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FACILITY FOR MIDDLE CLASS IMMIGRATION TO PALESTINE: GOVERNMENT NOTIFIES JEWISH AGENCY OF CREATION OF NEW IMMIGRANT CATEGORY FOR FARMERS MERCHANTS AND INDUSTRIALISTS POSSESSING £500 CAPITAL: NEW CATEGORY DOES NOT AFFECT EXISTING CLASSIFICATION REQUIRING IMMIGRANTS OF INDEPENDENT MEANS TO HAVE £1,000 CAPITAL.

Jerusalem, Mar. 16th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The creation of a new category of Palestine immigrants applying to farmers, merchants and industrialists, who will now be required to show possession of a capital of only £500, instead of £1,000 as at present, is announced by the Palestine Government in a letter which has been received by the Jewish Agency Executive here.

This new immigrant sub-category, the Government points out, does not affect the existing classification of immigrants of the independent means category who will still have to show that they are in possession of a sum of £1,000, or in some cases, subject to certain conditions, of £500.

Under the Palestine Immigration Ordinance of 1925, it was provided that immigration certificates should be granted among others to persons belonging to the so-called category A, consisting of person of independent means, defined as including: 1. any person who is in bona fide possession and freely disposes of a capital of not less than £500, and is qualified in a profession or intends to engage in commerce or agriculture.

In the light of the experience gained in regard to the immigration of middle class persons, the Palestine Government later raised the financial qualification for the admission of persons of the independent means category (category A 1) from £500 to £1,000. For immigrants of the liberal professions (category A. 11) the sum of £500 remained unchanged. The difficulties resulting from the increase of the means qualification in the case of persons of category A 1, have been modified to some extent, the report presented to the last Zionist Congress stated, inasmuch as, in consequence of representations made by the Jewish Agency Executive, goods, lands, etc., as well as cash belonging to the immigrant, can be taken into account as well as loans from colonisation companies recognised by the Palestine Government.

A few days ago, the Palestine High Commissioner, in an interview with ex-Deputy Farbstein, member of the Jewish Agency Executive, was reported to have expressed to him his sympathy and understanding for the middle-class settlement project in which Mr. Farbstein is specially interested.

PALESTINE'S LOSS ON ACCOUNT OF DEPRECIATION OF STERLING.

Jerusalem, Mar. 17th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Owing to the depreciation in the value of the pound, Palestine has lost about £186,000, according to a statement issued by the Palestine Currency Board, giving the figures as at September 30th., soon after England went off the gold standard, and was followed by Palestine, whose currency is based on sterling. This figure is arrived at by deducting the market price of the investments of the Palestine Currency Board from their original cost price. If calculated at nominal value, which is £2,309,654, the statement says, Palestine would have lost about £63,000 more. The cost price of Palestine currency is given as £2,236,182, with a value at market price on September 30th., 1931, of £2,050,227.

The value given for the total amount of the currency reserve fund, the statement points out, is based on the market prices of the investments as at March 31st., 1931, the practice being to revalue investments for the purpose of accounts only at the end of each financial year. There has been a subsequent recovery in the market prices of the investments and consequently some increase in value.

An official statement published by the Palestine Government on September 30th. signed by Mr. Moody, the Acting Chief Secretary, read:

It has come to the knowledge of Government that there is some misapprehension in the minds of the people as to the relative value of Palestine Currency Notes and Silver Coins and that they have been encouraged in the belief that greater security is afforded by holding coins instead of currency notes. Both the paper and coin currency is fully secured above face value in London; and Government desires it to be known that there is no difference in value between a pound paper and one pound silver or nickel. This fact is emphasised by reason of the facilities that are given by banks to their customers for exchanging notes for coins.

DANGER TO JEWISH LAND IN PALESTINE: JEWISH NATIONAL FUND "
MONTHLY COMPLAINS OF MALICIOUS TRESPASSING AND ABUSE:
JEWISH NATIONAL FUND IS MEETING WITH GREATEST DIFFICULTY
IN MAINTAINING BOUNDARIES OF ITS RESERVE LANDS IT SAYS.

