

(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. 74.

5 pages.

30th. March, 1931.

MATZOTH RIOTS FEARED IN POLISH CITIES: JEWISH COMMUNITY OFFICES
BESIEGED BY APPLICANTS FOR PASSOVER AID: POLICE CALLED OUT
TO PREVENT DISORDER: THIRD OF ENTIRE JEWISH POPULATION OF
LODZ SEEKING RELIEF.

Warsaw, Mar. 29th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Alarming reports are arriving here from the provincial towns concerning the extent of the distress among their Jewish populations, as shown by the immense number of applications for Passover aid registered with the various local Jewish communities. In the famous textile centre, Lodz, the so-called "Polish Manchester", out of the total number of 40,000 Jewish families, 12,000 have registered with the Jewish Community for Passover relief, almost a third of the entire Jewish population being compelled to seek the aid of charity. Among the Jews who are this year receiving a hundred zlotys from the Jewish Community to enable them to provide for Passover, there are many who were previously counted among the wealthy men of the town, and gave themselves 10,000 zlotys each to the Jewish Community to provide Passover relief for the poor.

The Jewish Community offices in Lodz, Warsaw, Vilna, and other Jewish cities look like besieged fortresses, with thousands of people standing in line clamouring for matzoth. There are numerous cases of people fainting in the line, having had no food for days. Strong police forces are keeping guard outside the Jewish Community offices because of the fear of hunger riots.

The number of Jews applying this Passover for charity is the largest ever known in Polish Jewry, more than ten times the number last year, it was stated in a Warsaw message a few days ago - J.T.A. Bulletin of the 21st. inst., - among the supplicants being hundreds of people who not long ago were themselves big contributors to the various charity organisations. The Warsaw Jewish Community, the message said, has registered 9,600 applications for Passover relief this year, a figure never before approached in the city.

The arrival in Warsaw of a sum of a quarter of a million dollars from American Jews through the agency of the Hias (Hebrew Immigrant Aid and Sheltering Society of New York) for distribution as Passover aid among their relatives living in Poland was reported in a J.T.A. message given in the Bulletin of the 26th. inst. The amount, it was explained, is very much less than in previous years, because of the economic crisis this year in America, although the need in Poland this year is much greater than ever before.

4,000 MATZOTH APPLICANTS IN KOVNO ALONE SAYS PASSOVER AID COMMITTEE
POINTING TO IMPOSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING ADEQUATE SUPPLY FOR
LITHUANIAN JEWISH POOR.

Kovno, Mar. 27th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

4,000 applicants for matzoth have been registered in Kovno alone, apart from numbers of middle-class people who have not registered, but for whom assistance must be provided, because they have no means themselves for providing their Passover food, says an eleventh hour appeal issued here by the Passover Aid

Committee, pointing out that with its present resources the Committee will not be able to meet the immense need existing among Lithuanian Jewry. Only 1,300 people have responded so far to the appeal for contributions, the statement says, and if there is not a greater response soon it will be impossible to provide an adequate supply of matzoth for those in need.

The congestion outside the matzoth depot is so great that guards have had to be posted there to keep the crowds in order, since everybody is trying to push to the front, fearing that otherwise they will be left without matzoth, knowing as they do that there is not enough to go round.

NEW YORK JEWS ALSO LINE UP IN THOUSANDS FOR PASSOVER RELIEF:
MAYOR'S UNEMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE DISTRIBUTING MATZOTH POTATOES
EGGS ETC.

New York, Mar. 28th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The extent of the distress existing at present among the Jews of New York was graphically illustrated to-day when thousands of Jews, many of them previously well-to-do, lined up in the streets outside the police stations in the Jewish districts, where the Mayor's Committee for the Relief of Unemployment was distributing 6,000 Passover packages containing matzoth, potatoes, fat, eggs, etc. A number of poor Christian women, hearing that there was a free distribution of food joined the lines and also received matzoth and other Passover food. A sum of 98,292 dollars was set aside by the Mayor's Relief Committee recently, in addition to the food supplies, for the purpose of enabling poor Jewish families in New York to observe the Passover.

