

JEWISH COMMUNITY OF TRIPOLI

MORAL-ECONOMIC REPORT FOR

THE YEAR 1943

*Libya, Tripoli*  
*General #729*

We feel it our duty to inform the protecting Authorities, our co-related Communities, our brothers-in-faith of Tripolitania on the work of our Administrative Council as well as on all the activities of our Jewish Community during 1943, a year full of fortunate events, initiatives and successful work. Initiatives and successful work in relation to the efforts made and the overcome difficulties, not in relation to the the programs to be carried out and even less to the final results we are aiming to.

BRITISH OCCUPATION. British occupation, which took place January 23rd, found our Community in complete disorganization. As a consequence of war, the Jews almost as a whole had left the city, Synagogues were closed, schools had been closed for over three years, the Jewish neighborhood had been badly damaged by aerial bombardments. A great apprehension aggravated everybody for the menaced application of the new racial laws, and for the dangers of decrees on forced labor, which, in part, had already been applied, with so much damage for our population.

With the entrance of British troupes joyfully received by the Jews who had poured into Tripoli, the last sad period of our Community's life came to an end abruptly. Possibilities of working and earning one's living were offered to everybody, all those who had left their homes and occupations were naturally allowed to return. And, most important of all we reacquired our rights as men and citizens, and we could breath the poignant air of liberty.

The problems of riorganization and almost reconstruction of all the activities were urgently facing the preceeding Administration. It is with grateful respect that we cheer to the work of our predecessors, who, during difficult years were able to wisely administrate our Community, thus giving to those who subsequently took over the job the possibility of starting their work on a very solid financial basis.

On April 16th, the British Military Government, elected as the head of the Community the Council which remained in charge almost up to date. This Council accepted its task with a clear sense of the duties lying ahead of them. The Council, from the first meeting of April 19th to December 31, 1943 has had 48 successful meetings during which all the problems have been gradually studied and solved, according to the conditions and possibilities. However, aside from the meetings, it can be said that every day the various members of the Council have personally contributed to the work either in the Community or at the Government offices each one of them in his specific duty.

It was a good starting for the Council, to begin its work with the celebration of Passover the freedom's holiday, and with the wisit to the Jewish section of Brigadier Lush Chief of the British Military Administration. The memory of that day will live forever in our minds and hearts: the whole of our population was there to receive him within the walls of our old neighborhood, with joy and gratefulness.

DONATIONS: The Balance sheet we are furnishing you herewith will show you how deep has been our interest for the poors among us. As a whole, within the various form of donations( fixed and extraordinary assistance, distribution of goods, medicines, doctors, money to the sick poors, etc.) the outstanding amount of 2.312.941 millions liras has been distributed. The members of the Relief Commission have been very active in the execution of the Council's decisions. Their daily work has been patient and conscientious, and has been fully recognized and approved by the Governmental Authorities. This Commission, besides its ordinary work has cured - being helped in this particular branch by the never exhausted private charity with its own administration - and eliminated the shameful plague of beggars and pedlars. A large house has been rented now called "House of the Poor". The old asylum Garfa has been reorganized where our old, poor people spend many hours a day studying and praying. The opening of a similar asylum for women is being considered. This has been achieved by the Commission after an accurate examination of each case, the preparation of a list of all the poors daily checked, discarding any form of parassitism so that public money be given only to those who really need it.

The independent Committee against beggars has distributed during the last 5 months of 1943, 450.215 liras of which 32.426 furnished by the Community and the rest by its own special income.

**MOAR HA-BETULOTH.** As a completion to the Relief Commission we have created a Commission of the "Moar ha-Betuloth". This Commission examines every engagement request, giving its necessary approval only to those which give a guarantee that the new family will be built on solid basis. This organization provides also dowry to the poor girls with money collected through voluntary donations of more fortunate couples. The total of dowries' donation for 1943 has been 67.990 liras already comprehended in the total figure for relief.

