

EDITORIAL BOARD

GORDON SCHAFFER, MME. J. J. KROTKIEWSKA, AYLMEER VALLANCE

Editor : Norma Turner

Offices : 81, Portland Place, London, W.1.

Telephone : LANgham 1471

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A NAIL IN OUR COFFIN?

THE CASE OF THE REQUISITIONED Polish tankers was raised in the House of Commons at 11.50 p.m., on Tuesday, July 31st by Mr. Tom Driberg and Mr. F. Elwyn Jones, the Government reply being given by Mr. Ernest Davies, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. As the debate took place at this very late hour, it was practically unreported by the daily Press.

Mr. Driberg reminded the House that the contracts for the tankers had been signed on May 14th, 1948, and that early in 1949 the Anglo-Polish Trade Agreement had been signed. Article 6 of that Agreement stated that the British Government would not "prohibit the export to Poland of capital equipment produced in fulfilment of orders placed . . . on or before the date of signature of the present Agreement." The tankers, said Mr. Driberg, had been duly completed and paid for by the Poles. He went on:

"Nothing can be worse for the reputation of the British Government for keeping its bargains, and therefore for the export trade we so urgently need, than this kind of thing—unilateral violation of trade agreements. As I understand it . . . we have, as it were, consumed many of the goods—eaten the bacon, used the pit-props and so on—for which these tankers were to be a kind of exchange. Putting it as mildly as possible, this seems to me an extremely foolish way to treat people with whom we are doing extremely useful business."

Mr. Driberg asked whether the reason for the action was American pressure to suspend all East-West trade, the desire to prevent Poland from obtaining Persian oil, or retaliation for Poland's alleged failure to make, on the dates specified, certain sterling payments stipulated in the

1949 Trade Agreement.

Mr. Elwyn Jones endorsed the view that the action taken by Britain was not merely a breach of Article Six of the 1949 Agreement, but was contrary to its "whole spirit." Continuing, he said:

"This trade treaty with Poland has brought us real advantages. We have been supplied with a large quantity of food-stuffs. Amounts which it is contemplated that Poland is to supply are, I believe, 150,000 tons of bacon, 1,200 million eggs and 260,000 tons of other food. Then there are large supplies of timber; over £3 million worth in 1950 . . . The evidence available to me is that the Poles have kept to their word and have even increased the quota of bacon supplies . . . Why have we done this discreditable thing?"

Replying to the debate, Mr. Davies did not dispute the facts about the requisitioning, but argued that nothing that was said in the 1949 Trade Agreement could be held to over-ride the sovereign right of any country to requisition for defence purposes.

To the point made both by Mr. Driberg and Mr. Elwyn Jones, that two tankers could hardly be considered a vital factor in Atlantic defence, Mr. Davies made no answer beyond saying that the Admiralty held "that these tankers were required."

There have been surprisingly few comments in the British Press on the affair of the tankers. The following extracts are, however, illustrative of responsible British opinion. *The Observer* of July 15th notes that "one reason for this unusual peacetime action, it is understood, is to avoid any chance that the Polish Ocean Lines (the purchasers) might use the tankers to carry oil from Abadan . . . An even more powerful motive is provided by the strongly expressed desire of the United

States that such strategically valuable vessels should not be sold to Russian satellites. American officials in London have been emphasising the danger that Congress . . . might even refuse military aid to Britain if her trade to Eastern Europe seemed to involve goods of value in war."

"It would, indeed, be hypocrisy to pretend that this action is not a breach of contract," states *The Economist* (July 28th). "It is incontestable that the Polish Government secured the insertion of a clause in the Anglo-Polish Trade Treaty of January, 1949, which expressly provided against just such actions. Let it be acknowledged with regret that the cold war has driven one more nail into the coffin of international and private agreements."

On August 4th, *The New Statesman and Nation* commented.

"According to Mr. Davies, the Government now feels entitled at any time to seize any goods we are under contract to sell to members of the Eastern Bloc. If this really is our policy, it is pure nonsense either to pretend that Britain still desires to promote East-West trade or to lecture the Soviet Union on its disregard of the 'Rule of Law.'

"It is quite inconceivable that it was necessary on grounds of national security for the Admiralty to seize these two ships. The real truth is that some Ministers were alarmed lest the news of their sailing to Poland would cause . . . trouble in Congress . . . Mr. Morrison decided to anticipate the explosion in Congress, even at the cost of treating a trade treaty as a scrap of paper."

There the matter rests at the moment, as far as Parliament and the British Press are concerned. On July 31st, however, the Polish Government delivered a Note to the British Ambassador in Warsaw, protesting against the "lawless requisitioning."

Two important points are made in the Note, the full text of which appears on page 12. Firstly, that "The order to construct those vessels in a British shipyard in 1948 was placed in accordance with the 'plan for the development of Anglo-Polish trade,' signed on June 9, 1947."

Secondly, the Note points out that: "The so-called requisition for defence purposes has been applied only to two vessels, belonging to a Polish firm, and as the British Government stated just those two vessels 'are necessary for the defence of the United Kingdom.' In the same period, dozens of vessels of the same type were constructed in British shipyards for many other States without any hindrance or 'requisition.'

"Consequently, it is obvious that apart from violating their Treaty obligations, the British Government purposely resort to discrimination against Poland."

Workers from two Continents

Meet the Polish People

British

Mr. A. HALLAM, of Mansfield, a delegate from the Derbyshire Area, National Union of Mineworkers, one of 58 British trade unionists to visit Poland this year writes:

I LOOKED forward to this visit to Poland with a very open mind, particularly with this country being behind the so-called iron curtain. I was very disturbed at the devastation of Warsaw; but the next few days we had there, when we had an opportunity of seeing the city, I was amazed at the courage of the people in reconstructing their city; it is so vast. The millions of man hours and materials being used have to be seen to be believed.

Next I noticed the population. All were well-dressed, healthy and reasonably happy. I went to the market of every town we visited, and was impressed by the fact that nine out of ten women, after having bought the necessaries of food, bought a bunch of flowers. Now I can't see women buying a bunch of flowers in lieu of a loaf of bread, anywhere.

We had an opportunity of speaking to anyone we desired both at work or in the street, and I never heard of any frustration from any source in our delegation. As far as I am aware, my desire to see or ask questions about anything was granted; in fact, we were invited to ask anything we could think of.

