

016929/1947/2

# New Poland

016929/1947/2

A MAGAZINE OF BRITISH-POLISH INTERESTS



MICKIEWICZ RETURNS TO KRAKOW — By HENRYK GOTLIB

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**APRIL**  
1947

**6<sup>D</sup>**  
MONTHLY



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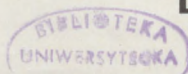
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# New Poland

APRIL  
1947

No. 4 Vol. 2

*A Magazine of British-Polish Interests*

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### EDITORIAL

*"I am very pleased to have the opportunity of paying this, my first visit to Poland. There is a great affection between Great Britain and Poland. We never forget the events of 1939 and the way that Poland stood by the Allies right through the war. We fought together, we died together and together we will make peace and security for the world."*

**M**R. BEVIN'S words, spoken in Warsaw during his flying visit on March 6th, will give new heart to all those who want to see a better understanding between Poland and Britain.

These words were not mere diplomatic niceties, for they preceded the practical work of the Foreign Ministers' meeting in Moscow where the peace and security of the world will be settled. The core of this problem is the German question.

The fear of a revival of German militarism and aggression, dominates the lives of the people of Europe. The massive efforts being made by Poland and other European countries to make good the ravages of the last war will be reduced to nought if a new war-like Germany arises.

Mr. Bevin assured his Polish listeners, during his visit to their capital, that we in Britain were aware of this danger.

The agreement, reached by the Foreign Ministers, on the dissolution of Prussia augers well for a final solution of the wider problem of Germany. The significance of

this first agreement lies in the fact that Prussia, through the ages, has been the breeding ground for aggression in Europe. The State of Prussia, itself, was created from the conquest of Polish lands.

**T**HE Potsdam Agreement handed the Lower Silesia, Pomerania, and parts of East Prussia to Polish administration. At Yalta, the Big Three agreed that Poland should be compensated with territory in the north and in the west.

These lands, now referred to as the Regained Territories, have become part of Poland. Nearly five million Polish settlers have taken the place of the Germans, and the whole area is to-day economically, politically and culturally Polish.

The return of these territories to Poland has transformed the whole future of the Polish people. The in-

dustries of the west now supply raw materials and machinery for the re-equipment of the rest of the country. Without such an industrial base, the Three Year Plan to restore Poland would be impossible and the future black indeed.

With the resources of these areas, Poland from a poverty-stricken agricultural country, will emerge into a healthy industrial State contributing to the growing prosperity of Europe.

### POZNAN FAIR

**T**HE revival of the International Fair at Poznan—world-famous before the war—is a welcome sign of the growth of European trade. The Fair has created considerable interest among British firms and a number of commercial representatives from this country will attend.

The absence of a Financial and Trade agreement between Britain and Poland hinders the development of trade, for the problem of rate of exchange and credits to Poland has yet to be settled. There is a certain reluctance, on the part of British firms to extend credits to Poland under these circumstances, which in turn results in a loss to British exports.

An exhibition of Poland's Western Territories will be held at the School of Slavonic Studies, London University, Malet Street, London, W.C.1., on April 9th—24th from 9.30 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

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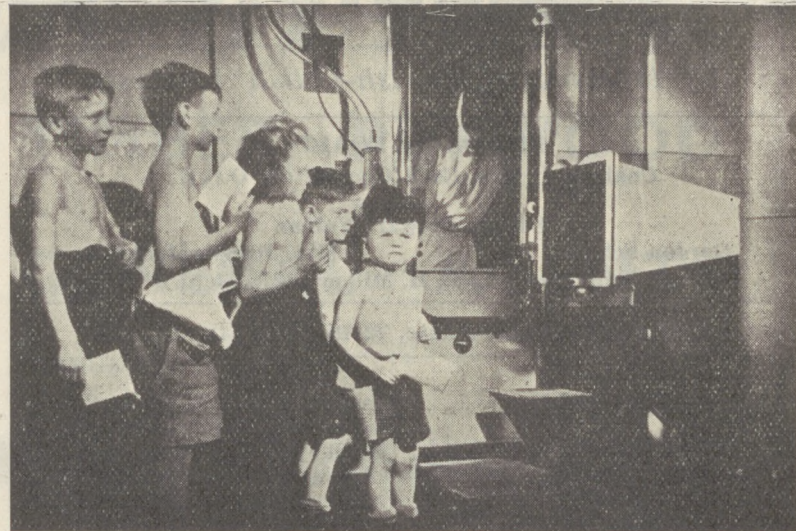
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# POLAND'S WAR ON T.B.

By  
**MARC DANIELS**  
M.D., D.P.H.

Engaged in public health work and subsequently in Tuberculosis research. In 1945 joined staff of U.N.R.R.A. as adviser on Tuberculosis problems, and in that capacity worked in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Austria and Germany.



Over 1,000,000 persons in Poland have active Tuberculosis. Mass examination by X-ray, as shown here, is assisting the work of fighting this dread disease.

**T**UBERCULOSIS is a disease that is intimately correlated with the conditions in which people live and work. Because of this it was to be anticipated that the disease would cause great havoc in Poland during the war. The six years' occupation of Poland was so grim that the people must be considered primarily and constantly as the survivors or part-survivors of the occupation. Almost every Pole one meets in Poland has lost relations or a home, has starved or has lived in unimaginable conditions.

One must know the conditions of war-time and post-war Poland to understand the present tragic tuberculosis problem in Poland. The background is one of devastation, of over-crowding, of shortage of trained people, of millions of people who have been on the move until now. The devastation of Warsaw, Poznan and Wroclaw is indescribable. Warsaw was destroyed systematically, house by house, street by street; in the shambles that remain live half a million people. Among this population living in dark cellars and one-room flats, which by a miracle retain 4 walls and a ceiling, there are several thousand cases of tuberculosis. Over-crowding and shortage of food

provide all the *tubercle bacillus* requires in order to flourish.

To the rural areas are returning peasants and children of peasants who were taken off for slave labour in Germany. Many contracted tuberculosis there and, returning home, are infecting communities previously untouched by the disease.

Against this background of devastation and potential chaos reconstruction is going on. In assessing the tuberculosis services and work done to date, the background must not be forgotten. The work of public health officers with no records, of professors of medicine with no clinics, of scientists with no laboratory or equipment, needs to be seen in Poland to be believed.

I joined the U.N.R.R.A. mission in Poland in May 1946, to advise on the tuberculosis problem. The job was to assess the extent of the problem, in terms of mortality and incidence; then, in relation to that, to assess the existing T.B. services, and determine their main needs; to advise U.N.R.R.A. on the material needs which could be met by a supply programme; and to discuss with the Ministry of Health any problems of organisation. I was there two months, and again two months in the autumn, visiting sanatoria,

hospitals and dispensaries throughout the country. The work was closely allied with that of the Ministry of Health, and at all times I was met with such genial co-operation that I was made to feel as if I were one of them.

There had been an alarming increase of tuberculosis in Poland during the war years, and the disease is now widespread. In Warsaw the number of T.B. deaths per 100,000, already high before the war, rose 200%, from 155 to 452 in 1941, and 500 in 1944. Before the war the rate was FOUR times as high as in U.S.A. (white population); in 1944, it was FIFTEEN times as high. Among Jews, the death rate before the last war was relatively low, around 80; in 1941, it had risen to 440. In Lodz, the mortality rose from 176 pre-war to 401 in 1943; but the war-time rate relates to the combined German and Polish population; for the Poles alone the figure was 488 in 1943, while in Germans the death rate was only one-third of this. In Poz-

(Continued on next page)

NEW POLAND

FROM POLSKI RADIO:

## Mr. Bevin visits Warsaw

On March 6th, the Polish Radio devoted a long broadcast to a report of Mr. Bevin's visit to Warsaw on his way to the Peace Conference in Moscow.