**SYNAGOGUES.** The Synagogues' Commission faced a very serious situation. The holy places were all in a state of abandonment, many had been seriously damaged by the war, the holy books, valuables etc. had all been removed from the city as a safety measure. Within the shortest possible time, everything had to be reorganized, the temples had to be reopened to prayer for the people who was coming back to Tripoli. The Commission with admirable promptness has given back to the Synagogues their old dignity and beauty. The total expenses for the reorganization and reactivation of the Synagogues has been of 658.367, 25. Liras. However, this was not enough. All our people felt the need to rebuild on its ruins the "Dar Serussi" Synagogue and School at the same time, according to the ancient traditions of Israel. Thus the Commission attended also to this task, and soon we will be able to open the new building, and our students will resume their studies in the same classes where their parents have learned to love their religion and their traditions. As the means at their disposal would not have allowed such high expenses, the Council authorized a collection of donations, which, in view of the affection of the Jews of Tripoli for Dar Serussi did not fail to come. The Commission, however, has not stop its work, but it is studying the possibility of opening a new place "Dar Zetloui", and of the completion of the "Bisci" Synagogue which has been waiting for too long its definite completion.

**EDUCATION:** The field where we had to work more intensively was that of the School where the new generations are being shaped and where the Jews and the citizens of tomorrow are being created. We were faced by more than 3.000 children, who for three years had not received any education. After the British occupation an idea had been proposed that the British Military Administration created in Tripoli a strictly Jewish school for civilian education as well as religious education, similar to the schools for Mussulmans and Italiens. Toward this end money was laid out in order to solicitate the necessary repairs for the "Pietro Verri" school in the Jewish section. Soon after, however, we were notified that the British Administration, during war time, could not bring forth any innovation. Therefore, it could only provide for the reopening of the elementary schools both Italian and Arab, as previously existing, which both could be attended also by the Jews: we were informed that there would be no opposition if the Community wanted to establish its own school at its own expenses. As no time could be lost, pending the reopening of schools, we had to do as well as we could, coordinating the civil instruction given by the British government, with the Jewish education. The latter represents one of the main duties of the Community and as it represents a problem dearly followed by us, we are waiting for the proper moment to bring to the Government's attention our point of view.

**Civil education:** At that moment we could not follow the great desire of some of the members of our Community, who, full of national enthusiasm, were demanding the opening of a strictly Jewish school at the Community's expenses. The Council, aware of its responsibilities could not burden himself or its successors with such outstanding expenses, without having previously assured substantial financial helps from our brethren in loco and far away. This not only for one year or two, but for the continuation of this activity, in order to avoid later desillusions which might bring forth moral damages rather than the results we were aiming to. Therefore we made haste in notifying the situation to the main Jewish centers in America, England, South Africa and Palestine, and on the other had, we dedicated ourselves to the best possible placement of our children in the Governmental schools. We obtained that a good percentage of Jewish pupils be placed in the Old City's school, and the remaining in separate classes in the other schools.

This would allow them to take Saturday off and would facilitate the religious education. We obtain also other provision as hereafter explained. Thus all those who had been listed on time (2120 children) were put in government schools. Temporarily, we also succeeded in putting another 350 who had been listed too late, in some Synagogues, awaiting to regulate their position in the next year.

Religious education: We had no rooms, no teachers, ~~the~~ necessary means to solve the problem entirely. As it was the question, after such a long time, to create a new schooling organization, we felt the opportunity of giving new life to the teaching, in order to substitute to the ancient ways, the modern ways of teaching. To this end, we were compelled to give up the work of a few old teachers whom we have tried and are still trying to keep occupied in a way more suitable to their abilities. In order to solve the problems of the rooms, the Government has helped us granting to us the use of the school rooms, where during other hours of the day pupils are given civil education. To solve the problem of the teachers and their expenses, we had to cut the teaching hours down to 6 per week: sacrifice necessary in view of the circumstances. However we are compensated by the fact that we can say today that the Jewish Tripoli has a capable school, a group of willing and cooperative teachers, a mass of pupils who are studying and learning. Thus, the reduced hour seem to multiply in the satisfactory results we are obtaining. It is our duty, however, to do all we can to bring the weekly hours to a larger number. This will depend from the disponibility of rooms, teachers and money.

