

REIGN OF THE SOVEREIGN EMPEROR NICHOLAS I

1829 yr.

190. -- May 24th. The Senate Decree, with the explanation of the Highest approved Provision of the Committee of the Ministers.*About the means of reducing the number of Jews in Courland and Livonia*

The Governing Senate listened to the report of Mr. Minister of Internal Affairs, that after the report/presentation of Mr. Minister of Finance on behalf of the loyal subjects' – merchantry and craftsmen of the city of Mitau (Mitava)¹ – who plead to limit in this city the number of Jews who in 1797 were assigned to this city together with their families and by the December-27th-1827 Journal (of documents) which received the Highest vouchsafe by His Imperial Majesty, the Committee of Messrs. Ministers entrusted (instructed): to delegate to Marquis Paulucci², General-Governor of Livonia, Estland,³ Kurland and Pskov to present his plan for reduction of the number of Jews in Kurland and Livonia, which could be examined by the Jewish Committee. At the same time, about such provision of the Committee of the Messrs. Ministers, the Head of the Ministry of the Internal Affairs informed Mr. General-Governor Marquis Paulucci, who, in this case, reported back to him: **A) about Jews in the Livonia Governorate**, In Livonia Jews live only in Riga and in the *miasteczko* Schlock.⁴ Otherwise than Schlock they cannot be recorded in any other place, and cannot be reassigned from any other Guberniya-a (Regions, Governorates). According to this situation, the number of Jews in Livonia can be increased only by newborns from the locals; thus Mr. General-Governor Marquis Paulucci, in accordance with the Livonia Province Governorate, does not recognize the necessity of such reduction [of Jews] in Livonia. **B) about Jews in the Courland Governorate**. In 1799, when Jews were entitled a right of permanent residence in Courland*), their number extended to 3.070 souls; In 1827, their reckoning was already considered to be 4,965, and after the All-Merciful Manifesto of 1826 **) another 1,155 souls appeared. According to the explanation of the Courland Province Governorate, such multiplication occurs only from the newcomers, who received from their Kurland relatives the testimonies/evidence of the same with them origin. The local authorities have already conducted a survey regarding verity or falseness of such testimonies, but such disquisition turned out to be useless, because Jews do not have metric books. In the present case, the Courland Province Government considers it necessary to pay attention not only to the reduction of the recorded/registered Jews, but also to the termination of the multiplication of them by means of a new registry, and to achieve this goal, it supposes to exile to Siberia for resettlement: a) those Jews who have really no definite industry, those leading an impermanent/unstable lifestyle, engaged in intermediary dealership (**factoring?**) and distribution of goods. b) those Jews who happened to be improperly recorded/registered, or excluded from the income-salary, if they won't be able to present appropriate certificates of approval of their occupation from the communities in those Gubernias in which Jews are allowed to remain permanently, as to consent to their acceptance; but there should be allowed to stay the Jews who belong to guilds, own houses, are engaged in handcrafts and in active service.

*) See № 55, page 46.

