

from all over the world

VIA

TELEGRAPH
TELEPHONE

JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

347 MADISON AVE., N.Y.C.

VOL. II, NO. 236.

Sunday, May 16, 1937.

50 JEWS WOUNDED IN POLISH RIOT; DAMAGE PUT AT \$400,000

WARSAW, May 14. (JTA) -- The Government today rushed police reinforcements into the Polesia province as anti-Semitic rioting in the town of Brzesc (formerly known as Brest-Litovsk), which caused injuries to 50 Jews and an estimated \$400,000 damage, gave signs of spreading to neighboring villages.

Windows were broken, shops looted and Jews attacked in the streets in the rioting which occurred after a policeman had been fatally wounded, according to an official statement, by a Jewish butcher who resisted arrest for operating an unlicensed slaughterhouse. The butcher was wounded in the foot by a bullet.

The excesses raged all day and into the evening before the police, aided by reinforcements from Warsaw, got control. Three Jews were seriously injured. Most of the Jewish shops in the town were demolished and others closed their doors.

Many peasants attending market day in Brzesc participated in the rioting, dragging Jews from hansom and beating them in the streets. Main trading streets suffered most from vandalism and looting. Market, May, Długa and Dombrowska streets were thickly carpeted with glass from broken windows and destroyed merchandise.

Gazeta Polska and other Government newspapers said the anti-Semitic mob did not pillage the Jewish shops but only "threw Jewish goods out into the street where they were destroyed, while meat and bread taken from Jews were distributed gratis to poor Christians."

Polish newspapers said the pillaging began after a Jewish mob attacked police who arrived to confiscate illegally-slaughtered kosher meat (outside the strict Government quota for kosher meat) of the Jewish butcher Isaac Szczerbowski.

The policeman, Stefan Kedziora, was stabbed and later died in the hospital. The Union of Christian Tradesmen of Brzesc announced that shops of its members would be closed during his funeral.

Panic was still great today among the 25,000 Jews of the city. Deputy Emil Sommerstein left for Brzesc this morning while Senator Moses Schorr obtained assurances from the Interior Ministry that a special police force had been sent to prevent further outbreaks. The city known to Jews as Brisk, has a population of over 50,000.

Stringent restrictions on kosher slaughtering which went into effect Jan. 1 under a law enacted by Parliament, empowering the authorities to set monthly quotas of cattle to be slaughtered for Jewish consumption, have, in some cases, resulted in "bootleg" slaughterhouses being established.

Meanwhile, peasants in Zaista, near Malkin, attacked a group of anti-Semitic National Radicals who had rioted against Jews. The terrorists, known as Naras, called on the peasants to join in breaking windows of Jewish shops, but the peasants drove the rioters from the village.

The peasants later rebuked the Jews for closing their shops during the disturbances, declaring "the action is likely to incite further attacks." The peasants asked the Jews to reopen their shops, promising them protection.

REPORT COL. KOC TO BE MADE POLISH PREMIER

WARSAW, May 14. (JTA) -- ABC, organ of the anti-Semitic National Radical Party, reported today that the Government intended to dissolve the Sejm after which Colonel Adam Koc, founder of the new authoritarian Government party, Camp for National Unity, would be entrusted with the premiership.

BARRED FROM PLAYING BEETHOVEN, REICH JEWS TOLD TO DEVELOP OWN GENIUS

BERLIN, May 14. (JTA) -- Jews were forbidden today to give performances of Beethoven, Mozart and Goethe on the ostensible grounds that they must be allowed "to develop their own spiritual and creative genius."

Explanation of the ban was offered by Hans Hinkel, Nazi Commissar for Jewish Cultural Affairs, who said:

"Jews must be allowed to develop their own spiritual and creative genius. If they are unable to or show themselves so poor in spiritual endowments that they cannot develop their own culture, it is all the more necessary to show the world that we cannot allow them to become the masters of our cultural life."

