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9 p.m.	41	49	metres
11 p.m.	407 metres		
11.30 p.m.	41	49	metres

**POLISH RADIO (English Section) WARSAW, POLAND**

Vol. 9 No. 8  
AUGUST, 1954



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concentrated on ensuring that the land yields rich and bumper harvests, that our houses and schools become more beautiful, that output of linen, wool, footwear and silk increases and that life becomes better and happier.

"We wage a sacred struggle for ensuring that our children can study in peace, that they shall never hear the terrible scream of falling bombs, that they never roam homeless, a struggle for ensuring that our factories and mills work in peace.

"The Second Congress of our Party placed great and responsible but feasible tasks before the working class, the working people of town and country and before all the people of Poland. We have all the conditions for fulfilling these tasks with honour.

"We have an efficient, selfless and diligent working class; we have a diligent peasantry; we have a youth filled with enthusiasm and bubbling with energy; we have an intelligentsia that is capable and enthusiastic.

"We have a great and sincere friend—the Soviet Union whose assistance, counsel and example we feel at every step, in every sphere of our life; we have millions of friends not only in the Peoples' Democracies but throughout the world.

"Their solidarity multiplies our forces in the effort for further achievements. We know that every success and every achievement of ours represents a contribution to the struggle of all mankind for progress, justice, Socialism and Peace. In our consciousness, patriotism is closely and dissolubly linked with internationalism.

"We are against war, and our people who suffered so much—some six million Polish citizens were murdered by the Hitler criminals—will do everything to ensure that there are no more crimes and murders, no more destruction and burning; they will exert every effort to ensure that the Peace of our children and consequently, that of all children throughout the world is not disturbed."

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**THE TOOLS FOR THE JOB**

**H**OW HAS PEOPLE'S POLAND achieved so much during the ten years of its existence, where does it go from here? These questions are often asked and this month we devote our editorial column to answering them.

We do so, by quoting from Francizek Jozwiak, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party. Writing on behalf of the Party, Mr. Jozwiak states:—

"After the liberation from Hitler slavery, from the shackles of capitalist and landlord exploitation, the working people of Poland—from the Baltic to the Carpathians, from the Bug to the Oder—enthusiastically got down to work.

"Our country became covered with scaffoldings of construction sites. Workers and peasants, the working intelligentsia, scientists and actors, all patriots joined in the struggle for the rehabilitation of the devastated country.

"The results of this effort, the results of our creative peaceful labour are the rebuilt towns and villages, the new factories, fine school buildings and universities, electricity in hundreds of thousands

of peasant houses, in the poems of Mickiewicz and Slowacki in the hands of the peasant men and women, our wonderful, unconquered and growing Warsaw—the Palace of Culture and Science, symbol of fraternity and friendship—crèches and kindergartens, our merry, smiling children in the squares and parks.

"The ten years of people's rule have seen the elimination of the age-old backwardness of our country. From an agrarian country Poland has been transformed into an industrial country, from a country filled with unemployment into a country with full employment, into a country of blossoming culture.

"New people and a new socialist attitude towards labour have appeared. And celebrating this Tenth Anniversary we honour not only the memory of those who gave their lives so that we might live a better life, we also honour those who were the first to display the new attitude towards life, towards labour.

"The ten years of our independence have been years of battle for man's happiness. To-day our struggle is no less responsible and calls for no less effort and selflessness. Our effort is now being



TEN YEARS' DEVELOPMENT

## Poland's Social Services

**P**ARALLEL WITH THE POLITICAL and economic changes during the last ten years, a social and cultural revolution has taken place in Poland. This is expressed in the great achievements of the working people; in the Labour code, social insurance, social benefits, the development of education, science, book reading, art, etc.

Even a very general view of the Labour Code shows the great progress made, and the changes for the better in comparison with pre-war times.

The working conditions in all spheres of the national economy have been

standardised. A 46-hour week is a general rule but in difficult conditions it is cut to 36. All manual workers are entitled to twelve days annual holiday after completing one year's work, fifteen days after three years' work and thirty days after ten years' uninterrupted work in one establishment.

An employee who has been transferred to another establishment does not lose his holiday rights. Apart from that the Code envisages special holidays for study purposes for those who attend schools and courses and additional holi-

days for those employed under onerous conditions.

Because of the character of their work and their importance in the national economy, miners, foundry-workers, ship-building workers and railwaymen receive special rights and privileges.

Special care is extended by the People's State over the young people. Young people over fourteen years of age are allowed to work as apprentices only. After six months' work they receive a fortnight's leave, and after one year—a month. In addition,

they are only allowed to work six hours a day and thirty-six hours a week. They are entitled to eighteen hours a week for study, which time is included in their week's working time.

The Code ensures for working women a twelve week maternity leave with full pay. It is forbidden to sack an expectant mother and the employers have the duty to see that she is put on lighter jobs six weeks before her confinement without reducing her wages. For four months before the confinement she must not be employed at night or do any overtime.

The tendency of the new legislature is to balance the disproportions that existed under the capitalist system between the wage and the salary earners, for instance, the extension of paid holidays for manual workers.

### No Restrictions

Under the new social system the position of women has undergone a fundamental change. The People's Government proclaimed the complete equality of women, not just apparent as it was before the war, opening before them unlimited possibilities of development and including them actively in the building of the new life.

The People's Government repealed all legislation that had restricted women's rights in the family. The new marriage, family and guardianship laws removed all restrictions as far as her rights to property and earnings are concerned; the exercising of parental duties and the appointment of guardians; her right to alimony for the child's benefit which gave protection to the unmarried mothers, etc.

### Priority Treatment

The right to work in all spheres of the national economy, equal pay for equal work rights, the protection of the interests of mother and child and the extended schooling system have led to an increase in the number of women working for wages. The percentage of women employed in the socialist economy, excluding agriculture, is as follows: 1950—29.6 per cent; 1951—30.4 per cent; 1952—32.0 per cent and in 1953—32.5 per cent.

The number of women with higher education is increasing continually. While in 1937/1938 the number of women graduates was 14,083, in 1952/1953 it exceeded 41,300.

Women play a growing part in the social and political life of the country. They are devoted workers in political parties, mass organisations, national front committees, Peace committees, many occupy important positions in

New Poland

Government departments, in the administration and the national economy.

The protection of the interests of Mother and Child is treated as priority. The whole country is covered with a close net-work of Mother and Child Welfare Centres and crèches which are organised in towns and the countryside alike. The number of crèches in towns exceeded 40,000 in 1953 which is 80 times more than before the war, in 1938. In 1953 the number of children attending kindergartens reached 348,000 which is four times more than in 1938.

### No Contributions

All citizens of People's Poland have, guaranteed by law, a right to health protection and to free medical treatment during their illness or disability.

As far as the Social Insurance is concerned, the full insurance contribution is paid by the employer, while before the war half the contribution had to be paid by the employee. Health Insurance covers all working people. Free medical treatment is given not only to those who are insured but also to their families, and pensioners and their families. Nearly 14.5 million people are insured, that is, 54 per cent of the population as compared with five million before the war or approximately 15 per cent.

The sickness benefit amounts to 70

per cent of the patient's earnings as compared with 50 per cent pre-war; maternity benefit is 100 per cent, before the war it was 50 per cent. There are also family allowances which are progressively increased for each child; for the wife who is not gainfully employed because she is looking after the children, studies or is not strong enough to go out to work; for brothers and sisters who are being supported by the person insured.

In case of death of the insured the family receives an equivalent of seven weeks' earnings of the insured and in case of death of a member of the family, up to three weeks' earnings.

The citizens' right to free health protection is supplemented by the ever growing net-work of sanitary installations and resulting from them the raising of the general standard of health in towns and in rural areas; and increasing number of hospitals, sanatoria, ambulances and First Aid stations, health centres and out-patient departments.

For example the number of hospital beds in 1953 was more than twice the number in 1938 and the number of





places in sanatoria—four times bigger than before the war. The average annual increase in the number of hospital beds is seven times bigger than before the war; between 1949 and 1953 it reached 28,000.

The question of safety and hygiene in industry, sadly neglected before the war, is of particular concern to the People's Government. The great achievements in safety and hygiene standards and precautions are best illustrated by the decreasing number of accidents at work. Between 1950 and 1953 accidents decreased by 30 per cent.

In the rural areas, apart from the already existing 1,700 health centres and surgeries, maternity wards are being set up with qualified midwives and nurses in attendance. In 1953 the number of these maternity wards reached 657 with 4,566 beds.

Prevention of disease schemes are developed on a great scale. Mass X-ray examinations, mass immunisations and special courses are conducted all over the country.

The problem of health protection is seriously being dealt with by scientists and research workers in the ten Medical Academies and in special Research Institutes, as for example: The State Hygiene Institute, The TB Institute, The Oncology Institute, The Psycho-Neurosis

Institute, etc.

Because of the great economic and social changes and the development of the Health Service, the general health of the Polish People has improved considerably, susceptibility to infectious diseases has decreased and the natural increase of population was in 1952, 82 per cent higher than in 1938. Infant mortality decreased by 40.6 per cent over the pre-war figure.

Great progress in the fields of education, schooling and science has been made during ten years of People's Poland.

