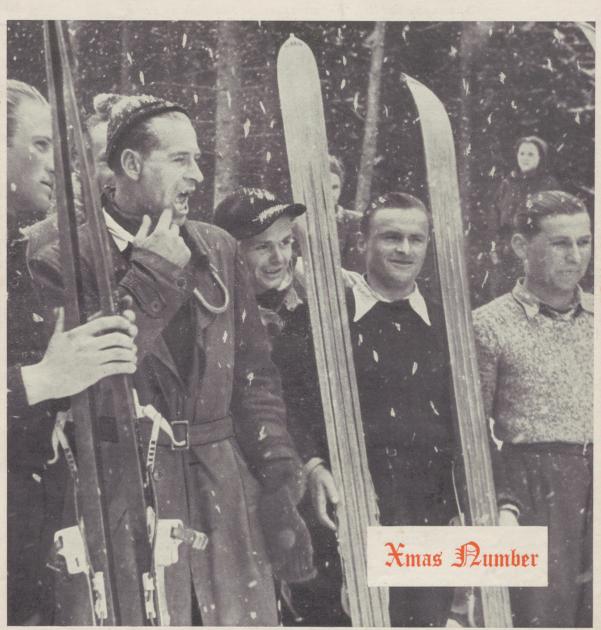
# Poland A MAGAZINE OF BRITISH-POLISH INTERESTS



Snow Sports: Skiers assemble on Zakapane's slopes

IN THIS \* Pearl Binder's Polish Diary

ISSUE \* Xmas in Poland

\* Three Ouestions

★ Three Questions by—D. H. Ennals

DECEMBER

1947



#### A Christmas Message

To the Polish People:

We know now that Hitler had more than one Fifth Column, Perhaps the hardest to deal with and conquer is the Fifth Column of destruction and shortages (of materials, transport, machinery, houses, food, clothing -worse, of men, women and children) which his aggressive wars inflicted on Europe and the world. The Polish people have suffered more than any other people in Europe from this organized murder and planned plunder.

I had the privilege in June, 1946, and the summer of 1947, to see the Polish people grappling with the huge task of establishing the free life of the Polish nation after the terrible years in the Nazi shadows. I salute their courageous determination to live as a free and democratic

The alliance between Poland and Great Britain has withstood the fires of war. It will also survive the trials of this difficult peace. Long live the friendship between the Polish and British peoples!

-Elwyn Jones.

From the President of the British-Polish Society, Maj. F. Elwyn Jones M.P.

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#### A MAGAZINE OF BRITISH-POLISH INTERESTS

#### Contents for December 1947

Three Questions by Book review: "Russian Zone" D. H. Ennals 2 Names in the News I went to see for myself-A Polish "Borstal without bars" 12 Capt. Farr 3 That 'Free' Market— Scots Diary Maurice Dobb 13 Christmas in Poland Parliament: Maj. D. Bruce, M.P. 15 Pearl Binder's Polish Diary The Polish Press say:

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### Commentary

VI editor of the News Chronicle, has recently returned from Poland. The account of his visit, published in that journal, makes interesting reading.

Describing the "iron curtain" as a "myth," he adds: "The foreign visitor finds nothing more substantial to penetrate than a piece of pantomime gauze (a seasonable simile!) He is free . . . to move and talk as he pleases."

Of course, Mr. Barry is not the first journalist to discover that the "iron curtain" is a fraud, but representing as he does a substantial section of the Liberal press his voice must surely help to disperse the clouds of doubt which still exist countrymen and women.

readers, "Britain can still count on of industrialisation. strong reserves of goodwill if she

MR. GERALD BARRY, describes how often he found a keen desire for more trade with Britain.

> If further proof is needed to show the efforts which the Poles are making to strengthen contact with Britain and the West, we can point to the fact that about 400 delegates left Poland to attend conferences or for study abroad (mainly Britain, Czechoslovakia and Denmark) this

#### Coal is the Key

Polish coal deposits are among the greatest in the world, and despite the shortage of machinery and capital investment in this industry. output is still rising rapidly.

Production of coal in Poland has in the minds of many of our fellow risen by 22,500,000 tons compared with 1945. Domestic consumption In Poland, Mr. Barry tells his of coal is increasing with the tempo

gave comparable figures of pre-war and post-war domestic consumption and population. The figures, revealing a curious transposition, are: 1937, population 34,000,000, coal consumption 24,000,000: 1946. population 24,000,000, coal consumption 34,000,000 tons. This year home requirements will be 40,000,000 tons. Here is the measure of the expansion of the coal industry on the one hand and the industrialisation of the country on the other.

Coal exports are even most significant. Under the Three-Year Plan, Poland will export 18,500,000 tons this year, rising to 25,000,000 tons in 1948 and 30,000,000 tons in 1950-51. By 1950, Europe will need at least 100,000,000 tons of coal. Since it is improbable that Britain and the Ruhr will be able to provide more than 60,000,000 tons, the importance of Polish coal is at once apparent.

Poland, at the moment, is not only the sole coal supplier to Central and South-East Europe, but is sending countries in North and North-Eastern Europe over 8,000,000 tons of coal as a contribution to the European Coal Organ-

#### Propaganda for War

On the eve of the Big Four discussions, which include the problem of Germany, the Polish Government has sent a note to the Allied Control Council in Berlin protesting against the revival of anti-Polish propaganda in Occupied Germany.

Certain imprudent utterances by some Western statesmen, who question the wisdom of the Potsdam decisions and who seek a revision of the Oder-Niessa frontier, have been used by these neo-Nazis.

The fear of the emergence of a new militant Germany dominates the lives of Europeans to-day. As Gerald Barry (already referred to) says: "They (the Poles and the Czechs) are deeply suspicious of 'Germany First' spokesmen and writers who declare that the recon-Recently M. Topolski, Director- struction of the Ruhr should come chooses to draw upon them." He General of the Polish Coal Industry, before the help for Hitler's victims."

DECEMBER 1947

## Three Questions on Poland

-and the answers

by D. H. Ennals (North Western Regional Officer, U.N.A.)

find the answers to three questions: their attitude to the discussions on the Marshall Plan; the extent to which personal liberty exists; and their attitude to the United Nations. These questions could, of course, be answered in several ways, and I give the following views with the realisation that each is an answer rather than the answer.

#### 1—The Marshall Plan

It seemed that there was at first a certain regret that the Government decided not to attend the Paris Conference, but as soon as the Conference started popular support seemed to veer in favour of the Government's decision. The Government said from the start that they could not attend an ad hoc conference where the building up of German economy was to be discussed. That argument carried more weight when, in fact, the Ruhr became an important part of the plan.

It is interesting to note also that Prime Minister Cyrankiewicz made the point that the plan should have been drawn up by the Economic Commission for Europe where Poland would have played her part a view that coincides with our As-

MY STAY IN POLAND WAS decision, announced during the all too short, but I was keen to Paris Conference; that post-U.N.R.R.A. relief was to be cancelled was greatly regretted, and was said by the Polish Government to be an indication that America never really intended to give relief to both Eastern and Western Europe.

> An important point-made to me by General Grosz, the Minister Plenipotentiary—was that Poland might still participate in any scheme which did not also include the creation of Germany as an industrial power. "Anyhow," he said, "we already have trade agreements with 16 of the 22 countries now at Paris -and hope to extend them further. Our improved relations with Great Britain is a cause for mutual encouragement."

#### 2—Personal Liberty

Most people will admit that things were not too easy for the opposition parties during the election campaign in January, and the Government majority probably did not reflect its true level of popularity at the time, but, since the election, the Government's stock has risen enormously. The amnesty, the great increase in personal freedom, and the wise leadership of the Popular Front have all helped sociation's policy. The American to rally public support. The coun-

try is now very much settled down after its spell of banditry. The opposition Press continues to criticize the Government, people are open to express their views in buses and trams, and Government propaganda is reduced to a minimum.

