

AJR INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE
ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

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LET RIGHT BE DONE

When, during the War, the Executive of the AJR tentatively discussed whether any restitution or compensation to the Jews would be feasible after the end of hostilities, a member remarked: "If the future Germany pays pensions to her post-war railway-men but does not compensate the Nazi victims, the War would be morally lost."

One was reminded of this incident when reading certain "Letters to the Editor" in German papers at Christmas time. Former army officers, civil servants, or pensioners complained that while the salaries or pensions of many other groups had been increased, their particular group had been left empty-handed. Without mincing their words, these writers demanded what they considered their due. We wonder whether any of them, when reminding the German authorities and the German public of their plight, gave any thought to their former Jewish fellow-citizens. Thirteen or more years have gone since the family doctor had been forced to give up his practice and since the business man whose customers they used to be had to sell his store. These Jews have been absent for so long and are so far away, somewhere overseas, that nobody seems interested in what has become of them.

Hardships of Emigration

Emigration was always a hard necessity, mostly enforced by economic circumstances. Expulsion—to use the right word for what happened to the German Jews—was disastrous for those who had to leave their country, destitute, deprived of their property, their savings, and their professions. The middle-class structure of German Jewry proved detrimental to their integration in the new countries. Neither was the age of most refugees favourable to an easy adjustment on foreign soil. It was difficult for the business man or lawyer to find a niche in the new country by working as a clerk, and competition on the labour market was utterly impossible for bank-managers or insurance brokers who were sixty or older when they arrived in Bolivia, Australia or England, for that matter.

The "Council for the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Jews from Germany" has often proudly stated that the former German Jews have, on the whole, proved an asset to the countries that have given them shelter. But it also knows that many thousands of Jewish refugees from Germany have not succeeded in finding their place in the countries of adoption and are far from being settled. It is the aged and those for whose qualifications no "international market" exists who are still in a precarious economic position. Many need public assistance and additional help from the Jewish communities or from the associations and charitable organisations which the German Jews themselves have formed in the countries of their dispersion.

Their last hope to improve their lot centres around the term "Compensation." Compensation for loss of liberty, for damage to health, property, or economic advancement, for loss of insurance

BERLIN COMPENSATION LAW

The Berlin Senate has prepared an amendment to the Berlin Compensation Law which, *inter alia*, provides for the extension of the present time limit for the submission of claims (February 8, 1952). The proposed amendment was submitted to the "Stadtverordneten-Versammlung" of January 17. As, however, some of the proposed new clauses were controversial, the Debate was adjourned to the next Session. Claimants are reminded that the time limit is also kept if they first submit informal registrations without using the prescribed forms but indicating the type of claims.

policies for which they had saved throughout their life. Compensation, however, must not be considered as alms, as a gift which the successors of the Hitler regime might present out of generosity to some victims in special need. The claim for compensation is of right. He who has been deprived of his livelihood and of his possessions and who has been expelled from his country must be compensated quickly and as generously as possible, or the War has to be considered as morally lost.

Of the seven German Laender which so far have enacted compensation laws, only one, the Land Wuerttemberg-Baden, seems to regard a speedy implementation of the law as a moral duty. The Laender Bavaria and Hesse—we are sorry to say—are not fulfilling their obligations under the compensation laws towards claimants abroad.

British Zone without Compensation Laws

Even worse is the situation in the British Zone. There, each of the four Laender has enacted a law providing for compensation for loss of liberty. But the respective laws apply only to residents. General compensation laws following the pattern of the laws in the American Zone or in Berlin do not exist in the British Zone. The Land North-Rhine/Westphalia, which contributes 31 per cent of the total revenue of the Bund, has just submitted a Thirteenth Bill providing highly inadequate compensation to residents and excluding emigrés from the outset. The "Council of Jews from Germany" has time and again protested against such travesty of justice. A Land which has spent almost DM. 200,000,000 to compensate its residents for loss of liberty must not be allowed to get away with the excuse that, for the time being, its financial position does not permit to pay compensation to emigrés. The Council has been informed by the competent authorities that compensation to emigrés might be introduced by later legislation. Without wishing to cast doubts upon the sincerity of these intentions, the Council regrets to state that a further protraction of legislation on compensation for emigrés could not be brooked. We have men-

tioned the many aged among us who have no time left to wait for the assistance to which they are morally entitled. With some goodwill the funds could be found to indemnify the remnants or heirs of those 60,000 Jews who in 1933 lived in North-Rhine/Westphalia.

The Council of Jews from Germany will insist on the completion of German legislation concerning compensation, and on the implementation of the existing laws. It will see to it that the compensation rights of the individual claimants once secured are safeguarded.

Reparations and Individual Claims

Some anxiety has been expressed lest reparations Germany is going to pay to the State of Israel might impair compensation to individuals. We are glad to say that these misgivings are unfounded. The organisations which in New York have formed the "Conference on Jewish Claims" are without exception agreed on their demand that restitution and compensation claims of individuals are a matter apart from reparations and have to be fulfilled individually.

Important as compensation is, it will not entirely solve the social problems which the uprooting of German Jewry has created. At the most, 20 per cent of the material losses will be refunded. The recipient residing abroad will not even get the full benefit from this small amount because, by selling his blocked D-Mark, he will incur further losses. There is unfortunately ample necessity for relief work among German Jews abroad. German Jewry once prided itself on its fine social institutions. It was able to care for all social needs, but the sources from which it used to draw to provide this assistance are no longer available.

