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HALF-MILLION ACRES OF JEWISH-OWNED LAND TO BE TRANSFERRED

BUDAPEST, Dec. 17. (JTA) -- Over 500,000 acres of agricultural land in Hungary will pass from Jewish hands, under the law providing that Jews can no longer hold agricultural properties, Count Michael Teleki, Minister of Agriculture, has announced in Parliament.

The minister declared that some 150,000 acres of Jewish land had been expropriated from the Jews up to the end of July. Certain formalities, the minister added, make difficult the further transfer of Jewish agricultural possessions into non-Jewish hands, but these difficulties will be overcome by provisions of the projected "third Jewish law," promulgation of which is expected shortly.

The Zsidó Ujság, official organ of the Orthodox Jewish Community in Hungary, complains that Jews find it very difficult to observe religious ceremonies requiring the praying over wine, in view of the fact that licenses have been withdrawn from Jewish wine dealers. Kosher wine, which is needed for Jewish religious services, is being replaced by many orthodox Jews with milk, over which the services are performed, the newspaper reveals. "The problem of securing kosher wine for religious services is one of the greatest problems for the rabbinate," the Zsidó Ujság points out.

RIISING MORTALITY, STARVATION AMONG CRACOW JEWS REPORTED

WARSAW, Dec. 17. (JTA) -- Rising mortality and starvation among the remaining Jews of Cracow, capital of the Polish Government-General, have obliged the Jewish community to establish a large orphanage and to launch a fund-raising campaign for relief, it was reported here today.

The orphanage will house 500 children who lost their parents since the Nazi invasion in September, 1939. It will be supervised by the Centos, child-care organization which was established about 20 years ago by the Joint Distribution Committee.

The relief campaign, aimed at raising funds to purchase food and fuel for needy Jews, was proclaimed with the permission of the Nazi authorities, who are represented as interested in avoiding spread of disease pending completion of the expulsion of the Jews from the city.

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Since many Jews of the community, which before the invasion was the richest Jewish group in Poland, prefer starving to applying for charity, it has become necessary for the Jewish communal authorities to organize special investigating units to establish the requirements of the impoverished.

Each investigator is charged with the responsibility of ascertaining the needs of 50 families in the district in which he lives. These families then receive anonymous assistance in the form of food and coal deliveries.

PATRIA TOLL REACHES 66; NEW TYPHOID DEATH

JERUSALEM, Dec. 17. (JTA) -- The death toll in the sinking of the refugee ship Patria on Nov. 25 reached 66 today when two more unidentified bodies were recovered from the ship and one of the survivors, Harriet Rimova, 20, of Czechoslovakia, died of typhoid in the Athlit concentration camp.

Meanwhile, the "Sadegerer Rebbe" started a collection of "taleithim" (prayer shawls), "tefillin" (phylacteries) and holy books for the approximately 1,600 survivors at Athlit.

FIRST NEAR EAST DIAMOND EXCHANGE OPENED IN TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV, Dec. 17. (JTA) -- The first diamond exchange in the Near East was opened here today. A Government representative, Fletcher, said he saw no reason why Palestine could not become one of the most important diamond centers in the world. Other speakers were Mayor Oved Ben-Ami of Nathania, which now harbors several diamond factories employing hundreds of workers; Akiba Wish, president of the exchange; Mayor Israel Rokach of Tel Aviv and Chief Rabbi Moshe Avigdor Amiel of Tel Aviv.

JEWISH AGENCY CONGRATULATES WAVELL ON VICTORY OVER ITALIANS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 17. (JTA) -- Moshe Shertok, head of the Jewish Agency's political department, today telegraphed to Major-General Archibald P. Wavell, commander of British forces in the Middle East: "Your brilliant victory is bound to influence the whole course of the war and hasten the ultimate triumph of British arms."

MASSIN, FRENCH ANTI-SEMITIC, HELD AT ELLIS ISLAND

NEW YORK, Dec. 17. (JTA) -- Pierre Massin, French millionaire and reputed anti-Semite and Fascist, who arrived here on the American Export liner Excalibur from Lisbon yesterday, was being held at Ellis Island today because of a visa technicality the nature of which was not disclosed. A hearing today was planned.

He declined to comment on published reports that he had contributed 2,000,000 francs to the cause of Jacques Doriot, French Fascist leader. According to the newspaper PM, Massin "has boasted of his anti-Semitic and pro-Fascist activities" and has said "he would devote the rest of his life to destroying the Jews."

J.N.F. SENDS \$100,000 TO PALESTINE

NEW YORK, Dec. 17. (JTA) -- Remittance to Jewish National Fund headquarters in Jerusalem of an additional sum of \$100,000 was announced today by Mr. Israel Goldstein, president of the American J.N.F.

EQUADOR READY TO RECEIVE JEWISH FARM WORKERS, MINISTER ASSERTS

QUITO, Dec. 17. (JTA) — Ecuador is ready to admit Jewish agricultural workers as full-fledged immigrants, Foreign Minister Julio Tobar Donoso declared in discussing Jewish problems with Dr. A. Juris, representative of the Jewish Agency, who arrived here in the course of a South American tour.