I think what was most delightful to me was the construction of schools and sanatoria, and child welfare in general. I am sure no country in the world is doing as much as Poland to give their children a good education in the most modern buildings. In every case, light and air are the order of the day.

Having seen hundreds of miles of Poland, and having seen the reconstruction of their cities, I would not believe anyone who said they are preparing for war. No-one could spend the millions of man hours in building up their cities today, with the object of starting a war and of seeing them knocked down again.

I do hope sincerely the Polish people will be able to carry out their Six Year

Plan and show the world that their workers' government is the best they have ever had. I am not trying to say that Poland is a land of milk and honey, but I am quite certain, at the rate they are travelling in social necessities, they are on the right path, and I do hope and pray with them that the difficulties of this world will be settled without having to blast each other to death.

Everywhere we went the people competed with each other as to who was going to give us the best welcome. The kindness and generosity showered on us from every angle cannot be equalled by anybody.

Good luck to Poland in their efforts to lead a better life.

Mr. S. CRIGHTON, a Glasgow delegate, from a Scottish C.W.S. factory, says:

IT is only a few weeks since I returned from Poland and as yet I have not managed to analyse all that I saw and heard there. Memories crowd upon me . . .

The contrasts of Warsaw—ruins and resurgence side by side; the hot, terrible wilderness of the Ghetto and the cool fragrance of the parks . . . The countryside, every acre being worked; a Red Army memorial and a flower-bedecked shrine to the Virgin, side by side . . . an artist's country. The quiet dignity of aged Cracow with its cool dark churches, and the colourful market place . . .

But mainly Poland is a place of change.

Where once there were ruins, and even amid the ruins, great gleaming new buildings have risen and new thoroughfares are laid out. Where once the sun shone on barren country, whole towns are now being built. In the palaces and great houses where once lived the dukes and counts of Poland, the spirit and vigour of the new Polish freedom now flourishes.

In the mountains where the aristocrats of blood and wealth once played, the workers now find rest from their toil of reconstruction and take renewed energy and health from the mountain air, from the fragrance of the pine forests.

Where once an occasional timber building was deemed sufficient for the needs of tubercular workers, there are now splendid modern sanatoria.

And there is Oswiecim—that terrible place where, during the occupation, the

only smells were the fetid smells of privation, terror and death. Sweeter breezes blow there now . . . and there is peace at Oswiecim.

In the people themselves there is a shy confidence and a serenity. They have taken upon themselves a mighty Six Year Plan, and who, having been in Poland in 1951, can doubt that by 1955 they will have behind them a fine record of achievement, enthusiasm and solidarity—all underlined by a desire to live in Peace.

For myself, visiting Poland was an enriching experience, a visit filled with great occasions.

Six Electrical Trade Union delegates spoke of 2 weeks spent in Poland during July:

POLISH workers are very well informed on foreign affairs, the delegates told a London Press conference on their return. The workers in Poland, they said, seemed to know more about the outlook of the West than the average British worker knows of Poland's attitude on world affairs.

As guests of the Polish Metal Workers' Union, they visited a number of industrial towns, as well as power stations, a cable factory, day nurseries, crèches, schools, T.B. sanatoria, summer camps and holiday resorts.

Wherever they went they found a desire on the part of the Polish people to remain at peace with the world; in conversations with workers, particularly in discussions held with members of works' councils, the delegates said they were asked: "What are trade unionists in England doing for peace?"

The general impression of the delegation was that there was "exceptional progress in the rate of rebuilding after the tremendous devastation," caused by the war.

"Poland is paying great attention to the health and welfare of the people," said Mr. Frank Haxall, assistant general secretary of the E.T.U. and chairman of the delegation. The delegates, he said, were particularly impressed by their visit to the children's T.B. sanatorium in the Tatra mountains.

Other points made by the delegates were:

Workers' flats they visited were equal

to any they had seen in Britain;

Rents were very much lower—between 2 and 7 per cent of the chief wage earner's salary;

There seemed to be no restriction whatever on religious worship; in the new towns going up in Poland churches are also being built and there was always a Sunday morning queue for services;

In each factory there is a literature kiosk which sells newspapers, magazines and textbooks—they saw books in great number during their stay, including translations of Dickens' and Shakespeare, among others;

War propaganda and the production of

American

A trade union delegation from the U.S.A. visited Poland among other European countries this summer. At a Press Conference on their return to New York on August 9th they said:

IN Warsaw we met both trade union leaders and workers. The thing that impressed us most in Warsaw was the terrible destruction caused by the war. We still saw whole areas levelled to the ground.

Even though the majority of the devastation has been repaired, there is still a tremendous amount of construction going on in the city.

On every street as far as we could see, in every direction, scaffolding was still up in front of every house.

We learned that one out of every 25 workers in Poland is a building worker engaged in constructing new homes; that the most important task of the country is the rebuilding of Poland; that there is no unemployment; that the standard of living is constantly rising; that the workers pay only up to five per cent of their wages for rent; that the workers do not pay for social insurance or for the many forms of social services, including nurseries for their children.

As far as conditions of work are concerned, there is generally a 46-hour week consisting of five days at eight hours and a six-hour day on Saturday. For overtime the workers are paid one and a half and double time.

In some industries, like the metal, chemical and mining industries, the workers work a 34-hour week. All workers receive 70 per cent of their wages when they are sick, besides free medical treatment.

Workers who have been employed for one year receive two weeks' vacation with pay; after three years they receive three weeks and after ten years one month vacation.

We were able quickly to see why these people constantly told us of their hatred

war-like and military toys for children is banned.

"We noted," said one delegate, "how few Polish children there were between the ages of 7 and 12." And at Oswiecim, the notorious German concentration camp, evidence of fascist crimes were shown to them that made them realize why this was so. "We saw 16,500,000 pairs of shoes there that had been taken from the gas-chamber victims; among them were 700,000 belonging to little children."

In the opinion of the delegates, the Polish people were "very, very annoyed and disgusted" at the rearmament of Germany.

for the Nazi fascists who caused this terrible destruction by systematically mining every house and every street and blowing them up with dynamite.

We could see why these people hate war with all their hearts and appeal to us so earnestly for peace between our two countries.

