

## FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

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## Current Program of the World Ort Union

THE World ORT Union enters 1939 with a greatly expanded program of training skilled workers and farmers in Europe.

Expansion is dictated not only by the development of existing projects but also by the growth of Jewish distress in Eastern and Central Europe, including both the settled masses and refugees.

Outstanding in ORT's work among refugees is the establishment of training courses in camps. Early in 1939, ORT organized six such courses in one of the largest border camps—at Zbonczyn on the Polish-German border—and is preparing to institute others. This training will facilitate the eventual emigration of Jews to foreign countries willing to admit craftsmen.

An increased budget of \$1,759,000, of which \$1,257,000 is to be raised in the United States, Canada and Mexico, covers ORT's three principal fields of activity:

1. Vocational training of young people and re-training of declassed merchants and professional people in skilled trades.

2. Industrialization, which includes perfecting the technique of artisans and creating avenues of employment—such as cooperatives, workshops and factories.

3. Training in farming, and farm settlements and cooperatives.

The budget proposes these principal expenditures:

1. \$788,000 for training and re-train-

ing.

2. \$155,000 for industrialization and employment of artisans.

3. \$315,000—for agricultural aid and settlement.

4. \$425,000 for refugee work in countries of transit and countries outside Europe.

In addition to the usual expenses for trade courses, these costs cover such items as:

Advisory bureaus to raise the technical standards of craftsmen.

"Legalization" of artisans, enabling them, through training or money for fees, to comply with the requirements for obtaining government certificates of qualification.

Training of instructors.

Credits and guidance for farm cooperatives.

Farm settlements for German refugees in France.

Furtherance of suburban farming and gardening.

Organization of training farms.

Maintenance, reconditioning and construction of buildings and purchase of equipment.

At present ORT conducts more than 300 trade courses, farm colonies, industrial workshops and factories and advisory centers in Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Roumania, Bulgaria, France and Germany. Plans are being made to set up projects soon in Hungary.

The total omits about 175 courses and projects that were absorbed in 1938 by

the Soviet Union, but includes about 75 that were added elsewhere to the ORT network in the same year.

Notable among ORT schools is the Berlin institution, which has continued its work since May, 1937, without interruption and with undamaged building and equipment. More than 200 boys in their late 'teens will be graduated shortly, giving way to new students. In addition, a group of adults, former businessmen and holders of academic degrees, are being trained in artisanship that will enable them to earn a livelihood abroad.

The new wave of refugees from Germany, Italy and Austria in 1938 found ORT prepared by experience but insufficiently equipped to handle the vast problem adequately. However, to the 13 courses conducted in Paris in 1938, ORT has begun adding others there so that the Paris classes will have a capacity of 2,000 trainees by the end of 1939. New courses also will be established in other French communities where refugees have concentrated. In addition, ORT plans a day school for boys in France.

France was the locale for the first ORT farm colony for German refugees and, as a result of its success, expansion is proposed. The colony, opened in 1934, is in the district of Villeneuve, near Toulouse. Under the 1939 budget families to be added to the colony will enter with an average of \$1,000 each, to be supplemented with \$1,000 credit by ORT.

In conjunction with this program ORT intends to place young Jewish refugees as farmhands in the colony, giving each \$50 a year, and also to establish a center in the district for theoretical and practical training in farming.

The program for Hungary is contemplated because of recent restrictive legislation. Hungarian Jewry was unable, be-

cause of lack of experience and resources, to cope with the problem of re-training.

Among the new projects is a series of courses planned to perfect the artisanship of Jewish workers in Polish industrial enterprises who belong to trade unions. ORT will shortly establish these courses as the result of an agreement with the National Council of Jewish Trade Unions of Poland. The fact that the initiative for this work came from the unions, whose interests have heretofore been limited to corporative and cultural problems, amply shows the present acuteness of the question of qualification of Jewish labor.

Evidence collected by the unions proves that their members are running the risk of being ousted from their jobs because of inferior training. The unions' council has estimated that some 50,000 Jewish members require additional training.

In Roumania the government is asking for more ORT training courses in line with the increasingly serious political changes that will compel many Jews to emigrate. Those with training, can, of course, be evacuated more readily than others.

