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'SOILLESS' FARMING SEEN ANSWER TO PALESTINE LAND ACT; AGENCY TESTS PROMISING

LONDON, May 5. (JTA) -- "Soilless agriculture" may be the reply of Palestine Jewry to the ordinance limiting unrestricted land purchase by Jews to less than five per cent of the country.

Agricultural experts of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, it was learned today, have been at work developing methods which would reduce the amount of land necessary to support a family.

In recent years methods of intensive cultivation have succeeded in reducing the area necessary to support a family, until today a Jewish family in Palestine can maintain itself on a plot less than half that considered necessary to maintain an Arab family.

An experimental settlement was recently established in Palestine where, by intensive farming methods, it is believed ten dunams (2 1/5 acres) are sufficient for one family.

Since the development of "soilless agriculture" in the United States, Jewish Agency experts under the direction of Dr. Chaim Weizmann have been studying the possibility of adapting the methods to Palestine, which has large supplies of chemicals necessary to these methods in the Dead Sea deposits.

It is understood here that considerable progress in this direction has been made and large-scale experiments may soon be attempted in Palestine. It is pointed out that use of the process would permit agricultural development in large areas where the soil now is unsuitable for agriculture and would otherwise involve extensive treatment before it could be made to yield crops.

Successful application of the process in Palestine would considerably increase the absorptive capacity of the Holy Land and enable agricultural settlement of additional thousands of Jews who otherwise would be kept from the land by the limitations of the ordinance.

It is learned that Dr. Weizmann, a renowned biochemist, has taken a deep personal interest in the experiments and has reported optimistically on the possibilities of using the "soilless" methods in Palestine.

(Continued on reverse side)

SWIFT EXIT OF REFUGEES FROM BELGIUM, HOLLAND URGED BY EMERSON

PARIS, May 5. (JTA) -- The urgent necessity of evacuating German Jewish refugees from Belgium and the Netherlands because of the possibility of a German invasion was stressed today by Sir Herbert Emerson, League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and director of the Intergovernmental Refugee Committee, after a tour of the low countries. There are approximately 20,000 refugees in the Netherlands and 22,000 in Belgium.

Conferring with Jewish relief organizations here, Emerson said he considered it their principal duty at present to facilitate speedy emigration of the maximum number of refugees possible from the two countries. This task must be put above all others, even above emigration of Jews from the Reich, Emerson said, because it is clear that if these refugees again fall into the Nazis' hands they will suffer more than the Jews in the Reich.

Emerson, who planned to leave for London today, also visited the French Committee for Assistance to Jewish Refugees from Germany and was surprised to learn that of more than 30,000,000 francs spent by the committee during 1939, 21,500,000 francs were contributed by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. The funds were used to assist about 17,000 refugees, many of whom are now in the French Foreign Legion or in isolation centers.

While in Paris, Emerson was also acquainted by the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association with the situation of the more than 8,000 Polish Jewish refugees now in Lithuania. Their number was originally 12,000, but has been decreased by individual and collective emigration efforts. Sixty per cent of the 8,000 remaining refugees have registered for emigration, chiefly to Palestine and the United States, with prospects of securing immigration visas for these countries.

The American consulate in Lithuania has requested from the former Warsaw consulate the transfer to Kaunas of all files concerning applications for American visas made through 1937 by former residents of Poland who are now refugees in Lithuania. The files of 600 such cases have already reached the consulate in Kaunas and visas were granted to 120 of the persons concerned immediately.

The number of Palestine certificates issued up to April 1 to Jewish refugees in Lithuania was reported by the HIAS-ICA as more than 400.

The report praised the American consul in Kaunas for his interest in aiding applicants for American visas. It was pointed out, however, that difficulties had arisen regarding emigration to the United States of rabbis who had contracts with religious groups in America. Rabbis who cannot submit proof that they have held the office of rabbi for at least two years must wait while the consulate inquires of the religious organizations in America which are seeking their emigration. Since most of the rabbis left Poland under bombardment, they were not able to collect their documents, and thus the issuance of visas to them has been complicated.

