

### **The Shekel Certificate**

1. One who purchases the Shekel thereby declares his belonging to the World Zionist Organization.
2. Each purchaser of the Shekel is entitled to participate in the election of delegates to the Zionist Congress, to vote and to be elected.
3. The Congress is the supreme legislative institution of the Zionist Organization.
4. The Zionist Congress is responsible for the programs and initiatives for building the Zionist enterprise in Palestine.
5. By purchasing the Shekel, every Jew has the opportunity of expressing his opinion and wishes regarding these programs and initiatives.
6. The larger the number of people purchasing Shekels throughout the world, the greater the political esteem and influence of the World Zionist Organization.

Within the Jewish people, the Zionist movement has already attained a wealth of unforgettable, historical events. Almost every Congress marks some event in the history of the movement. The first Zionist Congress, and the establishment of the Zionist Organization, are the kinds of events that, imbued with the glory of our brilliant past and the seeds of creativity, established the direction and set forth the path for future generations; their imprint will never be erased from the pages of Jewish history. Similarly, the Sixth and Seventh Congresses, in which the spirit of the people and the conscience of past generations expressed themselves, will be remembered for all time in the history of the movement as the congresses that fixed its fate and determined its essence for all time: that the Jewish people and the Land of Israel are a single unity! The Congresses that followed, each in its own way, also played an important role in the history of the movement, and there is no doubt that the forthcoming Sixteenth Congress will also play a valuable role.

The past years have been years of upheaval in our movement. Nevertheless, it is moving toward its goal: to make the building our National Home an enterprise that is central to the whole of the Jewish people in the Diaspora. However, the realization of this aspiration requires that we close ranks within our movement.

It is our belief that the coming Congress will remove confusion and dispel the clouds, so that a new light will shine upon our movement. Let us fortify our camp; let us strengthen and empower the World Zionist Organization, which has faithfully nurtured the movement and brought it to this point. The Zionist Organization has created a symbol of strength and influence – the *Shekel*. Let the number of those who bear this symbol increase; recruit *Shekel* contributors from throughout the ranks of our people. Now, as in days gone by, the *Shekel* is the basis of the Zionist citizen's duty. – I trust that our members, wherever they may be, will devote to this major institution of our Organization, and to the Zionist Movement as a whole, the energy and dedication that they deserve.

Chaim Weizmann  
President of the Zionist Organization

The idea of Zionist citizenship has yet to strike deep roots within our camp. However, the success of the Zionist ideal depends in no small measure on the success of this idea. For what is Zionism, fundamentally, if not a political movement, seeking to instill in the hearts of its members and supporters a sense of citizenship, loyalty and devotion to its ideal of creating loyal citizens? Most normal nations have symbols indicating citizenship – and their citizens encounter them at every turn. Correspondingly, the Zionist Organization has, for the past thirty years, attempted to instill this recognition. As its symbol, the Zionist genius has created the *Shekel*. Can one be faithful to the revival of the Jewish people, in the political sense, and yet not understand that expanding the number of the movement's citizens – by means of the *Shekel* – is an essential step toward Zionist fulfillment?

The Executive of the World Zionist Organization calls on all Zionists – from every circle and ideological stream – to use their best efforts to popularize the *Shekel* among the masses of the people, and to turn it into a citizen's tax for the Zionist State. Let every Zionist know that, by encouraging other Jews to acquire the Shekel, they thereby make them Zionist citizens and bring the Zionist State closer to its realization. Let everyone who contributes the Shekel, and all who distribute them, know that they are thus partners with the Zionist Executive in the enormous task of building the National Home.

N. Sokolov

President of the Zionist Executive

Dr. Theodor Zelochisti

## The Shekel

This article is the first of a series of promotional articles written about the Shekel since its inception. It was printed in the newspaper, *Die Welt*, in 1901, in issue 23. That is, it was in the fourth year of the Organization's existence, prior to the Fifth Congress. The author was known to be close to the Executive in Vienna, as well as editor of *Die Welt* at one stage. We feel that the readers would be interested in this article, as it embodies the refreshing ideas about the Zionist Shekel in its early years, as well as expressing the mood of the movement's leadership at that time.

