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VILNA CUT OFF BY FLOODS: COMMUNICATION ONLY BY BOAT: SWOLLEN RIVER STILL RISING: HOUSE-DOORS FURNITURE AND UTENSILS SWEEP AWAY: BRIDGES BROKEN DOWN: JEWISH POPULATION ABANDON HOMES: OTHER TOWNS INCLUDING GRODNO SLONIM AND LIDA SUBMERGED: POLICE CHIEF IN LATVIAN TOWN BECOMES HERO OF THE DAY BY RESCUING TEN JEWISH CHILDREN TRAPPED IN FLOODED HOUSE.

Warsaw, April 23rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The famous city of Vilna, known as the "Jerusalem of Lithuania", with a Jewish population estimated at 50,000, over one-third of the total number of inhabitants, is suffering severely from the floods caused by the rising of the River Vilja, on which it stands. The town is practically cut off, the waters reaching a level of about 21 feet above normal, and still rising, and communication is possible only by boat. Bridges have been broken down and cattle, horses, doors of houses, furniture and household utensils are being carried away. For the length of a kilometre the river is a raging flood. The lower parts of Vilna are under water, the worst sufferer being the suburb of Zarzecz, where the Zygmuntowska, Fabryczna, Batorego and other streets are completely submerged. The residents, largely Jews, have been evacuated, abandoning everything they possessed.

In Slonim the floods continue to rise and there, too, communication is possible now only by boat. Several bridges have had to be destroyed, to prevent them collapsing and injuring people.

The towns of Grodno, Lida, Osmyany, Smorgon, Danilowicz, Melodeczno, Disna, and others in the neighbourhood are also menaced by the rising of the Rivers Niemen, Vilja and Swislocz.

Riga, April 23rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Ten Jewish children were trapped by the floods in one of the houses of the town of Ryezhitsa, where the River Ryezhitsa has overflowed. Terror-stricken, they took refuge on cupboards and tables, while the waters kept steadily rising, and would-be rescuers were unable to get near. The local Police Chief Karklin, finally got several policemen to go with him to the house, and wading in with the water up to their necks, they succeeded in saving all ten children. The Jewish population of Ryezhitsa is overcome with gratitude to Police Chief Karklin, who is the hero of the day in the town.

HEAVY FLOODS ALSO IN MINSK AND OTHER TOWNS IN WHITE RUSSIA.

Moscow, April 24th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Heavy floods are occurring all over White Russia. The capital, Minsk, is the worst sufferer, lighting and water supply being cut off for days. All traffic and work has been stopped and many factories are under water. The Yiddish daily "Oktiabr" and the other papers appearing in Minsk have stopped publication. People living in the lower parts of the city have been evacuated to the higher parts.

Mohilev, Bobruisk, Mozir, Slutsk and other towns are also submerged and suffering terribly from the floods. Hundreds of houses are completely under water.

JEWISH CEMETERY DESECRATIONS IN GERMANY NOW TOTAL 119: SOME  
HAD NOT BEEN REPORTED BEFORE: NEW METHOD ADOPTED BY  
VANDALS OF FIRING FENCES AND TREES SURROUNDING CEMETERIES:  
TWO INCENDIARIES APRESTED.

Berlin, April 23rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The number of Jewish cemeteries desecrated in Germany in recent years is not 101 as was recently estimated, but 119, some of the cases not having been reported at the time, the "Israelitische Familienblatt" reports.

The desecrated cemeteries which must be added to the list, it states, include those situated at Schneidemuehl, Aschaffenburg, Bovenden, near Goettingen, Harburg, Hoch-Neukirchen, Klein-Krotzenburg, Loewenberg, Plauen-Tannenhof, and Kretzenburg.

A new method, the paper adds, has now been adopted by the vandals, of setting fire to the fences surrounding the Jewish cemeteries and letting the fire spread into the cemetery proper. Two such outrages have recently occurred, it states, at Freistett, near Kehl, and at Ziegenhain, near Cassel. The cemetery in both places was surrounded by pine-trees, many of them over a hundred years old. These were set on fire. The fire-brigade fought vigorously to put down the flames, but before they were subdued, a great part of the cemetery garden was destroyed and many graves near the fence were damaged. Two youths were seen trying to escape from the scene at Ziegenhain and they were pursued by the gendarmes and arrested.

