

Letter containing report to HEAS of Kohn and Witkowski aka Wirkowski

On the 15th of the month of February, 1883, I received a letter from you, containing a report to the Hebrew Association of Chicago, in relation to the Cotopaxi Papers. I have read the same with interest, and I am glad to hear that you have been successful in your efforts to secure the same. I have also read the report of the Committee on the Cotopaxi Papers, and I am glad to hear that you have been successful in your efforts to secure the same. I have also read the report of the Committee on the Cotopaxi Papers, and I am glad to hear that you have been successful in your efforts to secure the same.

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Sent 5 February 1882

First published in extract in the Denver Tribune, 7 February 1883.

This text, taken as definitive was published in the American Israelite, 16 February 1883.

A substantial extract also appeared in the American Hebrew, 23 February 1883.

Annotated by
Miles Saltiel

Acknowledgements and sources

This covers a set of documents intended to enable students of the Cotopaxi pioneers to examine the primary and secondary documents regarding the colony. They are provided with annotations, cross references and an index. In addition the "Cotopaxi Papers" include a summary of findings and a collection of quantitative material, including demographic and financial data, plus a paper on mining employment and a paper on historiography. These are identified and acknowledged as follows:

Document	Principal providers of source material
CP-1 Summary of findings	As below
CP-2 Quantitative material	Generally as below plus Adam Fagin and Leah Klocek, Denver, Colorado, on behalf of author; and Jenny Moore Lowe, Cañon City, Colorado as published at http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/cotopaxi/land.html ; and http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/cotopaxi/family-names.html
CP-3 Schwarz. 29 July 1882	Andrew Eason, at that time of Bristol, England; and Rivka Schiller, New York City, on behalf of author.
CP-4 Tuska. c5 August 1882	Professor Adam Rovner, University of Denver, Colorado, in correspondence with author.
CP-5 Saltiel. 19 October 1882	As CP-4
CP-6 Schwarz. 23 October, 1882	Moshe Shaltiel, Miami, Florida, in correspondence with author.
CP-7 Saltiel, 27 December 1882	Author
CP-8 Kohn and Wirkowski. 5 January 1883	Leah Klocek, Denver, Colorado, on behalf of author.
CP-9 Meyer Hart. 8 February 1883	As CP-6
CP-10 Henry. 15 February 1883	As CP-8
CP-11 Schwarz, 2 March 1883	As CP-8
CP-12 Nussbaum, 13 March 1883	As CP-8
CP-13 Roberts. 1941	As CP-6
CP-14 Satt. 1950	Published by Nelson Moore, Cotopaxi Colorado, at http://www.cotopaxi-colony.com/flora-jane-satt-thesis.htm
CP-15 Shpall, 1950	As CP-8
CP-16 Gulliford. 1953	As CP-6
CP-17 The Bardine Assignment	Jenny Moore Lowe, Cañon City, Colorado, in correspondence with author.
CP-18 Historiography	As above, plus Yehuda Aharon Horwitz and Stephanie Ginsky, Jerusalem, Israel.
Index to CP-3 to CP-16	Compiled by Nic Nicholas, London, England.

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Publication information on back cover.

Generally

The underlying report is dated 30 January 1883. Henry's reply (CP-10) records the date of a lost covering letter as 5 February 1883. This text was published in the *American Israelite* on 16 February 1883. But for page 4, line 6, it is taken as definitive, with other versions corrupt or containing *lacunae*. In addition, the version in the *Denver Tribune* (owned by Silver) included a paragraph from Schwarz' report (CP-6) as though part of the text of this document.

George Kohn visited the Cotopaxi Colony with Louis Wirkowski, identified in the *Denver Republican* of 11 February 1883 as "L Witkowski, the proprietor of the well-known proprietor of the Star boot and shoe store, on Lawrence Street". Kohn and Wirkowski wrote their report together. In the covering letter to HEAS, however, Kohn associated himself with Herman Silver, a prominent Republican who not only owned the *Tribune* but served as the Collector of the Internal Revenue and Superintendent of the US Mint. This was a clear demonstration of the seriousness of Kohn's purpose - if not what apologists for the vulnerable would now call bullying.

