

French Government Annuls Aryanisation Transactions

(From Our Own Correspondent)

PARIS, Monday.—The French Government issued a decree declaring null and void all transactions effected during the occupation with the consent of the owners, if the enemy directly or indirectly acquired property rights belonging to French individuals or corporations in France or abroad.

Many ostensibly legal sales were made during the occupation by Jews and other persons who knew that if they did not dispose of their property it would be taken from them eventually by the authorities. Up to now the Government had indicated some reluctance to invalidating such transactions.

Repatriates Form Own Association

An Association of Jews who on the outbreak of war volunteered for the French army, has been formed here.

These Jewish volunteers, who number about 3,500, are all repatriates from Germany and are not recognised as French citizens. Consequently, they and their families are suffering untold hardships, since they do not receive any support from the French authorities.

Abolition of Cremieux Law Urged

The Association of Algerian students in Paris submitted a petition to the French Government demanding the abolition of the Cremieux law, by which Algerian Jews were granted French citizenship.

The petitioners point out that this privilege to the Jews in Algeria is being regarded by the Algerian population as an insult to their national honour and as a constant source of friction between the Algerians and the Jews.

Restoration of Homes in Holland

Dutch Jews are expressing their disappointment at the failure of the Dutch Government to take practical steps for speeding up the restoration of their homes and properties, which had been confiscated under German occupation.

It has now been established that prior to their apprehension by the military authorities, the Dutch quislings sold all the houses and articles looted from the Jews to ordinary Dutchmen, thus complicating matters still more. So far the Government, reluctant to take any drastic measures for fear of exacerbating anti-Jewish feeling in the country, have not found any solution to this problem.

Of the 11,000 repatriated Jews, only 1,600 have received portion of their homes. The remainder are being accommodated in barracks.

New Thread Mills in Yishuv

TEL AVIV (By Mail).—A leading textile manufacturer in Palestine has obtained a permit to import machinery from England in order to establish the first plant of its kind in the entire Middle East. It is a mill for the production of natural silk thread. The mill will use the waste of silk produced in large quantity in Cyprus, Persia, the Lebanon, Syria and Turkey, for which no use can now be found. The mill will have 600 ordinary spindles and 300 double spindles, and will manufacture thread of various thicknesses, including the very fine. Other machinery will be made in Palestine.

The plant, in which over £100,000 will be invested, will employ 100 hands and will turn out a high-quality print natural silk. Silk thread hitherto has had to be imported from abroad.

Lichtenstein Harbours Nazi Criminals

PARIS, Tuesday.—A political crisis is brewing in the small principality of Lichtenstein because it is alleged that the country harbours many Nazi criminals and looted German funds.

It is well known that during the war German Jews paid as much as £6,000 for a Lichtenstein passport. Now many German war criminals are paying the same amount in order to escape Allied retribution.

A message from Vienna states that a new newspaper is appearing in the Austrian capital. It is entitled "Neues Oesterreich."

The paper suggests in its first issue that Jews should be employed to guard Nazis who tortured them in the concentration camps.

It also reports that the Salzburg Festival will shortly be revived and that the productions of Max Reinhardt, which were banned by the Nazis, will now be shown again.

BOSTON, Monday.—The Keren Kayemeth has handed to the director of the American J.N.F., Mr. Mendel Fisher, a cheque for one hundred thousand dollars, marking the final payment for the redemption of 6,000 dunams which will constitute the Nachlat Massachusetts settlement in Palestine. A total of 150,000 dollars has been raised.

CHAZAN-WARDEN DISPUTE

★ CAUSES CRISIS ★

(From Our Own Correspondent)

LONDON, Monday.—In the midst of the election turmoil in Britain a rather strange crisis has arisen in the official Jewish community known as the United Synagogue. The issue is a simple one: it began with a dispute which arose between a constituent Synagogue and its Chazan. The latter claimed damages before an English Court of Law against the Warden and was awarded damages which were paid by the Warden.

Subsequently the Warden sought to establish that the responsibility for his action was shared by his fellow-honorary officers. He put his claim before the Beth Din who, exercising their function, summoned the wardens of the Synagogue concerned to hear their side of the case. The hon. officers of the United Synagogue, however, gave instructions to its constituent Synagogue (Finchley Road) not to obey the summons of the Beth Din.