When, some years ago, the Council of Jews from Germany took an active part in the preparation of restitution laws, it agreed with other Jewish bodies on the establishment of restitution successor organisations. They were to be founded for the explicit purpose of barring the successor of the German Reich from the right of inheritance. The estate of the unfortunate victims of Hitler's gas chambers should not fall into the hands of a State in whose name they had been murdered. For the American Zone of Germany a Jewish Restitution

Continued on page 2

INDEMNIFICATION BILL FOR EMIGRATED OFFICIALS DRAFTED

A Bill providing for the indemnification of emigrated former civil servants and public employees has been submitted by the Federal German Government to the Bundestag. It lays down that the regulations of the Indemnification Law for Members of the Public Services of May 11, 1951 (Inlandsbeamtengesetz) should in principle also apply to former civil servants abroad. It is one of the important features of the "Inlandsbeamtengesetz," the first indemnification law promulgated by the German Federal Republic and not by the Laender, that it covers all former civil servants who had been dismissed by a German Authority wherever they may have been resident. In so far as the "Inlandsbeamtengesetz" and the proposed new law for emigrated civil servants go beyond the existing indemnification laws of the German Laender.

According to the proposed law emigrated former civil servants may also be indemnified if they have lost their German nationality. The applicant must have taken his residence abroad before May 23, 1949, and must live in a country which has been recognised by the German Federal Republic. Whilst it is the main object of the "Inlandsbeamtengesetz" to indemnify the dismissed civil servant by employing him again, the emigrated former civil servant may, three months after having submitted his claim, apply for his retirement. He is then deemed to have retired on April 1, 1951. For the

time between April 1, 1950, and April 1, 1951, he receives a compensation.

The proposed law applies to all members of the German Public Services (civil servants, employees, workmen) who have suffered damage in their position as victims of the Nazi persecution. It does not apply to German nationals who have acquired their German nationality by the annexation of Austria.

The law refers to civil servants of "Gebietskoerperschaften" (Laender, Provinzen, Landkreise, Stadtgemeinden). It may be extended by special order to other units, e.g., "Koerperschaften des oeffentlichen Rechts."

The civil servant is awarded the pension which would have been due to him if he had still been in office on April 1, 1951. To assess the amount, promotions which in the ordinary way would have taken place are to be taken into account.

Liable for indemnification is the Public Employer ("Dienstherr"). If this Public Employer does not any longer exist within the Federal territory, the Bund is liable.

Applications are to be submitted to the appropriate German Consulate or, in countries without a Consulate, to the German Foreign Office in Bonn.

Whilst all these regulations will only come into force if and when the proposed law has been adopted by the Bundestag, applications for single or current support may be submitted to the Consulate already now in cases of need.

Continued from front page.

Successor Organisation (JRSO) was formed, the American Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency acting as operating agents. For more than three years this organisation has registered and secured title to heirless and unclaimed property of Jews in Germany as well as communal property. It has concluded global settlements with three of the four Laender of the American Zone; these settlements and the sale of restituted property will yield considerable funds.

When giving its consent to the establishment of successor organisations as they are now set up in the American and British Zones as well as in Berlin and are also going to start their work soon in the French Zone, the Council of Jews from Germany took it for granted that some of the proceeds of the restituted property would be used for the social benefit of the expelled German Jews.

Our Claim to our Heritage

For more than two years the Council of Jews from Germany has repeatedly submitted to the Executive of JRSO its claim for a participation in the JRSO proceeds. This claim is a very modest one indeed. The property from which the funds derive was built up by many generations of German Jews, and it would have been feasible and fair to suggest at the time when the Restitution laws were made, that the entire funds should accrue to the representatives of the Jews in Germany and to the Council of Jews from Germany. German Jewry, however, wished to uphold its fine tradition of giving generously wherever a Jewish cause called for assistance. Even in its darkest years German Jews had donated large sums for Jewish social purposes, especially for Israel, then Palestine, though German Jewry, for the first time in her history, had to accept help from the international Jewish relief organisations. Now that the history of German Jewry has virtually come to an end, the Council wanted to requite this assistance. The Executive of the Council held the view that the main portion of the acquired JRSO funds should be used by the operating agents for the benefit of Israel. Part, however, should be handed over to the Council for its own social purposes, especially for the establishment of Old Age Homes. There is a primary need for such homes in all countries where German Jews have found refuge. This applies to Israel, where the Irgun Oley Merkaz Europa, one of the organisations of German Jews affiliated to the Council, has already built Parents' Homes from its own funds, but where the demand for further homes is still as great as in the United Kingdom, in the United States and in some South American countries. Other social schemes have been submitted to the Council by its member organisations all over the world, such as the establishment of loan departments on a non-profit-making basis, of social centres, of memorial libraries and, last but not least, of research projects on the history of German Jewry. For lack of means, none of these schemes has so far been carried out.

The funds to meet these requirements are there, accrued from Jewish sources in Germany. But so far not even a small proportion has been made available to the Council of Jews from Germany, in spite of its repeated urgent appeals and of the impressive plea of its President, Rabbi Dr. Baeck, before the New York Executive of JRSO on November 7, 1951.

A Dangerous Precedent

"It is a great rule in Jewish history," said Dr. Baeck, "that what to-day happens to one group of Jews to-morrow happens to others. Everyone takes a share in the Jewish tragedy. We speak to-day of heirless property; but as long as there are people, offspring of those who built up the assets here involved, we cannot really speak of heirless property. One ought to be afraid of creating a possible precedent. Someone one day might say that it was permissible to confiscate Jewish property—Jews themselves have done the same."

Dr. Baeck did not ask for any given amount of money. He did not say that the remnants of German Jewry had either a first or second claim on the JRSO funds. All he asked for was that the German Jews should not be overlooked.

Nevertheless the matter was postponed for a year, as for the time being—so the operating agents of JRSO argued—the urgent needs of Israel and of pending relief programmes were much too pressing.

