

EVENTS IN AUSTRIA

Attempts to Reconstruct Jewish Life

Appeal to be Launched in England

(By Airmail).

Vienna, March 28th.

arrests which have been a daily feature in Vienna since the advent of the new regime, continue, include, in addition to those already mentioned, the following: Dr. Kaminka, famous 75-year-old Jewish scholar, and secretary general of the Alliance Israelite in Austria. (Dr. Kaminka was the founder of the Maimonides Institute. He lectured at the Hebrew University. He is a translator of Plato and Aristotle into Hebrew); M. Maximilian, the Jewish journalist who is editor of the important weekly, "Morgen;" Dr. Carl Lothberger, professor in Vienna University Medical School; Ludwig Hirschfeld, Raoul Heimer, former member of the "Freie Presse" editorial staff; Emil Eisler and Emil Maurer, socialist lawyers, and Dr. Bianca Haardt, a prominent woman physician.

Baron Louis De Rothschild and Professor Heinrich Neumann, head ear, nose and throat specialist, have been released from the custody of the Secret Police.

It is not probable, however, that they will be able to leave the country under the existing stringent border regulations.

According to a report in the "New York Tribune," New York, the Department in Washington has succeeded in obtaining the release of Councillor Salomon Frank, former librarian of Vienna University.

In paper states, however, that the Department's appeal to the British Government to facilitate the emigration of Professor Sigmund Freud has failed.

SUICIDES.

The number of Jewish suicides continues to grow, there being as many as 112 in one day.

Peretz Smolenskin, son of the famous Jewish author, Peretz Smolenskin and his "Aryan" wife, have committed suicide.

Smolenskin, a mathematician and physicist, threw himself into the Danube. His wife cut her veins, and died.

"GHETTO BENCHES" IN THE SCHOOLS.

SSH pupils in the secondary schools of Vienna have been informed that for most of them this will be their last year of public instruction.

Immediately after the completion of a National Socialist school celebration, Jewish students were gathered in courtyards and addressed by their teachers and uniformed Brown "teachers of trust" who have

been specially detailed to the schools to supervise the welfare of the Hitler Youth organisation members.

The headmasters made very brief speeches and in several schools they seemed overcome by the distasteful duty they had to perform. They announced to the Jewish pupils that they had lost all rights under the new regime. They expressed the hope, however, that the pupils would apply themselves even more diligently to their studies. Some of these speakers were reported to have been very sympathetic. At one school where 200 Jewish parents gathered, the latter rushed up weeping to the headmaster and thanked him for his sympathy.

The Brown Shirt "teachers of trust" announced that henceforth the Jewish children would be permitted to continue visiting the schools for the rest of the year. At the end of the school term a revision would be made, in all likelihood along the lines of that in Germany where only the children of Jewish ex-servicemen are permitted to remain at the secondary schools.

They further mentioned that in such schools where separate Jewish classes exist, these classes would continue. In schools where there were not enough Jewish pupils to warrant separate classes, "ghetto benches" would be introduced in the classrooms.

CONSULATES THROGGED FOR VISAS.

FOLLOWING a warning by General Field-Marshal Goering that Vienna was to be "speedily but mercilessly Aryanised economically as well as culturally," thousands of Jews again thronged the American and British Consulates seeking opportunities for flight.

The fact that all emigration for Jews has been definitely suspended until after the plebiscite on April 10, does not deter the crowd who form long queues outside the Consulates' doors from early morning.

The British Consulate admitted the applicants in groups of a hundred, handing out application forms and information relative to immigration requirements for all parts of the British Empire. In four days, more than 6,000 applications were received for visas for Australia alone.

Mr. Cordell Hull's statement regarding Austrian refugees was almost completely ignored by the German press, and reports concerning it are travelling by word of mouth throughout the community.

ECONOMIC POSITION.

VIENNA Jewry is still waiting for the removal of the official barricades which separate it from any, but the most sparse, charitable assistance. One of the three Jewish soup kitchens now functioning is feeding three times as many persons as it formerly did. A second kitchen has been operating at full capacity for some time, but the third has very limited capacity. In all, the kitchens cannot do more than alleviate an infinitesimal part of the acute distress of the Vienna Jews.

So desperate is the position of the Jews that the most fantastic rumours gain rapid circulation and credence, raising hopes of assistance that are inevitably doomed to disappointment with the next crop of rumours.

The first official recognition of the desperate plight of Austrian Jewry was given by the National Socialist Commissar of the Austrian Theatre Guild, Herr Valberg, who empowered a group of Jewish theatrical people to launch a campaign on behalf of jobless Jewish actors. It is estimated that at least 300 are in need of immediate help.

RECONSTRUCTING THE JEWISH COMMUNITY.

THE slow task of rebuilding on a new and strictly proscribed basis the shattered Austrian Jewish community began with a conference between a number of Jewish leaders and the Nazi Secret Police. The meeting was called by the police.

It is understood that the Jewish representation was divided roughly into two groups — Zionists and non-Zionists. The Jews left the conference with the understanding that they were to prepare written reports on the activities of their various organisations. It is assumed that the police will scrutinise these reports carefully and, acting upon them, lay down regulations for the future activities of the Jewish organisations and

particularly of the Palestine Office, whose representatives, it is understood, remained at the conference after the other groups had dispersed.

THE PURGE IN CULTURAL LIFE.

VIENNESE theatres and concert halls present a profoundly altered aspect following the brief but thorough "Aryanisation" drive engineered by the new regime. Within a few days scores of names long familiar to Austrian audiences have disappeared from programmes and bill-boards.

Aside from Bruno Walter, the State Opera has lost the following Jews: Conductor Joseph Krips; director Dr. Lothar Wallerstein; first ballet mistress Margaret Walmann and first concert master Professor Arnold Rose. In addition, the opera has lost the singers Else Flesch and Margaret Boker, and at least twenty Jewish or part Jewish orchestra members.

The Burgtheatre has lost its director, Hermann Roebbeling, who is himself "Aryan," but who has a Jewish wife and who presented the plays of many Jewish authors. Other well-known Jews, some of whom are converted, dropped from Burgtheater programmes, are director Friedrich Rosenthal, Else Wohlgenut, Lore Solvis, Lilli Karoly and Maria Kramer, Hans Wengraf and Franz Strassni.

ASSISTANCE FOR AUSTRIAN JEWRY.

London, March 28th.

A PRELIMINARY meeting has been held at New Court under the chairmanship of Mr. Anthony de Rothschild, to consider the position of the Jews in Austria.

It was decided to take immediate steps to launch an appeal, and a further announcement will be made in the near future.

A BOYCOTT OF AUSTRIAN COMMODITIES.

London, March 28th.

SIR FREDERICK MARQUIS, chairman of the great department store of Lewis's, of Liverpool, announced that his firm would boycott German and Austrian goods.

"I will scour every market in the world," Sir Frederick said, "before I will do anything to contribute to the economic well-being of a country that is content to have a man at its head who deliberately, maliciously and cruelly persecutes one of the oldest races in the world."

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