

REPORT ON THE ORT ACTIVITIES

AUGUST 1946-JULY 1947

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S H A N G H A I

Although organized originally to meet a wartime emergency the work of ORT in Shanghai has been singularly successful. During World War II we have decided to organize ORT projects in Shanghai specifically for the purpose of enabling some of the Jewish refugees who found a haven in that distant land to become self-supporting. However, in 1946, after the conclusion of the war, it became necessary to revise our training to meet the new situation. The problem was now not to train men and women who would seek employment in Shanghai but to teach them suitable trades for purposes of resettlement.

At the end of 1946, following preliminary negotiations, ORT submitted a list of its trainees to the Australian Department of Immigration with a request that, in view of the fact that they were skilled men and women, they be permitted to settle in Australia. The Australian Government sent one of its representatives, A. Masel, to Shanghai to investigate the quality of ORT work and the qualifications and skill of the trainees. Following a thorough examination of our work on the spot, Mr. Masel submitted a very favourable report to the Australian Government. He declared that the work performed by ORT trainees would contribute greatly to the industrial development of the country and that he did not hesitate to recommend for immigration to Australia men and women who had been designated by the Shanghai ORT.

Including their families there are today 800 persons on the list for immigration to Australia. In addition, some of the ORT trainees have already departed for the United States and a considerable number has been repatriated to Austria.

The present ORT vocational training program in Shanghai is designed in the first place to facilitate the resettlement of refugees. From the conclusion of the war up till March, 1947, we have trained 1,190 men and women in the following trades

1. Courses in building and technical trades : a) carpentry, 5, b) radio engineering, 34, c) welding, 43, d) automobile driving 326, e) auto-electric, 31; total, 439 pupils.

2. Courses in clothing trades : a) dressmaking, 101, b) machine knitting, 43, c) fashion designing, 30, d) cutting of men's clothing, 22, e) manufacturing of neckties, 45, f) corsetry, 17; total, 258 pupils.

3. Courses in various trades : a) gardening, 9, b) bookbinding, 33, c) spray painting, 29, d) industrial art, 16; total, 87 pupils.

4. Complementary school for apprentices working in private workshops, 128.

5. Engineering Seminary (advanced technical knowledge), 278.

The engineering seminar is of particular interest for future emigrants and number of students has practically doubled since the end of the war. The deep interest of the students in ORT training is indicated by the fact that they are now willing to pay a moderate school fee, which covers about 20 % of the Shanghai ORT budget.

Shanghai has now a new school building where all our vocational activities can be concentrated. It is located at 511, Dalny Road and it has been equipped with funds contributed by the World ORT Union.

In the six years of ORT activity in Shanghai a total of 2,375 students have been trained. The Shanghai ORT hopes to give to all of its trainees the possibility of becoming self-supporting in the countries where they will finally settle.