

80 YEARS OF ORT

Historical Materials, Documents and Reports

ORT UNION, GENEVA

1960

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PREFACE

Historical materials, documents and records relating to the history of ORT are herein grouped for the first time in printed form for the use of future historians and for the perusal of ORT's many members and friends on the occasion of its 80th anniversary.

In its historic path ORT has lost the greater part of its archives three times : in St. Petersburg after the revolution, in Berlin in the flight from Hitler, and in France during the Nazi occupation. As a result our archives are relatively sparse and far from complete. Very little of their contents has been reproduced in sufficient quantity, nor adequately distributed to ensure preservation. It is in an attempt to save for posterity that which is still available, that "Material and Memoirs" was published on the occasion of the World ORT Congress in 1955 and that this volume is presented at this time.

The reader's attention is drawn to the divergence in the interpretation of the birth of ORT reflected in the address by Dr. Aron Syngalowski and the article by Mr. Gregory Aronson with which this volume opens. Dr. Syngalowski views ORT's creation as a product of the *Maskilim* and as a natural development of the *Haskala* or Enlightenment Movement; Mr. Aronson views the founding of ORT as a practical solution devised by Russian intelligentsia to meet a pressing problem of the times. It is because of these distinct differences in interpretation that these two viewpoints, outlined some years ago, are published together for the first time.

The article by Mr. S. Goldman, Dr. Syngalowski's closest co-worker during the post-war period, was originally written in 1956 as a review of the previous ten years. It has been revised by the addition of data on the subsequent five year's developments.

The Jewish Colonization Association report is an interesting review and critique by a co-operative and supporting agency. This 1902 record refers to ORT as "a small philanthropic organization"—which it then was. It is interesting to reflect upon the by-ways of Jewish history on which ORT accompanied Jewry to develop into the major instrument of systematic Jewish vocational education which it is today.

The balance of the reports and resolutions presented reflect the constancy of dedication to the organization's purposes and the consistency of its program throughout the past many decades, while depicting simultaneously the adap-

tations in technique in keeping with the changing times, the vicissitudes of history and the changes in Jewish demography and geography.

This volume is not meant to be a propaganda publication; its sole intent is to reproduce accurately and as faithfully as possible in translation materials of historic significance. For lapses in language style and sentence structure we apologize; an attempt has been made to preserve in translation the style of the original texts.

PART I

HISTORICAL MATERIALS

THIS IS THE FIRST DOCUMENT

During the 70's and 80's of the last century the spiritual leaders of Russian Jewry propagandized in books and periodicals in Hebrew, Yiddish and Russian for the establishment of an organization to help the impoverished Jewish population to a new life through agricultural and industrial work.

Early in 1880 a member of the Jewish Community of St. Petersburg, Samuel Poliakov, submitted a petition to the Ministry of Interior Affairs requesting permission to create a fund for assistance to the needy Jewish population in honor of the 25th year of the reign of the Tsar, Alexander II. On the 22nd March 1880 permission was granted. On the 10th April of that year this circular letter was distributed throughout most of the Jewish communities of Russia. In its nature a personal appeal, it solicited participation in the establishment of a fund. Within two months 12,457 individuals from 407 cities and villages responded with contributions totalling 204,000 gold roubles. The resonance of the appeal and its universal acceptance is attested to by the mass response. Among the first contributors was that world renowned spiritual leader, Rabbi Isaac Elhanaan.

The government authorized the establishment of a provisional committee to prepare the statutes and establish a Society for the Propagation of Artisanal and Agricultural Work among the Jews. In November 1880 the Committee, whose guiding spirit was Professor N. J. Bakst, began its activity under the chairmanship of Samuel S. Poliakov. Its members were: Baron Horace O. Gunzburg, A. I. Zak, L. M. Rosenthal, M. P. Friedland, Prof. N. J. Bakst, A. Bank, A. Warshawski, J. Halpern, Rabbi Drabkin, and J. Kaufman.

In 1881 a severe political reaction began, accompanied by discrimination and pogroms, which limited the work of the committee for a considerable time. It was only in 1906, after the first Russian revolution, that the statutes of the Society were officially recognized and its work begun on a broader basis.

Most esteemed Sir,

One of those here undersigned, S. S. Poliakov, has petitioned to H. E. the Minister of Interior Affairs for his approval of the proposal of several Russian Jews to assemble from among their co-religionists, a fund for a public charitable purpose, in honor of the first Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the glorious reign of our beloved Monarch, His Most Illustrious Imperial Majesty, which will be held on February 19th of the year 1880. On that occasion, S. S. Poliakov contributed 25,000 Roubles toward that purpose. In reply to the petition, H. E. the Minister of Interior Affairs, on the 22nd March honoured S. S. Poliakov with a letter worded as follows:

“ H. M. the Emperor having graciously heard my report on the proposal of the Russian Jews to collect in their midst a fund for charitable purposes, in honor of the 19th February 1880 and of the donation by your goodself for that purpose of 25,000 Roubles, expresses His Majesty’s appreciation of Your Excellency’s so considerable donation. I have humbly informed His Imperial Majesty that the contributions will be collected by your Excellency in a private manner and that the use of the funds will be accounted for subsequently. ”

Having received that letter, S. S. Poliakov applied to the undersigned, inviting a common action with regard to the collection of funds, as well as the determination of those publicly useful aims which should be materialized from the income of this capital.

The undersigned heard with sincere joy of the most gracious authorization of His Imperial Majesty to perpetuate the memory of the 19th February 1880 by a work of general use for our people. With regard to the future determination of the character of that charitable work, which will be materialized in memory of that day, the undersigned consider that among the numerous needs of the mass of our co-religionists in Russia, the first place is occupied by the needs of the artisanal and agricultural occupations. Nothing, in fact, could better ameliorate the position of the mass of our co-religionists, than a thorough and systematic development among that mass of artisanal and agricultural occupations.

In view thereof, the undersigned assume that the most generally useful work which could be achieved, would consist in the creation of a fund, the income from which could be used to the aid in the further development of already existing trade schools for Jews, for assistance towards the opening of new trade schools, for facilitating the movement of artisans from one place to another, and for assistance to Jewish agricultural colonies, the founding of such colonies, model farms and agricultural schools. The future determination of the use of the

income from the capital for the purposes indicated above will be effected according to our proposals, by the Society, for the creation of which, upon the collection of a considerable part of the anticipated fund, we shall submit separately an application for the authorization of the Minister of Interior Affairs.

Though the scope of the aims for the materialisation of which the income from the expected capital will serve is wide, the undersigned apply to you, most esteemed Sir, with full confidence in the success of the work already begun. This assurance they draw from those joyous feelings which are evoked in each one of us by this good work. The need among the masses of our co-religionists is extreme, and we are convinced that that need could be alleviated only by the development among that mass of artisanal and agricultural knowledge and trades.

On this basis the undersigned hope that you, most esteemed Sir, will afford the work started every possible support both by personally participating in the subscription, as well as by inviting other persons to take part. The participation of as large a number of people as possible in that subscription is extremely dear to us, and the gift of a rouble by a poor man is not less dear to us than donations of tens of thousands !

We request you to send the money to St. Petersburg, in the name of Samuel Solomonovith Poliakov, who has already arranged for the deposit of all sums anticipated for this purpose in the State Bank. The names of donors will be published in due course.

This, our application, has the character of a private letter and it should not be attributed any publicity in periodical print.

Persons who will make their contribution not later than the 15th of July of this year will be considered as founding members of the proposed charitable institution.

Please accept, most esteemed Sir, our respectful greeting, and may God's blessing grace the work we have begun.

*S. S. Poliakov, Baron H. O. Gunzburg,
A. I. Zak, L. M. Rosenthal,
M. P. Friedland.*

St. Petersburg, April 10th, 1880.

THE GENESIS OF ORT

Pages from the History of Russian-Jewish Intelligentsia

by Gregory ARONSON

*Secretary General of the World ORT Union in Berlin
from 1926 to 1932*

... These are neither alms thrown to the victims of the Radomisl fire, nor a "first-aid" campaign in favour of communities suffering from a bad harvest. It is a general and radical aid, organized for the entire Jewish population of Russia. And this aid assumes an immense historic importance...

(Excerpt from the newspaper *Rasviet* of 3 May 1880.)

I. TEN YEARS BEFORE

Although the idea of interesting Russian Jews in various forms of productive work—in crafts and in agriculture—already had numerous followers during the reign of Nicholas I, several decades were to elapse before it became possible to plan its implementation. The Society for the Promotion of Handicrafts and Agricultural Work—better known under its abbreviated name O.R.T.—was founded in Russia during the few years of relative political liberalism, particularly during the period of the so-called "dictatorship of the heart" of Loris-Melikov, the Minister of the Interior. It seems nevertheless, that the idea to create an association with a social and political programme, with an aim to improve the life of Jewish masses in Russia constantly occupied the minds of men of good will, even before ORT was established.

We shall dwell here on an almost forgotten attempt to create an association for the promotion of handicrafts and agricultural work among the Jews which was perhaps the first attempt of its kind, and which merits our attention for several reasons. This episode reflects the precarious economic situation of the Jews, the inefficiency of Jewish social endeavour of those days, the sincere desire of western Jews (moved, perhaps, by consideration of their proper interests to help Jewish masses in eastern Europe) and, finally, the liberalism of certain officials. This episode occurred in 1869, ten years before ORT was born, and it serves as an instructive illustration of the epoch's characteristic traits.

* * *

Let us start by perusing the yellowed pages of the newspaper *Dien*, the organ of Russian Jewry published in Odessa¹, then those of the German weekly *Allgemeine Zeitung des Judentums*², the non-political publication devoted to Jewish interests, and also some other publications of the time, and in particular, the pamphlets published by Rabbi Dr. J. Ruelf of Memel, one of the foremost leaders of the Jewish community in Germany³. On the basis of these documents and of the information gathered from the Judeo-Russian press of the preceding years we can sketch the outline of this historic episode which, when all is said and done, inspired the efforts that resulted, ten years later, in the creation of ORT.

In 1869 the harvest in Russia was particularly bad, and worst of all in the north-western provinces (part of the Pale of Settlement to which the Jews were limited). Fate struck hard at the various classes of Jews who crammed the towns and villages in that part of the country; then famine provoked an epidemic of typhoid fever. The daily fare consisted of cabbage-stumps, turnips and potato peelings; on a diet like that mortality grew by leaps and bounds. According to contemporary information typhoid fever killed Jews by the thousands. Not being able to flee from the epidemic and the famine to the interior of the country—which was prohibited to them—the Jews moved in a mass to the western borders.

While waiting for a chance to continue their journey many of these famished and destitute Jews stopped in Kovno and its suburbs. Kovno became a centre of Jewish misery; but later on this town was to become a centre of Jewish mutual aid, too. In those days, however, Jewish mutual aid was so poorly organized that nothing much could have been expected from it. At the time, the ones best able to help were the Jews of eastern Prussia; they were just across the frontier, they were relatively rich and solidly established; many of them were emigrants, who still had family and business connections in Russia.

The ardent reaction of German Jews was not entirely caused by their idealism; it was also motivated by practical considerations: ships from Riga, Memel and Tilsit unloaded crowds of Russian Jews. These Jews fled from towns in the grip of famine and typhoid fever to reach western Europe and America; but many of those who wanted to emigrate to America were compelled, for one reason or another, to remain, if only temporarily, in central and western Europe. That was enough for German Jews; they sensed the imminent danger.

¹ The first issue of *Dien* appeared on 13 May 1869.

² Edited under the responsibility of Dr. Ludwig Philipson of Bonn.

³ His pamphlets, "My Travels in Lithuania to Help Needy Jews in Border Regions to Move to the Provinces of Central Russia," 1896; "Russian Jews, History of their Martyrdom and of our Efforts to Aid Them", 1892.

Dien, the Odessa newspaper, naturally devoted more and more attention to the difficult situation of Jews concentrated in Kovno in the spring of 1869. In the very first issue of this paper there is an article stating that on the initiative of the town a Provisional Committee was organized in Kovno to help needy Jews in the district. The paper also said that a collection was being organized abroad for the benefit of Jews, victims of the bad harvest. The *Allgemeine Zeitung des Judentums* in its issue N^o 3, dated 8 June, published an excerpt from the financial account of this collection up to the 24th April 1869. It appears that of 26,701 roubles collected to that date, 2,000 were given by the Tsar and the Tsarevitch, 11,000 came from St. Petersburg and 7,000 from Berlin. In a letter from St. Petersburg, printed in issue No. 5 of the *Dien* we find the following lines which shed a peculiar light on the mutual aid for the benefit of Kovno Jews. The author, who writes under the pen-name *Hamabit*¹, states: "We deem it our duty to note certain inaccuracies which appeared in the article in issue No. 1 of the *Dien*, devoted to Jews in Kovno, and particularly the lines; "... we have been informed that the situation of our Jews in Kovno has attracted the attention of even foreign Jews, residing abroad, and that they are raising funds to help them...". In point of fact, it is incorrect to speak of "even" foreign Jews. Foreign Jews are *precisely* the ones who try to attenuate the misery of these unfortunates. Committees to aid Jews in Kovno and in other provinces in the north-west of the country were already created at the beginning of the year in Memel, Lueck and other border towns. The Memel committee alone collected, as of the 26th April, more than 51,000 thalers, and 47,000 of this sum have been already spent..." "We are informed", *Hamabit* (The Observer) continues, "that a member of the Memel committee was asked by Prince Obolenski to come to Kovno to study together with him the measures to be taken to check this disaster in a radical manner. It is supposed that a committee will be established to transfer Jews from the district of Kovno to the interior of the country and abroad."

It seems, indeed, that a wave of fraternal compassion for the unfortunate Jews of Russia reached the most important Jewish communities of Germany, and aid committees were established in several towns. In addition to Memel and Lueck, already mentioned, such committees appeared in Berlin, Königsberg, Hamburg, Frankfurt, Cologne, Koblenz, etc. The response to the fundraising campaign for the Jews of Kovno was enthusiastic everywhere. It should be noted that some of the leaders of distinction among the German Jews not only organized material help for the sorely tried population, but attempted to find a way out of the blind alley into which the Jews were driven by the general policy of the Russian government and where they were condemned to live in overcrowded misery.

¹ Pen-name of a well-known writer, Adolf Landau, who later became the editor of the *Yevreiskaia Biblioteka* and of *Voskhod*.

For all those who took the trouble to think about the situation, it became clear that quite independently of the immediate aid for the needy, it was imperative to obtain for them the authorization to move, so that they would be able to find their way to the interior of the country.

It seems that at the time Jews abroad were extremely preoccupied with the status of Jews in Russia, deprived of all rights. A proof of that is the request addressed on this subject by Dr. Ruelf of Memel to the Governor of Kovno; "Allow me to draw your attention to the following circumstance: as soon as one crosses the Russian frontier into Prussian territory one notes a sharp difference in the situation of the Jews. Even in the border regions the Jews do not live piled on top of each other. Jewish communities in these regions are relatively well-to-do and they possess a certain amount of culture. Like the inhabitants in other towns of Prussia, they engage in handicrafts and industry and thus contribute in a large measure to the commercial and industrial development of the country. How can one explain this radical difference in the social and economic status of the Jews on either side of the frontier? Simply by the fact that in Prussia they have an absolute and unlimited right to circulate in the country without any hindrance."¹

Writing on the subject of aid organized for the unfortunate Jews of Russia, Dr. Ruelf relates in his booklet, published in 1892, that the first appeal was voiced in Germany as early as December 1868. During 1869, two hundred thousands thalers were collected in 230 towns. Unfortunately, this booklet does not tell us in which Russian towns this money was spent, nor for what purpose.

Our information on this point, as far as Kovno is concerned, is very sketchy, although this town was the centre of social aid activity and it was there that the idea to create an association to promote handicrafts and agricultural work among the Jews was conceived. We also do not know in what measure the progressive elements of other Jewish communities in Russia were interested in the situation of needy Jews. We do know, however, that Jews in St. Petersburg, Vilna and Odessa were keenly moved by the tragic fate of the stricken Jewish population and that the participation of these towns in aid activity was very considerable.

* * *

Dr. Ruelf arrived in Kovno on the 25th of May; and the very same day he was received by the Governor of the town, Prince Obolenski. As we have already mentioned, an aid committee was established in Kovno on the initiative of the Governor, who, in opening the subscription, headed the list with a sum of 100 roubles. His wife donated 50 roubles. We do not know very much about

¹ Quoted in an article by M. Margoulies, printed in the *Rasviet* of 18 October 1879.

who participated at that meeting or what was said in its course. Dr. Ruelf mentions only the names of Prince Obolenski and Novikov, a college headmaster. On the Jewish side he mentions only Mr. Feinberg, a representative of a commercial enterprise of Kovno and Königsberg. We may ask ourselves, why Dr. Ruelf did not deem it necessary to mention the name of Rabbi Silbermann, chairman of the Lueck aid committee and editor of the journal *Hamabit*. The resolution adopted at this meeting was very brief, but it contained the essential ideas about the remoulding of the economic structure of the Jewish people. In this resolution the principle of "self-help" appears for the first time. Indeed, the resolution proclaims the creation of an association for the development of handicrafts and agricultural work among the Jews of Russia:

"Without awaiting governmental authorization, it is decided to establish a society with sections in various towns of the country. The task of this society shall be to direct Jews towards provinces of the interior, to allot to them plots of land and to create technical and agricultural schools for the vocational training of Jewish youth."

The necessity of modifying the economic structure of the Jews of Russia had been already recognized by broad circles of the population. The new element introduced by the meeting in Kovno was its preoccupation with the *political* aspect of the problem, *viz.*, with the struggle against a status which deprived Jews of all rights, even within the narrow confines of the Pale of authorized settlement; for the resolution suggested the transfer of groups of Jews to the interior of the country.

Dr. Ruelf's booklet tells us that on the day after the meeting, on May 26, three residents of Vilna were called by telegraph to Kovno; they were Ascher Woll, teacher in a rabbinical school, A. Monosewitch and the old rabbi, Yankel Barir. It seems that the talks continued with the participation of these three persons, and that the purpose of the meeting was the practical implementation of the resolution adopted under the chairmanship of the Governor. The aims of the future society were formulated in eight points; two persons were assigned to draft the statutes of the society and to write a memorandum to the Government. Unfortunately, there is no trace either of these eight points, or of the memorandum to the Government. We do not even know the names of the authors of these two documents.

Among the Jews of Kovno, whom fate had put in the way of Dr. Ruelf, we find the name of a Dr. Shapiro, probably a great philanthropist. We also note the name of a Mr. J. Levy, secretary of the Kovno aid committee who, in the *Dien* of 29 August 1869, polemizes with *Hamabit*, correspondent of the paper, on the subject of tasks assigned to the future society. *Hamabit* thought that one of the aims of the aid committee would be to facilitate the

emigration of Russian Jews, whereas Mr. Levy contested this view. This controversy continued in subsequent issues of the *Dien*.

And that is all we know about the first attempt to create a society of an economic and social character. The efforts made by the Jews of Kovno, and supported by the Governor, came to nought. The statutes were never confirmed by the Government. But from then on the idea of creating a society for the development of handicrafts among the Jews was ever present in the minds of progressive Jewish elements. Ten years later, M. Margoulis, one of the most passionate advocates of this idea published, in the *Rasviet* of 18 October 1879, an appeal to the leading Jewish circles asking them "to implement—with certain modifications—the initial plan of the Kovno committee. We must obtain from the Government the authority to establish in St. Petersburg, under the auspices of the Ministry of the Interior, a society the aim of which would be to create vocational and agricultural schools for Jews and to supervise the transfer of Jews to the provinces of the interior or other towns where they are authorized to reside."

In its issue of 18 December 1880 *Rasviet* stressed the family relationship between the conceptions of the ORT founders and the project of the Kovno committee. *Rasviet* wrote: "In 1869 a committee was to have been created, with the support of the Governor of Kovno, to aid the famished. The statutes of the society were not approved. Another decade was to pass before a start could be made to implement this social initiative."

II. THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ATMOSPHERE

The first years of the reign of Alexander II were highlighted by two particularly important reforms which deeply influenced all aspects of life in Russia: the abolition of serfdom and the legal reform. As far as the Jews were concerned, the great reforms were not so magnanimous: only the "Rekrutshchina"¹ and some drastic decrees on residence authorization were abolished. It wasn't much, but enough to awaken the hope for an improvement of the legal status of Jews in Russia. As to the tendencies of the epoch, a report presented by L. M. Bramson² at the end of December 1903 to a session of the JCA on matters of vocational education contained the following indications: "Little by little, under the pressure of the times and in view of the general measures adopted during the reign of Alexander II the extent of the rights of

¹ "Rekrutshchina"—forced recruitment of young Jewish children for a 25-year term of military service, practiced under Nicholas I.

² In the 1890s L. M. Bramson was the chairman of the JCA (Jewish Colonization Association) Central Committee in St. Petersburg. Later, Dr. Bramson was one of the outstanding leaders of ORT.

Jews was gradually widened, and their courage and faith in their own forces increased. Since access to institutions of learning became easier, education penetrated all strata of the population. Progressive and influential circles of Russian society sympathized with the Jews; outbreaks of hate and intolerance became less and less frequent. It was almost as though the Jews were on the threshold of an historic event, on the eve of their emancipation as citizens."

However, at the end of the seventies of the past century Russian autocracy had already assumed the features of a two-faced Janus: one face smiled to moderate circles as though it wished to reach an understanding with liberal society, while the other bared its teeth and showed its will to maintain a reign of reactionary conservatism. Liberal circles, which hoped that the abolition of serfdom and legal reforms would be followed by other ameliorations in the regime, were keenly disappointed. As to the situation of Jews in Russia, it became increasingly clear that their growing impoverishment could not be checked by economic measures only.

From that time on the problem of Jews in Russia was considered by Jewish and by liberal Russian circles as essentially a political and legal problem. The most important task was to obtain equal rights as to the free choice of residence anywhere in Russia and a free choice in the selection of a trade. The point at issue was the right to transfer some Jewish groups to the interior of the country from the Pale of Settlement where it was becoming more and more difficult to breathe.

There were two ways to solve this problem: the first was tied up with the ideology of revolution, which meant that the Jewish problem could only be solved in a political upheaval leading to the collapse of absolutism: the second—and at the time it seemed to be the only realistic one—was the re-orientation of the regime towards gradual evolution. In moderate Jewish circles certain tendencies were taking shape; today one would call them national aspirations. And the methods of action formerly advocated by Russian liberalism coincided completely with these tendencies, as they coincided with the ideas of the Society for the Promotion of Handicrafts and Agricultural Work among the Jews in Russia, and with the desire to tie up this Jewish effort for revival with the 25th anniversary of the reign of Alexander II.

* * *

In the life of the Jewish intelligentsia in St. Petersburg, the years 1879-80 were filled with torment and ardour. The Russo-Turkish war was over. Jewish publications, *Rasviet* and *Russki Yevrey*, began to appear. General attention was focused on the difficult economic situation of the Jewish masses and on their inability to obtain civic rights. This social effervescence sought expression, and found it, in literary and philanthropic activity. In the winter

of 1879 there were frequent meetings of various small groups wherein national sentiment affirmed itself. In an essay on the awakening of the national conscience of Judeo-Russian society (Vol. III, St. Petersburg 1911), M. M. Kagan¹ presents an extremely interesting characterization of the St. Petersburg Jewish intelligentsia in the year 1879.

“The precarious situation of Jews deprived of rights was not just a subject to discuss around the tea table; it was also the subject of a resolution submitted to the Government by a rabbinical commission. Self-help was the watch-word of the social elite... The fund, established later by S. S. Poliakov, reflected the prevailing climate of that time. The government was less and less disposed to grant equal rights to all Jews; at least those privileges granted to Jewish craftsmen should be made available to the greatest possible number of persons. Therefore progressive Jewish circles enthusiastically welcomed the initiative to create a class of skilled Jewish craftsmen. At that time hope was entertained that it would also be possible to develop farm labour among the Jews; it was still believed that the Government would allot plots of land to Jews. Some even spoke about certain regions where this would be done; the region of Akhal-Tek was particularly talked about. It is known that later on, in 1881, the famous Count Ignatieff planned to set aside the region of Akhal-Tek—taken from the Turks by General Skobelev—for colonization by Russian Jews, and that he even carried on some negotiations on that subject with various persons.”

The tendencies of the contemporary Jewish circles in St. Petersburg are accurately described in a study by M. Margoulis, published in numbers 3-6 of *Rasviet* in 1879. In this study the author attempted to give the Jewish reader a full picture of the economic problems of the Jewish masses in Russia and to indicate a possible solution. Under the significant title “What is the Way to Determine the Fate of Russian Jews?” he extended an invitation to the public to create a society with the aim of promoting productive work among the Jews. “By ‘productive work’”—wrote Margoulis—“we mean work in crafts and on the farm.” As to the tasks of the proposed society—which, it appears, were discussed in the intelligentsia circles of St. Petersburg—he wrote: “We must obtain from the Government an authorization to found a society that would create vocational and agricultural schools for Jews and would attend to the transfer of Jews to the provinces of the interior.”

The *Rasviet* of 18 October 1879 published an extremely virulent article: “Enough of twaddle! Enough of hot air! It is time to go to work. We are faced with a profoundly national and living task, with clearly formulated aims... to create agricultural and vocational schools, to facilitate the transfer

¹ This writer was known for his works in Hebrew and Yiddish under the name Mardoche Ben Hillel Hacohen.

of Jews to the provinces of the interior... these are the aims that must be achieved and this is the way to raise the standard of living of the Jewish masses in Russia. Life itself has set these aims before us; they were recognized a long time ago and, last year, they were endlessly discussed among the Jewish intelligentsia of St. Petersburg. For our part, we firmly believe that it is possible, and indispensable, to achieve these aims which form a fundamental part of our creed. We started to publish our paper to make our beliefs known, and it is to the propagation of these ideas that we have devoted our time and our efforts... ”

The period of the preparation of public opinion and of the vital social forces was about to end. The idea of ORT was ripe and was ready for embodiment.

III. THE FOUNDATION OF ORT ITS PROGRAM AND ITS IMMEDIATE TASKS

The first official document of ORT is a “ private letter ” (see “ Private Letter ”, p. 11) dated 10 April 1880. Thousands of copies of this letter were sent to well-known personalities and to leaders of Jewish communities in all towns and important villages of Russia.

The letter of the Minister of the Interior to Mr. Poliakov—which mentions the “ Private Letter ”—refers to a philanthropic action in general and without definite aims. But the first grant of Mr. Poliakov was not connected with any precise aims, either. Intentionally, no doubt, matters were left rather vague. Nevertheless we know that the aims and tasks of this Fund were clearly set out already in the winter of 1879-80. And even before this “ Private Letter ” was sent out, *Rasviet* (No. 13 of 28 March 1880) wrote : “ We are informed by a reliable source that a vocational school will be opened in the Jewish orphanage of our city in commemoration of the 19th of February. Furthermore, Mr. Poliakov has made a gift of 25,000 roubles, also in commemoration of this date, intended for a philanthropic organization; the chief aim of this organization will be to help young apprentices and to develop productive work. The statutes of the said organization will be formulated in detail when the capital intended for the above-mentioned aims will reach a substantially sufficient amount. It is said that high authorities have already approved the establishment of such an organization. ”

Just as the “ private letter ”, this notice in the *Rasviet* reveals the prevailing state of mind : from the allusion to the 19th of February, i.e. to the 25th anniversary of the reign of Alexander II, to the insistence on the philanthropic character of the society and its aims—the support and the development of vocational schools for youth in the first place—all is intended as an adaptation

to the political regime; for it was possible to obtain the authorization for the society only by stressing the humble and loyal character of the request.

Nevertheless this "private letter" was a harbinger of a new spirit. "The allocation of its income to various aims mentioned above"—it said—"will be entrusted to a Society"; and farther on we read: "We are particularly interested in the widest possible participation in this subscription, and one rouble from a poor man is no less precious than a gift of tens of thousands of roubles."

Mr. Poliakov and Baron Gunzburg used such words to express the need of transforming the Fund into a mass membership organization, and appealed for a mass response, because the idea of creating around the new endeavour a vast social movement, embracing all classes of the population, was already sufficiently developed in the minds to be understood and accepted by these pillars of philanthropy. Thus the initiators of ORT—financiers and industrialists, barons and professors—broke with the tradition that made them spokesmen of heretofore passive Jewish masses and opened the door to a social activity founded on wider democratic bases.

* * *

From the day of the posting of the "private letter" general attention was drawn to the necessity to collect the funds that would serve as a financial basis of the future society. It is enough to glance at the *Rasviet* and the *Russki Yevrey* of those days to realize how vast and deep was the response of the Jewish people to these first practical measures of the initiators of the scheme.

"A Fund is being constituted in St. Petersburg"—wrote the *Rasviet* of 3 May 1880—"with a view to developing handicrafts and agricultural work among the Jews. To achieve this end we must have means, very considerable means. Remember that these are neither alms tossed to the victims of the Radomisl fire, nor a "first-aid" campaign in favour of communities suffering from a bad harvest. It is a general and radical aid, organized for the entire Jewish population of Russia. And this aid assumes an immense historic importance... Don't be indifferent! Don't throw the appeal asking you to take part in an endeavour of vital interest to the entire community into the waste-paper basket!"

It seems that the author of this dynamic appeal put his finger on the fundamental difference between philanthropic aid and the task undertaken by ORT. It is true that officially the terminology of the times was still being used: "philanthropic funds", "philanthropic society", etc. But the social ideas that inspired the creators of ORT were gaining in strength. What a distance between the current ideas on philanthropy and the conception of a "general and radical aid", an aid intended "for the entire Jewish population of Russia", an aid of "immense historic importance!"

The journal *Russki Yevrey*, too, supported this initiative from the very beginning. In the editorial of 6 August 1880 we read: "Never before, perhaps, was Russian Judaism faced with such a high and noble, and at the same time, such a difficult task: to create a fund for handicrafts and agricultural work among Jews... We wholeheartedly applaud the "private letter" with which our readers are already acquainted. This letter expresses the secret thoughts of all those who have the interests of the Jewish community at heart. It is as though this letter had brought to every one of us a new and living message, a message, however, that many among us felt was drawn from our innermost souls. In a few lines it traces for our philanthropists a clear and concise program for the immediate future."

On 3 September 1880 *Russki Yevrey* wrote: "National conscience is gradually growing stronger: every one of us understands that we can no longer lead this life... But how can we help, what can we do, where can we find a solution? To this question all thinking elements of Russian Judaism answer: in the promotion of handicrafts and agricultural work among Jews. This is the only way at our disposal. We cannot complain that interest in the creation of the Fund is lacking. Quite on the contrary! We have every reason to be proud of the exemplary unanimity, in this respect, of all parties."

The Russian press (in which several Jewish journalists worked too) was, as a rule, kindly disposed to the idea of ORT. Liberal circles respected the idea of more Jews in productive trades and less of them in shop-keeping and petty trading; furthermore, they thought, ORT's program was a way towards the civic emancipation of Jews. It is interesting to observe the attitude of journalists grouped around the *St. Petersburgskie Vedomosti*, a newspaper near the governmental circles. In expressing its sympathy with the idea of creating ORT this newspaper deemed it its duty to add that the obstacles were not made by the authorities, but by the Jews themselves. "All they have to do to become fully fledged Russian citizens is to abandon their medieval occupations". And then the newspaper recalls a number of privileges granted to some categories of Jews (privileges by comparison with the status of other Jews), and the abolition of a few severe decrees—all this as a proof of the liberal tendencies of the government on the Jewish question. It is obvious that no one was fooled by these writings. *Russki Yevrey*, in December 1880, went even as far as to state that it did not share the opinion of the above-mentioned paper, according to which "the issue of the matter depends on Jews themselves" but at the same time expressed the hope that Russian Jews would obtain equal civic rights after showing their sincere desire to devote themselves to productive trades.

It was thus that the idea of equal civic rights for Jews gradually hewed its way through the thick wall of Russian imperial censorship to reach public opinion.

Among the first historic documents of ORT we should mention the "Statutes of the Provisional Committee" which were approved by the Minister of the Interior, Loris-Melikov, on 30 September, 1880. i.e. five months after the "private letter" was posted. These statutes stipulated that a provisional committee was to function while awaiting the establishment of the Society for the promotion of handicrafts and agricultural work. Its main tasks were the organization of the collection of funds, the preparation of statutes and the recruitment of members for the future association. On this last point it was expressly stated "that measures must be taken to find as many supporters as possible for the association." Furthermore, the statutes indicated that the functions of the Provisional Committee would be of a temporary character and that in future they would be assumed by a regularly constituted society. The first general assembly was to be convened immediately after the approval of the statutes; it was to elect a board of directors to which the Provisional Committee was to transfer the funds collected. The board of directors was not authorized to spend the capital of the Fund; it could only use the interest and the annual membership dues for the purposes mentioned in the "private letter", viz., establishment of vocational schools and farm settlements, transfer of craftsmen, etc. The full text of these statutes was published in the press.

A statement of the "Provisional Committee", published in November 1880, gave the list of its members; it also indicated the total amount collected between 30 April and 30 October 1880 and contained a report on the meetings of the Committee.

The "Provisional Committee", under the chairmanship of Mr. S. Poliakov, included the following personalities: E. Bank, N. Bakst, Baron H. O. Gunzburg, Rabbi A. Drabkin, J. M. Halpern, A. Warshavski, A. I. Zak, M. Friedland, I. Kaufman, and L. Rosenthal.

At its first meeting, on 12 November 1880, the "Provisional Committee" elected a commission to draft the statutes of the future association; members of the commission were Messrs. Bakst, Halpern, Kaufman and Zak.

Draft statutes were submitted for approval to the Government in 1885. Later on we shall revert to the trials and tribulations of these statutes.

IV. A WIDE-SPREAD ACTIVITY ON BEHALF OF ORT

From 30 April to 30 October 1880, that is, during its first six months, a total of 204,000 roubles was turned over to the "Philanthropic Fund". A particularly remarkable circumstance that should be remembered is that the list of donors proved the essentially democratic character of the enterprise and stressed the underlying spirit of solidarity. Suffice it to note that 12,457 individuals contributed to the fund. ORT's initiators and the Jewish-Russian

press had so profoundly moved public opinion and their ideas were met with such a response from the Jewish masses that contributions came in from even the poorest communities.

From March 1880 *Rasviet* and the *Russki Yevrey* regularly published the results of the campaign. The *Russki Yevrey*, in its issue No. 14 of 2 April, reported interesting details about the first donations. All were more or less informed about the 25,000 rouble gift of Mr. Poliakov. On the other hand, not so much was known about the 25,000 rouble donation of Baron Gunzburg who, furthermore, subscribed an annual fee of 1500 roubles. Mr. Zak gave 500 roubles and pledged 500 roubles annually; Mr. Malkiel gave 2500 roubles and pledged 300 roubles annually; Mr. Warshavski—2000 roubles; Mr. Rosenthal—1500 roubles and 500 roubles annually; Mr. Friedland—1500 roubles with an annual subscription of 300 roubles; Mr. Kaufman gave 1000 roubles and pledged 200 roubles a year.

