

Outline of the Report of the Activities of the J.D.C. in the occupied parts of Woehlynia and Podolia, Oct., 1919 - April, 1920.

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REPORT
of activities of the J.D.C. in the occupied parts of Wohlynia and
Podolia, Oct., 1919 to April, 1920.

I. The General situation in Wohlynia and Podolia before the J.D.C.:
the military and political conditions during the world war. the subse-
quent civil warfare and the various changes and transitions of gov-
ernment; the results of the war: ruined towns.

Wohlynia and Podolia belong to those regions, which have suffered most in the World War. A large part of Wohlynia namely: the districts of Vladimir-Wohlynsk, Kovel, Lutzk, a part of the Kremenetz district and a part of the Dubno district, including the city of Dubno, had been occupied by the Germans during August and September, 1915. In June, 1916, Russian army forces have, after many battles with the Germans, succeeded in clearing the districts of Dubno, Kremenetz and Lutzk. The ceaseless battles which were raging here in 1915 and 1916 have wrought terrible havoc throughout the region. The towns Mlinow and Mervitz in the Dubno district and Petchaiev, Berezetz and Radzivilov in the Kremenetz district were almost totally destroyed by fire, and partly burned were the cities Dubno and Vladimir-Wohlynsk and the towns Rozyschtsche, Tortchin, Kolki and others in the Lutzk district, and Kamen-Koshyrsk, Great Lusha, Melnitza, Ratno, Manievitchi in the district of Kovel.

The population of many towns and villages lying close to the front was forced to evacuate by the military authorities. Such evacuated places were: in Wohlynia, the towns Mlinov, Mervitz, Berezitz, Radzivilov Petchaiev, Osoli, Nesrizh, Ozeriani, and in Podolia, the towns Patanov, Zbrutch, Tamaruda, Zhwanetz and Husiatyn. From many other towns the population had itself fled to the neighboring larger points, owing to the dangers of nearby military operations.

The result of all this was, that of Jewish homeless alone there were in 1915-1918 in the cities of Rovno, Lutzk and Kremenetz about 13,000 persons (in Rovno 4000, in Kremenetz 4000 and in Lutzk 5000); and in Kamenetz-Podolsk there were 3000 of such homeless Jews.

In July 1917, after the first Russian revolution, another offensive was undertaken by the German and Austrian armies, in the course of which the German army again came near the borders of Wohlynia and Podolia, and the population of Western Wohlynia and Podolia was once more compelled to evacuate and flee from their home towns, to which they had succeeded in returning in 1916.

In December, 1918, after the second (October) revolution in Russia and the Bolshevik coup, the whole region was occupied by Bolshevik military forces. These detachments were at the time responsible for disorders of an anti-Jewish character in several places: thus, in Dubno, stores and houses were plundered by them, in Ostrog stores were plundered and burned, and in Kremenetz stores were plundered and two persons killed. Towards the end of February, 1918, after the conclusion of the Brest-Litovsk peace-treaty among the Germans and the Bolsheviks, the former have entered into a military alliance with the newly-formed Democratic Ukrainian Government of the Central Rada, the object of which was to clear Ukraine of the Bolsheviks. The Germans consequently occupied Wohlynia and Podolia and subsequently the whole of Ukraine. During this German occupation (February to November, 1918) absolute order and peace prevailed in Ukraine, as well as in Wohlynia and Podolia. All authority in Ukraine was in German hands. The first Ukrainian Government of the Central Rada, thanks to whom the Germans had occupied Ukraine, and later on the Hetman, General Skoropadsky, whom the Germans placed at the head of a new Ukrainian Government organized by them, had no power whatever and were wholly dependent upon the Germans in the conduct of all the affairs of the State.

During the months of October and November, 1918, when the decisive

battles among the Germans and the Entente armies on the western front have assured the final victory of the Anti-German coalition, the position of the Germans in Ukraina became much more difficult. The members of the former Ukrainian Democratic Government, Petlura and Winnitchenko, took advantage of the situation thus created and organized an uprising, first in the region of Kiev, and later throughout Ukraina. They cleared Ukraina of Germans and deposed the Hetman and his government, and in the course of these months of October and November, 1918, Volhynia and Podolia were occupied by the new Ukrainian government and the military forces of the "Directory."

But neither could this new Ukrainian government remain in power very long. In January, 1919, the Bolsheviki commenced their offensive in Ukraina. The Ukrainian government was forced to evacuate continually and wander from region to region and from place to place. And thus the city of Kamenetz-Podolsk was in February, 1919, the capital of the Ukrainian state and the seat of its government and the Directory. In April the government left Kamenetz which was occupied by the Bolsheviki, and made its seat in Rovno. There it remained until May 22^d, when, after long battles between the Bolshevik and Petlura's Ukrainian forces, the Ukrainians were compelled to leave Rovno, and subsequently, the whole vicinity of Rovno, the districts of Kremenetz and Dubno, and evacuate to Galicia.

The Bolsheviki had at that time occupied the whole of Volhynia up to the districts of Lutsk, Kovel and Vladimir, Volhynsk, which the Pole Poles had themselves taken from the Germans, when the latter evacuated Poland and Ukraina.

However, Bolshevik rule in Volhynia and Podolia was not lasting. On the 3rd of June, 1919, Petlura's forces regained part of the former province of Podolia, including the city of Kamenetz-Podolsk. In the beginning of August, 1919, however, after many battles with the

Bolsheviki, occupied Rovno and the whole Rovno region, which bordered with Polish territory. Wohlynia and Podolia were again made the front of battling armies: Petlura against the Bolsheviki, the Bolsheviki against the Poles and the Poles against Petlura; until finally, in November, the Poles succeeded in occupying West Podolia with the cities of Kamenetz-Podolsk and Proskurov and a few towns in Wohlynia: Zaslav, Stepetovka, Novograd-Wohlynsk.

