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# New Poland

A MAGAZINE OF BRITISH-POLISH INTERESTS



*In Coal:* Sculpture in coal by STEFAN CHOREMBALSKI (See Page 13)

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**JULY**

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# New Poland

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A Magazine of British-Polish Interests

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ON July 22, Poland celebrates her National Day, recalling the anxious times of 1944 when the Committee of National Liberation declared upon this day, the birth of a New Poland.

In those not-so-far-off days, liberated Poland consisted of a small strip of land freed by the Soviet and Polish armies, centred around Lublin. The main battle for Poland was yet to come, but already the spirit of Poland was rekindled and the power of her enslaver broken.

Since then the land has been given to the land-hungry peasants, the basic industries placed in the hands of the people, and a new democracy firmly established.

The Regained Territories of the West mean more than compensation for the wholesale destruction of Poland by the invader, these areas potentially rich in industrial resources will transform the entire economy of Poland from a backward feudal country into a highly industrialised state.

Upon this economic freedom from want a real democracy is being built, for modern democracy cannot be built on a backward economy. A lesson has yet to be learnt from those who seek to deprive the young countries of Europe of material assistance on the one hand and demand wider democracy in those States on the other.

To-day, Poland is busy at work translating the 3-Year Plan for

Economic Reconstruction into practice. The fulfilment of the Plan will mean not only recovery from the well-nigh fatal wounds of war, but will carry Poland beyond the level of 1939; this time with the wealth of the country more evenly distributed. The heroes of to-day are the rebuilders — the miners of South Wales and Silesia, the weavers of Bradford and Lodz, and the engineers of Birmingham and Poznan.

The British and Polish people fought side by side, to-day they work together. The Trade Agreement will mean that Polish food will sustain the British engineers making machinery for Poland. British equipment will hasten the fulfilment of the 3-Year Plan, and food from Poland will save Britain precious dollars. This is the new solid basis of friendship between our countries.

Mr. J. M. Winiewicz, Polish Ambassador in Washington, has just announced that Poland will co-operate with the Big Four powers

to work out the Marshall Plan for European recovery. American dollars, or rather the goods they represent, can speed up the rebuilding of Europe—particularly in those countries like Poland which have comprehensive economic plans.

We, the friends of New Poland, salute her, confident that this National Day is one of happy augury for the future of not merely Poland but of all mankind.

SIR Donald Gainer, the new British Ambassador to Poland has taken up office in Warsaw.

He has a considerable knowledge of the German problem, as he was Consul-General in Breslau in 1929 and Consul in Vienna in 1938. Sir Donald has been in the Diplomatic Corps for thirty years, and from 1944 until recently was British Ambassador to Rio de Janeiro.

We warmly welcome the new appointment and wish Sir Donald well in his high mission of developing the friendliest relations and understanding between Britain and Poland.

We read in the daily Press that M. Wladyslaw Raczkiewicz, the Polish President has passed away, and that among the mourners was the Polish Premier. What nonsense this is! If these gentlemen have any right to such titles, why have we an Ambassador in Poland? Surely this farce has gone far enough. These people are officially considered as "private individuals" by the British Government. If this is the case why are they accorded honours to which they are not entitled?

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## WERE THE ELECTIONS CONDUCTED FAIRLY?

I am  
not satisfied

says

H. Hynd, J.P., M.P. (Hackney Central)

I HAVE been invited to elaborate a remark made in my last article (May issue, *New Poland*) about the recent parliamentary elections in Poland. That was to the effect that I was not satisfied about their having been conducted on democratic lines.

In reaching this conclusion I admit that I was a bit sceptical about the elections before my journey started, but I made a special effort not to be influenced by propaganda from either side and not to accept anything but direct evidence from people who themselves had voted.

What was their experience? Some told me that they could not vote for the candidates of their choice because whole lists of candidates had been disallowed by the Government. There were also many electors struck off the registers for alleged offences. Then it appears that before the elections there were stewards appointed in each office, factory and block of flats to see that as many people as possible voted, and in many cases this was done by getting the electors to march to the polling stations. Of course it was open to anyone to refuse to march or even to act as steward, but there was undoubtedly fear about loss of employment or other types of victimisation.

AT the polling stations, the procedure appears to have been that after a voter had been checked off in the register he was given an envelope into which he could put his paper bearing the number of the list he wished to support. If he had not brought a numbered paper with him he could get a blank one on which to write a number, and if he wished to conceal the number he could retire into a booth to fill his envelope.

This sounds all very well except for the clear implication that anyone who took advantage of such

an arrangement was certainly voting against the Government list.

Some people told me that they did not think the risks of victimisation for voting against the Bloc were warranted in view of the fact that they suspected wholesale manipulation of last year's Referendum results. As regards counting the votes this time, I heard conflicting stories, but as they were obviously not first-hand I prefer not to comment upon them. There were also stories—which could not be checked—about violence and arrests prior to Polling Day, of people who did not display Card No. 3 being kept waiting outside the polling stations for long periods, and of restrictions on Opposition propaganda.

MAKING all allowances for political prejudice and my own pre-conceived ideas, I was forced to the conclusion that methods employed were not such as would have been tolerated in this country, however well they may have compared with previous elections in Poland or (as was pointed out) with elections in America and some parts of the British Empire. Nor can I feel convinced that they gave an accurate reflection of public opinion. These impressions

were reinforced by the obvious uneasiness of Poles with whom I discussed the elections and by the guarded admissions of many who had supported the Government Bloc.

Having said that, I want to add that I feel the Government has gained prestige since the elections, particularly by its wise move of declaring (and fairly operating) the Amnesty for political offenders. Their initiative and energy in starting a carefully-prepared 3-Year Plan has caught the public imagination, as has their success in repopulating the Western Territories. They also appear to be making much less drastic use of the Security Police.

I am well aware that what I have written will not be popular, but as a friend of Poland I think it is my duty to be candid and to say frankly in which direction she still has to make improvements if she is to become a really democratic Socialist State.

On January 19, this year, Poland went to the polls for the first time since the war.

Of the electorate of 12,107,056 persons, 95.1 per cent. (11,413,618) voted. The Democratic Bloc (coalition of Polish Socialist Party, Polish Workers

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This is  
nonsense!

— Mrs. Leah Manning, M.P.

Faked Election in Poland.  
*Published by the Polish Freedom Movement.*

I WONDER when people will stop writing and publishing such stupid, fustian stuff about the Polish Election, as is contained in this pamphlet and I wonder how much longer they will be able to get members of the Innocents' Club, like George Dallas, to continue writing forewords for them?

In view of the ratification of the financial and trade agreements, to say nothing of Ernest Bevin's wise advice to Polish Emigrés, this pamphlet looks even more foolish than the usual run of such stuff. And how badly timed!

