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**The "Icor" and the Jewish
Colonization in the
U. S. S. R.**

By A. ROVNER

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*Published by the ICOR
New York, 1934*



Price 1 Cent

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The Icor is an Organization for Jewish colonization in the U. S. S. R. Its name is made up of the initial letters of the Jewish words to this effect. It is the only Jewish organization in the U. S. A. working in the interests of the Soviet Jews.

The Icor is 8 years old. At the time of its inception the Jewish colonization in the Soviet Union was yet in a very precarious position. There were great difficulties to be overcome. The Jews, who for centuries were urban people, seemed very little fit for the hard task of agriculturists.

The enemies of the Soviet Union did everything in their power to discredit the efforts of the Soviet Government to settle large numbers of Jews on the land. The primitive conditions of agriculture prevailing in the U. S. S. R. at that time could not promise any large return to the tillers of the soil and the standard of living couldn't be very high. This was seized upon by the enemies to carry on a vicious campaign of slander and to accuse the Soviet Government of a well worked out plan to exterminate the Jews by "driving" them on the land.

At that time, the Icor took upon itself the task to both enlighten the Jewish masses in this country on the significance of the Jewish colonization in the U. S. S. R. and of coming to the assistance of the Jewish colonies by sending to them American machinery and tools.

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In the course of years, the Jewish colonization in the U. S. S. R. gained more and more momentum. It grew in numbers as well as in the achievements of the Jewish settlers in White Russia, the Ukraine and Crimea. At the beginning of 1928, it became apparent that vast regions will be required to satisfy the eagerness of large Jewish masses to settle on the land. To meet this urge, the Soviet Government declared on the 28th of March, 1928, that a wide section of the Far East was assigned for a concentrated Jewish colonization with the object of building it into a Jewish Socialist Soviet Republic. This region situated on the Amur River and comprising some 18,000,000 hectares (a territory as large as Holland and Belgium combined) was named Biro-Bidjan (after 2 rivers traversing that country).

It was obvious that this pioneering land will require a still bigger effort on the part of the settlers, than was the case in regard to the Jewish settlements in the South and South Western portions of the U. S. S. R. The Icor therefore determined from the very outset to turn all its attention to Biro-Bidjan and to assist the Jewish Pioneers of Biro-Bidjan in every possible manner.

Since the decision of the Soviet Government in regard to Jewish colonization in Biro- Bidjan was met by a chorus of condemnations on the part of the Zionists and all the other enemies of the Soviet Unions. Since the Jewish Zionist and "Socialist" press started a campaign against Biro-Bidjan, the Icor decided to send a commission of American experts (mostly non-Jews) to study and report on Biro-Bidjan.

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After many preparations, the commission was finally dispatched to Biro-Bidjan in 1929. It consisted of the following: Prof. Franklin S. Harris, President of the Brigham Young University, Benjamin Brown, specialist in cooperative farming, Prof. J. B. Davidson, agricultural engineer, Professor of agriculture at the Iowa State College, Dr. Chas. Kuntz, sociologist and agriculturist, K. B. Sauls, Bachelor of Science, Administrator of Brigham Young University and Leon Talmy, the then Secretary of the Icor. The commission spent considerable time in Biro-Bidjan and upon returning to this country published a lengthy and very favorable report on the tremendous possibilities of Biro-Bidjan.

This report, along with the reports of Soviet experts as well as the reports about the great eagerness on the part of many thousands of Jews in the U. S. S. R. to settle in Biro-Bidjan strengthened the determination of the Icor to do everything possible for the Jewish settlers in that region.

The Icor never aspired to assume the role of the builder of Biro-Bidjan. This task belonged and still belongs to the Soviet Government which is living up to its undertaking. The Icor, however realized the importance of any assistance coming from outside, while the Soviet Union has been engaged in the colossal transformation of a backward agricultural country into a highly industrialized land.

The Icor also realized that in the course of the first pioneering years, every piece of modern machinery will be doubly valuable, and worth a hundred times more than under nor-

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mal conditions. The Icor may therefore pride itself that the first tractors to break Biro-Bidjan ground were those sent from the U. S. A. and purchased with the funds collected through the medium of the Icor.

