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British ORT News

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PLAN For The Way Ahead

—Col. Lipton, M.P. on rebuilding the economic life of Jewry; British ORT'S annual meeting

"OVER a long period of years, ORT has represented something in the nature of a *plan* for the economic reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Jewish people," said Colonel Marcus Lipton, M.P., on November 16.

Speaking at the ORT annual meeting in London, he mentioned the great ORT "plan" during a reference to "planning—a fashionable word, but it is impossible to have anything but disorganisation without some degree of planning."

He said: "Over centuries the life of the Jew has become more artificial than the life of any other group of people. When you have suffered and been imposed upon, this age-long and traditional process has caused the upheaval and dislocation of Jews all over the world. Two wars in our lifetime have made this problem, so far as the Jewish people are concerned, much greater and more difficult than any problem that may exist in other societies. It is vital, therefore, that the number of people available for industry should be increased."

Three "Musts" for ORT

Three basic aims of British ORT were stressed by the chairman, Mr. A. J. Halpern. Charity can feed and clothe, but charity cannot rehabilitate, he said. We must, therefore:

1. Bring ORT work to the notice of British Jewry.
2. Tell British Jews of ORT's aims.
3. Explain to Jewry ORT's requirements, and raise funds for its vital work.

He pointed to the "constant generosity" of ORT supporters in America, the Dominions, South Africa, New Zealand, Canada, and deplored "the relative absence of interest and assistance from our country."

School and Farm Success

Mr. Halpern described ORT's important operational activities in Britain. Marine training in the ship "Joseph Hertz" had been carried out for one year, but there were too few pupils wanting to enter this training course. There were also the ORT school in Kensington and the Goldington farm—where results gave "great satisfaction."

Welcomed at the meeting was Mr. S. Valentine, who spoke in his capacity as general secretary of the Order of the Sons of Jacob.

ORT Gets a New Look

British ORT is to be given a "new look" in the form of a new democratic constitution; it was approved by the annual meeting held in London on November 16.

Under the new constitution, ORT in Britain will be administered from London by an executive committee of 10-24 members, plus additional co-opted members; one-third of the executive will retire each year.

There will also be a Council, eighteen of whose members will be elected by the annual meeting.

We're on the Air

DURING the last few weeks a number of German transmitting stations have been broadcasting news praising the efforts and achievements of ORT. Hamburg, Berlin and Radio Munich-Nurnberg have already put ORT "on the air."

Earlier this month Munich-Nurnberg broadcast a comprehensive report on ORT activities within the framework of IRO. Details of the number of students, graduates and courses were sent out. The acting director for Germany and Austria, Dr. O. O. Dutch, has been invited to deliver a special lecture on the aims and tasks of ORT. It is being broadcast by Munich-Nurnberg.

Here's Our New Number

Make a note of the new telephone number at British ORT headquarters, 85 New Cavendish Street, London, W.1. Next time you phone . . . MUSEum 9656/7/8.

The Workshops Need Glamour

ONE result of the war in Europe is the crisis in the bespoke tailoring trade. In Eastern Europe most of the Jews were by tradition tailors and these have largely perished. There are now new young men available to fill the vacancies, although tailoring is still a well-paid occupation. The present scarcity of tailors can only be overcome by "glamourising" it in the eyes of young people. The ORT Executive in Geneva, therefore, recently sent its chief inspector for needlework, Mr. S. Graf, on a tour of Poland.

Mr. Graf, who is the author of several works on tailoring, combines high technical knowledge with wide

teaching experience. He held special refresher courses for tailors in Cracow and Wroclaw (Breslau), introducing modern working and teaching methods in the cutting of women's dresses, shirt making and men's tailoring. The course attracted great interest beyond the immediate circle of the ORT. The Director of the Polish Clothing Industry, Mr. Olschewski, asked for permission to send production managers throughout Poland for participation in the course.

The ORT text book for shirt making is now being translated into Polish. Two training schools for tailors are to be set up in Poland.

ORT Starts An Export Drive

—SEVEN TRAINING UNITS ARE GOING TO ISRAEL

SEVEN ORT training units—complete with tools and equipment—are being “exported” from Germany to Israel. This decision follows important conferences at Paris and Geneva, where plans to transfer a number of schools have been worked out.

The schools in Israel will be set up with the aid of special machinery and tools brought to Germany and Austria by World ORT Union.

This news is given in a report from Dr. O. O. Dutch, acting director in Germany and Austria. “The growing emigration of Jewish D.P.s to Israel and other overseas countries has made it imperative for ORT to reconsider its operations in countries with D.P. populations,” says the report.

