

Zionist Organisation Events in Our City*

(Collected from the "*Ha'Tzfira*" Newspaper in 1918)

About "*Tzeirei Ha'Mizrachi*"

At the beginning of winter, a small group of "*Tzeirei Mizrachi*", which now numbers forty-five members, was founded by Rabbi Zlotnik of Gąbin. This group has now instituted Talmud lessons. At the inauguration of the lessons, warm and exalted speeches were given by the Chief Rabbi Reb Nachum Asz and the Chairman of the "*Mizrachi*" Union, Mr. Koblenz, regarding the role of "*Tzeirei Mizrachi*", in general, and the importance of Talmud study in particular. They also intend to institute Hebrew language lessons. The number of members is steadily increasing. Youngsters planted a tree in "*Herzl's Forest*" named after Rabbi Zlotnik.

"*Ha'Tzfira*" #5 (dated 31/01/1918)

About "*Ha'Mizrachi*"

The "*Ha'Mizrachi*" Union in our city is developing in a desirable manner. In the few months since the union was approved by the authorities, the temporary council leading it has been able to secure around 120 members, for "*Mizrachi*", from among important townspeople and has rented a spacious complex for "*Mizrachi*" in the city centre, in which there is a large hall for reading and assemblies, as well as a synagogue for "*Ha'Mizrachi*" members, in which they gather daily and every evening. A sizeable group of members learn a Talmud lesson. "*Ha'Mizrachi*" has also founded the "*Tzeirei Zion*" Union (the allusion is apparently to "*Tzeirei Mizrachi*"), whose members number fifty and they, too, have set themselves daily two-hour Talmud lessons and are now striving to set themselves Hebrew lessons for the members. The "*Ha'Mizrachi*" council stands ready to aid and support them in anything possible.



This week, "*Ha'Mizrachi's*" temporary council called a general assembly of members. The assembly was opened by Chairman of the temporary council, the member of the central committee, Mr. Józef Szymon Koblenz, and, with warm and energetic words, he urged those gathered to do and act for the Zionist ideal in general and particularly for the goals of "*Ha'Mizrachi*". Afterwards, a report of the council's activities, until today, was read. After the general assembly approved the account of income and expenses until today, as well as the budget for next year of four thousand marks, they went on to elect a new council and an "Audit Committee". Chosen were Messrs. Józef Szymon Koblenz, Abram Henoch Finkelsztajn, Anczel Warszawski, Szmul Goldsztajn, Izrail Plocker, Jakob Majer Grinfeld, Izrail Menachem Zilberberg, Chaim Zvi Kon, Chaim Weksler, and Szlojme Prawer. The "Audit Committee" will comprise Mordka Sudowicz, Zvi Berliner and Jakob Cygler.

"*Ha'Tzfira*" #8 (dated 07/027/1918)

* These segments were collected by Mr. M. Ch. Tiberg from the "*Ha'Tzfira*" newspaper of 1918 and they are published verbatim, as they were printed in the day.

Dr Meir Klumel's Visit to Częstochowa

On Tuesday of last week, the Vice-Chairman of the Central Council in Poland, Dr Klumel, stayed in our city. At the meeting, which was held in his honour at the Zionist centre with the participation of the city's notables, the honourable guest lectured on the current status of the Zionist movement in all countries and on the Zionist ideal, which will materialise before long. He also explained the Zionist Organisation's stance regarding the question of Poland's Jews. He later spoke about the Dr Jechiel Tschlenow z"l and called on the assembled for organised and unified work towards the Zionist ideal.

Mourning for Dr Jechiel Tschlenow

On Wednesday, the city's Zionist Council held a special meeting, with the participation of the councils of all the Zionist unions in our city, to confer together regarding arrangement of a day of mourning in commemoration of our exalted leader Dr Tschlenow z"l. It was decided to inscribe the name of the deceased in the Golden Book; that all members of the organisation conduct themselves in mourning until the end of the *shloishim* [30 days after the death] and to designate Thursday, 2nd Adar [14th February], as a day of mourning, following this program: at noon, studies will end in all the secondary and public schools and the different *cheders*. At 4 p.m., a memorial service for the deceased will be held in the city's Old Synagogue. From 4 until 7 in the evening, all shops will be closed; at 8 p.m., a public mourning assembly will be held at "Harmonia" hall.

