

BOYCOTT OF AUSTRIAN REFUGEES

Prague, May 13th.

Czecho-Slovak Government has rejected the intercession of a group of French Social Democrats in favour of Austrian Jews who are stranded on a French tug on the Danube.

Government still insists on its refusal to grant the refugees permission to land "for reasons of principle."

BELGIUM TO DEPORT AUSTRIAN REFUGEES

Brussels, May 15th.

Belgian Minister of Justice has issued a statement regarding the recent prohibition of the French, Dutch and other governments of the entry of refugees from Austria.

Belgian Government, the Minister declares, is now faced with the position that a large number of aliens who for political reasons were forced to leave their own country, wish to enter Belgium in an illegal way. For this reason the Belgian Government has decided to strengthen its frontier patrols, and every alien who enters the country in an illegal way will be at once deported.

"RESPONDANCE JUIVE"

Geneva, May 16th.

First number of "Correspondance Juive" published under the auspices of the World Jewish Congress, has appeared.

"Correspondance Juive" is to be a periodically objective information and statements on Jewish life and the relations of Jews with the nations. It is more especially for the political and diplomatic activities, of the press, the cultural and social world and Jewish organisations.

"THE EXILES"

Hollywood, May 13th.

MAX GOLDWYN, head of Goldwyn-Mayer, has made an announcement that he is producing a film about the exiling of German Jews.

The film is to be entitled "The Exiles" and will feature Jascha Heifetz.

Overseas News in Brief

Received by Air Mail

Effects of Nazi Rule in Germany

Position of Jewish Community To-day

Prague, May 13th.

THE report of the Reichsverwaltung der Juden in Deutschland for 1937 states that it is estimated that the total Jewish population in Germany has decreased from 499,682 in 1933 to 350,000 at the end of 1937.

The losses of various communities differ greatly. The decrease in the large cities like Berlin and Cologne was, of course, much less than that in the smaller communities. Berlin lost only about 20,000 people and is still the residence of 140,000 Jews. This is due to the strong drift from the provinces to the capital.

The decrease in the population has been accompanied by a weakening of the economic strength of the Jewish communities.

Out of 1,400, no less than 309 have had to be recognised as being in need. Such communities do not pay their share for emigration and training purposes. Three hundred and three other communities have been recognised as being partly in need. Petitions from 120 towns to be placed in the category of needy communities are now being studied.

During the year further numerous communities were liquidated. By the end of 1937, 60 of the 260 communities which formerly existed in Hesse had been dissolved. The situation is the same all over the country. The small and medium-sized communities are gradually disappearing. In 1933 there were 67 communities with over 500 Jews each. At the end of 1937 there remained but 52 such communities.



Arturo Toscanini last month re-visited Palestine, accompanied by Eronislav Hubermann, the world-famous violinist and founder of the Palestinian Orchestra. The picture, taken in front of Dr. Weizmann's house in Rehovoth, shows Dr. Weizmann in the forefront, with Hubermann, on the extreme right, and Toscanini between them.

THE POSITION IN HUNGARY

Budapest, May 15th.

NO radical changes in the Jewish policy are expected as a result of the resignation of Dr. Kalamán Daranyi and the formation of a new Cabinet under Dr. Imredi.

The Jewish Bill, the second reading of which was passed by 30 votes against 10 by the Lower House, is not expected to be affected by the change of Government. It is possible, however, that the Upper House may introduce some favourable amendments.

The ten members who voted against the Bill included Social Democrats, Democrats and a few Independents.

The Bill is now being considered by the Committee of the Lower House. An amendment was adopted by the Committee exempting the children of parents who were baptised before August 1, 1919, from the provisions of the Law. All the children of such parents are to be considered as Christians.

A "REFERENDUM" AND NOT "PLEBISCITE"

New York, May 13th.

IN RESPONSE to the widespread criticisms of its plebiscite plan, the American Jewish Congress has decided to alter its form and to leave only one question out of the proposed four.

The question which its members will be asked will be whether they favour the formation of a Union on a democratic basis of all Jewish organisations in America for the defence of Jewry.

The questionnaire to be sent out by the American Jewish Congress will not refer to the establishment of a Jewish State or the continuation of the anti-German boycott.

The term "plebiscite" has also been dropped in favour of "referendum."

GERMANY REJECTS AMERICAN NOTE

New York, May 15th.

IT is reported here from Berlin that the German Government has rejected the protest of the United States Government against the decree issued by Field-Marshal Goering forcing German and foreign Jews to declare their property in Germany. The German Government, it is stated, has asserted its right to discriminate against Jews of whatever nationality.