

# NEW POLAND

RECONSTRUCTION  
NUMBER

WELCOME TO  
POLISH MINISTER

*Rt. Hon. Lewis Silkin,  
M.P.*

INDUSTRIALISED  
POLAND

*—Aylmer Vallance*

BRITISH WIFE IN  
WARSAW

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Warsaw  
Supplement

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JULY 9  
1948

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# NEW POLAND

VOL. 3 No. 9

JULY 1948

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Editor: Arthur Long

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## CONTENTS

REBUILDING POLAND	A. J. Ling, B.A., A.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I.	1
"BEST POST-WAR JOB IN EUROPE"		3
POLISH PLANNERS IN BRITAIN	H. J. Spiwak	4
BRITISH WIFE IN WARSAW		5
WAR ALLY M.S. "BATORY" RETURNS		6
POLISH PURCHASING MISSION IN BRITAIN		7
INDUSTRIALISED POLAND	Aylmer Vallance	8
"THE LAST STAGE" (Film Review)	G. D. H. Douglas	10
POLISH FOLK ART	Dr. S. Osiakowski	12
BRITISH-POLISH SOCIETY NOTES		13
SCOTS DIARY		14
NEW POLAND NEWS		15
POLISH PRESS SAYS		16

## WARSAW SUPPLEMENT

# AFTER FOUR YEARS

**M**OST SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF THE visit to this country by Mr. Michal Kaczorowski and his delegation has been the unstinted praise accorded here to the job done by the Polish Minister of Reconstruction—praise which has not been confined to those who, normally, show any marked friendship for Poland.

This is a testimony to the physical achievement of the Poles in re-building their shattered land and, in particular, to the amazing renaissance of its capital. The facts are there—tangible, undeniable, in terms of bricks and mortar, steel and timber and concrete. They stand as an example to Europe.

But it is not merely the success of "reconstruction" in this narrower sense that Poles will celebrate on July 22 their National Day. They will be casting the entire balance-sheet of the past four years. And they will have no reason to be dissatisfied with the result, for much has been re-built beside the cities, and much is on the way to being created which the old Poland never knew.

When the Polish people started upon their hard post-war task, they had little but their bare hands and their faith. A country depopulated, its urban centres destroyed, its industry largely devastated, its people suffering the physical and moral aftermath of war—that was Poland in

1945-6. The most elementary needs of a settled society were lacking—not only public services, but public order, for terrorist bands continued their activity long after full-scale fighting on Polish territory had ceased. Tools were lacking and people were lacking, too; the Germans who destroyed industrial plant and universities also did their best to exterminate the men and women best qualified to work in them. In the countryside were untilled fields and unexploded mines. That was the beginning.

Today, in place of that picture of misery and chaos stands a country with a soundly-developed economy and a stable Government, a powerful factor in the new Europe. Its people are adequately fed and are even able to export some foodstuffs. Its industries are reaching their aim of recovery; very soon they will pass to the further stage of expansion. By a timely amnesty and a policy of complete religious freedom, its Government has left no handle for those remnants of the old regime who had dreamed of stirring up trouble within its frontiers. Disease and ignorance are being countered by a good system of social services.

That is the work of four years. It gives some indication of the Poland likely to emerge from the Six-Year Plan which is to follow the close of the "reconstruction" period in 1949.

## MINISTER to MINISTER

a message from  
the Rt. Hon. LEWIS SILKIN, M.P.  
Minister of Town & Country  
Planning.

**I** AM GLAD TO WRITE A BRIEF MESSAGE for New Poland on the visit to this country of M. Kaczorowski, the Minister of Reconstruction, his wife and his six colleagues. I am the more pleased to send you this message because my interesting and inspiring visit to Poland last year will always be fresh in my mind. On that visit my companions and I saw a great deal, learnt a great deal and were most hospitably entertained.

"I invited M. Kaczorowski to come to Britain so that we could return to the best of our ability the hospitality we had been shown, and so that he would have the same opportunities of seeing and learning that we had. If he has found as much to stimulate his thoughts as we did, his visits will have been well worth while on that score alone.

"We have tried to show him in the short time available as much of what we are doing as possible. We have taken him to see how we are getting on in the re-development of badly war-damaged areas—a matter I know to be very much in his mind. I am only sorry after my own efforts with the shovel in Warsaw that I was unable to take M. Kaczorowski to one of the more badly-damaged parts of London so that we might once again take off our jackets and together help to clear away some of the devastation of the war. By way of contrast to war damage and the worst areas of some of our larger industrial towns, M. Kaczorowski has seen some of the best of our heritage—Stratford, Oxford and Edinburgh. He has seen what we are doing towards the building of new towns and I am confident that he will have found much of value and of interest in our early steps in this great task. We have also tried to show the Minister of Reconstruction something of the part played by local authorities in the execution of re-development schemes and in planning generally, and I have no hesitation in saying that the whole party has been most impressed by the working of our local government system.

"In conclusion may I say what a great pleasure it has been to me personally to have had M. Kaczorowski, Mme. Kaczorowski and their six colleagues as guests in this country. I hope they will take back to Poland memories as happy and stimulating as those I brought home with me last year."

NEW POLAND



"EVERYONE WAS WORKING FOR RECOVERY..." These men are rebuilding one of Warsaw's railway bridges.

JULY 1948

**O**N her National Day—July 22—Poland will celebrate the results of four years of reconstruction.

To mark this occasion, New Poland is devoting a considerable part of this issue, including a special supplement, to articles upon the great work of rebuilding which started in the wake of the retreating German armies and has continued ever since.

The Polish Minister of Reconstruction, with a party of Polish planners, visited Britain as the guests of the British Minister of Town and Country Planning last month. It has therefore been possible to include material from the Polish planners themselves, as well as British impressions of their work.

BIBLIOTEKA  
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# REBUILDING POLAND

by

A. J. Ling, B.A., A.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I.

Mr. Ling is Senior Planning Officer of the London County Council's Architects' Department and Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Royal Institute of British Architects. He recently visited Poland under the auspices of the British Council.

**T**HE BUILDERS ARE AT WORK IN POLAND. Scaffolding can be seen everywhere and I thought how glad we in Britain would be to have some of the timber that was being used so casually and in such bulk for scaffolding. One of the things that impressed me most in Warsaw was the construction of the East-West Route—a new road through the centre of the capital with a tunnel under the remains of the old city, emerging at the foot of the escarpment which runs along the west bank of the Vistula. Here 3,000 men were at work on a major project in the Warsaw Plan. At the entrance to the building site was a large hoarding with a birds-eye view of the completed scheme painted on it, and beside it a progress bulletin, so that the citizens of Warsaw could follow what was happening. The architect told me that the men working on the road and tunnel had asked for lectures on the project so that they could take an intelligent part in its

construction, and one could sense their enthusiasm as one inspected the work. They had no lorries for taking away the excavated earth and so they were using horses and carts, but any loss of time was being made up by working in three eight-hour shifts each day. With so much of the city still in ruins, and housing accommodation so short, the execution of this project is proof of Warsaw's determination to take full advantage of the city's destruction to create a more beautiful and efficient capital city.

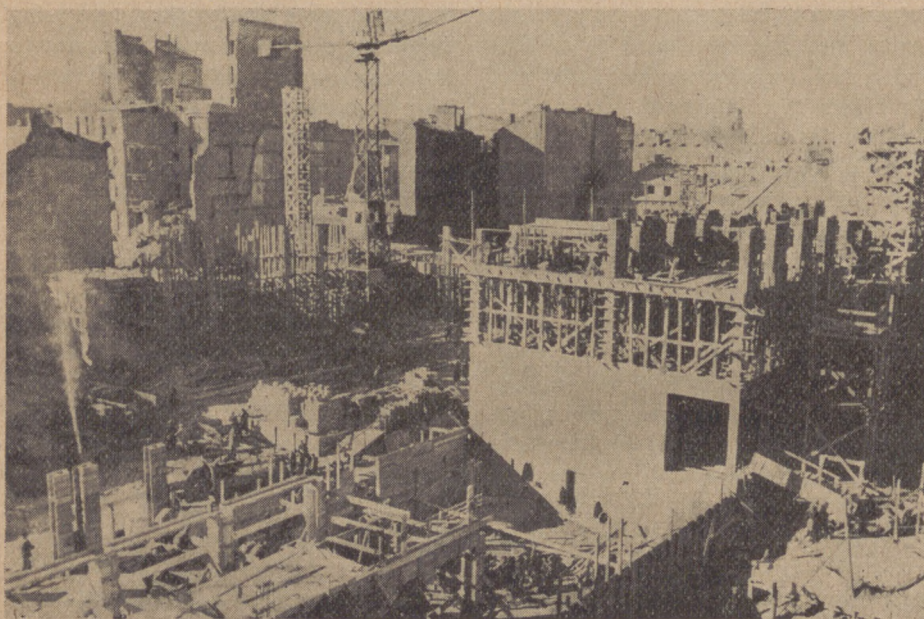
On the outskirts of Warsaw I saw a complete neighbourhood under construction. This had been designed by the architects, Helena and Szymon Syrkus, for the Warsaw Housing Co-operative, and was particularly interesting in design in contrast to an adjoining scheme of flats of rigid layout. The architects were aiming to achieve a complete neighbourhood which, at the same time, was a single architectural composition and a series of

Page One





"SCAFFOLDING CAN BE SEEN EVERYWHERE . . ." Sometimes the job is major repair work to existing houses (picture above), sometimes the construction of new buildings, like those seen in the general view of a Warsaw district, below.



interior groupings of houses and flats around open space so that one would be led from one interior to another. The number of roads were reduced to a minimum so that people would no longer live alongside the street but would have the sense of living in a series of parks. A new system of prefabrication on the site had been developed and the results were of a very high standard compared with the improvised building equipment. No cranes were available for hoisting the prefabricated parts, so the builders had constructed their own. I was told that mechanical building equipment from abroad would help enormously to speed up reconstruction; some had been received from the United States after the war, but recently the export of this had been stopped on the grounds that it might be used for war purposes!

I shall never forget the Jewish Ghetto in Warsaw, an immense waste of rubble. Here, I thought, should be the site of the United Nations Headquarters. The desolation should remain so that delegates had to walk to their conferences through the piles of bricks and twisted steel as a reminder of what war really means.

#### SOUND PLANNING

Away from Warsaw one finds the same feverish building activity. Particular attention is being given to the restoration of historic buildings, for with so many monuments of the past destroyed, those that remain have a special cultural significance. Sometimes this enthusiasm for the past has been taken too far and exact replicas of completely destroyed buildings have been built without thought for the improvement of the layout of adjoining buildings and streets.

Planning generally, however, is on a very sound basis. Economic and physical planning is regarded as a combined operation, which ensures that all planning projects contribute to the economic recovery of the country. The Ministry of Reconstruction directs planning operations through 16 Regional Planning Boards. These at the moment are not elected, but it is proposed that they should be. Then there are local town planning offices in various towns responsible for the execution and control of planning schemes. Not all towns have these offices because of the shortage of planners; in such cases the Regional Planning Office has a dual responsibility. I found that there was great interest in problems of town planning and the training of planners in Great Britain, and the plans I saw showed considerable British influence. A regular exchange of experience would be useful to both countries.

