

SECONDARY EDUCATION, ELEMENTARY, PRIMARY

Without the promulgation by the Central Government of any ruling in this matter, the General Government of Algeria, on 30th September, 1941, simply signified by letter to the Chief Rabbi of Algiers that a numerus clausus of 14% would be applied in the public schools as from 1st January, 1942.

This entirely arbitrary decision, taken without authority and regardless of the constitutional law rendering primary education free and obligatory on all, has driven from the public schools thousands of Jewish children, whom the Jewish Community of Algiers, with great difficulty, have succeeded in placing in Jewish schools.

Still without authority, this quota of 14% was reduced by half for the re-opening of the school term of October, 1942.

The law of 19th October, 1942, applied solely in Algeria, and not in the Metropolis and the rest of the Empire, has finally confirmed this percentage and has considerably aggravated this measure by prohibiting Jewish children, excluded from the public schools, from presenting themselves for the principal final examination; baccalaureats, brevets, &c.

In the meantime, private Jewish education in Algeria has been regulated by the law of 31st December, 1941, which gives to the academic authorities a right of control and surveillance greater than that which is exercised on non-Jewish private education.

LAW AGAINST PROPERTY

In order to complete the elimination of Jews from the Algerian economic field, the decree of 21st November, 1941, supplemented by that of 13th April, 1942, allows the Governor General to appoint provisional administrators to:

- 1) All industrial, commercial, real estate or trade undertakings;
- 2) All real estate titles to buildings or titles to leases whatsoever;
- 3) All furnished property, transferable securities, or personal dues whatsoever, when they are owned or administered by Jews, or when their owners or administrators include any Jews.

Hundreds of provisional administrators have consequently been appointed throughout Algeria to the thousands of properties belonging to Jews.

The task of the provisional administrator is to realise the assets, to proceed to the sale of the administered property and to deposit the proceeds into the Caisse des Depots et Consignations, after deduction of course of his fees, the proportional scale of which was fixed by the decrees of 16th December, 1941 and 25th March, 1942. The person thus despoiled has in certain circumstances the right to present a request for financial assistance.

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and regulations relative to the Jews.

3) To proceed to the application of these measures in so far as concerns the status of the Jews, their civil and political capacity, and their fitness to exercise employments or professions.

4) To have the power, in conjunction with the competent bodies and taking into account the needs of Algerian economy, to order the administration or the liquidation of Jewish property in cases where these operations are prescribed by law.

BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ARYANISATION

The decree of the 15th November, 1941, created a bureau of aryanisation charged with the application of the measures prescribed by law so far as concerned the aryanisation of undertakings, properties and capital belonging to Jews.

GENERAL UNION OF ALGERIAN JEWS

The decree of 14th February, 1942, created the Union Generale des Israelites d'Algerie: this Union compulsorily includes all the Jews of Algeria; all Jewish Associations, with the exception of cultural societies, are dissolved and merged into the Union; the directors of the Union are designated by the Governor General and are responsible to him; it carries out assistance to the Jews of Algeria, it fulfils the tasks which are laid upon it in this domain by the General Government and is under the close control of the latter.

Its resources are constituted by the sums which the General Government deduct from the fund called the "Solidarite Juive", that is to say, from a part of the property of which the Jews have been despoiled; its resources are further derived from compulsory levies, a veritable Jewish tax, the scale of which has to be approved by the Government General. The Board of Administration of the Union was appointed by decree of the General Government on 15th September and 6th November, 1942. The Board of Administration has not met, and the Union has therefore, not yet begun to function.

SANCTIONS

All the restrictions set out above, all the obligations which bear on the Jews by reason of their origin, are accompanied by punishments, in case of their infraction, varying from a fine to living under surveillance, imprisonment, or the confiscation of property.

SINCE THE 8th NOVEMBER, 1942

On the morrow of the landing of the Allied Forces in North Africa and at the moment when African France once more took up arms against the Axis Powers, the Jewish population had legitimate grounds for hoping for the total abrogation of all the anti-Semitic legislation of Nazi inspiration.

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since the 8th November, two months have passed, without these hopes being realised, despite certain official declarations.

SUPPOSED ALLEVIATIONS

The sole measures taken up to this date in a sense which pretends to be favourable to the Jews consist in appointing certain provisional administrators of their own property in replacement of some provisional administrators who have been mobilised.

These administrative withdrawals can be supplemented by other examples, such as, in the administration of the P.T.T., the reinstatement of some Jewish officials, not, however, with all their rights and prerogatives, but as supplementary employees in an essentially precarious position.

MILITARY MEASURES

The racial legislation still in force has been aggravated by new measures of discrimination; the mobilisation of Jews in separate units as workers,

Thus, in liberated French North Africa, when the French are called up to fight against Germany, those of Jewish origin are, as in Nazi countries, relegated to labour groups.

This time it is not even the maintenance of a legislation imposed by Germany, but a new application of the Nazi mobilisation laws.

In each department there has been created an assembly-point for Algerian Jews of all grades (Cheragas for the department of Algiers, Bedeau for the department of Oran, El-Guerra for the department of Constantine).