WHAT THE ICOR SENT TO BIRO-BIDJAN

In the course of the 6 years of the Jewish colonization in Biro-Bidjan, the Icor shipped to the Jewish Pioneers the following

2 Chevrolet Automobiles	\$1,653.17
6 Trucks and spare parts	8,375.50
5 Tractor Plows and spare parts from the John Deer Company	1,334.28
6 Motorcycles with spare parts	2,649.44
10 Typewriters	730.00
8 Cletrack Tractors, 40 H. P.	37,623.75
20 Case Threshing Tractor Plows	4,717.69
6 Discs with spare parts from the John Deer Company	768.24
2 Excavators	23,078.22
Excavator spare parts	1,619.69
Automobile parts	200.19
International Harvester Tractor parts	408.91
General Motor Automobile parts	32.40
Cleveland Tractor parts	2,751.85
4 Transports of wood-working mach'y from the New York Ship Building Co. in Cam- den, N. J. Bought through the Morey &	

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Co. 43 machines valued at \$21,000.00 less 60 per cent (\$8000.00) including trans- portation to Biro-Bidjan	11,163.35
20 Cases Contribution to Biro Bidjan	500.00
2 Do It All Tractors, 20 motors, wheels, saw mills frames, benches valued at \$9000.00...	3,080.82
Complete Welding Equipment	544.06
146 Saws and 1200 hatchets	434.60
430 Hand Saws valued at \$1720.00	243.00
Electric Dynamo	500.00
Electric Appliances	44.28
Compressors	69.00
Various Instruments	911.92
32 Round Saws and 1200 saw ribbons valued at	1756.00
3 Cases of saws and instruments.....	500.00
1 Garden Tractor	150.00
Batteries	110.00
Packing and shipping	306.39
Machine shop	3,450.00
Iron shop	4,500.00
Tin shop	1,000.00
Generator	1,000.00
Machinery from Los Angeles	10,000.00
575 Saws	1,000.00
Cadillac Machine	500.00
Medicaments, Medical Instruments, Foun- tain Pens, Watches	500.00
Instruments from Seattle, Wash.	200.00

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Electric Grinder for Meat & Electric Wash
Machine 100.00
Articles for Rabbit Farm 300.00

THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE SOCIAL STATUS
OF THE JEWS IN THE U. S. S. R.

The Soviet Government did not confine itself to the task of colonizing Jews on the land. Along with this went the far reaching process of completely transforming the social foundation of the Jews in the U. S. S. R. Under the Tzar the Jews were driven to a life of middlemen being confined to the thickly populated area of the "pale of settlement." Having no access to the land, the Jew could engage in trading only. Because of the great poverty prevailing amongst the large masses of the Jews, and because of the fact that very often there were more traders than customers, many shop keepers were not much above the standard of beggars. Many a store keeper had a stock in trade worth no more than a few paltry roubles. The artisans were on a starvation standard. Thousands were in the ranks of permanent paupers.

This condition was completely reversed by the Soviet Government. Whereas under the Tzar more than 50% of the Jewish population were engaged in trade, whereas workers in the shops numbered no more than 4 per cent, whereas more than a quarter of the people were without any definite occupation, the conditions were completely reversed. Hundreds of thousands of Jewish men and women were drawn into the new giants of the Soviet industry, hundreds of thousands are represented in the Government service and in the

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professions. At the beginning of 1933 the social status of the Jews was as follows:

Workers	34%
Office Workers	31%
Artisans	14%
Peasants	12%

The remainder is divided between professional and miscellaneous occupations.

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS

Not only did the Soviet Union do everything possible to settle large numbers of Jews on the land and to open vast possibilities for the Jewish youth to engage in every productive activity, but an equal endeavor was made to provide the foundation and possibility for the fullest development of the cultural life of the Jewish masses.

The principle of complete freedom in the development of the national culture with the object of having such culture national as to form and socialist as to contents is being pushed feverishly amongst all the national minorities of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union made it possible for the Jewish masses to have schools for their children in their mother tongue. There are also schools of higher learning in the Jewish language. Jewish faculties are functioning in a number of Universities. The Soviet Government established a series of Jewish Theatres in Moscow, Kharkov, Minsk,

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Kiev and Odessa and one more is in process of formation in Biro-Bidjan.