Another important phase of the 1939 expansion program is the creation of additional advisory bureaus to improve the technical standards of craftsmen in Poland, Roumania, Lithuania and Latvia. For the three last-named countries the budget provides a mobile exhibit of crafts to be shown to backward artisans in the provinces to acquaint them with modern methods.

These institutions will serve as a basis for a Central ORT Institute for Artisans to be established for the defense of the economic position of Jewish artisans and for raising their technical skill and culture.

A significant phase of ORT agricultural activity is the suburban farming program in many areas. Primarily designed to teach poor traders and artisans how to supplement their income through gardening and dairying on a small scale on the outskirts of urban communities, the program also contemplates diverting Jewish rural populations from shop-keeping in the villages to agricultural pursuits.

Since the World War about 500,000 ORT trainees have been absorbed in industry or on the land.

The current ORT program embraces activities in Poland, Germany, France, Roumania, Lithuania, Latvia, Hungary and Bulgaria.

#### Improved Regulations for Haavaramark Remittances to Germany

Permission has just been granted for several improvements in the Haavaramark procedure, according to an announcement by Intria Ltd., New York. The maximum amount for regular support remittances has been increased to 300 marks a month for each beneficiary, or married couple, whereas it had previously been only 200 marks. This is of special interest at this time when Jewish relatives in Germany have become more and more dependent upon aid from abroad. For the coming Jewish holidays in March and April permission has been given to send up to 600 marks per person.

The commission hitherto deducted by the banks in Germany has been abolished, and the beneficiary will receive the net amount ordered. Haavaramarks which formerly could be sent only to Germany, including former Austria, can henceforth be remitted to the Sudeten districts.

Last December a so-called "tax" of \$3.75 was imposed upon registered mark remittances. It is interesting to note that

this tax does not apply to Haavaramarks, the entire proceeds from the sale of these being for the exclusive benefit of Jewish emigrants after they have left Germany.

Since the use of Haavaramarks means a saving of nearly half in the cost of remittances, this news will be welcomed by American Jews who have relatives and friends in Germany.

#### Haffkine Foundation

The trustees of the Haffkine Foundation for the benefit of the Yeshivoth have published, at Lausanne, Switzerland, a report on the history and activities of the Foundation, from its inception in 1930, through the year 1938.

Waldemar M. Haffkine was born at Odessa, in the Ukraine, on March 15, 1860. He attended the University of Odessa, where he specialized in zoology. In 1888 he was appointed Assistant Professor of Physiology at the University of Geneva under Professor Morris Schiff. Later he went to the Pasteur Institute in Paris, to work with Metchnikoff, his former teacher. It was there that he discovered a new vaccine against cholera, and thus began his great work in fighting cholera and bubonic plague in India. The Government Plague Research Institute in Bombay, which he founded, and of which he was Director for 20 years, is now known as the Haffkine Institute.

All his life Haffkine was an orthodox Jew. After his retirement in 1915, he devoted himself increasingly to the study of Jewish questions. He became convinced that it was their religion that had preserved the Jews, and that their future depended entirely on the maintenance of traditional Judaism. He thus considered it of the utmost importance to promote the study of the Torah.

Professor Haffkine died in Lausanne on October 25, 1930. His testament disclosed that he had left securities amounting to over £45,225 in the Banque Cantonale Vaudoise of Lausanne, the income from which was to benefit Jewish traditional learning. The "Hilfsverein der deutschen Juden" was requested to undertake the administration of the interest of this capital.

Yeshivoth or combined Talmud Torahs and Yeshivoth of a type which Professor Haffkine had inspected in Warsaw were to be subsidized in Poland, Galicia, Lithuania, Roumania, Hungary and other countries of Eastern Europe.

In his testament Haffkine declared:

"I believe it important that the allocation of subsidies should not serve as a means of imposing upon the Yeshivoth any alteration in their own programmes or methods of studying and teaching.

