

# New Poland

A MAGAZINE OF BRITISH-POLISH INTERESTS



Millions heard her  
broadcast—See Page 7

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**MARCH**

1948

5

**6<sup>p</sup>**  
MONTHLY



LUDWIK GROSSFELD

MINISTER OF SHIPPING  
AND FOREIGN TRADE

LUDWIK GROSSFELD was born at Przemysl in 1880. Studied law and economics at Lvov and Krakow; was granted a degree at Krakow. Already at High School took active part in clandestine organisations of Independent Youth. Since 1907 an active member of the P.P.S. (Polish Socialist Party), and since 1925 a member of the Party's Supreme Council. He specialised in criminal law and appeared as counsel in political cases. After he left the country in consequence of the war, he became General Secretary of the P.P.S. Foreign Affairs Committee. He went to France in 1940 and from there to London where he held the post of General Secretary to the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. Between 1943-44, he was Finance Minister in the Emigré Government. After his return to Poland in 1945 he became Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Shipping and Foreign Trade. During his work at the Ministry he took an active part in U.N. economic conferences, and at several international social conferences.

Commentary —  
(continued from page 1)

(£82) to 50,000 (£124), and three per cent. for incomes above that. Withdrawals can be made for certain purposes, for example, by farmers for agricultural machinery or by workers for the purchase of furniture, a radio set, etc. The full amount will be paid out, under present arrangements, when the person reaches 65. It is hoped that 20,000,000,000 zlotys (£12,500,000) will be raised by compulsory savings this year.

#### Editorial Changes

This issue will be the last to appear under the editorship of Mr. Stewart Valdar who has served as Editor since the foundation of *New Poland* in March, 1946—exactly two years ago. His place will be taken by Mr. Arthur Long. Mr. Valdar will remain a member of the Editorial Board.

A MAGAZINE OF BRITISH-POLISH INTERESTS

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### Commentary

FOR just over seven months the British-Polish Trade Agreement has been in operation. Recently a Polish trade delegation, led by M. Horowitz, arrived in Britain to discuss the prospects for increasing mutual trading. Although some deliveries of capital goods from Britain are behind schedule, the basis for fruitful exchange of goods between the countries has been established.

Polish deliveries to Britain for the first seven months of the trading period June, 1947-June, 1948, have been exceeded by 40 per cent. British goods, other than capital commodities, have been arriving in Poland in increasing quantities. Britain now holds fourth place among the countries exporting to Poland—after Russia, U.S.A., and Denmark. Among Poland's export markets, Britain ranks sixth—after

Russia, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, and Czechoslovakia.

The object of the present talks is to step-up still further trade between Britain and Poland. The prospects are hopeful.

#### Patient turns Doctor

For the last few years we in Britain have looked upon Poland—and not without reason—as a war-torn, exhausted country sorely in need of everything that makes life bearable. When the Poles announced the beginning of a "Three-Year Economic Plan" many people here dismissed it as a heroic gesture by a nation renowned for its heroism. Materially, it was true, Poland lacked everything—manpower, materials and machinery. Her people were war-dazed, hungry and decimated: Poland's finest youth were either dead, maimed or in foreign lands. And yet somehow,

from some where, Poland found the strength to get national life going again: Not just a hand-to-mouth existence to keep alive, but the tremendous, passionate teeming life of a nation that knows its destiny. This, and nothing else, explains how the country which suffered most in the war has achieved the rapid economic recovery foreshadowed in the Three-Year Plan's targets for 1947.

Last year Poland exported 18½ million tons of coal to assist European recovery. Even Britain received some of this coal—thus filling a troublesome gap in our own production. In other words, Poland has ceased to be the sick man of Europe; she is now actually helping other, and more fortunate, countries to achieve recovery.

In our pages this month we have published a pen-sketch of "Industrious Poland" by *The Times* Warsaw correspondent. The writer emphasises the fact that Poland achieved the targets set for 1947, in the face of extremely unfavourable conditions: the termination of UNRRA aid before its valuable work was complete; the absence of foreign capital (up to 20 per cent. of the Three-Year Plan's capital, it was hoped, was to have come from abroad); and the non-appearance of an international loan for reconstruction. Despite this, the work went ahead, and today it is possible to say that the foundations for a new industrial Poland have been well and truly laid.

#### Compulsory Saving

During the war Britain was introduced to compulsory savings under the title of "Post-War Credit." Last month the Polish Sejm passed a Bill for compulsory savings to help finance the Economic Plan. Under its provisions, all persons and bodies with an income of over 240,000 zlotys (£600) a year will contribute. For workers the amount will be one per cent. of their wages if they get 20,000 zlotys (£50) to 33,000 zlotys (£82) a month, two per cent. from 33,000 zlotys

(continued on previous page)

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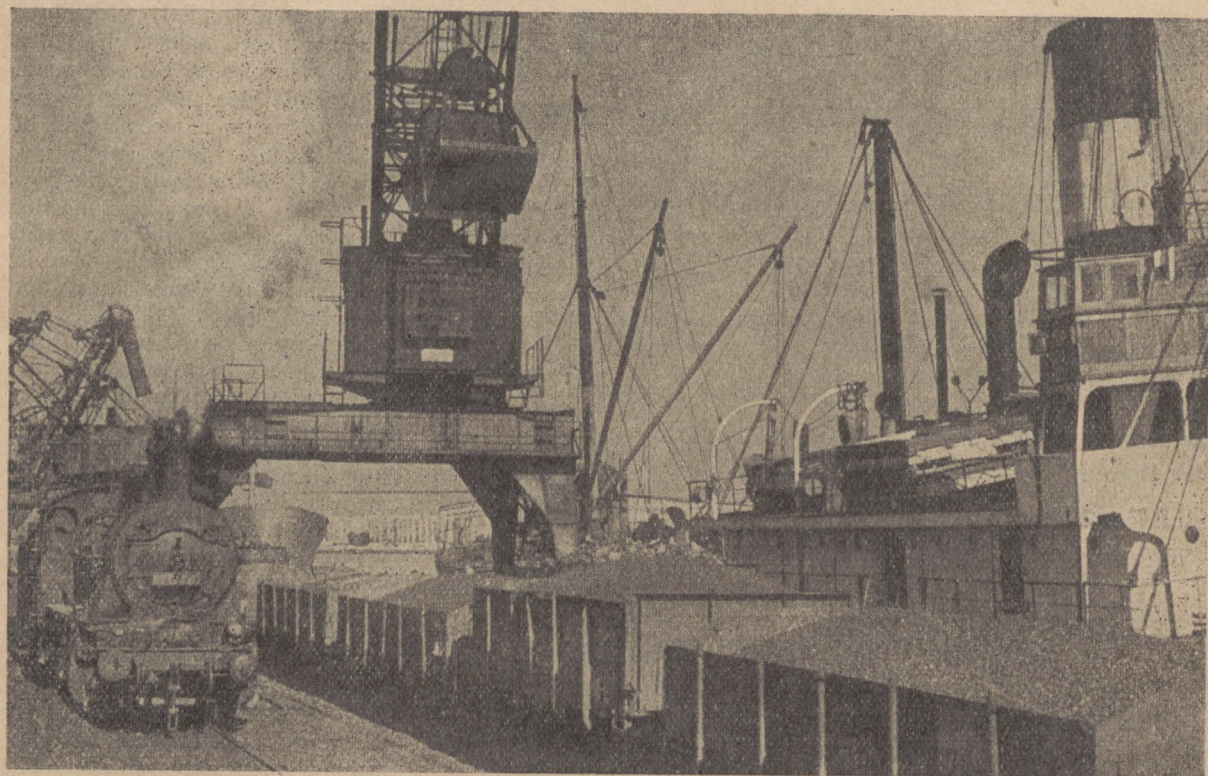
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*The backward agrarian Poland has gone forever: the basis for the industrial Poland of the future is being laid now. The recently-concluded trade agreement with the Soviet Union for the period 1948 to 1952, will bring Poland big new metallurgical plants, power station and chemical plant equipment, as well as iron and other vital ores — to expand her basic industries.*