“And to these donations—wrote the *Russki Yevrey*—“will soon be added the contributions of other capitalists. But we don’t have many big capitalists... Therefore, as long as we are unable to count on the help from the middle classes, that is on the help of well-to-do Russian Jews, this great and noble impetus will not give concrete results”.

In a speech, delivered at the ORT general assembly held in St. Petersburg in 1906, Mr. J. Halpern recalled that the “private letter” was sent out in thousands of copies, but that much time had to pass before the Jewish communities were aroused from their torpor and became interested in the new initiative. A balance sheet, drawn up three months after the opening of the campaign, seemed, at the first glance, a rather discouraging affair. It is possible that the pessimism reported was intentional, that it was intended to stimulate the eagerness of all and to stress the fact that not all had done their duty. For as a matter of fact the Fund was off to a good start from the very beginning and there was no doubt about the success of the campaign.

On 9 July 1880 the *Russki Yevrey* informed its readers that the first subscriptions totaled 63,000 roubles in St. Petersburg, 20,000 roubles in Kiev and 10,000 roubles in Moscow. In 130 other towns and villages participating in the collection, 44,900 roubles were raised. During the first three months of the campaign a total of 2,800 persons contributed to the fund; 22 of them gave 1,000 roubles or more and 102 from 100 to 1,000 roubles. The biggest contribution was that of 25,000 roubles, and the smallest—of 25 kopeks.

On 17 July 1880 *Rasviet*, drawing up a balance sheet of the collection, reminded its readers that in the “private letter” the initiators of the campaign announced that those contributing before July 15 will be considered as founding members of the future association. “The 15th of July has come and gone”—wrote the *Rasviet*—“and the money in the till of the Philanthropic

Fund does not make up even a fifth of the sum expected. A total of 150,000 roubles had been paid in, and if we subtract the 60,000 roubles donated by large financial enterprises, hardly 100,000 roubles remain. ”

The periodicals published letters from the farthest regions of the country. They mentioned the difficulties encountered in the conduct of the campaign and suggested many ways of ensuring its full success. Pessimistic views were expressed in several towns. “The masses know nothing about this Fund,” stated a correspondent from Rovno where the campaign was unsuccessful. From Verkhodnieprovsk it was reported that in spite of a meeting held in the synagogue the workers were extremely reserved about this matter, and the writer added: “There is no one here to make them understand what this is all about”. In Radomisl, too, hardly anything was known about the Fund; furthermore, strange rumours were spreading; for example it was said that “the Turkish Sultan became a Jew and that he invited all the Jews to come to him, and that is why the money was needed.” It was also rumoured that “the nine tribes had been found, that they lived in a profound misery and that the money was collected for them.”

In analysing the results of the campaign the *Russki Yevrey* noted numerous gaps. For example the participation of the town of Berditchev (an important Jewish centre) was inferior to that of a handful of persons in Ehrenburg. The large community of Vitebsk collected much less than the little town of Belz. Odessa’s contribution was half of Kiev’s although in the former the community was larger and better organized. “Those who follow attentively the growth of the Philanthropic fund”—wrote the *Russki Yevrey*—“are compelled to recognize that what this enterprise needs is an energetic and active initiative in most of our communities.”

Here is an interesting detail that throws a light on provincial mentality: several philanthropic organizations felt offended because they did not receive the “private letter” from the leading Jewish personalities of St. Petersburg, and therefore they refused to contribute to the fund. From Bolshoi Tokmak it was reported: “The circular letter is a sort of an excuse for our rich; those of them who have not received it in person give but little.” In Bobrinetz (in the government of Kherson) it was thought that the initiators of the Fund entertained exaggerated pretensions about themselves, and that they “did not deign to honour with their letter certain persons who are well-known in our bare corners but not in the outside world.” It goes without saying that these grievances exercised an unfavourable influence on the results of the campaign, and to such a point that the *Russki Yevrey* thought it necessary to inform its readers that it was ready to transmit to Mr. Poliakov all protests about the non-receipt of the letters. This paper went to the trouble to explain to the “offended” ones that certain involuntary omissions in addressing

the letter were only natural, as it was absolutely impossible to know in St. Petersburg all the persons in Russia who could be useful to the cause.

The reports devoted to the organization of the campaign discussed at length the question of the co-operation of certain rabbis: should they be asked to help or not? In an article entitled "Philanthropic Fund and the Prerequisites for Success" (*Rasviet* nos. 47-52), Mr. Brandt mentioned the "brilliant" participation of the town of Kiev and dwelt at length on the impressions he had gathered in the towns and villages in the governments of Kiev and Podolsk. The meager financial results, he explained, were due mainly to the fact that the support of the rabbis was not secured at the right time. And the author came to the conclusion that the Provisional Committee should invite the participation of some well-known rabbis, so that "they should duly approve" this action in the sight of all the Jews. In a letter published by the *Rasviet* a Mr. J. Ginzburg from the little town of Mezeritch in the department of Sedletz was even more outspoken on this point: "Repeatedly, I have noticed the distrust entertained here in the initiators of the Fund, a distrust connected with the "Kashrut" of this campaign. The letters received here were in Russian and did not mention the name of any rabbi. But, as a rule, it is precisely the rabbi that makes "kasher" philanthropic initiatives. So it is not surprising that religious Jews entertain some doubts. . . ." For the Fund to become a cause of the broad masses of Judaism—proposed the author—"it is necessary to secure the cooperation of eminent rabbis, such as Isroel Slanter, J. Beer (Brisk), V. Meisels (Lodz) and R. Yehoshua (Kutno)."

And since we are talking about rabbis it is, perhaps, worth while to mention a curious bit of information from Bobruisk where the results were not satisfactory, because "our rabbi, who is one of the best of men and derives his glory from being a direct descendant of the Just, is only interested in those things that can bring him a profit. . . ."

Among other causes impeding the smooth development of the campaign we have noticed only one case where difficulties were due to the ill will of petty officials of the administration; this case is mentioned in the editorial of the *Rasviet* of 16 July 1880. As a rule, however, the authorities did not interfere any more than in other Jewish affairs.

It is worth while to mention another circumstance, stressed particularly by a correspondent from Mezeritch. The "private letter" which was to stimulate the campaign, was written in *Russian* and therefore could elicit a response only from a limited circle of the intelligentsia and the "Israelites" who knew Russian. In certain towns, such as Ekaterinoslav, Pinsk, etc., it was decided to translate this letter into the "holy language and to post it in the synagogue." Only in this way could it reach the broad masses of prospective donors. In another letter we find a suggestion to draft this

letter in Yiddish ; after all, its subject was a *popular* movement and, therefore, it should be in the language of the people. In another letter, published in the *Rasviet* of July 16 a reader makes the following remarks :

“ It seems to us that it would have been better to send out as many copies of this appeal as possible drafted in our simple “jargon” ; then it would have been understandable even to the most modest classes of the Jewish population. Our Fund is important for all Jews ; it is raised in the interests of the people : let it be built-up by the people ! ”

* * *

A total of 206,000 roubles was turned over to the Fund by 12,457 persons residing in 407 towns and villages of the country. A few figures will show the break-down of towns on the basis of the amount contributed :

4 towns contributed 10,000 roubles or more
21 towns contributed 1,000 roubles or more
94 towns contributed from 100 to 1000 roubles
41 towns contributed from 50 to 100 roubles
63 towns contributed from 25 to 50 roubles
74 towns contributed from 10 to 25 roubles
110 towns contributed from 1 rouble or less to 10 roubles.

It should be noted that the four towns of the first category, *viz.*, St. Petersburg, Kiev, Odessa and Moscow contributed a sum of 125,793 roubles (from 1094 donors), or more than 60% of the total collected.

An analysis of the situation in other towns gives us the following picture :

Odessa leads with 513 donors, then comes Kiev (351), Elisavetograd (331), Riga (326), Minsk (310), Kherson (305). Then there is a group of towns with less than 300 donors, such as Kremenchug (299), Vinnitsa (271), Pinsk (260), Kovno (255), Rostov (246), Mogilev (227), Balta (212), Grodno (205). In other towns the number of donors was 150 and less. Various well-to-do Jewish communities made a very poor showing. For example in Vilna only 139 persons contributed to the Fund ; in Vitebsk—130 ; in Kishinev—79 ; in Belostok—79 ; in Brisk—63 ; in Zhitomir—61 and in Bobruisk—34.

The response of the Polish towns to the appeal was even weaker ; one would have thought that the Polish Jews regarded this campaign as of no concern to them, but to Russian Jews only. In a town like Lodz 76 persons contributed to the Fund, and in Warsaw only 50.

The break-down of donors on the basis of amounts contributed gives us the following picture :

	2 persons	contributed	25,000	roubles	each	
	1 person	"	10,000	"	"	
	20 persons	"	from 1,000	to 5,000	roubles	each
	230	"	"	100 to 1,000	"	"
	229	"	"	50 to 100	"	"
	527	"	"	25 to 50	"	"
	11,448	"	"	1 rouble	or less	to 25 roubles.

In other words 92% of all donors were persons of modest means. For it must be remembered that the majority of those who at that time could contribute 3 or 4 roubles were in relatively easy circumstances, since poor Jews, try as hard as they might, could not have produced these few roubles. It is quite probable that they never even heard about the Fund.

It is also interesting to note that in one way or another non-Jews also contributed to the Fund. They belonged to the progressive elements of the times who regarded economic self-help as a solution to the desperate situation of the Russian Jews. In No. 49 of the *Russki Yevrey* we find the following paragraph on this subject: "We are informed that Mr. N. Pirogoff, who has already done much for the Jews, contributed 50 roubles to the Philanthropic Fund."

V. THE RETURN TO POWER OF REACTIONARY CIRCLES

It may be said that ORT was born under a lucky star. There was hope in the air for the improvement of the legal and economic situation of the Jewish masses. The appeal of ORT's founders was ardently responded to by broad circles of the Jewish population. To the progressive elements of the Jewish intelligentsia the establishment of ORT was the beginning of the realization of their dreams; they saw their people relieved from bureaucratic oppression, living with a healthy economic structure and moving towards emancipation and association with European culture. The average citizen, influenced by educational propaganda, saw in the development of handicrafts and agricultural work the salvation of the impoverished masses. The contemporary leaders of the bourgeoisie, the financiers and industrialists, the "shtadlomin"¹ were, in turn, won over by the general enthusiasm and placed their names, their relations, their influence at the service of this useful cause.

But the clouds of political reaction were again darkening the country. And it was not only a political reaction, but a social reaction as well. The twilight of the eighties cut short all initiatives in the social field and the Pro-

¹ "shtadlomin"—those who were in a position to use their influence in high places on behalf of the Jews.

visional Committee suffered the fate of all the others. The transition from enthusiasm to disappointment was expressed in an article of the *Ruski Yevrey* of 22 September 1882: "... Not so long ago, a year and a half at the most, we often mentioned in these columns the noble efforts which well-situated Russian Jews were making on behalf of the poor Jewish masses. It was the time when the Fund for handicrafts and agricultural work was created. The insufficiency and the precariousness of the means of existence of the Jews in towns and their growing proletarianisation brought fourth the conviction that only the resurrection and the re-establishment of handicrafts among Jews could guarantee the existence of the improverished masses. The elite of Judaism, weary of pretty speeches and beautiful dreams without any future decided to act realistically and to undertake a vital and fruitful task in order to modify the social and economic structure of Jewish masses... The evolution of ORT was slow but constant; it was helped along by an influx of funds, of power and energy, indispensable for the development of its future activity. And now, in so short a time, everything is changed... Pogroms have broken out, a vast emigration has commenced, and to cap it all there are those well-known decrees against Jews, decrees which, in a way, are a corollary of the pogroms. All farms and agricultural settlements, all vocational schools have gone up in smoke with other Jewish property devastated by the bandits. Pogroms, imperilling the life and the property of Jews destroyed their confidence in the future. The interim decrees have destroyed the well-being and the bases of existence of several thousand families and they continue to exercise their baleful influence."

We have already mentioned the tendencies in governmental circles which were gathering strength during the last years of the reign of Alexander II. The regime of the "dictatorship of the heart" could not be squared with the structure of Russian absolutism. The assassination of Tsar Alexander II on 1 March 1881, after seven other similar attempts, only precipitated the return of arch reaction, undisguised by any phraseology. Alexander III, the new Tsar, who even during the lifetime of his father was a follower of the policy of Pobedonostsev and had savagely opposed all ideas about a Constitution, became even more implacable after the assassination of his father.

The future policy that cut short all "senseless dreams" was laid down at the famous governmental meeting of 8 March 1881. Pobedonostsev, who finally came to power, pronounced a thunderous speech: "There are some" he exclaimed, "who want to introduce here a Constitution on a foreign model. That would lead us straight to perdition. Russia was always strong thanks to its autocracy. We must not abandon ourselves to words, we must act. We have to act!" Makov supported Pobedonostsev's conclusions: "We must think about the consolidation of authority, and we must stifle the revolt!"

Katkov, another reactionary orator, uttered the words, which became famous later: "On your feet, gentlemen, the Government is coming!"

And the Government came, indeed, with all the resources of imperial power. It advanced against society, against the intelligentsia, against the students, against all those who were dissatisfied. The situation of the Jews which, in the days of Alexander II had enjoyed a brief respite, again became desperate under the pressure of ruthless reaction. Pogroms and expulsions from villages followed in the wake of each other, and administrative anarchy reigned over this chaos. Antisemitism, officially professed by the Government and poisoning the atmosphere, began to appear everywhere, in the street, in society and in the press. In an ORT report for the year 1908 (St. Petersburg, 1909) J. Halpern describes the general feeling towards Jews: "There is a radical change in the attitude of the Government, and also in the tendencies of society, towards the Jewish question. Any Jewish initiative, no matter how useful it may be, no matter how idealistic its aims, is met with distrust and suspicion. One pretends to see ulterior motives everywhere; it is suspected that Jews want to lay hold of something, that they attempt to dominate. Everywhere one feels the influence of the negative attitude of the ruling circles towards Jewish needs that have become more and more acute because of various new restrictive regulations."

In a funeral oration delivered on 12 December 1908 in memory of the late Prof. N. Bakst, Mr. H. Sliosberg stated that: "In all regions where Jews are authorized to reside there are special commissions, working under the chairmanship of governors who receive their instructions from St. Petersburg. These commissions carry out surveys and gather evidence to prove the harmfulness of the Jews for the local population, peasants especially, and that this harmfulness has caused regrettable acts of violence against Jews. We know that one of these governors brooked no discussion of the question whether it was really the Jewish population that constituted the harmful element. He pointed out that his instructions "ordered him to emphasize the evil-mindedness of Jews and to take appropriate measures against it, and not to establish their harmlessness, to say nothing of their possible usefulness... Everyone understands what these instructions really mean. And thus it is that in all regions of the Pale of authorized settlement the conviction is being driven into the minds of the non-Jewish population that all the harm comes from Jews."

* * *

It is obvious that these reactionary tendencies had their influence on the activity of the Philanthropic Fund and on the future of the ORT society. First of all, let us dwell on the question of the statutes. We have already mentioned that at its first general assembly the Provisional Committee had

elected a commission to draft these statutes. This commission submitted draft statutes to the appropriate authorities. But in spite of all efforts the interventions of the Committee failed to achieve any results. In the ORT report for 1906 (February 1907) Mr. J. Halpern states that after having made the rounds of offices at all administrative levels the draft of the statutes finally came to rest in the drawers of the Palentscher commission, and there they remained. "The founders of ORT", continued Mr. Halpern, "did not limit themselves to submitting the statutes "through channels"; they also attempted to act through "personal intervention" in order to secure, as rapidly as possible, the authorization to register the Society. At one time it seemed that the requested authorization would be granted, but in such a way as to bind us hand and foot for a long time to come, since this authorization would have even further restricted the activity of the Provisional Committee."

To avoid this the members of the Committee took no further steps to obtain the statutes and to register ORT Society. "The Committee shared the fate of all, and observing that the political situation did not offer a possibility for a favourable solution of the issue it awaited impatiently the advent of better times." This impatient waiting lasted for 25 years, until the 1905 revolution which finally offered the possibility to establish ORT on the normal basis of any democratic association.

Peculiar to the reactionary current of the times were the measures taken against the vocational school in Zhitomir, for they bring into a sharp focus the conditions in which ORT's founders were compelled to work. It so happened that the ORT school in Zhitomir, which was the first Jewish vocational school in Russia, was also the first victim of the wave of antisemitism. In 1884 the Government ordered the closing of this school; once again the pretext was the "harmfulness of Jews". The order to close the school reads: "In view of the fact that in the towns and villages of the south-west the majority of craftsmen are Jews, and that they impede the development of work among the rest of the population for whom nothing remains but to be exploited by Jews, the existence of a Jewish vocational school—at a time when no similar schools exist for the Christians—constitutes a new instrument in the hands of Jews for the exploitation of the indigenous population." (Excerpt from the report of L. Bramson submitted to the Conference on Jewish Vocational Training in 1903-1904, JCA Edition, 1905).

This situation did not fail to exercise an unfavourable influence on the work of the Provisional Committee. Social work slowed down. Collections for the Fund stopped. "The Committee was obliged to reduce its activity for various reasons; it was done at first against the wishes of the Committee and then through the force of inertia." (L. Bramson). Born of a vast social initiative on which so many hopes were pinned, the Committee, after a life of 25 years, became a modest and even a stunted institution; working from

day to day, avoiding great problems and great efforts; and the value of its social work diminished accordingly.

“ In 1880 the creation of the Fund for handicrafts and agricultural work was considered by many as a sort of a universal remedy, as a measure that could lead to a radical change in the economic structure of the Jewish masses”, said J. Halpern. “ But the sad reality clearly proved that in the given circumstances the Committee was unable even to implement its modest initial program. During those 25 years nothing concrete was achieved either in the field of vocational training, or in the matter of transfer of workers to the interior of the country; the Committee was likewise unable to extend its activity to agriculture, although it was precisely on this activity that such great hopes were pinned.” The “provisional decrees” of Count Ignatieff and the law of 3 May 1882 were a particularly hard blow to the activities of the Fund, for they prohibited the settlement of Jews in villages. “ All the measures that it had been possible to take to increase the number of those who wished to work or labour on the land—such measures, for example, as the establishment of new farm settlements or sale of land on favourable terms, and other similar measures of a nature to draw new elements to agricultural labour—had to be abandoned or completely eliminated from the program, as the law precluded their implementation.” (J. Halpern, funeral oration in memory of Prof. N. Bakst).

* * *

The long period of political reaction left its imprint on the social development of Jews in Russia and cut short their aspirations to civic equality. The growth of antisemitism and persecutions, the outbreak of pogroms “ faded the flowers and extinguished the fire ”. The material and legal situation of Jews was constantly deteriorating. And they started to pack their suit-cases... A new word, and yet how old, was on the lips of all : Emigrate ! Go away, to America or elsewhere, it does not matter where, but leave Russia where things will surely come to a bad end.

The Judeo-Russian intelligentsia was no longer at ease. The liberation movement was not only suppressed by exterior forces—executions, hard labour, flight from Russia—but it was also undermined by internal factors : criticism of methods of the revolutionary struggle, growing deception, despair, and impotence. These feelings were shared even by those in the intelligentsia who were not directly connected with the revolutionary movement and who, because of their ideological conceptions, could be regarded as liberals. They also lost their illusions. Autocracy triumphed over the weak reform tendencies. The policy of the government was sinking Russia deeper and deeper into the mire.

The question of the political tendencies of the Jewish intelligentsia in

Russia is too complex to be examined in the frame of this study. A point, however, should be stressed: the rather widely entertained opinion that ORT's founders were assimilationists is somewhat superficial and does not reflect the truth. Were we to analyse with greater thoroughness the attitude of the progressive Jewish intelligentsia of those days we would see that it was not confined within the narrow limits of the assimilationist ideology. The pathetic voice of the re nascent Jewish national conscience was raised in 1879-1880. It is quite possible that these tendencies were partially inspired by the ideals of the *Narodniki* (a radical Russian movement of "Return to the People"), particularly by the idea that the intelligentsia owes a debt to the people. Be that as it may, the Jewish elite began gradually to respond to this appeal that reached deep down into everyone's heart: Return to thyself, to thy proper people, to national tasks, to all that was forgotten for such a long time! The historian Zinberg very correctly describes the tendencies of one of the leading groups of the times, associated with the newspaper *Rasviet* in saying that "while theoretically upholding the point of view of the assimilationists, the *Rasviet* had unconsciously taken a road that did not lead to assimilationism, but precisely to the acceptance of national consciousness" (J. Zinberg, History of the Jewish press, p. 242).

It was at this time, too, that the Khibat-Zion movement developed. The idea of a Jewish State added another name to the list of emigration countries—that of Palestine.

The period of decadence lasted for a quarter of a century. The entire Russian nation was to be deeply shaken up before the Jewish people, in their turn, could forget their agony. The revolution of 1905 opens a new chapter in the history of ORT, a chapter that in decades to come takes the Society for the Promotion of Handicrafts and Agricultural Work to heights never yet attained by any Jewish social organization.

SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OF ORT (1880-1945)

Dr. ARON SYNGALOWSKI

The history of ORT embraces sixty-five years in the economic, political and spiritual history of the Jewish people. And in the scales of history these last decades weigh much more than sixty-five uneventful years. What profound changes have occurred during this brief period! When we look at the development of recent times the eighties of the past century seem to belong to the Middle Ages. And it is hardly credible that all the events of the First World War and between the two wars unfolded before us and with our participation!

What is the meaning of the three letters ORT? Should you put this question in France you will be told that they signify "Organisation, Reconstruction, Travail". In Great Britain and in the United States they will tell you that these letters stand for "Organization for Rehabilitation through Training". Perhaps their interpretations correspond to reality as far as the inner meaning of ORT is concerned, but they are not formally true, for as a matter of fact ORT is an abbreviation of the original Russian name "Obshchestvo Remeslenovo, zemledelcheskovo Truda", "Society for the Propagation of Work and Agriculture Among the Jews".

ORT brought about a basic reform in Jewish life. ORT could do it because it understood that the misery and poverty of the Jewish people, though provoked by exterior factors, was first of all the result of an inherent infirmity that afflicted the Jews from the times of persecution in the Middle Ages, a result of an anomaly ingrained in the social and economic structure of the Jewish people. The creation of ORT initiated the solution of a triple problem the existence of which had been recognized by leaders of Judaism for a long time, *viz.*, the one-sided professional structure of Jewish communities, the insufficient representation of Jews in various arts and crafts, their insignificant participation in trades and agriculture. The core of the problem was the overly great number of Jews engaged in trade or without professional training, idle and without an economic basis; in short—too many "Luftmenschen".

ORT, as an organization, was not born all of a sudden and easily; its was a difficult and long confinement. In the second half of the XVIII century, statesmen in France, Austria, Poland and Russia attempted for the first time to improve the situation of the Jews by giving them sounder bases for their

existence. In Europe it was a period of political and cultural criticism, and with the awakening of critical thought came also the urgent desire to reform life in all its aspects. It was then that conscientious statesmen had also recognized the abnormal situation of the Jews. This situation was unbearable not only for the Jews themselves; it was also unhealthy for the countries in which they lived. At the time, when the problem drew the attention of those in "high places", a spiritual current appeared amongst the cultured Jews; this essentially new current, unprecedented in Jewish history, grew and gained strength and became a movement known under the name of "Haskala" (Enlightenment). The Haskala movement appeared amongst the Jews under the influence of the philosophy of general enlightenment in eastern Europe in the XVIII century which fought against the power of traditions within the church and against blind faith. To blind faith and fanatical superstition it opposed reason and science, uplifted man in his relation to God, and proclaimed the authority of man.

In some countries political life began with what one calls "enlightened absolutism". A number of errors which one puts to the account of the "maskilim" (adepts of Haskala) of eastern Europe—particularly their faith in the omnipotence of liberal politicians and their conviction that those politicians had ready-made remedies for the evils of the times—can be traced to the fact that in eastern Europe, Haskala was under the strong influence of the German "maskilim", who really thought that "enlightened absolutism" was of divine origin. It took them a long time to realize that their divinity was nothing but an idol.

It was an epoch of desperate battles for liberty which reached their culmination point in the French revolution. This epoch of great upheaval found the Jews of eastern and western Europe in a period of total decline. It would be wrong to believe that at the time Jews of western Europe were in a more favourable position than those in the east. Jews in Russia, as in France, Germany and Austria, were destroyed by relentless persecutions, eliminated from all honourable professions; most of them eked out their living by peddling, casual trade and begging, part- or full-time. Such was the life of the Jews in Alsace at the time when the first powerful current of Jewish emancipation broke to the surface, such it was in the provinces of Germany—with the exception of Berlin—and such it was in eastern Europe. And everywhere the spiritual life was under the absolute rule of dry rabbinical formalism. Characteristic of the Jewish morale of those days was an absolute paralysis of will-power, a completely passive attitude to the fate of the Jewish people and to the fate of the world. "Above all, don't get mixed up in anything", said the Synagogue, "be pious and go about your business; leave everything else to the Almighty". Later on, their grand-children used exactly the same terms in pinning their hopes for the future on Progress.

The first protest raised against despairing and blind faith, the first and most efficient attempt of religious and social reaction was "Hassidism"—a movement which started at about the same time as the Haskala. Hassidism was an attempt to take an active part in the shaping of destiny, to force its hand; but, unfortunately, the means used were not efficient. The great Rabbi refused to pronounce the "Havdala" to prolong the Sabbath. There wasn't much point to that. Rabbi Levi-Yitzhak Berditshever, the most illustrious representative of Hassidic oracles, wanted to put some pressure on the Almighty; he went as far as to warn Him, to negotiate with Him, to make claims on Him. There wasn't much point to that, either. Of as little use were the sermons of Rabbi Nahman Bratslaver, which came down to us as wonderful folklore fairy tales.

It was then that Haskala's era began. All the movements of Judaism, national and social, pulsating with life and fertile, were born and developed within Haskala; this should not be forgotten. Sometimes, we hear the young people say: "We are bigger and cleverer than the maskilim". Of course, a child perched upon the shoulder of his father will be higher than his dad. But we must never forget the one whose shoulders carry us.

Haskala is the mother of all positive phenomena and developments in Judaism. And when the children grew up, some of them abandoned her; as it is written: "I have raised sons and they have failed..." Perhaps we are not able to evaluate the entire importance of Haskala because, being still too strongly attached to it we lack the necessary perspective to form an objective judgement. But even here and now one thing is clear to us: if there are any miracles in history, then Haskala is one of the great miracles in the Jewish life.

In their dark ghettos Jews felt that they were anchored... to the Firmament, and they ignored the world. For, after all, wasn't life on this earth vanity of all vanities? Wasn't it a sort of a passage to a parlour that one called the other world? One stays in the passage only temporarily, to prepare oneself for the Beyond.

And suddenly, the moment the first ray of light penetrated into the ghetto, there broke out a movement of great and surprising power. Jewish life, in all its aspects, was submerged by a flood of new ideas. This epoch bears the seed of all that ripened later.

Haskala was a humanistic movement born in all countries at about the same time, nourished by the spirit of the times that was felt everywhere. And yet in the different countries of Eastern and Western Europe the movement was different. In Germany it was developed by the great teacher Moses Mendelsohn, who was known as "Dessauer", for he was born in Dessau in 1720. Mendelsohn is known as the leader of the "Berlin Haskala". In his days there were not many Jews in Berlin, no more than 156 or 158 families.

The Jews of Berlin were not, as it was maintained, the soul of a new form of capitalist economy; nevertheless, they were its product and they were active in commercial circles. That is precisely why they enjoyed the favour of Frederick the Great. But although they were wealthy and cultured they still were subjected to humiliating, medieval restrictions. There was an obvious discord between their privileged economic situation and civic and political discriminations against them, and the well-to-do classes resented that most of all. The children of these wealthy merchants and bankers, who had lived in excellent material conditions and who had received a good education, allowed themselves to fall under the spell of the superficial attractions of the Christian world. One should not forget the striking contrast between the gay Berlin of Frederick the Great and the dark ghetto. "Who cares a damn about the ghetto!" was the slogan of the pleasure-bound youth. In those days the predominant ideology of the well-to-do in Berlin, as everywhere else in Germany, was cosmopolitan; it was an ideology of world citizenship. It was the honeymoon of the intellectual elite and liberalism, and it was this ideology that helped the Jews of Berlin and other German cities and towns to take the "important step". In the ghetto it was dark and dismal, but outside, life was pleasant. At home everything was backward, old-fashioned, gloomy, but outside, everything was sublime, great and good!

Thus started the process of assimilation or, to be more precise, the process of "dejudaisation", for it is erroneous to believe that these two terms signify the same thing. Not all who have gone through the process of "dejudaisation" are necessarily assimilated. Assimilation is not automatic once the threshold of the ghetto is crossed; it is not automatic even after one has absorbed a strong dose of the civilization that surrounds one. Perhaps, assimilation will be possible only with the end of time, with the appearance of the Messiah, who will deliver humanity. But until then the way to assimilation will be barred by a stern road-keeper, the non-Jewish world, ever-watchful to prevent trespassing, and to block the process of assimilation. That is why, in most cases, the final result is "dejudaisation" and not assimilation.

The driving force of the German Haskala was the desire to obtain equal civic rights (it was only later, in the days of Heine, Moser and others, that Jewish national thought turned to other themes); whereas the "maskilim" in Austria were not at all interested in what they might gain by obtaining civic equality. Their efforts were exclusively directed towards a spiritual renewal. "More light!" they exclaimed; "let us chase away the shadows, the prejudices, the fanaticism and superstitions of Jewish life!" Amongst them this current became rather a cultural movement.

During the first years of Jewish emancipation in France, Isaac Ber, leader of the Jewish community in Nancy and friend of Robespierre, in 1791 published an appeal addressed to the entire Jewish population. In this document, known

as "A letter of a citizen to his fellows", he stressed the importance of manual labour. "Let us train master joiners, locksmiths, tailors, etc. Every one of them will, in his turn, train apprentices, and thus, little by little, there will be created a Jewish working class, the only aim of which will be to make a living by honest work and to gain the respect of its fellow countrymen." That was one, among others, of the ideas expressed in his manifesto, in which one can feel the pulse of Jewish intelligentsia of those days.

In Russia the stress was laid not only on the cultural renewal, but also on social and economic emancipation. The leaders of Haskala in Russia thought that to attain this end it was necessary to transform radically the Jewish economic structure, to liquidate the sorry heritage of the Middle Ages—idleness and casual trading—and to take up manual labour. Stronger than the desire to win civic and political equality (and this desire appeared only later) was the disdain of the ghetto. The "maskilim" knew how to rouse the contempt of the people for their own surroundings. Writers and poets, moved by the same profound sentiment of collective responsibility for all the woes of Jewish life, urged the people to reform it. The speeches and the passionate writings of these strange combatants in the ranks of the Russian Haskala remind one oddly of the bitter words of the prophets who bore the weight of the sins of their people. Dr. Marcuse, Itzhak Erter, Dr. Ettinger, M. Lilienblum, Menshe Ilier, Itzhak Ber Levinson and many others appealed to the people, warned them and urged them on.

Here are a few examples: Dr. Marcuse, a physician (presumably born in Königsberg), is suddenly seized with the desire "lir'ot et achav" (to see his brothers). And so he goes to Eastern Europe, trying to speak bad German to make himself understood. Little by little he learns to speak and write well in Yiddish. He writes a book on medicine, wherein he pays a great deal of attention to manual work. "Try to work with your hands! Every one of you should own a patch of ground and cultivate it", he naively advises his readers in the chapter on hygiene. "Every Jew should work in his garden in order not to lose the ties with nature. Each community", he goes on, "should force the idle to work. Let them work as porters or water carriers! If they haven't got the money to buy horses and oxen, lend it to them, provided they do something! Don't wait" says he, "until you are thrown out of the country for being a bunch of parasites."

In the little town of Smargon, Rabbi Menashe Ilier lives in poverty and misery. He is so shy that he doesn't even try to draw his stipend and lets his wife do it for him. And it is this modest and quiet man who wrote "Alfei M'nashe", a book that has stirred the entire Jewish world. In this book he works out a detailed program which, about sixty years later, will be taken up in its entirety by a newly created organization — ORT.

Approximately ten years later Itzhak Ber Levinson, known as "the Rivol" (1788-1860) from Kremenets, who is considered as the "Mendelsohn of Russian Jews", published a book entitled "T'uda l'Israel" first published in 1828, with further editions in 1855, 1878 and 1901, wherein he sets down four sets of principles of a new Jewish way of life. One of them is the urgent need to transfer the emphasis from trading and jobbing to manual labour, handicrafts and agriculture. Later Rivol submitted to the Russian government a memorandum with a plan for the development of Jewish agriculture. This plan was partially executed, for at that time there began a period of Jewish colonization in Southern Ukraine.

I do not mean by all this that the idea of Jewish labour was born only in the XVIII or XIX century; not at all. In contrast to many ancient peoples who considered work as a sign of plebeian inferiority, the Jewish people won their place in history through work. Plato himself described the beauty of a world built on slavery; but from the very beginning, from the early years of Jewish history, Jews considered work as the noblest act of man. According to Jewish conception the world was not created by accident, it did not arise suddenly from the foam of the sea, but was a result of planned work. It was thus that God conceived of and prepared the creation of the world and it was thus that He fashioned it accordingly to His design. He, the Supreme Being, laboured at it for six days. The idea of a Sabbath, of a day of rest, could arise only among those who regarded work as a normal endeavour and worked throughout the week. Else it would not have been possible to conceive the idea of a day of rest.

The Jews had this positive attitude towards work from very ancient times. However, when we talk about work and Jews we mean the rebirth and the resurrection of the idea of work, and that happened towards the end of the Middle Ages, when the Jews were free to leave the ghettos. Until then they were excluded from all productive professions and for centuries they were forced to play an economic role that was imposed upon them everywhere in the world. This rebirth was not achieved by a single stroke; it was a process that went through various phases before achieving its full maturity and complete realisation.

We can best illustrate this evolution by recalling the following story. 1869 was a year of famine in Russia, and in districts bordering on Germany an epidemic of typhoid fever flared up. It was then that the German Jews of Königsberg and Lueck showed how much they were concerned about the fate of their suffering and unfortunate brothers in faith. They organized a committee and collected money to help these Jews so that they would not be forced to emigrate. Indeed, the nearest frontier was that of Germany and Jews in Königsberg and Lueck feared that the people from stricken neighbouring districts would seek refuge amongst them. Dr. Ruelf was sent to Kovno to

advise the Jews of the region that their best chance would be to move to Central Russia and to establish themselves there. It was not a bad idea, and it was supported by several statesmen. But then it was found out that according to a decree published in 1863 residence in Central Russia was open only to Jews working in crafts or on land. Thus the first thing to do was to train these future emigrants in handicrafts and agriculture. Accordingly, a petition was addressed to the government, but unfortunately it was mislaid in St. Petersburg together with all the supporting documents. Recovered later on was only a pamphlet by Dr. Ruelf and several articles that appeared in *Rasviet*, a Russo-Yiddish periodical published in Odessa.