Strictly Jewish School: We took advantage of some rooms kindly put at our disposal by the School Superintendency, to create some first classes of a special kind for the youngest children, with strictly Jewish teaching; this was done as an experiment. There was no doubt about a brilliant result as those who were in charge of the organization were giving to this work all their energy and their love. We can say today that all those who have visited these classrooms have been amazed by the quick and effective progress which went beyond all expectancy. The continuation, the enlargement and development of these special classes cannot depend from our will because, we repeat, they represent a progressive burden which our small funds cannot undertake for the religious education of about 3000 pupils. These special classes will depend for their existance and gradual progress from the possibility of obtaining from the Government the institution of the Jewish School, or from the guarantee of one or several big Jewish Institutions to furnish us annually all or the greatest part of the money needed. Only in this case the Council will feel authorized to appeal to the Jews of Tripoli, to give a special contribution to integrate the necessary.

The expenses for the School amount to 717.668 Liras. It must, however, be kept in mind that the greatest part refers only to the last trimester when the School has started again to work, and that in the 1944 balance the expenses will be proportionally much higher. We had to bring the teachers' salaries to an amount which would adequately compensate their hard work and give them a feel of security necessary for the teaching mission. In order to reinforce our income compared to the high expenses, we have thought it right and wise to apply a small schooling tax. We realize that what we have done in the school field is little compared to the necessitites. A Professional School is necessary for capable workers to be born, taking away from the small road-trade many young people. To have healty and strong peasants we must have an Agricultural School. To take many children away from the terrible consequences of street life we need a Children's Asylum. The Council has not failed to point out these necessities to the Government and the Jewish institutions, and will again take up this matter. It is not possible for us, in view of the actual condition of our cash to face these problems, but - come better days - we will try to study them and solve them at least temporarily. For all that has been done we must congratulate the Delegate to the Education and his valient collaborators.

Hebrath "Ez-Haim" As a completion of the religious education we wanted that also the talmudic teachings be largely taught, which, in the past, not too far away has given to Judaism wide famed men. The Talmud School, which gathers 50 pupils in 5 classes has been put under the direction and superintendency of the "Hebrath Ez-Haim" which has also the task of coordinating the activities of all the Hebroth and Jescivoth of our city. These amount to 18 and have a very appreciable religious and cultural life, gathering men and children in the Synagogues for the study of the Bible, traditional text books, religious and moral works, religious songs, etc. Also under the control of the "Ez- Haim" are the religious-moral lectures which weekly, take place on Saturday afternoon in some of the Synagogues. In these occasions, the "Darshanim" entertain the public also on problems of the day, according to the Presidency's orders. The Community intervenes in the expenses necessary for the activity of the Hebrah only with small checks paid to old Rabbies who dedicate themselves to reading and studying. During 1943, these checks together with other gratifications to other rabbies, were of \$4.523,50 Liras. However, the large monthly amounts necessary for the Talmudic School and for the various Hebroth and Jescivoth have been sofar taken care of ordinary and special offers which have proven how deeply our population is interested in these religious activities. The expenses borne by the Ez Haim from September to December 31, 1943 are of 68.335 Liras.

School Trustees. The needs of the poor pupils are many and we cannot limit our help to the spiritual food. There are many hundred children of whose well-being the Board of Trustees is taking care, which counts among its members a few Ladies. The Board provides a meal, so far quite modest, they make aprons, and we hope soon they will be able to supply clothes and sandals. We have good reasons to believe that for these poor children we will receive special funds from abroad, which will allow the Board to enlarge its provisions.

Cultural Committee: This Committee created toward the end of spreading throu ghout the whole of the Jewish population the knowledge of modern and ancient history, of the tradition and the culture of our people, through lectures, etc. has a very important task. It has began its activity with a solemn commemoration of the Jewish martirs of this war. At the end of this meeting 309.768 Liras have been collected, for the benefit of our prosecuted brethren of occupied Europe.

