responsible For Death Of Scores Of Children".

Jewish clericalism will be put on trial in Minsk, the Jewish Communist paper "Emess" announced when Radunski was arrested, declaring that "there is no doubt that he is responsible for the death of scores of children". The investigating authorities, it alleged, have come into possession of his "sacred" tools, and the instruments are all dirty and rusted. It often happened that the child would bleed on the day of the Brith or the next morning, and I would go and stop it, "the great medico" Radunski has said, the "Emess" correspondent writes. His neighbours say of him, however, he added, that Radunski (who is also a Shochet) slays poultry and children.

When Tchertock's wife gave birth to her first child, the "Emess" went on, the grandparents induced the mother to have the child circumcised without her husband knowing about it, because being a worker he is opposed to this old barbaric religious custom. The Rabbi joined in their entreaties, as did also the President of the synagogue, Radunski himself and a group of other "believers". The agitation was started while the mother was still in the lying-in hospital. They drew up a strategic plan to have the child circumcised quietly, without fuss, so that no one should be any the wiser. On the ninth day they made careful preparations for their sinister ritual. They got together a group of pious Jews, relatives, Beth Midrash habitués. They selected an hour when the father would be away from home, and Rabbi Jonah Radunski came to perform his "good deed". Having circumcised the child, Radunski got his pay, according to the rates, and a few roubles besides from the grandparents. The same evening the child began to bleed. The first-aid was called in, and the child was taken to hospital where on the second day it died from loss of blood, caused by the wound inflicted by the act of circumcision. The parents seeing what a sinister net the Nepmen-clericalist group had spread about them, reported the matter to the Jewish People's Court.

"The news of this sinister ritual which had resulted in the death of a new-born child infuriated the Jewish workers of Minsk", the "Emess" wrote, and "wherever you go, in the street, in the club, in the factories, you hear nothing but the story of Radunski, the Mohel. The workers demand that he should be found guilty of the death of the child and severely punished, and that a big social trial should be arranged against the counter-revolutionary propagators of the dark Middle Ages. The workers demand an intensification of the fight against the Jewish religious traditions, against the Jewish religious festivals, against the Jewish customs and all the survivals of an out-moded way of life".

DAVID BERGELSON F-KOUS YIDDISH NOVELIST ARRESTED IN RIGA WITH HIS AUDIENCE WHILE READING FROM HIS WORKS IN COMMUNIST CLUB: RELEASED AFTER INTERVENTION BY AGUDIST DEPUTY.

Riga, Mar. 25th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

David Bergelson, the famous Yiddish novelist, was put under arrest here, together with fifteen members of his audience, while he was giving a reading from his works in the Communist "Wintchewsky Club" here. After Deputy Dubin, the leader of the Jewish Orthodox Party, Agudath Israel, in Latvia, had made representations to the authorities, Bergelson and 14 others were released, one of the prisoners being retained in custody.

Bergelson left Soviet Russia in 1921, because of his opposition to the Jewish Communists, and made his home in Berlin, where he continues to live permanently. In 1926, however, he published a letter in the Moscow Yiddish Communist paper, the "Emess", in which he said that he had failed while he was in Russia to understand the difficulties with which the Jewish Communists had to contend at the time he opposed them, and that now he was heart and soul with them in the great Jewish work they were doing. The same year, he visited Russia, and was well received there, and on his return to Berlin he said that he had been greatly impressed by the growth of Jewish cultural activity in Russia during the five years that he had been away.

MORE ABOUT THE NUMERUS CLAUSUS PROPOSAL FOR ROUMANIAN JEWISH STUDENTS AT PARIS UNIVERSITY: BILL IN FRENCH SENATE RELATING TO ROUMANIAN STUDENTS IRRESPECTIVE OF RELIGION: BUT HOW CAN JEWISH STUDENTS IN ROUMANIA BE SURE THEY WILL NOT BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN SELECTION OF QUOTA PARIS JEWISH DAILY ASKS: DISQUIET IN JEWISH CIRCLES CONTINUES IT DECLARES.