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At this juncture begins the history of ORT as an organization. In the years 1870-1880 spiritual leaders of Russian Judaism published periodicals and books in Hebrew, Yiddish and Russian in which they advocated the creation of an organization that would help the impoverished Jews to build a new life through labour in agriculture and in the crafts.

Early in 1880, Samuel Poliakov, a member of the Jewish community of St. Petersburg, petitioned the Minister of the Interior for permission to create a fund in aid of needy Jews; the establishment of the fund was to honour the 25th anniversary of the coronation of Tsar Alexander II.

On March 22, 1880, Mr. Poliakov received the following answer: "His Imperial Majesty has heard my report on the proposal of Russian Jewry to collect amongst themselves a charitable fund to commemorate the date of 19 February, 1880. I have likewise reported to His Majesty that your Excellency has granted for this purpose a sum of 25,000 roubles. Having heard my reports His Majesty graciously agreed to approve this grant and has ordered me to thank your Excellency. I pointed out to His Majesty that contributions to the grant will be collected by your Excellency in private capacity and that reports will be submitted on the use of the capital."

On April 10 of the same year a circular letter went out to members of Jewish communities in Russia. It was written as a personal appeal and solicited the participation of all in the building up of the fund. Within two months 12,457 donors in 400 towns and villages contributed a total of 204,000 gold roubles. One of the first donors was the well-known spiritual leader, Rabbi Itzhak Elhanan.

The government authorized the creation of a "provisional committee" that was to establish a Society for the Promotion of Handicrafts, Industry and Agriculture among the Jews (in Russian: *Obshchestvo Remeslenovo i zemledelcheskovo Truda*) and write its statutes. The Provisional Committee was created in November 1880. Its chairman was Samuel S. Poliakov, and its

members—Baron Horace O. de Gunzburg, A. I. Zak, L. M. Rosenthal, M. P. Friedland, Professor M. J. Bakst, A. Baruch, A. Warschavsky, H. Halpern, Rabbi Drabkin and J. Kaufman.

The "ORT Fund" which was the first social fund for the Jewish people, finally totalled a capital of half a million roubles, contributed by some 30,000 donors. The capital was never touched, but only the interest. In the end ORT lost this money.

ORT's history from 1880 to 1945 may be divided into four periods. The first began in 1880 and ended in 1906. The strengthening of a reactionary policy of the Russian government, as well as pogroms and persecutions which flared up in the eighties, exercised a marked influence on the Committee's activity during this period. The organization had no statutes. All decisions were taken by the Provisional Committee that now included representatives from Moscow, Zhitomir, Kiev and others towns. ORT's main task was to aid Jewish craftsmen to move to Central Russia, to grant them loans for the purchase of machines and tools, and to organize vocational training courses. Moreover, from time to time, ORT helped to start a sewing or a shoe-making section in a "Talmud Torah" or a primary school, or helped boys who studied in state or municipal vocational or agricultural schools. During the first two years (1880-1882) ORT spent 18,221.65 roubles. In the following two years (1882-1884) the expenditures totalled 50,088.50 roubles. A financial report for the years 1884-1889 shows an expenditure of 121,425 roubles.

ORT became a democratic organization during the second period from 1906 to the outbreak of the First World War. Representatives from progressive Jewish circles shared the work of the Committee. Several special commissions were created to enquire into the economic situation of Jewish employers, to find work for craftsmen who moved to Central Russia, to help cooperatives, vocational schools, etc. In these committees and commissions we come across new names, such as L. Bramson, R. Blank, Dr. Grusenber, M. Krol, B. Brutzkus, A. Broide, M. Kerinin, H. Sliosberg, M. Bomse, V. Tiomkin and others. Later on all of them played an important role in Jewish life, some among the Zionists, some with the Bundists, and others with the Territorialists. In 1913 ORT maintained completely or partially, a number of vocational schools, organized intensive refresher courses, found work for apprentices, and controlled a number of large cooperative enterprises. Its budgeted expenses attained 50,000 roubles; 55% of this sum was devoted to vocational training.

The third period ran from 1914 to 1919, that is, from the beginning of the First World War to the outbreak of the Revolution in Russia. When the war started ORT was faced with a problem that was to re-occur again and again—the problem of refugees. Hundreds of thousands of Jews were expelled by the Russian army from frontier regions and were forced to move to Central Russia.

It was then that ORT started to specialize in constructive work to help the homeless and the displaced.

There were two problems to solve : teach a trade to the unskilled ones and get jobs for craftsmen. " Work-aid " offices were opened in 75 towns. Hundreds of intelligent and capable men offered their services to ORT to help it in its work. ORT delegates, some of them teachers and instructors, accompanied the homeless in their wanderings. For refugees who knew a trade, ORT employment offices found jobs in various enterprises or in cooperative workshops, especially created for them. For those who were unskilled ORT organized short training courses in trades that were most likely to offer employment opportunities. Twenty-five loan offices were set up to lend money to craftsmen for the purchases of machines and tools. To direct activities in the " Help through work " sector ORT secured the cooperation of V. Lotzki and J. Lechtchinsky.

The development of ORT activities since the beginning of the First World War is best reflected in its annual budgeted expenditures which amounted to 68,000 roubles in 1914 and topped 274,000 in 1915. Until the Russian Revolution the " Help through work " sector found jobs for approximately 60,000 persons.

Since then we have gathered a great deal of knowledge and experience in the field of constructive help for the refugees, and today our efforts in that area of activity have received considerable recognition. We were called upon to help refugees from the Hitler regime in Germany in Austria and—after the Second World War—the immense masses of displaced persons (D.P.) crowded in camps. Although the legal status of these unfortunate persons was different—for they were not only refugees without home and shelter, but strangers and stateless persons, who could not claim protection from any state—the gist of the problem which ORT had to face was always the same : What to do with the young people who must be vocationally trained under abnormal conditions? What to do for men and women of 30, 40 and even 50 years old, who do not want or cannot return to their home countries and to their old professions? Will the right to live be denied them? Will they have to accept charity until the end of their days?

The fourth period is the one between the two wars and comprising those catastrophic years 1939-1945. It forms one of the most brilliant chapters in the history of ORT, and it was in the course of these years that ORT sprang into vigorous action and developed itself into a Jewish organization of world importance. In 1920 the Central Committee of ORT in Russia had sent abroad two delegates, Dr. L. Bramson and Dr. D. Lvovitch, to collect funds to aid Jews in Russia. To these two men fell the task of establishing ORT bases in the newly created border countries—Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Bessarabia and Rumania—and to set up ORT organizations in the countries of Western

and Central Europe. The foundation of World ORT Union dates from an ORT conference in Berlin in 1921.

From 1921 to 1938 ORT activity in Russia was the most important item in our program. During these 17 years life was not always easy for ORT, not only because Jewish circles were divided in their opinions about helping Jews in Russia, but also because of difficulties connected with work in the Soviet Union.

After the Russian Revolution some Jewish circles, above all men in politics, were against all activities of Jewish aid organizations in the U.S.S.R. They thought that helping Jews in these countries would support the Bolshevik regime. But ORT, bound by innumerable ties to Jewry in Russia, and a great many Jews in Europe and overseas, thought that Jews had a right to receive social and constructive help wherever the need for it was felt. And in those days the situation of Jews in Russia, from the economic and even legal point of view, was worse than anywhere else. Most of them belonged to the class that was completely destroyed. They belonged to a category of persons which was then called in Russia "lishentsi", i.e. persons deprived of civic and political rights. Whereas only one percent of the entire Russian population belonged to the "lishentsi" class, among the Jews they made up 47 percent. It was not a question of antisemitism, but a result of measures taken against all the former "bourgeoise" or their children, against former merchants, brokers and middle-men, without any distinction between big business tycoons and owners, and poor shopkeepers or hawkers. The Russian constitution was not written for or against the Jews. But in the great hurricane that broke out in this vast country no one stopped to think that half of the Jewish population was condemned to perish.

What was then ORT's problem? First of all, to help Jews to become working men, and then, to obtain the restitution of civic and political rights.

ORT work in Russia from 1880 to 1938 was never interrupted. Towards the end of the civil war, when Jewish agricultural colonies were destroyed by arms and fire and when famine laid the land low, ORT tried to help Jewish farmers by sending seeds and machines. After the foundation of ORT Union measures were taken on a larger scale, and, in 1921, ORT Central sent from Berlin to the Jewish farmers in Russia 100 freight-cars laden with seed, grain and machinery.

However, these activities were sporadic in nature. In 1923 ORT signed its first official agreement in Soviet Russia; this agreement was renewed every five years, until 1938. It provided for the import of machinery and tools to equip cooperative and apprentice workshops with a view to a professional reclassification of the Jews, and for agro-technical aid to Jewish farmers in Southern Ukraine. From 1923 on ORT activities in the Soviet Union vastly

increased in scope and intensity, and as a result of it within a space of 15 years many declassified Jews were completely integrated in Russian industry and agriculture.

During the period ORT set up 130 cooperative workshops and factories (some of them employed up to 500 workers) in Central Russia, Bielorussia, the Ukraine, Crimea and Birobidjan, supplying them with personnel, machines, tools and raw materials. In 1936 alone, 11,000 were apprenticed or worked in these cooperative enterprises. Also in 1936, and within the framework of the agro-technical aid program, ORT supplied seeds and agricultural machinery to 50 rural settlements in the regions of Odessa, Pervomaisk and Kalinin-dorf. This aid benefited 3000 farmers' families or approximately 12,000 persons.

In 1927, after negotiations with the governmental authorities, ORT obtained the right to extend its constructive aid to individuals, who for various reasons (age, keeping the rest day of Sabbath, women engaged in household work) were unable to work in cooperatives, by supplying them with machines and tools. At that time work performed in the homes was still an important factor in Russian economy. Such workers got their raw material from the cooperatives, and brought back to them the finished product. It was then that ORT started its great campaign for "Family Help". It asked Jewish families in western Europe and overseas, particularly in the United States, to send to their relatives in Russia machines or tools instead of money or food parcels, which, after all, helped only for a short time and could not radically change the economic situation of the person helped and his family. ORT made enquiries on the spot and got in touch with families of the persons concerned. This campaign helped thousands of families economically and legally, throughout the Soviet Union.

Another great success of ORT was its activity in Poland. When new Poland came into being millions of Jews were established there. Some of the Jewish communities had existed for eight or nine centuries. Polish Jews were always productive; they pursued handicrafts and operated small industry; they worked hard. Once power was in its hands, the new State set about the extermination of Jews, economic extermination if not physical. To be sure, all outbreaks of antisemitism before Hitler pale in comparison with the Fuehrer's brand of antisemitism. But Jews have a good memory and do not forget so soon. It is true that memory does not always help us, for we cannot change the order of things in this world. So we try to console ourselves by telling ourselves that all the wrongs inflicted on us are not a phenomenon in themselves, but a symptom of a defective internal structure, and a symptom of an unhealthy society. Thus the wrongs that we had to suffer bear in themselves the seeds of imminent punishment sometimes in the future. Nevertheless, who does not remember the suffering of the Jews in the republic of Poland!

It started with an economic boycott of the Jews and Jewish business. Then the attack was directed against the Jewish craftsmen and farmers.

In Poland there was no need to enlighten the Jewish population on the necessity of learning a trade. ORT did not have to resort to propaganda to fill its training schools in villages and towns. ORT institutions were attended annually by 5000 pupils. But no less important than vocational training provided by ORT were the various projects in the field of handicrafts and agricultural cooperatives and the protection of Jewish working classes in Poland. A new law, calling upon all craftsmen to join a guild, was promulgated. However, Jewish craftsmen could not join a guild, as first they had to pass an examination; this was impossible as most of them did not know Polish and never went to a school. So it was necessary for ORT to raise the professional standards of Jewish craftsmen and to teach them Polish. After that it was the lack of a few zlotys that kept them from being able to register for the examination and it was ORT which procured the necessary sums for them. Then a new decree was published; it stipulated that a worker could not be apprenticed to an employer unless he studied at a complementary school and passed an examination. But there were not many complementary schools and the few there were did not admit Jews. So ORT created complementary schools and fought to have them recognized by the state. Then there was a battle to win "the right to work", as factories would not hire Jewish workmen. Even factories owned by Jews were closed to Jewish workmen, for Polish workers threatened to go on strike. Then there were dozens of farm cooperatives founded by ORT that could not exist without ORT's aid and ORT credits to purchase seeds and machines and to form the necessary working capital. Of course all this work in Poland could only be accomplished thanks to the active aid of the Polish Jews, their intelligence and keenness of mind.

From 1922 to 1939 dozens of vocational training centers for youths and adults, and for women and men, as well as crafts and farm cooperatives for Jews were organized in Lithuania, Latvia and Rumania and especially in Bessarabia. Each year new buildings went up, the equipment of workshops and laboratories was modernized, new trades were taught in schools and the number of productive elements, ready for work, constantly increased in the Jewish communities of eastern Europe. Just to give one an approximate idea about the amount of work done in these years we might mention that from 1930 to 1935, 30,000 persons completed courses of vocational training in ORT institutions.

For twelve years and until the end of 1933 the Central office of World ORT Union was located in Berlin. A German ORT association developed and consolidated itself side by side with the ORT Union. The history of the development of German ORT and its influence on German Jews, especially in liberal and assimilationist circles, is rather curious and merits special consi-

deration. Here I shall only recall a remark of Kurt Blumenfeld, leader of German Zionists, who, speaking of ORT, said that it undoubtedly exercised "a Judaizing influence" on Germany's liberal Jews. At that time most of the young Jews in Germany were Zionists; their parents were liberals. In their eyes ORT was "kasher" (pure); did it not try to improve the Jewish economic structure in the countries where the Jews lived! Therefore, the tendencies of ORT were not in opposition to the patriotic sentiments of liberal Jews who refused to side with the Zionists, for then they would have to admit that the Jews needed a state of their own. ORT was not as exacting as all that, and, at the same time it gave them the means to satisfy a deeply rooted desire—today one would call it a "subconscious" desire—to express their union with Judaism, and to prove their solidarity as Jews without, however, turning back on their convictions. What spiritual riches, what productive forces slumbered in the minds and bodies of these liberal Jews! And through ORT some of their representatives came close to the national movement within Judaism!

In 1933 ORT headquarters were moved to Paris. In France a whole series of vocational training courses were opened for refugees who were beginning to flow in from Germany, and then from Austria. An attempt was made to settle groups of them on the land. The first settlement, in the department of Lot-et-Garonne, was a complete success. Unfortunately, it was destroyed during the war.

In 1935 ORT started to work in Bulgaria, and in 1938 in Hungary.

The wounds of the years of depression, 1930 to 1935, began to heal. The Jews of the United States, who since 1922 had so generously supported ORT, started again to contribute heavily to help ORT activities throughout the world. Likewise, Jews in South Africa and in western Europe again supplied ORT with funds to extend and improve ORT's programs and to start new projects in handicrafts and agriculture in the countries of Eastern Europe. Who could have foreseen that the Paris ORT congress of 1937 would unite for the last time leaders of ORT organizations in Poland, Russia, Lithuania, Latvia, Bessarabia, Bukowina, Rumania, Bulgaria, France, Great Britain, America and South Africa?

But even when the Second World War broke out and unleashed the immense catastrophe that destroyed the greater part of European Jewry—even then ORT did not capitulate. It fought the deadly peril with work. Work was carried on in ORT workshops in the ghettos of Warsaw, Vilno and Kovno; ORT workshops were busy in the camps of France; even the ORT school in Berlin kept its doors open during the first years of the war. At times there was hope that work would save Jews from deportation, would help them stay out of concentration camps and save them from gas chambers. It is possible that in certain cases work actually delayed the end, but only for a little while, for finally 3000 ORT teachers and scores of thousands of their pupils were

exterminated. Of ORT property in the countries of eastern Europe there is little trace.

Between 1939 and 1945, ORT also followed the refugees and immigrants who had been saved from the massacre. ORT centres were created during these years in Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Chile, in the United States, Canada and even in Shanghai. During the last two years of the war, there was only one country in Europe where ORT could accomplish systematic and productive work—Switzerland—that haven where some thousands of Jews sought refuge from the occupied countries. ORT's work in all these countries has continued until this day.

Now that the ghastly nightmare is over, ORT is faced with two problems :

- (a) to rehabilitate the survivors still to be found in camps, so that they can prepare themselves vocationally for their emigration, and
- (b) to reestablish ORT organizations in the liberated countries and to bring in, within the field of activities, new Jewish communities.

It is in this spirit that the next ORT Union congress will have to establish the details for its future program.

* * *

When we look back over to the past and return to the source of this organization, we must not be considered romantics. We do it for two reasons. (1) We wish to draw an example from the past for the present. (2) We feel a great need to recall with gratitude those who laid the foundation of the work of Jewish reconstruction, as well as the two ORT leader, Dr. L. Bramson and Dr. D. Lvovitch, who—under the most difficult conditions—knew during all these years how to carry the burden of this enormous task without giving way.

However, whilst deeply respecting the past, all our thoughts and our considerations are turned towards the future.

ORT IN THE POST-WAR PERIOD (1945-1960)

by SUSSYA GOLDMANN

INTRODUCTION

Ever since ORT was founded, in 1880, its destiny has always been closely linked with that of the Jewish people, and this fact determined the character of its evolution. In the course of these eight decades the idea of ORT and its practical implementation, materially, but above all geographically, has traversed several stages. The nature of these stages was shaped by life's conditions, liberal or reactionary, by the character of the Jewish population in various countries, by war or peace, by periods of prosperity or economic crisis, by stable or turbulent social conditions. But always and everywhere ORT remained a non-political organization, adapting its activity and its work methods to changing circumstances; it was moved by the sole desire to help constructively those who needed help, to strengthen the vitality of the Jewish people and to improve the quality of its work.

Thus it was already during the first years of the existence of the Society for the Promotion of Handicrafts and of Industrial and Agricultural Work among the Jews in Russia (ORT), that the Organization not only provided vocational training and aid to farmers in accordance with its programme, but was also compelled to help Jewish craftsmen move into Russia's interior in order to relieve congestion in the regions where the Jews were authorized to live and where living conditions had become insufferable.

Thus it was later on, during the First World War, when ORT was forced to adjust its activity to an exceptional situation, and to create new bases for the existence of Jews evacuated from frontier districts.

And thus it was again, in the period between the two world wars, when ORT Union, created in 1921, recognized the necessity of transforming the economic structure of the Jewish labouring masses in the states of eastern Europe and of struggling with the grave danger that menaced them, economic antisemitism.

During the tragic years of the Second World War, the years of Jewish catastrophe, there was the need to become adjusted once again to new conditions and again to change the methods. Faithful to itself, ORT attempted to conti-

nue its activity, even in the cruel circumstances of a total war and of an unprecedented antisemitic terror. In Poland, where before the war the largest section of ORT Union was located, its work was actually carried on until the revolt of the Warsaw ghetto in the spring of 1943 (see "Some documents on ORT work in Poland, 1939-1943"). In Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria, and even in Germany, ORT institutions functioned until 1942-43. In Lithuania and Latvia, ORT continued its activity even under the severe conditions imposed by Soviet occupation, and abandoned its efforts only when faced with the German invasion and the massacres that followed in its wake. In France, ORT continued to work without interruption and under the occupation it even established its apprentice workshops in the internment camps of Gurs, Brens, Rivesaltes, Récébédou and Septfonds.¹

At the same time, and always following the trail of refugees and emigrants from Nazi countries, ORT also spread its activity in other directions. Thus, during the war years, ORT training centres were established in Shanghai, in Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Chile) and in the United States. In this respect, however, the first place, in scope and importance of work done, belongs to measures initiated in 1943 in Switzerland. In the following chapters we shall examine the work of ORT in these countries, insofar as it was continued in the post-war years.

Nevertheless, the significance and the importance of what ORT has done are shown above all by its achievements in the course of the years that followed the Second World War. Since 1945, ORT Union ranks as one of the largest international organizations, and its institutions in various countries are among the leaders in the field of vocational training and technical assistance.

I

The immensity of the catastrophe suffered by the Jewish people was only dimly appreciated immediately after 1942: but the full picture was unfolded after the advance of the Allied armies, after the liberation and, above all, after the collapse of the Third Reich. What remained of the millions of Jews of eastern and central Europe? Most of the survivors were exhausted men and women, broken physically and morally and dislocated economically. Were one to rely only on philanthropy, their economic and social reintegration into the community would be unthinkable. These escapees (the "Sh'erit Hapleita"), these former inmates of concentration camps, former partisans, survivors of the ghetto, these deportees returning from their camps, these repatriates from USSR, streamed first of all towards the cities of liberated countries of

¹ See a publication of the Jewish Contemporary Documentation Centre, "The Activity of Jewish Organizations in France Under the Occupation", Paris, 1947.

eastern Europe where all their property was lost and where they had to turn to public assistance. Thousands of persons with broken lives trooped to camps for displaced persons set up in Germany by the Americans and the English, by UNRRA and, later on, by IRO. Then, after the Kielce pogrom, more came to these camps—thousands of refugees from Poland who had lost all hope of starting anew in the countries of the East.

The dream of all these men and women was emigration. But immigration to countries of western Europe and overseas countries was almost completely blocked. It is true that thanks to the generosity of French authorities several thousand DPs were able to find asylum in France from the very beginning of the post-war period; several hundreds of young men and women were still able to obtain "certificates" to enter Palestine; a few got visas for Canada or Australia. As for the United States, there the immigration quota system based on the country of origin of the applicants was still in force; thus only a few privileged ones with near relatives in the United States could hope to leave the camps in the more or less near future. As for Israel, only a limited number of certificates could be obtained; the *Alyiah B* was still in preparation and developed fully only a year later. Thus, most of the camp inhabitants were condemned to waiting.

* * *

Under these circumstances ORT brought its constructive help to the camps of Germany (and then to the camps in Austria and Italy). The first ORT vocational school began to function just three months after the liberation, even before the Central Board of ORT Union could directly intervene from abroad. A few survivors, former members of the ORT personnel in Kaunas in Lithuania, found their way, after the liberation, to the Landsberg camp in Bavaria. As soon as the general situation and their health permitted, they set up, on their own initiative and with the most primitive means, the first ORT training-workshops; this work was directed by Mr. J. Oleiski, who is now the director of ORT in Israel.

Officially, ORT's activity in Germany started again in November 1945 when Dr. D. Lvovitch came to Munich from the United States. In Munich he signed an agreement with UNRRA and the American Joint Distribution Committee providing that the vocational training of Jewish displaced persons would be carried out exclusively by ORT.

During this period of indecision and general confusion, the vast program of action which ORT initiated and untiringly developed for the benefit of displaced persons in camps, played a decisive role of humanitarian and social character. ORT's aim was to enable all these men and women—and especially the young ones—who would eventually emigrate, to reconstruct their

lives in the countries which would receive them; and the premise for such a reconstruction was the acquisition of a skill. Furthermore, as ORT developed its work in camps it was faced with three difficult tasks: 1. To re-evaluate the idea of work for young people, disappointed in life, broken by years of suffering and hard labour, by showing them how satisfying the exercise of a freely chosen occupation can be. 2. To protect the internees from idleness and demoralisation during this period of indefinite waiting. 3. To enable a large number of displaced persons to emigrate by teaching them a trade.

Subsequent events fully proved the correctness of this line of reasoning. For having completed their apprenticeship in an ORT school or a vocational course, many of the camp inmates were indeed able to obtain an entry visa to Canada, Australia and the countries of South and Central America solely on the strength of an ORT diploma.

Not only the occupation authorities, but also the international and Jewish organizations concerned with the welfare and the future of the DPs, fully recognized the important role played by ORT, and they supported its activity without any reservations.

* * *

The influx of refugees from USSR, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Yugoslavia into DP camps in Germany, Austria and Italy continued for several years. It reached its peak towards the end of 1947 when there were 270,000 Jews in the camps of these countries. At that time more than 700 ORT vocational courses and apprentice workshops were already maintained and during the 1947-48 school year more than 18,000 persons were trained, while the curriculum comprised some 50 trades. Hundreds of teachers were engaged (500 in Germany alone), many of them having already taught in ORT schools in eastern Europe before the war. Some trades were taught by specialists sent from abroad, particularly from the United States and Switzerland. Machines and tools to equip the workshops came in an endless stream from America, France and Switzerland. ORT women's organizations overseas, notably the Women's American ORT, furnished ORT schools with the necessary raw materials which were, at the time, unavailable locally. Buildings were reconstructed and adapted for school purposes. Teachers' seminars were organized. ORT's central office in Munich published study plans, programmes and manuals in Yiddish (printed in the Latin alphabet), and organized lectures designed to raise the general cultural level of the students. In order to encourage as many as possible to acquire a trade, the Joint and the IRO helped ORT students with clothing and food.

The camps in Italy mostly contained DPs anxious to get to Palestine as soon as possible. Young people from German and Austrian camps who were unable to obtain an immigration certificate and were therefore candidates for

the Aliyah B, moved to the camps in Italy. For this reason many ORT schools in Italy were adapted to the needs of "hachsharah" (agricultural and vocational training for Palestine) with especial reference to a choice of trades taught. In addition to traditional branches (metal and woodwork, electricity, needlework), pupils were trained in building trades (masons, carpenters, locksmiths, roofers and bricklayers) and also in agriculture and poultry-raising. After the founding of the Jewish State, ORT instructed in Italy a group of aeroplane pilots who rendered signal service during the war of liberation in Israel.

The first post-war agreements between ORT Union and the American Joint Distribution Committee were concluded in 1947; these agreements determined the financial share of American Jewry in the world-wide program of ORT and thus supplied ORT Union with the means necessary to continue and to intensify its work for the benefit of displaced persons. In the camps, substantial contributions to ORT were made by UNRRA and later by IRO.

The closing of ORT workshops in camps coincided with the closing, in 1955, of the last DP camp, that in Föhrenwald; but activities for the benefit of displaced persons had already practically ceased towards the end of 1951. Only a few ORT courses were maintained in the camps which still remained in Germany and Austria, while the Italian camps were liquidated in 1950.

This activity for the benefit of displaced persons constitutes one of the most glorious chapters in the history of ORT. Within a period of six years ORT enabled some 80,000 Jewish men and women, youths and adults, who today live in all corners of the globe, but mostly in Israel, to take an active part in the development of the countries of their residence and to strengthen the vital forces of Jewish communities.

II

IN EASTERN EUROPE

The cradle of ORT was in eastern Europe. The inspirers and founders of ORT in St. Petersburg in 1880 were Russian Jews. Until the Second World War, the ORT organizations of eastern Europe were the pillars of ORT Union. When ORT activity was liquidated in Soviet Russia (in 1938) the leaders of ORT Union centered their attention on Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Rumania, Hungary and Bulgaria. Between the two wars ORT invested enormous capital in these countries in the shape of completely equipped school buildings, farm property and livestock, and handicraft and agricultural cooperatives. There were thousands of students and teachers in these schools.

In 1945 only ruins remained. However, although Lithuania, Latvia, Bessarabia and Bucovina were attached to the USSR and were no longer a field for ORT activity, 80,000 Jews still lived in Poland, some 350,000 in Ruma-

nia, 200,000 in Hungary, 50,000 in Bulgaria (almost 40,000 of them emigrated to Israel by 1949) and 20,000 in Czechoslovakia. It was not surprising, therefore, that ORT Union, faithful to its non-political traditions and mindful only of the welfare of the Jewish communities, wherever they may be, was concerned about the fate of these large minorities and tried, as soon as the war was over, to reestablish contact with them.

From their side, those who escaped Nazi persecution in eastern Europe had tried, as soon as they were liberated, to renew the ties with the ORT Union Central Board in order to take up the interrupted work. In spite of all the destruction wreaked by war and Nazi terror, in spite of the precarious conditions of existence in the shadow of a powerful neighbour, it was in these countries that the atmosphere was favourable for the development of ORT's constructive activity. It was so, not only because ORT traditions were most deeply rooted there, but also because at that time the policy of the governments of these countries aimed at an intensification of production.

In Soviet Russia, from 1925 to 1935, ORT had aided a Jewish population deprived of rights, without a trade and tragically excluded from the economic circuit of the country. Fortified by this experience, the organization was able once again to place itself at the disposal of the sorely tried Jewish masses at a time when they had to adapt themselves to new conditions of existence resulting from social and economic upheaval.

For more than four years ORT developed its activity in Poland, Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia. The total number of students attending ORT schools and vocational courses in these countries for this period totalled 20,000. The ORT delegation from Poland actively participated in the International ORT Congress held in Paris in July 1949. Then, between the Autumn of 1949 and the Spring of 1950, ORT institutions in these five countries were nationalised; the Iron Curtain fell.

The value of the work accomplished by ORT during this relatively short period is incontestable; it is not questioned by the Jews who remained in these countries and it is self-evident for those (and they are the majority) who emigrated to western Europe, to countries overseas and to Israel.

* * *

For approximately seven years ORT was out of the countries behind the Iron Curtain. It was only in 1957 that contact was re-established between the ORT Union and representatives of the Polish authorities and of the Jewish Social and Cultural Committee in Poland; this move was initiated by the Polish government.

It became apparent almost immediately that ORT, with its long experience in the field of vocational training, would have once again to play an important

role in the vocational reclassification of indigenous Jews, eliminated in great numbers from administrative posts, and of Jews repatriated from former Polish provinces, now forming a part of the USSR.

Thus, faithful to its tradition, the organization once again decided that it was in duty bound to come to the aid of those who needed it; and within a period of just two years (1958 and 1959) dozens of vocational courses and apprentice and production workshops were set up in some 20 towns, and during these two years, 7500 youths and adults, men and women, were trained. This vast program was implemented with the cooperation and support of the J.D.C. which again took up its social work in Poland at the time when ORT started to re-develop its activity there.

III

IN WESTERN EUROPE

Before the Second World War the countries of western Europe, South Africa and the Americas were regarded by ORT as "contributing countries": it was there that funds were raised to finance ORT activity in eastern Europe. In some countries, such as Germany, France, England, the United States, Canada, South Africa and some states of Latin America, there were permanent ORT organizations. Their regular members propagated the idea of ORT in Jewish communities, and their contributions to the ORT budget were either fixed or variable. On the other hand, ORT Union representatives were sent from time to time to Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Sweden and Denmark, and also to Central America to set up *ad hoc* committees which proceeded with collections of funds. With the exception of Germany and France, ORT did not concern itself with vocational training in western countries; this activity started there only during the Second World War.

Then began a period which may be divided into two phases: the first embraced the years 1944 to 1951, when large groups of refugees and displaced persons were assembled in these countries, where they mostly depended on Jewish and international relief organizations; it was ORT's task to train them vocationally with a view to their eventual emigration. The second phase began in 1951, after the departure of the so-called "persons in transit"; it was then that ORT concentrated its attention on the indigenous population of these countries and on youth in particular.

* * *

The activity ORT in *France*, started when the enormous wave of refugees from Hitlerite Germany broke over that country. Intensive courses had then to be organized for the vocational reclassification of adult refugees, former

merchants or members of liberal professions. In 1934 the agrotechnical aid section of ORT in France settled a group of refugees from Germany as farmers in the department of Lot-et-Garonne. ORT's activity in France was developed constantly and a vocational day school for the young was opened in Paris even before the war. In 1939 and 1940 ORT Union acquired two estates in Lot-et-Garonne which were organized as training farms. The work of ORT was never completely interrupted, even during the hardest period of total occupation of France.

After the Liberation, the work of ORT in France was developed to such an extent that ever since French ORT has played one of the most important roles in the entire activity of the Union. From 1945 to 1950 the network of ORT vocational schools extended from Paris to Marseilles, Strasbourg, Toulouse, Limoges, Lyons, Nice and Grenoble; the network included La Roche and Gambes-de-Pujols training farms and agricultural courses in Monbardon, La Galinière, La Zette and Bonnets.

Thanks to the generous aid of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union of New York, ORT was able to establish in Montreuil, near Paris, its largest European centre of vocational training; this centre is designed to admit 1600 students, youths and adults, annually, and its numerous sections offer many possibilities for vocational training in the various branches of industry and crafts. It is one of the best organized centres of vocational training in the country; the French Ministry of Labour uses it for the preparation of industrial personnel in deficit trades.

In going over into the second phase, ORT was compelled to take into account the evolution of conditions in France and the changing circumstances of Jewish life. From 1949 onwards, France was recovering from the ravages of war and occupation. Industry was making new and rapid strides and a growing need for skilled workers was experienced in many branches of industry, particularly in metallurgy, mechanical and electrical engineering, the automobile industry and radio electricity. The situation of Jews in France was also changing. The influx of refugees stopped. Many of those who had arrived before 1950, emigrated; others were able to establish themselves in France. Jewish economic life became stable. As from 1950, youth formed the preponderant element in ORT vocational centres. At war's end, stateless persons made up 90% of students enrolled; these were gradually replaced, and in 1959 approximately 80% of students in the schools of ORT in France were nationals of the country. Several schools established for refugees or "persons in transit" were closed, whereas centres in Paris-Montreuil, Strasbourg, Marseilles and Lyons continued to develop.

In 1956 the "Ecole de Travail", which had existed in Paris for a century, was added to the French ORT school network. Most of the students in this school are natives of North African countries.

Of no lesser importance than the work of French ORT in the field of vocational training is the finding of jobs for apprentices in industry and with private craftsmen; this is particularly important in the case of trades not taught by ORT. Some of these apprentices, whose vocational training is controlled by ORT technicians, attend ORT complementary courses specially organized for them.

An "Aid to Craftsmen Service" functioned from 1945 to 1952. Designed to help craftsmen, plundered by the occupying forces, this Service procured for them, on very favourable terms, the equipment necessary for their re-establishment; at the time it was extremely difficult to procure this equipment in France. ORT saw to it that more than 3000 craftsmen received machines and tools sent from the United States, Canada, England and other countries, enabling them to take up their trades again. As soon as the economic situation in France reverted to normal, and that of the Jewish craftsmen improved, the Aid Service was discontinued.

The constructive work of ORT in France from 1945 to 1960 resulted in approximately 25,000 persons trained in vocational schools and courses (3000 of them in agriculture) or placed as apprentices, and 3000 craftsmen aided by credits granted by the Reconstruction Service.

* * *

Let us revert for a moment to the end of 1943; at that time the situation of ORT Union was as follows: in Poland the extermination of Jews had reached its apogee; any activity there was out of the question. Bulgaria and Rumania were completely under the domination of Axis powers and ORT organizations there showed no signs of life. From time to time reports still trickled in from Hungary, but it was known that there, too, more and more obstacles were set in ORT's way. In France, ORT was no longer able to work normally; deportations, which started in August of 1942, decimated the ranks of ORT students, teachers and other personnel, and the occupation in November 1942 of the "free zone" compelled the young people either to go underground or to cross the frontier into Switzerland.

