

# NEW POLAND



NOVEMBER, 1954

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## Opportunities for United Nations

EVERY STUDENT OF WORLD AFFAIRS is aware of the increasing influence of Poland on international policies. Poland's inclusion in the two armistice commissions—in Korea and Indo-China—is a clear recognition of this influence.

Now, at the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Stanislaw Skrzyszewski, head of the Polish delegation, has outlined his country's international policy. His first speech to the new session, part of which we publish below, emphasises the maturity of Poland. It is a statement based on confidence, confidence that the road chosen by Poland is the road of the future.

### A Favourable Start

During his speech in which he opposed the re-arming of Germany and supported the Soviet Union's proposals for disarmament, Mr. Skrzyszewski said:

"The present session begins its debates at a particularly important juncture of the international situation. The cessation of hostilities and the armistice in Korea, the Berlin Conference of the foreign ministers of the Four Powers, the Five Powers' Conference in Geneva with the

participation of other interested States, the armistice in Indo-China, and a successful solution of a number of other controversial issues, have contributed to a considerable improvement in the international situation.

### No Major Conflict

"For the first time in nearly twenty-five years there is no major armed conflict in the world. Thus, it can be said that the present Session of the General Assembly is being held in particularly favourable conditions and that it has before it a prospect of fruitful debates.

"At the same time, this situation places upon the Assembly an even greater task of making a maximum effort to crown our debates with effective measures which would speed up an international détente. This is expected by all the nations of the world. It is being demanded by public opinion in all countries.

"Undoubtedly, the successes achieved in the struggle for peace, whose stages were marked by the Korean armistice, the Berlin Conference and the Geneva Conference, were only made possible by the consistently peaceful policy and initiative of the Soviet Union, People's

## CONTENTS

German Army can be stopped ... ..	2
—Gordon Schaffer	
Historic Gift to Poland ... ..	4 & 5
—Andrew Rothstein	
A Poet reborn ... ..	6
—George Bidwell	
He is honoured now ... ..	7
Polish owner-occupiers ... ..	9
—Elyane Gluck	
It's Ski-ing Time! ... ..	10 & 11
Poland in Pictures ... ..	12 & 13
The Role of Trade Unions in Poland	14, 15, 16 & 17
Britons see Poland ... ..	19
—Reviewed by Frances White	
Food and Fashion ... ..	20
Secretary's Letter ... ..	21
—Bill Ellerby	
Editor's Column ... ..	22
—Ernest Hanwell	
Cartoons ... ..	23

China and the People's Democracies, including Poland.

"Life has shown that the method of negotiation and looking for peaceful solutions gives good results. This principle should be the supreme principle of action of the United Nations which was founded as an organisation for co-operation and understanding.

### Closer Alliance Needed

"When looking back at the achievements of the past period in the field of peacefully solving controversial international issues, we cannot overlook the fact that the United Nations has not played the role it could and should have done, and that it has not made its contribution to the relaxation in the international situation."

He concluded by saying: "In the United Nations we wish to see the continuation of the close co-operation which existed between the Allies in the fight against Fascist aggression during the last war.

"The present international situation opens up before the United Nations opportunities for positive achievements with regard to problems which are on the agenda of the Ninth Session. The Polish delegation will do its utmost through its part in the work of the session, to contribute, during the debates, to the consolidation of the method of negotiation and the spirit of understanding for achieving the fullest co-operation in carrying out the tasks which confront our Organisation."

# It is not too late to stop the rebirth of a German Army

FAR FROM BEING ENDED BY THE farcical card vote at the Scarborough Labour Party Conference, the struggle against the re-armament of West German Nazi Generals is more urgent than ever. The votes at the T.U.C. and Labour Party Conferences were not taken to decide British Government policy on this issue; that policy had already been decided.

The right-wing Trade Union and Labour Party leaders used every device of their powerful machines to get a paper decision in favour of West German re-armament because they wanted to stem the mass movement among the rank and file. They wanted to preserve the bi-partisan foreign policy which bears so heavy a responsibility for the dangerously divided world in which we live to-day.

## They Have Same Policy

Through the years these same leaders have fought against other demands for the lessening of world tension. They opposed the call for the abolition of the atom bomb. They refused to support the campaign for more East-West trade. They even resisted the demand for high level talks between the great powers. Now, all those are official Labour Party and T.U.C. policy, and Conservative Government policy as well for that matter.

But the re-armament of Western Germany is a very different matter. Mr. Foster Dulles made it quite clear to the nations of Western Europe that the re-creation of a West German army with its own general staff, and with a war industry centred on the Ruhr, is at the heart of American policy.

Either defy America and all the economic and political pressure which Washington can exert, or accept the West German Nazis as the allies of the free West. That was the ultimatum from Washington. M. Mendes France, Prime Minister of France, is still trying to extract more concessions as the price of French agreement. Britain has meekly agreed.

Sir Winston Churchill, who had the courage to refuse Mr. Foster Dulles'

By



Gordon Schaffer

demand for British intervention in Indo-China, was afraid to defy America on the German issue. So Britain, to re-assure France against the danger of West German troops turning West instead of East, promises to keep British boys under arms on the continent of Europe for the rest of the century.

Sir Winston, Sir Vincent Tewson, Secretary of the T.U.C., Mr. Eden, Mr. Attlee and Mr. Morrison all try to justify their common policy by talking about the danger of Russian domination of Western Europe.

I do not think any of them believe their own propaganda. The fact is that if America had not demanded West German soldiers, no one in Britain or France would have dreamed of re-building the Nazi armies!

## Scarborough Repudiated

The *House of Cards* (or shall we say card votes) built at Scarborough collapsed within a week. As a complete contradiction to the assurances given by Mr. Herbert Morrison, the German Social Democrats, and the German T.U.C. both repudiated the Nine Power Agreement for German re-armament reached in London, and called for new discussions with the Soviet Union on the question of a United Germany. Some of the members of Dr. Adenauer's own coalition are joining in the demand.

Even the right-wingers in Western Germany do not accept the propaganda at Scarborough, about the need to arm

## THE FORCES OPPOSING THE RE-BUILDING OF THE NAZI ARMY ARE STRONGER THAN EVER

West German Generals to defend us from the Russians!

The offer of the Soviet Government to re-open discussions on free all-German elections points the way to a solution of the outstanding problems affecting Germany, while the other Soviet plan to re-start dis-armament discussions on the basis of the Anglo-French proposals brings the possibility of easing the situation all round.

All the possibilities are there for a new effort by East and West alike to lift the shadow of war and set out along the path of constructive peace. But these opportunities will be lost if we do not stop the criminal folly of re-building the Nazi army.

How can the Western powers sincerely discuss dis-armament, when they are busy re-building the most dangerous militarist force in the world? How can they declare their devotion to a United Germany when they are taking a course which will permanently divide Germany and hand to ex-Nazi Generals and politicians the decision on whether we are to have peace or war?

## Inseparable Struggle

The work of building friendship between Britain and Poland has always been inseparable from the struggle against German re-armament, because the German Democratic Republic and Poland have been constantly threatened by those in West Germany who are demanding an army and a war industry. It is significant that the German Democratic Republic and Poland have concluded with each other a treaty of friendship, and that all along their common frontier there is co-operation and peace.

It is significant too, that the Americans who threaten war, and the West European leaders who fear to defy the Americans, reserve their attacks for these two Governments who have based their policies on friendship and peace.

The forces opposing the re-building of the Nazi army are stronger than ever: the task is to mobilise them before irretrievable decisions undermine the new promise of Peace.



## or THIS →

TO-DAY, THIS AREA, ONCE MORE RESTORED to its rightful owners—Poland—is throbbing with life. There are some 7 million Poles living there on equality with the rest of the country.

Its engineering factories produce 28 per cent of the entire country's output of machinery. There are more than 560,000 workers employed in industry, in September, 1945, there were only about 8,000.

Land reform which gave land to the peasants, and the setting up of State and Co-operative Farms have greatly increased agricultural output.

At long last, there is peace along the Odra-Nysa border, the border defined by the Potsdam Agreement, which intended this division to be permanent and not just temporary until the Nazi Generals of West Germany were ready for another blood bath.

The shaded parts of this map are historically Polish, they must not be re-occupied again by the Germans.



## ← THIS

THE BONN GOVERNMENT RECENTLY published this map of Germany which clearly shows their intention to ignore the Potsdam Agreement and to revert to the 1937 boundaries as soon as their army is strong enough for them to take action.

That they should want to re-occupy Silesia once again is understandable for it was from this area's rich industrial potentialities that Hitler was able to fortify his arsenal. He did so with utter disregard to the welfare of the workers or to the future of the area.

The Nazis were only concerned with getting the last ounce from the Silesian industries and completely ignored the vast agricultural wealth of the area.

On their retreat in 1944/45 the Nazis put their scorched earth policy into full effect in this area. When liberated by the Polish and Soviet Armies more than two-thirds of all industrial enterprises were destroyed, 150,000 buildings were in ruins and about 30 per cent of the farms razed to the ground.

## A BRITISH GIFT TO POLAND

# Some Historic Documents of the Russian Revolutionary Movement, Showing Their Support for the Polish Working Class

### THE PERIOD OF THE PUBLICATION AND SOME OF THE CONTENTS

Outlined by Andrew Rothstein

Forty-nine years ago, on November 1st, 1905, a Polish delegate addressed a meeting of the St. Petersburg Soviet, which had recently been formed during the great upheaval then convulsing Tsarist Russia. He described the oppression from which the Polish workers were suffering under martial law, and said "We understand very well that now the unity of the Russian and Polish proletariat is necessary to fight our common enemy—the Government and capital."

A second Polish delegate said "All the demands of the Polish proletariat are identical with the demands of the Russian proletariat, and therefore we have the right to say: we are fighting for your and our common freedom."

On behalf of the Executive Committee, a Russian replied "The Russian proletariat recognises the right of all nationalities to self-determination, and will always fight every form of exploitation, and if the Poles suffer from the nationalist strivings of our Government, the Polish proletariat in its struggle against the Government will always be supported by the Russian proletariat."

#### The First Ever

In its resolution the St. Petersburg Soviet declared that the Tsarist Government had "thrown the noose of martial law round the neck of oppressed Poland," and called for a General Strike in the city, beginning at noon the next day, against this and other oppressive actions. The strike was carried on for five days with rare solidarity.

This remarkable action in support of

an oppressed nationality was the first of its kind in history. But it did not come as a bolt from the blue. It was the result of years of propaganda and organization by Russian Marxists. They had well mastered the remark of Engels, in his preface of 1892 to a new Polish edition of the *Communist Manifesto*—the first came out in Polish in 1848—that "the workers of the rest of Europe need the independence of Poland not less than the Polish workers themselves."

Something of this the writer ventured to recall on October 15th last year, at a gathering held under the chairmanship of Lord Silkin, for the purpose of handing over—to be preserved in some appropriate learned institution in Poland—a number of early documents of the Russian revolutionary movement made available by an act of private generosity.

#### Russo-Polish Relations

Some of them had a direct bearing on the history of the Polish working class struggle, others threw light on the first battles for existence of Russian Marxism. All of them with their close-set type on the thinnest possible yellowing paper—easily smuggled past Tsarist gendarmes under false linings of suitcases or cartloads of vegetables—were reminders of those far-off days when the workers and peasants oppressed by Tsardom had to fight for freedom against despotism and contempt for human rights without the patronage of foreign statesmen.

Earliest among the documents was Lenin's pamphlet *The Tasks of the Russian Social Democrats*, written in Siberian exile in 1897 and published in

Geneva in 1898 (the copy handed over last year was the second edition published in 1902, also in Geneva).

It was composed, as it stated, when Russian Social Democracy was "still very young," not even united as yet into a single party. Yet again and again Lenin stressed in it the common cause which the Russian factory workers should make, in their own interests, with the oppressed nationalities of the Russian Empire.