The only sight that would shock a Western visitor is the fact that Polish soldiers are normally armed -it is, however, their custom and the shock is lessened by the realization that except for the small volunteer regular army, the majority of troops are voungsters doing their one year's conscription service.

#### 3-Attitude to U.N.O

Except for the I.R.O., Poland is a member of every established international organization related to the United Nations and takes an active part in the work of the U.N. itself. There is frequent reference to the U.N. in the newspapers of every party, and in his latest speech the Premier pledged full support for the organization.' The development of all-party Polish U.N.A. and the setting up of a U.N. Information Centre in Warsaw will both serve to increase the support of a people who perhaps more than any others have cause to hate war and to work together for world

No one would deny that Polish economy is closely tied up with that of the Soviet Union-their proximity makes it almost automatic. The choice that Poland sees is not between East and West but between Russia or Germany-and her sufferings at the hands of the latter make the choice obvious. Yetlike Czechoslovakia—there is still a high regard for British culture, and the Shakespeare Festival while I was in Warsaw was a great success. We must do all we can to strengthen these cultural ties and increase mutual understanding and co-operation between ourselves and a country which lost a fifth of her population in the war against the Axis powers.

NEW POLAND

"THE COLD-BLOODED Englishman" they called me there, and between themselves they said, "He is not interested . . . He has a brain but no heart . . . He doesn't understand us ..." They were wrong of course, but I had to admit that the difficulties in the way of mutual understanding were real.

I found myself involved in explanations "It is hard to find words." I said, "We British are unaccustomed to expressing our feelings . . . I am embarrassed at revealing my emotions . . ." In the end we did understand each other and I came back rich in friendship and left something of myself in Poland for all time. But more than ever before I realised how much conscious effort is needed to achieve full understanding and how much patient work the British - Polish Society has to do to carry out its aim "To cultivate and strengthen friendship between the British and Polish peoples."

In my first hours in Warsaw I was driven through that monument to barbarism, the miles of destruction, terrible deliberate destruction, of that once beautiful city. After a few minutes I just sat in the car shocked and silent, my throat dry and constricted, controlling my face by sheer will-power. That was when they said, "He is not interested!" An easy mistake to make of course, but how much easier it is to make much bigger and more serious mistakes from here. How easy, for instance, to form a completely wrong judgment when dependant on a garbled Press report of some complex political problem in a country you have never seen, whose language is a mystery of tangled consonants and whose very position on the map has changed two or three times since your schooldays! How little chance there is of friendship between the peoples developing unless there is a constant interchange of news, information and ideas between the countries. I went and saw for myself and experienced myself the difficulties in the way of

I went to see for myself

Capt. F. L. Farr Organiser, British - Polish Society

(This is not an article about Poland, but about an Englishman's impressions of, and reactions to, that country. Captain Farr recently spent a month in Poland "to see for himself," and to obtain material of interest to the people of Britain to help in the work of the British-Polish Society).

mutual appreciation, and I came back more than ever determined to extend the work of the Society and the range of this magazine. Knowledge is life, especially to friendship between nations.

I went and saw for myself. I travelled freely, sometimes alone, sometimes with friends, sometimes with strangers and I saw a lot. But more than I saw I felt a lot. One sees destruction and reconstruction, poor equipment and rich crops. great factories and peaceful villages, fast modern aeroplanes and old worn-out tramcars, and all the other things, pleasant and not so pleasant, relics of the old and signs of the new, that goes to make up the visible physical picture of Poland as she looks today. But one

feels the vital will to live that pushes back the oppression of destruction and brings busy, bustling human activity to streets that are literally the graveyards of thousands, the confidence of the leaders in the Polish people, the faith of the people in their own destiny and, above all, one feels the deep earnest patriotism of all types and classes burning with a flame, now bright, now dim, but unquenched through centuries of history. That simple and much misused word patriotism came to have a completely new meaning to me in Poland, a far deeper meaning than the mere dictionary definition, "Love of country," could encompass. I found it in the faces and voices of the people as they spoke of their country and its future, in the worker who said, "This is our country," the peasant farmer, "This

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

is my land," the architect in the planning bureau, "We will build a new city, a Polish city here," and the writer-artist aiming to re-create cultural Poland as "A home worthy of our history." They tell me that this feeling is explained by Poland's history. I wonder—perhaps it is that Poland's survival to possess a history is explained by this patriotism.

Dreams can be wonderful things and I am not materialist enough to discount them, but realism demands that ideas should be judged by their results. It is at this level of practical achievement that the visitor to Poland is most impressed. What has been done in Poland in the two years of peace would be wonderful anywhere, but when it is realised that of all the countries of the world this was the worst devastated by war and occupation, and in addition had to cope with changed frontiers and economic resources and a loss of population of nearly 20 per cent., the achievements seem nothing short of amazing. That life is hard work for almost all the people is natural enough, and they accept it as such, but what is strange is the almost casual way they take it for granted that their lives go on in an ordered society. There is law and order throughout the land-some thing which did not exist for over six years. Roads, railways, bridges, cables and airlines net the country, the ravages of years of war made good in months. Factories that were wrecks two years ago (I saw the photographic records myself) are now working at nearly pre-war productive level and in some exceptional cases above it. The great spaces of the Regained Territories, which two years ago were German, are already fully populated, fully productive and completely Polish. Everywhere there is an air of cool self - confidence. Difficulties are recognised and understood and precisely because they are recognised and understood they are not feared. I found only one fear in Poland today, the fear that war might again ties, he left Volhynia and, from tion of his efforts to improve the

work of reconstruction. On this morally Warsaw still is, as she has you," for they believe, perhaps quite rightly, that Britain can preserve peace in Europe and they look eagerly to us for signs that we stand for peace.

number my friends wherever I went, but it was with Warsaw that I fell in love. This heap of ruins, this wonderful, incredible city, takes the heart by storm and makes all those who know her love her. All my life I shall remember the richphysically yes, 85 per cent., but -I looked, and I found it good.

they said to me "That depends on been and will be, the capital and the heart of Poland." And so it is. Warsaw, though devastated, is passionately and gloriously alive and her people live with that kind of fierce intensity which comes from the consciousness of a great destiny. All Poland is great to me and I Warsaw will be rebuilt greater and and lovelier than ever before and her rebuilding will be the vindication of European civilisation. But somehow I shall always love her as she is, her patches of loveliness breaking through the vistas of destruction and her people, brightvoiced, grey-haired woman archi- eyed, looking to and working for tect in the Bureau of Reconstruct the future. It was my privilege to tion saying "... prove that Warsaw stand with them for a little while was never morally destroyed — and look with them into that future



JAN DAB-KOCIOL MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

JAN DAB-KOCIOL was born in 1878, the son of a small peasant. Persecuted by the Sanacja for organising peasant youth and promoting understanding between national minoricome and divert them from their 1934 to the outbreak of the war, lot of Poland's peasantry.

POLAND'S LEADERS-10 was an Inspector of the Union of Controllers of Territorial Self-Government.

> During the Occupation, he helped to organise the S.L. and Peasant Battalions. He fought with the A.L. (People's Army) detachments against the Germans. On behalf of the K.R.N. (National Council of Poland) he organised a provincial National Council in Lodz.

> Under the pen-name "Dab," he edited the clandestine "Informator." After the liberation he was elected Provincial Governor of Lodz, and won a reputation as an able organiser.

> He has received many decorations, including the Polonia Restituta, the Cross of Grunwald, the Gold Cross of Merit and the Partisan Cross.