#### Better Education

The People's State has stamped out illiteracy completely (before the war approximately 22 per cent of the population could neither read nor write) and made school education compulsory and universal. All Polish children attend primary schools after which all have a chance, according to their choice, to receive a further secondary grammar or technical education.

Between 1945 and 1953 the number of primary schools increased from 14,992 to 23,208.

Before the war only 45 per cent of the children received a seven-year course education, in 1953 it had increased to 87.3 per cent. The greatest changes took

place in rural areas where the four-year course schools were predominant. Today there are nearly 11,000 seven-year course schools in the countryside which is five times more than before the war.

The secondary grammar education which is now fully accessible to the children of working class and peasant origin is developing successfully. Before the war only 13.7 per cent of those children were able to receive secondary grammar education, to-day 61 per cent do so. In 1953/1954, 67,000 workers and peasants attended 1,606 special elementary schools where they supplemented their education.

The ever-growing national economy places great tasks before the vocational training schools. 600,000 pupils (pre-war 90,000) attend various types of vocational training schools. Between 1950 and 1953, 146,000 technicians and 345,000 qualified workers graduated from them.

In 1952 there were 120,000 students at 79 universities and colleges as compared with 48,000 students at 27 universities before the war. The number of scholarship-students alone is one-and-a-half times larger than the whole of the student population before the war. The proportion of students of worker or peasant origin at universities and colleges in 1953 was 34.1 per cent and 25 per

cent respectively while before the war the figures were 8.8 per cent and 8.4 per cent respectively.

Education outside the schools and universities improves the general standard of education. For instance various study courses, reading groups, public lectures, reading rooms in libraries, Houses of Culture and clubs, have a great influence on the general standard of culture.

#### Wide Culture

During 1953 the Universal Knowledge Society alone organised over 107,000 public lectures; the number of public libraries increased in 1953 to 4,507 as compared with 1,033 in 1938; the number of Trade Union libraries increased to 5,280 and the number of Library Distribution Points in the countryside to 33,000.

Polish science has found great possibilities of development under the new social system. Every achievement of Polish science and technique is closely connected with every-day needs and with the needs of the national economy in the fight for progress.

The Polish Academy of Sciences leads the whole of the scientific work in Poland and in addition carries out, in its own field, planning and research, of particular importance to the national economy.

Alongside the increasing well-being and the cultural level of the masses of

the Polish people over the ten years of People's rule, runs the universal development of artistic creativeness which pictures and moulds reality, serving the nation in her peaceful work of construction.

The People's State appreciates every creative effort of a scientist and an artist alike. Great care is extended by the State over young talent which can fully develop in the many existing art schools; cultural institutions are growing; artistic activity is encouraged and helped, art societies are subsidised by the State, works of art are being purchased by the State, special donations are given if necessary, many individual prizes are given to artists.

#### More Theatres

The aim of making culture accessible to all is furthered by the organisation of mass art exhibitions all over the country, demonstrations, lectures, meetings between the writers and the readers, plays, concerts and topographical excursions.

There are now one hundred established theatres in Poland which is twice the pre-war number. The number of cinemas in towns exceeded 2,000 in 1953 (756 in 1949) and the number of permanent cinemas in the countryside increased to 1,225 as against 78 in 1949. The Amateur Art Movement grows and the number of Workers' Drama Groups exceeded 10,460 in 1953, while the Peasant Groups reached 7,600.

### Construction

*Ten years in the history of mankind is a very short period, seldom marking any great changes in the lives of states and nations. To Poland however the last ten years were not just an unimportant, short passage in her history, on the contrary, they constituted a splendid epoch of fundamental political, economic, social and cultural changes, an epoch of really great achievements.*

*What factors decided these changes, where did they originate?*

*FIRSTLY, the release of the enormous creative potentialities of the working people which resulted from the taking over of the Government by the people and the building of the new system on principles of social justice.*

*SECONDLY, the introduction and gradual development of the Socialist, planned economy, which ensures a full utilisation of and a universal harmonious increase in the productive powers.*

*THIRDLY, the fraternal help given by the Soviet Union to the young People's Democracy from the moment of its inception. Help expressed not only in the supply of vital goods and raw materials, not only in the credits on very easy terms and the immediate technical help in the realisation of great investment projects, but also in making available to the young Democracy the rich treasure of experience in Socialist construction.*

*Polish people, united as never before, are building a new life, developing their economic potentialities, multiplying their social and cultural achievements. Their strength increases with the knowledge that in this way they not only lay strong foundations for their future prosperity but also that they contribute towards the strengthening of the world Peace Movement of which Poland is an important part.*

## British Miners Visit Poland

THREE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL Executive Council of the National Union of Mineworkers visited Poland in June. They were Mr. James Kelly, Mr. Richard Griffiths and Mr. Thomas Doyle, who before leaving Warsaw for London issued a joint statement to the Polish Press and radio.

The text of the statement as published by the Polish Press Agency is as follows:—

"We, as an official delegation from the National Union of Mineworkers of Great Britain, representing 700,000 members, bring to you our most cordial and fraternal greetings.

"The welcome that has been given to us since our arrival in your beautiful country, we reciprocate to the full, and express our deep thanks for the generosity shown to us.

#### Kinship

"We are engaged in the most dangerous industry, shut off from the sun. The risks and dangers to life and limb, bind us more closely together, and fasten a kinship between us, because of our common problems to secure greater safety and health measures in the interest of our members that we represent.

"During our short stay, we have seen the shambles left behind as a result of war, and the reconstruction which has taken place since and is still in progress. Such courage, vision and determination marks the soul of your people, as they are a proud race, who never willingly bore the yoke of the tyrant or the invader.

Your country has given birth to noble men and women, who have left their mark in the realms of art, science, literature and music, enriching the human race in its onward march to economic freedom. We have the same aspirations towards our ultimate objective of peace, security, and goodwill to all men.

"We can assure you we shall give a factual report to our colleagues on our return, and at the same time urge a closer bond of friendship between the peoples of the world, that never again war shall raise its ugly head, leaving in its train hate, blood and tears.

"On this note we leave you and will always cherish pleasant memories of our visit to your country."

(See next page)

During July representatives from the Executive Committees of four British Trade Unions toured Poland as guests of their opposite numbers. At the conclusion of their visit they issued a statement to the Polish Press and Radio in which they spoke of

## The Energy and Courage of the Polish People

ON BEHALF OF OUR DELEGATION, consisting of comrades Joseph Hamilton, Thomas Burns, John King, and Ralph Finlayson, members of the Amalgamated Union of Foundry Workers, comrades Constance Bourne, Clive Dougherty, John Deans, and Richard Woolf, members of the National Executive Committee of the Association of Engineering and Shipbuilding Draughtsmen, and myself Harold Poole, General Secretary of the National Society of Coppersmiths, Braziers and Metal Workers:

We wish to extend our thanks to you for your courtesy and hospitality since our departure from England.

We have been shown every consideration and have had the best accommodation you could offer, together with the services of expert interpreters who have not only been interpreters, but friends to us all, and may we take the opportunity of saying how grateful we are to them. Our sincere wish is that at an early date we can reciprocate your abundant generosity and kindness.

### Will Be Remembered

After visiting a number of cities in Poland we were shocked by the devastation we witnessed especially in Warsaw, which has to be seen to be believed. We note with satisfaction the energy which has gone into the reconstruction of these cities and pay our tribute to the advancement you have made. We are particularly interested in the cultural side of your life, seen in the many places we have visited.

Your rebuilding and reconstruction programme, including public buildings, churches and historical buildings, is a grand achievement and will be remembered by your countrymen. We note that your churches are well attended.

Your housing centres and factories are a credit to the nation, together with the well-equipped health centres, schools, clinics, crèches and holiday centres.

With regard to education it has been a pleasure to see your schools, colleges, universities, and the Palace of Youth, which, coupled with the enthusiasm of your students shows great promise for the future.

Owing to the large range of interest in the engineering and shipbuilding industry it was necessary for the delegation to divide. We have visited Trade Union offices and officials at all levels, and have spoken to your people in many walks of life.

### Trade Union Power

In viewing the development of your industries we were naturally using the British industry as a yard stick, and on this basis we considered that factory conditions of working have not yet reached the best standards in our country. We realise however, this year you and your people are celebrating their Tenth Anniversary. This being so, the development is outstanding. We would say, however, many features are as good, and in some cases better than our own.

Your Trade Unions are conscious of the need for accident prevention and safety of the workers, although we found on occasions that much of the training workers had received, was not being used to the best advantage.

Whilst noting the shortage of mechanical aids in the industry in those places which were equipped with these machines they were used well and competently handled.

The Trade Union organisation differs from our own, yours being on an industrial basis, and ours, in the main, being on a craft basis.

Membership of your unions is voluntary and there is freedom of association. We were impressed by the power the Trade Unions have, their wide range of activities, and the real benefits that have already been achieved for the workers, by their efforts.

It was not possible to observe in

detail the administration of local government, but we did meet the President and members of the Presidium of the Poznan People's Council, and those of us with experience of local government were impressed with the similarity to our administration in Great Britain. We find women holding positions in administration a feature of your national life similar to our own, but in industry we do not find this position so pronounced in our country.