## *This Pact will speed Reconstruction*

says

**Gordon Schaffer**



**I**N July, 1946, I met an UNRRA official in Berlin. He had just returned from Poland and had many criticisms to make about the Polish Government, but at the end of his talk he said to me:

*"When you get back to London will you try to persuade some of our leaders to forget politics and use a little commonsense. The simple fact is that in a few years Poland will be one of the most important industrial and agricultural countries in Europe and whether people at home like it or not the present*

*Gdansk port handles all the big bulk traffic in and out of Poland. Coal wagons are brought alongside by rail.*

NEW POLAND

*Government in Warsaw has come to stay."*

The last eighteen months has proved that statement up to the hilt, but unfortunately a good many people both in Britain and America prefer to play politics rather than use commonsense.

Because there is a clash over the Marshall Plan they prefer to act like ostriches when countries not included in promises of Marshall Aid prove that they can go ahead without American assistance. That is the only explanation one can offer for the way in which the recent trade agreement between Poland and the Soviet Union has been almost completely ignored by British Press and politicians alike.

Since one of the theme songs of those who look to America for assistance is the need for Europe to help itself, one would have imagined that so outstanding an example of self-help would have been greeted with loud applause.

This agreement means that Poland will enjoy secure markets for a considerable proportion of her exports and will receive much needed help in regard to industrial equipment and raw materials. In the coming five years goods worth one-thousand million dollars will be exchanged between the two countries. Russia will send to Poland ores of chrome, iron and manganese, oil products, cotton, aluminium, asbestos, motor cars, tractors and other goods, while Poland will deliver in return coal, coke, textiles, sugar, zinc, steel products, rolling stock, cement and other goods.

In addition Russia grants to Poland a credit of four-hundred-and-fifty million dollars which will be used to secure for Polish economy equipment for steel works, chemical factories, coal mines, textile mills, electrical plant and other branches of industry. Russian help will also be given for the reconstruction of her devastated towns and ports. Finally, the U.S.S.R. will sell on credit two-hundred-thousand tons of grain within the next six

months, making five-hundred-thousand tons since last harvest.

This is economic planning in practice. Neither Poland nor Russia lives in fear of an approaching economic slump. Neither fears the competition of the other. They have concluded an agreement based on the conviction that for both countries the one need is to expand production and to provide a progressively higher level for their people.

Inevitably, in such circumstances, the Polish people look to the Soviet Union for support in their great task of reconstruction—and this is not a matter of politics; it is simple bread-and-butter economics.

The trade treaty with Russia will be integrated with the other agreements concluded not only with other countries in South-eastern Europe, but also with the nations of Western Europe. And as with Soviet help Polish industry expands, her capacity for trade with the rest of the world will increase.

Poland would recover even more quickly if the great resources of America were open to her, but it is not surprising that the Polish man in the street should examine the different attitudes towards trade agreements on the part of Russia and on the part of the sponsors of the Marshall Plan.

To participate in the Marshall Plan Poland would have had to have removed Communists from her Government. As at present suggested, she would have had to deposit local currency to the value of American aid and use it according to United States direction. She would receive from America, not capital goods, but consumer goods, many of which she would prefer to make herself. Finally, by her participation in the Marshall Plan she would have been bound to agree to a policy of building up Western Germany—a prospect which Poles who remember Warsaw are not inclined to view with indifference.

It is time the ostriches in Britain forgot politics and used a little commonsense.

## **POLISH-SOVIET TRADE PACT**

**O**N January 26, in Moscow, important economic agreements were signed between Poland and the U.S.S.R.:

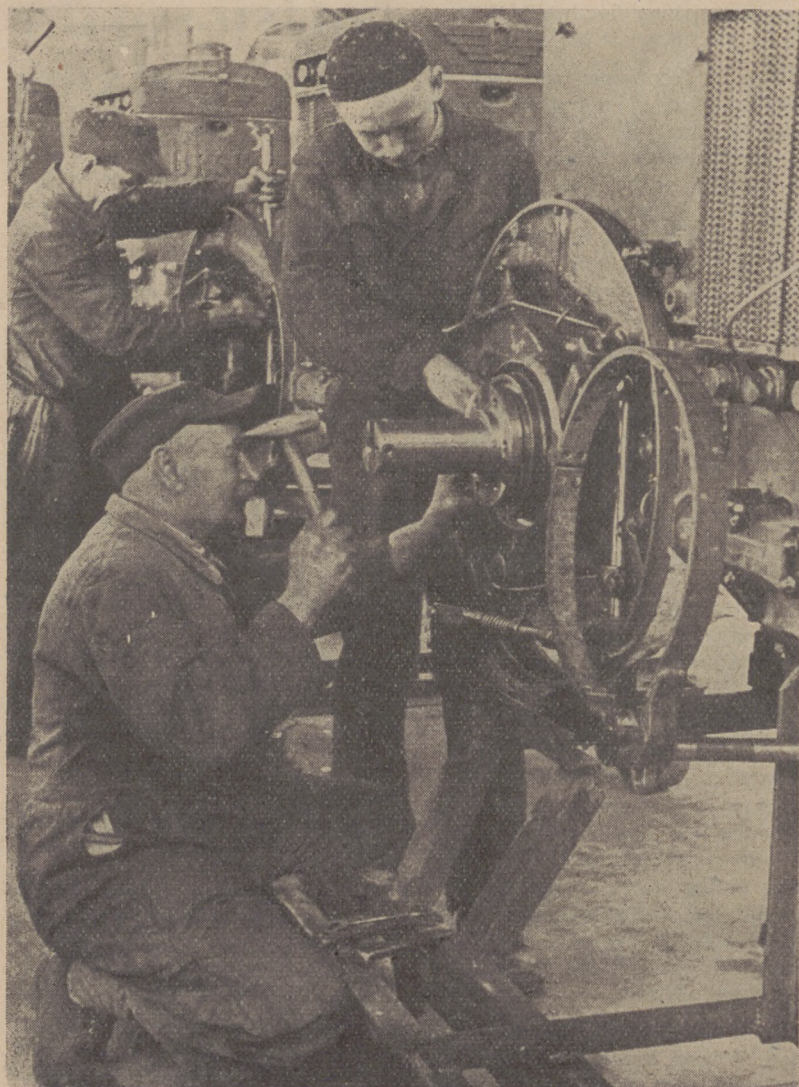
*On January 26, an agreement concerning the mutual delivery of goods for the period 1948-1952 was signed. This agreement establishes the basic quotas of the goods to be mutually delivered for a total amount of 1,000 mil. dollars.*

*The U.S.S.R. will deliver to Poland: iron ore, chrome ore, manganese ore, oil products, cotton, aluminium, asbestos, motor-cars, tractors and other goods. Poland, on her side, will deliver to the U.S.S.R.: coal, coke, textiles, sugar, zinc, steel products, rolling stock, cement and other goods. The prices of the delivery quotas will be fixed according to world market prices.*

*On January 26, an agreement concerning the delivery to Poland of industrial equipment on a goods credit basis was signed. According to this agreement, the U.S.S.R. will deliver to Poland successively in the period 1948-1956, industrial equipment such as trade equipment for steel works, electrical equipment, equipment for chemical factories, for the coal industry, the textile industry, and other branches of industry, as well as equipment for the reconstruction of towns and ports. For settlement of these deliveries the U.S.S.R. agreed to grant Poland a medium term credit for a total of 450 mil. dollars.*

*The U.S.S.R. agreed also to sell to Poland additionally, granting additional credits, 200,000 tons of grain which, together with previous deliveries of grain, will amount to 500,000 tons. The additional 200,000 tons of grain acquired will be delivered to Poland within the next six months.*

*Also discussed during the negotiations were questions connected with the carrying out of the agreement of March 5, 1947, concerning technical co-operation and questions connected with the delivery in 1948 of that part of German reparations which is due to Poland.*



Old and young work together. The "Ursus" factory, near Warsaw, produced last year some of the first tractors ever to be built in Poland.