We saw that this reconstruction of their country was the most important thing to them—that all their energy is devoted to rebuilding their homes and factories and the winning of a better life.

We were able to understand their desire that nothing should stand in the way of this tremendous task.

The Warsaw skyline is a forest of scaffolding as the Six Year Plan of reconstruction forges ahead



A Warsaw crowd. The deep desire of the Polish people for peace and friendship with the people of other nations impressed all delegates

H. 32.12/86

Bringing Light to Millions

From Our Industrial Correspondent

THE WORDS OF A POPULAR POLISH song express something of the tremendous impact of the electrification scheme upon the lives of the people of Poland, especially of course the peasants:

"High on the aerial our electrician
Hears the wind sing in wires of
bright copper.
We'll set up a radio station,
We shall listen to the dancing."

The Six Year Plan is literally bringing light into the lives and homes of millions of Polish people. Hilary Minc, in a Report on the Plan given in July, 1950, stated that by 1955 the production of electrical energy will be over six times that of 1938.

Light and power will help to develop industry in the formerly backward areas; hundreds of thousands of peasants' homes and homes in country towns will, for the first time, have electric light, radio, electrical heating and the other amenities without which the housewife's life is drudgery; thousands of village streets and squares will be ablaze with light during the long winter evenings. Light and power will transform the countryside and will help to eradicate obsolete methods in farming.

The Six Year Plan envisages the construction of several major power stations, utilising to the full the rich mineral resources of Poland. The Plan includes the construction of one power plant in Bialystok voivodship, based on the rich peat fields of the region. Another, in Konino, based on the brown coal mined in that district; and for the first time in the history of Poland a number of heat power plants will also be built.

Largest Power Station

The power station which is under construction at Jaworzno, in the Cracow district, is the largest envisaged in the Six Year Plan. It is indeed one of the biggest projects of the Plan itself.

Based on the Cracow coal-mines, a specially built railway will connect the power station with the neighbouring collieries. 250 wagon loads will feed the station daily. By a wholly mechanical process the coal will be piled straight

from the wagons into vast heaps, from where powerful cranes will shift it to another building to be sorted and crushed and finally to the blast furnace of the boiler room.

Production at Jaworzno power-station commences next year. Now the site is the scene of rapid construction. The brick-work of all the main buildings, including a modern boiler-room, machine-room and many other departments will be completed by the end of this year, as will a

whole number of subsidiary buildings, nineteen in all, including the repair shop and administrative offices. Auxiliary projects will be developed later.

Jaworzno power station has been planned with the assistance of leading Soviet electro-technicians; in addition the Soviet Union is supplying some of the machines and equipment for this project.

The station, constructed on the most up-to-date lines, will be mechanised throughout. Thus it will require only a relatively small staff, the same number of workers in fact as would be required to run a power station organised along less advanced technical lines and producing six times less power than Jaworzno.

In lovely pinewoods surrounding the site of the power station, houses, flats, hostels and other amenities are being built for the power workers of Jaworzno and their families. Here will live the men and women who will help to bring the new life to the people of the Cracow district.

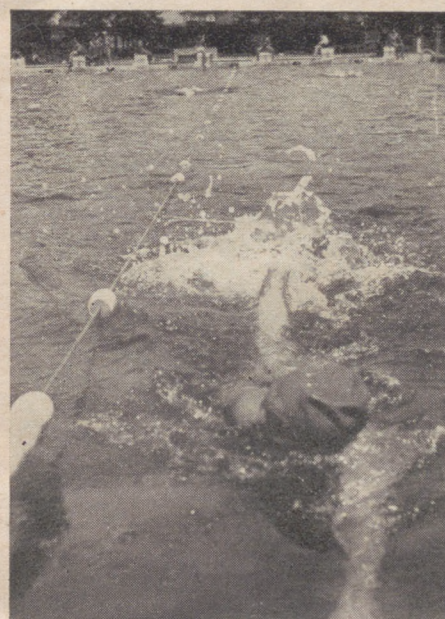
Building Jaworzno power-station



Over the top—S. Wazny jumps 3.09 metres at an athletic display in one of Warsaw's Sports stadiums. He just missed the standing record of 4 metres.

Sport

Miss Ziolkowska, winner of the 400 metres swimming contest for the students championship of Poland. About 200 young people took part in this race at Wroclaw.