The report was so widely distributed that every chronicler of the colony refers to it. It has generally been taken as authoritative, as contemporary rebuttals (eg, the Pennsylvania stockman, Philip Nussbaum, who condemns its writers as *meraglim* [Hebrew - "spies"] in CP- 12) were either not to hand or studied for other reasons.

For example, extracts from this letter were published together with selections from Henry, CP-9, in the *Rocky Mountain Jewish Historical Notes* of June 1978. This was principally to illustrate the nativism of Jews already resident in the US in the face of arrivals from Russia. This edition is the first occasion when this letter has been examined in full with respect to its underlying subject matter.

The colonists did well to settle on Kohn, who was resourceful and - as we have seen - well-connected politically.¹ He promptly set up a campaign to enlist Denver opinion, mobilising his pet charity, the Hebrew Ladies Relief Society² and promoting local fund-raisers.³

The report should be seen as the launch of his campaign to relieve his clients, the colonists, of their obligations to HEAS and elsewhere; and to obtain a grubstake. It shows Kohn resorting to publicity from the off, as led by Schwarz in CP-3, Tuska in CP-4, HEAS in CP-6, and Saltiel CP-5 and CP-7.

Kohn's press list included the local (ie, Denver) papers, the contemporary organs of Jewish life, the *American Hebrew*, the *Jewish Messenger* (at that time a separate title) and the *American Israelite*; and in due course the "Russian-Jewish" press, published in St Petersburg, Russia, and elsewhere, to which he got the colonists to write.⁴

He also got his protégés to canvass others who might add their voice. These included Nussbaum, whose letter (CP-12) confirms the sequence of events.

1 On or around 22 November 1883, Kohn celebrated the twenty-fifth wedding anniversary of his fellow-signatory of the covering letter to HEAS, politician, publisher and businessman, Herman Silver. They celebrated with dignitaries including Colorado's Governor, current and former Chief Justice, Treasurer, and Secretary of State, together with one of its US Senators. *American Israelite*, 30 November 1883.

2 See page 6 line 18. A report of a charity ball for the Society (rebadged as the "Denver Ladies' Relief Society") preceded the report above.

3 Herman Silver, in his capacity as Chairman of the Cotopaxi Relief Committee is identified as the recipient of the proceeds of a benefit ball organised by the Jewish community of Pueblo, Colorado. Report datelined 12 April 1883. *American Israelite*, 20 April 1883. This was none too early: on 16 February 1883, the County Clerk of Arapahoe County wrote to his counterpart in Fremont County, asking him to take responsibility for "Charleman Chatteran", (ie Solomon Shuteran, CP-2, table 39, no 31) who had become chargeable to the county as a pauper.

4 An example is described by the journalist, Mordecai Jalomstein, in his letter to Elijah Sholman, reprinted on 25 November 1885 in the Russian-Jewish journal, *Ha-Melitz*, as reported by S Geffen, "Annotated Documentary of Jewish Agricultural colonies as Reported in the Pages of the Russian Hebrew Press, *Ha-Melitz* and *Ha-Yom*", *American Jewish Historical Quarterly* 60 (Sept 1970-Jun 1971), 1-4. *AJHS Journal*, p.355 et seq. p24 of 28 for letter; See p6 of 28, n7 for identification of Jalomstein.

Report of the Committee from Denver, Col., Upon the Condition of the Colony of Russian Refugees at Cotopaxi, Col.

On the 8th of May, 1882, a colony consisting of thirteen families, numbering fifty souls, arrived after a five days' journey from New York, at Cotopaxi. From the 8th of May until the 28th of August, three families, numbering fourteen souls, arrived, so that at the latter date (one child having died soon after its arrival at Cotopaxi) the colony numbered sixty-three souls.