When M. Cyrankiewicz formed his cabinet, following after the January elections this year, Jan Dab-Kociol was appointed Minister of Agriculture—a fitting recogni-

NEW POLAND

## The flag was ready, but . . . .

M. Henryk Drozdowski, Director of the Gdansk International Fair, has written me to say that the Fair, which is now closed, was a great success. There were 34 foreign firms participating, but my good friend regrets there were no British firms represented and that "we could hoist the flag of Great Britain prepared some weeks before."

He also asks me for literature "which might assist the approach between the Polish people and the people of Britain and to influence the Poles in Britain, to come back to their country." My good friend whom I met at Gdansk, was one of those kindly people who is never satisfied with my answers about his countrymen remaining in this country when they would be welcomed in their own where there was so much to be done.

While the Fair was a success, it was a first attempt under the new Poland, the next Fair to be held between September 20 and 28 1948, is expected to far exceed the first one and Mr. Drozdowski thinks and certainly hopes to see British firms plentifully represented then.

With Mr. Drozdowski's letter fresh in my mind it was disappointing to meet a Polish N.C.O. who told me he was on his way to France and under no circumstances would he return to Poland where he was likely to be imprisoned or shot. He had read all about it in the Polish newspapers, newspapers printed in Polish but produced in Britain.

This man's English was very good and feeling friendly disposed, for after all he was not altogether to blame for his malinformation, I

DECEMBER 1947



#### John Cartwright

(Our Scottish Correspondent)

was one of those invited by highranking Polish officers to join a Polish Legion in France.

Five minutes later I conversed with three Polish soldiers, two of whom were waiting repatriation, but the third had the same story to tell as the N.C.O. only it was the Russians who wanted to have a shot at him. He was a strong able fellow and expressed his contentment with membership of the Resettlement

Ross Calder, in an article in the "People," deals with this type of "work shy" and refers to "easy going officers who are superannuated nuisances." Much harm is being done to the character of the Polish people by this class as Scots folk are apt to think they are representative of the whole.

Another unfortunate feature about the literature referred to gathered he was on his way to join above, is that loads of it finds its the French Army. This was a wrong way into Trade Union offices and impression for later I learned he elsewhere in the Labour and Trade

Union Movement, falsifying the whole position in Poland, bewildering the recipients in some cases, until at last, in most cases, the stuff is never opened at all.

According to a Coal Board report, there are now nearly 650 Poles working in Scottish coal mines and that a fresh recruiting drive has been started in the Polish resettlement camps. Poles are also being employed in the shale mines at Burngrange and Westwood, and being housed at Forth and Armadale, but wages paid will be less than the shale miner until they are fully trained.

Mr. Dobrowolski, M.P. of Kracow, and Chairman of the Polish Foreign Affairs Committee, spent some time in Glasgow during October and visited the Scottish Labour Party Conference at Dundee, where he met Mr. John Taylor, Secretary of the Party and other delegates to the Conference. He is Secretary of the British equivalent of the Workers Educational Association and spent most of his time investigating conditions associated with these institutions. (See page 11.)

Behind schedule, due to engine trouble, The Eastern Prince, a British transport ship, left Glasgow on October 21 carrying nearly 1,500 repatriates. Amongst them were 133 invalids, Displaced Persons from all parts of Europe, wives and babes of Polish soldiers, and officers and men of the 1st and 2nd Polish armies.

January New Poland will tell the story of the first Anglo-Polish film ever made.

HRISTMAS TREES, poppy seed, carols, loads of various pastries including ginger bread, Nativity plays, and above all Christmas trees, are invariably associated with the memories of anyone who has spent a Christmas in Poland.

The Christmas trees are quite an institution in Poland and are considered to be the most necessary item for a proper observation of the great holiday, both in cities and in the countryside. From the beginning of December, farmers' carts can be seen rushing all over the country from forests to towns and villages, every cart loaded to capacity with fir trees of various sizes. No power in the world has ever been able to stop this wholesale devastation not only of forests but also of parks and gardens. Even during the war under the sharp eye of the German occupying forces who considered that their fellowcountrymen were the only people worthy of a Christmas tree, the Poles always succeeded in raiding forests and parks to provide every Polish home with a fir tree.

These fir trees are brought to the town and sold to the dealers who emerge every year in all large public squares. Two short planks are put across one another and a hole is made in the middle in which to stick the end of the trunk of the tree so that it stands upright. Then the trees are put in dense rows and transforming all the public squares into forests overnight. Narrow passages are left between the double rows of trees permitting the people to circulate around to select

the tree they like best. Should there buyers with appropriate rhymes. be a restaurant on the square, the people in the neighbourhood often hear during the night calls for help from merrymakers who, having celebrated Christmas in advance and decided to return home by a short cut across the square, find themselves lost in the labyrinth of

Together with the appearance of Xmas trees traditional stands with various trimmings emerge in the neighbourhood of the tree markets -small candles of various bright colours are sold there together with small fancy candlesticks for fastening to the trees. Silver threads, white cotton, powdered with a shiny dust to look like snow glittering in the sun, miniatures of Santa Claus, bright stars for the top of the tree and many toys and trinkets to be suspended to the branches are also displayed. In the old days the bulk of these Christmas trimmings made of shiny glass was imported from Germany, but since the beginning of the present century, home-made and very ingenious trinkets out of straw, pieces of bright paper and egg shells replaced the foreign im-

Large fat women, with straw shoes over their boots to keep their feet warm during the long days spent in trading in the open, loudly advertise the superiority of their goods, while urchins walk between the stands of Christmas trimmings trying to deafen the owners of stands by loud shrieks. They often display much wit and poetical talent in encouraging the prospective

There are, of course, numerous cases of pilfering so that the owners of stands must be well on their guard. Policemen are seldom called: generally two or three slaps settle the matter. Sellers of gramophones and records are also to be found which make such market places an ideal paradise for school children, who pour into them at the school closing hour and are invariably late for dinner at home.

The grocers exhibit barrels with herrings, smoked fish, poppy seed, ginger bread, the latter being baked in the shape of various objects and all covered with icing. Torun is the famous place for this Christmas ginger bread. The local bakers have developed, through centuries, very artistic moulds representing historical figures. The bakeries are full of various pastries, especially of long cakes stuffed with poppy seed or ground nuts. The main food articles sold before Christmas are not turkeys, game and geese, but various species of fish and poppy seed because the pivotal event of the holiday is not on Christmas day proper. but in the evening of Christmas Eve which is a day of strict fast. During that day many people have nothing to eat between a very frugal breakfast and the big Xmas dinner of the evening during which no meat is served; exclusively fish and traditional dishes with poppy seed. The Polish farm folk observe the fast during that day very strictly, but in cities the male population, knowing that they will be a burden at home

(continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

where the women are busily engaged in preparing the elaborate evening meal and being idle since all offices are either shut all day long or at noon, try to kill the time before the dinner with a few drinks at restaurants. In order to have their conscience clear, only fish is eaten as a snack with these drinks. These celebrations are therefore called "little fish"—little because one may not have too many drinks as one must be sober at the moment when the stars in the skies announce it is time to sit down at the Xmas table. The custom of sitting down together with the appearance of the first star is linked with the story of the star announcing the Nativity of Christ.

THE Christmas Eve dinner is a strange mixture of the old Christian and pagan traditions which have survived throughout centuries. On this occasion a white table cloth is laid on a table covered with hav to remind the revellers that Our Lord was born in a manger on hay, but in the middle of the table in many parts of Poland people put a big bun called "the old man" which is not supposed to be eaten this last custom originates from the pagan days when one left some food on the holiday table to nourish the souls of the deceased ancestors.