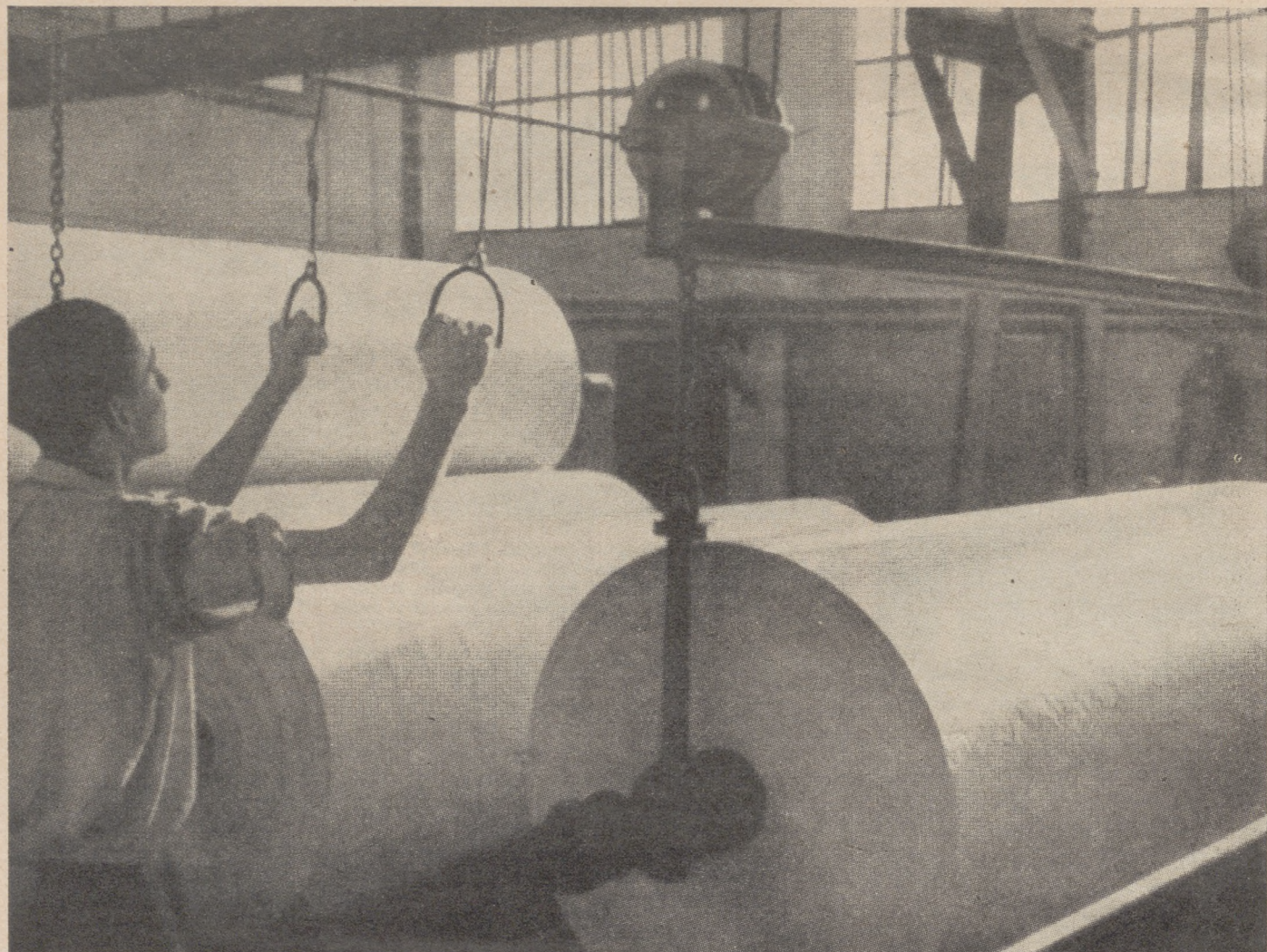
On the home stretch of the people's "Derby" at a race course near Warsaw. "Arras," the favourite, won in record time—2 mins. 30 seconds. This famous "Sport of Kings" is publically owned in Poland and very popular. Betting is on the "Tote" and enthusiasts follow with keen interest the specialist paper "Horse Race Bulletin."

Part of the route of the Inter Club rowing regatta, recently held on the Vistula in Warsaw. The eight in the foreground of our picture won in record time.



500 cyclists took part in this race during July. The winner, J. Waliszewski, completed the 150 mile course in 6 hours, 29 minutes, 36 seconds. Picture shows the start of the race at Lodz. On July 12th, Teofil Salyga, a Polish cyclist from Lodz, established 13 new records, eight of which are world records.





Paper Mill

POLISH EXPORTS—I

PAPER

Poland exports paper, including newsprint, to 35 countries. Her ever increasing production under the Six Year Plan is an important potential source of paper for Britain if greater East-West trade is developed.

FIVE years ago the Polish paper industry celebrated the four hundredth anniversary of its existence. The royal warrant of 1546, establishing the paper manufacturers' guild, is still preserved amongst the records.

In the beginning of the 16th century the first paper mills were set up in Poland, and output rapidly assumed such proportions that even in those early days the industry produced sufficient to meet the country's own demands and develop a brisk export trade as well.

Between the two world wars, however, the production and consumption of paper fell heavily and was very low compared to other European countries. The economic depression of pre-war capitalist Poland hit this industry, along with others, and as a result, there was an insufficient number of school books and of newspapers. The German fascist occupation, during the recent war, inflicted further severe losses upon the industry, which was already in poor shape in 1939.

After the liberation, however, the

NEW POLAND

workers turned to resuscitate their traditional craft of paper manufacture, to take the industry into their own hands and to develop it along lines of modern technique. And it was not long before their energy and enthusiasm brought about the reconstruction of the mills, so that the chimney stacks were once again belching smoke and the plant, both new and reconditioned, had resumed production.

By 1947, paper output had already exceeded the pre-war level in Poland and this increase continued from year to year. In 1949, production reached approximately 125 per cent of the 1947 output—and as a result of further improvements and developments, the output for 1955 is intended to reach 245 per cent of the 1949 figure.

This success in quantitative output is attended also by a sustained and intensified endeavour to improve the quality of the paper produced. For this purpose a scientific research and control unit has been established.

The Six Year Plan of Economic Development provides for the construction of new paper mills and cellulose and paper combines. This will mean that in addition to a steady increase in home consumption, Poland will have a still greater surplus for export.

TO-DAY, Polish paper products, which began to make their appearance on foreign markets as early as 1946, have widened the circle of their customers to include over 35 countries, and by 1956 this figure will have increased considerably.

While improving the already high quality of export products, Poland is also widening the range of paper manufactures; there is, as well, a strict and highly efficient technical control of each consignment of goods abroad to ensure that the reputation already earned by Polish paper goods exports will be maintained and even enhanced.

At present the following items are available from People's Poland for the world's use:

1. **Newsprint.**—Printing and writing papers, in reels and sheets, with or without mechanical woodpulp, in standardized substances.
2. **Cigarette Paper.**—In bobbins, sheets and booklets, made from select flax fibre or in combination with cellulose.
3. **Wrapping Paper.**—Made from pure chemical wood-pulp or waste paper.
4. **Vegetable Parchment** and grease-proof paper.
5. **Boards and Cardboards,** including "Duplex" boxboard, with wood-free top layer, accurately finished; brown board, and heeling board.
6. **"Tomophane."**—The equivalent of cellophane—plain and coloured.

7. **Decalcomania** for pottery.
8. **Sacks** made from Kraft paper.
9. **Stationery** products.

Through careful planning, keen enthusiasm and hard work the paper industry is making great progress in Poland. With vast areas of forest-land the country has its own natural raw material resources and new developments are taking place all the time.

AT Skolwin, on the outskirts of Szczecin, a paper mill is now being reconstructed which, when complete, will be the most modern establishment of its kind in Poland. Situated on the Odra, the supply of raw materials and the dispatch of the finished article is facilitated by cheap river transport.

This month the assembling of modern

machinery begins at the Sko.win factory; one of the machines will be the second largest in the world in size.