Cemetery. Everyone knows the pitiful conditions of our Cemetery at the beginning of 1943. The occupation of this holy place by the Military Authorities, the placement of anti-aircraft batteries on the tumbs of our deads, the terrible damages caused by many bombs, all this had left the place in a deplorable condition. It was, therefore, necessary and urgent to remedy the situation. A Committee especially appointed collected in a short time, voluntary offers for 505.062 Liras. After a few months the Cemetery was restaured to its dignified simplicity. For the ordinary expenses, which are outstanding, it was progided by the Community funds for a total amount of 564.158 Liras. This amount is exceedingly high and we are trying to reduce these expenses without hampering, in any way our traditions or the religious respect for our Cemetery. The Community is deeply grateful to the Superintendent for everything he has done.

Donations for Palestine There is a special appointee in charge to collect the donations which are being made-following an ancient tradition of the Community- bu many, in their various life occurencies, for the Jewish institutions of Palestine.

Real Estate: Another appointee is taking care of the Community's real estate properties.

Workers' Organization With the British occupation, the Government has asked for a considerable number of workers, male and female. The Community has actively collaborated with the Authorities for the gathering of the man-power required.

In many instances, especially when the worker had to take care of a large family, the salaries offered were not sufficient. The Community has given financial help to increase the salary.

Jewish Policemen. It has been with great pleasure that we saw a large number of our youngmen with the uniform of Policement" and to see that already a few of them have been promoted to a higher rank. Here too, the Community has cooperated in the relationship with the Authorities, as it is very useful that young Jews well disciplined and trained have a convenient occupation in a responsible position in governmental offices.

Jews of Giado At the beginning of 1943 there were, concentrated in Giado since several months, the Jews from Cyrenaica, who had been sent there by the Italian Government. The sufferings of these brethren of ours, had caused our Community, through a special Committee to try to alleviate their conditions. In various installments they received a total amount of 1.690.492 Liras, 599.067 of which collected by the special Committee. Necessarily, the procedures with the Government which this Community together with the Committee had to undertake (with the Government) were very long. Finally however, with the generous help of the British Authorities, our brethren were allowed to come back to their homes. To the end of happily celebrating the end of this sorrowful period, and in order to show our gratitude to the Government Authorities, a banquet was organized at the "Maccabi" Circle for the directors of the Community and the Committee for the Jews of Giado, with the Brigadier Lush and his Officers, who had worked so hard and with so much interest for this cause.

Tripolitanian Jews deported in Tunisia. An insistent and moving appeal came to us ever since the beginning of the British occupation, from the numerous Tripolitanian Jews who in 1942, had been taken away from their city, work and homes to be deported in Tunisia. Their relatives and friends here were pressing us for action. Here too the pourparles with the Government were long and patient, and finally recently about 1000 Jews came back to Tripoli. We are deeply grateful to the British Military Authorities who took a great interest in the case, to the American and French Occupation Authorities in Tunisia, who assisted them, and to the Tunis and Sfax Communities, who, even amid their own sufferings, have done everything possible to help them.

Rabbinical Council (Tribunal) This Council depends directly from the Government, and during 1943 has had a remarkable activity praised by the Legal Adviser who was present at various trials. 148 trials were solved as follows: orally, verbals of oath, certificats of inheritance etc. 194 Engagement contracts. 228 Wedding contracts. 15 Divorces. 2 Halizoth. 35 Appointment of tutors or trustees.

Maccabi' This Circle of more than 400 young associates, has widely taken advantage, and with excellent results of the reconquered freedom. Its work for the spiritual, moral and fisical improvement of the Youth has been considerable. The Italian and Arab filodrammatic have been greatly appreciated not only by the Jews with a series of very successful ~~xxxxx~~ recitals; the Sabbath cultural hour has met everybody's favor and was always very crowded; sport's events have steadily grown and holidays and family's gatherings were always very crowded too. The Circle's residence was always open to any kind of manifestation, and the Circle has always permitted the philanthropic organizations to largely benefit of the financial results of its enterprises. We thank the President and the Council for their valuable indirect collaboration.

Ben-Jehuda' In its specific field of enlarging the knowledge of the Hebrew language the "Ben-Jehuda'" Circle has continued the work started many years ago which has proven its utility when the Jewish soldiers of the British Army passing through here were able to find a wide group of youngmen and younladies speaking our language. This Circle too has organized recitals and parties in Hebrew language, a cultural hour in the same language. It also put its premises at everybody's disposal. We are deeply grateful to this Circlesalso.