The radio broadcast a description of the Warsaw-Gdansk Railway Station, which had been specially decorated; the platforms had been completely cleared of snow and decorated with Polish and British flags. Representatives of the British, U.S., Soviet and French Embassies were present. There was a large gathering of Polish and foreign Press. When the train arrived, M. Modzelewski, Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs, accompanied by officials of the Polish Government, entered Mr. Bevin's coach.

The announcer said that Mr. Bevin would visit the ruins of Warsaw, the Ghetto, the Old City, the Theatre Square and the districts rebuilt or in the course of reconstruction. Afterwards, he would hold a Press Conference.

Mr. Bevin then left his coach and came up to the microphone. He said:

*"I am very pleased to have the opportunity of paying this, my first visit to Poland. There is a great affection between Great Britain and Poland. We never forget the events*

*of 1939 and the way Poland stood by the Allies right through the war. We fought together, we died together and together we will make peace and security for the world."*

Later he said:

*"I am very glad to have had an opportunity of seeing Warsaw. During the war, as a member of the War Cabinet, I remember the name of this city mentioned repeatedly in attacks and counter-attacks.*

*"What strikes most everywhere in Warsaw is the terrible German scheme of destruction. The very thought of it is terrifying. We hope that this will never happen again. Mankind is now faced with a gigantic task of reconstruction.*

*"We are going to Moscow to remove political difficulties and make peaceful reconstruction possible for all. The price which the simple people paid in this war was very high. These people now have the right to enjoy life, freedom and security. One of our tasks is to make all this possible."*

Asked whether the British nation had forgotten German cruelties, Mr. Bevin said:

*"Many Britons have fallen in this war and Britain remembers this well. Britain does not want Ger-*

### Poland's War on T.B. (continued from previous page)

nan, mortality rose from 198 before the war to 360 at the end of the war.

The prevalence of T.B. among the present population is shown by the results of some mass X-ray surveys. At Krakow University, 9,387 students were examined by miniature radiography of the chest; 4.2% were found to have tuberculosis lesions requiring treatment and another 6.6% lesions requiring observation. In the Poznan surveys conducted in 1945, 13.5% of factory employees were found to have lesions of pulmonary tuberculosis requiring treatment or observation.

A Swedish Relief service unit, examining over 2,000 university students in Warsaw, found that over 15% have pulmonary tuberculosis requiring treatment or observation. These figures of the results of mass X-ray examination are approximately ten times higher than corresponding figures in England or the U.S.A.

They indicate a prevalence so high that there must be over a million persons in Poland with active tuberculosis.

(This article will be concluded in our next issue).



Britain's Foreign Minister is shown round the ruined Capital.

many, as the result of reconstruction, to become again a threat to the world. Britain only wants Germany to be able to feed herself."

### INTERNATIONAL BANK DIRECTOR IN WARSAW

M. Baranski, Director of the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development, is now in Warsaw to advise the Finance Ministry and the National Bank of Poland on the work of the International Bank.

M. Baranski stated that the Bank was now working out plans to advance loans to Denmark, France, Chile and Poland. The Bank possessed a loan fund of over 700,000,000 dollars. The Polish Government's request for a 600,000,000 dollars loan for three years would be considered by the Bank's Loan Committee. The loan will be utilised in financing imports under the Three-Year Plan.

### CANCER INSTITUTE

The Ministry of Health has begun work on the establishment of a cancer institute at Gliwice (Gleiwitz).

**Our "Scots Diary" will  
commence in the next  
issue—(Ed.)**



Soup kitchens help to supplement the rations. These little Warsaw children seem to approve.



WITH the introduction of a rationing system in Poland, the Government had certain very special conditions with which to contend.

Firstly, the psychological attitude of the people after six years of occupation when they had been reduced to a diet bordering on starvation and the habit acquired during this time of evading, whenever possible, all restrictions and regulations and their expectation at the Liberation of an unrestricted diet.

Secondly, the terrible destruction of transport, agricultural equipment, warehouses, grain elevators and livestock and the chaotic conditions prevailing throughout the country.

From the time of the Liberation until July, 1946, various theoretical plans were put into practice but with unsatisfactory results due chiefly to overestimating home-grown crop yields and the unwillingness of the agricultural population to yield up their compulsory deliveries of food stuffs at fixed prices, based on a percentage per hectare (2½ acres), because industry was unable to supply their needs in return. The result was that much grain was buried in the ground and lost through rotting. This is a good example of the very human reaction of sorely tried peoples still suffering from the effects

## HOW POLISH FOOD

(Information supplied by M. Zawistowski Press Officer, Ministry of Food, Warsaw)

- d. The manufacture of certain meat products is prohibited.
- e. Meat consumption is limited by the imposition of three meatless days per week.
- f. Days without cakes have also been introduced.

And added to these restrictions is the campaign against waste, instructions on the economical use of available food and the introduction of food cards.

As the amount of food available would only yield 1,200-1,300 calories per day per head of the *Urban* population, it was decided to introduce a system of categories. There are five categories in all and they are detailed as follows:

**Category I.**—This includes (a) All workers employed by the State in administration, industry and communications; (b) Those whose wages are under State control; (c) Students.

They receive 1,998 calories per day.

**Category II.**—This includes pensioners, invalids, employees in works partly under State control. They receive 1,544 calories per day.

**Category III.**—This includes people over 60 years of age and people who are unable to work.

They receive 891 calories per day.

**Category IR.**—Cards for this category to members of the families of those persons entitled to cards of categories I and II.

They receive 1,267 calories per day.

**Category IIR.**—Cards of this category as issued to members of families of people entitled to cards of Category II.

They receive 604 calories per day.

In Britain throughout the war, each person received without fail, rations amounting to 2,850 calories per day which are of course augmented by many unrationed goods at controlled prices, e.g., fish, vegetables, potatoes, etc.

To increase the very low calory value of the various categories in

## RATIONING WORKS

By  
MRS. JOSEPH MACLEOD

Poland, rations have been supplemented by collective feeding in:

Hospitals and Sanatoria, Schools, Day Nurseries and Kindergartens, Orphanages, Children's Camps, Homes for Mothers and Children, Old People and the Disabled and also through Government and Works' Canteens and by means of the Soup Kitchens.

Holders of cards, Categories I and IR (and these cover 90 per cent. of the urban population), have a clause in their labour agreements guaranteeing them 100 per cent. of their food allotment. Should the food not be available then the deficit is made up by cash payments. Up to the present, any deficit has been made up by the Government purchasing through the supply fund on the free market.

The accompanying table shows

the difference between the controlled prices which are based on those prevailing in 1939, and those of the free market and gives a sample of rations for one month for Categories I and IR.

The prices of the open market are beyond the pockets of the average worker. (In May, 1946, I paid 1,000 zlotys for 1lb. of plain chocolate).

Workers in chemical and similar industries if they are working in dangerous fumes, are given 1½ pints of milk per day.

Underground coal workers receive an additional 1,200 calories per day, making their total 3,198 per day. Other heavy workers receive an additional 700 calories per day which makes their total 2,698 per day (compared with the normal

adult in Britain of 2,850 calories per day).

Children up to 12 years of age have an additional 180 calories per day in the form of bread, milk, sweets or honey or chocolate, which makes their total 1,447 calories per day.

There is no issue of protective foods for Polish mothers or babies under five such as our vitamin tablets, cod liver oil and orange juice. The reason is that such important additions to the diet do not exist in Poland at the moment.

