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Wassermann Named Chairman Of Agency's Administrative Body; 15 Americans on Board

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

BASLE, July 18—Dr. Oscar Wassermann, chief director of the Deutsche Bank in Berlin and chairman of the board of directors of the Keren Hayesod, was elected chairman of the Administrative Committee of the Jewish Agency for Palestine yesterday at the first meeting of the newly-elected committee. Dr. Leo Motzkin, chairman of the Zionist Actions Committee, was named vice-chairman of the Administrative Committee.

Of the 40 members of the new Administrative Committee, 15 are from the United States. Eight of the 20 Non-Zionists on the Committee are Americans while seven of the Zionist members are Americans.

The American Non-Zionist members are Dr. Cyrus Adler, president of the American Jewish Committee, of Philadelphia, James Becker of Chicago, Henry Wineman, president of the Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit, Judge Irving Lehman of New York, Judge Horace Stern of Philadelphia, Dr. Solomon Lowenstein, executive director of the Federation for the Support of Jewish Philanthropic Societies of New York, Alexander Kahn of New York, and Dr. Lee K. Frankel, vice-president of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company of New York.

The American Zionist members are Myer Brown of New York, Gedaliah Bublick, president of the Mizrahi; Harry Karp, Morris Rothenberg, national chairman of the American Palestine Campaign; Robert Szold, chairman of administration of the Zionist Organization of America; Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the Jewish Institute of Religion, and Rabbi Aaron Teitelbaum of New York.

Professor Herbert Speyer of Belgium, a former member of the Belgian Senate and one of the two vice-chairmen of the Council of the Jewish Agency, agreed to take one of the American places on the Administrative Committee.

Minister, Once Anglo-Jewish Historical Society Head, Dies

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

LONDON, July 18—The Rev. Dr. Henry Paine Stokes, a prominent British clergyman and antiquarian and one of the few non-Jews who was president of the Jewish Historical Society of England, is dead here at the age of 82. Canon Stokes was president of the Jewish Historical Society from 1914 to 1916. Among his works are A Short History of the Jews in England, Studies in Anglo-Jewish History and together with the late Dr. Israel Abrahams, Starr's Jewish Charters.

Six Jews Elected to Lower House of Hungary's Parliament

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

BUDAPEST, July 18—Six Jews were elected deputies in the Hungarian parliament in the recent parliamentary elections. In the previous parliament there were ten Jews in the lower houses and five in the senate.

The six who were elected are Dr. Geza Desi, a member of the government party, who was a member of the old parliament; Paul Sandor, independent, reelected; Ernest Brody, Eugen Gal, and Dr. Bela Fabian, all of the Democratic party, reelected, and Dr. Johann Vaszonyi, Democrat, who was elected for the first time. Dr. Vaszonyi is the son of the late Wilhelm Vaszonyi, minister of justice and leader of the Democratic party.

In addition to the four Jews who represented the Socialist party in the previous parliament, Dr. Marzell Baracs, a Democrat and one of the most outstanding defenders of Jewish rights in parliament, was defeated. The four Jewish Socialists who went down to defeat in the election were Daniel Varnai, Dr. Emerich Gyorki, Alexander Propper and Moritz Rothenstein.

Among those who were elected on an extreme Christian-religious platform was Baroness Phillip Orsody, a sister of Baron Moritz Herzog von Csete, who until 1919 was an executive member of the Budapest Jewish community.

Great Synagogue of Harbin Completely Destroyed by Fire

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

HARBIN, Manchuria, July 18—The Great Synagogue in Artillery Street, Harbin, built 25 years ago, immediately after the Russo-Japanese War, was destroyed by fire which started in the upper part of the structure and spread rapidly, leaving only the bare skeleton of the four walls standing. Jews from all parts of the city rushed to the synagogue to save the Scrolls of the Law and the sacred books, nearly all of which were rescued.

All of the three fire brigades of the city were called out, and while eleven firemen were in the upper part of the building, fighting the flames, the entire upper part collapsed, carrying them down with it. Jews rushed in at the risk of their lives and dragged the firemen from the burning debris. Two firemen, both Chinese, were brought out dead, having been crushed by the fall. M. Reznitchenko, vice-commandant of the first fire brigade, is in the hospital with concussion of the brain, a Chinese fireman of the second brigade is on the point of death, and four have sustained serious injuries.

