

VOL. VII. NO. 198.

Wednesday, December 4, 1940.

POLISH JEWS ROUNDED UP IN OCCUPIED FRANCE FOR EXPULSION TO POLAND

VICHY, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- Jews of Polish origin are being rounded up in occupied France and herded into railway cars for transportation to Poland, it was reported here today.

The Jews have little chance of reaching Poland alive because of the conditions of their transfer, the reports said.

Frost and hunger are decimating German Jewish men, all of whom have been drafted by the Reich authorities for forced labor, according to observers arriving here from Germany.

The travelers said all healthy male Jews, regardless of profession and social standing, were being used for public works at pay insufficient to cover their cost of living. The observers added that German Jewry was rapidly approaching complete destruction.

Meanwhile, the French radio today broadcast a violent diatribe against the Jews, declaring that "we are against the Jews because the Jews are against France."

The broadcast accused the Jews of a plot against the policy of Chief-of State Henri Philippe Petain and said the Jews attempted to "discredit and annihilate" this policy.

STATE, INTERIOR DEPARTMENTS CONFER ON VIRGIN ISLANDS PLAN

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5. (JTA) -- The State and Interior Departments are still conferring in an effort to iron out differences of opinion on the proposal to open the Virgin Islands as a temporary haven for refugees intending to emigrate to the United States and other American countries, it was learned today.

Interior Department officials were understood to be contending that the island's peculiar status under the immigration laws made it possible to admit refugees for

(Continued on reverse side)

J.T.A. NEWS -2- 12/4/40.

temporary residence under a Governor's proclemation and without visa, while the State Department's legal staff took the position that the regular immigration process would have to be followed.

Rep. Emmuel Celler has introduced a bill which would authorize establishment of temporary havens for refugees in the United States and its possessions.

Circles interested in the Virgin Islands proposal said they expected no slackening in the "excellent cooperation" between the island authorities and the Interior Department officials in this matter as a result of the expected succession of Robert Morss Lovett, Government Secretary, to the post of Acting Governor. Lovett will take over the reins of administration when the resignation of Governor Lawrence Cremer, announced today, becomes effective at the end of the year.

However, a possible complication arose in capital discussions of the possibility that a naval officer may be appointed to the Governor's post in the interest of national defense.

EINSTEIN URGES MORE AID TO BRITAIN

NEW YORK, Dec. 5. (JTA) -- More aid to Britain as "protection of America" was urged today by Prof. Albert Einstein, guest of honor on "Friendship Bridge," the daily trans-Atlantic short-wave program sponsored by the British-American Ambulance Corps, as part of a series of good-will broadcast to England.

Prof. Einstein said: "Aid to Britain means protection of America. Due to the heroic British stand, America is given a breathing spell in which to prepare her defense. From purely selfish motives, therefore—if it were permitted so to deal with the great problems of today—all possible aid to Britain is essential. Apart from this, Britain is the only power at present which is defending the humanitarian ideals of nations and individuals from brute oppression. So help to Britain means also support of those ideals, without which a future worth living is unthinkable."

ANCIENT PALESTINE SEMINARY TO BE RE-CREATED

NEW YORK, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- The historic rebbinical seminary at Yavneh, Palestine, will be recreated as a cultural and spiritual center for Palestine, the Mizrachi Organization of America announced today. The project, which will be undertaken by the religious Zionists in conjunction with the Jewish National Fund, calls for purchase of 2,000 dunems of land in the district which formerly was Yavneh in the southern portion of ancient Judea.

Leon Gellman, president of Mizrachi, in announcing the project said the details of the cost of the project were not yet available. The forthcoming American Mizrachi convention, he stated, will concern itself with the financial upkeep of the venture and assess the American movement's share of the cost.

SLOVAKIA SPEEDS UP PURGE OF JEWS

ZURICH, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- Measures have been taken to hasten "Aryanization" of Jewish enterprises in East Slovakia, it was reported from Bratislava today. It was also announced in Bratislava that the Slovak National Theater had been purged of Jews. Vice-Premier Sano Mach, addressing a mass meeting, renewed his promise to oust the Jews completely from economic life.

J.T.A. NEWS -3-

THOUSANDS MOURN AS SERVICES FOR REVEL HELD AT YESHIVA

NEW YORK, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- Several thousand persons thronged the Yeshiva College auditorium and nearby streets as funeral services were held this morning for Dr. Bernard Revel, president of the institution for the past 25 years, who died early Monday at the age of 55.

It was revealed during the services that Dr. Revel had suffered a "painful attack" during his last lecture, but had refused to halt until it was finished. Speakers included Rabbi Joseph Lookstein, Rabbi Aaron D. Burack, Dr. Pinchos Churgin, Samuel Levy, president of the Yeshiva board of directors, and Herschel Revel, Dr. Revel's youngest son.

A group of students served as pallbearers. At Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Queens, eulogies were delivered by Rabbis Simcha Levy, Samuel K. Mirsky and Herbert S. Goldstein and Nahum Finkel, nephew of Dr. Revel, speaking as faculty representative, and Samuel Fox, a student representative.

CHEAP ELECTRIC CURRENT SEEN FACTOR IN PALESTINE'S DEVELOPMENT

LONDON (JTA-By Mail) -- The belief which prevailed at one time that Palestine was not a suitable country for industrial development does not hold true today, the magazine The Electrician dealers.

This belief was mainly based on the theory that Palestine lacked all essential raw materials for the development of industry and was devoid of cheap power resources, the periodical says.

According to the article, the first change came about with the establishment of the Jordan hydro-electric power station, which first brought cheap current to Palestine. Immigration, too, brought in its wake much capital ready for investment and created a more or less made-to-measure market. It also provided many Jewish technicians from the Nazi-dominated countries.

The supply of electric current comes from two concessionaires, the Palestine Electric Corporation and the Jerusalem Electric and Public Service Corporation, Itd., the publication says. Current also is produced privately in a number of cases. This occurs chiefly in industrial undertakings and in places far from the supply system.

The J.E.C. operates a Diesel plant in Jerusalem and the P.E.C. has at its disposal similar plants in three centers, as well as steam power plants in two towns.

Power supply for industry, irrigation and water supply are the chief consumers and the remainder is largely employed for lighting. The per capita sales of current by both companies jumped from 13 kwh in 1932 to 55 kwh in 1936.