II. The General condition of the Jewish population. The military and political situation. The destruction brought about by the war. The ruined Jewish settlements. The forced evacuations during the war. The numbers of persons made homeless in the course of the world war. The massacres in Wohlynia and Podolia. The economic and social conditions before and during the World war and during the subsequent civil warfare and transitions of political power. The ruining of Jewish economic and social life.

The Jews have suffered from the above described events and political changes much more than the rest of the population. Many of the Jewish settlements were totally ruined in the course of the World war, as the towns Stabirov, Ratno, Ozeriani, Manievitchi-in the Kovel district: Mlinov, Mervitz, Verba-in the district of Dubno: Petchaiev, Berzitz-in the district of Kremenetz. Other towns were partly burned and ruined as Dubno, Radzivilov, Melnitza, Vladimir-Wohlynsk, Solki, Raphaelovka, Tchartorysk, Rozystche, Tortchin-in Wohlynia, and Busiatyn, Satanov, Zbrutch, Zhwanetz, Tarnoruda and other points in Podolia.

The Jewish population of the above named ruined towns had no homes where to return after the war was over. Thus, for instance, about 900 persons, whom the Austrians sent out of Dubno in 1916, had returned to that city in 1918. But they found upon their return that their houses were burned and demolished, and were thereupon compelled to take up abode in barracks, where the most unsanitary conditions prevailed, in consequence of which typhoid fever and other contagious diseases spread rapidly among the returned homeless Jews.

The same occurred also in the towns Petchaiev and Radzivilov.

About 400 homeless Jews had in 1918, at the time of the German occupation of the region, returned to their native town Stabirov, in the Kovel district. But not a single whole house was found by them in the town! The German authorities thereupon ordered that the homeless be distributed among the cities Lutzk, Rovno and Kovel. In Raphalovka, Tchartorysk and Razhystch the returned refugees, not having found any dwellings whatever, had taken up lodging in the trenches, which were employed here by the armies in the world war.

Besides the World War, as a result of which scores of Jewish settlements were destroyed, there came, towards the end of 1918, at the time of the German evacuation of Ukrania, the first great wave of wholesale massacres over the Jewish population in Ukrania and Wohlynia and Podolia have also suffered terribly from these massacres. The Ukrainian military detachments, which were compelled to wander about from place to place under the onslaught of the Bolsheviki, have avenged their defeats upon the Jewish population wherever they came. Scores of massacres consequently took place in a number of cities and towns in Wohlynia and Podolia. Of these massacres the most notorious are the terrible slaughters in Proskurov, February 15th, 1919 in which there were over 2000 killed; and in Felshtin, a small town in the Proskurov district with a Jewish population of 2000 souls, of which 600 were slaughtered; in Kitaigorod, Kamenetz district -- 79 killed; in Teozhipol, Kremenetz district, June 1919 -- about 120 killed and half of the town burned; in Novo-Wohlynsk, several pogroms during June and July 1919 -- about 1000 killed and more than half of the town burned. And there was not a single city or town in Wohlynia and Podolia, where the military detachments of Petlura, or any other Ukrainian insurgent force at war with the Bolsheviki, had not instituted a massacre on a larger or smaller scale. The terror that spread among the whole Jewish population of

Wohlynia and Podolia surpassed everything that had hitherto been witnessed among a terrorized populace. The panic-stricken Jews fled from city to city, were hiding for weeks in fields and forests to evade the passing armed bands. The result of all this was, that at the time the Poles occupied the larger part of western and northern Wohlynia and Podolia, there were scores of ruined and plundered cities and towns, the Jewish population of which was in the most indescribable misery, and thousands of Jewish widows and orphans, whose condition was most desperate.

The economic and social condition of the Jewish population.

The Jews of Wohlynia and Podolia had never developed a separate Jewish industry, and their economic condition was never firm. The half a million Jews found in those parts of Wohlynia and Podolia, which are covered by the present report, consisted of the following industrial groups: 1) a very insignificant number of farmers (5 small Jewish colonies in Wohlynia: Matchulck, Mussovo, Ignatovka, Little Selitch and Sophievka, with a total population of about 700 Jewish families, and 2 small Jewish colonies near Derozhna, in the Proskurov district. Podolia); 2) artisans; 3) professionals, as physicians, teachers, etc. and 4) the large majority of the Jewish population, which was engaged in all sorts of trading.

But inform as the economic condition of the Jews in the two provinces was before the war, there was a certain stability in and traditional attitude toward the specifically Jewish, in many instances inherited occupations and sources of livelihood. The whole of the Jewish trade in the smaller Jewish towns of Wohlynia and Podolia before the war was based and depended upon the farmers, who were bringing to the town their farm products and purchasing there articles which they needed, such as kerosene, factory products, salt, soap, etc. The grain of the

farmer would invariably fall into the hands of the Jews, who were transporting same to the nearest larger city, whence they received all the necessary articles for the village consumers. Thus that part of the Jewish population, which was trading, and this was by far the greatest part of the whole Jewish population, was the intermediary between village and city.

There were also a few places, the Jewish population of which had its own particular occupation in turning local articles and material into finished products. Thus, the small town Nicolaiev, in Podolia, was known for its butter; Dunaievitzi, for its cloth products; Ostroh, in Wohlynia, for its carriages, furniture and leather goods, in the production of which about 600 families were employed; Slavita, for its wool products, Dubno, for its hops. Such renown has had a number of cities and towns which lay near the Austrian frontier and were engaged in foreign trade.

At the beginning of the World War a change took place in the whole economic structure of the small town in Wohlynia and Podolia. The government had then required much grain for its armies and was buying it directly from the farmers in the villages, especially in the provinces of Wohlynia and Podolia, which were near the front and in which were stationed large portions of the Russian army. Now the farmer was no more compelled to bring his grain to the town for sale. The agents of the government found him in his village and offered him the best prices. On the other hand, the buying tendency of the village was also greatly weakened by the many mobilizations, which had drawn all the male population in military age (18 to 45 years) out of the village. And thus the part of the Jewish intermediary was much weakened, as he was now not much needed by the village, and the economic connection and interdependence between village and town was severed.