Investigation into the cause of the fire has established that the upper part

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New Ruling to Affect Jewish Medical Students from Roumania In French Medical Schools

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

PARIS, July 18—Roumanian medical students in French universities will no longer be able to receive state certificates of doctorate in accordance with a decision of the ministry of education announced today. Thus the campaign against Jewish students from Roumania studying in France has reached its climax and Roumanian Jewish students who fled from their home universities or who were barred from matriculating in Roumanian universities because of the numerous clauses now meet the same fate in France.

In the future Roumanian students in French universities will receive only a certificate stating that they have completed their studies. This certificate, however, does not entitle them to take the annual examination before a special commission for a state certificate which would enable them to practice in France.

It is not yet known whether this commission will be a mixed body consisting of French and Roumanian representatives. Nevertheless Jewish student circles are anxious lest this commission be influenced by anti-Semitism in examining Jewish students.

Some weeks ago it was reported that Dr. Victor Balthazard, dean of the medical school of the University of Paris, had written a letter to the dean of the medical school of the University of Bucharest suggesting the creation of a mixed Roumanian-French committee to decide on which Roumanian students should be permitted to study in the French medical schools.

In a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Dr. Balthazard denied that his letter had contained any such passage. He insisted that it was merely intended to place Roumanian students seeking to practice medicine in France under the same regulations as those applied to other physicians, but that there would be no discrimination against Roumanian students who are Jews.

Later, however, he attacked Roumanian students.

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Jew Chosen Mayor of City In Dutch East Indies

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

AMSTERDAM, July 18—The government of the Dutch East Indies has appointed F. C. van Lier mayor of Cheribou, a city on the Dutch island of Java, according to word received here today from Batavia, the capital of Java. Van Lier, who is an engineer and president of the Cheribou Association for Jewish Affairs, is the first Jew to hold the office of mayor in the Dutch East Indies.

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Funeral Today for Edelhertz, American Hebrew's Publisher

The funeral of Bernard Edelhertz, publisher of the American Hebrew who committed suicide on Friday because of illness, will be held this morning from Riverside Memorial Chapel, with interment at Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Mr. Edelhertz, who was 51, had been ailing since last March, suffering from an affliction of the heart and a nervous breakdown.

Coming to this country from Russia in 1893, Mr. Edelhertz had had a varied and significant career. Starting as a lawyer in 1901, he was Assistant United States Attorney-General from 1917-22. He also became a factor in the film industry and in collaboration with Will H. Hays, he was the originator of the uniform contract and arbitration boards, widely adopted. He was for some time chairman of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners Chamber of Commerce, New York.

In 1919 he visited Poland officially to investigate outrages committed against Jews in that country; while there, he was also active on the American Anti-Typhus Commission. In 1927 he visited Russia and, in addition to writing of his impressions in the New York Times and other publications, he wrote a book entitled "The Russian Paradox".

Mr. Edelhertz acquired control of the American Hebrew in 1916, and was its publisher, secretary and treasurer until his death. He was also director, secretary and treasurer of the Independent Jewish Publishing Company; member of the New York County Lawyers Association, Motion Picture Theatre Owners of the State of New York, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Judeans and the Jewish War Relief Committee of the World War. He was also a member of the Men's Club of Congregation Emanu-El.

Pro-Palestine Federation Plans Nation-Wide Membership Drive

(Jewish Daily Bulletin)

CHICAGO, July 18—With more than 700 members in eight cities, the 'Pro-Palestine Federation of America, which maintains headquarters in Chicago, today announced through its president, Prof. George L. Scherger, that the organization is ready to launch a nation-wide campaign for membership and new local chapters. At present there are advisory board members from Chicago, Milwaukee, Detroit, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, San Antonio and Philadelphia, in each of which cities there are local chapters.

The Pro-Palestine Federation is composed of non-Jewish organizations and prominent Americans sympathizing with the Zionist work in Palestine. It recently cabled the Zionist Congress a message "to take heart and proceed with the wonderful work of restoration in Palestine" because "Christian America is applauding your untiring efforts against all odds on behalf of the Jewish homeland."

Among the leaders of the Federation are former governor Fred Zimmerman of Wisconsin, former Congressman Richard Barthold of St. Louis and Prof. Graham Taylor of Northwestern University.

