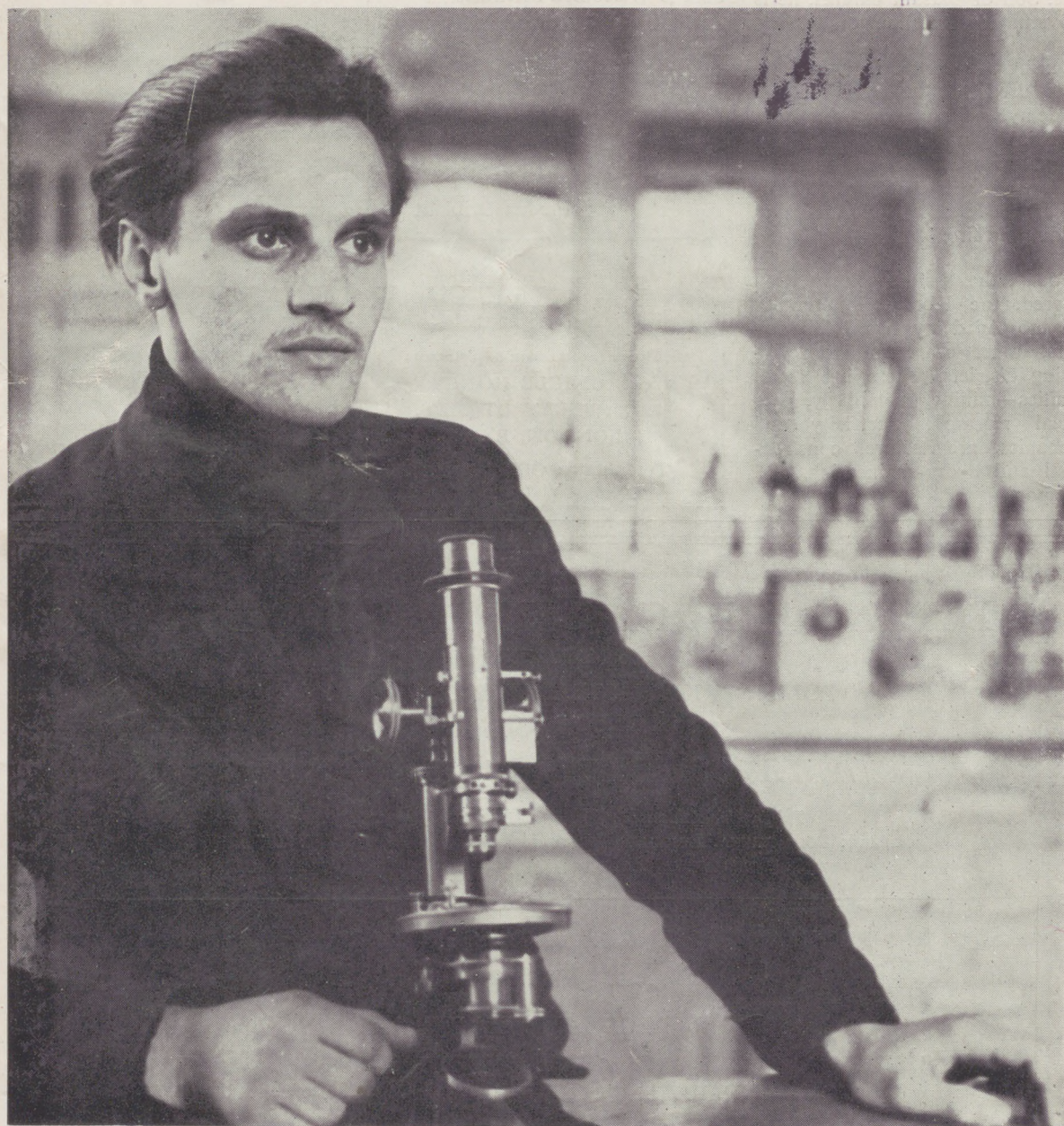


New Poland

A MAGAZINE OF BRITISH-POLISH INTERESTS



Student at Mining Academy, Cracow

**IN THIS
ISSUE**

- ★ *Polish Science—J. G. Crowther*
- ★ *Trade Union News*
- ★ *A Great Polish Actress*

APRIL

1948

**6^D
MONTHLY**

OUR COVER

Typical of those attending the Polish Mining Academy at Cracow is the young third-year student shown on the Front Cover of this issue. Son of peasant parents, he is now studying metallurgy.

During the occupation, the Germans used the buildings of the Academy as the offices of the Nazi "General Gubernator." All the equipment was destroyed or taken to Germany. In 1945, before their retreat, the Germans set the main building on fire.

Today, the buildings have been restored, the laboratories rebuilt, and the Academy has 1,400 students, most of them from the mining districts. There are seven faculties—mining, metallurgy, geological research, electricity and mechanics, architecture, constructional and hydro-engineering, and transport.

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No. 6

New Poland

Vol. 3

A MAGAZINE OF BRITISH-POLISH INTERESTS

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Commentary

SCIENTISTS, from training and habit, are not apt to dramatise their subjects. For that reason, there is all the more conviction in the picture of Polish science today which emerges from the articles by two distinguished scientists in this issue of *New Poland*.

In its theme of courage and endeavour selflessly applied to reconstruction, this picture is similar to so many other aspects of life in re-born Poland. But it has heroic qualities of its own. In addition to the handicaps of loss of key personnel, lack of accommodation and shortage of equipment which Polish scientists share, to a greater or less extent, with workers in other fields, there is one handicap which bears upon them with peculiar hardness—the total isolation of the war years. For the research worker especially, exchange of information is vital. Without it, he is a unit and none knows better than the scientist what that can mean in terms of wasted effort.

Further, all systematic research in Poland was "frozen" during the period when development in other countries was accelerated by the sharp stimulus of war. Here, the scientist was handicapped to a far greater extent than, say, the architect or the engineer. The war has brought no fundamental advance in the design of a tractor or a factory. But it has brought decisive dis-

coveries in the field of nuclear physics.

Finally, it has to be remembered that the loss of life among Polish scientists was, for their country, a double loss. With each scientist killed, Poland lost not only his work, but that of the students whom he might have trained.

Science "Underground"

Against these handicaps, Poland's scientists are fighting with a determination rooted in faith for their country's future. Many, indeed, had never ceased to fight. During the occupation, they had organised the famous "underground universities," the network of clandestine study-groups in which professors taught and pupils studied at the risk of their lives, working under a regime which treated learning itself as though it were a treasonable creed. Today, they are not content with aiming at mere recovery from the ravages of the war years. They are attempting to apply science to the study of society and its needs in a way which was impossible in the old Poland. Illustrative of this is the research, mentioned in Mr. J. G. Crowther's article, into the outlook of the peasant and the industrial life of Lodz.

Polish scientists are doing all that will-power and ingenuity can do—

and that is much. But there is a limit. One cannot improvise a microscope or produce laboratory balances from war debris. In this matter of making good the lack of even the most elementary scientific equipment, Britain, surely, could find some means of helping the men who have saved their country's science from a new reversion to the Dark Ages.

New Decree Can Speed Repatriation

Polish Civil Servants, members of the armed forces, and local government officials who, without good reason, remain abroad after July 31, of this year, will lose all the privileges acquired through their former service, according to a Polish Government decree published on February 23. The privileges in question include pensions, seniority and, in the case of military personnel, rank.