Happy to escape with their lives from Russia, they were ready, eager and willing to go anywhere in order once again to establish for themselves, their wives and their children, a home. It was one of those times when

Line 21 to page 2, line 16

Disregarding the Tennysonian quotation, this lawyerly account of the position is accurate as far as it goes. Kohn omits stillborn or perinatal deaths.

1 "Their's not to make reply,
2 Their's not to reason why
3 Their's but to do and die."

4
5 We have not at hand the records or correspondence of the Hebrew Emigrant Aid Society of the
6 United States, that would inform us at whose suggestion or upon what investigation it was
7 resolved to plant this colony at Cotopaxi. We know the colony came and is now at Cotopaxi. One
8 Julius Schwartz came with the colony as its "clerk," and subsequently the entire management
9 was intrusted to him.

10
11 From all the information that we can gather at present, consisting of the report of Mr. Julius
12 Schwartz to the President of the H.E.A.S. of the United States and the statements of the
13 refugees, we conclude that it was the intention of the Society to give each head of a family a
14 house and the necessary furniture and cooking utensils, farming implements, seed, and 160
15 acres of land. It was the duty of him in whose charge the colony was placed to so provide for
16 them.

17
18 How was it done? The houses, twelve in number, constructed of rough timber, were built at a
19 cost of about \$280 each, and we can safely assure you and the H. E.A.S. of the United States,
20 that any of the houses could have been built for \$100. But what strikes us as being a greater
21 outrage upon the liberality and confidence of the H.E.A.S. of the United States, and therefore an
22 imposition upon those who are intended to be the beneficiaries of their bounty, is the fact that
23 these houses are constructed upon land claimed by the Cotopaxi Placer Mining Co. as a town
24 site, for which we are informed by Mr. E.L. Saltiel, the resident director of that company, the
25 colonists have a forty-nine years lease. Upon inquiry we find that no lease has ever been
26 executed by the company to the colonists. This of itself is a fact pregnant with danger, and
27 reflects sadly upon the management of the colony. If, perchance, the Town Site Co. should see
28 fit to eject the refugees from their land, what would become of these sixty-three souls?

29 Notwithstanding the glowing description of Cotopaxi, present and prospective, given by Mr.
30 Schwarz in his report, wherein he says (page three):

Lines 18 to 20

Kohn is either deliberately misleading or genuinely mistook log cabins erected to satisfy the requirements of the Homestead Act (see CP-6, page 6 line 16) with the far more substantial quarters erected for families, as CP-6, page 13, lines 13 to 19; independently confirmed by Meyer Hart in CP-9, page 2 lines 1 to 4.

Lines 20 to 26

Once again, Kohn is either mistaken or deliberately misleading. Half of the houses were upon government lands, as CP-9, page 2, lines 6 and 7. These exchanges also make clear that Kohn is complaining about *houses*, not *tracts*. The latter were almost entirely upon government lands, often on clouded titles as set out in CP-1, graphic 5 and table 3.

Lines 26 to 28

In light of the foregoing, these remarks are hyperbolic.

1 "Cotopaxi is the headquarters of a rich mining district; is situated in a beautiful valley
2 surrounded by high mountains, most of which contain valuable minerals, especially in
3 silver and copper, galena and lead. The Arkansas River runs at the foot of the valley. It is
4 a pretty lively railroad station and is by means of its favorable site destined to become
5 one of the best places in the Centennial State, "

6
7 the fact still stares us in the face that Cotopaxi contains in all but sixteen houses and a water
8 tank.

9
10 For the present we will leave the colony at Cotopaxi and proceed to the farms. Proceeding up
11 Oak Grove Creek we came to the first so-called farms. Here are three "farms" of 160 acres each.
12 And we know of no instance where quality was so sacrificed to quantity as in the selection of
13 these so-called farms. We do not exaggerate when we say that a beast could not subsist on
14 these lands. This, a mean, narrow strip of land extending a few yards on either side of the creek,
15 which runs dry in winter and contains no water in summer except when the snow melts in the
16 mountains above and suddenly come down in a flood, terrible in its devastation, inundating the
17 whole valley, sweeping everything before it and leaving deposits of sand, huge boulders and
18 drift wood to tell of the remarkable action of water and the freaks of nature. The farm on this
19 creek which Mr. Schwartz describes as looking "like a flower-garden" (see page four of report), is
20 either visionary with him or was swept away before we arrived. At least we can assure you that
21 there is not the faintest vestige of any such farm to-day.