Meanwhile, the 8,000 refugees are being provided with food and shelter by J.D.C. funds administered by the local relief committee. During the past three months, more than 400 refugees have succeeded in emigrating from Lithuania to Palestine. One hundred of them were permitted transit through Russia. The Soviet Government issued transit visas only to those holding Palestine and Lithuanian passports, not recognizing Polish passports.

There are about 80 engineers among the refugees in Lithuania, and the HIAS-ICA office there is taking measures to arrange their emigration into overseas countries having a shortage of engineers, according to the report.

MOSCOW, BERLIN PUSH PLANS FOR UNITED DRIVE ON RELIGION

PARIS, May 5. (JTA) -- Reports from Moscow today indicated that Soviet Russia and Germany were intensifying plans for a united campaign against religion.

The French Agency Radio quoted Boris Deborin, member of the Soviet Academy, as declaring in Moscow following a tour of Germany that the principal achievement of Nazism that he saw was the disappearance of the Jewish religion in the Reich.

Deborin had been sent to Germany to confer with Nazi leaders on plans to combat religion, the French agency said, and reported in a public lecture on his return to Moscow that it was the duty of Soviet atheists "to come to the aid of the Germans in their fight against religion."

Meanwhile, the newspaper Bezbozhnik, organ of the Soviet atheists, publishes the following "ten commandments" for Soviet cooperation with Germany:

"(1) Whoever opposes Soviet-German cooperation is an enemy of the Soviet Government and of Communism; (2) Germany and the Soviet are unitedly fighting against capitalism, against religion and for a new social order; (3) the German nation, like the Soviet people, are against religion and for Socialism; (4) the German-Soviet pact killed the war campaign conducted by the Church; (5) Stalin and Hitler are against religion and capitalism; (6) the pact with Germany resulted in creation of new political positions for the Soviet in northern and eastern Europe; (7) the political and economic structure of the Soviet and Germany are as yet not the same; (8) It is already clear that after the war Germany will have to continue on the road to real Socialism; (9) Owing to the cooperation with Germany, it has been made possible for Communism to penetrate into other countries; (10) Stalin requires loyalty to Communism, world revolution and atheism."

PUPPET PLAYS USED IN REICH TO TEACH CHILDREN ANTI-SEMITISM

PARIS, May 5. (JTA) -- Anti-Jewish puppet plays are the newest innovation in inculcating anti-Semitism in German children. The Nazi newspaper Muenchener Neueste Nachrichten reports that puppet performances are being given for children in the Reich "to illustrate how the Jewish problem must be solved." The play concludes with puppets dancing to celebrate the disappearance of the Jews after ruthless treatment by the Nazis.

FRENCH ARREST 43 AUSTRIAN REFUGEES CAUGHT ENTERING FROM ITALY

PARIS, May 5. (JTA) -- Newspapers report that 43 Austrian Jewish refugees who illegally entered Nice from Italy on two small fishing boats navigated by Italians have been arrested by French police. The boats were intercepted by a French coastal patrol in French waters, but the refugees succeeded in landing on French soil, after which they were rounded up by police.

NAZI PLAN TO BUILD WALL AROUND WARSAW GHETTO REPORTED IN PARIS

PARIS, May 5. (JTA) -- The Nazi plan to expel Jews from Warsaw into the interior of Poland has failed and the German authorities are now planning to build a wall around the Warsaw ghetto, according to reports reaching Paris today.

One purpose of the wall would be to isolate any contagious diseases prevalent in the crowded ghetto. The authorities have begun a geographical survey of the Jewish section in preparation for erecting the wall, it was reported.

The same reports said that crossing of Jews from Nazi-held Poland into the Soviet-occupied area had virtually come to a halt.

Polish Government circles reported that panic prevailed in Soviet-held Galicia because the authorities were conducting raids on the wealthier Poles, Jews and Ukrainians, expelling them into the interior of Russia with only 100 kilograms of luggage and seizing the rest for distribution among their neighbors. Fearing such raids, many persons were reported to be selling their belongings.