After six years of a near starvation diet and with the present inadequate one, the Polish people carry on, working six days a week towards the reconstruction of their devastated country and if they do complain we certainly never hear about it!

## BRITISH AND POLISH RATIONS COMPARED

### RATIONS for 1 Month

(Official Rate of Exchange 420 zlotys to the £)

	Open Market Prices	Controlled Prices	Category 1	Category IR	British Rations
BREAD ... ..	—	2 zlotys per kilo	8½ kilos (42 B.U.'s)	6 kilos (30 B.U.'s)	Normal adults and adolescents receive a total of 88 B.U.'s per four week period.
WHEAT ... ..	60 zlotys per kilo	1.20 zl. per kilo	2 kilos (13 B.U.'s)	1 kilo (6½ B.U.'s)	On points
FLOUR ... ..	50 zlotys per kilo	1 zloty per kilo	2 kilos (4lbs. 6ozs.)	1½ kilos (3¼lbs.)	1½lbs each per adult and adolescent per month
CEREAL ... ..	450 zl. per kilo	6 zlotys per kilo	1 kilo (2lbs. 3ozs.)	½ kilo (1lb. 1½oz.)	Unrationed
FATS ... ..	200 zl. per kilo	4 zl. per kilo	2 kilos (4lbs. 6ozs.)	1 kilo (2lb 3oz.)	2lbs. per person per month
MEAT OR FISH ... ..	6 zlotys per kilo	0.60 zl. per kilo	18 kilos (39lbs. 6ozs.)	12 kilos (26¼lbs.)	Household 12ozs. Toilet or flakes 9ozs. per person per month
POTATOES ... ..	—	—	½ kilo (1lb. 1½oz.)	¼ kilo (9oz.)	Children 3½ pints per week throughout the year.
SUGAR ... ..	—	—	200 grams (6ozs.)	150 grams (4½ozs.)	—
SOAP ... ..	30 zl. per litre (1½ pints)	1.2 zl. per litre	When possible 10 litres per month (17½ pints)	CHILDREN get 10 litres per month (17½ pints)	—



# INTERNATIONAL FAIR AT POZNAŃ



British businessmen have been "cordially" invited to participate in the International Fair, to be held in Poznań from April 26th to May 5th.

This was revealed by M. Josef Szlapeczynski, the Director of the Fair, in a statement to the British Press. He said:

**T**HE economic situation of post-war Europe is not in the least stabilised yet. It is an indisputable fact that all trade markets are in a state of disorganisation and, therefore, many countries are trying to improve this state of affairs by arranging International Fairs which, in pre-war days, were regarded as a means of animating internal and external trade. In those days, the International Fair at Poznań ranked as one of the foremost of the International Fairs of Europe. The Fair buildings which, during the war, were converted by the Germans into a factory for making Focke-Wulf aero-

planes and were totally destroyed by Allied bombing, have been rebuilt and are ready to serve again the foreign trade of Poland.

"As far as the import side of Poland's foreign trade is concerned, imports equivalent to the sum of 510,000,000 U.S.A. dollars are contemplated. The Polish Government hopes that its endeavours to achieve good results will be successful as the tempo of the reconstruction of Poland's economy and the possibility of being able to spend the above-mentioned amount on imports are both entirely dependent on these results. The International Fair in

Poznań is one of the main means by which to achieve this aim, for from April 26th to May 5th, 1947, the achievements of all branches of Polish production will be on display and everything that Poland can offer to the rest of the world in exchange for the imports she needs will be shown. But the Fair is not only being held as an Exhibition, to acquaint the world with Polish products, the Fair will present the opportunity for Polish merchants and industrialists to meet representatives of foreign trade and economic life in order to exchange views, to enter into preliminary negotiations, and most important of all, to conclude commercial transactions.

"The majority of trade fairs organised since the war ended have met with an unprecedented success despite the fact that only an indication could be given of what goods would be available in the future, whilst the possibility of concluding definite transactions was usually out of the question. The Management of the International Fair in Poznań has succeeded in obtaining the consent of the authorities to create conditions which will permit of conclusions of transactions at the Fair. For this purpose, a representative of the Ministry of Shipping and Foreign Trade will be present at the Fair and will have the authority to issue permits on the spot for the purchase or sale of goods. Moreover, Polish exhibitors will have sufficient stocks of the goods displayed to meet export demands to a certain degree.

"Special visa facilities have been arranged for visitors to the Fair; visas will be granted on the basis of invitations issued by the Commercial Attache to the Polish Embassy in London.

"In view of the approaching British-Polish trade discussions, the object of which is the conclusion of a Trade Agreement that should greatly animate the exchange of goods between our two countries, it is most desirable that representatives of the British business and industrial world, of official and private economic and commercial circles should participate in the first international manifestation of Poland's economic life. They are, therefore, most cordially invited to

(Continued on next page)

NEW POLAND

# Poland wants to do business with Britain

Says T. S. Smithies

(A Polish trade delegation is at present in this country, and early news of a British-Polish trade agreement is expected. In this article, the writer, who recently spent several months in Poland, discusses the opportunities that exist in Poland for British firms).

**B**EFORE the war, trading with Poland was often an intricate and uncertain business. Long credits were the rule, and only in too many cases did English firms incur bad debts or have to wait for their money months longer than necessary.

In the new Poland, all these difficulties and barriers to smooth

trading have been swept away. The opportunities to do business are enormous, and owing to the State having taken over the buying of raw materials—mostly on a cash basis—the quantities imported are large.

Poland has been busy, and still is, in drawing up a number of trade agreements with countries in Europe and overseas. England is now one of the countries which is selling raw materials to Poland, and importing manufactured goods from there. Raw cotton and wool, rags, woollen wastes, machines, electrical goods, leather, fertilisers, motor lorries, silk and a host of

other things are needed in the rapidly expanding Polish market, but it isn't the slightest use any merchant offering small quantities of goods. The State buys in bulk, and obviously cannot worry about one machine here and there, a ton or two of this quality and a ton or two of that one. It all creates chaos and difficulties in standardisation.

As an example, large lots of raw wool of either Australian, New Zealand, Cape or South American origin are now required for the textile industry, but the lots offered must be from 50 to 250 tons of each grade. For rags, the quantities vary between 10 to 40 tons. Only 100 per cent. woollen rags are wanted by the way.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has created a number of State buying offices, each one specialising in the branch of industry which it is its duty to keep supplied. These State agencies or offices, collect offers either direct from sellers abroad, or from a number of private agents functioning in Poland, and a board of experts consider the prices and qualities of samples, after which the ones approved are sent for final approval to the Central Office in Warsaw.

The firm from which it is proposed to buy, is then notified by cable, and a contract drawn up. Conditions of payment are usually cash against documents in the country of origin of the goods, but credits are being sought, and enterprising firms who get in on the ground floor should do some quite attractive business.

For instance, one American exporting house of cotton has renewed its pre-war contact through its agent, and is shipping a few million dollars' worth of cotton on six months credit. A similar amount has been shipped to Gdynia for storage in the warehouses, and the documents lodged with the Gdynia branch of the Bank Handlowy of Warsaw. As required, this cotton will be collected by the Government from the port, and paid for immediately under guarantee of definite purchase. Fairer terms can hardly be imagined.

