

THE REIGN OF SOVEREIGN EMPEROR ALEXANDER I

1823 yr.

111. - April 11. **Named, given to the Mogilev Civil Governor. -**

On the inconsistency of the upkeep of leases, šinók-s, kabák-s,¹ taverns/inns and mail/post stations by the Jews in any settlements in Mogilev and Vitebsk Gubernias; about the resettlement of them to the cities and Mestechko-s² by January 1st of 1825; about settling of the Jews, if they agree to turn into Khlebopashtsy [grain-growers, farmers], on landlords' free lands.

Along with the discovered difficulties in the food-supplies of the inhabitants/population of the Governorates in Byelorussia, and having confirmations through the local authorities and the reports from the dispatched to these Governorates Senator Baranov, stating that the main reason for the disorder among the Byelorussian peasants was recognized as the presence of the Jews in the villages and the sale there of wine produced by them, and that the Jews not only did not get engaged in any occupation or work, which was tendered/proposed for them for their own benefit in 1804 Provision *), but on the contrary, they strengthen themselves in inhabiting settlements, and their number there is even increased for the detriment/devastation of peasants/khlebopashtsy/; by this discretions, and taking into consideration the requests submitted from the Byelorussian nobility, I recognized as being appropriate for the benefits of that region to rule/order, so that on the basis of the Provisions about the Jews, published in 1804, there should be enforced the following measures:

1. In the Governorates of Mogilev and Vitebsk, in any settlements/villages Jews can not contain any leases of šinók-s, kabák-s, and taverns/inns neither under their own nor under another's name, nor sell there their wine and even live in them, under whatever pretense unless on temporary circumstances/in transit. This prohibition also applies to all šinók-s, inns, or other establishments, situated on the big roads, to whomsoever they belong - to communities or to private individuals.
2. Villages or other stations/establishments given to Jews on a legal basis by lease contracts/agreements, concluded/signed up to this day/date, must remain in their keeping/management until the end of their [contracts] terms if they do not extend/continue beyond January 1st of 1824; If the terms are set for longer than this timeframe, then the Treasury and landlords must pay off

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the Jews by the expiration of this term, and from then on should not allow the Jews to be keepers [of leases] in the areas of villages and taxed/tributary settlements/establishments. Whereupon, the Treasury will assign in proper time other solicitous to manage establishments which are currently given by it to the Jews.

3. Wherever in the settlements Jews might be upkeeping/managing mail/post-stations given to them directly by the state/Treasury under contracts or passed from others, there they [Jews] cannot continue to keep them and even be/serve as proctors, stewards/couriers, scribes and coachmen, likewise beyond January 1st of 1824. Consequently, at the end of this term, for the maintenance of those stations, which are now given to Jews by the Treasury, there should be appointed on legal basis [by the legalized order] other interested workers/candidates; If the maintenance of the stations was given to Jews by others [not the treasury], then those who signed/made contracts directly with the Treasury/state must themselves assume responsibilities or pass them to others [not Jews]. 4. All sale of wine by Jews in villages and in general in places discussed in Article 1 [of this document], should be prohibited equally from January 1st of 1824. 5. Jews should not be allowed to travel to villages and along big roads with the purpose of selling there merchandise/goods. 6. The Jews must move by January 1st of 1825 from the villages to towns/cities and *mestechko-s*. 7. In towns and *mestechko-s* Jews can engage in trade and crafts based on common state laws. They can also sell wine there, on the basis of Articles 40 and 41 of the 1804 Provision [Set of Laws] about Jews. 8. With these directives, those Jews who would agree to turn into grain-growers/farmers [*khlebopashchy*], may for this reason settle in the Mogilev and Vitebsk Provinces on vacant/unoccupied lands of the landlords, by mutual consent with the land-owners, but not at all in those villages in which peasants already live. For these purposes, the land-owners must apply for the permission to establish on their lands new settlements of the Jews-farmers/grain-growers, sending requests through the Provincial Marshal to the Civic Governor, applying mutual efforts for presenting such requests with an opinion of the Civil Governor - to the Ministry of Internal Affairs for review and approval. The permission of such new settlements should not give the right to the Jews to engage in wine-selling and other illicit [prohibited for them] activities/trades, except for farming within their settlements, so that they themselves can exercise it. 9. As defined by the Provisions of 1804, fines for failure to comply with the rules established there and now confirmed, must be enforced/exacted without any relief.

You [Mogilev Civil Governor] will not leave without attention to bring to execution these measures within the provinces given under your governing and give proper directives.

The Decree of the same content was sent to the name of the Vitebsk Civil Governor.

(P.P. S. Z., vol. XXXVIII, No. 29,420).

*) See M 59, p. 53.

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1. Корчма [pl. корчмы́] (korčmá); Шинóк [pl. шинкі́] - (šinók) - tavern, inn where spirits were served (in pre-revolutionary Ukraine, Belarus, Poland, etc.); bar, pub. Historically, there was a legal distinction between a private шинóк (šinók) or корчма (korčmá) serving tax-free spirits, and a taxed, government-licensed Кабáк (kabák). (See Wikipedia)
 2. Mestechko or mistechko; Polish: miasteczko - a rural locality type, a place located within Pale of Settlement in the Russian Empire with predominantly Jewish population; shtetl (see Wikipedia).

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