Icze Rotholc (“Porper”)

Icze Rotholc, who was known by the nickname “Porper”¹, was an employee in the “Dobroczynność” [Charity] welfare society, and he was Henryk Markusfeld’s right-hand man. Porper was a poor Jew - he owned no factories, businesses or buildings, but depended on the wages from his work. To compensate, he had a different treasure - a good heart, and he always strove to help others by all possible means.

During the First World War, when hunger, need and cold reigned in the homes of the less fortunate, Porper took bread to hand out to them. Hungry Christians approached him and asked him to give them bread. Porper did not think long, and gave them bread to still their hunger. The proboszcz [parish priest] of the church found out about this and sent Porper a thank-you letter in acknowledgement of his deed.

The Jewish population also highly appreciated Porper’s activity and treated him with respect and deference. Porper was active in Hachnuses Orchim and the orphanage. He was there in any place where aid was needed, performing above his strengths. Icze Porper was an involved, communal activist, and the entire populace - both Jews and Christians - spoke of him with great recognition.

Icze Porper died shortly after the First World War.

¹ [TN: We have not been able to ascertain the origin or meaning of this sobriquet.]