***) See № 147, page 180.

Finally, the Provincial Government supposes to entrust such matter to special Committees, which are being appointed in each city. Mr. General-Governor Marquis Paulucci, supposing to establish such Committees in 5 cities, adds that all Jews, even those who have been recorded, but who undoubtedly belong to other Governorates, must be sent away to the regions of their permanent registration, and Jews of unknown origins and unregistered, must permanently settle if they have means of subsistence, according to the Manifesto of 1826; but that all those who do not have these means and are not engaged in any craft, should be exiled to Siberia for settlement. Such attitude/position of the Mr. General-Governor Marquis Paulucci was proposed by him, the Minister of Internal Affairs, for the consideration to the Jewish Committee, which responded with the follow-up report explaining: in 1764, on the occasion of the Manifesto (December 4th) of 1762 *) about calling/inviting foreigners for settlements in South Russia, though excluding Jews from this summons/call, 20 of these people came to Riga. As the local Administration supposed, since no injunction to that was received from the Government, these Jews have remained to this day living in Riga. The number of Jews in the Livonian Governorate increased with by transferring of the suburb of Schlock, in which Jews lived from Courland to this (Livonian) Governorate. Nowadays, according to the report (in 1828, on the occasion of the [military service] recruitment) about the Jews from the Livonian Provincial Prosecutor, up to 256 souls of them are living in Riga and Schlock. According to the special rules/bylaws existing in Livonia, the Jews, who are moving to other Gubernias for subsistence, and Jewish women, marrying Jews who have residency in other Gubernias, are excluded from Livonia. Jews in Courland, before its annexation to Russia, not only did not have any civil rights, but even the right of indwelling. In this position, they were until the report of the Governing Senate, Highly Approved on March 14th, 1799 **), in which they received the right to engage in the petty industries on the basis of the City Regulation/Bylaws; and for this matter, they were required to come to the city, and declaring their crafts/trades, register themselves in communities/guilds, receive annual passports from the Magistrate or other Courts in order to stay freely and work in their crafts and industries, as well as establish them in the provincial and provincial cities of Kagals/Kahals; and those (Jews) who did not want to stay, were given the freedom to move out (leave abroad). After/When followed (was issued) the Provision of 1804 (December 9th*** about Jews, in which Courland was not mentioned, then the Administration of this Province, comprehending this provision within local bylaws/rights, accepted only permissible by them regulations of this provision, and this disposition was approved by a Decree of the Governing Senate on December 1st 1806 [then], the number of Jews in Courland increased, according to the survey records between 1799 and 1817 from 3070 to 4445, and on the recall of this Governorate's Authorities, after the Manifesto of 1826, appeared another 1155 souls. At the very foundation of the Jewish Committee among its responsibilities, it was precisely stated, that they were assigned to mean the reduction of the Jews in general in the [Russian] State and in particular in those areas where they have not yet spread too much.

*) See № 26, page 22.

***) See № 55, page 46.

***) See № 59, page 53.

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In the rules for the New Charter, the [Jewish] Committee did not overlook such measures/codes, possible to perform/execute, and at the same time, fair and even useful for Jews themselves. While reviewing the matters related to the reduction of the numbers of Jews in Livonia and Courland, the Jewish Committee was comprehending the laws and general presupposed regulations of the New Charter, with convention of the local Provincial Authorities, and upholding the existing in Livonia rulings/provisions, presented the following reasoning/argumentation about the Jews: 1) The Jews, in time of the last census according to their *revision-tales*⁵ submitted by them to the Courland State Chamber of Records and recorded there, are recognized as residents of Courland. 2) Each family of such Jews obtains from the Magistrate of that city, to which it is attributed, a certificate of its right of residence in Courland. 3) Jews cannot move into Courland from other Governorates for the sake of permanent residence. 4) The Jews, who once moved into another Governorate (Gubernia) out of Courland, never can return to it for permanent residency. 5) Marriage of a non-resident Jew to a Jewish woman from a family of Courland, does not give him the right to settle in Courland. 6) A Jewish woman from a family of Courland, who, after marrying a Jew from another Governorate, follows him (her husband), loses her right to reside in Courland, 7) Jews, who have not been recorded in a proper way during the last census/revision in Courland and therefore not having according to the rule 2 their Certificates, are not recognized as residents and must leave/move out: a) foreign citizens - on the basis of decrees of July 30th, 1824 and August 27th, 1825 – [must go] abroad *), b) Polish [Jews], on the basis of the Highest Approved provision of the Committee of Messrs. Ministers from October 26th, 1828**) - to the Kingdom of Poland and) citizens of Russia – to those towns and settlements (*miasteczko-s*), to which they turn out to belong according to revision-tallies. 8) The Jews who are not recorded/registered anywhere and declared themselves registered in Courland after the Manifesto of August 22nd, 1826, should be attributed/registered according to the decree of February 28th, 1819 ***) in one of the Governorates open for the permanent residency of Jews, to those communities, to which they will be found belonging by kinship. 9) Those Jews, who pronounced themselves registered [unproperly/untimely], who don't have kingship/relatives in other Governorates, on the basis of the Highest Approved notion of the State Council, from October 30th, 1827****) - are given a six-month term to find/locate a community, which would agree to accept/adopt them. 10) If among them there are also Jews who own real estate, then based on the same Highest Approved notion of the State Council they are given a two-years term for the sale of that [property], and if they do not sell it, it should be sold for their benefit at public auctions. 11) If a conscription is announced, prior to the deadline appointed for the location of a new community, then such Jews should predominantly be sent to the recruits.