With the war, however, new and quite profitable sources of income arose for the Jewish town in these regions. Owing to the fact that the large armies in Volhynia and Podolia were scattered all over the cities and towns, there has largely developed in these towns street trading with bread, cigarettes and other articles necessary to the soldier. And the trading which had previously been conducted with the village, was now done with the soldiers of the army. By trading with the army the whole Jewish population was now earning its livelihood: the women were baking bread loaves and rolls, children were selling cigarettes, and adults were selling to the soldiers all sorts of necessary articles from stands on the streets. Richer tradesmen were supplying the army with clothing in large quantities.

Toward the end of February, 1917, the Russian Revolution broke out and brought with it complete liberty and equal rights for the Jews. Great hopes and prospects of regeneration arose then for the economically weak and backward Jewish population. All the limitations for Jews which existed under the Czar, were now abolished. Jews were now allowed to leave in all parts of Great Russia, a country so rich in natural resources which were not yet sufficiently developed. Regions like Caucasia, Siberia and many governments of central Russia were now open to the Jews, as well as all government positions. There consequently arose hopes and prospects for new sources of work and earnings, to replace the old ones of pre-war and war times.

And thus we see that during the first months after the Revolution many Jews left their native cities and towns and went to such places where no Jew had previously any access whatsoever. In their new place they at once took to developing commerce. New enterprises were undertaken with new and broad plans. Jews have also begun to fill government

positions. It seemed as if the atmosphere in the Jewish "Pale of Settlement", which had been simply suffocating up to the Revolution, was now going to be cleared. With great hope and expectation the day was awaited, when the war shall have been ended and there will be no impediment to the normal development of the newly won liberties.

However, war in Russia did not come to a normal end. The Bolshevist coup in October, 1917, has brought with it immediately the Brest-Litovsk treaty with the Germans and Austrians. But as soon as the war with the Germans terminated, there began within the country endless battles and civil warfare. The new armies and bands were not buying: they were taking by force and requisitioning. The above named hostile armies, as well as many other detachments under various Ukrainian band-leaders were, on passing through cities and towns, destroying everything. Naturally, the city population, that is, the majority of the Jewish population, suffered most from the destruction of the entire economic life, caused by the ceaseless warfare. And then came the period of Jewish massacres in Ukraina. These massacres, as has been said above, have not missed a single town in Wołyńia and Podolia. All Jewish property was plundered or destroyed. The entire basis of economic life was ruined. All new occupations, as well as the old ones, were totally wiped out.

Socially the events above described led to the worst results. The culturally and socially backward Jewish population of Wołyńia and Podolia has never shown any great social strength, and its social life was very little developed. At the time of the war, the mobilizations have taken away many of the Jewish youth, which, of course, had its results in Jewish social life. Smuggling, which had developed so rapidly, has also drawn in a part of what few social forces remained among the Jews of Wołyńia and Podolia, and these also engaged in trading

with smuggled-in articles. Also the frequent changes of political power tended to bare the cities and towns of what social forces they had still possessed. Each time a power had to leave a town, a number of persons, who stood in near relations with it (either by occupying official positions, or by trading with it, or even by having social intercourse with its representatives), were also forced to leave. And then, of course, the massacres and fleeing of the panic-stricken Jews from their native places. All this has thoroughly destroyed Jewish social life, as well as economic life.

The Jewish population has materially decreased in numbers, and this decrease was in proportion greater among the youth, whom all the above enumerated events had drawn out of the towns in much larger numbers. An example is the city of Vladimir-Wohlynsk. This city had not suffered from any massacres or undergone so many changes of government as other towns in Wohlynia and Podolia. This was due to the fact, that the Poles occupied the city on February, 1919, immediately after the evacuation of Poland by the Germans. At the outbreak of the war in 1914, the Jewish population of Vladimir-Wohlynsk was 12,000, in 1919 it was only 10,000. Another instance is Kovel with 21,000 Jews in 1914 and only 17,000 in 1919. In the small town, Rozhystch, district of Lutzk, which had suffered more than Vladimir-Wohlynsk, the number of Jews was 8000 in 1914 and 3500 in 1919. In Novograd, Wohlynsk (Zvihil), which had suffered from many political changes and massacres, the Jewish population dragged from 20,000 in 1914 to 8000 in 1919. A similar drop could be observed in many other points in Wohlynia and Podolia.

III. Relief organizations that were active in Wohlynia and Podolia before the J.D.C. The nature of their activity. Relief institutions that existed in this region before the J.D.C. Their condition.

At the time of the World War a wide relief activity was developed in Wohlynia and Podolia by the following Russian and Ukranian Jewish or-

ganizations: Committee for the Relief of the War Sufferers (Yekopo), Committee for the Preservation of help among the Jewish population (Oze), Committee for the Diffusion of Knowledge among the Jews (Ope), Committee for the Spreading of Trades and Agriculture among the Jews (Ort). These were, in the period of civil warfare and massacres, followed by the new organizations: Committee for the Relief of the Sufferers from Massacres (with the Russian Red Cross) and Central Committee for the Relief of the Sufferers from Massacres (with the Jewish Ministry in Ukraina).

In the larger cities such as Lutzk, Kremenetz, Dubno, Rovno, Sarny and Kamenetz-Podolsk, when large numbers of refugees were concentrated, the "Yekopo" had organized general dwelling places, cheap and free kitchens, consumers' cooperatives; the "Oze" had instituted asylums for children, ambulatories, hospitals; the "Ope" had been running schools and free courses. In May, 1916, after a request by the Jewish social organizations and after the Russian army had been moved further, and the vicinity of Kamenetz-Podolsk was not so near the frontier, the authorities gave the Jewish population of the evacuated towns Iarnoruda, Sbrutch Satanov, Husiatyn and Zhwanetz, permission to return to their homes. Then the "Yekopo" assisted the returned population in reconstructing and repairing their damaged buildings. The society had also granted loans to small merchants and artisans for the reestablishment of their workshops.