A whole series of newspapers including Dailies, Weeklies and Monthlies having a wide circulation are serving the Jewish masses. Just to mention a few of these publications: The Daily Emes, in Moscow—circulation 30,000; Stern, in Kharkov—20,000; October in Minsk—15,000; Young Leninist, in Minsk—10,000; Stand Ready, in Kharkov—30,000; Odessa Worker—6,000; Socialist Village in Kharkov—10,000; Atheist, in Moscow—10,000; Biro-Bidjan Stern, in Biro-Bidjan—4,000; etc., etc.

DEFENSE OF THE SOVIET UNION

Since the Icor took upon itself the task of enlightening the Jewish masses in this country on the way the Soviet Union transformed the life of the Jewish masses in the U. S. S. R. it was nothing more than logical that the Icor should also take upon itself the task of mobilizing the Jewish masses for the defense of the only country where the Jewish problem was solved, where pogroms became an impossibility, where everything is being done to completely root out every vestige of national animosity and race hatred.

Numerous mass meetings, lectures, debates, and symposiums were held. Countless thousands of leaflets were distributed. The Icor made every endeavor to reach the largest sections of the people in this country in order to arouse their interest in what the Soviet Union is doing for the Jews and to mobilize them for the defense of the Soviet Union.

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THE STRUGGLE AGAINST ZIONISM

The Zionist venture is misleading. The Zionist way out for the Jewish masses is bankrupt. The Zionist work in Palestine is sowing the seeds of discord and national antagonism. The Zionist campaign for seizure of the land כיבוש הארץ and the seizure of work העבודה is nothing more than a Fascist ideology on a par with Hitler's theory of Germany for the Germans and the Ku Klux Klan theory of America for Americans only.

The Icor decided to enlighten the Jewish masses on the fact that misleading Zionism has the task of confusing the Jewish masses, that it does not want them to defend their rights in every country where they live and does not want them to see the necessity of carrying on a united struggle along with the masses of all other oppressed nationalities. The Icor is carrying on a constant and relentless ideological campaign against Zionism, as against an enemy of the Jewish masses and an enemy of the Soviet Union.

THE FIGHT AGAINST FASCISM

With the advent of Hitler to power, Fascism was no longer a theory, it was no longer the mad utterance of maniacs who froth at the mouth. It became the criminal practice which drowned Germany in the blood of workers and Jews. While Hitler could not fulfill any of his demagogic promises to solve the problem of unemployment, of the misery of the German masses, of the ruined condition of the German farmers, there was one field in which he could carry out his promise 100%. That was a bloody and ziological anti-

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semitism which hurled itself upon the 600,000 Jews residing in Germany.

There is no need of going here into a review of the beastly deeds of Hitler and his cohorts. Suffice it to say that even the pogroms and the persecutions of the Jews under the Romanoffs in old Russia could not compare in cruelty and madness to what has become a daily practice under Hitler. It goes without saying that these bloody deeds of Fascism aroused the deepest indignation, resentment and rage on the part of the Jews the world over. The Zionist and their like seized the opportunity of these anti-Jewish acts on the part of Hitler to fan nationalistic and chauvinistic feelings amongst the Jewish masses in this country. Meetings of protest were being called, where there was just one string harped upon—let Hitler stop the Jewish persecution.

It was obvious that in order to save the Jews it was necessary to carry on a relentless struggle against Fascism in all its manifestations and such struggle could be effective only when carried on not by Jews alone, but by the masses of workers and intellectuals in every country of the world. The Icor did a great deal in order to turn the fight against Fascism in this direction. The Icor is continuing until this day a persistent campaign with the object of mobilizing the largest Jewish masses for an effective struggle against Fascism.

YOUR DUTY TO JOIN THE ICOR

In grateful recognition of what the Soviet Union did for all its national minorities and in recognition of what the

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Soviet Union is doing to provide a sound economic foundation for the millions of Jews in the U. S. S. R., the Jewish masses in every country of the world should defend the Soviet Union. It should be the duty of every Jew who is a friend of the Soviet Union and of the Jewish colonization in the Soviet Union to join the Icor.