The Foreign Minister assured Dr. Juris that at the forthcoming peace conference the Equadorian delegation would support the demand for equal rights for Jews throughout the world and Jewish aspirations for Palestine.

Dr. Juris, accompanied by leaders of the local Jewish community, was also received by G.H. Bullock, British Minister in Ecuador, who expressed his sympathy with the Zionist movement. Dr. Juris is here to raise funds for relief work for Jewish war-victims in Europe and Palestine.

EDUCATOR URGES MELTING POT TO REINVIGORATE YANKEES

BOSTON, Dec. 17. (JTA) — If the future of New England is to be as bright as its past, New Englanders of the old stock must rid themselves of narrow racial prejudices, Dr. Claude M. Fuess, headmaster of Phillips Academy, Andover, told the Boston Congregation Club at its Forefathers' Night.

"What the Yankee needs is reinvigoration," Dr. Fuess admonished. "If he remains isolated he is likely to become like the southern plantation owner in 'Gone With the Wind.' We should not avoid the melting pot, for as it boils over we shall have new Websters and Adamses to defend our liberties, even though they bear Polish, Italian and Jewish names."

SWISS INTERN 500 REICH JEWISH REFUGEES

GENEVA, Dec. 17. (JTA) — More than 600 Jewish refugees from the Reich have been interned this month as persons who cannot be deported in their native country, Swiss newspapers report. The total number of interned Jewish refugees is estimated at 1,000. The internees are held in special barracks and are engaged in road-building.

REFUGEE INTERNEES IN ENGLAND TAKE UNIVERSITY COURSES

LONDON, Nov. 24. (JTA-By Mail) — A correspondent writing in The Times about the cultural activities carried on in internment camps says: "A similar atmosphere might have prevailed in ancient Greek or Jewish teaching centres or at medieval universities. Oxford and Cambridge could compete with the zeal and learning of the professors, but certainly not with the knowledge of most of the pupils, many of whom are bearded or bald-headed."

"In spite of a shortage of books, manuscripts, and other expedients, they learn, teach, and discuss. A world-famous Viennese professor of electrical-physiology, recognized as the greatest contemporary specialist on this subject, addresses his comrades on electrical first-aid in accidents, and compensates himself by attending the lectures of a celebrated architect on modern building methods. During the common potato peeling the profoundest philosophical problems are debated."

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"These university extensions, remarkable as they are, have one great drawback which should not be underrated in its future importance. As the British element is completely absent in the camps, which are governed more or less on local autonomy, and as the English language presents more difficulties to many of the inmates than the differential calculus or psycho-analysis, everything is expressed in German, which must influence the way of thinking. The refugees involuntarily pursue their studies in an exclusively German-speaking company. It is questionable whether this is desirable from a British point of view.

"As the Jewish element predominates, problems of Judaism naturally play a big part. There are, again and again, discussions on the role and the fate of Jewry in these days. The Bible and the Talmud are studied under competent supervision, mostly in the original texts, of which many of the internees have an amazing command."

NEW WAR TIME FOOD DEMONSTRATED IN TEL AVIV

LONDON, Nov. 20. (JTA-By Mail) -- A new food, "Helbonin," was demonstrated at a lunch at WIZO House, Tel Aviv, The New Judea reports. It is a tasteless flour composed mainly of peanuts and containing proteins, fats, carbohydrates, phosphates and albumen. The discovery of a chemical engineer, Kalisch, during his research in connection with citrus by-products, Helbonin can be produced cheaply and it is claimed to be an adequate substitute for foodstuffs containing protein.

Prof. Straus, of the Straus Health Center in Jerusalem, said that the results of his experiments with hundreds of children were gratifying. A factory has been erected in Tel Aviv, the necessary funds having been provided by Pinchas Rutenberg. For the time being its capacity is one ton of Helbonin a day.

Polish troops in Palestine have received instruction in cooking from the Women's International Zionist Organization (WIZO), The New Judea also reports.

Polish troops applied to the WIZO for cooking instruction, particularly in the use of locally-grown vegetables. Three courses, each of one week, were held at the training kitchen of WIZO House, Tel Aviv, where a WIZO instructress who speaks Polish gave instruction to 34 Polish sergeants and soldier cooks.

PALESTINE GOVERNMENT REPORTS ON RISING LIVING COSTS

LONDON, Nov. 25. (JTA-By Mail) -- According to the September report of the Government Office of Statistics in Jerusalem, says Great Britain and the Near East, it is now possible to present a more accurate picture of price movements in Palestine than could be done some years ago.

An official household budget inquiry conducted in Palestine in 1922 showed that food accounted for 46.6 per cent of the total family expenditure; and investigation conducted by the Jewish Agency's Statistics Department in 1939-40 showed that expenditure on food was 50.6 per cent of the total family expenditure of 200 urban families, and the corresponding average for 37 rural families was 53.3 per cent.

Retail prices of food moved upwards on the outbreak of war. Based on an index number of 100 for 1937, the percentage changes varied from 85.8 in August to 109.1 in December, and then from 112.5 in January, 1940, to 106.1 in June, 1940, for Arab families.