After all you as a nation have gone through, we feel to criticise would be ungrateful, although at the same time we feel that perhaps the three things that seem worthy of some comment are, transport, mechanisation, and hygiene. Here, we believe tremendous progress is necessary and feel sure that in a few years time, these will be up to the standard of your other achievements.

### Keep as Reminder

We, like you, are proud of our country, and believe that we have much to offer you, and you too have much to offer us, and one day we hope free international trade will be a reality when all countries of the world can trade freely without interference and without exclusion of any one country.

The saddest thing we saw was the former concentration camp at Auschwitz and think that for all time you should keep that place as a memorial to those who were murdered there, and as a reminder to the whole world what full military power in Germany could bring about again.

We would be grateful if you would stand with us as a mark of respect to the 4,000,000 comrades, gassed and murdered by the Nazis in their bid for power and conquest.

We congratulate you on your achievements, we thank you for the invitation to your country, may you prosper and take your proud position among the nations of the world.

## Trade Union Delegation

OVER in Poland last month to celebrate with the Polish people on the Tenth Anniversary of National Liberation Day were twenty-five elected British delegates. All but two, who represented Tenants' Associations, were elected by their fellow trade unionists, at District, Branch, factory or site level.

### Building Workers

Mr. T. R. James, London, elected by the Lambeth Borough Branch, A.U.B.T.W.

Mr. G. F. Johns, London, elected by the Camberwell Branch, A.U.B.T.W.

Mr. S. Le May, London, elected on the Bishopbridge Road Site.

Mr. H. R. Chilton, Hounslow, elected by the Hounslow Branch, A.S.W.

Mr. T. Ball, Wembley, elected by the Wembley Branch, A.U.B.T.W.

### Boilermakers

Mr. W. Dougan, Glasgow, elected by the Clydebank District Committee of the Boilermakers' Union.

Mr. F. E. Williams, Port Talbot, elected by the Joint Craftsman's Committee, Steel Co. of Wales.

### Electrician

Mr. L. Hesse, Liverpool, elected by the Liverpool Station Branch, E.T.U.

### Engineers

Mr. P. Ellis, Elstree, elected by the Harrow Branch, A.C.T.

Mr. J. Parnham, Newark, elected by the Joint Shop Stewards' Committee, Ransome and Marles.

Mr. R. B. Barker, Chesterfield, elected by the Shop Stewards' Committee, Sheepbridge Stokes.

Mr. J. Reoch, Glasgow, elected by Shop Stewards' Committee, Weirs Engineering Works.

Mr. W. Larkin, Liverpool, elected by the Shop Stewards' Committee, Automatic Telephone.

Mr. B. Conlan, Manchester, elected by the Shop Stewards' Committee, Reynolds Works.

Mr. F. G. S. Hill, London, elected by the workers at Oliver Pell & Co.

Mr. R. Jeffs, London, elected by the workers at Woolwich Arsenal.

### Railway Workers

Mr. T. C. Corbett, Glasgow, elected by the Parkhead Branch, A.S.L.E. & F.  
Mr. A. Glass, Glasgow, elected by the Glasgow No. 9 Branch, N.U.R.

### Textile Workers

Mr. W. Smith, Nelson, elected by the Nelson Clothlookers & Warehousemen's Association.

Mr. N. Ryder, Nelson, elected by the Works Committee, Walter Pollard.

### Vehicle Builders

Mr. A. Lloyd, Leeds, elected by the Crossgates Branch, N.U.V.B.

Mr. H. Sunarsky, Stanmore, elected by the Shop Stewards' Committee, Vanden Plas.

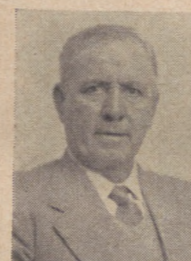
Mr. G. D. Chown, London, elected by the Works Committee, Thrupp & Maberley.

### Tenants' Associations

Mrs. A. Noble, Glasgow, Secretary of the Scottish Council of Tenants' Associations, representing the Council.

Mr. A. Taylor, London, Chairman of the Montague Street Tenants' Association, representing the Association.

## From the Society



T. Davidson



Irene Johnson



R. Horton

New Poland



R. J. Lain



Elsie Rhind



G. Green

DELEGATIONS COME AND GO but still the work of the Society goes on all the year round. And, of course, each and every active member would dearly love to visit Poland. Last month six very active members did, in fact, go to Poland.

They went as special guests, selected by the Executive Committee, to gain first-hand information which will help them in their work.

Top of the list of these lucky people was Mr. Lain of Norfolk who, month in and month out, regularly sells 60 copies of *New Poland*.

A Scots miner from Douglas Water, Mr. Davidson is another of our best salesmen. His union branch, which recommended him, sells 120 copies at the pit each month and have promised to increase this to 200.

Mr. Horton from Brighton and Mr. Green of Liverpool are two more of the consistent friends of Poland who were on the delegation. From Nelson there was Irene Johnson who in recent months has done much to put the Society on the map in this Lancashire textile centre.

Last but by no means the least is the old faithful, the Society's technical secretary, Elsie Rhind who as you know is a leading member of the Society's Polish Folk Dance Group.

The next issue of

“NEW POLAND”

will carry special reports of the Tenth Anniversary Celebrations in Poland. Speeches made, to mark the occasion, by Boleslaw Bierut and other Government spokesmen will also be reported.

NOW IN PREPARATION!

THE DELEGATES' REPORT

which will contain the story of this year's T.U. delegation and their statements.

BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER

Ready at the end of the month ORDER YOUR COPIES NOW

## CULTURAL REVOLUTION

# Peasant Embroidery . . .



THE POLAND OF CENTURIES AGO—great tracts of virgin forest: tall pine and oak and alder, beech and birch and elm sighed in the bitter winds or gave deep shade from summer's blazing sun: auroch and bison, elk, wildcat and lynx roamed the forest tracks. The Poland of centuries ago—on the plains between the forests, the peasants tilled their soil, their women sat before their huts in summer or over primitive fires in winter, working at their many coloured embroideries and their delicate lace.

The individuality and originality in forms of art in different regions was preserved entire. This specific original

character is met in the different regions of Poland in buildings and in household equipment, in home-spun materials, in garments and embroideries. This specific original character is one of the features which so charms foreign visitors to the Polish countryside.

The embroideries and lace with so long a tradition behind them are to-day popular throughout Poland. Before the war, they were a luxury, available only to the few; they were bought from the peasant women at low prices by individual capitalist shopkeepers and sold at fantastically high prices to maintain their exclusive character in the hands of bourgeois purchasers. But to-day, the State pays the craftswoman well for her

work and sells that work in State stores at moderate prices which brings it within the reach of every household.

Not only Poland, by any means, is interested in these beautiful examples of handcraft. More and more laces and embroideries are exported. Prior to the war, there was no co-ordination of the skill of embroidery and lace workers, who plied their delicate craft as a home industry for their own circle and a contact or two among shopkeepers. That, too, the people's State has changed, to the great advantage of the lace and embroidery workers and with the result that their creations are available to and purchased by the people of many countries.

New Poland

Individual craftswomen have been linked together in handcraft co-operatives, advised by artists and experts how to adapt their craft genius to meet the needs of modern foreign purchasers, and the State export concerns purchase their output on a contract basis so that to-day there is an ample supply of the beautiful work in Kassubian style from the district of Gdansk, of Kurpie and Lowicz embroideries, of the point and bone lace of Cieszyn Silesia.

### A Wider Application

The Kassubian embroideries originated from the patterns of head-dresses made and formerly worn by the Kassubian women. They are made in seven colours, and represent stylised flowers and leaves in the shape of nosegays, wreaths and branches. The styles from the now impractical head-dresses have been transferred to such articles as table linen, ladies' dresses, blouses and sun suits, children's clothes, handkerchief sachets and so on.

To similar purposes the experts have taught the craftswomen of the Kurpie district, North East of Warsaw, to apply the beautiful embroideries once limited to their lovely—but for city life not very practical—bodices. Kurpie embroideries are made by three methods—with red thread on white linen fabrics, with white thread on unbleached materials, and with white thread on tulle. In embroideries with red thread, a certain amount of black thread is added to emphasise the basic ornamental elements, such as circles, semi-circles, plants and decorative stitchery.

All the romanticism employed by the women of Lowicz, another famous centre of embroidery, in imitating nature is retained in the decorative schemes designed for articles of everyday use. Traditionally the Lowicz women have been known for the highly coloured picturesqueness of their costumes, their billowing skirts in stripes of many colours. Their bodices were at first embroidered in red, pink and yellow, in decorative designs representing plants and stars and other phenomena of nature.

### Has a Place

It is these designs and colour schemes which are now worked by the descendants of the originators of the craft on table cloths, dressing table sets, aprons and children's clothes. In this way, the small masterpiece of old, which was tending to become a museum piece, is taking its place on Polish and world markets as an object of popular artistic industry.

And, of course, there is lace—for dress yokes, for lingerie, for breakfast and coffee sets, for bed linen. The women in the highlands and at the foot

New Poland

of the mountains in Cieszyn Silesia have created a great lace industry, adding to point and bone lace, tulle lace, crochet lace and net lace. Helped by State purchasing contracts, the lace industry has extended the variety of its designs and adjusted them to contemporary requirements. These are not the commonplace

factory patterns: they combine utility with aesthetic, original and ethnographic qualities.

