

New Poland

A MAGAZINE OF BRITISH-POLISH INTERESTS



Britain's guest
— See Page 9

Friendship: Polish Minister of Labour is greeted by Mr. George Isaacs

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NOVEMBER

1947

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MONTHLY

Wages, hours and rations

A frank interview with Kazimierz Rusinek

by

Bernard Singer

WAR devastation and the impoverishment of the country are so great that, in spite of their endeavours in this respect, the Polish Government cannot yet restore the pre-war wage level. The pre-war level of wages will be achieved not sooner than 1948, but it will be exceeded by 1949.

Nevertheless, the Government are doing everything in their power to improve the conditions of the working class. In many respects, this is much better than before the war. The Government gives special care to mine-workers, and workers in the iron, steel and textile industries. The value of allocations and bonuses received by workers in these industries often exceeds the basic wages. A clothing bonus allows the workers to have a suit made by selling part of the cloth received.

Workers' Rations

The miners' diet is one of the things to which the Ministry of Labour devotes much thought. It amounts at present to 4,000 calories a day. It can be said that there are only 270,000 miners in Poland. Yet, the improvement slowly extends to ever broader classes of workers. It must be remembered, too, that before the war there were 870,000 workers in Poland, while at present there are 1,500,000 (apart from transport and post-office employees).

Polish workers get 7 days' holiday with pay after a year's work. After three years they get 14 days'

holiday, after 10 years—one month. Juvenile workers get 15 days' holiday with pay.

Social Services

We have opened special health centres, where the workers can recuperate, paying only 30 per cent. of their upkeep. Their return fares are paid by the State. Expenditure for this purpose alone amounted to 624,000,000 zlotys.

One half of the budget of the Ministry of Labour is destined for social welfare, for the building of sanatoria, communal restaurants, and homes for children.

All this does not mean that we live in a workers' paradise. Our policy when introducing an increase in wages must be cautious, and must keep in step with the maintenance of the purchasing power of the zloty. In September, 1947, all transport workers received a rise.

Those Strikes

You ask me about the strikes of textile workers in Lodz. There were strikes. I don't deny it. Strikes are not prohibited in Poland.

I went to Lodz a fortnight ago. I myself conducted the negotiations with workers. The main cause of

discontent was a faulty wage scale. We assured the workers that from October 15 on there will be a radical change. They returned to work on their own initiative. After the conclusion of negotiations they told us that they would try to make good the losses caused by the strike. While the strike was in progress, all workers' canteens had remained open.

There is still a lot to be done. Not everything is covered by the Three-Year Economic Plan. Reconstruction is closely connected with the problem of an incessant improvement in the conditions of the working class, a class from which the Government has sprung.

We Are Poor, But . . .

Whenever you discuss the position of the working class in Poland, you must look back and compare conditions after the end of the war with conditions prevailing at present. Everybody will admit that there is a steady improvement. It is true that we have kept some of the old privileges. I am thinking of the Acts, passed by the first Diets of Independent Poland and later cancelled by the Pilsudski regime. New Acts and Orders have been introduced now. To quote only such things as the fixing of rents at a low level and the provisions of buses and motor-coaches for week-end outings of workers. We are doing what we can, in spite of our poverty. The more prosperous we shall become, the better the conditions of the working class will be.

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Commentary

THE visits of Minister Lewis Silkin to Warsaw and Minister Kazimierz Rusinek to London are clearest proof of the improved relations between our countries. Mr. Silkin is the third British Minister to enter post-war Poland.

One year after the end of the war in Europe, Attorney-General Sir Hartley Shawcross went to Poland and expressed the opinion that there were "no obstacles in the way of friendship with Poland." The misunderstandings which existed were caused, he continued, by mutual ignorance of the existing state of affairs.

Following the visit of Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin to Warsaw, on his way to the Moscow Conference in March this year, many of these misunderstandings were removed.

Shortly afterwards the British-

Polish Financial Agreement, which had been held up for almost a year, was ratified by Britain on June 19.

Earlier in the same month (June 6) the trade pact was signed between Britain and Poland bringing much-needed dairy produce to us in exchange for manufactures and raw materials.

Four days later the new British Ambassador in Warsaw, Sir Donald Gainer, presented his credentials to President Bierut. The new ambassador has already proved himself to be a good friend of Poland and a keen worker for British-Polish understanding.

Now we have the exchange of important members of the two Governments, not paying mere courtesy calls, but actively collaborating on problems vitally affecting both countries. Mr. Silkin, complete with his staff, has been discussing town and country

planning with his opposite number in the Polish Government. We may be sure that during the conferences held in London from October 23 to November 14 by representatives of 40 blitzed British towns, Mr. Silkin will be able to draw upon his experiences in Poland.

Last month we were honoured by the visit of a man who led the heroic workers' battalions of Gdynia into battle against the invading Nazis. He is Kazimierz Rusinek, Polish Minister of Labour and Social Welfare. War-wounded and nerve-shattered Polish men and women have good reason to thank the kindly Rusinek. He has helped to fit them into peaceful occupations with the same energy he led them in war. He has expressed himself satisfied with the results of his discussions with Mr. George Isaacs and Ministry of Labour personnel in London. His visit to rehabilitation centres all over Britain will assist in the establishment of similar centres in Poland.

Here, indeed, are the practical fruits of British-Polish friendship.

Poles Adrift

A pathetic appeal has been sent to Mr. Ernest Bevin, by the Poles of Westphalia, British Zone of Germany. Written by M. Jakub Przybylski, President of the Union of Poles in Westphalia, the letter describes how thousands of his fellow countrymen, living in this part of Germany, are not allowed to return home and are denied the right to call themselves Poles. Sons and daughters of Poles, who, under pressure of poverty in their own country before the war, had emigrated to Germany, these unfortunate people have lost their nationality because the Germans would not recognise them as Poles. Knowing that Poland can now provide food and work for them, these Poles long to return to their native land.

Mr. Rusinek during his visit, discussed the problem with Mr. Bevin. About 100,000 Polish emigres are involved and already over 12,000 have registered for repatriation.

I found great respect for the British people

says

DURING OCTOBER I handed over to the miners of my constituency, Nuneaton, a little model of a coal truck. It bore the inscription: "To the British miners from the miners of Poland." It was given to me by the mining folk of Zabrze during my recent visit to Poland.

Another gift from these friendly people—a small replica of the crossed hammers emblem of the Polish miners mounted upon a polished coal plinth—adorns my desk.

At Ladek-Zdroj the Polish miners have eleven rest homes—formerly used only by the rich—for their exclusive use. As mineworkers they can stay at these homes for 14 days free of charge. Their wives and families are boarded at a purely nominal rate.

When I arrived at Ladek I was welcomed by the British and Polish flags crossed over the door of the house where I was to stay. In answer to my enquiry, I was told that the British flag had been specially made that morning by the miners in honour of my visit! Everywhere I went I found great respect for British people and everyone—officials and workers alike—were anxious to help me.

There is, quite naturally, a keen desire in Poland for the return of Poles at present in Britain. I am convinced that the majority of Polish soldiers, now in Britain, would be warmly welcomed at home—even if only for the reason that



FRANK BOWLES, M.P.
(Member for Nuneaton)

*Vice-Chairman of the
Parliamentary Labour
Party*

Mr. Bowles arrived in Warsaw on September 12 as a guest of the Polish Government. Five days later he went to Katowice where he visited miners' homes and studied welfare facilities for mineworkers and their families. He descended a coal mine at Zabrze and stayed in one of the rest homes, set aside for miners, in the mountains at Ladek-Zdroj (Landeck).

