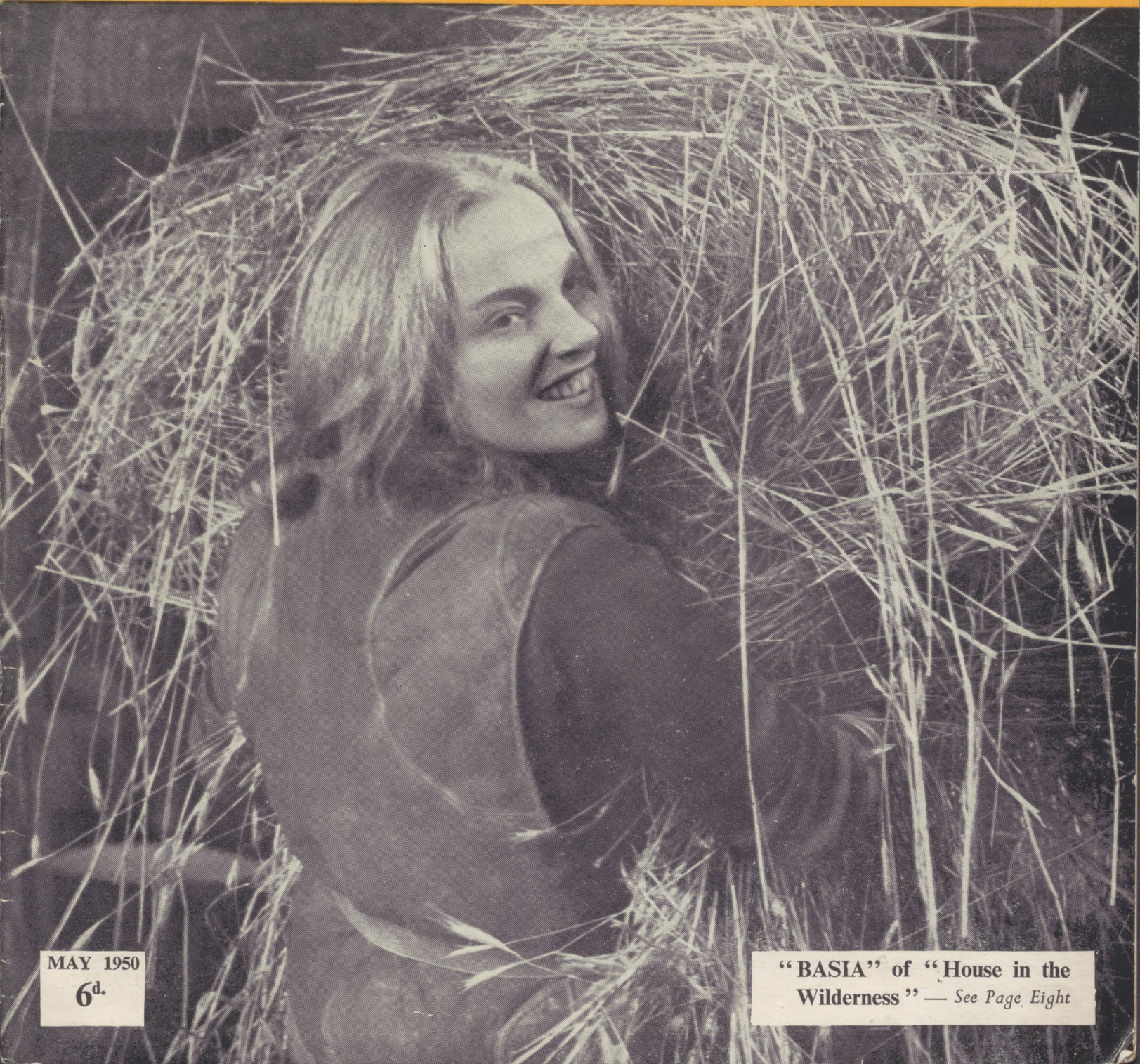


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NEW POLAND



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POZNAN AND THE TRADE PACT

AS FAR BACK AS FEBRUARY, 1949, THE President of the Board of Trade referred to the "desperate economic situation in this country" in 1947 and the need to re-establish our trading relations with many countries to ensure our essential requirements of food and raw materials, and stated that such agreements as this had the effect not only of maintaining essential supplies but "... also of making possible a revival of confidence in trade and indeed of building a foundation for a general recovery of world trade." The pattern of subsequent events has been to indicate the increased necessity if anything for such methods to reduce Britain's dependence on the dollar. The recent campaign of the General Election suggests that all parties in this country recognise that the efforts to get over the effects of the war are by no means over. We need food, we need trade, our manufacturers need export markets. We cannot, therefore, do without such trade arrangements as our Pact with Poland.

From the same viewpoint, therefore, it is a matter for surprise and regret that Britain's products are not being displayed at this year's Poznan Fair. Last year *New Poland* was able to report that eleven British firms, including famous names in such varied spheres of production as automobiles, radio, tyres, telephones, industrial machinery and steamrollers, were exhibiting at Poznan. The Federation of British Industries organised and co-ordinated the work and the Board of Trade provided an official information bureau. This year only one British group is exhibiting, two more are sending repre-

sentatives and neither the F.B.I. or B.o.T. appears to be interested.

How does this square with the nation's need for increased exports to pay for food from non-dollar sources? Can it be that British manufacturers as a body, and the British Government through the Board of Trade feel that everything is arranged now that the British-Polish Trade Agreement is operating. If this is so it is a dangerous attitude. Order books may still be satisfactorily full but the easy conditions of the "sellers' market" of the immediate post-war world no longer obtain in 1950.

Since the war, Poland has become much more an industrial country than formerly. An enquiry conducted by the Economic Research Division of the British Engineers Association in the spring of last year surveys the changes and remarks that Poland is, therefore, a "potentially an important industrial country." This can only mean that Poland needs our contributions to her progressive industrialisation at least as much as we need the "essential supplies" referred to by the President of the Board of Trade.

CHURCH AGREEMENT

THE SIGNATURE OF THE AGREEMENT between the Polish Government and the Episcopate is a final blow to those who had nursed the hope that the new Poland might be split upon religious issues. That hope was, in any case, founded upon an essentially artificial state of affairs. It was true that, for more than four years, there had been no official relations between Church and State in Poland. But this formal schism

had no real basis in Polish life.

Although there were elements in the hierarchy ready to conduct the Vatican's "cold war," the Catholics who are the vast majority of Poland's population supported their Government's policy of reconstruction and order and social justice; if they had not done so, it is obvious that Poland's post-war achievements would have been impossible. Further, as Poles and victims of Nazi occupation, they were outraged by the Vatican's support of German revisionist claims upon the Regained Territories.

The text of the Agreement itself is evidence that it has not been reached because of any sudden change of circumstance. The guarantees given by the Government of freedom of worship, religious teaching, religious publications—these are nothing new. Nor is there anything new in the willingness to recognise the *spiritual* authority of the Pope. (His authority as an arbiter of frontiers is another matter.) What is new is the Polish Episcopate's recognition of a fact long obvious to the ordinary Catholic worshipper—that there is nothing at odds with Christian principle in a system which denies opportunity to no man and gives to every man the fruits of his labour.

Consistently, the Government, the trade union leaders, the political party leaders have declared: "There is no division between religious believers and non-believers. The only division is between those who support and those who do not support the People's Poland." In action—at the bench, at the coal face, at the plough—the mass of Catholics have supported their State. That is the fact which the hierarchy has recognised in the new Agreement.

HOLIDAY HOME: "Gornik"—"Miner" is the proudest name amongst Poland's workers. They work well; they rest this way





Typical scene at Zabrze Colliery, Silesia—but it could be in any mining district anywhere.