Relationship with the British Authorities. Ever since the beginning our relationship with the British Authorities have been most cordial, and all our requests, always legitimate, have found through comprehension the most efficient help. Demonstrations of this friendliness have been frequent, from the visit of Brigadier Lush to the repeated meeting of the Council at the Government Offices. On the Jewish New Year's Holiday, the Chief of the British Administration paid us a most welcomed visit, and in every occasion all the Authorities have always shown a great interest to our affairs. We remember with joy that the Head Rabbi has had the great honor of being introduced to H. M. King George, during his visit to Tripoli, and with him, the Executives of our Community could greet Prime Minister Churchill.

Relationship with Jewish Soldiers. With the coming of the VIII Army, among us came many Jewish soldiers of Palestine, members of a special company. Their spiritual leader was Dr. L. Rabinowitz, Head Rabbi of the VIII Army, who immediately got in touch with our Community and was a great help in our relationship with the British Authorities. Together with him we wish to remember the Rabbies Urbach, Nates, Kashdan and Levy also of the Army who have always collaborated with us whenever requested with great moral and practical advantages for our Community. Dr. Rabinowitz was granted the use of the Debase Synagogue for the soldiers. We remember with emotion the first service there celebrated on the Sabbath following the occupation, when we saw in the streets some hundred Jewish soldiers in a military parade, headed by their Head Rabbi, who were going to thank God for the Victory. With them was Brigadier Kisg, Chief Engineer of the VIII Army, outstanding man in the world's Judaism who, a few weeks later died heroically. A memorial service was celebrated in the same Synagogue where he had prayed, with the presence of the Military Authorities. After the inauguration of the Military Temple, the Community offered a party to the soldiers, and for Passover everybody wanted them in their homes. The Community offered them large quantities of matzoth and Kosher wine, and of about 600 gift packages for the soldiers outside of Tripoli.

Relationship with the Population. Aside from one or two sporadic incidents due to the irresponsibility of a few persons, this relationship has always remained on a very cordial base, proven also by public demonstrations. It is our civil duty to preserve such good terms with the rest of the population.

Relationship with the inland population. Although it has not yet been possible, in view of our heavy duties, to study the position of the various Jewish Communities of the Interior, which, legally are a whole with our Community, we frequently met with their Chiefs, participating to their needs with donations both for the poor and for the services. As a whole we have given 62.062 liras in money, rice and clothes.

Relationship with the Big Jewish Organizations Abroad. Our return in the large family of free men, has been greeted by these organizations with cable and letters. From the Great Rabbinical Council of Palestine, the World Jewish Congress of America, the American Joint Distribution Committee, the Jewish Agency, the South-African Jewish Organization, from the Cairo and London Communities, together with their warmest wishes we have been asked to relate them on our conditions with their offers of help. During the year, we have been constantly connected with all of them, and we had the welcomed visit of the representatives of the Joint who were thus able to be informed de-visu on our situation. As we were terribly worried about the conditions of many poor and orphan children of our Community, we contacted the Jewish Agency in order to have them included in the Palestinian organizations. The Agency, immediately put at our disposal 60 visas of immigration to Palestine. These children will be educated in those great institutions founded and presided by a Jewish woman Henriette Szold. This great lady, well known in the Jewish world, within the past decade has gathered many thousand children, especially from the persecuted countries, and has provided the means of life to those institutions with her own means or some philanthropic help. Many capable workers have come out of these organizations. The emigration of these children from Tripoli to Palestine

involves a very long procedure with the British Government of the Palestinian Authorities. However, we hope that soon everything will be settled.

From South Africa we received 1000 Lst. for our poors. However, as these have come to us only a few days ago they will be part of the 1944 balance sheet.

From the large Cairo Community we have received large amounts of food and clothes, which have greatly relieved our budget. We are deeply grateful for all that has been so effectively done by this community. The goods distributed amount for 1943 to 828.250 Liras, the rest will be counted in 1944.

From the Joint and the American Congress we have been promised substantial help with special regard to the poor pupils and the Jewish education.

