

Jews of Western Europe Eager to Go to Palestine

(From Our Own Correspondent)

PARIS, Monday.—The majority of Jews in France are disturbed by forebodings regarding their future even after the country returns to normalcy, and they pin their hopes on immigration to Palestine. This view was expressed by delegates at a conference of all Jewish parties held in Paris.

Driven to despair by their economic plight, 27,000 Paris Jews have moved to the provinces where their prospects are somewhat better, according to a report submitted to the conference. No more than 35,000 Jews remain here, of the 55,000 registered in the first months following the city's liberation. Of those remaining, eighty per cent. are unemployed and receive their meals in communal free kitchens, and fifty per cent. are housed in hostels.

Despite the reportedly better conditions prevailing for Jews in the provinces, the majority of 16,000 Jews in Lyons are unemployed.

Belgium and Holland

(From Our Own Correspondent)

BRUSSELS, Wednesday.—Belgium Zionists have made representations to the Belgian Foreign Minister, M. Spaak, urging his intervention for settling the political status of Jewry at the San Francisco Conference.

The delegation submitted data showing that a large number of Jews in Belgium and other countries were anxious to settle in Palestine, and stressed the need for unrestricted immigration to that country.

Similar action has been taken by Dutch Zionists, who presented a memorandum to the Dutch Foreign Minister, M. Van Kleffens.

At present there are some 2,500 Jews registered with the Palestine Office in Brussels who are impatiently waiting to proceed to Palestine.

Restitution of Property

(From Our Own Correspondent)

PARIS, Monday.—The Provisional Consultative Assembly has adopted the text of the Ordinance for the restitution of property which had been seized from Jews and others under the discriminatory legislation of the Vichy regime.

The Government has also appointed a liaison officer, Professor Emile Terroine, as Chief of the Department for the Restitution of Jewish property. He will collaborate with French Jewish organisations in all matters regarding this problem.

Grant for Jewish Education

A special department has been established by the Federation of Jewish institutions in France, which will have the task of providing Jewish education, both religious and secular, for the Jewish children, who were hitherto hidden away in convents, or billeted with French peasants.

One million francs monthly will be placed at the disposal of the above department. All the funds will be spent on purely educational requirements, as Jewish education in France has been accorded priority over all the other immediate needs.

Survivors from Oswiecim

Three Jewish girls released from the notorious Oswiecim death camp have reached Paris. They are Leah Klein, Lisa Kurz, and Miriam Sharf and were repatriated through the intervention of the French Military Mission with the Polish Government in Warsaw.

The girls bore their prison numbers which had been branded on their arms by the Nazis.

Quislings Identified by Jewish Children

BRUSSELS, Monday.—The first trials of Dutch quislings charged with having assisted the German authorities in deporting Jews to death-camps in Poland, have begun at Eindhoven.

The sole witnesses against the quislings were Jewish children, hidden by Dutch patriots. These children faced the accused in court and identified them as the persons who accompanied the Germans to the hideouts and assisted in rounding up their parents.

Alien Labour

BRUSSELS, Monday.—The Belgian Socialist press has published sharp criticism of the Government's plan to recruit foreigners in Belgium for work in the coal mines of Liege and Charlesroe. The newspapers contend that this measure will mainly affect foreign Jews in Belgium. The latter have suffered enough under the German occupation and should not be exposed to new hardships, the Socialist press declares.

Jewish Gunners Inscribe Dr. Weizmann's Son

JERUSALEM, Monday.—The 14th Battery of Royal Artillery (Coastal Division, Palestinian Section), a Jewish formation, has presented to Dr. Chaim Weizmann a certificate of inscription in the Golden Book of the Jewish National Fund of Dr. Weizmann's son, Flt.-Lt. Michael Weizmann, who was lost in February, 1942, while on Coastal Command patrol over the Channel.

Field Marshal Praises Palestine Orchestra

TEL AVIV, Monday.—Writing to thank the Palestine Orchestra for its congratulations on his promotion to the rank of Field Marshal, Sir Henry Maitland-Wilson, of the British Joint Staff Mission with the Combined Chiefs of Staff in Washington, declared in a letter to Mr. S. B. Lewerhoff, Administrator of the Orchestra:

"I always look back to the spontaneous manner with which the Palestine Orchestra responded to my suggestion to give a concert to the troops during the first winter of the war. The manner in which your concerts grew in scope throughout the following years deserves the highest commendation from those of us who commanded in the Middle East on account of the benefit that accrued to our troops from them, both from the standpoint of raising their morale and their liking for good music."

JEWES LIBERATED IN CONQUERED GERMANY

(From Our Own Correspondent)

BRUSSELS, Tuesday.—The number of Jewish slave-workers, who are being freed by the advancing American and British armies is increasing daily. Up to date about 900 Jews have been identified among the 25,000 slave-workers, of various nationalities, whom the Allied armies are setting free.

In Ludwigshafen, 76 Greek Jews, 62 Italian Jews and 28 Bulgarian Jews were found among the foreign slaves. In Mainz, 40 Jewish girls, from Slovakia and 50 from Budapest, who were working in the local war factories, were among the liberated.