For the turbine section an up-to-date turbine set has been supplied by the Hungarian People's Republic under a trade agreement, and the huge boilers for the boiler house come from the German Democratic Republic.

The first machines in this paper mill will be set into operation in the summer of 1952 and hundreds of thousands of tons of paper will be supplied yearly by Skolwin.

It is with such prospects ahead that the People's Government view the development of the paper industry. More and more customers are being secured abroad and Poland is on the way to achieving a prominent position amongst paper exporters.



SEPTEMBER 1951



Top Left: Workers' residential estate at Zoliborz.

Bottom Left: Building another students' hostel.

Below: The newest department store opened on National Day, July 22nd.

Ghetto site—40,000 people), Mokotow and Kolo (over 10,000 each), Mirow, Nowe Miasto, Zoliborz, Marienstadt—and the latest and most beautiful of all—the Marszalkowska Housing Estate, the first blocks of which were opened this National Day and which will house 45,000 workers by 1955.

Sixteen new industrial plants are being built and twelve old ones transformed

and expanded. Work began in the spring on the great Warsaw Metro and this year 10 new schools, 27 kindergartens, 560 socialised shops and 30 community restaurants will be opened.

This is the measure of Warsaw reconstruction. Such magnificent achievements and such vision are only possible in a country that builds for peace and socialism.



WARSAW IN SEPTEMBER

BENEATH THE GOLDEN HAZE OF LATE summer the people of Poland's capital city celebrate once again the Month of Reconstruction. In memory of the Hitler invasion of September, 1939, and of September, 1944 when the Nazis systematically dynamited house after house and building after building in Warsaw, this month commemorates the great and fruitful task of rebuilding.

Although much remains still to be done, the achievements so far have inspired admiration and amazement throughout the whole world. From the incredible devastation of war and in the face of immense difficulties, a vast new

city has arisen, beautiful and well-planned—a workers' city, a city that is to be the capital of a Socialist state.

Since 1945 Warsaw has in fact been one huge building site and in all its 700 years' existence there have never been so many changes.

Four bridges have been spanned over the Vistula. The new high-speed, 5-mile long East-West Route, with its tunnel under the city centre, bridge over the river and escalator entrance was built in 95 weeks. Ten new housing estates, some finished, others being completed, have changed the skyline of the city—Mlynów (10,000 residents). Muranów (on the





Our miners come

Polish miners at one of their sanatoria in Zakopane

By Our Special Correspondent

AFTER a month in a Polish sanatoria, the ten sick English and Scottish miners returned to London at the end of July, looking much fitter than at their departure. They had been guests of the Polish Miners' Union and all ten are members of the National Union of Mineworkers.

The Polish Miners' Union had invited miners suffering from silicosis and pneumoconiosis to spend four weeks at a Preventorium in Szczawnica, where they would receive rest and special treatment.

When the ten arrived at the "Villa Adria," flags and banners were out to welcome them. "Everywhere we went we were greeted with smiles and friendship," said Mr. J. Johnson, of Kent.

After a full examination some of the miners stayed at Szczawnica and others were sent on to a T.B. sanatorium in Zakopane.

None of the party had had any sanatorium treatment in Britain, they said: "We had to go to Poland for that."

Every possible care and attention was given them during their stay and the miners at Zakopane were urged to remain for another month or two for further treatment.

"They looked after you all right out there. Nothing was too good for us," said Mr. G. Whittaker, of Derbyshire: Certified as suffering from silicosis on August 3rd, 1950, Mr. Whittaker has been awarded 60 per cent disability.

Mr. Howell Sanderson, of Aylesham, Kent, suffering from 100 per cent disability, was full of enthusiasm for the manner in which Poland looks after the sick miner.

"Here a man is thrown on the scrap heap when he gets silicosis, but the Polish Government does all it can to help him recover his health. You don't have to worry about money either. Out there I should be getting about £10 a week or more but here my income is £5 9s. a week—and I have to keep six children on that."

When I asked if there were any preventative measures taken in Poland against these diseases that could be applied in this country, all the ten agreed that there were. In particular, the two measures they considered most beneficial in Poland were regular medical examination of all miners and the provision of inhalations at the pit-heads.

"Regular examinations mean that you

can nip the disease in the bud, so to speak," explained Mr. H. J. Morgan, of Exhall, near Coventry.

"It stands to reason that if a man with a trace of dust trouble is sent off immediately for sanatorium treatment there is every chance of a complete cure. And," he added, "pit-head inhalations mean that the coal-face workers gets preventative treatment every time he comes up off a shift."

Our ten miners considered themselves "pioneers" on this month's visit to Poland, and they returned better in health and in spirit for their experience.

"We send our thanks to all at Szczawnica and Zakopane," they told me.



British and Polish miners at the Villa Adria

NEW POLAND

First class care for Polish Pit-workers

by Ann Gorodecka

THIS Summer there are some 150 Polish miners spending from one to three months in the three beautiful preventoria owned by the Polish Miners' Union in Szczawnica. These preventoria are surrounded by the Pieniny range of mountains, which give protection against cold winds.

At the pitheads the miners of People's Poland receive regular examinations and at the first sign of silicosis, blood tests and X-rays are taken at special medical centres. If the condition is certified by the doctor the man is sent to one of the preventoria, in order to halt the disease before it can become more dangerous.

When a miner arrives at the preventorium, he is given a further medical examination to determine the kind of treatment required. In the majority of cases, this treatment consists of daily vapour inhalations and drinking certain spa waters, beneficial to the lungs. The most important part of the treatment, however, consists of special foods and plenty of rest.

Although the life for a miner in

Szczawnica sounds dull and uneventful, in fact it is not so.

Recently a number of miners arrived at Villa Adria, the second of these preventoria; immediately they elected a cultural committee to organise various social functions. On the first Sunday, a group of young men and women from the Bytom Mines came to Szczawnica for the day and entertained the patients with folk dances and songs. The same evening, the chairman of the Miners' Union gave a talk on his impressions of Korea, from where he had just returned.

A couple of days later, an excursion was organised to climb Sokolica, the second highest mountain in the district. Another Sunday was spent on the Dunajec river, in boats punted by highlanders—over small rapids and along a winding course with mountains on both sides. The Dunajec forms a frontier river between Poland and Czechoslovakia and one could see Czechs and Poles alike enjoying a swim in their mutual river.