In order to combat Fascism, in order to fight misleading Zionism, in order to participate in the construction of Biro-Bidjan, in order to participate in the defense of the U. S. S. R., you must join the Icor. *The only requirement for joining the Icor is to be a friend of the Soviet Union.*

Workers, intellectuals, middle class men of whatever political opinion they may be can join the Icor as long as they are friends of the U. S. S. R.

THE JEWISH YOUTH MUST JOIN THE ICOR

It is of particular importance to mobilize the Jewish youth in the ranks of the Icor. It should be the duty of every Jewish young man and woman to join the Icor and to help carry on a fight against Fascism and for the defense of the U. S. S. R.

Jewish youth, see how Hitler is drowning in blood the workers and the Jews in Germany. Think of the misery, degradation and suffering of the Jews in Germany. Think of the position of the Jewish youth in all the Fascist countries where a future of segregation, persecution, humiliation and poverty stares in their faces. Think of the viciousness of Fascism raising its head in this country and see for yourself that it is your absolute duty to join the Icor, to help swell its ranks

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and build it into a mighty mass Organization of the Jews in this country, with a network of branches of the youth in order to be able to best carry out its task for the defense of the Soviet Union, for participation in the building of Biro-Bidjan, for a campaign against misleading Zionism and for a determined struggle against bloody Fascism.

JOIN THE ICOR

Membership \$1.00 per year which includes payment for the Icor Monthly Magazine.

Use the following application blank:

To the Icor,
799 Broadway,
New York

I am a friend of the Soviet Union and of the Jewish colonization in the U. S. S. R.

I want to join the Icor and am enclosing here-with \$1.00 which is payment for membership for the year 1934 and also payment for the Ieor Monthly Magazine for the same period.

NAME

ADDRESS

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S U P P L E M E N T

Giant Strides of the Jewish Colonization in the U. S. S. R.

We bring a few bare facts about the achievements of this colonization. These facts speak louder than words. They belie all the slanders hurled against the Jewish colonization in the U. S. S. R. They are at the same time an indication of the gigantic effort made by the Soviet government to give the Jews a chance to become productive toilers.

The giant growth of the number of Jews settled on the land in the U. S. S. R. in a short period of but 12 years is in marked contrast of the dismal failure of the Zionist venture in Palestine.

KALININDORF, FIRST JEWISH NATIONAL REGION IN THE UKRAINIAN S. S. R.

Condensed facts about Kalinindorf:

Territory—75,272 hectares	Wine yards—400 hectares
Population—15,600 souls	Orchards—97 hectares
Collectives—36; Jewish, 33	Cows—5,880
Sown area—52,000 hectares	Hogs—4,824
	Schools—37

STALINDORF, JEWISH NATIONAL REGION IN THE UKRAINIAN S. S. R.

General facts about the region:

Territory—99,212 hectares	Cows—9,887
Population—29,874 souls	Hogs—7,160
Jewish collectives—44	Horses—4,243
Sown area—59,435 hectares	Nurseries and creches—72
Wine yards—297 hectares	Schools—80
General educational institutions—97	Pupils—7,000

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THE NEW ZLATOPOL JEWISH REGION IN THE UKRAINIAN S. S. R.

Condensed facts about the region:

Territory—44,193 hectares	Wine yards—85 hectares
Population—13,600 souls	Sown area—34,390 hectares
Collectives—36	Cows—4,390
Tractors—68	Orchards—40 hectares
Combines—11	Schools—25—Pupils, 2,714
Collectivization completed:	Horses—1,364
	Hogs—2,059

FREIDORF JEWISH REGION IN CRIMEA

General information about the region:

Territory—19,770 hectares	Nurseries—42
Population—24,000 souls	Schools—95
Jewish collectives—32	Technicums—2
Sown area—95,407 hectares	Clubs—20
Tractors—260	Cows—7,216
Combines—30	Hogs—7,193

ICOR LITERATURE

- No. 1. Why the Jewish Masses Must Rally
to the Defense of the Soviet Union 1c
- No. 2. Biro Bidjan As I Saw It
by Lord Marley..... 1c
- No. 3. The "Icor" and the Jewish Coloni-
zation in the U. S. S. R..... 1c
- Icor Year Book..... Cloth 25c, Bound 50c

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