Next—August 1899—came a pamphlet by one of the first propagandists of Russian Marxism, P. B. Axelrod, on behalf of the *Geneva Group for the Emancipation of Labour*, the first Russian Marxist propaganda organisation. It was his *Letter to the Editorial Board of Rabocheye Delo* (August 1899).

#### Politics or Economics

*Rabocheye Delo* (The Workers' Cause) was the "economist" journal which preached that the working class should not trouble itself with politics, but stick to questions of wages, hours and working conditions. To encourage it to struggle for the overthrow of Tsardom was, the "economists" said, stupid.

Axelrod's letter—written in Geneva—was sent almost at the same time as Lenin drafted his more powerful *Protest of Russian Social Democrats*, adopted by seventeen fellow exiles, against the "economists." An attempted reply by *Rabocheye Delo* to Axelrod and to Plekhanov, another of their biting critics, was the third document.

The fourth document was the historic first issue of *Iskra*, the first Russian Social Democratic newspaper, born in struggle with the "economists" in December, 1900.

It contains the famous editorial by Lenin, *The Urgent Tasks of our Movement*, which ended with the historic prophecy of the martyred worker, Peter Alexeyev, in 1877, that it would be "the muscular arm of the millions of working people" which would ultimately shatter the Tsarist despotism. There is another article by Lenin on the European Powers' invasion of China which was then raging.

#### Call For Strikes

Lenin used the occasion to remind the Russian workers of the way Tsardom had suppressed the Hungarian revolution in 1849. "It not only helps the Russian capitalists to exploit their workers and ties the workers' hands so that they should not dare to unite and defend themselves, it sends soldiers to plunder other people in the interest of a handful of rich men."

The lesson is driven home in a third article, not by Lenin, on a recent court martial in Warsaw which had sentenced

nine workers for killing agent-provocateurs, and in a manifesto calling for protest strikes all over Russia, since "the cause of the Polish comrades is our cause."

Lastly, the issue contains a report on the International Socialist Congress held in Paris in September, 1900. "Particularly important for us Russians," says the report, was the unanimous resolution of Congress denouncing the Tsar's "savagely policy of repression" against the Polish people.

#### Change of Tone

The fifth document was Lenin's striking pamphlet of 1903 *To the Rural Poor*, which secured an enormous circulation, by the standards of the "underground days."

The sixth was the first issue of the new *Iskra* (November, 1903), after the Mensheviks had forced Lenin out of the editorship. The immediate change in the tone of the paper, from concentration on the revolutionary struggle against Tsardom to preoccupation with fighting the Bolsheviks, is noticeable and significant for students of working class history.

Last comes a substantial volume, the report of the Third Congress of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party, called in April-May, 1905, by the Bolsheviks when their opponents, the Mensheviks, who had by intrigues seized control of the Party, refused to call one. It was held in the first stages of the 1905 revolution, and was an entirely Bolshevik Congress.

As such, it adopted a special resolution, the first in Russian working class history, on the need for unity with the Social-Democrats of the non-Russian nationalities of the Russian Empire.

#### A Proud Act

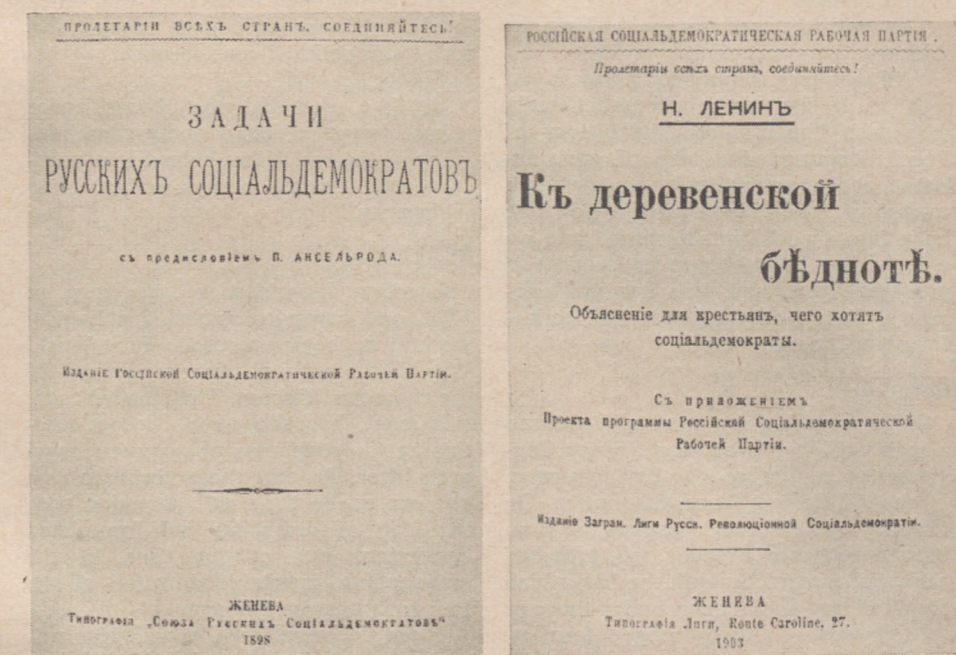
Another resolution *On the Events in Poland* runs "The Third Congress of the R.S.D.L.P. declares its indignation at the new murders of the people, organised by the criminal Government on May 1st in Warsaw and Lodz; greets the courage and resolution of the brother proletariat of Poland; and expresses its conviction that the day will soon come when the proletariat of all the nationalities of Russia will revolt as one man against the hateful autocracy and, by final victory over it, will clear the way for its further struggle for Socialism."

This was six months before the political General Strike of November, 1905.

The British-Polish Friendship Society can be proud of having made these documents available for the students and research workers of the new, reborn Poland. The documents are now housed in the library of the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Science.



The first Copy of "Iskra"



The Tasks of the Russian Social Democrats and To The Rural Poor

# From the Pre-War Despair on to the Road to Life

## PEOPLE'S POLAND PROVIDES THE SOLUTION FOR A POET FRUSTRATED BY CAPITALISM

By George Bidwell



Jaroslaw Iwaszkiewicz

I WAS TALKING TO A CRITIC ON A Polish literary review about the work of poets in relation to the cultural revolution. We discussed the work of men and women who had tremendous difficulties in getting published at all before the war because they so strongly attacked bourgeois hypocrisy and exploitation of the working people. And I remarked on the full flowering of the talent—in some cases genius—of such poets in the atmosphere of absolute freedom to publish which has been created since the war by the People's State.

The critic listened patiently. Then he said:—

"All very true. From such poets as you mention, a few names will undoubtedly pass with honours into the history of Polish literature. But also of great interest, and enormous value, is the work to-day of men and women who were born into the old intelligentsia, into an elite in fact. An interesting example is provided by a man who has just celebrated forty years of creative work—Jaroslaw Iwaszkiewicz."

### CONFLICT

When he said that, I mentally pictured a man well known at World Peace Congresses, a man who is to-day Chairman of the All-Poland Peace Committee. On the rostrum at those Congresses, he is an impressive figure, over 6ft. tall, broad of shoulder, powerfully built, he has a high forehead and frank, open smile; his voice is sonorous and strong, Jaroslaw Iwaszkiewicz.

In a recently published poem entitled:

*Letter to President Bierut*, Iwaszkiewicz frankly discussed the mental obstacles which a bourgeois upbringing and membership in his earlier days of bourgeois intellectual circles had created for him. His poem then declared his irrevocable stand on the side of the people, the People's Government, and Peace.

My friend, the critic, then helped me to trace the stages of development in the life and art of Jaroslaw Iwaszkiewicz, who in 1952 was awarded the State First Prize for Literature. Those stages involved deep intellectual conflicts such as have overwhelmed lesser men, but which in Iwaszkiewicz produced progressive social and political consciousness.

The critic said:—

"As a man and poet, Iwaszkiewicz has always possessed one predominating virtue which has helped him enormously. He has always had absolute sincerity."

### OBSESSION

Jaroslaw Iwaszkiewicz was born in 1894, and began to publish his literary work at the beginning of the First World War. Those early poems were lyrical, of the character of songs. They tended to be emotional, but also were already questioning the soundness of accepted bourgeois ideas. Reading those poems to-day, one can see in the poet's obsession with the idea of death, his half-formulated conviction, even at that time, of the approaching, inevitable downfall of the Polish bourgeois régime.

From the very first, Iwaszkiewicz was recognised as a master of the Polish language. Between the two world wars, he

published several volumes of poetry, in which can be clearly traced his search for an answer to the problem presented by the downfall of the bourgeoisie, which he foresaw. He turned for enlightenment to the classics of Polish poetry, to the most eminent names in the history of literature in the West to the bourgeois liberals.

### PHILOSOPHY

He turned to them, but they had for him no answer, no solution. In a volume of poems called *Return to Europe*, he expresses in beautiful poetic form the desperate questions which intellectuals were at that time putting to the world and to themselves. Could capitalism be saved? How was it to be saved? And, most important of all, was it worth saving? What was to replace it? What, if anything, were intellectuals to do about it?

Iwaszkiewicz the lyric poet was becoming Iwaszkiewicz the philosopher poet. His one time obsession with the problem of death and the downfall of the bourgeoisie was becoming transmuted, changed into a search for antidotes to pessimism. He wanted to be convinced of immortality. In a poem called: *Evening in Sienna*, he rejected the much publicised antidote of formal religion as personally unacceptable, foreign to him. Iwaszkiewicz was looking for a rebirth in flesh and blood, something to replace the narrowness, hypocrisy and exploitation inherent in bourgeois capitalism.

The measure of the honesty and sincerity of Iwaszkiewicz is to be found in his refusal to offer spurious solutions. He

would not seek escape, as some other bourgeois poets sought escape, in the phoney demagogy of bourgeois liberalism. He preferred the path of sincerity, the frank and open admission that he found the problems of the inter-war bourgeois intellectuals insoluble.

### PLAYWRIGHT

Shortly before the Second World War, Iwaszkiewicz gave striking proof of his literary power in a play called *Summer in Nohant*. That play dealt with the later years of the life of Chopin, sharing house at Nohant with the writer, George Sand. It showed how completely everyone around Chopin—George Sand, her daughter, all her household—were under the spell of the master musician's extraordinary genius. The final scene of the play depicts a quarrel between George Sand and Chopin, a quarrel from which George Sand walks out, announcing her intention finally to leave the house, with her daughter.

She is seen driving in a carriage past the window—while Chopin sits at the piano to give life to the new musical composition which the quarrel had interrupted. As he plays, the door silently opens—and George Sand tip-toes into the room, gathering up her voluminous skirts and travelling cases, so as not to make a sound; her daughter, similarly attired, follows her, and they sit, quiet as mice, enchanted. The final curtain falls—and all over the theatre, men and women sit in spellbound silence for a minute . . . five minutes . . . then the storm of applause breaks out . . .

With this play, Iwaszkiewicz interrupted, for a while, his writing of poems. And when again he returned to the muse, the dark night of Fascist occupation had fallen on Poland and its long and sorely tried people. That deepest of all darkness was for the Polish people the hour before the dawn which was to rise over their road to Socialism. And for Iwaszkiewicz the poet, identified in honest struggle against the Nazi oppressors with the working people, it was also the darkest hour before the dawn.

### DISSOLVED

During the occupation, he wrote a volume of poems called: *The Dark Road*, in which he made sincerely clear the great emotional transformation he had undergone. He announces his new understanding that the only true poetry is poetry which takes on itself the rôle of voice of the people, and is designed to serve the people. His obsession with personal death and bourgeois downfall has been dissolved because he is no longer alone, because he is already marching in the ranks of the progressive and the peace-loving.