The Council is glad to state that, in contradistinction to JRSO, the Executive Committee of the Jewish Trust Corporation has, in principle, recognised the claim of German Jewry to a share

RESTITUTION NEWS

REPARATION NEGOTIATIONS WITH GERMANY

After a heated debate the Israeli Parliament decided with 61 against 50 votes and 5 abstentions in favour of direct negotiations with Germany about the reparation question. The decision was welcomed by the German Federal Government in a statement published in the *Bundesanzeiger* of January 12. Referring to Dr. Adenauer's Declaration of September 27, the statement repeats that the German Government and the majority of the German people realised their moral and material obligations towards the Jews, and expresses the hope that the negotiations with Israel may help to fulfil these obligations.

COMPENSATION FOR SHANGHAI GHETTO INMATES

The Landgericht Berlin has decided that former inmates of the Shanghai Ghetto were entitled to compensation for loss of freedom under the Berlin Compensation Law. Whilst the representative of the Berlin Senate maintained that the establishment of the Shanghai Ghetto was solely due to orders of the Japanese authorities, the Law Court declared that the concentration in the Ghetto was due to German instructions.

PAYMENT OF TRAVEL EXPENSES FROM BLOCKED ACCOUNTS

According to a Circular Letter of the *Bank Deutscher Laender* of December 18, 1951, the payments of German Banks in the territory of the German Federal Republic and the Western Sectors of Berlin to persons residing abroad for travel expenses are limited to the duration of the actual stay in Germany. If the traveller stays in Germany for a long time, the bank has to pay the amounts needed, not at once but in appropriate instalments. A period of not more than 10 days is considered appropriate for advance payments.

IMPORT OF GERMAN SECURITIES New General Licence

On December 15, 1951, the *Bank Deutscher Laender* issued a General Licence No. 61/51 according to which securities in German currency may be sent by post from abroad to a bank in the territory of the German Federal Republic and either sold or deposited. The competent Landeszentralbank may grant the owner the free disposal of the securities, if the owner proves that he obtained the securities after May 8, 1945, by right of inheritance or in pursuance of a restitution law enacted in the German Federal Republic or in the Western Sectors of Berlin or acquired with a licence in accordance with the currency regulations from a person residing outside Germany.

in the proceeds to be acquired by the Trust Corporation from heirless, unclaimed and communal property in the British Zone of Germany.

Pension for Community Officials

Closely connected with this problem is the claim of former employees of Jewish communities for their pensions. The Jewish communities in Germany, whom some of these rabbis and teachers served for the best part of their lives, either do no longer exist, or are not successors of the dissolved communities. The Jewish Successor Organisations have been authorised by the Restitution Laws to claim communal property. On account of this authorisation the Successor Organisations will obtain the property of the former Jewish communities. It is a generally recognised legal principle that he who takes over assets has also to discharge the obligations contingent on these assets.

The Council considers it a legal and moral obligation of the Successor Organisations to pay the former employees of Jewish communities in Germany their pensions, as far as the assets obtained from Jewish communal property suffice to make these payments and as long as neither the Bund nor the Laender accept this obligation.

The Council would fail in its duty towards the remnants of German Jewry if it did not persevere in its endeavours to secure for them a share in the proceeds of the property which their kin built up.

The last chapter of the history of German Jewry must not be closed with the distribution of the property of the dead to the virtual exclusion of the survivors.

WUERTEMBERG STARTS COMPENSATION PAYMENTS

On 14th January, 1952, the Government of the Land Wuerttemberg - Baden promulgated the Ordinance according to which all claims under the Compensation Law are due if and as soon as the claimant has reached the age of sixty. For the time being claims covering damages in the field of private insurance are, however, excluded. Claims covering the payment of special levies and taxes are restricted to the amount of DM 75,000. With the Ordinance, the Compensation Department of Wuerttemberg-Baden declares, the Government wishes to remove the anxiety of many aged persecutees that they might not live to see reparation of the wrongs done to them.

INQUIRIES WITH FINANZAEMTER

Claimants who wish to obtain information from District "Finanzaemter" in Berlin about the payment of Jew taxes, etc., should always give detailed particulars of their place of residence in Berlin. They should also mention their former addresses if they had changed their residence inside Berlin after 1933. This is, according to information from URO, Berlin, highly essential, because the files of the "Finanzaemter" are not kept in alphabetical order according to the names of the persons concerned, but in regional order according to their addresses.

"URKUNDEN" FROM EASTERN GERMANY

According to the *Deutsche Zeitung* some registers ("Personenstandsregister") of Eastern former German territory have been saved and are now in Berlin, Hamburg and Hanover. The Hauptstaatsamt Hamburg, Abteilung I B, Warburgstr. 11 is in possession of some registers from Eastern and Western Prussia, Pomerania, Silesia and Stettin. The Berlin Hauptarchiv Berlin-Dahlemer Archivstr. 12-14, holds registers from several Eastern Prussian places. Documents referring to Pomerania, Eastern and Western Prussia are also supposed to be deposited in the Eastern Zone of Germany, e.g., files of the Standesamt Koenigsberg at the Standesamt Lubmin near Greifswald, of Allenstein and Schlawe at the Saechsische Landesarchiv Dresden N.8, Archivstrasse 14, and various Eastern German registers at the Standesamt I, Berlin C, Stralauerstr. 42/43.

It is understood that these offices are trying to provide assistance to persons who have to submit evidence about pre-1945 registrations in Eastern Germany.

ANTI-RESTITUTION TRENDS

The Organisation for the Protection of Restituted Property in Hesse has declared that the Restitution Law had not repaired the wrongs inflicted upon the Jews, but had added further injustice in a tremendous number of cases. The Organisation calls upon the "Bund" to indemnify hundreds of thousands of honest German persons for the damage they have suffered by the fateful "den Morgenthau-Gesetz" "amenden" restitution laws.