Jerusalem, Mar. 16th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Jewish National Fund is meeting with the greatest difficulty in maintaining the boundaries of its reserve lands in the Haifa Bay, in the Emek and in the Sharon, owing to trespassing, malicious as well as incidental, "Karnenu", the monthly review of the head office of the Jewish National Fund, complains.

The curious feature of the situation, it proceeds, is that there is in draft a bill which will give trespassers using other persons' land by pasturing, watering or cutting reeds, definite rights to such land if they should continue such practice for two years. Naturally this is an incentive to undisciplined Arabs to occupy the reserve lands of the Jewish National Fund, thus compelling the Fund to place those lands under some form of occupation and cultivation, with the sole purpose of keeping intact areas legally acquired. Lands in reserve for urban and suburban development, as well as for intensive agricultural cultivation, must be turned over to extensive agriculture or afforestation, in order to avoid legislation having the effect of depriving the Jews of these reserve areas.

This, the statement says, places an additional burden on the Keren Kayemeth at a time when every effort should be strained to strengthening its resources. Money for the purchase of land must be diverted for its cultivation and occupation, as well as for many complicated legal processes resulting from claims on the part of Arabs who have been led to believe that they are entitled to land bought by the Jews, at least, if the Jews have not yet settled upon it.

The essential nature of a reserve, it points out, is that the land remains unused against the time when it should be required. It follows that during the period of waiting, the land must be secure from trespassing and abuse.

RITUAL MURDER TRIAL IN CARPATHO-RUSSIA REPORTED STOPPED:
STATE ATTORNEY WITHDRAWS CHARGE AND CIVIL PROSECUTORS
FAIL TO APPEAR AT LAW COURT HEARING: COURT FINDS CHARGE
AGAINST ACCUSED JEWS NOT PROVED.

Prague, Mar. 16th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The judicial authorities have stopped the ritual murder proceedings in Carpatho-Russia against the two Jews, Steinberger and Liebermann, it is stated to-day in a message from Bratislava. The State Attorney has withdrawn the charge, and the civil prosecution, the family of the children Bogdan and Kostia, from whom it was alleged that the two accused Jews had drawn blood, did not put in an appearance at the hearing in the law court.

The law court has accordingly found that the charge against the accused Jews has not been proved.

At the last hearing at the end of February fresh expert evidence was supplied by Dr. Toman, which, it was stated, had completely cleared the accused Jews. The original report of the gendarmerie, on which the accusation was based, stated that Helena Bogdan had a cut in the upper arm and that Kostia was stabbed in the palm. Dr. Toman declared that Helena Bogdan's wound was so superficial that its existence must have been very difficult for a medical man to determine, and was certainly not sufficient to enable any blood to be drawn from the wound. Kostia's wound was only a prick, and was already old at the time it was said to be fresh, and so slight that it had needed only eight days to heal. If anyone had wanted to obtain blood from him, the palm was not the place to pierce, but rather a part of the body which would yield more blood.

According to the original expert evidence before the court the gendarmerie had not trusted the two doctors in the town, who were both Jews, and had brought down a non-Jew, Dr. Ravic, who lives 30 kilometres away, and he had asserted that Kostia's wound was fresh, had been caused by piercing, and would take 20 days to heal.

It was reported early in January that the authorities had decided to drop the blood libel, and to terminate the proceedings against the two accused Jews as soon as an opportunity arose.

It is characteristic of the superstitious beliefs prevailing among the peasants of Carpatho-Russia which have led to this and other blood-libel charges being brought against Jews, that, according to the London papers to-day, gendarmes with bayonets have had to protect an old woman in a Carpatho-Russian village from attack by the villagers who alleged that she was a witch and had given her own children pimples by means of witchcraft.

SAMUEL WEISSBERGER RELEASED ON BAIL: CHARGE AGAINST JEWISH
MERCHANT ACCUSED OF SHOOTING TWO PEASANTS DURING 1918
REVOLUTION MAY BE DROPPED.

Prague, Mar. 16th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Samuel Weissberger, the Jewish merchant of Michalovce, who was arrested in December on the charge that he had in November 1918 during the Revolution, which set up the Czecho-Slovakian Republic, shot two peasants named Kucik and Jurca, has been released by the law court at Kaschau on bail in 350,000 Czech kronen.

