

JEWES OF RUSSIA IN PITTIABLE CONDITION.

New York.—The wracking experience of a three-months' "nightmare" journey through a gray, huddled Twentieth-century inferno of misery, want and helplessness was recounted by Miss Irma May of New York city, who returned on the steamship Paris direct from a tour of the "hunger region" of Poland, Galicia and Bessarabia, where hundreds of thousands of Jewish families, after a ten-years' struggle against the impoverishment of the war, are now crushed in a final tragedy of industrial ruin, destitution and starvation as a result of the latest economic collapse in eastern Europe.

Miss May, who was abroad on a visit when the first reports of the new Jewish disaster in Europe reached this country, was commissioned by cable by David A. Brown, national chairman of the United Jewish campaign for a \$15,000,000 overseas chest to complete the reconstruction tasks undertaken by the American Jewish joint distribution committee in Russia and the eastern European countries, to obtain first hand information of actual conditions and the extent of the breakdown of trade and industry affecting the Jews of these countries.

INQUIRY BEGAN IN JANUARY. She started on her mission early in January and in the last three months has journeyed from city to city, from village to village in all the large Jewish sections of Poland, Galicia and Bessarabia.

Her reports by radio and letter to Mr. Brown, based on authenticated statistical information, make up a day-by-day chronicle of human ruin and despair, crowded with intimate detail of the suffering of workers broken by months and years of unemployment, of merchants stripped of their last resources, of proud and poor alike leveled to bread-lines and soup-kitchens, of women and children starving and freezing and waiting in piteous resignation for death.

More than a million Jews of Poland—one-third the entire Jewish population of the country—are at present absolutely without any means of support, and their only hope of being saved from extinction, Miss May declares, rests on the early arrival of relief funds from America.

The Jewish cities of Bessarabia, Miss May found, present a repetition of the Polish picture of impoverishment, stagnation and helpless misery. Due to a two years' crop failure, the historic Jewish agricultural communities of this region are shattered by want, famine and disease.

Child mortality in Bessarabia has reached 100 per cent, as a result of severe malnutrition and lack of medical aid, and fava and hunger-typhus are spreading ominously. The food allowance of Jewish families in this section of Bessarabia—all available food supplies are rationed by local "hunger committees"—is a few ounces of corn meal and a fraction of a pound of potatoes a day.

FRENZIED STRUGGLE FOR BREAD.

Miss May's final experiences in Poland represent a peak of the appalling panorama of physical and moral breakdown in which a piteous, frenzied struggle for bread, hopeless submission to squalor and disease, and a panic of self-destruction as an escape from unbearable suffering and degradation bespeak the utter collapse of the ancient communal structure of Jewish life in Poland, and threaten the extinction of millions of lives of men, women and children.

In Brest-Litovsk Miss May found the poorest of the poor, mostly war widows, still living in the ruins of the synagogues in which they took shelter.

Utterly depleted by the destruction of the military occupations and counter-occupations, scarcity of work and food and the struggle against broken-down, rudimentary living conditions, the years of famine and internal tur-moiling relieved the plight of these people.

War orphans and children born in the years of famine and internal turmoil are growing up as waifs, with weakened constitutions and no outlook for a normal adjustment to orderly productive life.

Pennsylvania Passes Goal Set for Seal Sale.

As Christmas Seal Chairman for Pennsylvania I am happy and delighted to report that the 1925 Seal Sale passed the goal set, \$500,000. The total will run between \$605,000 and \$510,000. For this fine showing credit is due to all who co-operated and assisted, and your organization, you and your workers had a splendid share in this.

The increased returns enable the affiliated organizations of Pennsylvania Tuberculosis Society to do more this year and enlarge their efforts against tuberculosis. That this greater effort is needed is apparent from the more than 7,000 deaths each year in Pennsylvania from tuberculosis, a preventable disease. One of the most serious aspects of this situation is that the majority of the fatalities are among people in the producing years of life when they are most needed by their families and their communities.

With best wishes, I remain, very sincerely, Henry W. Shoemaker, Christmas Seal Chairman for Pa.

Gas Pipe Line 120 Miles Long.

One of the latest developments in the long-distance transmission of gas is near Essen, Germany, where gas is sent through a pipe line about 120 miles long. This line supplies lighting and heating fuel for thirty villages and towns along its route.

—It's all in the "Watchman" and it's all true.

VIRGINIA OPENS TREASURE HUNT

State Ready With \$500,000 to Redeem Missing Old-Time Bonds.

Richmond, Va.—There is a treasure chest of more than half a million dollars in gold, or rather in gold bonds, in this country, and there is no reason why those who are devoting their energies to chasing the will-o-the-wisp of fortune should not dig down into old trunks and other receptacles of family papers and find out if they are entitled to share in this large sum of money.