22
23 A steep mountain range, 2,000 feet higher than even Cotopaxi, which is 6,200 feet above the
24 level of the sea, strewn with gigantic rocks, separates the farms on Oak Grove Creek from those
25 in the next mountain valley. Here are six so-called farms. These farms contain 160 acres each,
26 and, after careful inquiry, we find that two-fifths of these lands are absolutely worthless,
27 because the soil contains nothing but rock, and the other three-fifths cannot be made available
28 because they cannot be irrigated, all the water in the creek (and that all is but a little), having
29 been previously appropriated by two earlier settlers, and to bring water from the Lake of the
30 Clouds (the nearest source of supply), at a distance of eight miles, could not be done for less

Lines 7 and 8

If there were sixteen houses, this leaves ten others in addition to the colonists.

Lines 10 to 21

It sounds like Kohn is describing the Oak Grove Creek farm, occupied by S Chorovsky (Shradsky) as abandoned - possibly for lack of title to government land as set out in CP-1, graphic 5.

Line 19

Here and elsewhere, Kohn quotes directly from CP-5. His pagination conforms to the printed edition, confirming that it reached Colorado shortly after HEAS printed it.

His remark is something of a cheap shot as Miinkovsky's farm ("flower garden" or not) would have been obscured by January snow.

Line 23 to page 4 line 2

This passage is taken to refer to tracts in the Wet Mountain Valley or Third Division.

Line 29

Kohn refers accurately to the effects of Colorado's "prior appropriation" regime of water rights, overlooked by other writers. See CP-5, page 8, line 22 onwards and associated commentary.

1 than \$4,000. The next farms are three and a half miles further on, and are as worthless for
2 farming purposes as all the other farms.

3
4 The total amount of land embraced in these farms is 1,780 acres, and there is not 100 acres of it
5 fit for cultivation. As an illustration, we need only tell you that one of the colonists, who planted
6 four bags of potatoes, gathered as a return fifteen bags of a poorer quality than what he planted,
7 and this with the most favorable wet season that Colorado had for twenty years.

8
9 The question may be asked, Was this the fault of the land or the farmer? To this we answer,
10 both. The land is as poor as we represent it. The farmer, who was probably an expert in Russia, is
11 a mere novice in the art in Colorado.

12
13 The possession of the clearest printed book cannot make a man, ignorant of the alphabet, read.
14 Nor are you a Paganini because you own one of the violins of his make. You cannot preach a
15 sermon simply because you stand in the pulpit, nor are you a carpenter because you own a chest
16 of tools.

17
18 Instead of clerks and assistant clerks with which this colony, from their accounts and the logic of
19 events, is shown to have been burdened, there should have been practical Colorado farmers
20 hired to teach and instruct these people in that art which it was intended they should learn.

21 Practical Colorado men should have been consulted in the selection of lands for these refugees,
22 instead of leaving it to a man who, however learned he may be in other matters, shows his
23 ignorance of Colorado soil, climate and water supply in many instances in the report from which
24 we have heretofore quoted.

25
26 What can be more ridiculous to a Coloradoan than the following, which we copy from the report
27 of Mr. Schwarz (page 12):

Line 1

Kohn offers no support for his figure of \$4,000 for the irrigation ditch, five times as high as Schwarz' (equally unsupported) estimate in CP-3, page 3, line 5.

Line 4

Kohn's figure for "[t]he total amount of land embraced in these farms" is contradicted by the record.

CP-1, page 13, table 3 shows that at the end of December 1882, the colonists occupied thirteen tracts. If full quarter-sections, these would total 2,080 acres. In addition CP5, page 3, lines 20 to 30 indicates that Saltiel allocated tracts on his own land to "two deserving families". Once again if full quarter-sections, this would take the total to 2,400 acres. CP-18, page 3, note 6 explores the use of Kohn's unsupported figure.