And, on this day, our opponents, indeed, realised that the Zionist ideal has sprouted deep roots amongst the wide ranks of Jews in our city. "Tzeirei Zion" members worked with great devotion. Studies ended at 12 noon in all secondary, public schools and *cheders* and, in Polish schools too, Jewish students were released from school at the same time. When the city clock struck the fourth hour, all Jews closed their shops and, a few moments later, all the Jewish shops, and also those of the orthodox, were closed. The Jews closed their shops and went to the synagogue for the memorial service. It was possible to see, on all the streets, men and women hurrying to the synagogue and children from different schools thronged in processions to the synagogue, until it filled and was too small to contain all the people waiting in the street. A crowd of six thousand filled the building. The cantor, Mr. Rozental, with the choir, sang psalms and said the prayer "*El Mole Rachamim*" [God full of Mercy; funeral prayer]. After the service, Rabbi Józef Szymon Koblenz, a member of the "*Ha'Mizrachi*" organisation's Central Council, delivered a sermon about the value of our great loss and, with passionate words, he called upon the congregation to continue the deceased's work. He particularly urged the youth and students to follow the deceased's path. At the end, the cantor, accompanied by the choir and the entire congregation, sang "*Hatikvah*".

At eight in the evening, a large public assembly was held at "Harmonia" hall. The hall was draped in black. A picture of the deceased doctor, framed with a blue-and-white Star of David, draped in black and surrounded by lit candles, made a fierce impression on all those gathered. The Chairman of the City Council, Mr. Zandsztajn, the engineer Mr. Pinchas Ratner, Mr. Michał Grejniec and Mr. J. Szwayger gave speeches. The assembly was concluded with the singing of Zionist songs. A sum of two hundred marks was collected for the inscription of the deceased's name in the Golden Book and one hundred marks' worth of "*Keren Kayemeth*" vouchers were sold.

"*Ha'Tzfira*" #8 (dated 28/02/1918)

The Elections for the Community Council

On the 18th and 19th of this month [Nisan; 31st March and 1st April 1918], elections for the governance of the community were held in Częstochowa. From the 703 persons who have the right to vote, 339 voted. The Unified Electoral Committee list received 262 votes; the Assimilationist party - only 77 votes. As members of the community leadership, the following were elected: Henryk Markusfeld (Zionist), Szmul Goldsztajn (*Mizrachi*), Abram Hamburger (no party). As candidates [?], the following were elected: Berisz Horowicz (Zionist), Natan Gerichter (Zionist), Izrail Mendel Zilberberg (*Mizrachi*) and Natan Rozenchwajg (no party).

“Ha’Tzfira” #16-17 (dated 25/04/1918)

Częstochowa Aiding War Victims in the Land of Israel

In the list of donations in aid of our brothers, the war victims in the Land of Israel and the number of signatures on the proclamation regarding the Land of Israel for the People of Israel which were collected between 17th Tamuz and 9th Av 5677 [7th-28th July 1917] by the Zionist Organisation in Poland, the city of Częstochowa appears with the sum of 1502.89 marks and 3,843 signatures.

“Ha’Tzfira” #21 (dated 23/05/1918)

Częstochowa’s Donations to “Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael” in [the first] Half of 5678 [1917-1918]

In the general report of proceedings of the Central Bureau of “Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael” in Poland, between 1st Tishrei [17th September 1917] and 1st Nisan 5678 [14th March 1918], - the city Częstochowa appears as follows [in German marks]:

Vouchers and telegrams	ℳ100.00
Self [-imposed (?)] tax	ℳ75.75
Settling the Land of Israel	ℳ271.56
Redeeming the land	ℳ79.76
War victims	ℳ71.40
Herzl’s forest	ℳ580.00
Estate donations	ℳ40.00
Houses	ℳ446.89
Boxes	ℳ47.92
Diverse donations	ℳ108.23
Blessings for <i>Rosh Hashone</i> 5678	ℳ133.25
Total :	ℳ1,954.76