Moreover, anyone who followed the Press reports at the time might well ask why Doreen Warriner is not quoted—a journalist who knows more about Central European countries than all the rest of them put together; why only part of William Forrest's *News Chronicle* article is quoted—he also said that any Pole who wished to

Party, Peasant Party, Democratic Party) received 80.1 per cent. of the votes; Polish Peasant Party (Mikolajczyk), 10.3 per cent; Labour Party (Catholic), 4.7 per cent; "New Liberation" (P.S.L.), 3.5 per cent; Independent, local, Catholics, etc., 1.4 per cent.

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and women trudging through the snow and bitter winds to record their votes in much the same way as they would in any democratic country.

IF anyone had lost or misplaced their voting slips, there were plenty of slips bearing all the numbers, to be obtained from young people giving theirs away in the streets—absolutely no reason to go in fear and trembling to the commission and ask for one—or to be told there were no 1's, 2's, 4's, or 5's left. Occasionally a voter held his slip open in his hand, but the vast majority, at least 99.9 per cent. of those observed, took their papers neatly folded from purses and pocket books and placed them in the envelopes given to them, sealed the envelopes and placed them in the polling boxes. It is an absolute lie to say that the polling slips were shown to the commissions or that the envelopes were placed in the polling boxes unsealed.

The only so-called demonstration I saw during the whole day, consisted of about twenty civil servants who lived together in a block of flats where I was having lunch. There were about 160 people living in the block! On enquiry I learned that this group of friends had gone off to vote together to save time when their identification from the register took place in the booth. On twenty voters about half-an-hour was saved, since they all lived in the same place, and as in England, the register is arranged in streets.

One could easily take a whole issue of "*New Poland*" in controverting the journalistic travesties contained in this pamphlet; but it isn't really worth wasting so much valuable time and good paper upon.

The Polish Government is gaining such golden opinions from so many different classes of people in all countries; Polish emigrés are returning to their country by scores of thousands; they are so happy when they get there, that it is a sufficient answer to all the Government's detractors.

Page Three





## Reconstruction in the Countryside

by Philip Zealey

of the Anglo-American Quaker Mission to Poland

IN July, 1944, the Red Army reached the Vistula and forced bridgeheads at many points. The Germans on the west bank resisted fiercely and stubbornly with the result that for many months large tracts of cultivated land became battlefields under conditions of total war.

The peasants were evacuated, taking only what they could carry, and leaving behind not only their homes and possessions, but also the standing crops still ripening under the summer sun.

It was not until January, 1945, in the middle of winter that they were able to return. The desolation

surpassed their worst fears—homes and farm buildings burnt to the ground with all their contents, livestock killed or stolen, the fields strewn with mines; littered with all the debris of war, criss-crossed with trenches and barbed wire and pitted with shell and bomb craters.

All was dead except for the rats and mice which had multiplied a thousandfold on the rich store of food which the ungathered crops of the previous autumn had afforded them.

Here was a situation more than sufficient to daunt the courage of the most stout-hearted farmer. The Polish peasant has no use for the

word "hopeless" and somehow made a beginning. The abandoned dug-outs afforded the best shelter available and were occupied. There was no grain but potatoes were available and this crop precariously staved off actual famine.

In such an area the Anglo-American Quaker Relief Mission has now been at work for more than a year, assisting the Government to meet some of the welfare and reconstruction needs.

In two badly hit districts some 20,000 young children have been receiving a weekly supplement of concentrated food. Two nurses and

*(Continued on next page)*

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their assistants have been organising health centres to relieve the enormous burden thrown upon the all-too-few doctors.

One Quaker team is actively engaged on a reconstruction project under the Ministry of Rebuilding. Equipped with eight large lorries, they are transporting building materials to villages where the horse-drawn "furmanka" could not make the journey.

Gradually conditions are improving. New houses are springing up everywhere on the site of destroyed villages. Horses and cows imported by U.N.R.R.A. are being distributed; the mine fields are being cleared and the vermin liquidated. The fields are coming under cultivation again and each year brings a better harvest. This year is better than last and next year will be better still.

Our workers have been impressed by the terrific efforts being made by the country folk and have a keen sense of working alongside—helping the people to help themselves. In face of the great need, our material contribution has been very small, but this group of young British and American Quakers brings a practical message of goodwill and a deep concern that these valiant and courageous people should not feel that they are struggling unhelped or forgotten by those who, by the Grace of God, were spared their ordeal.

The sum total of voluntary help to Poland is not inconsiderable. Besides British and American; Swedish, Danish and Swiss organisations, as well as others, have been sending food, clothing and medical supplies, sometimes with skilled workers to assist the Polish health and welfare authorities. This help is co-ordinated by a Council of Foreign Voluntary Agencies which consults with Polish voluntary societies and Government departments with whom we work in close co-operation.

## This Plan works

by J. H. Williams

President of the  
Association of Supervisory Staffs Executives and Technicians

EVERY day brings news of fresh successes in the reconstruction of Poland. These advances are no accident; they are the fruits of the carefully prepared 3-Year Economic Plan.

The chaotic state of the country following the German occupation and defeat called for a plan for rebuilding the entire economy of Poland.

The Government—then only provisional, now duly elected—set about drafting such a plan. Whilst they had their own advisors, they were other technicians who could give valuable advice, and whose aid and goodwill was essential for the successful carrying through of the plan. For no matter how good it may be or how willing the workers to put it into effect, unless the technicians have full knowledge of it and are prepared to co-operate 100 per cent. with planners and workers, the scheme is doomed to failure.

For these reasons the Polish Government called a conference of technicians at Katowice from December 1st to 3rd, last year.

As a member of the delegation from the Association of Supervisory Staffs Executives and Technicians I attended this conference.

The conference, held in a huge wooden building on the outskirts of the city, was attended by 4,000 delegates. Apart from the Polish experts, fraternal delegations from all over Europe were there, as well as two delegates from the U.S.A.

The undoubted enthusiasm shown at the conference, which

was matched elsewhere, convinced us that the Government and people are determined to bring Poland to the front of European nations.

We were impressed by the thirst for knowledge displayed by the technicians, who pleaded for more up-to-date text books to replace those destroyed and suppressed by the Germans.

Our delegation was free to go anywhere and see everything. If we so desired, we could have the services of a guide and interpreter.

On crossing the border into Poland, prepared as I was for the scenes of destruction, I was shocked to see the wholesale ruin left by the war and occupation.

As a railwayman I was, of course, interested in the damage done to the railways. We, in Britain, learned something of the effect of bombing on railway communications during the war, but nothing to compare with the sight that met us in Poland. I did not see one bridge that was not temporarily repaired with wooden baulks.

Throughout the whole of the country there is a terrible shortage of manpower. Women have taken their place with men in industry with, I am pleased to say, absolute equality.

Particularly impressive was the solicitude everywhere shown to children. For the Poles, the children come first, for in their hands lies the future of Poland.

We left that heroic country, conscious of the need and deep desire for trade and friendship with Britain, and with the knowledge that Poland has absolute confidence in her future.



# Here are 24,000,000 friends

by

Lester Hutchinson M.P.

(Member for Rusholme, Manchester)

I SHALL never forget my first sight of Warsaw from the air. Before landing we circled the city. It was a collection of ruins, in the centre of which a large reddish clearing, completed denuded even of rubble: that was the Ghetto.