The authorities had previously refused to consider allowing Weissberger out on bail, and it is believed that their present concession is a preliminary to dropping the case against him. The Minister of Justice recently assured a Jewish delegation that no proceedings would be taken against anyone on charges connected with the 1918 Revolution, because the Trianon Treaty provided an amnesty in regard to all such activities. The charge against Weissberger was that in his capacity as an Austrian gendarme he had shot the two peasants while serving in an Austrian execution squad, engaged in putting down the Czecho-Slovakian independence movement.

Weissberger contends that he was demobilised in October, and on the date on which he is accused of having shot the two peasants, he was conducting his business at Michalovce.

It has been alleged that the charge against Weissberger was made on false information lodged against him by a Slovakian publican named Curi, who wanted to revenge himself on Weissberger who had refused to credit his bill for 10,000 kronen.

JES ATTACKED IN POLISH TOWN DURING GENERAL STRIKE: POLICE
FIRE IN AIR TO DISPERSE RIOTERS: SEVERAL ARRESTED: NO
JEWISH PAPERS APPEAR BECAUSE JEWISH COMPOSITORS JOIN
STRIKE: POLISH PAPERS APPEAR AS USUAL.

Warsaw, Mar. 17th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Jewish shops and booths in the township of Szczucin, in the district of Cracow, were attacked by peasants yesterday; the Polish official news agency, Pat, reports.

It was market day in the town, and also a country-wide general strike, proclaimed by all the Socialist and Labour parties, Polish, Jewish and of all the minority nationalities, to demonstrate solidarity with the coal miners in Upper Silesia, who are out on strike for several weeks now against a reduction of wages, and also to protest against the Government's projected new labour legislation, which the workers complain is harmful to their interests.

The Government issued a number of special ordinances to keep order and to maintain the normal public services.

The sale of alcohol was prohibited all day, and it was forbidden to hold meetings and demonstrations, even in halls.

At Szczucin agitators incited the peasants, however, and in the attack two Jewish traders were injured. The mob tried to disarm the police, who dispersed them by firing in the air. Several arrests have been made, and the town is now quiet.

Despite the strike, all the Polish newspapers appeared in the usual way. No Jewish newspapers appeared, however, because the Jewish compositors all belong to the Jewish Socialist Party Bund, and obeyed its call to join in the general strike.

HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT READY TO MEET WISHES OF ORTHODOX JEWS IN FRIENDLY SPIRIT: ASSURANCE BY NEW MINISTER OF RELIGION TO JEWISH DEPUTATION.

Budapest, Mar. 16th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Government is ready at all times to meet the wishes of the Orthodox Jews in a friendly spirit, the new Minister of Education and Public Worship, M. Karafiath, has declared to a delegation of Jewish orthodox leaders in Hungary, headed by M. Adolf Frankl, the representative of Orthodox Jewry in the Upper House of Parliament.

The Minister promised that the Government would give effect as far as possible to the demands submitted by the Jewish representatives on questions affecting the Jewish faith and Jewish education.

ROUMANIAN PRIME MINISTER DECLARES HIMSELF AGAINST UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ORGANISING ON NATIONAL LINES: UNIVERSITY SHOULD NOT WIDEN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PEOPLES HE SAYS BUT SHOULD UNITE THEM BY STANDING FOR AMITY NOT HATRED: DEMOCRATIC PRESS WELCOMES DECLARATION AS MAKING IMPOSSIBLE RACIAL STUDENTS' RIGHTS IN ROUMANIA: JEWISH NATIONALIST DEPUTIES HOWEVER FEAR MOVE TO OBLITERATE NATIONAL DISTINCTIONS.