The Editors

In every major movement, as in daily life, a person's energies begin to fail him as he approaches his goal. When the goal is near, almost within reach, there is no longer that same energy that calls forth great effort, imbuing us with a spirit of victory, of being able to overcome all obstacles. We Zionists must be wary of this weakening. During the course of the present year, we have taken great strides forward. The number of our supporters has grown, while our opponents, if not yet enthused by our ideals, have learned to appreciate, to some extent, our holy dedication. We have now reached a crossroads; we must not stop here and be satisfied with what we have achieved. Our strength will not ebb and our devotion will not lessen until we reach the realization of our dream: to build a homeland for our people, which has suffered so much, both physically and spiritually.

Our movement is one of peace, and its goals are peaceful; nevertheless, it is imbued with a fighting spirit. Ours is a holy war, one that calls, in the name of humanity, for an end to be put to the desolation in which our people finds itself, and to return the homeland to our suffering brethren. It is a holy struggle! But we cannot fight this war solely by passionate words – even if these come from the purest of hearts; nor with enthusiasm alone – even if it derives from a truly noble spirit. This struggle requires money, money and more money. We have no weapons, no instruments of steel and brass; we require money, in order to unite the people, to give it back its unique national will.

And this money – for administration, organization, information – should not come from the private generosity of individual members. It is unseemly that a few individuals give tens of thousands, while the rest sit idly by. This is contrary to the very spirit of our movement, for we are a democratic party in the loftiest sense of the word. To our Parliament are elected delegates who have equal rights, elected by Jews who are equal in rights. Each and every individual is entitled to influence the decisions of our leaders, who are elected by our will. Our political development has taken the opposite form to that of the nations of the world. Among the nations, equality of duties preceded equality of rights – for us, equality of rights will lead to a deep, ingrained recognition of equality of obligations.

These few notes should suffice to awaken our Zionist brethren to fulfill their obligation. We shall pay that which we ought, just as the subject of any country pays his taxes to his government. Till now, the Jews have lacked the awareness of this obligation. Till now, they would give their money for Jewish causes as a voluntary donation. The time has come to put an end to this phenomenon. We are entitled to demand it, at least from those Zionists who raise the banner of their Jewishness on high, and do not consider it a

burden. We must be suffused by this recognition: our assistance to our brethren, our people and our State is not a donation, but an obligation willingly accepted.

Our “party dues” are the Shekel – just like the Shekel that our forefathers contributed in their homeland. At the First Congress, in Basel, it was decided that every Jew who accepts upon himself the Zionist program is required to purchase the Shekel. This obligation is equally applicable to those who, for whatever reason, have been unable to join their national or local Zionist organization.

We therefore ask all the licensed distributors – without giving this term too bureaucratic a meaning – to devote their heart and energy to distributing the Shekel. And we hope that this task will not prove too onerous for them, if every Zionist will pay his dues to the movement willingly.

And so, comrades – to work! In the coming year there are many vital questions and demands before us. Our leaders have placed their trust in us. *They* have carried us forward, and *we*, for our part, must redouble our own efforts.

***Comrades! Remember the Shekel!***

## Circular from the Zionist Executive in Vienna, dated 1900

Vienna, 10 October 1900

Esteemed friend,

The Executive in Vienna feels that it is its duty to send the following announcement to its colleagues in the Zionist Council.

In spite of the many obstacles that have stood in our way since the beginning of our work, in spite of the hatred of our opponents, and the apathy of those who stand afar, the Congresses, particularly the most recent thereof, have brought us to the recognition that our movement has fulfilled at least portion of its program completely: it has brought Jews together under a single banner, and has given modern expression to their ancient national aspirations.

This was preparatory, pioneering, work, which has prepared the ground for the following steps. Each and every Jew can be pleased with this outcome. Every unbiased observer will have to acknowledge it, while we, for our part, do not underestimate its value. However, we do not deceive ourselves: this was but the easiest part of our work within Jewry. And so, we do not let ourselves be overcome with pride. No! This outcome is not sufficient, in comparison with the work that has been carried for the benefit of our people out over these past three years. We did not seek to merely achieve the easiest qualification: we aspired to much more than that. We fought for greater deeds, but it is obvious that achieving something easy would precede the achievement of something difficult.

