

*Pruska*

REPORT ON POLONNOYE, VOLYNSK GUBERNIA

The town of Polonnoye is situated about six versts from a railroad station. Formerly, it was a rather thriving industrial town. During the last two years it was the principal town of the Uyezd, but of late the center of the Uyezd was transferred to Shepetovka, together with all its institutions and offices.

According to preliminary figures of the 1923 census, the population of Polonnoye consists of 14,791 persons (3163 families). Semi-official information shows that the Jewish population before the pogroms was 9,500 but at present there are only 6,000 Jews.

POGROMS IN POLONNOYE AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES

|              |                                  |  |
|--------------|----------------------------------|--|
| April, 1919  | Retreating Petlura Troops        | 13 murdered; entire population pillaged  |
| May, 1919    | Sokolov's Band                   | 50 murdered, 15 wounded. Those who were murdered were first brought to Novgorod Volynsk, where they met their fate.                                  |
| June, 1919   | Detached Army men                | Pillage  |
| March, 1920  | Poznansky's Polish Regiment      | Before retreating, burned to the ground many Jewish houses   |
| October 1920 | Disorganized Military detachment | 7 murdered, 25 wounded 50 violated. Population pillaged and robbed. In the Village of Vilikaya Berezna, near Polonnoye, Petlura murdered 22 persons. |

During the period 1919-1920, 1600 succumbed to spotted typhus. Frightened by the spread of epidemics, and attacks by "pogromchicks" in 1920, about 2000 Jews in Polonnoye fled to other places. As a result of the epidemics and pogroms, Polonnoye now has 85 full orphans, 140 half orphans and 45 children with parents who are unable to care for them. Thus, there are about 270 children who need care.

At present the Jewish population can be classed as follows:

|                   |                       |   |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Approximately 40% | of heads of families, | consist of workmen and artisans                   |
| " 30%             | " " " "               | engage in small trade and brokerage               |
| " 30%             | " " " "               | live on uncertain earnings and are in great need. |

About 450 persons are registered with the Labor Exchange as being unemployed. 60% of these are intellectual workers and 40% workmen. The Jews form 70% of those unemployed.

The following is a list of the industrial establishments in and near Polonnoye and their present status:

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Earthenware Factory             | Functioning; employs 25 workmen, almost all being Jews              |
| Sugar Refinery (Novosletzky)    | 5 versts from Polonnoye. Functioning.                               |
| Soap Factory                    | Functioning   |
| Cigarette Paper Factory         | "   |
| Brewery                         | "   |
| Foundry                         | Not Functioning   |
| Paper Mill (in Peninki)         | 6 Versts from Polonnoye. Employs about 600 workmen, 300 being Jews. |
| 2 large and 3 small Flour Mills | These 5 mills employ about 70 workmen, 40 being Jews                |

There are also some small tanneries in operation.

#### RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS IN POLONNOYE

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| UPOLPOSLEDGOL                         | Subventions only the Children's Home for starving Children  |
| Evobkom                               | Does not function at present, owing to the reorganization of the Uyezds into districts. During the last few months it did not give any individual relief, only assisting the children's homes. This relief, however, was very irregular. Jewish Children's Home No. 1 did not receive anything from the Evobkom for the last three months.  |
| ARA LOCAL COMMITTEE                   | Functions at present. A few months ago there was an individual distribution of corn grits. From June 1st to October 1st, 1922, there was a kitchen for 270 children. This kitchen, however, was closed on October 1, 1922, in accordance with instructions issued by the District ARA office. The ARA committee supplied 8 children's Homes in Polonnoye and adjacent towns, and the Soviet and Children's Hospital in Polonnoye with medicaments. The Hospital received a considerable amount of instruments and medicaments and a small quantity of blankets and underwear. This assistance has enabled the hospital to keep going. The above institutions also received food-stuffs, recently but in insufficient amounts. |
| SOCIAL INSURANCE SECTION OF RABPOMGOL | Maintains a Polyclinic and administers medical relief as well as other assistance only to members of Professional Unions, and to workmen.   |

#### CHILDREN'S INSTITUTIONS

There formerly existed in Polonnoye and its surroundings 8 children's Homes, of which 3 were Jewish Homes, as follows: Romanovsky, Liubarsky, and Children's Home No. 1 in Polonnoye. Of these 8 homes, 6

were closed and the children transferred to the newly organized Children's City in Liubar. The remaining Children's Homes in Polonnoye are as follows:

Jewish Children's Home No. 1 and a Children's Home maintained by the Posledgol.

The Home of the Posledgol is supplied by the Sugar Trust and receives its supplies regularly. All of its needs seem to be well taken care of. There is a lack, however of 22 pairs of shoes and medicaments.