WE WELCOME THE POLISH MINERS

who come as fraternal delegates to the Scottish miners' conference at Rothesay this month. JOHN PLATTS MILLS, K.C., who during the war worked in the pits in Yorkshire, writes this message of goodwill and discusses the future of Polish and British mining.

WE GREET THE POLISH MINERS WHO come as delegates to the Scottish miners' conference. They have much to contribute to the discussions of British miners. They come not only from a nationalised industry, but from an industry nationalised by a Socialist Government and in a land with a planned economy. This does not mean that the job is ruled by pages of figures that have no interest for the miner. On the contrary, the planned economy has real meaning for the individual miner, a meaning that any British miner could not fail to see on a single visit to any Polish pit, a meaning that the Scottish miners' delegation who were visiting

Polish guests to the Scottish Miners' conference are:

STEFAN BENDKOWSKI
General Secretary, Miners Union.

EMIL PIWOWARCZYK
working miner, labour champion.

MARIA MACHERA
who is responsible for women's welfare and serves on the Sosnowiec district of the Miners Union.

ZYGMUNT ZENDERAWSKI
a technician, working in a mine in Upper Silesia.

WILHEMN SZEWCZYK
Secretary, District Council of Rybnik.

Poland last summer when I was there were quick enough to discern.

It means that Polish miners know just what is expected of their industry. They know whether it is more men and more coal that is needed and whether their sons are wanted or not; they know which mine is to be expanded and which, if any, to be abandoned. It will not be sprung on them at a moment's notice. They take a direct interest and a direct and active part in the running of the pit; they have confidence in the industry and the country, and know that there can never again be unemployment in Poland.

The contrast is very sharp between

that situation and what we find here in England, where our miners suffer from as much uncertainty as at any time in their history; where the numbers in the pits fall each month, but where, in spite of that there is the certainty of unemployment to come; where we do not know whether it is more or less coal, more or fewer miners that will be required by this time next year.

Our visitors will be interested to find that when Britain is producing a greater quantity of goods than ever in our history, and selling more abroad than ever before, our miners are still fighting bitterly for a decent wage for the lower-paid workers.

Hopes For British Mines

I served my time in our biggest and most modern coalfield, in South Yorkshire, and attended lectures at Sheffield University. In those years approaching the end of the war what hopes our miners had! At last our pits would be modernised. Someone had seen the skip-winding that was working at Hadfield; it was rumoured that there was a diesel locomotive being tested on the pit at Yorkshire Main; would the owners ever find the money to put into practice the Reid Report on the mechanising of the pits? I studied all these proposals of new methods with great eagerness and hope that now, at last, some are being introduced into our own pits.

Since then I have been down mines in the Don Basin, in the Fin Valley of the Carpathians, in the Voivodi on the Northern boundary of Yugoslavia, and in Upper Silesia. Last summer I visited five Polish pits and spent a shift down each of two.

The Polish mines are advanced and mechanised beyond anything that we could even hope for at present in

Britain. Some of the points are of little significance to the layman. For the miners they constitute a revolution. I found that they have skip-winding in practically every pit; the old-fashioned cable haulage system has been completely replaced by underground locomotives either diesel or electric; mechanical washing and grading is the general rule, solid hydraulic packing, or stowing, behind the coal face; women getting equal pay with men, and ponies almost banished from the pits.

Modern Technique

It must be admitted that Polish miners now draw some advantage from the past activities of British capitalism. Was it the Prudential Insurance Company that invested more money in Polish mines between the wars than all the capital spent in all the British mines in the same period? This it was no doubt that gave Polish miners the experience of modern technique. They have not hesitated to take advantage of the experience and are applying it throughout their pits. The difference is that in those days the miners themselves took no advantage from improved output—it meant only greater profits to foreign investors and their Polish bailiffs.

Polish Pits

I should like the Polish delegates to tell our miners' conference what difference is to be seen in the life of the Polish miners to-day. I should like them to tell us whether every pit has a crèche for the children, pit top baths, whether it is true that the majority of miners are beginning to read and study; whether it is true that all mining areas have new centres and concert halls, lecture rooms, that have really captured the interest of

the miners and their families, so that they are not debased like many of the "miners welfare centres" in this country and become just popular drinking halls. Tell us of their holiday houses and how they work. Will they tell us whether life is getting richer for the Polish miners and for the rest of their people?

What is the importance of all this? Is it just out of a desire to show that Socialism works all right?

That is not my object. It is far more important. We all know that the Cold War has a theory behind it. The reasoning of its American promoters is that if sufficient pressure is brought upon the economic and social systems of Russia and Eastern Europe they will collapse of their own inefficiency and capitalism will be restored. If they can be cut off from the capital resources and goods of the Western world, and threatened with the Bomb, so that they must devote a good part of their wealth to defence preparations—then their standard of living will become worse and worse until finally the people will turn against their governments. This is the theory.

No More Cold War

When the British workers see that this whole purpose is in vain, when they see that in spite of the worst that can be done, the people of Eastern Europe become richer and richer, they will want to play their part in calling off the Cold War. They will join in congratulating the Polish people on the strength of their system. When our miners see, as indeed they will, that the Cold War is bringing our country to economic disaster, as it has already brought France and Italy, the miners will join the workers of Western Europe that we too should make changes. Polish miners will then have cause to congratulate ours on the wisdom of their decision.



Miners Art: Pictures at a recent exhibition of paintings by working miners.

FROM ZERO TO A BALANCED ECONOMY

An Examination of Poland's Price and Wages Structure

by Joseph Wild, Research Officer, Electrical Trades Union

AS ALREADY REPORTED in *New Poland*, from January 1, 1950, the retail prices of meat and meat products were raised to a level corresponding with the prices paid to agricultural producers of livestock. Changes in the prices of some industrial articles were also made in order to bring them into relationship with the general price structure.

These changes in market prices have been cited as one more failure of the planning mechanism of the Peoples' Democracies. No undertaking, it is asserted, presumably in justification of the perfect price mechanism of capitalism, can afford to sell at prices below production costs. Sooner or later must come the reckoning.

Some commentators have gone further. They have compared the price changes in Poland with our system of Treasury subsidies. This system, it is claimed, while keeping prices down to the consumer, ensures to the primary producer full recovery of his costs plus a reasonable profit. The difference between what was paid to the actual producer and the un-economic market price was made up by Treasury subsidies out of general taxation. Thus are prices kept at levels within reach of the average consumer and production cost recovered.

Price and Production

There is a vast and very real difference between the Polish system and our own.

One of Poland's main economic problems, in the immediate post-war period, was to bring the price structure into balance with production costs. To the destruction caused by the war itself was added the wanton destruction by the Germans of industrial plant and the systematic plundering of the farms. As a result, Poland's national economy was reduced to below 60 per cent of its pre-war capacity. Inflation was almost out of hand, prices soaring to over 1,000 per cent of the pre-war level. In these years it was impossible to establish a normal level of wages, as no real relationship existed between wages and prices.

Yet the workers had to be fed, clothed and housed, if the national economy was to be restored.

The first step towards closing the gap between wages and prices was the in-

roduction of the dual wages system. As money had lost its value, part of the average worker's wages, in some cases amounting to two-thirds of the whole, was paid in kind and the remainder in cash. This at least ensured a fair distribution of the available necessities of life and on a strictly rationed basis.

The dual wages system was a direct contributing factor to the slowing down of inflation, to increasing liquidity and building up reserves, and to increasing real income. By the end of 1948, the Economic Survey of Europe, prepared by the Research and Planning Division of the Economic Commission for Europe, could report that real cash holdings had risen by 30 per cent and real income by 20 per cent compared with the previous year. The ground had been prepared for the abolition of rationing and the introduction of wage reforms and new wage structures.