Poland has such a severe manpower shortage. Many Poles in Britain have gained a false idea of conditions in Poland from their officers. One example of this came to my notice in Warsaw where I heard of letters which had been received by Polish families from their menfolk in Britain. In response to appeal to come home and help their wives on the farms, some of the men had written saying that they knew that these appeals had been dictated at the point of a pistol! While I cannot claim to know what happens to every Pole who returns, I did meet one who had come from my own constituency in Nuneaton. He was perfectly free and enthusiastic.

However, I think that persuasion is the only way to get these men back. I told Ministers in Poland that if the British Government announced that it intended to send back every Pole to Poland, nearly the whole of Parliament would oppose such a move, because of our ignorance about their treatment on their return.

In Warsaw everyone is helping with the rebuilding. Watching a queue of people receiving spades and picks, I remarked that they looked like doctors and university professors. Back came the reply: "That's exactly what they are!"

At first I could not understand why so much attention is being paid to the restoration of ruined monuments and other historical

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buildings. There must have been more than one hundred skilled masons at work on the restoration of the Palace of Kings. Could not these workers be better employed on workers' flats? I soon realised that for a nation which has such developed cultural tastes, the places of national culture come nearly first. There is another reason: During the late war the Germans made every effort to obliterate the Poles as a people and the rebuilding of such cultural treasures is playing an important part in their patriotic revival.

If one wishes to understand Polish policy it is necessary to remember that today Poland has, for the first time, a balanced economy within an independent State. The Regained Territories with their extensive industries have helped to transform the former backward agricultural country of Poland. This fact and fear of the revival of German military power makes Poland determined to retain these lands. Her attitude to the Marshall "Plan" is conditioned by the belief that these proposals will mean the restoration of German economy before that of her former victims.

THE EGG AND I

Mrs. Lucy Bowie, of Upper Tooting, London, did not realise when she went into her grocer's shop one day last month that she would have the event recorded in the next morning's papers. Handing her ration book over the counter in the usual manner, she received a wooden egg marked: "The 30,000,000th Polish egg—that's me."

Intrigued but, like all British housewives, determined to get her due, she asked for, and received, a real egg as well. But the matter did not end there. She was informed that she would be presented with two dolls by the Polish Commercial Attache!

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Polish Incentives— a lesson for us?

by

Maj. Donald Bruce M.P.

THE Parliamentary recess has given many M.P.s the opportunity of enriching their knowledge of other countries by paying personal visits to them. Some have visited Poland, and the reports with which they have returned to Britain are a valuable supplement to the information already available.

The general picture portrayed by these visitors is one of progress in Poland. As, for example, in the coal mining industry where the September target was exceeded by 3.74 per cent. But they also bring with them some illuminating details of the basic political and economic structure that lies behind the country's drive towards reconstruction.

It is not generally realised to what extent Polish production is being planned at the present time under the vigorous leadership of the Minister of Industry. The basic industries are all under national ownership and control, and all industrial concerns employing over 100 workers are now run by the municipalities in which the plants are situated, the co-ops.—in many cases where consumer goods are being produced, or by the central government—in the case of nationally important industrial installations. This makes for flexibility in planning; for the Government, either through its central agencies or through the co-ops., is able to determine priorities with a greater

ease than where the state has to rely on the co-operation of numerous self-motivating and profit seeking-units. A national plan becomes possible of realisation in these conditions.

It is true that the system whereby certain categories of the population—principally industrial workers—are given facilities to buy consumer goods at one-fifth of their market price gives what appears to be an unfair discrimination in favour of them. But under the Government's land-holding and agricultural policy the smallholder—who constitutes the main element in Polish agriculture—is now doing pretty well also. So much so that one of Poland's exportable surpluses is that of eggs, bacon and other dairy produce.

This experiment in price incentives will be watched with interest. It is not organised on a Soviet basis. On the contrary, responsibility for industrial production is decentralised to a far greater degree. It will provide an illustration of how a people, apparently content—during reconstruction—to endure appalling housing conditions and the absence of any generally applicable health services and social insurance schemes, can improvise its own incentives on the basis of the start given to its economy by U.N.N.R.A. relief.

(The Parliamentary Column will be resumed in next issue—Ed.)

Page Three

Where Students 'Make do and learn'

by Bonney Rust

Chairman of the National Union of Students

STUDENTS in our Islands face many problems as the new session approaches. Text-books require an endless search, accommodation is difficult, competition for places is growing, and even the fortunate ones must share overcrowded lecture rooms and harassed, overworked, lecturers. I could almost believe we were badly off—if I had not just returned from Poland.

Pre-war Poland, with a population of nearly 35 million, carried a students community of 48,000. Post-war Poland, with a population reduced to under 24 million, had already in 1946/7 55,000 students. It plans, next session, to expand up to 83,000.

The mere increase in numbers alone would have caused immense problems of housing, staffing, buildings and equipment. But to this we must add the reduced population; the deliberate extermination of university staffs by the German occupiers; the tragic destruction of buildings and equipment especially evident in Warsaw, and the long gap in higher education consequent upon the war, but exacerbated by the German decision to prevent any form of higher education.

It is within this framework that we must place the efforts of Polish education to fulfil the demands made upon it by the nation. The students themselves are fully conscious of the urgency of the need

for scientists, administrators, technicians and teachers. In shattered Warsaw, 80 per cent. of the students are working 15-20 hours a week in addition to their studies, both in order to supplement their inadequate scholarships and to assist in the reconstruction of their city. One commerce student to whom I spoke was keeping the accounts of a building firm, a language student was translating for an export office. Whole groups of students spent many days last session in clearance of rubble and simple repair work. The medical students are now preparing to rebuild part of their own refectory and hostel.

Such difficulties immediately suggest that standards are bound to fall. This was firmly denied by the students, but in my view it must inevitably be so for a few years. I was surprised to find, nevertheless, that the standard of some graduates, and finalists, e.g., in Economics, Chemistry, Medicine, and textile research was so high.

Some of the other universities have less acute problems. At Gdansk (formerly Danzig) a smaller percentage were forced to supplement scholarships although many worked in vacations to assist the reconstruction of the town, itself nearly as devastated as Warsaw. The technical students here are making good use of equipment installed by the Germans, e.g., a wind-tunnel in the aeronautics

school, and a series of insulated rooms for electrical research in the polytechnic.

Lodz has special problems. Before the war it was a "workers' town concentrating on textiles and containing no university. Now its university and technical high school formed round a nucleus of lecturers and students from Lwow (now Soviet territory) has a student population of 12,000. Lectures have had to take place in cinemas and other large halls. Here, as elsewhere, students spent last session packed together so tightly that the only way to take notes was by nesting the notebook on the shoulders of the person in front. It was in Lodz that I went over a former war-damaged textile factory now being rapidly converted to a technical polytechnic. As each block is completed more students move in, more faculties are set up, more research is undertaken. A feature here was the quantity and quality of research equipment, e.g., in paper manufacture from wood-pulp.

