

NEWS

from all over the world

VIA

CABLE
WIRELESS
TELEGRAPH
TELEPHONE

by the JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

1560 BROADWAY, N.Y.C.

VOL. VI. NO. 165.

Monday, February 19, 1940.

BAN BY 'REBIRTH' PARTY LEAVES RUMANIAN JEWRY IN UNSETTLED LEGAL STATUS, FILDERMAN HOLDS

BUCHAREST, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Exclusion of the Jews from the Front of National Rebirth, sole Rumanian party, and the principle and manner of execution of the Citizenship Revision Law were cited by Dr. Wilhelm Filderman in an address before the Congress of Jewish Communities as the two main grievances of Rumanian Jewry. Full text of the address is published in the Curierul Israelit, official organ of the Jewish community.

Discussing the Front in relation to the legal and political status of Rumanian Jewry, Dr. Filderman pointed out that its doors were still barred to Jews despite the fact that minorities groups were invited to membership.

"We are neither members of the majority of the nation," he caustically remarked, "nor of the minority. It seems that we are so highly regarded that pending a decision as to what we really are--whether we belong to the majority or form an independent national minority--we are nothing at all."

Dr. Filderman condemned the Citizenship Revision Law, under which more than 225,000 Jews were disenfranchised, because it had "created crying injustices by its carelessness drafting, the shortness of time allowed for presentation of documents, the prohibitive expense involved in procuring documents and its subsequent application."

Dr. Filderman pointed out that war veterans, war widows and orphans were among those whose application for confirmation of citizenship had been rejected. He described also the tragic plight of Jews who, after being disenfranchised, were deprived of their right to work.

Jewish firms of long standing, he said, had been struck off the register. Many Jews, including veterans, widows and orphans of Jews who fell on the battlefield, were deprived of the right to work which their fathers had enjoyed even before being granted citizenship.

Dr. Filderman called attention to the fact that a special tax had been imposed upon the disenfranchised Jews and that this tax had to be paid by every affected shop-keeper and factory owner irrespective of whether he employed 1,000 or 20 men, or whether his enterprise was located in the center of the outskirts of the city. Jews unable to pay the tax, he emphasized, were liable to confinement in certain districts.

"I hope that the ministers of National Defense and the Interior," Dr. Filderman said, "will exempt at least those doing active military service as well as ex-servicemen war widows and orphans from payment of the aliens tax."

KOENIGSBERG JEWS SLATED FOR EXPULSION; STETTIN DEPORTEES PUT AT 1,500

PARIS, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The Nazi authorities have decided to expel the Jews from Koenigsberg, following the removal of the Jewish population of Stettin, it was reported here today in what was described as a move to clear all Jews out of the Reich's Baltic area.

Further details received here regarding the deportation from Stettin said that men, women, children and even the inmates of the local Jewish home for the aged were piled on a cattle train to be shipped to an unknown destination. Some veterans of the last war were among those expelled. Those too old or sick to walk had to be carried to the train by others.

Reports from Stockholm said the total number expelled from Stettin was 1,500. (First reports put the number at 900.) Nazi storm troopers visited Jewish homes on two successive nights, told the occupants to prepare to leave, forced them to file inventories of their possessions and then confiscated all valuables after requiring them to sign statements renouncing this property.

The expulsion took place at three o'clock on a bitterly cold morning. Two storm troopers called at every Jewish house to see that the deportees took no silverware or other valuables. They were permitted to take only a small valise each containing necessary articles. Bank accounts were confiscated.

ANGERS SEES POLISH JEWS FACING FURTHER CURBS; 'COMPLETE SLAVERY' HELD NAZI AIM

PARIS, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The Polish Government-in-exile at Angers, in a review of the effects of Nazi anti-Jewish restrictions on Poland's economy, predicted today that the Germans would take even more severe measures against the Jews.

The Nazis are seeking to make economic life even more precarious for the Jews and are determined to reduce occupied Poland to "complete slavery," the Polish official review said. The expulsion of Jews and the pillaging of Jewish property makes impossible the return to normal economic life, it declared.

"The radical measures taken by the Nazi administration in Poland to eradicate the Jews from economic life have brought about a complicated state of affairs because it is not easy to replace a Jewish enterprise with an 'Aryan' one," it was stated.