The Christmas Eve dinner is a purely family affair to which only intimate friends are invited. Polish people take special care that those of their friends who have no relatives do not remain by themselves during this night. On the farms one generally leaves two or three free covers for persons who might knock at the door and ask for hospitality should they have been delayed on their way home. According to the tradition the number of revellers must be even as an odd number would bring bad luck to the house. The number of dishes, on the contrary, must be odd. Before the meal the oldest member of the family

it with all members of the house- fant Jesus could have his share in hold in turn during which ceremony good wishes are exchanged. The dinner begins with herrings, followed by special Christmas soups, then comes fish or several fish dishes depending on the financial situation of the family, cabbage with mushrooms, the poppy seed either mixed with noodles or served very sweet with pieces of shortbread stuck in it. In the southern districts honey and unground boiled wheat are mixed with the poppy seed, which dish dates from the old days when mills were unfamiliar to humanity. Stewed fruit ends the meal during which, in most houses, Christmas carols are sung.

THE Christmas carols have greatly developed in Poland and constitute such a prominent part of the Polish folk music that even the great Chopin inserted one of them in his B Minor Scherzo. The Polish carols represent a great variety beginning with most dignified hymns sung in church and finishing with gay comic songs, including that about the humpedback goose.

The meal is a long one and the singing does not make it any shorter to the great impatience of the children for whom the holiday begins after the end of the dinner when the candles on the Xmas tree are lit and the gifts are distributed. The Polish Christmas is definitely a children's holiday and it is only in towns that grown-ups exchange presents, and this on a much smaller scale than in Great Britain.

At midnight churches are crowded with worshippers who come for the midnight mass during which the whole congregation sings carols. At one of the altars there is always a crèche representing the Nativity. It is generally surrounded by fir trees—fir tree and not the mistletoe is considered to be the Xmas emblem. In some parts of the country the trees in the church are all takes a large white wafer and breaks trimmed with toys so that the In-remained.

the children's rejoicing.

Whereas the New Year is celebrated in Poland in public places and rather noisely, Christmas is a family holiday and people do not make a point of having large parties or special theatrical entertainments at that time. Some of the vounger cast, especially office workers, have lately developed the habit of profiting by the few free days they enjoy at Xmas time to go to the mountains for winter sports, but the bulk of the people prefer to remain at home. Children's parties are the only exception. In many offices workers collect money to buy a tree and presents for the children of their colleagues and hold a joint party for these babes.

In respect of theatres, Poland has developed special Nativity plays which are being performed from Christmas to the end of January, mainly in puppet theatres where the devil taking the bad King Herod to hell causes just as much joy as the punishment of Punch in this country. Grown-ups also enjoy these puppet performances by introducing political satires into them.

In the countryside children perform these plays dressed as the main figures of the Scripturethose who enjoy the privilege of playing the parts of domestic animals round the crèche and of Herod and the devil seem to be the happiest. Boys spend their evening going around the village with a huge lantern in the shape of a star singing carols before each cottage. They are offered cakes with poppy seed, ginger bread, apples and nuts, which also serve to trim the Xmas tree and are considered to be requisites of the period.

The vast world changed its aspect several times during the long years when candles were lit on Christmas trees and carols sung and people gathered round the tables with hay underneath the tablecloth —but all these traditions have

#### The Journey Begins:

after early breakfast. Nice day. Fearful crowds at Waterloo. Queues even for lemonade. Shoals of Poles seeing each other off. Flowers-presents-luggage. Nonstop to Southampton to find the Batory hours late due to fog round Isle of Wight. She steamed in at last. Lovely boat. Children continually lost. We must teach them their cabin number. Very good food. Children ate everything with gusto, including goose and at the Customs. How kind everyone ice-cream. No ill effects.

TUESDAY. A cold day, Caught unexpectedly in shower of surprisingly English dankness whilst exploring Copenhagen with the children and splendid old Polish acreages of corn and potatoes practi-General with dramatic white mous- cally dug by hand. No tractors. Very taches, returning to Poland after eight few horses. Mr. Chain left us in years' absence. 750 lively Polish children came aboard with attendant Jannina Ordinzova, who is intelligent, nuns and priests. They have been re- and very witty. He will return with his cuperating and building up their health as guests of Danish families. They are buzzing about the ship like a thousand hives of bees. Dan lost for two hours before breakfast today . . . found at last after searching the ship twice, getting matey with a Polish Boy Scout. After dinner an exuberant impromptu Polish dance blew up suddenly. Mr. Gouzowski, who runs the lovely child named Ewa, on holiday Polish-Shipping Mission, taught me with her grannie. Ewa is golden-fair



Page Eight

SATURDAY, JULY 26. Off we go evening. Toast. We arrive in Gdynia to-morrow.

> WEDNESDAY. Great excitement on board as we approach Poland. Flags waving and everyone throwing flowers. Minister Chajn waiting on the quay-side to receive us. He caught Lou up in his arms and lifted her above the crowds. Cameras snapping and a delegation of judges and their wives to meet us is. By car through former German Pomerania. Nazi plane smashed in one of the fields, cultivated to the last inch all round it. Very few cows (Jerseys from U.N.R.R.A.) . . . one or two goats . . . a few geese and a couple of chickens at each farm, and vast charge of a women lawyer named wife in a week.

THURSDAY. We are staying at Ustka on the Baltic —a simple and attractive rest-home run by the Ministry of Justice for its officials. Children feel at home at once. Rushed to the beach and struck up friendship before long with a most to dance the Polish polka. Most gay with blacklashed blue eyes . . . a perfect little Botticeli. She speaks excellent French. But the children don't seem to need a common language. Her father—a mathematician—was killed in the war. More friends are Teraynia, Little Hannia and her brother Zbishek.

> quite used to Polish food and already eat cucumber soup with sour cream, cheese pancakes, and even smoked eels without turning a hair. However, the favourite MONDAY. is undoubtedly bilberries and sugar which they go for in a big way. The out to a café this evening. Dancing in cook is indulging them in bilberry the open air. Coffee and cherryjelly nearly every day. Our favourite brandy. Mostly American dances but walk is along the harbour in the sun- a few Polish ones too, and then they set after supper. There are lots of played "My Bonnie lies over the students here on holiday who flock there too. We have met an interesting young film director and his wife brought the tune back from Scotland. named Anthony and Ariadne. She Also "Two lovely black eyes" which



My Polish Diary

#### Pearl Binder

and graceful, but alas T.B. She is a writer and adores Katherine Mansfield. We bathe together and talk poetry on our walks through the pinewoods. I admire the wicker beachchairs (of the period 1900 I should say), with extending arm-rests and foot-rests, a pocket to hold a book, SATURDAY. The children are even a hook to hold a towel. When it rains suddenly the children pull two together, face to face, and creep inside to play houses.

Anthony and Ariadne took us ocean" (as a waltz) in our honour. I think the Polish soldiers must have is really ravishingly beautiful, dark fascinated Ariadne. She kept singing

NEW POLAND



DECEMBER 1947

it all the evening. How she would love Nellie Wallace! I noticed one of the girls as she danced past. She had a number tattooed on her arm from the concentration camp. And a tall finelooking lawyer staying at our resthome, who was one of our party, told me he was in Auschwitz for nearly six years. Everyone here has a ghastly story to tell of the German occupation. Mostly too terrible to be printed in England.

WEDNESDAY. Minister Chajn, his wife Mira, and young son Jasio have arrived. We converse in a mixture of English German and bits of Russian. Mr. Chajn's aide Bronnek is a big good-natured blond from Ukraine who sings us PB long sad songs about Monte Cassino. We are teaching him "Drink to me only."

