

INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE KUTNO COMMUNITY, Mr. S. FALC

(Reprinted from "*Nasz Przegląd*"¹,
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We met with the president in the office of the Jewish community.

"The present community," declared Mr. Falc, "has changed far beyond previous years. It has more tasks and therefore the job is a harder one. But the community's administration works harmoniously, although there is no crystallized majority. The unions' representatives and Rabbi [Yitzhak Yehuda] Trunk work with the Zionists and, despite the opposition of the '*Bund*', we do not encounter any special difficulties in the work.

— However great is the poverty of the Jewish street, apart from the work on social assistance, we also have the

activity of the inconsistent charity-fund, not long ago an independent institution which was recently included in the agendas of the community. Now, it is behaving according to the statute of the majority of such cases in the big cities. Its membership consists of all sections of the population: artisans – 184, traders and merchants – 318, workers and peasants – 79. The size of the loans issued is from 20 to 300 zlotys. The community's administration has carried out the patent-action, which has benefited more than 100 people. This action has cost the town around 6,000 zlotys.

Of the cultural institutions in the city, it is worth mentioning the Jewish gymnasium "*Am HaSefer*", which is subsidized by the community every year with 4,000 zlotys. The gymnasium did not gather a great deal of enthusiasm for its development, due to the lack of its own building and also

¹ TN: Polish "Our Review".

because it did not receive the recognition of a lyceum. The company "TOŻ"², run by Dr. Finkelstein, is maintained thanks to the support of the national associations in America and Australia – also receives subsidies from the community.

The community also conducts Judaism classes for students of the "Powszechna"³ schools. Although the number of hours is limited, they do give a lot to the Jewish children, who in other circumstances would have been completely torn away from the Jewish spirit and knowledge.

— Both Jewish libraries, named *Ahad HaAm* and *Y. L. Perc* – are developing well. The Bundist library *Y. L. Perc* has a large treasure trove of books, as the Zionist founder and owner of the library has left behind many books.

— The community's preliminary budget for the current year is 97,000 złotych – income and expenses.

"At the time of our tenure," Mr. Falc continued, "great investment work was being undertaken. An internal and external renovation of the synagogue, which cost 18,000 złotych, was carried out. The synagogue is now one of the most beautiful in Poland. We bought land for a cemetery for 20,000 złotych.

The Secretary of the town, Mr. Borowski, provided us with the following information: the number of Jews in Kutno is now 6792. A special file has been set up, which is checked every two weeks and checked with the current condition of the Kutno population. Thanks to the card index,

the number of Jewish inhabitants in Kutno can be determined at any time.



The Rabbi Yitzhak [Yehuda] Trunk and the chairman of the community, Mr. [Sender] Falc.

It should also be mentioned that the community's administration in Kutno published and promoted the work of a young historian, son of local rabbi, Mr. Yeshayahu Trunk 'A Jewish Community in Poland at the End of the 18th Century, Kutno' as well as the work of Israel Trank 'On Adler's Psychoanalysis'."

² TN: Polish "Towarzystwo Ochrony Zdrowia Ludności Żydowskiej w Polsce", "Society for the Protection of the Health of the Jewish Population in Poland".

³ TN: Public schools, accepting Jews and non-Jews alike.