The photographs show the designs from the Lowicz area. Even the wallpaper in the picture below has the same basic design



# . . . and Fine Lace

By GEORGE BIDWELL

Last month we published a selection of the many messages sent to Poland to mark British-Polish friendship on the occasion of Poland's National Liberation Day. Below are a few more. All messages received have been forwarded to Poland, they indicate the breadth of the

## Greetings from Britain

### TRADE UNIONS

ON behalf of the Executive Council of my Union I have very much pleasure in sending to the people of Poland fraternal greetings on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of Poland's National Liberation Day.

We hope that the bonds of friendship formed between the work people of our two countries will be still further strengthened during the coming year.

**W. C. STEVENS,**  
General Secretary, Electrical Trades Union.

ON the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Liberation of your country, we, the Executive Council of the Watermen, Lightermen, Tugmen and Bargemen's Union, send you, on behalf of our members most cordial greetings. Your struggle against adversity to create for your people a new Poland out of the desolate ruins of war has been an example to all workers of the post war world. As you progress year by year the need for co-operation between our two countries becomes even more apparent.

On this happy day, your 10th Anniversary, we from the London River extend to you across the sea our most sincere fraternal greetings, realising as you do, the great and immediate need, in this troubled world of to-day, for the workers of our two great nations to draw closer together in order to assist the whole Labour Movement in their efforts to preserve world Peace. With our best wishes, for and on behalf of the Executive Council.

**W. LINDLEY,**  
General Secretary.

THIS London (South) District Committee of the Amalgamated Engineering Union send fraternal greetings on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Liberation of your country. We have, from time to time, received reports from our delegates who have visited your country and we have been much impressed by the progress made

and the activity of the workers to rebuild their country. We pledge that we will work for Peace with all countries that are prepared to co-operate to ensure that the workers shall enjoy a full and happy life.

**S. F. HILL,**  
District Secretary,  
South London District A.E.U.

### CO-OP GUILDS

THE English Women's Co-operative Guild send warmest Co-operative greetings to the people of Poland on this 10th Celebration of their National Liberation Day. We wish you all success in the immense reconstruction you have undertaken and also in your valiant efforts to provide prosperity and happiness for all your people. May our traditional bonds of friendship and our mutual interests remain unshaken so that we can co-operate together for Peace throughout the whole world.

**MABEL RIDEALGH,**  
General Secretary,  
Women's Co-operative Guild.

THE members of our Guild send greetings to our fellow Co-operators in Poland on the 10th Anniversary of the end of hostilities. We who have known the havoc caused by war and have shared in the struggle to rebuild devastated areas, whose aim is to improve the conditions of all people by peaceful means, congratulate you on your achievements. We pray that we may have Peace in our time.

Yours in Co-operation.

**L. REEVES,**  
Secretary, West Norwood Women's  
Co-op Guild.

WE send to you our best wishes on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of National Liberation Day. May the people of both our countries continue to live in peace and friendship in order to build a better world for ourselves and our children. We wish you everything you wish yourselves.

**D. C. DALLAMORE,**  
Secretary, Shepherd's Bush Women's  
Co-op Guild.

### INDIVIDUALS

WILL you kindly add my greetings to the list of those being sent to Poland on the Anniversary of her Liberation. I saw the terrible devastation of Warsaw after the last war and am glad to learn of the great progress made in reconstruction, which I hope to see on another visit. It is my earnest wish that the cultural and trade relations of this country and Poland should be strengthened, and I am doing everything possible for that end.

**LORD BOYD-ORR.**

TIMES move swiftly. It is ten years already since your happy Liberation, my dear Polish friends; and already you have gone far, in towns and in the country, in industrial and in cultural activities, to build in freedom a newer and finer Poland that is gloriously Polish at the same time as it is gloriously marching to Socialism.

In your hard struggle the building of your new Warsaw stands out as an incredible achievement, which warms the hearts and brightens the eyes of all who see it; you have other achievements too which would seem incredible to those who do not understand the Polish people and who do not understand the power of all peoples who build Socialism.

To your first ten years of construction and reconstruction, may you add more and more wholly new construction of new human wealth, in Peace. And may you Polish people, and we British people, with many others joining in, make sure together to maintain Peace without which none of us can be sure even of living.

**D. N. PRITT.**

I OFTEN look back on the interesting visit which I paid to Warsaw about two years ago, when I was very much impressed by the remarkable results achieved through the tremendous efforts made by the people of Warsaw in the reconstruction of their city. I imagine that if I went again now I should find the evidence of further progress equally astonishing.

I particularly recall with pleasure the contact which I had, both formal and informal, with the scientists of Warsaw and Cracow, and I am very pleased to have had the honour of addressing the Polish Academy of Sciences and to receive the hospitality of its members. Please convey on my behalf a special message of greetings to the President and members of the Academy of Sciences and give them my warmest wishes for every success in their labours.

**J. W. COOK, D.Sc., F.R.S.,**  
Professor of Chemistry,  
University of Glasgow.

## How Great Literature Is Born

"GREAT LITERATURE and art can only be born out of the closest wedlock with life, out of service to the people, out of the fight for the great cause of the people . . .

" . . . Creative passion flowing from love for man, for their own class, for their nation, linked with a deeper and deeper true knowledge of life and the laws which govern its development, will help our writers to create works of lasting value, worthy of our great epoch." Edward Ochab, secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party.



Jean Effel, the well-known French caricaturist, is seen here showing his technique to a Polish artist during his recent visit to Warsaw. Caricature plays an important role in Polish literature

# The PRINTED WORD

THE growing demand for more and more books has made the Polish printing industry one of the most important in the country. So this month *New Poland* spotlights the modern printing works in Warsaw.

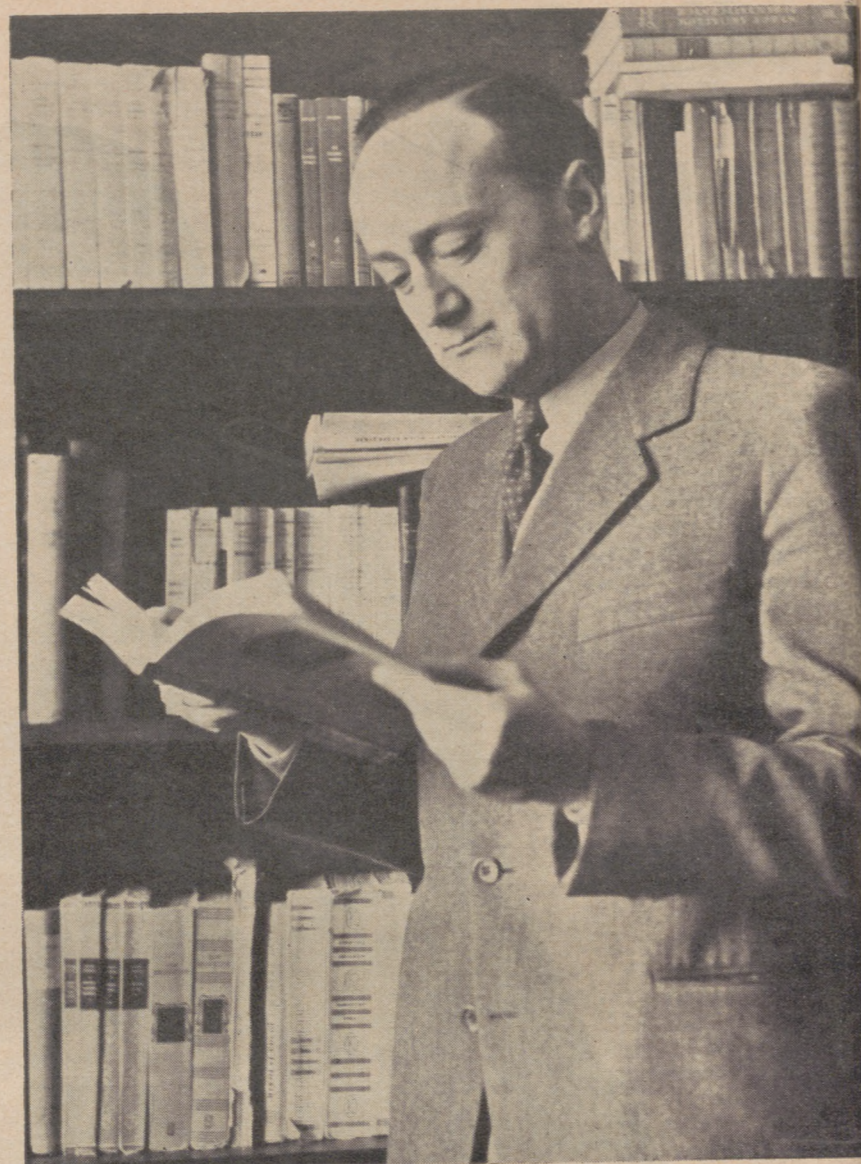
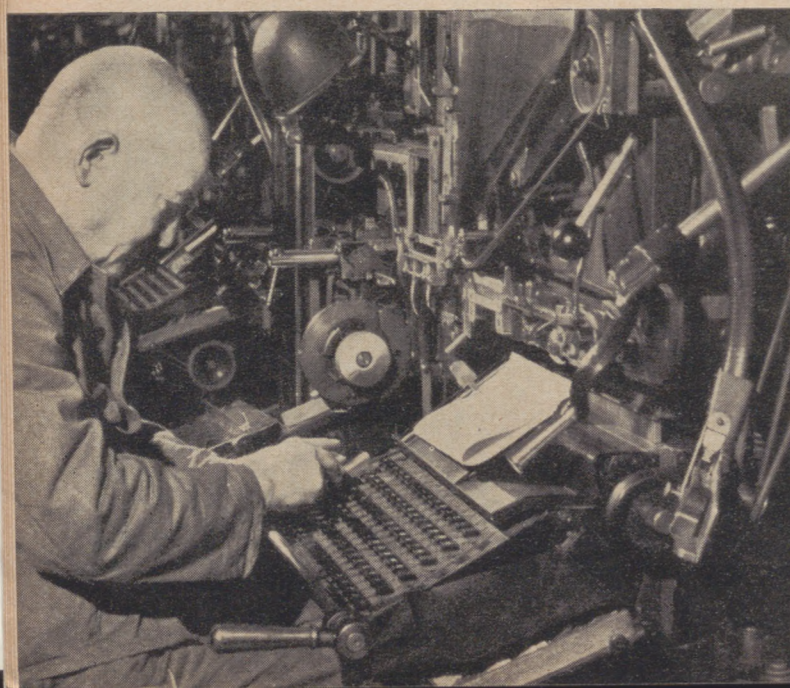
It was in this building that the 2nd World Peace Congress was held in 1950. It was this Congress which gave the building its name, *The House of Truth*.