All these facts explain the particular importance of ORT activity in *Switzerland*, which was started towards the end of 1943. During these dark days it was above all necessary to keep the ORT flag flying on the European continent. At the time there were more than 10,000 Jewish refugees from Nazi occupied European countries in Swiss labour camps and internment homes. In view of the desperate situation of the Jews in these countries, no attempts were spared to keep hope alive in the hearts of the refugees and to awaken in them those forces which they would urgently need after the war to build new lives for themselves.

Thanks to the understanding attitude of the Swiss authorities it was possible to organize, even during the last year of the war, a series of vocational courses and apprentice-workshops in labour camps and internment homes. Those who attended these courses were exempted from compulsory labour service during the entire period of the apprenticeship. Vocational centres for youths and adults were opened in Zurich, Geneva and Basel. In the summer of 1945 the Geneva and Basel schools numbered among their students, boys and girls, survivors of the extermination camps in Poland and Germany, who came to Switzerland after their liberation and who belonged to the so-called "Buchenwald" group.

The culminating point in ORT's activity in Switzerland was reached in 1945-46 when ORT maintained, in thirty towns and villages of this country, 9 vocational schools for the young people, 60 training-workshops for adults, 30 refresher courses for craftsmen, 17 training centres for children and a score of production workshops. Thus, that year, more than 2000 persons either received vocational training or were offered a chance to work at their trades.

The first opportunities for the repatriation of refugees or for their departure to new countries, appeared in 1946. Gradually, many refugees—particularly the stateless—found their way into Palestine. Meanwhile, hundreds of refugees remaining in Switzerland wanted to use the period of waiting for emigration to learn a trade. From 1948 to 1951, ORT organized and operated special courses for former tubercular patients, brought to Swiss sanatoria from DP camps, who, their health regained, wished to prepare their future.

ORT activity in Switzerland continued until the end of 1951, helping a total of 5000 persons. Today, in all countries of Europe and overseas you will meet ORT graduates who, thanks to a trade they learned in Switzerland, were able to start a new life ; men are working as mechanics, electricians, cinema operators, welders, radio technicians or draftsmen ; and women are engaged as designers, dressmakers, corsetmakers and milliners.

* * *

In 1946, Dr. A. Syngalowski created ORT national organizations in Belgium, the Netherlands, and in Italy.

In these three countries ORT was already known. However, this time it was not a matter of organizing a fund campaign for ORT's work abroad as before the war, but of mobilizing local forces in Brussels, Amsterdam and Rome to inaugurate ORT's activity in the country itself. First of all it was necessary to deal with the "persons in transit" ; in the Netherlands and in Belgium they were supported by Jewish communities and philanthropic

organizations ; in Italy most of them were in DP camps, run by the UNRRA and later on by the IRO. Once again ORT took up the task of vocational training to help them to emigrate.

Through this activity on behalf of the "persons in transit", the idea of ORT permeated the indigenous population and had spread so widely that, when the refugees and the DPs left, it was only natural to establish ORT institutions for the benefit of local Jewish youth.

In *Belgium*, ORT started by concentrating its work in Brussels with the foundation of the "Electro-Metal" school, a centre for vocational training of youth. To this was added a series of intensive vocational training courses for adults and manual training centres for children in primary schools. Later on courses were also started in Antwerp and a training farm was established in Kessel-Loo. This farm was an agricultural Hachsharah for young people preparing to emigrate to Palestine. Between 1946 and 1952 the annual enrollment in ORT institutions in Belgium averaged 600 students. Due to a fall in the birth-rate resulting from the war years, ORT was compelled to close its regular schools in Brussels in 1952. Since the 1952-1953 school year the remaining ORT institutions were a school in Antwerp and intensive courses in Brussels. In 1959 these were attended by 700 students.

In contrast to what occurred in Belgium the first steps of ORT in the *Netherlands* were extremely modest, but there the activity was constantly developed through the years. The Jewish population of 140,000 was reduced after the war to 25,000 persons ; this number included 10,000 adults, repatriated from concentration camps or returned from countries of asylum, and almost 3,000 children who remained hidden in the Netherlands during the war.

There were many women who, having lost their husbands, remained without any means of support ; they had to earn their own living and many of them had children to raise. It was for them that the first dress-making workshops were opened in Amsterdam. During the first two years women and stateless refugees formed the majority in ORT institutions in the Netherlands. Dutch Jews began to attend these institutions only from 1949-1950 when the ORT network of vocational courses included classes in carpentry, electricity, typewriter repair, automobile mechanics and knitting.

During all these years the Jewish population warmly supported ORT in its efforts and, therefore, since 1954, ORT in the Netherlands was able to implement its programme of activity by its own means and without subsidies from ORT Union.

The annual enrollment of students is from 400 to 500 students.

* * *

The work carried out by ORT in Northern and Southern *Italy* from 1947 to 1950 was primarily the training of emigrants. The task of ORT in this sector was not at all an easy one. The 10,000 students who were trained in its institutions during the course of these few years came from most divergent countries ; the students spoke different languages, they were different in mentality, age (from 12 to 50 years) and education. Some had studied in universities, others lacked even primary schooling. Nevertheless, all of them were vocationally trained in ORT institutions, some completely, others partially. In 1950 the camps were closed. However, during the following two years ORT maintained training workshops for post-tuberculars in Merano and Grottaferrata ; in these establishments 800 convalescents followed special vocational training courses.

As of 1950 ORT concentrated its entire attention on indigenous Jewish youth. At that time the Jewish population in Italy totalled 40,000 ; more than half of them lived in poverty, from day to day. Jews were concentrated mainly in the big cities of the north and in Rome, which shelters the largest and the oldest Jewish community of the country.

These circumstances compelled ORT to solve the same problem which later on arose in Iran and in North Africa, namely, how to propagate in the mass of the indigenous Jewish population the idea of ORT, the idea of constructive work. Whereas displaced persons from eastern and central Europe knew ORT for a long time, made use of its educational opportunities as a matter of course and knew that ORT training would help them to emigrate, the Jews in Italy, especially in the south, could be won over to ORT principles only by dint of constant propaganda. As a matter of fact, in this post-war period, they were above all preoccupied with the problems of housing and food, and whatever did not rapidly improve their situation was of little interest to them. Thus, the process of interesting the indigenous population in vocational training was an extremely slow one. And when the first schools for local youth were opened it became apparent that an important place in the curriculum would have to be reserved for subjects of a general character.

Between 1955 and 1960 ORT in Italy scored its most remarkable achievements ; courses in television, radio engineering, electrical mechanics and metal work were opened in the schools in Rome, Milan and Trieste. Intensive vocational training courses for adults were opened in these three cities, and also in Florence, Turin and Leghorn ; a training farm was established in Cevoli. Manual training workshops were set up in almost all Jewish schools.

The first ORT school was opened in Rome in 1946 ; actually, it was a reopening of a rather primitive class in cutting and dressmaking founded by the Italian philanthropist, Dario Ascarelli. In 1946, too, ORT admitted its first students, boys 11 and 12 years old, emerging directly from the Ghetto,

who were entrusted to a private teaching institution where they attended a special class. Between this modest beginning and the brilliant achievements of ORT in Italy—a school network with an annual enrollment of approximately 1600 students—there are fourteen years of untiring effort to reconstruct this community ; fourteen years of assiduous work, broad in its scope and far-reaching in its character, to improve in Italy as elsewhere Jewish vocational training, and to raise the standards of the general culture of the students.

* * *

For many years, *British* ORT worked under the presidency of the late Alexander J. Halpern whose father, Jacob Halpern, was one of the founders and presidents of ORT in Russia. London was likewise the seat of the Jewish Reconstruction Fund, created by ORT between the two world wars to finance the work undertaken in eastern Europe in the field of agriculture and handicrafts. Thanks to its influential friends in Great Britain, in August 1939, part of the ORT school in Berlin and some of its students, were removed to Leeds, just a few days before the war broke out.

In 1946, the ORT Centre for the vocational training of young survivors from the German extermination camps was founded in London. Later on the British ORT established a training farm for agricultural Hachsharah in Goldington, and, after that, intensive courses for adults who were preparing to emigrate.

However, in view of the economic situation, this activity was only temporary and, as there were no further candidates, was discontinued. In 1949 the ORT Centre for youth was closed and the courses for adults were discontinued in 1954. Nevertheless, these institutions taught a trade to more than 1000 persons. Today, there remains only the training farm at Dower House for "Halutzim" who, their agricultural training completed, will establish themselves in "kibbutzim" in Israel.

* * *

In *Germany*, ORT continued its activity even after the total liquidation of DP camps. Up to 1958, several hundred students were trained in ORT centres in Berlin and Munich. In view of the small number of applicants these centres were closed, and at the present time ORT in Germany is finding jobs for young Jewish apprentices. It also conducts a large program of language courses subsidized by the United States Escapee Program. The courses are attended by 500-700 students annually.

In *Austria*, ORT's activity on behalf of the refugees was hardly interrupted during the entire post-war period, and is still continuing. Even after

the majority of displaced persons left the country, in 1951, ORT maintained several vocational courses for various trades in Vienna, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Kufstein, Asten and Bregenz ; these courses were attended by some 700-800 students each year. In this case, too, some of the courses were subsidized by the United States Escapee Program.

Since 1956, as a result of an influx of refugees from Hungary, ORT activity in Austria developed considerably. In 1957, 1958 and 1959 almost 8000 students were trained (22 trades were taught) and more than 5000 of them were awarded diplomas certifying that they had completed their apprenticeship.

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The work of ORT in *Greece* was of relatively short duration. The vocational schools which were founded in Athens in 1949 and graduated 400 students, were closed in 1956. As in Belgium, the years of war and occupation resulted in a sharp decline in the birth-rate, and a subsequent shortage in enrollment. ORT Greece continued to provide stipends to needy Jewish students of governmental vocational schools. Nevertheless, here, too, the idea of ORT progressed ; the ground had been well prepared and one of these days may serve as a basis for a fruitful activity.

IV. IN THE COUNTRIES OVERSEAS

For the last 35 or 40 years the material and moral support of the Jews in the *United States* has been a pillar of strength for the Jewish social work of the entire world. Their contribution to the reconstruction of Jewish economic life in many countries between the two wars and especially after the Second World War, was unquestionably of paramount importance.

The American ORT Federation, founded in the United States in 1922, and the Women's American ORT, have been growing for almost 40 years, and today form a vital element of American Jewish activity, and of the ORT Union in general. Through independent fund-raising campaigns in the early years, through grants received from the United Jewish Appeal, through the American Joint Distribution Committee, through the membership contributions of 50,000 women who belong to the Women's American ORT, American Judaism has secured in an important measure the extension and the development of ORT activity throughout the world.

There is no need to dwell here on the importance of this beneficent and generous support ; our purpose is to present a scheme of the work which the American ORT Federation has carried out in the field of education and vocational re-adaptation of Jewish immigrants.

The two vocational centres of ORT in New York (one of them is dedicated to the memory of Leon Bramson, former chairman of the ORT Union Executive Committee, who died in Marseilles in 1941, and to his wife, Vera) were established during the Second World War. Their purpose was to teach unskilled Jewish immigrants a trade, and to acquaint the others with working methods applied in the American industry, so as to facilitate their integration in the economy of the country. In these centres intensive courses were organized for dress-making, metal work, radio, television, jewelery, etc. The duration of a course, from one to six months, depended on the trade selected and on the skill already possessed by the student.

From 1947 to 1951, mass immigration of DPs underscored the growing importance of this enterprise of the American ORT Federation. The United Service for New Americans, the HIAS Service, the Federation of Jewish Charities and the Jewish Labour Committee, i.e. the organizations that took care of the newly arrived, directed thousands of candidates to the various ORT courses. At that time students in ORT centres worked in three shifts.

All in all, 17,000 persons, men and women, benefited from 1945 to 1960 from the vocational instruction given in the two ORT centres in New York ; some of them perfected the skills they already possessed, others learned a trade different to the one they had exercised in Europe. The other centre (dedicated to the memory of A. C. Litton, president of the American and European Friends of ORT in the United States, who died in 1955) having been closed in 1957, there now remains only the Bramson ORT School, with an annual enrollment of some 700 students.

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After the war there were 600,000 Jews in *Latin America* ; 360,000 lived in the Argentine, 120,000 in Brazil, 40,000 in Uruguay, 35,000 in Chile and 8,000 in Cuba.

In these countries, as in the United States and at the same time, ORT extended its activity to vocational training as such. On the one hand, it was necessary to satisfy the growing demand of a fully expanding industry for skilled manpower ; on the other, it was expected that in the postwar period the number of immigrants from eastern and central Europe would sharply increase, and it was thought that ORT institutions would be of inestimable value for the vocational reclassification of the new arrivals. Such, however, was not the case, for immediately after the war the anticipated massive immigration to the countries of Latin America did not take place.

Nevertheless, ORT institutions continued to exercise their activity for some time for the benefit of the indigenous Jewish population ; in various

localities of these countries they continued and continue their activity to this very day.

Between 1945 and 1960 more than 3000 persons, young people and adults, were vocationally trained in ORT schools and workshops in Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Chile and Cuba. But whereas ORT centres in Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro and Montevideo continued to develop (in Buenos Aires this development even justified the purchase of school premises), ORT vocational schools in Sao Paulo, Santiago and Havana were gradually reducing the scope of their activity and were closed. In the Argentine, however, several new vocational courses (in agromechanics and dressmaking) were inaugurated in 1954 in the colonies of the JCA in Dominguez and in Clara, in the province of Entre-Rios.

In 1930 *South Africa* became one of the "contributing countries". There a keen interest was evinced in Jewish social work in Europe and necessary means to assist the development of its activity were placed at ORT's disposal. In South Africa the increased prosperity of the Jewish community went hand in hand with the strengthening of the material and moral support of Jewish social activity in other countries.

The interest shown by the Jewish community in ORT's aims is reflected in the fact that during the post-war years a series of vocational courses for adults and a training farm were established in South Africa. The farm, called "Lazarus" in honour of its donor, trains young Halutzim who do their agricultural hachsharah there.

For the last eleven years South African ORT has maintained a Vocational Orientation Office in Johannesburg which has helped thousands of young men and women to find their way in life and apprenticed them to industrial and handicraft enterprises. Furthermore, ORT was able to introduce manual training centres for children in several Jewish primary schools in South Africa.

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Should one look for evidence of a closer tie between ORT and the Jewish masses, whether in their country of origin or in the course of their many wanderings, one would find it in the last lines of this chapter: we refer to ORT's activity in *China*!

In 1945 it was possible to open the first ORT training workshops in Landsberg in Germany because at the time of liberation a former ORT director happened to be in the Landsberg camp. But in Shanghai the creation of an ORT centre in 1941 was due to the presence in that city of Mr. C. Rosenbess, a former member of the Warsaw ORT Committee, who found refuge in China at the beginning of the war.

ORT worked in Shanghai during the war and during the continuous exodus of Jews from other points of the Far East to Shanghai, but this work was beset by many difficulties. Since it was impossible for Jewish refugees to establish themselves in China, they emigrated ; most of them went to Australia and, from 1948 on, to Israel. It should be noted that often, when refugees tried to obtain the documents to emigrate to Australia, the United States or even Israel, the ORT diploma played a decisive role in obtaining a priority for its holder. Just after the liberation of China many refugees whom ORT had taught a trade or who were still apprentices, were employed as workers by the Allied armies.

Until April 1949, when the ORT Centre in Shanghai was closed, more than 3500 persons received vocational training.

V. IN MOSLEM COUNTRIES

Only after the Second World War was the attention of the world turned to the "forgotten Jews" in Moslem countries. Should one attribute this new interest to the great catastrophe of the years 1939-1945 which swept away a third of the Jewish population ? Or to the technical development with its corollary that the unity of the world is indivisible and that it is no longer possible to neglect one of its parts ? But perhaps public opinion neglected for such a long time the economic and social problem of this sector of Judaism because the improvement of life's conditions in this part of the globe presented a vast and almost insurmountable task. Be that as it may, the fact is that after the war Jewish communities in North Africa and Iran became one of the objects of Jewish preoccupation.

With the exception of the 135,000 Jews in Algeria, who are considerably influenced by French culture and whose mode of living closely resembles that in western Europe, there are approximately 450,000 persons (260,000 in Morocco, 110,000 in Tunisia and 80,000 in Iran) who in most cases live in medieval ghettos. To be sure, in the "Mellahs" of Casablanca, Marrakesh and Meknes, as in the "Mahales" in Teheran and Shiraz or in the "Haras" of Tunis there were always Jewish artisans (shoemakers, tailors, bakers, potters, weavers, saddlers, tinsmiths, etc.) ; but their means of production and their primitive working methods made it more and more difficult for them to adapt themselves to any progress, even the kind of progress made by their neighbours. The situation of Jewish craftsmen further deteriorated when these countries began to industrialize. The result of all this was greater poverty and the growing need to pick up odd jobs, to work as porters, to buy or sell something in the bazaars or to beg. Furthermore, because of the misery in large families even the youngest children had to work ; hence it was impossible for them to attend the schools of the "Alliance Israélite Universelle" and to finish their studies there.

When ORT decided to extend its activity to the Moslem countries, its first aim was to deliver the Jewish youth from the miserable and humiliating conditions of their existence, to inculcate in them an inclination for productive work and to enable them to become skilled workers.

In 1946, French ORT sent the first delegation to Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia to study, on the spot, the general situation and the economic prospects, and to trace the outlines of the action to be undertaken.

ORT in *Algeria* was founded in 1947 and its first school, with mechanics, carpentry and electricity sections, was opened in Algiers. Two years later a second centre was inaugurated in Constantine. Taking into account the growing demand for skilled building construction workers, this school also comprised a locksmithy and plumbing sections.

Graduations of students from ORT schools in Algiers and Constantine and, later on, the fact that the graduates of these schools were able to secure good jobs in industry, stimulated the interest of Algerian Jews in vocational training and in 1955 the third ORT centre was inaugurated in Oran ; the number of students in that institution grew from year to year.

Following the example of French ORT, the Algerian ORT established an employment service to find jobs for young people in private enterprises ; furthermore, complementary courses in theoretical branches were opened in Algiers and Constantine.

More than 600 students attended ORT institutions in Algeria in 1959.

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Vocational training of Jews in *Morocco* existed even before 1947, but only in an embryonic stage ; it was a combined project, carried out by the authorities of public instruction, the "Alliance Israélite Universelle" and private persons. The number of vocational schools was very small, and remained so for a long time.

ORT in Morocco was founded in 1947. According to terms of an agreement between the management of ORT-Morocco and the "Alliance Israélite Universelle", ORT was to organize, within the framework of the school network, practical and theoretical vocational courses, while the Alliance was to take care of general instruction. But in view of the conditions then prevailing in Morocco, teaching a trade was not enough. The students had to be fed and clothed, and they had to be inculcated with notions of work discipline, candour and honesty. It was necessary to restore in them a sense of dignity and pride, to give them a taste for work accomplished in joy, a desire for perfection. The poor had to be taught not to resign themselves to poverty and failure. Thus ORT was faced with new problems, which it had never before encountered. Therefore, from the very beginning

of its work in Morocco, ORT was compelled to do more than was done heretofore in the traditional framework of its activity ; its task became nothing less than to save the poor, and usually illiterate, children of the "Mellahs".

The first years of ORT in Morocco were years of experimentation. During this period the organization experimented with the selection of students and trades, with curricula and with working methods. Only after the big centres in Ain-Sebaa (for boys) and in Val d'Anfa (for girls) were established and equipped, was it possible to work out a system of vocational training, adapted to social and economic conditions of the Jewish population.

The ORT Centre of Ain-Sebaa, 8 miles outside of Casablanca, is a vast block of buildings situated on a piece of ground more than 430,000 sq. ft. in area. These premises contain classrooms, workshops, dormitories, dining-halls, kitchens, shower-rooms and also a club room, a synagogue, an infirmary and offices. The Centre in the Val d'Anfa is a 26,000 sq. ft. building unit on a 43,000 sq. ft. plot. There are 27 classes and workshops and several outbuildings, kitchens, dining-halls, an infirmary, etc.

Students at the Ain-Sebaa Centre can choose from many trades : fitting and tooling, lathe-work, milling, automobile mechanics, automobile body work, sheet-iron work, welding, tinsmithy and plumbing, electricity in building construction, electro-mechanics, telephone installation, radio, draftsmanship, architectural drawing, coppersmithy, aviation mechanics. At the school for girls at Val d'Anfa, in addition to the needlework sections, ORT has inaugurated courses for laboratory assistants, beauty-culture and hairdressing, window-dressers and secretaries. In all sections of this Centre there is instruction in home economics (household work, hygiene, baby care, cooking, etc.).

In order to increase employment possibilities open to students, ORT organized an Apprentice Placement Service (SAP). This Service, initiated in 1952, was set up for the benefit of boys and girls who : 1) though 13 or 14 years old must make a financial contribution towards the maintenance of their family and, therefore, are not able to attend a vocational school ; 2) do not possess the basic educational qualifications necessary to follow courses in a normal vocational school ; 3) wish to learn a trade not taught in ORT Centres. These apprentices prepare themselves for examinations in evening complementary courses (theory and general culture), organized by ORT for their benefit ; these courses comprise a series of intermediate steps.

One of the recent enterprises of ORT Morocco is the inauguration in Casablanca and Marrakesh of accelerated vocational courses for adults. Vocational training in an institute for deaf-mute children was opened in Casablanca in 1957 ; in this project ORT cooperated with the "Alliance Israélite Universelle".

In 1956 an ORT Centre was created in Tetuan (former Spanish Morocco) ; it has two sections, one for boys and one for girls.

The activity developed by ORT in Morocco between 1947 and 1960 could not possibly fill the enormous need in the field of vocational training, but its constructive work expands from year to year ; in 1947 there were 600 students, while in 1959 the enrollment was over 4600 !

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Ever since 1946 the leaders of the Jewish community in *Tunisia* and of ORT Union had been aware of the urgent need for ORT's intervention in this country. Nevertheless, the first vocational school for boys, housed in temporary premises, was only opened early in 1951, after an agreement with the "Alliance Israélite Universelle" according to which the AIU was to be responsible for general instruction. It took another year to transfer the school to a building constructed by ORT in Ariana, to supply full equipment for the workshops, and, most important of all, to obtain the first instructors trained at the ORT Teachers' Institute in Anières (see Chapter VII) to take charge of these workshops. And only when all this was done could ORT proceed full speed ahead.

In many respects, and particularly as far as the level of general instruction and the education of students was concerned, the situation in Tunisia was similar to that in Casablanca. Thus, thanks to experiences gained in Morocco, it was possible to avoid many errors and the activity developed rapidly. Thus, for example, in Tunisia ORT inaugurated the Apprentice Placement Service in 1952, which finds apprentice jobs in private enterprises for those applicants who are not sufficiently prepared for admission to vocational schools. The first accelerated pre-apprenticeship training centre was established in Tunis with a view to facilitating the placement of apprentices later on, and to improving their chances at making a living.

In 1955 ORT opened a centre for the vocational readaptation of adults, an enterprise that proved to be extremely useful for future emigrants. Many adult graduates from this centre moved to France ; thanks to the placement services of ORT in France, all of them found well paid jobs.

When Tunisia became an independent country, in 1956, ORT was in no way impeded in its work. The number of sections continued to increase, and the number of students—boys, girls and adults—in ORT institutions rose from 237 in 1951 to almost 2400 in 1959. And during the year 1959, so many applied for admission to ORT schools and courses that not all of them could be accommodated.

* * *

ORT was established in *Iran* in 1950. At that time there were 90,000 Jews in the country, most of them leading a miserable existence in the frightful conditions of the "Mahales", the ghettos of Teheran, Shiraz and Ispahan. In addition to indigenous Jews there were 6000 refugees from Kurdistan and Iraq who lived in temporary camps near Teheran while awaiting their departure for Israel. Almost 1000 persons a month were air-lifted to Israel, but for a year and a half the number of camp inmates did not diminish; there was a constant influx of new refugees, and many indigenous Jews of the ghetto left for the camps. The danger which these unskilled, undisciplined and, in many cases, illiterate immigrants presented for Israel was evident and could not be ignored by the representatives of the Jewish Agency and the Hechalutz. From the very beginning it was also evident that it would not be possible to maintain indefinitely the original tempo of immigration from Iran. Thus, as soon as ORT was established in the country, it was compelled to deal with two urgent tasks: 1) the organization in camps of accelerated vocational courses for prospective emigrants; 2) the establishment of schools with the usual three or four year courses for those who were to remain in the country.

During the first year ORT devoted itself to the solution of the first problem—the vocational Hachsharah of refugees from Iraq and Kurdistan. In the choice of trades the determining factor was the demand on the labour market in Israel. Training workshops for masonry, carpentry, locksmithy and agro-mechanics were installed in the camps from which the students were recruited. Following the final examinations of the vocational courses, a group of 54 masons and 52 carpenters went to Israel and soon afterwards it was reported that these young people worked in building trades and in kibbutzim.

It may be said that before ORT's establishment in Iran the very idea of a systematic vocational training of youth was alien to the population. As in Morocco and Tunisia, the miserable existence in the ghettos compelled even the youngest members of large families to seek an opportunity to earn something; but it never occurred to them to engage in some sort of manual trade. In order to arouse the interest of the Jewish population in ORT's objectives, various means of tireless and unremitting propaganda were employed: there were articles in the press, posters, appeals and speeches in synagogues. Only thus was it possible to convince the young people and, what was more important, their parents, that vocational training was really useful. However, no propaganda could have been as efficient and convincing as the first results obtained in ORT workshops. The winter huts built by ORT students and the building of the ORT centre in Teheran, constructed with the aid of masons and carpenters trained by ORT, spoke a language far more eloquent than that of any propaganda. Nevertheless, it was only little by little, and very slowly, that the message of ORT penetrated the Jewish population in Teheran and in the provinces. Several years were to pass before ORT was to obtain the necessary

public support and become an important factor in the Jewish life of the country. This very slow progress is explained by the industrial backwardness of the country at least until 1956.

As a matter of fact, when the first graduates left ORT schools at the end of 1953 most of them did not know what to do with their certificates! Aliyah to Israel was closed to them and there were hardly any Jewish craftsmen in the country who could use the skills acquired by these young people, while national industry was still far from developed. It was then that ORT attempted to help its former pupils to create production workshops, established on a cooperative basis. Half of the capital for the purchase of machines and tools was to be raised by the participants themselves, the other half being advanced as a long-term loan by the Lvovitch Fund (established by ORT Union in memory of the co-chairman of its Executive Committee). Up to 1956 a score of production workshops was thus established, and the some 80 former pupils of ORT who worked in them laid the cornerstone, as it were, of Jewish craftsmanship in Iran. But in spite of all this the problem of the placement of the graduates was not solved.

In 1956 the situation changed. The industrialization of the country proceeded at an extraordinary rate, the demand for skilled labour was constantly growing and so were the wages. The mental outlook of Jewish youth and of their parents changed radically. Not so very long ago vocational training was regarded as a last resort of the poor; but now it became the privilege of the well-to-do youth. New sections, with a higher technical level, were added to the ORT Centres in Teheran and Shiraz during the 1958-1959 school year. Now, diploma-holders from these schools had no difficulty whatsoever in finding jobs, and the high wages they received corresponded to the degree of their skill.

As of January 1956, the enrollment in ORT schools in Iran totalled 743; on 1 January, 1960, there were 1,008 students in these schools. Early in 1960, the government of Iran granted its first subsidy to ORT; amounting to \$20,000, it was to be used for the purchase of machinery and tools.

Ten years of continuous efforts were finally showing a profit.

VI. ISRAEL

Dr. A Syngalowski went to Israel for the first time early in 1949. The purpose of his visit was to establish ORT, and on the occasion of the inauguration of the first vocational institution he wrote the following words: "... After scores of years of painful uncertainty we are finally able to draw up plans for permanent and exacting work that looks far into the future. At long last we have ORT schools, the students of which will not run the risk of being compelled

to leave them and move farther on... At last we have teachers who work in schools with a secure future; Jewish vocational schools are safe from destruction in a period of political crisis, safe from becoming superfluous in stable and liberal times... But for all that we shall not abate our efforts in western and eastern Europe, in Africa and elsewhere: quite to the contrary! But the work we shall do in Israel will be the crowning-piece of all these efforts, for all the principles of quality and perfection of Jewish work which we have advocated, all our continuous efforts in the practical field, will be fully implemented in Israel by a systematic organization of vocational instruction. In the State of Israel, where the zeal and the perseverance of Jews is beyond any doubt, our aim now, and more than ever, is to train perfect workers, perfect technically, and perfect morally... ”

The economic conditions that prevailed in Palestine and the economic theories of those who came to settle in the country decades ago left but a *modest place for vocational training*. As long as the main effort was directed towards the development of agricultural settlements, urban craftsmen and, above all, industry, were relegated to play a secondary role. However, the mass influx of immigrants and the need for a diversified production of crafts and industry soon brought to the fore the problem of training skilled industrial personnel.

As it turned out much of the activity developed by ORT between the two wars, and especially after the Second World War, was of great use to the State of Israel, even when this activity was deployed beyond its frontiers. In the course of the last forty years, thousands of former ORT pupils from eastern and central Europe emigrated to Palestine where they swelled the ranks of the army of the builders of Israel. As of 1949, there was hardly an industrial or a crafts enterprise in Israel, hardly a single kibbutz, where one would not find former students of ORT schools in Vilno and Grodno, in Bialystok and Kovno, in Riga, Dvinsk and Kishinev; of ORT institutions in German, Austrian and Italian DP camps, and, finally, of ORT vocational schools in France, the Netherlands and Switzerland. All these men now work with lathes or machines, they drive tractors or fill responsible positions in industry and agriculture.

But ORT's task was to create, within the country itself, a network of vocational schools, able to keep pace with the rapid development of crafts and industry and to adapt themselves to new sectors of production and to the growing demand for skilled labour.

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One of the most important elements to benefit ORT in Israel was, and will be, its traditional non-political character. From the very beginning its work program envisaged the foundation of vocational training institutions placed at the disposal of all political, religious and social beliefs. Among

ORT's first achievements were schools in Jerusalem, Jaffa and Tel-Aviv which were organized, with the approval of the Ministry of Defense, for the vocational re-adaptation of demobilised soldiers; other schools were established for immigrants in temporary camps (maabaroth); still others were provided especially for the Mizrahi youth (at Kfar Abraham), for Agudath Israel (Kfar Ganim) and for the kibbutzim. The high esteem in which official circles held the work of ORT was reflected in the close cooperation with the Ministries of Labour and of Education, and with the municipal authorities of all political outlooks in various parts of the country. This cooperation led to the creation of vocational schools, courses for adults and refresher courses for factory workers.

From 1949 to 1960 ORT's system of vocational training in Israel was enriched by the addition of a series of new branches. Thus a refrigeration school and a building construction school opened in Givatayim, schools for tool-makers were opened in Tel-Aviv, agromechanic institutes were inaugurated at Nathanya and Kfar Monash, in Jerusalem ORT established a school of electronics, textile schools and courses for laboratory assistants were opened in Ramat-Gan.

In 1949 the ORT school network numbered nine units of vocational training with an enrollment of barely 700. In 1959 the ORT program embraced 80 training units, with a total enrollment of 5620 as of 1 January, 1960. According to official statistics published in 1957 and 1958, ORT was responsible for 40% of all vocational training in Israel.

Along with this extension of ORT activity, the passing years brought spectacular improvements in other fields: construction of new buildings, enlargement of existing school buildings, equipment of workshops with modern machinery and tools and finally, rigorous screening of the teaching personnel. The centres in Jerusalem, Nathanya and Givatayim, with the scores of sections where various trades are taught, are today veritable ORT cities. Each centre comprises several buildings that house workshops, machine shops and drafting-rooms, classes, laboratories and dining-halls. They are surrounded by gardens, sports grounds, etc. A good many of the teachers are graduates of the Central ORT Teachers Training Institute in Anières.

The newest development of the ORT school network in Israel is the Syngalowski Memorial Centre established in 1958. It is situated on the Lydda-Tel-Aviv road and comprises three buildings covering over 100,000 sq. ft. It is one of the most modern and one of the largest vocational schools in the Middle East. As of 1 January, 1960, this Centre alone numbered more than 1200 students: 550 young people attended day schools and 670 adults enrolled in evening classes. This vast project was financed by a special grant from the Women's American ORT. It was dedicated to the memory of Dr. Aron Syngalowski, the late chairman of the ORT Union Executive Committee, who created ORT in Israel and blazed the trail in that country for its activity.

From 1949 to 1960, ORT institutions in Israel were attended by almost 25,000 persons, and 11,500 of them were awarded diplomas.

In April 1948, a year before the foundation of ORT in Israel, the Central Board of ORT Union established the Tool Supply Corporation in Tel-Aviv. The aim of this organization was to supply the craftsmen of the land with imported machines and tools to be paid for in small monthly installments. In 1948, after the proclamation of the State, scores of thousands of immigrants, deprived or everything, came to their new fatherland. One of the hardest problems that had to be solved at the time was the lack of production goods. In supplying many immigrants with the necessary machines and tools, the Tool Supply Corporation gave them the possibility to secure their independence and to take themselves and their families out of receiving camps. Thus, machines of various kinds were brought into the country : there were sewing and shoe-making machines, knitting machines, farming implements, electrical instruments, mechanics' tools, tools for cabinet-makers and saddlers, textile machines, equipment for bakeries, etc. At the same time machines and tools were supplied to small cooperatives and, in particular, to workshops of various kibbutzim.

A survey carried out by the Tool Supply Corporation shows that not only were all the beneficiaries of this ORT project able to earn a good living, but that a number of them employ several workmen in their enterprise.

Since the policy of the government is to encourage national production, the ORT Tool Supply Corporation imported, during these last years, only those machines and spare parts which cannot be manufactured in the country; furthermore, it requested local technicians to assemble other machines locally, so as to furnish work to local labour.

From 1948 to 1960 the Tool Supply Corporation delivered 6000 machines representing a value of \$700,000. It is estimated that this ORT project aided 10,000 - 12,000 persons.

VII. CENTRAL ORT INSTITUTE AT ANIÈRES

To enable ORT to play its full role in Jewish life it was necessary to coordinate, in accordance with a well-defined plan, the measures to be taken, to organize a permanent central control system, and to study in detail the specific problems existing in every country.

As soon as the war was over, all the efforts made and all the measures taken by the Central Board of the ORT Union were united

- to establish a network of Jewish vocational schools, as good as in any technically developed country;

- to teach youth that manual work is not a sign of failure but, on the contrary, a privilege and, socially, a step forward;
- to awaken and cultivate in the students an inclination for, and a pride in, work well done.

