

**REPORT ON THE
ORT
ACTIVITIES**

JULY - NOVEMBER 1947

**Submitted to the meeting of the
Executive of the WORLD ORT UNION
ZURICH, November 22th - 23th 1947**

ORT UNION

PARIS

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B E L G I U M

Although most of the time from July till October was taken up by holidays, the Executive Committee and the Direction of the Belgian ORT devoted it to the preparation of the new school-year, to the consolidation and enlargement of the existing institutions, and to the foundation of new training workshops and schools.

Technical training

Graduations and new admissions.

In July, six final examinations were held in Brussels in the following professions : mechanical knitting, cutting and tailoring, chemical technology, weaving and shirtmaking. Seventy pupils obtained their diplomas. The examination boards were in all cases presided by reputed outside technicians, like Mr. Bolbrechts, director of the tailoring school which is a section of the Ecole des Arts et Métiers in Brussels, Mr. Okon, technical director of the Teinturerie Franco-Belge, Mr. Huleux, professeur at Tourmais the Provincial School for Textiles and Haberdashery in Tournai, and Mrs. Smits-Dieu, directress of the Haute Couture establishment of Hirsch & Cie.

Despite the rigorous examinations, the results were most satisfactory. As an example it may be mentioned, that all candidates passed the final examination in mechanical knitting with the mention "very good"; one of the members of the examination board happened to be the Belgian representative of the firm of Dubied of Neuchâtel (Switzerland), manufacturers of the universally known knitting machines. He announced that his firm had decided to present 2 knitting machines to the training workshop in recognition of their excellent work.

In addition to the final examinations in the training workshops, end-of-term examinations were held in the Trade schools for youths, which have a training duration of 3 years. The number of pupils who, having passed these examinations, were allowed to proceed from the first to the second form is distributed as follows :

school for mechanics	16 pupils
" " carpentry	11 "
" " electrotechnics	7 "
" " radiotechnics	12 "
" " tailoring	7 "
girls' school for cutting and dressmaking	15 "

At the same time when second forms were set up for the former first-year pupils, new pupils were admitted to the first forms in those schools to begin their training in the new schools year; their numbers were :

school for mechanics	14 pupils
" " carpentry	7 "
" " electrotechnics	13 "
" " radiotechnics	5 "
" " cutting and dressmaking	15 "

In the beginning of September, new pupils were admitted to the following training workshops for adults :

training workshop for mechanical knitting	12 pupils
" " " weaving	10 "
" " " cutting and dressmaking	24 "
" " " welding	6 "
" " " shirtmaking	15 "
" " " corsetmaking	15 "

The 2 evening courses for the perfectioning of cutters of ladies' coats and tailor-mades and of men's suits with 24 pupils are progressing normally.

Finally, 15 new pupils were admitted to the children's workshops which were established in Boitsfort near Brussels in the beginning of this year.

The imminent opening of new workshops for adults, for radiotechnics and electrical installation, is contemplated in Brussels, as well as the reopening of the laboratory for chemical technology. The Technical Committee has developed through the appointment of several new members, particularly Ing. Coltura, chief of service at the lathe factory "La Mondiale" at Vilvorde, for the mechanics section, and Mr. Bonhomme, director of the Belgian Institute, for the welding section. The members of this commission give constant assistance to the Management of the Belgian ORT in the purchasing of supplies and materials, in the organization of examinations, the placing of graduated pupils, the organization of new workshops, etc.

ANTWERP

On the 12th of August at 27 Avenue de Belgique, Antwerp, new premises were added to the three ORT buildings already existing in Brussels. On the same day the first two training-workshops for adults were opened at Antwerp : sewing for ladies, and shirt-making, with a total of 64 pupils. Nearly 200 students mostly between the ages of 25 and 40 are waiting to be

admitted to the new ORT workshops at Antwerp, whose opening is being prepared. For reasons beyond our control the children's workshops for the pupils of the two Jewish primary schools Tachkemoni and Jisode Hatora will be opened only at the end of the year.

Agricultural Instruction

As expected instruction has been resumed in October in the ORT Trainingfarm at Kessel-Loo near Louvain, for a new group of 40 young men belonging to the Youth-Aliyah. Following the agreement reached with the Central European office of the Youth Aliyah, these students will attend the courses at Kessel-Loo for a period of twelve months. The training is divided between market-gardening, cattle-raising and arboriculture.

The Belgian ORT has organized special courses for gardening for children in 5 Homes. Under the direction of Mr. Jacques Puissant, agronomist for the Belgian ORT, 143 children from the ages of 8 to 15 are attending these courses, at Anderghem, Wesembeek, Lasnes, Profondsart and the Jewish Orphanage. These children have learned to use the principle gardening tools. The older ones have learned to sow, transplant, work over, weed and harvest. The younger ones have learned that a garden is not only a place where one plays, but that it is also the source of the flowers which decorate the house and of the vegetables that one eats at table. During the winter season, more attention will be paid to theoretical instruction.

From the 1st of July to the 31st of October 594 pupils, youths and adults, attended the 31 Belgian ORT schools, training workshops and vocational courses in Brussels, Boitsfort, Antwerp and Kessel-Loo.

Post-graduate service

In view of the increasing number of pupils who have finished their apprenticeship in courses and workshops, it has been decided to create a placing service for post-graduates, the principle aim of which will be to find work for all persons qualified through ORT

This placing service has contacted with various official and semi-official organizations. Insofar as is possible, once the pupils are placed, they are followed up in such a way as to permit a check on their yield and their salary.

In order to give immediate work to pupils who are unemployed for various reasons, such as economic shifts, ignorance of the language, and administrative difficulties and also for the purpose of perfecting the academic instruction by practice, several cooperatives called "workshops for perf-

ecting", are about to be set up.

Social Service

After numerous difficult and long discussions the various negotiations with the AJDC have yielded positive results. It can now be hoped that in the future the attendance of pupils will no longer be hampered by the insufficiency of financial assistance.

For the purpose of bringing the matter of assistance back to normal, a Mixed Commission for Coordination has been founded, comprising delegates from the ORT, the A.C.D.C., the AIVG (Aid to Israelite Victims of the War), and the IRO. The activity of this Commission will, we believe, permit the removal of difficulties and disputes which might otherwise arise.

Thanks to the help provided by the women's Committee -- whose work is daily becoming more and more important because of the insufficient number of big relief organizations -- the Social Service was able during the summer vacation to facilitate and provide holidays for school children and adolescents. And thanks to the funds given by the Women's Canadian ORT, and the support of the ORT UNION, the Women's Committee was able in addition to maintain a canteen for needy pupils, and to look after their most urgent needs. At the time of the "ORT Days" last June, an occasion which permitted the collection of fairly important funds for the Social Service of the Belgian ORT, Queen Elizabeth made a substantial gift to the Women's Committee of the Belgian ORT.