In 1919, relief work in Wohlynia was conducted by the Committee for the Relief of Pogrom Sufferers with the Red Cross, and in Podolia by the Central Committee for the Relief of the Pogrom Sufferers with the Jewish Ministry. Through their efforts kitchens were opened for adults, also kitchens and playgrounds for children; the persons benefited by such relief being pogrom sufferers only. The above named Jewish organizations, as "Yekopo", "Oze", had also at that time given all their

energy to pogrom sufferers and abandoned the work among the war sufferers, who were not in such distress and did not require immediate relief to such an extent.

At the time of the opening of American relief work in Wohlynia (Oct. 1919) and Podolia (Jan., 1919), there existed the following institutions in the towns:

Rovno: 1 Jewish Hospital, 1 Home for the Aged, 3 schools (2 Yiddish Schools and 1 Talmud Tora), 1 Yeshivo, 3 Kindergartens accommodating 120 children.

Kremenetz: 1 Jewish Hospital for 40 persons, 1 Home for Aged with accommodations for 30 persons, 4 schools (3 Yiddish Schools and 1 Talmud Tora), 1 Home for 50 children.

Dubno: 1 Home for Aged (25 persons), 2 schools (1 Yiddish School and 1 Talmud Tora), 1 Home for 40 children, 1 cheap kitchen, 1 free loan society.

Vladimir-Wohlynsk: 1 Kitchen, 1 Jewish Hospital, 1 School.

Sarhy: 2 Schools.

Koretz: 1 Hospital for 15 persons, 1 Home for Aged, 2 Schools (1 School, 1 Talmud Tora).

Kovel: 1 Home for Aged, 1 Kitchen, 2 Schools, 1 Talmud Tora.

Ratno: District of Kovel: 2 schools (1 Talmud Tora, 1 Hebrew School), 1 loan and savings society.

Turisk (Kovel District): 2 Schools (1 Talmud Tora, 1 School),
1 "Bikor Choilem"

Niesrzh " " : 2 Schools, (1 Talmud Tora, 1 School),
1 "Hachnosath Orchim"

Opelin " " : 1 School, 1 Talmud Tora

Kuratzkivali " " : 1 School

Kamien-Kosbyrsk " " : 1 School, 1 Talmud Tora, 1 "Bikor Choilem", 1 "Tomchei Anyim."

Great Lusha (Kovel District): 1 Talmud Tora.
Shatzk " " : 1 School
Derovok " " : 1 School
Vizhva, district of Kovel: 1 School, 1 Talmud Tora.
Lubomil " " " : 1 " , 1 " " , 1 Kitchen,
1 "Bikor' Chailom", 1 "Nachnosath
Orchim," 1 "Gekdest."
Motziev " " " : 1 School, 1 Talmud Torah, 1 loan
and savings institution, 1 "Ach-
iezer."
Manievitch: 1 Talmud Tora, 1 School
Melnitza: 1 " " , 1 " " , 1 "Tomchei Anzim"
Puivna: 1 " "
Gzerian: 1 " "
Ostroh: 1 Hospital for 25 persons, 2 schools, 1 Home for
Aged, 1 Kitchen, 1 loan and savings institution.
Shumsk, district of Kremenetz: 1 School, 1 Talmud Tora
Lutzk: 2 Schools, 1 Home for Aged
Zoslav: 1 Jewish Hospital for 20 persons.
Shepetovka: 1 School
Wishnevitz, district of Kremenetz: 1 School
Petchaiev, " " " : 1 School
Novograd-Wohlynsk: 1 Home for Aged, 1 Hospital, 1 Yeshivo (all
other institutions destroyed in the pogroms).
Proskurov, Podolia: 1 Jewish Hospital, 1 Home for Aged, 2 Orphan-
ages, 1 Kitchen, 1 Kindergarten for 65 child-
ren, 3 schools, 1 Talmud Tora, 1 Yeshivo.
Kamenetz-Podolsk: 1 Kitchen for 240 Persons, 1 Jewish Hospital,
1 Home for Aged, 2 Orphanages for 52 children
2 Kindergartens for 115 children, 2 schools
for 280 children.
Felshtin, district of Kamenetz: 1 Orphan Asylum.
Zinkov, " " " : 1 Hospital

Besides the above mentioned Institutions, there existed in the
district of Kamenetz (25 towns) 29 primary schools and about 20 kitchens

for children, and in the Rovno district - 4 kitchens for children.

The condition of the existing institutions up to the end of 1918 was more or less satisfactory. The necessary amounts for the current expenditures of those institutions were derived from various sources, such as taxing the population, a tax on Kosher meat and products (in Vladimir-Wohlynsk), support of the above mentioned social organizations and relief committees, support of municipal governments, support of the Ukrainian Jewish Ministry. The situation changed toward the end of 1918, when the massacres and the many political changes began, due to which it was difficult to maintain the normal existence of the institutions. With the coming of the Poles the condition of the institutions, and of the suffering population in general, became much worse, inasmuch as the social organizations, which had conducted relief activity here, were torn away from their centres, and all the relief work with the already established and functioning institutions were suddenly deprived of their foundation, so that their very existence was endangered.

IV. When American relief work in Wohlynia and Podolia began. Who of the American representatives visited the towns, and how and after what modes were the local committees organized. How much money have the above-mentioned town received each month during the present period covered by this report. How the first relief work was organized. What institutions were supported. General relief-kitchens, Homes for the Aged, schools in the cities and towns of the district. The development of the work.