The Villa Adria, built in 1950, is very modern, with spacious airy rooms, each

having a balcony of its own. No one could complain at lack of variety in the five daily meals. There is a doctor resident on the premises and an ear specialist and a dentist have both recently visited the Villa to examine the men.

This "holiday for health reasons" is in addition to the miners' normal yearly holiday, which many of them take on their return home. Their average stay here is for one month, but if their condition warrants it, they may stay for as long as three months. While undergoing treatment, they receive their full pay and are not penalised financially in any way through having to stop work for a time.

All these preventoria, of which the three in Szczawnica are specifically for silicosis, are fully maintained by the 1 per cent membership fee paid by members of the Miners' Union, no other subsidy being necessary to maintain their high standards.

Before the war there were no such preventoria or sanatoria in existence for workers, but to-day, for the miners alone, there are five such preventoria, the three for silicosis and two for rheumatic complaints. All others are administered by the Ministry of Health.

The miners, together with the entire Polish working class are taking full advantage of their rights in this connection and show their appreciation for the new life they enjoy under a People's Government, by their tremendous production achievements for the Six Year Plan.

This beautiful sanatorium in the Carpathians was for wealthy private patients only, pre-war. Now it is run by the State for Polish workers.



The Tankers

Polish Note

ON July 14, 1951, the British Foreign Office informed the Polish Ambassador in London that two vessels, the property of a Polish firm, one of which the 'Tatry' was just about to start on her maiden voyage, and the other, the 'Beskidy,' was being completed—had been 'requisitioned' by the British Government on the strength of alleged powers connected with 'the defence of the State.' At the same time, representatives of the British Admiralty boarded the vessel 'Tatry' and removed its Polish master and crew.

The contract for the construction of those two vessels had been made by the Polish Import Company for Machines and Tools Ltd., 'Polimex,' with the firm Bartram and Sons at Newcastle on May 14, 1948. Payment for those vessels was almost completely made. According to the Agreement, the vessels became the property of the Polish party from the moment of payment by it of the first instalment of the amount due. That party has the sole right to deal with them, sell or otherwise dispose of them, as well as conclude agreements as to their destination and use.

The order to construct those vessels in a British shipyard in 1948 was placed in accordance with the 'plan for the development of Anglo-Polish trade,' signed on June 9, 1947.

In the Anglo-Polish Trade and Finance Agreement of January 14, 1949, Article 6, it was stated that 'the Government of the United Kingdom shall not prohibit the export to Poland of capital equipment produced in fulfilment of orders placed by or on behalf of the Polish Government with United Kingdom firms on or before the date of signature of the present Agreement.'

In principle, the Article constituted in law and according to good international custom, a sufficient guarantee of the carrying out of deliveries. However, in order to avoid all ambiguities which could have arisen later, a Plenipotentiary of the British Government stated on behalf of the Government in Letter No. 5 constituting an annex to the Agreement,

and not published, the following: 'In connection with Article 6 of the Anglo-Polish Trade and Finance Agreement signed this day, I am writing to confirm the statement which I made in the course of the negotiations that the provisions of this Article are regarded by the Government of the United Kingdom as precluding any measure which would be equivalent to frustrating the export, when manufacture is complete, of the capital equipment referred to in that Article.'

It should, therefore, be stated that the British Government, while concluding that Agreement and undertaking the above-mentioned pledges were fully aware that they renounced and waived, without any reservations, the right to use any measures which they might have had at their disposal on the day of signature or which they might have acquired later on, to frustrate the export of capital goods ordered in the United Kingdom before the date of the conclusion of the Agreement, and thus also the vessels in question.

Consequently, the British Government excluded in advance the possibility of applying also the Act of Emergency Defence Powers of 1939 to those vessels, as well as to all other capital goods ordered in the United Kingdom before the date of conclusion of the Agreement.

No reference to a change of 'conditions existing at the time' made by the Prime Minister, Mr. Attlee, in his statement in the House of Commons on July 23, 1951, can justify the unilateral and arbitrary breach of voluntarily assumed obligations. Those obligations could have been changed only by the consent of both parties.

The British Government had not only the right but also the duty to discuss with the Polish Government all difficulties which might have arisen in the fulfilment by them of the Trade Agreement. That obligation is explicitly provided for in Article 20. The British Government, however, declined to conduct such talks, and to all suggestions made by the representatives of the Polish Government in this matter, replied in the negative.

From the above it follows without any doubt that the British Government in seizing the vessels 'Tatry' and 'Beskidy,' indisputably Polish property, resort to unprecedented lawlessness, and any reference by the British Government to municipal law has no justification in International Law and is intended merely to mislead public opinion.

The disregard shown by the British authorities of property rights of Polish firms has moreover been clearly illustrated by the fact that even radio equipment purchased by the Polish owner of the vessels outside the United Kingdom,

imported under British licence, and installed on those vessels, has also been seized.

The British Government committing a flagrant breach of faith by violating its most obvious and clear obligations and seizing the vessels in a perfidious manner prove that they yield to pressure from outside, against the obvious interests of peaceful trade co-operation and against the interests and wishes of the British people. Public opinion has no doubts about that.

The so-called requisition for defence purposes has been applied only to two vessels, belonging to a Polish firm, and as the British Government stated just those two vessels 'are necessary for the defence of the United Kingdom.' In the same period dozens of vessels of the same type were constructed in British shipyards for many other States without any hindrance or 'requisition.'

Consequently, it is obvious that apart from violating their Treaty obligations, the British Government purposely resort to discrimination against Poland.

The Polish Government regards such action as another manifestation of the aggressive policy of imperialist States which organising war preparations and starting gigantic armaments, attempt to hinder and make impossible the peaceful economic co-operation among nations.

The Polish Government has scrupulously fulfilled in letter and spirit its obligations resulting from the Anglo-Polish Trade Agreement. The present brutal violation by the British Government of international obligations, following as it does the previous illegal withholding of machinery destined for export to Poland, makes it imperative for the Polish Government to reconsider what value British obligations have for the future.

In a situation which arose through the fault of the British Government, the Polish Government will be compelled to take steps, to which it is entitled under the Anglo-Polish Trade and Finance Agreement, and which it will deem indispensable in order to safeguard its interests resulting from that Agreement.