Rationing Abolished

In January, 1949, rationing in Poland was finally abolished. But along with and complementary to it went reform in the wage structure of the country. There was a general levelling-up of wages in underpaid occupations, increases amounting to an average of 10 per cent. Earnings were more closely related to the quantity and quality of the worker's output. Piece work was more widely applied and bonuses given for increased output.

The canteen supplement was paid in cash. Supplementary rations for workers in heavy industries were withdrawn and replaced by cash equivalents. The equivalent of the withdrawn family ration cards were paid out in the form of increased family allowances. These allowances, which are paid through the Institute of National Insurance, are progressive, parents with larger families receiving larger allowances than those with smaller families.

The new wage structures were designed to bring wages in relation to the cost structure of industry and thus to establish an adequate and more realistic price structure.

Some of the reasons for the changes in market prices in January, 1950, were given by *Trybuna Ludu*. And it was clear from the comments of this paper that

the changes were made possible only on the basis of the successful conclusion of the Three-Year Plan. The new wages structure had enabled the planning authorities to strengthen the price structure by achieving correct ratios between production costs, wages and prices.

Success of Planning

The changes did not, paradoxical as it may seem, reflect a failure on the part of the planning mechanism, but rather its success. The problem of bringing the price structure into balance with production costs, which faced the country at the outset of the Three-Year Plan, is being rapidly solved. By establishing a more realistic price structure, the Government was able to dispense with the necessity to maintain artificial price and wage levels. And it is also creating a more balanced economy. To quote *Trybuna Ludu*:

Correct Price Structure

"A correct price structure must take into account, in the first place, that the price of a commodity must cover its production costs and include a certain profit ensuring accumulation of the means of indispensable to further production expansion; secondly, it must assure expansion; thirdly, it must assure correct ratios between the prices of agricultural produce and the prices of industrial commodities produced by the Socialist sector of our national economy; fourthly, the price structure must shape consumption in a desirable direction taking into account the deficit character of certain commodities and raw materials, especially those imported from capitalist countries; fifthly, the price structure must be an instrument for the re-establishment of market equilibrium."

This is something totally different from the system that operates in this country. The enormous Treasury subsidies have not been used to restore market equilibrium, that fascinating fetish of the bourgeois economist. They have been in the main a mixture of devices and expedients. They were used originally to prevent excessive increases in retail prices. Then, by deliberately selecting those

items which were over-weighted in the official cost of living index, the Government used them to prevent wage claims from being too insistently pressed.

While the subsidies have been successful in maintaining profits, especially farming profits, they have failed to prevent increases in retail prices. The devices and expedients are rapidly exhausting themselves. It has now become obvious that we are left with a choice of one of two things: either the subsidies will have to be drastically reduced or the cold war will have to be dropped.

Mr. Maurice Webb's announcement on April 5 on the effect on retail prices of the removal of the feeding stuffs subsidy, and the higher prices to be paid to farmers, is the first instalment that the British working-class will have to pay for the sleight-of-hand that has been practised upon it.

Expedients Fail

The Financial Times has pointed out that the rising price level is the long-range consequence of the Government's effort to counter inflationary pressures following devaluation. Further rises in clothing, tea and coffee are soon to come. In sum, the improvement in our gold and dollar earnings, announced by Sir Stafford Cripps on April 4, is the measure of the loss the British people is expected to suffer in order that the goods they produce may or may not penetrate dollar markets.

In such a situation subsidies, however large they may be, cannot rectify the position. Even in the most favourable circumstances, the subsidies could not, in themselves, have achieved correct ratios between production costs, wages and prices. This can be done only in a planned economy. And a correct balance between production costs, wages and prices is a primary objective of economic planning. Only when this is achieved can there be a guarantee of steady and cumulative increases in the standards of living. And this is precisely what is happening in Poland to-day.

The Difference

That was why it was possible, simultaneously with the increases in market prices on January 1, to increase hourly and monthly basic rates by 5 per cent, free of tax, to pay a compensatory allowance to all those employed in State, local and institutional undertakings, and to increase by 250 zlotys per child the family allowance for insured workers whose earnings do not exceed the amount liable to taxation. And herein is where lies the difference between the Polish system and our own.

BRITISH COAL-CUTTERS FOR POLISH MINES

"More trade will bring friendship"

Say Silesian Miners

Under the first post-war Trade Pact between Britain and Poland, the engineering industry of Britain benefited by contracts totalling up to £15,000,000 over three years. These Meco-Moore cutters are part of that agreement. A further £20,000,000, in order for capital equipment, is scheduled under the later agreement of January, 1949.

FOUR MINING TECHNICIANS FROM THE Centrum Colliery in Bytom, Upper Silesia, visited this country last month. They were Adam Szczurowski, Wacław Strupczewski, Ignacy Piszka and Stanisław Szwałt. They came, welcome guests indeed, living proof that the British-Polish Trade Agreement is working.

For Poland has bought from Messrs. Anderson Boyes, of Scotland, two Meco Moore coal cutting machines, one of which is already in Poland. These miners came from Poland to Scotland and to Mansfield, in Derbyshire, to see the machines at work, master their technique, and work out their best use in the different conditions of the Polish coal mines. They will go back to Poland armed with this knowledge, to test out the machine already there, on the harder coal in Poland, find out under what conditions the machines can best be used and on their report the Polish Government will consider whether or not to order more machines.

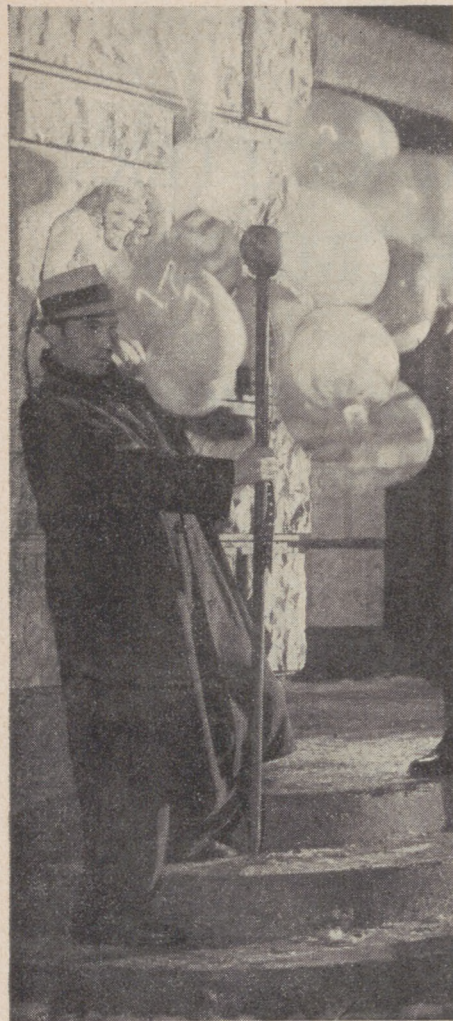
"But," bespectacled young mining engineer Adam Szczurowski, leader of the delegation, told me, "we are sure that these machines will be most useful and we will want more. It is only a question of trying them out first."

The Meco-Moore can work in seams up to about 3 ft. 6 in. It cuts and loads in one operation and can handle a coal face anything up to 30 or 40 yds. It only requires five men to do the work which formerly would take thirty.

I asked these miners for their impressions of this country. They were unanimous in praising the hospitality of the Scottish folk, indeed the friendliness everywhere. They told me that they met with a great deal of surprise when they told miners and their families about mining life in Poland. "Apparently," said Mr. Szczurowski, "people over here think that we are very poor and badly off. This is not so. Prices are lower in Poland, especially for food, and our standard of life is equal to yours."