Los Angeles To Seek Kosher Meat Tax of 1 Percent for Aid of Needy Talmud Torahs

(Jewish Daily Bulletin)

LOS ANGELES, July 18—A one-cent-per-pound tax on kosher meat sales, for the benefit of the Talmud Torahs of this city, is possible here as a result of a movement which has been set on foot in Los Angeles to make the new kosher bill an asset to Jewish education, according to Dr. George J. Saylin, president of the Los Angeles Jewish Educational Institute.

Through his efforts and those of Superior Court Judge Lester W. Roth, Ben Goldman, a prominent attorney and former president of the Educational Association, and Herman Bacharach, president of the Zionist district, an appeal was made to the Orthodox community, the Kehillah, to have them tax the kosher meat sale one cent a pound, which would be set aside for the Talmud Torahs of this city.

The closing of the doors of the Talmud Torahs of Los Angeles, because of lack of funds for maintenance, has caused considerable agitation in the Jewish community, and many efforts are being made to help re-open the schools in the fall. The Kehillah, or Orthodox community, has taken this request under advisement.

Additional help for the Talmud Torahs is coming from the Reform rabbis of Los Angeles, three of whom, Rabbi Julius A. Leibert of Temple Emanu-El, Rabbi Isadore Isaacson of Temple Israel of Hollywood and Rabbi Max Dubin of Temple B'nai Brith, are soliciting by mail for further contributions for this purpose.

Immigration for 1931 Will

Be Lowest in Century

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

WASHINGTON, July 18—Immigration for the 1931 calendar year will not exceed 50,000, and deportations will reach 20,000, the secretary of labor, William N. Doak, predicted today. During the fiscal year just closed the number of immigrants was about 97,000 and deportations totalled about 18,000, Mr. Doak declared.

Deportations will thus set a new record, while immigration will be cut to the lowest total in a century, records of the bureau of immigration of the department of labor show. Immigration has passed the 50,000 mark in every year since 1831, when the total was 22,633.

The extent to which immigration has been reduced is shown by the fact that in May 3,793 immigrants were admitted, compared with 19,414 in the same month last year. This means that one alien is being received in place of five a year ago. In that month, 108,000 aliens arrived, which was 30 times as many as in May of this year. In the 1914 fiscal year immigration reached a peak of 1,218,480 as against 97,000 in the fiscal year just ended.

At the present time there are about three aliens arriving for every five departing, the tide of immigration having been reversed for the first time in history.

Leaders to Meet Here in Fall for J. N. F. N. Y. Colony

A conference of representatives of Zionist districts and groups in New York City and interested Jewish organizations will be held on October 11th, 1931, at the Pennsylvania Hotel, when members of the American delegation to the 17th Zionist Congress will report on the outcome of the Basle proceedings and the campaign for the New York colony on Jewish National Fund land in Palestine will be launched. It is planned to raise a fund here for the acquisition in Palestine of a tract of 10,000 acres of land which will bear the name of New York, in accordance with the terms of the Ussishkin Plan.

The membership of the provisional Nachliath New York campaign committee has already been announced by Bernard Stone, National Field Director of the Keren Kayemeth League, the organization sponsoring the American Tract project.

The committee, headed by Magistrate Hyman J. Reit, includes the following officers: Judge Jonah J. Goldstein, president of the Jewish Club of New York City; Harry J. Fromberg, president of Young Israel; Dr. Samuel Margoshes, editor of The Day; Jacob Fishman, managing editor of the Jewish Morning Journal; Isadore Apfel, Grand Master of the Independent Order Brith Abraham, and Mrs. Peter J. Schweitzer, vice-chairmen; Louis P. Rocker, treasurer, and Bernard Stone, secretary.

New Officials of Jewish Agency Long Prominent In Various Jewish Affairs

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

BASLE, July 17—Osmond Elim d'Avigdor Goldsmid, who was elected chairman of the Council of the Jewish Agency yesterday, is one of the most prominent Jewish leaders of Great Britain. He has been vice-president of the Anglo-Jewish Association and of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. He is now president of the latter organization. Mr. Goldsmid served with distinction during the war and was twice cited for bravery.

Since its organization he has been chairman of the British section of the Jewish Agency. He is also a member of the Jewish Colonization Association and former high sheriff of Kent. He is also a member of the City Council of Kent.