Egyptian cotton is mostly bought on cash terms at present, and the Upper Karnak type is needed in

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## International Fair at Poznań (Continued from previous page)

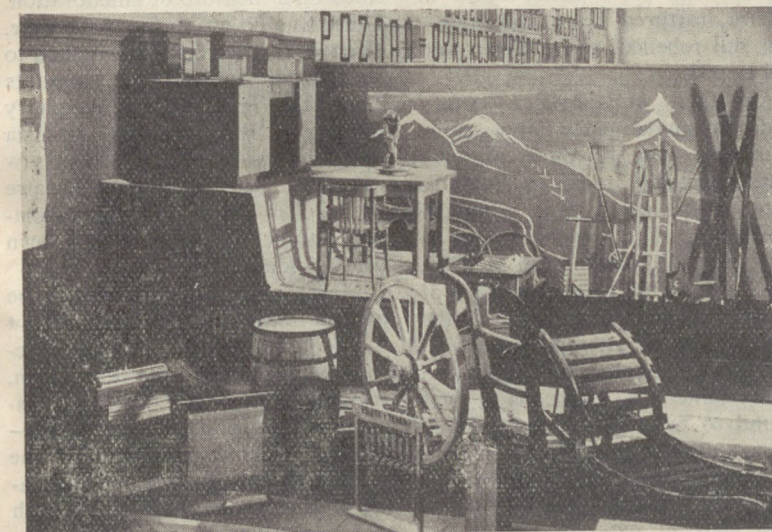
take part in the Fair, both as visitors, and as exhibitors.

"We are convinced that their visit will contribute much to the restoration of normal trade relations between Great Britain and Poland.

"Poznań, city of about 300,000

inhabitants, and seat of the International Fair, is arranging a series of theatrical performances, concerts, pageants, etc., for the entertainment of the visitors.

"Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, France, Italy, Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union will take part in the Fair."



One of the Displays from the International Fair held in Poznań last Autumn. This year's Fair will open on April 26th

APRIL 1947





## The Story of Teatr Polski

By Mrs. CECIL CHESTERTON, O.B.E

**T**RY to imagine London without a National Theatre—authors, plays, directors all under enemy control, while our actors forbidden to use their native tongue, speak their lines in a foreign language. For nearly two hundred years, that was the position in Warsaw, the capital of Russian Poland. Held in the vice of Tsarist censorship, her plays were shorn of any trace of Polish patriotism, while foreign adaptations were minced out of recognition, every plea for liberty or democracy being wiped out.

Warsaw, wittiest and most spirited of capitals, who even in her darkest hour can flay her enemy with ridicule, shooting off barbed epigrams, merciless cartoons, chafed and plotted, and generation after generation flaming with satire and revolt, saw their leaders hanged by the

neck, exiled to a living death in Siberia, tortured body and soul—and still rebelled, still suffered and still hoped.

And then, when over a century of despotism had passed, there came a miracle—one of those miracles that perpetually recur in Poland's history. Autocracy was gradually loosed up. The easement was an outcome of the revolution of 1905, that hectic and heroic attempt of Russian Poland to throw off the Tsarist yoke, an attempt with which the Russian people sympathised and many joined. It failed, as it was bound to fail, by sheer weight of arms, and there ensued a fresh crop of hangings and savage imprisonments. But Polish blood had not been spilt in vain, the small red flower of liberty had cleft Tsarist oppression and the Government de-

cidied on a measure of amelioration. There was no let-up for the people. The workers were still forbidden to form trade unions, the peasants denied the right of even elementary education. But to the intelligentsia came tidings of great joy. Warsaw was to have a National Theatre with Polish plays, directors, managers and actors speaking their own beloved idiom.

Moreover the theatre was to be owned, not by the Tsarist State, but by a public Polish company. Picture the excitement; the enthusiasm, the talk—the long drawn out discussions, the visions, the ambitions—at last Warsaw could focus the national talent, literary and dramatic, and show the world the Polish genius, the Polish Renaissance.

Above: A scene from Wyspianski's *Wedding*

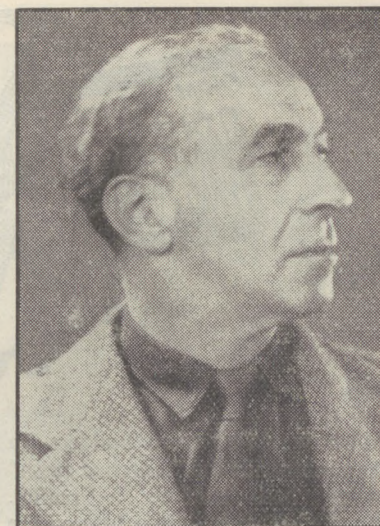
### Teatr Polski—

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The leader of the eager group was Doctor Arnold Szyfman, a brilliant young writer, brimful of ideas, and a movement was set foot to raise funds. The response was immediate and in 1911 a suitable site was purchased in Karasia Street, just off the chief boulevard of the city, the wide and lovely Krakowski Przedmiescie. Szyfman had all his plans cut and dried, he had no wish for a monumental building but wanted a medium sized theatre with an intimate atmosphere. The whole project was fired by youth, and the architect Czeslaw Przybylski worked so rapidly that the actual building was started within a few months and completed by April, 1912. It was a very lovely little theatre, seating just over a thousand, and the revolving stage—at that time an innovation—helped Szyfman's more ambitious productions.

*Teatr Polski* survived the first World War, emerging a little shabby but undaunted into the dawn of Poland's independence. I recall many delightful evenings at the theatre. After a first night, Press correspondents used to go behind the scenes and discuss the play with Szyfman and the actors, generally adjoining to Simon Stecki's Restaurant, the midnight haunt of authors, artists and invincible cartoonists. Perhaps a high water mark of my recollections was the premiere of Bernard Shaw's "The Apple Cart" 1929, translated by M. Sobieniowski. The acting was superb and one of the company, in the role of a politician, brought down the house by his make-up, an utter replica of Lloyd George with mannerisms and gestures complete.

Between the wars Szyfman made a European reputation, and Poland's young dramatists were always sure of a chance if their stuff was really good. Classicists like Krasinski—whose play "Irydion" was given at the inaugural performance—were included in his programmes and the most daring of the experimental dramas of modern times found a rightful home.



HENRYK GOTLIB

*Henryk Gotlib* was born in Krakow in 1892. He studied at the Krakow University and as a young man became one of the leaders of the Fauve Movement in that country. At the age of thirty, he went to live in Paris.

When war approached, he decided to settle in London, his wife's home. In 1942, he was elected a member of the London Group.

Gotlib has exhibited in many countries in Europe; museums and private owners in various parts of the world, including America, having purchased his pictures.

He is Principal of the Polish College of Art in London.

During the second World War *Teatr Polski* suffered an eclipse. The Germans used it as a Musical Comedy Theatre for their own performances, while Szyfman and his actors joined the Underground. Most of the company with their leader were captured and sent to an internment camp.

The theatre perished, like the rest of the city, in the German reprisals for the Warsaw rising. But so deeply rooted is the capital's pride in its first national theatre that its rebuilding was one of the first undertakings of the peace. It re-opened a year ago and is once more the centre of dramatic vitality. As time goes on it will inevitably become one of the centres of Western drama, and the

### OUR COVER

"*Mickiewicz Returns to Krakow*," by *Henryk Gotlib*, was painted in 1943. The following year it was displayed at Burlington House, London. Mickiewicz, famous Polish poet of the romantic school, lived during the first part of the nineteenth century, and has been called "the Shakespeare of Poland."

He was an exponent of Slav unity and his works are extremely popular in Poland today. During the war the Germans, knowing the influence of Mickiewicz on the Polish people, destroyed his monument in Krakow. In this painting the artist depicts the imaginary return of this great patriot to his beloved Krakow, where he is received with joy by the workers and peasants. In the background can be seen the spires of the beautiful Church of St. Mary.

The original painting measures 9 ft. by 8 ft.

A notice on the London exhibition of Gotlib's works, by Mrs. Cora Gordon the well-known artist and critic will appear in our next issue.