JEWISH LAWYERS' CONFERENCE IN GERMANY

At the meeting of Jewish Lawyers of Western Germany and Berlin which took place in Duesseldorf on December 15, Ministerialdirektor Kuestner, the "Staatsbeauftragte" for restitution in Wuerttemberg-Baden, described the fight for restitution as an effort to re-establish Germany's honest. Addresses were *inter alia* also given by the Federal Ministers of Justice and of Interior Dr. Dehler and Dr. Lehr and by the Ministers for North-Rhine-Westphalia Dr. Amelunxen and Dr. Flecken.

In his report about the principles of restitution legislation Dr. H. G. van Dam, General Secretary of the "Zentralrat" of the Jews in Germany, protested against any proposed laws which excluded the emigrated Nazi victims from indemnification.

The Conference which was organised by Karl Marx, editor of the *Allgemeine Wochenzeitung der Juden in Deutschland*, decided to establish an "Arbeitsgemeinschaft" of Jewish Lawyers in the Federal Republic and in Berlin. It was presided over alternately by Dr. A. Weinberg, Duesseldorf, and Dr. B. Ostertag, Stuttgart.

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**YOUTH MOVEMENT
HATRED**

In a statement issued by
Organisations in Germany
Jewish Cemeteries and anti-Se
even in educational institutions
closed. The statement also appe
of the youth groups to establish
with Jewish children who often
their non-Jewish environment.

Bremen. 500.000 DM. have b
Land Bremen to its local Jewish
damage to buildings and institutions
affect individual claims.

Mannheim. In honour of the
Hachenburg a Memorial Meeting w
the auspices of the Mannheim
addresses were given by the Mayor
Dr. Heimerich, by Professor Dr. Eug
Heidelberg University, and by the
Chamber of Lawyers for North
Saxony-Anhalt and Prussian
Provincial Waldeck.

Bonn. Geheimrat Dr. Philippson, P
geography at Bonn University, recently
the 60th Jubilee of his academic career.
Philippson, who is now 88 years old, spent
years in Theresienstadt and, in spite of his a
age, lectured again during the 1946/47 terr

Wuppertal. The Hon. President of the
Community, Rechtsanwalt Gustav Brueck, r
celebrated his 75th birthday. He has been con
with the work of the Community for more th
years as its Chairman and, recently, as its
President. He was a courageous friend and
many fellow-Jews, especially during the de
period and was brought into a forced l
camp in September, 1944. After his return
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SH YEARBOOK 1952

on of the Jewish Yearbook follows
its predecessors. The column
Refugee Assistance Organisations"
art from the AJR as the representa-
on of the Jews from Germany and
are societies of Baltic, Czechoslovak,
ogoslav Jews in this country. Two new
s of the Royal Society (F.R.S.) were
1, and both of them are of Continental
bert Froehlich, Professor of Theoretical
Liverpool (born in Rexingen, Wurttem-
lbert Neuberger, Member of the Medical
ouncil (born in Hassfurt, Bavaria). The
n of the Who's Who for a publication
nd is bound to be an ungratifying task,
both personalities of world fame and
local communal workers have to be
e. Nevertheless, it should not be impossible
a certain proportion between the length
biographical notes and the standing of the
to whom they refer. At present, the refer-
Weizmann is shorter than the biographies
e, however meritorious, honorary officers or
ries who happen to sit on a number of more
s important committees. But these minor
omings do not impair the value of the Jewish
book as an indispensable, reliable guide.

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C. C. Aronsfeld: A REFUGEE IN LEEDS

When I came to Leeds in the summer of 1934, it was for the purpose of learning the sewing machine trade. I was to be a mechanic, and a Jewish firm kindly agreed to train me. I owed this useful appointment to the indefatigable efforts of the Refugees Committee then operating at Woburn House. The arrangement was that I should repay the amply granted hospitality by quitting the country at the end of twelve months. In the event, I stayed three years, and as for my hosts, I repaid my debt by becoming one of them.

I must have been one of the earliest refugees to arrive in Leeds. I knew of a lady from Berlin who was, I think, foreign correspondent at a firm in Dewsbury, and then there was Miss Martha Steinitz, who really belonged to a very different category. She had been in Leeds since 1925 and was then lecturing on the history of art, as well as teaching German at the Swarthmore Educational Settlement, a Quaker institution.

After a short while I was joined by another prospective mechanic, and we used to know two budding cutters who, like a substantial portion of Leeds Jewry, worked in clothing factories. We would meet on Fridays when we called on the Committee's Viceroy, an affluent tailor, to collect the handsome gratuity of 10s., a most welcome addition to my weekly wage of 28s. 5d. net.

Mr. Micawbersky was one of the comparatively few native Jews I knew personally, apart from the family with whom I was staying (full board) at the not unreasonable charge of 22s. 6d. My employer, of course, was a Jew, though severely unconcerned with any but business matters. I had, however, the good fortune of being introduced to Professor Brodetsky, and in his house I spent many agreeable hours, in common with other young men, mostly students, who were frequently invited. The Professor often spoke of his own student days in Leipzig and with gentle sarcasm described his encounters then, 40 years ago, with the local Central-Verein, though as far as the Jews were concerned, he "loved the human form" in all alike. He never tired of emphasizing the essential oneness of all Jews. I remember how he once startled us by explaining that, whatever the experts of raceology and the theorists of theology might say, he thought that a Jew was simply anybody who called himself a Jew.

He enjoyed the very highest regard among both Jews and non-Jews. Among my workmates in the factory he was known as a famous Leeds Jew and

respected as a gallant champion of his people. Naturally, the ordinary Jew did not always readily share in the breadth of his vision. Sympathy for the refugees from Germany was never entirely free from sentiments bordering on Schadenfreude, for all but a very few Leeds Jews had come from Russia and passed through Germany. Unlike the Professor, they could not understand that the Ostjuden problem was nothing characteristic of Germany and that its essentials are present wherever aliens mix with natives.