NEW POLAND

In the Recovered Territories the method of dividing out the land amongst the peasants was very ingenious. Instead of giving each peasant a self-contained parcel of land, the area had been divided out into large strips each for the cultivation of a different crop in rotation, and each peasant had a smaller plot in each of the strips. This enabled the peasants to use mechanical methods of sowing and reaping while retaining their right to the produce and the responsibility for the general farming of the land. It also encourages the development of compact villages instead of scattered individual houses and barns which tend to break up the landscape and make community life and the provision of social services very difficult.

The biggest complaint I heard from architects was that they had too much work and 24 hours of the day was quite insufficient. So far there has been no shortage of building labour but with so much reconstruction it is now beginning to be felt. As regards materials there appeared to be no shortage of timber, while the brick rubble in the devastated towns provided an almost unlimited source of material to be crushed and turned into building blocks. Brick crushers can be seen on most new building sites.

#### VOLUNTEERS

The labour force is being augmented by voluntary efforts on the part of organisations or individual citizens who have volunteered to clear certain streets or do the unskilled work on building jobs. There is also the youth organisation "In service of Poland"; this provides for work on schemes of national importance prior to military training. I saw a party of these youngsters constructing the new high-speed road between Gdansk and Gdynia with great energy and enthusiasm.

Throughout Poland I felt that everyone was working with a collective objective—the recovery of the country from the appalling devastation of war—and that architects and planners had for the first time the opportunity to realise their dreams of creating beautiful cities and villages which would enable the Polish people to enjoy life to the full.

"SPECIAL STRESS ON WORKERS' DWELLINGS." This new housing site is in Warsaw.

## "Best Post-War Job In Europe"



and the man who did it

"THE MAN WHO HAS DONE PROBABLY the best post-war job in Europe," one British newspaper has christened M. Michal Kaczorowski, Poland's Minister of Reconstruction.

About the magnitude of the job, there is no argument. The speed of reconstruction in Poland, Europe's worst-damaged country, has amazed the world.

But after talking to M. Kaczorowski, I think he would quarrel with that paper's formulation. About his own part in the job—or even his own Ministry's part—he is modest. It was one aspect of the general effort, he will tell you.

M. Kaczorowski's job actually overlaps those of three British Ministers—the Minister of Town and Country Planning, the Minister of Works, and the Minister of Health.

This wide scope of all that is implied by "reconstruction" becomes apparent before you have talked to him for five minutes. He cannot discuss his work except as a part of the whole. "We like to stress that the problem of reconstruction forms one part of the whole economic plan which is the basis for the country's development," M. Kaczorowski told me.

Typical was his reaction to my first question: "Where did you start?" Before answering that on his own account alone, he had to tell me the general objective—the objective for his ministerial colleagues and the whole people. And that reply was devastatingly simple. "The first aim was to change the face of Poland," he said quietly.

He explained. The old Poland was rurally over-populated. Its big towns could not cope with the problem of settling the surplus population from the countryside. Unemployment was prevalent. The main export was manpower.

"All these problems," said M. Kaczorowski, "could not be settled by 'free economics.' We are now passing to industrialisation with all the resources of a planned economy."

#### TWO TASKS

Two main tasks are being tackled—to raise the agricultural standard of living by land reform and greater efficiency and to transfer large numbers of agricultural workers to towns, where they can work in industry. To those who believe that projects of this kind can only be carried out by "ruthless" planners playing a chess game with human pawns, I recommend a few words with M. Kaczorowski.

(Continued on following page)





(Continued from previous page)

## Polish Planners in Britain

"In all this, we have to lay special emphasis on the living conditions of the working people," he told me. "We cannot limit ourselves to eliminating cheap labour. We have to go into the problems of better housing, better education, better living conditions for the young people. That is why special stress is laid in our reconstruction programmes on workers' dwellings, the construction of new schools, new playing fields, social centres."

At present, he explained, new housing is concentrated at those places where fresh industries are developing or existing industries are being enlarged, in particular the Baltic ports of Gdynia, Gdansk and Szczecin, in Upper Silesia, and at Warsaw. Poland, too, is faced with the need for completely new towns, notably where big industrial plants are being constructed in Upper Silesia.

It was after this general picture that I managed to get M. Kaczorowski to talk about the tools with which he started the job back in 1944. They were meagre enough—practically no administration, complete dispersal of technical staffs and building enterprises, no building industries in existence.

That was the equipment with which the Polish planners set about the reconstruction of a country which had suffered more devastation than any other in Europe.

The results have been astonishing:

For example, Warsaw itself, which in 1945 could hardly support 100,000 inhabitants, is now the home of 600,000 people and the functioning capital of Poland.

But M. Kaczorowski is not complacent.

"In 1944, I never expected so much could be achieved in four years," he told me, then added emphatically, "but we cannot be satisfied with the results. The tasks are much bigger than any achievements so far."

A.S.L.

A PARTY OF POLISH TOWN PLANNING experts, headed by the Minister of Reconstruction, Mr. Michal Kaczorowski, and his close collaborators, visited this country for a fortnight last month as the guests of Mr. Lewis Silkin, Minister of Town and Country Planning. This was a return visit, for the British Minister spent a fortnight in Poland in August last year, when, in the company of British planners, he travelled through the whole of the country.

The invitation to Mr. Kaczorowski was issued when Mr. Silkin had taken off his jacket to join a Warsaw working-party which was digging among the rubble. To his Polish colleague, digging alongside, the British Minister said: "Come and see how we do it in Britain."

by

H. J. Spiwak, Dipl. Ing.

First assignment of Mr. Kaczorowski after his arrival in Britain was to address an all-party meeting at the House of Commons. The following day he and his delegation set off on a tour of the country.

The first part of the Polish visitors' journey was centred upon Stratford-on-Avon and covered the Midlands. The Poles had their first impression of this country through travelling by car along the country lanes to Stratford, where the park-like character of the English countryside, and the charming villages and country towns such as Aylesbury and Banbury, impressed them very pleasantly.

A contrast was offered during a visit on the same afternoon to the Black Country round Birmingham.

Below: Two street scenes in present-day Warsaw.

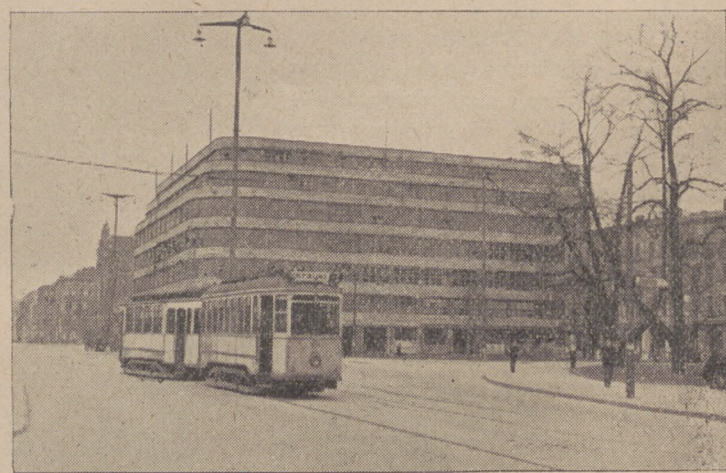
Their studies covered a comprehensive range of problems. They began with the scope of National Planning discussed at the Ministry's Headquarters in London. They dealt with Regional Planning problems, examples which they saw in the Black Country and during a visit to the West Midland Planning Group at Bourneville, and they went down to the local planning problems in various towns such as Coventry, where the new conception of a modern town centre was discussed and appreciated. Other towns visited were Birmingham, Leamington and some Midland centres.

Apart from the purely professional interests of planning, with its administrative, sociological, geographical and technical implications, the visitors were given an opportunity of admiring the historical and cultural treasures of this country; for instance, they attended a performance of "The Merchant of Venice" at the Memorial Theatre at Stratford, and visited places of historical interest.

A striking feature throughout the journey was the very friendly reception given to the Polish planners by the civic authorities and their British colleagues who acted as guides.

This first tour in Great Britain was followed by a visit to the L.C.C. and study journeys through London. They saw the Harlow New Town site and went to Edinburgh, the West Country, Wales, etc., meeting everywhere a similarly friendly reception, finding ample material for studies and instruction and re-establishing contacts with professional friends and colleagues whose names are by-words in the planning literature of the world.

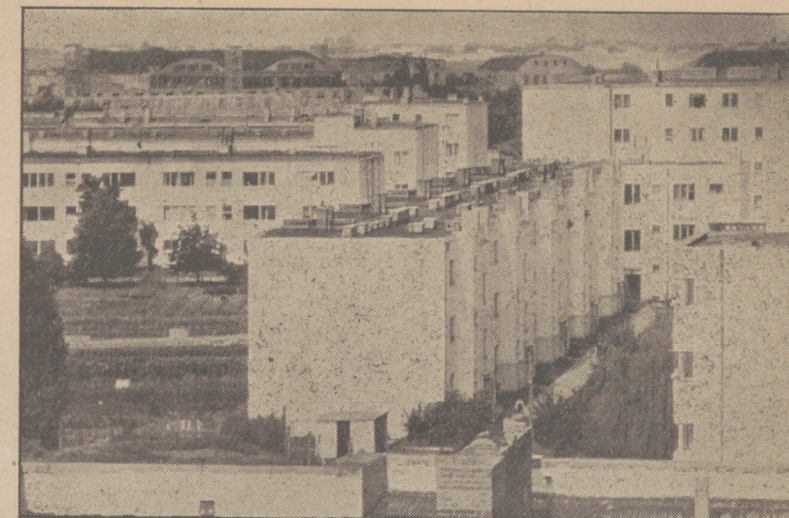
There is little doubt that this visit, following the British Minister's visit to Poland, will strengthen the ties of friendship and mutual appreciation between two professional groups concerned with improving the physical amenities of their countries.



NEW POLAND

A British Wife Tells—

## How We Live In Warsaw



"Blocks of flats are springing up . . ."

"BUT WHAT IS IT REALLY LIKE THERE?"

That is what all her friends were asking Mrs. Doreen Heller, a London girl who has been living with her Polish husband in Warsaw for the last two years, when she returned to this country on holiday last month.

Most of her friends weren't interested in world politics. They wanted to know how an ordinary housewife managed, "running an ordinary home."

We asked Mrs. Heller to tell *New Poland* some of their most common questions and her answers. Here they are:

*Are living conditions as difficult as we have been told—dear food, housing shortage and so on?*

I live in Warsaw and find that a family can manage quite nicely for food on the average wage. The foods still on ration are very cheap and many of those now no longer on ration are reasonable and plentiful. Prices are, in many cases, lower than in the spring of 1947, when the Government began their drive against high prices, and they have managed to stabilise prices now.

The housing problem is a pretty serious one. Warsaw was destroyed, house by house, and only a small part of this beautiful city escaped. However, the Government and the people have made terrific efforts towards re-building, and during this last winter my husband and I have watched with amazement the springing-up of blocks of flats.

When I first went there, in September, 1946, we lived in one room. So did each of the five other families in the same building—and we all shared one kitchen, with three gas-rings. Now we and, to my knowledge, three of the other families, have been re-housed, either in separate flats, like ourselves, or sharing a flat with only one other family. I know we've been luckier than many others. Many Warsaw people are still living in ruined buildings. But re-building is really going ahead.