Here not only daily newspapers, but periodicals, books, pamphlets, posters and . . . in fact every kind of printing, is done, both in black and white and in colour.

In Poland last year there were 4,507 libraries, twice as many as in 1948 and four times the number pre-war. In addition there were 5,280 Trade Union Libraries and 33,000 library points in the countryside. Ninety million books were published last year, more than three times the number in 1937.

This demand, which is increasing week by week, has meant that Poland's printing and publishing industries have had to be completely overhauled and modernised. As in all other industries in Poland, the welfare and working conditions of the work people in these two industries received first priority when this and other similar factories were planned.

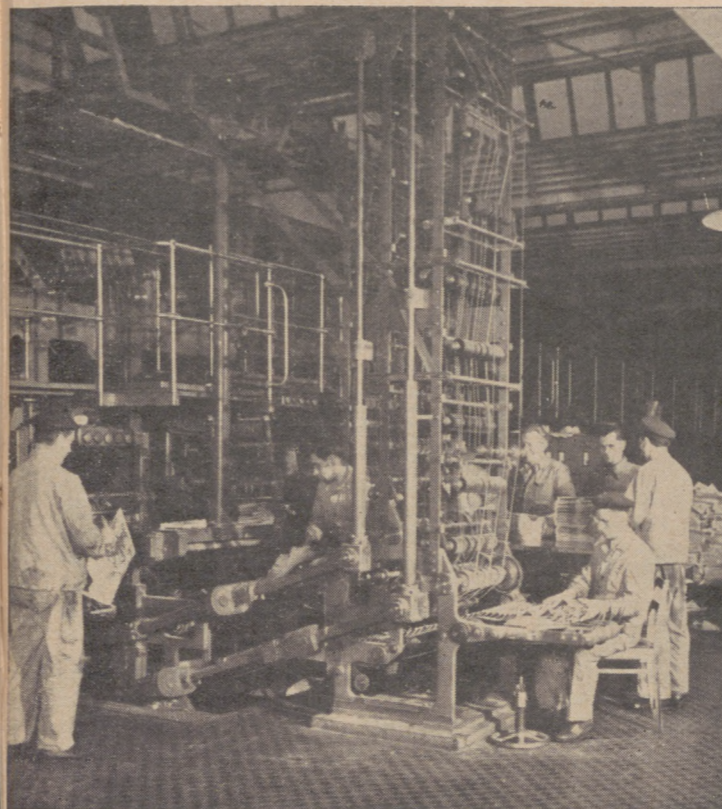
78-year-old linotype operator, Kazimierz Gawronski, sixty years in the trade, is the oldest worker in the works



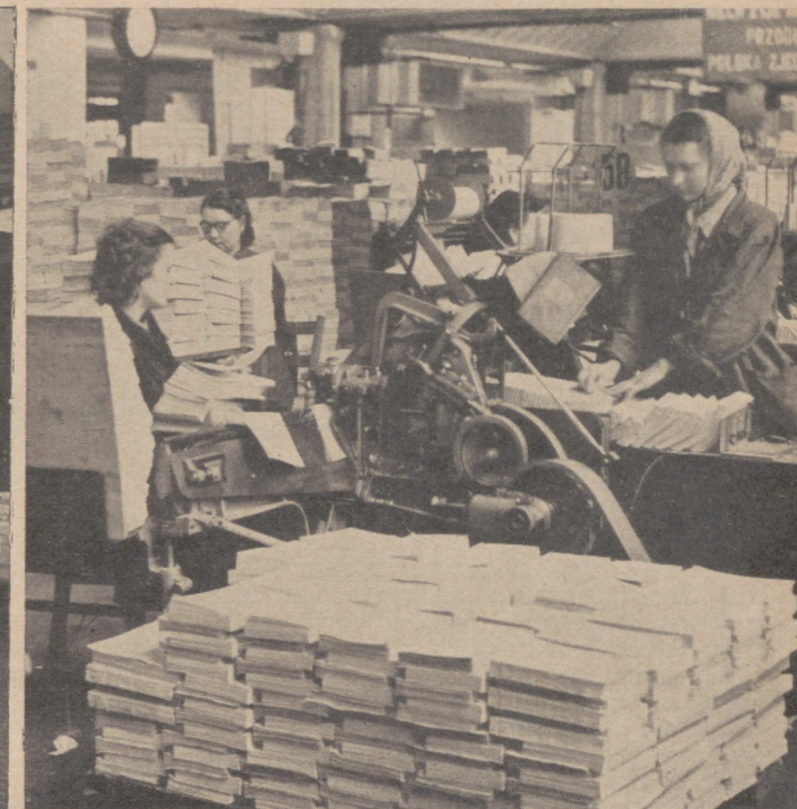
A well-known author, Kazimierz Brandys, inspects his latest book



The compositors' department in the book section



Coming off the press. On this new rotary they are able to produce a newspaper with a coloured front page



A final check-up in the book-binding department



Book pages are mechanically placed into their right position



The finished productions find their way to new modern bookshops where they are eagerly snapped up



So great is the interest, in this country, in the Mazowsze Song and Dance Ensemble that we make no apology for returning to it. In fact we asked our Warsaw Correspondent for his story and so now we publish his views

## The Workshop of Reality

By G.B.

PROBABLY DON'T NEED TO TELL YOU that Poland has a tremendous tradition of folk song and dance, carried on in countryside and town. But what I do find fascinating is the way in which that tradition is being not only carried on, but built on. The cultural revolution is taking the old tradition and improving on it, raising, in particular, standards of performance of the old songs and dances, and in so doing giving them a new delight and beauty, and carrying them from one district of the country to another.

In village halls and city theatres are danced today, more than ever, the world-famous Polonaises, Polkas, Mazurkas, Obereks—their origins going back beyond record, their performance handed down from father to son, from mother to daughter. I remember Dame Ninette de Valois, Director of the Sadler's Wells Ballet Company, saying when she was in Poland in 1947 that no dance teams in the world can dance the Mazurka like Polish teams.

### A Great Pyramid

Every village club, every House of Culture, every Workers' Club, has its groups, larger or smaller, orchestral, choral or ballet, devoted to learning and performing folk songs and dances. The Trade Unions have 1,600 amateur orchestras, 1,200 choirs, 1,500 ballet and folk dance groups. For a recent National Music Festival, the rural areas alone entered 204 amateur teams, gave 6,000 concert performances to audiences totalling close on a million.

At the apex of this pyramid of choral, orchestral and dance teams stand the several specially trained companies of young people in various centres throughout the country. The first of these to be formed—but, mind you, there are many, many more approaching it, if not equalling it in quality—the first, the pride and symbol of them all was

the——— But that story must be told from the beginning. . .

I was sitting with some friends in a Warsaw café, taking a moment to scan the newspaper headlines. *Workshops of the New Reality*, I read, and asked—"What's that? A craft co-operative?"

### Poetry of Life

A young music critic on the other side of the table smiled across at me. "Want to see it?" he asked. And then and there we got into his car and drove some fifteen miles out of Warsaw, through the village of Karolin. We turned in through great iron gates swinging on stone pillars. A large, square manor house, stone fronted. But still there was nothing to belie my first guess about the *Workshop of the New Reality*. Then the great door at the top of the steps opened, and I heard . . . Voices of youth. My friend the music critic smiled.

"Music, song and dance . . . young men and maidens . . . the threshold of life . . . the poetry of life . . . and what opportunities created for them by the cultural revolution," he said.

For this was the home of Mazowsze. The famous company of young musicians and singers and dancers. One of the brightest gems in the diadem of contemporary musical life in Chopin's country. Sixty-one girls and 54 boys from peasant homes here learning to be artists in music; learning on a new basis. They live in the Karolin mansion, live musically, until they are passed out to perform and to teach, to create other companies modelled on Mazowsze. Over 600 young students are already "old boys" and "old girls" of Mazowsze.