The decree, however, offers generous treatment to those who return by the given date. They will not only be re-accepted into the appropriate service, but will receive full recognition for their years of service before and during the war. After the end of July, applications for re-employment will be considered on their individual merits, but the decree warns that the rights and privileges mentioned may be restored only in exceptional cases.

The terms of the decree, firm and moderate as they are, will undoubtedly have a big effect on Poles abroad. It is to be hoped that the British Government will do everything possible to bring them to the notice of members of the Resettlement Corps here—a step which would speed repatriation and, incidentally, help to reduce the cost of Polish units in this country, estimated at nearly £28 million in the current year, for which the British taxpayer is having to foot the bill.



RECOVERY SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE BUT—

Polish Science is Going Ahead

says J. G. Crowther

THE most important datum for the consideration of the condition of science, as of all other activities in Poland, is the enormous destruction that the country has suffered.

In this destruction, science has not escaped. The professoriate was reduced by half through execution and imprisonment. Those who survived by disappearing into the vil-lages.

The physical destruction of cities lages often came within capture fifty and scientific institutions has been enormous. Warsaw was about 70 per cent. destroyed, and Wroclaw (formerly Breslau) about 60 per cent.

All secondary and higher education was stopped for six years, except for the illegal school university classes conducted in secret.

In 1945, the rehabilitation of higher learning seemed virtually impossible. The professors, the buildings, the trained students, were lacking.

The recovery that has been made in spite of these difficulties is very remarkable. Completely new universities have been created in Lodz and Lublin. Warsaw and Cracow are being revived, and old institutions at Poznan, Torun, Gdansk

Mr. J. G. Crowther, author of a number of books on scientific subjects, is the Secretary-General Designate of the World Federation of Scientific Workers, and Honorary Secretary of the Society for Visiting Scientists.

and Wroclaw remodelled and extended as new universities.

The city of Lodz was not very severely damaged. The Jews were killed, the ghetto set on fire, and a few other places blown up. The town is built on a rectilinear plan, like an American middle-western city. It had no academic buildings, though there was a large school of commerce. The buildings of this school have been made the headquarters of the new university. They provide a considerable number of lecture rooms, but no suitable laboratories. Professor Gro-towski has organised physics laboratories which are admirable in the circumstances, but are in a fundamentally unsuitable building. Professor Chrzaszczewska's chemical laboratories are pathetically poor in equipment. There are bits of apparatus supplied by UNRRA, one or two gifts from Denmark,

and some old balances and furnaces, and works of reference and periodicals. With these, she teaches 120 students, and prepares six for research.

The Sociological Institute, organised by F. Znaniecki in Poznan in 1920, has been re-organised in Lodz by Professor Chalasinski. It possesses the wonderful collection of autobiographical material compiled by peasants. This is being analyzed in order to gain a better insight into the peasant's mind and attitude. At the present period in Polish history, a far too high proportion of the population is on the land. About nine million persons should be transferred from rural to industrial life. Knowledge of the peasant mentality will assist the administrator to carry out this change. The Institute intends to collaborate in providing it.

Another new line of research will be field studies into the industrial life of Lodz. They will analyze the new needs of the city, both as a centre of production, and as the centre of administration of the Lodz region.

These projects are intended as a beginning of an institute of industrialization, to work on the theo-

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retical problems of the industrialization of the whole country.

While the Institute was at Poznan, in the pre-war period, the relation of the small town to the larger city, and to the rural environment, was investigated. The analysis of the peasant life showed that it was based on a romantic, idealistic ideology, which could be compared with the Danish Grundtvig movement. The situation now is entirely changed. The young Polish peasant has a realistic attitude. He wants to work in a factory and study in an industrial school. This is connected with the release of new social forces in the country.

The Polish sociologists believe they may be able to make a special contribution in their field. Their aim is to apply sociology to the development of their country.

Completely Destroyed

Another institute of national standing at Lodz is the Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology. This was founded in 1919 at Warsaw. It was damaged by bombing in 1939, and completely destroyed in the Warsaw Rising. The Institute has been transferred from Warsaw, and has been established in a building that was formerly a Jewish orphanage. All of the children were exterminated during the occupation, so the building has been repaired and fitted as a laboratory. The director is Professor Drubowski, who is also Polish Cultural Attaché in Moscow. He is a general physiologist. The acting director is Professor Niemierko, a biochemist. Professor Konarski and M. Lubinska work on neuro-physiology and conditioned reflexes. The new laboratory has been provided with three rooms for conditioned reflex experiments, and UNESCO has granted \$5,000 for purchase of scientific instruments.

When the Institute was re-started in 1945, the neuro-physiology de-

partment was in Professor Konorski's own flat. Seven research students still work in these rooms. Four of them suffer from tuberculosis. This is a characteristic example of the state of health of Polish students. Here are admirable, keen young workers whose lives may be very short.

Converted Mill

The new Polytechnic at Lodz is in a converted textile mill, whose buildings and grounds cover 20 acres. This huge place has been repaired, internally remodelled, and re-decorated in 12 months. It is a magnificent piece of development. The rector is the well-known authority on applied thermodynamics: Professor Stefanowski. Since the days of Wroblewski, the Poles have done distinguished work in this field. The vice-rector is Professor Achmatowicz, an organic chemist and a pupil and collaborator of Sir Robert Robinson. Achmatowicz worked at Oxford during 1928-31.

There are 2,500 students in the four faculties for mechanical, electrical, chemical, and textile engineering. Though the equipment is still very inadequate, a great effort has been made to assemble what was available. There have been some gifts of machinery from UNRRA, and a new library of 8,000 volumes has already been collected.

No Microscopes

The huge rooms of the old mill make splendid accommodation. Much emphasis is laid on machine-drawing in the training of Polish engineering students. There are three drawing offices, each about 80 yards long and 25 yards wide.

A large hospital has been repaired and re-equipped as a university clinic. It is under the direction of Professor Jacobowsky. The new furniture is Polish, and instruments

have been collected from all quarters. Many of them are German. Some have been presented by the American and the Canadian Red Cross. But they have no microscopes, no film projector, and no lift. They need recent literature, especially on internal diseases, and diseases of the heart and blood. They particularly wish to secure a deep therapy X-ray plant, preferably working up to 600,000 volts. They would like to get an electro-cardiograph.

They have 2,500 students. The pressure to train new doctors is extremely great. Before the war there were 14,000 doctors in Poland, now there are only 6,600.

The Rector of the University of Lodz is the distinguished philosopher Professor Kotarbinski. He is a specialist in logic, and has written a critique of the philosophy of Francis Bacon. He has discovered that Bacon made innovations in logic under the influence of the Stoics. He deposited four copies of his treatise, on which he had worked for nearly thirty years, in different places in Warsaw, but all were destroyed.

Creation and Growth

Of the 15,000 students in Lodz, 8,000 attend the university. Owing to the lack of education during the occupation, many of them are very much handicapped.

Accommodation is extremely difficult. It is not uncommon to find eight or nine students living in one room.

The creation and growth seen in Lodz are paralleled in other universities, and in other aspects of life. The Polish nation is working with great purposiveness on its revival and development. Conditions are very hard. The standard of living is perhaps about one-quarter of that in England. Nevertheless, there is wonderful cheerfulness in the people, and visitors receive a most charming hospitality. The Poles feel they are getting somewhere.

Poland Welcomed The World's Scientists

by Professor W. Heitler



Professor Heitler studied theoretical physics under Professors Planck and Sommerfeld. In the 1930s, he accepted a research fellowship at Bristol University, where he worked on the theory of radiation and cosmic rays. He is now Professor at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies.

