

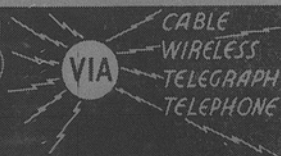
NEWS

from all over the world

by the

JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

1560 BROADWAY, N. Y. C.



VOL. VIII. NO. 74

Thursday, March 6, 1941.

SUBCOMMITTEE NAMED TO REVAMP DICKSTEIN BILL FOR ALASKA COLONIZATION

WASHINGTON, March 5. (JTA) -- The House Immigration Committee today placed the drafting of an Alaskan colonization bill in the hands of a special subcommittee headed by Rep. Charles Kramer (Dem., Calif.) after hearing the proposal endorsed by Paul W. Gordon, Superintendent of Alaskan Affairs in the Interior Department, and bitterly assailed by John B. Trevor, representative of "The American Coalition."

Kramer would not commit himself on whether he thought a bill satisfactory to both the committee and the Interior and Justice Departments could be drafted by the subcommittee. "We are going to go very slowly on this and if we do report a bill it will be much more specific and detailed than the Dickstein bill," he declared.

Gordon told the committee that the colonization proposal represented an ideal method of at least partially meeting two problems confronting this Government--that of providing some aid to refugees from totalitarian persecution in Europe and of increasing the Alaskan population in order to bring about the maximum development of the agricultural, mining and industrial potentialities of their country. He added that the department had not changed its stand favoring the proposal which it had taken last year, but indicated it felt some changes from the bill proposed last year would be necessary.

In response to questions by Reps. Leland Ford of California and J. Leon Allen of Louisiana concerning the Interior Department's failure to colonize Alaska with American citizens, Gordon said:

"In the first place, American citizens cannot be sent anywhere and they have displayed a great deal of reluctance to settle in Alaska. In the second place, I rather think that refugees from Europe and from the conditions there will have more incentive and hope to make good than did some of the colonists we have already sent there."

Concerning the fear voiced by Allen that the refugee problem would find its way into the continental U.S., regardless of restrictions, the Interior Department official said: "I would hope that the United States is not utterly powerless to keep unarmed refugees from making a four-day journey to the United States."

Trevor assailed the bill as one that would permit the dumping of more than 700,000 refugees in this country and quoted former Ambassador Bullitt as declaring that more than

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the spies captured by the French authorities were refugees from Germany. He admitted under questioning by Chairman Samuel Dickstein that he was not in favor of any immigration and that he also opposed the idea of the U.S. becoming an "arsenal for democracy."

Bitter altercations between Reps. Ford and Allen, opposing the bill, and Dickstein and Lesinski of Michigan, supporting it, marked the brief hearing.

3,500 AMERICANS IN PALESTINE FACE LOSS OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP

JERUSALEM, March 5. (JTA) -- Some 3,500 Americans residing in Palestine, most of whom are Jews, are believed to face loss of United States citizenship under the new provisions of the U.S. Nationality Act of 1940.

The law cancels the U.S. citizenship of (1) any naturalized citizen who resides for five years in a foreign country, (2) any naturalized citizen residing for three years in his native land, (3) any naturalized citizen residing for two years in his native land if that land gives citizenship after two years' residence.

It is pointed out here that many Americans in Palestine who would desire to visit the U.S. in order to retain their citizenship find it impossible to do so at present because of wartime transportation difficulties.

JEWS BARRED AS PEDDLERS IN OCCUPIED FRANCE

VICHY, March 5. (ONA) -- Jews are barred from the occupation of peddler in occupied France under an order issued by the German authorities today. The measure hits especially at Jews in the Bordeaux and Belfort districts, hundreds of whom will thus be deprived of their means of existence.

2-DAY MOURNING FOR BRANSON ANNOUNCED

VICHY, March 5. (JTA) -- The ORT executive committee today proclaimed two days of mourning in France and abroad for Dr. Leon Branson, chairman of the executive, who died on Sunday. Messages of condolence continued to pour in to the ORT office in Marseille from all parts of the world.

Local newspapers devoted articles to Dr. Branson, stressing his efforts for normalization of the Jewish social structure and recalling his role in Russian political life as a deputy in the first Duma.

AGRICULTURE SOCIETY STRESSES NEED OF INCREASING JEWISH FARM POPULATION

NEW YORK, March 5. (JTA) -- Reporting settlement on farms of 158 families, 91 of them refugees, last year, the Jewish Agricultural Society, in its report for 1940, issued today, stresses the importance of increasing the Jewish agricultural population in the United States as a measure to correct the present economic disproportion.

"The greater significance is being brought home today more forcefully than ever before," declares Dr. Gabriel Davidson, general manager of the society, whose title was recently changed to managing director. "Whatever the reason, the fact is that there are by far too few Jewish farmers in the United States or elsewhere.

"Whether a larger Jewish farm population in Germany would have had an antidotal effect on the poison of Nazism is a matter of conjecture. But certain it is that, had more German Jews been farmers, more would have been able to find havens in countries which welcome farmers and bar others.