The Ministry of Culture put this Karolin Mansion at the disposal of the youthful company, supplied furniture, equipment, instruments, supplied instructors, and funds to maintain the students. I asked the director whether

all the students become professionals when they leave Karolin. "No, no," he answered. "Those who are selected for professional work, and want to go on with it are given five-year contracts. The others go back home and continue as amateurs. Wonderful stimulus they give to the song and dance teams in the villages. Practically all our students are from the homes of small farmers. The songs they sing and the dances they perform are based on themes from the countryside around their own homes."

### Famed Folk Loris

The Director took us into a huge salon. On the stage at one end, some fifty young people and half-a-dozen reed pipers. While the Director gave instructions, my music critic friend told me that that Director was a famed folk lore enthusiast and adaptor of folk themes to modern music forms. The choir sang their favourite—now an all-Poland favourite—*Cuckoo* song . . .

I thought how not so many years ago, a single family, preying on the people—on the fathers and grandfathers of these happy young people—had enjoyed the amenities of this mansion, occasionally hiring for their entertainment players and musicians. The young people's orchestra showed, by playing the *March of Friendship* that it is not only folk themes that the Mazowsze company deals in. "We, with all progressive mankind," say the words written to that March, "shall win the struggle for peace."

### So Different Now

I recalled the story by Henryk Sienkiewicz, Poland's great nineteenth century novelist, in which a peasant boy longed to own a violin, to pluck from it the music that pounded within him; he was desperately poor, he had no hope of being able to buy a violin. He broke into a house just to be able to fondle the instrument he dreamed of—and as punishment was so beaten by the manor owner that he ailed for a while and then died. What a contrast, I thought, with this People's Poland, where music, and the means to perform as well as to enjoy it are open to everybody.

. . . The ballet troupe performed a choreographic work based on rural wedding customs. . .

And I thought again of this mansion, now at last echoing the life and laughter and music of so many young people whose opportunity brings happiness to so many homes, and whose art brings joy to many more . . . New Music of New Poland . . . *Workshops of the New Reality* . . . New Musicians of New Poland.

# Lidia Grychtolowna

An Appreciation by Roy Sear

LIDIA GRYCHTOLOWNA, 26-YEAR-OLD Polish pianist is typical of the new Poland and her playing indicates all the optimism of her surroundings. This young woman has the sturdy qualities of the peasant and this is also reflected in her interpretation. Studying at Stalinogrod, she completed her course in 1951 and won the highest distinction.

I had the chance to hear her play Sonatas by Chopin and Beethoven in the same programme. These great composers are very different in their style and a comparison of the two performances reveals much. She has concentrated on Chopin, that is obvious from her performance, and she is also preparing for the 5th International Chopin Competition to be held in Warsaw next year.

The *Chopin D Flat Major Sonata* showed intense insight into the composer's special genius and this moved

her audience. But her performance of the *Beethoven C Major Sonata Op. 53* demonstrated a sureness of touch that some associate with the male pianist. By this I imply the dynamic qualities, the ability to record the alternation of exciting with the more subtle and smooth passages that have been thoughtlessly called an indication of the virile and manly touch.

Lidia has all of these. What she has not yet perfected, and this was most marked in this Beethoven sonata, is the finer susceptibility to tone, to the light and shade of the composer's often earthy qualities that are vital in Beethoven.

But if she lacks the subtlety of maturity she already demonstrates at twenty-six a distinctive ability and all the promise of the top-ranking pianist.

Quiet, unassuming, even a little shy, Miss Grychtolowna plays for the music and not for herself, a virtue often



absent in budding executants. I suspect that she has a liking for the moderns and had a glimpse of this in Ravels *Toccata* which she played with exuberant enthusiasm. It is not surprising that she has recently played with success in France, China and Germany.

## For Poland's Tenth Anniversary Celebrations Ewan MacColl wrote two new songs which already promise to become "Top Tunes"

### BALLAD OF THE NEW POLAND

I was born in the time of war and trouble,  
I was born in the dirt, in the dust, in the rubble,  
Of a five years war  
First thing I saw  
Was the Red Army coming and The Nazis running  
And the Wehrmacht shattered and scattered  
on the wind like straw.



Ewan MacColl

My daddy was a farmer, a seaman, a baker,  
A miner, engine-driver, boilermaker,  
Just a working man  
Who loved his land;  
But he got up one morning when the new  
day was dawning,  
And he found he was holding the future in  
the palm of his hand.

So he called out loud to his sisters and  
brothers,  
The navvies and the engineers and all the  
others;  
Said, "Now understand,  
This is our land;  
We'll lay a firm foundation for a peaceful  
nation"  
And the workers and the peasants joined  
together in a mighty band.

From the coast to the high Carpathian  
mountains,  
From the central plain and the leaping  
fountains  
Of the Tatras' streams  
From the deep coal seams,  
The words went ringing and the people came  
singing  
As they marched hand in hand to build the  
Poland of the people's dreams.

So they rolled up their sleeves and they got  
down to it;  
Said, "Our country needs rebuilding, boys,  
and we can do it!"  
And they made a plan,  
Then the work began,

A million shovels cleared the dirt and the  
rubble  
And the people worked together on the  
project like a single man.

They built mighty machines and houses to  
live in,  
Fine new cities for the kids to grow up in;  
You could hear them sing  
Above the hammer's ring  
"The future is with us and our labours will  
give us  
Everything we need and everything that  
peace will bring."

I'm ten years old and the world's my  
neighbour  
Getting stronger every day with peaceful  
labour;  
Sick of war and strife,  
Want to live my life  
Building and planting and singing and  
dancing,  
And walking arm in arm with Mister Every-  
body and his wife.

### TEN YEARS OLD TO-DAY (Gaelic Folk Melody)

The sun is shining in the sky,  
Our world is young and gay,  
The song thrush greets the morning,  
I'm ten years old to-day.

The fruit is ripening on the bough,  
The wheat is in the ear;  
The lads and girls are dancing  
To greet my birthday year.

The stone and steel we planted,  
Has made a harvest fine,  
Of houses, schools and factories,  
And all of them are mine.

So let us join our voices  
And sing out loud and clear;  
And call for peace's blessing  
On this our birthday year.

# Polish Films — The Latest Releases



The finest artists in Poland are engaged on poster work, and unfortunately the black and white reproductions here lose much of their beauty. Above is the poster for "The Little Goat." Left, that for "Ancient City of Warsaw." On the opposite page are shown posters for "Five Boys of Barska Street" and for "Cracow In The Year 1505."

POLAND'S ENTRY TO THE EIGHTH International Edinburgh Film Festival is larger this year than it has ever been before. At the time of writing seven films have been submitted to the selection committee including two prize-winners from the 1954 Festival at Cannes, Ford's 115-minute colour feature film *Five Boys of Barska Street* and Bossak's 20-minute documentary in black and white and colour, *Ancient City of Warsaw*.

All the films have been carefully chosen in accordance with the theme of the Festival—*Towards a New and Living Cinema*. In fact, the films of the young Polish cinema, ten years old this year, are peculiarly suited to the expression of such a theme seeking as they do to represent, and play their part among, a people building for themselves a new life out of the absolute destruction of war.

## Documentaries That Teach

*To-morrow It Will Be Fine* and *Flowers of The Valley* are concise, carefully constructed ten-minute educational films in black and white, one about the way the weather is forecast in Europe, the other illustrating through the story of one school the practical and theoretical values of learning botany.

These films are two of the large number made to meet the demands of the new Polish educational system, a demand not only from the schools but from adult education centres, village co-operatives, trade unions, universities and the like. *To-morrow It Will Be Fine*, particularly, has some excellent animated sequences and has, perhaps, a rather special interest for us in view of the meteorological disasters this summer.

## Specially For Children

*The Eagle's Track*, a ten-minute general interest black and white documentary, reflects the encouragement given to all kinds of sport in post-war Poland. Concerned with ski-ing and mountaineering it describes in popular fashion, equipment, training and methods of climbing in the Tatra Mountains.

All the other films are in colour, or partly in colour. *The Little Goat*, a children's cartoon film, represents at one and the same time the latest in Polish animated techniques and the kind of short film now produced in Poland specially for children.

New Poland



*Cracow In The Year 1505* is a reconstruction of medieval Cracow through drawings of the period reminiscent of the work of Durer. A wealthy merchant, Behemer, commissioned these drawings together with a faithful account in verse and prose of the life of his contemporaries, high and low. This account, one of the richest historical sources of its kind in Europe, has been turned into a memorable film, startling in the way it brings to life by camera movement, close up and cutting, a society four hundred years dead.

This film is also a useful introduction to *The Ancient City of Warsaw*, since the drawings in Behemer's manuscript undoubtedly helped the architects who reconstructed in two years the oldest part of Warsaw stone for stone as it was before the war in styles of architecture dating back seven centuries.

## His Greatest Production

Half in black and white, half in colour *The Ancient City of Warsaw* records tenderly and movingly a great act of faith in the future of mankind and a reverence for his past. The poetic French commentary by Roger Vaillard which won much favourable comment at Cannes is the basis of the English commentary by Montagu Slater. "It takes a great deal of faith and hope," says Slater at the close of the film, "and it takes a great deal of love to build a house . . . think what it means to rebuild a capital city seven centuries old."