Covering the Age-Groups

The report also covers:

IRO Approval.—Efforts have been made to obtain IRO approval for more ORT centres—and approval is being given to another 30 per cent. So far, IRO have approved only schools where D.P.s in the 17-35 age group are trained for 40 hours a week. This does not include free-living Jews or youngsters under 17; but in negotiations with IRO headquarters, Geneva, we have asked for the inclusion of these groups.

Meanwhile, total number of students in the two zones fell recently to just below 6,000 for the first time this year—mainly owing to the large numbers (including some ORT instructors) who have emigrated from Germany and Austria to start work in Israel.

They Beat Their Handicap

Invalids.—Great efforts have been made to develop existing courses and to improve the three new schemes for invalids, young people, and ex-T.B. patients. It has been proved that about 25 per cent. of the invalids examined can be trained in a new skill, and a number have been admitted to normal schools.

The rehabilitation centres for ex-T.B. cases in Passau and Bayrisch Gmain have been extended, and the third rehabilitation centre for pre-vocational training at Gauting put into shape.

Supplies.—A long-awaited consignment of 23,000 yards of textile fabrics, mainly for shirt making, arrived from the United States and was dis-

tributed among schools. A further ten cases of electro material to the value of over \$5,000 was shipped to Germany from America. Women's American ORT contributed not only a large number of parcels with all kinds of much needed material, but also sent 500 yards of cloth to equip students in the dental schools with smocks.

The ORT Film.—The new ORT film (2,300 metres) was shown twice to invited guests in the Bavaria Film Company's premises in Geiselnberg. The photographic material will be shipped to the United States, where the film will be completed. In its final form the film will be about 1,500 metres.

Experts' Tribute To ORT System

TWO striking tributes to ORT work came recently from non-Jewish experts.

The director of the Trade School in Heidenheim, after his visit to the extensive ORT exhibition there, said: “I was pleasantly surprised to see for myself how varied is the training young people receive through your organisation. The dressmaking and lingerie courses exhibited tasteful and clean work. Preparatory pattern books show the systematic set-up of the teaching programme which is carried out with precision and discipline in the workshops.”

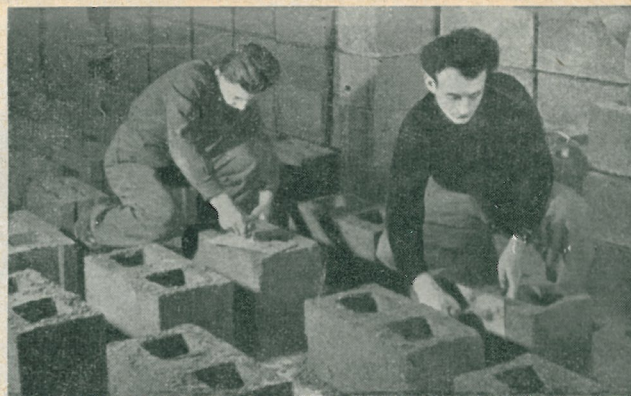
On the occasion of the final examinations of the children's clothing course in Stuttgart, the Dressmaking Guild of Stuttgart wrote:

“In view of the extremely short period of training of only one year, the achievements of the school were excellent, in particular the very exact sewing work. Your students' pattern books have our greatest admiration. It was a pleasure to be allowed to be present at this examination.”

GETTING DOWN TO IT

Hard at work are the two young men at the ORT school, Ulm. They're both enthusiastic students of the concrete and terrazzo course.

Of major importance to the building trades, this ORT course is the only one of its kind in the U.S. zone of Germany.



Two Priorities

TWO decisions of major importance, granting priorities for ORT graduates, have been announced by America and Czechoslovakia.

Under the D.P. Immigration Act of 1948, the United States' Immigration Commission will accept ORT diplomas as basic evidence for applications for immigration, according to a declaration made by immigration officials. This applies both to graduates from ORT trade schools and to those who have passed professional proficiency tests before an ORT commission.

The Czech ORT has recently initiated an extensive programme on the basis of an agreement between it and the national Zionist organisation in Czechoslovakia. In the towns of Pressov, Trnava, Nitra, Bratislava, and Warnsdorf, training workshops and vocational courses will be set up for 100 persons interested in typewriter repairing, repairing of electric motors, motor mechanics, glassware manufacture, leather work, and various needle trades. In addition, a tractor operators' course will be opened for 22 participants. The Zionist organisation has circulated its members to the effect that bearers of ORT diplomas will have priority for emigration.

Training Talks Begin

Dr. Aaron Syngalowski, executive committee chairman of the World ORT Union, sailed for Israel from Venice this month. He will confer with the Israeli Government on projects for a large-scale vocational training scheme in Israel.