"In many things, of course," Mr. Szczurowski continued, "we feel that we are going a long way ahead, especially with our miners' charter which provides increased wages and greater benefits generally for the working miner." Clothing over here is, at the moment, cheaper than in Poland they told me, but alcohol is much dearer. In Poland beer is 60 zlotys—10½d. a pint—"and," said fair-haired mechanic Strupczewski, "what beer!" But they liked Scottish dances, Scottish girls—numbers of photographs had changed hands, and British working people generally.

"Between miners," they told me seriously, "there can only be friendship. The hard work in the pits in Scotland and the pits in Poland is very much the same. The needs and wishes of the miners are the same. Polish miners want friendship and are ready for it. The basis for it is there with the British miners. More trade will bring friendship and raise the standards of living in both countries." P.L.



Girl from the Wasteland becomes Guerrilla

The New Polish Film "House in the Wilderness"
is described here by New Poland
Warsaw Correspondent



THE "WILDERNESS," IN WHICH HEROES of the film live during the occupation, is a stretch of pine- and birch-covered sand dunes 20 miles west of Warsaw.

But the "Wilderness" is something more than physical; it symbolizes the narrow life led by the middle-class Auntie Kazia and her niece, Basia, cut off from the rest of the world and its strife against the Germans, concentrating exclusively on every day material cares, and concerned only with their own personal safety.

Jaroslav Iwaszkiewicz, the famous novelist who wrote the scenario, devotes the opening part of the film to a loving and minutiose description of the suburban house, with the dusty knick-knacks of the once glorious drawing room, its turning stairs leading to an attic cluttered up with the most fantastic bits of rubbish, its crystal chandeliers where an oil-lamp burns, its monumental fireplace, the old clock where porcelain figures dance to an old-fashioned music tune. All this is fondly dwelt upon. Suddenly the house receives a mysterious visitor.

The unknown guest is Klonowicz. He has been wounded by German guards when together with the workers of his department, and thanks to an ambush

laid by the People's Guard, he escaped from the lorry taking them all to jail. Klonowicz, an intellectual, was aware of the workers' underground anti-Nazi activity, but did not participate in it.

Then comes a subtle analysis of the psychological changes that take place in Basia, when she falls in love with Klonowicz.

Aleksandra Slonska gives a most convincing picture of a very young unsophisticated girl.

Klonowicz wins over not only Basia, but also her aunt, Kazia. When the latter learns that Klonowicz is wanted by the Germans, she still continues to give him shelter.

But Klonowicz does not remain long Basia's and Auntie Kazia's spoilt darling. The members of the same group of the People's Guard with whom he was arrested are manufacturing hand grenades in the school-house not far from the "House in the Wilderness." They tell him who they are and ask him to help them. He does so.

This story takes place in an exciting scenery of sand banks under a broiling sun. The almost exotic landscape greatly heightens the emotional tension of the film.

The final scene is magnificent. Klonowicz and Basia, now comrades in arms of the guerrillas, are shown hearing with them the news that the Polish Army formed in the U.S.S.R. has entered Poland and that the time is ripe for the partisans to rise.

* * *

Why is it that the spectator leaves the cinema with a feeling of some disappointment in spite of the obvious merits of each separate part of the film?

These parts are not fused into a whole. The two milieux and conceptions that are opposed in the film remain separate. In fact, that the conflict that takes place in Klonowicz's as well as in Auntie Kazia's and Basia's minds—to play for safety or to risk their lives in struggle—is shown too summarily.

Iwaszkiewicz has understood the tragic heroism of the workers under the occupation. He has brought out vividly the generosity of the balloon-vendor who, at a critical moment, gives his wares to Klonowicz so that the latter may hide behind them.

All these scenes, with their inspiring photographs (especially the landscapes) and the dramatic music of the contemporary Polish composer Maklakiewicz, are unforgettable.

The "House in the Wilderness" marks a progress over "Others will follow you," because it is at once more simple in theme, more subtle in psychology, and more intense.

Above left: Klonowicz hides behind balloons lent by a friendly vendor. Centre: Basia tends the wounded engineer.

ART EXHIBITION DRAWS WARSAW CROWDS

The National Exhibition of Plastic Arts
opened in Warsaw last month.

UPON ENTERING THE WARSAW National Museum, you are told to put on a pair of felt slippers in order not to spoil the parqueted floor. So you rather fear that your visit to the National Exhibition of Plastic Arts is going to be like a pilgrimage to a place of worship, where the rare visitors speak in hushed voices about tones and volumes and other technical terms.

Hence the surprise is the greater as you go in the Exhibition halls. You see numerous groups of visitors, many of them young people, pointing to this or that sculpture or canvas, exclaiming loudly on this defect or admiring the masterly composition of that canvas. Passionate discussions are heard as to whether a picture is a realist one, or whether it is still redolent of formalism; here and there, enthusiasts carefully note down their impressions.

Judging from the canvases hanging on the walls, a breath of fresh air has entered Polish painting. Gone are the sterile traditions of colourism and formism which vied with each other here between the two wars and after. The living man has come back into painting and sculpture.

An enumeration of the themes treated by the Polish painters and sculptors is in itself a review of the decisive changes that are taking place here in every field of life. Paintings give artistic expression to the Polish liberation and revolutionary struggles in the past as well as to-day. The second main theme is the working man, in factory, on the land, in the mine and the building site, in the laboratory or the printing shop. To the third category belong all the everyday life events which are characteristic of social life in Poland to-day.

The novelty of the exhibition does not reside in the change of subject alone. The very few individual artists still clinging to bourgeois art-forms while representing new subjects bring this out very vividly. A canvas entitled "The works council" by Cybis, is the best demonstration par l'absurde that the new contents of art require a new form. In this canvas, the use of post impressionist methods has made the workers represented caricatures rather than real people. The total impression created is one of distaste.

In order to fit the new subjects which they have taken up, artists have had to grope for a new realism, Socialist realism.

The sensation of the exhibition, the painting which won for its author, Wojciech Weiss, the first prize for painting of 750,000zlotys, is called "The Manifesto."*

Weiss, one of the most famous artists of the older generation, served the bourgeoisie for many years before the war; he was already falling into mannerisms. To-day, the new direction taken by Polish plastic arts has rejuvenated his art. The old artist has come to an understanding of the new life and the new reality through the people which he was painting. It is not he who disposed his workers round the red banners which they are holding, but the workers who have imposed to the sensitive artist the attitude in keeping with their thoughts and feeling. Thanks to his understanding of them, his art has returned to youthful and sober realism.

Other artists have kept certain traditional forms and infused a new contents into them. You can trace the inheritance of the impressionists in Kaledkiewicz's picture of working lads and lasses dancing on the Mariensztat square in Warsaw. But you feel that these are real people of flesh and blood whom the artist loves.

New worlds in arts have been discovered, too: when getting nearer to the workers, painters and sculptors have seen that, though manual work demands effort and concentration, it is something joyful, creative. And they have represented it as such. Czarnecki's "The Miners," in spite of the very limited range of colouring which his subject imposed on him succeeded magnificently in conveying that impression.

Another revelation is the latest work of Helena Krajewska, who has united a perfect technique of composition, with the new realism. Her "Young People's Brigade" shows that she has studied her Cezanne. But they also breathe a deep understanding of the workers. Two years ago, Krajewska painted man as a complex of coloured geometrical figures. To-day, her outlook upon life has changed. The picture of man she gives is real and beautiful.

* Reproduction of this picture will be found on Page Ten (overleaf) illustrating "May Day Is Peace Day."

May Day is Peace Day

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL background to the celebration of May Day all over the world is greater now than ever before.