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Polish Anti-Pogrom Broadcasts Urged

PARIS, May 5. (JTA) -- Polish Jewish leaders here today urged the exiled Government to initiate Polish-language broadcasts to Poland warning the population against Nazi incitement to anti-Jewish excesses.

The suggestion was made in connection with the Government's plans to include the Yiddish and Ukrainian tongues in the regular broadcasts to Poland. Jewish circles pointed out that although the Yiddish broadcasts would be appreciated as a friendly gesture, they would not be as effective as anti-pogrom appeals broadcast in the Polish language.

Meanwhile, the Polish newspaper Slovo, published here, printed an article by M. Mazkiewicz, its editor, in which he attacks Deputy Ignacy Schwartzward for airing Polish-Jewish relations here and in occupied Poland. The article, heavily blue-pencilled by the French censor, warned Jews not to "cry wolf" and not to complain of injustices toward Jews in Poland and abroad. "Otherwise," Mazkiewicz declared, "we shall have to write about the Jewish attitude toward the Poles in Soviet-occupied territory."

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Congress Hits 'Evacuation' Talk

NEW YORK, May 5. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress announced today that it has dispatched to the Polish Government-in-exile a cablegram protesting against an announcement that Government leaders are now seeking by agreement with Jewish leaders to arrange for large-scale emigration of Jews from Poland once the independence of the country is restored. A copy of the cablegram was transmitted to Ambassador Jerzy Potocki, with the request that he transmit it to his Government in Angers.

The cablegram states that this proposal is "unworthy of a Government seeking good-will of democratic and freedom loving peoples everywhere." The cablegram, signed by President Stephen S. Wise, urged "a frank statement by heads of the Provisional Government repudiating such proposals and assuring Jews everywhere of (their) desire to guarantee to Jews in Poland full equality."

MERCHANTS, ARTISANS IN REGAINED HUNGARIAN AREAS VICTIMS OF ANTI-JEWISH CURBS

(Editor's note: This is the second of three articles by a special correspondent on the effects of the Hungarian anti-Semitic legislation.)

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BUDAPEST, April 11. (JTA-By Airmail). -- Anti-Semitism in Hungary has not been limited to professionals and private businessmen, but is now being stringently applied to the merchants and artisans of the Slovakian and Ruthenian territories regained by Hungary after the final dismemberment of Czecho-Slovakia last fall.

Magyarsag, the local Arrow Cross (Nazi) newspaper today announced that the licenses of 2,430 merchants and artisans in three Ruthenian towns had been withdrawn. Needless to say, every one of these licensees were Jews.

In Munkacs, near the Russian frontier, according to Magyarsag, 500 merchants of every description have been deprived of their licenses, along with 280 artisans. In nearby Beregszasz, 350 have been deprived of their licenses, while in Ungvar 1,300 have been disfranchised.

Magyarsag, in scoring the administrators of the Jewish law for their "excessive leniency," points out that the proportion of Jews among the merchants and artisans of these northern towns is as follows: Munkacs, 62 percent; Beregszasz, 30 percent; Ungvar, 54 percent.

Elsewhere in Hungary, however, only Jewish holders of state monopoly licenses are being disfranchised--tobacconists, wine and liquor merchants, newsvendors, etc. Jewish merchants and artisans in general have not yet been molested. No further licenses of any description will be issued to Jews, however, until the percentage of Jewish merchants and artisans--which now ranges from 30 to 40 percent throughout Trianon Hungary--has been reduced to the six per cent required by law.

For the young Hungarian Jew just out of high school, or for the Jewish employee or state licensee who has lost his job, this means that every occupation except manual labor will be closed to him from now on. Jews may no longer even hawk produce or merchandise through the streets, for all hucksters must have a license and all licenses are now forbidden to Jews.

Even to get a job as a common day laborer is becoming increasingly difficult these days. Employers are growing reluctant to employ Jews in any capacity, for fear of arousing the ire of local Nazis and other anti-Semites, or of being fined for some technical infraction of the "Jewish law."