LONDON A CENTRE OF TRADE IN STOLEN SCROLLS OF LAW?: SENSATION CAUSED
IN NEW YORK BY POLICE CHARGE AGAINST 78 YEAR OLD SOPHER.

New York, Mar. 28th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

A great sensation has been caused here by the discovery of stolen scrolls of the law in the book-shop owned by a dignified 78 year old Mocher Sephorim (writer of Scrolls) known as Elchonon Sopher, whom the police accuse of trading in stolen scrolls and other articles used in Jewish religious worship. The police claim that there is an international trade in stolen scrolls of the law involved in the case, with London and Warsaw as the centres.

The charge against Sopher was brought up after the arrest of a young man named Mordecai Dashinsky, who told the police that Sopher employed him to steal scrolls of the Law from many synagogues out of town. Jewish circles refuse to place credence in Dashinsky's charges against Sopher, who has for many years enjoyed a high reputation in New York.

MOSCOW PLANS ABOLITION OF JEWISH RELIGION: JEWISH ANTI-RELIGIOUS
WORKERS HOLD FIRST ALL-SOVIET CONFERENCE: HEAR REPORTS OF
SECRET CHEDARIM AND YESHIBAS FLOURISHING IN LENINGRAD WHICH
DESCRIBED AS CENTRE OF JEWISH ACTIVITY: ANTI-RELIGIOUS CAMPAIGNS
MAKING NO HEADWAY DELEGATES FROM CRIMEA AND ELSEWHERE COMPLAIN.

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

Plans for abolishing the Jewish religion were discussed at the first All-Soviet Conference of Jewish anti-religious workers belonging to the Apikorsim Ferband which was opened here to-day with 70 delegates present from all parts of the Soviet Union, including Georgia and Uzbekistan, with representatives of the Karaite Jews who left the main body of Judaism centuries ago, also participating.

The Conference was taken by surprise by a report presented by a delegate from Leningrad who declared that there are still secret Chedarim and Yeshiboths flourishing in the former capital, which he described as being still the centre of Jewish religion and Jewish chauvinism.

Complaints that the anti-religious campaigns are making no headway among the Jews in their areas, were made by various delegates.

CIRCUMCISION A BARBARIC CUSTOM: MINSK MOHEL SENTENCED TO THREE MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT FOR DEATH OF CHILD FOLLOWING CIRCUMCISION.

Moscow, Mar. 28th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Jonah Radunski, the Mohel and Shochet, who has been on trial at Minsk, the capital of White Russia, on a charge of killing the infant son of a Jewish worker named Tchertock, has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

The Prosecutor, Rosenhaus, frankly admitted that it was not Radunski who was on trial, but the Jewish religion and Jewish clericalism. The Jewish religion is no less dangerous than other religions, he said, in demanding the imprisonment of the accused. It is no accident, he asserted, that the Pope joined with the Rabbis abroad in denouncing the Soviet regime. It is no accident that the American Rabbis and the Rabbis of other bourgeois countries were among the leaders of the anti-Soviet campaign.

The Prosecutor went on to accuse Radunski of counter-revolutionary conduct in the course of his trial, alluding to a statement that he had made that he was a declassed Jew, which, he contended, was tantamount to speaking in a manner calculated to imply that a great wrong had been done to him by the Soviet Government.

The Prosecutor delivered a long harangue on the subject of circumcision, claiming to trace its origin back to the Egyptians from whom, he said, the Jews had taken over "this barbaric custom". The Talmud, he said, had taught the rite of circumcision as something peculiar to the Jewish people, while actually circumcision was "a purely primitive and barbaric custom".

The Prosecutor laid the guilt for the death of the Tchertock child upon Radunski, and demanded that the court should pass on him the maximum sentence.

On the whole, however, the trial resolved itself into an onslaught not on circumcision alone, but on "all Jewish religious customs dating back to medieval and ancient times", rather than a trial of the individual Radunski.