The Polish Government renews its categorical protest against the lawless requisition by the British Government of the vessels constituting Polish property, it demands most decisively the immediate withdrawal of all orders which prevent the hoisting of the Polish flag on the vessels, 'Tatry' and 'Beskidy,' and the free use of them by their Polish owner, and insists that all damage and losses, which the Polish party has sustained in connection with the unlawful seizure of the above-mentioned vessels, be covered."

Scots Miners Condemn Government Action

by William Pearson, Scottish Miners' Leader

THE SCOTTISH MINERS FEEL VERY strongly regarding the action of the Government in requisitioning the two Polish tankers.

A recent conference, representative of all the miners' branches in Scotland, unanimously passed the following resolution:

"That this union strongly condemns the requisitioning of the two Polish tankers by the Foreign Office and Admiralty and asks the Scottish Executive Committee of the N.U.M. to pro-

test in the strongest possible terms at this act which is believed to be the first time that such action has been taken in the case of civilian ships since the war."

The resolution was moved by the delegate representing the Mauchline Branch, Ayrshire, and he was one of the Scottish miners' delegates who visited Poland in 1949.

The fact that not one delegate opposed the resolution shows clearly that the Scottish miners are utterly opposed to the

this work to the premises of the old Bayen firm, now the Starogard Pharmaceutical Works.

First of the new Donbas type combines for the Polish mining industry was produced by the Piotrowicz Mining Machinery Plant in July. By the end of this year many other collieries will receive combines of this type which, with the aid of blueprints from the Soviet Union, will all be entirely produced in Poland.

The largest Polish sweet factory will start production in Lublin this year; its output, a few days after opening, will be ten times greater than that of all the other sweet factories in the Lublin area.

Trade

ECONOMIC relations between Poland and Bulgaria were recently strengthened by the signing of a trade agreement which will cover the next two years' period. Polish exports will include locomotives, wagons, zinc, coke, machines and machine tools, textile raw materials and other goods; in return, Bulgaria will send ores of non-ferrous metals, pyrites, hides, tobacco, rice, wine, grapes and a number of other articles.

A new trade and payments agreement, valid until July, 1952, has been established between Poland and Austria, Polish exports will include coal, sugar and other foodstuffs, glass and chemicals.

Sport

TEAMS of instructors constantly check hygienic conditions in sports places in Poland and the general all-round medical care for sportsmen is growing. Medical centres now exist for sportsmen in 14 voivodships (regions) and 100 district towns.

News in Brief

ON August 13th, the Supreme Military Court in Warsaw announced the verdict in the trial of the nine members of the espionage organisation in the Polish Army.

The Court found the accused guilty of all the offences with which they had been charged, and the following sentences were pronounced: Tatar, Herman, Kirchmayen and Mosson, life imprisonment; Utnik, Nowicki and Jurecki, fifteen years' imprisonment; Roman, 12 years and Wacek ten years.

A rest home for Catholic priests has recently been opened in the health resort, Krynica.

Six elks (species of deer and antelope) have arrived in Poland from the Soviet Union in exchange for other animals. They will be transported to the Kampinos Forest where a vast national park is to be opened.

Europe's largest deep-sea fishing port, Swinoujscie, received its first transport of fish, which were brought in by Polish trawlers on National Day, July 22nd.

The Polish Government will take part in the conference on the Japanese Peace Treaty, which opens on September 4th in San Francisco.

Industry

PRODUCTION has commenced, for the first time in Poland, of sulphathiazol and other pharmaceutical products. A great building, completed two months' ahead of schedule, has been added for

unwarranted action taken by the British Government.

In his contribution to the discussion, the Mauchline delegate pointed out that this action could mean less food for the British people and could destroy the trade agreement between Poland and this country. Such action must also worsen relations between both countries and for these reasons the delegate felt a strong protest should be sent to the Government.

Anyone who is concerned about the welfare of the British people should realise that this is a very serious action and against the best interests of the British people.

Trading, on the basis of goods for goods, between Britain and all other countries is in British interests and the Scottish miners support such a policy as part of the struggle for peace and progress.

"EYEWITNESS!"

THIS is the story of the experiences of 52 British Trade Unionists who went to Poland this summer for a two weeks' visit. They were the guests of the Polish Trade Unions, and they were given the opportunity of talking to workers in various trades; they visited factories, schools, crèches, cultural centres, and spent some days in the trade union holiday centre in the mountain district of Zakopane.

Here is a report which all our friends ought to read. It will appeal especially to those who are anxious to learn of the functions of the trade unions in Poland, how they are working to improve rapidly the standards of living of the people, and the part they play in helping to determine government policy.

The purpose of "Eyewitness!" is to try to end the confusion and misunderstanding caused by contradictory reports we read in our Press and hear on the wireless from time to time.

You will read the impressions of delegates seeing Warsaw for the first time, you will learn of the discussions held with leading figures in the Polish T.U.C., and read the uncensored broadcasts made by many of the delegates.

Finally, you will be interested to see the photographs they took with their own cameras.

"Eyewitness!" is now obtainable from the British-Polish Friendship Society, 81, Portland Place, London, W.1. It costs 9d. a copy and is very good value. It will help you answer many of the questions your friends put to you about life in Poland to-day.

A-Hunting We Will

Go

by

C. G. Bidwell



Not for hunting—these rare European bison are protected by the workers' State. According to the latest world register only 120 are in existence; of these, 67 are living in the Bialowieza forest in Eastern Poland, including both the oldest, aged 20 years, and the two youngest, four months old. One baby was born in the forest during the spring of last year and two more in the first half of this May.

EASTERN POLAND, WITH ITS VAST FOREST areas and its rough frosty climate with fairly heavy snow-fall is splendid game country. The Mazurian and Bialowieza red deer, and the Carpathian red deer found in the west of the country, are unrivalled in Europe. The doe is in general double the weight of the doe of Western countries. In addition to the deer, there are elk and bison, kept of course, under strict State protection as being a European rarity.

Another vast game country is found on the other side of Poland, stretching from the Odra to the Sudeten mountains and the River Warta. The climate is mild, spring comes early. There are vast forest areas and innumerable coverts in the fields. In this country hares, pheasants, partridges, rabbits, wild duck, does, stags, deer and boar are plentiful.