None of this is to take away from Kohn's view of the unsuitability of the land for agriculture.

Line 6

This is the foundation of an oft-told tale about the potato crop.

The figures may be contradicted by Schwarz (CP-11, page 4, lines 12 and 13), who referred to a contemporaneous letter from Zedek reporting twice the crop.

The story is implausible on its face as reflecting unseasonal planting and harvesting (see CP-7, page 1, lines 20 to 24), meaning that the farmer was reharvesting the tubers he planted. See CP-6, page 13, lines 1 and 2 and associated commentary.

The elaborations over the following years have taken their source from the versions of this letter published in the *Denver Tribune*, 7 February 1883 or the *American Hebrew*, 23 February 1883, both of which wrote of **14** (as figures) bags sown. This seems to be the correct figure as Henry recognises it in CP-10, page 5, line 27.

CP-18, page 10 traces the distortions of the potato crop story; and CP-7, page 1, line 20 to page 3, line 6 sets out the sequence of events after its failure.

Lines 18 to 20

When drafting this, Kohn must have had in mind the vivid language of Saltiel's December 1882 letter to the *Jewish Messenger*. The sentence echoes Saltiel's "practical methods" (CP-7, page 1, line 23) and "clerks and managers" (CP-7, page 4, line 5).

1 "In Colorado, in a tent, the tenderest babe and the most delicate invalid can live and
2 sleep all the year around, and derive benefit therefrom. As a consequence of these facts
3 our colonists enjoy the best of health."
4

5 Gentlemen, we do not for a moment believe that even our brethren in the State of New York will
6 credit such monstrous statements. And let us state to you and them that in our opinion, and
7 from our observation, the houses of these refugees (upon which nothing was quite so lavishly
8 bestowed as the Society's money) were built upon the theory that the delicate mother and half-
9 naked infant would in summer and winter require the balmy air of Colorado, wafted through
10 creek and crevice, as it can only be wafted from the eternally snow-clad peaks of the Sangre de
11 Christ range.
12

13 What other property does this colony possess? Two plows make up the heading of "agricultural
14 implements." Two plows for fourteen persons, whose "broad acres" number 1,780! Each family
15 (except three) possesses a cow and calf – the quality of the cows being that they give no milk.
16 Then some of the colonists have barbed wire with which to surround their farms, which is like
17 surrounding a poor chromo with a rich gilt frame. The clothing and provisions of the people are
18 scanty in the extreme. The houses are so poorly constructed that on such a night as we saw
19 them, the wind howling violently, the little shanty almost succumbs, the illy constructed doors
20 and windows, too small for their casements, admitting a constant draught of bitter cold air, the
21 scarcity of blankets and bed clothing increasing the chances of sickness and death.
22

23 We can sit at our cheerful firesides with gown and slippers, a book and a pipe, and listen
24 heedlessly to the roar of the tempest and the rain as it comes down in torrents, but if it ever
25 becomes your sad lot to find yourselves reduced to poverty, driven into a foreign, gloomy,
26 desolate country, with scarce a shred to your backs, your wives driven almost to distraction in
27 their attempts to obey the natural instincts of mothers to shelter their children, you will then
28 wonder how people can be so deaf, not to the instincts of Judaism, but the instincts of humanity,
29 as to let a poor, deluded people, Jews at that, die from cold and starvation.
30

Lines 1 to 11

However broad Kohn's humour, he is justified in mocking Schwarz' ridiculous comments.

Line 13 to page 6 line 25

These passages contain Kohn's itemisation of colonists' complaints, specifically:

- adverse climate
- insufficiency of infrastructure
- poor quality houses
- Minkowsky's swim for food
- Presand's wife's illness
- lack of credit at store
- lack of midwife
- lack of work

From this we see that Kohn met several colonists. His purposes as an advocate would have led him to throw in all he could. Even so, he conspicuously fails to attest to anything remotely akin to reports from Satt's oral sources sixty years later of accommodation in cut-sod huts and caves (CP-14, page 24, lines 25 to 27), depredations by bears (CP-14, page 26, lines 6 and 7) or menaces from destitute Ute bands (CP-14, page 27, lines 10 to 12). His silence on these topics serves as reasonable grounds for treating the later accounts as embellishments.