An array of medical specialists was called in by the State, who testified that circumcision was weakening the young Jewish generation, and that it frequently caused death a few weeks after the operation. All the medical authorities called emphatically denied the claim that circumcision is a health measure. Dr. Churgin, who in 1921 gave Radunski a testimonial certifying that he was a skilful and hygienic Mohel, explained his action today to the court by saying that other Mohelim were far less hygienic than Radunski, and he had therefore welcomed him as less dangerous to new-born children than the others. He emphatically declared, however, that he himself had always been opposed to circumcision, and that he was thoroughly convinced that it was wrong from the physical point of view.

Radunski has been given a fortnight in which to appeal against his sentence before the Supreme Court of White Russia.

MANY ARABS WILLING TO CO-OPERATE DR. WEIZMANN SAYS BUT AFRAID OF BEING POWLED DOWN AS TRAITORS: SAYS SOME JEWS CONTRIBUTED TO THEIR FEARS AND NOW ARABS MUST BE PREPARED TO RECEIVE CO-OPERATION WHICH MEANS CONCESSIONS ON OUR SIDE.

Jerusalem, Mar. 27th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Many Arabs are undoubtedly willing to co-operate, but they are afraid of being howled down as traitors, Dr. Weizmann said to the J.T.A. here to-day, describing it as political terrorism which is preventing the Arabs from joining in a round table parley.

Some Jews have contributed to the Arab fears, Dr. Weizmann went on, and how we must prepare the Arabs to receive co-operation, which means making concessions on our side. Many Arabs believe that the British are anti-Zionist and would not support Arabs who seek peace with the Zionists.

Confirming the J.T.A. report that the authorities in London had desired the High Commissioner to arrange an Arab-Jewish meeting, Dr. Weizmann said that the local authority had proceeded naively in the matter, simply communicating the wish to the Arabs. Nevertheless, he added, he expected a considerable body of Arab opinion to be in favour of co-operation, although Mr. MacDonald's letter which had only restored the status quo had deeply disappointed some of them. This was the result, Dr. Weizmann said, of a zig-zag policy.

The Palestine Arab Executive perhaps does not represent the people, Dr. Weizmann went on, but it represents everything vocal, whether influence, ability, money or British support, but the non-possums attitude betrays the nervousness of the leaders. The Egyptians are either entirely uninterested in the matter or they are anxious to have an Arab-Jewish understanding, but the Syrians who control public opinion are stirring up trouble in Egypt. Shaukat Ali's visit to Palestine recently gave a fillip to Pan-Islamic propaganda, Dr. Weizmann admitted, although it was too ambitious, he said, especially the talk about a Moslem University in Palestine.

Without a tripartite agreement between Britain, the Jews and the Arabs, Dr. Weizmann explained, the House of Commons will not pass the Development Loan, which, will, anyhow, be difficult to repay unless the confidence of the Jews is restored and investment in Palestine can be recommenced.

A Palestine Legislature, Dr. Weizmann said, is impossible without an agreement with the Jews, who have no confidence that the British members of the Legislature would not join with the Arabs to obstruct the building of the Jewish National Home.

One of my tasks in America, Dr. Weizmann said, will be to re-establish confidence and to wipe out the accumulated bitterness. The White Paper would have been more harmful if it had been more skilfully drawn up, he remarked, but its most vicious feature was the attempt to lay down the thesis that what is good for the Jews is necessarily harmful for the Arabs and vice versa. Sir John Hope Simpson's figure of the number of landless Arabs created a false impression, because of its supposed scientific exactitude, whereas actually he included the cultivator-tenants among the landless Arabs.

Dr. Weizmann has been invited to Government House for to-morrow (Saturday) night, together with the Earl of Athlone, who has just retired from the Governor-Generalship of South Africa, and his wife Princess Alice, who are now in Palestine as the guests of the High Commissioner.

"HAOLOM" CARRIES ON: SUSPENSION DECISION WITHDRAWN.