*And what about clothes?*

When I arrived, there was almost nothing in the shops in the way of clothing and what there was was terribly dear. There was material which would not stand one washing—and stockings were terrible. Now everything is much improved and quantities have increased. The new materials are quite pretty, too.

*Is there really lack of freedom in Poland? Are the people afraid to air their views?*

As far as I can gather, with a comparatively small knowledge of the lan-



"Picture Post" Photo.

Shopping in a Warsaw Market

guage, there is every freedom. During the last Christmas holidays, I saw a variety show which seemed to me (and my husband confirmed it) to be full of anti-Government patter. Not only was it allowed to continue to run, but it was given a lot of publicity and even broadcast on New Year's Eve.

There is religious freedom for all—I have not yet got used to seeing masses of people, young, old and of all classes, attending church, not just on Sundays but on all occasions and at all times. The children almost without exception, take religion as a school subject—taught by nuns—although it is not a compulsory subject.

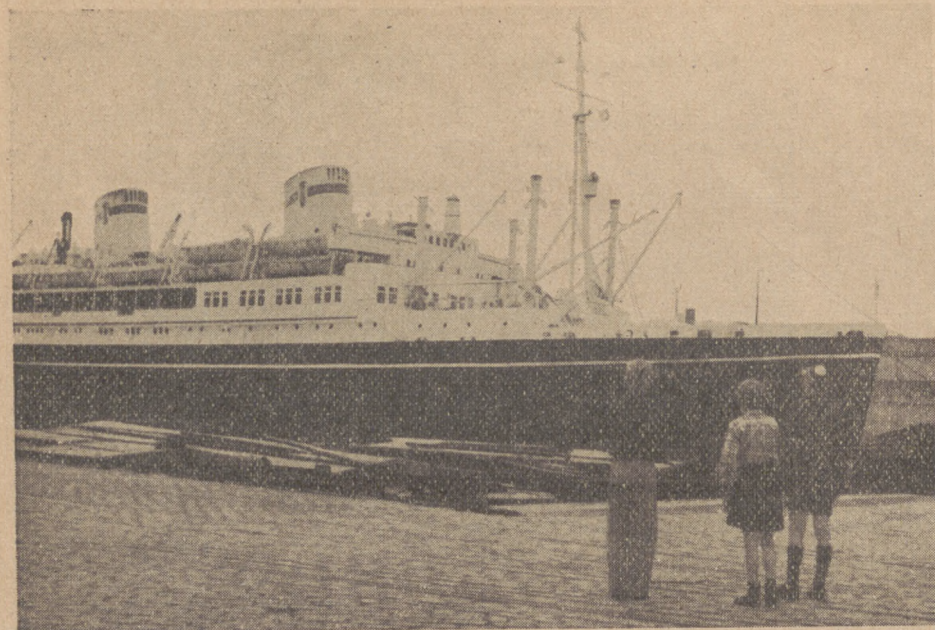
The amnesty granted by the Government last year to those who had been leading a wild and hopeless existence in the underground forces, working against the Government, proved the salvation of many young men who were only too glad to be given a chance to start again with a clean sheet and a job.

During the time of the elections in January this year, I know that the people spoke very freely, and around where I live there were quite a number who had been well-to-do and wanted the old order—and I know they discussed it quite unreservedly in the trams and shops. Many shopkeepers have spoken equally frankly to friends of mine against the new regime. (They know it stands for the common people and not for speculators and they don't like it.)

*What do the Polish people think about the talk of war?*

On the whole, they don't pay much heed to it. They are completely engrossed in their work and in re-building their lives and homes—so many of them were separated, or lost all their dear ones, through the Germans. If they do discuss it, they are very bitter against those who can so easily and idly again consider war; they know that any who suffered as they did could not possibly consider it.





## A WAR ALLY RETURNS FROM "L.S.I." TO LUXURY LINER

A POLISH VETERAN WHO SERVED WITH Britain throughout the war received a special welcome when she paid one of her visits to this country last month.

She was the M.S. "Batory," 14,000-ton Polish liner, now on the North Atlantic line after a war career in which she was stripped of her luxury fittings to serve as a troop-carrier and infantry landing ship.

"Batory" calls at Southampton on her run between New York and Gdynia. Her arrival there on June 6 was celebrated by a luncheon attended by the Polish Consul-General, the American Consul in Southampton, officials of the Sea Transport Division of the Ministry of Transport, and leading representatives of famous English travel firms, some of whom had come from Bristol, Exeter and the Isle of Man for the occasion.

The Polish liner made a very good impression on her British guests.

"I was most favourably impressed with the 'Batory,'" Captain Castell, leading official of Messrs. Thomas Cook & Sons, told *New Poland*.

"The first-class rate is unusually low. The menu is very good; it would impress

anyone outgoing from the States and those leaving Great Britain have something to look forward to. The public rooms and the service are excellent. The stewards all have a knowledge of English which, of course, makes for so much more comfort, and the cabins look very comfortable. It is a pity they can't put on one or two more ships like her. For instance the 'Sobieski,' now, I believe, on the Mediterranean Line.

"I had no idea she'd ever been on war work," added Captain Castell. "You certainly couldn't tell from the look of her. She's comparable with any other ship, and gives you a good welcome. I've been to sea for a good part of my life and I would like to travel on the 'Batory' myself. I have no hesitation in recommending her to anyone."

Mr. Antkowiak, Manager of the Gdynia-American Line in Great Britain, said: "We are glad our guests like the 'Batory.' Unfortunately, we lost her sister ship 'Pilsudski' during the war—by a strange coincidence, the sister ship of the 'Sobieski' was also lost. At the moment, we do not see our way clear to bringing the 'Sobieski' up to this North Atlantic

Line—and, of course, building new liners takes a long time! Our main aim is to make passengers happy during the five or eight days they spend with us."

A passenger's impression is given in this message from Major A. Hooper, written while at sea on the "Batory": "This ship is not only built on beautiful modern lines, but its service and comfort equals any I have ever travelled in. And so said the 800 passengers—Americans going to Copenhagen to visit their Scandinavian relatives, or Polish-Americans visiting relatives in Poland."

### IN BATTLEDRESS

The following note on "Batory's" war service has been written by Commander A. C. Thursfield, R.N. (Retd.):

"I first knew the ship when I was serving at Greenock in the latter part of 1941 and she was then ferrying troops across the Atlantic. She was converted to an L.S.I.(L)\* in 1942. This meant her boats were removed and replaced by landing craft manned by naval ratings, and her accommodation was stripped to make troop-decks for the naval and military personnel carried on operations. Many additional anti-aircraft guns were installed, an operations room and an elaborate system of telephone and loud-speaker communication to all parts of the ship were fitted, and she was employed training assault troops in Loch Fyne and the vicinity of the Clyde.

"In due course, she sailed with other convoys on the North African expedition and was, I think, employed on the Sicilian landings. She also went out to India for a time, and I imagine was employed on the Normandy landings, but by then I had left the Clyde.

"She came through all her many wartime adventures unscathed and was always ready for any sudden call when in harbour and, being a motor ship, she could get under way quickly.

"Her Master, Captain Drzekowski, was a fine type of officer who took everything in his stride, and I have never seen him other than cool whatever unexpected orders were given him. He can be assured that we all thought a great deal of him, and the writer, when he takes his lighter out of his pocket (brought by 'Batory' from Canada) often thinks of the ship and her Master, and from his retirement in Kent wishes her, and her ship's company, good luck and good sailings always."

\*L.S.I.(L). Landing Ship Infantry, Large.

NEW POLAND

# "WE LIKE BRITISH GOODS"

—Says the Man with £15,000,000 to Spend

Interviewed by Pauline Long

YOUNG, DARK, HAPPY, ALIVE WITH energy and confidence—this is one's immediate impression of Mr. Kostrzewa. He gives you an idea of what it must be like to have £15,000,000 to spend . . . and to spend in three years.

Impossible? It's just a job to Mr. Kostrzewa, who is head of the Polish Purchasing Mission in the United Kingdom.

This money, he told me, is his Mission's allocation from the £35 million which Poland will spend here under the British-Polish Trade Agreement. He is to spend it on capital equipment—"the machines your country makes so well and my country needs so much."

**Established here on January 1 of this year, the Polish Purchasing Mission has already placed orders to the amount of £4 million. Biggest orders so far are for two oil tankers from Messrs. Bartram & Sons, of Sunderland, to be delivered at the end of 1949 and the beginning of 1950, and textile machinery from Messrs. Platt Bros., of Oldham. These two orders alone amount to £2,400,000.**

### 100 BUSES

Other orders scheduled are for 100 bus chassis and engines from Leyland's—"we will see the English buses soon all over Poland," he smiled—coal-pulverising mills and machine tools from Messrs. Herbert, of Coventry, and a subsidiary transformer station from Metro Vickers, which will be one of the highest-powered in the world.

"We shall also be dealing with other well-known British firms," he told me; "including English Electric, Babcock & Wilcox, and Fairbairn & Lawson. We have very good relations with British manufacturers. They are interested in the Polish market—for some of them it is a renewed interest—and now the market is, of course, many times bigger than before the war."

I asked Mr. Kostrzewa what was the Polish view of British goods.

"We Poles like British equipment," he said. "The quality of the workmanship is always very high, and we know that if we have machines of well-known British makes, then they are good machines."

### BRINGING HOME THE BACON

*"Bringing home the bacon to Newcastle," read a 10-foot poster unveiled last month by Mr. G. R. Strauss, Minister of Supply, in the works of Victor Products, Wallsend firm which has secured a big Polish order for mining drilling equipment.*

*This order, said Mr. Strauss, will bring into this country a bacon ration sufficient for the whole of Newcastle for a year—plus a fortnight. Believed to be the largest order ever placed for equipment of this kind, it will ensure continuous employment, day and night, for over a year, for 400 workers.*

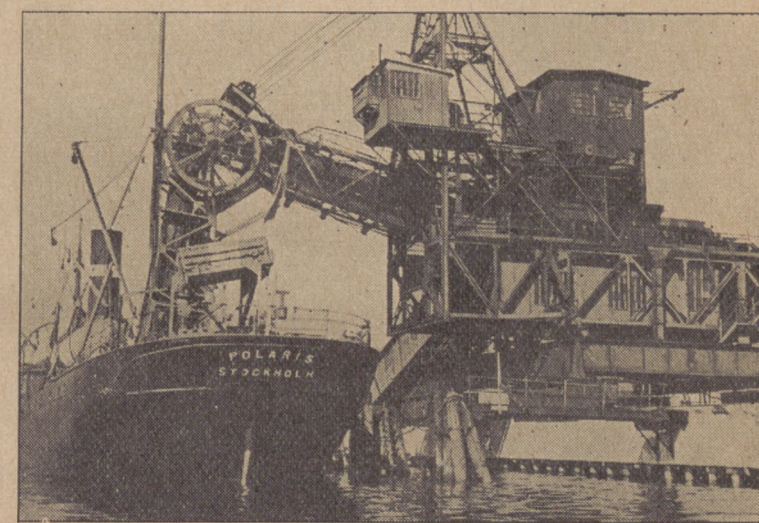
*The firm obtained the order in competition with American and Continental manufacturers, as well as British competitors.*

"We are, indeed, so keen to have British goods," he continued, "that although the prices are rather high, and sometimes your machinery is rather conservative, we agree to them because of the superior workmanship."