I myself tasted a strong draught of that timeless experience. On several occasions I was told by the Refugees Committee that it was extremely difficult, if not hopeless, to get a permit for England, that it would, in fact, be best not to come hither at all. When just six of our twelve months in Leeds had passed, a high Jewish official appeared from London to impress on us, with all the authority at his command, that any extension of the original licence was most unlikely; we should be well advised to seek our future elsewhere. He was anticipating, by roughly ten years, the no less thoughtful, if perhaps more original, envoy from the War Office who conveyed to the inmates of an Alien Pioneer Camp the hope that "the adventurous spirit which brought them to this country would take them far afield at the end of the war."

I am recording these facts in no spirit of recrimination. For one thing, too much has happened since, and "time hath, my Lord, a wallet on his back wherein he puts alms for oblivion." Nor has the story any personal sting; indeed, it is in an even greater measure what Dr. Weizmann in his book says the first Aliens Bill was, "a repetition of a phenomenon only too familiar in our history."

On conditions in Germany, we were competently informed. The *Yorkshire Post*, Mr. Eden's newspaper, not only carried sound reports, but also effectively criticised Nazi policy. At the time of the British Legion's visit to Berlin, two months before the Nuremberg Laws, an editorial regretted the approval which the "misguided journey" had received from the Prince of Wales (the present Duke of Windsor), and pointing to the persecution of the Jews, they remarked that it was "utterly illogical to expect honourable conduct, moderation and tolerance, according to our standards, in foreign relations from a Government which treats whole sections of its own population in a way which violates every principle of humanity."

I did what I could to reinforce this opinion by writing (under a variety of *noms-de-plume*) many letters in which I described the Nazis' early record and copiously quoted from "Mein Kampf," then unavailable in English. I remember one day I was received in audience by the eminently dignified editor, Mr. Arthur Mann, who seemed to be interested in my letters. We talked a little about Germany, and I shall not soon forget the slightly hesitant, almost incredulous tone as he summed up the gruelling facts, "So you think Herr Hitler's declarations of good will are all so much moonshine?" It was for me a memorable moment—I was enlarging my vocabulary by one word—I had never known before that moonshine might have a meaning so strangely unromantic.

I sent not only letters to the *Yorkshire Post* but also, occasionally, articles to the *Israelitisches Familienblatt*, which was then edited by Joachim Prinz. One of these articles discussed the British Fascists, who were quite conspicuous in those days. It was read in Berlin by "einer von unser Leut," who was in process of settling in Leeds. Hearing of Fascists in Britain, he fancied, like the schoolboy who for the first time saw a giraffe, that "there ain't no such things," so he severely disapproved of the article and complained to the Viceroy. Mr. Micawbersky promptly summoned me into his august presence and on the evidence before him, which he was no more able to read than to refute, he told me that being a mere factory hand, I had no business to write such articles, or for that matter any articles, and in appropriately high excitement, tempered only by the careful attention with which he was winding up the precious bulging bales of newly arrived cloth, he added: "I am going to get rid of you! I send you back to Germany!"

Now all this happened in the early days of the persecution, between 1934 and 1936. I suppose

Old Acquaintances

Visitor from Israel:—Professor O. Haas-Heye introduced his former pupil from Berlin, Josef Schwarzmann, to the guests of the "Ben Uri Gallery" one Sunday afternoon. The painter, now director of Tel Aviv's Art School, showed his beautiful water colours, pastels and etchings for the first time outside Israel, and experts confirmed Schwarzmann's clever craftsmanship. Many of his pictures were sold at the first showing. Haas-Heye, a son of the famous founder of Germany's Liberal Party, made one of his much too rare appearances when he opened the little exhibition; and although he celebrated his 72nd birthday on the same day he looked as youthful as ever.

Ten months' run:—In a couple of months "La Ronde" will have had a full year's run in London's Curzon, a well-earned success indeed for Max Opuls, who was born as Max Oppenheimer in Saarbruecken, and started as an actor before he came to Berlin in the 'thirties to produce films. Perhaps one has to be born in a border country to love the old Austria as much as Opuls. "Liebelele" was his first picture, to-day a classic amongst usually short-lived films. Before leaving Germany for Paris he could only do one picture more: Smetana's "Bartered Bride," with Jarmila Novotna in the lead. But he was no stranger in France and easily made a second career. So he became a French citizen, served in the French army, and escaped to America after the defeat in 1940. His first job in Hollywood was "Vendetta," a picture he never finished himself. His second, "Letter from an Unknown Woman" after Stefan Zweig's novel, with Joan Fontaine, wasn't appreciated before it was discovered in Europe and became a great success. In spite of a real box-office hit with a James Mason film, Opuls went back to Europe as soon as the war was over. Returning to his first love, Schnitzler, he directed "La Ronde," and it is a masterpiece. His next film is "La Plaisir," consisting of three short stories by Maupassant, and Opuls is already working on his script for "Mamselle Nitouche."

London News:—Ashley Dukes, the former British theatre officer in West Germany, adapted Ferdinand Bruckner's play "Elizabeth of England" for the English stage; it will be produced with Herbert Lom and Mai Zetterling in London.—Sir George Frankenstein, the former Austrian Ambassador in England, is behind the venture to convert London's New Gallery in Regent Street into a continental cinema.—Hans Flesch has finished his new novel "... And She Came Back" for early publication.—Oscar Homolka is coming to England to act Sartre's "Devil and the Good God."—A new German opera picture, "Marriage of Figaro," can be seen at the Berkeley here; it is adapted by Charles Frank for the British screen.

In the East and in the West:—Many actors who returned from exile to Germany are having new successes. Anton Walbrook and Sybille Binder played "Venus Observed" in Duesseldorf, and now Fritz Kortner acts "Rappelkopf" in "Alpenkoenig und Menschenfeind" under Gruendgens' direction there. Curt Bois scored a tremendous success in East Berlin when he played Bert Brecht's "Puntilla" at Deutsches Theater, while Ernst Deutsch, in the western part of that city, acted Odets' "Country Girl" with Marianne Hoppe as partner. And just now Siegmund Breslauer, who is the director of the Deutsche Buehne in Argentina, arrived in Germany to look for actors and actresses he wants to take over to Buenos Aires to complete his ensemble there.