In Poland, the celebrations of May Day lose none of their old colour as a traditional spring festival but they have in addition a great consciousness of the international character of the day's celebrations. May Day has become by its very origins a symbol of life and it is fitting that it should be greeted with determined vows for work for the creation of the means of livelihood and for the maintenance of the peace to enjoy the fruits of man's labour.

From all over the country have come reports of the decisions of workers in mine and factory, railroad and field, to increase their contributions to the national wealth for the good of the whole people. In addition their spare time is being devoted to voluntary work such as, for instance, the report from the Lublin district where the young peasants and workers are building sports grounds and swimming pools to celebrate May Day.

The great peace organisation known as the partisans of peace has millions of adherents in Poland and millions more in other countries of Europe. They come from all classes and professions. For instance, the Polish delegation to the recent Stockholm Congress of the Permanent Committee of Peace Defenders, to give it its full English title, consisted of the Deputy-Chairman of the Polish T.U.C., the Chairman of the Polish Youth Union, a university professor, a peasant and a woman textile worker.

It was this organisation which initiated the move to ask the Polish Parliament to take action to place before the Parliaments of all nations an appeal for peace couched in terms that made it clear that the question had been gone into in detail and the causes as well as the effects of war had been discussed and understood. The partisans of peace will be in the forefront of all the May Day processions with their slogans of international solidarity and their lesson that peace and prosperity are now indivisible.

F.L.F.



"The Manifesto," winner of the 1st Prize in the Plastic Arts Exhibition (see Page 9)

MAYDAY GREETINGS

From Britain to Poland

From the British-Polish Friendship Society to the Central Board of Polish Trade Unions and the Office of Overseas Cultural Corporation:

On this historic day of friendship between the working people of all lands, the British-Polish Friendship Society sends you its warmest greetings. The progressive people in Britain are watching with joy and interest the splendid progress being made in the reconstruction of Poland. We recall our alliance in the great struggle of free people against fascism. We pledge ourselves to work with you for the achievement of those ideals which were enshrined in that struggle, and for the maintenance of peace, against any who would seek to destroy it.

Signed: Gordon Schaffer (Chairman)
Ann Herbert (Secretary)

From the London Trades Council:

The London Trades Council, representing 680,000 London trade unionists, sends traditional fraternal May Day greetings to the workers of all the capital cities, and pledges itself to work for bettering relations between the trade unionists of all countries and to carry on the struggle for peace without which international brotherhood cannot exist.

Other messages have been received from the Secretary, National Council of Engineering and Allied Trade Shop Stewards, and from J. Hammond, Miners' Agent, Lancashire Area, N.U.M.

CHURCH and STATE AGREE

by ARTHUR LONG

A new agreement defines Episcopate duties and recognises Church authority in matters of faith, morality and Church jurisdiction

A COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT UPON relations between Church and State in Poland was signed on April 14 by representatives of the Polish Government and the Polish Episcopate. This regularises Church-State relations for the first time since September, 1945, when the Vatican's breach of the Concordat forced the Polish Government to declare that it was no longer binding.

The spirit of the new agreement may be gathered from the preamble, which states: "In order to secure for the nation, the people's Poland and its citizens the best possible conditions for development, as well as the possibility for peaceful work, the Polish Government, which respects religious freedom, and the Polish Episcopate, which is concerned about the good of the Church and the interests of the Polish State, are settling their relations . . ."

The document itself falls naturally into two main parts.

The first defines the duties which the Episcopal authorities recognise towards the State; the second reaffirms in detail the Government's guarantees upon freedom of worship and religious instruction.

The Episcopate undertakes, firstly, that it will call upon the clergy to teach respect for the law and the authority of the State. The clergy will also be asked to appeal for "increased work for the country's reconstruction and for raising the level of the nation's welfare."

The Regained Territories

Significantly, the first specific issue mentioned in the agreement is the question of the Regained Territories. The Episcopate affirms categorically that these territories belong permanently to Poland upon grounds of "economic, historic, cultural and religious laws, as well as historical justice." Further, the Episcopate declares that it will ask the Holy See to establish permanent bishops' seats there (hitherto, the Vatican has refused to recognise the Polish dioceses re-established after the Western provinces had been liberated from German rule).

An allied point is the Episcopate's undertaking to "oppose activity inimical

to Poland and especially anti-Polish and revisionist activity on the part of the German clergy."

The extent of Vatican authority is clearly defined by a clause which reads: "The principle that the Pope is authoritative and the supreme authority of the Church applies to matters of faith, morality and church jurisdiction; in other matters, however, the Episcopate is guided by the interests of the Polish State."

The clergy are to be told by the Episcopate that they should not oppose the expansion of the co-operative movement in the countryside because "every co-operative movement is, in its essence, based on the ethical premise of human behaviour striving for voluntary social solidarity aiming at the good of all."

In clauses declaring the Church's condemnation of anti-State activity and crime in general, there are specific references to the abuse of religious feelings for anti-State purposes and to the criminal activity of underground bands. Members of the clergy who take part in any underground anti-State activity will, in future, be condemned and punished by Canon Law.

The Episcopate declared that, in accordance with the teachings of the Church, it will support all efforts for the consolidation of peace and oppose any attempts to foment war.

The longest clause in the agreement deals in detail with the Government's guarantee of freedom for religious instruction in schools. It states that the present system of religious instruction shall continue unrestricted. Programmes of instruction will be framed jointly by the school authorities and representatives of the Episcopate and schools will be supplied with the necessary text-books. Lay and clerical teachers of religion will be treated on the same basis as teachers in other subjects. The authorities will not prevent pupils from taking part in religious practices outside the school.

Catholic Church schools will be maintained, but they will be subject to the State regulations for schools generally. They will enjoy the same rights as State

schools under the laws and regulations of the school authorities.

The Catholic University at Lublin is to continue its present activities.

Catholic societies will continue to enjoy their present rights, subject only to the law which affects all societies. The Church's right to conduct charitable welfare and religious teaching is also reaffirmed.

The Catholic Press and Catholic publications will continue to enjoy the same legal rights as all other publications.

No obstacles will be placed in the way of public worship, traditional pilgrimages and processions. To preserve order, these ceremonies will be organised by the Church authorities in agreement with the administrative authorities.

Catholic chaplains will have the right to exercise religious care in prisons. Chaplains may also be appointed for both State and self-governing hospitals.

Complete Freedom

A clause which is, in effect, a safeguard against any form of anti-religious discrimination lays it down that "orders and congregations will enjoy complete freedom of activity within the scope of their calling and of prevailing legislation."

The status of the Church within the Army is to be the subject of a special statute agreed between the military authorities and the Episcopal authorities.

A protocol to the agreement announces the re-organisation of "Caritas" (the Catholic charitable body) into a "Union of Catholics for bringing assistance to the poor and those in need." It also exempts from active military service ordained priests and monks who have made their vows and provides for students at Catholic seminaries to finish their studies uninterrupted by military service.

Signatories to the agreement are: the Minister of Public Administration, Mr. Wolski; the Deputy Minister of National Defence, Mr. Ochab; Mr. F. Mazur, a Member of Parliament; the Secretary of the Episcopate, Bishop Zygmunt Choro-manski; the Bishop of Plock, Tadeusz Zakrewski; and the Bishop of Lodz, Michal Klepacz.