Paris, Mar. 25th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The bill which has been introduced into the French Senate, referred to by Professor Balthazard, the Dean of the Medical Faculty of Paris University, in his interview with the J.T.A. (given in the J.T.A. Bulletin of the 21st. inst.) regarding the Bucharest report of an alleged intention to introduce a numerus clausus at Paris University against Jewish students from Roumania, seeks to provide, the J.T.A. learns, that students coming from abroad in order to obtain a French diploma with the intention of practising medicine in France, must in future comply with the same conditions required of French citizens, that is to say, they will have to matriculate in France, will have to become naturalised as French citizens and will have to serve in the French army.

The Medical Faculty of Paris University is backing the bill, which is to protect French doctors against the competition of aliens, who are relieved from obligations to which French citizens are subject. The bill is not aimed against any nationality or religion, applying equally to all alien students. Roumanian students will be less affected, however, than students of other nationalities. The Medical Faculty desires to make an exception in favour of a certain number of Roumanian students, irrespective of their religion, so as to preserve an old tradition under which Roumanians enjoy certain privileges in France. The Medical Faculty proposes that a certain number of Roumanian students should be released from having to take the French matriculation examinations.

We should like to have an explanation, the Jewish daily here, the "Pariser Hajnt", says in commenting on this J.T.A. report, what exactly it means that a certain number of Roumanian students are to enjoy certain privileges. Who will select these privileged students, and what will be the manner of their selection? How can the Jewish students of Roumania be assured that Jews will be treated justly? The disquiet in Jewish quarters continues, the paper declares.

For 75 years there has been a convention between Roumania and France, Professor Minovici, the Dean of the Medical Faculty of Bucharest University, has stated, guaranteeing full liberty to students of Roumanian citizenship irrespective of their faith to study in France. In my opinion, the Dean went on, it is impossible to introduce any numerus clausus in Roumania or elsewhere with Roumanian aid, or to make any distinction between students because of their religion.

NO OTHER AIM THAN IMPROVING SKY-LINE OF ETERNAL CITY BEHIND RECOMMENDATION TO REMOVE DOME FROM ROME SYNAGOGUE: STATEMENT TO J.T.A. BY RAPPORTEUR OF ROME PLANNING COMMISSION.

Rome, Mar. 25th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The recommendation to remove the dome of the Great Synagogue, situated near the banks of the River Tiber, made by the Rome Planning Commission appointed by Signor Mussolini to prepare a scheme for the beautifying of the city, has nothing else behind it than the desire to improve the skyline of the city, Signor Marcello Piacentini, the famous architect, who is the Rapporteur of the Commission, declared in an interview with the J.T.A. representative here to-day.

The recommendation caused consternation among the Jews of Rome, and in some quarters it was suggested that it might be found to have been put forward because of some obligation assumed by the Government towards the Vatican in connection with the Concordat, to help to preserve the Christian character of Rome, which the Dome on the Synagogue would be regarded as disturbing.

The recommendation is prompted by nothing more than the purely architectural desire to preserve the skyline of the City, Signor Piacentini declared, and altogether unconcerned with political or religious considerations. Now that the Rome ghetto has been removed, the synagogue is isolated, and the dome appears to us to clash with the ancient buildings that have been uncovered in the recent excavations.

We have no intention, he went on, of introducing political or religious passions in this affair. We are concerned solely with questions of architectural amenities. We intend to demolish the old church near the Capitol and to rebuild several chapels. That shows that we are not confining ourselves to Jewish religious buildings. We are influenced by nothing else than purely aesthetic reasons, and I really believe that in the interests of these the dome of the synagogue should be removed.

When my father, and other famous architects approved the plans for the building of the synagogue about 30 years ago, he continued, the archeological zone had not yet been isolated from the surrounding buildings, and the old ghetto still stood all round the synagogue. Conditions now have changed very much and what held good at that time no longer holds good now. There is no doubt, he said, that with the establishment of the new archeological zone, the scheme for the preservation of our ancient buildings, the removal of the ghetto and the general planning of a harmonious skyline for the Eternal City, the dome of the Rome synagogue clashes and should be removed.

DR. WEIZMANN'S PEACE OVERTURES DECEIVED NO ONE PALESTINE ARAB EXECUTIVE STATEMENT SAYS: WE SHALL NOT HESITATE TO MAKE PUBLIC NAME OF ANYONE WHO ENTERS INTO PARLEYS WITH DR. WEIZMANN.