In July, 1919, the representative of the JDC, Mr. Bashaim, visited the cities Kovel, Lutsk, and Vladimir-Wohlynsk. These cities were then nearest to the Bolshevik front. At the time martial law was proclaimed in Kovel. The civil population was forbidden to appear in the streets after 7 o'clock in the evening. Communication with other cities was also difficult and limited. And under these conditions the first American relief work was organized. Mr. Bashaim then left in the above named cities the first relief sum (in Kovel-20,000 Mk., in Vlad-

imir-Wohlynsk, 35,000 Marks, the rate of the dollar then being 35 Mks.) This money was largely spent in providing free and cheap dinners to the starving population, and in supporting existing institutions.

About that time, Kovel, Vladimir-Wohlynsk and Lutzk received the first "American gifts", consisting of clothing, shoes and products, which were distributed through the existing institutions among the poor population and partly sent also to the smaller towns. The committees in the above named cities were organized by and composed of local public men. Thus, for example, in Kovel and in Vladimir-Wohlynsk there existed at the time of Mr. Bashein's arrival committees at the free kitchens, which committees were conducting the general philanthropic work in their respective cities. These committees also undertook to organize the American Relief. The cities Lutzk, Kovel and Vladimir-Wohlynsk have received money support during July, August and September, 1919, as is shown in the following table. The rate of the American dollar then was 35-40 Marks.

	Kovel	Vladimir-Wohlynsk	Lutzk
July	20,000 Mk.	35,000 Mk.	
Aug.	70,000 "	60,000 "	
Sept.	88,000 "	74,000 "	88,000 Mk.

In the first days of October, 1919, after the Poles had occupied a few more districts of Wohlynia, the representative of the J.D.C., Lt. Schein, visited the cities Rovno, Koretz, Ostroh, Dubno and Kremenetz with the object of organizing the American relief for those cities and their districts. In Rovno, Mr. Schein called a meeting of the Jewish Community (Kehila), and a special commission was appointed to manage the American Relief. At the start of the work in the commission participated representatives of all Kehila factions: "Bund", "Fareinlete", "Poalei-Zion," Zionists and the orthodox. In the other cities, where no Kehilas existed, Mr. Schein had meetings with several persons, who formed a committee from among themselves.

Mr. Schein had visited all above named cities in the course of three days, stopping at each place only for a few hours. Naturally, it was impossible for him in the course of an hour or two to get thoroughly familiar with the situation and the conditions prevailing among the various factions of each city, or even find the more honest and trustworthy persons. The committees were therefore made up accidentally and oftentimes quite unsuccessfully. This circumstance led afterward to friction and crisis, which will be treated later in this report.

In the course of Mr. Schein's first visit to the above cities the following sums from J.D.C. funds were distributed:

For Kovno -	150,000	Mks.
" Koretz -	40,000	"
" Ostrog -	100,000	"
" Dubno -	105,000	"
" Kremenetz -	115,000	Mks.

The rate of the dollar at the time having been 40 Mks., according to Mr. Schein's directions 70% of the funds were to be used in the cities, and 30% in the towns of their respective districts.

Mr. Schein had also directed that the sums be used mainly for the purpose of feeding and children. He had not allowed the local committees to make any considerable expenditures for cultural relief, children's homes, orphanages, granting loans, etc.

A lively activity thereupon ensued. In all of the above named cities, as well as in a few smaller towns, kitchens were opened, in which the poorest among the population were receiving dinners, bread, products. Unfortunately, at the time of the Bolshevist invasion in July, 1920, the reports of the localities were lost, which contained all statistical data and registration of those, who had received dinners and bread in the kitchens. Only of a few towns information is available. Thus in Kremenetz, during the first month after the American committee

was organized, October 1919, about 700 persons received dinners and bread. In Rovno, 500 persons. In Dubno, 250 persons. In the course of the following months the number of such persons became much larger. Thus in Kremenetz, in January, 1920, the number of persons receiving dinner and bread had reached 1700.

In November, 1919, the Poles took the city of Novograd-Wohlynsk. For a whole month, this city had been the centre of battles among three foes; The Bolsheviki, the Petlura insurgents and the Poles, and had suffered from the most terrible massacres. The Jewish population then fled to the neighboring towns and villages. (In Koretz alone there were about 7000 of such refugees from Novograd-Wohlynsk). The city was at this time plundered, and over 50% of the houses and stores were burned. When the Poles occupied Novograd-Wohlynsk, the population gradually returned to the city. In November it was visited by Mr. Schein, who at once organized a local committee of a few persons, to whom he submitted the sum of 200,000 Mks. for relief work among the population.

In January, 1920, the Poles also won the district of Kamenetz-Podolsk, and Mr. James H. Becker, a representative of the J.D.C., who was at the time in Bucarest, visited Kamenetz-Podolsk. Here two committees were simultaneously active in the relief work: the Central Committee for the Relief of Pogrom Sufferers (organized by the Ukrainian Jewish Ministry) and a similar committee of the Jewish Kehila.

At the time of Mr. Becker's visit to Kamenetz-Podolsk, both Committees were without funds, and all relief work was discontinued. Mr. Becker then organized a united committee of representatives of all parties and factions, to which he gave 1,000,000 Roumanian Lei and 400,000 Russian Roubles (Romanoff). The Kamenetz-Podolsk committee thereupon undertook to organize general relief for the city and its vicinity.

Mr. Schein visited the larger towns in occupied Wohlynia 5

times: in October, November, December, January and February. In this last month he also visited the cities Kamenetz and Proskurov. A complete list of all the sums which Mr. Schein left in each city is appended to this report. The sums received each month were submitted to the district towns, which undertook to organize relief work also in the minor towns of each district. Here conflicts were often arising. The district towns would distribute the sums allotted to their respective districts according to their own judgment and without the participation of the districts. The representatives of the smaller towns were complaining to the centre at Warsaw that the sums were not adequately distributed, and they were demanding that they be made independent of the district cities and receive all needed and possible aid direct from Warsaw. But all these complaints and demands were left without results.