The ruins of Warsaw and its reconstruction, a reconstruction of people and human values as well as of material things, are the background also to

New Poland

Alexander Ford's *Five Boys of Barska Street*. It is Ford's greatest film, surer, more mature in touch than *The Young Chopin*, emphasising the high place this Polish artist may now claim among Europe's film directors.

The story is based on the novel by Kazimierz Kozniewski which was published under the same title in May, 1952. Alexander Ford prepared the script of the film in collaboration with Kozniewski in such a form that it became a study of the early days of the reconstruction of Warsaw.

## Victory Celebration

The action takes place during the years 1947-48 in Warsaw, particularly on the construction sites of the East-West Highway. The film opens in a courtroom where five young boys, accused of robbery with violence, are given a suspended sentence in a corrective institution and placed on probation under the care of a specially chosen guardian, the bricklayer Wojciechowski. Wojciechowski is not in court and finds his charges in the house of one of the five, drunkenly celebrating their victory over the law. He gets work for three of them on the building of the East-West Highway, places the fourth with the editor of a newspaper and takes on the fifth himself as an apprentice bricklayer. The new life and its opportunities fire the enthusiasm of the youngsters.

## Plenty of Action

But they cannot so easily rid themselves of the influence of their old gang-leader, Zenon, who employed them in contraband deals during the occupation and wishes to use them, henceforth, for his own purposes.

The boys, according to their characters, react differently to Zenon's provocations—first the beating and killing of the young Radzichewski, thought to know too much of the gang's activities, then gun-running and trafficking in foreign currency. Kaziak, played by Tadeusz Janczar, becomes the first to rid himself of the influences of his past life.

## People Believe in Him

His work, and the love of a young girl, Hanka, (Alexandra Slaska) help him to realise the happy life that might be his. The affair with Hanka, which begins when she appears on the site, objecting to the bad work of the operator of the excavator, on which he is working, only succeeds after a number of incidents which emphasise the odious nature of the activities Zenon wants to impose on him, activities which threaten his own life and the lives of his friends.

He owes his safety to Marek, one of his friends, who tells Hanka about the criminal action inspired by Zenon. Through her the action is forestalled by the police. Though wounded by Zenon in the chase through the ruins and sewers of the city Kaziak lives because, says Hanka, "People believe in him."

These Polish entries for the Edinburgh Festival, large in relation to Polish production, and the best that Poland can send, emphasise the growing importance of film exchange between the two countries. Though few Polish feature films have yet been exhibited commercially in Britain—*Five Boys of Barska Street* is being shown at the National Film Theatre, London for a short season during September—Poland has taken and exhibited publicly forty-one British feature films since the war including *The Conquest of Everest*.

## British Films in Poland

Besides this, the British Council in Warsaw maintains a library of British short films of which *Forward a Century*, for example, is very popular and the Polish Government itself has bought for use among Polish miners a number of instructional films made by the National Coal Board.

This is the way to greater understanding between the peoples of the two countries, an understanding which the Edinburgh Festival will certainly help to strengthen.

NOTE.—All the Polish films mentioned in this article, and many others, are available for non-commercial use from *Films of Poland*, 81, Portland Place, London, W.1. Write for free illustrated catalogue.



# Jas and Malgosia

Once upon a time there lived Jas and Malgosia . . . that's the way all good fairy stories start, but this is not a make-believe fairy story. The characters are real people, Malgosia and Marek, happy and healthy Warsaw children who live on the Mokotow Estate . . .



Four-years-old Malgosia starts her day with a kiss for her "daughter" Kasia, who is also her bed mate

New Poland



Tongue between the lips for concentration. This is how to cut out paper dolls, it's so easy . . . .



From the doll to a "real" baby. Brother Marek, is attended to with more seriousness than skill. It doesn't hurt!

New Poland



. . . . Well maybe it is a bit difficult for Marek but he's only eighteen months old and so mummy has to help



At mealtimes Malgosia can manage nicely so the baby claims all mother's attention. His hair certainly doesn't look as if big sister put the finishing touches to it

The prospects of East-West Trade, once discussed only by a minority in the progressive movement, have now become the subject for many international discussions. The question continues to become of major importance to more and more people, and so in answer to many requests we publish below an outline of Poland's export and import requirements. We feel that this information will be both interesting and useful.

# Poland's Foreign Trade

By Ernest Hanwell



The Polish ship "Mazury" is seen here discharging a cargo of cocoa in Gdynia. During the current year cocoa imports will be sixty per cent greater than last year

**W**HAT ARE THE PROSPECTS OF trade with Poland? This question is perhaps the most common of the many I have been asked in recent months.

Not only are workers, worried about short time working and unemployment, asking it, but representatives of many managements are also interested. I don't think it is an exaggeration to say it has become the number one question put to New Poland.

At the outset let me say, Poland is prepared to trade with any country on an equal basis.

While I was in Poland in May, I was told time and again of their desire to buy British-made machines and other goods.

No doubt about it there is a very large market for many of the things we can and do export. And Poland is able to supply us with many things which we need.

Last year there was a considerable increase in trade between Poland and Britain as well as between Poland and Denmark, Turkey, the Argentine and Brazil; although the total value between Poland and the capitalist countries remained at the same level as in 1949.

However, since 1949 Poland's foreign trade has increased many times and so this means that the trade with capitalist countries is a smaller percentage of the whole.

## Changing Pattern

During the past five years Poland has had 126 trade agreements, last year she traded with 71 countries, of which 30 had agreements for a year or more.

The increasing industrialisation of Poland together with the ever rising standard of living of the population, dictate her export and import trades.

The first exports from Poland after the war were coal, iron and steel, zinc and food-stuffs. Now, Poland is exporting sea-going ships, locomotives, trucks, heavy machine tools, mining machinery, lorries and a whole range of iron and steel goods. In 1949 these articles accounted for three per cent of the total exports, last year they had risen to 12 per cent.

This year there are still more changes in the range of exportable goods produced in Poland. Chemicals and minerals along with industrial goods will assume a greater importance. The amount of coal to be exported this year is the same as last year's total although coal output will be increased.

Poland will remain the largest coal exporting country in Europe.

As for Poland's imports, she still needs great quantities of iron ore, manganese, chromite, copper and other metals used in the machine-tool, iron and steel, electrical and ship-building industries. At the same time the growing number of motor cars and tractors require rubber, lubricants and fuel.

The intensive programme of mechanisation of Polish industry calls for the import of certain types of tractors, agricultural machinery, fertilisers and raw materials for the home production of artificial fertilisers, pest killers, seeds and fodder.

## Raw Materials

Compared with last year, this year Poland will import double the amount of phosphate fertilisers, 25 per cent more raw material for its production, 50 per cent more insecticides and 50 per cent more seeds.

Because of her rapid development in industrial expansion Poland is now able to decrease the amount of imports of machine and industrial equipment in favour of raw materials needed by her light industries and in favour of finished consumer goods required to satisfy the growing needs of the Polish people.

Despite this change in emphasis, there still remains a very large market for the right kind of machines and equipment. And this is important, they have a high regard for British engineering products.

This year in comparison to last year, Poland will import 40 per cent more wool, 114 per cent more cotton, 15 per cent more hides, 25 per cent more tobacco and 50 to 60 per cent more coffee and cocoa. She will also import more oranges, lemons, dried fruit, nuts, grapes and tea, as well as more sardines, olive oil, rice, pepper, vanilla, wines and almonds.

More important from the point of view of possible trade with Britain is the fact that imported consumer goods will be 40 per cent more than the amount imported last year.

## Consumer Goods

She intends to double the imports of footwear, and to raise the amount of cloth imported, particularly silk fabrics, poplin, stockings and underwear, etc. Also Poland will buy watches, cameras, radio sets, bicycles, motor cycles, fountain pens, safety razors and blades, haberdashery, perfumes, make-up articles and cosmetics. Imitation jewellery, sports equipment, especially ski and tennis goods, and a list of almost every type of consumer goods are scheduled to be bought abroad this year.

Household goods which will be imported into Poland this year include vacuum cleaners, refrigerators, electric and gas cookers and washing machines, sewing machines and plate driers.

This brief outline of Poland's plans for imports clearly shows the possibility for increasing trade between our two countries. There is a big market there, but it is not a market which will wait until Britain is allowed by the Americans to enter it. Already the market has changed considerably during the recent years, it will change again in the future.

In the past Poland was in desperate need for certain industrial and agricultural machines, she still needs some, the lack of which threatened to retard the Six Year Plan. America prevented the sale of these items by the Western bloc so Poland went ahead and built her own.



This scene in Gdynia of the Polish ship "Copernicus" unloading S. American hides was seen by the May Day Delegation. Hide imports will be increased by 15%

Poland is a young country which is fighting against time to strengthen its economy and to improve the living standards of the people. It cannot afford to wait for the whims of America. If it cannot buy the things it needs it will make them.

I saw evidence of this during my visit to Poland. In the May Day parade there were some new tractors, a combined harvester and other agricultural machines, all Polish made. By British standards they were not first class.