London, Mar. 29th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The "Haolom", the Hebrew official weekly organ of the Zionist Organisation, which was to have stopped publication this week, according to the decision of the last meeting of the Actions Committee, will continue to appear as usual, the J.T.A. is informed to-day. Arrangements have been concluded which ensure the further undisturbed publication of the journal.

The announcement of the intention to suspend the "Haolom" caused perturbation among Zionists all over the world. The discontinuance of the "Haolom" is one of the drastic courses decided upon because of the shrinkage in the financial resources of the Zionist Organisation, one Zionist paper wrote recently. We cannot believe, however, it went on, that the last word has been heard. The discontinuance is to begin at the end of March. We refuse to think that there will not be found lovers of Hebrew to step in and save what the attenuated resources of the Zionist movement cannot maintain. Once before, under similar circumstances, the "Haolom" was suspended, but means were found to step in to the breach and enable it to resume. We are confident that the same or similar means will again be found to save the situation.

RETURN OF DREYFUS AFFAIR PLAY TO PARIS STAGE BRINGS RENEWAL OF
ANTISEMITIC DEMONSTRATIONS: GOVERNMENT MAY INTERVENE TO BAN
PLAY.

Paris, Mar. 28th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Dreyfus Affair play at the Nouvelle Ambigue Theatre, which was withdrawn in the first week of this month on the request of the Police Prefect, after continuous antisemitic disturbances, has with its return now to the same theatre been followed by a renewal of the disturbances on an even larger scale. Tear gas bombs were thrown and free fights went on in the theatre, the performances, which was broken up several times, not being concluded till after one o'clock this morning. Over 20 people on both sides were arrested.

The Prefect of Police has had an interview to-day with the Prime Minister, M. Laval, who is also Minister of the Interior, and it is believed that the Government will decide to ban the play in the interests of order.

M. Richepin, the author of the play, declares that if this is done, he will transfer the play to Brussels, to show that France is no longer a free country.

PRESIDENT HINDENBURG'S IRON HAND: SPECIAL DECREE PUBLISHED GIVING
GOVERNMENT DRASTIC POWERS AGAINST POLITICAL TERRORISM: ACTION
AGAINST ANTISEMITIC ACTIVITIES INCLUDED MINISTER OF INTERIOR
EXPLAINS.

Berlin, Mar. 28th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Field Marshal von Hindenburg, the President of the German Republic, has issued a special decree under the dictatorial Article 48 of the Constitution, in view of the menace to political life, presented by the terrorist activities of certain parties (Hitlerists and Communists), giving the police power to prohibit meetings, and confiscate newspapers, placards and leaflets which they have reason to fear are insulting to publicly recognised religions. The police are also given power to imprison for a minimum of three months anyone who publicly calls for acts of violence against individuals or collective groups.

The Federal Minister of the Interior, Dr. Wirth, in a circular explaining the decree states that the violent antisemitic agitation has caused President Hindenburg to issue the decree, because the leaders of the Christian churches, as well as the leaders of the Jewish faith, have repeatedly intervened with him to obtain protection for their faith.

NOT ANTISEMITIC NOR ANTI-ROUMANIAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION CLAIMS
IN J.T.A. INTERVIEW REGARDING NEW MOVE AGAINST FOREIGN
MEDICAL STUDENTS AT PARIS UNIVERSITY.

Bucharest, Mar. 27th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The letter received here from Professor Balthazard, the Dean of the Medical Faculty of Paris University, with regard to the proposed restrictions against foreign students of medicine at Paris University is of a private character, intended to draw the attention of the Roumanian Universities to the fact that the French Government is preparing a law for the protection of its own medical men against foreign competition. M. Ionescu, the Director of the Ministry of Education here, explained to the J.T.A. representative here to-day. The move is not antisemitic nor anti-Roumanian, he said, nor in the least intended to be in the character of a numerus clausus. What was intended was to enforce a more severe method of selection of students by means of examinations. The Roumanian Government, he added, is now in correspondence with Paris, in order to clear up the situation.

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