In Rovno the distribution of the moneys for the smaller towns was organized much better than in other cities. The sum assigned for the province, from 30 to 40% of the total amount received, was distributed among the small towns of the district through their own representatives, who had a conference for this purpose once every month in Rovno. There was also a special instructor with the Rovno Kehila, who would visit the smaller towns with the object of organizing the American relief there and controlling the work of the local committees.

The committees of the smaller towns were receiving monthly very insignificant sums, ranging from 3,000 to 15,000 Roubles. Thus, for instance, Ossova, in the district of Rovno, with a Jewish population of 1200, received for the month of November 3000 Mks., for December, 5500 Roubles and for January, 3920 Roubles. Besritch, in the district of Rovno, with a population of 2500 and 600 needy among them, received for November 6000 Mks. for December, 9800 Roubles. With such small sums it was, of course, impossible to conduct the relief work more or

less satisfactorily. The work in these small towns was therefore limited to supporting the children's kitchens of the P.K.P.D., distributing flour or bread once or twice a week among the poor population at low prices and to occasional assistance with small sums in cash.

In the larger district cities the relief work has, during this time developed much more, owing to the large sums which these cities received. Disregarding the formal veto of Dr. Schein, the local committees, as soon as they became firmer in their organization and more independent, undertook to organize the most necessary organizations. A complete list of the institutions thus built up in this region during the period of Oct., 1919, Apr., 1920 is appended to this report.

In Kamenets-Podolsk, the committee developed a very intensive activity in the various phases of relief work through the sub-committees. There were six such sub-committees, as follows:

1) A general department, which was conducting all the administrative work and running the registration, treasury and accounting divisions. This department also had relief instructors and gave legal aid to the pogrom sufferers.

2) An information and statistical department to collect all data relative to the needs of the Jewish population of the Kamenetz district.

3) A Medico-Sanitary department to care for the health of the Jewish population, organize medical aid when necessary and combat typhoid fever and other epidemic diseases.

4) A reconstruction and financial department to work out plans and budgets for the reconstruction of ruined industrial establishments and also consider and confirm such schemes and budgets from

the smaller towns in the district.

5) A cooperative credit department to assist the population in returning to peaceful and useful occupations, through organizing credit funds for artisans and small merchants and spreading cooperation among the Jewish population.

6) A social insurance department to provide for orphans and poor children in general, invalids and other persons in need and pogrom and war sufferers.

The committee in Kamenetz-Podolsk, as well as those in Wohlynia, has given particular attention to child relief work.

V. Child Relief Work. The condition of the destitute children before the J.D.C. The number and condition of the Kindergartens, Orphanages, Patronates before the J.D.C. and for the period covered by present report. The number of the childrens' kitchens of the P.K.P.D. The number of children fed in such kitchens.

The sad events of the years 1914-1919 have had most disastrous effects upon the condition of children. The war and pogrom orphans, of which there were at the time in the occupied part of Wohlynia about 6000, were mostly not provided for (No statistics are available for the province of Podolia). In the whole occupied portion of Wohlynia there was not a single orphan asylum, and only two such asylums existed in Kamenetz-Podolsk (One of them founded by the "Oze" in 1917 and the other by the Ukranian Jewish Ministry). Only 54 children were kept in these two orphanages. The remaining orphans have literally dwelt in the streets, in the school and bath houses, or in the Homes for the Aged, where the old, out of pity for the children, were sharing with them their scanty food.

Another instance is Novograd-Wohlynsk, which had suffered so much from massacres. On Nov. 1, 1919, the number of orphans in that city was about 900. When Mr. Schein, representing the J.D.C., together with a representative of the Rovno Committee for the Relief of

the Pogrom Victims in Ukrania visited for the first time, in November 1919, the institutions in Novograd-Wohlynsk, they found the following: in the local Home for the Aged, there was only one room, which served both for a dwelling-place and a kitchen. Besides, the old people, regular inmates of the Home, there have been kept in that room, under the worst conditions, 19 orphans, of the age of from 2 to 15 years.

Not much better was the condition of the children having parents who were unable to support them. Such children were drawn into street-trading, smuggling and were exposed to all the dangerous results of such occupations.

Of special institutions for children, which existed in Wohlynia and Podolia prior to the J.D.C., there were only 8 Kindergartens, constructed and maintained by the social organizations. The condition of these kindergartens was not bad, but the number of children kept in them was only 360, - a very insignificant percentage of the total number of children who were in need of such institutions.

Immediate relief for the children was organized through the children's kitchens. With the aid of the P.K.P.D., which distributed foodstuffs for the children (160 Grams of various products such as white flour, sugar, cocoa, rice, etc., - 15 Pfenigs worth to each child), there were organized in the occupied part of Wohlynia (excepting the district of Kovel, where childrens' kitchens were organized much later) during the period covered by this report about 60 childrens' kitchens, in which about 1700 children were fed. About 20 childrens' kitchens were also organized in the Kamenetz-Podolsk district, of which 8 kitchens were in Kamenetz, feeding 1200 children.

For the orphans, orphanages were organized, where the children were kept under the supervision of female Fröbelists and teachers and supplies with all they needed in clothing and food. Such orphanages were founded during the period covered by this report in the following

cities: Novograd-Wohlynsk (4), Dubno, Sarny, Rovno, Kovel and Koretz. Opening orphanages was made much more difficult owing to the fact that large sums were needed in equipping the houses, and the local committees could not at one time appropriate such large sums out of the general budget. Therefore only in such places orphanages were organized, where they were absolutely needed. The number of orphans in the newly organized orphanages has reached 320.