FRIDAY. I went for a sail in the Polish trainingship "General Zarewski" manned by students and apprentice sailors. Boys and girls dressed in everything from oilskins and military uniform to print dresses. Sea choppy and squalls of rain. Thank goodness I didn't disgrace myself but some of the others were SATURDAY. Up at five. Breaksick. At sea five hours. I hear terrifying accounts of the Warsaw Insurrection from all our friends. How they the blazing streets and so on. In the evening we walked past an apprentice camp in the pinewoods with youngsters singing and dancing outside in the moonlight. The sailors of the "General Zarewski" gave a farewell dance tonight at the local café. To-Lots of fun. I learned to dance a Kujawiak. This morning Teranaynia's mother wore a most fetching beachsuit of crimson stuff. Made, she told me, from bits of a Nazi flag! But somehow the women do contrive to come by.

We went to the fair at Gdansk (Danzig) today, leaving the children in charge of Hannia's mother and father who took them to a gym and to a cinema and bought them "Lodies" and what all. I was most interested in the Polish peasant art, well displayed in a big pavilion; and also TUESDAY. gingerbread baked in the shapes of cut-paper offerings for shrines (this



cut-paper seems to be a Polish speciality . . . I have never seen it elsewhere (the nearest is, I suppose, the Balinese palm-leaf cut-outs) . . . wonderful wall rugs . . . lace caps . . . painted eggs . . . carvings in wood of cheese . . . bone . . . all sorts . . . Came back with migraine from too much sightseeing. Mr. Chain prescribed cherry vodka-which worked.

fast at six. Off with the Chajn family and our three in a Chevrolet and an open German touring car right across Poland. Excellent farms the whole way. God knows how they manage it with so few horses and less tractors. Grains, sugarbeet, and maize mostly. Stopped for lunch in pinewood clearing in an old partisan shelter scraped out of the earth. Into morrow they leave for a trip to old Poland. Garlanded tall crucifixes Sweden under sail. We all turned up. by roadside at every village. Poznan with ancient wall sundial badly damaged but rebuilding rapidly the Minister tells us. And so it looks. On to Breslau. Hopeless, destruction for mile after mile. Every major village we pass either totally or largely in ruins. be charmingly dressed, though clothes Driving through sunset into warm and especially shoes, are very hard to darkness of woods, getting higher and higher. Children sleeping for hours. Three punctures and lost our way twice. Barefooted peasants in kerchieves tell us our direction in shrill voices and bow us onwards. At last, at midnight, we reach Swieradow, near Czechoslovakia.

We all go scrambling through the madonnas and troikas, and exquisite woods following little streams every (Continued on next page)

Page Nine

Polish Diary-(continued from page 9)

day, hunting wild raspberries and bilberries. Dan found a small snake today which wriggled off like lightning. Met the Worths, friends of Chains, and went with them to a concert of Mr. Fogg, an excellent diseur. We feel he should come to England and give a recital. Poor Mrs. Worth has lost every single relation from her large family in the Nazi terror. She is quite alone now.

scene at Jelenia Gora Station. Everyone came to see us off; Mrs. Chajn with her arms full of presents and fruit. Minister Chajn and Bronek are coming with us. The train steward, a magnificent old cavalryman of 75 with the most amazing moustaches like bicyclehandles. We talked, ate, drank, sang, and then to our bunks and to sleep.

THURSDAY. Warsaw at last. In pouring rain. Queues of people waiting for a droshky in the wet. Peasants with their bundles. Babies. Baskets of market produce. Umbrellas. People putting sacks over their head to keep off the rain. Dreadful ruins everywhere, worse because not dismantled like ours, but gaunt and unsteady under the downpour. People everywhere going about gallantly, cheerfully, to work, crowding the trams, packing the bridges. Gorgeous blooms at street kiosks and gay little shops opening up outside the ruined ones. Enormous Polish apples. Biggest I've seen in my life. Elwyn delighted with progress. He was here last year with Sir Hartley Shawcross where hardly a tram was able to run. We are staying with Mr. Chajn in his tiny flat. No gas yet so no hot water, except on stove. All three children sleeping in Jasio's room. We in Mrs. Chain's room. The Minister works every night till two or three. Worse than our M.P.s.

FRIDAY. A tour round Warsaw. Never could believe such devastation if I hadn't seen it for myself, yet everyone courageously tackling it with anything to hand, fingers and baskets mostly. Groups of students and children working amongst the rubble. Apparently there's 21 million cubic metres of rubbish to be cleared away before they The German question-mark

"RUSSIAN ZONE," by Gordon many, which is under Soviet mili-Schaffer. The Co-operative Press and Allen and Unwin, 10/6d. net.

T is not conceivable that anyone should be interested in the WEDNESDAY. Most touching resurrection of Poland and yet be content to remain in ignorance of what is happening further to the west in Germany. Our Allied victory made possible the recovery by the Poles of sovereignty over territory lost to the Teuton in some instances a very long time ago. From these territories the Germans have had to migrate into a Germany which could once again become the focus for plans of aggression to which Poland would inevitably fall an early victim. Consequently any signs of the emergence of constructive policies in Germany, such as promise to make a clean break with ideas of revenge and aggression are eagerly awaited.

> of view makes almost hopeful readto tell of life in that part of Ger- discussion."

tary rule, will undoubtedly come as a surprise to many. In seventeen chapters the problems involved in the governance of twenty million people by a power whom they had been brought up utterly to despise are treated with painstaking thoroughness and much understanding The chapter on education is perhaps the most interesting of all, where one can read of the first faint dawn of democratic concepts in children's minds:

"For example (writing of a visit to a school near Weimar), I watched Frau Orsel teaching literature to a mixed class of children aged ten and eleven. First of all she read a poem, the children obediently chanting it after her. Then she asked which line best expressed the meaning of the poem. Some half-dozen answers were given, and then the whole "Russian Zone" from this point class was asked to vote on which was the best answer. Next, pupils ing. It is perhaps fortunate that the were picked out to read the poem, author is already well-known to a when each sat down the rest of the wide public in this country as a class was asked for comments on singularly objective observer and the way the poem had been precompetent journalist, well-equipped sented. It was not long before the to get at the facts, for what he has whole class was engaged in a lively

bulldozer in all Warsaw. Feel the Mr. Chajn. Americans ought to send delegations here to see with their own eyes . . Ghetto is so destroyed as to look SATURDAY. merely like brickvard; crosses at almost every corner mark where patriots were shot or desperate last stands were fought . . . pontoon bridge over Vistula crammed with carts, cars, nuns, peasants, clerks, soldiers and workers. Can feel energy vibrating from these people . . . tired as they

can tackle properly the rebuilding of are. The Minister took us to a newlythis once lovely city. So far, working opened cinema . . . Ninth to start anew day and night for two years, they out of several hundreds before the have managed to clear one million. war. "We are like a child with a new Outrageous that there isn't a single toy when a new building opens," said

> Whilst Elwyn went to interview Prime Minister Cyrankiewicz, I talked with Minister Chajn. Deeply moved by ruins of Warsaw and the courage of people here, I asked him what I could do to help. He answered: "Tell only the truth of what you have seen." And I will.

> > NEW POLAND

HE Sadler's Wells Ballet Company, which recently visited Poland, have protested against a report of alleged difficulties attending their stay there. The account, which was published by the Sunday Times, is keenly resented by the entire company who are full of praise for the enthusiastic and generous reception accorded to them in Poland (as reported in the November issue of New Poland).

Upon hearing of the Sunday Times version, members of the company, although at the time busy giving performances in Oslo, organised a protest to be signed by every member. Signatures were even secured from Poland, and the completed "round-robin" was sent to the newspaper in London.