**We are Working!**

*is the slogan of Poland*

says Paul Caminade

★

"WE are working here" (*Tu pracujemy*), is what I read on the great bare wall of the kindergarten which I was so glad to visit at Szczecin (Stettin) in the course of my journey to the Polish Western territories. And it seems that this simple motto which looks down on the modelling and drawings of busy babies is the slogan of the whole of Poland.

Indeed, from this profoundly devastated country, covered with ruins, bled white—since more than a fifth of the population has disappeared as a result of the war—one gets the impression of an intense life, of strenuous work, of a vigorous and rapid renaissance.

"Our school was destroyed," a little five year old girl, her fair hair tied with a pink ribbon, told me, "but the grown-ups rebuilt it quickly so that we can learn fast." And since I was surprised at this precocious gravity, the teacher explained that, along with teaching, Polish teachers do their utmost to give to children from the earliest age a respect for work and a taste for learning and knowing. "They must understand," she told me, "the necessity for hard work; for they are poor, not all of them have boots to their feet or buttered bread for their lunch snack. But as educationists and patriots we endeavour to guide them, to keep them from

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(Continued from previous page)

the bitterness that might be brought to them by the sight of speculators whom they can see, clothed in furs, sitting in the luxurious restaurants, against the easy life which they may envy in poor wandering youngsters who live by the sale of American cigarettes or by theft."

The concentration and serious purpose which the little ones put into their first lessons at school, where every endeavour is made to provide the comforts and amenities necessary for their age, are found again combined with a wonderful enthusiasm in those whom the little be-ribboned school girl called "the grown-ups." Wonderful, indeed, for the grown-ups so often lack those comforts and rare amenities strictly reserved for the little ones. Indeed, most Polish citizens live and work in often difficult conditions of housing, food and clothing.

#### AT THE DOCKS

I saw in the port of Szczecin teams of men with hands red from the cold, splashing about in the freezing water, unceasingly at work on the body of a stranded ship, and the gay marching song which they were whistling drowned the powerful sound of the pipes.

#### ON THE FARM

On a farm, near to Zarow, I saw an old couple building a pigsty; the man, bent double, was building a wall with a kind of brick which his wife handed him and which they had made this summer by running a mixture of clay and reeds into old packing cases and then drying them in the sun. "This year we are eating potatoes," said the old man, straightening his tired old body, "next we shall eat pork and sell it in the town. 'Baba' (grandmother) is too old—and I am—to work in the fields, but we help the young ones as best we can. We must produce to feed those who are rebuilding."

And, in truth, the young ones

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are rebuilding. Of course, the appearance of the great cities such as Wroclaw, which were almost completely destroyed by the war, not to mention the Western territories, is still very distressing. To be sure, the ruins are not yet all cleared away, but it is encouraging to see that most of the reparable houses have been repaired, and in those places where everything was completely destroyed, surrounding factories annihilated by the war, which are now working full blast, have arisen pleasing cities for the workers, comfortable and rationally conceived. Big communal blocks have been avoided in these new buildings and small villas have arisen, witnessing to the respect paid to family privacy.

#### IN THE MINES

At Walbrzych, in the heart of the mining country, I saw an old miner, a Frenchman, as they call

them there if they have been repatriated from France, who showed me the production curve of his pit "Pokoj" (Peace). "The curve has risen," he told me, "since our rations have improved, but also since we have organized ourselves. The miners more and more understand the necessity for work, for output, to re-build the country and to add to our well-being; and they are going to it."

#### EVERYWHERE

From the youngest to the oldest, everyone is working in Poland, in spite of the cold, in spite of the ruins, in spite of every kind of difficulty, and without doubt the sharp practice of spivs and the speculations of those who gamble on the hardness of the times will not weigh heavily in the balance of history, against these proud hearts and toiling hands.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

MR. J. G. CROWTHER, SECRETARY-General Designate of the World Federation of Scientific Workers has recently returned from a visit to Poland. Fellow scientists heard him describe his experiences when he spoke on "Science in Poland" at a meeting of the Society for Visiting Scientists in London last month.

"The experience of the occupation has left the Polish people with an intense belief in the necessity for the development and application of science," Mr. Crowther told them.

Mr. Crowther described how Poland's scientists, depleted in number and faced with tremendous physical difficulties had set about the work of re-establishing their universities and research institutions—work which, in many cases, had had to start in buildings, looted, gutted and bombed by the Germans.

Presiding at the meeting was His Excellency, the Polish Ambassador, M. Jerzy Michalowski.

POLISH FOOD EXPORTS THIS YEAR will reach the value of 60,000,000 dollars. First place will be taken by sugar, followed by potatoes, poultry, eggs and bacon.

The Polish ship *Lublin* recently arrived in Britain with 658 tons of woollen and cotton textiles and bacon. Shortly before the *Lublin* had delivered ten buses from London to the Polish port of Gdansk.

THE NEW CHARCOAL FACTORY AT Gryfin in Western Pomerania will start exporting soon. The first 200 tons will go to Britain.

The Polish timber industry plans to export goods to the figure of 5,000,000 dollars. Furniture valued at 3,000,000 dollars will go to Britain.

THERE ARE NOW 12,913 CO-OPERATIVES throughout Poland, 5,600 of them town and rural consumers' co-operatives.

I HAVE lived in Raciborz, a town near the new frontiers of Western Poland, nearly three months and I feel bound to state that there is definitely not an "iron curtain" as far as the Poles are concerned—they are only to anxious to show me, and tell me, everything about their newly-returned territories. As for the talk about the "Police States of Eastern Europe," Poland is not any different from England—except that the police here guard the interests of the people and don't countenance fascism, and the Government severely punishes sabotage.

There is a tremendous amount to write about; new and exciting ways of thinking and living.

First the food question. To realise how good the food position is now, you have to know something of the conditions in 1945, after the Russians had fought the Germans in these very streets and pushed them back across the Odra (which is one minute from where I live). They fought in the streets with guns and tanks, and bombs dropped all the time. After the Germans fled, Raciborz was burning and the streets were piled with masses of twisted iron, bricks, girders, tanks and bodies. Smashed guns lay every-



The writer calls this: "A young Silesian woman in party dress."

# Raciborz

(now Polish)

## is my new Home

by

Dorothy Libera

*Just three months ago, Dorothy Libera left her flat in Hampstead (London), for the last time. A few days later she joined her Polish husband in Raciborz, near the German border. A new life had begun . . .*

where. Hundreds of houses lay in indescribable ruin: 80 per cent. of all the buildings were destroyed, farms were wrecked and fields were heavily mined. In the whole of Raciborz, a district of 65,000 people, only 28,000 were left. No more than sixty houses remained standing, and no tractors, machinery or factories were left. The people were starving, and unless the land was tilled they would die. What did they do? They went into the ruined factories and, in the cold wet snow, they dug in the tons of debris with their bare hands dragging out broken and bent machinery and smashed tools. These they mended and began to repair parts of the factories. Women and children of all ages harnessed themselves like beasts and dragged ploughs over the mined fields. Hundreds were killed by exploding mines, and many dropped from sheer exhaustion; for the starving people had no bread.