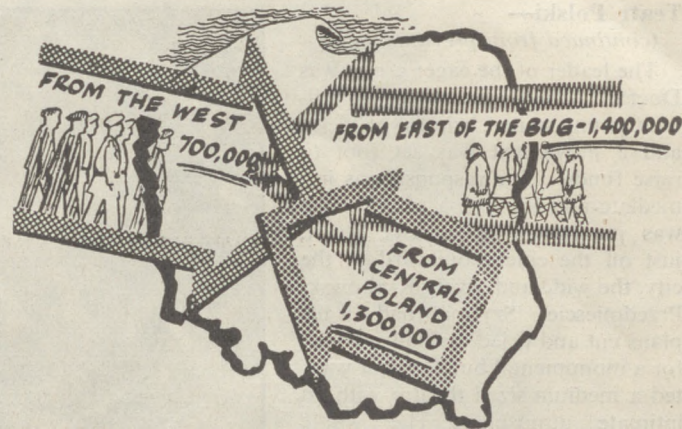
record of its premieres will grow in lustre and significance.

It may be that the new Warsaw which will rise on the ashes of the beautiful old city will be as lovely to the eye, but for me, nothing can quite replace the charm of its great palaces, the attraction of its literary restaurants, the wide sweep of its boulevards. On the pages of my memory there remains, enshrined, a perfect evening when, after an excellent performance of Wyspianski's *Wesle* (The Wedding), M. Mlynarski, Director of the Conservatoire, asked me to supper, where we met M. Paderewski, who, in the early hours, took us back to his flat over the Hotel Bristol and played Chopin till the dawning.



# Pioneers of the Polish West

by  
**STEWART VALDAR**



**I**F Hollywood wants a real live plot for a "super" film, I recommend the tale of how the Western Territories of Poland have been transformed by 4,000,000 pioneers in the "western" tradition. Perhaps even the American pioneers would have thought twice before tackling the utterly devastated and derelict towns and villages of Pomerania and Upper Silesia. Here was no virgin soil to be upturned; or splendid vistas to frame a brand new town. Just mangled machinery and debris-filled streets to meet the

Polish would-be town builders. In the countryside the "scorched earth" policy had become a reality. Wrecked farm buildings littered the landscape, and the cattle and horses were either slaughtered or driven off by the retreating Germans.

This is how the "script" begins. Today, after two years of incredibly hard toil—"the very earth is sodden with Polish sweat" a settler told me—industry is going again and the towns are humming with life. Unlike the Hollywood "western" tales, the settlers were not egged on by the

get-rich-quick spirit, nor do these new Polish towns provide liquor saloons and gaming houses for their citizens. Perhaps at this point Hollywood would lose interest, but the lure of gold and fast living are no longer incentives activating the millions of Europe today. Over four million Poles trekked west to the ancient Polish lands of Pomerania and Silesia, bounded by the mighty River Oder and the Niessa, which wends its way down to the Czech border. They went to rebuild the factories, the mines and the farms; they went to transform the Western land into an industrial reservoir to re-equip their shattered country.

That is the picture on a big canvas. Polish settlers are still streaming into these regions, and Germans, weather permitting, are streaming back into Germany. "Make-do and Mend" is the slogan of the Poles. They are short of everything—people (especially skilled workers), machinery and industrial equipment, food, clothing and raw materials. One commodity they have in superabundance—enthusiasm for building.

Wherever you go, workers, farmers and officials (indistinguishable in appearance and manners from the rest of the population) tell you of the progress that has been made. I travelled extensively in Lower Silesia and investigated farms, factories, shops and administrative buildings; and everywhere the German character was absent, except

(continued on next page)

## Poland wants to do Business with Britain—

(continued from Page 9)

large quantities. With the practical cessation of U.N.R.R.A. deliveries, tea, coffee, machines and other articles will have to be imported and paid for in hard cash. Sterling and dollars will be used for purchasing, and any business man who will take the trouble to go into the prospects of trade with Poland, is bound to come to the conclusion that these prospects are good. It is even worth making personal contacts with the buyers in Poland, and he will receive every help and courtesy, and be granted a visa without question.

The whole aspect of trade between England and Poland embraces so many different facets for each class of goods, that a single general article can do little more than touch lightly upon the more obvious and important points. Since my return to England I have found much interest shown by many firms in the future of re-opening old contacts, and I have done my best to advise them.

We are told by the Government to export more and more, yet I feel that the important Polish market is being a little neglected. At the moment, textile raw materials constitute the biggest item in the trade agreement, but it is up to other industries to get down to work too. There are many finished products which we can take from Poland, and the language problem no longer exists. Travellers will find English spoken in all Polish towns, and correspondence is answered in English too. In fact, English is the main language written in business letters from Poland to all countries of the world.

The way is open. The business is there to be picked up. Do not let us be too late and wake up later to find that foreign exporters have grabbed the market from under our noses. Besides, business contact makes for improved personal relations between the two countries and that is needed above all at the moment.

## The Polish West—

Continued from previous page

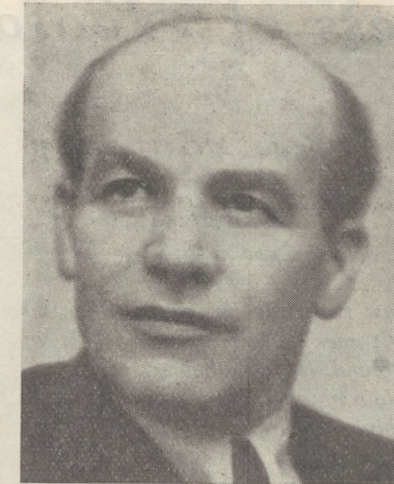
in architecture. These regions are now completely Polish. Everywhere the Polish tongue is spoken, Polish signs are displayed, Polish newspapers are sold and Polish customs observed.

In these areas before the war lived over 8 million people, Germans and Poles. The German war machine was based on Silesian industries as it tore its way into Poland in 1939. In the 1944 retreat before the Soviet and Polish armies, the fleeing Germans were followed by over 2,000,000 German civilians from these regions, so that by mid-January 1946, the total population of the regained territories was just over 5,000,000 of whom nearly 3,000,000 were Poles and 2,000,000 were Germans. By November 1946, the census showed that the number of Poles had increased to 4,392,000 and the Germans dwindled to 650,000. Since then a further 200,000 have gone, leaving only 450,000 Germans scattered (nowhere concentrated) over the area.

The capital of Silesia, Wroclaw (Breslau in German times) is typical. Here, the Polish settlers came into a deserted and derelict, once-beautiful town like a blood transfusion into a wasted and impotent body. The corpse revived, but it had assumed a new identity in the process. So it was with the whole of the Western Territories.

The Director of the City's planning commission told me that before the war the population was 625,000, now it is 200,000—175,000 of them are Poles. They have 96 factories in the area, four of them with over 1,000 workers. I went over a textile factory just outside the town. The workers had come in on their free day—it was Sunday—to show off "their" factory to the "foreign visitors." Twenty per cent. of the workers were Jewish, and they told me they were on exactly the same basis as the rest of the Poles—a sharp contrast with pre-war Poland.

## POLAND'S LEADERS - 2



**WLADYSLAW GOMULKA**

VICE-PREMIER and MINISTER  
for the REGAINED TERRITORIES

Wladyslaw Gomulka was born on February 6th, 1905, in Krosno. His father was a workman in a petroleum company.

At the age of 22 he started work in the Union of Confederate Workmen as a secretary in large industrial centres in Poland.

Many of the women had been in Oswiecim concentration camp and most of the men had been fighters with the Polish Army and partisans. Now they fight, in a new way, for peace and prosperity for their country. Yes—literally, *their* country.

