

REPORT ON POGOST MINSK GUBERNIA

The town Pogost, Igumen Uyezd, Minsk gubernia is situated 75 versts from the station Borisov - at the M. Ruthenian-Baltic Railway Line. Before the war the population consisted of 1600 souls, including 800 Jews. At the present time the population consists of 1200 persons, including 500 Jews.

Prior to 1919 the population was engaged in timber business, trading and trades. Most of the inhabitants owned houses and most all of them got along nicely. In summer of 1919 when the town Berezino was occupied by the Poles Pogost was included in the neutral zone. The Poles made frequent raids on the town and plundered it. Not satisfied with this, in autumn of the same year during one of their raids they surrounded all Jewish houses, set fire to them and would not let anybody escape from the houses, desiring to burn all Jewish houses together with the people who lived there. With much difficulty the Jews were permitted to leave the houses. However one Jew, who had no time to escape was burned in one of the houses. As a result all Jewish houses together with all property were burned in Pogost. During the fire the Poles killed 10 Jews; those of the Jews who managed to escape alive partly fled, while the rest settled at the houses that were spared. Owing to the crowded conditions, dirt, semi-starved existence and lack of underwear, which brought about a typhus epidemic in Pogost, many fell victims of the latter. During 1920 and 1921 the town was attacked several times by bandit bands; as a result - 3 Jews were hanged and the population was robbed. Consequently, after all these sufferings the Jewish population became very poor and at the present time is in great distress.

Its only support was the food packages received from America, and in the absence of such the inhabitants would have died from hunger.

Children's Institutions: The town Pogost has not a single children's home, or nursery or sheltering home though its need for a children's home is very great. To establish a children's home would require an expenditure of a one time allocation of \$300 and \$100 monthly.

Schools: Pogost has not a single school so that the Jewish children have no place where to learn. It is necessary to open a Jewish school. This would require an expenditure of \$200.

Medical Aid: Pogost has no hospital. The first-aid station attended by an assistant -surgeon is extremely insufficient, and therefore it is necessary to open here a free ambulatory, which would require an expenditure of \$100.

It would be desirable to open a loan kassa at Pogost so as to give the Jews an opportunity to rebuild their burnt houses and start some business. An initial sum of \$500 would be required at first for this purpose. It is necessary to open at Pogost a bath-house, owing to lack of it; the needs for such a bathhouse is great. \$300 would be required for this.

Thus Pogost needs:

1.	To open a Children's home	\$300
2.	To open a Jewish School	200
3.	Free Ambulatory	100
4.	Establish a Loan Kassa	500
5.	Rebuild the Bathhouse	<u>300</u>
		\$1400