During this time 4 additional kindergartens were also opened: in Rovno (2), in Novograd-Wohlynsk and in Kremenetz. There were about 170 children kept in these kindergartens, mostly such as were under no one's supervision, orphans or semi-orphans, whose mothers had to look for some employment during the day.

In the district of Kamenetz-Podolsk there were opened a few Patronates (their number was not ascertained). These took care of children out of orphanages and with relatives. The children were being provided with food, clothing and proper supervision, and an interest was taken in their bringing-up, without tearing them away from their surroundings.

VI. Medico-Sanitary Relief. The situation before the J.D.C. Medical Institutions existing in the occupied part of Wohlynia and Podolia before the J.D.C. Their number and condition. Typhoid and other contagious diseases. Figures. How medico-sanitary relief was organized through local committees.

The general destruction of cities and towns and the political changes in Wohlynia and Podolia have also led to the destruction of the medico-sanitary institutions, which were long in existence in those provinces. In a number of cities and towns, the bathhouses were demolished. Despite the fact, that bath houses in a Jewish town are needed also for ritual purposes, the population of these towns was unable to reconstruct or repair the damaged bath houses. There were left without baths such cities as Dubno, having a Jewish population of 9000 persons and Novograd-Wohlynsk, with a population of 8000-10,000. In Ostrog, a city with a

Jewish population of 18,000 persons, the bath house was partly destroyed. In other small towns bath houses were still existing, but they were not heated for weeks, there having been no funds wherewith to buy fuel.

In many cities and towns, there had long been in existence the well-known, traditional Jewish societies and institutions, such as "Bikor Choilom", "Linath Hatzedek", "Ezrath Choilom" which were providing medical assistance for the poor population. The activity of such societies was conducted in quite a primitive way, yet their work in the normal pre-war times was very useful. The societies "Bikor Choilom" were paying a monthly salary to a male nurse or a physician, if their town had one. Such a nurse or physician would visit the poor sick gratis upon receipt of a list from the management or from the "Gabal" of the society. The societies "Linath Hatzedek" assisted the poor sick by having their prescriptions done at low prices, or sending one from among them to spend a night with the sick person.

In some cities, the above named societies took charge of the "Hekdesh", a specifically Jewish institution, serving simultaneously the purposes of a "Hachnosath Orchim" (Sheltering for strangers), a "Moishov Zkeinim" (Home for the Aged), and a hospital for the poor sick. The equipment and conditions prevailing in such a "Hekdesh" were very bad. The Jewish social organizations, which conducted the relief work in this region, were making efforts to transform such "Hekdesh'es" into more useful institutions with definite functions, according to the new destination of the institution thus transformed. Thus, for instance, in Kremenetz, the "Hekdesh" was changed by the "Oze" into a hospital, after the house had been fundamentally repaired by the society in 1917.

But also the activity of these societies had to be altogether discontinued during 1919 owing to general conditions and because of a shortage of funds and medicaments. Typhoid and other contagious diseases

had spread spontaneously among the Jewish population, and mortality among typhoid patients reached to 20% and 25%, and sometimes even to 50%. Unfortunately, the statistical material of all cities of Podolia and Wohlynia for that period were lost, but from what material and statistical data still remains it is seen how widely spread the epidemic diseases were in the above named towns. Thus, for instance, in Novograd-Wohlynsk, there were during the autumn and winter months September 1919, February 1920, 4900 persons suffering with typhoid out of a total Jewish population of 8000. The number of those who died of typhoid was about 900 persons. In Kamenetz-Podolsk, during the same period, Oct., 1919-Feb., 1920, about 1000 persons died of spotted typhus. In Zaslav, a city with a population of about 17,000 (Jews and Christians), there were in February, 1920, 2600 persons sick with spotted typhus. In the towns Kitaigorod, Solobkowitz, Sinkowitz, Zamerov about 90% of the children were sick with scabies. At the time the J.D.C. commenced its activities there existed in Wohlynia, seven Jewish hospitals: In Rovno, Novograd-Wohlynsk, Zaslav, Kremenetz, Vladimir-Wohlynsk, Koretz and Ostrog. These accommodated about 250 sick. There was also one hospital in Proskurov for 50 persons and 2 Jewish hospitals in the vicinity of Kamenetz. The hospitals, which were found in especially built and equipped houses and functioned quite normally up to 1918, were discontinued during 1918-1919. Some of them were requisitioned by the various military forces (Rovno, Kremenetz).

With the beginning of the American relief, the existence of the then functioning medical institutions, was for the first time assured. The institutions received support of the local American committees and were enabled to continue and extend their activity.

In the vicinity of Kamenetz-Podolsk, the medico-sanitary division of the Central Committee has put the medical relief in a comparatively better state than in the towns in Wohlynia. That medical division

had at its disposal several physicians, which were sent to places, where physicians were needed, but there were none, especially to the towns, which had suffered from massacres and had many sick and wounded. A few ambulatories, too, were organized in the vicinity, with a pharmacy and a pharmacist, who made up the physician's prescriptions out of the medicaments supplied by the central medico-sanitary commission. Besides medical relief, the medico-sanitary commissions with the local committees also fed the weak and convalescent for 15 days, in accordance with the norms defined by the medico-sanitary commissions. The medico-sanitary division has also appropriated certain sums for heating the bath houses for the poor twice a week, when each person also received a piece of soap, and for washing the underwear of the sick.

In the towns of Wohlynia the local American Committees organized free relief for the poor sick, paying a monthly fee to a physician for visiting them. But there was no central organ of specialists to organize the needed medical relief on the proper scale.

In January, 1920, Mr. Schein came to Rovno with an American physician, to whom 1,000,000 rubles was appropriated by the U.D.C. for medical relief in Wohlynia. However, he soon became more familiar with the grave situation in Wohlynia, caused by the epidemic diseases, and saw the great need of a broad and general medical relief activity, which would require a special office for this purpose, for the local committees were absolutely incapable of undertaking and conducting such special work. Not having any instructions from the centre to organize such broad activity, the physician left with Mr. Schein. For lack of a proper institution, with whom the appropriated 1,000,000 roubles could be left, the funds were not used, and the situation remained unchanged.