Some Poles stress the fact that years ago these lands were Polish. It is true that everywhere you can find ancient Polish monuments and that, even before the war, in a number of districts there were Polish majorities and that the aboriginal Poles (so-called Autochthons) retained their native tongue and customs.

The most significant thing to my mind is, however, that before the war, Germans and German capital were already leaving Pomerania and Silesia for more profitable areas of Germany. By 1936 these regions contributed only 10 per cent. of

(Continued in next column)

In 1939, he was in Warsaw during its siege and defence. After the capitulation he fought his way to the Ukraine, working in Lvov until the German invasion of the U.S.S.R.

He returned to Warsaw in 1942. In the autumn of the same year, after the public hanging of fifty Polish patriots in Warsaw, initiated and organised the first armed answer to the occupant's terrorism, in the form of bomb attempts on the Café Club and on the Central Station. In Warsaw he was working without interruption to the end of July, 1944, as a member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party. His comrades knew him by the name of "Wieslaw." In the year 1943, he was appointed Party Secretary to the Central Committee.

At the end of 1944, he initiated the forming of the K.R.N. (National Council of Poland), and took an active part in all preparatory work for the first historical session of K.R.N.

He was appointed Vice-Premier to the Provisional Government in January, 1944, and holds the same office in the new Government. He is also Minister for the Regained Territories.

He is a member of the Polish Workers' Party.

## AN EXHIBITION ON POLAND'S WESTERN TERRITORIES

WILL BE HELD AT THE

## SCHOOL OF SLAVONIC STUDIES

London University,  
Malet Street, London, W.C.1

April 9th — 24th from 9.30 a.m.  
to 7 p.m. daily.

Germany's income. Yet today these lands contain the bulk of Poland's industrial strength, without which national recovery would be impossible. **By Germany the Western Territories were exploited for war; under the Poles they have become a massive workshop for peace and reconstruction. Truly German swords have become Polish ploughshares.**



# A Congress of Peasant-Poets

by

GASTON FOURNIER

Translated from the French by

JEAN E. FARR

*Just two little anecdotes which do not seek to explain the whole of Poland. In fact, they set out to explain nothing, but just to reveal two shining glimpses of this country that we tend too much to think is plunged in chaos and mourning.*

IT was a country house, rather like Chopin's home. The dining-room jutted out into the garden and so much sun came in that even the floor and the legs of the chairs glowed with light. It was a Sunday in the summer, about 37 miles from Warsaw. An hour earlier, at a loose end in the capital, I had been reluctant to wander once more all day among that great stretch of ruins. Why do ruins appear particularly desolate on a Sunday? And although there was hardly any wind it was still sufficient to raise that indefinable dust, smelling of death, which rises from ruined buildings.

A friend said to me "Shall I take you into the country to the Congress?" What Congress? I should soon see.

And we set off in a big truck. At the wheel one of those drivers who rely on their own luck, or on yours. An hour through well tilled, moderately fertile country.

And we reached that dining-room.

The table was long, wide, white. The diners formed a perspective of jaws and forks. I was royally served: pork chops and potatoes. The chop was too big, the beer too plentiful. All those hearty bursts of laughter, those tanned faces. Those expressive calloused hands, at the same time managing knives and eloquence. Tea was drunk. Then everyone got up with a great noise of heavy boots. For they all had huge nailed boots and wore roughly cut suits, with those collars and ties and wide watch chains which are never seen nowadays except in the family album.

Talking all the time, they crossed the garden, followed the narrow descending path, pushed open the gate of the enclosure and reached the little wood. It was a little wood of birch trees trembling in a scarcely perceptible breeze. And this wood was cool as a glass of beer. But, as soon as we passed the thickness of a few trees we came on a grassy clearing, and beyond it, tall reeds in the stream, still as herons.

We sat in a wide ring, leaving in the middle a wide circle of sunlight. Others stood leaning against tree trunks. And one of them took his stand right in the middle, pulled a

paper from his pocket, began to read. Then I realised it was poetry.

And they listened, with grave attentive faces, their eyes full of understanding and reflection. When he finished in a great burst of voice and gesture, they congratulated him. He pocketed his paper, returned to his place. Another took his stand in the enchanted circle. And so till the evening, for there were quite fifty of them, and some of the poems were long.

I had been present at the second day of the Congress of Polish peasant poets. It only remained for me to be told about the first.

In short, the country poets had noticed lately, from seeing each others' views and work in the papers and reviews, that they were not altogether in harmony. Some were for the present day, others were not. This Congress was the result. So they had come, in spite of immense difficulties, from the four corners of the country. And for a whole day they had discussed the final mission of the poet. It was soon apparent that the supporters of sterile isolation were in a minority. They came to agreement, and rallied. All that remained was to get agreement on a unanimous resolution, and this was done. And when the peasant poets had decided to throw themselves wholeheartedly and as one into the struggle for the greatness of the country; they agreed that on the morrow, as an indication of peace, they would recite their works to each other.

And on the evening of the second day, they departed for their farms and their out-of-the-way villages.

\* \* \*

IT was another equally splendid summer Sunday on a farm in Mazowie. It was a big undertaking with enormous buildings, barns where waggons and all their trappings could have entered complete, stables where herds of cattle could have been easily accommodated. But it was all empty. The only living things were the ducks splashing in a big pond in the centre of the yard and a little girl with eyes the colour of water, who was playing with a little dog.

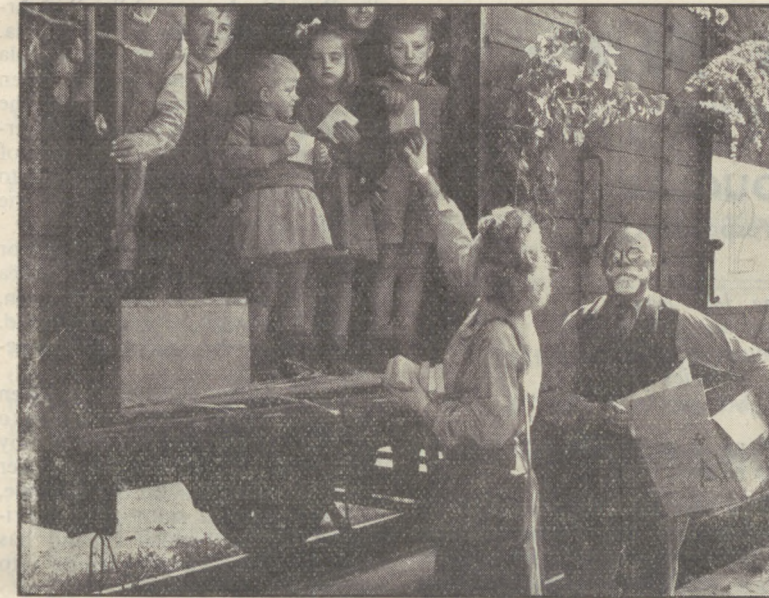
I talked to her father. A peasant in his thirties, sparse, solid, resolute, in his working clothes, perhaps because he had no others. And he explained to me how he had just received five hectares (12½ acres) of land on this estate, where before the war he had worked as a labourer. Labourer—is that the right word? Serf is nearer the mark. Without bitterness, in a colourless voice, he recalled the past—the wretched wages, a few zlotys a day with a kilogram of corn for food. There were then thirty workers on this big estate, labouring from dawn to dusk, their one fear that of dismissal. An outburst of temper or of weariness meant the sack. All that remained then was to wander from farm to farm. But always a mysterious message from your old employer preceded you. All doors were barred to you. No more work. Such a man would go to swell the pitiful throng of unemployed agricultural workers, so numerous in those days when the land was in the hands of a few. And where industry was insufficiently developed to absorb this wretched proletariat of the countryside.