### FRIENDLY RELATIONS

He told me something of the organisation of the Mission's work here. There are 34 people in all, 11 of whom are technicians. Sometimes, for a very big job, special technicians will come from Poland, and there will be a constant coming and going of experts—the Polish technicians dealing with the machinery to be bought here and the British experts going to Poland to see their machines installed.

"I feel very strongly," Mr. Kostrzewa told me in conclusion, "that these commercial relations will be a great step forward and will be the basis of firm and friendly relations between our two countries. I, myself, am happy to meet the British manufacturers and workmen, and they appear to be most friendly and interested in Poland. I am sure this job will help to make friendships that will last."



COAL for Scandinavia. A Swedish collier loads at Gdansk.



THE ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN Poland and Britain are one of the most important factors governing the future of Europe. In the long-term development of Europe the United States—present indications notwithstanding—is unlikely, I believe, to play any great part. Britain, however, is culturally and economically a part of Europe; on the recovery of the Continent, as a market and source of supplies, the standard of life of the British people depends—to a greater extent than ever before.

Already, in a limited sense, Poland is "news" to the British public. The man-in-the-street here has awakened to the fact that the indomitable courage and untiring exertions of the Polish people have turned a land of which the Germans made a

graveyard into a great food-producing and food-exporting country: the idea that Poland is on the way to becoming one of Britain's overseas larders, from which bacon and eggs, and the rest of the good things of the breakfast table, can be got in exchange for traditional British manufactures, is an attractive, popular notion.

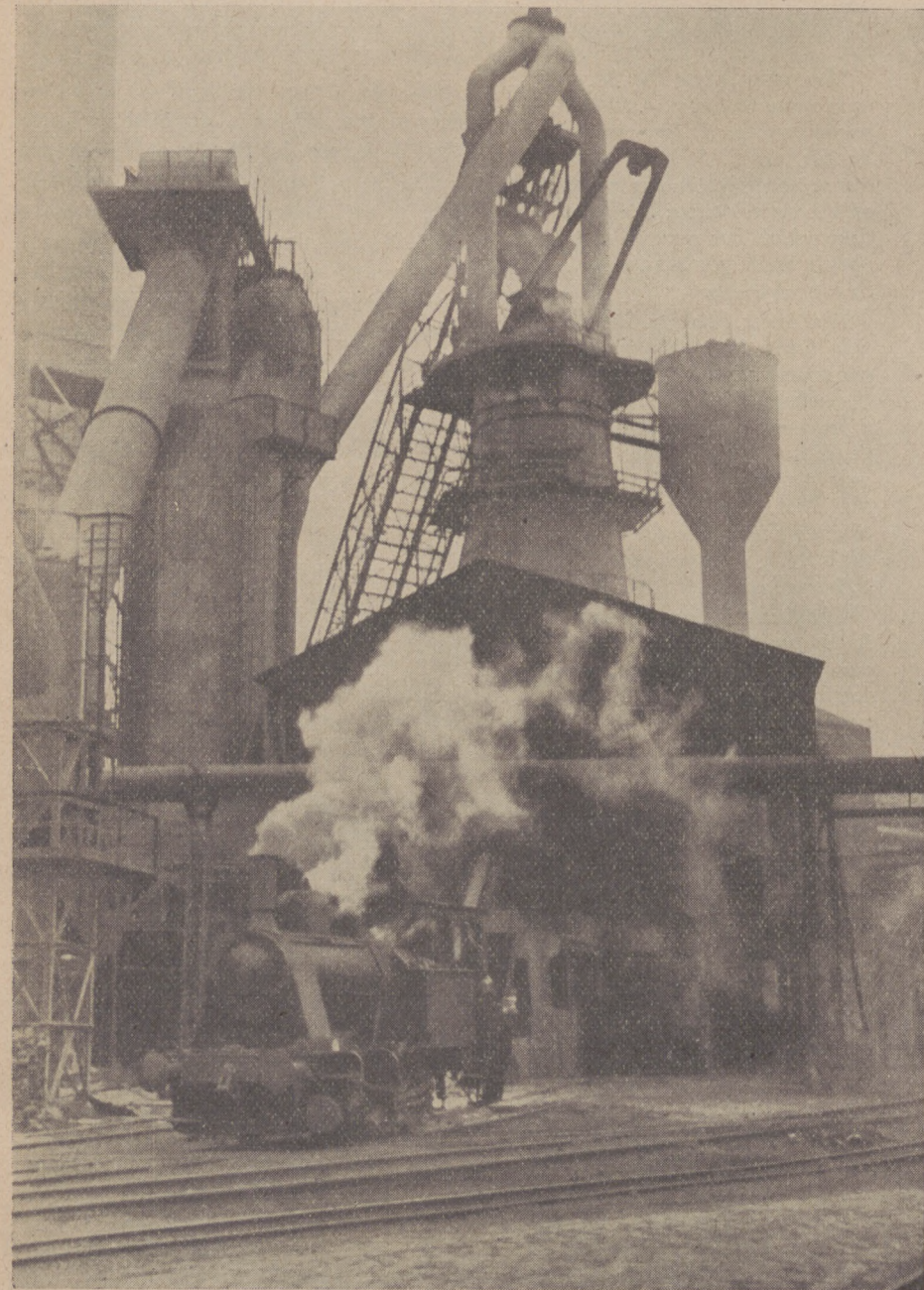
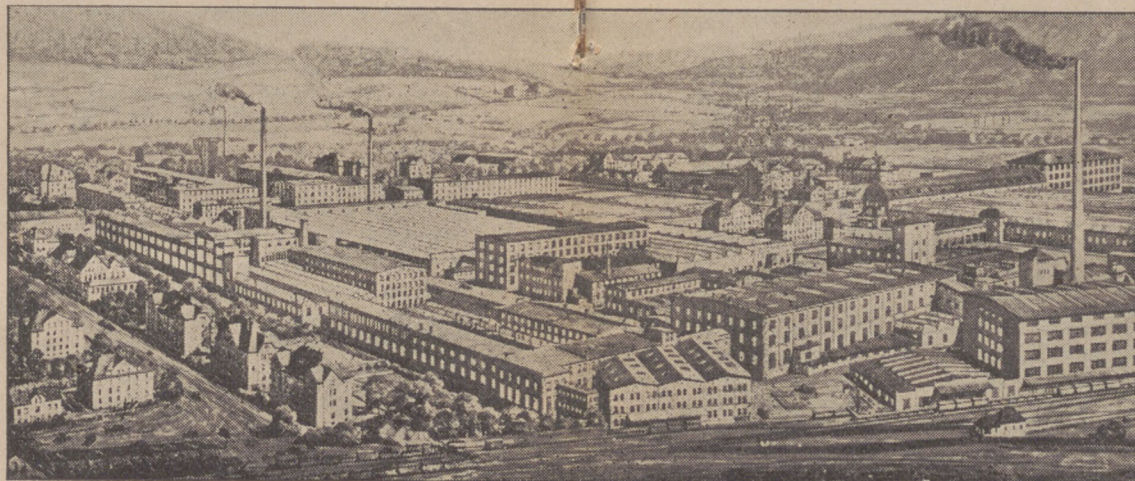
What public opinion in this country has, so far, failed to realise is that the epoch in which the countries of Central and South-eastern Europe could be exploited as backward, agricultural "colonies" by highly industrialised States in Western Europe is gone for ever: Dr. Schacht's ingenious system of "compensatory trade" perished—and, with it, the wraith of Victorian Britain's economic dominance—in the Berlin *Bunker* where Hitler died. From now on, the Eastern

democracies—Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and the others—are resolute in one purpose: never again will they be helplessly dependent on the manufacturing skill of foreign countries. In all their plans for post-war reconstruction a high degree of industrialisation is the keynote.

In Poland, especially, is this aspect of rehabilitation a feature. Her definitive Six-Year Plan does not begin until 1950; but, already, in the interim "Recovery" Plan of 1946-49, industrial progress, paralleled by an almost phenomenal re-birth of agriculture, has been most impressive. Every "target" has been achieved; and in 1949 the scheduled increases in production—20 per cent. in steel, 29 per cent. in electrical products, 17 per cent. in cotton textiles, 20 per cent. in railway ton-mileage—far surpass the modest demands of the British "Cripps' Plan."

Coupled with the progress of industrial expansion in Czechoslovakia, the Polish programme of industrialisation points unmistakably to a dramatic change in the economic map of Europe: the focal point of key manufacture will shift from the Ruhr to Silesia. On the Czech-Polish

INDUSTRY IN LOWER SILESIA: Steel production records are being broken at plant such as the Bobrek foundry where the picture on the left was taken. Below is a big cotton-mill at Bielawa, near Wroclaw. Picture on the right shows one of the modern products of Silesia's old-established glass industry.



# Industrialised Poland— What It Can Mean to Britain

by

**Aylmer Vallance**

(Assistant Editor of the

New Statesman)

coal, steel and engineering nexus, subsidiary manufactures throughout South-eastern Europe will depend, and prosper.

What does that mean for Britain? That Eastern Europe will have no interest in British goods? On the contrary, let it be remembered that, before Nazi economics and the Second World War wrecked the Continent, it was in the industrialised countries of Europe that Britain found her best customers. In the Europe of to-day a ruined Germany has left an economic desert.

It is a desert which, so far as Germany is concerned, will not be replanted, in my judgment, for generations to come. The

task—of which some Americans talk so lightly and irresponsibly—of putting Bizonian Nazis "back on the wall," as strategically useful Humpty-Dumpties, involves so many opposing strains within the framework of any conceivable "Western Union" grouping that its fulfilment seems to me to be highly dubious. Germany may slowly and precariously "recover," but its recovery will be out-distanced irrevocably by that of the newly-industrialised Eastern Bloc.