Dr. Lee K. Frankel, vice-president of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, who was elected joint-chairman of the Council, is internationally known for his work in public health and social welfare. Dr. Frankel has been manager of the United Hebrew Charities in New York and a research expert for the Russell Sage Foundation. In 1909 he joined the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company as manager of the industrial department where he introduced a nursing service for industrial policy-holders. When Will Hays was Postmaster General he drafted Dr. Frankel for the task of handling industrial and welfare conditions in that branch of the federal service.

He has been active in the work of the Joint Distribution Committee and he was one of the four commissioners who served on the Joint Palestine Survey Commission. He has also been chairman of the Communal Survey Commission of Greater New York, and a commissioner of the State Board of Charities. From 1923 to 1926 he was chairman of the National Health Council. He is now treasurer of the American Palestine Campaign of the Jewish Agency.

Robert Szold, who is one of the two vice-presidents of the Council, is a prominent New York attorney and chairman of administration of the Zionist Organization of America. Mr. Szold, who has long been active in the Zionist movement, was a member of the Zionist Commission in Palestine in 1919 and also head of the De-Lieme-Szold reorganization commission of 1920. It was the rejection by American Zionists of the report of this body that caused the rift in the leadership of the Zionist Organization of America in 1921 and which was healed at the 1930 convention when Mr. Szold was named head of the organization.

Prominent at the bar, Mr. Szold was the assistant attorney-general of Porto Rico in 1915 and was assistant to Solicitor-General John W. Davis from 1915 to 1919. He was president of the Palestine Cooperative Company between 1922 and 1925, and a former vice-president of the Palestine Economic Corporation and treasurer of the Pal-

English Jew Appointed General in Chinese Army

Morris Abraham Cohen, a trick-shot pistol expert and once the bodyguard and right-hand man of Dr. Sun Yat Sen, father of the Chinese Republic, has been appointed a brigadier general in the army of the Canton government, according to the weekly magazine, Time. General Cohen, a native of England, served in the Canadian army during the World War. In 1915 he was promoted to a sergeant.

Having gained a knowledge of Chinese through his having been in charge of the Chinese imported to France during the war for clean-up work, he went to China in 1918 and became Dr. Sun Yat Sen's right hand man. General Cohen is believed to be the only white man to become a Chinese Mason, which is considered a great honor in China. He speaks Chinese fluently.

Asks Dismissal of Berlin U. Rector for His Expulsion of Jewish Student, Dobriner

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

BERLIN, July 18—Dr. Adolf Deismann, rector of University of Berlin was publicly called upon to resign today by Karl Zweig, step-father of Leo Dobriner, the Jewish student who was expelled last week from the University because of his alleged membership in the Communist Party and his reported participation in the recent student disturbances at the University.

In an open letter to Dr. Deismann, Herr Zweig charges that the rector "admitted that Dobriner did not take part in the disturbances and that last year he had resigned from the University Communist party. Nevertheless you have taken upon yourself to destroy a young life and therefore you must resign from office."

Jewish students are of the opinion that Dr. Deismann's action in expelling Dobriner was due to his endeavor to maintain a fifty-fifty balance between the Nazis and Jews in expelling students, although the Jews are blameless. Dobriner sought to commit suicide last week when he was expelled.

Governor Isaacs Voluntarily Takes 10 Percent Salary Cut

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

CANBERRA, Australia, July 18—If Australia does not improve its economic condition it will be no fault of Governor-General Isaac Isaacs, who has just voluntarily reduced his salary by \$5,000. He is entitled to a salary of \$50,000. Governor-General Isaacs has also given up his annual judicial pension of \$7,000 and has refused to accept the annual allowance of \$10,000 for living expenses.

Sir Isaac is the first native-born Governor-General of the commonwealth as well as its first non-Protestant chief executive.

estine Endowment Fund.

Professor Herbert Speyer of Antwerp, the other vice-president of the Council, is a former member of the Belgian senate and a leader of the Lib-

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State to Carry Fight on Michigan Registration Bill To U. S. Supreme Court

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

DETROIT, July 18—Paul W. Voorhies, attorney general of the State of Michigan, this afternoon informed the Michigan correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that in the event the Federal Court rules against his office on the Alien Registration Bill he will carry the fight further, to the United States Supreme Court. Mr. Voorhies states:

"It is our contention to continue the legal fight to the U. S. Supreme Court, if that be necessary, in order that there may be a final adjudication of the points raised in this particular litigation."