"Thus for instance, personally, I am of the opinion that some instruction in natural sciences—physics, chemistry, biology, geology, cosmography—represents, where such instruction is given, a useful complement to the main Yeshivah programmes, the purpose being that the students should not be blinded, as they sometimes are after leaving school, by the splendor of those sciences, and should not be led by this to underestimate the immense importance of the knowledge acquired by them in the Yeshivah. Again an opinion may be held that the Yeshivah pupils ought to be instructed in some handwork, as were our sages of old, and might be taught watchmaking, or silver and goldsmith's craft, or some other means of earning a livelihood—the object in this case being that those of the students who afterwards find no other way

of making a living should not be reduced to misery and begging. However legitimate such opinions might appear, I am aware that the chiefs of some Yeshivoth disapprove of plans of that kind, and I deprecate any attempt at inducing them to yield upon material considerations."

Haffkine felt that the determining factor in the preservation of Jewish communities has been at all times the presence among those communities of spiritual guides enjoining authority on account of their learning; that the schools which provided the only guides and teachers who could have access to the millions of Jews living amidst the disturbed conditions of Eastern Europe were those traditional training centers which for ages had so largely helped to maintain the intellectual and moral life of Jewry.

He made his disposition, realizing the extreme difficulties and privations under which these schools carried on their work. He did not idealize the life in the Yeshivoth, and his hope was that artisan and agricultural training would develop and expand there, thus giving a degree of economic security to those who devoted themselves to the study of the traditional Jewish teachings. In many instances this hope is being realized.

On December 31, 1937, the capital of the Foundation amounted to 807,628 Swiss francs. This capital is inalienable; only the income can be spent. It is evident that this income cannot suffice to support all or even a majority of the Yeshivoth requiring assistance. Haffkine died in the hope that others would add to his work.

The Joint Distribution Committee which for years has been giving gener-

ous support to the Yeshivoh of Eastern Europe, cooperates with the Haffkine Foundation and advises its Commission, set up to allocate its income, with regard to institutions receiving assistance.

In the period from 1931 to February 1938, the Foundation allocated a total of £12,375 as follows:

<i>Lithuania</i>	
Kalvaria, Kelme, Kovno, Ponieviesh, Slobodka, Telshi .....	£2,245
<i>Latvia</i>	
Dwinsk .....	£100
<i>Poland</i>	
Baranowicze, Bialystok, Bobow, Brest-Litowsk, Grodno, Kamieniec, Kobryn, Korzec, Lomza, Lublin, Luck, Miedzyrzec, Mir, Ostrog, Otwock, Pabianice, Pinsk, Radun, Rowno, Slonim, Warsaw ("Beth Shmul," "Daath Moshe," "Emek Halacha," "Mesivta," "Tachkemoni," "Torat Chaim," "Tomche Tmimim"), Wilno .....	£6,835
<i>Roumania</i>	
Cluj, Iclod, Sighet-Maramures, Satu-Mare, Visaul de Sus, Wiznitz .....	£2,045
<i>Czechoslovakia</i>	
Bratislava, Dunaiska Streda, Hlohovec, Mukacevo, Sered, Sevlus, Slatine Doly, Surany .....	£600
Hungary .....	£150
Other countries .....	£400
	£12,375

The following are the present trustees of the Haffkine Foundation:

"Hilfsverein der Juden in Deutschland." Prof. Eugen Mittwoch, Berlin; Max M. Warburg, Hamburg; Dr. Sigmund Wassermann, Berlin.

"Swiss Members." Dr. Martin Bloch, Zurich; Willy Dreyfus, Basel; Marcel Meyer, Lausanne; Car Nathan, Basel.

Executive Secretary, Dr. Mark Wischnitzer, Paris.

#### The Keren Hayesod and the Jewish Agency for Palestine

A recent issue of *Zionist Review*, medium of the Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland, carries an interesting account of the development of the Keren Hayesod (Palestine Foundation Fund), the financial instrument of the Jewish Agency for Palestine. The headquarters of the Keren Hayesodin, Jerusalem, report a total income of £954,877 for the period October 1, 1936 to September 30, 1938. Since the Fund was inaugurated in the summer of 1921, a total of £6,727,487 has been raised.

Of the total collection for the years 1936-1938, £608,964 were obtained for the ordinary budget; £235,436 for the Upbuilding and Security Campaign, and

£110,477 for earmarked purposes. The United States contributed over one-third to the ordinary budget contributions; Palestine 5.3%. Thus the 450,000 Jews of Palestine, representing about 2.4% of world Jewry, gave over twice that percentage to the Keren Hayesod budget, and this in spite of drains on their resources for other vital undertakings, in-

cluding financing their security. During these two years the Jews of Palestine raised a total of £62,633; of this the labor community gave £19,545.

