

Minutes

of the Executive Meeting of the ORT held
on Dec. 11th 1929 at the house of
Mr. S.Lourie, N.W.6.

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There were present :-

Mr.S.Lourie, Mr.M.Schalit, Mr.L.Istorik, Mr.S.
Raskin, Mrs.M.Grossman, Mr. & Mrs.S.Beloff, Mr.B.Wolfson,
Dr.Y.Krupenia and Mrs.D.Mowshowitch.
Mr.S.Lourie was in the chair.

Agenda.

1. Relations with the Federation of Jewish Relief Organizations.
2. The request submitted to the Baron estate trustees.
3. Report by Mr. Bramson on the state of affairs of the Association.
4. Future activities in this country.
5. The ORT Jubilee.

Mrs.M. reported on the joint meeting with the Federation of Jewish Relief Organizations which took place on Monday, December 9th. Four resolutions were carried to the effect that a Joint Committee (3 of each body) be formed in order to discuss plans for reconstruction work to be carried out by the Federation in Russia with a view to utilizing the ORT apparatus in that country. The same Committee is to discuss the question of the advisability of the Federation taking shares in the Co-operative Tool

Supply Company and to discuss plans for collections in various countries with a view to avoid interfering with one another's collections. The desirability of regulating collections referred also to those of the United Committee of the OZE, Emigdirect and ORT about whose plans the ORT was asked to keep the Committee informed. The text of the resolutions had not yet been received and would be submitted to the Executive Committee at their next meeting. It was put to the Committee whether they would approve of these resolutions and it was suggested that they should also be sent to the Central Board to obtain their opinion on the matter. A rather lengthy discussion followed in which Mr.S.Lourie, Mr.M.Schalit, Dr.L.Bramson, Mrs.D.Mowshowitch, Dr.Y.Krupenia, Mr.L.Pilichowski and Mr.L.Istorik took part. It was finally decided to approve of the resolutions and to elect 6 members of whom 3 should always be available to take part in the deliberations in the Joint Committee. The following persons were elected:- Mrs.S.Beloff, Mr. S.Kallin, Mr.S.Lourie, Mr.L.Istorik, Dr.Y.Krupenia and Mrs.D.Mowshowitch.

Dr.L.Bramson reported on the steps that were being taken to receive from the Baron Trust the sum of £1,000:-:- which we had been promised by Mr. Baron before his death. Mr. Bramson obtained a letter from Mr. Lieberman who was present when the promise was made. Mr. Bramson was under

the impression, after the conversation that had taken place with Mr. Louis Baron and Mr. Danbury that the £1,000:- would be paid out to the ORT. An Appointment was made to see Mr. Danbury, one of the Trustees, on the next day and an attempt was to be made to ask him to accelerate matters which in the general course of events would not be cleared up before March or April 1930.

3. A very interesting report was made by Dr. Bramson regarding the recent activities of the Association in various countries, more particularly in Poland and Russia. Dr. Bramson stated that the economic position in Poland was very critical. In a number of Polish cities the number of marriages decreased by some 25 to 30%. The birth rate decreased considerably and the mortality had increased. According to recent statistics there were about 800,000 declasses people in Poland. The latest statistics showed that there were 700,000 declassé Jews in Russia and about 200,000 young people at the ages between 15 and 30 who were in a most desperate position owing to the fact that they had had no training and could find no work. Whilst in Poland there was a possibility of developing social work in order to help the local population, one had to struggle for every measure to be taken in Soviet Russia in order to alleviate the distress. Great stress was laid by Dr. Bramson on the work of training the young people in Poland

where the ORT Institutions were gaining in reputation every year. About 60 per cent of all the young people who sought admission to the ORT schools in Poland were children of trades people. Mr. Bramson dwelt on the activities of the ORT in Warsaw, Lodz. etc.

Regarding the activities in Russia, Mr. Bramson mentioned the great effort made to help the declasses people. Even those in possession of machines were unable to secure the same economic position as the artisans of old standing owing to the fact that they were not allowed to become members of Co-operative Societies which usually supply them with the necessary raw material. With the means provided by the American Tool Campaign it would become possible to render assistance to those declasses in the following way :-

An Agreement had been concluded with the Government according to which the declasses were allowed to form producers' co-operative societies of their own provided the ORT undertook to supply them with the necessary raw material. The formation of these Co-operative Societies would put the declasses on an equal legal footing with the artisans. Such artels had already been formed in 6 places and 500 people were benefitting by them.

Mr. Bramson reported on the campaign for raising

funds in U.S.A. and stated that whilst for several months 25,000 \$ had been sent regularly each month, since the American crisis the receipts had decreased considerably. There was also another fact to be considered and this was the Joint Campaign in America for the Jewish Agency and the Joint Distribution Committee. Suggestions had been made in America that the ORT should discontinue their campaign on condition that the Joint would make to the ORT a grant of several hundred thousand dollars out of the proceeds of the joint campaign. The above mentioned circumstances had brought about a considerable decrease in the revenue of the Central Board during the last few months and Mr. Bramson thought that it would be a great help if the London Committee could see their way to lend £500:-- to help the Central Board to tide over this difficult period. Mr. Bramson was thanked for his interesting report; it was decided that the Committee should help the Central Board and four persons were appointed to meet and discuss the ways and means in which such a loan could be arranged.

The following gentlemen were elected:- Mr.S.Beloff, Mr.S.Kallin, Mr.S.Lourie and Mr.M.Schalit.