Jerusalem, Mar. 25th (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

We are glad to announce that so far Dr. Weizmann's peace overtures have deceived nobody, the Palestine Arab Executive says in a statement which it issued here to-day.

We shall not hesitate, the statement continues, to make public the name of anyone, regardless of his position, who enters into parleys with Dr. Weizmann. Negotiations, official or unofficial, cannot profit the Arabs and can only make people believe that the Arabs have agreed to recognise the Balfour Declaration and the Palestine Mandate.

The Palestine Arab Executive, the J.T.A. understands, has not responded to a cautious feeler from the Government with regard to a possible meeting with Dr. Weizmann. It is believed that the Government intimated that the authorities in London would like to have conversations started, in the form of a tripartite meeting of representatives of the Government, the Jews and the Arabs, on the Palestine development scheme and the Palestine legislature.

The Palestine Arab Executive at its meeting held on Tuesday, the J.T.A. further learns, has decided to meet daily in order to keep in touch, in what is described as the present serious situation.

PALESTINE COULD EASILY SUPPORT FIVE TIMES PRESENT POPULATION  
IF MODERN METHODS OF FARMING ARE INTRODUCED AND CORRESPONDINGLY  
INCREASED INDUSTRY AND TRADE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION SIR  
PHILIP DAWSON, M.P. LEADING ELECTRICAL POWER AUTHORITY SAYS.

London, Mar. 26th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

If modern methods of farming can be introduced and the resulting correspondingly increased industry and trade is taken into consideration, Palestine should easily be able to support some five times the population which is to be found there to-day, Sir Philip Dawson, M.P., the Conservative member for Lewisham, who is one of the leading authorities on electrical and power supply, said in addressing the Anglo-Palestine Club last night.

Of the total area of Palestine, Sir Philip proceeded, 2½ million acres are called cultivated, but a large proportion of this land cultivated by the primitive methods still used by the Arabs, brings in but a small return. Six hundred thousand acres can be cultivated, but are still lying fallow. Something like two million acres are occupied by urban areas, forests and pastures, while there are nearly two million acres denominated as uncultivated.

Palestine produced to-day 650,000 quintals of wheat which, per hectare under cultivation is just over one-third of that produced in Canada. Palestine also produced 467,000 quintals of barley, and 3,000 quintals of tobacco, which is about one-half of that produced for the same area in British North Borneo. The main industry of Palestine must, as far as can be foreseen to-day, Sir Philip said, remain agricultural. In addition, the development of smaller mechanical industries should become possible with the increase of motor transport, proper irrigation, and proper water supply. The country is also suitable in many places for the mulberry tree and for silk production. Wine production is also an important industry. The industries that are already established in Palestine are soap-making, building materials, tobacco and cigarettes, salt production, furniture making, textiles and silk hosiery, and the pearl industry, largely located around Bethlehem, where so far very primitive methods of production are still practised.

In considering the position of Palestine and its possibilities for the use of electricity, Sir Philip said that certain factors must be borne in mind, the most important of them being the very great difference in the standard of living of any European and of the Arab population, as well as their much lower efficiency in production, which as far as agricultural production is concerned, means wasteful exploitation of the land by the use of the most primitive methods of agriculture, very similar to those used two or three thousand years ago, and a cheap, though inefficient labour, all of which means a small field for the use of electricity among this part of the population.

How much greater the agricultural productivity of the Jews is as compared to the rest of the population, he said, is shown by the fact that while the average export of agricultural produce per head of population engaged in agriculture is £2 per annum, that of the Jews is £31 per annum. Conditions as regards the possibility of using electricity alter entirely when applied to the Jewish population, both as regards those located on the land and engaged in agriculture, and those occupied in industrial organisations.

Probably from a quarter to half-a-million horse power can be produced by harnessing the river Jordan, Sir Philip suggested, and the efficient utilisation of this power can be materially improved by means of oil-operated stations, located in various populous centres where oil can be readily and economically obtained.

The already increasing use of electricity in the industrial centres, he concluded, is shown by what has already been achieved by the power station of Tel Aviv, which in 1929 supplied 460,000 kilowatts as compared with 39,700 in 1924.

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