Here is the text:

Sir,-As members of the Sadler's Wells Ballet Company, we would like to protest against the tone of the article from your correspondent in Warsaw which appeared in The Sunday Times of October 5.

While we are not in a position to write of any difficulties which may have arisen in the organisation of our visit, we can only assure your readers that it seemed obvious to us that, without generous co-operation from the Polish Government, the visit could not have taken place at all, nor could accommodation and food have been found in the ruins of Warsaw for the 65 people in our company.

The Ministry of Culture behaved towards us with the greatest kindness. In addition we met constant help and friendliness from the Poles with whom we came in contact. We gave seven performances in Warsaw, and seven in Poznan; the same kindness was

Miss Ninette de Valois

shown us officially and unofficially in both towns.

We would be grateful if you could let your readers know that the memory of our reception and friendly contacts in Poland is a very happy one, and that we ask nothing better than to be allowed to return there, feeling sure that if we do we will again be stimulated and inspired by the spirit of a people who can find time and inclination in the midst of reconstruction problems of a size of which we had not dreamt, to welcome a company of foreign artists so generously, and with such imaginative forethought.

NINETTE DE VALOIS and others. Covent Garden Opera House.

A spokesman of the company told New Poland: "We took a great liking to Poland and found Warsaw a very inspiring city despite

MR. STANISLOW DOBROWOL- the Polish and Czech resistance SKI, a member of the Polish Parlia- movements and from 1941 to the end of the occupation was the chairment, visited Britain during Octoman of the Clandestine Relief ber. He attended the London Conference of the Workers' Educational Council for Jews in South Poland. Association Conference which was In 1945, he was elected general secretary of the T.W.R. (Workers' held in London from October 18-21. Later he went off to Edinburgh University Association). In December, 1946, he was elected a deputy

where he continued his study of to the National Council. Mr. Dobrowolski is chairman of the Parlia-Mr. Dobrowolski played a prominent part in the resistance movementary Commission of Foreign Affairs and secretary of the Party ment in Poland during the occupation. He was liaison officer between Relief Council.

NAMES THE NEWS

KONNI ZILLIACUS, M.P., and seven other Labour M.P.s, spent four days in Poland during their recent visit to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Other members of the group were: Arthur Allen, Geoffrey Bing, George Thomas, Fred Lee, Henry White, Ben Parkin and A. J. Champion. In a joint statement, the members declared that they were glad to find "strong Socialist Parties in Czechoslovakia, and Poland playing an active part in the Government." In Warsaw, they talked to Dr. Frankowski, the leader of the Catholic Opposition Party in Parliament, and he confirmed the members' view that in Poland, as throughout Eastern Europe, there is no persecution of religion. In all countries they found "the utmost anxiety to extend trade with Britain."

MR. CLARENCE RAYBOULD, the conductor, and Mr. Mewton-Wood, the pianist, made a two weeks' tour of Poland under British Council auspices during November.

ALFRED ROBINS, M.P., spent ten days during October lecturing in Poland on the history, background and present-day workings of the Co-operative movement. The tour was arranged by the British Council.

PEARL BINDER, the artist, told the story of her recent visit to Poland during the televised Children's Hour broadcast on November 2. Illustrating the talk by her own drawings, she described the adventures of her three children who accompanied herself and her husband, Major Elwyn Jones, M.P.

DR. HEWLETT JOHNSON, the Dean of Canterbury, who is writing a book called "The New World from Poland to the Balkans," visited Poland during October, where he was received with great enthusiasm.

adult educational methods.

## Special Establishment No. 1

Poland's 'Borstal without bars'

Visited by G. D. H. Douglas

Our Warsaw Correspondent

Much interest has been aroused in this country by the girl's "reform school without locks" at Astwell Park, Kent, and also by the women's "prison without bars" at Askham Grange, York. In Poland, too, experiments have been undertaken in reform schools and prisons to remove the emphasis from "punishment" to "reform." The writer describes one of these experimental schools—Special Establishment No. 1.

L could imagine yourself listening to some numerous, specially trained and handpicked choir.

They were singing Polish folksongs in four parts: there were deep contraltos, mezzos and remarkably pure and clear sopranos.

Opening your eyes, you saw 25 little Polish girls between the ages of 9 and 17 in the dark blue dresses of "Special Establishment No. 1." They sang without music, without a piano, without a conductor.

Sometimes one of the smaller ones in the front came to a piece she didn't know. So she crept in behind one of the others so that we shouldn't see she had stopped sing-

When we asked their headmistress about a singing teacher, she said: "Oh no. There is no special teacher. Sometimes I teach them a song, sometimes one of the other mistresses. Sometimes they just learn it by themselves."

At Grochow, just outside Warsaw on the east bank of the Vistula, Special Establishment No. 1 deals

TF you closed your eyes, you with all the most difficult little girls who go to Polish orphanages—the ones who steal, the ones who run away, the ones who are "incorrigible." Needless to say, they are the most charming bunch of little girls.

> Zarebinska ran just such a home here in Grochow before the war, only it had a different name and a different building.

> You can still see the former building not far down the road. It stands a gaunt, gutted shell. The Germans set fire to it when the Russians approached in July, 1944.

> Mrs. Zarebinska and her girlsthere were 52 of them then—lived for ten months in a cellar, a long low room with tiny windows high up where they ate, slept, studied, and sang, before they moved into their present home which had housed a Russian anti-aircraft unit.

The place was not in much of a condition for an orphanage, but the girls, the mistresses, local helpers a girl was a thief or did something and the AA-gunners got to work.

The headmistress had only moved

into a room of her own the day we arrived; there is still one dormitory -for an additional 15 girls-unfinished, but the whole place breathed an almost alarming air of spotlessness and order which led one to believe that it must be ruled by something of a martinet.

In fact, to a large extent, the girls rule themselves. They decide all punishments in special "Courts." "But sometimes we have to tone down the sentences," said Mrs. Zarebinska. "The girls are apt to be too severe."

The girls do nearly all the essential work themselves - sweeping, washing, needlework, helping in the kitchen, and growing their own vegetables in the grounds.

A typical punishment, if a girl's work is scamped, is not to let her do that job for a week or so. Mrs. Zarebinska said: "They soon start asking to be taken back on the job. Not being allowed to do it makes them feel they are of less value than the others, no longer 'one of them.' They will do anything to get back."

They are paid for extra good work, and are allowed to spend the money on anything they like. They THEIR headmistress Mrs. Maria also take it in turns to do the shopping for the orphanage. If something is found to be wrong with their accounts, they miss their turn when it comes round again.

> LTHOUGH these are girls with A a reputation for running away, the gates are always open. Sometimes they do run away, but sooner or later they always come back. There are some, who have been used to selling under the Germans, who run away in the spring and come back in the autumn.

> They are quite free to mix with the children outside, but are warned to be careful not to gossip too much. Sometimes the children outside get to know that such-and-such particularly wicked. Then, when a

> > (continued on next page)

NEW POLAND

(continued from previous page)

quarrel arises, they bring it out, and that causes unnecessary tears and misery.

Unlike other Polish orphanages. these girls do all their lessons in the orphanage. They stay there until they have finished their elementary schooling, which in Poland is normally at 15, but girls who have been retarded are allowed to stay on to 17 or 18.

Mrs. Zarebinska said that her greatest problem was to know what to do with the girls when the time came for them to leave. Most of them—"all the most unsuitable ones"—wanted to become teachers, or nurses or lady doctors. But for many their best prospect was to find a job in a shop or factory and then get married.

Mrs. Zarebinska was modest in her claims for the success of her methods of treatment. "We only cure about 50 per cent.," she said. "The rest will continue to have difficulties of character all their lives." Before the war, results were better. but present conditions were unsettled.