“Ha’Tzfira” #24 (dated 13/06/1918)

“Ha’Mizrachi’s” Share in the Aforementioned Activity

During the said period, the proceedings from the Zionist Orthodox Federation “Mizrachi” in Częstochowa were: [for] settling the Land of Israel \mathcal{M} 58.61, vouchers and telegrams \mathcal{M} 20.00, Herzl’s forest \mathcal{M} 12.00, diverse donations \mathcal{M} 166.31; in total: \mathcal{M} 256.92.

(According to that same paper)

The Memorial Service for Rabbi Shmuel Mohilever z”l

Częstochowa: On 17th Sivan [28th May], we held a public assembly for the 20th anniversary of the death of Reb Shmuel Mohilever’s z”l, with the participation of Izaak Rywkind from Łódź, who lectured on the subject “*The Life and Achievements of Reb Shmuel Mohilever*”. The great hall was filled with many hundreds of people and a tremendous impression was left on them. As a token of gratitude, ten trees were planted in the orator’s honour at “Herzl’s forest” in [the] “Częstochowa Tzeirei Mizrachi Park”.

“Ha’Tzfira” #30 (dated 25/07/1918)

New Council for “Ha’Mizrachi”

On 16th Tamuz [26th June], we held a general assembly. To the new council were elected Messrs. Oberman, Gold, Wiewiorka, Koblenz and Granek. We have already gone to work. We have instituted Talmud, bible, Hebrew language and Jewish history lessons. Every Saturday, Mr. Józef Szymon Koblenz, a member of the Central Council in Warsaw, teaches members a lesson in Talmudic literature. Afterwards, members organise a discussion on diverse topics: Zionism, sciences and general [affairs].

(According to that same paper)

Mourning the Death of Dr T. Herzl

On 20th Tamuz [30th June], we participated with the Zionists in the organisation of a Mourning Rally for the death of Dr Herzl z”l. On that day, we ourselves collected more than three hundred marks for “Herzl’s Forest”.

(According to that same paper)

Memorial Service for the Death of the Prodigy the Netzi”v [acronym for Naftali Zvi Yehuda Berlin] of Vałożyn

In accordance with our decision regarding the conference in Łódź, on Menachem-Av 28th [6th August], we wish to hold a public popular assembly with the participation of local speakers in memory of the Netzi”v z”l.

(According to that same paper)

Synagogue for the Zionist Union in Częstochowa

A synagogue for the Zionist Union has now been established in our city, on the First Aleja, #1. The building is very beautiful. All who worship regularly in this building take it upon themselves to donate a *shekel* and also to join our union as a member. Every Saturday, lectures on Zionist matters will be read.

Preparations are being made to collect sums for the "Tschlenow Fund" and, to this purpose, Rabbi Zlotnik of Gąbin and others have visited our city.

"Ha'Tzfira" #33 (dated 15/08/1918)

Honours for a Polish Catholic Bishop

The head of the Jewish community and the Rabbi of Częstochowa, presented the Catholic priest Fulman, who was appointed a bishop, with a magnificent address in which the Jewish community in Częstochowa expresses its gratitude to this bishop for the acts of charity which he performed for Jews.

"Ha'Tzfira" #44 (dated 31/10/1918)

The Zionists' Stance in Community Matters

In Częstochowa, on Wednesday 23rd Kislev [8th December], a meeting was held at the community centre concerning the creation of a council alongside the community leadership. The Zionists' counsels demanded that the council be founded on a base of acknowledgement of the nationalist principles. The assimilationists and the orthodox, who participated in this meeting, did not approve the Zionists' proposal and, therefore, the Zionists and their sympathizers left the meeting and 24 counsels of the assimilationists and orthodox remained, from whom a 20-member council was appointed.

"HaTzfira" #50 (dated 12/12/1918)