Indignation

The fact that the leaders of the United Synagogue had deliberately advised a constituent Synagogue to disregard a summons of the Beth Din has aroused intense indignation in wide circles of the Jewish community and the matter was hotly discussed at a meeting of the Council of the United Synagogue when a resolution was submitted stressing that it was the duty of the Council of the

Moslem Quislings To Die

(From Our Own Correspondent)

BELGRADE, Monday.—Twenty-seven Moslem Quislings, who volunteered for service with the Gestapo and assisted them in mopping-up Jews for deportation to Poland, in order to acquire their properties, have been sentenced to death by a Yugoslav Court in Sarajevo.

Anti-Semitism Condemned

A resolution against anti-Semitism and race-hatred was unanimously adopted at the Anti-Fascist Women's Congress held in Belgrade. One thousand and twelve delegates of ten countries participated.

The resolution condemned anti-Semitism as the means by which the Nazis succeeded in poisoning the minds of the European peoples. One woman delegate, Milka Simolovits, from Belgrade, recalled the millions of Jewish women and children, whom the Nazis murdered in the gas-chambers of Poland, tortured and worked to death. During the description of the Jewish tragedy many delegates wept.

Glass-Blowing Industry

JERUSALEM, Monday.—At the outbreak of war the Hebrew University set up a glass-blowing workshop for the manufacture and repair of scientific instruments and containers. Early in 1944 this enterprise was turned over to "Phoenicia" Ltd., and a workshop provided with the most modern equipment opened in Jerusalem.

The University has retained its supervision of the work, done by 18 apprentices under the guidance of an expert. This industry is the only one of its kind in the Middle East and its products can already compete in quality with foreign makes.

Rabbi Kaplan Excommunicated

Books Burned in Public

NEW YORK, Monday.—A meeting of 200 Orthodox Rabbis voted to "excommunicate" Mordecai Kaplan, leader of the "Reconstructionist Movement." The gathering ceremoniously burned Kaplan's revised Prayer Book to which they object as being contrary to the principles of the Jewish religion.

Asked by the J.T.A. to comment upon this, Dr. Kaplan said: "It is just too bad that men who call themselves Rabbis should at this day and age resort to barbarous procedure of outlawing a man without giving him a hearing and resorting to the Nazi practice of burning books that displease them. God save us from such leadership and from disgrace upon us Jews."

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Weizmann Convenes Hebrew University Meeting

JERUSALEM, Monday.—Dr. Senator, Professor Mayer, Mr. Ben David and Mr. S. Horowitz, of the Hebrew University, are leaving shortly for London to attend a meeting of the University's Board of Governors called by Dr. Weizmann for the middle of July.

Dr. Magnes has indicated that he does not intend to proceed to London for the meeting as he had at first intended.

Engel Prize Awarded to Palestine Music Composers

TEL AVIV, Monday.—The Engel Prize of £100 given by the Tel Aviv Municipality for the best original musical composition of the year was awarded for 1945 to Mordecai Starominsky for his "Sabbath Cantata," and to Mr. P. Ben-Haim for his first symphony. An honorary prize was also given to Prof. Solomon Rosowsky as an appreciation of his many contributions to Jewish music, and especially his research in Mikra melody. During the ceremony, at which the Acting Mayor, Mr. Eliezer Perlson, officiated, the Tel Aviv Choir sang excerpts from the melodies which earned the prizes.

THE FIRST OF ITS KIND

Enterprise at Eilon, a settlement on J.N.F. land in the hills of north-western Galilee, is evidenced in the designing and manufacture of a special implement for cultivating hilly soil, the first of its kind made in Palestine.

AT THE PALESTINE ART EXHIBITION



United Synagogue to advise its constituent Synagogues to obey a summons by the Jewish Court of Law.

Sir Robert Waley-Cohen, Chairman of the United Synagogue, and other Anglo-Jewish leaders, resented a proposal which made it binding for the heads of the United Synagogue to respond to a summons of the Chief Rabbinate. The discussion was of a very tense character as many members of the Council thought that a vital principle of Judaism was at stake and that whether the decision of the Beth Din was binding on an individual or not, it was inadmissible that an orthodox Jew should disregard a summons by the Beth Din. The discussion lasted over five hours, and eventually had to be adjourned.

It is seriously believed that unless the hon. officers of the United Synagogue revise their decision, a crisis is bound to result in the official Jewish community of Great Britain.