Lines 13 to 21

These remarks are dismissed variously by Hart, Henry, Schwarz and Nussbaum. The first and last should be taken particularly seriously as having no axe to grind. Examples include:

Plows: Schwarz, CP-11, page 4, lines 21 to 25, though his mistaken sequence makes his argument far-fetched.

Cow and calf: Hart, CP-9, page 2, lines 13 and 14, consistent with the pioneers' clumsiness with stock.

Clothing and provisions: Schwarz, CP-11, Page 4 line 26 to page 5, line 7, where he is circumstantial and believable.

Quality of houses: Hart, CP-9, page 2, lines 1 to 4; Schwarz, CP-11, page 2, lines 16 to 18; Nussbaum, CP-12, page 3, lines 1 and 2. This is so consistent as to demolish Kohn's complaint.

1 The instances of suffering among the colonists are numerous and pitiful. On one occasion the
2 family of Morris Mimkorsky was without food for two days; his wife was sick, and the Arkansas
3 River was swollen to such an extent that it carried destruction in its terrible course. It was a
4 question of life and death. Mimkorsky plunged into the stream, and after a desperate effort, in
5 which no other man would venture, reached the opposite shore in safety. He secured the
6 necessary provisions for his sick wife and brought them back with him.

Lines 1 to 6

Mimkorsky is variously Minkowsky, Mitkowsly and Mirkowsky. This transparent tear-jerker is also circumstantially dismissed by Henry in CP-10, page 6, lines 18 to 26, and Schwarz in CP-11, page 5, line 22 to page 6, line 1.

7
8 The wife of Zolle Puisane has for eleven weeks lain sick in a miserable hut in the mountains,
9 without medical attendance or medicine; her husband has no work, and the people of Cotopaxi
10 would not so much as give them credit for a sack of flour.

Lines 8 to 10

Contradicted by Hart in CP-9, page 2, lines 26 to 29.

11
12 Three women are in a very delicate condition and will be confined shortly. The cries and appeals
13 of these poor creatures, as they contemplate the perils of childbirth – peril enough anywhere,
14 but terrible beyond expression at Cotopaxi, where there is sickness and death in store for
15 healthy persons, and where there is neither nurse, midwife, physician, medicine, or even food or
16 clothing necessary for mother and child in such condition, are absolutely heartrending. These
17 women must be cared for; they must either be properly attended to where they are or they must
18 be removed to Denver temporarily, where our Hebrew Ladies' Relief Society will give them that
19 kind attention which only one Jewish mother knows how to give another.

Lines 12 to 19

More hyperbole, contradicted by Henry in CP-10, page 4, lines 28 and 29. and Schwarz in CP-11, page 6, lines 23 to 25.

20
21 The lands being barren and not susceptible of cultivation, for the reasons herein given, there
22 remains nothing for these refugees to do save here and there a day's employment in the zinc
23 mine at Cotopaxi or an odd job for the Railroad Company. But at no time have all the men had
24 occupation; at no time have they had steady employment, and if one earned a dollar to-day the
25 unemployed would share that dollar with the family of the man who earned it.

Lines 18

Kohn showed his acuity in rolling out the Hebrew Ladies Relief Society, as an instrument to mobilise Denver opinion. There then followed the usual paraphernalia of fund-raisers, with which he could associate the local political rain-maker, Herman Silver.

26
27 The fault is not, as some suppose, that the Russian refugee is lazy and unwilling to work. How
28 eager they are to work and provide for themselves is shown, among other instances, by the fact
29 that two men, one of them just able to be out after two weeks' sickness, hired out to the
30 Railroad to saw logs. These logs, probably eighteen inches thick, had to be carried down to the

Lines 22 and 23

Kohn is mistaken: those closer to hand contradict him (CP-9, page 3, lines 1 to 6); and the record confirms (CP-10, CP-17) that employment was on offer to the colonists who were sufficiently picky to turn railway work down over the wage scale.