Katowice differs yet again for it is a Birmingham of Poland. Steel-works, mines, heavy and light manufactures toil ceaselessly (most of them in three, eight-hour shifts) beneath a haze of smoke from hundreds of factory chimneys. Technical faculties are almost as varied as the industry, and are expanding rapidly both here and at Gliwice, to provide trained personnel for the development of regained industrial Silesia.

Krakow University remains in a class of its own. Founded as early as 1364, its history and its position in the midst of a beautiful old city almost undamaged from the war helps it to maintain traditions akin to our own Oxford. Its record of secret education, even extending to the granting of Doctorates, when discovery meant death or the concentration camp under the German occupation, help to ensure that both the new Poland and the old will find expression within its walls.

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Twenty-five thousand students now crowd its many faculties, but thousands more may never leave the waiting lists for a university course.

It is whispered in Warsaw that Krakow, the town, is the centre of reaction today. But Krakow, the University, contains all opinions. There are those who are for, as well as those who are against the regime. There is a majority of students solely interested in their academic studies. But all groups expressed unhesitatingly their views that no effort could be too great for the reconstruction of the country. All must, and would cooperate for this great end despite divergences in political viewpoint.

Polish youth has been tried in the fires of the Occupation. Those who remain today are determined to dedicate themselves to the rebuilding of Polish life and culture in vindication of the courage of those whose studies will never be completed.

Whatever is one's personal view of the political development, it is clear that recent social changes have caught the imagination of most young people. Though some would prefer a less drastic advance, the great majority are proud to expend all their energies to reach the new horizons which are spread temptingly before them. Already results are appearing. Lecturers are rushing from college to college, university to university. Hostels are being built by student hands. Text-books and lecture-courses are being churned out by duplicating machines in default of publishers and printers.

The students know that a special responsibility rests on them to provide the leadership and the technical knowledge necessary for the rehabilitation of a devastated country. If their faith in the future, and their will to work can continue as it exists today, their country will have every reason to be proud of them.

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RECOVERED TERRITORIES

NEWS IN BRIEF

POLES ARE RETURNING from France after years of settlement. So far nine shuttle-trains have brought home 38 transports. Altogether some 23,000 former emigrants, mostly from Northern France, have returned to Poland. Over 8,700 farmers have returned to Lower Silesia. During this summer, transports of mining families have been coming in from France. Arrivals of mining families up to September 1 were over 3,000, comprising of 5,500 persons. These miners have immediately started work in the coal mines of Upper and Lower Silesia. Together with the miners, some 200 families of metal workers have arrived, three families of foundry workers and 140 families of other trades. Recent arrivals in Silesia have also included six priests from France. From Gliwice, the arrival of a transport of repatriates from France was announced.

IN PRZEMKOW, LOWER SILESIA, a new iron works "Henryk" will shortly be set in motion, producing sewage and sanitary pipes, exclusively for export. It will employ 2,000 workers and will produce 10,000 tons of castings yearly. The factory was taken over 40 per cent. destroyed.

TWO SECONDARY SCHOOLS for youths threatened with tuberculosis have been organised in Lower Silesia.

One of these institutes is at Szklarska Poreba (Schreiberhau), and is destined for youths from the whole of Poland, and that at Latek Zdroj for Lower Silesian youths.

THE BUILDING CERAMICS industry ranks third in Lower Silesia, after the coal and textile industries. It comprises of 40 establishments (only one was active in October, 1945), 16 are functioning now and another 11 will be set in motion before the end of the year. They employ 1,900 workers. Production is steadily increasing in spite of obstacles. Intensive schooling of professional workers is conducted.

Establishments in Ziebice, Laskowice and Przyborek produce plumbing fixtures, sanitary, laboratory, etc., stoneware, tiles and the like. Production is partly destined for export.

OUT OF 33 SUGAR REFINERIES on recovered territories which could be reconstructed, 24 are already operating. The sowing area of beets covers 31 per cent. of the whole area sown in the country. An output of 135,000 tons of sugar, or 30 per cent of the total production is expected.

IN KACZANOW, Lower Silesia, the foundry "Maria" will shortly be set in motion. It will produce heavy machines for the manufacture of paper. It is expected that the actual production in the initial stage will amount to 20 per cent. of the pre-war one.

THE WROCLAW railway-car factory produced 1,170 coal trucks during the first quarter of 1947 and 1,401 in the second quarter. It will now start mass production of tenders by belt system, which will increase production fourfold.



Dr. Z. Mittelstaedt, an U.N.N.R.A. official from Lodz (right) tries to coax a smile from a young man who will shortly be seeing his country for the first time.

On the 'Repat' Train from Berlin

with

G. D. H. Douglas

Our Warsaw Correspondent

THE repatriation train that runs from Berlin to the Polish border, now only several miles away at Kostrzyn (Küstrin) is such a routine affair that no one would connect it with adventure or romance. But the little train that sets out every other night from a siding at the totally undistinguished Berlin suburban station of Kaulsdorf brings back home with it people who have been separated from their country and their families for anything from three to seven years, people thought to be dead, people often who thought themselves as good as dead.

There is very little display at the station. There are no passionate goodbyes. Hardly anyone comes to see the repatriates off, except an official or two of the Polish Military Mission and one or two other displaced persons who have not yet decided to take the plunge into this new Poland of which one hears such contradictory accounts.

The officer in charge of the train is a smiling, rather sleepy-looking Captain. All he does is to take a look at the documents that the repatriates have obtained from the P.U.R. (State Repatriation Department) office in Berlin, and wave them on to the train. "There is plenty of room," he says.

This is true—of the Polish part of the train. But the train is also a normal German local service and, up in the front, there is the usual flock of flustered German travellers, with their usual collection of bags, boxes and rucksacks with which to carry home some pounds of potatoes or maybe part of a pig.

Apart from the Captain, myself and a solitary Russian sergeant travelling on business of his own, there is nobody on the train but these German or Polish civilians.

The train starts, a little late—perhaps because we are still in Germany. In Poland the trains run, pretty nearly, on time.

The passengers look out over the darkening landscape and think. At least they do not talk much, and it is hard work to find out who they are and where they have come from.

Here is a young man who served in the German Army. He was conscripted, he says, at Katowice in 1942. His name is Michaly, but his surname I couldn't catch.

He served in Holland and Belgium; then in North Africa; then in Italy. He was captured by the Italian partisans and handed over to the Americans.

After a while he was taken to

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America where he worked on various farms—a wheat farm near Chicago, a fruit farm in California, a cotton plantation in Texas. He liked America, and says the farmers treated him well, though a German prisoner. He'd never had so little work and so much to eat in his life.

He wanted to stay in America, but they told him he would have to return to Poland first. They put him on a ship and sent him to Bremen. Since then he had been in the British Zone.

How many Poles, I wonder, can bring back such happy memories from their stay in German prison camps.

Certainly not Josef Jakusz. Josef is another young man with a rather different story.

He was arrested in 1940, when still a boy, working with an organisation that smuggled volunteers from Poland to France.

He was five years in concentration camps, mostly Mauthausen.

Josef is evidently a versatile fellow. He shows photographs of himself as a clown, as an acrobat, as a conjuror. He also says he has worked as a mechanic, tailor, cobbler, and, for the last nine months, as a coal miner in the British Zone.

He also plays on the mouth-organ. Now he is going back to his brother-in-law who has a small brush factory near Sopot.

These two young men are different in many things, but they are alike in this: Both were in the British Zone; both wanted to return to Poland; and both found all sorts of difficulties.