"In the United States, Jewish vocational composition is woefully out of balance. Earlier, when frontiers were limitless and opportunities abundant, occupational disparity made little difference. But, with frontiers gone and opportunities restricted, it does make a difference. The contract is unhealthy, not conducive to good will. We cannot through magic efface the disproportion but we can by effort lessen the gap. To the extent that we correct the unbalance, to that extent we build for better corporate health and for better human understanding."

The society gave special attention to refugees, serving 15,000 of them directly or indirectly in 1940. The 91 families established on farms in seven states during the year brought the total since the beginning of refugee activity to 226. During the year 105 loans totaling \$96,664 were approved for refugees. A training farm at Bound Brook, N.J., had admitted 106 trainees by December.

The society, however, avoided "hastily conceived" plans for rapid settlement of refugees, Dr. Davidson declares. "The society prefers to plod the less spectacular but safer and smer path of establishing refugees on individual farms, each on a piece of earth which he can call his own."

Altogether, during 1940, 1,450 persons consulted the society about the advisability of settling on farms and 158 families were placed on 139 farms in seven states, representing a total of about 750 souls.

A study made to determine how many families settled through the society's efforts remain on farms shows that 95 per cent of those settled in 1936, 92 per cent of those in 1937, 95 per cent of those in 1938, 97 per cent of those in 1939 and 97 per cent of those in 1940 are now on their farms. The percentage for the five years is 96.

The society's farm loan department has granted, since its founding 40 years ago, 13,467 loans aggregating \$8,144,000 to farmers in 40 states, including 401 to farmers in 12 states last year.

WHEELER, HOLMAN SCORED AS INJECTING ANTI-SEMITISM IN LEND-LEASE DEBATE

WASHINGTON, March 5. (JTA) -- The term "international bankers," with emphasis on Jewish bankers, has been dragged into the controversy over the lend-lease bill by Senators Burton K. Wheeler and Rufus C. Holman, outstanding opponents of the measure.

Senator Wheeler, in a radio speech on Monday night, said: "Now we find these same international bankers with their friends, the royal refugees, and with the Sassoons of the Orient and with the Rothschilds and the Warburgs of Europe in another theme song... 'Our investments in India, Africa and Europe must be preserved. Save democracy.'"

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Senator Holman, on the floor of the Senate yesterday, asserted: "I have always deplored Hitler's ambitions as a conqueror. But he broke the control of these internationalists over the common people of Germany. It would be a good idea if the control of the international bankers over the common people of England was broken, and good if it was broken over the wages and savings of the common people of the United States."

(The New York newspaper PM, commenting on these speeches, said: "The stock Nazi charge that Jewish international bankers are responsible for Europe's war has now been adopted by lend-lease foes in the Senate making a last-ditch attack against FDR's British-aid program." The PM story was headlined: "Foes of Aid to Britain Parrot Hitler's Anti-Jewish Talk.")

It was recalled that on Feb. 21, when followers of Joe McWilliams attempted to inject anti-Semitism into an isolationist rally in New York, Senator Wheeler rebuked the effort, declaring: "I abhor intolerance, whether it be predicated upon color, race or religion."

BRITAIN PLANS DRAFT OF FOREIGN NATIONALS

LONDON, March 5. (JTA) -- Lord Privy Seal Clement Attlee announced in Commons today that it was proposed to introduce legislation by which all foreign nationals in Britain could be called up to serve with the Allied forces. A large number of refugees here would be affected by such a measure.

PALESTINE PIONEERS RECLAIM LAND BELOW SEA LEVEL

LONDON, Feb. 14. (JTA-Airmail) -- An interesting undertaking is now in full swing on the shores of the Jordan, near its confluence with the Dead Sea, writes the Jerusalem correspondent of The Jewish Chronicle. A group of 120 young men and girls have founded a settlement in the Salt Wilderness 1,200 feet below sea level. These youngsters, eighty of whom are from abroad and the remaining Palestine-born, have an average age of just under 20 years. One of them comes from New York.

There is only one concrete house, with two others under construction, a comfortable wooden dining hall, and a modern kitchen. For the rest, the pioneers live in 22 tents, four to a tent.

The settlers brought water from the Jordan and washed out the salt in the soil, reducing the content from 17 to 0.2 per cent. They have already made two-and-a-half acres cultivable, and are growing vegetables--radishes, carrots, onions, lettuce, cucumbers and tomatoes. There is a poultry-run with 250 hens and 150 ducks, a fish-breeding pool, a small carpenter's shop and smithy, and a tile-making workshop. Thirty of the settlers work for Palestine Potash, Ltd., on the Dead Sea concession.

They live in one of the lowest spots on earth. They have no electricity, no telephone, no radio. On stifling nights, such as the Dead Sea climate brings, they can have no light at all, owing to the blackout. They are pestered by sand-flies, producing the uncomfortable "Jericho boils" on the flesh.