What shooting do you prefer? In Central Poland too, you can take your choice. You can walk the fields with workers' shooting parties, with, at your heels, dogs ready to leap forward at a word to collect the hare or the partridge which your clear eye and steady hand have brought to earth. You'll find the hare is a good deal bigger than the one shot in England. The average weight of a Polish hare is something around 10 pounds and they run frequently to nearly 15 pounds.

Or perhaps you prefer to skirt the shores of a great lake, and wait for wild duck to rise into the air and test your skill. Poland abounds in wild duck which are to be found even on the smallest pond.

All this suggests good sport indeed, and everyone who has strong legs and is

a good shot can have plenty of such game sport in Poland: but it is not only with the sporting aspect of game that Poland is concerned. Game is the basis of a serious industry responsible for considerable exports, particularly hares, boars, stags, partridges, pheasants—and venison canned or smoked.

It all needs organisation and care. The boars and stags are trussed as soon as they are killed and sent from the collection centre to slaughter houses where they are cleaned and subjected to veterinary examination. The hides of boars and stags are of great value, as also the bristles of the boar.

Hunting Holidays

The export of hares is a rapidly developing industry. The hares are sent straight from the hunting field to central depot and cold storage plant. The pelts are brushed, the heads are wrapped in grease proof paper. Veterinary surgeons make their examination. The hares are chilled to minus 15 degrees Centigrade and packed in layers in refrigerator vans or in cases ready for the refrigerated holds of ships. The process is rapid and the foreign customer receives his hares as fresh as does the worker buying them in a Warsaw shop.

A number of animals and birds now

rare in Europe are found in considerable quantities in Poland—the lynx, the wolf, woodcock, heathcock and beaver. The furs of the Polish otter and marten are perfect, soft and fluffy and in great demand by furriers all over the continent.

The hunting, shooting and trapping of various kinds of game in Poland is in the hands of huntsmen's co-operatives, and also of individuals. Workers fond of the sport can now go on specially arranged hunting holidays, organised by the Trades' Unions within the framework of the Workers' Holiday Scheme.

Co-operatives and hunting parties sell the product of their skill with gun and trap, on a contract basis, to a state trading company which is responsible for ensuring a fair distribution throughout the country and also for preparation and refrigeration ready for export. At all stages, game is under veterinary examination and subject to examination and certification by inspectors of standards.

In this way, hunting has been developed into an industry providing food value for the population and valuable exports, while nothing is lost for those to whom walking the coverts, dog at heels, or watching from platforms gun in hand is their favourite form of sport.

2,500 Young Poles at Berlin

ATREMENDOUS WELCOME WAS GIVEN to the Polish delegates, led by Mr. Stanislaw Nowocien, Secretary of the Central Board of the Polish Union of Youth, when they arrived for the Third World Youth Festival in Berlin.

At the parade of young people from 90 countries an ovation broke out to greet the 2,500 Poles, who included among their ranks leading peaceworkers, young writers, artists and musicians, shockworkers, peasants, students, scouts and sportsmen from all over Poland.

Throughout the Festival, international meetings of young workers were held daily for an exchange of views and experiences in the fight for the preservation and consolidation of peace.

In one of the largest German factories in the G.D.R., the Bergmann-Borsig-Worke, a meeting of young metal workers was attended by a 14-person Polish delegation, including shockworkers from the Czestochowa Iron & Steel Works, the Warsaw 'Ursus' tractor factory and other factories. The main topic of discussion

Lodz cotton mill workers give their last performance in Warsaw before leaving for the Berlin Festival.



was the unity of action in the fight against remilitarisation of West Germany, against the Schuman plan and against the armaments drive in America and the West.

A meeting of young textile workers, where a large group of Poles were present, concluded with a visit over the clothing factory at Fordschritt. Writers, artists, students of law, history, pedagogy and technical science all exchanged views and opinions at such meetings.

On August 11th, 50,000 young people from Western Germany, members of the Free German Youth Organisation, F.D.J., met 1,000 Polish boys and girls in the huge Koepenicker Park. Herr Augenfest, Chairman of the F.D.J., declared on behalf of the youth he represented: "Our boys will never take up arms to fight against Poland."

As well as these meetings the young delegates from Poland joined in all the innumerable sports and cultural events of the Festival.

On the second day the Polish artistic ensembles gave their opening performance in the Berlin Opera House. A variety of different entertainments delighted an audience of several thousand; thunderous applause greeted the children's folk dancers, the scouts, a boys' choir from the Poznan Philharmonic Society and the Tatra Highlanders who executed a Highland Robbers dance.

Again and again, throughout the programme, demonstrations of solidarity and friendship for the young Polish artists

brought the audience of many nations cheering to its feet. As the Lodz cotton mill workers finished their Wielkopolska wedding dances, young men and women from the Thaelman Pioneer Republic ran up on to the stage and embraced the dancers.

A storm of applause broke out as the famous "Mazowsze" Folk ensemble ended their songs in Polish, Russian and German; the stage was covered with flowers thrown in from every part of the auditorium and for a long time the Opera House rang with shouts of "Bierut! Bierut!" The finale of the Symphony of Peace by the celebrated Polish contemporary composer Andrzej Panufik, performed by a youth symphony orchestra and accompanied by a choir of 300 young singers, deeply impressed the audience.

When the Polish artists left the theatre they were surrounded by crowds of spectators, who marched with them through the streets of Berlin until late into the night, singing songs of brotherhood and friendship.

Next day, at a meeting of thousands of girls from different lands in the Friedrichshof Park, a girl bricklayer from Warsaw, Alina Szarlinska, received one of the Golden Peace medals that were awarded to ten young peace workers.

Later, when representatives of the particular delegations went to Ravensbrück they paid homage to the memory of thousands of men and women brutally murdered in these Nazi "slaughterhouses." As they laid wreaths on the places of execution, Irena Rybczynska, another Polish girl delegate, told the assembly that it was the solemn promise of Polish youth to fight for peace and a better future for the younger generation together with the young people of the whole world, until victory is won.

"We will not allow another Ravensbrück," she said, "the chain of our brother friendship embraces the entire world, and there is no power which can break it."

With the captain. Part of the British youth delegation to Berlin, 800 of whom travelled on the Polish liner, m/s "Batory."





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