TT is perhaps not difficult to under-I stand why the runaways return to "Special Establishment No. 1." It it generally described as "the second best-equipped orphanage in Poland," with the addition "that is how we aim to have all our orphanages in a year or so's time."

The cooking, in which the girls help, would do credit to a good hotel; there is a wireless (which gets London), a library (in immaculate brown-paper covers) and large, wooded grounds where they are starting to repair the tennis-courts. Once a month they go to the theatre or a cinema. They spent their holidays in Zakopane, Poland's most famous mountain resort. And then there is the atmosphere of the

In a few weeks' time they will have a piano—as if they needed that to make them sing!

DECEMBER 1947

## That 'Free' Market

#### by Maurice Dobb

Lecturer in Economics, Cambridge University

TNFORTUNATELY the visit which I recently paid to Warsaw (at the kind invitation of the Minister of Education) was too short to enable me to express any opinion upon the economic condition of the country and upon the degree of success in achieving the aims of the National Economic Plan for Reconstruction. But I was able to have some very interesting and informative talks with economists and others. A considerable part of my time was occupied in giving lectures about the economic situation in Britain (which was the purpose for which I was invited); and the time available for studying the facts of Poland's economy was all too limited.

I learned enough, however, to be impressed by the fact that the Index of Industrial Production had virtually reached the 1938 level. while some industries such as engineering, mining, fuel, power and chemicals are substantially above it; and that the trade unions are playing a very big part in the battle for production. In the summer months, I was told, there had been something of a building boom; which was taken as a sign of confidence, even in bourgeois circles, in the political stability of the Government. Private enterprise is given free rein in the patching up of ruined buildings as far as the first floor; and in such patching up there were signs of quite widespread and feverish activity.

The visitor is struck by the existence of the free market, where the peasant farmer has the right to of them already knew!

freely trade his produce at prices much higher than those obtained for goods from State industries. In other words, there is "a pricescissors" working to the peasants' advantage. But since this encourages the farmer to buy machinery and fertilisers and to put up buildings, and hence to re-equip agriculture and raise its productivity, this is not regarded as a bad thing for the time being. As supplies coming into the market increase, and as State trading extends, and can exert a stabilising influence over the free market, it is the intention to close the "price-scissors" and lower prices on the free market. There is no present intention of dislodging individual enterprise from farming and introducing collective farming in its place.

In the universities, I found both in the curriculum, customs, selfgovernment and teaching personnel a surprising degree of continuity with the past; the same subjects are being taught, mainly by the same people in the same way, to an eager throng of students who have to be crowded into quite inadequate lecture-room and laboratory space.

In my own subject, I found much the same books being read (including some recent translations of English colleagues) and much the same doctrinal discussions taking place today as in this country. In fact, when I lectured to an audience of economists upon "Recent Tendencies in English Economic Thought," I found that I was telling them little, if anything, that most

Page Thirteen

#### NEWS IN BRIEF

THE PLAN FOR PAPER PRODUCTION THE POLISH PORTS Gdansk, Gdvnia, in the Western Territories to cover this year has been carried out in ten months.

THE OUTPUT OF LEATHER industry in the Regained Territories is steadily increasing; there are six footwear factories, 17 hide-processing works and one suitcase factory.

Ustka and Szczecin, have loaded 10,000,000 tons of coal and coke for export since the resumption of coal exports after the war. The 10,000,000th ton was loaded in Gdynia on October 9.

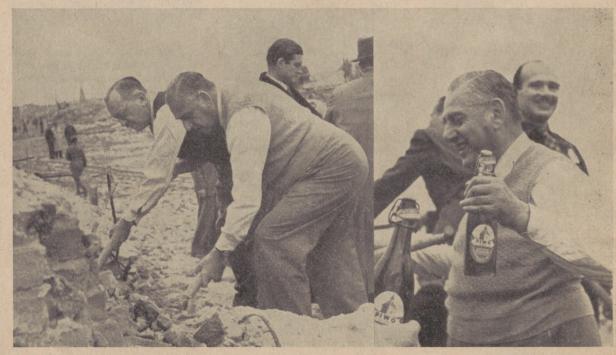
THE STATE WAGON Plant in Wroclaw exceeded, in all sections, the October plan of production. 700 wagons were produced instead of

IN SLUPSK, Western Pomerania, a new furniture factory has been set in motion. Eighty per cent of its production will be exported to Great Britain and the rest is designed to meet the requirements of the most destroyed Polish centres. such as Gdansk, Warsaw, Wrocław and Szczecin.

THE GOODS TURNOVER of the ports of Gdansk and Gdynia during the first ten months of this year amounted to 7.670,000 tons, which equals the whole of the turnover for the year 1946. The turnover in October was 1,052,000 tons. The ports of Dorlowo and Kilobrzeg will be opened next year.

GDYNIA with its modern port installations, will now concentrate its turnover on light goods and bulk articles such as coal and ores. The port of Gdansk will serve big bulk

Mr. Lewis Silkin lends a hand to help in the clearing of Warsaw. By his side works the Polish Minister of Reconstruction, M. Kaczorowski. No mechanical tools are available, but the whole population helps. Digging the ruins has its compensations (right hand picture) and the Ministers pause for a glass of beer



Page Fourteen

NEW POLAND

## Mr. Bowles explains

#### Maj. Donald Bruce, M.P.

THE suffering and suspense of war itself is now so far removed from us that it did the House good to be reminded of some of the incredible hardships endured by other countries even less fortunate placed than ourselves during the

Mr. Frank Bowles, M.P. (Nuneaton) who returned quite recently from Poland, and who is the vicechairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, gave the Commons a graphic account of some of the effects of the German occupation of that country.

Members were shocked by his description of a concentration camp where three to four million Poles lost their lives.

"The next part was the gas chamber. I saw the place where the train came in. If a German officer was killed in Warsaw two hundred people, including children, were picked up and taken to Auschwitz concentration camp. Here there was a large fero-concrete building and the people were herded into it. They were offered a towel and a piece of soap. They thought they were going to have a bath, with the result that they took off their clothes, but they found they were not going to have a bath. Instead they were shoved into the gas chamber and in ten minutes they were completely dead. They were taken out of the gas chamber and examined by dental surgeons, who extracted any gold from their teeth able, as yet, to accomplish such a to build up Hitler's gold reserves.

The Member for Nuneaton, beasked why it was that Poland always voted with M. Vyshinsky on even better ourselves.

the Security Council. He was countered by the query "why do you always vote with the United States?"; and he was reminded that Poland wanted above all a settled peace: that, whereas the Soviet Union had guaranteed her Western frontiers against a repetition of her former agony, the United States leaned towards a frontier revision diverging from that agreed at Potsdam.

He described how he saw university professors, school teachers and artists working side by side with the rest of Warsaw's population helping to rebuild the capital. Even the President, the Prime Minister and the Chief of Staff have taken turns in the digging and clearing work.

In Britain, battered also by war, it is difficult to translate this aspect into terms which can be readily assimiliated. For it is quite obvious that, not only have the building interests in Poland suffered an eclipse of power, but also that any pre-existing trade union rules had been abolished to permit of what would otherwise be regarded as "dilutee" labour. The lesson is plain. It is that in genuine Socialism, and not less, lies the key to the impetus for real recovery. A Socialism that makes positive demands upon the organised industrial movement of the working class for an abolition of restrictive practices valid only when capitalism was firmly in the saddle.

The fact that we have been unspirit in these islands should provoke not envy towards those who ing a good Democratic Socialist, are endeavouring to accomplish so much, but a determination to do

#### POSTBAG

Dear Sir,

You produced in October a number which was far nearer than former copies to what I feel "New Poland" should be.