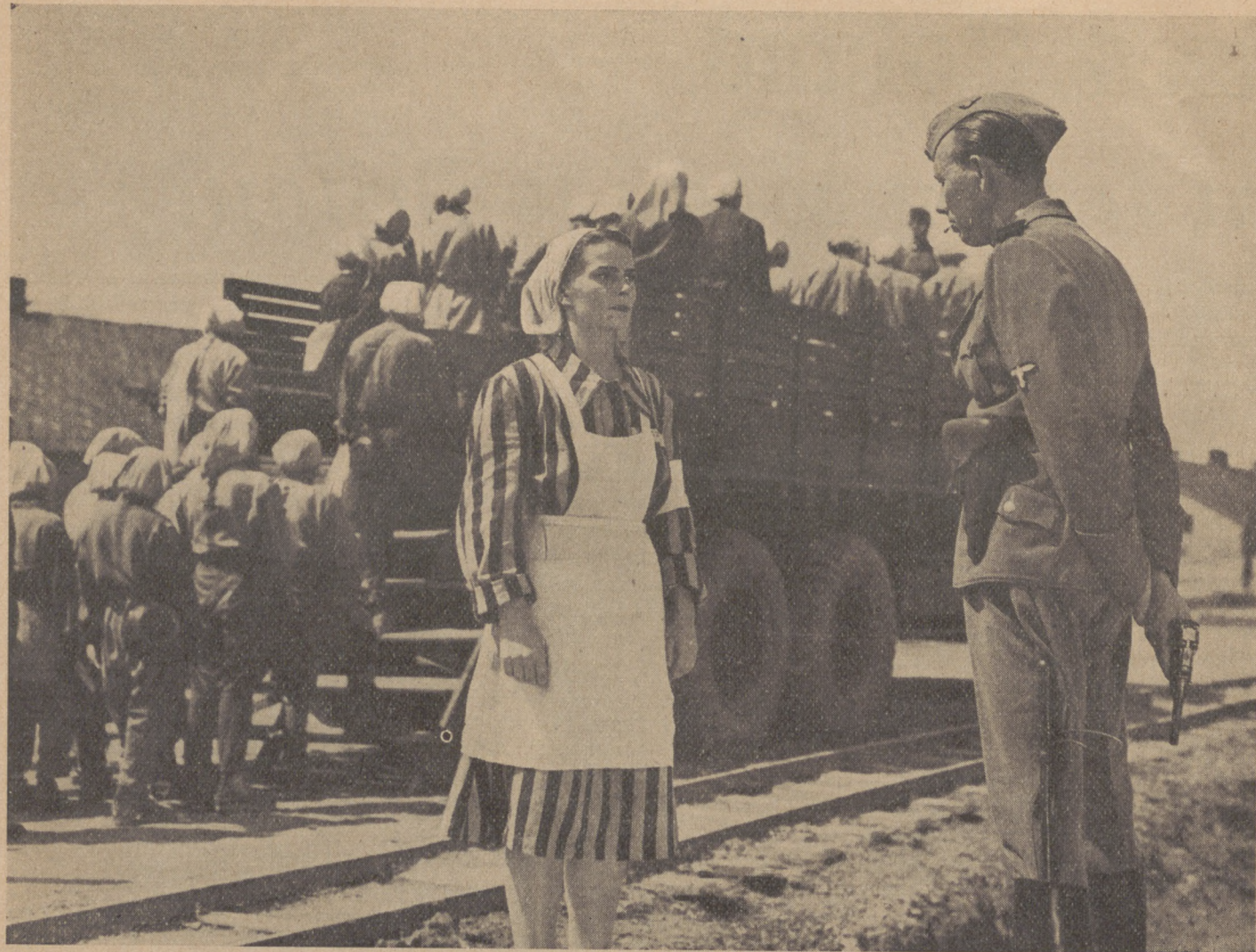
That being so, the cardinal principle of Britain's "trade diplomacy" in relation to Poland should be, I suggest, to recognise that Poland is not, like Eire, a mere larder for British food-shopping but, politically, the substitute for Germany in Britain's Continental market. The more we can do—by commercial credits, by planned exports of the capital goods which the Polish Six-Years' Plan will need—to pro-

mote the rapid realisation of Poland's industrial aims, the greater will be the long-term advantages to Britain's export trade.

The Victorian "get rich quick" merchants in Britain and the exponents of the Schachtian "exploit and enslave" economics shared a common delusion. They believed—as some Americans believe to-day—that industrialised countries can find an enduring and satisfactory market out of the purchasing power of an impoverished, exploited peasantry—White or Negro. It is a profound mistake. In the industrialisation and in the steadily rising standard of life, of Poland and South-eastern Europe, industrial Britain—if she has the sense to study her customers' needs—has her greatest opportunity both to gain advantage for herself and to promote the balanced recovery of an economically united Europe.







## "THE LAST STAGE"

Acclaimed as the most successful production of the post-war Polish film industry, "Ostatni Etap" ("The Last Stage") depicts life in the notorious Oswiecim concentration camp, where the film's joint script writers, Wanda Jakubowska and Gerda Schneider, were imprisoned. Here our correspondent in Poland reviews the film and describes the reactions to it of Polish audiences.

I SAW "OSTATNI ETAP" IN WARSAW, AND again in Slupsk, my home town. The first time I saw it, I thought: Here is a film of concentration camp life; as such, it could hardly help being interesting; it rings true, though it is doubtless watered down; there is (as usual) some excellent acting, some good shots, some well-concocted incidents, a rather uncertain "plot" and an appallingly feeble ending.

I cannot remember remarking on the reactions of the audience, but I had the impression that, in general, they were a little impressed as I was.

In our little local cinema in Slupsk, I

by

G. D. H. Douglas

could hear the gasps and the whispered comments of my neighbours in the audience, and it was perhaps under their influence that I noticed a hundred details that I had missed the first time. And it is in the details that the great strength of this film lies—details of character, of costume, of gesture, details that are often witty, always perfectly acted and always perfectly in key, so that the whole thing

hangs together like a piece of good cloth.

I mention three such details: the transport of children, whose end is poignantly suggested by Roman Palester's music, by shots of burning grass and of the little girl's ball rolling down to join the piles of abandoned toys in the depot; the husky "Masz matke?" ("Have you a mother?") with which the pathetic, bulging "mother of three children" wheedles the injection from the nurse who should have given it to the dying girl in the next bunk; and the propitiatory squeeze of the hand given by the grotesque little Oberscharführer when his assistant catches him taking

more than his share of the prisoners' watches.

When we went out, I could see around me that four out of five of my neighbours had reddened eyes.

In the street outside, a middle-aged lady came up to me. She had been nearly all the year in Ravensbrück. "That was the truth, prosze Pana," she said. "They put it before you as plain as life itself." She compared one incident after another with her own experience—including the arrival of transports and the separation of mothers and children, the sham "lady-doctor" who stole the medicine to buy silk undies from the Capos, the utterly bewildered old women, and the new bedding that was issued when the International Commission came to "inspect" the camp.

The two members of the Commission in the film are two of the most perfect of all the perfectly-cast minor characters. One is a stout trade unionist in a mackintosh, the other a chinless "Liberal-of-the-old-school." They are barely on the screen half a minute, you are not even told their nationality, but you can tell just what furniture they have in their front parlours and what books are on their bookshelves.

On the same level of perspicacity and wit are Frieda, the hulking German Capo, who has the pudding-like vacuity and vanity of one of Picasso's nudes. Or the poor crazy Anglophile (whose spiritual cousins are still to be found in Poland) who comes bustling in to announce that a descent of English parachute troops is imminent or that the camp is to be visited by King George himself.

Of the major rôles, Dessa, the Yugoslav nurse, is typical of so many nurses all over the world—plain, plump, practical, a

little puritanical, built for use rather than for ornament, but as reliable as a clinical thermometer and as wholesome as a new-baked loaf. You can meet her twin sister in any London hospital.

But the prize must go to the actress who plays the unspeakable Lalunia, the "lady-doctor," whose imbecile gabbling and greed lead her to a murky end.

There are, however, plenty of Lalunias left over to condemn this film in the west-end cafés of Warsaw or any other city where it may be shown. The main burden of the criticism that the Lalunias level at

*The Polish film industry will take part in three international film festivals this year: the festival now taking place at Locarno, one later this month at Marian-skie Lazne, and one in August at Venice. Films shown at Locarno will include the concentration camp film, "The Last Stage," and "Youth in Universities," both with French dialogue.*

"Ostatni Etap" is that it is "propaganda." Well, of course it is. It is propaganda against Nazism, and the stupidity and brutality on which it fed; but that does not mean that it is not true.

It is also propaganda in favour of the Jews, Communists, Russians, Yugoslavs and Poles—inevitably, since these were the Nazis' chief victims.

A more serious criticism is that the characters are too sharply divided into the good, who are very very good, and the bad who are very bad indeed. This is true; it is true of almost every film—every tragic film, at least—primarily designed for mass consumption.



The ending of "Ostatni Etap," when the heroine is saved on the scaffold by the appearance of squadrons of aeroplanes which put the Germans to flight, is only too obviously a concession to "popular appeal."

But I think most would have agreed with the old lady from Ravensbrück who said: "I'd like to have seen how it really finished. I wanted to see the Russian tanks." One good tank would have been ten times as electrifying as all those rather unreal-looking aeroplanes. And though everyone enjoyed seeing the heroine knock the burly Camp Commandant down the scaffold steps, it seems hardly worth ruining a great film for the sake of a box on the ears.

The last criticism made of "Ostatni Etap"—the criticism made by simple people with no ulterior motives—is that it is not nearly horrible enough.

If this film is not shown in every large town in Great Britain, it will be a crime of the first magnitude. It will show that the British people are cut off from the most vital experiences of half Europe.

### British Miners' Choir For Poland

Arrangements for the proposed visit of a British miners' choir to Poland—likely to take place towards the end of this year—was one of the matters discussed by General Sir Ronald Adam, chairman of the British Council, when he was in Poland recently.

Sir Ronald, who visited Poland during a tour which also included Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Northern Italy, was welcomed by representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Education and Culture.

Future British Council activities in Poland were discussed during an interview with the Minister of Education. The Minister told him that he wished to fill all the places which had been offered by the Council for courses held in Britain during the summer, provided that suitable candidates with an adequate knowledge of English could be found.

To the Minister of Art and Culture, Sir Ronald expressed his gratitude for the great assistance given during the recent visit to Poland of the Sadler's Wells Ballet under the auspices of the Council.

Sir Ronald made a presentation of sixteen mobile libraries to the Vice-Minister of Education, who thanked the Council and referred cordially to its work.





## Polish Folk Art

by

Dr. S. Osiakowski



EXHIBITS DRAWN FROM THE WHOLE OF Poland, including the Regained Territories in the West, were to be seen at the exhibition of Polish Folk Art arranged by the Ministry of Culture and Art, and the Central Institute for Culture, at Cracow recently.

The organisers set out to show sculpture, painting and graphic art dating from roughly the beginning of the ninth century up to the present time. The exhibits showed a vitality which compared extremely favourably with the professional art of the same periods.

Apart from works which were contributed by various museums and private owners, much has been discovered in obscure villages and was seen for the first time by the public. The purpose of the exhibition was to show that peasant art is not a curiosity to be condescended to by highbrows but is actually the source and inspiration of a country's artistic development.

The earlier work shows mostly religious subjects, treated with a certain convention of design and colour. But this religious motif is largely absent from work of the present day, although in the main the colour and design remain faithful to the old tradition. As a rule, the design, even if complicated in itself, shows the directness and simplicity of the peasant which contrasts interestingly with the rather self-conscious simplifications aimed at by some modernists of Western schools of art.

Of particular interest are the paintings on glass, of which the three pictures reproduced on this page are good illustrations. They come mostly from Lower Silesia, famous for its glass industry, and were, as early as the sixteenth century, exported

not only to Hungary, Rumania, Russia and the Balkans, but even to Italy and France. This district also produced fine examples of enamelling on glass. Such enamels were used to decorate crosses and other religious objects. Well known also are Lower Silesian oil paintings on mirrors.

Sculpture, the devotional especially, is painted in conformity with the Baroque tradition. Its colour, as well as that of paintings, is always very vivid, as is usual in all peasant art. In fact, colour is far more important in many cases than design, and produces in general a striking decorative effect.

Some of the sculptors use strong contrasts in colour, such as red and blue, to enhance the value of sculptural form. The colours by no means always correspond to those of real life and show the originality of the minds of the peasants and small craftsmen, and demonstrate their desire for self-expression.

The oldest among the living peasant artists is the 83-year-old smallholder from Zapasowka, in the district of Rzeszow, Marcin Gensior. He is also one of the best sculptors, with much feeling for material and composition.