It is not our opponents who have the right to examine and criticize our activities – it is for us to do so. And to this end we must consider and examine why many of our efforts – both physical and spiritual – have not borne fruit. We wish to study and understand our errors, and learn lessons from them for the future; we must constantly warn our members, and ourselves, not to repeat the mistakes of the past. The goal that is so dear to us all stands above all our private concerns. We know that there are some Jews, Zionists in their heart, who have not yet joined our movement, although this is so important for us. There are many districts and regions, in the East and in the West, where there live observant Jews who know nothing of our movement, do not read our newspapers, have not heard our speeches, are not familiar with our endeavors, and who are familiar with our goals in only a superficial or distorted way. Yet they, who are Zionists from birth, who should be the most dedicated and enthusiastic of our members – it is they who stand afar and remain outside our movement.

We know that the members of the Council in those countries have done a great deal during this time. But it is our duty, our fraternal duty, to tell them that their activities are not yet sufficient, and that they must redouble their efforts in every respect. We are certain that, in the wake of this announcement, after this appeal to their sense of devotion, they will do as we ask and indeed redouble their efforts. Each of us must extend his influence in his own area of activity: every one of our members is obligated to carry the message of Zionism to every city and town, to recruit for our endeavor those who are yet far from it. You know as well as we do, that the number of those who have purchased the *Shekel* totals only 150 thousand people. At the Congresses we proclaimed this great truth: that the Zionist camp is that of the Jewish people; and we

may well say so, for we take into account all those who suffer or wander on the paths of life, all those who yet lack the will or the strength to join our movement. But ultimately these too will have to join us, for every Jew is obliged to dedicate his powers, limited though they may be, to working for the general good. It is your duty, your obligation, to bring this about, and we call on you to carry out your duty. For, the greater the effort put in by the dedicated members of the Council in carrying out their role – an honorable role, albeit a burdensome one – the easier it will be for us to achieve the two fundamental elements of Zionism: a greater number of followers and increased income. These two measures are still too low for us, and we consider them equal in importance. Nevertheless, we prize the number of followers greater than the total of our income, since the latter is but a temporary means toward continued success, while the former element is a permanent value in our endeavor.

The Zionist Executive in Vienna will not be stopped by any obstacle, nor will it stint in its efforts to carry out its many duties. But an malevolent spirit seems to interfere with our efforts: the concern for the sustenance for our movement, the constant lack of financial means. Provide more money, and Zionism will rise, at the Fifth Congress, to a loftier level than which it stands upon at present.

Esteemed colleague, please speak to the wealthy members in your district, call upon their assistance and get them to offer financial support for our goals. Establish new groups, distribute *Shekel* booklets, and send us regularly, through your national committee, the funds that you have collected, without waiting for us to request it. Distribute our newspapers, print pamphlets, and offer us your suggestions.

One of our number, Herr Oskar Marmorek of Vienna, Maximilianplatz 4, has taken upon himself to arrange for and manage publicity. Please contact him with any news, requests and requirements, and he will attempt to respond and satisfy every need.

In the coming months we will be organizing extensive publicity tours by our leading colleagues, to influence our fellow-Jews by means of public opinion, and to recruit new followers for our ideas and for our major enterprise – the Bank. Our people wait with baited breath for the bank – our bank – to commence its operations. We still lack the sum of 90 thousand Pounds Sterling, and every new subscription brings us closer to our goal. Please make every effort to obtain subscriptions for the Bank's shares, and expand your publicity activities so that we can already open the Jewish Bank this winter. We are currently working hard on all fronts, we are already preparing for the coming Congress, and are giving advance warning that this year the collection of *Shekels* will end earlier than it did last year, and that, in our report, we will have to place the responsibility for any shortcomings in our work on the backs of the guilty.

Esteemed colleague, we would like to correspond with you regularly, and we ask that you support us with both advice and action. The foundation stone has been laid, the foundation has been put in place, and now we and you, but particularly you, must finish the building of this edifice, the center of our dreams and hopes.

Sincerely, and with Zionist greetings,

The Executive

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## **Resolution of the First Zionist Congress regarding the *Shekel***

Article 2 (Paragraph 4): “Every Zionist, who desires to obtain the right to elect delegates to the Congress, shall, each year, voluntarily contribute for Zionist purposes, at least one *Shekel*, in the sum of One Franc – Two Shillings – Half a Dollar – Half a Gulden – 40 Kopeks – One Mark”

### **The First *Shekel* Announcement**

Remember the *Shekel*!