It has been ascertained that the Jewish slave-workers were kept separated from the non-Jewish forced-labourers throughout their stay in Germany. When liberated, the Jews were still wearing the yellow badge

with the star of the Shield of David. These Jews were treated with especial consideration by the Allied troops.

The liberated Jews say that thousands of Jewish slave-workers are still in Germany; they are being moved about constantly all over the Reich. A considerable number of them have succeeded in going into hiding awaiting the advance of the Allied armies.

Bergenbelsen Internees

The International Red Cross in Geneva is continuing its negotiations with the German authorities for the release of another batch of 3,000 Jews who had been interned in the concentration camp of Bergenbelsen.

If and when these Jews are released, it is intended to take them to Portugal by sea from where they will travel overland to Switzerland.

Prof. Patai Wins David Yellin Prize

JERUSALEM, Monday.—Professor Joseph Patai, distinguished Jewish scholar formerly of Budapest, where he was editor of the Zionist periodical "Uj Kelet," has been granted the David Yellin-Jerusalem Prize for 1945 for his work on "Herzl's Vision."

The prize, given by the Jewish Community Council of Jerusalem, went to Prof. Patai for a work in which he revealed many little-known or unknown facts of the life of the founder of modern political Zionism. Prof. Patai won his first prize 40 years ago from the Hungarian Government, enabling him to proceed to Oxford University to carry on with his Hebrew classical studies. He is now engaged upon research on the life and work of Professor David Yellin of Jerusalem.

Dr. Raphael Patai, well-known educationalist and author, who is a son of Prof. Joseph Patai, may shortly visit South Africa.

3,435 Shareholding Companies in Palestine

JERUSALEM, Monday.—At January 1, 1945, there were 3,435 shareholding companies in Palestine with a total capital of £42,535,000. During 1943 and 1944, 1,168 new companies with a registered capital of £7,400,000 were founded, and existing companies in the same period increased their capital by £6,700,000. In other words, a third of all Palestinian shareholding companies were founded in the past two years.

Successor to Ku Klux Klan

NEW YORK.—A successor to the Ku Klux Klan, calling itself the "Commoner Party," has been established in Georgia. A pamphlet outlining the organisation's aims declares that "the Commoner Party proposes the formation of a Gentile political party bloc to combat the Jew and Negro racial bloc, now active in the political affairs of the nation."

Silverites Oppose Reconciliation Committee

NEW YORK, Wednesday.—The Silver group has declared itself against the Committee which (as reported in the last issue of the "Zionist Record") was appointed by the Executive of the Zionist Organisation of America to negotiate an agreement between the Wise and Silver factions.

In a statement, the group declares that they have no confidence in the Committee because, apart from the Chairman, Mr. Louis Lipski, the four other members are all anti-Silverites.

Refugee Board to Feed Interned Jews

NEW YORK, Wednesday.—The Joint Distribution Committee announced at a Press Conference that the American War Refugee Board was initiating a huge plan for feeding Jews in German internment camps. Arrangements are being made for trucks to carry food from a neutral territory to Germany. The JDC will co-operate in this plan.

Many Poles Collaborated With Nazis

(From Our Own Correspondent)

LONDON, Wednesday.—Stefan Litauer, special correspondent of the "News Chronicle," who has just returned from Poland, discloses that a large number of Poles collaborated with the Nazis. Many of them, he says, lived a life of plenty, bribing the Gestapo and seizing confiscated property of murdered Jews.

Litauer estimates that only about 350,000 Jews are left in Poland.

BOARD OF DEPUTIES CONGRESS

Johannesburg, May 24th—27th

SOCIETIES and Institutions are reminded that the last date for notifying the Secretary of the Board of the names and addresses of their delegates to the forthcoming Congress is April 26. The last date for the receipt of resolutions and other items for the Agenda is May 2.

A constituent body is entitled to appoint as many delegates as it is entitled to appoint Deputies, viz.:

(a) 200 members or less, 1 delegate; (b) over 200 but under 300 members, 2 delegates; (c) 300 members or more, 3 delegates.

Irrespective, however, of its membership, no constituent body paying £5 5s. or less, is entitled to appoint more than one delegate, and no constituent body paying £10 10s. or less, is entitled to appoint more than two delegates.

Observance of Victory Day Appeal by Deputies' Chairman

The following statement has been issued by Mr. B. A. Ettlinger, K.C., Chairman of the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies:

"THE great event to which we are now all eagerly looking forward—the cessation of hostilities in Europe—will not, we hope, be marred by unseemly celebrations. It should be observed primarily as an occasion of thanksgiving in the Synagogues, and we hope that all Jewish congregations will make preparations for special services.

"Great as will be our joy at victory and at the lifting of the fearful cloud of anxiety and suffering, we should not in our rejoicing forget those men and women of all creeds and races who, by their supreme sacrifice, have made victory possible. Nor should we fail to remember that the toll of war has, in the case of our own people, been greater than that of any other."