The review summarized recent anti-Jewish legislation in the economic field as follows: (1) Jews cannot open, reacquire or lease any enterprise; (2) a Jew cannot run a business firm employing more than three persons; (3) all larger commercial enterprises must pass into "Aryan" hands; (4) Jews are forbidden to participate in commercial shareholding companies as directors.

Added details of economic conditions in Nazi Poland were received by this correspondent in a report from the occupied area.

"We are on the way to a hunger of the kind not suffered since the Middle Ages," the report said. "Meat of dead horses is a luxury, while butter and other

fats are disappearing into the interior of the Reich. Even salt is rare and can be gotten only at the price of one American dollar per pound. In Warsaw, rationed food is sold in 1,500 stories, but with every day less and less can be gotten in these stories, even with ration cards."

- - -

Marriage Banned For Polish Jews

PARIS, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Le Temps reported today that the Nazi authorities in Poland have issued a decree governing marriages which provides:

(1) Germans must obey the Nuremberg laws and marry "pure-blooded" Germans only; (2) Jews are prohibited from marrying until further notice, even among themselves; (3) Poles are prohibited from marrying until further notice, even among themselves; (4) marriage between Poles and Germans is strictly prohibited.

FRENCH GROUP SEEKS TO PLACE REFUGEES ON FARMS; AMERICAN 'GODFATHERS' SOUGHT

PARIS (JTA) -- A movement to establish foreign refugees, evacuated French families and youths on the land to help fill France's need of 3,000,000 farm workers has been organized as "Pour la Terre de France," an agricultural section of the Association of the Bienvenue Francaise.

It is planned to ask American persons and institutions to become "godfathers" of French rural villages. Patrons of the new organization include President Albert Lebrun, Premier Edouard Daladier, Vice-Premier Camille Chautemps, Interior Minister Albert Sarraut, Education Minister Yvon Delbos and other Government officials, as well as Marquis de Vogue, president of the International Confederation of Agriculture, and other farming leaders. Leader of the organization is Mme. Boas de Jouvenal, founder and general secretary of the Bienvenue Francaise.

The adoption of villages or regions by American groups, the organization states, "will permit realization of necessary work for more comfort and hygiene... The godfathers and godmothers will be careful to conserve the beauty of the countryside, regional architecture, folklore and artisanry... Those who consecrate themselves to the land will enjoy all the advantages reserved up to now for the inhabitants of cities."

Agriculture Minister Henri Queuille, in a letter endorsing the aims of the movement, recalled previous successful refugee farm projects and said: "Rural exodus, even before the war, has left many vacant farming lands in certain regions of France. Mobilization has further increased the difficulties. It will thus be easy to find farms and small estates in which to establish new elements for agricultural purposes."

- - -

Ill Refugees to Be Freed From Camps

NEW YORK, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The French Government has issued an order providing for the freeing from isolation centers of refugees who are ill or are above the age of 48, it was reported by Dr. Paul Hertz, former Reichstag member, speaking at a meeting of the Independent German Refugees' Organization.

Refugees under the age of 48 can obtain their freedom by volunteering for military or labor service. They receive the same rights as French soldiers and their families receive the rights of soldiers' families. Those refugees who can obtain visas for foreign countries may leave France immediately.

NEW GROUP FORMED HERE TO AID POLISH JEWS, COOPERATE WITH U.J.A.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Formation of the Committee for Polish Jewish Affairs, to represent the interests of Polish Jews in the United States, cooperate with the United Jewish Appeal and seek restoration of the Polish Jews' rights, was announced today.

The committee was formed at a conference at the Hotel Astor on Feb. 13, called on the initiative of Jakob Apenszlak, Dr. Leib Wulman and Dr. Arjeh Tartakower comprising the Polish Jewish delegation in the United States. Other speakers at the meeting included Abraham Goldberg, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Jacob Lestschinsky, Louis Segal, Zelig Tygel, Dr. David Lvovitch, and Dr. Henryk Szoskes.

The committee is non-partisan and will seek to coordinate the activities of various organizations concerned with Polish Jewish affairs.