Nine-tenths of the income of the Jewish Agency was derived from the Keren Hayesod. One-tenth was derived from other sources, including £41,439 from the Jewish National Fund, £13,167 from the Palestinian Government, £21,387 from the Agency's own Immigration Department, and £21,820 representing income originating from investments by the Keren Hayesod. The total income of the Jewish Agency from sources other than the Keren Hayesod during 1936-1938 thus amounted to over £97,000.

About £324,773, or approximately one-third of the total for both years, were

spent through the Department of Agricultural Colonization, with an additional £66,312 for German Jewish settlement. The £217,740 expended for housing and public works represent the next largest item. Zionist educational work, and security, absorbed £188,846. £106,229 were spent for immigration and the training of immigrants; £81,510 for trade, industry and urban settlement; £63,752 for education and cultural activity; £12,942 for health services. Annual repayments to Lloyds Bank on account of its loan totalled £91,200.

An indication of the efforts made by the Keren Hayesod and the Jewish Agency to stimulate fresh settlement on the land during these two years is furnished by a comparison of the figures for 1936-37 and 1937-38. In 1937-38 £199,465 were expended on agricultural colonization, as against £125,308 in the period 1936-37; £151,410 on housing and public works as against £66,330 in the period 1936-37. Trade, industry and urban settlement expenditures in these two years also showed a rise from £26,060 to £55,450.

A noteworthy achievement was the establishment of the new Keren Hayesod settlements, totalling 32, indicating that the Yishuv was not to be deterred by dangerous and unsettled conditions. Keren Hayesod provided £24,260 for these settlements in 1937; £77,276 in 1938.

The German Settlement Department of the Jewish Agency spent an aggregate of £200,000 a year in the two years under review, maintaining close touch with the Central British Council for German Jewry and other similar constructive aid organizations. Youth immigration to Palestine likewise figured prominently on the list of categories the settlement of which was assisted by the Jewish Agency out-

of Keren Hayesod funds. Most of the young immigrants who received agricultural training remained on the land after completing their courses. £66,000 were expended for this activity during the period 1936-1938.

During 1936-1938 the Jewish Agency contributed £52,735 to the Hebrew school system conducted by the Vaad Leumi, Palestine's Jewish National Council, and £2,000 to the Haifa Technicon, Hebrew Technical Institute. At the end of 1938 there were 400 public Hebrew schools with 1,800 teachers and about 50,000 pupils. The Jewish Agency financed the Bialik Foundation, the aim of which is to further and promote the Hebrew language, literature and culture, to the extent of £10,637.

Keren Hayesod funds were also expended for Jewish health and social services. The Kupat Cholim, Workers Sick Fund, received £6,385, and £6,460 were distributed for the relief of those suffering as a result of the disturbances.

The Jewish Agency is interested in the development of tourist traffic to Palestine, and for this purpose maintains the Zionist Information Bureau for Tourists.

#### Foreign Notes

*Luxembourg* — In a recently issued statement, the Ministry of Justice of Luxembourg declared that by reason of the excessive influx of foreigners into the country, requests for residence permits either of a temporary or permanent nature would not be granted until such time as the question of the refugees would be internationally regulated; that it was the feeling of the country that it had given ample consideration up to the present to the principles of humanitarianism and the right of asylum.

*Czecho-Slovakia* — The Czecho-Slova-

kian Government has recently promulgated two important anti-Jewish measures. One provides for a revision of the citizenship documents of all persons who became Czecho-Slovakian citizens after November 1, 1938, or who, on January 1, 1938, lived in Czecho-Slovakian territory now ceded to Germany, Hungary and Poland. The second law authorizes the granting of permits to refugees to stay in the country from one month to six months, and stipulates that after the expiration of the date of a permit, its holder must definitely leave the country.

*Turkey*—In response to a strong appeal by Jewish residents of Turkey to the new President of Turkey, General Inonu, the Turkish Government has cancelled its orders for the expulsion from Turkey of a number of German and Austrian refugees.

*Denmark*—A Christian Committee to Assist the Jewish Refugees from Germany has been set up in Copenhagen on the initiative of the newspaper "Kristelig Dageblad." There has been good response to the Committee's appeal.