And so, in the new atmosphere which

followed the taking of power by the people, Iwaszkiewicz finally found, after the war, the way out of his pessimism. He knew that the right place for intellectuals was shoulder to shoulder with the miners, factory workers, peasants, transport workers, office workers, who are turning the blue-print of Socialism and Peace into living, triumphant reality.

He sought finally to cauterise the old obsession with death by asking to be admitted to active participation in the fight against death, against mass killing. And so active has been that participation that Iwaszkiewicz is to-day a member of the World Peace Council.

With his usual clarity and transparent sincerity, he has declared his attitude, as a poet, to Peace, declared it in a ringing

message to intellectuals the world over:

"The defence of Peace is the defence of culture, the defence of everything that is sublime and to be treasured from the past, of everything that has carried us forward, of everything that is creative in the present, and of the splendid future which we are building."

Then Iwaszkiewicz disowns his one-time obsessions and shows how disowning them leads from darkness to brilliant day. He says:—

"The road of the artist leads to life, and not to death, to all that is positive and not to negation; therein is implicit the artist's highest responsibility—that of helping to shape the soul of the new, reborn, Socialist man."

## His Works Banned Before the War He is Acclaimed and Honoured Now

### HIS LIFE'S LABOURS BEAR FRUIT IN PEOPLE'S POLAND

HE WAS ON THE SHORT SIDE. BUT very erect and square-shouldered. His complexion ruddy, and he had a fine head of long white hair. On his breast shone the newly awarded Cross of the Order of Poland Reborn. He stood smiling on the platform of the Conference Hall of the Polish Writers' Union, beside him the Minister of Culture, and on the table a pile of flowers presented to him by admirers, young and old.

As I watched him from the second row, it was the deep blue of his eyes and the amazing youthfulness of those eyes which caught and held my attention. For this was his 70th birthday. He was—and is—the doyen of Polish contemporary literature, a man of the people, a man who has spent his life immersed in struggles for a better life for working folk, a writer of deep sincerity and iron strength. His name—is Lucjan Rudnicki.

During the speech he made that day

Lucjan Rudnicki said that his eyes are young because he himself remains full of youthful enthusiasm for his life's work, past and present.

"In the long years of the struggle of the Polish people for freedom," he said, "there used to be terrible difficulties, enormous obstacles. But now I can work unhampered, I can give my effort and my work to all my countrymen without let or hindrance.

"At 70 years old, my eyes look young," Lucjan Rudnicki went on, "because I feel young. And I feel young because I am doing battle now for a better world, just as I did battle in the old days—only now my struggle meets State decorations, State literary prizes, and flowers, where in the old days it was greeted by police batons and rewarded with prison bars."

And certainly Lucjan Rudnicki had, in his earlier days, experience of police batons and prison bars. His father was a poor peasant, and the young Lucjan was

able to stay only four years at school. From the age of 14, he worked in a textile mill in Lodz. He soon became active in progressive social and political organisations.

He was only 20 years old when his struggle against tyranny led to his being arrested for the first time. In one of his books, he tells what a proud day that was for him, how he went off to prison between his guards with his head held high, happy thus to have won his political spurs fighting for the people.

It was in 1907 that Lucjan Rudnicki began to write articles about the life of the working people. He told recently how his literary career emerged from the fact of his being a tireless political activist. He found to his regret that he was not a good speaker, though he urgently wanted to educate and guide other workers. So he wrote his speeches out in full, and learnt them by heart. "The writing of those speeches of a political activist," said Rudnicki, "was my literary school."

### NO RIGHTS

After the end of the First World War, Lucjan Rudnicki joined the Polish Communist Party. In 1920, he published his first novel, entitled *Rebirth*, and having as its hero a worker-revolutionary. A year later, appeared a book of short stories. And then a long period of literary silence.

For this great writer about the lives of the people, the aspirations of the people, the struggles of the people could find no one to publish his articles and books. He was a Communist, and that meant that the bourgeoisie would not accord to him the rights of a man.

Instead, they threw him into prison once more, into concentration camps, in the hope not only of silencing him but of breaking his spirit. But they did not know Lucjan Rudnicki, or the intensity of the fervour which inspires men like him—who devote their lives to the people's causes.

Throughout the Nazi occupation of Poland, Lucjan Rudnicki devoted all his energies to fighting Fascism as a Communist partisan. And he began to write his autobiography *Old and New*, the first volume of which was published by a People's State publishing house soon after the end of the war. The first volume of that great work was immediately hailed by literary critics.

### PRISON SCENE

I'm not going to tell you any more in my words about Lucjan Rudnicki's masterpiece, *Old and New*, but I'm going to quote an extract from that book which will, I think, tell you more about its power and vividness than any words of mine. The incident I have chosen to translate is presented as felt rather than seen by this great writer from the prison cell

into which he had been thrown by the Tsarist police in 1906.

"The dull tramp of soldiers' hob-nail boots. At that sound, our eyes are pressed to the spy-holes in the cell doors, our ears are pricked in tense anxiety. We struggle to deduce from the scraps of movement we can see, the scraps of sound we can hear, the nature and direction of the approaching disaster.

"At last, a terrifying quiet descends, the sort of silence in which you can hear your own heart beat. With cat-like movements, a warder we political prisoners have 'tamed' comes up and whispers:—

### TRIUMPHANTLY PROUD

"Jablkowski—that's his name: He laid out a provocateur. They've put him in the right-hand basement cell, and cleared three cells round him . . . He never sat down all night. One moment he seemed depressed, another—proud, and at yet another—smiling triumphantly. He's a tough lad—no squealing about him.

"Throughout that day, the prison is wrapped in silence, like a house where a member of the family lies dangerously ill. The indications are that the end is near. But in spite of everything, hope wells up. It's past midnight, and no court of summary jurisdiction has gone into session.

"Suddenly, a slight creaking of the main entrance doors is heard, a metallic scraping on the officers' stairs . . . the members of the court are assembling . . .

"But what's going on out here? In the prison yard, just beyond the bars of our tiny windows, it is just possible, in the deep gloom of a cloudy night, to see the flickering of small hand lanterns, and to catch the sound of picks and shovels—digging.

"Shadowy figures are putting up a wooden post . . . The members of the 'court' have not yet taken their seats of 'justice,' the accused has not appeared before them—but all the same, the sentence has been pronounced, and everything prepared to carry it out. Our illusions vanish into thin air, our throats go dry with pity and anger.

"Again, the creaking of the main doors, the tramp of hobnail boots. The detachment of dragoons are marching the accused to his 'trial.' The hearing is rushed through. All that remains is to pronounce the pre-arranged sentence—beneath the portrait of the Tsar . . .

"But there stands before that 'court' to-day a fully conscious, heroic representative of his class. When asked if he pleads guilty, Jablkowski treats his judges to a contemptuous sneer.

"Yes, I feel I am guilty," he answers. 'I am 20 years old, and what you are trying me for now is my first offence' . . . His thoughts run away with him. He can't find words to continue his retort.

"You regret what you've done?' the presiding officer suggests, leaning forward over the table, his hands gripping the edges.

### ALL SING

"I regret it. I have wasted several years of my life. I ought to have been doing the same thing from a much earlier age.' The presiding officer angrily reminds him where he is, and Jablkowski, defiant, challenging, interrupts him—

"I don't recognise your 'courts.' You are criminals and provocateurs. We judged you—long ago."

"In another 30 minutes, Albert Jablkowski, his back to the post in the yard, faces the detachment of dragoons. Two lanterns hanging from trees shed a dim light on the scene. The lad will not let them bind him to the post, scorns the bandage for his eyes. He looks down for a moment into the grave, then lifts up his head and shouts, 'Comrades, good-bye.' He starts singing—the *Red Flag*:—

"Then raise the scarlet standard high  
Within its shade we'll live or die . . ."

"A volley of rifle fire ends that young life—but not the song. In tones of fury and anguish, the whole prison rings with the voices of Jablkowski's comrades carrying on the refrain:—

"Though cowards flinch and traitors sneer,  
We'll keep the Red Flag flying here."

### NEW POLISH PLAYS

A NUMBER OF NEW POLISH PLAYS WILL be staged this year.

J. Kusmierk's play, "The Year 1944," which depicts the fight against underground gangs, will be put on by the Dom Wojska Polskiego Theatre in Warsaw. Another play which will be seen soon is J. Broszkiewicz's and G. Gottesman's "Day Begins," which deals with the selfless toil of men and women fighting to strengthen the people's rule.

The vigorous, bold life in Nowa Huta—the first Socialist town in Poland—will be the subject of K. Gruszczynski's new play, "The Cottage in the City."

Among plays dealing with contemporary rural topics should be mentioned F. Bienkowska's "The Other Bank," and "The Prostek Family" by J. M. Gisges.

There will also be two new comedies: I. Jurgielewicz's "Men Are To Be Blamed for Everything," which will be put on towards the end of the year in the Lubusz Region Theatre in Zielona Gora, and L. Rybarski's "Kostrzycki About To Go."

Mention should also be made of J. Wirski's "Joan's Victory," and "The Lake." The plot of the former play takes place in France and shows the fight for peace.

### OWNER-OCCUPIERS

The Government Encourages the Polish People to Build

## A Home of One's Own

THE GÓRSKIS AND SIKORSKIS ARE old friends and neighbours. Both the Górskis work in a pencil factory and Mr. Sikorski is a cutter in a clothing factory while his wife looks after the home and their two small children.

Both families live and work in the Warsaw suburb of Pruszkow, and have known acute housing troubles—the Sikorskis as subtenants in somebody else's flat and the Górskis in a two-roomed flat too small for a sixteen-year-old daughter and a thirteen-year-old son.

A home of one's own—just a little house with a garden became the dream and chief topic of conversation of our friends. They saved . . . their savings accounts grew but always too slowly to make their dream come true without outside help.

Until one lovely morning this spring—on May 8th to be precise, since this is a date our friends are not likely to forget—their dream assumed reality.

### There'll Be Flowers

The morning papers carried under headlines the Government decree on State aided individual building. The State would give free of charge, building sites to Co-operatives and even individuals, long-term credits ranging from 70-85% of the total building cost to be paid up in 10-15 years and allot special supplies of building materials for private housing. Future owners were encouraged whenever possible to contribute their own labour to bring down their costs.

"This is it," said the Górskis and Sikorskis and a good number of other people in their neighbourhood who formed a Co-operative they appropriately called *Our Future*. They paid the first instalment of about 30%, hired labour and in their spare time contributed their own. Their houses grew fast and now before the winter all of them will have moved into the little house with a garden of their dreams. Well, the garden is so far a piece of fallow land, but by next spring the new houses will be surrounded by flowers and young fruit trees.

The Górskis have already moved in. The whole family is helping with the interior decorating, while the Sikorskis with their small children want to move in when everything is spick and span. In the meantime their favourite walk on a Sunday is a visit to their new home, and to their friends the Górskis. Other friends already know that on a fine Sun-



Top, the Sikorskis explain to young Anna that there'll be trees "that high" in the garden next Spring. Right, the Górskis inspect their house. Below, a prefab pram and cycle shed is an "essential"



*Winter's Here  
Welcome  
Winter!*

**T**HAT'S THE CRY JUST NOW OF thousands of Poles. Winter means cold, and snow, and best of all, joyous, exhilarating, wonderful sport in breath-taking surroundings.

For as the snow has begun to coat the mountains of Poland—mostly along the southern borders with Czechoslovakia—thousands and thousands of pairs of skis have been taken out and prepared for what is one of Poland's oldest and biggest sports, ski-ing.

They have five hundred miles of mountain slopes equipped with some of the best ski jumps in Europe, with modern mountain shelters, lifts, and close by, wonderfully picturesque spas and holiday towns with modern hotels and cafés.

Poland is on the snowy, or northern, side of the Carpathian and Sudeten Mountains, and, highest of all, the Tatra range. Here, seven-foot snowfalls are nothing uncommon, and the snow lasts five months or more.