In spite of the incredible—almost overwhelming—difficulties, the hardships and the real blood and tears, they went ahead. Gradually

the fields showed signs of life and one by one the factories began to hum; and out of all this a new democracy was born.

The people of Raciborz had turned their back on the old regime represented by the émigré London Government, and they looked with hope to the new leadership offered by the Democratic Bloc. Raciborz sent to the Sejm men and women who had fought and suffered in the war against fascism and who worked for the reconstruction of Poland.

Today, every worker has his food card with which he can purchase a ration of bread, meat and fats at a very low cost. This ration is sufficient to maintain a reasonable standard of life, but if you want luxuries—that is, more than your ration—you must buy on the "open market." Here you can buy absolutely anything—but it is very expensive. In the summer, I am told, fruit is unlimited and very cheap—and salad too. After this year's harvest we expect more and cheaper food. There are, of course, still end-

(Continued from previous page)

OUR COVER:

less streets of ruined roofless houses, but, wherever possible, patching and mending is done and demolition work is in progress. Here and there a church has been rebuilt, or a school, and at one corner of the Rynek (market place) stands a fine new block with a bank.

Market day is a great day here. The people come in from outlying villages with their peculiar carts drawn by red-blond-haired horses with drivers, wrapped in huge sheepskins, who shout and crack their whips. Their womenfolk wear Silesian dress consisting of a dark shawl covering them from head to waist, a short dark jacket and very full long skirt—a sombre sexless costume which, one feels, represents the oppression of a people over 600 years. Here in these ancient Polish lands, where the Polish tongue was forbidden by the Germans, the people speak it again and call the villages and streets by their Polish names, as though German rule had never existed.

Today, if you work, you buy clothing with a ration card. The price is quite cheap and the quality good. On the "open market," you can buy lovely clothes—if you can afford them. A pair of high black leather boots cost about £17.

The children still look pinched and very thin but they seem well and full of energy, although the T.B. rate is appalling.

The Polish people are delightful—I have never known such hospitality and genuine kindness. A party which I went to at the New Year stands out in my memory. At twelve o'clock that night everyone drinks vodka and goes to all his friends and makes a speech of love and friendliness. Although I am a stranger here (and a foreigner at that) and speak very little Polish, many many people came and kissed me and shook my hand. I found it quite enchanting. I hope that more of my countrymen and women will be able to come here and meet these gallant kindly people.

# Eugenia Uminska

interviewed by

Kay Taylor

"IT is no longer true that Britain is the land without music," Eugenia Uminska said at the end of her series of concerts for the B.B.C.

This young, attractive Polish violinist has scored a distinct personal success in London. The B.B.C. invited her to give four broadcasts. At one she played Brahms' Sonata with Ernest Lush as her accompanist. She was the soloist in "Spanish Symphony" with Sir Adrian Boult and the B.B.C. Symphony Orchestra.

At one of her studio broadcasts at the Peoples Palace, in London, crowds of people waited for tickets in the bitterly cold weather. Eugenia Uminska was both touched and impressed by the appreciation of her music.

Born in Warsaw Eugenia Uminska began her musical studies in Poland, then went to Czechoslovakia to study under Professor Sevchik, the eminent musician. Then came two years in Paris where she worked with George Enesco, a famous Rumanian composer.

She was 18 when her international career began. Successes in all the European capitals were assured. Then came the war and the interruption of her concerts.

Talking with her in the quiet seclusion of a London hotel lounge it was strange to hear this slight, sensitive young woman describe how she defied the Gestapo in Warsaw who wanted her to play for German audiences.

Rather than do this she went into

hiding. The Germans knew her, of course, as she had given concerts in Berlin and other big cities before the war.

When her beloved Warsaw was occupied, Eugenia Uminska was forced to earn her living playing in cafés and restaurants. She kept her repertoire and played her Polish music.

She came out of hiding during the Warsaw Uprising in the late summer of 1944. She lost her father, home, violin, music, and everything in the destruction of the city.

Together with thousands of other young Polish men and women she was put on a train to be sent into slave labour in Germany. She escaped with several friends by jumping from a moving train. The German guards shot at them and missed. Until the Liberation she worked as a ward-maid in a hospital.

Now blue-eyed, attractive Eugenia Uminska is a Professor in the Krakow Conservatoire of Music. She picked up the broken threads of her international career when she came to Britain in 1946 for the International Music Festival.

From London she is going to Paris for a series of concerts and will return to Krakow for three months. Prague, Vienna, Budapest, and other capitals, are soon to have the pleasure of hearing her.

Eugenia Uminska is to Poland what Yehudi Menuhin is to the world. British music lovers who heard her broadcasts will be hearing her again when she returns to this country to play in some of our Promenade Concerts.

THE first year of the Polish Three-year Plan has now been completed, and both Government and people are engaged in an analysis of the interim results of an experiment which, to a nation of individualists like the Poles, is as novel and strange as the Marxist system that inspired it.

Taking into consideration the internal unrest and terrorism prevalent in Poland until the middle of 1947, the cessation of Unrra aid, the lack of foreign capital, and the absence, so far, of an international loan for reconstruction, the results of the first year, admittedly the most crucial, must be considered remarkable progress in the reconstruction of Warsaw and other ruined cities and villages, or in the economic and financial field, it must be recorded that if this first year is taken as a measure of success, Poland has reason to hope that the whole plan may be fulfilled within the prescribed period. Industrial output has risen everywhere. The production of coal, cement, sugar, paper, and electric power has reached and in some cases surpassed pre-war levels. A number of industries, including several coal mines, have broken all records and completed the year's programme in under 11 months.

The textile, glass, and chemical industries and agriculture still lag behind. Although Poland produced about 5m. tons of grain and 23m. tons of potatoes in the year she will be forced to spend between now and next spring up to £30m. on imports of food and fats. She is not likely to reach self-sufficiency in food till after the next harvest at the earliest, probably even later. Apart from these shortcomings the country is emerging from a transitional stage of political uncertainty and financial chaos, in which she found herself immediately after the liberation, into a period of comparative political and economic stability.

#### A HALF-WAY HOUSE

Several reasons go to explain Poland's rapid recovery. Her leaders

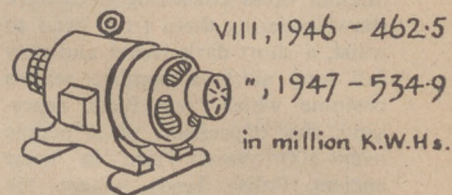
claim that land reform, nationalisation of industry, and the system of competition and bonuses in industry are mainly responsible for it. Land reform released the potential, but hitherto unused, energy of hundreds of thousands of land-hungry peasants. It is still questionable whether nationalisation has been as beneficial economically as its advocates maintain. But in the circumstances in which Poland found herself at the time of liberation, this was the only possible course. Much of Polish industry, whether the textile factories of Lodz or coal mines and metal works in Silesia, was before and for some time during the war in German hands. After the war those industries owned by Jews were left ownerless. Even if Poland had not happened to be ruled by Marxists, conditions were such that only the State could rebuild these ruined industries. This was accomplished much sooner than anticipated, so that to-day most Polish factories are working again.

In spite of nationalisation, Polish economy is, like Poland herself, a half-way house between east and west, between Communism and Capitalism. All heavy and medium industries, banks, ports, and waterways are State-owned, but almost all land is still in private hands. Only half of the wholesale trades are under State control; the other half is divided between co-operative societies and private businesses. Of the retail trade 87 per cent. is still in private hands and 11 per cent. is controlled by the co-operatives.