They waited for three months; four months. They could not get the right papers. There were no transports. Each was warned that they would not find Poland a healthy place. Finally they heard of the train from Kaulsdorf. They escaped over the "green frontier" into the Soviet Zone (in itself a possibly unhealthy undertaking) and reported to the P.U.R. in Berlin.

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A different case was that of the Wojciecki family. They are peasants from Eastern Poland, near the Curzon Line—so near that for a long time they were not sure on which side their village was.

Even when they found out they still hesitated. They did not like the sound of the Ukrainian bands. Maybe, after all, their farm was burnt, or would be by the time they got there. Or, worse still, after they got there.

But later reports from a relative in Przemysl showed that even the U.P.A. (Ukrainian Revolutionary Army) was abating and—what weighed with Pan Wojciecki—many of the Ukrainians had been resettled, either voluntarily to the Soviet Ukraine, or involuntarily to the Polish Western Territories. There were vacant farms for those with the strength to work them.

Pan Wojciecki has many cares. Two children under four, who had never seen their own country, and a teen-age boy, who might help him out, missing somewhere in Germany. But Pan Wojciecki still feels that he could add a bit to his 2½ acres.

Now they sit amongst their innumerable bundles and baskets, out of one of which peers a solemn, watchful goose.

The Wojciecki family, too, are solemn and watchful, sitting bolt

upright and staring unmoved at the sunset—except that father from time to time nods, relaxes, then gives a kind of snorting grunt and sits up again.

The night grows darker. At every station, a crowd of laden Germans is bustling up and down the platform in the meagre lamplight. Now the landscape seems more desolate and is dotted with the hulks of German tanks from the last great battle on the Oder.

We come to the Soviet frontier control, where the train stops a long time while Russian soldiers poke at packages, and painfully spell out documents written in the strange Latin script.

At length, after midnight, the train moves on. We crawl at snail's pace across the bridges over the various branches of the Oder and then, finally, the train grinds on to Polish soil. Below the rail embankment the moonlit ruins of Kostrzyn—95 per cent. destroyed in the fighting—provide a cold welcome.

The repatriates take their arrival very calmly. Just a few quiet comments, a joke and a sigh or two.

Within ten minutes they are on Kostrzyn Station, where P.U.R. gives them a hot meal and a bed for the night.

Next morning they will get their railway tickets home. Once again they will be free citizens, freely moving about in their own country.

Polish invention aids Tailors

MERVYN TEMPLE, a naturalised Pole born in Lodz in 1890, is a tailor who has just invented a new machine. This is a rouleau turner. It can rouleau 400 yards an hour. The solution to a major problem of dress manufacturing has been reached by this Polish tailor, now living in London. So simple in the adaptation that it is no more difficult than hanging a bobbin, yet its application will alleviate the process at present involved in the make-up of rouleau work, which is both

long and tedious and therefore costly, and wasteful of labour.

The machine consists of an attachment to be fixed on any make of sewing machine.

This invention will confer a wide benefit on innumerable industries and will effect a real economy of production.

There is obviously an extensive field of potential uses for this machine. Lingerie straps, upholstery trimmings, etc.

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BRITISH AND POLISH STATESMEN

welcome CLOSER FRIENDSHIP

Lewis Silkin, M.P. in Warsaw: (Minister for Town and Country Planning)

"I am glad that there exists a society and magazine for the purpose of furthering British-Polish friendship. I am convinced that if only people in Britain knew what Poland is doing and how these people respond to us, there could be no difficulties."

MR. LEWIS SILKIN, Minister of Town and Country Planning, gave this message for *New Poland* to our correspondent in Warsaw, during the Minister's two-week visit to Poland.

Arriving in Poland on September 23, on board the S.S. "Batory," Mr. Silkin was a guest of the Polish Minister of Reconstruction, M. Kaczorowski. The British Minister was accompanied by Sir Thomas Sheepshanks, Permanent Under-Secretary to the Ministry; Mr. Howard Roberts, Principal of the Town Planning Institute; Mr. D. E. E. Gibson, Mr. Ronald Nicholas and Mr. Beaufoy.

The delegation visited industrial centres in Central Poland and the Regained Territories, and made a close study of the plans for rebuilding Warsaw. Here, the Minister expressed the wish to take part in the voluntary work of reconstructing the capital. In the company of the Polish Minister of Reconstruction and members of the U.N.O. staff in Warsaw, Mr. Silkin worked in his shirtsleeves removing rubble from the new Marszałkowska Street.

At a conference of Polish journalists, Mr. Silkin said: "Poland's

VISITING POLAND

A BRITISH STUDENT DELEGATION, composed of Mr. Bonney Rust, (see page four) chairman of the National Union of Students, Mercia Adshead, Harold Thomas, chairman of the Student Labour Federation, and Ivor Stanbrook, University of London Conservative Association, visited Poland during September at the invitation of Polish students' organisations. The British students visited Warsaw, Gdynia, Lodz, Katowice, Krakow and Oswiecim, and the main centres of university life.

On leaving Poland, the delegation sent this message to their Polish hosts: "We have admired the tremendous effort of the Polish nation in the task of reconstructing the country. What we have learned here we intend to spread in our country, and we sincerely hope that our visit will be one of many exchanges between our nations."

Mr. Bonney Rust told *New Poland* in London: "As you enter Warsaw, dust tickles your nostrils and rises in little clouds under your feet. But don't blame the City Council. The dust is caused by hundreds of people rebuilding a city from the rubble of a hundred thousand homes." He described the atmosphere of feverish energetic reconstruction which pervades many aspects of Polish life. Students, he says, are particularly affected by it "for they are young and the promise of the new Poland fills their horizon."

Many links of friendship have been forged by the visit to Poland of the British students, Mr. Bonney Rust continued, "We realised that our education would have been incomplete without this visit to Eastern Europe. The personal contacts which have now been made will ensure that greater friendship and understanding approach to mutual problems will enrich our future relations."

THE SADLER'S WELLS BALLET company completed a highly successful tour of Poland on October 6. Opening in Warsaw on September 25, the troupe presented to a packed house (all tickets were sold out for the evening performance before 4 p.m.) "Nocturne" and "Hamlet." Twice daily the company played to Warsawians until September 28. On October 1, the ballet opened in Poznan and continued matinée and evening performances until October 6. Mr. Humphreys of the British Council, which organised the tour, told *New Poland*: "Everywhere the company played to packed and wildly enthusiastic houses. The tour was a tremendous success."

At a party given by M. Dybowski, Minister of Culture and Art, in honour of the Ballet on September 27, Ninette de Valois said that they were proud to perform in heroic Warsaw. The entire income of the following performance was donated to the reconstruction of Warsaw.

Kazimierz Rusinek in London: (Polish Minister of Labour and Social Welfare)

To the British-Polish Society, "New Poland," and all those who seek to deepen the common understanding and friendship between our nations, I send my best regards and wishes for fruitful results of this work. Nothing draws people closer together than common understanding.

MR. KAZIMIERZ RUSINEK, Polish Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, during his recent visit to London, gave this message to "*New Poland*."

The Minister told our reporter: "My visit to Britain was of a technical character. I have enjoyed my stay and I am satisfied with the results of the work. We fully recognise the considerable achievements of the British Government and people in the realm of rehabilitation. As far as our means allow us, we shall copy the British example in organising similar training centres in Poland."