Best known to all the British visitors to Poland, of course, is the mountain resort of Zakopane, where nearly all of them spend a few days resting during what is always an arduous itinerary because they want to see so much in a short time.

Here every bedroom window looks out on picturesque mountains whose colours change from vivid gold to angry black within a few minutes as the sun sets in

summer, and from brilliant white to unbelievably dazzling reds and purples when the snow is on them.

Here alone some 100,000 tourists and winter sports enthusiasts congregate for the fun. The town has those quaint, Swiss-looking houses with wonderful carved eaves and doorposts, picturesque cafés with their own orchestras, and hotels where the food is the best . . . and the prices are fixed for workers' purses.

At one end of the town, a cable-car railway hauls tramloads of passengers 3,500 feet up the Gubalowka peak. At the other end, a funicular railway and a ski lift carry visitors over the long climb up the 6,000 feet high Kasprowy peak.

The Sudeten and Karkonosze ranges are very popular with thousands of Polish skiers. Every year numerous ski-

ing competitions and mass cross-country runs, in which thousands of skiers take part, are organised on the slopes and along the trails of these ranges.

Ski-ing is post-war Poland's national sport—for the factory worker, the transport worker, the office and shop worker, and every town and city dweller. Only last year a cable railway had been completed on the Klimczok (3,300 ft.) and Skrzyczne (3,750 ft.) slopes in the Silesian Beskids, near Bielsko.

And for the student of topography and geography here are details of some of the key spots in Poland's own Snowdonia.

In the Tatras, Beskids and Sudetens you will find the famous climatic stations and spas of Krynica, Karpacz and Szklarska Poreba, which lie in the highest ranges of the mountains, among the finest ski-ing resorts in Europe.

The highest mountain range in Poland is the High Tatra, which forms the border between Poland and Czechoslovakia, with craggy granite peaks rising some 10,000 ft. above sea-level. The highest are: Rysy (8,122 ft.), Mieguszowiecki Szczyt (7,923 ft.), Swinica (7,311 ft.), and Kozi Wierch (7,278 ft.).

International ski competitions for European and world championships were held in Zakopane in 1929 and 1939. Since the war, international ski competitions were held in 1947, 1949 and 1950. Large numbers of foreign skiers took part in them.

Second to Zakopane in popularity is Szczyrk, which lies near Bielsko in the Silesian Beskids. The Silesian Beskids and the neighbouring High Beskids have excellent ski-ing grounds. The ski-ing centre at Szczyrk is provided with a large ski-jump of the Holmenkolen type and two training jumps. Beside Szczyrk, there are the well known resorts of Wisla, Ustron, Jawor and Bystra in the Beskids.

From these resorts the skier can follow well-marked tracks, which will bring him to mountain shelters on the Klimczok, Szczyrk, Blatnia, Barania Gora, Czantoria and Stozek peaks. In the nearby ranges of the Zywiecki and Pilsk Beskids, as well as in the Babia Gora group lying more to the east, the skier will find the best terrain for long distance ski-ing excursions.

He will be able to follow a ski-ing trail which runs some twenty miles along the crest of these ranges. Shelters are built along the trail on the Wielka Racza (4,017 ft.), Rycerzowa (3,922 ft.), Menczol (3,786 ft.), Romanka (4,439 ft.), Lipowka (4,303 ft.), Pilsko (5,060 ft.), and Babia Gora (5,591 ft.).

East of the Tatra Mountains, the best known resorts and winter sports stations lie in the Gorey, Pienniny and the Beskid Sadecki ranges. The largest of them is the world-famous Krynica with its ultra-modern spa installations, hotels and restaurants, which is yearly frequented by some 60,000

people. Krynica has a first-rate ski-jump, a cable railway to the peak of Gora Parkowa and gentle slopes for long ski runs.

In the valley of the Poprad and the Dunajec rivers the tourist will find the resorts and ski-ing centres of Zegiestow, Piwniczna, Rytro, Krosienko, Szczawnica and Czorstyn. The highest peaks of the Sadecki Beskid are Jaworzyna (3,627 ft.), Radziejowa (4,111 ft.) and Wielki Rogacz (3,841 ft.). The highest peaks in the Gorey are Turbacz (4,260 ft.), and Luban (3,981 ft.).

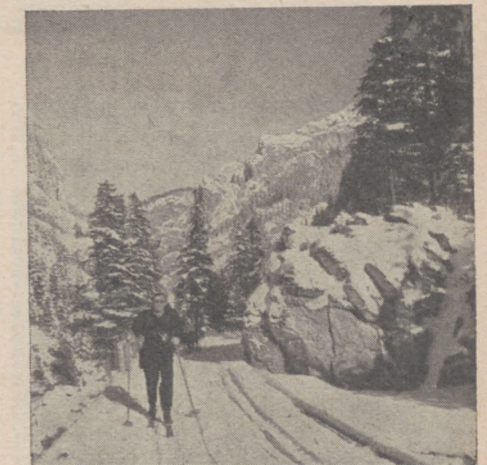
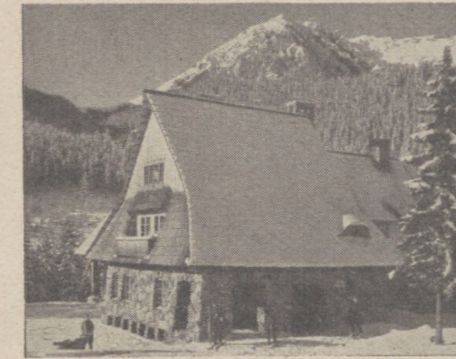
Along the southern border of Silesia rises the long wall of the Sudeten mountains, of which the highest range is known as Karkonosze. The large ski-ing centres of Karpacz and Szklarska Poreba lie on the northern slopes of the Karkonosze. They are well supplied with good ski runs, numerous shelters and marked winter trails.

The highest peaks in the Karkonosze are Sniezka (5,116 ft.) near Karpacz, Wielki Szytak (4,041 ft.), the Sniezne Kotley Peaks (4,009 ft.), which tower above Szklarska Poreba, and the Szrenica (4,426 ft.). The Karkonosze form like all other important ranges of Polish mountains the frontier between Poland and Czechoslovakia. Their northern slopes, which lie on the Polish side, are abundantly provided with snow.

No less beautiful ski-ing grounds are to be found in the central and eastern Sudeten mountains. These are, however, considerably lower than the Karkonosze. The well known plateau of Kotlina Klodzka is surrounded by numerous gentle ranges, at the foot of which are situated the well-known resorts and winter ski-ing centres of Kudowa, Duszniki, Polanica and Ladek.

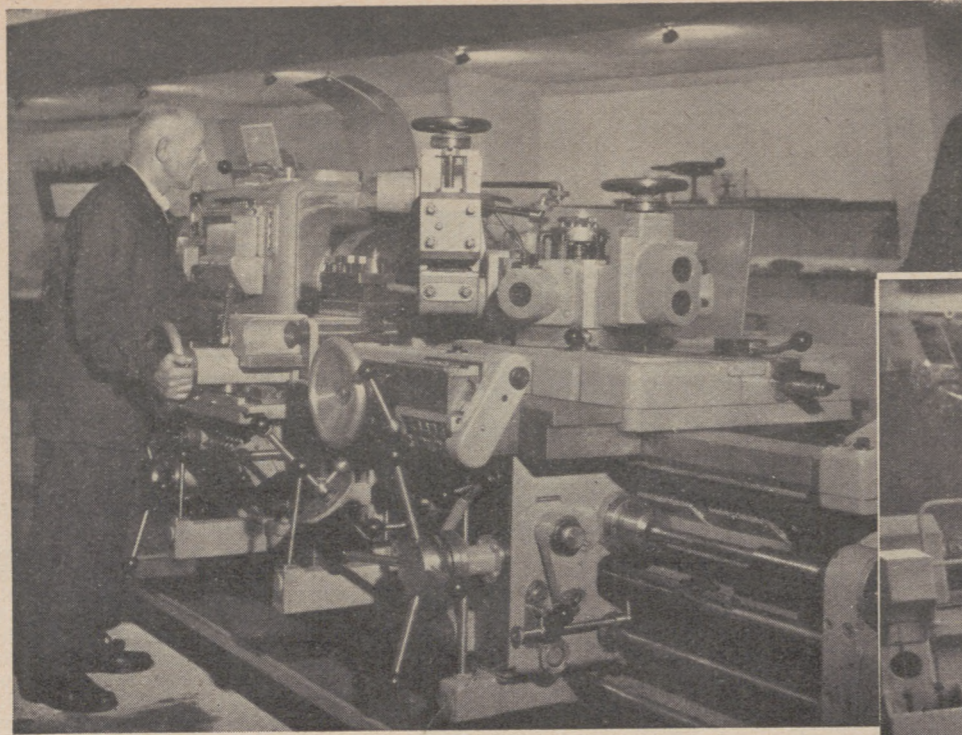
Among the most interesting group of peaks in this region are Gory Stolowe with their Szczeliniec peak (2,987 ft.), Gory Bystrzyckie with the peaks of Wolarz (2,762 ft.), Lemnicka Rownia (2,912 ft.), Jagadna (3,178 ft.) and Czeriec 2,897 ft.).

Far from the Carpathians and the Sudetens lie the Swietokrzyskie Hills, almost in the centre of Poland. They are far from high, but nevertheless quite picturesque. The highest peak of this well-wooded hill area, Lysica, is only 1,987 ft. above the sea-level, but because of its closeness to Poland's two largest urban areas, Warsaw and Lodz, the Swietokrzyskie Hills are visited in winter by crowds of skiers.