In accordance with Article 1, Paragraph 1, of the Basel Resolutions (The Zionist Organization comprises those Jews who accept the program of the Zionist Congress and who pay a *Shekel*) we call on the associations, local groups and licensed distributors, to immediately set about collecting the *Shekels*. The *Shekel* will be collected only from members of the movement, since it is tied to the right of passive and active election to the Congress. However, every Zionist is obligated to distribute the *Shekel* among the residents of his town who accept the Basel Program, even if they are not members of any Zionist association. Every Zionist must contribute the *Shekel*, and the licensees are to see to it by every means that they can!

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### **The *Shekel* in Herzl's Diaries**

24 September, 1897:

... There are those who are of the opinion that we should issue *Shekel* vouchers. I would estimate that the annual income from this will be 833 Florins 75 Kreuzer, even if I do not undertake any publicity in this matter.

12 March, 1898:

... For our great work we do not have sufficient funds.

Income from the *Shekel* is limited, while our needs are so great...

My main activity for the movement is to assist in raising its stature. The means for this exist in theory, but in fact they are not currently available. Thanks to me, there is great potential for an increase in the movement's income. Funds from the *Shekel* will continue to flow, and then the administration of the movement will not be so difficult.

14 March, 1898:

... Kukasz read from the list of *Shekel* holders, and mentioned a specific number of licensees, who will act as public collectors of the *Shekel* funds.

## In the Spirit of the People

The late David Wolfson on the Flag and the Shekel

*The following article was written by Wolfson to mark the Zionist Organization's tenth anniversary in 5667 (1907).*

Those were days of feverish labor, the days prior to the opening of the First Congress. There was so much excitement and expectation. We looked forward to the great day for which we had prepared so carefully and happily, yet with some trepidation, as though it were our day of judgment. There were so many obstacles, and we were so few in number ... yet we had to take the plunge. Who could say whether the Congress would be a success or not?

At the behest of our leader Herzl, I came to Basel to make the necessary preparations so that Zionist Congress should be dignified, and not give our opponents something to criticize. Among many other problems that occupied me then was one that although small, was weighty. Indeed, it indicated something of the essence of the Jewish problem. What flag would we hang over the Congress Hall? What form and colors should our flag take? Since we had no flag, the issue perplexed me greatly. It was necessary to design a flag, but which colors were to be chosen? From where would we take our national colors – we, a people that had closed its eyes to images and colors.

Then an idea struck me. We have a flag — and it is blue and white. The talit (prayer shawl) is the symbol of Judaism. Let us take this Talit from its bag and unfurl it proudly before the eyes of Israel and the eyes of all the nations! So I ordered a blue and white flag with the Shield of David woven upon it. That is how our national flag came into being.<sup>1</sup>

When our colleagues arrived, and saw the flag flying above the congress hall, they showed no surprise, nor did they ask where it had come from. Everyone felt that this was obviously an appropriate choice for our flag.

Similar to this is the history of the Zionist Shekel.

At a session of the Presidium it was proposed that a fixed sum be set, payment of which would be required of every Zionist. During the discussion there was, however, great confusion over the name by which this payment would be called. One speaker would refer to it in German as *beitrag*, another with the French *contribution*, a third called it a “tax”, a fourth used the Russian *wosnass*, while a fifth speaker termed it, in Yiddish, as *chevreh-geld*. I said to myself that we had to find a single name, one that could be used by all, and that there was no more suitable or comprehensible name than the *Shekel*. I had barely made my proposal in those terms, when everyone began using the name. Indeed, when the matter came up for discussion at the Congress, everyone was already familiar with the term. No one saw it as being unusual or innovative.

And that is how it is when anything comes into being in the spirit of the people. It is indeed a good sign when no one feels that something is an innovation, and the new form is accepted by the people as something obvious.

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<sup>1</sup> Portions of Wolfson's description of the selection of the flag are found, in edited form, in two articles on the web: [http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/MFAArchive/1990\\_1999/1999/1/Reuven%20Kashani%20-%20The%20National%20Flag](http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/MFAArchive/1990_1999/1999/1/Reuven%20Kashani%20-%20The%20National%20Flag) and <http://www.haggadah.us/israeli-flags-and-maps/index.html>

### **The institution of the Shekel since its Inception**

To give a picture of the extent to which the Shekel has developed over the 29 years of its existence the reader will find below two complementary tables.