The opponents of the measure, Attorneys Theodore Levin, Fred M. Butzel and Former Judge Patrick H. O'Brien were throughout known to have been determined to carry the fight to the highest court in the land. The Federal Judges who sat at the hearing were Arthur C. Denison of the U. S. District Court of Appeals and Ernest A. O'Brien and Charles C. Simons of the Detroit Federal District.

Dr. Bernhard Returns to Active Newspaper Work

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

BERLIN, July 18—Dr. Georg Bernhard, former editor-in-chief of the Vossische Zeitung, an Ullstein paper and one of the leading newspapers of Germany, today returned to active newspaper work and the German press welcomes his resumption of activity. The Acht Uhr Blatt, a Mosse paper, devoted a lengthy article to discussing the satisfaction in political circles at Dr. Bernhard's return to active journalistic work.

Dr. Bernhard, who is one of Germany's leading publicists and a former president of the International Federation of Journalists, is expected to become editor of the Acht Uhr Blatt.

Leopold Schen to Act for J. N. F. in British Empire

(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

JERUSALEM, July 18—The head office of the Jewish National Fund has announced that Leopold Schen, president of the Jewish National Fund for Great Britain and Ireland from 1927 to 1930, and previously treasurer and chairman, has consented to act as the representative of the Fund for the British Empire.

For the time being, Mr. Schen is devoting his attention to the interests and affairs of the head office in Great Britain and Ireland, and in view of this has been requested by the president to cooperate with the executive of the Jewish National Fund for Great Britain and Ireland in its work on behalf of the country in Great Britain.

New Officials of Jewish Agency Long Prominent In Various Jewish Affairs

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eral party. He was one of the founders of the Belgian Pro-Palestine Committee and active in the organization of the Belgian section of the Jewish Agency.

Harry Viteles, one of the five American members of the Executive, went to Palestine in 1925 to become general manager of the Central Bank of Co-operative Institutions in Palestine after a number of years of service with the Joint Distribution Committee. He has also been assistant superintendent of the Federation of Jewish Charities in Cincinnati, superintendent of the United Hebrew Charities in Philadelphia and a special agent of the United States Children's Bureau.

Isaac Berkson, another American member of the Executive, has been director of the department of education of the Jewish Agency for a number of years. From 1917 to 1918 he was the director of the Central Jewish Institute of New York. In the following two years he served as supervisor of schools and extension activities of the Bureau of Jewish Education.

Dr. Maurice B. Hexter, the third American member elected by the Council, was formerly an instructor in the department of social ethics in Harvard and later superintendent of the Federation of Jewish Charities in Milwaukee. Some years ago Dr. Hexter made an important investigation of immigration possibilities in Mexico for Jews and also served as a representative of the Joint Distribution Committee in Europe and as secretary of the Joint Palestine Survey Commission.

He resigned from the post of executive director of the Federated Jewish Charities in Boston to become a member of the Jewish Agency Executive two years ago. He was the American member of the triumvirate in charge of the Palestine Emergency Fund for which over \$2,000,000 was raised in the United States.

The other two members of the Executive chosen by the Council, are Dr. Werner Senator, treasurer of the Jewish Agency, and long active in social welfare work among the Jews of Eastern Europe, and Dr. Bernard Kahn, European director of the work of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

Dr. Kahn was general secretary of the Hilfsverein der Deutschen Juden from 1904 to 1921. He worked to bring order into the planless emigration of East European Jews and to establish the immigrants on a solid economic basis. In 1921 he entered the service of the Joint Distribution Committee and since 1924 has been director of all its European activities.

Dr. Senator was one of the founders of the Jewish Peoples' Home in Berlin and was later active in the German government's department for labor welfare. From 1921 to 1924 he directed the Joint Distribution Committee's work on behalf of Jewish refugees. From 1925 to 1930 he was general sec-

Palestine Travelogue Is Released by Committee

"A Trip Through the Emek," is the name of a new Educational film that has just been released by the Palestine Educational Committee. The film depicts over fifty scenes and views taken in the Valley of Jezreel, Palestine.