Here he describes his experiences as a delegate to the international conference of scientists at Cracow last Autumn.

IN October, 1947, the Cosmic Ray section of the "Union Internationale de Physique," with financial aid accorded by Unesco, held their first international conference, lasting one week, in Cracow. The reason for holding this conference in Poland was twofold: in the first place it was felt that the conference should take place in a country whose scientific life had suffered most from the war, and was in greatest need of scientific encouragement and reconstruction. In the second place it was hoped by going as far east as possible, that Russian scientists would be able to attend and that, at least, on the scientific platform, a truly international spirit could prevail. The latter hope had not materialized. It was a matter of great regret to all participants that the invited Russian delegates did not come.

From every other point of view, however, the conference was a complete success. Scientists from nearly every nation of the world assembled to discuss problems in the forefront of scientific research, and in the true international spirit of friendship.

A large audience of Polish scientists, and from neighbouring Czechoslovakia—I believe nearly all physicists and mathematicians of these two countries attended—grati-

fied the lecturers. I believe everyone agreed that the conference proved scientifically very fruitful and most interesting.

We were received with hospitality unknown in the western parts of the world. Prof. Weyssenhoff of Cracow University, assisted by a number of ladies, had taken care of all our needs and everything was organised in a perfect manner, and in a spirit of goodwill and friendship that included, not only hotel and restaurant arrangements: excursions were made to the interesting saltmine in Wielicka, to all the beautiful historical buildings of Cracow which, I am sure, will be unforgettable to all of us. A performance of Polish music and folk dances was given. Prof. Weyssenhoff's organising committee extended as far as Prague and Warsaw where Prof. Pebrzilha of Prague and Rubiniowicz of Warsaw received the arriving participants and arranged, wherever necessary, their journey to Cra-

cow. Most of us were without any Polish money. A strange feeling, to live without money. Currency difficulties and the absurd rate of exchange made it impossible to obtain zlotys. Yet, we felt no need of them. Even the small things of life, like picture postcards, etc., were generously provided—and they were in the best of artistic taste.

Cracow is not destroyed by the war. I was told that, apart from Lodz, it is the only Polish city that is not completely in ruins. As far as one can tell after a week's visit, the population of Cracow makes a peaceful, quiet, and cheerful impression. Food is more than plentiful, housing short, clothes very expensive. As everywhere in this post-war world, life is very hard for people with fixed salaries, including university professors, and easy for those who can raise their profits in proportion to the price level (or a great deal higher). The university

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laboratories are a sorry sight. Most of the apparatus has disappeared and the most elementary instruments, and books are lacking. I do not think that I exaggerate by saying that the conference has been an immense tonic to the young and old Polish scientists who have been cut off from the rest of the world and spiritually starved during the war years.

Quite a few of the young Polish scientists seem to be very gifted, and considering their isolation, well up-to-date. They are keen to learn and to play their full part as scientists in modern research. Poland, of course, had a very notable scientific tradition in the past, and given a little assistance, there is no reason why this should not continue.

I regret not to have seen Warsaw. My friends who passed through this city have been impressed by a spirit totally different from the quietness of Cracow: Eagerness, activity and reconstruction. And a full life (in the ruins).

On the last day before our departure we were shown the former concentration camp at Oswiecim (Auschwitz). It still stands as the Nazis have left it. Part of it is turned into a dignified museum and a memorial hall for the dead. It is one thing to hear and read about the horrors in the newspapers, even if you believe it all, and another to see with one's own eyes: For instance, the huge glass box filled with children's shoes. No one who has seen this is surprised that Nazism and similar creeds are hated in this part of the world with unlimited hatred.

We left touched by the friendliness and hospitality of our Polish colleagues. I wish to use this opportunity to express once more our thanks to all who have contributed to make this conference such a pleasant memory.

COSMIC RAY research apparatus in use at Cracow University.

Polish Scientist Re-visits Cambridge

No stranger to his fellow scientists in Cambridge, where once he studied under Rutherford, Professor Loria, one of Poland's leading physicists, revisited his friends in the universities there last month, during a short stay in this country.

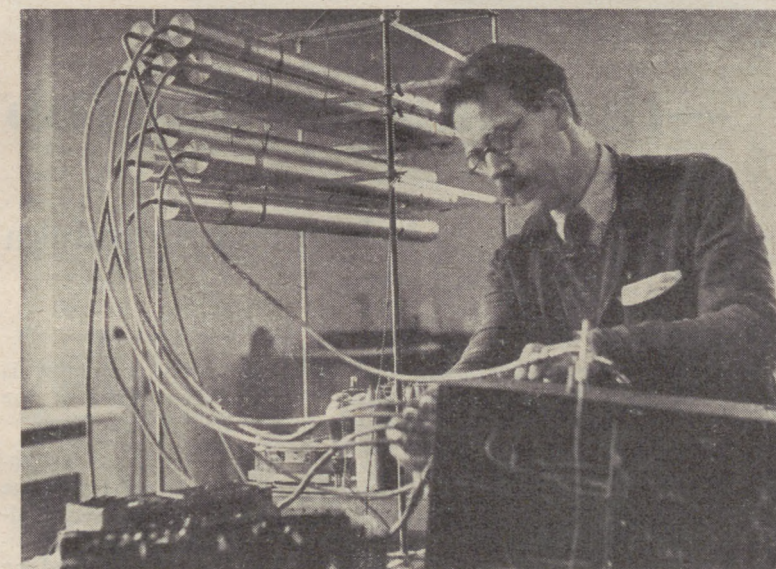
Perhaps most remarkable of the tasks that Professor Loria will have discussed with his colleagues there, administrators many of them as well as scientists, must have been his successful building up of the University of Wroclaw. Previously the German Breslau University, it now caters for some 7,000 Polish students. Equipment and apparatus for research are its main needs at present, and part of Professor Loria's mission in this country is to buy these for his Department.

"The enthusiasm of the students and teachers for science is enormous," Professor Loria told a meeting organised for him by the Cambridge University Socialist Club and the British-Polish Society. "For instance, during the very cold winter of 1946-47 hundreds of students attended lectures in unheated

rooms." Professor Loria described the way in which the universities in Poland are co-operating with the State in providing for the needs of the nation. In Wroclaw, some of the glass works had their research laboratories manned by members of the University staff. The University was anxious to have among its students the sons and daughters of all classes of people. He mentioned especially the peasants, who, before the war, had had no chance of higher education.

Mr. J. G. Crowther, speaking at the same meeting, emphasised the astonishing optimism and vitality of the Poles who had done as much as any nation in rebuilding their shattered universities. He declared that Polish scientists were full of energy and zeal, and mentioned especially Professor Pienkowski who, during the war, organised the "Underground University" and now is preparing fundamental experimental research on atomic energy.

Presiding at the meeting was Mr. Leslie Symonds, M.P. for Cambridge.



The Voice of—



—the Man on the Job

by Celia Stopnicka

ARTICLES appear constantly in the Polish trade union Press dealing with the functions and problems of shop-committees. Their frequency stresses the importance of their rôle in the Polish trade union structure. And this importance is closely tied up with the

fact that the shop committee is really the executive organ of the trade union on the shop level.

Every factory has such a committee, which is elected by all the workers in a given factory, including those who are not union members. The elections, conducted by

the union branch, under whose jurisdiction the factory operates, are free, secret, equal and direct. The union, political organisations, or any other groups, can select their own candidates. These groups are represented in the shop committee in proportion to the number of votes they poll. In each group, the seats go to the candidates with the requisite number of votes.

