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The Administration of the Governor General of Novorossijsk and Bessarabia.

Department.

Office of the government of the Kherson Gubernia.

Proposal to create synagogues in the newly established Colonies, No. 4583, July 14, 1842.

To His Excellency Governor General of Novorossijsk and Bessarabia,

The administrator of Jewish Colonies in the Report No. 1123, explains the decisions of the new Colonies, namely, Lvov, Novy Berislav, Novopoltavka, Romanovskaya, and Malaya Sejdemenukha.

The decisions made by the communities of the said Colonies ascertain their desire to voluntarily settle in the landowner class with the assistance of the State. However, as they need to build synagogues and houses of prayer, in order to pray according to the Jewish tradition, and as they are entitled to do so by law, but because they could not afford to realize their good intentions, they proposed to collect voluntary donations from their coreligionists. To achieve that, they chose among themselves three representatives, trustworthy and of good behavior, from each Colony and hereby petition for the release of these representatives for six months to accomplish the said goal – Courland Jews in the Courland gubernia, Polotsk Jews in the Vitebsk gubernia, Propoisk Jews in the Mogilev gubernia. They guarantee that the chosen representatives will return to the places of their residency, that their households received from the State will be safeguarded.

Taking in consideration that construction of synagogues and prayer houses in the new Colonies are required for praying, and that the communities of the Colonies cannot afford it without voluntary donations, we do not see any obstacles for allowing six-month absence to the chosen representatives for the collection of voluntary donations, particularly that the Colonies guarantee their return and the safety of what they received from the State.

Reporting this to the Gubernia Administration, we are asking for permission to issue the necessary identifications and books to the representatives chosen by the communities. In these books, they will record the donations. As to the construction of synagogues and prayer houses, we will approach this separately, according to the Regulations concerning Jews of April 13, 1835, approved by His Majesty. As a result, the Gubernia Administration has determined, taking into account that the new Colonies will not be able to afford the construction of synagogues and prayer houses without voluntary donations and also will require the absence of the chosen representatives for six months to collect donations that the Administrator of the Jewish Colonies, Lieutenant Colonel Demidov, does not object to, to allow Demidov the issuance of the identifications and books to record donations for the chosen representatives of the landowners for the designated time period. To carry out this decision, an order will be sent to him to ascertain that the said Jews returned at the specified time, as well as he expedite his suggestions about the construction of synagogues and prayer houses in the new Colonies, but not to do it but to petition Your Excellency and ask for permission.

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