Franciszek Janeczko, who was killed in battle towards the very end of the war in 1945 at the age of 39, took to painting when he was 30. He often used to say that painting was his escape from the poverty of his life: "When painting, I do not even feel hungry." He painted in water colours or tempera on the unprinted backs of calendar pages in a childish way, yet the severity of his design reminds one of the earlier Romanesque style.

The 38-year-old Dorota Lampart became famous in her twenties as a painter of subjects taken from her dreams. Her elongated figures and pastel-like colours are painted in gouache on ordinary wrapping paper. Some of her paintings have been acquired by the State Ethnographical Museum in Cracow.

The 30-year-old smallholder Szczepan Wozniak, from the Rzeszow district, is regarded as one of the most talented sculptors of the younger generation. He has great imagination and his sculptures of a seated woman or a peasant woman with her child are examples of realistic art, well observed and executed in masterly fashion. He can cope in his low reliefs with compositions of many figures in the backgrounds of a landscape, the whole pervaded with fine expression and lyricism.

The Cracow Exhibition will, I think, justify the conclusion that Polish Folk Art in its many manifestations will remain a living source for further development of that finest flowering of culture that is art.

NEW POLAND

## BRITISH-POLISH SOCIETY NOTES

### "More Subjects for Discussion, Please" asks the Organiser

SUMMER, 1948, SEES THE SOCIETY, NOW firmly established in its new home in Portland Place, reaching out in many new fields hitherto untouched and successfully bringing together more and more friends and supporters of the work.

As members will know we are now organising regular functions at No. 81, designed, by the way, to appeal to the most catholic tastes. Science and social security in May found a counterpart in June in two musical evenings, and during the next few months our fortnightly "soirees" will cover almost every subject that our specialist members could hope for. We shall expect notes from those of you who

have not yet put in for a subject for discussion—we can cope with most subjects—our team of experts are pretty amiable, but they like a bit of time to get their stuff prepared. We shall be interested to know from members which type of evening they prefer—the solid discussion circle, the academic lecture, or the relaxed charm of a Chopin recital.

July will also see our display of Polish Arts and Crafts at No. 81. As readers will see in another part of *New Poland*, the proceeds of the sale of these handicrafts will buy a piece of British machinery to be presented to the President of Poland's Reconstruction Fund. Apart from the fact that this will be a token of the friendship and goodwill from Britain to our Polish friends, I am sure that all members who can possibly do so (and some who cannot) will wish to come to this exhibition and purchase for themselves some of the exquisite pieces of Polish craftsmanship and folk art. This exhibition and sale may be followed by a further display in some few months time, so if you miss the rug or the carved box or the toy you want this time—don't despair. We are sure, incidentally, that this display could be no better opportunity for bringing your friends along to No. 81. No-one can fail to be charmed by the colour and the workmanship of these handicrafts. F.L.F.

#### AN EXPERT ON CHOPIN

The first musical recital to be held at No. 81 took place on June 22—the day before the centenary of Chopin's first concert in London, and took the form of a gramophone recital of some of Chopin's works prepared by Mr. Arthur Hedley, the well-known authority on that composer, who described Chopin's stay in this country and gave his listeners an erudite and enthralling account of Chopin's life at the time he was writing the work, and showed some precious souvenirs.

Programme at recital:

Waltz in A Flat Opus 34 played by Brailowski.

Nocturne in F Sharp played by Horowitz.

Prelude in B Flat Minor played by Cortot.

Scherzo in C Sharp Minor played by Rubinstein.

B Flat Minor Sonata, 1st Movement, played by Cortot.

Two Studies in F Minor and B Flat played by Kotolski.

Mazurka in B Major Op. 56 played by Rubinstein.

Mazurka in A Minor Op. 59, No. 1, played by Rubinstein.

Barcarolle played by Rubinstein.



**MOURA LYMPANY**

distinguished pianist, is among the new members of the British-Polish Society.

The Editorial Board of *New Poland* fully associates itself with the drive for new members decided upon by this year's Annual General Meeting, and as part of its contribution has decided as a matter of interest to publish a list each month.

A first list of those who have joined the Society recently is printed below. *Individual members:* Mr. Gerald Barry, Dr. Gustave Baum, Mr. R. Belcher, Mr. A. G. Brown, Mr. & Mrs. Alan Bush, Miss Mary Clarkson, Mr. J. C. Crimlisk, Lt.-Col. Defries, Mr. John Grist, Mr. Leopold Grumet, Miss K. Hartley, Mrs. Neil Hunter, Mr. & Mrs. Ibbetson, Mr. A. Igel, Miss Moura Lympany, Mr. Alex McCrindle, Miss S. Roberts, Mr. & Mrs. Saxe, and Mr. Edwin Waller.

*Associating Organisations:* Aberdeen Trades Council; Civil Service Clerical Association; Fernhill Lodge, National Union of Miners; International Association of University Professors and Lecturers.



PUPPETS are one of the most fascinating products of Poland's handicraft industry.



# Polish Expert Studies Scottish Industrial Methods

SCOTLAND HAS HAD ANOTHER DISTINGUISHED Polish visitor in the person of Dr. Zygmunt Zbichorski, adviser to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce on industrial administration.

Dr. Zbichorski had a strenuous time on Clydeside. He examined and studied production and organisation in a number of industrial concerns, such as Hillington Industrial Estates, L. Stern Ltd., Refrigerating Machinery Manufacturers, Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, Scottish Precision Castings and Clydebridge Iron and Steel Works, where he witnessed the most modern methods of iron and steel production, and the most up-to-date blast and smelting furnaces. Numerous other establishments were visited, including the Technical College and the North British Locomotive Works.

Somehow, one is always pleased that visitors to Scotland express a desire to see Edinburgh and are invariably satisfied with their journey. Dr. Zbichorski was no exception. His journey there and his observations assured him that the layout and architecture of "Auld Reekie" warranted its world-wide reputation.

Thoughtfully, a trip to Loch Lomond was arranged for him and there the charm and beauty of the Loch, and the grandeur of the Ben, left a lasting impression. In all places visited, he was received with courtesy and more than friendliness from those in authority, a fact upon which he gratefully commented.

Dr. Zbichorski was the guest of the British Council, which has had long and friendly association with Poland and Polish visitors to Scotland. In appreciation of that fact, the warmest thanks are due to the Council and particularly to Mr.

*Scots Diary*

by

John Cartwright

(Our Scottish Correspondent)

McDonald and Mr. Harper, who have been tireless in their efforts to make things run smoothly and according to plan.

AND STILL THEY GO. ANOTHER EIGHTEEN hundred repatriates embarked for Gdynia on June 4. This time they sailed from Southampton, after leaving Cumnock, Ayrshire, in the early hours of the morning. They included civilians, wives and children of repatriates, and war-stricken invalids.

These scarred veterans of many battles in many lands, survivors of prison camps, intended victims of the gas chamber in fulfilment of the Nazi Plan of Polish extermination, showed their joy and were glad, after eight years of wandering, to see the end of the road at last. Many of the men had not a single relative left in all Poland, but they rejoiced nonetheless for, as one of them said: "We are going home."

I talked with some of the men from widely separated parts of Poland. One young fellow from near Warsaw struck me as being singularly well-informed about wages and conditions in Britain and in Poland. He had had many letters and journals from Poland and persisted that wages in Poland had a higher purchasing power than had wages in Britain. A bit hazy myself about the value of the zloty,

I was nevertheless pleased at his assurance and the approval he received from his comrades standing around.

Details of a gift to Poland by the Scottish Branch of the Red Cross are not yet in my possession. All I can say is that it is big and generous and will consist of a number of ambulance wagons so badly needed in Poland. Brigadier Moody and Colonel Arthur have both been to Poland and in all probability it was conditions there that induced the Scottish Red Cross to consider such a generous gift.

Had a talk with Gerry Raffles of the Theatre Workshop Players. The Workshop Players are keen to visit Poland and negotiations are proceeding apace. The proposal is to visit Czechoslovakia during the same trip in order to save time, travel and expense.

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## NEW POLAND NEWS

### Greater Output—Better Quality are 1949 Targets

RAPID progress in every aspect of Polish life, from coal production to the fight against illiteracy, is foreshadowed in the figures now available for the economic plan for 1949—final year of Poland's three-year reconstruction plan.

Total industrial production in 1949 will increase by from 21 to 23 per cent., with a planned increase in output per head of 9 per cent., ever-greater concentration on quality, and a 4 per cent. decrease in production costs.

The following targets are set: a 10 per cent. increase in the output of coal, 20 per cent. in crude steel, 12 per cent. in rolled products, 29 per cent. in electrical machines, 17 per cent. in cotton fabrics, 25 per cent. in silk and woollen fabrics, 34 per cent. in phosphates, and 70 per cent. in hard leather production.

Since 1949 is the last year for laying the foundation of the six-year plan which will turn Poland into a mighty industrial state, there will be great emphasis on investment goods, machines for making tractors and artificial fertilisers, and the building industry, Extensive geological surveys, especially of brown coal and potassium salt resources, are also planned.

In transport, there will be an increase of 20 per cent. in rail passenger and goods facilities and 27 per cent. in the turnover capacity of Polish ports. It is noteworthy that Szczecin Harbour, originally planned to handle five and a half million tons in 1939, is now given a target of seven and a half million tons.

An enormous increase in building is foreseen, with public funds providing 55,000 rooms and 30,000 rural houses.

Foreign trade will increase overall by 17 per cent. Practically no food will be imported and there will be a healthy increase in raw materials imports. Agricultural products will occupy a more important place—alongside coal—in the list of Poland's exports.

In agriculture, 700,000 hectares of fallow land will be brought under cultivation. Vegetable and animal products of agriculture will be increased by 15 per cent.

#### LOOTED MACHINES BACK IN POLAND

Lace-making machines stolen from Poland by the Nazis during the occupation, which were found by the Polish Recovery Mission in Germany, are to be installed at the lace factory in Kalisz, one of the biggest in Central Europe.

#### TECHNICAL REVOLUTION

"We shall double output in our industry within the next eight years, increasing it by over 10 per cent. each year. We shall bring about a technical revolution in our industry to ensure the supply of machines to Polish Industry."

This pledge was sent to the Polish Minister of Industry, Hilary Minc, by 500 engineers attending a Warsaw conference last month.

Recognising the gap between Poland's machine-tool industry and that of pre-war highly industrialised countries, the conference declared it the duty and aim of Polish engineers and technicians to catch up with world technique, to make fuller use of high-efficiency tools, and to introduce in factories, wherever possible, mass-production conveyor belt methods.

#### BIG JUMP IN FOREIGN TRADE

Poland's exports for the first five months of this year, totalling 180 million dollars, were equal in value to 73 per cent. of her exports for the whole of last year. Imports during the same five-months period, totalling 282 million dollars, equalled 93 per cent. of the value of total imports last year.

Though the percentage of coal in the total exports is gradually diminishing, coal remained the most important export. While coal export figures for the first five months are not available, the tendency can be seen in the first quarter's exports of 5,800,000 tons, 21 per cent. more than last year's quarterly average. Polish coal exports are now second only to those of America.

Normalisation of Polish exports is seen in the increasing rôle played by food. At present, Poland is exporting bacon, eggs, sugar and poultry to Britain and Western Europe, while potatoes go to

## BRIEFLY

Warsaw is to have six new cinemas this year, two seating 1,200 each and four seating 600-800.