Establishments which employ more than twenty workers, have shop committees. In places employing fewer than twenty workers, the "workers' delegates" (comparable to the British "shop steward") represents the workers. In a plant employing 250 to 500 workers, one member of the shop committee is relieved from his regular work, thereby enabling him to act as a full-time representative for the workers.

Management

Recently formulated by-laws make it the duty of management to meet at least once a month with the shop committee, or the steward where there is no such shop-committee. These meetings give the committee an opportunity to present the grievances of the workers, and to discuss such matters as hygienic conditions and technical facilities.

In addition to these monthly meetings, the functions of the shop-committee include the safeguarding of the social legislation of the country against violations by management, and the enforcement of collective agreements. Managements can hire new employees only with the consent of the shop committee, and must show cause in cases involving discharge or lay-offs. The shop-committee also actively participates in the management of the plant. In this sphere its activities resemble the joint production committees which existed in Great Britain during the war.

In reference to this function of the shop-committees, Adam Kurylowicz, General Secretary of the

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NEW POLAND

ONE-QUARTER MILLION SPEAK THROUGH

Warsaw Trades Council

For the Warsaw Trades Council, the last three years have been a record of rapidly-expanding activity which has established the Council as an important force in the life of the capital, and a powerful instrument for defending the interests of its workers.

The success of the Council in its main task of helping trade union organisations may be judged from the figures. In 1945, there were 26 trade unions in Warsaw, with a total membership of just under 40,000. The 40 trade unions in Warsaw today can claim a membership of 235,500—over 90 per cent. of the working population. Of this number, well over one-quarter are women.

The trades council in Poland has

wider direct powers than its "opposite number" in Britain. In Warsaw, for example, the Trades Council exercises considerable control over the 13,000 work-places of various kinds in its area, enforcing collective agreements and inquiring into hygienic conditions and safety measures. Through the good offices of the Council, thousands of disputes between workers and employers have been settled during the last two years. In December, 1947, alone, the Council secured settlements—in conformity with the workers' demands and works regulations—of all but three of the 347 disputes which occurred in the building industry, and 17 out of 20 disputes in the food industry. In these activities, the Council worked closely with the works' councils, on

which over 4,000 shop stewards are represented.

The Council's activities did not end in the workshops. It also attacked the problem of raising real wages by trying to check high prices and economic abuses, and by developing the co-operative retail movement. Sixty productive co-operative societies, and 22 food-producing co-operatives, have been organised on its initiative.

The Council has also helped to distribute to the Warsaw workers food, coal, clothes, and other necessities in short supply.

The fifty-odd social clubs, established by the Council at various work-places, have become centres for cultural and educational activities in the capital. The Council has helped its members to organise theatricals, lectures, libraries, and "self-teaching" groups, as well as recruiting actively for the Warsaw Trade Union School. Entire concerts and theatre performances have been reserved for trade union audiences. During the last three years, 240,000 reduced-price theatre tickets, and 1,800,000 cinema tickets, have been distributed among the unions.

The Council's holidays section has been equally active. It has organised holidays for 10,000 workers, and sent the children of trade unionists for holidays in Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Norway, and Denmark.

Finally, the Council has played its part in Warsaw's great drive for reconstruction. Through the Council, 28,000,000 zlotys (£70,000) were contributed to the State Fund for Warsaw's Reconstruction, and well over 80,000 trade unionists helped in the gigantic task of clearing the debris from the capital's streets.

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Central Committee of Trade Unions said: "The rôle of the shop-committee must not be limited to protecting workers, but should include the broadest co-operation with management." W. Sokorski, Secretary of the Central Committee, threw light on the nature of this co-operation when he made the following statement: "Such co-operation can only exist when the independence and separation of the functions of management, trade unions and government are maintained. No one of the above agents can take over the functions of another agent."

A novel rank and file functionary is the so-called "liaison man." Factories employing more than 100 have one for every 25 workers in addition to the shop-committee. In the exercise of his duties as an intermediary between

the workers of his section and the shop-committee, the "liaison man" has a dual rôle: First, to inform the committee of the needs and grievances of the workers and see to it that those needs and grievances are quickly and satisfactorily adjusted; secondly, to inform the workers of his section about the shop-committee's decision and directives, and see to it that they are carried out. Thus these "liaison men" help to activate the shop-committee and the rank and file of the shop, but they do not have the power to represent the workers outside it. This means that they do not perform any functions in relation to management or to the union. Those functions are exclusively reserved for the shop-committee. "Liaison men," elected by a direct majority of their section, cannot serve simultaneously as members of the shop-committee.



"GENERAL CARGO": The Polish freighter "Warynski" ready to sail.

LESSONS drawn from Britain's centuries of experience in the management of big ports will be applied to Poland.

Visiting this country last month, at the invitation of the British Government, were two of Poland's leading port executives—Mr. M. F. Modrzewski, managing director of the Gdynia and Gdansk port authorities, and Mr. M. W. Szedrowicz, M.P., deputy-chairman of the Parliamentary Maritime Committee, and Commissioner for the reconstruction of the port of Szczecin (Stettin).

Principal object of their visit was to study in detail some of Britain's ports, including London, Liverpool, Newcastle, and Cardiff.

"We learnt much during our tour," they told pressmen after-

wards. "We were especially impressed by the organisation of the British ports; in the coal-exporting ports of South Wales there are the best technical methods and equipment we have ever seen."

They told something of the serious problems with which they had had to grapple in Poland. After the liberation, Szczecin and a number of smaller ports, which were taken over immediately, were found to be completely devastated. Apart from war damage, there was the wilful destruction carried out by the retreating German Army, which had wrecked break-waters, quays and installations, set fire to warehouses and wharves, and sunk ships in the roads and docks.

Yet the task of putting the ports in working order could not wait.

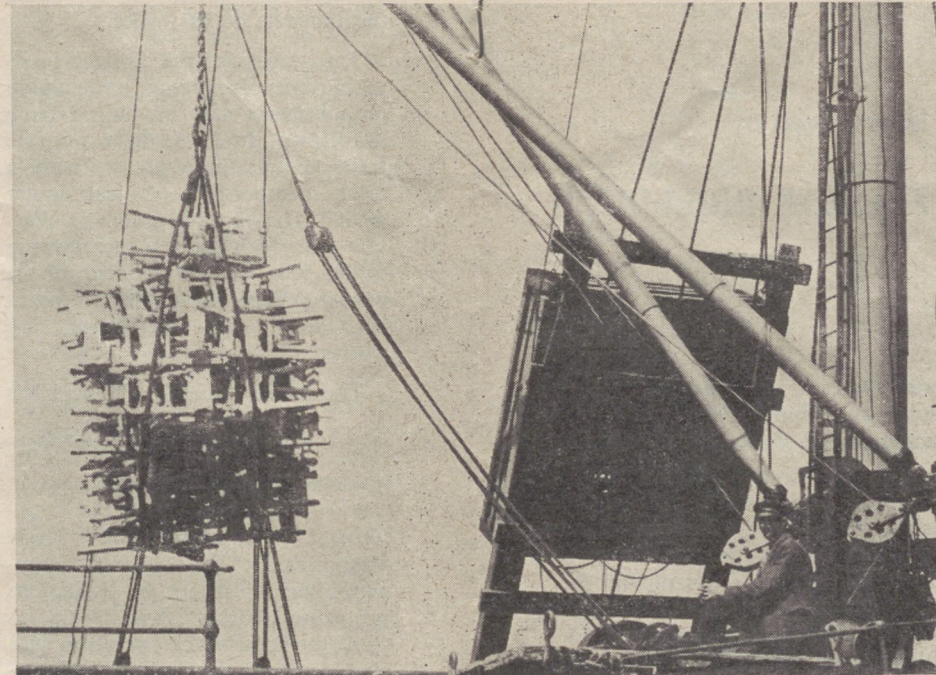
Poland's Ports Prepare for—

More Trade

PRIORITY TASK for post-war Poland was the rebuilding of her ports.