The Germans killed five million Jews in Poland, shovelling most of them into gas ovens at Oswiecim—an endless holocaust of men, women and children, whose clothes, ornaments and gold teeth were sent to Germany to help the war effort.

Along the ruined streets stand innumerable little shrines commemorating those gallant Poles who were shot in cold blood by the Germans "*pour mieux encourager les autres.*"

After the ill-fated insurrection of 1944, an insurrection inspired by the Polish politicians in London in the hope of establishing their rule in Warsaw before the Red Army burst in through the gates, the Nazi criminals tried to carry out their cherished scheme of wiping the city of culture and beauty from the map. By fire and dynamite they systematically and wantonly destroyed it. The survivors were left homeless, haunting the crumbling ruins for shelter.

The Nazis as usual were mistaken. They could never understand the psychology of non-Germanic people. Far from being defeated the people of Warsaw rose from their ruins, undaunted

and confident in the future. They plan a new and even more beautiful city to grace the western bank of the Vistula.

The Nazis tried to destroy a nation and its culture. Instead they created a stronger and more united people, shorn of past impediments to progress.

The Poland of Pilsudski, of Colonel Beck, of the selfish and predatory landlords, has gone for good. The men, who by their treacherous policy led to the German invasion, and then deserted their armies, scuttling abroad, will never rule Poland again.

The former General Anders and his Fascist backers can just make up their minds to that, and retire into the obscurity which already envelopes Beck and his cronies.

Poland today is ruled by the common, unassuming, long-suffering people, who defied the mightiest and most ruthless enemy history has ever known for six years, and were then triumphant.

They will never consent again to be robbed of the fruits of their labour by the feudal aristocracy and by unscrupulous financial magnates. The land is theirs, and they till it with greater industry and enthusiasm than ever before. In the factories and coalmines, the former sweated workers cheerfully throw in all their energy for the prosperity and welfare of their own Poland.

Their leaders, Socialists, Communists, Democrats, are men of high ideals who have known suffering. They are united in genuine patriotism, and have the confidence of the great mass of people. Mikolajczk is discredited, as representing the interests of foreigners, and opposed to the national interests. I saw him in his seat at the opening session of the Polish Parliament, a pathetic, forlorn figure at the head of his twenty followers—he had undemocratically expelled six of them the previous week for criticising his policies.

Under the new leadership, the liberal arts flourish. The Church, deeply rooted in Poland, is free and influential, and no longer bitterly hostile to the people's Government. Let Cardinal Griffin and the Scottish bishops take note.

From Warsaw I visited Katowice and the Western Territories, ceded to Poland by the Yalta and Potsdam Agreements. The recent attempt by American reaction to raise the new Polish frontier in favour of Germany is not only grossly unjust, but impracticable. Not even General Marshall can move millions of people to and fro indefinitely. An attempt to do so would endanger world peace; for the Oder-Niesse line is Poland's natural geographical frontier, which alone can give security against further aggression.

Mr. Bevin's recent recommendation to the Cabinet to conclude the Financial Agreement with Poland, and the rapid conclusion of trade negotiations, are an indication of the opening of a new and more friendly era in Anglo-Polish relations.

It is the duty of the British people to further this friendship by all means in their power. The only Iron Curtain in Europe is one erected by ignorance of the real conditions in Eastern Europe and by reactionary propaganda.

It is in our interest to tear it down.

A PUBLIC meeting to greet the British-Polish Trade pact is to be called by Glasgow's Trades Council, City Labour Party and Co-operative Associations.

This was the unanimous decision of the Joint Executive Committee of the three organisations, representing over a quarter of a million workers.

Speakers will include a member of the party of British M.P.'s who recently visited Poland.

\* \* \*

Polish children have "pen-pals" in a Scottish school—and the Mayor of Warsaw may visit this country soon as the guest of Aberdeen's Lord Provost.

These two facts have one thing in common. They are part of the work which have earned Baillie Mrs. Mary Baxter the title of "Aberdeen's Ambassador in Warsaw."

It was five weeks since Mrs. Baxter's return from her visit to Poland when I chatted with her last month. In that time, she had talked on Poland at thirty meetings in various parts of Scotland—to organisations varying from trades councils to Soroptimists.

"They are all intensely excited and interested in Poland," she told me. "And they like to hear about it from a woman's point of view."

Another of her jobs has been to meet the wishes of the hundred or so Polish boys and girls who insisted that she should find correspondents for them in British schools.

Mrs. Baxter, herself a teacher by profession and a member of Aberdeen's Education Committee, spent much of her time in Warsaw teaching secondary school children—"They were absolutely gasping for information about Britain"—with the help of some French, some German and an interpreter.

Her luggage for the trip to Poland included two suit-cases of gifts from Aberdeen women and a box of short-bread from the Lord Provost. The gifts were distributed through the Polish League of Women. The short-bread, together

with a formal invitation to visit Aberdeen, was delivered to the Mayor of Warsaw—who accepted both. He hopes to come to Britain shortly.

\* \* \*

The number of Resettlement Corps men who have decided to apply for repatriation is still growing. In Scotland, there are so many that a separate transit camp has had to be established for them at Hoddam Castle, near Dumfries.

The camp opened last month with about 1,000 men, but from what I hear it seems likely that the population will have doubled by the time this note is in print.

\* \* \*

A far less happy camp is that at Caithness, in the extreme North. There live the "recalcitrants," the men who will neither return to their homeland nor join the Resettlement Corps—and others.

Incidents in the last month have led the Scottish Press to paint lurid pictures of a Caithness virtually terrorised by the inhabitants of this camp. The fact is that they include a number—a very small number—of what my Scottish Command friend calls "really bad types." But most of the camp's 900-odd men are a pretty pathetic mixture. Three hundred of them are not "recalcitrants but merely misfits; in fact, they are simply there because they cannot be officially classified at all. They are men awaiting visas for the Argentine, for Belgium, France, Italy and half the other countries of Europe. They can't be housed in Resettlement Corps camps or re-

patriation camps. Caithness is just their luck.

As to the "bad types"—men with records—there were originally 30 of them. Half have already been sent to Germany; the remainder will probably follow. The ethics of this procedure have been the subject of a good deal of sentimentalising, in which I have no wish to join. But neither do I feel that one can say (as most Scots do) "good riddance" and leave it at that. "Dumping" is a lazy, slipshod way of getting rid of a social problem. And dumping "bad types" in Germany at present is just adding a few more germs to an infected area. I remember a British corporal, seeing some of these men aboard the boat, who said, "I'm sorry for the German police." I think he had half the right idea.

Interesting sidelight on the deportation controversy is the fact that 25 of the misfits at Caithness have applied voluntarily for passages—to Germany.

\* \* \*

The employment of Poles and displaced persons in the pits was the subject of a unanimous protest at the annual conference of the National Union of Mineworkers, Scottish Area, last month. The conference spoke for 60,000 Scottish miners.