This film and lecture illustrate the transformation of a vast swamp area in Palestine into a fruitful and healthy colonization center. Thanks to the sacrifices of the chalutzim and the projects undertaken by the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish National Fund, the Valley of Jezreel (Emek) now feeds thousands of Jewish families in more than twenty prosperous villages.

Beginning at historical Mt. Carmel, the travelogue goes through the entire length of the Emek, stopping at the most important points en route such as the Kishon River, the villages of the Chasidim, an old Arab village, the workers' village of Nahalal, the Girls' Agricultural College, the Balfour Forest, the Nazareth Highlands, the Children's Village established by South African Jews, the American colony of Balfouria and many of the workers Kevutzot including Ain Harod. It also shows Dr. Chaim Weizmann laying the corner stone for a new village in the Emek on the occasion of his visit to Palestine.

The Palestine Educational Committee consists of a group of individuals prominent in Jewish educational and cultural affairs. The committee is headed by Judah Lapson, chairman, and includes Israel S. Chipkin, Chas. A. Cowen, Samuel Dinin, Oscar Divinsky, Joshua Friedman, Philip Gingold, Herman Jacobs, David Rudavsky, Dr. Mordecai Soltes, Kalman Whitman. Joseph Shaffer is secretary.

2 Jews May Oppose Each Other For President of Manhattan

In the coming municipal elections the Republican and Democratic candidates for president of the borough of Manhattan may both be Jews if present plans in political circles are carried out. Samuel Levy, the incumbent, has already been renominated by the Democrats and the Republicans are seriously considering naming former Judge Gustave Hartman as his opponent. The Republican candidate will be picked next week and Republican leaders are understood to be supporting Mr. Hartman who, when he ran for the supreme court two years ago, was defeated although he ran 110,000 votes ahead of his ticket.

retary of the Committee's European bureau. Last year he was elected a member of the Jewish Agency Executive in charge of the department of finance.

The five other members of the Jewish Agency Executive are the same persons who constitute the Zionist Executive as elected by the Zionist Congress: Dr. Chaim Arlosoroff, Palestine Laborite; Professor Selig Brodetsky, British General Zionist; Heschel Farbstein, Polish Orthodox Zionist; Emanuel Neumann, American General Zionist and Berl Locker, American Laborite.

New Ruling to Affect Jewish Medical Students from Roumania. In French Medical Schools

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nian Jewish medical students in an article in the Echo de la Medicine and repeated the suggestion of a mixed commission.

Restrictions in Prague (Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

PRAGUE, July 18—Dr. Emil Starkenstein, dean of the medical school at the German University in Prague, announced today in the Prager Tageblatt and Bohemia that in future enrollment of students at the university a distinction will be made between natives and aliens because the medical school has not room and facilities for the unrestricted admission of students from abroad.

In response to an inquiry from the editor of the Jewish paper, Selbstwehr, as to how this new policy will affect the admission of Jewish students from abroad, Dr. Starkenstein declared that no distinction will be made between the members of various faiths, either in the case of alien or native-born students.

He added, however, that practically all foreign students applying for admission at the university are Jews, a fact which has frequently made it appear in recent years as if measures applied against aliens were aimed at Jews. Whatever measures are taken, Dr. Starkenstein said, are dictated by unavoidable circumstances, and no religious discrimination is intended. Of the large number of applicants the university officials will choose those who are most capable without any question as to their religious faith, he declared.

Great Synagogue of Harbin Completely Destroyed by Fire

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of the structure had been unsafe, and if the fire had not occurred it would have collapsed before long, quite possibly during services, while the synagogue was packed with worshippers.

The entire city has been stirred by the event. The fire is believed to have been started by a fuse in the electric installation situated under the dome of the synagogue. There was a large pile of loose pages and fragments of sacred Hebrew volumes there, ready for the customary interment in the cemetery, and this provided fuel for the conflagration. The Great Synagogue was built when Jewish settlement in Harbin and Manchuria first began. It was a monumental structure and considered one of the finest synagogues in the Far East. It contained much costly interior equipment and was provided with the most modern furnishings, including central heating and electric lighting. It maintained a permanent rabbi, and a large choir.

The synagogue was insured for 50,000 gold yen (\$30,000). There are four other synagogues in the city.

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