General Freiherr von Schoenaich, who after the Great War in which he was one of the German Commanders, became a leader of the pacifist movement, has written to the "Israelitische Familienblatt" that, having just returned from Palestine where he has seen the young Jews building up a better community of people, he is filled with shame to see how in Germany Jewish cemeteries continue to be desecrated.

I have always felt that the desecration of Jewish cemeteries is a disgusting thing and a disgrace to civilisation, the General writes. The only modifying circumstance is, perhaps, the fact that the perpetrators, mostly young people, grew up during the war without parental guidance, their fathers being absent at the front, and that they therefore ran wild and lost all sense of decency. When I was in Palestine recently I saw how young Jews from many nations, carried there by sentiments of noble idealism, are building up a new and better Community of human beings. What I saw in Palestine makes me blush the more for the degradation of our own people which leads to the desecration of Jewish cemeteries. Unfortunately, I must confess that when I was abroad there were many things done by our countrymen which made me feel ashamed of them. If I had not, because of other reasons, become a pacifist, the General concludes, I would have become an opponent of war because I realise now how war inevitably makes brutes of men.

UNCHRISTIAN ACTIVITIES OF MANY ROUMANIAN PRIESTS ENGAGING IN  
ANTISEMITIC AGITATION CONDEMNED BY NEW PRIME MINISTER PROFESSOR  
JORGA: ADVISES HEAD OF CHURCH TO REMOVE SUCH PRIESTS FROM  
THEIR POSTS.

Bucharest, April 23rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The un-Christian activities of many of the priests in Roumania who sow seeds of unrest in the minds of the people, is condemned in a letter which the new Prime Minister, Professor Jorga, has addressed to the Patriarch of the Roumanian Church in reply to his message of congratulation on his assumption of office.

The Premier goes on to advise the Patriarch that, as head of the Roumanian Church, he ought to take more drastic measures to prevent his priests engaging in agitation against any section of the population, and should not shrink from dismissing them from their posts.

Complaints against priests engaging in antisemitic agitation in Roumania have been made frequently. The two priests, Dumitrescu and Berindei, for instance, were the ring-leaders, together with Danila, of the agitation in the Borsha district last summer, which finally led to the burning down of hundreds of Jewish houses.

It was reported that when Danila arrived in the district about 800 peasants collected in the Church, summoned there by the ringing of the Church bells, and the priests, Dumitrescu and Berindei, conducted a service, after which the peasants had to swear loyalty to Danila.

The Jews of Roumania, in their demands made to the Government, quoted by the late Mr. Lucien Wolf in his report on the Jewish minority in Roumania, put first on the list the demand that the Government should issue a proclamation signed by all the Ministers and by the Patriarch of the Orthodox Christian Church with a view to putting an end to the propaganda against the Jewish religion and the Jewish clergy, pointing out in particular that since the Bible is the foundation of Christianity attacks on the Bible are at the same time attacks on Christianity.

The Metropolitan of Moldavia, the head of the Church in that Province, sent out a circular at the end of 1928 to all the priests under his jurisdiction, prohibiting them from taking any part in the antisemitic movement, declaring that it is harmful to the State and opposed to the Christian religion. Other prelates joined him a few days later and a joint circular was issued to the priests under their jurisdiction prohibiting them from engaging in antisemitic activities. The issue of these circulars, it was explained, had been prompted by the action of the Holy Synod, which had recently been receiving complaints that large numbers of priests were engaging in antisemitic activity in Roumania, and had therefore sent a memorandum to all the Metropolitans and Bishops, demanding that they put down this widespread antisemitism among the clergy under their charge. The recent election campaign, in particular, it was stated, had disclosed the violent antisemitism which exists among some of the priests in the country districts. Antisemitism cannot be reconciled, the memorandum of the Holy Synod said, with the prestige and the status of a priest in the State Church, and the Holy Synod therefore demands that strict measures should be taken by the Prelates to wipe out the antisemitism among the clergy.

When Professor Cuza, soon after his re-election to Parliament last summer, delivered a speech from the tribune of the Chamber, insulting the Jewish religion, the President of the Bucharest Jewish Community, ex-Senator Bercovidă, visited the head of the Roumanian Church, the Patriarch Miron, who told him that he strongly condemned such attacks on the Jewish faith, and considered them to be irreconcilable with Christian teachings.