Economy is divided into three different "sectors," State, co-operative (now gradually coming under closer State supervision), and private. Of nearly 11m. men and women employed, 2,036,000 work

## Stocktaking after One Year of Economic Planning

By the Warsaw correspondent of "The Times" and reprinted by kind permission of the Editor and publishers.



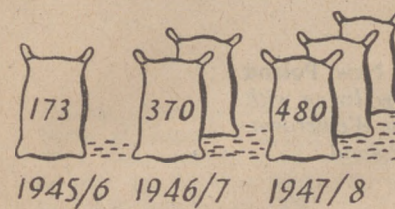
Electric Power (in million kilowatt-hours).



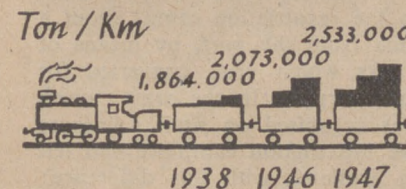
Coal Output (in million tons).

directly for the State as Civil servants or in the co-operative movement; over 1m. are craftsmen and retailers, and 7,833,000 are engaged in private farming or other occupations. This economic middle course is considered here to be the most suitable for Poland and the most likely to yield the best results. The originator and chief planner of this mixed economy is Mr. Hilary Minc, the Minister of Industry.

Although they have abandoned pure Communism for an economic system of their own design, Mr. Minc and the Government nevertheless follow closely other Soviet methods. One of these is the con-



Sugar Production (in 1,000 tons).



Railway Transport (in kilometre/tons).

version of the country from an agricultural into an industrial nation; another is the stimulation of production by direct appeal to the workers and the elimination of strikes. The administration is keenly set on enhancing output by introducing everywhere the piece-work and bonus system and the competitive "Stakhanovite" spirit.

#### NATIONAL SELF-HELP

When the Three-year Plan was first drawn up the Government had reason to expect some foreign relief to replace Unrra, which supplied Poland with approximately

\$500m. worth of goods. It had also hoped to obtain at least 20 per cent. of the sums needed for the realization of the plan from foreign sources. These calculations proved Utopian. Relations between the Soviet Union and the United States deteriorated rapidly, and Poland declared herself unable to participate in the Marshall Plan. Matters were further aggravated by a rapid rise in prices and the threat of widespread inflation. Planners were faced with the choice of either extending the plan from three to five or six years, or abandoning it altogether. An alternative was to devise ways and means of self-help. Some of the more doctrinaire members of the Government advocated complete nationalisation under rigid Communism as a remedy.

Having decided upon self-help the Government appointed a Price Control Board with wide powers, which did much to prevent inflation. To stimulate individual effort, piece-work and bonuses became the rule rather than the exception. All kinds of bonuses and premiums were introduced, for longer hours, for regular attendance, for work done. The managements were eligible for the same premiums as the workers. In addition to individual bonuses, collective premiums for groups of workers, or factories and mines, were introduced either in the form of cash payments or of much-needed consumer goods. The results surprised the Poles. There was a rapid increase in production in mines and factories. One contributing reason for the success of the Government's policy was the low standard of living of Polish workers, who lacked almost everything, from boots to food, and who were much more inclined than workers in other countries to work

harder and longer hours in order to secure the necessities of life.

#### THE PSTROWSKI SYSTEM

The Stakhanovite system, or, as it is called here, the Pstrowski system (after Wincenty Pstrowski, a Polish miner who produced 358 per cent. above his usual stint), has spread to every coal mine and to nearly every factory. The textile workers of Lodz at first objected to it, and there were some strikes, but Government action made them yield to the general movement with a rapid increase in textile output as a result. In some ways the Poles appear to have improved on the Russian system. The worker is made a co-partner in the factory. He is told of the orders received and of the date fixed for delivery. He is shown a diagram of the work and of his own contribution. Another chart tells him in simple form the wage he is to obtain for extra work. He is made jointly responsible for the execution of orders, for the target of his factory as well as the national target. To most Polish workers this has ceased to be a mere abstraction and has gained their personal interest. Bribery and sabotage are severely punished.

Encouraged by the results achieved so far, Polish leaders plan for a further increase in production this year. They expect that industrial output will rise by at least 24 per cent. Coal production for 1948 is now estimated at 67,500,000 tons. It would be misleading to suppose that the present drive for greater production can continue indefinitely. There is much anxiety over the slow progress made in agriculture where the yield per acre is still far below the level of 1939. Poland has a growing industrial population and will need more food to feed her workers. If food production does not keep pace with industrialisation the time will come when the country may need to buy more rather than less food from abroad. Financially many difficulties have still to be overcome. Large sums are required to fund the second year of the plan.

Dear Editor:

"Broadly speaking the position here is that prices are coming down and goods are becoming more plentiful than formerly. Rents here are very cheap in comparison with those at home. Coal is more plentiful than at home—of course you realise that already, since Poland has been exporting coal to Britain, although it doesn't always follow that what one exports is plentiful at home!

"I see that Britain will be sending, amongst other things, wool to Poland. It is much needed and scarcely ever seen here.

"With winter here people have donned the heaviest, warmest clothes they possess. This presents an even greater variety than the summer-time turn-out did. As you can imagine, here especially for the winter, there has been a lot of make-do and mend!

"In common with our neighbours we have had to lay in winter stores of potatoes, carrots, cabbages, onions, apples and coal. Winter conditions here compel us to look ahead to the end of spring—at least when provisioning for the season. This is something new for me.

"To-day is market day—Wednesday. Our house is on the main street of this little town, at one end of which is the railway station and the other, the market. So from our front windows we can see all the peasants and smallholders coming in with their produce. A goodly portion of the horse-drawn traffic from the villages also passes here. Each market day I have a strong urge to sit down and write to my friends all that I see passing here as it is strange, new and interesting.

"I am certain that everyone will be glad to hear that the miners in Poland are amongst the best paid people in the country, and receive in addition to free houses and free coal, more and cheaper rations than those whose work is less arduous.

"Those who return to Poland

Page Ten

## A Repatriate writes

to us



*A letter received by New Poland from a Scots girl now living with her Polish husband at Wejherowo, near Gdansk, Poland.*

from abroad to work in the mines receive, in addition to those things mentioned above, free furniture. Perhaps this, plus the fact that the smallholders and peasants are among the most prosperous of the nation, is the barometer by which to judge the position here in Poland.

"One can see progress and measure the advances week by week. A little over three months ago the plans for rebuilding the bridge in Gdansk were published. The target was set—to complete the structure in two months' time—a little over six weeks ago the bridge was completed—i.e., two weeks ahead of schedule.

"I should like to tell you what happens when one returns on a repatriation transport, for I realise that many stories are going around regarding what happens on arrival.

"Before sailing, I was tackled by all sorts of people who wished to convince me that upon arrival repatriates are herded into cattle trucks by soldiers with fixed bayonets. On the ship members of the crew were also very active with similar types of stories; indeed one—the hairdresser—went so far as to say that many of the repatriates

would never see their native Poland as 'the Russians come to the repatriation camp and select the fittest men and cart them off to Russia!'

"When we arrived we were taken to the repatriation camp, about a mile from the port, by means of trucks which were converted for that purpose. In the camp, which was organised on similar lines to the repatriation camp we had left in Scotland, with this difference: it was organised to receive repatriates for a matter of hours only. I was there from 7 p.m. until 12 the next morning. We saw, alas, no Russians and no fixed bayonets. From 9 a.m. the following morning, repatriates were preparing to leave with travelling warrants to cover their complete journey. So much for the arrival!