War damage and wilful destruction by the Germans were heavy handicaps. But the work is being done—and done at a rate calculated to keep pace with Poland's expanding trade commitments.

Total turnover of Polish ports, only 700,000 tons in 1945, rose in 1946 to 7,000,000 tons and in 1947 to about 11,000,000 tons. The figure is expected to reach 20,000,000 tons within the next few years.



BRITAIN-BOUND: Furniture for Britain is loaded at Gdynia.

They were needed to handle the indispensable relief in food and other goods supplied by UNRRA; they were needed for coal exports, vital to the nation's economy. Increasing the traffic capacity of the ports was declared a priority job.

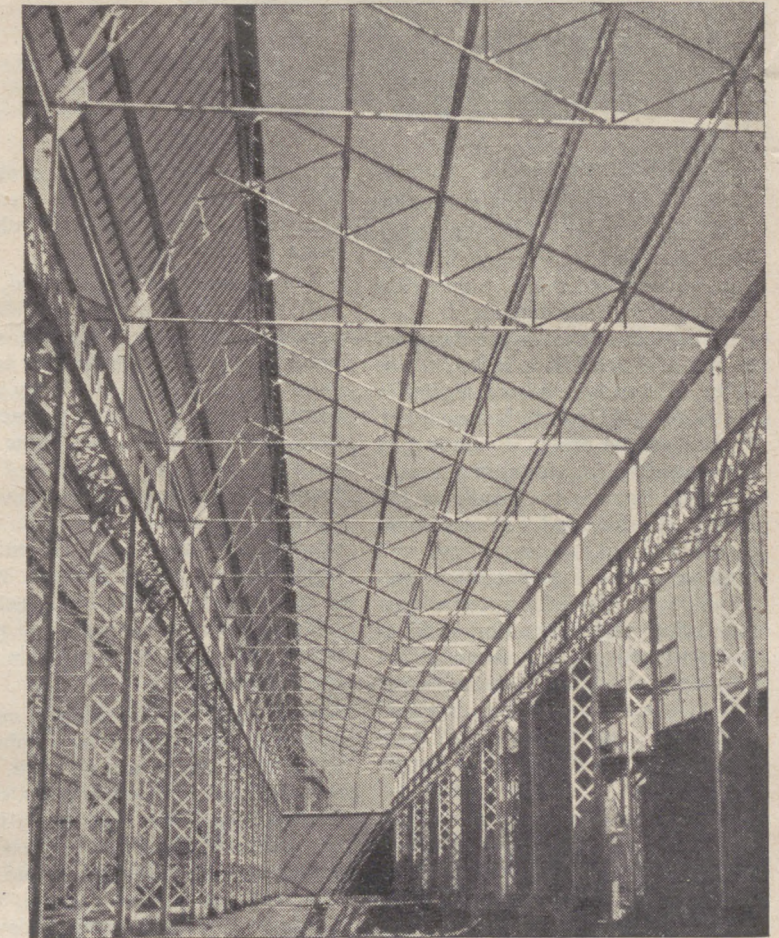
At present, the main turnover is concentrated at Gdansk and Gdynia. Their capacity, however, is insufficient for handling all the Polish and transit goods. That is why, last year, an ambitious plan was drawn up for the development of Szczecin—formerly the German port of Stettin. The target is high. Total

BRITAIN will have more eggs and bacon as a result of the Anglo-Polish trade talks which concluded in London last month.

The Polish Trade Delegation and the British representatives agreed upon plans for what the official announcement calls "a useful expansion of trade between the two countries."

Supplies from Poland during 1948 are to be increased from the £6½ million envisaged in the Trade Agreement of last June to some £11 million, including bacon, eggs and other essential foodstuffs worth about £7 million and some timber. Joint discussions on long-term trade arrangements, and long-term contracts for certain essential foodstuffs, will take place later this year—"the object of both Governments," it is stated, "being that Poland shall, as soon as possible, resume her old place as a permanent source of supply to the United Kingdom."

DEVELOPMENT: This giant warehouse is one of the new installations at Gdansk.



turnover of Szczecin, only 700,000 tons in 1947, is to be increased tenfold by 1950. Next year's developments alone are expected to increase loading capacity to 100 per cent. above that of 1938, when Szczecin was under German management.

For all their excellent record in a fight against odds, the Polish port experts were modest.

"When British experts came to Poland this year," they said, "they gave us only fairly good marks. We hope they will come next year—and give us 'excellent.'"



THEATRE

A GREAT POLISH-JEWISH ACTRESS

Interviewed by

FREDDA BRILLIANT

THOSE theatregoers, particularly of the Jewish community, who did not see Ida Kaminska while she was performing in London, have indeed missed a theatrical event of great significance.

This great actress is the daughter of Esther Rachel Kaminska, whose name is already a sacred legend in the history of Jewish theatrical art. Poland, as the centre of the largest concentration of Jews in Europe, naturally became the cradle of the Jewish theatre, and Esther Rachel created it and, as an actress and producer, lifted it to heights hitherto unknown. She introduced a finer repertoire, more care for production and settings, and above all the development of an ensemble of cultured actors and actresses which made the Jewish theatre in Warsaw, Lodz, and Lvov, the finest in Europe.

It is from this background that Ida Kaminska emerged, and, on her mother's death in 1925, stood supreme on the European Jewish stage. But, alas, the period when

she was to perform her greatest rôles coincided with the greatest attacks on Jewish life and culture since the dispersal.

Ida Kaminska not only acted, but also translated plays into Yiddish and produced them. On the outbreak of the war, she and her company were in Warsaw. They dispersed and Ida Kaminska reached the safety of the Soviet Zone. In Lvov, she was put in charge of the Jewish theatre, and then, when the German invasion came, she was evacuated by the Soviet authorities to the East, to Soviet Kirgizia. And there, Kaminska gathered together a Jewish theatre company and preserved all that was possible of Jewish theatre culture.

When the war ended, she came back to her homeland, Poland, where everything was in ruins. Of her original Warsaw company, only four remained alive. Kaminska herself says: "When I returned to Poland the only thing I found intact was my mother's grave, and although life was stirring in devas-

tated Warsaw, in the Ghetto was nothing, nothing save grass in the summer and snow in the winter."

But, in less-damaged Lodz, the Jewish theatre was reborn from the ashes just before Kaminska's return, such was the striving for new life in the pitiful remnants of the Jewish community in new Poland. "Before the war," Kaminska said, "there were 18 Jewish theatres in Poland and now there are two, one in Lodz, and one in Silesia. Then, we could afford to include inferior, even bad plays, but now we must have good plays only. So far, we have a shortage of new Jewish plays, just as there is a shortage of good new plays generally. Remember, only 100,000 Jews were left out of the three-and-a-half million there were before the war." She used the old Jewish word which means Catastrophe, the End of All Things, Armageddon . . .

"But we do not limit ourselves to Jewish plays," she told me, "we

(Continued on page 16)

NEW POLAND

Our Culture is No Longer For the Few

says JAN KOTT

This article is a summary of a lecture on "The Problems of Polish Culture" which Dr. Jan Kott, Polish author, essayist, and poet, gave in London recently. Some notes on Dr. Kott appear in "Scots Diary" (page 13).