The Metropolitan of Moldavia drew the attention of the Holy Synod in 1926 to a pamphlet which Professor Cuza had published entitled "The Book of Christianity and the Teachings of Jesus", in which he had written that Jesus was only a symbol and that the Old Testament did not bind Christians in any way. The Old Testament, he said, is a Jewish work and a product of Satan.

The Metropolitan of Moldavia, therefore, asked the Holy Synod to excommunicate Professor Cuza for having insulted the Christian faith.

RELIEF FOR POLISH JEWS BY PROVIDING THEM WITH MACHINERY AND  
RAW MATERIAL: POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER PROMISES DR.  
LVOVITCH MEMBER OF O.R.T. PRESIDIUM TO GIVE FAVOURABLE  
CONSIDERATION TO PROPOSAL TO REMIT CUSTOMS DUES ON  
MACHINERY AND RAW MATERIAL SENT BY RELATIVES ABROAD.

Warsaw, April 23rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Foreign Minister, Count Zaleski, has promised Dr. David Lvovitch, member of the Presidium of the World Federation O.R.T., who has arrived here from Berlin, that he will give favourable consideration to his request that the Polish Government should release from customs dues machinery and raw materials sent to Poland by Jews living in America or in Western European countries, through the medium of the O.R.T., in order to enable their relatives living in Poland to engage in productive work as artisans.

.. An agreement under which the O.R.T. is able to import into the Soviet Union without payment of any customs dues machinery and raw materials provided for the use of Russian Jews by relatives living in America or the countries of Western Europe was signed in the summer of 1928, between the Soviet Government and the O.R.T. World Federation.

The agreement is of great value in the work of improving the position of the declassified Jewish population in the small towns of Russia. Dr. Lvovitch said to the J.T.A. at the time. Home industry appears to offer a way out for them. There are in White Russia and the Ukraine about 200,000 Jewish artisans, who, with their families constitute about a third of the Jewish population of these countries. Their position is very difficult. An artisan earns on an average only 20 to 30 roubles monthly. The smallness of the income is due to the fact that most of the artisans lack machinery and tools and those machines which they have are worn-out and out of date. There is also a great shortage of raw materials. The inferior quality of the finished products makes it difficult to dispose of them, even among the peasants.

The agreement now concluded between the O.R.T. and the Soviet Government opens up big prospects for transferring declassified Jews to productive activity. Every member of the declassified population who has a relative or friend abroad who will pay for a machine for him will receive the machine free from customs and other dues. He has only to show that he himself will work the machine. Co-operatives of former declassified Jews have also been formed for collective work. According to the agreement with the Government, the O.R.T. will provide these co-operatives, too, with machines out of the funds of the O.R.T. because the members of these co-operatives have no relatives abroad. Not only people living in America, but also such who live in Europe, South Africa, and the Argentine avail themselves of this facility. Since one machine often costs a considerable sum, an average of about 200 dollars, the O.R.T. allows the relatives to pay off the cost of the machine in instalments. In order to finance this relative-aid work, the O.R.T. in America has formed the O.R.T. Credit Corporation. There is need of such a financial institute also in Europe. People who have hitherto assisted their relatives by sending them 10 or 20 dollars, are now able to send them instead a machine and raw material enabling them to work and earn their own livelihood.

Such constructive relative aid, Dr. Lvovitch added, is needed not only in Russia but also in Poland, Lithuania, Roumania, Palestine, etc. We hope that the Governments of these countries, too, will find it possible to grant privileges similar to those which the Soviet Government has given in order to facilitate the work.

POSITION OF DECLASSED JEWS IN RUSSIA VERY PITIFUL SAYS REPORT SUBMITTED TO FEDERATION OF JEWISH RELIEF ORGANISATIONS BY ITS RUSSIAN REPRESENTATIVE MR. KOLDOWSKY: POSITION BEEN GREATLY AGGRAVATED BY RECENT DECREE ADDING ARTISANS WHO HAD BEEN WORKING ON OWN INITIATIVE TO NUMBER OF DECLASSED: JEWISH POPULATION SUFFERING GREATLY FROM FOOD SHORTAGE: SOVIET AUTHORITIES TOLD MR. KOLDOWSKY RECONSTRUCTIVE AID NOT SO IMPERATIVE NOW AS FOOD AND CLOTHING FOR CHILDREN: FEDERATION DECIDES TO SPEND £3,000 ON FOOD SUPPLIES AND £2,000 ON BOOTS AND CLOTHING.