Mr. Rusinek came to Britain as a guest of Mr. George Isaacs, Minister of Labour, who has accepted an invitation to go to Poland in the near future. Speaking of his talks with British Ministers, Mr. Rusinek added: "I am convinced that the co-operation between our countries will develop."

On October 1, a dinner to the two Ministers of Labour was given by the Polish Ambassador in London. The Polish delegation also attended a party given in their

honour by the British Government in Lancaster House.

Earlier in the year (February issue), "*New Poland*" reported the mission of Mr. F. O. Pickersgill, British Ministry of Labour rehabilitation expert, and Mr. H. E. Griffiths, C.B.E., Chairman of the Executive Committee of the British Council for Rehabilitation, to Poland to advise the authorities there on the problem of fitting disabled men and women back to normal life. The advice of these experts aroused great interest and enthusiasm in Poland where the problem of rehabilitation is acute.

Before he left Poland, Mr. Rusinek sent a circular to labour exchanges on the priority in providing employment to demobilised soldiers. They enjoy this privilege for six months after demobilisation. Another circular secures priority of employment for repatriates who left Poland before the war.

Polish Government policy on wages, hours and rations was described by Mr. Rusinek to Bernard Singer, who records the interview on cover page ii.

A brief biography of the Minister will be found on cover page iii. (see Editorial page one).



Over ten and a half million acres of land have been handed over to the peasants

Land Reform in Poland

—The Facts

ONE OF THE FIRST acts of the Polish Committee of National Liberation on Polish soil was to introduce land reform. This was done by the decree of September 6, 1944, which said, among other things:

“... land will be distributed among small holders, peasants having medium farms, burdened with numerous families, tenants and land labourers. This land, as well as land previously owned by them, will be their private property.”

In the period that has since passed, 4,270,000 hectares (10,675,000 acres) of land have been distributed among 700,000 peasant families (figures for Janu-

ary 1, 1947). The land consists of:

(a) split-up large estates in the old Polish territories (a total of 1,155,000 hectares (2,887,000 acres), distributed among 387,000 peasant families);

(b) former German estates in the Western Territories (2,175,000 hectares (5,337,500 acres), distributed among 201,000 peasant families);

(c) former German small holdings (800,000 hectares (2,000,000 acres), distributed among 80,000 peasant families) and former Ukrainian small holdings (140,000 hectares (350,000 acres), distri-

1 hectare = 2.5 acres. (approx.)

buted among 37,000 peasant families) in the old territories.

At present the average area of an individual holding is 7 hectares (17.5 acres). The above figures become especially eloquent when compared with the pre-war state of Polish agriculture. Of the total number of 3,000,000 holdings, 64.7 per cent. were, in 1937, below 5 hectares (12.5 acres), and in all these only 15.3 per cent. of land was arable. The big land owners who constituted only 0.6 per cent. of all farmers held 43 per cent. of all arable land. 4,000,000 peasant families before the war were landless.

(continued on next page)

NEW POLAND

(continued from previous page)

In the period between 1919 and 1937, about 2,500,000 hectares (6,250,000 acres) of land were parcelled out, but of these two-thirds changed hands again by way of private deals. In the three years from 1944 onwards, an area almost twice as large was distributed free to peasants.

Yet the distribution of land was only the first step towards the reconstruction of the Polish agrarian system and the raising of agriculture to a higher standard. Land reform in itself does not mean an automatic increase in output: the shortage of machinery, fertilisers and animals had even lead to a temporary drop in production. The war losses in livestock were very grave in Poland. 67 per cent. of the pre-war number of horses, 65 per cent. of cattle, 77 per cent. of pigs were lost. The war left behind it fallow lands, mined fields, buildings devastated by fire. In 1945, 8,000,000 hectares (20,000,000 acres) of land lay fallow, i.e., nearly 50 per cent. of the total area of arable land.

The Polish Government, realising the grave dangers arising from this state of affairs, turned its attention, in the first place, to providing machinery, implements, fertilisers and draught animals for agriculture. The horses, provided by U.N.R.R.A. and imported from abroad, were distributed among peasants. Production of agricultural machinery and tools received priority in the industrial programme; consequently, as many sowing, threshing, harvesting and other machines are produced in Poland now as before the war, and this output, by 1949, should be three times greater than before the war.

Already at present, farmers have at their disposal 1,300 tractors lent by the State, while before the war they had none. These tractors have been supplied partly by U.N.R.R.A., and partly by Soviet Russia. On the National Day of July 22, 1947, the first thirty tractors of entirely Polish production

NOVEMBER 1947

TOLD BRIEFLY

THE DISPATCH OF British goods to be exported to Poland under the Anglo-Polish Trade Agreement will be speeded up. The value of the goods will be almost £6,000,000. Their delivery is to be completed within the next few months. They consist of wool, cotton, uniforms, shoes, machinery spare parts, cranes, pumps, and telephone installations; 11,000 tons of bridge construction material have been already sent to Poland.

Up to August 30 the “Spolem” co-operative exported 20,000,000 eggs to Britain and 8,500,000 to Switzerland. British orders for 25,000,000 eggs were carried out by the end of September. During the current year “Spolem” is exporting 150 tons of frozen and cleaned geese to Britain.

873 REPATRIATES have arrived in Szczecin from Lubeck by train and 182 repatriates have arrived from Magdeburg. Repatriates are mainly farmers and land workers.

POLISH TRADE UNIONS now have a membership of 2,556,000 members, including 444,000 women and 124,000 young workers. The largest union is the Railway Workers' Union, followed by the Metallurgical Union and the Miners' Union.

were delivered. By 1949, the number of tractors produced at home should increase to 3,000.

The quantity of fertilisers (both home-produced and imported) was greater in 1946 than those available for agriculture before the war. The quantity of fertilisers, used in the spring of 1947 alone, was more than twice as great as the pre-war yearly consumption.

Of the 8,000,000 hectares of land, lying fallow in 1945, 6,000,000 hectares were sown up again. 30,000 hectares of marshy land were drained in 1947.

Cultivation of sugar-beet has greatly increased, so that Poland occupies now one of the chief

AN EXHIBITION ORGANISED in six pre-fabricated Finnish houses by the Housing Institute of the Polish Housing Reform Association, was visited on October 2 by Mr. Lewis Silkin. 2,400 Finnish houses will be taken over by the miners on December 4.

SEVEN MILLION PEOPLE are benefiting from the services of the Institute of Social Insurance. There are 67 branches of the Institute, with three million members. 300,000 payments are made monthly, totalling three billion zlotys. Lack of physicians and medicine is felt. Medical aid will henceforth be granted to agricultural workers thus increasing the number insured by millions.

3,000 POLISH SCHOOLS with about half-a-million pupils benefit from the services of the Polish Film Institute, which is affiliated to “Film Polski.” Six to eight films are supplied monthly to each school. 800 workers' clubs are also supplied with films.

OUT OF THE £6,000,000 British loan granted to Poland, £4,500,000 was allotted for the purchase of the British war surplus in Europe.

places as a sugar exporting country, while her home consumption is equal to that of other countries.

The increase in the number of pigs, since 1945, contributes greatly to the overcoming of the shortage of meat. Canning factories are being built for the manufacture of bacon and hams for export.