I was reminded of the comment of a young Scottish trainee-miner whom I met at Muircock Hall, the Scottish training centre, where 100 Resettlement Corps men were undergoing a course. "I'm here because we want coal," he said. "So does Poland—and that's why they ought to be there."



Only 6,445 hospital beds were left undamaged by the war, Over 63,000 were damaged or destroyed. By 1949 95,000 beds will be available

AFTER four months in Poland, I went around for a few days in October last year to take photographs of what were once the hospitals of Warsaw.

It is one of the most desolate experiences I have ever had. Heaps of rubble, solitary crumbling walls, tangles of twisted ironwork, sometimes only a bare space covered with weeds were all that was left of them. A Polish doctor accompanied—"Here was the children's clinic... here was the maternity ward... here I did my first hospital job." It was a fitting last reminder of the enormous problem of reconstruction in Poland.

#### HOSPITALS

Seventy per cent. of Poland's hospital facilities were destroyed during the war, and those that remained were stripped of equipment, and were forced to operate under a shortage of medicines and narcotics, surgical and X-ray apparatus, and bed linen.

Of the pre-war total of 70,000 hospital beds in Poland (a very low figure for a population of 35 million) 9,553 were in hospitals now totally destroyed and 54,000 partially destroyed. U.N.R.R.A. brought in 22 1,000-bed hospital units with beds and equipment. The health services have been performing a herculean task in restoring the hospital facilities, and by the end of 1946, 82,000 hospital beds were available. **The 3-Year Economic Plan includes provision for reconstruction of the health services, and it is planned that by 1949 there will be 95,000 hospital beds and 20,000 sanatorium beds.**

In some of the rural areas where there had been heavy fighting, I saw small country hospitals filled with casualties from mines—farmers impatient to plough their land had gone ahead though their land had not been demined—with sad results.

Some large country residences are being taken over for conversion into hospitals. I saw one which was going to make an excellent sanatorium for children.

#### EPIDEMIC DISEASES

The danger of epidemics at the end of the war was because of:

1. Destruction of services such as sewage disposal and water.
2. Chaos and destruction — rat infestation.
3. Disorganisation of public health services generally.
4. Undermined health of surviving population, making them more liable to succumb to disease when infected.
5. Mass migrations, favouring the spread of disease.

The danger was realised early. While fighting was still in progress in 1944, a department of Labour, Social Welfare and Health was set up by the Committee of National Liberation in Lublin, and in 1945 a separate department of Health was set up, with an all important department of Epidemic Control. The effectiveness of its work (aided by supplies from U.N.R.R.A. such as vaccines and DDT) is evident from the following:

	Numbers of cases of	
	Typhus	Typhoid Fever
July, 1945	1556	7457
October, 1946	36	1463



Thousands of girls are volunteering as Nurses for the Health Services

## Health has to be fought for

Marc Daniels, M.D., D.P.H.

(late UNRRA T.B. Advisor in Poland)

The reduction in typhoid fever is attributable to large scale vaccination; **by September, 1946, almost five million persons in Poland had been vaccinated against typhoid.**

The State Hygiene Institutes, rapidly restored, provide a full range of bacteriological laboratories and food and water analysis departments, and at the same time control serum and vaccine production.

#### DOCTORS

The pace of reconstruction will be hampered by the lack of doctors;

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even with intensive development of medical schools, in 1949 there will be less than before the war.

Of the pre-war total of 12,900, only 6,000 were left in 1945. Many thousands have been killed, others died in concentration camps; **but 700 are still in Great Britain.**

The doctors I saw were doing magnificent work, but could not come near coping with all there was to do. In one rural district I gave a lift to a doctor who covers an area of 14,000 people.

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Mass vaccination held typhus and typhoid fever at bay. Doctors and nurses are few and overworked, but 700 Polish doctors still remain in Britain

Doctors mainly prefer to work in the cities, and no compulsion has been applied to them regarding place of work, though I think the problem is so great that newly qualified doctors should be directed to country districts for a certain period of time.

As I stated in a previous article (*Poland's War on T.B.—New Poland, May issue*) there are now in Poland only two surgeons specialising in chest surgery.

In the sanatoria there are only four qualified nurses for every hundred patients. This number includes both day and night nurses. In one sanatorium for 275 patients there were five nurses.

In 1938 there were 2,680 beds for tuberculosis in general hospitals, and 5,638 in tuberculosis sanatoria.

During the six years of war all but one were occupied by the Nazis, and when they retreated they looted and burned as many as they could.

Between May and October, 1946, 3,000 beds were provided. By October this year it is hoped to have a total of 18,000 beds.

Medical schools are full of new students, and new medical schools are developing rapidly at Gdansk and at Wroclaw. I saw the one at Wroclaw, which has one of the most active university centres I have seen, with an excellent teaching staff. There is a fine medical service for university students. Post-graduate courses are being held, but the limiting factor there again is that doctors have too much work to do to attend courses.

There is everywhere a keen desire for information on recent advances in medicine. Polish doctors feel they have been out of touch for so long, libraries have been destroyed, no journals were received for a long time. Now books and journals are coming in, but not enough. Fellowships have been granted for study abroad, but then again the difficulty is to spare well qualified doctors.

There is no restriction on private practice—this continues as before the war. On the other hand, it is proposed to extend as rapidly as possible the health centre service that existed before the war. There were 483 in 1938, about 700 by the end of 1946, and with the materialisation of the 3-Year Plan **there should be 2,000 in 1949.** But here again the obstacle will be lack of doctors.

#### NURSES

Similarly with nurses. Even pre-war there were only 6,674 nurses, many of them not fully qualified. About half of them were killed during the war. The lack of nurses was evident in the hospitals I visited—how the few nurses did all the work I can't imagine. New schools of nursing are being set up. In 1939 there were 8 nursing schools; the present plan is for at least one school in each of the fourteen provinces, each to accommodate 200 students.

Summing up, I would say that Poland has a great shortage of medical and nursing personnel, and she needs all the technically qualified people she can get, and in addition large numbers of people willing to train.



# Poland goes to School

(Second article on Educational Reform in Poland today)

by Maria Chrzanowska

CONTRASTING with the pre-war days when the bulk of primary schools did not go beyond two years of instruction or even when lasting for 7 years had a curriculum which did not match with that of secondary schools, the present primary schools comprising a general course of 8 years, are of one unified type and embody the minimum of general knowledge necessary for every citizen.

After these 7-8 years of primary basic schooling, the graduates will remain for another four years under the protection of the Government, which will assure them a secondary education until they are 18 years of age. This secondary education will be given in three different ways. Some of the children will

join secondary schools of a general character, whereas those who show a tendency toward technical careers will go to trade schools where, in addition to general education, they can obtain technical instruction and training to enable them to go to technical colleges or work in workshops and factories.