But they were the first ever made in Poland, made because the ban on East-West trade prevented them from buying them from us! All admitted that they cost more and were not as good as British-made machinery. All admitted that they would prefer British-made machinery.

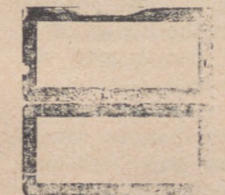
As they put it: We know that with your industrial experience you can do a much better job at a much cheaper price.

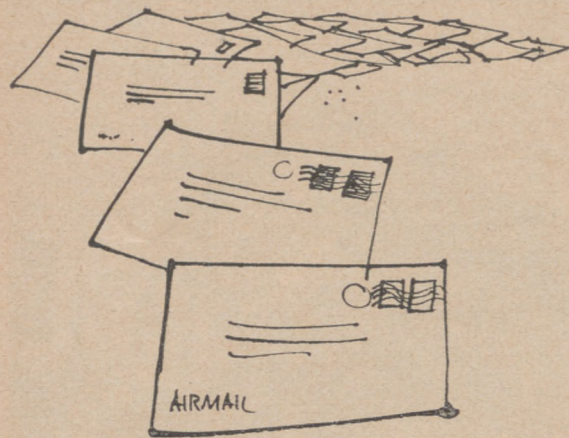
we would prefer to buy this type of thing from you and concentrate our efforts on the things which we can produce better than anyone else. But we are not going to wait. These machines are poor, next year they will be better and in a few years time they will be as good as any in the world.

Although in some cases production has been switched and factories rejigged I was told that they are prepared to stop production of some things if we would sell them to Poland without political discrimination.

On the general question of trade with the Western countries the Polish Government are quite definite. They say: **Whether Poland's trade with capitalist countries increases will depend only on these countries giving up their policies of discrimination and maintaining normal trading relations based on the principles of full equality and mutual advantage.**

Polish crystal glass is famous the world over. The photograph shows some of the new designs to come on the market in recent weeks





## Paging You

**I**n the June issue of *New Poland* we published a letter from a Japanese student who asked for a pen friend. In this issue we publish two letters from Poland which answer the one from Japan. The covering letter to the one to the Tokyo student is an appeal for a pen friend from Britain. What about you writing to Mr. Pacula? As you see from his letter to Mr. Nakamuri he has a fair understanding of English and has many interests. What better way of building up international friendship and understanding than by direct contact? Here is a chance for a three-way contact between Britain, Poland and Japan. The addresses of Mr. Pacula and Mr. Nakamuri will be forwarded on request.

In answer to Mr. T. Nakamuri's appeal for a pen friend I am sending a letter with a request to send it to him.

I'd be delighted, if I could commence a correspondence with a friend of Poland in Britain, especially if he were a university student. Perhaps you know one?

There is still another question about which I feel shy to speak. I should like very much to deepen my knowledge of English and to make use of it for the benefit of my country. What am I to do?

STAN PACULA,  
Gdansk.

Dear Friend,

**I**HAVE just returned home from the International Book and Press Club at Sopot where I have read your letter published in the present issue of *New Poland*. It has occurred to me that it would be grand if we could write to one another. I am just as much interested in your beautiful country as you are in mine, and our mutual interests lie in the preservation of peace throughout the world.

During the last war it appeared that the world has become small and it is not without consequence for Europe what happens in Asia and vice versa. The peoples all over the world must know each other and collaborate in solving the most important issues in which the interests of all are at stake. Otherwise they may become an easy prey for the forces of reaction as we see it in some countries.

War is the greatest nonsense in the world. What sense is there to have

children, to feed them, to clothe them, to educate them at the expense of many a self-denial, and finally to see them murder or be murdered? What sense is there to build to see it in a few years ruined?

I spent the last war at home and came with my family through many hardships and dangers. We had to hide from the Germans, my father being a teacher, and all teachers were being arrested. I remember him say to me at the time "You see, my son, these Germans who are so chasing and murdering us, they are only blind instruments in the hands of fascism. At home they are simple people, they are cobblers, shopkeepers, perhaps teachers, but here they have turned murderers."

War is horrible. So we must use all our means to prevent that nonsense. I am not a coward and I cannot say I value my life very much. But I want to live with a sense. I want to build and to see it last and to make other people's lives happier.

This is what came to my mind when I was reading about your fighting for peace in Japan.

Now it is my turn to tell you about myself. I have graduated from the University in Cracow and now I teach at school. I have never been abroad, and much interested in the life of other peoples. My father has taught me English—he is a philologist.

We live at a little town of Oliwa, near Gdansk. We are happy that the war is over and we can live and work and build a better future for our country.

We like literature and music, and I am especially interested in philosophy.

I have learned with interest that you are going to write an outline history of Poland. I should be glad to be able to help you. Well, I must close my letter hoping that it will reach you. Please write me about yourself and your family, about the life in Japan, about your opinions on all sorts of questions you may be interested in, and be sure to find in me your faithful friend.

STANISLAW PACULA.

**P.S.** And if there were someone else who would like to write to me I should be delighted to hear from him everything he has to tell, and I promise to answer without delay. We could also exchange something as memoirs between ourselves.

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## Something to be Proud of

**S**OMETHING TO SING ABOUT, THE Society's production in the Cambridge Theatre to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of People's Poland certainly gave our audience something to talk about.

The common verdict is that it is the best production we have yet put on. Praise for all who took part, on and off the stage, continues to flow into the office.

There's some criticism too. This is good, for next year we intend to do even better and so we will need to learn from our mistakes. There is to be a meeting of the people concerned to go into the questions raised and we ask you to let us have any points which you think may be helpful in future. Write them out, but please keep them brief, and address them to The Meetings Organiser.

### All Were Marvellous

We tried, of course, to give something to suit all tastes and as you know that's not always easy. We realise that we cannot please all the people all the time so please don't write and tell us you liked the pianist better than the singers or the singers better than the pianist. That kind of criticism will not help us.

I had the over-all responsibility for the concert and as things turned out I had to countermand quite a few orders given to the cast, production team and stewards. Snap decisions were made and everyone from the Producer, Harry Ross, who had supreme command backstage, to the stewards on the front door, obeyed me without a moment's hesitation.

Everybody concerned were marvellous! During the time I was on edge, with my nerves and temper stretched to breaking point, the cracks from the stewards helped a lot. It was then that I heard some lines which if spoken on the stage would have brought the house down. "Bombardier Hanwell I award The Order of Labour—2nd Class," was one of the best.

### Laughed At

When the police showed me the message they had received stating that a bomb, timed to go off at 7.30, had been placed inside the theatre, they were of the same opinion as me, that it was a hoax.

However, we had to be sure and, as there was only a couple of minutes to zero hour, action was needed. The manager and the police suggested that we empty the theatre. I gave a firm "no" to this for that was exactly what the anonymous telephoner wanted.

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improvements which are being made in Poland, each day their cause becomes weaker and weaker; hence their desperate efforts to make themselves heard.

I can now reveal that there was one frightened woman in the Cambridge Theatre. She wasn't frightened by the bomb, like the rest she thought it a joke, but she knows me so well that the look on my face caused her some anxiety.

My wife, Frances could see that I was fighting mad and she was just a little worried in case my temper snapped. She has told me since that she wasn't worried about me but about the other man. I'm glad to say her worries were unfounded.

### They Were Unlucky

To organise the concert and to fill the theatre which holds twice as many as the Whitehall Theatre which we have used in previous years is hard work, it is worrying but it is worthwhile work.

Three or four days before the concert our main concern was whether we would fill the theatre, we didn't want to have any empty seats. But the last minute rush for tickets was so great we had sold out early on the Saturday afternoon. Hundreds of people had to be refused tickets, they had applied too late.

If you were one of these unlucky people, take my advice and get in early next year, for the show will be even bigger and better and I am sure the rush for tickets will be even bigger. So please don't say you haven't been warned. We don't like to turn anyone away but it is a case of first come, first served.

Ernest Hanwell

### A First Step in the Improvement of Pensioners' Living Conditions

## Old Age Pensions Increased

**A**RECENT DECREE OF THE COUNCIL of State and a decision of the Praesidium of the Government of the Polish People's Republic introduce a new unified pensions scheme and a rise in benefits and pensions.

The first of these benefits is the old age pension. The period of qualifying for this pension is 25 years of employment for men, and 20 years for women, and the qualifying age is 65 for men and 60 for women. The age limit is lowered by five years for persons employed underground or in conditions bad for health. This reduction means that an additional 20,000 people are now entitled to the pensions.

Persons who cannot claim 25 years of work but are disabled, are entitled to a disablement pension.

On July 1st the social insurance agency began to receive applications for benefits on the basis of the new regulations. The reduction of the qualifying

age for women alone will mean an expenditure of over 50 million zlotys per year. In all, the number of people who will receive additional benefits is estimated at 80,000.

Discussing the importance and provisions of the new decree at a press conference, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Leon Chajn, said that it constituted the first step on the road to the improvement of the living conditions of pensioners.

The new pension rates are from 40 to 60 per cent of average monthly earnings, and is paid in full whether the pensioner continues in gainful employment or not.

Another benefit improved by the new regulations is the dependents' allowances. This pension amounts to 30 to 40 per cent of the earnings of a deceased family supporter for each of his dependents.

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