Those who are entitled to participate in this chest of gold will not have to employ attorneys to prosecute their claims, nor will they have to make an examination of genealogical records. If they find a document bearing the title "West Virginia Certificate" the chances are 1,000 to 1 that by presenting this certificate to Rosewell Page, second auditor of the commonwealth of Virginia, they will receive in return West Virginia 3 1/2 per cent gold bonds, bearing coupons from January 1, 1919.

Mr. Page says that there are outstanding, unclaimed, more than \$500,000 of these certificates, the redemption of which was provided for in the Virginia-West Virginia debt settlement.

Treasure Hunt Advised. The certificates bear dates of 1871, 1879, 1882 and 1892. Because they were of little value at one time their owners do not realize that today they are so much gold.

An opportunity for the people to indulge in a veritable treasure-hunt game is here furnished. The bonds to redeem these certificates have been issued. They await only the reception of the documents to be issued in exchange.

The history of this transaction discloses the successful effort of a state to redeem its credit. Before the secession of West Virginia from Virginia at the opening of the war between the states, the mother state had issued bonds and owed approximately \$35,000,000, covering money expended for navigation companies, plank road companies, turnpike companies, bridge companies, state roads, railroad companies and state defense. Virginia claimed that West Virginia should pay a third of this debt, as that section of the old state had received a third of the benefits of the bonds issued. West Virginia denied the claim.

State Redeeming Credit.

For a long time the bonds went unpaid, and the debt with interest went to \$45,000,000. Finally, on the dates already mentioned, Virginia passed a series of refunding acts, and gave to the old bondholders Virginia bonds for two-thirds of the amounts due them. In addition she gave them, for the remaining one-third, certificates stating that West Virginia owed them the remaining third. These are the "West Virginia Certificates."

West Virginia laughed at the idea of Virginia issuing "West Virginia Certificates." Of such little value were these certificates considered that many of them were sold for 10 cents per hundred and less. Finally, for the benefit of the bond and certificate holders, Virginia sued West Virginia, and in decisions rendered by the Supreme court of the United States on March 6, 1911, and June 14, 1915, Virginia was awarded judgment against West Virginia for \$12,393,929.50 with interest at 5 per cent from July 1, 1915.

West Virginia settled the debt and interest in 1919, paying \$1,062,867.10 in cash and \$13,500,000 in gold bonds. Of these bonds \$1,133,500 were held "in escrow" by West Virginia to pay certificates that had not been presented. More than \$500,000 of this sum has not yet been claimed.

Women Find Outings Working in Orchards

Washington.—Despite the hardships of the "fruit gypsies," as the migrant workers on western fruit ranches are popularly called, a number of women "follow the fruits" in this way in order to give themselves or their children an outing in the country and at the same time to supplement the family income, according to a recent report by the United States Department of Labor, on conditions of employment of women in the highly seasonal industries of fruit growing and canning in the state of Washington.

Nonresident workers constituted about one-third of the 3,014 women who were interviewed during the investigation and who were employed in the berry fields. In the prune, apple and pear orchards, in the fruit, vegetable and fish canneries, and in the fruit warehouses in the state. The great majority of the migrants were found in the outdoor work.

Some of the migrants failed to make their expenses and became stranded, a fact attributed in the report to the seasonal nature of the work and uncertainty in regard to length of employment and earnings.

Mule Shoots Horse

Peoria, Ill.—A mule on Ernest Largent's farm has shot a horse dead. Pawing on the back porch, his usual signal that he wanted sugar, the mule kicked a rifle over, the fall discharged it and the bullet stopped in a stallion's neck.

The Cost of Automobiles.

It costs the average automobile owner \$700 a year for everything connected with his car including the original cost, according to figures given out by the Bureau of Industrial Technology. It would be interesting to compare that figure with what we all pay for house rent or the cost of owning a house.

Probably the average automobile owning family pays more than \$700 a year on account of its home, but the cost of the automobile in many cases is as much as the rent.

The family of moderate means that wishes to operate a car will do well to study the means by which automobile costs can be kept down. Rapid driving over rough streets and roads will greatly increase the charge for depreciation and repairs. If people must tear around the country as if they were rushing to a fire where their property was being burned up, they will have to pay an extra charge to the garage man. Also the old car will deserve the favorite title of "junk" much sooner.

Where people own their own homes and erect their own inexpensive garage on their own land, they reduce the cost of storage to a small item. In the days to come, every family ought to learn to do simple repairs on its own car. The inexperienced owner may do his car more harm than good when he tries to make his own repairs. But if he makes a thorough study of the mechanics of the car, he ought to be able to do the less difficult repair jobs.

The young man of the future will find it just as desirable to know how to repair a car as to do complicated arithmetic examples. The country is getting great benefits from the general ownership of cars, but people need to study the methods by which such ownership can be made inexpensive.—From the Reformatory Record.

Hats Off to the Nose!

Teacher: Does any one know how iron was discovered?  
Pupil: Yes ma'am.  
Teacher: Well, tell the class

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