After the last performance of G. B. Shaw's play "Arms and the Man" in Wroclaw recently, a delegation of Wroclaw railway workers presented a special diploma to one of the cast, Jan Kurnakowicz, who is one of the best Polish actors of pre-war days. Kurnakowicz is the son of a railway worker.

Polish timber will be exported to Britain for the first time since 1939 under an agreement reached last month. British timber experts, who visited Poland recently, expressed their satisfaction with the quality of Polish production.

M. J. Winiewicz, Polish Ambassador in Washington, has decorated forty former UNRRA officials in Poland for their work in helping Poland's recovery after the war.

Construction as a joint enterprise of an electric power station at Nowe Dwory near Oswiecim, was one of the projects agreed upon at recent talks in Prague by a mixed Polish-Czechoslovak commission for industrial co-operation. The commission established basic programmes for the metal and electrical industries, and several branches of the chemical industry.

Palestine, Britain and Czechoslovakia. She also send fish and pork to Czechoslovakia and malt to Switzerland.

In the export plans for next year—still only tentatively outlined—an increase is foreseen in the export of fabrics, chemicals, furniture and porcelain.

Last month's imports are characteristic of present tendencies. Except for fats, food imports practically disappeared. There were important imports of oil products from the Soviet Union and Rumania, and lubricating oil from Holland and Britain.

Most important imports for the first five months of this year were copper for electrode production, iron ore and rolled products from Czechoslovakia and Sweden, while the biggest investment purchases came in the form of cranes, textile and other machines from Czechoslovakia, and varied machines and machine tools from Sweden.

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RZECZPOSPOLITA: Semi-official non-Party Paper.

ZYCIE WARSZAWY: Non-Party, Liberal.

ROBOTNIK: Organ of Polish Socialist Party (PPS).

DZIENNIK LUDOWY: Peasant Party.

### Winning The Battle Of Food

"Three years after the war Poland is nearing the goal of food self-sufficiency for which she is still striving. We are one of the few European countries in which rationed food plays an insignificant part in the food supply. Efforts are being made to raise further the level of farming in Poland. Thanks to the growing efficiency of land tilling, Poland was able to cut down her grain import to 600,000 tons last year as compared with 950,000 in 1946. We expect that this year the crops will render possible the full abolition of rationing. Considerable progress is to be noted in all branches of Polish agriculture. The process of industrialisation in our country does not exclude simultaneous development of agriculture. On the contrary a speedy progress of industry will raise the level of farming and will bring prosperity for the farmers."—ROBOTNIK.

"Hoarding, raising of prices and black marketeering are inevitable symptoms of the period before the harvest in a devastated country. These symptoms have now disappeared. The peasants were on the edge of a catastrophe in 1945 and 1946. The time preceding the harvest in 1947 was also precarious because of small imports due to frozen seaports. This year, the time before the harvest carries no danger thanks to accumulated stocks, imports—chiefly from Russia—the ground tax paid partially in kind, food fund purchases and regulated markets."—DZIENNIK LUDOWY.

### Peasants United

"In all Polish villages the peasant masses are calling for the unity of the peasant movement. Hopes to reach this unity have been strengthened by the unity convention signed by the SL (Peasant Party) and the PSL (Polish Peasant Party). But this must not be an abstract unity for unity's sake. The foundation of our united movement is the close alliance with the workers and all the progressive elements. This alliance is the basis of our regime of a peoples democracy."—DZIENNIK LUDOWY.

## THE POLISH PRESS SAYS

*A selection of comments which have appeared in the Polish Press in recent weeks.*

### Poland's Trade Helps Europe

"Five million people saw with their own eyes at the Paris Fair that Poland does not avoid economic relations with Western Europe. Our trade agreements with Britain, France, Sweden, Italy, Holland and Hungary prove how false is the legend about Poland eliminating herself from international trade. Reports that the U.S.A. representative, Hoffman, wants to buy Polish coal and raw materials for the Marshall countries is another evidence of how swiftly Poland is strengthening her position as an industrial country. Wall Street journals had to admit that Poland is successfully overcoming her post-war difficulties in industrial reconstruction. This means that Poland was right in relying on her own resources and refusing to accept help for which she would have to pay with her sovereignty. This is as true as is the fact that Poland's contribution to international trade helps Europe's reconstruction."—RZECZPOSPOLITA.

### Property For All

"The action granting property titles was one of the main factors contributing to the stabilisation of the Polish element in the restored areas. Recently 400 farmers were granted farm property. Now manual and intellectual workers in those areas are being given the possibility of buying their own houses by convenient instalments. Before the war this was impossible for them. This campaign opens possibilities also of large economic activity for free enterprise. Investments in the Recovered Territories assure a just income to owners of capital and at the same time contribute to the rehabilitation of the Regained Lands."—ZYCIE WARSZAWY.

### Those Buses Again

"In connection with the Press notices on the excursion to Poznan in municipal buses, we received an explanation from the Warsaw Transport Board according to which the buses in question were new and needed running in. It was decided to do this on the good roads behind Warsaw. It is alleged that this is the cheapest and most effective way of preparing the vehicles for their heavy duties in the city. In the excursion—it is said—leaders of work competition and school youth took part.

But in the meantime we see on some bus routes in Warsaw new buses with a note: 'Cars not run in, no standing room inside.' Yet in the Transport Board explanation we read: 'The running in of the buses is not permissible in the town traffic because of frequent sudden stopping and starting. The guarantees of the suppliers explicitly forbid this kind of running in.' Now we do not understand anything."—ROBOTNIK.

### Dream-Trips On The Vistula

"The Warsaw branch of the Polish Travel Bureau, ORBIS, advertises full-day excursions on the Vistula in small river steamers. These excursions take place every Sunday. One can dance the whole day long, one can bathe in the sun or catch fish. An excellent rest for all those who spend the week between the walls of factories and offices. An excellent rest but the price for this rest is not so excellent. It amounts to about 24/- per head. So we will have to dream only of those beautiful trips on the Vistula."—RZECZPOSPOLITA.

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### A July Announcement

THE BRITISH-POLISH SOCIETY

## A PRIVATE DISPLAY OF PRODUCTS OF POLAND'S CRAFT INDUSTRY

*will be held at*

THE POLISH INSTITUTE, 81, Portland Place W.1  
(1 minute Regent's Park Tube)

**From Wednesday, July 14th to Saturday, July 17th inclusive**  
12.30 p.m. - 6.30 p.m. daily

TEA BUFFET

RUGS, TOYS, CARVED and PAINTED WOODWORK

*This Display of Modern Polish Handicrafts is organised by the British-Polish Society (81 Portland Place, W.1. Tel.: Welbeck 0594) in aid of the PRESIDENT OF POLAND'S FUND FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF WARSAW. Through the kind co-operation of H.E. The Polish Ambassador arrangements have been made whereby a suitable machine of British construction will be purchased and sent to the Fund as a token of goodwill from Britain to those engaged in an almost superhuman task.*

*The purchase of this machine will be financed from the sale of an assortment of the Polish craft industry which have been imported for the purpose under special Board of Trade licence, the goods now displayed being a part. ALL GOODS DISPLAYED ARE FOR SALE, PRICES ON APPLICATION TO THE RECEPTIONIST.*



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SPRING, 1948—  
*Traffic flows freely  
through streets  
once choked with  
rubble.*

# WARSAW

*"We will prove to Poland and the whole world that Warsaw is, as she was and always will be, the capital and the heart of Poland."—S. Syrkus, Chief Architect of the Warsaw Planning Bureau.*

THE FIRST STAGE IN THE RECONSTRUCTION of Warsaw—the work of converting a vast agglomeration of ruins into a capital city housing more than half a million people—is practically over.

Next spring will begin the building of a completely new Warsaw, according to the plan drawn up by the Warsaw Bureau of Reconstruction.

How three years of titanic effort had cleared the way for the commencement of work upon this new plan was described to *New Poland* by M. Wojciech Piotrowski, the man in charge of planning for the central area of Warsaw.

He told how tens of thousands of people from all parts of the country had freely given their labour in the reconstruction of Warsaw. "Work contributions" of this kind made possible the rebuilding of the Poniatowski Bridge, linking Warsaw with Praga, across the river. Those who could not give their labour gave cash. Significantly, no less than one million pounds of the Warsaw Reconstruction Fund was contributed in very small sums—"in pennies," said M. Piotrowski.

Now, Warsaw is visibly repaying all this sacrifice.

The last of the war-damaged buildings which it is possible to repair are being tackled this season. The work of saving all that can be saved of the old Warsaw will be over by the end of the year. In the spring, the builders will be busy on new houses and new streets laid out according to the plan for the new Warsaw.

The new plan will create a completely different Warsaw. The old city had grown up as a heterogeneous mixture of residential quarters, business, industrial and

administrative premises. Under the new plan, the heart of the city will become its "working centre," accommodating Government departments and other official buildings, banks and business premises. Houses already standing in this city centre will remain, but all new housing development will take place away from the centre. There, too, will be large areas for parks and sports grounds.

Exceptions to the zoning scheme of the new plan will be buildings of historical or cultural interest. Some 90 per cent. of these buildings—many of them dating back to the Middle Ages—were destroyed by the Germans. They will be faithfully rebuilt on their original sites—whether they accord with the new plan or not.

NEW FLATS  
for  
Warsaw's  
workers.







## Two Tales of the Same City—Warsaw in Chaos and Rebirth

spots where whole families, despairing of any other accommodation, had dug caves out of the ruins. Lines of booths had sprung up in the principal streets and here what goods there were to be bought changed hands. By some special piece of ingenuity, the half shell of a tall dignified

of my visit housing every foreign embassy imaginable, a profusion of perfectly cooked food, enthusiastically served by a staff with a pre-war outlook, only served to intensify the misery of the rain-drenched ruins all around.

Overwhelming horror and pity are the permanent emotions which will never fail to recur when I think of Warsaw in 1945. It was almost impossible to believe that most of the destruction had been caused by the flame-throwers and explosives, cold-bloodedly used by the Germans, first against the undaunted Jewish population, and later as a last impotent reply to the

# 1945

### “Destruction Beyond Belief”

house had been patched up. Inside it were the recording and transmitting studios of the Warsaw radio station, the up-to-date equipment contrasting oddly in one's mind with the primitive life of the streets outside.

In Germany there had been no food, but everybody had been rich in paper money. In Warsaw one felt that ample food lay all around the city in the fertile plains, but few people seemed to have the money to buy it.

There was one oasis of comfort and plenty, however. In the Polonia Hotel, carefully preserved by the Germans as a Wehrmacht Headquarters, and at the time

unconquerable spirit of the whole Polish people. A saturation bombing raid would have been a kindly gesture by comparison with this barbaric behaviour.

No words could ever express the sorrow felt in looking over the silent areas of rubble which had once housed the Jews of Warsaw, and which, two-and-a-half years ago, still covered what death had left of thousands of them.

by

**John Mumford**

WARSAW AS I SAW IT IN 1945 WILL always serve me as a reminder of two things—first, of the unbreakable determination of decent people not to submit to a doctrine which substitutes repression and hate for freedom and ordinary human kindness, and secondly, of the real nature of the system which we all fought between 1939 and 1945.

The chaotic rubble which had once been Warsaw made me feel that most of the destruction I had previously seen was like the petulant results of a child's game. However, although Berlin had proved a shell of a city with no heart and only the activity of corruption to keep it going, Warsaw, although not even a shell, still had life and hope, and a vivid faith that soon a new Warsaw would arise from the ruins.