THE problems of cultural restoration and reorganisation in Poland are second, perhaps, only to those of economic recovery.

To understand Poland's cultural difficulties and achievements, one must consider not only the enormous devastation of years of war and occupation, but also the peculiar structure of Polish cultural life during the twenty years of pre-war independence.

Then cultural institutions, rooted deeply in the aristocratic traditions of the Polish intelligentsia, were accessible only to a minority in society. There was a deep gulf between the high intellectual and cultural standard of small groups of well-to-do urban intelligentsia, and the great masses of poor peasants and workers. Schools, universities, theatres, libraries, books, even cinemas—the typical institutions of cultural mass consumption—were few and expensive. There was a terrifying percentage of illiterates, large masses of people who never saw a play, and never read books.

There were people who realised that the struggle for democracy was hopeless when the great majority of the people were not only unable to decide for itself, but unprepared to think and value for itself. These people were fighting for a change. But when the change

LIBRARIES—
there will be
3,000 more . . .



came, when nationalised industries and the division of great estates created a satisfactory economic basis for cultural changes, there was a shortage of the material media of culture. The libraries and books were burnt, theatres and schools bombed. The people of Poland had to start from the very beginning—and they started with great energy—towards that yet vaguely-defined aim: the democratisation of culture.

There were animated polemics and discussions. Some groups wanted to change the very character of culture and build a new, proletarian culture for the working masses. But at last the more realistic view prevailed—the view that Polish culture was rich enough in treasures still unknown to the illiterate and unemployed of pre-

war days, who had only just started their cultural life. It was decided that a powerful organisation of distribution and teaching should be created: schools, cheap books, great libraries, touring theatres and cinemas, help and encouragement for amateur productions. These were recognised as the most important elements of democratic culture.

The publication and distribution of books is now organised in three independent "sectors": the State sector, co-operatives and private publishers. The State Publishing Institute concentrates its efforts chiefly on school books, the supply of which is still far from sufficient. In 1947, it succeeded in satisfying almost completely the demand for books for elementary and (Continued on page 16)



MALCUZYNSKI, distinguished Polish pianist, has given a number of public recitals and broadcast several times during his visit to London.

Malcuzyński Plays Chopin

PLAYING the concerto in F minor by Chopin, and that in A major by Liszt, with the London Symphony Orchestra under Sir Malcolm Sargent at the Albert Hall on March 14, Malcuzyński fully displayed his two outstanding qualities: a great range of tone and perfect clarity. But between these there lie a fine poise which embraces a lively sense of rhythm, a feeling for melodic flow and other intrinsically musical assets.

In one sense, the two concertos are antipodean. The Chopin looks inwards, it is lyrical; the Liszt looks outwards, it is dramatic. Malcuzyński's feeling for melody affords him wide scope in the Chopin, and he never allows the composer's filigree ornamentation to overlie the lovely curves which he sustains firmly but sweetly. His sense of rhythm, his carefully measured mastery of tone-values, serve him

superbly in the bravura of the Liszt. His poise enables him to achieve a balance between the sheer beauty of Chopin's writing for piano and the composer's journeyman orchestration, thus allowing the conductor to bring out parts which might well pass unnoticed were the soloist too self-centred; and yet, in the Liszt, his proud virtuosity curbed Sir Malcolm Sargent's occasional tendency towards over-emphasised contrast.

All this was to be observed even in an orchestral programme remarkable for the virtuosity of its instrumentation: the ballet from Holst's *The Perfect Fool*, Bizet's *L'Arlesienne* suite, and Borodine's vivid second symphony.

Malcuzyński was recalled many times, more particularly after the Liszt concerto; the audience was vast as well as enthusiastic.

H. G. SEAR

POLISH WORKS

DELIGHTED

BRITISH MUSICIANS

THE recent visit of Eugenia Uminska, the young Polish violinist, is one of those positive things in our musical life which cannot be ignored. During her short stay in London, Uminska has given broadcast and public concerts which have not only demonstrated her brilliant musical talents, but have also sought to show us the advantage of our learning more of Poland's national composers than that little which we already know.

Possibly Uminska's most interesting recital here was that given at the Polish Embassy. At this concert, while she herself gave performances of one concerto and a group of smaller pieces by Polish national masters, her country's creative output was further represented by two modern works for cello, played by William Pleeth, with piano accompaniment by Margaret Good and Natalia Karpf respectively, Natalia Karpf being Uminska's accompanist in the violin works.

The audience, many of whom were musicians, and some of them very distinguished ones, were delighted with the concerto by Karłowicz, which Uminska played with a brilliance and fire rarely found. The composer who, after Chopin, was the first to give Poland a popular modern national style, is scarcely known in this country—which is a pity, for the lyrical, romantic warmth of this music goes straight to the heart, and makes one desire to know yet more of the composer's work.

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

Szymanowski, the composer of the group of smaller pieces, is, on the other hand, well known to British audiences, but this knowledge is mainly confined to a few popular violin pieces. The excerpts from ballet, however, which Uminska gave us, showed how very much we should gain from a wider appreciation of this composer, for these pieces had an easy grace and charm about them which benefit the temper of man, and which other composers might well emulate.

The cello sonata by A. Tansman, in which Mr. Pleeth's performance was a worthy contribution from this country, was an exceedingly well-written work in a modern idiom, easily comprehensible, yet at the same time not lacking impetus; in fact, ranking among some of the best modern compositions in cello repertoire. Such modern works as this, so satisfactory in both its form and content, are, it must be admitted, too few and far between to be neglected, and we hope to hear more performances of this sonata.

The concluding work of the programme, the last movement of a cello concerto by J. A. Maklakiewicz, was a weakness in this otherwise very fine selection of Polish music, for, though aptly written for the instrument, it was of that type of religious music which could only be described as "quasi" in its actual effect, however different may have been the original intention of the composer.

This concert was of a type which could with advantage be repeated on a larger scale, in a reciprocal relationship between Polish artists in Britain and British artists in Poland, given the necessary co-operation from our two Governments.

A.C.B.

Scots Diary

by

John Cartwright

(Our Scottish Correspondent)

REPATRIATION is still in full swing. On February 18 the "Eastern Prince" made her fifty-fifth trip to Gdynia, this time carrying nearly one thousand discharged Polish soldiers, with forty-three British wives and twenty-two children. There were also one hundred prisoners-of-war and some invalids. The next repatriate ship is expected to leave Glasgow about the middle of April.

* * *

Scotland has had two distinguished visitors from Poland during February and March, Dr. Jan Kott and Dr. Szczeniowski, both guests of the British Council. The latter, a Professor of Experimental Physics, I did not meet; most of his time was taken up in Edinburgh, where I missed him. With Dr. Kott, however, I spent some time and learned from him about his roaming in the Lothians, Glasgow, Fife-shire and Lanarkshire.

Dr. Kott has seen much of the world, although he is still in his thirties. In 1945 he was in London at the UNESCO Conference; he was in Paris for the Peace Conference, and was present in Moscow at the celebration meeting on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Russian Revolution. He edits *Kuznica*, a Polish literary periodical, printed in Lodz. I was interested to learn that he edited a Warsaw underground paper during the Nazi occupation; I had met some of the other people who had to do with that production, both in Warsaw, and at the docks in Glasgow while on their way home.