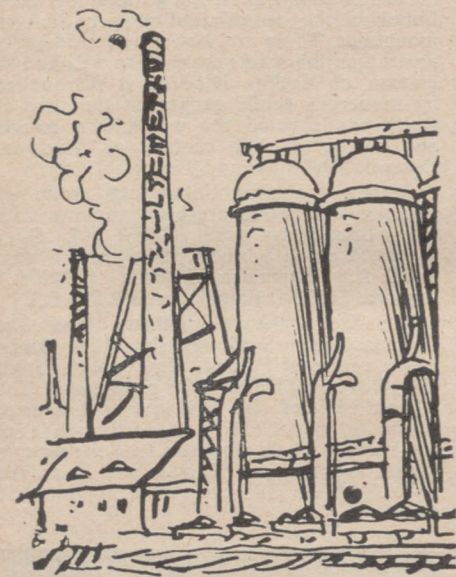


# Poland in Pictures

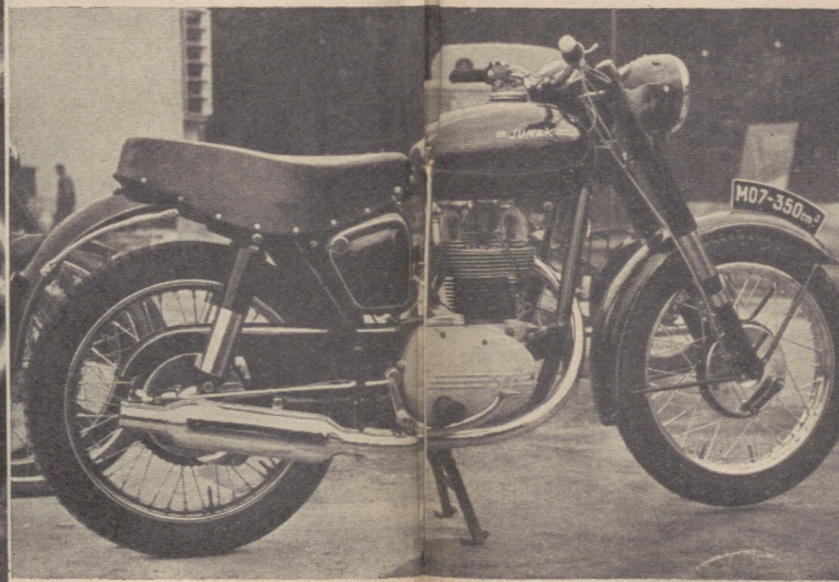
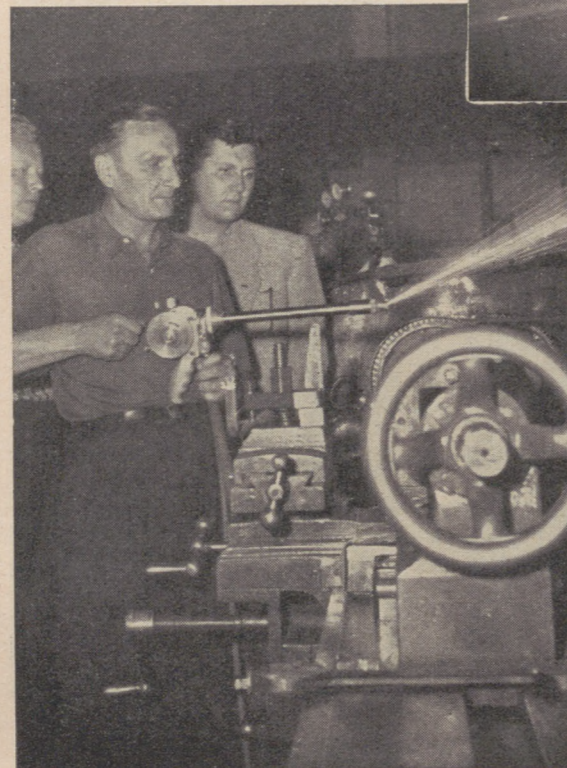
The rapid industrial development of Poland has created a growing demand for all kinds of machinery and equipment, much of which is now being made in Poland for the first time. Our photographs show some machines of Polish design and construction on display at the Exhibition of Inventions and Technical Progress in Wroclaw.



- Above, a new automatic lathe
- Bottom corner, a mobile canteen specially designed for the countryside
- Below, a new type of sprayer for facing with hot metal



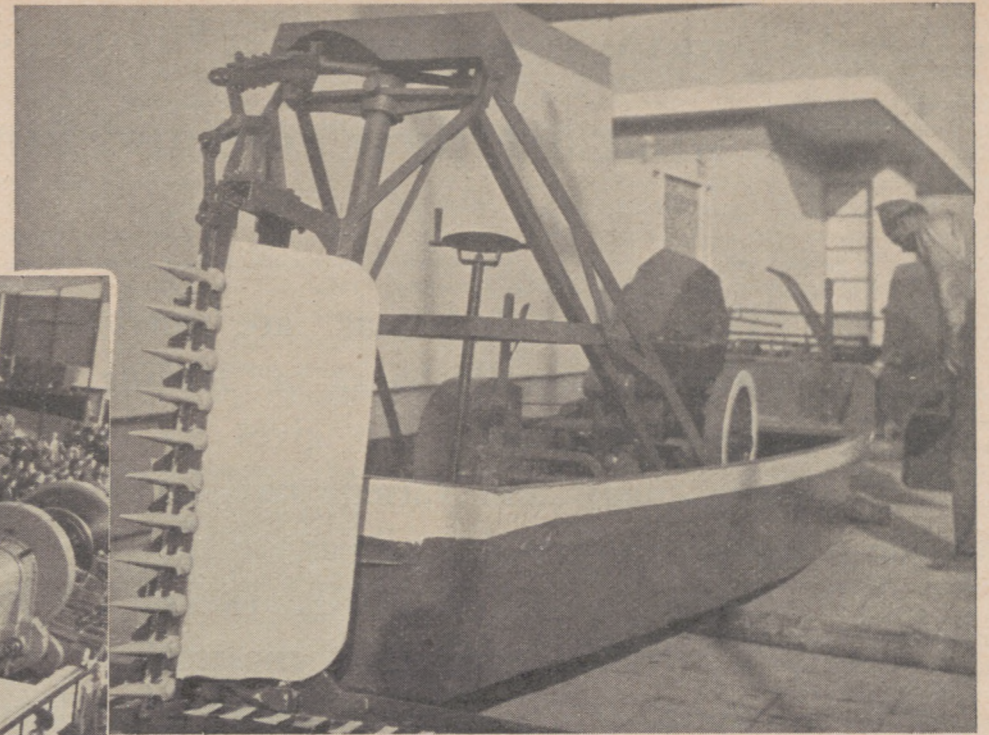
PART OF THE POLISH STALL AT THE LEIPZIG FAIR



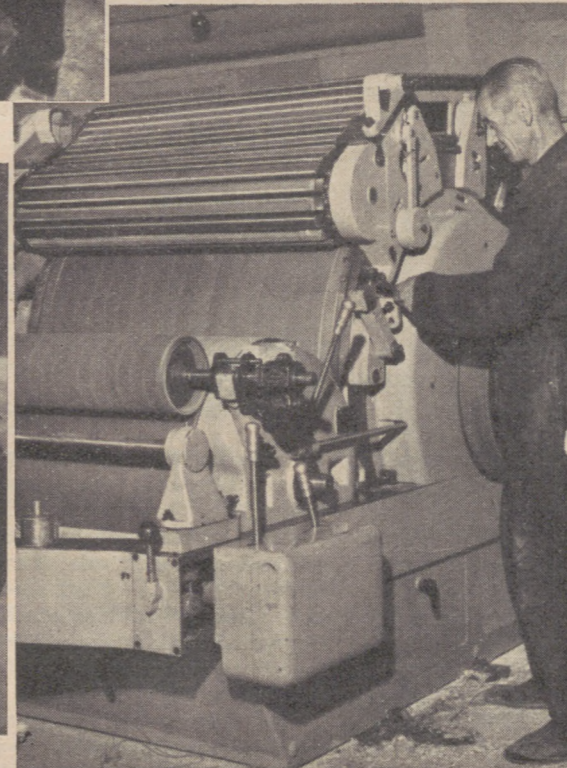
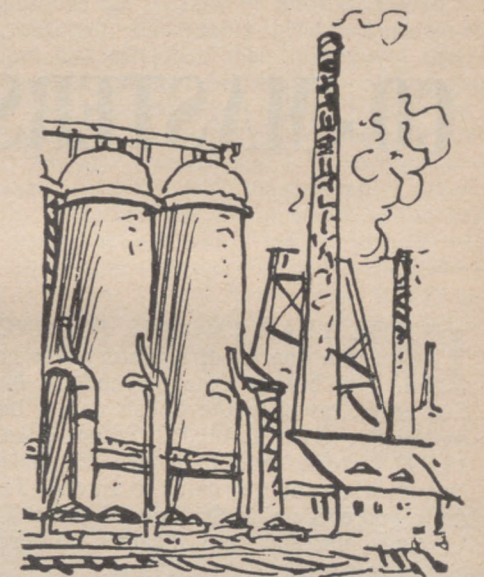
POLAND'S LATEST MOTORCYCLE—THE JUNAK 350

New Poland

New Poland



- Above, a floating mowing machine for cutting down rushes and reeds
- Bottom corner, a deep dredger
- Below, an electrically controlled printing machine for cotton fabrics





# Are Trade Unions necessary in a People's Democracy?

## If so, what are their role and function?

These two questions are answered by Michal Gawalkiewicz, a leading Polish Trade Unionist, who gives an outline of the many and varied parts Trade Unions play in People's Poland. In his article he shows that Polish Trade Unions, which before the war defended the workers against capitalist exploitation, have now become

## CO-MASTERS OF THE PEOPLE'S STATE

**I**N THE YEAR 1944-1945, POLAND LAY IN RUINS. Twice in a quarter of a century war had rolled over Polish soil. The bloody Nazi occupation had lasted more than five years, ravaging the Polish nation biologically as well as materially. Over 6,000,000 Polish citizens perished. About 14,000 factories and industrial installations were a heap of embers when the war came to an end. The retreating invaders destroyed everything that was of value. They blew up schools, hospitals, cinemas and theatres, hundreds of thousands of homes in town and countryside.

Finally there dawned the day of freedom so long yearned for. The Polish people became the masters of their country. With enthusiasm and unparalleled energy they began to raise their country from ruins, to build a better, happier life. And from the very commencement of this work, the trade unions took a most active part in it.

In the ten years of their existence in People's Poland, the trade unions have won great prestige and affection among the working class, embracing in their activity nearly all matters concerning our country. Trade unionists in Poland are ministers, Sejm deputies and members of People's Councils on all levels of their activity. The works councils are the co-masters of the factories.

From the very beginning, the trade unions drew their strength from the enthusiasm of the masses, from the conditions created for them by the people's power, from their unity. In place of the dozens of trade union federations existing in pre-war Poland, all rent with dissension, in place of the hundreds of different, split up little unions, at the 1945 congress a Central Commission of Trade Unions was set up embracing over a dozen trade

unions representing all trades and professions.

Before the war there were as many as 13 different, often tiny railway workers' unions, frequently acting in the interests of the enemies of the working class. To-day, there is one powerful union of railway workers with hundreds of thousands of members. In 1935, there were 32 unions of commercial and office



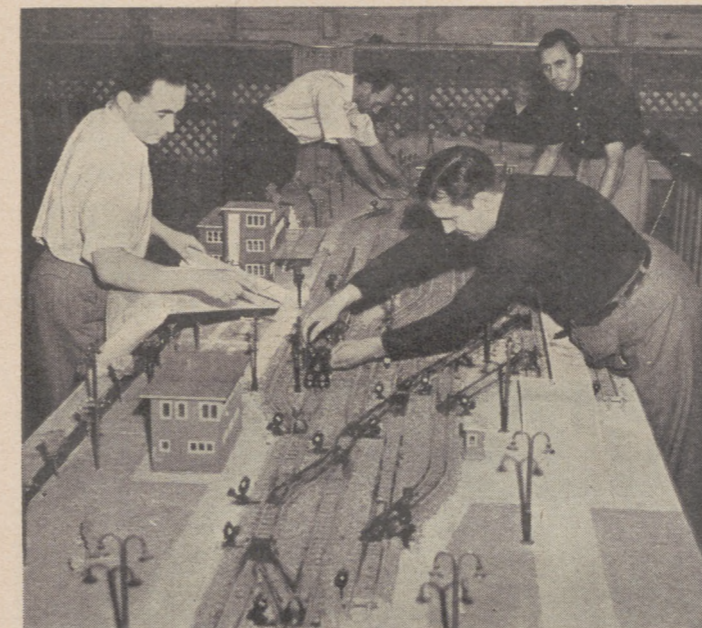
Wiktor Klosiewicz, chairman of the Central Council, seen here addressing the 3rd Congress of Polish Trade Unions, held in May, is also a member of General Council and Executive Committee of W.F.T.U. One of his many jobs is to sit in on Government Committees discussing matters which affect his members.

workers. There was an average of 1,000 members to each union. To-day, there is one union whose membership runs into hundreds of thousands.

At the present moment, the Central Council of Trade Unions affiliates 21 vast trade unions. They conduct broad, lively activity, with the object of ensuring that working people live well, work in healthier conditions, have finer, better flats, that they get the utmost benefit from their leisure time. The unions control the administration of factories, manage the funds earmarked for the material and social needs of the workers, see to it that factory managements observe labour legislation and collective agreements. In the interests of the working class the trade unions strive to draw all working people into the struggle

to fulfil plans, and consequently to multiply the material wealth serving to increase prosperity.