In starting the task of reconstruction, the people of Warsaw had, in the absence of machinery, fallen back on their unaided hands, and gangs of ordinary men and women, boys and girls, were getting down to the cleaning up with a stoical determination to get life going again. Here and there primitive chimneys stuck on top of the heaps of brick and stone marking



TODAY, THE RETURNING VISITOR TO Warsaw is conscious not only of big changes but of a definite spiritual change.

The streets have been cleared and many entirely new buildings have arisen in addition to the many that have been repaired. One is particularly struck by Nowy Swiat and the new Ministry buildings. The time has also been found for the restoration of the beautiful Tomb of the Unknown Warrior and the adjacent park. In the restored Hotel Bristol, Warsaw is again in possession of a first-class

# 1948

### “Successful Reconstruction”

by

**H. E. Griffiths,  
C.B.E., M.S., F.R.C.S.**

hotel. Work has been started on the restoration and virtual re-building of the cathedral.

But quite apart from what has been re-built and restored, the vast acres of ruins that still remain create a different impression. Two year ago the city was a desert of fallen bricks and broken stone, dominated by skeleton walls and clouds of dust which were calculated to induce a sense of hopelessness, but so much has been accomplished that now the ruins that remain provoke a challenge to further endeavour.

The successful reconstruction of Warsaw has of necessity resulted in the taming of that impetuosity of effort which characterised the first endeavours. The people have settled down to quiet, hard work in the knowledge that the race they have to run is a marathon and not a sprint. The re-building of the city is following a well-thought plan in which full advantage is being taken of modern methods of construction coupled with an endeavour to preserve the characteristics of the ancient city. One is struck by the way in which the bricks have been reclaimed. These bricks are larger and appear to be harder than those used in this country and probably, therefore, they are more durable than our own.

There has been a great increase in motor traffic and in the number of trams and, of course, in the length of tramway. New bridges are being built across the Vistula, but there is still only one in use.

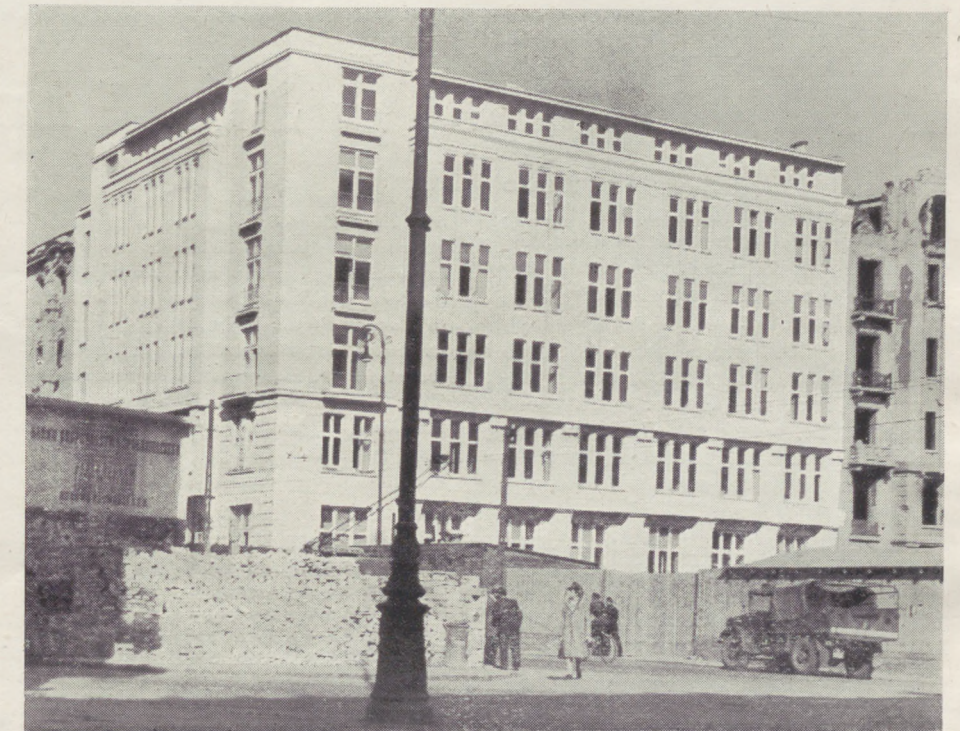
Many more shops have appeared and, judging by the display in shop windows, there is a much greater variety of goods for sale. The price of every article is marked in plain figures and prices have fallen considerably—this was particularly noticeable in the cost of shoes and materials.

I have had an opportunity of discussing food with several peasants and workmen and they all agreed that they are better fed now than they were before the war.

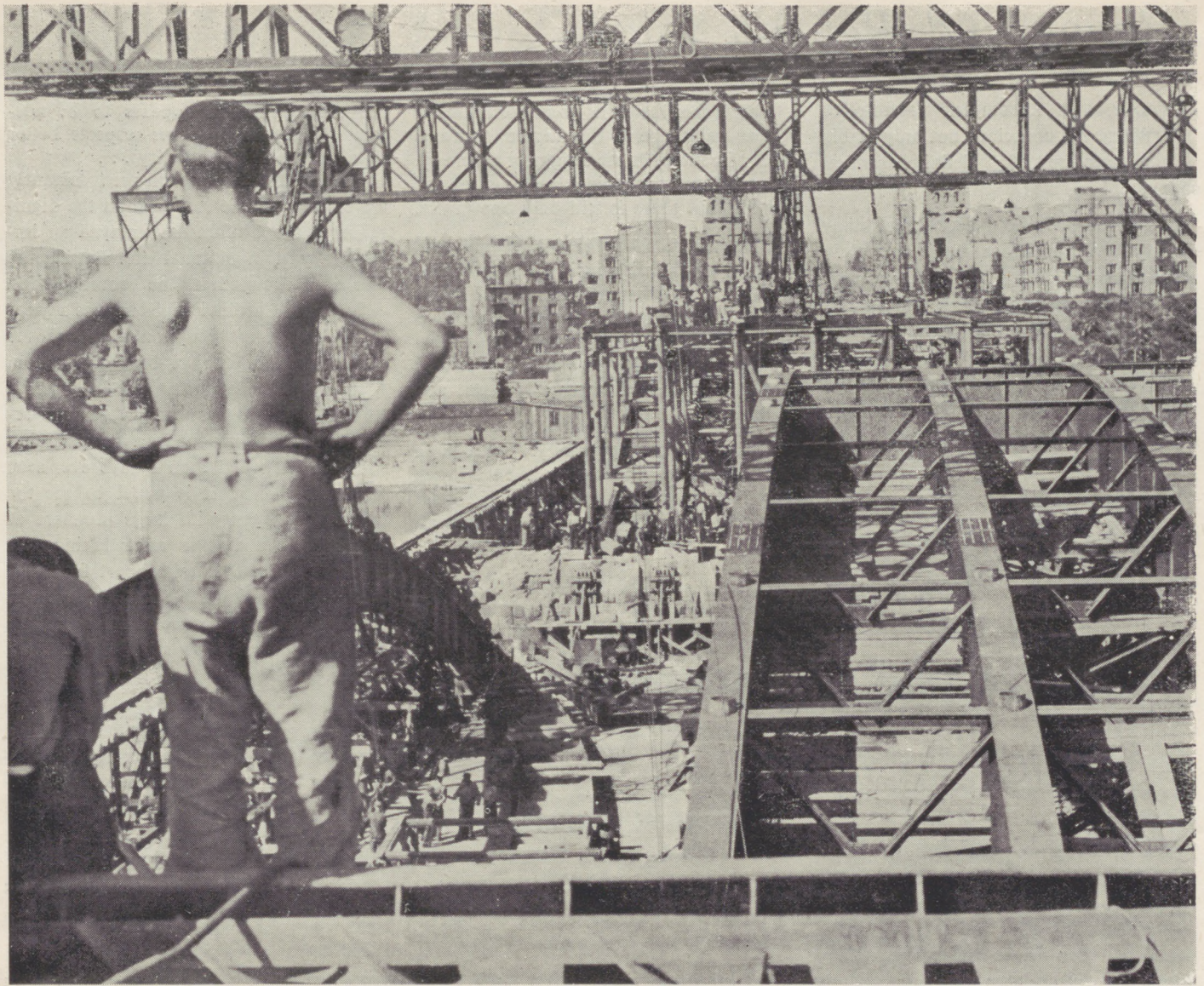
All the population appears to be adequately fed and in some respects better than we are in this country . . .

Poland has always been predominantly a Roman Catholic country and the dignitaries of the Church have played an important part in national life. During the German occupation the courage and devotion of Cardinal Sapiecha was a great inspiration to his people and still proves a very fruitful subject of conversation. My own observations would lead me to think that there has been a genuine religious revival since the war. The churches are more crowded than I have ever seen them elsewhere: it is usual to see the doors wide open with large numbers of worshippers unable to enter taking part in the service. But quite apart from the numbers attending the churches, one was struck by the appearance of reverence and devotion that is often somewhat lacking in congregations.

In a word, Poland re-visited gives the impression of a people feeling its way towards both economic and spiritual revival; of a people more united in purpose than heretofore, content to tread the path before them and yet a little uncertain of its ultimate end—a worthy Ally in peace as well as in war.







# PONIATOWSKI: Epic of a Bridge

**M**EN CAME FROM ALL OVER POLAND to build the Poniatowski Bridge. Now that the work is over, the migration will take another trend: they will go to Silesia, or Kieleckie, or Wolska, or Targowa Street.

Nobody left before the work was finished. Nobody on the Bridge was "important." Professor Hempel? But what would he do without Wolinski, Sigalin, Lubinski—without the workmen and the foremen? It was the same with others—there was no "I," only "We."

There was a workman who dived, risking his life, to drag out some submerged pillars from a depth of six metres. Foreman Wachowicz did not think the identity of the man was important. It was only by accident that we learned from his friends that it was Wachowicz himself.

A group of riveters worked daily for

*The Poniatowski Bridge, totally destroyed by the Germans, has now been open for two years. This epic story of its rebuilding is given as an example of the heroism of the volunteers who flocked to Warsaw in the early days of reconstruction. It was written by Polish journalist Grazyna Woysznis-Terlikowska, on the occasion of the bridge's reopening, on National Day, July 22nd, 1946.*

many weeks, 17 hours at a stretch, in a hanging position, often with their heads downwards. To take a rest was out of the question. The job must be done in time, because the troughs would come from Silesia and they must not be kept waiting. While unloading the equipment, a workman fell on a rail. His friends carried him unconscious to a shelter and im-

mediately went back to work. There was no time for a display of sympathy because the concrete might get dry!

When the ice was breaking on the Vistula, it was necessary to cut off one of the supports of the portable crane as it threatened to crash on top of them. Managers, together with the workmen, took up their positions. The scene was lit by reflectors and by the welders' sparks. The current was violent, the floating blocks of ice more dangerous than guns—and yet the technicians curbed the element.

And to-day the tramcars ring their bells along the viaduct, the banners are rustling and the Bridge seems to be floating on the unfurled sails of its spans. In a few days, when the banners are gone, there will remain an ordinary street, an ordinary bridge, with the Vistula flooding underneath.