And now this man, with his wife and little daughter, occupied two rooms in this fine house, whose threshold he had not previously had the right to pass. The rest had been shared out among other new

(Continued on next page)

NEW POLAND

# Going Back to a Home they have Never Seen



Polish children on the repatriation train leaving from Freising received sweets from the U.N.R.R.A. Welfare Officer, Collette Favry of Le Mans, France. Holding the box is 71-year old Stanislaw Romanski, now returning home to Lodz, Poland, after four years' internment in Germany.

## BRIEF NEWS

### POLAND'S HOPE OF FOOD ASSISTANCE

M. Grossfeld, Deputy Minister of Shipping and Foreign Trade, discussing the problem of U.N.O.'s assistance in supplying food to Poland, recently stated:

"With regard to the extent of the food assistance to Poland, no binding promise in this respect was made to us. While in Washington, I had preliminary conversations and I submitted a list of Polish requirements to the State Department. Director Iwaszkiewicz, who remained in Washington and who is also Poland's representative on the Committee of ten, informed the representatives of the U.S. Government about the food situation in Poland.

"The conversations have shown that the Americans realize Poland's situation, know her devastation, her reconstruction difficulties and her need of assistance. The Committee of experts has established Poland's food deficit at 139,000,000 dollars and this unbiased expert opinion must not remain indifferent to Congress and to the U.S. Government.

"It is to be expected that Poland's great contribution to the struggle against the common enemy, her sufferings and the unbiased opinion of the experts will bring about the necessary food assistance until Poland is able to develop fully her agriculture. It is also to be expected that other countries having food surpluses or other possibilities, such as Canada, Britain and Brazil, will supplement the assistance promised by the U.S. according to the U.N.O. resolution."

### Peasant-Poet Congress (continued from previous page)

proprietors like himself. In the same way, the Government surveyors had allocated to him five of the hundreds of hectares belonging to the estate. They were his—to work.

And in that slightly grumpy tone, peculiar to all the peasants of the world, this young farmer told me his troubles. They were of large dimensions. For, if he had land, that was all. The State can only give what it has got. And what it was unable to give, because the Germans had raided the countryside, was just as indispensable as the land itself. And this man's story was pathetic; for the unparalleled difficulties which he recounted were not his alone but those of all Polish peasants, like him bereft of everything; who, all of them, like him, returned to their villages after having been deported by the Germans, to find empty barns, empty cattle-houses, empty stables, empty granaries, empty cart houses, empty sheds. And it was autumn and then spring. And the land would not wait, while the country was hungry. Draught animals, seed, ploughs, manure: each of these problems had to be solved, and all of them had to be solved together. He told me all this, and from time to time would say:

"All the same, don't you think they might help us a bit more in

Warsaw?"

Thus it was that on his little holding he should have had a horse and two cows. But he only had, in common with several neighbours, one horse among four, one cow between two, one plough for I don't know how many.

"So in all," I said to him, "you are minus three-quarters of a horse and a cow and a half."

"And you can add," he said, "a score of hens and three pigs."

He had smiled a little, so I plucked up courage.

"And in spite of that," I said to him, "are you basically happy?"

My question dumbfounded him. He looked at me a long time, at first mistrustful, then relaxing little by little, said to me:

"Yes, I am happy because . . ."

But at this point in my story I see that I am going to use a word that is not without grandiloquence, and I must apologise, but the tone in which he said it was so familiar, so natural, that it excluded all attempt at effect. So take the word simply, as it was simply meant.

And the man said to me:

"Yes, I am happy because I am free."

(Acknowledgement to the publishers of "Peuples Amis," Paris).



CLOSE UP:

# THE NEW M.P.s

CONCLUDING ARTICLE

By G. D. H. DOUGLAS  
(Our Warsaw Correspondent)

*The writer, in the last issue, described his visit to the Polish Parliament. He continues with his impressions of the deputies to whom he spoke.*

**A** LITTLE later on I bumped into a priest, and a freethinker.

The priest was **Father Marjan Borowiec**, from Gorlice in south-eastern Poland, a member of the National Council of the Peasant Party. The free-thinker was **M. Boleslaw Drobner**, who for 49 years has been a member of the Polish Socialist Party

**M. Drobner**, fought for Poland's independence in the Rising of 1905. During the 1914 war he was a franc-tireur against both the Russians and Austrians. Between 1919-39 the Polish reactionaries arrested him seven times.

To my routine question: What do you think the most important tasks of the new Sejm?—both Borowiec and Drobner gave the same answer—the Amnesty and the Constitution.

**Father Borowiec** comes from a country where the U.P.A. and N.S.Z. (terrorist) bands are active. Many of them, he said, knew that they were on the wrong road, but did not know how to get back into normal life; the amnesty would give them a chance to start again. He thought that the Constitution should now embody all the social reforms carried out since the liberation. In particular, the land distributed to the peasants should be recognised as their legal property

I suddenly remembered that I had been asked by the editor of "New Poland" to concentrate on the women and youth deputies who are strongly represented in the new Sejm. Instead of which I had been

talking to nothing but old, or at any rate elderly, men.

The fact is, I suppose, that the women and the young deputies looked far too busy to be bothered by a journalist's questions. I saw 23-year-old **Wladyslaw Mlotecki**, of the Z.W.M. (Communist youth organisation), who spent five years in German concentration camps organising a sabotage group amongst his fellow prisoners who worked at a German factory, talking to his colleague, **Stanislaw Stemplewski**, whose father was a miner who went to France to seek employment in 1929, but who returned to work in Poland after the liberation. **Stanislaw Stemplewski**, was one of the organisers of the resistance movement of Poles in France.

I caught sight of **Stefan Olszewski**, leader of the Peasant Party youth and of **Mara Kuzanska**, General Secretary of O.M. T.U.R., the Socialist youth movement, but I could not catch them.

At length by a great stroke of luck I was introduced to a deputy who combined both the virtues I was seeking—and a great many more besides.

**Helena Jaworska**, of the Z.W.M., aged 24, was the youngest woman deputy in the Sejm. In 1943 she joined the People's Army (A.L.) in Warsaw, and on January 1st 1944 took part in the historic first meeting of the underground National Council of the Homeland, together with President Bierut, ex-Premier Osobka-Morawski and other leaders.

During the Warsaw Rising she and another girl comrade of the Z.W.M. acted as liaison between the People's Army and the Red Army on the other side of the Vistula. This involved crossing the Vistula in a small boat and passing, often under fire, the lines between the German and Soviet armies. Afterwards she went to Lublin, seat of the Provisional Government, to work at the headquarters of the youth movement.

She is now married to the editor of the Polish military paper, "Polska Zbrojna" and has a young son, named Krzysztof, seven months old. In the Sejm she represents Szczecin.

It is a solemn thought that, when the life of the present Sejm comes to an end, Krzysztof will be a boy rising six, able to ask his mother what she does during the daytime, and the years of suffering and privation through which Poland has passed will be already fading into memory.