MESSAGE TO BRITISH TEACHERS

from E. KUROCZKO, General Secretary of the Polish Teachers' Union and fraternal delegate to the N.U.T. Conference at Brighton this Easter

IN POLAND, THE TEACHERS TAKE THEIR place in the forefront of those building a new life, carrying out splendid tasks in bringing up the new generation in the spirit of peace and democracy, to love their own country and to esteem other nations. As the economic development of our country increases in tempo, so does the number of schools and teachers employed has increased by about 9,000, the salaries of teachers and other educational staff has risen by 60 per cent, the number of schools of all types has grown by 22 per cent and the number of teachers trained at the expense of the State amounts to 39,000. The measure of the attention our people's State gives to

matters of education can be gauged from the fact that the sum allotted in our country for education and vocational training to-day constitutes 32.6 per cent of the whole State budget; credits assigned for education are this year 34 per cent higher than in the last. Now every fourth Polish citizen, irrespective of age, is studying.

The Polish people, who experienced the full horror of war and the moral and material devastation it brings, are tireless fighters for peace. In this struggle the Polish people, as the people of the whole world, must play a leading part. This is the great responsibility of those who are bringing up the young generation.

In Poland hundreds of schools were ruined and some 20,000 teachers lost their lives; in all 6,000,000 of the population died, and material losses reached hundreds of millions of pounds sterling.

Against the background of such experiences, how vital are the resolutions passed by the Third Session of the Permanent Committee of Defenders of Peace, recently concluded in Stockholm.

Some of the finest people of the present-day spoke there, scientists, writers, clergy, as well as workers.

These decisions justly condemned and branded the use of atom and hydrogen bomb blackmail and declared that the government which uses it first will be regarded as a war criminal.

For many years, and especially since the end of the war, we have strongly and unshakably stood for the strongest possible unification of our efforts with those of other teacher trade union organizations, in order to ensure a lasting peace for the human race and to bring education and culture to the working masses of the world.

As teachers, we realise what a power we represent in the great process of education and upbringing. We realise how much it depends on us that the millions of young minds and hearts will be brought up in the spirit of brotherhood and love of man irrespective of his religion, tongue and colour, will be brought up in the spirit of hatred for violence, aggression and war. Every teacher—a champion of education, irrespective of his political or religious convictions—should stand in the ranks of the defenders of peace, for lasting peace is an indispensable condition for the flourishing of culture.

*Spring comes to
Lazienki Park*



Snapshot sent us from a friend in Warsaw shows the famous lake in her spring-time glory.

NEW POLAND

PAGE FOR WOMEN

NEW POLAND has pleasure in presenting Page for Women. It is written by Patricia Konarek, an Englishwoman who married a Pole and who is now living in Warsaw. It will appear regularly each month, and will deal with all matters affecting women: she hopes to send us interviews with Polish women in all walks of life. Page for Women is open to all readers for comments and questions.

THE MINISTRY OF LIGHT INDUSTRY recently organised a Spring Fashion Parade in Warsaw—but it was a fashion show with a difference. The mannequins were children of school age and the creations were designed solely for them. Tent coats with hood and reefer gave way to belted highwaymen coats which in turn were followed by sailor suits for boys and girls alike. The party dress was not forgotten—comfortable, roomy clothes with a gay chic of their own, while the coiffures were definitely Polish.

Dress Designing—

Polish dress designers can hold their own with any of the fashion houses of Europe. Discarding the exaggerated stupidities of design which tend to make women look positively uncomfortable if not downright ugly, they take that which is best from the latest fashion trends and adapt it to suit a taste which demands the best. The result is that Polish women are smart, well dressed, at the same time retaining comfort.

The tent coat, which is roomy enough to take a fur lining in winter without looking bulky, is very popular here in Poland. The classical tailored suit, modern version, with original pockets or fashionings, is also much in demand.

Nylons—

Nylons are searched for and cherished with the same fervour as they are cherished in England. Poland produces her own now and here, as in England, you can hear that magic whisper "the P.D.T. have got a new consignment of stylons (Polish nylons)". Then, when the queue forms as quickly in Nowy Swiat as it does in Oxford Street, one can hear the same discussion on the best methods for washing them, with the same worries: "I hope they've got my size." "Do you think there will be any left when we get to the counter?" "What gauge are they? Colour?"

Only the language is different.

Shoes are half the price they were a year ago. Just before Christmas the shops were full of walking shoes—silver-grey suede, with thick crêpe soles or with hand-stilted welts, tan suede, brown suede, black suede—all were sold out in

a matter of weeks. Now the shops are full of spring styles—glacé kid in scarlet, black, blue, green, grey, white, brown—shoes made by Polish craftsmen and shoes made by the world-famous craftsmen of Prague.

Peasant Linen—

There is a very definite improvement also in quality of material appearing in the shops this spring. As more and more factories go into production a double benefit is reaped: quantity and quality.

Polka dots, which were all the rage with tartans here last year, have been superseded this year by stripes and broken checks for summer wear. The

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Women Readers,

This is YOUR page.

We all know the problems that we—as women—have to put up with. Difficulties about housing; bringing up our children the way we would best like; making ends meet. We have our special difficulties—and successes.

This page will deal with the Polish women's lives. Write to me and tell me what you would like to know about them. What you would like to know about life as it affects the women in Poland. How we and they can get together. Perhaps we can arrange pen-friends; or when visitors come, we can introduce ourselves to them.

Whatever you would like in this page—is yours. Do write.

wonderful Polish peasant linen in all colours is popular but not as popular here as it would be in England.

Do You find Travelling with Children difficult?



In Warsaw they have solved the problem by attaching special children's trailers to buses; where the babes sleep in the cots, and the bigger ones have seats and benches. Trains now being built have children's compartments on the same lines—with the addition of cooking facilities and milk sterilizers. In all the children's sections on transport, there is a trained nursery attendant.



Portrait of Susan Slivko

A BRITISH PIANIST RETURNS FROM POLISH TOUR

IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT SUSAN Slivko had a tremendous welcome in Poland during her ten weeks' stay there. For she is not only an artist of great achievement and promise, but she is a artist of a new type—a type that would be appreciated in Poland.

Young, gay, with not a thought for herself or her own comfort. Adventurous, modest, and with an earnest desire to give of her best to the people who listen to her.

She had been invited to Poland by the Ministry of Culture and Art which had arranged concerts and recitals for her all over Poland. From Warsaw to Gdansk, Gdansk to Cracow, Cracow to Posnan, Posnan to Katowice, and to a small town on the borders of Czechoslovakia and Poland—Cieszyn—where she played in an old castle and in a room where Liszt had once played, then back to Warsaw and Posnan for repeat performances, she travelled and played to delighted audiences. She played, too, in a sanatorium in Zakopane. Supposed to be taking a few days' rest in the mountains, during her tour, Miss Slivko asked if she could not give a recital to the patients in the sanatorium. "The piano," she told me, "was not first class. But the audience were wonderful. They were so happy and so friendly. I played Scarlatti, Bach, Beethoven, the Appassionata which someone asked me for and, of course, Chopin. Their response gave me very much joy. I shall always remember the people in Zakopane."

I was most impressed with her story

Page Fourteen

of her journeys. Sometimes awake all night, travelling alone and not speaking the language, she would make friends with all the people she met, and if not enjoy the time spent in railway carriages, at least remember them with pleasure.

The Cracow *Literary Daily* reported her recital with more than approval.

"The choice of Miss Slivko's programme," wrote their music critic, "and the fact that the artist had her greatest success in the Handel Variations by Brahms, a work which demands outstandingly musical and technical qualifications proved that we had to do with a serious pianist of outstanding musicality and intelligence, and great mastery of the keyboard."

Miss Slivko told me something of her impressions of Poland and the people there. "I first saw Warsaw in a rush, but when I came back I felt her life, her impulse and energy. Cracow, now, is quite different—it is a typical university town, while in Katowice there is a merriness—the people are bustling, they seemed to be all working people and full of activity. Posnan impressed me, too. There they are very musical and they gave me a warm welcome.