We want to express our sincere appreciation and deepest thanks to all of these organizations who have so spontaneously helped us, and are ready to help millions of our suffering brethren in Europe.

Profits on Wine's Sale. The preceding Administrative Commission has promoted a new way of securing to our Organization a strong financial help, and has allowed our succeeding Council to dispose of large amounts to face the various necessities. That Commission had obtained from the Italian Authorities to buy from the H. of P. Nahm firm 100.000 liters of kosher wine at 8,88 per liter, with the right to resell it at a higher price. This wine was sold at first at 30 Liras per liter and then at 60 Liras, thus giving a benefit net of 2.766.568 Liras. The British Government has also authorized our Community to apply an overcharge of 10 Liras per each liter of kosher wine of the 1945 crop, sold in our city. Of this legal overprice, we have cashed an advanced payment of 100.000 Liras from the above referred H. of P. Nahm, and 800 Liras from two small producers. As for the other large producers, we will act as soon as possible so that willing or forced they may pay what it is due from them.

While we are going to press, we receive the news that a large order of kosher wine has arrived from Tunis, thanks to the personal intervention of a member of our Congregation, Mr. Pinhas Naim, and of the Jewish Community of Tunis. We are thankful to them for their work which has allowed our population to celebrate the Seder with a good wine, and to the Government which has allowed the supercharge on the wine with a sense of comprehension of our necessities.

Discount ~~FRANCHISE~~ on the Income. A heavy duty on our expenses is the discount on the payment of themizvot. However, it must be considered that the Synagogues are numerous and thesciamascim have no other compensation from the Community aside from this percentage and of some of the misvot. Among these percentages of exaction the payment of the compulsory contribution does not appear, in view of the fact that this was missing almost entirely from last year's balance of contribution. In the current year, we are going to study the possibility of taking care directly of the exaction of the compulsory contribution, in order to save the high percentage of discount established by the Exaction Office. Thus, besides substantial savings, we will give to some heads of family the possibility of earning a small living. The savings will be greated if a large part of the contributors spontaneously will put the amount of the Contribution in the Community's Cash.

Dowry's Tax. As a consequence of the exceptional high number of marriages, there has been a higher income in this tax. This tax has to be paid before the ceremony in the following measures: 1% up to 5.000 Liras; 2% from 5.001 Liras to 10.000; 3% from 10.001 Liras up to L. 50.000; 4% from 50.001 over.

Misvoth: Exceptionally high has been the amount reached by the purchasing on the part of the members of the religious rights in the Synagogues, which proves once more the religious spirit of our brethren. By buying these rights they know that they are also contributing to the wellbeing of the poors.

Marine Colonies and Free Municipal Baths. Up to 1939, the Community, with the help of the Italian Authorities, had for many years sent many hundreds of children to a marine colony. Due to the war, this had been suspended, and during 1943, we were not able to re-start it, however, we intend to do so next year. We are thankful to the Municipality of Tripoli which maintains the Jewish quarters with free baths to which the pupils of the Old City School are periodically sent with their teachers as chaperons.

Tripoli Community and Inland Sections. Hereafter, follows an indication on the Jewish population, on the number of the poors receiving the free ration of wheat during Passover, together with the names of our Delegates for the different centers:

<u>City</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Poors</u>	<u>Delegate</u>
Tripoli	18.980	5.470	-----
Amrus	1.502	185	Abramo Saada
Beni Ulid	82	29	Sabbagh Haliffi
Cussabat	412	103	Juda Attia
Garian	90	10	Peppino Arbib
"(Ben Abbas)	87	19	R. Huato Guetta
Homs	930	175	Lino Mimun
Jefren	about 400	124	Daniele Guetta
Misurata	1.222	333	Azra Buaron
Nalut	25	--	Vittorio Vaturi
Sirte	about 20	---	Hammus Guetta
Tagiura	227	26	Haim Arbib
Tarhuna	225	41	Hai Jusef Badase
Tigrinna	343	68	Hlifa Hassan
Zanzur	100	21	Hammus Barda
Zavia	675	194	Giuseppe Habib
Zliten	764	303	Hai Glam
Zuara	830	230	Abramo Cahlun
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>26.914</b>	<b>7.331</b>	

Tripoli Community's Census during 1943.

