

# Pointer

**Categories:** Other

Actually a scale's pointer, in the ghetto synonymous with false weighing and false measuring. If someone took his products from the cooperative, it was clear from the outset they would be weighed with the zingl and would show, as a result, a deficiency in weight.

The opposite could be expected by taking products (potatoes, vegetables) at the vegetable markets. There an English scale was in use, and the wagowy [“weigher”] was not so much focused on the pointer; therefore, the consumer received often not only fairly weighed food, but also a noticeable surplus. It was the source of a saying that not Rumkowski, but the wagowy gave rations.

In order to get a surplus of weight, people developed various strategies: for example, a family of five took all the portions not at the same time, but individually, despite hour-long queuing. The final outcome was a fivefold surplus. Hence, a coupon for 5 kg allowed gaining more than 5 kg due to the expected surplus of weight.

After the Special Unit had taken control of the vegetable markets, vegetables were also weighed with the zingl.

Additionally, for example, a family of five was no longer allowed to collect portions individually, but only at the same time, depending on the number of family members that was recorded in the vegetable book, with the exception of large rations (for example 20 kg swede).

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## Resources

Archiwum Żydowskiego Instytutu Historycznego, 205/349, pp. 462–463, German

Encyclopedia of the Ghetto. The Unfinished Project of the Łódź Ghetto Archivists, ed. Adam Sitarek and Ewa Wiatr, Łódź 2016, s. 246.

## Tags

provisions language of the ghetto

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