The trade unions in Poland affiliate manual and brain workers on the principle of complete voluntariness, and all authorities, from the lowest to the highest, are elected in the most democratic manner by secret ballot; to the works council—once a year, to higher bodies—once every two years, and to the central authorities—once every four years at the Trade Union Congress. At the election meetings, just as at all other meetings, the trade unionists take an active part in discussion, pointing out shortcomings in the administration of work establishments, and the trade union organisation and management of the enterprise implement the resolutions and motions of the meeting. In the last elections to the trade union authorities in work establishments, over 600,000 people contributed to discussion.



A technical school run by the Railwaymen's Trade Union at Lodz. It is one of several throughout Poland

To-day, when we look back over the last ten years at the development of the trade unions, we see what immense strides have been taken, how their methods of work have improved, how they have become an organisation without which it would be impossible to think of building up a system in which the happiness of man is the highest goal.

In 1954 a correspondent of the Polish Press Agency reports on the elections to the new works council in the Prezydent Colliery: "Almost all the workers attended the election meeting. The report of the retiring works council as well as the discussion revealed that the trade union organisation in this Colliery had great achievements to its credit."

And here are some of them.

"The members of the social insurance committee of the works council visited several hundred miners' flats which needed repairs done. During the year, 776 rooms in miners' flats were repaired, and 76 of the men were allocated new flats. Sixty workers benefited from sanatorium treatment, and 44 workers went away for a three weeks' holiday with medical treatment. The cultural and educational committee obtained for the workers 14,200 tickets to theatres, operas and operettas at reduced prices. An artistic ensemble of 200 persons was formed. A summer camp by the sea was organised for the miners' children."

These dry facts contain the profound essence of the new methods of work of the trade union organisations in Poland,

where power is wielded by the working class. These facts reveal what great possibilities open up before the trade unions when they are the co-masters of the country. In every work establishment, the broad network of the trade union organisation, made up of the works council, the shop council, committees attached to the councils and of the T.U. groups, has the possibility of reaching every worker, of getting to know his problems, the problems of individual sections and of the entire factory. This network, guided, watched over and assisted by the higher T.U. bodies—the regional and central boards of trade unions—constitutes a powerful apparatus standing guard over the interests of the working people, on guard over labour legislation. It is on the initiative of the trade unions that suggestions pour in concerning improvements at work in order that work becomes easier and safer, concerning improvements in the health service and the rational organisation of leisure time. There is no problem which the T.U. organisation does not deal with. The worker or his family can always rely on the trade unions to assist him and protect his interests.

### T.U. Members have say in State Budget

For example, Maria Szymanska, a worker in the May Day Foundry in Gliwice, requested of the director that he permit her to go to the foundry health centre every day during work hours for treatment, since she needed special medical attention in connection with her pregnancy. The director took a bureaucratic attitude to this matter and refused. After the intervention of the works council, permission was granted.

Thanks to the initiative and activity of the works council in this foundry, many efficiently functioning social facilities greatly lighten people's work and safeguard their health and that of their children. There is a splendid health centre with general treatment, surgical and physiotherapy rooms, as well as a dentist's surgery. The centre also has a gynaecologist in attendance. The foundry has also a crèche and a nursery school as well as a children's club room in which the children of working parents are cared for; there are toys and games there for them, and they can do their homework with a teacher to help them. Parents leave their children in the crèche or club room knowing not only that they can work without fear of what will happen to the kiddies in the daytime, but that later in the day they can study in a peaceful atmosphere, as for example Zbigniew Karasinski, a worker in the electrical department, now doing his finals at a school of science and technology.

People's Poland earmarks immense sums for cultural and social purposes—25 per cent of the entire State budget—and



A railway workers' sanatorium near Warsaw. It is administered by the Union

the trade unions have the task of seeing to it that these funds are fully utilised in the best possible way. That is why with every year that passes, the network of social centres is rising. Whereas in 1949, 16,000 children were placed in crèches, by 1953 the number had risen to 40,300. The number of children at nursery schools is also steadily on the up-grade. Last year, 358,000 children attended them. In 1953, 114,522 children found attention and amusements in the children's club rooms all over Poland, and about 1,000,000 children went away for their holidays to day and summer camps.

### T.U. Members appoint Works Inspectors

The people's power and the trade union movement watch mothers with great care. Before the war, working women had only an eight weeks' maternity leave, during which time they drew only half their wages. To-day, working women receive a twelve weeks' maternity leave and a maternity grant equal to 100 per cent of their average earnings over the last three months they worked. In addition, they receive a nursing allowance (1½ pints of milk daily for twelve weeks without charge) as well as a free layette.

From the beginning of pregnancy, women are cared for most solicitously. The trade unions see to it that they are not employed on work which could have a detrimental effect on the pregnancy, and in the last months before delivery, women must be transferred to lighter work while still receiving their former wages.

The trade unions also have a big say in the sphere of industrial safety and work hygiene. In every work establishment there exists a network of group, shop and works social labour inspectors who are elected by the workers to ensure that there are healthy conditions of work. There are already over 200,000 such inspectors and their activity is becoming more and more energetic. The results of their work can be seen in the annually diminishing number of accidents. Despite the fact that many new workers are entering and have entered Polish industry completely ignorant of factory work, in the last five years the number of accidents has diminished by 30 per cent. Not long ago, the trade unions introduced the so-called method of complex planning into old work establishments, designed to improve the conditions of work and consisting in having all the workers in an enterprise point out, within a specified time limit, every possible fault existing in the sphere of industrial safety and work hygiene. On the basis of the workers' suggestions, the social labour inspectors make appropriate notes. In turn, at the joint session of the administration and works council, a plan is drawn up to improve the conditions of industrial safety and work hygiene throughout the establishment, and this is incorporated in the investments plans.

The tempestuous development of industry, the building of new towns and hundreds of estates in old towns, the expansion of roads and railway lines requires the employment of thousands and hundreds of thousands of workers, often travelling to far-off parts of the country. These workers receive either permanent flats or temporary accommodation in workers' hostels—and regards young workers, they are put up in houses of the Young Worker. The trade unions see to it that flats are fairly allocated and that the workers in hostels and houses of the Young Worker have comfortable, well-appointed rooms, good food and cultural entertainments.

No less concern is shown for the many living and housing problems of the permanent workers. The majority of work establishments have trade union grant and loan funds; the loan funds being made up of members' contributions (when a worker withdraws from the fund, all his contributions are returned)—while the grant funds are based on State grants. Often quite considerable sums are advanced to members finding themselves in a difficult situation. These funds are extremely popular and their scope of activity is growing from year to year.

Let us take a look at another sphere of activity of the trade

unions in helping to improve the living conditions of the workers. The trade unions, if not directly, then through their representatives on People's Councils, establish the order in which flats are to be repaired, as well as control the promptness and quality of the job done. The State earmarks vast sums for these purposes. For example, in 1953, 611,465 rooms were repaired. In many cases this involved the installation of water and sanitary arrangements in neglected pre-war houses.

In People's Poland, conditions have been created whereby the T.U.'s have been able to organise wide cultural and educational activity, and through this activity to foster artistic talents and raise the cultural level of the working class. The trade unions joined in the mass campaign to combat illiteracy conducted by the State in 1950-1952, teaching 121,356 illiterates how to read and write. In 1952, illiteracy—shameful legacy of the bourgeois rule—was eradicated. The struggle against illiteracy and the awakened thirst for culture to which the broad masses of the working people were given access from the very first days of freedom in our country, stimulated the development of the mass cultural and educational work conducted by the trade unions. By the end of last year the number of factory houses of culture and clubs had gone up to 233. In addition, there exist ten huge, splendidly equipped regional houses of culture belonging to the trade unions, and 15,000 factory club-rooms.

The trade unions have organised about 40,000 artistic and clubroom ensembles with over 726,000 members participating in them. They have organised thousands of exhibitions, tens of thousands of socials, lectures and concerts. The number of those



Two types of holiday chalets at the seaside resort

attending lectures rose last year by over 15,000,000. The number of T.U. libraries is constantly increasing, along with the number of books and readers.

Last year, the trade unions also organised 150 of their own permanent cinemas at large work establishments. It would be

Year	Number of Books	Number of T.U. Libraries	Number of Readers
1950	2,299,030	4,393	670,820
1953	6,104,235	5,280	880,530

impossible to enumerate here all the varieties of cultural activity run by the T.U. movement. But it is worthwhile mentioning the recently introduced "holiday rest." During the summer free days, the trade unions organise mass excursions for workers and their families to beautiful spots nearby, where games are en-

joyed, competitions held, and artistic performances given. In 1953, 272 such events took place with over 2,000,000 people participating.

But the biggest achievement which the trade unions have to their credit in helping working people to spend a pleasant and healthy holiday is the "workers' holiday scheme." The trade unions own some 1,500 homes in the most beautiful districts and health resorts in the country. About 600,000 people annually spend their holidays in them. The holiday-makers cover only 30 per cent of the cost of a fortnight's stay, and also benefit from a free railway ticket. Ten per cent of those going on T.U. holidays do so completely free of charge. Alongside this form of holiday, the trade unions also organise mobile holidays: cycling, ski-ing, hiking, canoeing, on ocean steamers, and many, many other kinds.

In Krynica, Zakopane, Miedzzydroje and other mountain and seaside resorts, working people spend their well-earned holidays. For those workers who require treatment in health resorts, the trade unions have thousands of places at their disposal in the best health resorts to which they send workers in need of treatment. Apart from this, trade unionists benefit from free treatment at spas on the basis of certificates from the health departments at the People's Councils. Representatives of the trade unions sit on the boards which select those in need of sanatorium treatment.

In their concern for the health and physical fitness of the workers, the trade unions have organised a mass T.U. sports movement. Over 3,492 T.U. sports circles have sprung up with well-equipped facilities, modern stadiums, gymnasiums and



of Pobierowo, run by the workers' holiday scheme

swimming pools. Many trade union sportsmen have won European and world championships. For example, Pawlowski, member of the "Budowlani" sports association is the world junior sabre champion. Chychla, from the "Kolejarz" association won the world boxing championship at the last Olympic Games, and has twice won the European boxing championship. A group of competitors from this sports association established a world record in motor-cycle racing. Sidlo, a young member of the "Stal" sports association, is the world vice-champion in hurling the javelin.

Not long ago, there was an item of news in the papers reporting that Stanislaw Soldek, a former tracer in the Gdansk Shipyards, a shockworker whose name has been given to the first coal-carrier produced in Poland—received an engineering degree at the evening Polytechnic, and is now working for his Master's degree.

There are more such Soldeks in Poland. How did they win such achievements, scientific degrees, such high posts? In

acquiring knowledge and promotion, the workers have been helped by the people's power which opens up possibilities for developing talents, and the trade unions make it possible for every worker, so desiring, to obtain vocational training on all levels. The trade unions run factory courses and provide assistance for the clubs of technique and rationalisation, attentively follow the developing capabilities of workers, sending them to technical schools and higher educational institutions. Among the leading talented workers who have finished their studies we have many capable directors and heads of sections in various branches of industry. There are at present 11,000 workers studying at evening engineering schools.

The workers' innovation clubs are developing on a wide scale. They are the forge of new ideas to improve work, to make it easier and more productive, they are the schools of inventors, they are proof that the worker feels himself to be the co-master of his workplace. From the clubs of technique and rationalisation more and more ideas and suggestions pour in every year bringing the national economy tremendous savings, and high bonuses to the workers.

In 1951, there were 1,850 such clubs, and to-day we already have 2,390. Their activity is progressing in a remarkable way. Whereas in 1950, 53,000 rationalisation projects were filed, there were 211,000 in 1953.

### T.U. Members learn how to run the State

The trade unions in Poland are a true school in which the members learn how to run the State. In caring for their members the trade unions have a sense of responsibility for production and the work establishments, they mobilise them to conscious work in building up the forces and wealth of the country—the common good of all working people. It was on the initiative of the workers that labour competition was born and developed with such an immense sweep, making work easier and more productive.