In the same way the convocations in the military Chantiers de Jeunesse formally exclude the Jews.

THE EXCESSES OF THE ALGERIAN ADMINISTRATION

Thus powerfully armed against 130,000 Algerians by all the decrees which we have just summarised, the Algerian Administration has never failed to give them a scope and a meaning which the legislature had doubtless not contemplated.

We could multiply the examples; in this report, we will only indicate the most characteristic; these are

- 1) Jewish housekeepers employed in maternity welfare schools have been driven from their modest employment on the pretext that they form part of the teaching staff, a branch which has been absolutely prohibited to Jews.
- 2) Jewish newspaper-sellers are prohibited from working on the pretext that all professions which concern the Press have been radically forbidden to Jews.

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- 3) Jewish lottery-ticket vendors have also been forbidden to work on the pretext that all the professions which concern banking are radically forbidden to the Jews (We would observe, however, that this interdiction has not yet been applied).
- 4) A Jewish ex-soldier, with the Medaille de Verdun, loses the right to ply his little donkeys and carriages for hire in the public squares, on the pretext that this would be a matter of public undertaking.
- 5) Jewish students of the Beaux-Arts have been excluded without any legal pretext whatsoever.
- 6) The same has happened to the Jewish students of the Maison-Carree Agricultural Institution, an establishment which, for no good reason, has been wrongly classed among the institutions of higher education.
- 7) The record-keepers of the Magistrates, of the Tribunals of the 1st Instance and of the Court of Appeal have been dismissed, on the pretext that their functions are comparable to those of the magistrates.
- 8) In the same way Jewish medical students; interneess and externeess of the hospitals, have been arbitrarily classed as functionaries and have been dismissed under this heading.

An anti-Jewish decree has hardly been promulgated in the Metropolis before the Algerian Administration have hastened to see it applied in Algeria. Thus:

- 1) The decree of 6th June, 1942, regulating the artistic professions in the Metropolis in so far as concerns Jews, provoked in Algeria, before even it became operative pressure on employers to dismiss Jewish orchestra and casino artistes.
- 2) In the same manner the Algerian Administration proceeded to take a census of Jewish pharmacists before the decree of the 26th December, 1941, concerning the exercise of this profession by Jews in the Metropolis, had become applicable to Algeria.
- 3) Even before the decree of 3rd February, 1942, had appeared, instituting a Numerus clausus with regard to Jewish public officials, the General Government had issued an order on 22nd January, 1941 (i.e. nearly a year before the compulsory measure) to prohibit the Jews from competing for entry into the Administrative service.

Without any legal authority from the General governors the Algerian Administration resorted to the persecution of the Jewish population:

- 1) Without authority they drove the Jewish children from the public schools; they finally created a Numerus Clausus /of

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of V., which they applied in detail in the most unfair manner, by prohibiting, notably, the regrouping of children who had been eliminated into other classes where the Numerus Clausus was not filled, in forbidding access to the Sixth Form in the Secondary Schools to little Jewish girls, and in forbidding Jewish children to stay in their classes a second year.

2) The Prefect of Algiers, by decree regulating the distribution of milk, fixes the following categories of priority: Europeans, natives, foreigners, and lastly Jews, on the pretext that the largest part of the milk production is cornered by the Jews.

3) The Department of Economic Aryanisation is multiplying the pressure on non-Jewish employers to get them to dismiss their Jewish assistants.

4) La Legion Francaise des Combattants which in Algeria, (although not in France) has refused to accept Jewish ex-soldiers as members, is multiplying its anti-Semitic incitements by press and radio; such incitements being immeasurably magnified by the press of the French Popular Party.

5) The Censorship allows to pass without hindrance publications which contain local advertisements with offers of employment, in which Jews are asked to abstain from applying.

6) In the economic and commercial domain, these petty oppressions are repeated on every occasion; a Jewish merchant is forbidden by the law of 2nd June 1941, to trade in cereals, the Administrations caps this immediately by forbidding him to deal in flour food pastes; the calling of artisan is not in principle forbidden to Jews: there are few, however, who succeed in obtaining the trade card; Jewish merchants can only with difficulty obtain distribution of provisions to satisfy their clientele. Still more generally, it must be remembered that at any moment, and even in the case of a non-prohibited commercial profession, the Governor General can, without grounds, aryanise the undertaking by placing it under provisional administration.

CONCLUSION

In general, the Jewish population has been submitted to an implacable legal oppression, accentuated still further in its applications; despite its feelings of justified and violent indignation against the authors of these persecutions and their willing instruments, it has known how to preserve its honour, its dignity and its calm.

Nevertheless, unemployment and misery have made their ravages deeply felt at the heart of Algerian Judaism, outlawed and at the mercy of arbitrary administration.

The result has been a profound moral confusion within the Jewish communities.

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The Jews of Algeria now demand legitimate moral and material reparation. They demand the abrogation, pure and simple, of all the anti-Semitic legislation now in force: they look forward with confidence to a free and honourable life.

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