PEM

things were very different afterwards when the refugees increased and organised. When I left Leeds, a small community had begun to form. There were, as far as I remember, at least two doctors, one dentist, a University lecturer, several well-to-do business men, and on the lower deck, quite a few young men like myself, factory hands mostly in the clothing trade, also, kept all too busy in Jewish households, several young women in whom we tried, with varying fortunes, to take a conscientious interest. Many of them may have chosen Leeds as their new home, one at least had already effectively Anglicised his all too German-Jewish surname, and some will almost certainly help raise the reputation of the community. Perhaps these personal notes will serve to encourage one or the other of the erstwhile refugees to communicate their own experiences.



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FROM MY DIARY

It is interesting to compare the facts on which last month's article "Are They Doing Well," is based with the diary of an American-Jewish immigrant, Abraham Kohn, of Mönchsroth, Bavaria, who came to New York in 1842. He was doing well in the end; he founded Chicago's first congregation. But what a struggle he had. He could not find a job in town, so with a bundle on his back, he turned to peddling among the farmers. In spite of hope and confidence in God, who will "give strength to accept with gratitude whatever happens," there is much disillusionment, even to the point of this extraordinary sigh: "O, that I had never seen this land, but had remained in Germany, apprenticed to a humble craftsman! Though oppressed by taxes and discriminated against as a Jew, I should still be happier than in the great capital of America, free from royal taxes and every man's religious equal though I am!"

Altogether this Bavarian Jew had a remarkably high opinion of his erstwhile compatriots. He properly objects to an American Adventist who had forecast the end of the world for April 20, 1843: "Gullible people, these Americans," he writes and adds: "I should like to see this Dr. Miller in Germany, preaching such nonsense. He would not last long; the boys in the streets would drive him away by stoning." Obviously he could not foresee that on another April 20 the world would do something very nearly suicidal by producing a preacher of greater nonsense, and as for the boys in German streets, how could he anticipate 110 years ago what even many of us refused to believe as recently as 20 years ago?

Some time ago I received the Jewish Calendar, issued by the "Allgemeine Wochenzeitung" of the Jews in Germany. Material and workmanship excel many similar publications in other countries. Of special interest is the list of Jewish organisations. There is the central representation, the "Zentralrat," there are zonal federations in the U.S., British and Soviet Zones, and there are as smaller administrative units, regional organisations ("Landesverbände") which comprise the Jewish communities of the various "Laender." The most amazing fact is that Jewish communities do not only exist in the big cities such as Berlin, Hamburg, Cologne, Frankfurt or Duesseldorf, but that there is hardly a medium-sized town which is not mentioned in the list. A statistical analysis reveals the following numbers of Jewish communities in the various Laender: Wuerttemberg, 1; Baden, 3; Bavaria, 8; Hesse, 15; Northrhine-Westfalia, 12; Westfalia, 17; Lower Saxony, 15; Schleswig-Holstein, 4; Rhineland-Pfalz, 7; German Democratic Republic (Soviet Zone), 7. Of course, neither in size nor in composition, can these communities be compared with those of the pre-war days. Many present members who have survived as partners of mixed marriages may have had little connection with Jewish life before the Hitler days, others may be remnants of DP camps. Yet the fact remains that, whatever the differences in substance may be, there is again a thoroughly organised Jewish community in Germany.

NARRATOR

FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in this column are free of charge. Texts should be sent in by the 18th of the month.

Birthdays

Mr. Julius Jossek will be 83 years on February 25 and Mrs. Flora Jossek, 70 years on February 6; both formerly Breslau, now at 6 Wolesley Road, Mosman-Sydney, N.S.W., Australia.

Marriage

Sternfeld-Bergman. The marriage took place of Miss Ann Sternfeld, niece of Miss Erna Jacoby, of 243 Willesden Lane, London, N.W.2, and Mr. Max Bergman, both formerly Frankfurt a. Main, now New York.

Ruby Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. G. Kneip, of 1 Polperro Mansions, Lyncroft Gardens, N.W.6, West Hampstead, have pleasure in announcing the 40th anniversary of their marriage, which was solemnised on January 10, 1912.

Deaths

Dr. Ernst Ruhm (formerly lawyer in Berlin), of 53 Melville Road, Birmingham 16, died after a street accident on January 11, at the age of 75 years, deeply mourned by his wife Mrs. Hilda Ruhm (née Isaak) and his daughters Beate and Delia.

Dr. Max Wolff (formerly lawyer in Breslau), husband of Mrs. Olga Wolff of 68 Hamilton Terrace, London N.W.8, passed away on January 24, 1952 at the age of 79.

CLASSIFIED

Employment

MAN wanted, 25-35, to learn Metal Trade. Must be honest, reliable and used to hard work. Able to drive. No experience necessary. Prospects for management. State salary required. All replies held in strict confidence. J. Luck, 14 Theberton Street, N.1.

WANTED, woman for plain baking and occasional cooking (kosher), 4 hours weekly, 3/- per hour. Box 1221.

VACANCY for person experienced in handling German Rotaprint machines. Box 1224.

NURSE wants part-time work (9.30-2 p.m.) or light housework. Box 1230.

NURSE free, with living in or non-residential. Box 1267.

BOOKKEEPER thoroughly experienced, P.A.Y.E., Correspondence, is looking for change; also part-time, evenings. Box 1265.

DRESSMAKER, exp., seeks part- or fulltime work. Private or wholesale (non-utility). Box 1233.

POWER-MACHINIST for children's wear and scarves wants position. Box 1235.