To-day, the trade unions embrace about 90 per cent of the total number of workers by hand and brain in Poland.

There are over 1,000,000 socially active T.U. workers, T.U. schools and courses help these activists to fulfil their tasks.

In the introduction to the report of the Central Commission of Trade Unions, submitted to the First Congress in 1945, on the first period of organising united trade unions, we read:

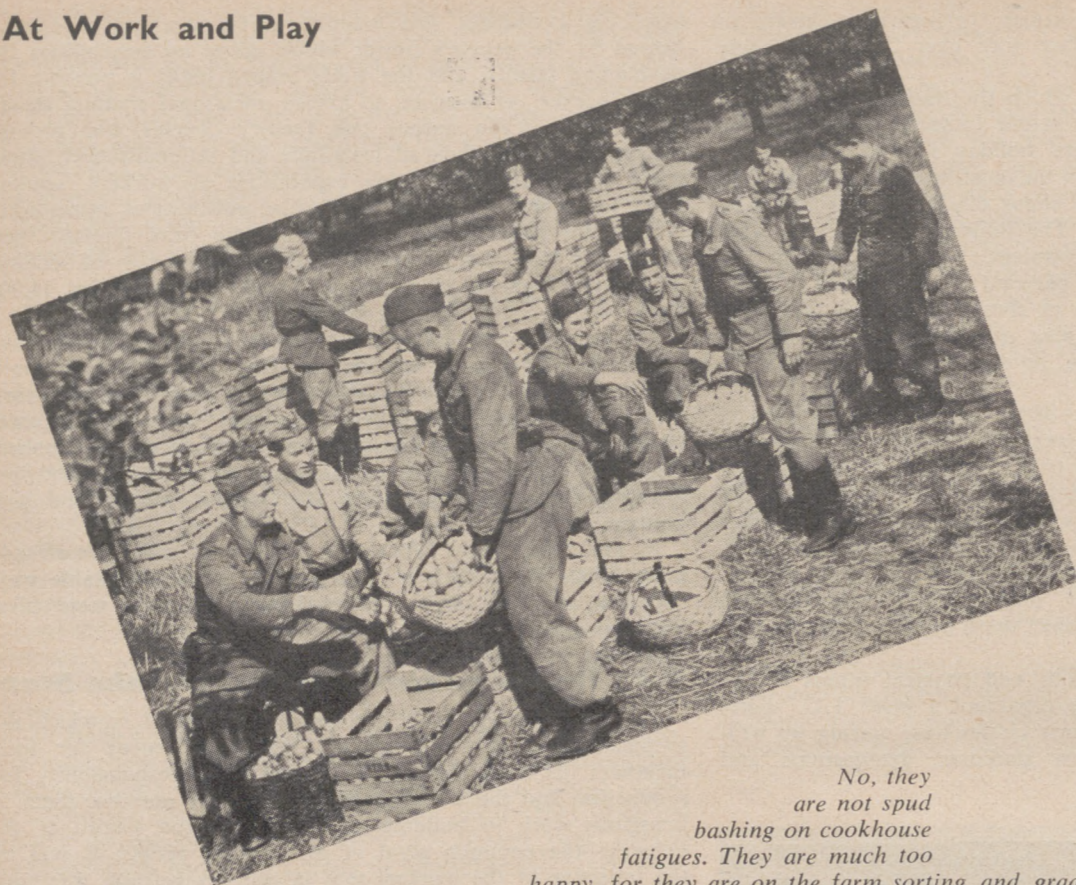
*"We have laid a strong foundation on which we shall erect a vast, strong house. In this work we are assured of the support of the international trade union movement. We are a part of the World Federation of Trade Unions, and representatives of the Polish trade union movement are among the leadership of the World Federation."*

We have already erected this vast house. In the ten years of their existence, the Polish trade unions have traversed a long road, leading the Polish working masses to a brighter future, rearing them in the spirit of proletarian internationalism, teaching them that by multiplying the wealth of People's Poland they contribute to the strengthening of peace and democracy, to the deepening of friendship between nations, that they help their brother workers in other countries in their fight for the preservation of peace and a better life.

Polish trade unionists take an active part in all international campaigns which serve to tighten the unity of the working masses, they implement the decisions of the World Federation of Trade Unions. Several WFTU departments have their headquarters in Poland. Every year, our country plays host to many foreign trade union delegations. What they have to say about our work and achievements is a stimulus to us to harder, still better work.

The period from 1944 to 1954 not only covers ten years. It covers a whole epoch for the Polish trade union movement. With its most active participation, our country is turning from a vast desert of ashes and cinders into a flourishing country—a country of happy people.





No, they are not spud bashing on cookhouse fatigues. They are much too happy, for they are on the farm sorting and grading apples . . . . . But like sailors the world over, these Polish tars prefer Eve to the apples. Who can blame them?



"To us soldiers the country has given the task of protecting its frontiers. The nation has set us to guard Peace and security, to guard its historic achievements. The greatest of our aspirations is to be worthy of the confidence of our country and our nation.

"The defence of our country, the defence of the rights of the working people, the defence of Peace, these are the ideals which the Armed Forces of the Polish People's Republic serve."—General Jan Sliwinski, speaking on 11th anniversary of Polish Army Day

## The Polish Armed Forces Are Eleven Years Old

## BRITONS SEE POLAND IN 1954

### The Report of this Year's Delegates takes you on a thrilling journey through Poland for only ninepence

says Frances White

**I** SAT down and read it through from cover to cover, without putting it down once! And I really enjoyed every page—the sad and the humorous, the factual and the bits of nonsense. There is just enough of each to satisfy me.

You may wonder what fascinating book I was reading. *Britons See Poland*, the report of the delegates who visited Poland this summer.

Usually when I pick up a report of this sort, I take a deep breath and brave myself for the job in hand. I look through it—pick out a bit here and there—take another deep breath, light a cigarette, have a cup of tea and then get down to it. I read a bit, then I have another cup of tea just to help me along, and so on.

This time the *cuppa* I had poured out was getting stone cold. For I was a *Briton in Poland*. I had no time for a cup of tea for I was attending a banquet in honour of Liberation Day, and what a wonderful affair it was, stately yet homely. I could literally hear the band playing and could see the lovely rooms and gardens.

#### Fascinating

Tears were in my eyes when we visited Auschwitz, they were still there when we visited the children's sanatorium at Rabka. But they soon were dispelled by the wonderful testimony of care and devotion shown to those kiddies.

I knew they would get well if at all humanly possible, for was not everything done for them and did they not—sick as they were—lie there with rosy cheeks and happy faces.

I virtually fell off one of those overcrowded trams we saw, where it is free for all and "fares please" a secondary consideration.

I stood in awe before the Palace of Culture and the Palace of Youth and was enchanted by the small houses the Poles build for themselves. I enjoyed the sight of the kiddies and the grandmothers taking their goat to graze and of the families doing their weekly shopping.

Oh! what a glorious time I had on my trip through Poland, seeing Warsaw, Stalinogrod, Gdansk, etc., seeing the Polish people at work and at play.

But don't get me wrong, I have never been to Poland—worst luck—but I have just put down *Britons See Poland* in 1954.

### LOOK OUT FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE

It will contain articles on:  
**POLISH MINERS AND MINING**  
**CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES**  
**MORE POLISH RECIPES**  
 and a special  
**CHILDREN'S COMPETITION**

Place your extra orders now!

#### Now for the Youth Festival

The Second Congress of the Polish Youth Union is to be held from the 19th to the 22nd of this month, when the main item to be considered will be the Fifth World Youth and Student Festival to be held in Warsaw next year.

Already the decision of the World Council of Democratic Youth to hold the next Youth Festival in Poland has received a warm welcome from the Polish youth. Throughout the country local committees and branches of the P.Y.U. have accepted their responsibilities for the Festival.

## ENGLISH LITERATURE EXHIBITION

**I**N ONE OF WARSAW'S LARGEST BOOK-shops an exhibition has been opened showing Polish translations from English literature, published in 1945-1954. It includes fine editions of the English classics: Jonathan Swift, Daniel Defoe, W. M. Thackeray, Walter Scott, Henry Fielding, Charles Dickens, Laurence Sterne, Joseph Conrad, and many others.

The works of Shakespeare are represented in numerous editions, among which new translations like J. Iwaszkiewicz's "Hamlet" and "Romeo and Juliet" and K. I. Galozynski's "Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Henry IV" are outstanding.

In the poetry section E. Porebowicz's translation of Byron's "Don Juan" takes a leading place.

Memoirs are represented by "The Diary of Samuel Pepys" in a delightful translation by Maria Dabrowska.

There are also works by R. Kipling, H. G. Wells, J. Galsworthy, G. B. Shaw, and others.

Among the contemporary English writers whose books have been translated into Polish, mention is due to Jack Lindsay and James Aldridge, whose novel "The Diplomat" (World Peace Council Prize) has lately appeared in Polish bookshops.

Also displayed are many translations of children's books, above all, of H. Lofting, A. A. Milne and Kenneth Graham.

Apart from fiction the exhibition presents historical works such as A. L. Morton's "People's History of England," Christopher Hill's "The English Revolution of 1640," and others.

### BRITISH PIANISTS FOR CHOPIN CONTEST

**F**OUR YOUNG BRITISH PIANISTS HAVE been awarded travel grants to enable them to participate in the Fifth International Chopin Competition to be held in Warsaw next February.

They are Miss Shiela Wells from West Bridgford, Notts., who gained first award of £40; Miss Malinee Peris from Ceylon, £20; Miss Elizabeth Hunt, and Mr. Jeremy Gott, who were awarded £10 each.

The travel grants were awarded by the Polish Cultural Institute who has been responsible for arranging the British preliminary hearings in the Competition.

The awards were made by a British jury who recommended that eight of the fifteen competitors they heard were of a sufficiently high standard to take part in the actual Competition in Warsaw.

## Food and Fashions

NOW THE WINTER MONTHS ARE UPON US (HOW THEY GOT here without any summer I don't know), we all like to provide some unusual meals for the family.

I know that most women like to do a bit of experimenting so why not try a few things the Polish way?

I am assured that all the Polish ingredients mentioned in these tasty recipes are available in this country. But if you have any difficulty in getting such things as liquid egg, nag your grocer till he gets them. He can if he wants to, and the more you nag the better job you do for British-Polish trade. They have plenty of food stuffs they want to sell to us and we have plenty of machinery and other goods we can sell to them.

So why not see what you can do with a simple onion as the main basis? More recipes will appear each month and I suggest you cut them out and so build up your own Polish cookery book.

### ONIONS STUFFED WITH MEAT

Onions ..... 10  
Pork ..... 1lb.  
Dry bread roll ..... 2 ozs.  
Milk .....  $\frac{1}{4}$  pint  
Liquid egg .....  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ozs.  
Salt and pepper.  
Butter or margarine .. 3 ozs.  
Juice of half a lemon.  
Parsley.

Peel and core onions. Mince meat with bread roll soaked in milk and drained, add liquid egg, season and stir until smooth. Fill cored onions with mixture and put in a buttered tin. Add a little water or stock and the lemon juice, cook in a hot oven for about 30 minutes. Serve on a hot dish with gravy and chopped parsley.

### ONIONS ON TOAST

Onions ..... 8 ozs.  
Butter or margarine .. 2 ozs.  
Stock .....  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint  
Flour .....  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz.  
Juice of half a lemon.  
Parmesan .....  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ozs.  
Bread ..... 1lb.  
Butter or margarine .. 5 ozs.

Slice onions, put in a frying pan with a little stock and cook under cover until stock evaporates. Then add butter and fry until onions are light golden. Add flour and fry, keeping the onions moving, mix with rest of the stock, add salt, the lemon juice and half the grated parmesan. Bring to boil.