BOTCHED CIRCUMCISIONS BETRAY 16 NAZI SPIES WHO ENTERED HOLLAND AS REFUGEES

PARIS, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Under the Yiddish caption "Shwer tsu sein a Yid" (It's hard to be a Jew), the newspaper L'Oeuvre reported today that 16 Nazi spies who entered the Netherlands in the guise of Jewish refugees--even taking the precaution of being circumcized--were unmasked when it was determined through a rabbi that they were not circumcized according to the Jewish ritual.

According to the report, the Gestapo selected 16 men who looked as Jewish as possible, had them attend synagogue services for several weeks to acquaint themselves with Jewish ceremonies, had them circumcized, furnished them with passports stamped with "J" (Jew) and sent them into Holland.

The Netherlands anti-espionage service, suspecting that they were spies, arrested the men. After examining them, the authorities called a rabbi and, without informing him about the details of the case, asked him to ascertain whether the men were circumcized in the Jewish manner. He reported that they were not. L'Oeuvre commented: "To be a Jew one must be born a Jew."

ROSMARIN ACCREDITED AS POLISH CONSUL IN TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Dr. Henry Rosmarin, Polish Zionist leader, has received his credentials from the exiled Polish Government in Angers, France, as Consul-General in Tel Aviv and has commenced his duties.

FAROUK TO ATTEND BENEFIT CONCERT BY PALESTINE ORCHESTRA

CAIRO, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- King Farouk will attend a Red Crescent benefit concert of the Palestine Symphony Orchestra here on Tuesday. Bronislaw Huberman, violinist and founder of the orchestra, will make a special trip from Jerusalem to play the Mendelssohn "Concerto in E Minor."

RAUSCHNING BOOK, EXPOSE OF HITLER, BANNED IN SWITZERLAND

GENEVA, Feb. 18. (Havas) -- The Swiss government today forbade importation of the new anti-Nazi book by Hermann Rauschning, one-time President of the Danzig Senate, published in Europe as "Hitler Told Me" and in America as "The Voice of Destruction."

(Continued on reverse side)

A few days ago the authorities banned a Swiss edition of the book. French language newspapers in Switzerland protested against the new ruling, particularly since it followed intervention by the German Legation.

FRANCE OBSERVES 900TH ANNIVERSARY OF RASHI

PARIS, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The 900th anniversary of the birth of Solomon Bar Isaac, better known as Rashi, famous commentator on the Bible and Talmud, who was born in Troyes in 1040, is being observed by the French Government and press.

Newspapers are pointing with pride to the fact that Troyes was in Rashi's time a world center of Jewish learning, that Rashi, after spending seven years in Worms, returned to Troyes at the age of 25, established his academy in this French city and there started his work of commenting on the Bible and Talmud to make these religious works more understandable to the Jewish lay folk.

There is no doubt that were it not for the war the French authorities would have sponsored a large celebration in Troyes and would have organized a pilgrimage of Jews to that city from all parts of the world, as the Spanish Government did in 1935 in connection with the 800th anniversary of the birth of Maimonides.

Official literature has been prepared by the Government in French and English describing the city of Luneville where Rashi's father, Isaac Jarchi, lived and reproducing photographs of synagogues in this and other towns. The literature, tracing Jewish history in France, says there is definite proof that the Jews resided in Paris since the sixth century, while documents mentioned them as living in other parts of France as early as the fourth century, especially in Marseille and Lyon.

Pointing out that Jews at that time were undistinguishable from Christians except by religion, the review emphasizes the important role which Jews then played in France as farmers, civil servants and merchants up to the Middle Ages, when feudalism gave the Jews a new status in France, considering them generally as aliens. The history is then traced through the emancipation by Napoleon. Rashi died at the age of 65, leaving three daughters, all married to students of his academy.

CHILEAN OFFICIAL HEARS CZECH JEWS' PLAN TO SET UP NEW INDUSTRIES

SANTIAGO, Chile, Feb. 10. (JTA-Airmail)--Colonization Minister R. Marino, receiving a delegation of Czech Jewish industrialists who are seeking to establish new industries in Chile, today promised them support but asked them to provide a detailed plan of their project.

LEHMAN SIGNS BILL OUTLAWING RACE PREJUDICE IN UNIONS

ALBANY, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Governor Lehman has signed the Perry bill making it a misdemeanor for officials of labor unions to discriminate in connection with union membership or activities on grounds of race, creed or religion. The bill was one of the measures which the Governor had urged.