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LEON BRANSON, WORLD ORT LEADER, DEAD IN MARSEILLE AT 72

MARSEILLE, France, March 2. (JTA) -- Dr. Leon Branson, noted leader of Jewish rehabilitation work for half a century, a member of the first Russian Duma and author of the Russian Equalities Act of 1917 which outlawed discrimination against Jews based on their religion, died here today.

Dr. Branson, who would have been 73 years old on May 7, had been ill for several weeks and had recently undergone an operation. He came here from Paris when France was defeated, having lived in the French capital since 1935, to which he came after more than 10 years in Berlin.

One of the organizers and until his death president of the World ORT Federation, society for the promotion of agriculture and artisanship among Jews, Dr. Branson was active in Jewish public life and Russian politics since the age of 20.

Dr. Branson, who was born in Kaunas and received his law degree at Moscow University, early in his career engaged in political activities which twice brought him prison terms and ultimately to an active role in the Russian Revolution in 1917.

Elected to the first Russian Duma at the age of 37, in 1906, he was later imprisoned and deprived of his right to be re-elected to the Duma because he was a signatory to the famous "Viborg Proclamation" demanding a constitutional monarchy for Russia. Following his release, Dr. Branson immediately resumed his political activities in behalf of Jewish emancipation, becoming one of the most active members of the Jewish Political Club created by Jewish deputies to carry on with Jewish political work in Russia. This led to more trouble with the authorities and he was imprisoned a second time.

Dr. Branson gained international recognition for his work in combatting anti-Semitism and promoting Jewish rehabilitation through vocational retraining. He visited the United States several times in behalf of the ORT.

In 1894, Dr. Branson was named director of the schools founded by the Society for the Enlightenment of Jews in Russia. Later he directed all the Jewish Colonization Association enterprises in that country, created a network of vocational institutions supported by the association and organized a census of Russian Jews. During this period, he began

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energetic action for the establishment of loan banks among Jews, was active in the furtherance of agriculture for Jews and took a keen interest in all Jewish emigration problems.

During the World War, Dr. Bramson took part in the work of the Jewish relief organization "Ikofo" on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of Jewish homeless families. During the Russian civil war and before the October revolution, he took an active part in the work of the ORT. In 1920 and again in 1930 he traveled to America and western European countries as the chief representative of the Russian ORT Society. It was mainly due to his energy and influence that the Russian society developed in the course of years into a world organization with branches in 18 countries.

Since 1924, Dr. Bramson was a member of the Council of the American Jewish Reconstruction Foundation, and since 1925 of the Council of the Union of Jewish Emigration Societies.

NAZIS INTERN JEWS LIVING ON FRENCH NORTHERN COAST

VICHY, March 2. (JTA) --, Practically all the Jewish residents of the northern coastal zone of occupied France have been interned, it was reliably reported from Paris today.

Two big camps have been established for them in the departments of Yonne and Aube where several hundred Jews between the ages of 17 and 40 have been interned under strict surveillance, not even permitted, at first, to communicate with their relatives, who were kept in ignorance of their fate and whereabouts.

Four weeks ago the French Social Assistance Service learned of the hardships of the internees, intervened with the German Red Cross and obtained the release of 50 who were sick and permission for the others to communicate with friends and relatives. The service is hopeful of obtaining further improvement in the camp regime.

Meanwhile, further lists of 507 "temporary managers" appointed for smaller Jewish enterprises in Paris were published in the Official Journal here.

FAILURE OF VOLUNTARY EXODUS LED TO CRACOW EXPULSION, NAZI LEADER REPORTS

ZURICH, March 2. (JTA) -- Nazi District Governor Waechter told a press conference in Zakopane, Poland, that the recent expulsion of Jews from Cracow, capital of the Polish Government-General, was carried out after "every attempt to enlist the aid of the Jewish Council to obtain voluntary emigration of Jews from the Cracow district failed," it was reported here today.

'Elite Guards' Direct Exodus

NEW YORK, March 2. (JTA) -- A Berlin dispatch to the New York Times quoted the Krakauer Zeitung, Nazi organ in Cracow, as stating that all Cracow Jews not in possession of a valid "identification card" had been ordered to leave the city immediately.

The dispatch added that the German Elite Guards had been "ordered to take the matter into their hands" when efforts of the Cracow Jewish Council to expedite Jewish emigration had failed.

PALESTINE'S WAR INDUSTRY POTENTIALITIES CITED BY LONDON PAPER

LONDON, March 2. (JTA) -- Palestine's potentialities for the war effort are discussed in the weekly Economist.

"Official and semi-official hints make it clear that the Government intends to build up war industries in Palestine, especially in the coastal plains, where the older industries are also situated," the paper declares.