FINISHER for blouses and dresses and buttonhole machinist wants position. Box 1236.

SECRETARY, shorthand typist, German, English, French, seeks part-time or 5-day week (£7 15s.) job. Box 1241.

LEDGER-CLERK-TYPIST wants part-time work. Box 1242.

FILING and GEN. OFFICE-CLERK, exp., efficient, trustworthy, reliable, desires change of position, e.g., stock keeping. Box 1243.

MANAGERESS/BOOKKEEPER wants responsible position. Box 1244.

COPY TYPIST wants full- or part-time, in- or outdoor-work. Box 1245.

CHILDREN'S NURSE seeks part-time job. Box 1246.

COOK, female, exp., wants daily work, private or in restaurant. Box 1247.

COOK, elderly, wants residential position. Box 1248.

LADY, elderly, reliable, wants part-time light housework, also nursing. Box 1249.

HOUSEKEEPER, exp., middle-aged, educated, wants post to refined gentleman in modern flat. Box 1250.

RADIOGRAPHER, exp. English and German dipl., seeks position. Box 1251.

QUAL. COST-ACCOUNTANT wants full- or part-time job. Box 1252.

WATCH- and CLOCK-MAKER and repairer wants improv. job. Box 1256.

COMMERCIAL TRAVELLER, 23, reliable, energetic and smart, wants position with prospects. Box 1260.

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EXECUTIVE, 31, exp. in export, advert., publicity, sales production, seeks post as assistant to sales manager, director or similar. Widely travelled; speaks also German and French. Box 1257.

CUTTER (man) for plastic handbags seeks position. Box 1258.

YOUNG MAN, good appearance, seeks job as traveller or representative of firm, any line, with salary. Box 1259.

DRESSES, Skirts, made to measure. Also alterations of any kind by experienced dressmaker, moderate terms. Phone SPE 9066 (9-12, 5-7).

YOUNG MAN, experienced in warehouse and production management, seeks progressive position. Best references. Box 1261.

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NURSE SMIGELSKI would like to accommodate one person with full board. WOR 7097.

Miscellaneous

SCHOLAR teaches biblical Hebrew on spiritual foundations, reading and interpreting of biblical texts. Write Box 1181.

SOCIAL "AT HOME" held in refined private house near West End. Continental family. Prospective guests between 30-45 apply to Box 1225.

WANTED. Woman for dress alterations and mending at private home, able to handle sewing machine. Box 1228.

DRESSMAKER does your dresses and alterations in your own home. Box 1222.

Letter from Jerusalem

Love at First Sight: Sholem Alehem's "Hard to be a Jew" could be varied "Hard to be a bachelor Jew"—in Israel, *nota bene*. It started last summer when single persons were excluded from the scanty ice-ration; it continued with the allocation of Government housing for a couple per room only; and it reached its climax with the new budget proposal that presses the screw hard on anybody—unless he has a dozen children, or at least a wife. Said a convinced bachelor: "Women have not succeeded but Kaplan has—I'll marry."

Dollars and Rain: Congressman Emanuel Celler, who did much towards the appropriation of America's \$65 million aid for Israel and is now working on a \$50 million grant for the coming year, arrived in Jerusalem in the first downpour of the season. "This time I bring you something even more important than dollars—rain," he said, wading cheerfully through the gullies that quickly formed on the parched soil.

Austerity Fantasia: The *Jerusalem Post* published the other day a contribution by a housewife, happily married for 20 years, with most of her household goods worn out or broken, who could not stand any more the sight of notices in shop windows, "In exchange for Wedding Coupons Only." For in Israel, marrying couples receive some additional coupons for crockery, clothing and other household goods. "What were people like her supposed to do," she asked. Divorce their husbands and marry them again? For there would also be the extra rations for the wedding so that it would be well worth the slight dislocation of domestic life involved.

Diagnosis: The latest diagnosis of Israel's financial crisis: "Dollarium Truman's." H.F.

PIANOFORTE TUITION. Vacancies for pupils at Kensington and East London Studios. Preparation for diplomas, examinations, etc. Philip Reder, A.G.S.M. 49 Coborn Road, Bow, E.3. Tel. ADV 2186.

PIANO wanted by art-student, as a gift or on loan. Box 1263.

LADY, reliable, best ref. seeks post as Travelling Companion for adults or children to America soon. Box 1266.

PRAM wanted by needy mother. Box 1264.

Personal

BRITISH FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY, 231 Baker Street, N.W.1. Introductions to new friends everywhere. No age limit. Write for particulars.

WANTED for my daughter, pretty, medium height, husband, 35-50 years old, in good position. Reply if possible with photograph and references to Box 1223.

LACK OF OPPORTUNITY. Goodhearted man, 45, good appearance, living in Northern Rhodesia, seeks acquaintance lady, early forties or under, view to marriage. Contact personal Rhodesian friend at present in London. Box 1227.

MISSING PERSONS

Enquiries from AJR

Lehmann, Lily, probably now Frischler, born abt. 1918 at Velten near Berlin, for Ursula Wolff, Germany.

Tuchler, Siegfert, and daughter Lotte, from Berlin-Halensee, for Margarete Thibaut, Berlin.

Vollweiler, Lilly, last known address 27 Spencer Place Leeds, for Friedrich Roith, Munich.

Gabriel, Lotte, born on 13.2.? in Berlin, for Erna Kranz, Bonn.

Weiss, Dr. H., last known address 18, Highcroft Gardens, N.W.11, for Walthar Paul, Berlin.

Personal Inquiry

Erwin Mendelsohn, son of Leo and Belsora Mendelsohn, formerly Berlin N.W., Turmstr. 10, pupil of Luisen gymnasium until about 1930, wanted by Harry L. Blake, 81 Nightingale Lane, London, N.8.