Make toast, put onions on toast, sprinkle with remaining parmesan and finish cooking in a greased tin in a hot oven.

### ONIONS STUFFED WITH MUSHROOMS

Onions ..... 10  
Dried mushrooms .... 2 ozs.  
Dry bread roll ..... 2 ozs.  
Milk .....  $\frac{1}{4}$  pint  
Onions ..... 3 ozs.  
Butter or margarine .. 2 ozs.  
Liquid egg ..... 3 ozs.  
Salt and pepper.  
Parsley.

Wash mushrooms and leave to soak overnight. Boil until tender and strain. Mince with soaked bread roll and 3 ozs. onions



This simple organza-chiffon evening dress was among the many Polish fashions shown at Leipzig Fair in September

fried in butter. Add liquid egg, season, mix thoroughly. Boil the ten onions with stuffing, put in a buttered saucepan, add some of the stock in which mushrooms have been cooked and leave to simmer until soft. Serve with chopped parsley.

Note: One egg is equal to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ozs. of liquid egg.

The above recipes should be sufficient to serve five people.



# The Society is to extend its activities into fresh fields

By BILL ELLERBY

## BRITISH-POLISH FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

### Secretary's Letter

CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR are rapidly approaching and we hope shortly to have a very attractive Greetings Card, suitable to the Season, available for sale to members, so look out for an early special announcement.

The afternoon of Tuesday, October 12th, saw nearly thirty members of twelve Women's Co-op Guilds present at an afternoon social, tea, and film show. They applauded the three films enthusiastically, particularly *Country School*, which deals with the conversion of a deserted country house in Poland into a wonderful children's school. Mrs. D. N. Pritt, the Chairman of the Society, created much interest when she spoke of her impressions during her recent visit to Poland.

This afternoon social will be followed by another Co-operative social on Thursday evening, October 21st. Because *New Poland* goes to press before these events I am unable to report on it. However, at the time of writing, ninety members from fourteen Guilds have indicated that they are coming.

#### Trade Union Night

*Britons See Poland in 1954* is now available and will, I believe, prove a best seller. We hope all our members and friends will sell this Report to their friends, workmates and neighbours. It contains the latest information about Poland and is particularly valuable because included in it are the replies to many questions asked by the July T.U. Delegation about life in Poland to-day. The answers were given by a team of top level trade union and other experts, and cover such matters as housing, street trading, hire purchase, juvenile delinquency, education, etc. The Report runs to 71 pages with a chart illustrating the structure of the Polish Trade Unions, and represents remarkable value at 9d. a copy.

As these notes are being written we are preparing for our Trade Union Guest Night on Saturday, October 23rd. It is our intention to invite Trade Unionists as guests on one Saturday evening a

month. On the 23rd we have members of Engineering Branches and Engineering delegates.

Last month we held some interesting meetings in the Club at our Wednesday and Friday night events and more are to follow.

Our film show with *To-morrow It Will Be Fine* and *The First Start* on Friday October 1st was very successful with fifty present and the films well received.

On Wednesday 6th, Mrs. Noreen Branson made a most interesting statement on housing and rents, and surprised even those who have visited Poland by her knowledge and by new material gathered by her during her visit.

On Wednesday 13th, Rev. Stanley Evans created much interest with his talk on *Poland and Foreign Affairs*.

#### A Grand Response

Now for something a little out of the ordinary, a Children's Party on Saturday, 30th. We will also break fresh ground this year with a Youth Party on November 13th. I hope our members will note the date and tell all young people of their acquaintance.

Our Folk Dance Group has been gaining new laurels. On October 6th and 13th they were included in a colourful programme organised by the Birmingham Co-operative Society in the Birmingham Town Hall and met with a fine reception.

The Cultural Institute organised an Exhibition of Polish Arts and Crafts in the Regent Cinema, Brighton. This was a great success and Mrs. Ann Herbert, until recently Secretary of the Society,

spoke to over 150 school children and adults every day. In the first week those running the Exhibition sold about 80 copies of *New Poland* and Mrs. Herbert has had five invitations from various organisations, whose members have visited the Exhibition, to speak to them on Poland.

Two active members of our Society have already spoken at meetings of other organisations this month. Mrs. D. N. Pritt, to the Roundabout Women's Club, Boreham Wood, on *Life in Poland*, and Mrs. Diana Purcell on the *Polish Co-operative Movement* to the Castlenau Women's Guild. Mrs. Pritt will also be speaking in the Warsaw Club on Friday, October 29th, on her recent visit to Poland, under the title *Autumn Journey*.

Our Scottish Organiser, Charles Nixon, has been busy with film shows. Two in Glasgow and one in Glenrothes, Fife, in the first half of the month, with more in the second half.

#### COMING EVENTS

##### Wednesday, November 3rd:

Club Night, Warsaw Club, 7.30 p.m.

##### Saturday, November 6th:

Dance, Warsaw Club, 7.30 p.m.

##### Wednesday, November 10th:

Club Night, Warsaw Club, 7.30 p.m.

##### Saturday, November 13th:

Youth Party and Film Show, *The Eagle's Track* and *The Crew*, Warsaw Club, 7.30 p.m.

##### Wednesday, November 17th:

Club Night, Warsaw Club, 7.30 p.m.

##### Saturday, November 20th:

Social, Warsaw Club, 7.30 p.m.

##### Wednesday, November 24th:

Club Night, Warsaw Club, 7.30 p.m.

#### SPECIAL T.V. DATES

##### Sunday, October 31st:

Polish Film, *Flowers of the Valley*, Children's T.V., 5.10 p.m.

##### Friday, November 5th:

Polish Film, *The Eagle's Track*, Children's T.V., 5.20 p.m.

Every Wednesday Night is Club Night at the Warsaw Club

## Watch Out for These Films

FILMS HAVE FOR LONG BEEN RECOGNISED as the best medium with which to give information about a subject or country. It is, therefore, both pleasing and revealing to learn that showings of Polish films now average 150 per month.

This means that hundreds and hundreds of people are seeing something about Poland, in many cases for the first time, in such diverse groups as trade union branches, Co-op Guilds, women's organisations, and film societies as well as at schools and educational centres.

### Bigger Audiences

It is our aim to increase the number of showings to 200 per month by the end of January. This is not much when one realises that it means only two more showings daily, but we cannot do it without your help.

So why not include a Polish film in your winter's programme? A fine catalogue of Polish films to suit all tastes can be obtained from Films of Poland, 81 Portland Place, London, W.1 or from Plato Films, whose advertisement appears on the back cover of this issue.

Two Polish films are to be shown on the Children's T.V. programme in the near future. On Sunday, October 31st, at 5.20 there will be *Flowers of the Valley*.

On the following Friday, November 5th, *The Eagle's Track* will be shown at 5.10 p.m.

These showings provide friends of Poland with two grand opportunities for arousing still more interest in Polish films and if word is put around may mean that Polish films are introduced into still more organisations.

Still another opportunity for getting a Polish film to even more people is possible, especially if you have an independent cinema in your area. The film *Five Boys of Barska Street*, which was such a success at the Edinburgh Festival and which since has had a warm reception at the National Film Theatre, London, has been taken for distribution by Gala Films.

### Co-op Support

It is a first-class film and with its standing in the film world you should have no difficulty in persuading your local cinema manager to include it in his programme.

The Society's Folk Dance Group which is well known to London audiences recently extended its field of activity by making two trips to Birmingham. They appeared, at the request of the Birmingham Co-operative Society, in the Town Hall, in a very entertaining and appeal-

ing production, *The Rainbow Over The Co-operative Commonwealth*.

In the form of a travelogue it brought songs and dances from countries throughout the world, as Birmingham's celebrations for the nineteenth anniversary of the International Co-operative Alliance.

It was most significant that our Dance Group should be asked to represent Poland on this occasion, for only a few weeks earlier Poland's application for re-admittance to the Alliance had been rejected.

This rejection has not dampened the determination of British Co-operators that Poland must be admitted into the fold once again. In fact, some of the British delegates to the I.C.A. meeting spoke strongly for Poland's membership, using information about the Polish Co-operative Movement which the Society has been able to make available.

The International Co-operative Alliance meets only once in three years but in the meanwhile we must not let the question of Poland's membership recede into the background. There are strong ties of friendship between British and Polish Co-operators which, I am sure, will become even stronger in the intervening period.

### Invaluable Textbook

Once again the Society has produced a report of delegates who visited Poland during the summer. I can say, without blushing, for I had no part in its production, that it is the finest yet. The review which appears on page 19 is not a well thought out publicity stunt. Frances White did, in fact, read from cover to cover without putting it down. She was so enthralled and enthusiastic that she immediately wrote the review, and now as I write this days afterwards she is still enthusiastic.

The questions and answers section at the end of the report forms the most up-to-date text book on Poland available in this country. It is a must for all interested in friendship with Poland.

As in previous years the Society is producing its own Christmas card. Already the design has been agreed to by the Executive Committee and the artist is at work on what, according to our traditions, will be better and brighter than earlier ones.

The print will be limited so get your orders in as soon as possible and avoid disappointment.

Incidentally, our next issue will be the Christmas number which will contain details of a children's competition for paper cuts. Lots and lots of Polish paper cuts will be reproduced in order to give the kiddies some ideas.

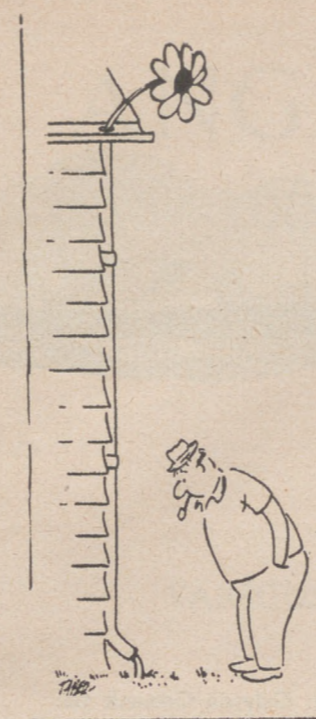
Ernest Hanwell

New Poland

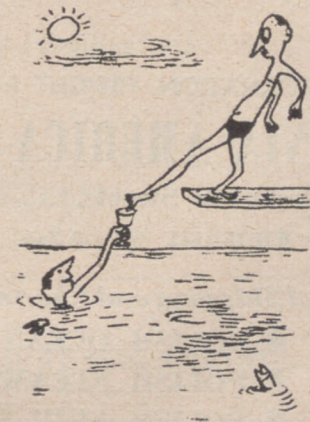
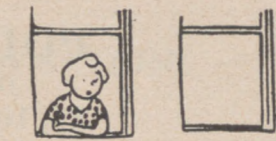
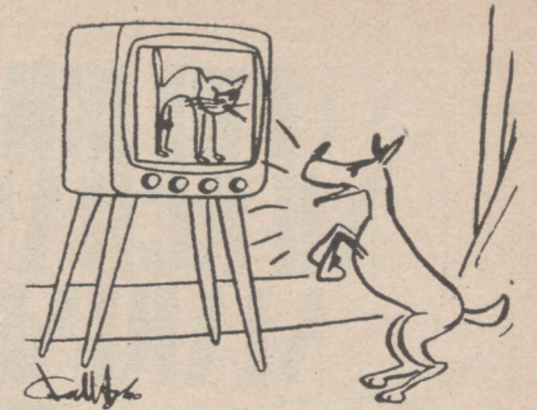
### FROM GLASGOW TO WARSAW



At the concert and meeting held in Glasgow in July to mark the tenth anniversary of Poland's National Liberation Day, members of the audience sent a signed message to the Polish people. Our picture shows Mrs. D. N. Pritt handing the scroll over to a representative of The Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, during her recent visit to Poland



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*. . Such was Auschwitz, the "Camp of Death"; but it is only half the story. Were everything written it would not be read. If read, it would not be believed.*

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