Table A is a list of the Shekel funds collected annually. This will show the development of the Shekel as the financial and administrative institution of the Zionist Organization. Regarding the past six years, 5682-5687, the reader will find below a more detailed survey. We would note that the best year, in terms of the number of Shekels sold prior to the war, was the year 5673, the year immediately prior to the outbreak of war, and even then no more than 127,000 Marks, for approximately 120,000 Shekels, was collected. The worst year was the year 5674, in which war broke out.

Table B. From 5682 onwards exact records of the number of Shekels distributed in each country have been kept, and these are listed in Table B. Although firm conclusions should not be drawn from these numbers alone – particularly if we take into account the fact that the past six years have included years of financial distress, years of inflation and instability – the table does indicate trends for the Shekel enterprise in the future.

1. The table in question includes figures for three Congress periods: the 13th Congress (5682-5683), the 14th Congress (5684-5685), and the 15th Congress (5686-5687).

2. The general expenses for these six years, divided according to Congress periods, are as follows:

<b>13<sup>th</sup> Congress</b>		<b>14<sup>th</sup> Congress</b>		<b>15<sup>th</sup> Congress</b>	
5682	373,217	5684	300,240	5686	214,884
5683	584,765	5685	637,917	5687	416,767
Total	957,982		938,157		631,151

These figures indicate:

- a. That the period of the 15th Congress (5686-5687) was the worst in terms of the number of Shekel holders since the war, two thirds of the numbers for the previous periods;
- b. That under certain circumstances it would definitely be possible to distribute over 600,000 Shekels in a year (5685);
- c. That with suitable effort it would not be impossible to distribute in a single Congress period a total of 1,000,000 Shekels.

The drastic fall that occurred in the period of the 15th Congress may be attributed to two main factors:

- a. The institution of the uniform Shekel: this approach, because of its newness, because it negates the sense of competition between the parties in selling Shekels, and because of delays in forming national Shekel committees, had the effect of interfering with a successful enterprise, particularly in the first year of the 15th Congress period (5686).
- b. Poland: whereas in the periods of the 13th and 14th congresses 306,568 and 287,647 Shekels were distributed respectively, the period of the 15th congress saw the distribution of only 60,361 Shekels, a difference of 227,000 and 246,000 from the previous periods, and this explains, to a large extent, the difference between the results for the previous periods and those for the 15th Congress.

It is interesting to compare the results achieved in two Congress years, 5685 and 5687, and these may be divided into a number of categories:

- a. Countries in which there was an increase in 5687 relative to the previous Congress year, 5685:

	<b>5685</b>	<b>5687</b>	<b>Increase</b>
Palestine	24,664	36,616	50%
Finland	194	264	35%
South Africa	10,904	13,227	22%
France	1,128	1,322	16%
Denmark	125	147	16%
England	10,162	11,641	14%
Australia	228	247	8%
United States	131,277	141,221	7.5%
Brazil	1,400	1,500	7%
Holland	1,796	1,885	5%
Switzerland	1,662	1,735	4%

In certain of these countries – England, France, Holland and Australia – the figures achieved in 5687 do not indicate the maximum effort since, in previous years, higher numbers had been achieved in those very countries: England – 20,021 (5683); France – 2,770 (5686); Holland – 3,197 (5682); and Australia – 1,983 (5683).

- b. Countries in which the number of Shekel holders in 5687 dropped only slightly, less than ten percent, compared with 5685:

	<b>5685</b>	<b>5687</b>
Argentina	4,685	4,656
Czechoslovakia	13,528	13,483
Eastern Galicia	28,067	27,701
Germany	21,910	20,686
Yugoslavia	5,906	5,728
Norway	100	95

Regarding Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, we would note that the number of Shekels sold in 5685 and 5687 was also achieved in 5686, which was not a congress year, while in other countries included in this class the numbers for 5686 were much lower.

c. In this class are countries in which the number of Shekel holders in 5687 was more than ten but less than fifty percent lower relative to 5685, the previous Congress year:

	<b>5685</b>	<b>5687</b>	<b>% Decrease</b>
Italy	1,503	1,307	13%
Latvia	4,940	4,250	14%
Bessarabia	4,587	3,860	17%
Hungary	2,530	1,939	17%
Canada	9,259	7,241	22%
Belgium	2,377	1,726	23%
Strasbourg	1,000	777	23%
Tunis	785	549	30%
Romania	16,484	11,289	31%
Siberia	325	225	31%
Western Galicia	26,935	17,170	35%
Greece	3,760	2,400	35%
Egypt	887	450	47%

d. In this class are those countries which, in 5687, distributed less than half the number of Shekels distributed in 5685:

	<b>5685</b>	<b>5687</b>	<b>% Decrease</b>
Lithuania	18,086	6,110	53%
Austria	8,328	3,984	53%
Mesopotamia	1,910	900	53%
Bulgaria	9,092	4,013	56%
Transylvania	14,737	6,199	58%
Bukovina	6,846	2,800	58%
Morocco	831	352	58%
Danzig	1,138	428	60%
Vilna	5,791	2,111	63%

The large drop in these countries is worrisome. Each of these countries has a Jewish population numbering tens or hundreds of thousands of Jews, and the numbers for previous years indicate that it is certainly possible to obtain double the number of Shekel holders, or even more. Undoubtedly the large drop can be attributed to a lack of sufficient involvement on the part of the leading Zionists in this area of activity.

e. Unique in terms of its poor results is Poland. The drop in the number of Shekel holders in 5687, whether relative to the number achieved in 5685 or relative to the Jewish population, was particularly astonishing. Whereas in 5685 210,000 Shekels were distributed in Poland, in 5687 only 49,000 were distributed, less than a quarter of the number achieved in 5685.

There was a significant increase in the second year of the 15th Congress period (5687), and we would hope, since the uniform Shekel system has now been accepted, to a large extent, and the economic crisis in Palestine, which so greatly affected the work in Poland in particular, is receding, that the present Congress period will return to the Shekel the respect and place that it held in our movement in previous periods.

**TABLE A**Income from Shekel fees  
5659-5687

<b>Year</b>	<b>Income</b>	
5659	114,370.15	Francs
5660	96,434.51	"
5661	96,626.35	"
5662	232,645.19	"
5663		
5664	137,071.62	"
5665		
5666	67,295.-	Marks
5667	97,038.-	"
5668	76,583.-	"
5669	106,224.-	"
5670	71,530.-	"
5671	104,364.-	"
5672	88,081.36	"
5673	127,308.35	"
5674	45,669.11	"
5675	99,277.80	"
5676	67,926.16	"
5677	48,216.98	"
5678	46,458.01	"
5679	4552/3/11	Pounds Sterling
5680	3855/2/9	"
5681	19941/5/10	"
5682	8723/17/6	"
5683	14871/6/10	"
5684	13658/16/7	"
5685	24296/17/11	"
5686	14394/5/3	"
5687 (Figures for 5687 are not final)	23569/7/9	"