Apart from the peasants, land is owned by the State; the State farms are of three main types: (a) 5,323 experimental agricultural estates of a total area of 1,356,000 hectares (3,390,000 acres); (b) 45 seed-growing farms of 55,000 hectares (137,000 acres); (c) 35 horse-breeding farms of an area of 33,000 hectares (76,500 acres).

Page Eleven

Conversation with Professor Fedkowicz

by Henryk Gotlib

POLISH PAINTERS, cut off from Western European art during the war years and eager to learn what is happening in the arts of Great Britain and France, are taking advantage of the first opportunity to visit Paris and London, even if only for a short time.

The latest of these visitors to London was Jerzy Fedkowicz, who spent four weeks here before leaving for Paris. When I was a student at the Krakow Academy of Fine Arts, Fedkowicz and Eugenjusz Eibisz were regarded as the most talented and promising pupils of Professor Wojciech Weiss. Today both rank among the leading painters in Poland. Eibisz has been elected rector and Fedkowicz is now professor in the Krakow Academy.

Whenever we in London meet our compatriots from Poland, the conversation invariably turns on those questions which interest us most: How does Polish painting stand today in comparison with that of Western Europe, what are its merits and its weaknesses? From discussions I have had with some of the Polish painters who have visited London recently, certain things are now clear to me. Fedkowicz I met many times, we visited several exhibitions in London together, and were thus able to devote a good deal of time to the matter.

"You can't imagine," said Fedkowicz, "how curious we all are as to what is being painted in Paris and London. The Polish Govern-

ment is very helpful, and despite all the difficulties in obtaining foreign currency, is constantly giving grants to enable students and painters to spend a few months abroad. Tomorowicz and Eibisz have just returned to Poland after spending several months in Paris and you have met those who have been to London. Two young students are at present in Paris for three months, and others will soon be following."

"But," I inquired, "is it wise to confine yourself to Paris? Long before the war, we in Poland had become so accustomed to look upon Paris as the only centre of art that painters desiring to gain a wider knowledge almost without exception gravitated towards the Seine. Is it not time to revise somewhat our uncritical attitude towards the "eternal" centre of contemporary art? I have just returned from a month's holiday in France, and from what I saw it seems to me that the great epoch of French painting closed with the outbreak of the second world war. The efforts of French painters of today to prolong that magnificent period are of little avail. Condemned to be in constant touch with that great art which has or is about to come to an end (Matisse, Braque and Rouault are well over 70), they vulgarise, consciously or subconsciously, the wonderful achievements of the French masters of the last hundred and fifty years, translating the creative content of their work into decoration, sometimes

with taste, sometimes unexpectedly brutal, or they fall into eclecticism."

Fedkowicz interrupted me. "You are quite right about our uncritical worship of all French art. After the recent exhibition in Warsaw and Krakow of Fougeron, Gisha and Pignon, three well-known painters of the younger generation in France, some of the most talented of our young artists started straight away to paint like them. It is essential that that blind confidence in the rightness of the road taken by young French painters should be shaken." Fedkowicz reflected for a moment and then asked: "But do you think that London has more to give our artists? You have been here for eight years; you know the work of English painters and must have formed your opinion about it."

"Let's go to some exhibition together," I replied diplomatically. "We can talk there."

So we went to some exhibitions. But on arriving at the Reid and Lefevre Gallery, we found an exhibition not of English painters but of "Bonnard and his French Contemporaries."

"A typical Polish picture," exclaimed Fedkowicz, looking at a nude by Bonnard. "How similar is our painting in its decorativeness to this early work of Bonnard." "Another very Polish picture," added Fedkowicz, pointing this time to a Vuillard. "Perhaps," I replied, "it is because the chief merit of this picture lies in its colour and not the form, which is rather banal. It seems to me, and I think you will agree, that it is not correct to say that our painting of the last thirty years derives from Bonnard. Bonnard's greatness lies chiefly in his discovery of a new form, while our painters concentrate almost exclusively on colour, evincing little interest in form. It is perhaps possible to arrive at a new form following the post-impressionism of Vuillard, but would it not be sounder and simpler to pay a little more attention to the Italians (from Cimabue to Tintoretto), or

(continued on next page)

NEW POLAND

Poland's New Writing—2

(concluded)

by Richard Matuszewski

and British citizens, on the shores of Lake Constance. It is a beautiful tribute to the idea of brotherhood as it was practised by peoples under the German heel, and its atmosphere reminds one of the famous pre-war French film "La Grande Illusion" (The Great Illusion). The author, a young Polish writer by the name of Stanislaw Dygat, spent part of the war in this camp, because he was the grandson of a Frenchman and had French citizenship.

Fewest in number are the purely literary descriptions of Polish combat exploits abroad. The most valuable contributions in this group are the works of Ksawery Pruszyński who has published a book on Polish feats of arms at Narvik, Norway; his latest work consisting of a series of short stories on Polish action on the western front. Finally, the books of the well-known journalist and close collaborator of General Sikorski, Stanislaw Strumpf-Wojtewicz, and the novels of Arkady Fidler

whose heroes are Polish airmen in Western Europe, enjoy great popularity in Poland.

The war in Poland and its results, were an experience shared by the entire nation. It is an ever-engrossing topic and one on which the interest of Polish writers is likely to remain focussed for the next few years to come. It provides a rich treasure of material and an inexhaustible field of investigation, not only for those who like violent emotions, but also for true seekers of knowledge about the nature of man, on which the events of this war have often shed a far brighter light than was ever the case previously. Our contemporary Polish literature sees in the experience of this war the source of many a fundamental change which is leading the country on to new and untrodden paths. All this explains why our literature refuses to abandon its material of war memories, but rather regards it as valuable interest derived from the capital of sustained suffering.

A THEME which keeps recurring in Polish literary production is the story of the massacre of three million Jews, a massacre enacted, as it were, before the eyes of the entire Polish nation. Here we must mention above all "Holy Week" (Wielki Tydzien) by Jerzy Andrzejewski. It tells of a young Jewish girl who was being hidden by a Polish family at the time of the wholesale liquidation of the Warsaw ghetto, as staged by the Germans during Holy Week preceding Easter in the spring of 1943.

As regards memoirs from concentration camps, widest acclaim was won by Seweryna Szmaglewska's "Smoke over Birkenau" (Dymy nad Birkenau), which has been already translated into several languages. This book is a stirring document of the German crimes in the largest concentration camp on Polish territory—Oswiecim. Miss Szmaglewska is a young girl who spent four years in the camp, and while she herself escaped death, she witnessed the annihilation of millions of people, poisoned in gas chambers and burned in crematoriums. Her description is simple, devoid of pathos and therefore extremely eloquent.

By contrast we have a book of an altogether different, almost cheerful character—a story which describes the years spent in one of Germany's least oppressive camps, the internment camp for French

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even to glance at some of the canvasses of contemporary British painters, forgetting, for a while, Vuillard and . . . Fougeron?"

"We think on similar lines in Poland today," Fedkowicz explained to me. "It is our intention to establish art centres for Polish painters and students in Rome, London and Paris. That will enable us to get a wider view and give us fresh impetus. For no one will deny that in spite of a certain provincialism in our painting, we do dis-

pose of an enormous capital of talent."

"I have been running the Polish College of Art in London for the last five years," I told Fedkowicz, "and from my experience I would venture to say that the Poles are born painters, and especially colourists. If we cannot impress Europe with anything else, I believe that our contribution to the painting of the world, now already perhaps worthy of notice, could, given the chance, become even more important."