*France*—M. Bonnet, Foreign Minister, and President of the recently formed French Government Committee for Refugees, reported to the Committee that during recent months 100,000 refugees had entered France and that the number of refugees in that country at present amounted to approximately 200,000.

*Holland*—The national collection for refugees realized 475,000 gulden, or about £55,500. 180,000 gulden were allocated to the Jewish Committee for German Jewish Refugees; 90,000 to the Jewish Children's Committee; and 90,000 each to the Roman Catholic and Protest-

ant Refugee Committee.

*Great Britain*—The Society for the Protection of Science and Learning of Great Britain, working in cooperation with other similar organizations, has found permanent employment for 550 refugee scholars, in 37 different countries, and temporary employment for 330 in 25 countries.

The Federation of Women Zionists (FWZ), the English Federation of the WIZO (Women's International Zionist Organization), recognizing the urgency of refugee assistance, has appealed to all its members and friends to assist in finding domestic posts for refugee women and girls, whose only chance of leaving Germany is the possibility of finding employment in that capacity. A special appeal is being made for refugees from the Sudeten area who have sought temporary refuge in Czecho-Slovakia. The FWZ is also engaged in seeking homes for refugee children from Germany, Austria, and other countries.

*Former Austria*—The first issue of the *Juedisches Nachrichtenblatt*, permission to publish which was recently granted the "Zionistischer Landesverband," appeared on December 13. It is the only Jewish paper now being published in that country. The two-page issue concerned itself mostly with emigration matters. A brief appeal was made therein by the Winter Help Campaign which indicated the dire need of the Jews of Vienna, and from which it was evident that the Jewish population of former Austria has almost entirely crowded itself together into Vienna.

*Italy*—The only Jewish newspaper in Italy, *Israel*, which had been issued in Florence, has been suspended.

## BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by ABRAHAM G. DUKER

*American Jewish Committee, New York, N. Y.*

Fields, Harold: *The Refugee in the United States*, New York, Oxford University Press, 1938, 229 pp.

This is a simple, unpretentious treatment of some of the questions involved in the admission and adjustment of refugees in the United States. It was obviously motivated by the current interest in the problem. However, in order to give the discussion some suggestion of perspective, the author has gone back to the early post war years when this country absorbed some thousands of refugees from Russia, Ukrainia, Greece and Armenia.

Mr. Fields does well to point out that in terms of immigration law and procedure no distinction is made between immigrants and refugees. Everyone arriving in the United States is technically an immigrant whether he comes voluntarily or in flight from a political regime which makes his continued existence in his native country impossible. Contrary to the wishes and thinking of many people there is no special treatment accorded to such refugees who must satisfy all the requirements of the existing immigration laws. This is definitely related to the observation which the author makes to the effect that immigration to the United States has been more a reflection of current economic circumstances and prejudices than of any attitude of serving as a haven for the politically and socially oppressed of the world. The latter has unquestionably occupied a place in American tradition and has been supported by many eminent Americans, but the former has dictated concrete policies.

Referring to the Armenians, Mr. Fields suggests that "It has been consistently maintained that all immigrants from Armenia have been refugees." The reader is inclined to wonder whether this cannot be said equally of Jewish immigrants, whether they came from Russia in the years following the restrictive May Laws of 1882, from all of Eastern Europe since the World War, or from Germany since 1933. If the distinction between refugee and immigrant is one of free will or choice—the immigrant coming voluntarily to something preferable and the refugee escaping from something intolerable—it would appear that the Jewish migrations have been made up of refugees. Certainly this is so unless one demands continued and overt physical pogroms and massacres as the criterion.

The book is quite informative in the areas of the relevant immigration laws, and the author, from his extended personal experience, is able to suggest that administrative procedure is frequently as important as the texts of the law. He also discusses in successive chapters the assimilation of the refugees, geographical dispersion, economic integration, naturalization, agencies created by the immigrants for their own needs, and the social agencies devoted to helping immigrants.

Of special immediate interest is the chapter devoted to the German immigrants, of which Mr. Fields indicates there were some 23,000 from 1933 to 1937. This figure includes some 20 per cent who are not Jewish—Christians, and that strange modern creation known as non-