My criticism in the main is that too many issues resemble too closely a building society brochure —that is they paint everything in such glowing colours that even people like myself who count themselves friends of the present Poland, and have a high opinion of its people, its post-war efforts and progress, are apt to feel "Methinks he doth protest too much."

The story which post-war Poland has to tell is in itself such a good one that, in my view, it can be told "straight." The Polish authorities and people know that there is much yet to be done and that much that is being done could be done in a better way.

Articles in your paper often suggest that everything is wonderful and practically nothing could be better. No-one in Poland or out-side believes that. What people in Poland do believe is that they are set in a right direction and that, in the main, all important forces in the country are concentrating in that direction.

I feel, therefore, that objective articles like those recently published under the names of Mr. Kingsley Martin and Mr. Tyrone Guthrie, who criticised as well as praised, carry far more conviction than contributions which smack of the provincial drama notices written by a "cub" reporter afraid of losing his weekly free seat if he does not belaud the theatre, the artists, the stage direction and the orchestra.

C. G. Bidwell

British Council Representative in Poland.

Dear Sir,

May I take this opportunity to congratulate you on the excellent job which you are making of "New

Leslie R. Aldous Editor, United Nations News. Maiden Lane, London, W.C.2.

DECEMBER 1947

Page Fifteen



## THE POLISH PRESS SAY:



Mr. Mikolajczyk's disappearance from Poland on October 27 has great achievements in peace already received considerable attention by the Polish Press. Here are some com-

Gazeta Ludowa wrote: "The man who only the other day declared that he would remain steadfast, disappeared in a shameful secrecy. He escaped at the moment when 46 members of the Supreme Council of the Polish Peasant Party had put forward a demand for convoking a council for dismissing him and the election of a new council. Up to the last moment, Mikolajczyk terrorised the Supreme Council and prevented its convocation, whilst preparing for his own escape. He knew that he had lost the confidence of his Party and of the peasants. On October 5, a congress of several hundred Jeading members of the Polish Peasant Party denounced the whole of Mikolaiczyk's activities. In this situation, Mikolajczyk has sought the protection of foreign and faithfully."

Rzeczpospolita wrote: "Mikolajczyk arrived in Poland as a representative of foreign imperialism when Poland was making the first steps in its reconstruction and rebuilding. He mobilised all antidemocratic forces at a time when unity was an urgent necessity, acting on the orders of certain foreign elements which now support the reconstruction of aggressive imperialist Germany. Mikolajczyk was opposed when it became evident that he had lost influence in his own Party."

Glos Ludu said: "Churchill's Trojan horse was of no more value. His escape was the logical end of the road he followed. He acted not as a Polish politician, but as an agent of foreign interests who leaves hostile forces, whom he has served when convinced that he has nothing more to do."

Following the Polish Government's Note to the Four Powers in Berlin, protesting against the revisionist propaganda in Germany, the Polish Press have pointed out how this campaign menaces peace.

Polska Zbrojna writes: "Revisionist and revenge propaganda to power. The same slogans are being used today by the organisers of anti-Polish propaganda in Germany. An end should be put to this peace.

Page Sixteen

Glos Ludu says: "Only those who aim to cause trouble in Europe. was used by Hitler when he came whose purpose is the instigation of a new war, are attempting to question the decisions of the Big Powers on the Polish-German frontier. This action is entirely hopeless propaganda if we desire lasting and harmful to the Germans themselves."

THIS MAY BE a little early to say it, but the next issue will be too late, so may I take this opportunity of wishing all our readers the compliments of the season. This, the third Christmas of peace, finds us taking stock of our position and, inevitably, comparing what we have with what we expected or hoped for at the end of the war.

There is ground for disappointment in some respects. Ideals which were in the forefront of all our minds during the fighting seem to have been pushed aside and some of the old contradictions and disagreements we thought dead-have re-appeared in company with the new problems created by war.

Nevertheless there have been and we, as friends of Poland, are proud to see her setting a great example to the world in the matter of reconstruction. For most of us too this year has ended years of separation and brought us back to our homes.

This is true in all countries though it is a thousand pities that for various reasons there are so many who are still in exile. I say "for various reasons" and they are many, but it is an unfortunate truth that some of these reasons are bad and some just silly. Among those whose exile is based on reasons that are both bad and silly we must number most of the Polish citizens, late of H.M. Forces, who remain in

Their exile is caused by prejudice based on false propaganda and fear based on sheer ignorance of the truth about their own land. To these men too, because all who are away from their homeland are most in need of friendship, I wish all the best for their Christmas here. I hope that next year too they will remain firm friends of Britain when they themselves are happy with their own people in their own

Talking of parties, we had quite a good one at the Visiting Scientists

NEW POLAND

#### THE BRITISH-POLISH SOCIETY

by The Organiser

a reception organised primarily to think of questions likely to be of introduce to our members Mr. F. Elwyn Jones, M.P., as our president, from their own friends, these quesbut it turned out to be a very successful get-together with a hundred members present and a friendly, happy atmosphere which augurs well for the future.

I was extremely pleased to see that a number of our friends from outside London had come in for the event, some of them travelling considerable distances.

I hope that these contacts between the fortunate Londoners, and those further afield, will continue and develop as part of our work.

The most consistent aspect of the work of the Society remains the provision of speakers and lecturers with excellent qualifications and first hand knowledge to various organisations all over Britain.

A suggestion was made by one of our speakers and adopted by a recent meeting of the Executive Committee that all the questions asked of the speakers in the different meetings should be noted to provide us with some information as to what the public want. I feel that this idea might be taken a little further as many of our members cannot get to meetings and would

Club on October 21. It was actually suggest that if members themselves general interest, or if they hear tions should be sent along to us, either for direct answer or for publication.

We have just had the pleasure of

a brief visit from Mr. H. E. Newbold, Secretary of the Manchester Trades Council, an organisation which we are glad to number amongst our "Associate Members." Mr. Newbold, who recently spent three months in Poland, has been speaking on Poland to enthusiastic audiences all over the city and in the surrounding district. Amongst meetings addressed by Mr. Newbold were Darwen, Irlam, Ashtonunder-Lyne, Blackpool, Stockport, Birkenhead, Radcliffe, Farnworth and Walkden, Northwich, Chester, Earlestown, Tyldesly and Ramsbottom Trades Councils, the Longsight, Royton and Gorton Labour Parties, the Lancashire and Cheshire Federation of Trades Councils, the Radcliffe Rotary Club, and a one-day school organised by U.S.D.A.W. on the question of "Poland Today."

In October, a number of very successful lectures on Poland were given by Society speakers. In addition to those reported in the last issue of the magazine, ten lectures

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were also given in various parts of the country, covering Taunton, Yeovil, Winscombe, Luton and London. One of the high lights of the Taunton tour was a lecture and film show given at a boys' school to 350 pupils. At Winscombe, under the joint auspices of the United Nations Association, Toc H and the British Legion, an audience of 200 listened to a talk on "Poland and the U.N.O." The encouraging thing to note about these talks is that letters of appreciation reach our office, and invitations for further talks flow from them. Why not try to get your own club, union branch, or circle of friends to invite a speaker. It's very simple - just phone the office, or drop us a card, and we'll do the rest. F. L. FARR

#### DECEMBER DIARY

A speaker from the British-Polish Society will talk on Poland at the following public meetings:-

-				
December	8	 	 Ryde	United Nations Association
			Gosport	United Nations Association
,,	10	 	 Portsmouth	United Nations Association
,,	11	 	 East Ham	Methodist Mission
,,	12	 	 Andover	United Nations Association

Speakers from the Society will also address the Weymouth Emergency Training College on December 17 and the Sutton Professional Business Women's Club on December 30.

DECEMBER 1947

#### New Poland

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