Typical of the difficulties now being encountered by employers who hire Jews, is the recent case of a Budapest contractor who was fined for having employed a Jewish clerk for work on a construction project. Actually, he had hired an 18-year-old Jewish high school graduate as apprentice, which was entirely in keeping with the law. But the employer was unable to convince an anti-Semitic building inspector that the youth, obviously better educated and better clothed than the average day laborer, was in fact a laborer and not a timekeeper or clerk--with the result that he was fined and his Jewish employee deprived of a job.

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Thus, the net result of the anti-Jewish law--originally framed to "free Hungary from the clutches of Jewish bankers and industrialists"--has been the deprivation of a large number of low-income professionals, clerks, and petty merchants of their means of livelihood, without greatly affecting the position of the wealthy Jews the law was designed to hit.

Wealthy Not Hit by Law

The wealthy Jews, in fact, are almost as secure as ever, and for the following reasons:

(1) Their capital and their financial ability is indispensable for the maintenance of Hungary's economy, and it is evident even to anti-Semites, that what injures them would tend to injure the economic structure of Hungary itself.

(2) There are few Magyars qualified to replace Jews in the key positions of finance and industry, for the simple reason that Magyars have always eschewed business and industry for government service and professional work. (In 1934, no less than 74 per cent of all Hungarian students were preparing themselves for government jobs, while more than half the remaining 26 per cent were Jews.)

(3) The majority of Jewish corporations in Hungary--and admittedly they are many--have a high percentage of British, French, and American stockholders; and if these corporations were to be expropriated, their foreign business would dry up immediately and their stock would fall to dangerous levels.

(4) Finally, a wealthy Jew whose position is still endangered, despite the defenses already outlined, always has the final recourse of buying off his would-be successors--a defense obviously unavailable to a low-income newspaperman, chemist, engineer, or petty licensed merchant.

The prevalence of bribery and graft in the administration of the "Jewish law" in its upper brackets, in fact, has had the effect of alienating many Hungarians who formerly acquiesced, in the belief that anti-Semitism would not injure wealthy Jews unduly, and would create an opportunity for poor but capable young Magyars to take over the economic as well as social and political control of Hungary. Such persons are now turning against anti-Semitism, it seems, in the conviction that the law has only created corruption in high office, without affecting the real situation at all.

Unfortunately for Jewry, however, such persons are in the minority. Meanwhile, the Hungarian Nazis and anti-Semites are beginning to clamor not only for stricter enforcement of the existing law, but for a third anti-Jewish law, in the hope of thereby creating still more jobs for young "deserving Aryans."

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Order Limits Contract Bidders

BUDAPEST, May 5. (JTA) -- An order has been issued limiting to 20 per cent the number of Jews who may bid for Government contracts for construction work and supplies. The order followed a decree revoking licenses to sell tobacco of hundreds of Jews, retroactive to May 1. The latter decree came as a surprise since the "Jewish law" of May, 1939, specifies that liquidation of Jewish licenses for sale of tobacco and other monopoly products is to be carried out over a two-year period.

RECORD CROWD MARKS 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORKMEN'S CIRCLE; GROUP'S AMERICAN IDEALS LAUDED

NEW YORK, May 5. (JTA) -- The greatest turnout of members in the history of the Workmen's Circle, packing Madison Sq. Garden today to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the national Jewish fraternal organization, heard Mayor LaGuardia and other speakers praise the Circle as an example of practical application of American ideals.

Twenty-four thousand members of the organization, from New York and points as far away as New England and Pennsylvania, had crowded into the Garden when police closed the doors forty minutes before the program was to begin. Eighteen thousand more were turned away.

Entering the arena as the Circle's children's choir was singing the national anthem, the Mayor in his address remarked that "I wish I had all those 'hundred percent patriotic' organizations here to hear 'The Star Spangled Banner' sung as it should be sung." Declaring that the ideas of social, family and health welfare and cultural opportunities for the masses, which the Circle began implementing 40 years ago, had become the program of government nearly 35 years later, LaGuardia said: "You have contributed in great measure to the social welfare program of our government."

"Your organization may well serve as a model for real American fraternal organizations," he added.

Abraham Cahan, editor of the Jewish Daily Forward, declaring in his address that the Workmen's Circle was "anti-Communist heart and soul," said: "Hitler must be defeated. Hitlerism is the great curse of the world. Now that Stalin and Hitler are one, both must be defeated."