I played the Bartok third concerto there. It was my first performance of this work, and their first hearing at the University Hall. I found that some of the Warsaw musical people were there to hear it as it is to be played there later in the year."

"Among the highlights of my memories of Poland," Miss Slivko continued, "is the House of Culture, formerly a palace of Prince Potocki, in Cracow. It was kept perfectly and always full of people. They were very proud of it, and rightly."

Dancing with the leader of a Goral band, who had heard her previous recital at Zakopane, playing in the old castle to music students at Cieszyn, as well as giving full dress concerts and recitals at the Roma Hall in Warsaw and in Poland's leading concert halls, Miss Slivko told me she has brought away most happy feelings for Poland.

"As the daughter of a Polish born father, I wanted to go there," she said in conclusion, "for I feel near the people, and I wished to take part in the experience of those who had suffered so much and who were rebuilding with such heroism. I wished to offer them the best I had." P.L.

The International Poznan Fair, 1950

THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR AT Poznan, which first opened 26 years ago, will this year be of interest particularly as an earnest of what has been and is being achieved in Poland's own field of industrial development.

For the first time Polish-made high-precision instruments will be on view as well as a variety of industrial equipment, agricultural machinery and, another new venture, a home-produced bus chassis. These Polish products will be shown alongside those of many nations and will be examined with interest by the representatives and observers of other countries.

The British Stand this year will be that of Associated British Oil Engines showing eight exhibits—petrol and diesel engines and diesel-electric generating sets.

Four of the famous Petter engines will be on show. The name of Petter has always been associated with light, mobile and independent power units and considerable interest was shown at last year's Fair in their AV2, Britain's smallest direct injection diesel. Rated at 6/10 b.h.p.

at 1,000/1,500 r.p.m., this engine has a special appeal in a country that is developing small-farm agriculture and rural light industries side by side as is Poland.

The firm of J. & H. McLaren, of Leeds, is offering a 55Kw generating set with their own MR4 diesel engine coupled to a Brush generator.

Another famous British name in engines is Meadows. This year Henry Meadows Ltd., of Wolverhampton, are showing two engines. One, a six cylinder commercial tractor oiler for heavy vehicles and tractors has a power output of 130 b.h.p. and the other is the 30 h.p. DC135 already internationally famous in Ferguson light tractors.

A third Meadows' exhibit is the heavier engine coupled to a Brush AC generator making a 60Kw set.

The Associated British Oil Engines representative at Poznan will be Mr. Walter Husser of their London head office.

The Fair itself offers every facility for buyers, representatives and visitors including an open air cinema seating 2,000.

NEW POLAND

British Cyclists For Poland

The riders, the League

and the chances

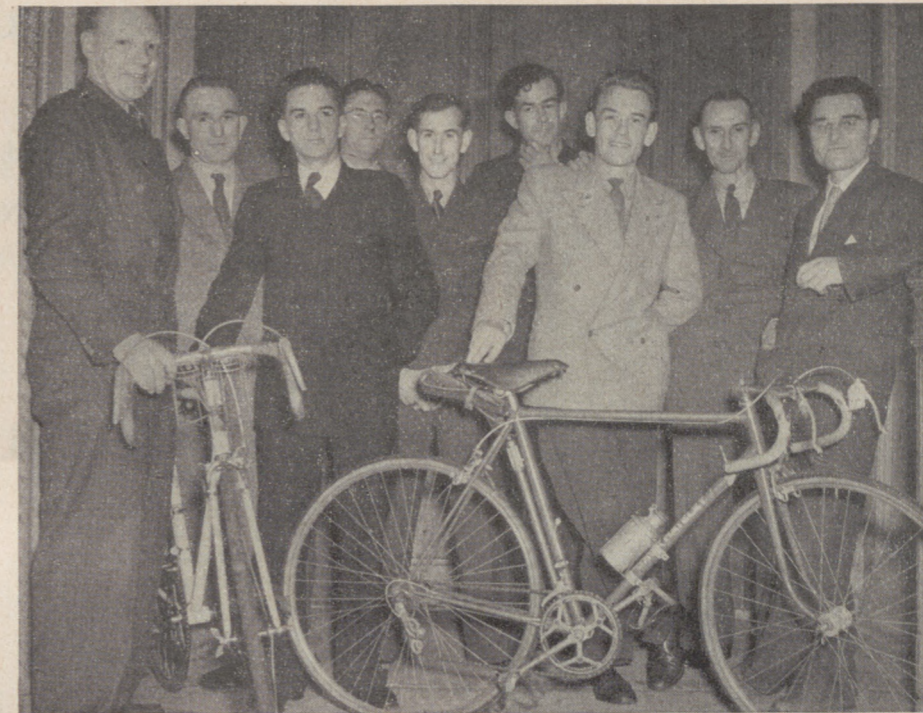
are discussed here

by

E. L. S. LAWTON

Assistant Honorary Secretary

British League of Racing Cyclists



The Team for Poland, with their manager, masseur and mechanic at 81, Portland Place after a send-off party organised by the British-Polish Friendship Society.

I WAS VERY PLEASED THE OTHER DAY when, through the British-Polish Society, an invitation was again extended to the British League of Racing Cyclists to send a team of six riders to compete in the Prague-Warsaw Race.

As most readers will remember, we sent a team over to compete in the famous "Tour of Poland" last year and, all things considered, the team did very well. The riding of Geoff Clark, A. H. Clarke (now in South Africa) and Tommy Saunders will be remembered by all those who saw the race. Unfortunately, owing to the rather short notice, we were unable to get Geoff Clark to come this time but Tommy Saunders, who won the 700-mile Brighton to Glasgow Race in 1948 and finished third in that event last year, in addition to finishing fourteenth in the "Tour of Poland," will be leading a strong team again this time. Tommy, slight, bespectacled, with a permanent grin, is a strong rider with a lot up his sleeve. Ken Russell, a P.T. instructor from Bradford, just demobbed from the R.A.F., won the Severn Valley Grand Prix in 1948, and finished fifth in the Brighton-Glasgow Race last year. Whilst in the R.A.F., he won nearly every race he entered.

Johnny Welsh (Burton-on-Trent) is another smiling lad whose appearance is deceptive. His strong point is hill climbing. Ted Jones (Wolverhampton) has won far too many events to be listed here but twice he won the tough Dover-London Race of 70 miles (once in record time of 2 hrs. 43 mins.). Len Hook (Dunstable) is another strong rider who

is an extremely good team man. He has won several events during the past few years, notably the General Vatutin Tribute Criterium. Joe Spragg (Wolverhampton) has also a very good record, being "King of the Mountains" in last year's Brighton to Glasgow Race in which he finished tenth. Team manager Ralph Jones has had many years' experience of cycle racing, both in England and abroad, and served a tough apprenticeship under the Father of the League, Percy Stallard, who was the team manager last year. Chas. Fearnley, the masseur and nursemaid, is an authority on health, massage and the associated interests, and has written a book on the subject, "Health and Handlebars." All the riders work hard in various jobs, some connected with sports, others in one or other of the many occupations predominant in their localities.

To many of these lads, opportunities to race aboard are restricted because of the expense, and we are very grateful indeed that the sponsors, *Trybuna Ludu* and *Rude Pravo*, have generously offered to pay all expenses. An invitation has been sent by the B.L.R.C. to the Polish Federation to send a team to compete in this year's Brighton to Glasgow Race, which this year will last for seven days and cover nearly 800 miles. We earnestly hope that this offer will be accepted.

