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My Memories of the 1935 City Council Elections

If, in those years, Poland was blessed with the “*Endecja*” (National Democratic Party) - the greatest opponent of Piłsudski’s “*Sanacja*” [Reform] Party [i.e., the PPS; Polish Socialist Party] and moreover the bitterest haters of Jews, whom they were prepared to drown even in a “teaspoon of water”, [then] this “plague” was particularly strengthened in our Częstochowa.

It is very possible that the “holiness” with which the Catholics endowed our city, due to the icon of the “Mother” [Madonna], also had large influence, in that the “*Endecja*” were able to turn it into one of their largest and strongest strongholds.

I had the honour of being delegated to the Zawodzie [neighbourhood] ballot, as the representative of the Zionist Organization and the “Ha’Chalutz-Craftsmen” which was part of that organisation.

The streets Nadrzeczna, Garncarska, Mostowa, Targowa and the rest of the little streets of Jewish poverty were added to this electoral district. This was done with the obvious intention of “drawing out” the Jewish vote from a purely Jewish electoral district, in order to increase the chances of the “*Endecja*” being able to snatch up Jewish mandates as well.

It is interesting to recount that, at the voting location where I was delegated, there were two doors, one wide and the second narrow. According to the rules, the voters were supposed to enter through the wide door and exit through the narrow one. However, the Jews were not permitted to use the wide door and they were forced to push tightly through the narrow one - or entirely to give up and not participate in the elections at all.

The lawyer Koniarski, who was the representative of the general Jewish lists, ran from one electoral neighbourhood to another in order to prevent trickery against Jewish voters. However, his success was small. The Jewish public doers, therefore, decided to demand from the authorities that the elections be declared void. A commission of inquiry was appointed, which started its work on 31st May 1935 – actually, a date that, for me, had a separate historical significance. - it was the happy day on which we had the privilege of immigrating to the land of Israel.

I still managed to give my testimony before the commission of inquiry, which was made up of representatives from the Warsaw Ministry of Interior, [the] Kielce *Województwo* and from the Częstochowian *starostwo* [district office], as well as the local police commander.

Lawyer L. Asz, Szmul Frank, the *prezes* [Pol. President, Chairman] of the Jewish Community Council Jakob Rozenberg and the lawyer Koniarski presented arguments on behalf of the Jews.

The commission interrogated me at length and it ended with a bit of an incident:

31st May 1935 was a Saturday and I refused to sign the protocol, because I did not wish to desecrate the *Shabbat*.

That was my last action in those elections.