POLISH ART EXHIBITION

DR. JULIUSZ STARZYŃSKI, Director of the Bureau for Co-operation with Foreign Countries department of the Polish Ministry of Culture and Art, visited Britain last month. He discussed the exhibition of Polish Art, which will be held in Britain next May, with the director of the Tate Gallery. The exhibition, which will be unique in as far as it will represent the entire history of Polish art, will probably be held in the Tate Gallery.

Poland's Struggle for Power*

(concluded)

Part 4—The long night is over

This book, already reviewed in "New Poland," is so essential to the proper understanding of Polish history that we are publishing extracts dealing with the most salient points.

WE have seen—owing to the insensate gluttony of the landowners—that when the neighbouring powers "affected the first partition of Poland in 1772 they did not require to conquer a Kingdom but only to take a share of a Kingdom which had fallen to pieces." We have also seen that with the second partition "Poland ceased in fact to exist."

This deplorable condition continued—despite wild, hopeless and sacrificial insurrections—until the first World War, as Mr. Frankel emphasises—right up to the outbreak of hostilities in 1914 the contest between the peasants and the nobles continued, the fight being renewed with incredible and vitriolic persistence after Poland's miraculous re-birth in 1918.

As the author tells us, Serfdom survived in Poland until the nineteenth century. This had an important bearing on the relations between the peasants, who formed the great majority of the population, and other social classes, particularly the former barons. Memories of serfdom were fresh and the cleavage which existed (and still exists) between these classes, and which was more noticeable because of the numerical weakness of the

* "POLAND — THE STRUGGLE FOR POWER 1772-1939" by Henryk Frankel. Lindsay Drummond Ltd.

middle classes, was much greater in Eastern Europe (including Prussia) than in Western Europe, where serfdom had disappeared some centuries earlier. To some extent, the "Prussian spirit" may even be regarded as a rudimentary survival of the psychology of master and serf. Arrogance and megalomania on the part of barons could be found in Prussia, in Poland, as well as in other east European countries; these characteristics were combined with indifference to the living conditions of the people, the self-assumed right to speak on behalf of the whole country, and contempt for the idea of parliamentary representation. The leaning to dictatorial forms of government was thus latent in certain sections of the Polish population.

The internal situation also demanded a peaceful policy. The retarded economic development of Poland, the agrarian problem in particular, and the reconstruction of industry after the ravages of war required all the energies of her people. However, it was to be otherwise.

Four days before the Armistice, on November 7, 1918, amid a general movement of German and Austrian soldiers in Poland to set up revolutionary councils, the Polish Socialist Party and the Peasant Parties formed a Provisional Government in Lublin. This was the gist of its proclamation:

The Polish State, embracing all territories inhabited by the Polish people, with its own coastline was to constitute the Polish People's Republic, whose first president would be elected by the Constitutional Assembly, which was itself to be elected within two months. Complete political and civil equality was to be accorded to all citizens of Poland, without distinction as to origin, religion or race. They were to enjoy freedom of conscience, of Press, speech, meeting, and demonstration, freedom of association, freedom to organise trade unions and strikes, as from the date of the proclamation. All entailed estates, all forests, whether private or previously government-owned, were to be the property of the State; the eight-hour working day was to be introduced into trade and industry.

On the same day the Provisional Government recognised Joseph Pilsudski as leader of the Polish armed forces, and Rydz-Smigly was to act as his deputy.

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

This pregnant statement of Frankel's rings down the curtain on Poland's initial return to independence. With the dark years that followed the German occupation 1939-1945 with which "New Poland" readers are tragically familiar, as with the last desperate struggle of the landed gentry to seize the Government of the re-born country. The difficulties of rooting out the vampire grip of the class that had battered on the vitals of the peasantry for generation after generation is exemplified in the following passage.

EVEN IN WAR—

When, says Mr. Frankel, the tide of battle turned in favour of the Allies, Polish leaders had visions of a great Poland . . . while home affairs were to be governed by a totalitarian system after the German model. In 1943 the Opposition called a Congress of Delegates

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of local Resistance Groups, who elected the Polish National Council.

That body, with the support of the Union of Polish Patriots, formed in the summer of 1944 in the newly liberated areas of Poland the Committee of National Liberation, with its seat in Lublin; the Committee was subsequently recognised by the Soviet Government and granted the right to set up a Polish administration in the Polish territories occupied by the Russian armies. The Committee's manifesto to the Polish people declared that they would administer the liberated areas in conformity with the Constitution of March, 1921, as the "only really lawful constitution adopted in a lawful manner . . ."

THE LUBLIN COMMITTEE

From the Committee of Lublin sprang the present Government of unity. From the first their slogan was "The land for the people," and despite internal dissensions, repressions and continued sabotage, the Government has held firm to their ideal. The division of the land became law, and today every peasant family is entitled to twelve and a half acres of land rising, in certain cases, to twenty-five acres. They hold the land from the State paying an agreed tax for its use. And the vast migration of the peasantry east, south, north and west still goes on, the long night of land hunger is ended, the dawn of possession has begun.

The struggle for power has ended.

THE BRITISH-POLISH SOCIETY

The Organiser says:

AS I returned from Poland only a few days ago my own mind is rather more full of thoughts of that country than of the organisational details here.

(I shall describe my visit in an article appearing in next month's "New Poland").

In the first place I found there a very great interest in the work of the Society and a genuine appreciation of our efforts to create and maintain friendship between our peoples.

The Polish people themselves have performed wonders in the two years since the liberation and they have every confidence in their own ability to rebuild their devastated country as well.

But they have one constant worry and only one, that is that peace in Europe shall prevail so that they can get on with the job of rebuilding with all their energies.

So it is when I asked, as I often did, "When will this or that project be completed?" I very often got the answer "That depends on you!" and to a great extent we must admit that this is true.

We in Britain can do a lot one way or the other to effect the relations between ourselves and other peoples. Quarrels and bad feelings are more often than not based on sheer ignorance of each other's problems and ways of life. So the work of the Society here does directly effect the work of reconstruction in Poland and the

more successful we are in getting across to the British public the true facts about the Poles, their problems, their desires, and their great achievements the more we are contributing the peace and stability which we as well as they so much require and desire.

With all this in mind it is good to be able to report that we have made a good start in the new season's list of meetings and lectures and that arrangements have been made for fresh material to be sent over for the exhibitions on a very much wider scale than we have been able to attempt before.

The Warsaw Exhibition, which toured the larger cities of Britain this year, is to be replaced by another photographic record covering Poland as a whole, whilst some more specialised subjects are being covered with displays of models and arts. Watch "New Poland" for the announcements of these happenings during the next few months.

During the past month the Society has published a new pamphlet on Poland under the title of "Trade Unions in the New Democracy." As usual this is entirely factual material and I feel that others besides those interested primarily in trade union matters will find it of real value.

The very complete changes in the social and economic life of Poland have presented new problems and with them new responsibilities for the men and women who do the actual work of production in the mines, factories and fields.

Some of these problems are already coming our way and Mr. Will Lawther, in his foreword to the pamphlet, points out that we can save ourselves troubles by studying the experiences of others in these matters. Anyway, buy one and judge for yourself. It's only 2d.

(continued on cover iii)

TRADE UNIONS IN THE NEW DEMOCRACY POLAND

Foreword by Will Lawther, J.P.