Born: 752  
 Dead: 494  
 Weddings: 228  
 Divorces: 15

Health Service of the Jewish Section: Your President always wanted the gradual demolition and reconstruction of the old "hara" quarter, substituting the narrow streets, without light and air, with large street with trees and homes furnished with all the moder hygienic devices. He thought that the rebuilding of this section situated in the vicinity of the harbour and the sea, could become one of the most beautiful section of the town, and also, with the construction of new buildings, could represent an excellent investment of capitals. He had drawn the attention of Governmental offices to this problem, and had been assured that this problem would be considered with interest. As the "hara" is not very large, we hope, also with the help that may come to us from abroad, that something will be done.

Head Rabbi. We want to express our deepest affection and devotion to our Head Rabbi, Dr. Aldo Lattes, who has given his full cooperation to the study and the solution of all our problems. This, besides all his numerous duties including the spiritual direction of the Community, the Presidency of the Rabbinical Tribunal, and the



religious teachings which he attended with particular devotion.

Administrative Council. At the beginning of this year, its vice-President Mr. Ruben Hassan, member of the board for many years, presented his resignations. The Council tried to keep him among us, knowing that we were losing an active and intelligent collaborator who had greatly help our Community with his rare wisdom and knowledge. We feel sure however, that he will continue to give us his valuable help whenever we shall need it.

Subsequently, Mr. Mose Hadda, member of the Council, presented his resignations as he was leaving for Palestine, thus satisfying one of his great wishes. The amount of work facing us, would have asked for the appointment of two new members as the Council was left with four members only. However, the Government itself asked our advice on the opportunity of enlarging the Administrative Council, bringing its number to 12, as prescribed by Law. The Council agreed and on March 31, 1944 the Government called new members in the Council. Thus, the actual Council is formed by:

Nahum Halfalla, President; Addabi Sciall, Arbib Raffaele, Benjamin Moses, Fargion Giacobbe, Forti Dr. Maurizio, Habib Zachino, Nahum Scialom, Nahum Vittorio, Memmi Sion, Nunes Vais Roberto, Zberlo Clemente, Counselors.

To the newly elected we bring our greetings, and we feel sure that they will bring to the Community, with their personal activity the spirit of love and sacrifice which permeates the whole of the Trápolitanean Judaism.

Administrative Personnel. To fill the vanancy of the Secretary the Council called Mr. Beniamino Raccah, ex Government official, who is a person universally known and loved. We had during the year a great loss with the premature death of Mr. Dido Ruhobza, who had worked for the Community for many years.

List of Contributors. The preceding Administration, by the end of 1942 had appointed a Commission for the 1943 list of contributors which had to work very slowly in view of the fact that a great number of new names had to be added to the list. With the British occupation we had to examine each case separately from the economic point of view. This Council, at the beginning had established 6000 L as global contribution for 1943, on which basis the work of the Commission had to be conducted. However, when the new list had been finished, at the beginning of 1944, the economic situation, which had been very flourishing the year before, was getting worst every day for the already started commercial crisis. A curtailment in the volunteer donations was foreseen and a clear sign of it was given in the diminished income in the mitzvot. The demand for assistance was steadily increasing, so that we were faced with a great danger which did not allow us to diminish the global income already established, while the above referred reasons suggested on the contrary to make it heavier. On the other hand the worse economic situation, the little liking for direct taxation, the fortunate year of 1943 - without collecting the 1943 contribution - which had closed with a credit balance, induced us to study the possibility of reducing to the minimum the amount of the Contribution. The Council, therefore, has discussed a scheme for an estimated balance, and found out that, without raising new problems, to level the 1944 balance, at least 3.000.000 Compulsory Contribution were necessary. At first it was thought to attribute 2.000.000 to 1943, and considering that the 1943 taxation would have been notified in 1944, and considering also that the whole amount was needed in 1944 it was decided to attribute it all to 1944. Keeping in mind that the number of contributors from the 1267 in 1942 has come up to 1873 in 1944, and that the preceding taxation - when the Lira had quite a different value - was of 749.328 liras, and also that the 1943 taxation is abolished de facto, it can be said that the Council has done everything possible to satisfy the desire of the contributors. With this decision the Council has assumed a great responsibility. The balance has been levelled, however, even if we will give 100 liras instead of 50 per week to the sick people, or even 200 instead of 100, or if our children will go without sandals or with a thin shirt in the winter, and without a warm meal, we feel that we should do much more for them. Maybe it is not very wise to have given up the idea of reconstituting the emergency fund brought up to January 1943 which was of 2.766.568 L.