The third category of youth who will start to work at the age of 15, immediately after the completion of the basis education, will have to combine work and studies up to the age of 18. **All employers in towns are compelled to let youth under 18 years of age spend 3 out of their 8 working hours in appropriate schools.**

At the end of four years of such

combined work and study, the young people should be prepared to join technical colleges of university rank if they so desire. The secondary education given to the youth working on the farms will be of different character. They will not be obliged to study during the agricultural season when the nature of their work demands a full working day, but in the winter, when they will be able to study all day long in special schools for farming youth. The programme of these special schools for the farming youth is worked out in such a way that after four years the young people are also ready for education in schools of university rank.

Despite a tragic shortage of buildings, the decimated ranks of

## CLASSROOM BY DAY — DORMITORY BY NIGHT



Here is one of the lecture rooms of the Warsaw University where 200 students sleep at night

## PRESIDENT BIERUT

On May 3 President Bierut, broadcasting over Warsaw radio, spoke on education:

*The teacher must not only impart knowledge collected from books but, most important, must develop in his pupil all those social and moral qualities which in the end produce the highest aim—social happiness.*

*This is the main idea of education. To educate a person means to form a personality, to develop not only the brain but also the heart.*

*To achieve social happiness it is necessary to love one's nation and one's country.*

## ON EDUCATION

teachers, the Polish Government have succeeded in opening more schools than before the war. In 1939 a population of 35 million consisting of 45 per cent. of persons under the age of twenty, had 3,385,000 pupils in primary schools.

To-day, the population of 24 million and much older, since the children and young people under twenty years of age constituted only 35 per cent. of the total number of population, sends 3,500,000 children to primary schools and the number of pupils of the secondary schools has increased from 245,000 to 373,000.

The increase of pupils is particularly pronounced at the universities. Against twenty-one universities with 36,000 students in 1939—the modern Poland possesses thirty-one schools with 68,000 students.

At no school level is the courage of both teacher and students as great as at the universities where professors have to construct with their pupils makeshift implements and struggle against a crippling dearth of books. The acuteness of the housing problem is such that two hundred students sleep in the lecturing halls of the Warsaw University.

# The Trade Pact

means food, coal,

for Britain

A TRADE AGREEMENT between Poland and Great Britain was signed on Monday, 9th June, by the Polish Ambassador in London, M. J. Michalowski, and Sir Stafford Cripps, the President of the Board of Trade. It is the first post-war arrangement on trade between the two countries.

Before the war, Britain was one of the principal Polish export markets taking second place to Germany as Poland's supplier.

The new arrangement provides for a prospective trade between Britain and Poland to the value of some £60,000,000 during the next three years. Polish imports from Great Britain will consist of capital goods (up to the value of £15,000,000), raw materials (wool, jute, ferrous alloys, etc.), chemicals and dye-stuffs, light machinery, tools and other industrial articles.

Polish exports will consist chiefly of agricultural products and food stuffs (sugar, eggs, poultry, and later, bacon, ham and butter). As the present food conditions in Poland do not allow of a large scale food export to other countries, only a few food items will be included in the export list for the first year of the agreement, but this list will be gradually increased, both as far as items and quantities are concerned. Other Polish export items will include raw materials (coal, zinc, etc.) furniture, sugar-products and a number of less important items.

It has been agreed that as far as Polish imports of capital goods are concerned, Britain will grant export credit guarantees, up to 40 per cent. of their value, to British industrial exporters. This will enable the British industrial exports to occupy an important place in Polish reconstruction, the more so as the pre-war principal Polish industrial supplier,

Germany, will be out of the Polish market.

The Agreement covers a period of three years, beginning 1st June, 1947, and ending 31st May, 1950. During that period it provides for trade between the two countries of a total estimated value of more than £58 millions, of which about £35 millions will be exports from Great Britain to Poland and more than £23 millions will be imports from Poland to Great Britain.

Features of the agreement are the import of about 250,000 tons of Polish coal during the next twelve months and the grant of credit guaranteed by the British Government for 40 per cent. of the value of British exports to Poland.

Arrangements for the import of Polish coal cover only the first year of the agreement term, but the Polish delegation think that more will be available after May, 1948, if Great Britain is still in need of imported coal at that time. The estimated cost of the 250,000 tons to be imported in the next twelve months is approximately £800,000. The whole tonnage will be imported direct to this country and the agreement contains no provision for British purchases of bunker coal from Poland.

Under the terms of payment for Polish purchases in Great Britain contained in the Agreement, 40 per cent. of the cost will be paid in cash when the order is placed and a further 20 per cent. on delivery of the goods. The remaining 40 per cent. will be paid in three annual instalments, 10 per cent. at the end of the first year after delivery, 15 per cent. at the end of the second year and 15 per cent. at the end of the third. These credits will be guaranteed to British exporters under the Export Credits Guarantee scheme.





# Children write to the POLISH RADIO

by Hanna Mortkowicz Olczak

FOR more than 20 years the Polish Radio has devoted a vast portion of its programmes to children. The young listeners are very fond of these broadcasts and it was upon their own initiative that in 1926 an organization of child-listeners called the "Radio-Family" was founded. In every Polish town such "Families" were formed, based upon common interests, friendship and mutual aid. Contact with the Radio was maintained by mail at one end and by the microphone at the other. Every Polish station had its radio "aunties" and "uncles" who were as a rule excellent performers and enjoyed the boundless confidence of the young folks.

The German occupation put an end to the activities of the "Radio-Family" for nearly six years. But the memories of this co-operation remained fresh in the minds of the young generation. Many of the one-time members of the "Family" have now children of their own, and during the war they would tell their youngsters about the radio "aunties" and "uncles" of a former day. And so, when Poland regained her free-

dom and the Polish Radio resumed its work, the "Radio Family" came back into existence. Fortunately the majority of the pre-war "uncles" and "aunties" had managed to escape the Germans, and could again take up their contacts with the radio audience. The Polish Radio has thus once more resumed its children's programmes and once more it receives thousands of letters to which it replies via the microphone.

WHAT do the youthful listeners have to say, what do they write in their letters? We may state right away, though, that it is not always the very young who write. There are those who are grown up now, but who still loyally remember their one-time "Radio Family." Danka is 21 years old, yet she asks to be admitted to the "Family" circle and explains: "The most beautiful years of my life were taken, nay, stolen by the war and the nightmare of the occupation! The radio with its programmes gives me back this lost treasure of mine."

Can there be a more tragic docu-

ment than this letter of one of the younger generation whom the war had robbed of the greatest treasure in human life—her youth?

"I KNOW that the Radio likes children and is glad to help them," writes 8-year-old Ala. "So I, too, ask our beloved Radio for help. During the war the Germans killed my mummy and my little sister. My daddy went to the war and I do not know what became of him. Now, I want very very much to visit mummy's grave. But it is near Krakow and the railway ticket costs a lot of money, and my auntie has none. Perhaps, dear Radio, you can tell me what to do, for I would like to have a talk with my mummy. My friend Wojtus says that the Radio knows everything and is very kind and helpful."

How much faith there is in these words of a child. Nor was it deceived, for the little Radio "brothers and sisters" are very good comrades and help one another. And with their aid Ala went to see the grave of her mother.