It states that the search for raw materials in Palestine has not been without tangible results and mentions Dead Sea deposits other than potash and bromine and also deposits in other parts of the country of quartz, aluminum, chalk and gypsum of exceptional purity.

GREEKS RENAME CAPTURED VILLAGE FOR JEWISH HERO SLAIN IN ATTACK

ATHENS, March 2. (JTA) -- The captured Albanian village of Bessentchi has been renamed by the Greek Government "Fritsi," it was announced today, in honor of the Jewish army colonel, Mordechai Fritsi, who fell near the village, "heroically leading his troops to victory."

SHRODER LISTS BUDGETING BENEFITS; HADASSAH OPPOSES PLAN

NEW YORK, March 2. (JTA) -- Local communities will gain five specific benefits by the establishment of a national advisory budget service, William J. Shroder of Cincinnati, chairman of the board of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, has declared in a letter to Jewish welfare funds throughout the country.

Urging the Council's member agencies to approve the proposals for such an advisory service during the referendum now being conducted by the Council on this matter, Shroder listed the benefits as follows:

"1. It will strengthen community organization in this country--by developing improved relationships between the national agencies themselves, and between the national agencies and the local communities.

"2. It will provide local communities with a broader picture and more complete understanding of the needs and aspirations of the Jewish groups both at home and abroad than has ever been available to them in the past.

"3. It will lay a firm foundation for improved fund-raising programs in each community by basing appeals on authoritative and unquestioned facts and figures, objectively and fairly interpreted, rather than on competitive and conflicting pressures.

"4. It will encourage the development of more specific and realistic budgets by each of the national and overseas agencies, budgets embodying the recognition of the relationships of their own programs and expenditures to total needs and to the funds available at the moment or in the predictable future.

"5. It will stimulate greater cooperation between the national agencies, especially those operating in the same fields, in regard to their functional programs, and might help eliminate any possible unnecessary duplication among them."

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Meanwhile, Hadassah, asserting that the voice of the entire Jewish people must be heard through the communities on the needs of Palestine and other causes, placed itself on record in opposition to the budgeting proposal. In a letter addressed to all Hadassah chapter presidents, Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, national coordinator of fund raising, warned that if the referendum endorsed the establishment of a national budgeting committee, such action would have "serious consequences not only for the Zionist movement, but for the future health and growth of the American Jewish community."

"Such a procedure," she said, "would substitute for popular mass opinion the dictation, well meaning though it might be, of a small group that must necessarily be influenced by its own ideology and point of view on Jewish life."

GREEKS HERE OFFER AID TO PALESTINE FUND DRIVE

NEW YORK, March 2. (JTA) -- Declaring that both Greece and Palestine were serving the cause of democracy in their struggle against tyranny, the Rev. Demetrius Heliopoulos, Pastor of the American Greek Orthodox Church of St. Anthony, and chairman of the Festival Committee of the Greek War Relief Association, today extended an offer of cooperation in the \$12,000,000 War Emergency Campaign of the United Palestine Appeal. The offer was contained in a letter to Sylvan Gotshal, executive chairman of the Greater New York Campaign.

ANTI-SEMITISM CAN DESTROY U.S., COL. ROOSEVELT WARNS

NEW YORK, March 2. (JTA) -- Americans must "keep their eyes open" and fight anti-Semitism because it is one of the things that can "destroy this country," Col. Theodore Roosevelt, chairman of the Citizenship Educational Service, warned last night in a broadcast on the Columbia Broadcasting System's "People's Platform."

A.M. LEVY, NOTED DIAMOND BROKER, LEFT \$12,000 TO JEWISH CHARITIES

LONDON, March 2. (JTA) -- The diamond broker, Alexander Michael Levy, who died last month at the age of 85, left \$12,000 for Jewish charities. Levy, with his brother the late Sir Arthur, advised King Edward VIII on the cutting of the Cullinan Diamond for the scepter and crown.

BRITAIN BARS CHANGE IN WALLING WALL RULES

LONDON, March 2. (JTA) -- Colonial Undersecretary George H. Hall has rejected in Commons a suggestion by David Adams that the 1931 order on the Jerusalem Western Wall be amended to permit Jews to blow the shofar before the Wall. Replying to a suggestion from Adams for establishment of a British university in Jerusalem with power to issue degrees in law and the liberal professions, Hall said there was no practicable scheme in sight for a British university in the Middle East.

ARAB STUDENTS VISIT TEL AVIV

JERUSALEM, March 2. (JTA) -- A party of Arab students from the Friends School in Ramallah has toured Tel Aviv, visiting the permanent exhibition of Jewish industry, the zoo and the Sieff Institute.