Dr. Syngalowski is making the trip following a decision taken by the Central Board to give full support to the upbuilding of a skilled labour force in Israel. The programme will include the transfer to Israel of a number of ORT schools from D.P. camps in Europe, together with their equipment and teaching staff.

A Trade Is The Modern Girl's Trousseau

—Says Dora Ellenzweig

"WHY," asked young Dora, "do I learn a trade?" She sat down and wrote a 1,000-word answer to her question, and became one of the winners of an essay competition run by ORT Jedijes, the Yiddish bulletin in the American zone of Germany.

Great and simple thoughts came from Dora's pen: "We must begin to think in unison with the women all over the world who think that a trade means daily bread. Formerly, every bride saved towards her trousseau; to-day a good trade is her trousseau. . . . Why learn a trade? A strange question, as though I had been asked why people eat or sleep. . . ."

These are the words of Dora Ellenzweig, student of the corset-making class at Landsberg ORT vocational school. Here are other highlights of Dora's essay:

"I Was Nearing Exhaustion"

"I, a librarian by profession, experienced the truth of the proverb: When cannon begin to talk, civilisation keeps silent. Not being able to work in my own profession, I had to keep changing jobs. I was nearing complete exhaustion from heavy physical labour and I reproached my parents for not having taught me a productive trade. But to be fair, reproaches against my parents were baseless. Industry in Poland was not highly enough developed to absorb the broad mass of the people, in particular Jews, who were not all admitted into heavy industry. No wonder, therefore, that so many Jews who led a hand-to-mouth existence in uncertain jobs chose the professions, or occupation in the light industry.

"The terrible war years have passed. And now people in the camps have been waiting for over three years for the moment of their departure from Germany. Everyone casts worried glances into the future and constantly the thoughts recur in sleepless nights how to make a living in a new country. And one suddenly notices that this one or that one had become a wage-earner.

"I started to learn a trade comparatively recently—in fact, only a few months back. My friend wanted to make me her customer. That roused my ambition. What she could do, surely I would be able to achieve. And off I went to school. Somebody told me—



Dora: "Off I went to school"

talking of ORT—that learning a trade had become a psychosis. She wanted to deride with one word a constructive thought and reduce it to drivel. But can one belittle the fact that after only a few weeks of training we—the students of the corset-making course—noticed that we had become "corset-makers." And that is a fact.

"There is my neighbour, Mrs. M., an elderly woman who has a married

daughter; she is a respected worker in the Camp; the whole day long she works in the office, at night she is at her sewing machine; every now and then I hear her exclaim enthusiastically: 'Just look, I ask you, have you ever seen a seam as beautiful as this?' A little further is a woman, once a lady of leisure; all her life she did not know what a sewing machine looked like; drops of sweat gather on her forehead; with all her force she tries to keep the wheel from turning in the opposite direction. At first it is hard, but gradually she succeeds, and at last she manages to sew those hooks just as well as we all do.

"If this is a "psychosis" it's a good and healthy one.

"The modern woman is proud of her independence and her success. And if this ORT-psychosis will help the Sherit Hapleita-woman to rise from her depths of suffering, and if attendance at an ORT school will assist the Jewish woman to attain equal conditions in the new country of her choice then such a psychosis will be blessed a hundred times."

UNESCO Asks ORT

The Executive Committee of UNESCO has elected the World ORT Union as consultative member in view of its experience in the field of vocational training.

London Students Turn Out Toys

TOYS and toyshop shelves, "magic eye" circuits, standard lamps and dressing gowns were among the articles in production at London's ORT school last month.

More than 50 boys and girls are being trained in the six departments—engineering, toolmaking, electrical, radio, drawing, and dressmaking.

Reports from Dr. A. Lewinnek, headmaster of the London school, show that many young ORT "school-leavers" are going into £5 a week jobs in different trades. Latest reports are of one boy who started as a draughtsman with a Slough firm; another, who was regarded as a "problem" during his first year's course, has just received a pay rise from £4 10s. to £5 a week.

Recently the welfare committee gave students a Simchas Torah party at the New West End Synagogue—where pupils past and present got together with music, song, recitals, and dancing.

Dr. Lewinnek also reports: "Mr. Posner, of the American ORT, pre-

sented a £5 note to London's students; it will be used for games' equipment. And from the American women's ORT came a gift of ten 22lb. parcels—containing dress remnants, boys' and girls' clothing, used radios, buttons, thread, and two men's suits."

Will you?

Become a subscribing member of British ORT? All the help you can give is urgently needed.

Minimum subscription only 10s. a year.

