

A Glorious Chapter from the Near Past

Ezriel Jakubowicz, who emigrated to the land of Israel as a pioneer in 1937, was engaged as correspondent for the "Częstochower Zeitung." In his reports from the land of Israel, the deep connection of the Częstochowa Jews to their old-new homeland, and their great contribution to the building of the country, are markedly manifest. We [hereby] present an abridged version of some of his reports, due to their historical significance for Częstochowa landsleit throughout the entire globe.

(The Editors)



**E. Ben-Moshe
(Jakubowicz)**

1) A Częstochower Colony in the Land of Israel

Already for many years, Mr Roda [sic. Rodal] has had the idea creating a Częstochowa circle in the Land of Israel. He has called more than one meeting on this issue and has always proposed creating a rural settlement of Częstochowa *landsleit* in the Land of Israel, where they would be able to live communally, create and fulfil themselves socially and culturally.

We call to mind that there was a time when his plan generated great interest in the Zionist circles of all political tendencies. Over time, the plan was almost forgotten, but it has now characteristically resurfaced and precisely here - in the Land of Israel.

The facts of the Częstochowa colony are as follows:

In 1920's Poland, the purchase of parcels of land in the Land of Israel was very much a current topic. Polish Jews signed up with various companies, which would buy land in the Land of Israel. Częstochowa Jews, of course, did not remain under-represented in this respect. As soon as good times came, people bought parcels blindly, trusting these companies. People handed over possessions, just to have a little something - in 120 years' time - in the Holy Land. One of the largest of these companies was the "Hanił"¹ association, which bought Arab lands in Jeida, fifteen kilometres from Haifa. The association began building a Jewish settlement². Firstly, a large textile plant was built - then a settlement began to be created. But later, the bloody riots broke out in the Land of Israel and, at the very beginning of the events, the factory was burnt down³.

No longer having a source of livelihood due to the factory's liquidation, the residents of Jeida left one by one.

Of late, several *Częstochowers* have begun taking an interest in Jeida, settling in the land there. The old-new plan has been reborn, to settle up to twenty Częstochowa families in Jeida and to create a *Częstochower* "colony" there.

Many *Częstochowers* dedicate themselves to implementing this plan. A proposition has even been made to name the colony after Rabbi Nuchem Asz z''l. The rebuilding of the factory is being managed by the brother of M. Mogel [sic. Fogel], the Częstochowa *Aguda* activist. He decides all issues in Jeida.

¹ [TN: "הניל" in the original Yiddish; probably a misprint. From historical sources, it emerges that the corporation to which the author refers was the AZC (American Zion Commonwealth), which bought tracts of land in Palestine and sold them to Jews in the USA and Poland.]

² [TN: Ramat Yishai, in 1925.]

³ [TN: According to historical sources, the textile plant was burnt down by armed rioters on the night of 5th June 1938.]



E. ben-Moshe (Jakubowicz) visits Częstochowa after the war, wearing the uniform of the British Army

2) Częstochowa - a Zionist City

The Częstochowa community in Tel-Aviv is a large one and this is certainly no wonder. Częstochowa has forever been a Zionist city, both in monetary expenditure, as well as in practical work for the Land of Israel.

The emigration-stream of Częstochowers to the Land of Israel dates back to the First World War. Hundreds and thousands (we are not exaggerating) of Częstochowa youth came with the various pioneering organisations and went to the *kibbutzim* to work the soil which had been forsaken for thousands of years. Many of them fell at work, to Arab bullets or to malaria.

With their blood and sweat, they transformed dreary deserts into sprouting and fruitful ground. Not only did pioneers leave Częstochowa, but also common Jews - some [were] Zionist sympathisers and [there were] also others who had comprehended that a horrific catastrophe awaited the Jews in the Diaspora.

The greater part of the *Częstochowers* settled in Tel-Aviv. The Chairman of the Association of Częstochowa Jews, Mr Godl Frajtag, informs me that there are, in Tel-Aviv, over two-thousand Częstochowa Jews of varying ages.