*) See №№ 118 and 127, pages 126 and 152.

**) See 183, page 233. The number/date here is not shown correctly; this decree was published by the Senate on December 28th, 1828. Note by the Publisher.

***) See № 93, page 98.

12) If Jews, under the 8th and 9th rules, within the assigned for them term will not find/locate for themselves a new community, then on the basis of the same Highest Approved notion of the State Council, those who are found fit/capable should be sent to military service, and those who are unable/unfit – exiled to Siberia for settlement. 13) All Jews who have not declared themselves after the Manifesto of August 22nd, 1826, and were not recorded anywhere, are also considered “**state**”/capital (**propisnyje**)⁶ and if capable/fit, should be sent into military service, and those unable/unfit - to Siberia for settlement. Agreeing on his side to such reasoning/assumptions on the part of the Jewish Committee, he – the Minister of Internal Affairs – reported about all that to the Committee of Messrs. Ministers, which, by means of the Journal of last April 2nd, granted with the Highest Approval by His Imperial Majesty, directed: To approve all this proposition by Jewish Committee explained in the presentation. About such provision of the Committee of Messrs. Ministers, honored with the Highest Approval of His Imperial Majesty, after notifying about it the General-Governor of Livonia, Estland, Kurland and Pskov, Marquis Paulucci, for its proper execution, report about it [orderly] to the Governing Senate. It was ordered: about the aforesaid Highest Approved provision of the Committee of Messrs. Ministers, to ensure its prominence throughout Livonian and Courland Governorates, as well as for its proper execution by local Provincial Administration (Government) and State Chambers (Treasury) – to instruct by decrees, by which for information and its orderly execution in case of necessity also notify all other Provincial Administrations and State Chambers of those Governorates (Gubernia-s/Provinces) where Jews are allowed to settle, as well as notify all Messrs. Ministers, Military General-Governors, General-Governors and other Provincial Heads/Administrators, and let know of that all Departments of the Governing Senate. (*V.P.C. 3., Vol. IV, No. 2,884*).

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1. Mitava/Jelgava - Russ. Мита́ва, Germ. Mitau - a city in central Latvia about 41 kilometers (25 miles) southwest of Riga. Jelgava was the capital of the united Duchy of Courland and Semigallia (1578-1795) and the administrative center of the Courland Governorate (1795-1918).
 2. Born in Modena - Filipp Osipovich Paulucci (1779-1849) – was in French and Russian military service; Adjutant General, General-Governor.
 3. Estland - Эстляндия - Estlándiya — the historical name of the northern part of Estonia, Governorate of Estonia.
 4. Schlock - (Latvian - Sloka; before 1917 Шлок, German - Schlock) – now a part of the city of Jurmala, 33 km from Riga, on the bank of the Lielupe, in a place where the river approximately two kilometers from the sea turns east, forming the Jurmala Peninsula. Unlike the rest of the Riga seaside, Schlock was formed and developed as an industrial city. Throughout the whole territory of Jurmala Schlock, it is the oldest settlement that

received the rights of a town - *miasteczko* as early as 1785, and the status of a city in 1878.

5. Revision-tale – *Revizskaya Skazka* – Revision-Legend – documents reflecting the results of surveying of the tax-paying population of the Russian Empire in the 18th - 1st half of the 19th centuries, conducted with the purpose of a “head-tax” taxation of the population. Revision-tales were lists of names of the population, indicating the name, patronymic and surname (if any) of the head/owner of the household, his age, names and surnames of family members indicating their age, and relation to the head of the family.
6. “**прописные евреи**” – improperly registered Jews (or other people), could be understood as “state”/capital people, and as such – under complete disposal of the state, government authorities...

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