**Table B**  
**List of Shekels Sold in each Country**  
**In the years 5682-5687**

Countries	5682	5683	5684	5685	5686	5687
Eretz Israel	6,662	8,892	6,667	24,664	3,906	36,616
America	33,758	32,346	47,251	131,277	60,000	141,221
Argentina	4,547	3,200	1,500	4,685	3,356	4,656
Austria	28,230	35,804	5,468	8,528	1,285	3,984
Belgium	857	1,468	907	2,377	1,387	1,726
Bessarabia	1,915	5,275	2,052	4,581	1,289	3,860
Brazil	1,040	1,070	602	1,400	--	1,500
Bukovina	4,144	7,981	4,366	6,846	2,423	2,696
Bulgaria	6,727	6,492	6,868	9,092	4,512	4,013
Canada	3,613	11,000	2,443	9,259	9,259	7,241
Czechoslovakia	10,432	9,138	7,608	13,528	13,365	13,433
Chile	1,000	957	500	--	500	1,000
Danzig	454	1,306	564	1,138	204	428
Denmark	67	227	70	125	104	147
Egypt	1,416	1,223	400	887	262	450
England	9,158	20,021	13,857	10,162	15,796	11,197
Estonia	1,500	1,400	792	1,125	567	281
Finland	116	63	248	194	235	264
France	150	1,026	136	1,128	2,770	1,322
Strasbourg	641	493	361	1,000	787	777
Eastern Galicia	41,411	55,539	27,739	28,067	7,530	27,701
Western Galicia	15,000	15,000	9,107	26,935	6,010	17,170
Germany	18,145	33,339	20,847	21,910	13,826	20,686
Greece	4,100	4,745	4,075	3,760	2,402	2,400
Holland	3,197	2,986	1,784	1,096	1,828	1,885
Hungary	600	1,600	1,513	2,350	1,518	1,939
Italy	1,200	1,390	1,326	1,503	1,168	1,307
Yugoslavia	4,719	5,935	6,061	5,906	5,233	5,728
Latvia	4,100	5,374	2,997	4,940	250	4,250
Lithuania	11,608	14,500	9,053	13,086	5,267	6,110
Mesopotamia	1,504	1,020	67	1,910	--	900
Mexico	--	--	--	--	228	111
Morocco	--	--	677	831	291	352
Tangier	--	--	--	--	93	80
Norway	40	103	75	100	70	95
Poland	95,165	211,403	77,351	210,296	11,126	49,235
Portugal	15	--	--	1,000	--	--
Panama	--	--	--	--	23	50
Persia	--	1,000	--	--	--	--
Peru	--	--	--	--	--	52
South Africa	11,680	11,422	11,127	10,904	12,205	13,227
Romania	15,000	15,033	11,054	16,484	8,268	11,289
Siberia	629	469	227	325	100	225
Syria	--	30	--	--	--	1,500
Sweden	115	84	89	83	80	87
Switzerland	648	986	403	1,662	726	1,735
Transylvania	11,029	10,179	5,779	14,737	9,171	6,199
Tunis	1,412	515	415	785	1,018	549
Turkey	4,560	--	--	276	106	--
Vilna	9,954	18,234	4,100	5,791	500	2,111
Australia	210	1,983	1,292	228	337	247
New Zealand	--	--	--	--	120	120
Singapore	290	200	250	250	250	400
Java	--	--	--	--	26	--
China	97	269	172	106	102	90
India	452	--	--	--	--	125

Russia	--	22,045	--	31,000	2,500	2,000
Total	373,217	584,765	300,240	637,917	214,384	416,767

**The number of delegates to the 16<sup>th</sup> Zionist Congress depends on the number of Shekels distributed this year and next year**

## **The Shekel in the year 5688**

(Continued from the reports in Issue 21)

8. Bessarabia. A clear increase could be seen in the course of Shekel activities in Bessarabia. The Nation Shekel Committee, made up of leading members of the three parties, is working energetically to awaken the Zionist public to the value of the Shekel for Zionism in Bessarabia. The committee has set a target of 10,000 Shekels for Bessarabia, and is organizing its work on that basis.

9. Bulgaria. It was the intention of the Zionist Federation in Bulgaria to announce a National Shekel day for the whole country, but then came the earthquake which interfered with their plans. However, it must be said to the credit of the Zionists of Bulgaria that, in spite of the fact that the town in which the Central Committee had its offices was almost completely destroyed, the Central Committee has continued its work and has urged those Zionists who were not affected by the disaster to redouble their efforts for the Shekel endeavor, in order to achieve this year the target that the Federation set for itself – 6000 Shekels.

10. England. A few weeks ago the National Shekel Committee convened a meeting of Zionist activists, to recruit permanent staff for the Shekel project. The conference was attended by delegates from various groups, and it confirmed the target that the National Committee had set for England's Zionists – 20,000 Shekels for 5688. The conference adopted a resolution in the following terms:

“The Conference of delegates of Zionist associations, synagogues and fraternal organizations, hereby undertakes to work to the best of its ability to sell a Shekel to each and every adult member, men and women alike, of English Jewry.”

11. Italy. We note a substantial awakening among Italy's Zionists in regard to the Shekel. Last winter, a successful attempt was made to formally establish a Federation. The Interim Committee in Milan is making a strong effort to double the number of Shekel subscribers this year, and reports from there suggest that their efforts will be crowned with success and the target of 3000 Shekels will be reached.

12. Eastern Galicia. The commencement of the Shekel campaign in Eastern Galicia was delayed due to the elections for the Sejm. The Zionist leadership there has promised to work energetically for this activity following the elections. Details of the course of the campaign have not been received.