Jewish Children's Home No. 1 is in an entirely different condition. It is located in a good house with 5 rooms, and has a garden. It houses 32 children, 12 of whom are full orphans and 20 half orphans. Its financial conditions is very unsatisfactory. It was previously supervised by the Narobraz, which at best, irregularly supplied it with food. The Narobraz has ceased its activities here, so that now the home does not receive anything from this Government Department. At great intervals some assistance was received from the ARA. As stated previously in this report, the Evobkom has not assisted the home for three months. Of the 32 children in this Home, 19 have no shoes. During the past winter the children had to wrap their feet in rags. There is no medical supervision whatever. When children get sick a private physician has to be called and paid. Of late, the Home has been unable to purchase medicines for the sick children, and as there are some children who are sick with favus, tuberculosis, and other diseases, they remain without medical treatment. The children are taught by teachers who come to the Home. The Home is in need of repairs, underwear, blankets, shoes, beds, mattresses and supplementary feeding to improve their physical condition. There is one dessiatin of land around the Home, which the children cultivate themselves. In order properly to do this, funds are needed for the purchase of spades, pick-axes, rakes and other instruments. A photograph of this home is attached.

As pointed out earlier in this report, there are about 270 children who are not being taken care of by any institutions. An additional children's Home is therefore urgently required.

#### PUBLIC SCHOOLS

There exist in Polonnoye two Public Schools, namely, one Jewish School and one Mixed School. The mixed school is the former Gymnasium. Of the 234 pupils attending this school 90% are Jews. Most of the children pay tuition fees in varying amounts, while 70 needy children get free tuition. The school maintains itself, but it is in need of school appliances, books, etc. The personnel is in need of support.

Jewish School No. 3, where 220 children are taught, is in rather bad condition. It has its own building and is situated on the outskirts of the town. About 40% of the children are full orphans, 30% half orphans, and 30% with parents living. The school is greatly in need of school appliances. It is supervised by the Narobraz and does not receive any subvention from the Evobkom. The teachers receive miserable remuneration for their services and are consequently in great need. The school is managed by Mr. Luftschein. A photograph of the school is enclosed.



### MEDICO-SANITARY

There is one Soviet Hospital which formerly had 35 beds, but due to lack of funds this number was reduced to 20. The Hospital is supervised by the Ouzdray, but receives funds from the latter very irregularly. 60 patients receive treatment monthly, 25% being Jews. Some months ago the hospital received 30 blankets, 30 towels, 25 pairs of shoes, 20 sheets, medicaments and instruments, from the ARA. This contribution has greatly assisted and still assists the hospital, but it is in need of foodstuffs and medicaments.

Connected with the hospital is a Dispensary with a Pharmacy. The capacity of this dispensary is about 15 persons per day, about 15% being Jews. Relief, however, is administered only to those patients who come to the dispensary, the poorest of the population getting no medical assistance in their homes.

There is also a Municipal dispensary, supervised by the Sub-Section of Workmen's Medical Aid, which is subventioned by the Social Insurance Kassa. The capacity is about 500-600 persons per month, of whom 60% are Jews. The Dispensary also has a pharmacy, but medical aid is given only to workmen and to employees who are members of professional unions, so that the poorest of the population, not included in these categories, is unable to avail itself of this pharmacy.

An agreement should be entered into with this dispensary to give medical relief free of charge to the poor in their homes. If necessary, the dispensary is in need of medicaments. Formerly there was a children's in Polonnoye, which has been transferred to the Liubar Children's City.

Bathhouses: Before the pogroms took place in Polonnoye there were two bathhouses, one of which is destroyed. The other can be repaired and put into condition. The repair of this bathhouse is essential to improve the sanitary condition of the people. For major repairs at least \$2,000 will be required, whereas urgent repairs to keep the bathhouse running will amount to \$600. If these repairs are not urgently made, the population will be entirely deprived of the possibility of using this bath.

Home for Aged: A home for Aged should be opened for 25 invalids and aged. Suitable premises can be found, but funds for the maintenance of such a home are lacking.

Kitchen: There are about 250 destitute families in Polonnoye and to help these people a kitchen should be opened.

Cooperatives: In view of the fact that there are large stone quarries near Polonnoye, which are not being exploited, and as there are about 30 unemployed stone cutters in the town, it would be desirable to organize a cooperative to cut stone.

There are also about 50 woodworkers and 30 leather workers who are unemployed. In order to give these people employment a cooperative should be organized.

Credit: Local conditions are becoming favorable. However, the establishment of a Loan Kassa would greatly assist those who desire to establish themselves. A kassa is in process of organization and registration and the Statutes will shortly be approved.

FUTURE BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS

|  | <u>One Time</u> | <u>Monthly</u> |
|--|-----------------|----------------|
| <u>1. CHILD RELIEF</u>   |                 |                |
| Children's Home for 32 Children:                                 |                 |                |
| a.) Repairs and additional equipment                             | \$300           |                |
| b) Monthly subvention  |                 | \$65           |
| <u>2. School No. 3 for 220 children</u>                          |                 |                |
| a) Repairs and Equipment   | 200             |                |
| b) Monthly subvention  |                 | 60             |
| <u>II MEDICO-SANITARY RELIEF</u>                                 |                 |                |
| Subvention for medical requirements of the pogromized population | 200.            |                |
| Repairs to the Bath  | 600.            |                |
| Homes for Aged:  |                 |                |
| a) Repairs and equipment   | 300             |                |
| b) Subvention for feeding  |                 | 75.            |
| <u>III CREDIT RELIEF</u>   |                 |                |
| Subvention to the Loan-Saving Society in process of organization | <u>1500.</u>    | <u>\$200</u>   |
|  | \$3100.         |                |

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Representative, Kiev District

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