"The sweep has just passed the window, he wears a silk topper, tight trousers, bare feet and wooden mules! His feet look very clean—I think he must wash them after each chimney! We pay for his services when paying our rent, so we can call on him at any time without thinking of the cost!"

MRS. I. TOMASIK

NEW POLAND

ART

## Siemion's first Exhibition

by

Cora Gordon

JULIAN SIEMION-SIEMIENSKI was born at Janow (Zloty-Potok) in 1911. He studied at the Academy of Art in Warsaw where he obtained a diploma in 1938.

ON VIEW AT THE ARCHER GALLERY during January there was an outstanding exhibition of paintings by Julian Siemion. The notable qualities of his work are due to a process of combining his imaginative vision with an obvious background of learning. Added to this is that curious natural capacity some painters have of being able to handle the brush with a lightness and surety that produces translucent beauty in the painting.

The Abstract in his work is subtly hidden behind a blend of Expressionism and Realism. Form is strongly felt and Melancholy is the subsoil of his Imagination.

He is one of those who have been obliged to rebuild life after a complete smash-up of home and work. His studio at Warsaw was completely destroyed by bombs. Homeless he left Warsaw, to settle in Krakow where he became a professor at the Art Institute while exhibiting in the public shows at Warsaw, Krakow and Lodz.

In the Spring Exhibition of the National Museum at Warsaw the Government bought some of his pictures. Shortly after he received a short scholarship for Paris where

he studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts and frequented the Louvre. All too soon his scholarship ran out and during the next two frugal years he painted some portraits and sold some pictures.

Then he came to London, at first giving himself up to the study of El Greco and Cézanne in the public galleries. Painting assiduously, he was represented in public exhibitions both in London and Edinburgh. This is his first one-man show in London and will be undoubtedly the forerunner of many others.

"Man at gitara"—by Julian Siemion-Siemienki.



MARCH 1948

Page Eleven

**I**T WAS TO BE EXPECTED that after the tragedy of the German occupation, the resurrected Polish democracy would not be satisfied with formal liberties in force only on paper. So it was decided to establish, once and for all, the conditions necessary for the realisation of democratic rights. This meant that it was necessary to abolish the rights of feudal landlords and their associates to exploit the peasants and workers without restriction, also their right to maintain power by national, religious or racial discrimination, to conduct propaganda directed against the democratic national institutions, and in favour of a fascist dictatorship and political order.

#### RIGHT TO LAND

The decree of September 6, 1944, finally realised the agricultural reform for which several generations had fought without result, and in this way millions of peasants are receiving land sufficient to make their existence secure and to give them the opportunity not only to earn their minimum living, but also for education and for sharing in the benefits of technical progress.

#### INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY

The decree of January 3, 1946, announcing the nationalisation of the main branches of the national economy, and several other decrees, prohibit the exploitation of workers for individual gain, and give the workers the opportunity to profit from their own work, and also to participate in the management of national industry and of all the basic national economic resources.

#### FASCISM BANNED

But the authors of the Manifesto of July 22, 1944, knew also from past experience that it was necessary for the realisation of true democracy not only to create material conditions favourable to the practice of the liberties proclaimed, but also to protect these democratic institutions from any attempt to overthrow them.

"Democratic liberties cannot

## The

# Growth of Democracy

Concluding article on  
human rights in Poland

by Col. Marian Muszkat, LL.D.

(Polish Representative on the U.N. War Crimes Commission)

*In the first article, which appeared in last month's New Poland, the writer traced the struggle for democracy and human rights in Poland from the Middle Ages up to the Polish Committee of National Liberation's manifesto of July 22, 1944. This historic declaration, made in Chelm—first Polish town to be liberated from the Nazis, proclaimed the intention to annul the undemocratic constitution of 1935 and restore the free constitution of 1921. How meaning and substance have been given to this charter of human rights is told in this concluding article.*

serve the purposes of their enemies," said the Manifesto. "Fascist organisations opposed to the national good must be prohibited by law."

Some people knowingly fought against social reform in the country for the purpose of re-establishing their own former economic and political positions and, with the help of terrorist elements, formed armed gangs which made individual life uncertain by pogroms and diversionary actions.

Any tolerance shown to such criminal elements could not be considered as democratic, but as suici-

dal for democracy itself. And, therefore, in order to protect the democratic order in Poland, and to avoid further bloodshed and loss to the ruined economy of the country, several decrees were issued concerning the responsibility for war crimes, criminal collaboration with the enemy, treason, sabotage, acts of terrorism, looting of national property, hindrance of social reforms, fascist and anti-semitic propaganda.

Special legislation regarding war criminals and traitors (decree of September 13, 1944) laid down the

penalties for fascist-hitlerite criminals, responsible for murder or ill-treatment of the civilian population, and also applied to traitors of the Polish nation.

The right to life and freedom from discrimination or persecution on racial, national, religious or political grounds are protected by the above-mentioned legislation, according to the Polish traditional democratic principles and the principles laid down at the Nuremberg Trial and by U.N.O.

#### AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM

The problem of the protection of the Jewish race in Poland had to be solved by special laws, because antisemitism, spread in the pre-war days of the fascist regime and later by the Nazis, was very strong and dangerous to the security of public order in the country, especially since pogroms continued to be organised by gangs formed of former Nazis and their reactionary collaborators.

Therefore, Article 102 of the military penal code provided for penalties to be imposed on those responsible for spreading propaganda of hate on national, racial or religious grounds. The decree of June 13, 1946, referring to crimes specially dangerous in the period of the rebuilding of the State, contains some similar dispositions. Jurisdiction over crimes committed on racial, national or religious grounds is referred, for the time being, to courts martial.

In order to eliminate all fascist elements from public life and to protect the security of elections, Article 2 of the electoral law withheld the right to vote from all Polish citizens who, in the period between September 1, 1939, and May 9, 1945, took German citizenship or enjoyed privileges from German nationality—unless they had been rehabilitated and re-established in their rights by a court.

The electoral right was also denied to people who had profited from economic co-operation with the enemy or had taken part in fas-

cist organisations or gangs, fighting against the democratic order in the country. In this way, the material protection of the freedom of the elections and their security was assured.

#### PERSONAL SECURITY

The legal protection of citizens and their personal security is included in several sections of the municipal penal code (crimes against individual freedom, against the administration of justice, etc.), and the codes of judicial procedure in municipal and military courts.

As has been stated above, in the resurrected Poland the general rules in the province of political order and civil liberties are based, according to the Manifesto of the Committee of National Liberation, on the democratic constitution of 1921. But, since the liberation, some important changes in the economic, political and social structure of Poland have taken place. These could not have been foreseen in the constitution of 1921, framed a quarter of a century ago and under rather different historical conditions.

Under the occupation, national councils were spontaneously developed, having mainly local but also some government jurisdiction. These had at their head the Main National Council of the Country, which had the right to supervise local activities in different branches of social life.

#### THE "SMALL CONSTITUTION"

Until such time as a new constitution could be drawn up, in conformity with the social and economic changes which had taken place in the country, it was necessary to establish legally the organisation and competence of the highest authorities in the restored state. As a result of a popular referendum, it was decided to abolish the two-chamber parliamentary system, and a temporary constitution was set up by the decree of February 19, 1947, called the "Small Constitution." It was intended primarily

for the purpose of settling the principles of organisation and the scope of work of the political institutions and therefore the question of the legal protection of citizens and civil liberties was not included in it.