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"I enclose cheque/postal order for £.....s.....d. as my annual subscription to British ORT."

Name

Address

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'Where - Are - They' Survey Will Cover the World

Where Do the Students Go?

A WORLD-WIDE survey—first of its kind since the war—to discover what happens to boys and girls after their "graduation" from ORT schools, is to be carried out by the World ORT Union.

ORT committees everywhere have now been asked to supply up-to-date information dealing with the employment of graduates, their working and living conditions. New ways of keeping in touch with thousands of former ORT pupils are also being worked out.

News of the jobs found for ORT trainees in different countries is already flowing in to headquarters at Geneva.

More than 200 graduates of the ORT schools in Cracow (Poland) have found employment in Government or private enterprise. Seventy-seven of these have come together to form five co-operative societies. In Brussels, co-operative societies are operated by graduates of the shirtmaking courses.

In Paris, our wireless mechanics are employed by Air France. In addition, a group of ORT students of haute couture have found jobs with private firms after passing their examinations as journeymen. In Switzerland, 25 graduates of the ORT school for electricians have found work, despite the fact that they are refugees. Of the mechanics, seven have left for Australia, eight for Israel, and seven are employed in Switzerland.

The Rumanian Minister of Agriculture has engaged 26 tractor mechanics—25 men and one woman—who have just completed their training at the Bucharest branch of ORT. The three-month course was organised by ORT in collaboration with the Jewish Democratic Committee. Graduates will take up jobs as assistant tractor mechanics with various agricultural machinery depôts established by the Government. Part of the funds needed for maintaining and clothing the students was provided by the Joint Distribution Committee.

● A corner of the ORT millinery class at the school near Paris.

Mrs. Roosevelt Sees Paris ORT

MRS. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT paid a glowing tribute to ORT work when she recently visited the vocational training centre at Montreuil-sour-bois, on the outskirts of Paris. Mrs. Roosevelt told the assembled student body she was pleased to see the work of rehabilitation being carried out by ORT, which would make its trainees "useful citizens in any country where they finally settle."

Mrs. Roosevelt said: "I am very happy to be able to renew here in Paris the contact I have already had with ORT in America. I remember when it was something very new. Everyone can well understand that the young people who come to this organisation are given the technique for creative work. In every country of the world they will always be useful citizens. They will perform necessary work not only for themselves, but for the benefit of the country in which they will settle. If you remain here, you will participate in the reconstruction of the things which have to be renewed because they were des-

troyed during the difficult years which you have just been through. If you go abroad, you will always be useful to the country in which you decide to remain, thanks to the work you learn here. I wish you lots of success in the trade you have chosen."

She was accompanied by Dr. David Lvovitch, of New York, co-chairman of the World ORT Union executive committee. Dr. Lvovitch conducted Mrs. Roosevelt on a tour of the classroom shops, in which several hundred Jewish boys and girls are learning trades.

One of the girls presented a bouquet of roses to Mrs. Roosevelt, who remained to lunch with the students.

Seeing the Teen-agers

The younger groups (13-17) were one of the main interests of her visit. She examined their work and spoke to them, and the children's work and morale impressed her favourably. She also talked with instructors and school personnel, and answered questions put to her as to emigration, cost of living in the U.S.A., and acceptance of ORT school graduates in U.S. industry. Her replies on the last question were: ". . . as far as I can see from this brief visit, the ORT standards are equal, and at times surpass, those of vocational schools in normal countries."

Students Hold a Fashion Parade

A FASHION parade of dresses made by ORT students was the highlight of this month's official opening celebrations at the Hamburg "Gemeinde School" — vocational training centre for Jews in the Jewish communities.

The "show" was loudly cheered. It included a display of babies' and children's clothing worn by the children of ORT students—and an enthusiastic

reception was given to the youngest "model" of them all, aged 16 months.

Mr. H. Hauptmann, director of the school, welcomed 200 guests. He pointed out that the opening celebration was taking place three months after work had started at the school—but the reason for this was that they were determined to show some of the actual work produced.

The British zone director of World ORT Union (Mr. M. J. Lister) thanked the Jewish voluntary societies, the Jewish Gemeinde, and IRO, and particularly the public health branch of C.C.G., for their valuable co-operation in helping to start the school, which was the first of its kind. He told students that this was their opportunity to make up for time lost through the years of war.

Other speakers included Mr. Goldmann, chairman of Hamburg Gemeinde; Mr. Kielman, director of IRO in Hamburg; Dr. Van Damm; and Rabbi Dr. Broch, of London.

A feature of the evening was a 15-minute broadcast interview with the school director and students.