To ensure a better solution of these problems, ORT Union, on the initiative of Dr. Syngalowski, studied the matter of the creation of teaching staffs for these vocational schools. As a matter of fact this question had appeared even before the war, because at that time ORT Union dealt with thousands of instructors, teachers, agronomists and auxiliary personnel. But these instructors possessed neither the theoretical knowledge nor the necessary pedagogic background. As a rule, they were trained in private apprenticeship by a master craftsman or, at best, they were trained in a vocational school and then worked in the industry. Therefore, even the best ORT instructors were able to fulfill their duties in a satisfactory manner only after four or five years of teaching experience. Furthermore, after the Second World War and the extermination of Jews in eastern and central Europe, Jewish craftsmanship disappeared. The vast technical general staff of ORT was reduced to a few persons. For some trades it was impossible to find a Jewish instructor, even of average capability. As a rule, all initiatives in the field of Jewish vocational training were blocked by a dearth of qualified teachers and instructors.

At the ORT Union Congress in Paris in August 1946 it was decided to establish in Switzerland, near Geneva, an institute for the training of vocational school teachers. In accordance with this decision the Central ORT Teachers Training Institute in Anières was established and equipped in 1946-1948.

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The building and the equipment of the Institute was completed early in 1949. Swiss experts drew up the curricula for the various sections, the workshops were equipped with up-to-date machinery, and the best available specialists were engaged as teachers. Two years later the first diplomas were awarded to fifteen students who, after another year of practical work in Swiss industry, passed their teachers' examinations and began to teach in ORT schools in Israel, Tunisia and Morocco.

Since then, and until 1959, each year 20 to 30 new teachers trained at the Anières Institute were added to the ORT teaching staff. From 1949 to 1960, two hundred young men were awarded teaching diplomas in the following branches: mechanics, electro-mechanics, auto-mechanics, metallurgy, technical installations, cabinet making and construction designing. Students were recruited in 16 countries of Europe, Asia, Africa and America. One hundred and sixty graduates from Anières were assigned to ORT schools in Israel, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Iran, France, Belgium and Italy; some of them have since

been promoted and are now engaged as works supervisors and technical directors. Some of these graduates were engaged by the workshops of the Israeli Army or by other vocational schools; others, having completed the obligatory five-year service period with ORT, accepted responsible positions in industry. Today, teachers from Anières form an important group in the teaching staff of the ORT school network all over the world, and in some countries, in Iran, Tunisia and Morocco, for example, they have been largely responsible for the extension of curricula and for a higher level of studies in ORT schools.

In 1959 the Institute was called upon to turn to another task : the advanced training of specialists for agriculture and industry. Following an agreement between ORT Union and the Rupin Agricultural Institute of Israel, a group of 17 men from kibbutzim and farm settlements was admitted to the Central Institute in Anières where they went through a course of theoretical and practical instruction before being sent to specialized enterprises in Switzerland and England. Another agreement, concluded with the Ministry of Labour, brought 11 foremen and supervisors to Switzerland to work in Swiss factories and to follow special courses at the Institute. In view of the success of this initiative, other groups arrived in Geneva in 1960.

* * *

After a decade of the Central Institute's existence, the urgent needs for teachers in ORT schools has more or less been filled. On the other hand, certain ORT organizations need vocational instructors with higher qualifications in view of the transformation of their institutions into secondary technical schools with a four, or even five-year period of instruction. Accordingly, ORT Union decided to change the teacher training curriculum of the Institute for a period of several years. Beginning with the 1959-60 school year, the Institute, in close cooperation with the "Ecole Supérieure Technique" of Geneva, will train technicians in the mechanics, electricity and civil engineering fields. Their studies completed, these technicians will come to ORT schools as technical instructors to teach industrial design, general and professional technology, physics, chemistry, applied computation, etc. Should ORT Union be unable to employ some of these graduated technicians in its own vocational schools, they will have an opportunity to occupy responsible positions in government or private enterprises in view of the urgent demand for qualified technical personnel in the field of industry and scientific research.

* * *

In 1960, fifteen years after the war, ORT celebrates its eightieth anniversary.

The way followed by ORT for the promotion of industrial, artisanal and agricultural labour among the Jews is the road travelled by the Jewish people,

whom ORT has always accompanied in its many peregrinations in the pursuit of one single aim : to contribute, through vocational training, to the economic recovery of the Jewish communities in peace and fraternity.

To achieve this aim ORT propagated the idea of productive labour, of training of skilled Jewish workmen, of better Jewish work. ORT carried out this mission, as far as it was materially possible, everywhere and in all circumstances. From 1945 to 1960 ORT's activity has enabled more than 300,000 Jews to take their rightful place in the economy of countries all over the world.

In the future, as in the past, men of goodwill will sustain ORT in the accomplishment of its mission.

PART II

DOCUMENTS AND RÈPORTS

ПРОТОКОЛЪ

I-го предварительнаго засѣданія лицъ, подписавшихъ циркулярное письмо отъ 10-го апрѣля 1880 г., по дѣлу образованія „Общества ремесленнаго и земледѣльческаго труда среди евреевъ въ Россіи“,
4 ноября 1880 года.

Согласно Правиламъ для Временнаго Комитета, утвержденнымъ г. Министромъ Внутреннихъ Дѣлъ, лица, подписавшія циркулярное письмо отъ 10-го апрѣля 1880 г., приступили прежде всего къ выбору другихъ членовъ Временнаго Комитета. При этомъ оказались избранными: Н. И. Бакстъ, Э. В. Банкъ, А. М. Варшавскій, Я. М. Гальпернъ, раввинъ А. Н. Драбкинъ и И. И. Кауфманъ. Такимъ образомъ, согласно Правиламъ, Временный Комитетъ въ Петербургѣ состоитъ пока изъ слѣдующихъ лицъ: Н. И. Бакста, Э. В. Банка, А. М. Варшавскаго, Я. М. Гальперна, бар. Г. О. Гинцбурга, раввина А. Н. Драбина, А. И. Зака, И. И. Кауфмана, С. С. Полякова, Л. М. Розенталя и М. П. Фридлянда.

Кромѣ того, въ томъ же засѣданіи рѣшено пригласить и нѣсколько иногородныхъ членовъ Временнаго Комитета, преимущественно въ главныхъ центрахъ осѣдлости евреевъ, для совѣщанія съ ними, какъ по выработкѣ главныхъ основаній устава Общества, такъ и вообще по дѣйствіямъ Временнаго Комитета. Имена избранныхъ при этомъ иногородныхъ членовъ Комитета будутъ опубликованы, по мѣрѣ полученія отъ этихъ лицъ письменныхъ извѣщеній объ ихъ согласіи на принятіе павнаго на нихъ выбора.

Затѣмъ рѣшено было приступить къ дальнѣйшимъ дѣйствіямъ Временнаго Комитета въ слѣдующемъ засѣданіи, 12-го ноября, по вступленіи въ этотъ Комитетъ вновь выбранныхъ шести членовъ, имена которыхъ перечислены выше.

ПРОТОКОЛЪ

II-го засѣданія Временнаго Комитета по образованію „Общества ремесленнаго и земледѣльческаго труда среди евреевъ въ Россіи“,
12 ноября 1880 г.

Присутствовали члены Временнаго Комитета: Н. И. Бакстъ,

ПРОТОКОЛЫ ЗАСѢДАНІЙ

ВРЕМЕННОГО КОМИТЕТА

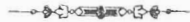
ПО ОБРАЗОВАНІЮ ОБЩЕСТВА

ремесленного и земледѣльческаго труда среди евреевъ въ Россіи

ВЪ ПАМЯТЬ ДВАДЦАТИПЯТИЛѢТІЯ ЦАРСТВОВАНІЯ

ИМПЕРАТОРА АЛЕКСАНДРА II.

Отъ 4-го ноября 1880 до 1-го августа 1882 г.



С.-ПЕТЕРБУРГЪ.

Английская Набережная, д. 4.

1882.

MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS
of the Provisional Committee
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOCIETY
FOR THE PROMOTION OF HANDICRAFTS
AND AGRICULTURAL WORK AMONG THE JEWS IN RUSSIA

in memory of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the reign
of TSAR ALEXANDER II

From 4 November 1880 to 1 August 1882

St. Petersburg
Angliskaya Naberejnaya 4
1882

Translation of Page 1 of the

MINUTES

of the first preliminary meeting of the signatories to the circular letter, dated 10 April 1880, concerning the establishment of a "Society for the Promotion of Handicrafts and of Industrial and Agricultural Work among Jews", held on 4 November 1880.

In accordance with the rules of procedure of the Provisional Committee, approved by the Minister of the Interior, the first business of the signatories, to the circular letter, dated 10 April 1880, was the election of six new members to the Committee. Elected were: N.I. Bakst, E.B. Bank, A.M. Warshavski, J.M. Halpern, Baron H.O. Gunzburg, Rabbi A.N. Drabkin, A.I. Zak, I.I. Kaufmann, S.S. Poliakov, L.M. Rosenthal, and M.P. Friedland.

It was decided to invite several members of the Provisional Committee from other towns, chiefly in the main centres within the Pale of Settlement to hold a joint meeting for the purpose of the drawing up of the fundamental principles of the Society's statutes and to discuss the activity of the Provisional Committee in general. The names of the elected members of the Committee from other towns will be published upon receipt of their written acceptance of their election.

It was then decided to continue the work of the Provisional Committee at the next meeting, on 12 November, when the Committee would be joined by the six newly elected members, whose names are mentioned above.

MINUTES

of the second meeting of the Provisional Committee for the establishment of "The Society for the Promotion of Handicrafts and of Industrial and Agricultural Work among Jews", held on 12 November 1880.

Provisional Committee members present were: N.I. Bakst,

JEWISH COLONIZATION ASSOCIATION
REPORT FROM ST. PETERSBURG

addressed to the JCA in Paris, on the Work of ORT
from 1880 to 1902 (June 1902)

1
N^o 631-
-386. Jewish Colonization Association
Comité Central
à St. Pétersbourg.
JEWISH COLONIZATION ASSOCIATION Galvraais, 20
10 JUIN 1902-2.033
St. Pétersbourg, le 14th Juin 1902

JEWISH COLONIZATION ASSOCIATION

P A R I S .

Unter appertem Kreuzband überreichen wir Ihnen einen Bericht über Beistandsgewährung dem hier in Petersburg funktionnirenden temporären Comité zur Bildung einer Gesellschaft der Handwerks-und Ackerbau-Arbeit/Annexe I/, wie auch die die Thätigkeit dieses Comité's regulirenden Vorschriften/ Annexe II/.

Wie Sie aus unserem Berichte erschen werden, gruppirten wir alle wichtigeren Daten der 22-jährigen Thätigkeit dieses Comité's und verhandelten allseitig die Prage, welche Brauchen dieser Thätigkeit von der ICA gefördert zu werden verdienen. Ausser des vorgängig eingesogenen Gutachtens unserer professionellen Section, richteten wir uns in dieser Hinsicht auch durch Erwägungen, welche in zwei unseren Sitzungen mit Beteiligung der Repräsentanten des temporären Comité's festgesetzt wurden.

Als Resultat dieser gemeinschaftlichen Berathungen erscheint eben der Schlussteil des Berichtes, worin hervorgehoben wird, dass neben manchen Branchen, welche wir für unentsprechend den Aufgaben der ICA betrachten, andere

JEWISH COLONIZATION ASSOCIATION
Central Committee in St. Petersburg
Galernaia 20

St. Petersburg, 27 May 1902.

Jewish Colonization Association
PARIS

Under separate cover we are transmitting to you a report on the assistance to be given to the "Provisional Committee" which is functioning here, in St. Petersburg, in order to establish a society for the promotion of handicrafts and agricultural work (Annex I), and the rules of procedure of this Committee (Annex II).

The report shows that we have grouped all the important data about the work of this Committee over a period of 22 years, and we have thoroughly discussed the question as to what aspects of this activity merit the support of the JCA. Excepting our previous request for an expert opinion on our vocational section, we are basing ourselves on conclusions reached in the course of two meetings which we have had with the representatives of the Provisional Committee.

The results of these discussions are outlined in the conclusions of our report. We have stressed the fact that along with certain branches unrelated to the aims of JCA, the program of the Provisional Committee embraces some activities which certainly should be supported and developed.

In agreement with the representatives of the Provisional Committee we have fixed at 18,120 roubles the total amount of an annual subsidy which we could grant the Committee during the first three years. This is a very modest sum, especially if we consider the unique character of the endeavour for which it is intended, and the scope of this endeavour's diversified activity covering all of Russia.

In supporting this request for reasons indicated in our report, and in asking you to subsidize an endeavour which, we are sure, remained outside of your field of activity by chance only, we hope that you will consider this request with all the good-will and benevolence which it merits.

JEWISH COLONIZATION ASSOCIATION
Central Committee
(sig.) *illegible*

P.S. Kindly note that our letter of 23 May/5 June of this year should have been numbered 385 instead of 328, and correct your files accordingly.

A Report on the Expediency of Subsidizing the Activity of the Provisional Committee for the Establishment of a Society for the Promotion of Handicrafts and Industrial and Agricultural Work among Jews in Russia

The idea of establishing a society for the development of handicrafts and industrial and agricultural work among Russian Jews in Russia was conceived in 1880, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the coronation of Tsar Alexander II. The highest authorities approved the foundation of this society on 22 March 1880 and on 30 September of the same year the Minister of the Interior approved the rules of procedure of the "Provisional Committee" for the establishment of a "Society for the Promotion of Handicrafts and Industrial and Agricultural Work among Jews in Russia". According to these rules (see Annex II) it is incumbent upon the Provisional Committee—temporarily, and until the approval of the statutes of the future society—to manage the collection of funds and to supervise the expenditure of the interest on fixed capital. In accordance with the same rules the Committee is authorized to aid agricultural settlements, farms, existing vocational and agricultural schools; to contribute towards the establishment of similar new schools; to allocate subsidies to craftsmen with a view to promoting their establishment in another location and to help them to start on their own.

These rules are still in force today and they govern the entire activity of the Provisional Committee. Draft statutes mentioned in the rules were submitted for approval in 1885, but as yet the authorities have not confirmed them. The Provisional Committee, therefore, continues to function and to assume all the tasks of the future Society.

At the present time Mr. Daniel Poliakov is the chairman of the Committee which consists of the following members (excluding members not residing in St. Petersburg): Messrs. Nicholas Bakst, Jacob Halpern, Baron Horace de Gunzburg, David de Gunzburg, Rabbi A. Drabkin, Dr. L. Katzenelson, J. Krasnoleski, Barrister A. Passover and D. Feinberg. Mr. H. Vesseler is the Secretary of the Committee.

The results of the Provisional Committee's efforts during the first twenty (20) years of its existence are expressed by the following figures:

During the said period the Provisional Committee's income totalled 870,619.17 roubles, itemized as follows:

	Roubles
(1) Single donations for the establishment of a fixed capital	228,459.83
(2) Donations for the establishment of special funds	49,539.10
(3) Special contributions/for the training and assistance of craftsmen, farmers, etc.	90,968.75
(4) Annual subscriptions	118,302.—
(5) Miscellaneous revenue	73,265.91
(6) Partial repayment of loans issued	27,260.92
(7) Interest on Committee's capital	282,822.66
	<u>870,619.17</u>

The expenditures over the last 20 years totalled 469,810.68 and are itemized as follows:

	Roubles
Subsidies to vocational schools and their students	138,723.06
Subsidies to primary schools in agricultural settlements	8,433.69
Subsidies to agricultural establishments	10,640.—
Subsidies to farmers	105,054.71
Subsidies to craftsmen for their establishment in a new location, for purchase of their working tools, etc.	172,050.41
Expenditure for the establishment of the Committee, secretary's salary, administrative expenses	3,4908.81
	<u>469,810.68</u>

During the 20 years of its existence the Provisional Committee had members and donors in 115 towns and villages of the Russian empire; their contributions to the Committee amounted to 118,302 roubles annually. St. Petersburg members' and donors' share totalled 88,168 roubles per year, or 74.5 % of all regular contributions.

Expenditures to cover the *needs of vocational training* (138,723.06 roubles) were distributed in the following manner among vocational schools of various types*:

¹ During the last 20 years, at one time or another, the following institutions benefited from the Provisional committee's subsidies:

- a) vocational schools in Dvinsk, Vilno, Zhitomir, Moscow, St. Petersburg and Odessa;
- b) handicraft classes in primary schools in Berditshev, Velish, Vitebsk, Dombrova (Grodno government), Dubrovna, Zvenigorodka, Kakhova, Lepel, Minsk, Mogilev-Podolsk, Molodechno, Orsha, Ostrog, Pinsk, Ponevesh, Rovno, Rossieny, Svetsiansy, Simferopol, Soroky, Starodub, Taganrog, and Telsky;
- c) handicraft classes in Talmudic schools in Bendery, Bobruisk, Borisov, Elisavetgrad, Kremenchug, Pinsk and Kherson;
- d) training workshops in Bolshoi Tokmak, Orguiev, Shklov and Brest;
- e) training farms in Mogilev, Odessa, Orguiev;
- f) gardening training in Talmudic schools in Bendery, Korets, Odessa, Bolusher, Orsha, Poltava, Svetsiansy and Kherson.

	Roubles
Subsidies to 6 vocational schools for boys	35,760.75
Subsidies to 22 handicraft classes in government primary schools for boys	51,996.95
Subsidies to 7 handicraft classes in Talmudic schools	9,618.79
Subsidies to 4 training workshops	2,814.68
Subsidies to 19 manual work classes in girls sections in government primary schools	7,747.25
Subsidies to 47 manual work classes in private schools for girls	11,898.11
Scholarships to students in vocational schools or to apprentices in private enterprises	18,887.53

The sum of 10,640 roubles expended on agricultural training is itemized as follows :

Subsidies to three training farms	8,650.—
Subsidies to seven training-gardens	1,990.—

As of 1 January, 1901 the institutions subsidized by the Provisional Committee had the following enrollment :

Vocational schools for boys	725	students
Vocational schools for girls and manual work classes	2,009	"
Training farms	158	"

Attendance during the existence of these institutions was as follows :

Vocational schools for boys	4,390	students
Vocational schools for girls and manual work classes	6,480	"
Training farms	254	"

Total : 11,124 students

In addition aid was extended to 745 students of vocational training classes in schools not subsidized by the Provisional Committee and apprentices in private enterprises. Thus the Provisional Committee aided a total of 11,869 students.

Thus, thanks to the subsidies of the Provisional Committee, almost 12,000 persons were able to derive benefit from instruction in a technical or an agricultural school, or to gain a knowledge of vocational rudiments in vocational training sections of primary schools.

Farmers received individual subsidies totalling 105,054.71 roubles. This amount was distributed among 3,665 persons in approximately 100 localities in 20 government districts. Jewish settlers in the governmental

districts of Ekaterinoslav and Kherson were constantly aided by the Provisional Committee and funds intended for the development of agriculture were used mostly for their benefit.

The sum of 172,050.41 roubles spent in *aid of craftsmen* covered some special needs of Jewish craftsmen, such as :

Removal to the interior of Russia and establishment in a new locality	27,408.02
Purchase of tools and improved equipment for workshops	80,747.61
Short-term loans to craftsmen in St. Petersburg	63,894.78

The Committee helped move 261 families of Jewish craftsmen from 56 localities; there were 87 such families in Minsk, 23 in Vilno, 17 in Vitebsk, 13 in Dvinsk, 12 in the government district of Mogilev, etc.

These craftsmen engaged in 29 trades. Most of them were locksmiths (73), tailors (73), shoe-makers (18), watch-makers (60), hatters (12), etc. Most transfers to the interior of Russia took place in the early eighties. Later on the Provisional Committee was compelled, for various reasons, to abandon this activities, in spite of its usefulness.

Helped with tools were 1709 persons, residing in 344 localities. In this category most of the persons helped were women : there were 298 hosiery weavers, 201 seamstresses, 115 dressmakers. Most of the men aided in this category were tailors—97, watchmakers—65, bookbinders and locksmiths—44 each, tinsmiths—35.

The above data refer to the activity of the Provisional Committee from 1880 to 1899. The following sums were placed at the disposal of the Provisional Committee during the last two years :

	1900	1901	Total since 1880
Single donations	13.00	439.50	228,112.33
Annual subscriptions	2,958.00	3,102.00	124,362.00
Special donations	445.00	462.00	91,875.75
Interest on funds and current accounts	16,829.37	16,713.61	316,365.64
Totals from special capital and interest thereon	2,149.00	2,263.95	53,951.95
Repayment of loans	1,936.37	2,888.55	32,085.84
Payment for tools sold on credit	1,947.00	1,771.75	
Miscellaneous receipts		30.00	77,014.66
Total	<u>26,277.74</u>	<u>27,671.36</u>	<u>924,568.17</u>

During the same period the following amounts were expended :

	1900	1901	<i>Total since 1880</i>
Subsidies to vocational schools, vocational classes and manual work classes in primary schools	10,819.83	10,879.77	160,422.66
Scholarships to students in vocational schools and to apprentices in private enterprises	1,794.00	2,345.00	4,139.00
Subsidies to training farms and gardens	800.00	650.00	20,523.69
Individual subsidies to craftsmen	4,604.89	4,210.31	180,865.61
Individual subsidies to farmers	5,308.00	2,304.25	112,666.96
Committee expenses	2,019.79	1,744.23	38,672.83
Total	<u>25,346.51</u>	<u>22,133.56</u>	<u>517,290.75</u>

In 1900 the Committee subsidized :

	Schools and craftsmanship classes	Training farms	Manual work classes	With a total enrollment of
	21	—	—	693
	—	2	—	50
	—	—	40	2185
and in 1901	24	—	—	708
	—	2	—	46
	—	—	42	2369

Thus, in 1900 the aid of the Provisional Committee was extended to 63 teaching institutions of various kinds with a total enrollment of 2,928 students. In 1901 there were 68 institutions with a total enrollment of 3,123 students. Furthermore, the Committee granted scholarships to students in governmental vocational schools and to apprentices in private enterprises. In 1900 such scholarships were received by 181 persons and in 1901 by 141. During the last two years aid to craftsmen was extended in the form of facilities for the purchase of tools, circular knitting machines, sewing machines, turners' work-benches. This aid was extended to 76 persons in 1900 and to 63 in 1901.

In 1900 the Committee assisted 109 farmer families and 38 in 1901.

As of 1 January 1902 the balance sheet of the Provisional Committee showed :

Interest bearing securities; in cash and on current account :	350,433.47
Interest bearing securities (special assets) :	53,952.05
Special fund for the benefit of members of the Malakhova settlement (Samara governmental district) :	2,795.00
For tools to be issued in 1902 :	97.00
Total	<u>407,277.52</u>

In July 1901 the Provisional Committee requested the JCA Council to subsidize some of the establishments maintained by the Committee and to allocate to the Committee from 15,000 to 20,000 roubles annually in order to extend various branches of its activity. This request was motivated by the fact that the Provisional Committee disposed of only 20,000-23,000 roubles per year to meet all the demands made upon it; on the other hand, the number of applicants (individuals and institutions) increased daily. The Council transmitted this request to the Central Committee for review. During previous negotiations on the Provisional Committee's request with the *Section of Vocational Training* the following opinions were expressed: in principle the Section was in favour of granting this request, provided the Provisional Committee were to submit a definite program of work. The Section was of the opinion that it would be desirable for the Provisional Committee to concentrate its attention, in the field of vocational training, on training of women in manual work and on aiding students in lower governmental vocational schools. On the other hand, referring to subsidies for craftsmanship classes for boys and, individually, for craftsmen, the Section is of the opinion that the attention of JCA should center on the support of schools of a well-defined type. It was also thought that with reference to these schools the Committee might submit a request in each particular case, as is being done for the schools in Dvinsk and Tsekhanovets. As for the aid to adult craftsmen, the Section is of the opinion that: JCA funds may be used only for systematic assistance in a certain branch of industry and in a determined department; that this assistance should be rendered through the establishment of depots facilitating the purchase of tools and certain machines and as aid to craftsmen desiring to establish themselves in localities that offer the best possibilities for work in their respective trades.

Having examined the entire question at a session held jointly with members of the Provisional Committee, and having taken note of the conclusions of the vocational training section, the JCA Central Committee decided that, on the whole, the activity of the Provisional Committee deserves the encourage-

ment and the support of JCA; the latter, however, for the very reason of its own activities, is not in a position to associate itself with all the enterprises of the Provisional Committee. It was stressed, for example, that assistance to *individuals*, traditionally extended by the Provisional Committee to craftsmen and farmers' families, does not correspond to JCA aims. The essential aim of JCA is to raise the general economic level of the Jewish population through a systematic improvement of agriculture, general measures for the improvement of production techniques, vocational training and the establishment of limited credit banks. Were the JCA to extend help to individuals it would assume the character of a philanthropic organization aiding various persons individually. Such a form of philanthropic activity is, no doubt, well-founded, for it alleviates the misery of some poor families. Therefore, one cannot object if the Provisional Committee were to pursue this particular activity with funds specially placed at its disposal for this purpose. But this method of extending aid, which has its place on the program of a small philanthropic organization, cannot constitute a task fit for JCA, an organization that attempts to *concentrate* and *systemize* its activity. For the same reasons, subsidies to craftsmanship classes—where technical training, or to be more exact, three hours per day, on the average, of training in manual work, is of an educational character and cannot be compared to a complete vocational education—cannot be provided for in the JCA program.

On the other hand, it was stressed that the activity of the Provisional Committee comprises also certain branches that eminently deserve the attention and interest of the JCA. For example, the method of granting scholarships to students in lower and middle governmental vocational schools deserves all possible encouragement. Scholarship holders of this category are to be found in numerous establishments, for example, in the School for Industrial Arts in Mirgorod (Poltava government district), in the Pereislav vocational school for girls, in the lower technical school of Saratov, in classes for surveyors in Gorki, in the mining section of the Perm secondary school, etc.

The maintenance of these students is relatively inexpensive and it is very effective. In this connection it should be remembered that not all localities of the Pale of authorized Settlement are provided with vocational training schools and that the establishment of such schools everywhere and in the more or less near future is out of the question. Furthermore, some lower governmental vocational schools obtain very satisfactory results and their level is higher than that of Jewish vocational schools, the existence of which is not yet secure. However, since many governmental vocational schools are not in the farm settlement regions, they can be attended only by children of parents in easy circumstances, for travel and maintenance costs are high. To make it possible for children of less fortunate parents to attend these schools it is necessary to guarantee a certain amount of assistance during

their training. To start with, the Provisional Committee provided for 55 scholarships for students in these schools.

The Provisional Committee estimates that the maintenance of one student for a year will cost 84 roubles. Consequently, the total cost of maintenance will amount to 4,620 roubles. But in addition to that, money must be provided for the payment of school fees which—even if some scholarship holders will be exempted from payment of school expenses—will amount to at least 500 roubles; therefore, this branch of activity will call for a total outlay of 5,120 roubles.

Furthermore, Provisional Committee representatives are persuaded that it would be most expedient to aid certain students in middle technical schools. This proposal is justified by the thought that Jews who obtain a diploma from an institution of this category will be able to employ in their enterprises Jewish workers and workshop foremen; in this way they shall contribute to the development of industrial work among Jews, and among them will be found men who, after a term of adequate preparation, would be able to supervise vocational schools. On the basis of the assumption that each of the 25 students in this last category will need 120 roubles per year, and that another 600 will be needed for the payment of school fees, it was decided to allocate to this program 3,600 annually.

Furthermore, it would be desirable were the JCA to subsidize manual training classes in primary schools for girls; heretofore these classes were maintained by the Provisional Committee. In 1901 the Provisional committee subsidized approximately 50 classes in this category with a total enrolment of 2,369 students at a cost of 3,496.20 roubles. It should be understood that this activity has no relation to manual training classes for boys, which were already mentioned. In manual training classes for girls, students acquire basic notions about sewing; they not only learn how to do simple sewing jobs useful in the daily routine, but are also sufficiently well-trained to earn, in case of necessity, a side income by sewing and other kinds of manual work. It was thought, therefore, that the Committee should pursue and further develop this branch of its activity, and to this end it was decided to allocate a total amount of 3,000 roubles, assuming an average of 200 roubles for each of the 13 manual training classes for girls.

With reference to another matter, it seems desirable for the Provisional Committee to extend its activity to the *teaching of draftsmanship*. The importance of adding this subject—in its theoretical as well as practical aspects—to the curricula of primary schools had been recognized long ago. One cannot become a good craftsman without knowing something about drafting. If one is to develop in a craftsman such valuable qualities as neatness in work and precision in execution and taste, the teaching of draftsmanship is essential. In primary schools of western Europe, and especially in America, more and

more attention is devoted each year to this particular subject. To draw the attention of heads of schools to the teaching of draftsmanship, it is proposed to subsidize 20 schools, to start with, with a view to the introduction of this subject. An allocation of 120 roubles per school would amount to a total expenditure of 2,400 roubles.

To observe results in both branches of instruction mentioned above it is necessary to have them under the supervision of some persons who would inspect the classes periodically.

Another branch of the Provisional Committee's activity which likewise deserves the interest of the JCA is the *removal of Jews from the Pale of authorized Settlement to the interior of Russia*. This activity, so uncommonly near to the original aims of the JCA (the association was founded to aid emigrants), could assume an immense importance in the life of Russian Jewry. It would help to disperse a population now piled up in overcrowded centers of the Pale of authorized Settlement. It is planned to subsidize this activity during the next three years to the amount of 4,000 roubles. This project of the Provisional Committee will no doubt be developed considerably and in the future a larger subsidy will be called for.

It was, therefore, decided to request an annual subsidy of 18,120 roubles for a three-year period.

This total is to be sub-divided in the following manner :

Maintenance scholarships for students in lower governmental technical schools :	Rbbs.	5,120
Maintenance scholarships for students in middle technical schools :	Rbbs.	3,600
Subsidies granted to manual work classes at girls' schools	Rbbs.	3,000
Grants for the teaching of draftsmanship in primary schools :	Rbbs.	2,400
Aid to immigrants in the interior of Russia :	Rbbs.	4,000
Total	Rbbs.	18,120

Approved by the Minister of the
Interior on 30 September, 1880,
under № 3888

RULES OF PROCEDURE

*of the Provisional Committee for the establishment of a Society for the Promotion
of Handicrafts and Agricultural Work among Jews in Russia*

In commemoration of the 25th
anniversary of the reign of
Tsar Alexander II.

- (1) The funds to be used for the establishment of a Society for the promotion of handicrafts and agricultural work among Jews in Russia, whether they be collected now or in the future, and whether they be constituted by single donations or annual subscriptions—shall be deposited on the account of the Provisional Committee in the National Bank.
- (2) Members of the Provisional Committee shall be the signers of the first appeal calling for participation in the projected organization, and persons who shall be coopted by these signers and who have shown, from the beginning, a keen interest in the establishment of a Society for the promotion of handicrafts and agricultural work among Jews in Russia.
Members of the Committee shall elect among themselves a chairman. In the absence of the latter the chair shall be occupied by one of the senior members of the Committee. In addition to a chairman, a secretary and a treasurer shall be elected.
- (3) The Committee shall have the following duties :
 - a) To draw up a draft of statutes of the “ Society for the Promotion of Handicrafts and Agricultural Work among Jews in Russia ”, to be submitted to the Government for approval; to draw up this draft in its minute details the Committee shall previously collect all the pertinent basic data.
 - b) To direct the collection of funds in the future and to ensure the rational utilization of interest on fixed capital and annual subscriptions in accordance with Article 4.

- c) To take measures for the recruitment of the greatest possible number of members and of contributors to the "Society for the Promotion of Handicrafts and Agricultural Work among Jews in Russia",
- (4) The Provisional Committee shall make all efforts to use the funds—already on hand and those to be collected in the future—for the achievement of the following aims :
to aid and develop existing Jewish vocational schools; to subsidize the establishment of new Jewish vocational schools; to facilitate the moving and the re-establishment of Jewish craftsmen; to aid Jewish farm moving and the re-establishment of Jewish craftsmen; to aid Jewish farm settlements, model farms and agricultural schools.
- (5) The Committee shall not be authorized to spend the capital formed by single donations.
- (6) The first General Assembly shall be convened after the approval of the Society's statutes. The Committee shall render to the Assembly a report on its activities and measures taken and shall render an account of the expenditure of interest on fixed capital and annual subscriptions. The Assembly shall then nominate an Administrative Council to which the Committee shall transfer all liquid assets and all accounts and reports; the Committee shall then resign from its functions.
- (7) A copy of the report of the Provisional Committee shall be submitted to the Minister of the Interior.
- (8) The Committee shall render an account to the Minister of the Interior of all the donations received and of all the monies spent; the Committee shall publish its accounts at least twice a year.
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**EXCERPTS FROM THE REPORT OF THE SOCIETY FOR
THE PROMOTION OF HANDICRAFTS AND OF INDUSTRIAL
AND AGRICULTURAL WORK
AMONG JEWS IN RUSSIA FOR THE YEAR 1907**

The first General Assembly of the Society was held on 3 December, 1906. The Provisional Committee, created on 30 September, 1880, submitted a report to the Assembly on its activity and a statement on income and expenditure. Mr. J. M. Halpern outlined the history of the Society's organization and reported on the activity of the Provisional Committee; Mr. G. B. Sliosberg made a statement on the future tasks of the Society. The twelve following members were elected to the Committee: Baron H. O. Gunzburg, J. M. Halpern, G. B. Sliosberg, D. S. Poliakov, M. G. Ostrogorski, Dr. L. Katzenelson, Baron D. H. Gunzburg, M. G. Wavelberg, M. V. Kaplan, D. F. Feinberg, J. M. Berger and S. J. Meerson. Baron H. O. Gunzburg was elected Chairman; M. J. Wavelberg—Treasurer and J. M. Berger—Administrator. Mr. N. F. Vesioler was appointed Accounting Secretary.

Other General Assemblies were held on 14 January, 3 May and 23 December 1907; at these sessions the budgets for 1907 and 1908 were voted. 173 new members were admitted; thus at the beginning of 1908 there were 458 members (285 members were on the rolls when the Society was established in 1907).

In order to make the aims of the Society known and to encourage the establishment of new sections, 5000 copies of the statutes were sent to various persons; these documents were sent together with an invitation to become members of the Society, to enrol other persons who might be interested in this endeavour and to organize new sections. Furthermore, 2000 copies of the Society's work program were sent to members, to all persons active in the social and philanthropic fields, to loan- and savings-banks, to pedagogic councils and other higher bodies of Jewish schools and to the editorial offices of all Jewish and Russo-Jewish periodicals, soliciting comment.

Early in 1907 the Committee engaged Mr. J. S. Rosenfeld, an engineer, to make a survey of the manual training classes in Jewish schools subsidized by the Society. He was also entrusted with various tasks, particularly, to familiarize the Jewish population with the aims of the Society, to study the possibility for opening new sections and to organize practical courses for adult craftsmen.

The Committee decided to organize mobile courses in carpentry, tinsmithy and shoe-making in towns and villages of the provinces of the Pale, in order to raise the productivity of Jewish craftsmen through the improvement of technical methods. The efforts of the Committee in this field did not produce any tangible results, since qualified teachers for such courses were lacking.