"It is a long time since I have

heard about you, dear children," writes Bozenka, "and I don't think I can listen to you soon again, because it is getting very cold and one cannot listen to the street loud-speaker any longer (in many Polish towns loudspeakers have been installed in the streets—Ed.), because mummy is afraid I will catch cold, and we have no radio in our home. I feel terribly sad because I am sick and cannot walk by myself. I am 9 years old and have my lessons at home. I often think of you, dear children, and how lucky you are because you can go wherever you want to, while mummy has to push me in a carriage, and she often cries. Please, do write me a letter, for I will not hear you before it gets quite warm again, and I can again stand with mummy in the street and listen to the loudspeaker."

Bozenka's letter was read over the radio and immediately letters and gifts began to pour in from her Radio "brothers and sisters."

Nine-year-old Danusia writes: "I have a great interest in the children about whom you say that they would like to learn but have no books. Please let me know their addresses, for I would like to help them." There are hundreds of letters like this.

A HUGE number of letters contain questions and inquiries of all sorts, for of course—the radio knows everything. Romek wants to know "how sounds are got out of a record." Janek asks whether "auntie could explain to me by mail or over the radio how a television set is built and how it works." Six-year-old Zdzisio has a problem of a slightly different nature: "Dear uncle, can you, please, tell me what 'jam' is. We are supposed to get chocolate or jam on our ration ticket, and I wonder which is better to choose." "Uncle" was seriously at a loss as to what he should suggest.

As you see, the children come to the Polish Radio with all their big and little problems and share with it their hopes, their worries and their expectations. And the Radio answers them all.

OUR COVER :

## Sculpture in Coal

THE Polish coal basin, the country of smoke-belching chimneys, of grey skies, powerful mining plants and stern hard-working people, has a poetry of its own—a deep poetry of toil and duty.

Sculptor STEFAN CHOREMBALSKI, who lives in Sosnowiec, a typical Polish mining town, sees and understands this poetry and expresses it in ever more perfect art forms.

Chorembalski was born in Zawichwost in the year 1905 and from the age of 17, he has lived in the coal district. He has remained there and as is natural for an artist in this district, he discovered a new pleasure in sculpting in coal and now he does it almost exclusively.

Incidentally, he is practically a self-educated man; his father being an artisan, could not provide for his studies. Chorembalski, guided by his two elder brothers, also gifted sculptors and painters, has been connected with the arts since the age of 16.

He turned to coal sculpture in 1935 and exhibited his works several times both at home and abroad. (In Milan at the coal industry exhibition). His works were greatly appreciated but brought him no material profit.

After the war the conditions of life for the artist have been fundamentally changed. The Polish Coal Industry took an interest in his work and put him on the pay roll of their central administration. Busts, groups, bas-reliefs by Stefan Chorembalski, all executed in coal and representing subjects connected with the coal industry are receiving a continuously increasing appreciation and find more and more buyers at home and abroad.

At the Pomorze Exhibition in Bydgoszcz in 1946, which was held to commemorate the 600th anniversary of that town, Chorembalski was awarded a gold medal for a sculpture in coal which was later purchased by the Chamber of Artisans of Bydgoszcz.

In December, 1946, the Central Administration of the Coal Industry in Poland purchased eight of his sculptures on behalf of the Polish Embassy in Rome and the Ministry of Industry bought the "Head of a Miner" for America. A number of his works were also acquired by the Ministry of Industry for the town of Warsaw.

At present Chorembalski is working on two groups for the decoration of the Conference Hall of one of the Coal Unions in Poland and on an order for a life-size statue of a miner.

ALEXANDER KAGAN, THE POLISH pianist, has returned to Paris after his highly successful concert at the Wigmore Hall on June 13. It was his first visit to Britain. He told *New Poland* that he intends to go to Poland for the autumn season.

Born in 1906 in Warsaw, Kagan studied there under Boleslaw Domaniowski, the famous Chopinist Michalowski and Werthaim. He received the Government Award after the completion of his studies in 1930.

In 1932, Kagan took part in the Chopin Festival in Warsaw. Later he went to Paris where he trained under Professor Levi and afterwards under Professor Maas in Brussels.

His first personal concert was in 1935. After that he gave concerts in France, Holland, Italy and North Africa (Oran and Tunis).

Kagan was in Paris at the outbreak of war, when he joined the Polish unit formed in France. After the French collapse he was interned in Switzerland where he stayed for the duration.

At first, he was forbidden to give concerts in Switzerland, but later he performed in all the main towns with great success. In 1945, he returned to Switzerland where he gave no fewer than 150 concerts.

Back in Paris in 1946, he renewed old friendships and gave recitals.



A PART from the reconstruction and questions of material existence, one of the most important problems of the modern theatre in Poland is how to tie it closely with the social and political aspirations of the new era—how to create a distinctive “climate” in the theatre which would reflect on the stock of plays. But new plays are not written in a day, they require time and favourable conditions. Therefore, among the majority of theatrical managements a special care for the quality of plays shown on the Polish stage, can be observed, or at least, an endeavour to adapt the old repertoire to new conditions.

In the recent period three masterpieces of dramatic art—each of a different style—were shown on the Polish stage.

The Teatr Polski in Warsaw, despite all difficulties, decided to show a play from the classic repertoire: “ORESTEIA” by Aeschylus. This show was undoubtedly a great success of the producer, Arnold Szyfman. The atmosphere of the antique world, recreated with great simplicity still acted suggestively, although nearly two and a half thousand years have passed since the play was written. The problems of Aeschylus’s tragedy remain urgent and pressing. And so they were interpreted by the actors of the Teatr Polski; the part of Orestes played by young and talented Jan Kreczmar, Clytemnestra—by Zofia Malynicz, Cassandra — by Nina Andrycz—were all individual creations. The production was an example of team work. The well disciplined and trained chorus gave the play a verbal and musical background. The stage designs were made by Waclaw Borowski, who created an authentic landscape and architectural setting and transported us into the climate of sun-scorched Greece.

The tragic and moving conflict of the human soul, the problem of responsibility of the individual before his conscience, presented in ORESTEIA arises again in a modern

## New Themes in Drama

play, TWO THEATRES, by Szaniawski, presented by the Municipal Theatre in Warsaw, the State Silesian Theatre at Katowice and the Old Theatre at Cracow. Szaniawski is a prominent Polish dramatist and has recently received the literary prize of the City of Cracow.

TWO THEATRES is one of his best plays, along with THE BRIDGE and THE LAWYER AND HIS ROSES.

The play’s values are not limited to masterly dialogue and to the timeliness of the subject; it is a play in which a stream of deep philosophical thought throbs strongly, a play of lasting human values, and at the same time a play about Warsaw:

“... and the dearest, most beloved city grows and rises, and over the roofs, higher and higher, grow slim, perfect towers and spires, until stopping in supreme ecstasy, they can look again at the sky, intercept the eternal unrest of thunder and enjoy the great peace of the Milky Ways.”