In March, 1920, special sums were appropriated through Mr. Gerstenzang, who then visited Wohlynia, for the repairing and reconstructing of destroyed bath houses. But such amounts were appropriated only for a

few larger towns, which Mr. Gerstenzang visited, as Kremenetz, Ostrog, Rovno, Old-Konstantinov and Novograd-Wohlynsk. The smaller towns, some of which were in much greater need of special sums for sanitary relief, were altogether disregarded.

During the time covered by this report, the local committees also founded new hospitals in Kovel and in Dubno, with 40 beds in the former and 30 in the latter.

VII. Clothing and its distribution. A complete list of the articles received for the occupied parts of Wohlynia and Podolia during the period covered by present report.

In the course of the winter months of 1919-1920, underwear, clothing, shoes, and other articles for the needy population of Wohlynia were sent in large quantities from Warsaw. Kremenetz had 3 carloads, Dubno - 2, Rovno - 3, Lutsk - 3, Novograd-Wohlynsk - 2, Ostrog-2 and Keretz-1. The articles were distributed through special committees, which Mr. Schein had organized in January with the participation of representatives of the Christian population. In accordance with Mr. Schein's directions, the poor Christian population has also received from 20 to 30% of the articles received. The remaining 60-70% were distributed among the needy Jewish population. The first to receive attention were the hospitals and child institutions, which were provided with the necessary quantity of underwear, clothing and shoes. A complete list of the articles received is appended to this report.

VIII. Cash remittances. Their importance. The military situation and the resulting communication difficulties. The work of the banks and private agencies in remitting money to Wohlynia from relatives in America. The work of the J.D.C. A complete list of sums sent "registered" through the J.D.C. during the period of this report. Communication with relatives in America.

In November, 1919, the first money orders from relatives in America began to arrive in Wohlynia through the J.D.C. The work was started under very unfavorable conditions. Communication was unusually difficult. Postal relations with occupied towns in Wohlynia were not

quite normal yet. Many banks and private agencies undertook money remittances from America to Woblynia, but the person to whom money was sent from America, had to come to Warsaw in person, in order to get his money. The local authorities, however, had made it very difficult to obtain from them permission to leave for Warsaw. Martial law then prevailed in Woblynia, and special permits were required to leave a place.

The banks and private agencies were also paying out money at a low rate of the dollar, which caused heavy losses to the addressees. When receiving money through the J.D.C., which had its agencies, local committees in every town, the addressees did not have any additional expenditures in getting their money. The remittances were very quickly sent from Warsaw to the local committees with correct addresses of the persons there, who received the money at the highest and latest rate of the dollar and were thus guarded against frauds by persons and private agencies.

A complete list of all cash remittances to Woblynia for the period of the report is appended to this report.

The local committees have also taken steps to open communication between the local population and their relatives in America. For this purpose several committees had printed special questionnaires, which would be filled out by those seeking their relatives in America. The questionnaires had the names and addresses of both parties and other short data, which were thus communicated through the Centrale in Warsaw to America.

IX. Organization. Reorganization of the Committees in Woblynia. Mr. Schmidt's visit to Kovel, Vladimir-Woblynsk and Rovno. Attempts to create one regional committee of representatives of all factions. Messrs. Fisher and Pine visit the towns in Woblynia and Podolia. Mr. Gerstensang's visit. The first conference of representatives of the local committees of Woblynia.

During the whole period of this report relief activity in Wob-

lynia was conducted from the centre at Warsaw through the local committees. The composition of the local committees was mostly accidental and did not include representatives of the many factions and groupings. The local committees which supported different institutions, were using their power to exert an influence upon the very spirit, in which those institutions were functioning. This led to many protests on the part of such groups, as were not participating in the committees (Rovno, Kremenetz, Novograd-Wohlynsk and other towns). Wohlynia did not have a regional bureau, which should be familiar with the state of things in the province, should investigate conditions and possibilities of relief work and itself become the much-needed guide in all such work.

The lack of plan and system was, therefore, made itself felt. The committees worked upon their own responsibility, being far from the centre and, to a certain degree, not connected with it. There was also no connection between the committees themselves, and what was being done during the period of this report was of an accidental character and utterly devoid of system.

The Warsaw Centrale has therefore taken steps to reorganize the local committees, interest in relief work representatives of all factions, organize in Rovno a regional committee with the participation of all persons active in the various groups and thus create a possibility of unified and systematic activity. For this purpose, the representative of the J.D.C., Mr. Schmidt, has in March, 1920, visited Kovel, Vladimir-Wohlynsk and Rovno. Committees were created in Kovel and Vladimir-Wohlynsk with the participation of citizens, representatives of left parties and several impartial persons of the local "intelligentzia."

The newly created committees in Kovel and Vladimir-Wohlynsk were to commence their functions at the moment when in Rovno, the

central city in Wohlynia, a similar unified committee will be organized. However, all attempts to organize such a committee in Rovno were unsuccessful. The Kehila on one hand, which had been doing all relief work in Rovno and the district was very unwilling to lose control over this work, regarding such a change as an infringement upon the rights of the elected Kehila. On the other hand, the representatives of the left parties have also refused to send their men into the new committee, after many conferences and negotiations, and after the left parties in Warsaw had published in their papers a manifesto, calling upon their comrades not to participate in the newly-projected committees. After the example of Rovno, the united committees in Kovel and Vladimir-Wohlynsk were also dissolved, and so the reorganization was not accomplished.

In April, 1920, Mr. Shohan, the J.D.C. Director in Wohlynia and Podolia, called the first conference with the participation of representatives of the local committees. With this, began the second or "Unit" period of the relief activity in the occupied region.