The enrollment of students in schools subsidized by the Society totalled 789 boys and 2,636 girls; 61 apprentices were placed in various crafts; 88 students of primary, secondary and higher vocational schools were granted scholarships. Loans for the purchase of tools were granted to 62 craftsmen, and several families of farmers and tobacco planters received grants for the purchase of seed and foodstuffs; 48 craftsmen were helped to move to Central Russia and to establish themselves there.

Total budgeted expenditures amounted to 48,960.26 roubles, including 34,632 roubles for vocational training, 3,287.26 roubles for agriculture, 3,428 roubles for aid to craftsmen and 2,830 roubles for the re-establishment of craftsmen in Central Russia.

EXCERPTS

FROM THE REPORT OF THE ORT DELEGATION ABROAD (1919-1921)

Submitted by Messrs. L. Bramson and D. Lvovitch to the first ORT Congress in 1921.

The idea of sending a special delegation from Russia abroad occurred to the leaders of the "Société pour la propagation du travail artisanal et agricole parmi les Juifs" (ORT) in 1913. It was thus intended to acquaint the Jews of western Europe with the aims of this organization, with a view to the further development of its activity, and to find additional financial means for the achievement of its aims. The war of 1914 made this project impossible to undertake.

At that time ORT was faced with a series of urgent problems raised by the misfortunes which beset the Jewish population, especially in the border regions. The compulsory removal of the population and the situation of refugees immediately after the war broke out, condemned hundreds of thousands of families to misery and famine. All these unfortunates, deprived of homes and means of existence, had to be helped with work; it was imperative to organize workshops for the unemployed and to open vocational schools for homeless children and for orphans.

Due to the events in Russia following the revolution of 1918, the activity of ORT, although developing, became more and more difficult. Local ORT committees and the central organization in Petrograd lost touch with each other; this was due partly to the general collapse of the economic life of the country, and partly to the creation of new states within the former Russian empire.

The impoverishment of Jewish working masses which had started in 1918, the wave of pogroms that had broken over the Ukraine and annihilated hundreds of Jewish communities, created a situation which had to be dealt with immediately; but precisely at that time the ORT Society's structure was weakened and it did not have the necessary means for a systematic activity. It could not work without help from abroad, while, on the other hand, it seemed necessary to create an organization outside of Russia which ORT committees in newly created border states would be able to contact.

Therefore, the Central Committee of the Russian ORT in Petrograd decided in 1919 to delegate to western Europe Messrs. L. Bramson and D. Lvovitch. These delegates started out by informing social organizations and all Jewish circles in western Europe about ORT problems in general; then they attempted to acquaint these circles with the situation and the needs of the Jews in the East; finally, they told them about ORT experiences in the "help through work" field.

The delegates presented detailed memoranda and a statistical documentation to the Council of the Jewish Colonization Association, to the directors-general of the American Joint Distribution Committee, to aid committees in England and Scandinavia, to the World Aid Congress (Welthilfskonferenz), to mutual aid associations of workers, etc. They lectured in Paris, London, Manchester, Berlin and other cities. Wherever they went they solicited funds to fill the needs of Jewish working masses, to help existing ORT institutions, to create new vocational schools, training farms, handicraft and agricultural cooperatives, to purchase equipment, etc.

Here is a list of organizations that answered the appeal of the ORT delegation: J.C.A., A.J.D.C., Paris Aid Committee, War Victims Committee in London, Aid Committee for the Jewish Community in Viborg, Stockholm Aid Committee. Furthermore, committees to aid ORT were established in Paris, London, Manchester, Berlin, Danzig, Leipzig, Reval, Dorpat, Helsingfors and Viborg.

The ORT delegation abroad developed an intensive organizational activity and it collected funds; it created local and regional ORT committees in Lithuania, in the region of Vilno, in Latvia, Poland and Bessarabia (Rumania). These committees secured the interest of worker and artisan trade union representatives, of cooperatives and philanthropic organizations.

By extensive travelling, members of the delegation and their representatives in large centers established a close contact with local organizations. The work of local committees was coordinated and ORT regional centres were created to direct their activity.

After 15 months of experimenting, the ORT delegation abroad decided to modify the structure of the organization to adapt it to the growing intensity of its activity. The plan to call together all ORT organizations was ready for implementation, and the delegation began to prepare the first ORT Congress.

Entered in the register of associations
in Berlin on 25 April, 1927,
under No. 5111

STATUTES OF THE ORT UNION

for the Promotion of Handicrafts and of Industrial and Agricultural
Work among Jews

* * *

I. GENERAL STATEMENT

Art. 1: Name and aim of the Association

The name of the Association is "The ORT Union for the Promotion of Handicrafts and of Industrial and Agricultural Work among Jews"; its aim shall be the joint application of all efforts for the encouragement of handicrafts and industrial and agricultural work among Jews in accordance with the following principles :

- (a) All organizations pursuing aims similar to those of the association shall form a union, coordinate their activities and adapt their structures with a view to a distribution of their tasks;
- (b) A study of the situation and needs of handicrafts, agriculture and other technical occupations among the Jewish population shall be undertaken;
- (c) To encourage vocational training in handicrafts, industry and agriculture, the following measures shall be taken; establishment and maintenance of vocational schools, training workshops and model workshops, training farms and gardens and industrial museums; training of teachers for these institutions; organization of vocational courses; supervision of the work of apprentices in industrial enterprises to ensure their adequate training. It shall be necessary to supply technical manuals on these subjects, to organize exhibitions and lectures, etc.
- (d) To aid craftsmen, farmers and other Jewish workmen in individual as well as in cooperative enterprises, the following measures shall be taken: Provision of tools and raw materials, teaching of modern work methods, issue of work certificates, etc.

The Association shall not engage in any commercial activity and shall not obtain any commercial gain.

The Association shall be entered in the Associations' Register. In this manner it will acquire the rights of a legal entity and, as such, it will be able to

act independently and in its own name in any legal matter; in particular it will be able to purchase land and other kinds of property.

Art. 2: Seat of the Association

The seat of the Association is in Berlin. Regional sections of ORT may be established with the agreement of the central administration.

Art. 3: Business year

The business year of the Association shall be the calendar year. The first business year shall start on the day of the establishment and end on 31 December 1927.

Art. 4: Resources of the Association

The resources of the Association are as follows :

- (a) Membership dues;
- (b) Donations and bequests of private persons and subsidies of national or foreign societies and corporations;
- (c) Proceeds from the sale of books and periodical publications, edited by the Association, and from the sale of articles manufactured in vocational schools, etc.
- (d) Proceeds from conferences, parties and other similar events organized for the benefit of the Association;
- (e) Revenue from capital, securities, real estate and personal property of the Association.

II. MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Art. 5: Acquisition of membership

Members of the Association may be :

- (a) Private individuals;
- (b) Groups of individuals (associations, societies, etc.) pursuing aims similar to those of the Association.

The Central Board rules on the admission of new members; its decisions are not subject to appeal.

Ordinary members may become life members by paying a fixed sum, the amount of which shall be determined by the Central Board.

Art. 6: Dues

Membership dues shall be determined by the Central Board and approved by the Central Council.

Art. 7: Loss of membership

1. Through resignation to become effective at the end of the year and to be submitted with three-months notice. The Central Board may authorize exceptions.
2. In the event of death or, in the case of a group of individuals, through the dissolution of the group;
3. By striking the member off the membership roll; this may take place if the member is three months in arrears in payment of dues and has failed to reply to two reminders;
4. By expulsion, if a member has prejudiced the interests of the Association; only the General Assembly (a meeting of all the members of the Association) shall have the right to expel a member and a three-fourths majority shall be required for such a decision.

Art. 8: Members " Bienfaiteurs "

For distinguished service in the interests of the Association members may be nominated members " bienfaiteurs " by the decision of the Central Board.

Art. 9: Honorary members

Person who have distinguished themselves in the cause of encouragement of productive work among Jews may be nominated honorary members by the decision of the Central Council.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES

Art. 10: The administrative bodies of the Association are :

1. The Central Board;
2. The Central Council;
3. The Control Commission;
4. The General Assembly (meeting of all members).

These bodies shall draw up their respective agendas.

Art. 11: The Central Board

The Central Board is composed of a President, a Vice-President and other members whose number shall be determined either by the General Assembly, or by the Central Council, after the establishment of the latter; the number of members shall be in proportion to the extent of the Association. Until the next General Assembly (meeting of members) the Central Board shall consist of 11 members and 3 alternates.

In accordance with article 26 of the German Civil Code (B.G.B.) the authority of the Presidium shall be vested in :

1. The President;
 2. The Vice-president;
 3. A member of the Central Board designated by the General Assembly.
- Furthermore, the President shall be authorized to nominate two alternate members.

The President directs the Association in legal and in all other matters. The Association shall be represented by other members only if especially designated for this purpose.

Art. 12: Election of the Central Board

The Central Board shall be elected by the General Assembly.

In the event of retirement of a member elected to the Central Board, the latter shall have the right to designate a substitute; however, the selection of the Board must be approved by the Council at its next ordinary session. The Central Board shall thus elect no more than three new members. In the event of simultaneous retirement of five or more members of the Central Board, the Central Council will be convened.

Art. 13: The Central Council

The Central Council is composed of :

1. The Central Board;
2. Other members whose number shall be determined by the General Assembly in proportion to the size of the Association.

Until the next General Assembly the Central Council shall consist of 32 members.

The Central Council shall have the following duties :

- (a) to approve the report for the preceding half-year, to draw up the budget and the program of work for the next half-year;
- (b) to complete the Central Board by designating new members as substitutes for those who have retired;
- (c) to consider problems connected with the activity of the Association;
- (d) to decide when the General Assembly (meeting of the members) is to be convened and to draw up its agenda.

The Central Council shall meet at least twice a year. It elects from among its members a Chairman and 2 or 3 Vice-chairmen.

An extraordinary session of the Central Council may be convened at the written request of one third of its members. The Central Council shall have

the right to convene — if a 2/3 majority of its members so desire — an extraordinary General Assembly (meeting of all members).

Art. 14: Election of the Central Council

The Central Council shall be elected by the General Assembly. In the event of retirement of a member of the Council, the latter has the right to appoint a substitute.

Art. 15: The Control Commission

The Control Commission is composed of 5 members elected by the General Assembly. The duty of the Commission shall be to approve the report of the Central Board on the financial year and to issue instructions concerning bookkeeping and the management of business. By addressing a notification to the Chairman of the Central Council, the Control Commission shall have the right to request the convening of an extraordinary session of the Council, provided such a session is called together to consider problems within the province of the Commission.

Art. 16: The General Assembly (meeting of members)

An ordinary General Assembly shall meet at least once every two years. Furthermore, an extraordinary General Assembly may be convened on the request of members who can command, among themselves, at least ten votes (article 17 of the statutes).

In exceptional cases the Central Council, acting in agreement with the Board, shall have the right to defer the convocation of the General Assembly, but for not more than three years.

The convocation shall be made in writing, listing the agenda.

Minutes of the proceedings shall be kept and the decisions taken recorded in them.

Art. 17: Right of vote

By the decision of the Central Board the voting of members may be arranged in the following manner : on the one hand, a greater number of votes may be assigned to groups of persons, in proportion to their membership; on the other, the right to vote of private persons may be limited, in the sense that the latter shall cast their votes only through a deputy whom they shall elect and who will represent a given number of members.

Members of the Central Council shall have one full vote each.

Art. 18: Dissolution

The dissolution of the Association shall require a decision of the General Assembly voted by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority or no less than 20 votes cast. If the requisite

number of votes is not cast a second Assembly shall be convened and a simple majority shall be sufficient to decide the issue. In the event of dissolution the Central Council shall rule on the use of the property of the Association. However, the residual property shall be used only for purposes that correspond with the aims of the Association.

MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL BOARD

Officers

- (1) Dr. Leon Bramson, Berlin, President
- (2) Prof. Salomon Frankfurt, Berlin-Lichterfelde, Vice-President
- (3) Dr. Aron Syngalowski, Berlin
- (4) Dr. David Lvovitch, Berlin
- (5) Dr. Joseph Blum, Paris

Members

- (6) Dr. Kurt Blumenfeld, Berlin
- (7) Dr. Julius Brodnitz, Berlin
- (8) Senator Moses Koerner, Warsaw
- (9) Dr. Moses Silberfarb, Warsaw
- (10) Dr. Nikolaus Soloweitschik, Berlin
- (11) Jakob Zegelnitzky, Moscow

MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL

Officers

A. Alperin, Paris
J. Jaszunsky, Vilno
Dr. H. Moskowitz, New York
J. Panken, New York
W. Alter, Warsaw

Members

Léon Blum, Paris
Prof. B. Brutzkus, Berlin
Dr. M. Diamant, Czernowitz
A. Dobkin, Warsaw
Dr. E. Eiger, Lodz
L. Feigenbaum, Warsaw
M. Feinleib, Berlin
L. Frenkiel, Berlin
Dr. J. Frumkin, Berlin
S. Gorin, Rovno
Dr. M. Gran, Moscow
W. Graetz, Berlin

Dr. L. Halanaj, Kishinev
Dr. A. Halpern, London
B. Kahan, Vilno
Dr. M. Klummel, Warsaw
Dr. M. Kreinin, Berlin
Dr. J. Kruk, Warsaw
S. Levitas, Riga
Berl Locker, Berlin
D. Movshovitch, London
Ch. Rosenbess, Warsaw
Dr. S. Schapiro, Berlin
M. Schechter, Kishinev
Dr. Sudarsky, Kovno

CONTROL COMMISSION

A. Berlant, Berlin
Dr. J. Brutzkus, Berlin
S. Schalit, Berlin
Dr. B. Tschlenow, Berlin

STATUTES OF THE ORT UNION

Registered at the Headquarters of the Paris Police
on 19 October, 1938 under No. 3,125,
approved by the order of the Ministry of the Interior of
31 January, 1940,
and amended by the decision of the General Assembly
of ORT Union on 13 July, 1949,
registered at the Headquarters of the Paris Police on 18 October, 1949
under No. 79501-3480

In August 1921 delegates of several associations for the promotion of handicrafts and of industrial and agricultural work among Jews, having met at a conference in Berlin, decided to institute among their associations a Union under the name of "ORT Union" and to establish the Central Board of that Union in Berlin.

On 25 April 1927 the Central Board had the statutes of the Union registered in accordance with the provisions of German law.

In 1933 the Central Board transferred the centre of its activity to Paris.

Pursuant to a resolution of the General Assembly of ORT Union, held in Paris on 26 August, 1937, it was decided to establish the seat in Paris, and the Executive Committee was fully authorized to do so, and particularly to declare the statutes in accordance with French laws on Associations.

Carrying out this resolution, the Executive Committee of ORT Union established the seat in Paris, at 19, avenue Victor-Hugo.

In consequence of this transfer, and in order to conform the statutes to French laws on Associations now in force, and particularly to the law of 1 July, 1901 and to Art. 7 of the Decree of 16 August, 1901, the Executive Committee drew up the following text of the statutes of ORT Union.

I. COMPONENT ORGANIZATIONS AND OBJECTIVES

ARTICLE 1. — According to Article 7 of the Decree of 16 August, 1901 and the Law of 1 July, 1901, a Union of Associations was established under the name of ORT Union; the following Associations joined the Union :

1. ORT, Association *française* pour le développement du Travail industriel et agricole parmi les Juifs, Paris (XVI^e), 70, rue Cortambert;
2. *American* ORT Federation, New York, 212 Fifth Avenue;
3. ORT *Argentina*, Asociación Israelita pro Orientación Racional del Trabajo, Buenos Aires, Callao 257;
4. ORT Committee for *Australia and New Zealand*, Melbourne C.I., 443 Little Collins Street;
5. ORT *Österreich*, Vienna IX (Austria), Prozellangasse 51;
6. ORT Association *belge* pour le Développement du Travail artisanal, industriel et agricole parmi les Juifs, Bruxelles, 78, rue de Trèves;
7. Association ORT *Bolivia*, La Paz, Casilla 467;
8. ORT Sociedade Israelita *Brasileira* de Organizacao, Reconstrucao e Trabalho, Rio de Janeiro, Rua Senador Dantes, 20;
9. ORT Sociedades Israelita *Brasileira* de Organizacao, Reconstrucao e Trabalho, São Paulo, 1317 Rua Bresser;
10. *British* ORT, Organisation for Reconstruction and Training Jews in Trades and Agriculture, London, 85 New Cavendish Street, W.I.
11. ORT, Société pour le Développement du Travail artisanal, industriel et agricole parmi les Juifs de *Bulgarie*, Sofia, 4, rue St-Stambouloff;
12. Women's *Canadian* ORT and ORT Organization, Montreal 2 (Quebec), 1470 Mansfield Street;
13. ORT Ceskoslovensky Spolek Pro Vyvoj Pemosline a Prumyslove Prace Zidu, Prag I, Hastalka 6;
14. Asociación Israelita *Chilena* ORT, Santiago de Chile, Av. Irarrazaval 1951;
15. Asociación ORT, Para Difundir Artes, Oficios y al Cultivo de la Tierra entre les Hebreos de *Cuba*, Habana, Trocadero 108;
16. *Danske* ORT Komite, Copenhagençhellerup, 49 Rebbekkavej;
17. ORT *Hellénique*, Athènes, 186, rue de Pirée;
18. ORT *Holland*, Nederlndse Stichting ter Bevordering van Ambacht, Industrie, Landbouw onder de Joden, Amsterdam, Amstel 240;
19. ORT, Orszagos Tovabbekeprzo Taraseg, Budapest VII (*Hungary*), Erzsebet Koerut 32;
20. ORT Committee *Israel*, Tel-Aviv, 2 Pinsker Street;
21. ORT, Associazione per lo sviluppo del Lavoro Artigiano, Industriale et Agricolo fra gli Ebrei in *Italia*, Rome, Via Savoia 84;
22. Sociedad ORT de *Mexico*, Mexico, Cuba 81;
23. ORT, Organizacja Rozwoju Tworczości Przemysłowej, Rzemieślniczej i Rolniczej wśród ludności żydowskiej w *Polsce*, Warsaw, Narbutta 37;

24. ORT, Asociația Pentru Indrumarea Avreilor Spre Profesiuni Manuale și Agricultură, București (*Rumania*), Str. Australului 37;
25. ORT *Shanghai*, Society for the Promotion of Handicrafts and Agriculture for Jews in East-Asia, Shanghai, 311 Dalny Road;
26. *South-African* ORT/OZE, Johannesburg, 10 Unity House, 100 Fox Street;
27. Federación ORT *Sudamericana*, Organización pro Racionalización del Trabajo, Buenos-Aires, Callao 257;
28. ORT, Association *suisse* pour le Développement du Travail artisanal, industriel et agricole parmi les Juifs, Genève, 6, rue Eynard;
29. *Svenska* ORT Kommitten, Stockholm, Sveavägen 86;
30. Asociación *Uruguay* ORT, Montevideo, Minas 1717.

ARTICLE 2. — The purpose of the Union of Associations is to promote industrial and agricultural work and work in crafts among Jews, and also to unify and coordinate the efforts made in this direction by various associations.

The means of action which the Union proposed to use are :

(a) The search for better means of propaganda of the aims pursued jointly by member associations; the study of vocational and agricultural training schools with a view to improving the technique of production and to improving the working conditions of craftsmen, farmers, etc.; the organizing, for this purpose, of public lectures and the publication of books and periodicals.

(b) The establishment and maintenance of vocational schools, technical courses for apprentices, training farms, model farms, industrial exhibitions, patronages, technical advisory services for craftsmen, etc.

(c) Theoretical preparation of teachers for vocational training establishments and their placement in industrial establishments and model farms with a view to improving their practical knowledge; the providing of these teachers with study plans, school requisites, etc.

(d) Assistance to all persons engaged in various branches of industry and agriculture; their grouping into cooperatives; the provision of machines, tools and raw materials for such cooperatives, and particularly aiding migrants and refugees through preparing them vocationally and assisting in their establishment in the country of immigration.

(e) The coordination of its activity with that of other bodies pursuing similar aims; the incorporation of the latter into the Union or the making of special agreements with them.

The Union is a non-profit organization.

ARTICLE 3. — The seat of the ORT Union is in Paris, at 10, Villa d'Eylau, Paris (XVI^e).

The Executive Committee of the Union is empowered to establish its agencies elsewhere as needed.

ARTICLE 4. — The Union shall be composed of the associations enumerated above and of associations having aims similar to those of the Union whose admission to membership has been approved by the Executive Committee of the Central Board of the Union.

ARTICLE 5. — The activities of the member associations of the Union shall conform to the general directives issued by the administrative bodies of the Union without prejudice to their autonomy as independent organizations. They shall pay to the Union such yearly subscriptions as shall be determined by the Central Board or the Executive Committee of the Union. Failure to comply with said obligations may constitute grounds for suspension by the Central Board, or, if necessary, for expulsion of the defaulting Association by the General Congress by a vote of two thirds (2/3) of the members present.

II. FINANCES OF THE UNION

ARTICLE 6. — The financial resources of the Union are composed of :

- (1) Subscriptions of the affiliated associations;
- (2) subventions which may be granted to it;
- (3) interests and revenues from real estate and assets belonging to the association.

III. ADMINISTRATION

ARTICLE 7. — The Union is administered by :

- (1) The General Congress of the Union;
- (2) the Central Board;
- (3) the Executive Committee;
- (4) the Control Commission.

Each of these bodies shall establish its own rules of procedure.

ARTICLE 8. — Each ordinary General Congress shall be convened by the General Board on a date set by the preceding General Congress.

In exceptional cases, the Central Board shall have the right to defer the convocation of General Congresses, but for not more than one year.

If a General Congress does not fix a date for the next Congress, that date shall be set by the Central Board.

Extraordinary General Congresses may be convened at the request of at least 10 affiliated associations, or, in case of urgency, by decision of the Central Board.

The General Congress shall consist: (1) of national delegates elected by local organizations or their sections, according to the regulations established by the Central Board at least six months before the date of the meeting of the Congress; (2) of members of the Central Board of the ORT Union.

The General Congress shall examine the report on the activity of the Union during the elapsed period and the report of the Control Commission; it shall elect the Central Board and the Control Commission and discuss the questions on the agenda.

ARTICLE 9. — Delegates to the Congress and the members and the members of the Central Board shall have the right to vote at the General Congress.

Decisions of General Congress are valid only if at least one third of the persons entitled to vote are present.

If a Congress cannot be held owing to the absence of a quorum, a new General Congress shall be convened within 15 days: the decisions of this Congress shall be valid regardless of the number of members present.

ARTICLE 10. — The Central Board shall consist of not more than 63 members elected by the General Congress.

The Central Board shall appoint from among its members a President, from two to five Vice-Presidents and a Secretary General, whose duties shall be determined by the Board.

The Central Board shall also have the right to appoint such officials of the ORT Union as it may deem necessary.

The Central Board shall meet at least once a year; notifications of the meeting shall be issued to members at least 60 days prior to the date of the meeting.

One third of the members of the Central Board shall constitute its quorum and the decisions shall be taken by the majority of the votes cast by the members present. If a meeting of the Central Board cannot be held due to the lack of a quorum, another meeting shall be convened by the President addressing a letter to all members. This meeting shall validly act on all questions, regardless of the number of the members present.

In case of the demise or resignation of a member of the Central Board, the latter shall have the authority to appoint a new member to fill the vacancy.

The Central Board is the supreme administrative body of the Union and shall control its activity. The Executive Committee elected by the Board shall present an annual report on its administration to the Board. The annual reports on the activities of the Union shall be submitted to the Board for its approval by the Executive Committee, together with the report of the Control Commission (Art. 14) which shall verify their accuracy and their conformity with the account books of the Union.

ARTICLE 11. — The Central Board shall elect from among its members an Executive Committee composed of 12 to 23 members and an alternate for each member; the alternate must be a resident of the same country as the member. This Executive Committee shall discharge current business in the intervals between the meetings of the Central Board.

The Executive Committee is invested with complete power to authorize any act or to effect any purchases, transfers or leases necessary for the functioning of the Union in accordance with the general directives and decisions of the Central Board.

To this end the Executive Committee may delegate, with the right of sub-delegation, to one or more of its members, or to any other person, all or part of its powers in order to represent the Union in all legal matters and, in particular, to appear in a court of justice, either as plaintiff or defendant, to lodge any claims or appeals and to conclude any transaction.

The Executive Committee shall meet at least three times a year with at least 20 days notice. The Executive Committee shall act validly with at least five members present and its decisions shall be taken by the majority of the votes cast by the members present.

ARTICLE 12. — The Executive Committee may appoint from among its members an Interim Committee of 5 to 9 members and an equal number of alternates; this Committee shall be vested with the authority of the Executive Committee between the sessions of the latter. The Interim Committee shall meet monthly and its decisions shall not be valid unless there are at least three members present. These decisions shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 13. — All monies received, whatsoever their designation, shall be paid into a public bank or credit establishment designated by the Executive Committee of the Interim Committee.

For all transfer of funds, for the opening of all accounts as may be required in the name of the Union with a credit establishment, for all acts involving commitments of the Union, for the withdrawal of all monies and securities and for the issuance of checks, the Executive Committee shall delegate two

persons from among its own members or others. The Union will be bound only by the joint signatures of these two delegates.

The signature of only one member of the Executive Committee or of any other person especially delegated for the purpose by the Executive Committee of the Interim Committee shall, however, be sufficient for the opening and operation of a postal checking account, for accepting mail or shipments at a post office, transport and shipping agency or railway service, as well as for receiving at the office any cables, letters, cases, packets, or parcels, insured or uninsured, and packages containing securities of declared value addressed to the Union, for receiving any deposits, postal money orders, for the withdrawal of cash, etc., in short, for any transaction with a post office, or with a telephone or telegraph company, railroads or other transportation companies.

ARTICLE 14. — The General Congress shall elect a Control Commission of five members who are not members of the Central Board; the duty of the Commission shall be the verification of the financial management of the various bodies of the Union. In the fulfillment of this duty the Control Commission may call in chartered accountants selected by the Commission. The Control Commission shall submit an annual report to the Central Board and to the next General Congress—a report covering the period between two General Congresses.

ARTICLE 15. — The statutes may only be amended at a General Congress by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the members present, representing at least one third (1/3) of the member associations of the Union. Drafts of amendments to the statutes shall be submitted to the Executive Committee and communicated by it to all member associations of the Union at least one month prior to the date of the meeting of the General Congress.

ARTICLE 16. — In the event of the dissolution of the Union, the General Congress shall appoint one or more liquidators who shall be entrusted with the liquidation of the assets of the Union. They shall transfer the net assets to an association or institution pursuing similar objectives.

SUMMARY OF SELECTED REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS ON ORT'S WORK IN POLAND FROM 1939 TO 1943

Until 1957 the only basis for the evaluation of ORT work in Poland during the dark years 1939 to 1943 (the year of the revolt of the Warsaw ghetto) was the accounts of a few survivors, friends and associates of ORT who succeeded in escaping. One of them was Mrs. Rachel Gurman, for many years the secretary of the Central Committee of ORT in Poland who remained on the job until the eve of the revolt of the Warsaw ghetto. On 16 April 1943 Mrs. Gurman succeeded in crossing over to the "Aryan" side.

In 1958, when ORT resumed its work in Poland, the Institute of Jewish History in Warsaw informed ORT of the abundant material and some original documents on the work carried out between the two world wars, during the ghetto epoch and the days of resistance and annihilation, which it possessed.

Prof. Berl Mark, the director of this Institute, and five of his associates, were entrusted in June 1958 with the collection of documents dispersed in the archives, the museum and the library of the Institute of Jewish History. The purpose of this work was not only the preparation for publication of reports, anniversary editions and memorials relating to ORT in Poland, but primarily the establishment of a documentary basis for future scholars of the history and problems of the ORT movement in Poland. On the other hand, this documentation may constitute an extremely valuable contribution to the world history of ORT.

The following pages are neither a complete report on the extent of ORT's work in Poland during the period under review, nor a report on the material and moral importance of this work for the Jewish population. We do not yet possess all the necessary material to compile such a report. This is therefore only a fragmentary picture of efforts made by ORT leaders to sustain the physical and moral resistance of Polish Jews through work, as long as they were able to breathe and hope.

Connected with ORT in various ways since 1921, Joseph Jaszunski became the director of the Central Committee of ORT in Poland in 1927. Under his leadership ORT had become one of the most important Jewish organizations in Poland. When, after the German invasion, the "Judenrat" (Jewish Council) was created, J. Jaszunski was appointed to manage the statistical section. "This was a real tragedy for the Jaszunski family," writes Mrs. R. Gurman in the memoirs which she turned over to the "Yad

v'chem" in Israel, "when this noble person with such a profoundly Jewish heart was appointed a member of the "Judenrat." Refusal was impossible. During these years he busied himself not only with the statistical work which was assigned to him, but also with directing ORT in Warsaw and in the provinces. The entire correspondence with ORT in Berlin, with Joint, and later, with the Office of Jewish Mutual Aid in Cracow bears his signature. And everywhere we find the same sober style, the same earnest approach to the smallest of details which we knew in normal times. Only those who knew the signature of Jaszunski before could see that his hand was no longer as firm as it used to be.

"On 18 January, 1943," reports Mrs. Gurman, "the Jaszunski family (nine persons) was taken to the infamous "Umschlagplatz." Jaszunski attempted to negotiate with Brandt, the 'terror' of the ghetto. Brandt struck him brutally and, covered with blood, Jaszunski entered the carriage that took him and his family to their last destiny . . ."

* * *

The work of ORT in Warsaw continued practically without interruption. In a 1948 report Mrs. Gurman indicates that "ORT was the first organization to start to build anew among the ruins. A few days after the German invasion, in October 1939, ORT left Zabia Street 9 and moved to other premises at Ogradowa Street 3. The building at 29 Długa Street that housed the vocational school and most of the ORT workshops and courses was completely bombed out. Shortly thereafter 200 machines hummed in the workshops and 250 persons were earning a living. It was important that ORT gave 250 persons a chance to make a living for themselves and their families; but it was even more important from the psychological point of view that a Jewish organization was able to start its work again."

In a book published in New York in 1948, Bernard Goldstein recalls the healthy, encouraging and pleasant atmosphere in the Warsaw ORT workshops and describes the First of May celebration in 1940, with a guard at the door to keep an eye on unwelcome visitors.

"During this early period of general confusion there were no contacts with the provinces. But from 1940 onwards Jewish refugees from all corners of Poland started to flow into Warsaw. Hunted out in the provinces they were compelled to leave their homes in great haste and were not able to take anything with them. Among these refugees there were many craftsmen and workmen; as far as it was possible ORT supplied them with the necessary machines, tools and raw materials. Of work there was plenty: joiners, glaziers, shoe-makers and tailors didn't know where to start."

“Only a very few refugees were able to live with relatives or friends or in furnished rooms. Most of them were sheltered in schools and synagogues. There was no room for workshops, so ORT had to provide the craftsmen with “mobile” workshops, i.e., cases with tools for shoe-makers, joiners, glaziers, barbers, etc., who went from house to house to do their work. A few doctors and dentists were likewise supplied with the necessary equipment, and so was a group of weavers from Lodz for whom ORT was able to install a small workshop.”

“An exhibition of Polish crafts was opened in Warsaw during the first months of the occupation. ORT managed to have the work of Jewish craftsmen exhibited too, although that wasn’t at all easy. There was not enough money, and raw materials—already rationed at the time—were hard to get. However, the show was a success, for Jewish craftsmen received many orders for kitchen furniture, household articles, toys, brushes, etc. It was as a result of these orders for brushes that, shortly afterwards, the famous “brushmakers stall,” which was finally to employ 6,500 Jews, was created.

These brushmakers fought heroically during the Warsaw ghetto revolt and have written a glorious page in the history of Jewish resistance in April 1943.”

A report, dated 10 May, 1940 signed by Stefa Wilszynska, reads as follows (the original document is in the Institute of Jewish History in Warsaw) :

"Dom Sierot", Warszawa,
Krochmalna 92

O ś p i a

2/9 Kucyba (wz)

Pracownia krawiectwo-bielizniarska "Ort'u" została otwarta na terenie Domu Sierot przy ul. Krochmalnej 92 dn. 10 marca 1940 r. Pracownia jest czynna codziennie, oprócz sobót od 9 - 2, 1 raz tygodniowo trój. 7-wo opłaca honorarium instruktorki, zaopatrzyło pracownię w 2 maszyny do szycia, 30 krzesek i żelazko elektryczne. Dom Sierot oddał na użytek pracowni 3 okienne, szklone sale, 5 maszyn do szycia i całkowite urządzenie.

Obecnie szyci 20 pracownic od lat 14 do 24 /przeciętny wiek 17 lat/. Przeważnie wychowanki lub były wychowanki internatów: Dom Sierot i Bursa - Krochmalna 92, Dom Sierot z Placu Grzybowskiego 7, Dom "Jodłowy" Twarda 27, Świącie Chałucki.

Stopień przygotowania:

4 uczeńszczy do Ortu na krawiectwo od 6 miesięcy do 2 lat,
4 " " " bielizniarstwo " " "
1 absolwentka państw. seminarjum krawiectw. w Wiedziowcu,
1 roczny kurs krawiectwa dla dziewcząt,
3 pracownice krawiectwa,
1 prasownia przy trykotach,
1 maszynistka,
1 wykończarka przy ubiorach wojskowych,
2 terminowatki w szwalni Domu Sierot,
2 bez żadnego przygotowania.

W czasie od 10 marca do 20 kwietnia r.b. uszyto na obtalunek dla "Ort'u"

61 sukienek,
17 " " "
Dla "Domu Sierot": krawiectwa sukienek
20 par
szalików białych
39 " " "
koszulek
13 " " "

Otrzymane z "Ort'u" pieniądze w sumie 305.- zł. zostały wypłacone pracownicom za pokwitowaniem. Siedem pracownic jeździ na miejscu obiadu, pokrywając ten wydatek szyciem dla zakładu /obiad oblicza się po 1.- zł/. Dniowość pracują z zapasem i robią postępy.-

Zarządzająca Bursa

/-/ St. Wilczyńska

Warszawa dn. 5 maja 1940 r.

The Orphanage
Krochmalna No. 92
WARSAW

The ORT workshop for the manufacture of garments and underwear was opened in the orphanage, 92 Krochmalna Street, on 10 March 1940. The workshops are open daily, excepting Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A cutting course is given once a week. ORT pays the teacher's salary and has supplied two sewing machines, 30 metal chairs and an electric iron. The orphanage has placed at the disposal of the workshop a light three-windowed room, five sewing machines and all the necessary material. At present there are 20 seamstresses, aged from 14 to 24 (the average age is 17). Most of them are from the Krochmalna orphanage; the others are from the orphanage at

7, Gzybowski Street and from the youth home at 27, Twarda Street; two of the girls come from Hehalutz.