Just Out.

Price 2d.

Published by THE BRITISH-POLISH SOCIETY, Chronicle House, 72-78, Fleet Street, E.C.4



Polish naval cadets, who have been working in Clyde shipyards, attended a farewell reception at the Polish Consulate, Glasgow, where Lord Provost Sir Hector McNeill is seen having tea with them. On Sir Hector's right is Mr. S. Teliga, the Polish Consul, and on the right is Mr. J. Rankin, M.P.

A HAPPY and successful reception was held at the Polish Consulate in Glasgow on September 18. The reception was on behalf of the 12 Polish cadets from the Naval College of Gdynia who had spent two months training in several shipyards and engineering shops on the Clyde and who were leaving the following day for Poland. Mr. Teliga, the Acting Consul, presided.

Sir Hector McNeill, Lord Provost of Glasgow, was present and in a few words expressed the hope that friendly relations would continue to exist between the peoples of Scotland and Poland and as the cadets were leaving for Poland the following day, he wished them God-speed in assisting the reconstruction of their devastated country.

Others present included Admiral Sir James Troupe, who was associated with the cadets whilst they were in training on the Clyde. Colonel Saunders, Scottish Command, was also in attendance and Professor Riddell and Mrs. Riddell, both of whom later went to Poland at the end of October as the guests of friends in Warsaw.

Mr. Teliga, in returning thanks for the valuable assistance given the cadets, said also that the association might be even more valuable in international relations between the two countries.

On behalf of the cadets one of Mr. Hugh Aitken's English students tendered thanks for the kindly and hospitable way they had been received on Clydeside. He did full credit to his tutor, not only by the content of his short address, but

Scots Diary

by John Cartwright

by the excellent English in which it was delivered, albeit with a touch of Scottish accent. The idea of a reception was a happy one and Mr. Teliga is to be congratulated on bringing together such a representative assembly of Glasgow people.

Shop stewards with whom the lads were in contact during their two months training were also present. Moving among the guests, some forty or more, it was interesting to note how opinion had advanced regarding the Government of Poland and its future. One eminent person told me that those responsible for urging Polish soldiers to remain in this country, should be held responsible for any crimes committed here by their protégés.

In conversation with some shop stewards it was suggested that if delegations are going to Poland from Scotland, the delegation

should include several shop stewards from Clydeside.

On her way from Hamburg to Glasgow, the troopship Eastern Prince, scheduled to take 1,110 stretcher cases and displaced persons to Poland, unfortunately met with engine trouble and it was delayed in sailing from Glasgow until late October. I am informed that no trouble whatever was experienced in securing the repatriation of these helpless war-maimed veterans. It is a sad reflection that whilst every obstacle is placed in the path of the able-bodied the helpless without difficulty can be added to the one and a half million war casualties Poland is already carrying.

Opinion against Poles remaining in this country is hardening in many quarters, particularly as conditions in Poland are becoming better understood. In connection with the potato harvest, Mr. D. Sim, Convener of Ayr County Council, expressed this feeling at a meeting of the Ayr Education Committee when he said: "I do not consider that Poles, who do not do anything in this country, and are unwilling to go home should eat at the expense of Scottish children's education."

How far misrepresentation, if not actual distortion of fact, can bewilder honest people was exemplified a day or two ago in the case of a Glasgow professional man who desired to visit Poland. He was told that to get a visa was next to impossible. Advised to call at the Polish Consulate in Glasgow he was astonished to receive his visa in a matter of minutes.

Mr. E. L. Gander Dower, M.P. for Caithness, where the recalcitrant camp is situated, has written to Mr. Strachey, the Food Minister, protesting against Polish soldiers sending rationed food parcels abroad. He includes sugar in his list of rationed goods which, as Poland is exporting sugar by the ton, seems a bit like railing coal to a mining area.

POLAND'S LEADERS — 9



KAZIMIERZ RUSINEK
MINISTER OF LABOUR AND
SOCIAL WELFARE

KAZIMIERZ RUSINEK was born in Krakow in 1905, and is the son of a railwayman. He went to a teachers' training college, but left to work in a tanning factory and

afterwards did social work. In 1928, he was in Cieszyn, Silesia, and in 1930 in Grudziadz, where he edited a Socialist paper *Walka Ludu*. Persecuted by the Sanacja regime, he went to Poznan to work professionally and for the Party. He attended the Higher Journalists' College. He was for some time in prison. Later he became Vice-Chairman of the Union of Transport Workers and the Union of Seamen and Port Workers. In 1939, he organised workers in Gdynia. He was taken prisoner and sent to the Mauthausen concentration camp, where he co-operated with Cyrankiewicz (the present Polish Premier). In June, 1945, the London Government sent a special aircraft to Mauthausen to fetch Rusinek, but he refused and returned to Poland to join the P.P.S. (Polish Socialist Party). He was Chairman of the Extraordinary Housing Commission of the Cabinet. He became Vice-Chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the P.P.S. and Secretary-General of the Central Committee of Trade Unions. He is now Minister of Labour and Social Welfare.

The Organiser Says (continued from page fifteen)

As "New Poland" is now being printed rather earlier in the month the reports of meetings already held will appear a little late. Since the last issue was published, however, our lecturers have covered 13 dates in London, Woking, Sutton, Loughborough, Mansfield, Nottingham, Leicester and Derby, arousing great interest and getting the usual sur-

prised question "Why hadn't we heard this before?" Perhaps you belong to some organisation, club, union, guild, school, or what-have-you, which would like to have a visit from one of our speakers. If so, just ring up CENTral 3460, or drop a card to the Secretary—It's as easy as that—Try it sometime.

—CAPT. F. L. FARR.

NOVEMBER DIARY

November	3	U.N.A. Meeting	Northampton
"	6	Workers Circle	London
"	10	E.T.U. Branch	Stretford
"	11	U.N.A. Meeting	Manchester
"	12	U.N.A. Meeting	Manchester area
"	13	Brains Trust	Chelsea Town Hall
"	13	U.N.A. Meeting	Southall
"	26	Co-op. Guild	Edgware
"	27	Trades Council	Letchworth

NOVEMBER 1947

POSTBAG

Dear Sir,

I must correct a glaring error in the figures given by Mesdames Szybowska and Turlejska in the October issue. The free market price of shoes is 15,000 zlotys, not 1,500 zlotys as printed. I know this from personal experience both during my visit to Poland last year and this.

In the article "Two Women Come to Town" I could not understand why the two ladies were amazed at the sight of shop windows filled with domestic utensils, as the shops in Warsaw, Lodz and Katowice, and everywhere in Poland that I visited, were equally stocked with these essentials, for surely this is one of the branches of Polish production that is well on its feet again?

John C. Clews

66, Wood Green,
Wednesbury, Staffs.

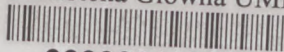
(Mr. Clews is quite correct. Prices for shoes on the free market vary between 10,000 and 15,000 zlotys. We apologise to readers for the misprint. Mesdames Szybowska and Turlejska were expressing personal opinions on the relative quantities of household utensils in the shops of London and Warsaw. It is true that during the last few months a considerable supply of such commodities have found their way into Polish shops. - Ed.).

New Poland

Offices: (Editorial and Business):
CHRONICLE HOUSE,
72-78, FLEET STREET,
LONDON, E.C.4.
Telephone: CENTral 3460.

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