It is certain, however, that the estimated balance for 1944, includes strictly what represents the immediate needs, and not the future of the Community. There is no money for the professional or agricultural school, nor covers donations to the poor, nor any other future problem.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS 1944.

No. 358	from	300	=	L.	107.400
" 525	"	450	"	"	236.250
" 26	"	600	"	"	15.600
" 12	"	750	"	"	9.000
" 270	"	900	"	"	243.000
" 12	"	1050	"	"	12.600
" 85	"	1200	"	"	102.000
" 157	"	1800	"	"	282.600
" 9	"	2100	"	"	18.900
" 25	"	2250	"	"	56.250
" 89	"	2700	"	"	240.300
" 1	"	2850	"	"	2.850
" 65	"	3000	"	"	195.000
" 54	"	3750	"	"	202.500
" 54	"	4500	"	"	243.000
" 8	"	5250	"	"	42.000
" 1	"	5700	"	"	5.700
" 30	"	6000	"	"	180.000
" 34	"	7500	"	"	255.000
" 19	"	9000	"	"	171.000
" 19	"	12000	"	"	228.000
" 3	"	13500	"	"	40.500
" 11	"	15000	"	"	165.000
" 5	"	18000	"	"	90.000
" 1	"	22500	"	"	22.500

Tot. 1873

L. 3.166.950

1943 Balance

INCOME

Profits on wine	L. 2.867.368,-
" " Passover wheat	305.639,50
Mixvot (Buying of rel. rights)	2.127.569,-
Tax on Kosher killing (meat)	768.555,-
Dowries Tax	234.224,35
Inc. o/c res. comp. contr. 1942	221.576,-
Burials, tumbs erect. tax	270.816,-
Subscr. for repair. Cemetery	505.062,-
a/m Committee for Giado	599.067,-
for recept. authorities	80.640,-
Gifts for poor brides	63.522,-
Miscellaneous	85.999,-
Food and clothes from Cairo	828.250,-
<b>TOTAL INCOME 1943</b>	<b>L. 8.958.287,85</b>
Active Res. from '42. L.	114.092,10
<b>Total GEN. INCOME</b>	<b>L. 9.072.379,95</b>

EXPENSES

Donations: fixed and extra, health, Pass. wheat, poor brides, etc.	L. 2.312.941,00
Educat: teachers, schools, salaries, etc.	717.668,-
For Jews concentr. in Giado	1.690.492,-
" repair to Cemetery	487.391,-
" " & operat. Synagogues	658.367,25
Salaries, gifts, etc. Ez-Haim rabbies & others	64.523,50
Contr, rice, money & clothes Comm. inland	62.062,-
Subvent. milit. & precept. Sidi Azaz work.	51.859,-
Percentages exactions mixvots, etc.	266.563,95
Subventions to pensioned	56.399,-
Miscellaneous	49.769,20
Jewish Tribunal & contr. to judges	148.823,-
Gifts & parties for J. sold. & convalesc.	96.382,50
Recept. offices (income 80.640)	144.375,-
Real Estate personal Community	60.150,-
Head Rabbi	90.050,-
Pers. administrat. rent, etc.	342.694,85
Stationery, etc.	79.520,20

**TOTAL EXPENSES L. 7.944.189,45**

OUTLINE

TOTAL INCOME .....L. 9.072.379,95

" EXPENSES.....<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>....." 7.944.189,45.

CASH RESIDUE at 12/31/43 L. 1.128.190,50

of which with the BARCLAYS BANK.....L. 1.077.354,-

of which with the Treasurer....." 50.836,50

TOTALS L. 1.128.190,50 L. 1.128.190,50

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