Vocational standard : 4 attended a dressmaking course from 8 to 24 months at ORT

4 attended an underwear making course from 8 to 24 months at ORT

1 is a graduate of the State seminary at Wizniowiec

1 attended a course for ready-to-wear childrens garments manufacture of 12 months

3 worked in dressmaking salons

1 worked in a knitting shop

1 worked in a shop manufacturing ready-to-wear vests

1 worked in a shop manufacturing military uniforms

1 learned dressmaking at the orphanage

2 had no vocational training.

During the short period from 1 March to 20 April the following ORT orders for the orphanage were filled: 78 cotton dresses for children, 20 pairs of trousers, 39 pairs of shorts for children and 13 chemisettes.

We have received 305 zlotys from ORT which were paid to the seamstresses against a receipt. Seven seamstresses take their lunch in the workshop and pay for it by their work (1 meal : 1 zloty). The girls work diligently and are making very good progress.

Warsaw, 10 May, 1940

The Director

(—) Stefa Wilszynska

THE FIRST COURSES

In mid-August 1940 ORT was officially authorized to open vocational courses and training workshops. The news of the legal resurrection of ORT was greeted by the Jewish population with interest and joy. When it was first announced, many lined up at dawn in front of the ORT offices to sign on for the courses.

As a start, 14 workshops were opened on 3 September, 1940; these were workshops for locksmithy, carpentry, electrical installations, optics, automobile maintenance and driving, pastry-making, sewing, lingerie, fashions, ready-made clothes for children, knitting, glove-making and the manufacture of artificial flowers. Later, courses were opened in chemistry (under the guidance of Prof. Zentnerschwer of Warsaw University), industrial design, typewriting, shorthand, accounting and agriculture.

A report (in German) is available on ORT vocational courses in Warsaw for the September-November term in 1941. This report was dictated by "j" (probably Jaszunski): "... From August 1940 to August 1941, one hundred groups attended ORT courses. Between August and November 1941, thirty-two other groups were added to this number. During the period under review many groups completed their training and new groups were admitted in their place. Final examinations and exhibitions of students' works proved that the results obtained in training workshops were just as good as those obtained before the war in ORT vocational schools.

As of 1 July, 1941 these courses were attended by 2,331 students of both sexes. During the last term 1,319 new students were admitted. Training was completed by 790 students; 824 left the courses before the final examinations. In October 262 new students were admitted; 329 students completed their courses while 232 abandoned their studies before their termination. As of 1 November enrollment in the schools totalled 1717. On 15 November this number was further increased.

"... Due to lack of premises and funds it was impossible to open courses for other trades.

"Lately, the deficit increased. ORT made it up, but was therefore obliged to forego the most indispensable investments.

"... The authorities permitted the "Judenrat" to supervise higher technical courses. The syllabus of these courses was modelled on the syllabus of the first semester of the technical high school. We are now trying to find adequate premises and we hope that it will be possible to start these courses early in 1942.

"... Since August 1940, more than 5,000 have attended our courses. This figure does not include students in agriculture..."

Warsaw, 24 November 1941.

A LETTER TO CRACOW

The photocopy of a letter written on 11 October 1941 by J. Jaszunski, member of the "Judenrat" and ORT director, to the Office of Jewish Social Mutual Aid in Cracow, refers to ORT's agricultural work. In translation it reads:

Nr.226.

Warszawa, 11.10.1941 r.

P.T.
Prezydium Ż.S.S.
h r a k ó w

Zasilek dla Farmy Żarki. Tow. Ort uchwaliło wyasygnować dla farmy rolniczej w Żarkach kwotę zł. 2.000 i wysłało w tej sprawie list według załącznika. Proszę honorować tę uchwałę i wysłać do Żarek wspomnianą kwotę, ewentualnie przez Delegaturę, czy też K.O.P. Fundusz Asystowania Zawodowego został już wprawdzie wyczerpany, lecz w czasie najbliższym mają nadejść pieniądze na ten fundusz. Zresztą chodzi tu o stosunkowo drobną kwotę.

Przy tej sposobności proszę wypłacić miesięczny zasilek również dla ściarni w Żrakowie i ewentualnie w okolicach na wniosek p. Dra Hilfsteina.

Majątek Stowarzyszeń. Nawiązując do dzisiejszego listu Nr. 225 o majątku Tow. Ort, proszę wznowić starania o przekazanie Ż.S.S. majątku stowarzyszeń będących w likwidacji. Sprawa ta staje się coraz bardziej aktualną.

Z poważaniem


J. Jaszunski

Wzrostła data

12396

Warsaw, 11 October 1941.

To the Office of Jewish Social Mutual Aid
CRACOW

Subvention for the Zarki farm

The ORT organization has decided to grant 2000 slotys to the Zarki farm; a copy of a letter advising the farm of this decision is attached herewith. Kindly carry out this decision and send this sum to Zarki, either by hand or by post. The funds earmarked for vocational training have already been exhausted, but new, though limited, funds should be soon coming in. I take this opportunity to request you to pay the monthly subvention to the garment menders in Cracow and its suburbs in accordance with Dr. Hilfstein's proposal.

Societies' property

With reference to my letter No. 225 of today concerning ORT property I request you to take further steps to transfer the property of societies in liquidation to the Jewish Social Mutual Aid. This matter becomes increasingly urgent.

Respectfully yours,
(signed) J. Jaszunski

IN THE PROVINCES

The documentation at our disposal does not yet allow us to evaluate the scope of ORT's work in the provinces. It seems that Jaszunski was literally submerged by letters and memoranda from scores of towns and villages asking for the organization of and subsidy for vocational courses of all kinds. Copies of letters written by Jaszunski to the Office of Jewish Social Mutual Aid in Cracow at the end of 1941 and early in 1942, give us some information on training workshops, existed or planned, in Bodziencin, Szydlowiec, Makow, Staszow, Otwock, Stestochowa, Walbrzych, Radom, Opatow, Jaslo, Wirznicz, Nowy, Drohobycz, Lerzejsk, Gorlice, Lwow, Zelachow, Zarnowiec, Graboszow, Koprzywnic, Dubeczna, Klimantow, Grzybow, Rzeszow, Rabka, Stanislawow, etc.

The enemy pursued his murderous work, but the men and women of ORT—though they well suspected what awaited them in the end—continued to study various plans for vocational training that came in from all sides. They analyzed their timeliness and treated various problems with the same objectivity and thoroughness as in normal times and under normal conditions.

"... Such a small town as Makow-Podhalanski", writes J. Jaszunski on 5 November 1941, "is not suitable for vocational courses. However, an exception may be possible should it prove that in Makow or its region the timber industry is particularly well developed. In such a case it would be worth while to organize a course for turners in wood. However, this question can be decided only on the basis of a local survey..."

In a letter dated February 1942 on the possible opening of vocational courses in Koprzywnic and Wirznicz Nowy we read: "... From the investment point of view locksmithy courses are too expensive. Therefore such courses should not be opened in small towns. An exception could be made for towns with particularly favourable conditions for such courses. I very much doubt that such conditions will be found in Koprzywnic. Those who have to take the decisions should think over the matter of trade selection"

"A year ago the Wirznicz Nowy delegation started a correspondence with the office on the subject of vocational courses. I am inclined to think that this town does not offer suitable conditions for the organization of courses."

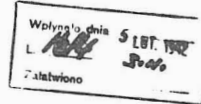
A letter dated 28 February 1942 reads :

" . . . Our experts do not object to the study plan of the course for electricians in Szydłowiec. But the plan for locksmiths should be changed : less time should be given to the teaching of theory, and more to practical work

Nr. 295.

Warszawa, 2/II.1942 r.

P.T.
Prezydium Z.S.S.
K r a k ó w



Kursy zawodowe.

Koprzywnica, pow. Opatów. Pismo z dnia 27 stycznia 42, Nr. 1099. Kursy ślusarskie są bardzo kosztowne pod względem inwestycji, wobec czego należy unikać organizowania takich kursów w miejscowościach mniejszych. Wyjątek mogą stanowić miejscowości, w których istnieją specjalne warunki sprzyjające prowadzeniu takich kursów. Wydaje mi się wątpliwym czy Koprzywnica należy do takich wątkowych pod tym względem miejscowości. Należałoby może zwrócić uwagę tamtejszych działaczy, że mają się zastanowić nad wyborem zawodu dla kursów.

Wiśnicz Nowy. Delegatura tej miejscowości prowadziła już w roku ubiegłym korespondencję z Prezydium w sprawie Kursów zawodowych. Mam wrażenie, że tam w miejscowości tej brak warunków dla kursów zawodowych. Wydaje mi się przede, że nie zachodziła potrzeba monitorowania delegatury, aby koniecznie przystąpiła do zorganizowania kursu zawodowego.

Radom. Pismo z dnia 26 stycznia, 42, Nr. 1078. W sprawie tej wypowie: ziałem się już w liście moim Nr. 288. Prawo do osobnie wypaźnie sprawę omówić osobiście w Krakowie.

Materiały. Dziękuję za materiały sprawozdawcze nadesłane piśmem z dnia 24 stycznia, 42, Nr. 975/42, oraz odpisy piśm urzędowych załączonych do pisma Nr. 1420. Okólnik B.U.F. w sprawie Rad Żydowskich doręczyłem w odpisie drowi G. Wielikowskiemu, jak również Prezesowi R. Z. i Przewodniczącemu A. O. M. - u.

Z poważaniem

J. Jaszuski

in the workshop. In general, too much time is devoted to the teaching of physics and geometry. However, though the time of theoretical instruction should be generally reduced, the hours devoted to technical design should be maintained. . . ."

On 13 May 1942, Jaszuski wrote to the Office of Jewish Social Mutual Aid : " 1. — The Jewish community in Lwow requested from the *Judenrat* in Warsaw a supply of school requisites for vocational training. Kindly send to our representative in Lwow circular No. 16 on our curricula, and ask him to transmit this document to the community.

" 2. — In further reference to our letter of the 4th inst. to Dr. Welikowski, kindly send to Zelachow circular No. 16 with our curricula. It seems that they did not receive this document. . . ."

It appears that close cooperation existed between the "Aid Through Work" department which took its orders from the Office of Jewish Social Mutual Aid in Cracow, and Jaszunski in Warsaw. Here is a copy of a letter, dated 29 January 1942, sent by this department to Jaszunski :

" *Subject: Vocational courses*

1. — Our correspondents in Lerzejsk inform us that they intend to organize courses in tailoring, underwear manufacture, corsetry, locksmithy, sheetmetal work and shoe-making. They plan, therefore, to engage skilled Jewish workmen who, whilst working on paid orders, would teach young apprentices in workshops. They also asked for documentation. We replied that we approved of their initiative. We have also sent them the necessary documentation and suggested that they do not open all the courses at the same time, but one after another.

2. — *Gorlice*. We are informed that in view of an epidemic of contagious diseases the schools have been closed. Since vocational training can be given only on school premises, the opening of new courses is, for the time being, out of the question. We have asked our correspondents to review this matter as soon as the situation improves.

3. — *Zarnowiec*. Our correspondents ask us to send them documents which they need for the opening of vocational courses in locksmithy, electrical installations, and the manufacture of ready-made garments and pastry-making. We immediately supplied them with the requested documentation. They inform us that they have repeatedly suggested to the Jewish newspaper to start a periodic publication of articles on vocational training. We replied that it is more important to give really practical training than merely awaken a theoretical interest in such courses.

4. — *Kroszczensko*. Our correspondents have come to the conclusion that it will not be possible for them to start vocational courses; they have no one able to deal with this question. We replied that we were not satisfied with their attitude and recommended to them to start these courses without further delay.

5. — *Grabosow*. We are informed that in spite of many applicants, conditions do not favour the opening of vocational courses. We have asked for further information.

6. — *Otwock*. We are asked to send them study plans and general instructions. This has been done."

* * *

IN THE WARSAW GHETTO

In her memoirs, Mrs. Gurman describes the general feeling in ORT offices and workshops.

“ In ORT offices one could forget the nightmare of reality and find new courage to live; the offices became a kind of a literary and political circle. In addition to many teachers and instructors of various courses, other “ habitués ” who passed through Lezno Street, began to drop in for a chat and a glass of tea.

“ This glass of tea had its history, too. Along with many other courses, ORT organized a course in pastry-making. It was Joint that distributed foodstuffs to hospitals, children’s homes, etc., and it was from Joint that ORT received the sugar which was returned to Joint as candy. When I delivered to Joint the candy made by us, the good Mr. Winter, who was in charge of food supplies, always managed to give me some “ rab ” sugar. And that is why there was always a glass of tea in ORT, and that helped to make things cosy. Among our “ habitués ” were Dr. Ringelblum, Mrs Dora Simchovicz, several people from Lodz and many others whose names I no longer remember. We discussed politics or just chatted, and the horror that was all around us was forgotten. . . . And to such an extent that it was a shock to hear about a new decree, beatings, murders, anti-Jewish measures. . . . Then a bell announced the start of a lesson and we went back to our classes. There, one did not think about what was happening outside; there, it was all satisfaction and the joy of creating.

“ All reports reflect that an ORT identification card was supposed to protect one from deportation. And indeed, after some round-ups, the Germans released a few ORT pupils, boys and girls. Whereas several persons were nabbed on the Lezno Street, no one ever entered the ORT premises at No. 13.

“ Life went on like that until the fateful Wednesday, 22 July, 1942.¹ A two in the afternoon all knew that deportations had commenced. Every day thousands and thousands of persons (as many as 10,000 some days) were taken to Treblinka. Only very small groups of students came to work.

“ On 16 August, 1942 the ghetto area was still further reduced and ORT moved to smaller premises at 29, Gensza Street. Teaching permits were withdrawn, but ORT nevertheless continued its work. Garment and shoe workshops were opened; there were 15 machines and a very limited amount of tools and raw materials. These workshops served a double purpose: the workers were issued the so-called “ life certificates ” that were supposed to save the holder from deportation; on the other hand they helped clothe the Jews of the ghetto, for most of them had nothing but rags to wear. There was also a laundry supervised by Mrs. Kielbikowa.”

The Germans did not talk about “liquidating” Jews; they merely wanted to “remove” from the ghetto “the superfluous elements”. Thus those who worked were relatively safe and requests were again made to have the ORT workshops opened. Finally, and in spite of great difficulties, ORT managed to install two workshops, and their management was entrusted to Mr. S. Grinberg, who had been an ORT teacher for many years.

“Once again ORT premises became a pleasant place to be in. In working one forgot the sad state of things. And at the stroke of three, one would say: “And to think that we must go home now, listen to horror stories; here one can forget everything...”

Mrs Gurman ends her report, turned over to ORT in 1948, with the following words: “On January 18, 1943 J. Jaszunski, his wife, his son and his daughter-in-law were deported to Treblinka where all perished. A leader of Polish ORT for many years, J. Jaszunski continued his work during 1939/43 and remained at his post until the very last moment; until the very end he directed the entire activity of ORT.

“It wasn’t a secret to anybody that the ghetto’s complete liquidation was scheduled for the spring of 1943. But ORT continued its activity. A hiding-place was arranged and there was always a guard at the door to warn the workers of the approach of danger, so that they could hide in the garret. But even under these conditions ORT remained a sort of an oasis; we sang while we worked, we read Sholem Aleichem. . . . Ester Goldenberg, a great actress from the Vilno company, often came to the workshop for a bit of a chat. On 15 April, 1943 “Letters of Menachem Mendel to Scheine Scheindel” were still read there and the audience laughed wholeheartedly . . .”

During the night of 18-19 April the ghetto was surrounded. The same night the revolt of the Warsaw ghetto flared up.

BUILDERS OF ORT UNION



DR. L. BRAMSON
(1869-1941)

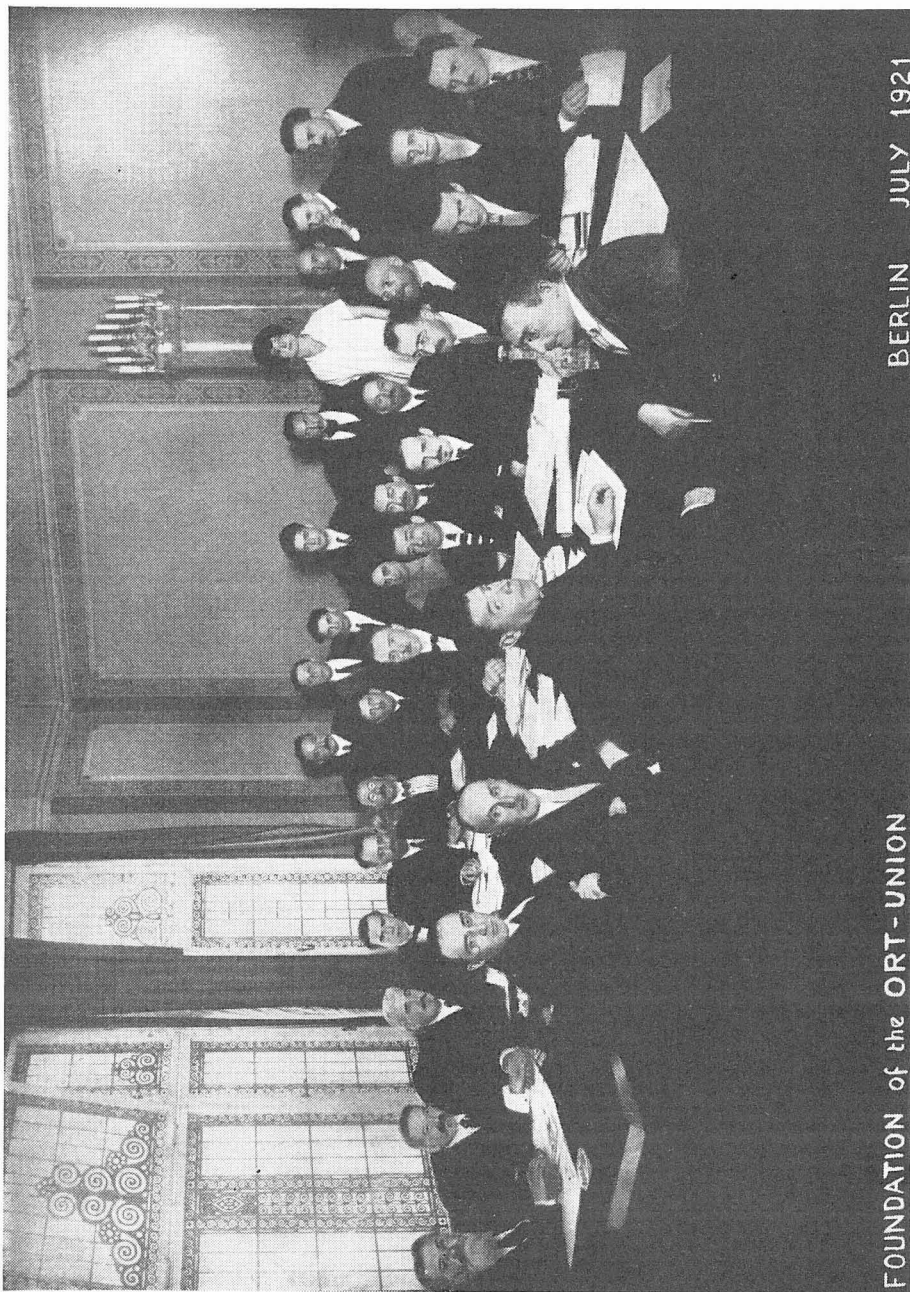


DR. D. LVOVITCH
(1882-1950)



DR. A. SYNGALOWSKI
(1890-1956)

**EXCERPTS FROM THE REPORTS OF SEVEN CONGRESSES
1921, 1923, 1926, 1937, 1946, 1949 and 1955**



BERLIN JULY 1921

FOUNDATION of the ORT - UNION

FIRST ORT CONGRESS, BERLIN 1921

Excerpts from the «ORT Union report, for the period from 1 January 1920 to 1 January 1923» (Berlin, 1923)

The first ORT Congress was held in Berlin, from 31 July to 3 August, 1921. Participating in the Congress were representatives from 12 ORT committees and provisional bureaus in Vilno, Grodno, Brest-Litovsk, Pinsk, Piotrkow, Warsaw, Kiev, Kaunas, Kishinev, Paris, London and Berlin.

Dr. Z. Szabad (Vilno) was elected president of the Congress. The officers of the Congress included Prof. S. Frankfurt (Berlin), V. Tiomkin (Paris), Dr. M. Zylberfarb (Kiev-Warsaw), Dr. J. Frumkin (Berlin), J. Zegelnitzki, who had just arrived from Moscow, and two members of the ORT delegation abroad—L. Bramson and D. Lvovitch. Dr. A. Syngalowski was elected secretary general.

The Congress presented a report on the activity of the ORT delegation abroad (see preceding chapter) and a balance sheet as of 1 July, 1921. Having approved the accounts of the delegation, the Congress heard the statements of D. Lvovitch and Prof. S. Frankfurt on the promotion of agricultural work among Jews; of B. Kagan, A. Krouk and J. Okun on aid to craftsmen; of B. Wolfson on the supply of production goods; of E. Kohn and B. Kagan on vocational training and of J. Jaszunski on technical publications. The closing meeting was devoted to a review of a general activity plan, presented by L. Bramson, and to organizational problems.

The establishment of the ORT Union

The following scheme was presented for the structural organization of ORT Union :

The ORT Union shall be constituted of local committees of ORT societies, founded in each country in accordance with existing laws.

In addition to members elected by the General Assembly local committees are to include :

- (a) representatives of social and philanthropic organizations with aims similar to those of ORT;
- (b) experts in various professions and trades and Jewish personalities who could be of value to ORT activities.

As the number of committees in a given country increases it becomes necessary to organize periodic meetings of representatives of these committees with a view to creating executive bodies for certain regions or for the country as a whole.

All these ORT societies together constitute the ORT Union which shall hold a Congress annually.

ORT Union shall be headed by :

- (a) A *Central Council* of 18 members elected by the Congress, with the authority to co-opt five additional members;
- (b) a *Central Board* of 3 members and 2 alternates.

The ORT Union activities shall be controlled by a control commission of 5 members.

The purposes of ORT Union are defined by the Congress as follows :

- (a) To undertake a vast propaganda campaign in order to find the financial means necessary to achieve ORT's aims;
- (b) to establish contacts with other Jewish organizations working in the field of economic aid, to coordinate the work of local committees and to extend to them material, instructional and organizational aid;
- (c) to create new ORT committees and to extend ORT activity to new fields;
- (d) to centralize the administration of certain sectors of activity of benefit to all ORT societies, such as, for example, the purchase of machines and tools, teacher training, publication of technical manuals, information, etc.

To secure for ORT the necessary financial means, the Congress recommends that its executive bodies seek aid from large Jewish organizations in western Europe, but attempt to provide for a substantial part of its budget out of local resources; it is indeed important for local organizations to become financially independent. Therefore, no efforts should be spared to obtain state and municipal grants, to increase receipts by membership fees, to organize special fund-raising campaigns, etc.

Membership in central bodies

The following persons were elected to constitute the first Central Council of the ORT Union :

Chairman : Z. Ssabad, Vilno; Vice-chairmen : L. Bramson, Paris and M. Zylberfarb, Warsaw. Members : Prof. S. Frankfurt, Dr. J. Frumkin, Dr. D. Lvovitch and Dr. A. Syngalowski, Berlin; J. Zegelnitzky, Berlin-Moscow; D. Movshovitch, London; J. Jefroykin, M. Schein and Vl. Tiomkin, Paris;

Dr. J. Krouk, Warsaw; B. Kagan, A. Krouk and J. Okun, Vilno; J. Jaszunski, Grodno and A. Roitman, Kishinev. Secretary : M. Kivelovitch, Paris.

The Central Board consisted of Messrs. L. Bramson, D. Lvovitch and J. Zegelnitzky and, as alternates, Messrs. J. Jaszunski and M. Zylberfarb.

Members of the Control Commission were : Messrs. A. Alperine, L. Glaeser and Dr. J. Ogus, Paris; J. Blum, Berlin and J. Scheftel, London.

SECOND ORT CONGRESS, DANZIG 1923

Exerpts from the ORT Union report, covering the years 1923 to 1925 (Berlin 1927)

Twenty-six local ORT societies were represented at the second ORT Congress which was held from 24 to 27 June, 1923 in Danzig. Participating in the Congress were members of the Central Council and the Central Board, as well as representatives of various Jewish organizations.

The Presidium of the Congress included Dr. Ch. Zytowski, Dr. M. Zylberfarb, Vl. Tiomkin, J. Jaszunski and Rabbi Dr. Kaelter, chairman of the ORT Committee in Danzig.

Items on the agenda included: (1) The report on ORT Union work, presented by L. Bramson; (2) Reports on National committees: Poland — J. Jaszunski; USSR — H. Berger; Latvia — M. Rabinovitch; Lithuania — H. Berger; Rumania — J. Jasky; Germany — J. Beham; France — N. Halpérin; England — D. Movshovitch; United States — J. Raskin; (3) ORT's task in the field of vocational training — L. Frenkiel; (4) Assistance to Jewish craftsmen — J. Zegelnitzki and Dr. M. Zylberfarb; (5) Promotion of agricultural work among the Jews — Prof. B. Brutzkus and D. Lvovitch; (6) Prospects for ORT's future and the means to ensure its financial independence — Dr. A. Syngalowski; (7) The Establishment of a Reconstruction Fund — D. Lvovitch; (8) Organizational matters — L. Bramson.

One of the resolutions adopted by this Congress deals with the necessity to extend and to improve ORT's activity and to interest the broad masses of the Jewish population in ORT's aims, to acquire for the latter a popularity commensurate with the importance of its task.

The Congress recognized the necessity to create apprentice workshops for craftsmen and vocational schools to train skilled workers for industry.

In order to raise the technical level of Jewish craftsmanship it was decided to organize refresher courses for workers and craftsmen, to create model workshops, to send teachers to the provinces, to organize exhibitions, etc.

The Congress recognized the necessity—especially with reference to USSR and the border states—to further extend the work carried out in the field of agriculture and to improve the quality of this work.

It was decided, in agreement with agricultural authorities of various countries, to secure landed property for the Jewish population and to awaken

its interest in agriculture by supplying it with up-to-date means of production and through adequate agricultural training.

Resolutions also were adopted relating to tendencies in the development of Jewish agricultural labour in Soviet Russia, to problems of interior migration and to agricultural allotments in the neighbourhood of large cities and towns.

It was further decided to establish a Reconstruction Fund with a capital goal of \$1,000,000.

The Congress elected a Central Council of 21 members; at a later meeting of the Central Council another 20 persons were co-opted. The members were : Léon Blum (Paris), M. Bogdanowski (Warsaw), Dr. L. Bramson (Berlin), Dr. J. Brodnitz (Berlin), Dr. J. Brutzkus (Berlin), G. Charnas (Kaunas), L. Chasanowitch (Prague), Prof. S. Dubnov (Berlin), Dr. Eiger (Lodz), L. Feigenbaum (Warsaw), M. Feinleib (Berlin), Prof. S. Frankfurt (Berlin), Dr. J. Frumkin (Berlin), M. Gottlieb (Kischinev), Dr. M. Gran (Moscow), S. Gronemann (Berlin), Dr. L. Haas (Berlin), A. J. Halpern (London), L. Halanai (Kischinev), Dr. A. Hantke (Berlin), J. Jaszunski (Warsaw), Senator M. Kerner (Warsaw), Dr. M. Klumel (Warsaw), M. Kreinin (Berlin), Dr. J. Kruk (Warsaw), S. Levitas (Riga), Dr. D. Lvovitch (Berlin), Dr. H. Moskowitz (New York), Dr. D. Mowshowitch (London), Judge J. Panken (New York), J. Prag (London), J. Rabinowitch (Riga), L. Rosenthal (Paris), M. Schalit (Vilna), Dr. A. Syngalowski (Berlin), V. Tiomkin (Berlin), S. Wiktorow (Vilna), J. Zegelnitzki (Berlin), Dr. C. Zhytowski (New York), A. Zweifel (Warsaw), Dr. M. Zylberfarb (Warsaw). Alternates : A. Birkenheim (Warsaw), Berl Locker (Berlin). Chairman : Prof. S. Dubnov; Vice-Chairmen : Léon Blum, Dr. J. Frumkin and J. Jaszunski.

The following were elected to the Central Board : Dr. L. Bramson, Prof. S. Frankfurt, Dr. D. Lvovitch, Dr. A. Syngalowski, V. Tiomkin, J. Zegelnitzki, Dr. M. Zylberfarb. Later were co-opted : Dr. L. Haas, Dr. A. Hantke, N. Soloweitschik.

The Control Commission consisted of : A. Alperine (Paris), J. Beham (Berlin), J. Schefel (Paris), M. Scherr (Paris), H. Talberg (Danzig).

THIRD ORT CONGRESS, BERLIN 1926

Excerpts from the ORT Union report covering the period from 1926 to 1929 (Berlin, 1930)

The third Congress was held in Berlin from 8 to 11 August, 1926. It was attended by 64 delegates of ORT in Poland, Rumania, Lithuania, Latvia, England, France, Germany and the United States; Soviet Russia was represented by local delegates of the Central Board.

Items on the agenda were : (1) Reports of the Central Board and National committees in various countries; (2) Urgent tasks in the field of vocational training — L. Frenkiel; (3) Agricultural labour — Prof. J. Brutzkus; (4) Report and work plan of the Tool Supply Corporation (supply of machines and tools on credit) — Prof. S. Frankfurt; (5) New forms of constructive aid (Relatives-aid) — Dr. D. Lvovitch; (6) Social bases of the ORT Union — Dr. A. Syngalowski.

A number of resolutions adopted concerned ORT Union activity in USSR—particularly with reference to aid for the agricultural establishment of Jews in the Odessa region and in Bielorussia—aid to the rural Jewish population in the field of crafts and industry, and immediate relief to destitute Jews through the Relatives Aid section.

The following resolutions, affecting the main fields of ORT's endeavour, were also adopted.

Vocational training

Noting the difficult situation of the Jewish population in eastern Europe, the Congress recognized that the scope of ORT's activity in the field of vocational training should embrace the young people, as well as adults compelled to learn a trade.

It was agreed that the main effort should be concentrated on consolidation and development of existing vocational schools; that new institutions would be created were ORT Union to receive special grants for this purpose either from abroad or from local sources in the country.

The Congress considered the following means to achieve these aims :

1. To provide the schools and workshops with the necessary equipment and to supply them with funds for the construction and renovation of premises.
2. To organize in the region of Vilno, as in preceding years, mobile apprentice workshops to serve the entire province.

3. To organize special refresher courses for workmen and craftsmen, and evening classes for unskilled adults.
4. To create a special section for the placement of apprentices with craftsmen.

The Congress recommended that a meeting of school heads and specialists be convened to discuss the technical and pedagogic aspects of curricula.

It recognized the importance of training qualified instructors for the ORT Union school network, and the necessity of publishing technical literature.

Agriculture

The Congress noted that many Jews in eastern Europe, in seeking new resources to secure their existence, had shown a tendency to work in agriculture; consequently ORT should turn its most serious attention to the creation of new possibilities for the establishment of these Jews in agriculture. To this end it is necessary :

- (a) To allocate credits for the purchase of livestock and farm implements and buildings and to provide farmers with the services of agronomists and instructors;
- (b) To encourage the association of Jewish farmers in agricultural cooperatives;
- (c) In the Soviet Union—to concentrate on the strengthening of existing farm settlements and on the establishment of new ones, and to aid in obtaining farm land allotments in the vicinity of towns and villages;
- (d) In Bessarabia—to attempt an improvement of work methods in farm settlements, to help farmers to tide over seasons of bad harvests, to allocate credits for the repurchase of lands received by Jewish peasants at the time of the agrarian reform, and to promote viticulture.

Elections

The Congress elected a Central Council of 28 members representing France (A. Alperine, Léon Blum, V. Tiomkin), England (A. J. Halpern, Dr. D. Mowshowitch); Germany (Prof. B. Brutzkus, M. Feinleib, L. Frenkiel, Dr. J. Frumkin, Dr. M. Kreinin); the Soviet Union (Dr. M. Gran); Poland (V. Alter, E. Dobkin, Dr. Eiger, L. Feigenbaum, J. Jaszunski, Dr. M. Klumel, S. Gorin, Ch. Rosenbes, A. Zweifus); Rumania, Bessarabia and Bukovina (Dr. M. Diamant, M. Gottlieb, Dr. L. Halanai); Lithuania (Dr. M. Sudarski); Latvia (S. Levitas) and the United States (Dr. H. Moskowitz, Judge J. Panken). Alternates : J. Glotzer and Dr. Kroisz (Poland).

It also elected a Central Board of 11 members : J. Blum (Paris), K. Blumenfeld (Berlin), Dr. L. Bramson (Berlin), Dr. J. Brodnitz (Berlin), Prof. S. Frankfurt (Berlin), Senator M. Kerner (Warsaw), Dr. D. Lvovitch (Berlin), Dr. N. Soloweitschik (Berlin), Dr. A. Syngalowski (Berlin). Alternates : B. Kahn (Vilno), Berl Locker (Berlin), Dr. J. Kruk (Warsaw).

The latter created an Executive Committee with Dr. L. Bramson as chairman, Prof. S. Frankfurt as vice-chairman, and Dr. D. Lvovitch and Dr. A. Syngalowski as members.

Five persons were elected members of the Control Commission : G. Aronson, A. Berlant, Dr. J. Brutzkus, S. Schalit and Dr. B. Tschlenoff.

FOURTH ORT CONGRESS, PARIS 1937

Explanatory remarks

I

In accordance with statutes registered in Berlin in 1927, the fourth ORT Congress was to have been held in 1929. It was postponed to 1930 to coincide with the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the organization. It was also the year of great depression in the United States which soon spread to Europe, and ORT did not possess the necessary means to convene the Congress.

The crisis continued in Germany and in 1933 Hitler came to power. In October of that year the seat of the Central Board was transferred to Paris, and it was only in 1937, the year of the International Exposition, that it was possible to convene the fourth Congress.

II

As long as the Central Body of ORT Union had its seat in Berlin the governing bodies were called Central Council and Central Board. The Central Council was composed of not more than 32 members, elected on the basis of country representation.

The Central Board had 11 members and was the executive body, which nominated four persons for its business management (see excerpts from the report of the 1926 Congress).

After the transfer to Paris it was decided, at a meeting of the Central Council, to change the names of the governing bodies of ORT Union and to call them Central Board and Executive Committee.

At the 1937 Congress, mention was already made of a Central Board (replacing the Central Council) composed of 51 members and elected on the basis of country representation, and of an Executive Committee (replacing the former Central Board), composed of 14 members whose duty it was to direct the activities of ORT.

These new names were entered in the statutes of ORT Union, registered in Paris in 1938.

Excerpts from the "*Report of the Fourth ORT Congress held in Paris in 1937*" published in Paris in 1937.

The fourth ORT Congress was held in Paris, 24 to 26 August. "For financial reasons", states the report, "ORT organizations were able to delegate only a limited number of representatives". The Congress was attended by 76 delegates from France, England, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Rumania (including Bessarabia and Bucovina), Bulgaria, United States, Canada, South Africa and Australia. The opening session was held under the chairmanship of a French Minister, Mr. Jules Julien.