Dr. Kott had seen a good deal of the East and West of Scotland and met many well-known people in the political and industrial world, including Douglas Young, the Scottish Nationalist, Hugh MacDiarmid, the Scottish poet, Dr. Robertson, President of the Dunedin Society, Abe Moffat, Chairman of the Scottish Mineworkers' Union, and John Wood, its Vice-president.

Accompanied by the Polish Consul and Vice-consul, he spent half-a-day in the Gorbals Division of Glasgow, where he saw the original of the "Gorbals Story" in all its nakedness. Interesting and amusing was his visit to a dog racing course, the first he had seen. He describes it to me as a commercial lottery making vast fortunes for the few and sustained by the ever-hopeful "Punter."

In his trip to Fife, Dr. Kott visited and descended the Comrie Colliery, Scotland's particular showpiece, a model of what coal mines and coal mines should be. I have not seen nor been down the Comrie, but I have been down the Andalusia Colliery in Upper Silesia, and the Comrie could hardly be better mechanised than this old colliery which Poland had mechanised from the coal face to the wagons on the pit top, with baths of the most modern type provided as well.

* * *

I frequently speak to Polish soldiers when I meet them on the street. One such, a young soldier from Gdansk, accosted me to ask the proper tram for the Botanic Gardens, where he was meeting a doctor friend who was going home to Poland. We were both interested—he, because I had been to Gdansk and could tell him something about the condition of the city and the port, and I, because my daughter had lived there before the war. His mother had written him to come home and finish his studies as an accountant. His father was killed by the Nazis.

So I added another correspondent to my growing mail from Poland.



THE POLISH PRESS SAYS:

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

Over the Target

In January, the Polish coal industry produced 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 produced 28,600,000 yards of cloth, exceeding the plan by 4 per cent., although last year 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 movement for "work competition." 3,500 miners' leaders in the "work competition" in the coal industry exceeded their targets by over 80 per cent. These figures show the steadily rising and constantly improving conditions of our industry and of our State.—ZYCIE WARSZAWY.

Perpetual Motion

People are saying that the Warsaw City Council has managed to solve the problem of the century by finally inventing perpetual motion. At the beginning of this year, the council decided to release over 900 of its employees in order to save money. At the same time, the released men had to be put at the disposal of provincial town councils which are short of experienced local government personnel. Now, after three months, the council has decided to re-employ the released staff. We expect to hear soon of

new saving methods and, in due course, of another reinstatement, etc., etc. Who said there is no perpetual motion? — RZECZPOSPOLITA.

Trade Between Equals

The new Polish-British Trade Agreement proves that Poland desires to maintain trade relations with all countries irrespective of their geographical situation—east or west. This is our contribution to the economic reconstruction of Europe on the basis of a trade agreement concluded by equals with equals, and based on full respect of the sovereignty and vital interests of both partners.—GLOS LUDU.

Worker—Inventors

The Polish State industry saved £105,000 during three-quarters of last year as the result of inventions by workers. These inventions, as well as the movement of competition for highest output between individuals, groups, and whole industries, are the expression of a new relation to work in the new Poland. The number of inventions is steadily increasing. The attitude of the workers under the new conditions is a result of the workers' new consciousness of responsibility for the industry, and for the entire economic and political life of the country.—KURIER CODZIENNY.

NEWSPAPERS IN POLAND

In Poland today there are 754 newspapers and periodicals. This includes 58 dailies, 31 weeklies, 286 monthly publications. In the Warsaw district alone there are 12 newspapers. Each district has its particular newspapers and periodicals.

Brickbat for Builders

If we do not do away in time with the existing chaos in our building programme, we will not be able to solve, in the proper way, all the problems of investments in the building industry, now or in the future. Our building is expensive and wasteful, and we cannot afford it to continue as before. It is therefore our duty to initiate steps leading to the lowering of building costs, elimination of waste and chaos. We do not build for visual effects or for the profits of the builders. What we construct must be of lasting value and must serve its purpose in a proper manner for a reasonable time.—RZECZPOSPOLITA.

"Come Home—Jobs Waiting"

Out of 323,000 vacancies, only 245,000 have been filled, which shows constant lack of manpower. The question of work and reconstruction is closely connected with the return to the country of all Poles who desire to come back. The majority of these emigrants are skilled workers whom we need. Half a million Poles are living in France, 87 per cent. of whom are skilled workers; 120,000 Polish miners are in Westphalia; 25,000 in Belgium; 5,000 in Holland. These emigrants can now come back, as Poland will assure them of jobs.—ZYCIE WARSZAWY.

PARLIAMENT

Poland's "Incentives" System

by Maj. Donald Bruce, M.P.

POLISH affairs received less attention in Parliament during the current month than is normally the case. Apart from a series of questions, some of which were down only for written answer, on the Polish Resettlement Corps in Britain, there is little of significance upon which to comment in the proceedings themselves.

An important feature article in *The Times*, for February 11,* did, however, attract considerable attention amongst Members. Of particular interest to many of us was its description of the system of competition and bonuses in Poland's nationalised industry, under which workers are informed of orders and delivery dates, shown by means of charts and diagrams their part in the plan, and the wages obtainable for extra work, and made jointly responsible for the execution of orders.

This seems on the face of it to be very similar to, but much more comprehensive than, the method adopted by Joint Production Councils in British War Factories, and which is now being revived after having fallen into the doldrums for a time. What would be interesting to know is the amount of administrative manpower necessary for this purpose. The form of the documents and diagrams provided for the worker, together with some indication of the most economic method of compilation and distribution, would be of much value to students of factory organisation in Great Britain.

But, whatever form this deliberate attempt to integrate the worker more thoroughly into the activities of his own production

* This article was reprinted in the March issue of NEW POLAND.

unit and the larger purposes of his plant, it is quite clear that the methods are yielding the results for which they were introduced. So much so that Polish leaders are expecting a further rise in industrial productivity by 24 per cent. during the year.

No mention is made of the differential price system introduced as between industrial workers and the thousands of the new agricultural smallholders. But food continues to be a problem and may conceivably hamper industrial progress. For those of us by whom the price differential scheme was viewed with some curiosity, further details would be very useful.

In the meantime, Poland's effort to run a "mixed" economy will continue to be watched closely and sympathetically. It is quite clear that, so far, she is more than "making the grade."

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Repatriation from Germany

During this year, Poland plans to repatriate a total of 12,000 Polish "re-emigrants" from the British Occupation Zone of Germany, Foreign Minister Modzelewski told the Polish Parliament on February 25.

Poland is providing a regular train service for the repatriates, with every train equipped with kitchens and first-aid departments. On arrival in Szczecin, each repatriate will receive a grant before leaving for his new home.

"We foresee the arrival of craftsmen, factory hands for heavy industry, and farmers from the Hanover district," said Mr. Modzelewski. "This year, a relatively small proportion will consist of highly-skilled miners and workers in the smelting industry. The percentage of these will increase next year."

Emphasising that the Polish Government desired the repatriation of all Poles from Westphalia, the Foreign Minister explained that a difficulty in the way of this policy had been the shortage of manpower in the British Zone. Now, however, the British authorities were ready to consent to the return of individual citizens of Polish origin provided that they were not engaged on "essential work"—a term which Britain undertook to interpret as liberally as possible. The British authorities had also signified that they were ready to revise the status of "Germans of Polish origin" (i.e., Poles in Westphalia) at the beginning of 1949.