Here is a vision of a happier Warsaw, but not of Warsaw alone.

by Joanna Ciubowa

Szaniawski evokes a vision of the future, he is certain that ruined cities, blood spilled and tragic war experiences will not be in vain, but will change the human race; the rebuilding of the world with faith in a better future.

Szaniawski’s work is rather difficult for the average play-goer, and not every production seems to do the play justice. Therefore there were differences of opinion among critics as to the interpretation of the play.

The plot of TWO THEATRES presents a director of a small theatre, the Little Mirror, in which only realistic plays are shown. In two

one-act plays “Mother” and “The Flood”—the hard, practical realism wins the upper hand. Both the mother defending the rights of her unhappily married daughter, and the son who leaves his father to drown in order to save his wife, his child and himself from the flood submerging their house — are strong, ruthless individuals, acting in accordance with their instinct of self-preservation and the survival of the fittest. Then comes war . . .

Under the impact of war experiences, the director who wants to reopen his theatre, has changed; he is now able and can combine in the new plays he presents reality with dreams, poetry with realism.

How does this change occur?

It occurs in the “Theatre of Dreams” in the second act of the play, where before the eyes of the director his actors from the Little Mirror appears again, as people, capable this time of doubts and failings. The son who had left his father to drown cannot forget the painful cry of the dying man—his father’s voice wakens and worries

him at night, while the ruthless mother despairs and is no longer the inflexible accuser of the first act.

After his awakening and return to real life, the director understands that the facts which occur in our daily reality are but a fraction of the rich contents of man’s inner life. Under the influence of his dreams, which have become part of his life, he decides to organise a new theatre, the theatre of present day Warsaw.

Whether this is a dream in the true meaning of the word, or the symbol of ideological changes in

the director of the Little Mirror (which seems more likely)—remains unsolved. In any case TWO THEATRES is not an appraisal of romanticism, as one might assume at first, but an apology of the new reality, in which dreams are connected with reality that has in itself “elements of the human soul without which many would not be human.”

The third outstanding play shown on the Polish stage is “Magic” by Chesterton, presented at the Torun Theatre in the production of Wilam Horzyca, a lover of Chesterton. Chesterton is an author, who enjoys in Poland a great popularity, equal to that of G. B. Shaw and nearly equal to that of Shakespeare.

“Magic” met with great interest

both of the public and of the critics. It was discussed back stage, was the subject of a lecture at a literary evening, and finally occupied for a long time the attention of the local Press. Here is what, according to one of the numerous critics is the reason of the play’s success, what awakes admiration or passion of its opponents—of whom there are a number.

“The play has a high temperature, is hot from conflict and permeated by the warmth of the author’s heart, the heart of a great humorist. Therefore, in spite of everything, even the author’s ideological opponents in the play are not villains but human beings.”

And that humour, among its other merits, causes that “Magic,” is still enjoying a lasting success.

### POLAND’S LEADERS — 5



HILARY MINC  
INDUSTRY

Born in 1905, Hilary Minc finished his secondary education in Warsaw and studied law and economics in France. For many years he was Director of the Educational and Editorial department of the Statistical Office. He later became scientific adviser to the Ministry of Finance and to the Gdynia Commissariat. Minc is the author of

many scientific works, such as “Agrarian Structure in Poland,” “Professional Statistics,” “Prospects of Economic Development in Poland,” and “Study on the Specific Features of German Imperialism.”

From his earliest youth he took an active part in the workers’ movement and is a member of the P.P.R. (Polish Workers’ Party). During the war he was in the U.S.S.R. where he lectured in Soviet universities.

He was the organizer of the Z.P.P. (Union of Polish Patriots) and a member of the first editorial staff of the newspaper “Wolna Polska” (Free Poland). He was also one of the organisers of the 1st Polish Division—the first Polish army in the U.S.S.R. After the battle of Lenino he was decorated with the silver Order of “Na Polu Chwały,” as well as the Soviet Order “Otoczestwiennaja Wolna.” At present he is a retired Lieut-Colonel of the Polish Army.

After the Liberation he was head of the Economic Office of PKWN (Polish Committee of National Liberation). He was appointed Director of the Board of Industry in the Provisional Government, later in the Government of National Unity. Since January of this year he has been Minister for Industry in M. Cyrankiewicz’s Cabinet.

## BOOKS

CHANGING EPOCH SERIES

Number One (Birch Books—2/9d)

AS far as the supply of material is concerned the serious student of international affairs is embarrassed with riches in these days of monitoring services, official hand-outs, contradictory Press reports and the irrepressible “weeklies” plus B.B.C. On the face of it there would seem to be little room for a new production in this sphere but, judging from Book Number One, the “Changing Epoch” series will not add to the confusion but, on the contrary, make the task of the student both pleasanter and easier. This is not a digest of other people’s news. It is a book about Europe, the new Europe about which so much is talked but so little known, well written and well edited. The contents include authentic material by experts on Polish Coal, Balkan Music, French Tapestry, Czech Industry, Norwegian Painting, Yugoslav Economy and International Finance, and book reviews that set a new standard in conscientious examination.

Lest it be thought that perfection has been achieved at the first attempt, some weaknesses must be noted. Readers of *New Poland* in particular will note that Topolski’s article on Poland’s Coal Industry is not only overweighted by tables but that one table may contain such pointless complications as “Output in 1,00 tons per year,” set against “Production in Kilogrammes per man-shift.” (My italics). Economics seem to be a weak spot since Yugoslav Economy, 1946-1947, also contains long quotations of figures, including astronomical rows of noughts, which merely bewilder the reader and would be more usefully contained in a compact appendix. These are minor faults, however, and will no doubt be quickly corrected by the comments of the reading public.

F.L.



## PARLIAMENT

THERE ARE 10,000 dependents of Polish forces in this country. Four thousand soldiers have, thus been united with their families. These figures were given in the House on June 3. Awaiting reunion are the following dependents: in Germany 1,800; India 1,263; Middle East 958; East Africa 3,750.

On June 4, MR. BEVIN, replying to MR. DRIBERG, stated that SIR ALEXANDER CADOGAN wrote to the Foreign Minister of the former Polish Government in London, M. ROMER, on November 2, 1944, as follows:

"His Majesty's Government considers that Poland should have the right to extend her territory up to the line of the Oder to include the port of Stettin."

MR. BEVIN pointed out that this letter was written before the Potsdam agreement.

The following day, MR. GLENVIL HALL, in response to a question from MR. PIRATIN (Mile End) stated that there were 1,100 Poles employed as temporary civil servants, handling matters connected with the Polish forces in this country.

MR. EDE, Home Secretary, in a speech on Poles (Deportation Orders) on June 10, said, that it is "not the policy of the Government to force them (Polish soldiers in Britain) to return to Poland against their will," but that "it would, however, be entirely wrong to allow members of the Polish forces to think that because they are unwilling to return to Poland they can continue indefinitely to be paid and maintained in this country as members of those forces."

He stated that the 105 Poles who had been deported to Germany were given "civilian clothing, a small sum of money, and told that they can expect no further help from the British authorities." Of the 136,000 Polish Servicemen who had been offered the alternatives of returning or joining the Resettlement Corps, MR. EDE added, 5,000 or 3.7 per cent. have so far failed to make a choice.

