

Large Workshops in the Jewish Residential District

In reorganising the economy in the General Government, the German administration has necessarily had to deal with the *Jewish problem* to an – compared to conditions within Germany – unprecedented extent, for around one third of the population in the large city of Warsaw consists of Jews. In addition, quite a significant number of smaller cities were almost completely the domains of Jewry. However, this could not prevent setting about the elimination (*Ausschaltung*) of Jewry from Aryan economic life, and the required restructuring frequently demanded the adoption of new measures in dealing with the Jewish masses. Amongst these was the formation of an enclosed Jewish residential district in Warsaw, in which around 500,000 Jews reside.

New in this respect for the situation in the Reich is that around 40 percent of the Jews capable of working in Warsaw belong to the artisan class. Professions such as shoemakers (*Schäftemacher*), tailors, umbrella makers, carpenters, roofers, bag makers, fashion accessories makers, precision mechanics, etc. were practised by Jews on a large scale. At a time when so many German workers have had to exchange their tools for a rifle, the German administration was therefore faced with the task of effectively deploying for the economy the available Jewish tradesmen in suitable and supervised workshops.

Assisted by interested firms, it has already proven possible, as the *Warsaw Transfer Office* (*Transferstelle*) confirms, to establish a series of large workshops which, under German supervision, work exclusively for German clients (*Auftraggeber*). The productivity achieved is satisfactory, even if the equipment and fixtures used by the Jewish tradesmen is outdated and needs to be complemented. There are a wide range of possibilities for transferring orders from areas suffering under labour shortages to Warsaw.

For the purpose of handling the economic side of the Jewish problem in Warsaw, some time ago the Transfer Office Warsaw was established as a public-law institution at Königstraße 23, Warsaw. Its task is to provide help and advice for German enterprises in assessing the Jewish tradesmen and workshop operations.

Translated by Paul Bowman