13. Switzerland. Outstanding activity has been carried out in Switzerland this year, following the transfer of the Zionist Central Office from Zurich to Basel. Last year splendid results for Shekel sales were achieved, in association with the elections to the Congress, and this year's efforts – the announcement of a Shekel Month, etc. – promise excellent results, exceeding perhaps those of the Congress year 5687.

14. Australia. As is known, a central Federation was established last year in Australia, comprising all the individual Zionist associations across the country. One of the key tasks of the central Zionist office is to increase the number of Shekel subscribers in Australia, and, based on reports coming from there, it may be assumed that the number of Shekel subscribers there will increase significantly this year.

### Shekel Fees in 5687-5688

The Zionist Central Office has provided us with the following two tables. The first indicates the Shekel fees that have accrued to the 5688 accounts, up to June 1<sup>st</sup>, and the second is an additional list of Shekel fees that were added to the 5687 accounts following the Congress.

#### A.

List A showing Shekel fees that have accrued to the 5688 accounts, up to June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1928.

South Africa	1,300.00	Pounds Sterling
Czechoslovakia	34,188.85	Czech Crowns
Holland	1,250.00	Florins
Germany	100.00	Pounds Sterling
Western Galicia	300.00	Dollars
Italy	6,000.00	Italian Lire
Yugoslavia	7,421.50	Dinars
Austria	149.00	Austrian Schillings
Bessarabia	1000.00	Lei

#### B.

List of Shekel fees added to the 5687 accounts following the 15<sup>th</sup> Congress

Argentina	40.00	Pounds Sterling
Belgium	7.60	"
Bessarabia	6.19.1	"
Bukovina	6.0.0	"
England	182.15.7	"
Estonia	4.1.0	"
Strasbourg	4.11.5	"
Greece	20.0.0	"
Holland	36.6.2	"
Hungary	24.5.0	"
Italy	8.3.4	"
Yugoslavia	24.4.0	"
Lithuania	1.1.5	"
Mexico	10.14.4	"
Norway	2.3.1	"
Panama	5.1.2	"
South Africa	47.0.2	"
Siberia	7.4.5	"
Sweden	-6.7	"
Switzerland	30.9.9	"
Transylvania	57.7.8	"
Tunis	13.18.2	"
Morocco	9.14.6	"
Australia	6.8.3	"
Singapore	50.0.0	"
China	9.10.0	"
India	9.6.6	"
Total	624.17.7	Pounds Sterling



## **Circular from the Zionist Executive, dated 1902, regarding the Shekel**

Vienna, 25 February 1902.

Esteemed friend,

The Executive in Vienna considers it appropriate to now issue the following announcement to all the national offices:

The many resolutions of the Congresses, establishing the payments from members in the form of the Shekel, to cover the movement's expenses, have not achieved their purpose. The Shekel has indeed become a permanent institution within the movement, but the Zionist Organization has, to date, not managed to appreciate the application of this voluntary tax to the needs of our movement. To our shame, we do not know the exact number of our followers, since not all Zionists purchase the Shekel, and this phenomenon is particularly the case in the larger cities. The method of Shekel collections in use to date is wrong. The Shekel should not be collected prior to each Congress; it is the duty of each association and group to collect it from their members immediately following the close of the fiscal year, and then use the following months to recruit new Shekel contributors. We will thus be able to eradicate the shameful phenomenon that, in every city, without exception, there are Zionists who do not purchase the Shekel, because they belong to no organization and thus their Shekel fees are not collected.

There is no need to emphasize the usefulness of regular, organized advertising of the Shekel and its value for our enterprise. After all, our movement is growing from day to day, and slowly the success of our enormous efforts and labors is beginning to become apparent. However, from day to day the needs of the movement increase, needs which, by its nature, our organization cannot postpone. The Executive needs to administer the movement. How can it provide for all the movement's needs, fulfill all of the demands, open up new horizons and make them available, if we are constantly concerned about the day-to-day needs of the movement? We need to remove these concerns from ourselves, and this is possible only by means of unrelenting, systematic promotion of the Shekel. But it is not within our power to carry out this task alone; it can only be done by the directors of the local organizations, who are familiar with the local conditions and who are in direct contact with the associations. Therefore, esteemed colleague, this circular is addressed to you, and we are calling on you, as the leader of your national organization, to commence at once the necessary promotions for the Shekel and do all that is necessary for this purpose.

Sincerely, and with Zionist greetings,

Herzl

President