

Decline of Immigration to Biro Bidjan.

NEGLECT OF RESPONSIBILITY BY AUTHORITIES.

Moscow.

Three thousand one hundred and ninety persons, comprising 622 families and 892 single persons, were sent out to Biro-Bidjan, the Jewish settlement area in Siberia, during 1933, according to the official report just published.

The original quota for the year was 25,000 persons, but this was cut down to 17,000, and in the second half of the year to 7,000, and it was found impossible to fill even half that quota. It was planned to send out 3,000 persons during the fourth quarter of the year, but only 498 were actually sent.

As for settlers from abroad, the report says that the only foreign emigrants to Biro-Bidjan this year were those who went out to join members of their family already settled in Biro-Bidjan previously.

Nor did all who were sent out reach Biro-Bidjan, the report goes on. More than forty families were sent back when they arrived in Moscow, because they were found unfit for settlement work in Biro-Bidjan, and many more were sent back from Biro-Bidjan, while a number of others returned on their own account, or proceeded to other places in the Far East.

Reference to Law Courts?

The Yiddish Communist organ "Emes" puts the blame for the failure on the local branches of the Ozet (Jewish Colonisation Society). The representatives both of the Ozet and the Comzet (Government Commission for Jewish Settlement) in a number of towns like Kamenetz, Podolsk, Uman, Odessa, Tulchin and Vinice, will have to answer for their neglect of responsibility to the Law Courts, it says.

The settlement quota for 1934 has been fixed at between 10,000 and 12,000 migrants. It is believed in official quarters that the recent action of the authorities exempting the population of the Far East from certain Government dues for a number of years will stimulate the Biro-Bidjan movement, and make it more successful this year.

The Biro-Bidjan movement for the present year has just started, with the setting out of a group of forty-eight transmigrants from Shklov, and several smaller groups from other places.

Cheaper Travelling via Greece to Palestine.

Salonica.

Following representations made by ex-Senator Asher Mallah, the President of the Zionist Organisation of Greece, the Government has decided to reduce by half the fees levied on travellers proceeding from Europe to Palestine, embarking at the Port of Salonica. It is hoped that in this way about 20,000 Jews annually will be induced to make use of Salonica Port, thus helping to restore the prosperity of this now declining port.

Bronislaw Huberman Speaks of Palestine.

"A PARADISE ON EARTH."

London.

"I come from a country that may truly be considered a Paradise on earth—Palestine," Bronislaw Huberman, the famous violinist, who has just returned from a concert tour in Palestine, said at a reception given by Mrs. Dugdale and Mrs. Lyttleton.

"I am a keen Pan-European," he went on. "I was never enthusiastic about the idea of the most European nation in the world, the Jews, going to live in an Asiatic country. But what I have seen in Palestine has made me enthusiastic. Nowhere else can such idealism, such enthusiasm be seen. True, there are individual idealists to be found everywhere. But mass idealism, collective idealism, as it exists in Palestine, cannot be found in any country in the world. That is one of the reasons why I no longer see any incompatibility between my Pan-Europeanism and Palestine.

"What I saw in Palestine I regard as a new and better Europe. There is an idealism that will perhaps also pull its weight in getting Europe out of the chaos in which it finds itself. And if ever a Pan-Europe is achieved, it will be the wealthier for another federative state—Palestine. To-day Palestine is the one really European oasis in Asia.

Cultural Life of the Yishub.

"I gave twelve concerts in Palestine which were attended by a total of 18,000 people,

and each was sold out. If we include the thousands that could not gain admission, this means that there is in Palestine a concert-going public of some 30,000—an enormous number when one considers that the total Jewish population of the country is only a quarter of a million, men, women and children. This is a proportion of five or ten times higher than in any other country I know of. It speaks volumes for the cultural life of the Yishub, as do a number of other factors. The library of the Hebrew University, for example, which was founded only ten years ago, is now the largest library of the white race in Asia or Africa. And the cultural ideals even among the so-called peasants are such as can only be found among the upper ten thousand elsewhere. I feel that Palestine is the first country at last emerging from the 'class' culture of Europe, and is creating a culture embracing the whole people.

"I do not criticise the fact that reproaches are made against the Mandatory Power. I can understand that some sections of the population feel that they must express their dissatisfaction. But we Jews should never forget that it was England that after two thousand years of exile pronounced the liberating words, Jewish National Home, or forget the expressions of friendship and sympathy that were heard in the British Parliament in connection with the Nazi persecution of the Jews. We should value this friendship, and overcome our differences."

Pope Denounces Hitlerism.

PAGAN TENDENCIES AND UNCHRISTIAN PRIDE.

London.

The statement that the "Pope is taking a deep interest in the Jewish question and is seriously perturbed about what is happening in Germany," which was made by Prince Hubertus zu Loewenstein (reported in our columns last week) is borne out by reports in the press that the Pope has uttered his first public criticisms of the Hitler regime, and that his utterance has made a great impression.

Prince Hubertus zu Loewenstein also said, "I can tell you from personal knowledge that the Vatican is at this moment preparing an Encyclical on this question."

"At this moment," the Pope is reported to have said, "there is in Germany an exaltation of thoughts, ideas, and practices which are neither Christian nor humane, an exaltation of pride of race which can only produce a pride of life contrary to the Christian spirit and even to the spirit of humanity."

Boycott of J.N.F. and Keren Hayesod.

REVISIONIST DECISION.

Paris.

The Executive of the Revisionist World Organisation has proclaimed a boycott of the Jewish National Fund and the Keren Hayesod, following a notification that the Zionist Executive has decided not to grant any immigration certificates to Revisionists, and not to recognise Revisionist Hachsharah.

This action was taken by the Zionist Executive, it is understood, as a reprisal against a suggestion by the Revisionist Brith Trumpeldor that Brith Trumpeldorites should refuse Jewish Agency immigration certificates out of the present schedule as a protest against the immigration policy.

The Revisionist Executive intends also to take proceedings in the Zionist Court against the refusal to grant Revisionist immigration certificates, claiming that the decision is illegal.

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