London, April 23rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Although a considerable number of the Jewish youth have been enlisted into the heavy industries now being established on a large scale, the situation of the declassified Jews, i.e., the former merchants and professional men, who have been deprived of all rights, as well as the children and those physically unfit for work, is very pitiful, Mr. S. Koldofsky, who recently returned to London after staying in Russia for several months as the representative of the Federation of Jewish Relief Organisations of Great Britain, states in speaking of the economic position of the Jews in Russia, in the course of his report submitted to the Executive Committee of the Federation.

Owing to the fact that they are not possessed of bread cards, he explains, they are obliged to seek such food as they can obtain in the open markets, at exorbitant prices. While the official price of bread is only 7½ kopecks per pound, the declassified have to pay anything from 40 kopecks per pound in Moscow to 350 kopecks per pound in the Crimea.

The position has now been greatly aggravated, he proceeds, by a recent decree depriving the individual koustars of their bread cards. These koustars comprise a large number of artisans, such as tailors, bootmakers, barbers, etc., who have been working on their own initiative. All these koustars are now obliged to obtain their bread supplies in the open market, and prices are rising steadily in consequence of this influx of the newly-declassified. The Jewish population in the towns and townlets, as well as in the new Jewish colonies, are suffering greatly from the food shortage.

The object of Mr. Koldofsky's visit to Russia was to investigate the position of the Jewish population in connection with the relief work and to make the necessary arrangements for carrying out the terms of the recent agreement entered into between the Federation and the Soviet authorities, under which the Federation is to send £20,000 annually for the relief of the declassified Jews in the Ukraine and White Russia. Of the total amount, 75 per cent. was to be disbursed in reconstructive and industrial relief, such as opening and supporting training workshops, promoting industrial enterprises, providing raw materials, and also loans free of interest, and giving of monetary grants. The balance of 25 per cent. was to be spent in immediate relief, i.e. opening and supporting food kitchens, medical institutions, childrens' homes, playgrounds, etc., where food is supplied.

On Mr. Koldofsky's arrival in Russia, he was informed by the authorities that the need for reconstructive and industrial relief was not now so imperative as the provision of immediate relief in the way of food and clothing for the children. This change is the result of the general shortage of foodstuffs now being experienced in the southern provinces of Russia.

The Executive Committee of the Federation, after considering the report submitted by Mr. Koldofsky, has resolved that the 25 per cent., i.e., £5,000, set aside under the agreement for immediate relief, be utilised solely for the benefit of the children, and allocated in the following proportions - £3,000 to be spent for food supplies, and £2,000 for boots and clothing, to be despatched from this country. The Federation is to have full control, through its representative in Russia, over the disbursement of these amounts, and the working of the children's institutions.

#### FIFTEEN LISTS OF CANDIDATES IN WARSAW JEWISH COMMUNITY ELECTIONS.

Warsaw, April 23rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Fifteen separate lists of candidates will be put forward in the forthcoming elections to the Warsaw Jewish Community, the Yiddish daily "Majer Hajnt" here states. April 27th. is the last date for submitting lists of candidates, it proceeds, and more may still be added. The entire situation, it explains, is very confusing. No party has a complete list of candidates yet. Controversy is still raging about certain people, as to whether they are to be put on the lists or not. Some of those left out may get new committees formed to sponsor them. Even the Zionist Organisation has not yet completed its list, the paper goes on. An agreement has been reached between three of the Zionist groups, the Al Hamishmar, Et Livvotah, and the Revisionists, with respect to the leading candidate on the Zionist list. He will be Mr. Moses Feidstein, the senior member of the Zionist Organisation in Warsaw, and Vice-President of the retiring Administration of the Warsaw Jewish Community. The other candidates on the Zionist list are to be decided on in the next few days.

In the Agudah, the "Hajnt" says, things are even more unsettled. The young Agudists belonging to the Zeire Emunah Israel are threatening an open revolt if their candidates are not given good places on the list. The Agudah is very dispirited, the "Hajnt" claims, fearing that in Warsaw the famous Paragraph 20, which provides for the exclusion of non-religious Jews from the lists of voters, may be its undoing, because in Warsaw, having no majority on the Board of the Community, it cannot exercise this power, and will have to face the resentment of its opponents.