3) Częstochowers in Tel-Aviv

There are numerous Częstochowa *landsleit* in Tel-Aviv who, during their stay in the Land of Israel, have fought their way to social and representative positions. One of them is the former Częstochowa Halachic authority, known as the Rabbi of Wola, Rabbi Jszajewicz. Rabbi Jszajewicz is already familiar to the Częstochowa public for having served as a rabbi in Częstochowa and even more so for his book-publishing and printing-press. But, having always been a fervent religious Zionist and a *Mizrachi* activist, he put his



A group of Częstochowers in the Land of Israel, in 1926.

ideals into effect by emigrating to the Land of Israel many years ago.

During almost the entire time during which he has lived in the Land of Israel, he has occupied the position of Rabbi of Neve Sha'anana (a suburb of Tel-Aviv).

4) *Częstochow*ers Build a House in Tel-Aviv

History repeats itself - a group of *Częstochowa* lads have met while building a house. This happened quite by accident, [when] the renowned *Częstochowa* industrialist J.K. [Kohn] bought a large house here, on the corner of Balfour Street and Rothschild Boulevard. He altered and renovated almost entirely this house, making it into a modern home with central heating and other up-to-date installations, as befits a Tel-Aviv mansion. It should be acknowledged that Mr K. has hired, for the rebuilding of his house, almost only *Częstochow*ers, both professional craftsmen and general labourers as well.

In this manner, *Częstochow*ers met one another at work and a familiar atmosphere was created. The owner's father, the old *Częstochowa* burgher Mr M.K., potters about around the house. One may also notice [there] the Gruszka brothers, who were once painters in *Częstochowa* and, next to them, on the scaffolding, we see the pioneers B. Hercberg J. Rapaport and the writer of these lines. The latter lug bricks about, tear down walls, carry lime and do everything that common labourers must do.

5) *Częstochow*ers in Haifa

We, a group of *Częstochow*ers from Tel-Aviv, went over to Haifa for a short visit. Despite the insecurity that prevails on the road, the motorcars transit normally. This is how the Jewish Settlement in the Land of Israel lives now.

On the one hand, wild Arab terror reigns - passing cars are shot at [and] the development of civilisation is hindered. On the other hand, the Settlement stands stead-fast in its positions.

After two hours of travelling at top speed, we reached Haifa. The first impression was an imposing one.

We visited the city - the Arab quarter, the Jewish Mount Carmel and the country's famous holiday resort, Hadar Ha'Carmel⁴. Afterwards, we made our first visit to the *Częstochowa* "ambassador" in Haifa, Mr Juda Dancyger.

Częstochowa surely still remembers Mr Dancyger, who left it many years ago, when he was a member of the contemporary City Council.

As we were informed, many *Częstochow*ers live in Haifa. Almost the entire Wajs family is already there [and also] the families Goldsztajn, Goldberg, Wolfowicz, Klin, Oppman, Borzykowski and others.



Chaim Dawid Wolfowicz z'I was the organiser of the *Częstochowa* "Lira" Orchestra in 1907. He was also a Kehilla representative. He was born in 1885, emigrated to Palestine in 1933, and died in Petah-Tikva in 1949.

⁴ [TN: Nowadays the Haifa city centre.]



Josek Menachem [Mendel], son of Boruch Aryje [Lejbus] Lipski z"l, was a disciple of [Reb] Yehoshuale [Trunk] of Kutno [and] the leader of the Kehilla and Keren Ha'Yesod in Częstochowa. He was born in 1860. He emigrated to Palestine with his wife in 1925, and died in 1939 in Petah-Tikva. His wife, Chana Lipski, daughter of Jechiel [Michel] Goldfarb z"l, was the sister of the prodigy from Grotopzisk [sic]⁵. Her daughter Ester z"l was born in 1886 and died in 1926.

⁵ [TN: Probably a misprint of Grodzisk- Mazowiecki, as the Goldfarb family came from there to Częstochowa.]