An elaborate program of entertainment by the Circle's musical groups was climaxed by a children's ballet, "Flowers of Flame," by Mark Schweid, depicting the awakening of the oppressed masses, their emigration across the sea, and their final liberation. Other speakers included President Reuben Guskin, Morris Feinstone, secretary of the United Hebrew Trades, and Joseph Baskin, general secretary of the Workmen's Circle.

LAGUARDIA HAILS WORK OF JEWISH WOMEN IN REBUILDING PALESTINE

NEW YORK, May 5. (JTA) -- The fifteenth anniversary of the New York Council of the Pioneer Women's Organization for Palestine was celebrated today with a luncheon at the Hotel Astor, attended by about 1,000 persons, who heard speakers stress the necessity of intensifying aid to women war refugees arriving in the Holy Land and a message from Mayor LaGuardia paying tribute to the organization's role in the "fine progress being made by the Jewish people in Palestine."

142 RUMANIAN JEWS TO SETTLE IN ARGENTINE ICA COLONIES

PARIS, May 5. (JTA) -- The first group of Rumanian Jews to be settled in colonies of the Jewish Colonization Association (ICA) in Argentina in recent years have left Europe en route to Buenos Aires, it was disclosed here today.

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The 142 emigrants all come from the Rumanian city of Marmarosch. Preparations for their colonization had been started by the ICA before the outbreak of the war, including provision of adequate shelter, preparing of farm soil and purchase of cattle and poultry for the settlers.

The settlers will meet in the colonies many compatriots who had been settled there in past years. Transportation costs were defrayed by the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association from a special fund advanced by the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society of America for East European Jewish emigration.

LONDON GROUP AIDS POLISH JEWISH REFUGEES IN ITALY

LONDON, May 5. (JTA) -- After receiving an urgent appeal from Polish Jewish refugees in Italy, the Polish Jewish Refugee Fund here has granted £500 for immediate assistance to these refugees. There are 325 Polish Jewish refugees in Milan, 141 in Trieste, 78 in Genoa, 52 in Fiume and an additional 42 Polish Jewish students stranded in Bologna and Modena.

PENHAS GARCIA DEAD AT 69; REPORTED ON AGENCY PETITIONS FOR MANDATES BODY

GENEVA, May 5. (JTA) -- The death in Lisbon of Penhas Garcia, for 11 years a member of the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations, was announced here. Garcia was 69 years old.

During the entire term of his membership on the Mandates Commission, Garcia nearly always was the rapporteur on petitions to the Commission by the Jewish Agency for Palestine. The Agency bureau here sent messages of condolence to the Garcia family, the Mandates Commission and Joseph Avenol, League Secretary-General.

LONDON SHELTER TO CLOSE AT END OF MAY; SERVED 50 YEARS

LONDON, May 5. (JTA) -- After a half century of existence, the Jews' Temporary Shelter is closing down at the end of May since only 30 persons are left in its charge and no trans-migration is possible during the war. Announcing the decision to close the institution, President Otto Schiff revealed that it had an indebtedness of £4,500. He said the building could, if found necessary, be reopened "in a few days."

PALESTINE DOCTORS COOPERATE WITH BRITISH ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

NATHANIA, Palestine, May 5. (JTA) -- Cooperation has been established between surgeons of the British forces billeted in Palestine and local Jewish physicians. After Nathania doctors had been invited to an army camp and shown new medical appliances and surgical instruments recently received from England, a meeting was held here and local practitioners lectured on the typical epidemic diseases of Palestine.

SO. AFRICAN LEADER PAYS TRIBUTE TO JEWISH PHILANTHROPY

JOHANNESBURG, May 5. (JTA) -- Tribute to the Jews of South Africa for the way in which they look after their needy was voiced by J.H. Hofmeyr, Minister of Finance and Education, opening a new Jewish orphanage at Cape Town. "If I have done what I could to resist anti-Semitism it is because I regard it as an ugly, loathsome thing, inimical to the interests of South Africa," he said.