The Democratic Election Committee formed by Dr. Goldflam, one of the non-Zionist members of the Jewish Agency, and ex-Deputy Trusker, the leader of the Jewish Merchants' Federation, the "Hajnt" proceeds, will play an important part in these elections. The Committee has been formed on a purely national platform, and seeks to concentrate all non-partisan national Jews who are out to fight the domination of the Agudah and the Assimilationists. The Committee is trying to establish a united front of all the Jewish national groups.

The Mizrachi, too, is making strenuous efforts. Ex-Deputy Farbstein, the former President of the Warsaw Jewish Community, is its leading candidate. There is still a possibility of the Mizrachi joining in a bloc with the Central Zionists.

The Zionist Labour Party, Hitachduth, has not yet definitely decided on its stand in the elections. It, too, may join with the General Zionists.

But ever so many new groups and parties have been specially formed to contest the elections, the "Hajnt" continues. The Adath Yisroel, which has concentrated around itself the non-partisan religious Jews, is particularly active. Then there is

a "bloc for real work", consisting of the neo-assimilationist elements. There are several smaller groups, like the Folkists, who are trying to form a bloc with the artisans, headed by ex-Deputy Rasser, There are the small traders, the Poale Zion, both Right and Left, the group of Jewish religious Socialists, and it is suggested that several of the philanthropic societies, like the Hesed Shel Emeth, will put up lists of candidates of their own.

The main fight for power in this largest Jewish Community in Europe, will lie, however, between the Zionists and the Agudah, the "Hajnt" concludes.

"RETURNERS FROM EXILE WOULD DO WELL TO CAUTION YOUNG ARCHEOLOGISTS TO PAY MORE RESPECT TO THINGS SACRED TO CHRISTIANS"  
PERE VINCENT FAMOUS ARCHEOLOGIST SAYS: REBUKE TO PROFESSOR SUKENIK OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY BECAUSE OF LECTURE IN BERLIN WHICH PRESSE REPORTED TO SUGGEST HE HAD FOUND TOMB OF JESUS.

Jerusalem, April 23rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The returners from exile would do well to caution their young archeologists to exercise more care in their announcements and to pay more respect to things sacred to Christians, Pere Vincent, the famous archeologist of the Dominican Biblical School of Archeology in Jerusalem and the author of several important Palestine archeological monographs, said in the course of a lecture which he has delivered here dealing with the reports of the lecture delivered in Berlin a few months back by Dr. Sukenik, of the Hebrew University, in which he was said in the general press to have claimed that an inscription reading "Yehoshua bar Joseph", that he had found on an ossuary, was in a handwriting such as Jesus would have used, and that it was probably the Tomb of Jesus.

The ossuaries generally post-dated the time of Christ by several centuries, Pere Vincent declared to-day, and the ossuary with the inscription to which Dr. Sukenik referred in his lecture was a forgery made in the time of the Turks.

When Dr. A. L. Sukenik returned to Jerusalem last January, shortly after the sensational report alluded to by Pere Vincent had been published in the general press of Europe and America, the Hebrew University issued a communique in which it stated that in Berlin Dr. Sukenik had delivered a lecture before the Berlin Archeological Society on the subject of "Jewish graves of Jerusalem at the Time of Jesus". This lecture was based upon material which was gathered by Dr. Sukenik for many years and will shortly be published by the Archeological Institute of Germany in the form of a book entitled "Jewish Palestine Ossuaries". The Hebrew University takes this opportunity, the statement proceeded, to express its regret at the sensational newspaper reports ascribing to Dr. Sukenik a false statement concerning the so-called Tomb of Jesus. Many new Testament names have been found on ossuaries in the neighbourhood of Jerusalem, including that of Jesus; but Dr. Sukenik was most careful to declare expressly that there could be no thought of any identification of such tombs or ossuaries.

ARRESTED JEWISH JOURNALIST BOTASCHINSKY RELEASED BY ROUMANIAN GOVERNMENT.

Warsaw, April 23rd. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Jacob Botaschinski, editor of the Yiddish daily "Presse" of Buenos Aires, who was arrested on the Polish-Roumanian frontier, has been released, the Roumanian Embassy here informs the J.T.A. The Jewish Journalists' Association and the Yiddish Pen Club had intervened with the Roumanian Embassy here, which promised them to make representations to the Roumanian Government to secure his release.

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