

in Holland has a chief rabbi of its own—have their time amply occupied—some of them are overworked. Once or twice a year, a committee of Chief Rabbis, again appointed by the Central Commission, are called upon to examine prospective ministers and teachers of religion, and are bound to follow a carefully prepared programme which requires the approbation of the secretary of State for Public Worship. The diploma bears the signature of the President of the examining body, and that of the President of the Commission. A community, at whose head stands an unqualified minister or teacher of religion, cannot receive assistance from the State grant. The examination for this diploma is a searching one and embodies three degrees. Before, however, being admitted to the examination in Hebrew, etc., the candidate must give proof that he has acquired a sound knowledge of Dutch and cognate subjects. If he is not in the possession of a government diploma of elementary teacher or some equivalent qualification, the Committee of Chief Rabbis must examine him first in the secular subjects. Should he fail to give satisfaction in these subjects, he is not allowed to sit for the Hebrew examination. A teacher of religion in Holland is thus excellently equipped for his task. To obtain the lowest degree, the candidate must be at least eighteen years old. The possessor of the lowest degree can only be at the head of a small congregation with a fixed number of Jewish families. Here, again, the central commission can step in, and does step in, to compel a congregation above the fixed number of families to provide itself with a teacher or minister of at least the second degree, and in case of non-compliance the state grant is withdrawn.

The salaries of the Chief Rabbis are also in part paid by the State grant through the medium of the central commission. It is the duty of every Chief Rabbi, at least once a year, to visit every congregation within his "Resort," and to examine the children, who are taught by a carefully prepared plan requiring his consent. The Chief Rabbi is bound to draw up a detailed report, a copy of which he must forward to the Central Commission. Besides the annual inspection of the Chief Rabbi, each congregation has an Education Committee, the members of which are confirmed in their appointments by the Central Commission. This Education Committee are at liberty to visit the classes at any time and as often as they choose. We see thus that ample provision is made for the quality of the teachers, for efficient and sound inspection, a liberal code, and thus a guarantee for thorough Hebrew and religious instruction is provided for.

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