ENGLISH WEEKLY HOLDS PALESTINE SCHEDULE INSUFFICIENT

LONDON, May 14. (JTA) -- The Palestine labor immigration schedule, set at 770 certificates for four months ending July, was termed by Spectator today as "clearly insufficient to provide for the oppressed and dispossessed Jews of Europe."

The conservative periodical, pointing out that the Soviet Union provided an asylum, suggested that other immigration centers must be developed if there is to be a solution of the problem "without provoking further revolt in Palestine."

The magazine suggested that South America might provide openings.

CORONATION SEATING RECALLS WHEN JTA MAN HAD TO TRAVEL WITH NAZI

LONDON, May 14. (JTA) -- The "high diplomacy" of the seating arrangements in Westminster Abbey during the coronation -- with Spanish Loyalist next to German and Italian beside Russian -- reminded a Daily Telegraph writer today of the time a Jewish Telegraphic Agency representative had to travel with a Nazi representative.

The writer, Peterborough, said German Ambassador Joachim von Ribbentrop was placed next to the Spanish Ambassador, German War Minister Werner von Blomberg next to a Spanish Government representative, Ambassador Dino Grandi of Italy next to Soviet Foreign Minister Maxim Litvinov and Countess Grandi next to Soviet Ambassador Ivan Maiski.

"I can call to mind the arrangements provided by the organizers of Il Duce's recent tour in Libya," the writer said. "They arranged the cars so that for a whole ten days the representative of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency sat next to the head of the Nazi press organization in Rome."

HALT IN POPULATION GROWTH HELD FACING JEWS WITH CRISIS

NEW YORK, May 14. (JTA) -- World Jewry is faced with a crisis unparalleled in its history since the First Exile if its decline in numbers -- which has now begun after centuries of increase -- continues for four or five decades.

This is one of the conclusions of Prof. Salo W. Baron, Professor of Jewish History at Columbia University, in "A Social and Religious History of the Jews" published in three volumes on May 19 by the Columbia University Press.

The Jewish people "has become increasingly old in the biological sense," he says. While it once led the world in numerical increase, it is now increasing at a slower rate than any other people. Prof. Baron attributes this to intermarriage and suicide.

"The great fecundity, which, together with the decreasing mortality rate, accounted for the astounding growth of Jewish population in the last three centuries, has been steadily declining during recent years, he asserts. "In many Western European countries, consisting largely of wealthy and thoroughly assimilated Jews, the birth rate has fallen below the level of reproduction."

With the weakening of religious sanctions, suicide has become "a factor of biological significance in Jewish life," the writer holds. He ascribes the increase in suicides to "the nerve-racking complexity of modern life and economic instability."

There remains not even "the melancholy satisfaction" that with a stagnant population the Jews would need no further sources for emigration, Prof. Baron declares, for the German experience shows that a relative decrease does not remedy the Jews' anomalous position.

As to immigration, he says that the present stoppage in many countries has "all the indications of permanency."

"The pressure of Jewish metropolitanization shows no sign of abating," Dr. Baron finds. "No organized attempt is being made to distribute the agglomerated Jewish masses of New York and other metropolitan centers over wider areas...At the same time, many thoughtful Jews and non-Jews have pointed out the economic, social and intellectual dangers of concentration."

The Jewish economic crisis is no less acute than the biological, he asserts, and the national destiny during the next century or two will be determined by developments in the industrial and commercial fields. "With the gradual elimination of the petty trader, the Jewish merchant class has been gravely imperilled," he says.

"The fact that the Jews and Judaism have so long survived against tremendous odds may help to reassure the present generation. Their vitality and persistence over more than three millenia have rooted them in the life of this globe with ever deeper permanence."

The author attempts to lay the foundation for a sociological approach to Jewish history, to explain the formation of the fundamental social trends to Jewish life from the biblical age to the present and to describe their influence on the ancient Israelitic religion and on medieval and modern Judaism.

CANTORS IN PHILADELPHIA SEEK AFL CHARTER

PHILADELPHIA, May 14. (JTA) -- The Jewish Cantors and Ministers Association of Philadelphia has applied for a charter in the American Federation of Labor.