Cycling to many of you may appear to be a rather spartan way of spending one's leisure time, but to us it is the greatest of all sports. For far too long in Gt. Britain cycle racing, the Cinderella of all sports,

has been governed by "old men." Year after year they refused to allow the members of the National Cyclists Union to race as their colleagues on the Continent of Europe have raced for years—on the road—en ligne.

They have contended that this type of racing is not suitable for this country and what may be good enough for countries like Poland, France, Belgium and others is not the sort of sport desired here. Percy Stallard, who had represented Gt. Britain for many years in this type of racing before the war, challenged this decision and as a result the British League of Racing Cyclists was born. Since 1942 we have had a hard and bitter struggle against the reactionary elements in the sport.

Our cause is helped tremendously by the invitations we receive to compete abroad such as those from Poland, France and elsewhere. It adds laurels to our name because we are invited again and again to send teams overseas. The lads themselves therefore prove to our friends that, in spite of the many difficulties which beset us, they are worthy opponents in the sport and justify the invitations received. All of them will agree that much has yet to be learned and they hope that one day soon a British rider will win one of the great events so popular on the other side of the Channel.

You may rest assured that, whatever happens, the team will give a good account of themselves during the Prague-Warsaw Race.

MAY 1950

Page Fifteen



The New Secretary
MRS. ANN HERBERT who has been an active worker for British-Polish Friendship since 1946. Mrs. Herbert is known to many members and hopes, she says, to meet many more in London and the Provinces. To the London members she sends a special reminder: "Don't forget to come to our Club—you are specially welcome to our Friday events there."

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

WE PLAN TO TURN THE CLUB HOUSE into a real centre for British-Polish Friendship. We are to have a permanent exhibition of Polish handicrafts, pictures, music and so on, and to arrange a series of Friday night events, such as socials, chess, trade union evenings and television. In other words, we want members of the Society to come regularly to 81, Portland Place to make it their club and introduce new friends. So far as activity outside the club is concerned, we aim to spread the work of friendship through sending lecturers to other organisations. And this is where you come in. We ask you to do your best to get other organisations you may belong to, to invite a Society speaker, particularly among trade unions, in view of the importance of the Trade Agreement with Poland.

BRITISH-POLISH FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

A LETTER TO THE MEMBERS
 about the A.G.M. and plans for the future
 from **MRS. ANN HERBERT**

WE HELD OUR A.G.M. ON FRIDAY, March 31. It was good to see the room packed with both British and Polish members. We were welcomed by Mr. F. Elwyn Jones, M.P., the President of the Society. In his address the President spoke of the important rôle of the Society in developing friendship between the peoples of Poland and Britain, particularly in these troubled days when there is so much talk of war. Since the last A.G.M. Mr. Elwyn Jones has again visited Poland and had seen for himself the progress being made there in all aspects of life, and he paid homage to the people of Warsaw in their inspired efforts to build a fine new city out of the ashes. The ruins were disappearing; in the Ghetto building was under way. In the Western Territories, the mine-covered lands were now changed into flowering, productive areas. And now the further implementation of the Trade Agreement was of great benefit to both countries, and could be a means of furthering the bonds of friendship.

The report of the year's work was given by Captain F. L. Farr, who pointed out that the work of the Society was steadily improving, with a list of events organised. Of special interest were the 265 lectures held in the year. Through this medium audiences throughout the country had learned about Poland, particularly among trade unionists. The Society's magazine, *New Poland*, continues to be popular and well produced, but deserves much more publicity among the members for the valuable work it is doing. Mr. Gordon Schaffer, always a welcome figure at our meetings, stressed the need for securing friendship for Poland among the British people, the people who don't want war, who see the Trade Agreement as a vital means of mutual understanding, as well as a means for improving the food situation in Britain.

After the Treasurer's Report came a discussion on Amendments to Rules. The Amendments which the members agreed to were, firstly, to change the name of the Society to "The British-Polish Friendship Society." It was generally felt that it was necessary to make it quite clear that the Society stands for promoting friendship with Poland, especially in these days when talk of war was darkening the horizon. The Second Amendment agreed to was that the Executive Committee be

enlarged to 12 members, with the power to co-opt four. Further, that the Executive Committee shall have the right to invite national organisations associated with the Society to appoint a representative on the Executive Committee.

Next came the election of Officers and the new Executive Committee, and here you have the results:

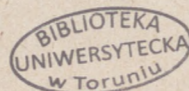
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The New Chairman
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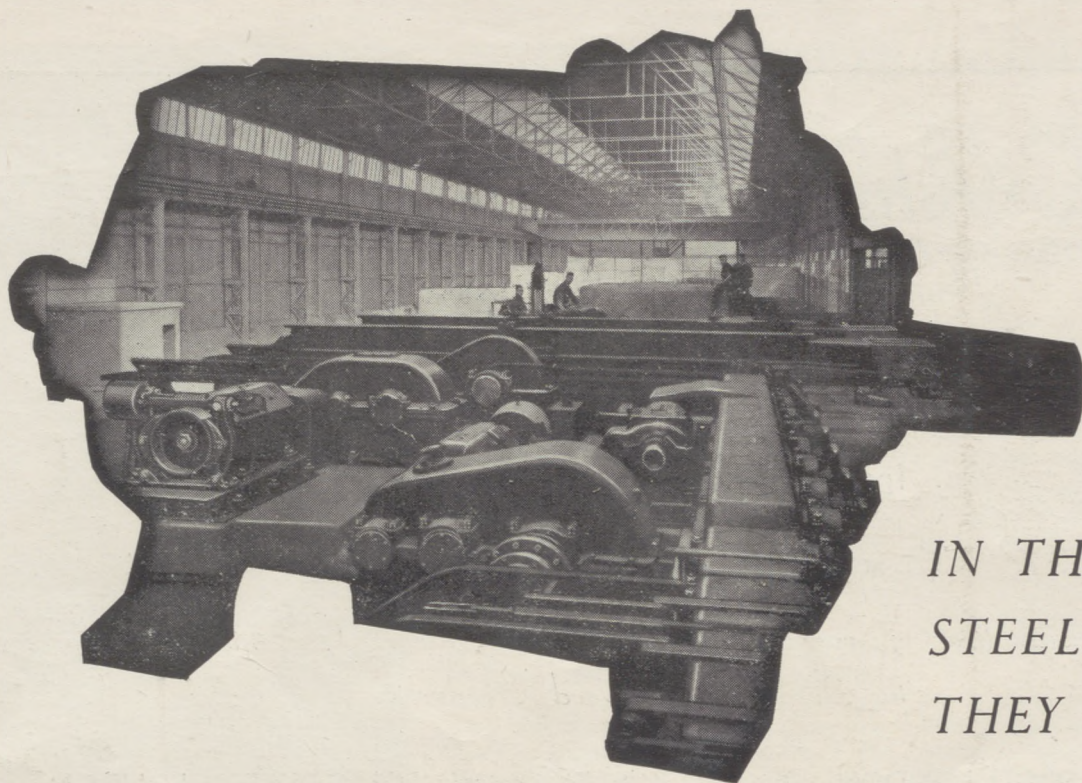
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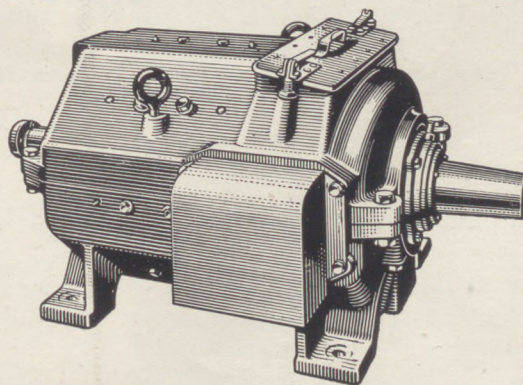
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