1 railroad track on the shoulders of these men and there sawed and piled up; for all of which these
2 men were paid one cent per log, and earned together in one day \$1.39, and froze their ears
3 besides.

4
5 There is so much exaggeration in the report furnished by Mr. Schwarz to the H. E.A.S. that were
6 are pleased to be able to quote something at least which approaches the truth. It meets our
7 views, and we heartily indorse what is said on page thirteen of the report, which is as follows:

8
9 "Your folks are first-class workers.' That's what I was pleased to hear about the laboring
10 capacities of our people. There is no doubt that the refugees have shown that they are
11 not that lazy mob for which they were taken. Under favorable circumstances they have
12 done more than could be expected. Only one who knows what it means to break up
13 virgin ground with a common shovel can appreciate the industrious efforts of the
14 refugees.

15
16 "They have broken up the ground with a shovel; they have done the hardest part of the
17 work required to make a wagon-bridge; they have filled the ditches with big rocks
18 which they were compelled to cut and hew from the mountains; they went up to their
19 throats in the swift Arkansas River to make a foot-bridge to enable them to reach their
20 lands; they worked in dark, damp mines as good and as perseveringly as trained miners;
21 they worked on the railroad, giving entire satisfaction to their employers; they carried
22 lumber on their shoulders to speed the erection of their houses; they walked often
23 twenty miles a day to chop wood in the forests for the purpose of putting fence posts
24 around their farms. With one word I can testify, and I fulfill a pleasant duty in doing so,
25 that our Russian co-religionists, as a rule, can work, and willingly, if they are properly
26 treated and understood."

27
28 We are at a loss to account for the expenditure of \$8,750 said to have been expended up to
29 October 23, 1882. We can assure you that the New York Society, and, therefore, the refugees,
30

Lines 9 to 26

Direct quotes from CP-6, page 15,
lines 3 to 15.

Lines 22 and 23

The \$8,750 also comes from
Schwarz, (CP-6, page 17, line 5),
where the annotation points out that
the figure makes no sense.

1 have paid more than twice as much for what they received as an honest administration of the
2 funds would warrant.

3
4 In conclusion we would earnestly recommend that immediate relief, in the shape of clothing and
5 provisions, be at once and without delay sent to the colony.

6
7 That some means be immediately devised for the care and treatment of the sick, and those
8 about to be confined.

9
10 That we recommend to the H.E.A.S. of the United States the immediate removal of the colony
11 to some other place – some place where their eagerness to farm will be rewarded by crops that
12 will keep them alive and reward their labor. Then we can agree with Mr. Schwarz in the
13 quotation from Cicero:

14
15 "Nihil uberius, nihil dulcius, nihil homine, liberte dignius, agricultura."

16 There is nothing nobler, nothing sweeter, nothing more becoming to a free man than
17 agriculture.

18
19 Respectfully submitted

20 GEORGE H. KOHN,

21 LOUIS WIRKOWSKI,

22 Committee. DENVER,

23 Jan. 30, 1883.
24
25
26
27
28
29
30

Lines 4 to 13

These passages lay the ground for Kohn's eventually successful campaign: that the colony be given up as such a bad job that the settlers should not be held to their obligations. It took him some time to achieve this.

On 23 February 1883, the *Jewish Messenger* reported that the officers of HEAS had met on Sunday 18 February and resolved to offer seed and implements to colonists wishing to stay in Cotopaxi. On the other hand dissatisfied colonists were at liberty to make way for others by leaving forthwith (and by implication, without financial compensation).

We know that nothing came of this - certainly for some time and possibly for ever - as Henry used \$10,234 for the total costs of the colony when speaking to journalists publishing in both the *Hebrew Messenger* of 19 January 1883 and the *New York Herald* of 18 July 1883. This indicates that nothing had been spent in the interim - whether on seed, etc or compensation.

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