At this point MR. HARRY HYND asked the Minister:

"In view of the fact that all previous pledges on these matters have been fairly fulfilled by the generous conditions of the Polish Resettlement Corps, would it not now be desirable to give them a clear alternative of joining the Resettlement Corps or going back to Poland; and in view of the feeling that has been aroused in Poland on this matter, would it not also be desirable for the Government to consult the Polish Government on this matter?"

MR. HUGES, speaking of Polish Servicemen in Scotland on June 17, asked the Secretary of State for War:

"Is it not true that many of these Poles are living in this

country, consuming without producing, and is it not right that they should be given the opportunity of earning their keep?" The Minister replied:

"Yes sir, I am afraid that my Hon. and learned friend is right."

He gave the total figure for Poles in Scotland as 32,350. Most of them are in the Resettlement Corps in Alness, Banff, Budden, Carron-bridge, Dallachy, Dunino, Easthaven, Fornes, Longholm, Paisley, Peterhead, Stirling and Winfield.

There are 4,285 in civil employment, such as agriculture, building, civil engineering and coalmining. In Scotland 2,145 are still on loan to farmers.

**N.B.** From next month this column will be written by Major Donald Bruce, M.P. (Member for Portsmouth North).

## London rally greets Poland

IN no other country are the manual workers so generously treated as in Poland to-day," said Mr. W. J. Ellerby, assistant general secretary of the Civil Service Clerical Association, at a packed meeting at the Kingsway Hall, London, on June 4.

Organised by the British-Polish Society, the meeting was addressed by Viscount St. Davids, W. J. Ellerby, Harry Knight, general secretary of the Association of Supervisory Staffs, Executives and Technicians and chaired by Dr. Marc Daniels.

Mr. Ellerby, quoted above, described the social activities of the Polish trade unions and the gains of the workers—paid holidays at the best resorts, organisation of sanatoria and the comprehensive care and protection of mother and child. He also referred to the cultural and artistic work (especially theatrical) of the unions.

Viscount St. Davids refuting the suggestion that there was political persecution or Soviet interference in Poland to-day said: "The difficulty of organising general elections under conditions of after-war chaos should be appreciated. People in this country do not realise the enormous improvements that have taken place as far as the restoration of civil rights is concerned. There is no political persecution in Poland to-day.

"There is plenty of work for those who want work.

"There are fewer Russian soldiers in Poland than there are U.S.

soldiers in Britain. The only Russian soldiers I saw was a group repairing a railway junction in West Poland (near the Soviet Zone of Germany). There is no political pressure from Russia in Poland.

"All the Polish 'repats' I spoke to seemed surprised when I asked them if they were subjected to political persecution. It was obvious that they were not for they still wore their battle dresses and were easily recognised as repats."

Mr. Harry Knight praised the Polish method of economic planning and the way in which the people were consulted. He thought that Britain could learn from the Poles in this respect.

Answering a question, Viscount St. Davids stated that with the exception of about 2,000 officers and politicians around Anders, who are considered by the Polish Government as criminals and have been deprived of their citizenship, the rest can and must return.

## BRITISH-POLISH SOCIETY

### The Organiser says:

The summer is usually regarded as a quiet period as far as organisational work is concerned and our programme of events is naturally smaller than for some months, but this does not mean that we are resting on the oars. Work put in now makes or mars next season's programmes, and so the Executive Committee of the Society is to devote the whole of its next meeting to the discussion of future policy. This is where you come in member—What do you think is the real job of the Society and how would you go about it? I should very much like to hear your views.

"The present sales of *New Poland* are not satisfactory . . ." This is the first sentence of the business report recently submitted to the Editorial Board and later to the E.C. of the Society. The report is a frank facing of facts and figures and has caused much discussion from which various suggestions have come out. Following an analysis of the distribution of the magazine for the past three months the note is made:

"The outstanding feature of this analysis is the *extremely small number* sold by the membership of the Society, particularly when it is noted that not all members are noted subscribers for single copies."

Among the suggestions put forward is one that members should be asked to sell among their friends and particularly in other organisations to which they belong, such as clubs, trade unions, political parties, etc., and a further idea is that,

### New Poland

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as *New Poland* obviously has not the resources to send travellers all over Britain, the membership itself should be the means of getting the magazine into the shops. You can take samples along to your local newsagent and simply ask him to order from us, at the usual trade terms of course, and in this way the general public will be able to see *New Poland* displayed. British-Polish friendship needs a well-informed public, and the best means to that end is a widely circulated magazine.

Since the last notes were written a very successful meeting has been held in BRISTOL where an interested audience, including a number of Polish service men and women, heard Mr. George Thomas, M.P., speaking with Mr. Ken Upham, on their own observations when they visited Poland together last year. After the speeches the chairman, the Rev. Vyvyan Jones, asked for "Questions as awkward as you like," and got them! The platform managed to deal with them, however, and I came away from that meeting feeling that whatever differences of opinion may have remained unresolved, the honesty and sincerity displayed by speakers and questioners alike, marked a step towards better understanding in the future. At the Kingsway Hall, LONDON, on June 6, a strong platform under the chairmanship of Dr. Daniels faced a barrage of questions for two hours and demonstrated the interest that exists about conditions in Poland to-day. This meeting was of particular interest as it was held at the insistent demand of the audience of the meeting held in the same hall a month previously, an unusual and heartening event.

CAPT. F. L. FARR.

### PERSONAL

Information concerning the whereabouts of SONKA SPIEGEL or KOSLOWSKI, formerly GRUENBERG, born in Lodz 30.11.1916, and believed to have been in England recently, is urgently required by her brother, WILLIAM J. COZIER, 6, Penzoy Avenue, Bridgwater, Somerset.

## POSTBAG

TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Sir,

I am interested in your magazine about the *New Poland*, but I would like to read something about the Polish youth. Are there Polish Boy Scouts or Guides? Please can we have an article on the young people, their organisations and their hobbies?

JUSTIN ELLIS

London, N.W.3.

(An article on Polish youth organisations is being prepared and will appear shortly—Ed.)

Dear Sir,

I agree with your correspondent Ian Malcolm in his observations in regard to the front covers of recent issues of *New Poland*.

These are more reminiscent of a religious publication than one dealing in the main with social and economic subjects.

While they are no doubt beautiful reproductions of art that will find special appeal and receptive appreciation in the minds of those who are inspired by a refined aesthetic sense of values and deep religious outlook, they are nevertheless "barren of result" from a sales point of view where ordinary people are concerned. In this classification I include, of course, a large number of members of the trade union and Labour movement. Give us something more bright and attractive!

The Scots Diary is a very welcome feature. The writer has my congratulations.

Alloa, Scotland.

Best wishes,

R. J. CALDER

Readers' letters are welcomed by the Editor. If you approve or disapprove of the contents or policy let us know. All suggestions will receive careful consideration. Remember: put it in writing—in a letter to POSTBAG.



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