In addition to reports of the Executive Committee (Dr. L. Bramson), of the Control Commission and of national organizations (Poland, Rumania

Lithuania, Latvia, Bulgaria, Germany, the United States, Canada, South Africa and Australia), the agenda included the following addresses: "Facing the future" — Dr. A. Syngalowski; "The economic situation in Poland" — J. Jaszunski; "The economic situation in Lithuania" — A. Makowski; and a report of Dr. L. Lvovitch on the convening of a conference of all Jewish reconstruction organizations.

A number of decisions were taken with a view to consolidating ORT sections in various countries through the recruitment of new members, creation of youth sections and women's committees, organization of national congresses, etc. The Congress adopted, *inter alia*, the following resolutions:

Training of instructors

Taking into account the growing demand of ORT institutions in various countries, the Congress requested the Central Board to concentrate its attention on the training of instructors and on the improvement of their qualifications.

Aid to ORT graduates

The Congress recommended that the Central Board and the national organizations extend all possible aid to graduates from ORT schools by finding work for them, and by extending them credits for the opening of individual or collective workshops.

Social Aid

To enable poor children in villages, where vocational training is not available, to attend ORT centres in neighbouring towns, the Central Board should secure the funds necessary for the lodging and feeding of these children. It should, therefore, appeal to philanthropic organizations and assist national ORT organizations in local collections of social aid funds.

ORT work plan established for several years

To ensure the continuity of constructive economic work and to interest Jewish public opinion in ORT long term projects, the Congress instructed the Executive Committee to create a special commission which, in cooperation with national organizations, is to draft a constructive plan to cover several years for the development of handicraft, industrial and agricultural sectors. Furthermore, this commission is to study the problem of marketing the production of Jewish craftsmanship.

Conference of Jewish reconstruction organizations

The Congress recommended that the Central Board initiate negotiations with central Jewish organizations, devoted to constructive work, on the subject of convening of a conference which, on the basis of a joint plan, is to coordinate their activities.

Elections

The Congress elected a Central Board of 50 members representing France (A. Alperine *, A. Berlant *, L. Bernheim *, J. Blum *, H. Bodenheimer *, Dr. L. Bramson *, Pierre Dreyfus *, Edmond Fleg *, Dr. D. Lvovitch *, J. Meierowitch *, Prof. W. Oualid *, Dr. A. Syngalowski *, S. G. Weil-Goudchaux *, Dr. L. Zadoc-Kahn *); England (A. J. Halpern, Col. J. Levey, S. Lourié, Rabbi Dr. L. Mattuck); Germany (Prof. S. Frankfurt, W. Graetz, Dr. W. Kleemann); Poland (Dr. D. Berliner, S. Faust, L. Herzberg, J. Jaszunski, M. Kerner, A. Lekich, Dr. M. Meisner, Ch. Rosenbes, K. Sachs, J. Szpilfogel, Dr. S. Wyszewianski); Lithuania (A. Jedidio, Dr. M. Sudarski); Latvia (S. Levitas); Rumania (L. Alexandrowski, Dr. M. Diamant, Dr. W. Fildermann, M. Gik, Dr. M. Grinberg, Dr. A. Jakir, A. Liver); Bulgaria (J. Pardof); the Soviet-Union (J. Zegelnitzki); the United States (L. Baskin, L. Boudin, A. Dolowitz, M. Levin, B. Vladeck) and South Africa (S. Shneier). — H. Bodenheimer (Paris) was elected President, Prof. W. Oualid and Dr. L. Zadock-Kahn (Paris), W. Graetz (Berlin), B. Vladeck (New York) and S. Shneier (Johannesburg) — vice-presidents of the Central Board.

Fourteen persons were elected to the Executive Committee (those marked with *) above indicate the members); Dr. L. Bramson was elected chairman and Dr. D. Lvovitch and Dr. A. Syngalowski vice-chairman.

Five persons were elected members of the Control Commission : A. Aschberg, E. Belin, Prof. M. Krol, A. C. Lifschitz, J. Pecker.

FIFTH ORT CONGRESS, PARIS 1946

Explanatory remarks

According to ORT Union statutes, registered in Paris in 1938, the fifth Congress was to have been held in 1940. However, in that year the greater part of Europe was already crushed by the Nazi boot. The martyrdom of European Jews had begun.

After the Liberation, in 1945, efforts were made in Geneva, where a provisional bureau functioned under the direction of Dr. A. Syngalowski, and in New York, the residence of Dr. D. Lvovitch, the second vice-chairman of the Executive Committee (the Chairman, Dr. L. Bramson died in Marseilles in March 1941), to attempt to reconstitute organizations destroyed in eastern Europe, and to create new organizations in central and western Europe.

Excerpts from the ORT Union report covering the period from August 1946 to July 1947.

The fifth ORT Congress was held in Paris, from 17 to 20 August, 1946. It was attended by 59 delegates from France, England, Switzerland, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Poland, Rumania, Bulgaria, United States, Argentina, Brazil, Chile and South Africa. The inaugural session was held under the chairmanship of Senator, and former Minister, Justin Godart.

The three main matters dealt with by the Congress were :

- (1) ORT activity during the period of the great catastrophe;
- (2) Urgent tasks and the future;
- (3) The consolidation of the ORT Union.

Inter alia, the following resolutions were adopted :

Central vocational schools

In order to maintain a high level of vocational training everywhere, and taking into account the scarcity, at the present time, of specialists and of adequate technical equipment, the multiplication in a single country of apprentice workshops in the same trade should be avoided. It is, on the contrary, advisable to establish central vocational schools for various trades admitting young men and women from different cities and towns. For this purpose it is essential to establish contact with youth aid organizations, so that the distribution of homeless youth in populated centres would be carried out jointly with national ORT organizations.

Farm training

The Congress welcomes the organization of new training farms for young people in Hungary and Belgium and the re-establishment of ORT agricultural schools in France and in other countries. The Congress recommends that the Executive pursues this activity, taking into account tendencies

towards specialization and industrialization of agriculture, since an evolution of this nature will facilitate the integration of Jewish labour in agriculture.

Jewish studies

Given the educational character of vocational schools, the Congress decided that a suitable portion of theoretical curricula should be devoted to Jewish studies.

Vocational training of adults

The Congress requests that the Executive Committee further increase the number of apprentice workshops and short-term vocational courses, to help great numbers of destitute Jews in the acquisition of a secure trade or skill.

Central Institute for the training of vocational school teachers

The Congress welcomes and approves the project to establish, in Switzerland, a Central Institute for the training of vocational school teachers and higher administrative personnel. The Congress authorizes the Executive Committee to undertake the necessary steps to implement this project without delay.

Aid to " Displaced Persons " in Germany

In view of the tragic situation of the uprooted Jews of Germany, the Congress recognizes that each additional day of mass residence of these individuals in German camps adds greatly to the difficulties of securing for them adequate vocational training and productive employment. Not only is the future of these persons at stake, but their moral condition as well.

The Congress draws the attention of all Jews to this problem of prime importance, and requests all those who have the fate of these victims of Nazidom at heart, to help ORT to find the financial means for the vocational training of scores of thousands of Jewish survivors in Germany, Austria and Italy.

Work for and in Palestine

1. The Congress notes with satisfaction that in all countries ORT aids young men and women, who desire to move to Palestine, by teaching them a trade; that ORT has met the wishes of the Alyiah organizations without any ideological distinctions and has admitted their members either to existing ORT schools, or to new institutions created for that purpose.

2. As to work in Palestine, the Congress notes the establishment of a branch of the ORT Tool Supply Corporation in Tel-Aviv to supply craftsmen with tools and machines on credit. The Congress recommends that the Executive Committee study, on the spot, the necessary conditions that would enable ORT to create a central institution in Palestine where craftsmen and workers would be able to improve their skills.

North Africa

Taking into account the great misery of the Jewish population in North Africa, the Congress decides to devote to the work of reconstruction in these countries all the attention necessary to improve the situation of the indigeneous Jewish population.

Organization

The Congress invites the Executive Committee and all national ORT organizations to see to it that ORT's development be promoted everywhere through an intensive recruitment of members and that ORT's principles be introduced among all Jewish circles and classes.

Taking into consideration the important results achieved by women's organizations in the United States, Canada and South Africa, the Congress expresses its gratitude to the leaders of these organizations and recommends the creation of similar organizations in all countries; it further recommends the establishment of a central organization to serve as a liaison body for various women's ORT committees and to coordinate their work for the benefit of the ORT movement.

The Congress recommends that the Executive see to it that these organizations be entrusted with special tasks, so as to widen their scope of activity and increase their influence.

Elections

The Congress elected a Central Board consisting of 48 members under the presidency of Judge Léon Meiss. The members were : Dr. D. Lvovitch, Dr. A. Syngalowski and the following representatives of the various country organizations : U.S.A. — George Backer, J. Baskin, L. Boudin, A. Dolowitz, Mrs. Naomi Finkelstein, Baron P. de Gunzbourg, M. Herzfeld, J. Hochman, M. Levine, A. Litton, D. Rosenstein; France — A. Alperine, P. Dreyfus, L. Frenkiel, P. de Gunzbourg, Admiral L. Kahn, Mrs. L. Roubach, M. J. Scheftel; Switzerland — A. Brunschvig, P. Dreyfus de Gunzbourg, Prof. Paul Guggenheim, Dr. E. Haymann, Prof. L. Hersch; Great-Britain — M. Beloff, A. J. Halpern, Rabbi Dr. L. Mattuck; Poland — G. Jaszunski, Prof. M. Muszkat, Dr. B. Sommerschein; Belgium — R. van Praag, Leo Rotschild; Rumania — A. Weiss, J. Kandel; Holland — S. Isaac; Bulgaria — J. Pardoff; D. P. in Germany — J. Oleiski; Hungary — Dr. E. Boda, B. Halasz; Canada — Mrs. L. Crestohl, V. Grossman; South Africa — S. Shneier, Rabbi Dr. M. C. Weiler; South America — M. Avenburg, J. Corren, Dr. Malamud.

The following members were elected to the Executive Committee (with seat in Paris) : Dr. D. Lvovitch and Dr. A. Syngalowski, co-chairmen; A. Alperine, M. Avenburg, L. Boudin, A. Brunschvig, Prof. P. Guggenheim, P. Dreyfus, P. de Gunzbourg, A. J. Halpern, Prof. L. Hersch, J. Hochman, G. Jaszunski, Admiral L. Kahn, M. Levin, R. van Praag, Dr. M. C. Weiler.

An Administrative Committee (with seat in Geneva) was nominated : A. Alperine, A. Brunschvig, Prof. P. Guggenheim, Prof. L. Hersch, Dr. D. Lvovitch, Judge L. Meiss and Dr. A. Syngalowski.

Mr. George Backer, President of the American ORT Federation, was elected President of ORT Union.

SIXTH ORT UNION CONGRESS, PARIS 1949

Excerpts from a report, published in the "ORT Chronicle", August 1949, Geneva

The sixth World ORT Union Congress was held in Paris, 10 to 15 July, 1949. It was attended by 113 delegates from Algeria, the Argentine, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Greece, the Netherlands, Israel, Italy, Morocco, Austria, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, Shanghai, South Africa, Czechoslovakia and the United States.

The agenda included reports from central and national bodies, statements on the tasks ORT will have to face in the forthcoming period, on financial prospects and elections.

The inaugural session was held under the chairmanship of Judge Léon Meiss, President of the ORT Union Central Board, and in the presence of Col. Pouyade, the representative of the President of the French Republic.

Inter alia, the Congress adopted the following resolutions :

Work program for the forthcoming period

1. *The vocational school and the accelerated course*

Considering

- (a) that accelerated courses, which occupied a very important place during the period under review, represented the only possible method of vocational training in displaced persons camps and even, during the first post-war years, in the countries where the Jewish population was free but unsettled, that under these circumstances it was not possible to rely, at the time the vocational courses were organized, on any specific labour market to determine the selection of trades and skills,
- (b) that, on the other hand, ORT's normal activity in stabilized countries is based, in the matter of selection of trades and nature of apprenticeship, on concrete conditions and on the economic needs of these countries,

the Congress recognizes that the essential aim of ORT schooling is to train highly skilled young men and women and that, consequently, a vocational school with a three-year course constitutes a standard, and that accelerated courses are warranted only in the case of adults or as refresher courses for workers.

2. *Widening of the range of trades*

Considering

that, in contrast to philanthropy as such, the systematic activity of ORT, pursuing a definite aim, should be carried out in such a manner that while helping the individual it strengthens the position of the Jewish community, it is to be recommended to ORT organizations that

(a) in establishing vocational schools and apprentice workshops and in placing apprentices in industry, they should strive for a diversified vocational structure of the Jewish population and avoid an indirect promotion of a "vocational ghetto",

(b) they devote their particular attention to the differentiation and specialization resulting from technical progress in certain branches.

3. *Training of physically handicapped persons*

Considering

that from the social and economic, as well as from the moral point of view, the preparation for a productive life of a great many Jews able to work but physically handicapped or in weak health (victims of persecutions in ghettos and concentration camps, invalids, cured tuberculars) constitutes a duty :

that the specific character of this task should be taken into consideration in the selection of trades and teaching methods, the Congress recommends :

(a) when trades are selected, to take into consideration, in addition to the medical point of view, the economic aspect of the problem as well, so as to avoid the failure—when competing with other workers in good health—of a graduate, even physically capable of engaging in a trade and despite high vocational qualifications. Consequently, as a rule, trades should be chosen wherein a limited ability to move and an unusual concentration and patience are particularly advantageous. (b) to take into account the apathy, the feeling of insecurity and a certain aversion to work often met with in young war invalids for whom, therefore, it is difficult to accept the idea of productive work, and who think that they should select a career of an office employee. In such cases the qualifications and the pedagogic and psychological capacities of teachers specially trained to handle them will be of decisive importance.

4. *Israel*

Considering the great importance of technical knowledge for the consolidation and the development of the State of Israel and recognizing the possi-

bilities offered in that country for the creation, in the Jewish population, of a professional structure of incomparable diversification,

the Congress extends its greetings to ORT in Israel and congratulates it on the beginning of its activity. The Congress expresses the hope that with the material and technical aid of ORT Union it will also win in the future, by conclusive results of its work, the gratitude and the support of all concerned in Israel and of all those Jewish organizations which, throughout the world, work for the edification of the State of Israel.

5. *North Africa*

1. ORT's activity in the field of vocational training of Jewish youth in all countries of North Africa and of the Mediterranean basin should be regarded as one of its most important and most urgent tasks.

2. With reference to Morocco, the Congress deems it indispensable to rapidly furnish the Moroccan ORT with the necessary means for the construction of the large school in Casablanca. It is equally necessary to provide for a school for young girls, the establishment of which is just as urgent as that of a school for boys.

3. Having stressed the successful work accomplished by ORT in Algeria, the Congress recalls that many immigrants from Morocco, and a large portion of the Jewish population in the interior of the country, live in conditions that call for urgent action by ORT, *viz.*,

(a) immediate enlargement of the Algiers school which should provide living accommodations for boys and girls;

(b) the establishment of vocational schools in the other main centres of Algeria;

(c) the establishment of agricultural training centres.

Similar enterprises should be undertaken in Tunisia.

6. *Iran*

The Congress resolved that the preliminary work be undertaken for the establishment of vocational schools in Iran.

7. *Central Institute in Anières*

1. Recognizing the significance of the Central Teachers Training Institute, the Congress requests the Executive Committee, as well as all the other ORT organizations, to promote the development of this unique ORT institution.

2. The Congress approves the plan to open at the Institute a new parallel section for skilled craftsmen and post-graduate students from ORT schools who wish to become teachers and who could follow a 12-18 months course on workshop methods and general pedagogy.

3. The Congress approves the plan to organize accelerated courses to train vocational rehabilitation instructors for training cured tuberculars and invalids.

4. Considering the high aims of the Central Institute, supported since its opening to a very great extent by the Women's American ORT, the Congress determines to extend adequate aid to this institution.

8. *Refresher courses for engaged teachers*

The Executive Committee is authorized to organize periodically regional and central seminars and courses for teachers serving ORT, and to encourage similar initiatives by national organizations.

9. *Women's International ORT Organization*

The Congress takes note of the decision of the Women's International ORT to extend its activity, according to a plan covering all countries, to take into account the earnest desire of Jewish women in the entire world to make their contribution, within the framework of ORT's constructive program, to work in aid of the survivors of the unprecedented catastrophe which broke over the Jewish people.

In considering the results obtained during the past years by women's organizations, the Congress recognizes that Women's International ORT constitutes an essential factor in ORT's contribution to the reconstruction of the Jewish people.

Consequently, the Congress resolves to request all members of ORT general organizations to support the creation of new women's organizations in order to promote ORT's work and to improve the social conditions of ORT students. Where there are no general ORT organizations women may create women's groups on their own initiative.

With a view to closer cooperation, women's organizations shall be represented on the Central Board and on the Executive Committee of ORT Union.

10. *Right to work*

The ORT Union Congress recommends that national ORT committees in those countries where the rights of refugees and immigrants to work is limited, make use of all legal and administrative possibilities, and appeal to ORT parliamentary committees in order to guarantee the right to work and to obtain for Jews, and particularly for former ORT pupils, work authorizations.

Other resolutions were also adopted relative to ORT's work in France, Poland and the countries of South America, to the recruitment of members and the financing of ORT activities.

Elections

At the sixth ORT Union Congress in 1949 (and at the Central Board session in 1952) 75 members of the Central Board were elected : Dr. D. Lvovitch, Dr. A. Syngalowski and the representatives of the following countries — Argentina : M. Avenburg, J. Wengrower; Australia : Dr. B. Surowitch; Belgium : R. van Praag, L. Rotschild; Brazil : A. Ettinger; Canada: Mrs. L. Crestohl, Mrs. H. D. Cheifetz, M. Greenwood; Chile : M. Klein; France : A. Alperine, L. Frenkiel, R. Grinberg, S. Grumbach, Admiral L. Kahn, Judge L. Meiss, Baron G. de Rothschild, Mrs. L. Roubach, Me. J. Scheftel; Great Britain : S. Beloff, A. J. Halpern, Col. Lipton, M. P.; Holland : Dr. A. Vedder; Hungary : B. Halasz; Iran : N. Mossanem; Israel : Dr. J. Beham, E. Eliachar, M. Finkelstein, E. Lewin-Epstein, J. Shapiro; Italy : R. Levi, G. Jarach; Morocco : J. Senouf; Poland : M. Fizman, G. Jaszunski, L. Lazebnik, J. Wilf; South Africa : J. Jaffe, B. Laserson, A. Shaban, L. Snider, Dr. H. Sonnabend, M. Spitz, Dr. M. C. Weiler (one of these members may be replaced by Mrs. F. Feldman); Sweden : Gen. Consul O. Lamm; Switzerland : A. Brunshvig, J. Chorin, P. Dreyfus de Gunzbourg, Dr. M. Gurny, Prof. L. Hersch, A. Neuman; Tunisia : Me. E. Nataf; Uruguay I. Trotzky; United States : Mrs. H. G. Aronson, G. Backer, Mrs. Borkowitz, A. Dolowitz, Baroness P. de Gunzbourg, Dr. W. Haber, A. Held, M. Herzfeld, J. Hochman, L. Hollander, E. Jeshurin, Mrs. L. Kaphan, Senator H. Lehman, M. Levine, A. Litton, D. Rosenstein, Mrs. M. C. Schneiderman, J. Tuvim. — Mrs. D. Donati represented the International Women's ORT. Honorary President of the Central Board — Senator H. Lehman; President — Judge L. Meiss; Vice-Presidents — Dr. D. Lvovitch, Dr. A. Syngalowski, A. Brunshvig, Dr. W. Haber, A. J. Halpern, J. Hochman, Mrs. L. Kaphan; Secretary General — S. Grumbach; Treasurers — A. Alperine, A. Dolowitz, A. Neuman.

The Executive Committee elected was as follows : Dr. D. Lvovitch and Dr. A. Syngalowski — Co-Chairmen;

Members:

A. Alperine
M. Avenburg
G. Backer
Dr. J. Beham
A. Brunshvig
Mrs. L. D. Crestohl
A. Dolowitz
S. Grumbach
A. J. Halpern
Prof. L. Hersch
J. Hochman
Admiral L. Kahn
Mrs. L. Kaphan
A. C. Litton
Judge L. Meiss
A. Neuman
R. van Praag
Mrs. L. Roubach
Dr. H. Sonnabend
Dr. M. C. Weiler
Dr. H. Wilf

Alternates:

R. Grinberg
J. Trotzky
Dr. W. Haber
J. Shapiro
P. Dreyfus de Gunzbourg
M. Greenwood
J. Senouf
S. Beloff
Dr. M. Gurny
E. Jeshurin
L. Frenkiel
Mrs. A. C. Scheiderman
Me J. Scheftel
R. Levi
L. Rothschild
Mrs D. Donati
A. Shaban
L. Snider
G. Jaszunski
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Secretary : Dr. V. Halperin

Six people were elected members of the Control Commission : M. Belin and A. Blum (France), Dr. E. Haymann and Dr. B. Tschlenoff (Switzerland), M. Wolff (England) and M. Momigliano (Uruguay).

At the meeting of the Central Board in 1952 a new Executive Committee was elected consisting of :

Dr. A. Syngalowski, Chairman.

Members

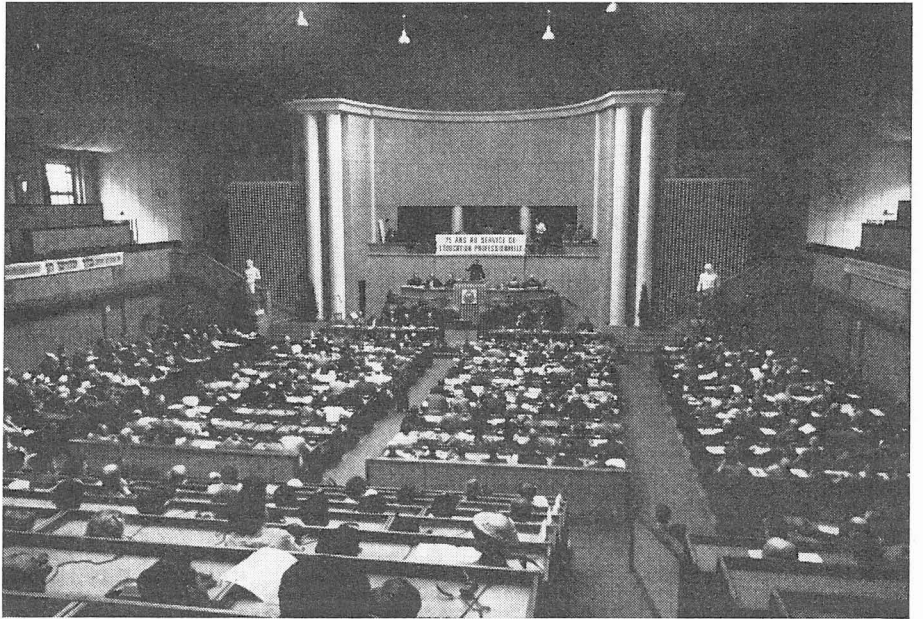
A. Alperine, Paris
M. Avenburg, Buenos Aires
Dr. J. Beham, Tel-Aviv
A. Brunschvig, Genève
J. Chorin, Genève
L. C. Crestohl, Montreal
Mrs. F. Feldman, Johannesburg
S. Grumbach, Paris
Dr. W. Haber, Ann Arbor
A. J. Halpern, London
Prof. L. Hersch, Genève
J. Hochman, New York
L. Hollander, New York
Admiral L. Kahn, Paris
Mrs. L. Kaphan, New York
A. C. Litton, New York
L. Meiss, Paris
Mrs. L. Roubach, Paris
A. Shaban, Johannesburg
J. Shapiro, Tel-Aviv
R. van Praag, Brussels
J. Wengrower, Buenos-Aires

Alternates

R. Grinberg, Paris
R. Levi, Rome
E. Levin-Epstein, Tel-Aviv
P. Dreyfus de Gunzbourg, Basel
A. Chiche, Alger
Mrs. H. Cheifetz, Montreal
Dr. M. C. Weiler, Johannesburg
J. Senouf, Casablanca
G. Mintzer, New York
Col. Lipton, M. P., London
Dr. M. Gurny, Zurich
E. Jeshurin, New York
A. Dolowitz, New York
Me J. Scheftel, Paris
Mrs. A. Haimson, Los Angeles
D. Rosenstein, New York
M. E. Nataf, Tunis
Mrs. J. Donati-Vitta, Milan
I. Jaffe, Johannesburg
E. Lewin-Epstein, Tel-Aviv
Dr. A. Vedder, Amsterdam
Dr. B. Surovitch, Buenos Aires

The new Control Commission consisted of: S. Beloff and M. Wolff (England), A. Blum (France), H. Greenberg (United States) and R. Jona (Italy).

The Executive Committee at its first meeting appointed Mr. M. A. Braude, Director of the World ORT Union.



ORT CONGRESS, GENEVA

JULY 1955

SEVENTH ORT CONGRESS, GENEVA 1955

Excerpts from the report of ORT Union, published in the "ORT Chronicle" in August 1955

The seventh ORT Congress, keynoted by the 75th anniversary of the organization, was held in Geneva, from 26 to 29 June, 1955. It was attended by 121 delegates representing Algeria, the Argentine, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, England, Germany, Finland, France, Greece, the Netherlands, Iran, Israel, Italy, Morocco, South Africa, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay and the United States.

The inaugural session was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Alexander J. Halpern of London, son of J. Halpern, one of the ORT founders in Russia in 1880.

The main items on the Congress agenda were : 75 years in the service of Jewish work—an address by Dr. A. Syngalowski; The economic situation of Jews in North African and the ORT program—E. Nataf and L. Schulman; In Memoriam — Dr. J. G. Frumkin; Problems of ORT in Israel — E. Lewin-Epstein; ORT's tasks in Iran — M. Mossanen; Vocational training of Jewish youth in Europe — F. Schragar; ORT's current problems — Dr. A. Syngalowski; The tasks of the Women's International ORT — Mrs. L. Kaphan; Revision of statutes; Elections.

The Congress adopted a Declaration on the 75th anniversary of ORT, which was drawn up as follows :

I

The Congress of delegates of ORT organizations in Algeria, the Argentine, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Iran, Israel, Italy, Morocco, Portugal, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Uruguay and the United States, and of representatives from Spanish Morocco and Turkey, which was held in Geneva during the last week of June 1955, in the 75th year of ORT,

evokes with veneration and gratitude the memory of its founders who created the organization in 1880, and the memory of all its leaders and associates since that date, amongst whom were thousands of men and women assassinated by Germans during the years of Hitlerite domination.

The Congress reaffirms its faithfulness to the traditions of ORT and appeals to all ORT organizations throughout the world to intensify their efforts in the service of Jewish work, with a view to its promotion and its cultural and technical development.

II

Having heard reports on the scope of ORT's achievements during the last period and on the importance of current tasks in North Africa, Israel and other countries, the Congress noted :

1. That ORT Union has grown and has become a cultural institution of universal importance, occupying a very special place in Jewish social life;

2. That scores of thousands of adults and youths who, aided by ORT's vocational training, have shaped for themselves an honourable existence in the post-war period, have contributed towards the reduction of poverty among the Jews, have successfully participated in the edification of the State of Israel and have increased the respect enjoyed by Jewish work;

3. That the necessity to teach Jewish youth industrial skills in conformity with the evolution of science and technology is recognized today by all Jewish groups, without any distinction as to political or religious tendencies, as one of the major imperatives of Jewish life in the diaspora and of the development of the State of Israel;

4. That, however, the number of vocational schools and courses is still too limited in proportion to the number of Jewish youths who must be liberated from material and moral misery.

Having in mind the considerations expressed above, the Congress appeals to all Jewish communities, to all organizations that gather funds on behalf of the Jewish population and to all foundations of constructive aid, to place additional means at the disposal of Jewish vocational training and thus contribute to the growth of vital forces and creative possibilities of our people.

* * *

Inter alia, the following resolutions were also adopted :

Israel

Conscious of the significance of Israel in the thoughts of Jews in all countries, the Congress notes with satisfaction the development of ORT in Israel and the growth of its importance in the industrial progress of the new State.

Considering the great numbers of Jewish youths, for whom possibilities of vocational training have yet to be created, the Congress deems that ORT in Israel should do all that is possible to develop further its activities with the aid of all the friends of Israel throughout the world and with the aid of all organizations in the country itself—whatever the party or the tendency to which they belong—that seek to strengthen the national economy and to render it independant.

North Africa

Considering the difficult situation of the 500,000 Jews living in the countries of North Africa, the Congress stresses the necessity to deploy all possible efforts to develop the program of vocational training in these countries and to extend this program in conformity with the existing needs.

Iran

The Congress recommends :

- (a) that measures be taken to ensure the vocational training of a greater number of youths in the provinces, either by the enlargement of the ORT Centre boarding school in Teheran, or by the establishment of new school units in the provinces;
- (b) that more teachers, graduated from the Central Institute in Anières, be placed at the disposal of ORT in Iran, and that the number of students from Iran at the Central Institute in Anières, and in the women's section in Paris, be increased.

Europe

Taking into account the numerous reasons which impede the maintenance of ORT institutions without help from abroad, the Congress notes that the existence of these schools will not be secured unless the local support from the Jewish community and friends of ORT is strengthened.

Consequently, the Congress requests ORT organizations in Europe to intensify their activity on the organizational level, to increase their membership and to stimulate the development of women's committees and of alumni associations. The Congress appeals to leaders of Jewish communities in Europe and requests them to encourage their United Funds to contribute to ORT's endeavour in proportion to the importance of the latter.

Governmental aid

The ORT Congress notes with satisfaction the results achieved by ORT vocational schools in those countries where they function with the financial and technical aid of ORT. The Congress notes with much pleasure that in most of the countries governmental authorities allocate grants to these institutions. This aid is of particular value, for it strengthens the institutions' stability and guarantees their continued existence while reducing their dependence on help from abroad.

Considering the importance of the vocational training program for the technical progress of the countries where ORT works, and for the improvement of the economic conditions of the citizens of these countries, the Congress urgently requests national ORT organizations to pursue their legitimate efforts to increase the aid of governmental authorities.

Alumni associations

Considering that it is desirable to maintain a link between ORT alumni and the organization itself in the interests of graduates who may need guidance and additional technical help, and in the interests of the organization that will thus benefit from the active support of those whom ORT had prepared to live as independent men and women, the Congress welcomes the creation of alumni associations and approves the project to create an international federation of ORT alumni.

The Congress recommends that the Executive Committee determines the structure, the aims and the tasks of these associations.

Jewish studies

The Congress notes with satisfaction the importance of Jewish studies within the framework of ORT vocational schools curricula and hopes that these studies will be further intensified.

The popularization of the idea of ORT

The Congress authorizes the Executive Committee to intensify the propagation of ORT's ideology wherever a Jewish community exists and to develop the activity of the information and public relations section.

It further recommends the study of the establishment of an International Leadership Institute to train and educate a number of able men to meet the urgent needs of national ORT Organizations for ORT speakers, ORT education and ORT information.

Elections

Ninety-nine members were elected to the Central Board. These members represented the following countries :

Algeria : J. Attali, A. Chiche *; Argentina : J. Wengrower *; Australia : S. Einfeld, F. Freeman; Belgium : M. Ginsburg *, M. Gottschalk *; Canada : Mrs. A. Bennett *; L. D. Crestohl, Q.C.M.P.*; D. Lou Harris †; Denmark : L. Alterman, E. M. Goldschmidt †; Finland : I. Davidkin; France : A. Alperine *, D. Bloch, Mrs. F. Esquier, M. Cremer †, L. Frenkiel, R. Grinberg, Admiral L. Kahn *, Daniel Mayer *, Judge L. Meiss *, R. Nathan †, L. Oungret †, Mrs. L. Roubach *, J. Scheffel †, Edmond Weil; Germany; Rabbi Dr. I. E. Lichtigfeld; Great Britain : A. S. Diamond *, G. Haus †, Alderman A. Moss, Mrs. H. Wingate *; Greece : E. Benusiglio; Holland : I. Rafalovitch †, Dr. A. Vedder *; Iran : M. Mossanem †, M. Senchi *; Israel : Gen. Ben-Artzi *, E. Eliachar, M. Grossman, Mrs. M. Horn, E. Lewin-Epstein *, Gen. M. Makleff *, J. Shapiro *, M. Spitz †; Italy : R. Jona *, I. Levi †, Renzo Levi *; Morocco : S. Derhy, Dr. J. Gabizon, J. Garçon †, L. Schulman †, J. Senouf *; Portugal : Dr. E. Baruel; South Africa : Mrs. R. Feldman *, Mrs. D. Furman †, I. Jaffe, L. Lipshitz *, Abel Shaban *, Dr. M. C. Weiler, P. Zelikow †; Sweden : G. Josephson *; Switzerland : A. Brunschvig *, J. Chorin *, L. Cohen †, J. Grunberg †, P. Dreyfus de Gunzburg, Judge Dr. M. Gurny *, Otto Heim *, V. Loeb †, Dr. A. Syngalowski *, Dr. J. Teitler, M. Weinziehr †; Tunisia : A. Bessis, R. Cohen-Hadria †, E. Nataf *; Uruguay : M. Silberman †; United States : Mrs. Leon Bader, A. Dolowitz †, Mrs. Joseph C. Gayl *, H. Greenberg *, Baroness P. de Gunzburg, Dr. W. Haber *, A. Held, M. Herzfeld, J. Hochman *, L. Hollander *, E. Jeshurin †, Mrs. F. Kaufmann †, Mrs. M. Klatsky, Mrs. A. Konoff *, Hon. Herbert Lehman, D. B. Manischewitz, G. J. Mintzer †, Mrs. M. Rosenberg †,

D. Rosenstein †, Dr. S. Segal, J. Tuvim; International Women's ¹ORT : Mrs. L. Kaphan,*
Alternates on Central Board : Philip Braver, U.S.; M. Cohanim, Iran; L. Coriat, Morocco; J. Feiner, Belgium; Mrs. H. Hilf, U.S.; Mrs. S. Senzer, U.S.; W. Steinfeld, Belgium.

Honorary President of the Central Board : Herbert H. Lehman; President : Dr. William Haber, U.S.; Vice-Presidents : A. Brunschvig, Switzerland; J. Hochman, U.S.; Mrs. L. Kaphan, U.S.; Renzo Levi, Italy; A. Shaban, South Africa; J. Shapiro, Israel.

Thirty-five persons indicated above by an *) were elected to the Executive Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. A. Syngalowski ¹). The alternate are marked with †).

Four people were elected members of the Control Commission : Chairman : M. Wolff, England; Reporter : Claude Bigar, Switzerland; A. Blum, France; Dr. B. Jarach, Italy.

¹ Dr. Syngalowski died in 1956, and Mr. Daniel Mayer was elected to succeed him as chairman at the 1958 meeting of the Executive Committee in Geneva.

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