Miners' Delegation to Poland

To visit Poland shortly, at the invitation of the Polish Miners' Union, are four British miners from the National Union of Mine-workers. They are: Mr. E. Moore, of Durham, Mr. H. Lockett, Midlands, Mr. W. Arthur, of South Wales, and Mr. E. Hall, of Lancashire.

search through the theatrical literature of the world for Jewish characters or for subject matter which impinges on our experiences. But, of course, we are trying to put on plays that deal with the great Jewish past, a past which is to us at once a monument and a tombstone."

When I asked where they recruited new actors, she replied: "As I told you only four of our original company survived, and we have to take non-actors and train them. But there is also a miracle. Those little children—singing and dancing, as children will, even in the ruins of the Ghettoes—those that survived have come into the theatre. And one can rightly say we are building a theatre of the future."

What about audiences?—"Well, before the war about 30 per cent. of the Jewish population went to their theatres, but now, when there is only about one-thirtieth of the

population left alive, present attendances are as high as 60 per cent., and it is with astonishment and shame I discovered that the London audiences that go to their Jewish theatres is only one per cent.!"

What about anti-Semitism? I asked, remembering my own childhood in Poland.—"Anti-Semitism is not yet completely uprooted, but it is certainly not pronounced, not shown. In Poland, people would be put into prison for anti-Semitic behaviour, such as I have witnessed in London."

What of the future? I asked.

"Well, as President of the Jewish Theatre Council, I can assure you that our theatre in Poland is receiving every support, from the State and other organisations. Its rôle is very much like that of your Arts Council. Already we are planning the construction of a new theatre in Lodz to replace the present temporary building."

secondary schools, but university text-books are still in very short supply.

The co-operatives, like "Reader," "Knowledge," and "The Book," have been publishing books, periodicals, and daily papers, in record issues of hundreds of thousands of copies. The popular illustrated weekly *Przekroj* still keeps its high circulation of 250,000 copies. But, in general, the year 1947 witnessed a slight decline in this magnificent output. The shortage of machines and paper made the books expensive once more: so expensive, in fact, that only a few people could afford to buy them. This decline brought under review the successful, but still chaotic, period of reconstruction and the first schemes for cultural planning.

The Public Libraries Bill was passed through Parliament. This Bill made it a duty of municipal authorities to establish libraries for each town or group of villages. The

implementation of the Bill, which will provide and equip 3,000 libraries, was, however, delayed because of lack of the necessary funds. The one million zlotys required did not become available until this year.

On the other hand, the co-operatives started a very successful scheme for organising readers on the club basis. A yearly subscription entitles the member to six books yearly at a fee much lower than their market price. One of these clubs already has 30,000 members, another 25,000, and their popularity is still growing both with publishers, who are planning their publications for a known and stabilised market, and with readers who have a guarantee that the book they get is not a random choice, but a worthy representative of Polish literature.

Finally, the co-operatives have decided to publish certain literary works, such as short stories and essays, in the form of small and cheap pamphlets.

A Stirring "Documentary"

"THE RAILWAY." AN ADVENTURE IN CONSTRUCTION. Edited by Edward Thompson. The British-Yugoslav Association, 2/6d.

There are books which sell themselves. "The Railway" will be one of them. This is not merely because it is admirably written, and no less admirably illustrated: its best claim to be read wherever our language is spoken derives from its subject.

It is the story of the way a number of British young men and girls spent their summer holiday in the year 1947. For it was an unique type of holiday. The young people helped to build a railway.

Of course, young people have helped to build every railway that has ever been planned. But this railway was different; built exclusively by youth: "The construction of the railway was conceived, executed, and carried to a successful conclusion by the People's Youth of Yugoslavia," we read in the preface. "In the course of its construction, hundreds of thousands of tons of soil and rock were moved. Great embankments were heaped up. A path was hacked through rocks and under mountains.

"The old Austrian-controlled companies, which built much of Yugoslavia's pre-war railway system, might have completed this work in nine years. The Youth Railway was started on May 1, 1947, and the first train ran from Samac to Sarajevo on November 15, 1947.

For much the same reasons that made of Darwin's documentary "Voyage of the Beagle" a Nineteenth Century best-seller, I should not be surprised if so remarkable a documentary as "The Railway" turns out to be a best-seller of our Twentieth Century. N.B.H.

WHY POLAND?

by The Organiser

NO honest and intelligent person would deny the importance and value, moral and material, of friendship between the nations of Europe. It follows, therefore, that no honest and intelligent person can be opposed to the aim of the British-Polish Society: "To cultivate and strengthen friendship between the peoples of Britain and Poland."

But people ask me occasionally, "What makes you pick on Poland?" Agreed on the value of our work, they just see it as part of the broad objective of international understanding and wonder what particular interests Poland shares, or can share, with Britain.

"Why Poland?" That is a big question, but I will try briefly to give a general answer.

The British-Polish Society is a young organisation which actually came into being through the personal contacts of a group of Polish people who were in Britain as a result of the war. It was the war, then, which really started our story. In it, Poland, first to be attacked, was Britain's first ally; throughout it, Polish forces fought alongside British in various theatres of operations. Polish airmen fought in Britain's skies—Polish land and naval forces shared in the task of winning the war. Many thousands of these men have returned to Poland, still speaking English and remembering Britain. Some have taken back with them their British wives and British-born children, and

these will form a personal and permanent link between the two countries.

Since the war, the even greater tasks of peace have revealed new fields for fruitful co-operation between the countries. The frightful devastation in Poland provided tremendous problems, and at the same time opportunities for planned reconstruction on a scale, and at a speed never before seen anywhere in the world. Polish town-planners and architects came to Britain to learn about our progressive ideas and technical methods. Britons went to Poland to study the problems and assist. One of them was the British Minister for Town and Country Planning who, on his return, gave the message through *New Poland* that "Both countries can learn from each other."

Polish industry needs capital goods, things that industrial Britain can produce, while Polish agriculture, freed from the near-feudalism of pre-war days and stimulated by the introduction of modern techniques, is producing and sending to Britain food—without which no-one can produce anything.

Pivot of the East

Poland's geographical position, as well as her natural resources, gives her a dominating position in Eastern Europe. Just as Britain's position and resources in the West have enabled her to remain self-protected, but influential in the economic and political affairs of

the Continent, so Poland's place on the map has made her, since ancient times, a crossroads between the Black Sea and the Baltic, and between the nations of Western Europe and that vast gateway to Asia which is now Soviet Russia. But, as the same time, her vulnerable land frontiers made her subject to continuous attacks which several times resulted in her complete submergence. The resilience of Polish nationalism must be regarded as one of the wonders of world history, but it demonstrates, too, that the natural balance of things in Eastern Europe pivots on Poland, and that Poland is the key to economic co-operation and political balance, and therefore a natural "opposite number" to Britain in the West.

They Look to Britain

Finally, we come to a less easily defined link in the field of what we call culture, which is, really, just the business of being civilised peoples. In this sphere, Britain and Poland, from opposite ends of the Continent, have made great contributions to the spiritual development of mankind. The sheer loveliness of some of Poland's traditional architecture will always make men pause to pay respect to the artistry, perception and craftsmanship of her people. Her contributions to the fine arts, to literature, music, and particularly of recent years, to ballet, have become accepted and appreciated traditional forms. The Poles, too, look to Britain for high standards—our literary classics fill their libraries and schools, our playwrights draw crowds to Polish theatres, our conductors are invited by their orchestras and our technical and scientific journals eagerly demanded.

All this makes for an affinity that will not be denied. Britain and Poland have much to bring them together that nothing should keep them apart. To cultivate and strengthen friendship between these peoples is a worth-while aim for all of us.

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