Bucharest, Mar. 16th (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Speaking in Parliament in reply to Senator Joseph Sandor, one of the Hungarian representatives, who had complained that the authorities had refused to permit the Hungarian students at Cluj University to organise a national Hungarian Students' Union, the Prime Minister, Professor Jorga, said that he was against the idea of University students organising on a national basis, and stood rather for the fraternisation of the various national elements of Roumania. The students can join together in students' unions, the Premier said, in so far as the aims of these students' unions are not contrary to the principles of morality, public order, and the security of the State. An organisation of students on the basis of nationality will not be to the liking of all, he went on. The University should not widen the differences between the nationalities, but should unite them, by proclaiming the friendship and brotherhood of the people, and not hatred and enmity. We are building a new world, he said, a world established on a new basis. We are building this new world on the principle of love and justice, in which all will be united in the service of the fatherland.

The Democratic press welcomes the Prime Minister's declaration, pointing out that it makes impossible the introduction in Roumania of a racial students' rights law, such as is being introduced in Austria, and is demanded in certain other countries.

The conditions that prevail in the Roumanian Universities do not accord, however, with Professor Jorga's declaration, they point out.

The Deputies of the Jewish National Parliamentary Party, on the other hand, fear that Professor Jorga's intention was to say that the minority nationalities must allow themselves to be gradually absorbed into the body of the Roumanian majority. This would be contrary, they say, to Professor Jorga's recent assurance in Parliament - that the Government respects the national distinctions which exist in Roumania, and does not intend in any way to obliterate them.

PRESIDENT HINDENBURG AND DR. BRUENING CONGRATULATE JEWISH
PHILANTHROPIST AND WELFARE WORKER ON HIS 85TH. BIRTHDAY.

Berlin, Mar. 16th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Field-Marshal von Hindenburg, the President of the German Republic, the Federal Prime Minister, Dr. Bruening, the Prussian Prime Minister, Herr Braun, the Minister of Public Welfare, Dr. Wirtsiefer, the Berlin Police President, Herr Orzesinski, the Lord Mayor of Berlin, Dr. Sahm, and many other prominent personages have sent messages of congratulation and good wishes to Herr Herrmann Abraham, the Jewish philanthropist, who is the pioneer of child welfare homes, and other welfare institutions in Germany on the occasion of his 85th. birthday.

On your 85th. birthday, President von Hindenburg writes, I want to congratulate you on the many years of service that you have rendered the country in your quiet, unobtrusive and tireless way, in providing feeding facilities for our school children, in maintaining food kitchens for the middle-class and for officials during the war, and in opening after the war your numerous children's seaside and mountain homes, a work which will never be forgotten. I send you my most cordial wishes for your continued health, and for many more years in the evening of your life.

The Board of the Berlin Jewish Community in its message to Herr Abraham says: On the occasion of your 85th. birthday, we are happy to be able to offer you our heartiest wishes. You have for decades given your life to social welfare work, helping the unfortunate and the suffering, and making their road easier for them. The heads of the Government and leading men and women in all branches of public life have expressed to you their recognition of your work. You have opened important institutions which have done an incalculable amount of good to children of all faiths, by giving them their most important weapon in the struggle of life - health. In many of the excesses against Jews in the East, you were the first to come to their aid and to alleviate their distress. During the war, when there was widespread distress in the country, you helped the sufferers. Even now, at your advanced age, confined to your sick bed, you have not ceased to carry on your work of helping others. You still personally supervise your great work, which has won the recognition of Jewish and non-Jewish people everywhere. You can look back on a long life of doing good, and of bringing blessings to thousands upon thousands. We hope that you will live for many years yet, to see your work grow, and continue to benefit humanity.

SITUATION IN GERMANY: PRUSSIAN ELECTIONS NEXT MONTH MAY GIVE
HITLERITES CONTROL AND COUNTERACT EFFECT OF PRESIDENTIAL
VOTE.

London, Mar. 17th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The centre of anxious interest in Germany and elsewhere has shifted to the Parliamentary election in Prussia, the "Daily Telegraph" writes in an editorial to-day, and there is at least a possibility that the returns to the Prussian Diet may produce a situation that would go far to counteract the effect of last Sunday's presidential vote. If the Hitlerites should be strong enough to dominate a new Prussian Government, the Bruening Cabinet would have to resign followed by a dissolution of the Reichstag and in the ensuing election a German Government dominated by the Hitlerites might confront Europe.

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