*In response to numerous requests, we are publishing detailed figures of the Polish election results, together with the distribution of seats in the Sejm:*

**The official figures are:**  
Total electorate ..... 12,107,056  
Voted ..... 11,413,618 (95.1%)  
Valid votes .. 11,244,873 (93.7%)

**distribution of votes**  
Democratic Bloc ..... 9,003,682 (80.1%)  
Polish Peasant Party .... 1,154,847 (10.3%)  
Labour Party (Catholic) .. 530,979 (4.7%)  
"New Liberation" P.S.L. .. 397,754 (3.5%)  
Independent, Local, Catholics 157,611 (1.4%)

**distribution of seats**  
Democratic Bloc:  
Polish Socialist Party ..... 119  
Polish Workers' Party .... 119  
Peasant Party ..... 107  
Democratic Party ..... 38  
Polish Peasant Party ..... 28  
Labour Party ..... 17  
"New Liberation" P.S.L. .... 12  
Independents, Local, etc. .... 4  
444

## THE WARSAW PLAN:

# THREE DISTRICT 'BLUEPRINTS' are READY

**T**HE B.O.S. (Office for the Reconstruction of the capital) which is preparing the plan for the new Warsaw has already produced detailed plans for three districts in various parts of the city. Two of these are residential areas—Mokotow, in the south, and Bielany, in the north-west, while the other is in the centre of the town, in what is to become the financial and commercial centre.

The central district lies along part of the famous Nowy Swiat (New World) one of the main north-south arteries of Warsaw. It will contain the buildings of the Ministry of Finance, the State Bank and the Central Post Office. All these three will be completely new buildings. It also contains the shell of the old Prudential building—the tallest building in Warsaw—which is to be rebuilt.

One of the new green pathways for pedestrians is planned to run parallel to the Nowy Swiat. Three new cinemas and a new infant school will lie along this path. Two ancient churches in the district—the Church of the Holy Cross and the Church of the Child Jesus—though damaged, can be repaired.

The residential area in Mokotow, which consists of two "neighbourhood units," each with 10,000 inhabitants, will contain mostly blocks of flats, three or four storeys high. Each such neighbourhood unit will have its own pre-school and primary school, while for every four such units there will be a church, a cinema, an administrative centre and a "Dom Ludowy" (People's House), with a library, games rooms, a play-garden for children and facilities for all the sort of social activities—dramatic clubs,

dance groups, choral societies, local parliaments—which are springing up all over Poland.

LATEST DISPATCH FROM  
*Our Warsaw Correspondent*  
**G. D. H. Douglas**

In Bielany, which is further out of the city, the houses will be smaller—one or two-family houses—each with a garden round it. There will also be communal

## U.N.O. COMMISSION — POLES IN GREECE

*Demonstrating the growing role of Poland in international affairs, our photograph shows Polish members of the U.N.O. Security Council Commission of Enquiry into Greek frontier incidents, which is sitting in Athens. In centre of the group is Mr. Jerzy Putrament (Chief) accompanied by his secretary Miss Chodakowska and adviser Mr. Zbigniew Gawrak.*



gardens, where children can play or old people sit. Later on, Bielany will be linked to Warsaw by a new electric railway.

These three districts have been chosen, partly because they are relatively amongst the least destroyed, and partly because they contain many small, intersecting streets, which makes them especially suitable for private development.

Warsaw Municipality does not at present dispose of the funds to make possible new building on a large scale. For the moment, it is fully occupied with repairs. The present idea is therefore to encourage private owners to undertake new building, provided of course they keep to the provisions of the general plan. The plans of the present three districts are on view to the public, and private individuals are invited to apply for the lease of sites.



# Problems are many, but the Poles have something to look forward to

says T. Howe

POLAND has its housing problem like most other countries. Indeed, the amount of destruction is so vast that the problem is greater than ours. However, the Poles are tackling it realistically.

Temporary measures include the allocation in towns, of so much cubic feet of space per person. For instance, if a flat occupied by one family contains more space than they can reasonably use, they must sublet to others less fortunate. This obviates the familiar heart-rending appeals from ex-service men—for somewhere to live.

Rents are controlled, being fixed at the pre-war level so that no exploitation by landlords is possible. The one thing wrong with this in my opinion, is that because of the devaluation of the zloty, rents are much too cheap. Possible incomes from houses owned by town corporations are low, while private owners of houses have no margin at all to use on necessary repairs to property.

Just as private businesses are allowed in Poland, so private building is not subject to restrictions. At the moment however, little private enterprise in building can be seen, owing to the fact that the capital outlay provides too little return in profit. Once conditions have settled down more, there will no doubt be a sudden spate in the erection of modern blocks of flats. The money is there, waiting to be invested.

For the present, the Government is building little completely new property for housing. First of all comes the repair of damaged buildings, and when one looks at such cities as Danzig or Warsaw, to quote only two, then one imagines that atom bombs have gone mad on a tour of destruction.

As to social amenities in Poland, the theatres play to full houses, and

the cinemas are as crowded as ever. English, Russian, French and Swedish films are shown, but the Polish film industry is only just starting anew. In fact, it is rather slow in getting going, and one of the jokes in a theatre I visited, was when a young applicant for a part in a film being made, was told, "We need a man of seventy, complete with beard. The part is yours."

*(The author, who visited Poland last year, gives his impressions of the housing problem there as seen through English eyes).*

The large double gates which serve as entrances to the blocks of flats are closed and locked at eleven p.m. and late comers must pay a fee to the janitor who opens them. This janitor also cleans the stairs, the yard, and often the part of the roadway fronting the building.

Decorating is another problem in Poland, because paint as well as the personnel to do the job is in short supply.

However, there is surprisingly little grumbling over these pin-pricks. The Pole realises that large things are at stake. In the meantime, he is not so badly off, and he knows that if he works he will reap the reward for his labour—and the rewards are tangible. There is nothing like having something good to look forward to. Given an incentive, one can almost work miracles.

## Polish Cookery Corner

TRIPE (Polish Method)

2lbs. tripe.	½ lb. beef bones.
1 pint stock.	1 onion.
Stick of celery.	1 small carrot.
½ grated nutmeg.	1 small parsnip.
4 peppercorns.	Salt and pepper.
1 bay leaf.	Pinch of marjoram.

Soak tripe for an hour or two in tepid water. Put in a large saucepan and cover with cold water and boil for 15 minutes. Change the water and repeat the process. Drain the tripe and leave till cold.

Meanwhile cook the bones in two pints of water with the vegetables, bay leaf, peppercorns for about 1½ hours. Strain and return stock to the pot. Cut the tripe into short pieces, add to the stock and bring to the boil. Then add the salt and pepper, the marjoram and the finely grated nutmeg and simmer gently for 10 minutes.

This tripe should be served with grated cheese, ground ginger and paprika.

This is enough for four people.

## POSTBAG

Dear Sir,

A copy of the following resolution, passed by my Trades Council, has been forwarded to the Foreign Secretary.

*"This Trades Council of Airdrie, representing 15 trade union branches of all sections of industry, hereby calls upon the Labour Government to immediately take steps to provide facilities to the legitimate Polish authorities to explain to the ordinary Polish soldiers the necessity of returning to his own country where he is very badly needed to assist in the work of reconstruction, and to counteract the pernicious reactionary propaganda through lectures of a fascist character, periodicals, threats and terrorism against those who want to return to Poland.*

*"We also press on the Labour Government to do all in its power to establish friendly relations with the present Polish Government, and*

## BRITISH-POLISH SOCIETY

The Organiser says:

Some of us have been maintaining for years that the interests of the common people are the same everywhere, and certainly the members of the British-Polish Society will share the pleasure and relief of all the peoples of northern Europe at the end of that frightful winter weather. If you, dear friend, have found time between your shivers to think that the Society ought to be a bit more active, please remember the snow-bound and flood-covered roads and railways and the organisational problems they present. Actually no fewer than 21 meetings of various organisations have been covered by our speakers this year and our thanks are due to these people who got around and did the job under such very difficult condi-

*to divert itself entirely from the Anders' clique."*

H. WRIGHT,  
Secretary

Airdrie Trades Council,  
Airdrie, Scotland.



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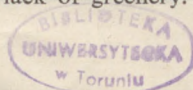
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