But the Small Constitution refers, in Article 1, to the general principles of the constitution of 1921, and it was emphasised that, in the new Poland, judges would be independent in the exercise of their functions and subject only to the law, and that the main civil liberties, mentioned in Section V of the constitution of 1921, still remained in force.

#### A BILL OF RIGHTS

And, in order to stress the importance which, in the Poland of today, is attached to the legal protection of citizens, their liberties and human rights generally, the Polish Parliament solemnly approved, on February 22, 1947, a declaration wherein is stated the spirit animating the preparation of the new Polish Constitution, and the whole internal policy of the country. In the matter of civil rights and freedom this declaration goes even further than the constitution of 1921.

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by

John Cartwright

(Our Scottish Correspondent)

MR. Drzewiecki, the Polish pianist who was in Glasgow last winter, appeared again at the third recital arranged by the Glasgow and West of Scotland Pianoforte Society in the Athenaeum Theatre, Glasgow. He presented a large selection of Polish music including Lutoslawski, in six folk song presentations, and Szymanowski in two Mazurkas and Tantrisle Bouffon with a fresh selection from Chopin.

The music critic of the *Glasgow Herald* declared that these renderings were cleverly done and displayed fine quality. "Mr. Drzewiecki," continues the critic, "showed himself to be a pianist who plays the music of his countrymen from the inside. Not every Polish pianist can so justify the claim to be a true ambassador of his country's art. It was admirable."

Mr. Drzewiecki can be very sure that such appreciation from the *Glasgow Herald*, always cautious upon whatever subject may be discussed, is well worth his attention and the attention of music lovers wherever they are found. Eric de Banzie, the *Glasgow Evening News* columnist, himself a severe critic of musicians, offers high praise for his presentation of Chopin's March Polonaise. Eric de Banzie refers to him as the "renowned Polish pianist" and "about him something further should be known."

Professor Zbigniew Drzewiecki is Director of the State Conservatory at Krakow and was head of the Conservatoire at Warsaw prior to the war. He studied under Professor Sikonski and was a pupil of Nadia Boulanger in Paris and received an excellent reception at the Musical

Festival of the International Society for Contemporary Music in Copenhagen in 1947.

I had an interview with Professor Drzewiecki at a reception given by the Polish Consulate in Glasgow from which I have nothing to report. This renowned pianist was too modest to talk about himself. From other sources I gleaned the information that, having escaped from a Nazi concentration camp, he took part in the Warsaw Rising and that what gave him the utmost satisfaction was whilst playing for the wounded in Warsaw, with the Nazis carrying the grand piano from place to place. He was one of the lucky Poles to escape the Nazi gas chambers, torture and ultimate death.

After the reception I asked Sir Hugh Robertson, the Conductor of the famous Orpheus Choir, what he thought of the recital by Drzewiecki. Sir Hugh said he was very good, excellent, in fact, he said, he was brilliant. Sir Hugh and Lady Robertson are old friends of mine and could therefore express an opinion freely. Sir Hugh is not given to rash expressions of opinion on matters musical and so I record

his appreciation of Drzewiecki's presentation of his pianoforte recital as the highest compliment that could be paid to him.

Again I have to congratulate the Polish Consulate on the success of the reception. Moving among the people there I found a sincere regard and friendliness for the Polish Government and the people of Poland. Gradually the tempo is changing and from that mixed gathering of the "classes" it was evident a keener appraisal of Poland's social and political status is rapidly developing between the two peoples.

Following up a paragraph and picture in the *Glasgow Evening News* I called at the Kelvin Hall Circus to interview the Sikorskis, described by the *News* as "Polish aerial artistes." I found them, man and wife, to be Swedish but of Polish descent. They hadn't one word of Polish. Their great grand parents came from Warsaw and both had a warm spot in their hearts for the land of their forbears.

My friend Mr. T. M. Watson, the playwright, was telling me



Zosia Irka and Teresa, daughters of Polish Servicemen, took a farewell look at the country of their birth when they left Clyde recently. They were in the party of over 1,300 Polish repatriates who left Glasgow in the Eastern Prince for Gydnia.

(Continued from previous page)

about a distinguished Polish Actress-producer, Ida Kaminska, to whom Dame Sybil Thorndyke, Sir Lewis Casson and the Directors of the New Yiddish Theatre, were giving a reception in London. T.M. could not attend and was chagrined he could not meet a woman about whom he had heard so much. Robert Mitchell, Unity Theatre's Producer, was also telling me about her saying he knew of her repute and that she was playing at Stoke Newington for some months. Odd how news travels in Art circles.

Can't help referring to Felix Staroscik again. "Starry has three in a hurry." Thus Tommy Allan the *Sunday Express* football reporter describes his hat trick against Hearts. It is unusual for a winger to score three goals in one match but twice this season Third Lanark's flying outside right has scored his three goals per match. The wavy-haired Polish forward is very popular Cathkin way for his all out efforts to lift his team above relegation worries. *Niech Zyje, Niech Zyje.*

Three Polish meetings have been held within the month. A public meeting at Govanhill, another for the Literary Society of the Church of Scotland at Rutherglen and a third with the Amalgamated Society of Building Trade Workers of Great Britain and Ireland. All three meetings were well attended, a feature being the sales of literature.

Beginning on Sunday April 4 the British-Polish Society propose having a Polish week with Paula Born, Labour Attaché at the Polish Embassy in London, as the principal speaker. She is expected to contact trade unions, women's organisations and will address a public meeting in the Cosmo Cinema on April 4. "The Flood," a Polish film will be shown at the same meeting.

It is interesting to learn that Paula Born was an official of the old International Federation of Trade Unions.

Major Donald Bruce, M.P. reports :

IN days when the mutual suspicions between the Great Powers cast an almost pre-war shadow over our lives it is refreshing to be reminded that, after all, things are not quite the same as in the thirties. In those days, with unemployment rife all over Europe, there was no drive to attract nationals back to their own countries. On the contrary, the export of several thousand was very often a boon to the older reactionary regimes—from whence many fled to make their lives anew elsewhere. Now, the urge—in the new planned economies of Europe—is to utilise all the manpower available. It's all needed in reconstruction for peace.

These thoughts crossed the minds of many of us in the House on January 28 last when Mrs. Leah Manning, the M.P. for Epping, pleaded for German citizens of Polish descent at present living in Westphalia to be allowed to return to the country from which their great-grandparents had fled. It was good to hear the Minister of State say in reply that the British Occupation authorities would permit individual Germans of Polish descent to go to Poland provided that the services they were already rendering in the sorely pressed British Zone of Germany were not strictly essential.

Manpower and its proper uses thus continues to feature large in the Members anxieties in the domestic field. There is still unease concerning the number of Poles in Britain not engaged in gainful occupation. Few would wish to suggest that those thousands here not yet working do not desire to work and, for that matter, there are always difficulties in absorption into the most skilled and most vital trades. But 38,000 in the Resettlement Corps, plus a further 42,000

who have not yet enrolled is quite a large number for our own people to sustain in these days. One cannot help hoping that the bulk of these, apart from married women and children, will either be placed in employment alongside us or else will return to the land of their birth to help rebuild it. Mr. McNeil probably sensed this feeling when he provided the above statistics on January 21 last.

The only speech in the Foreign Affairs debate on January 23, which dealt almost exclusively with Polish affairs, was one delivered by Mrs. Leah Manning, whose deep sincerity always impresses. On this occasion she argued for the demarcation of the Western frontiers of Poland to follow the Western Neisse, and quoted the Under-Secretary's statements of November 24, 1947, in support. This drew from Mr. Churchill the statement that Britain had not agreed to the proposal and that the U.S. had only agreed on a provisional basis until the drawing up of the Peace Treaty.