AJR AT WORK

AJR EXHIBITION OF ARTS AND CRAFTS

Further activities proposed

The AJR Chanukah Exhibition of Arts and Crafts, organised by the Needlewomen Service of the AJR Social Services Department, has found a great response and proved to be a success.

At a recent gathering of those who had displayed their articles in the Exhibition it was decided to co-ordinate the work by meeting from time to time for an exchange of experience. It is planned to prepare another Exhibition for the end of May, this time under the heading "Holidays."

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 13, at 7 p.m. at 8 Fairfax Mansions, N.W.3. Readers who are interested in the scheme are invited and may obtain further particulars from the AJR Social Services Department.

AJR SPONSORS COLLECTION CENTRE

In answer to the appeal, "Letters become History" (December issue of AJR Information), many readers have kindly sent most interesting documentary material to the Wiener Library. Those who have not yet responded should, however, also ask themselves whether they have not in their possession things which might become of historical value. The material should refer both to the position in Germany under the Nazis (Zeitungen, Briefe, Kulturbundprogramme, Nazi-Anordnungen, etc.) and to the experience during the first years after emigration. Letters which describe the attempts of emigrated German Jews to settle down in their new environment would be particularly important. It is in the general interest that the collection which is sponsored by the Wiener Library and the AJR becomes as comprehensive as possible, because it is highly essential to preserve for future generations any evidence of the eventful times we had to live through. The address of the Collection Centre is: The Wiener Library, 19 Manchester Square, London, W.1.

THE HYPHEN

Sunday, February 17, 7 p.m. Concert, at Ben Uri Art Gallery, 14 Portman Street, W.1. Members 1/-, Friends 1/6.

For particulars of Hyphen activities apply to Miss Margot Fuld, 2 Exeter Road, N.W.2.

AJR FRIENDSHIP CLUB

More than 100 friends took part in the Chanukah Celebration of the AJR Friendship Club and enjoyed a most entertaining evening.

Also in February members and friends will meet every Sunday at 7 p.m. at Zion House, 57, Eton Avenue, N.W.3. The programme is printed in the advertising column of this page. Guests are always welcome.

PETER HERZ IN MANCHESTER

In aid of the AJR Manchester and of the Theodor Herzl Society the new Peter Herz revue, "Facing the Music," was performed in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, on January 9. The large hall was sold out. The show was an overwhelming success and the performance was enthusiastically applauded by the audience.

B'NAI B'RITH YOUTH

The Otto Hirsch Chapter recently celebrated its eighth anniversary. The group is a highly active one, and ages range from 17 to 25. Meetings are normally held every Sunday and Wednesday, usually at 33 Seymour Place, W.1. They are of a varied nature, and include lectures, discussions, socials, rambles, theatre visits, etc., etc. In addition bridge evenings, tennis and cycling parties, group holidays, and similar activities, encourage people to be "friends," rather than just "members."

The February programme includes: Rev. C. E. Cassell on "The History of the West London Synagogue" (Sunday the 3rd); a Dance and Social (Sunday the 10th); and a Discussion Group (Wednesday the 13th); all commencing at 8 p.m.

Further details may be obtained from the Membership Officer, Margot Heymann, 7 Douglas Mansions, Quex Road, N.W.6 (MAI 5387).

Mikulas Grosz, a blind Jewish Violinist from Czechoslovakia, who spent 3 years in Theresienstadt, gave a Violin Recital at Wigmore Hall on January 23rd. The Programme was of great variety and the audience enjoyed the artist's natural playing, which made the Concert a success.

URGENT APPEAL FOR CLOTHING

The need for clothing in Israel is going on, Readers are, however, reminded that, since the AJR Relief Department has been wound up, gifts cannot any longer be sent to the previous Collection Centre at 33 Compayne Gardens, or to the AJR Headquarters. They should be addressed to the Collection Centre of WIZO, 107 Gloucester Place, London, W.1 (WEL 0506) and/or of the Federation of Jewish Relief Organisations, 131 Elgin Avenue, London, W.9 (CUN 0131).

Only recently the AJR received the following cable from the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem: "Heavy storms and rains brought great damage and suffering to Immigration Camp Inmates. Please enlarge and speed up collection of warm clothing and shoes." It is hoped that in view of the tremendous urgency everybody will do his best to contribute.

PERSONALIA

Mr. Hugo Aufesser (196 Chesterton Road, Cambridge) will be 80 years old on March 2. Mr. Aufesser, who comes from Munich, has been one of the most active members of the AJR Cambridge Branch since its foundation. His numerous friends, both in Cambridge and in London, wish him many more years of unchanged vigour and good health.

Mr. Joseph Heinemann, formerly Duesseldorf, passed away in London at the age of 86 years. He was the founder of widely known firms in Duesseldorf, Hamburg and Neuss. Two of his sons perished in the deportation camps and he himself was in Theresienstadt for three years. After the war, Mr. Heinemann came to London to stay with his only surviving son, Mr. F. Heinemann (3 Ebury Close, Northwood, Middx.). He will be sadly missed by his family and his great number of friends.

NEW TELEPHONE LINE AT HEADQUARTERS

The Head Offices of URO and AJR are now obtainable not only under MAIDA VALE 9096, but also under MAIDA VALE 9097. The number of the AJR Social Services Department and of the AJR Employment Agency is, as before, MAIDA VALE 4449, and callers are reminded that for social or employment enquiries only this number can be used.

AJR FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Meetings every Sunday, at 7 p.m. at Zion House, 57 Eton Avenue, N.W.3

Programme for February

February 3; Fred BERGER (Formerly Blue Danube Club) "Lustige Plauderei"

February 10; PEM: "Von Asta Nielsen bis Hans Albers", 30 Jahre Film und Theater.

February 17; Social Gathering.

February 24; Brains Trust. Question master: Dr. W. ROSENSTOCK.

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