Professor Savory ventured an expostulation during Mrs. Manning's speech to the effect that Polish elections were a fraud. But since electoral methods in Northern Ireland are not entirely above suspicion the Professor's indictments are now considered to lack force. Besides, our developing trade relationship with Poland are beginning to provide venue for our two peoples to get to know one another a little better—even though only trade representatives are involved. The validity of Polish elections important enough historically—and in its correct setting—is of little significance at a time when the utmost co-operation of all European countries is the most urgent necessity of our times.



## THE POLISH PRESS SAYS:

*Our selection of quotations from the Polish Press covers the main topics of comment during recent weeks.*

### Industrial Progress

The coal industry extracted last year 5,690,000 tons of coal, exceeding the plan by 7.5 per cent. The Polish railways loaded and carried 470,000 wagons of goods instead of the planned 439,000. The cotton industry gave the country 26,000,000 metres of material thus exceeding the plan by 4 per cent., although the year before it did not carry out its plan. Reports from the textile industry say that in December 118,000 or 40 per cent. of all the workers joined the work competition movement. 3,500 miners, leaders in the competition, exceeded their target by over 80 per cent. The competition movement is spreading among the youth in agriculture. All these factors contribute to the speediest rebuilding of our country by the labour of our people.—*Zycie Warszawy*.

### Competition in Agriculture

First small groups of peasants, villages and communities began the struggle for an increase in work efficiency; first in the recovered territories. These examples were followed by others and now Polish agriculture is adopting new forms of labour. State organs, the Peasant Self Aid League and other organizations are facing in this connection new tasks of accelerating the use of machines in agriculture, teaching farmers to apply most modern agro-technical methods and more effective organisation of work. This movement guarantees that Poland will soon remove the burden

of importing cereals and fats.—*Trybuna Wolnosci*.

### Electricity for the Village

Before 1939 nobody cared for our rural population. The peasant was expected to feed the cities, to pay taxes and to live in conditions which were an infamy of the twentieth century. The present Government, in its real concern for the peasantry, electrified 266 villages in 1945, 481 in 1946, and 600 last year. Two billion zlotys (five million pounds) will be spent this year for 1,200 villages. Electricity in the village is not only light in the hut or barn or the possibility of utilising modern agricultural machinery, but it is the first basic step to civilisation now entering new areas.—*Slowo Polskie*.

### Private Enterprise Without Monopoly

During the last year the private sector increased in industry and trade. This is most apparent in the Western Territories where the Government, recognising the pioneer role of artisans and industrialists, transferred enterprises and undertakings to private persons. 200,000 men are working in the private sector that it has and will have a place in the framework of planned economy. The planned economy, excluding as it does the existence of voracious monopolies and cartel dictatorship, is in fact the sole system which guarantees a free development of private enterprise free of crisis.—*Dziennik Zachodni*.

**Press Guide—ROBOTNIK:** Organ of the Polish Socialist Party (P.P.S.). **POLSKA ZBROJNA:** official soldiers' newspaper. **ZYCIE WARSZAWY:** non-party liberal. **TRYBUNA ROBOTNICZA:** Upper Silesian Polish Workers Party (P.P.R.) newspaper. **TRYBUNA WOLNOSCI:** Polish Workers Party (P.P.R.) weekly paper. **SLOWO POLSKIE:** Silesian non-party newspaper. **DZIENNIK ZACHODNI:** non-party newspaper. **GAZETA LUDOWA:** organ of the Polish Peasant Party.

### Polish-Soviet Trade Agreement

The agreement will hasten the realisation of Polish reconstruction and the development of our national economy. The credit given to Poland by the Soviet Union is not charged by political conditions and is immediately usable. It enables the industrialisation of Poland and an increase in our standard of living. It strengthens Poland's international position.—*Robotnik*.

### Silesia and European Economy

By the inclusion of the recovered territories into Poland the Odra regained its previous role of a communication artery in Middle and Eastern Europe. Through this river road are now passing raw materials and products of Silesia. The report on the coal situation prepared in connection with the Marshall Plan stressed the decisive importance of Poland in coal deliveries for Europe. Thereby Silesia, under Polish rule, becomes an industrial basin in the European economic system.—*Polska Zbrojna*.

### Poles From Westphalia

The declaration of the Allied authorities must be considered a success for the Polish Government and an important achievement of Poles in Germany. It is one more confirmation of the Big Powers co-operation, even in spite of existing differences between them.—*Trybuna Robotnicza*.

## THE BRITISH-POLISH SOCIETY

### Looking at 1948

#### The Organiser says:

VIEWING the situation now as it affects the work of the British Polish Society we find that it differs in many major respects from that of a year ago. We must study these changes, agree on the fundamental issues involved and organise our next year's work in the light of the new situation and its probable trends in the near future.

This time last year the first post-war elections had just been held in Poland in a blaze of publicity, with praise, criticism, charge and counter-charge spreading confusion among the people of Britain. The Three-Year Plan had been published but was little known here. Even the question of full diplomatic recognition by the Western Powers was in some doubt. In these circumstances the work of friends of Poland in this country was obviously and necessarily canalized into such ways as were practicable of disseminating information about the internal conditions of Poland, the extent of her war devastation and her plans for recovery. This has been done to the limit of the Society's resources, through *New Poland* and other publications, meetings, lectures, film-shows, etc., and aided in the first half of the year by the photographic exhibition, "Warsaw in War and Peace."

During 1947, however, the Polish State has established itself as an independent, self-supporting power firmly entrenched within permanent frontiers. Furthermore Poland is now producing and exporting things needed by other countries including Britain. The main emphasis of the Society's work has, therefore, shifted from picturing the internal conditions of Poland to ex-

plaining her position in world affairs and vis-a-vis Britain in particular. Today's position is that Poland is firm and secure internally and increasingly important, particularly in trade relations, to the rest of Europe. At the same time Britain has experienced a year of crises and has been forced to recognise her dependence on good commercial and political relations with the other European countries.

From this point of view the opportunities for the work of the British-Polish Society are more favourable now than ever before. European culture, the core of what we call "Western Civilisation," is partly dependent for its re-integration on the work of such bodies as ours and we, alone in this country, represent a positive and independent link of friendship between the peoples of Britain and Poland. In no sphere of life, political, cultural, or economic, can Britain afford to be uninterested in the present-day development of Poland; while in these same spheres Poland earnestly desires contact, understanding and practical co-operation.

Here then lies our task for 1948—to spread as widely as possible the information that our two countries need this real "Alliance in Peace" and to interest and inspire as many people as possible to work for this objective. To do this we must continue and extend our efforts of the past with publications, meetings, lectures, etc., and must also break new ground with live, current cultural links, social contacts and, above all, the encouragement of support for the economic co-operation that is as vital for Britain as for Poland. F. L. FARR.

## POSTBAG

Dear Editor,

To mark the occasion of the British-Polish Society's first anniversary in June there has been the suggestion of a gala evening and dance. What do other readers think about this? My belief is that pretty well everyone is coming to see how good relations, particularly economic, are as important for us as for the Poles. I feel convinced that there would be good support for a social event that would also be a gesture of good will towards Poland.

N. B. HUNTER.

Richmond Mansions, S.W.5.

Dear Editor,

We in the west must see that we cannot afford to be without the friendship of such peoples as the Poles. We need the trade pact but we didn't realise how much less than human the fascists are . . . Most people didn't know that millions of people would be tortured to death by the fascists. Now we do know and can see the miracle of a people who suffered like this, taking their love of country and people and with it building a new freedom.

Congratulations to them.

MRS. HELEN SEATON.

Manor Road,  
Wallington, Surrey.

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