

# NEW POLAND

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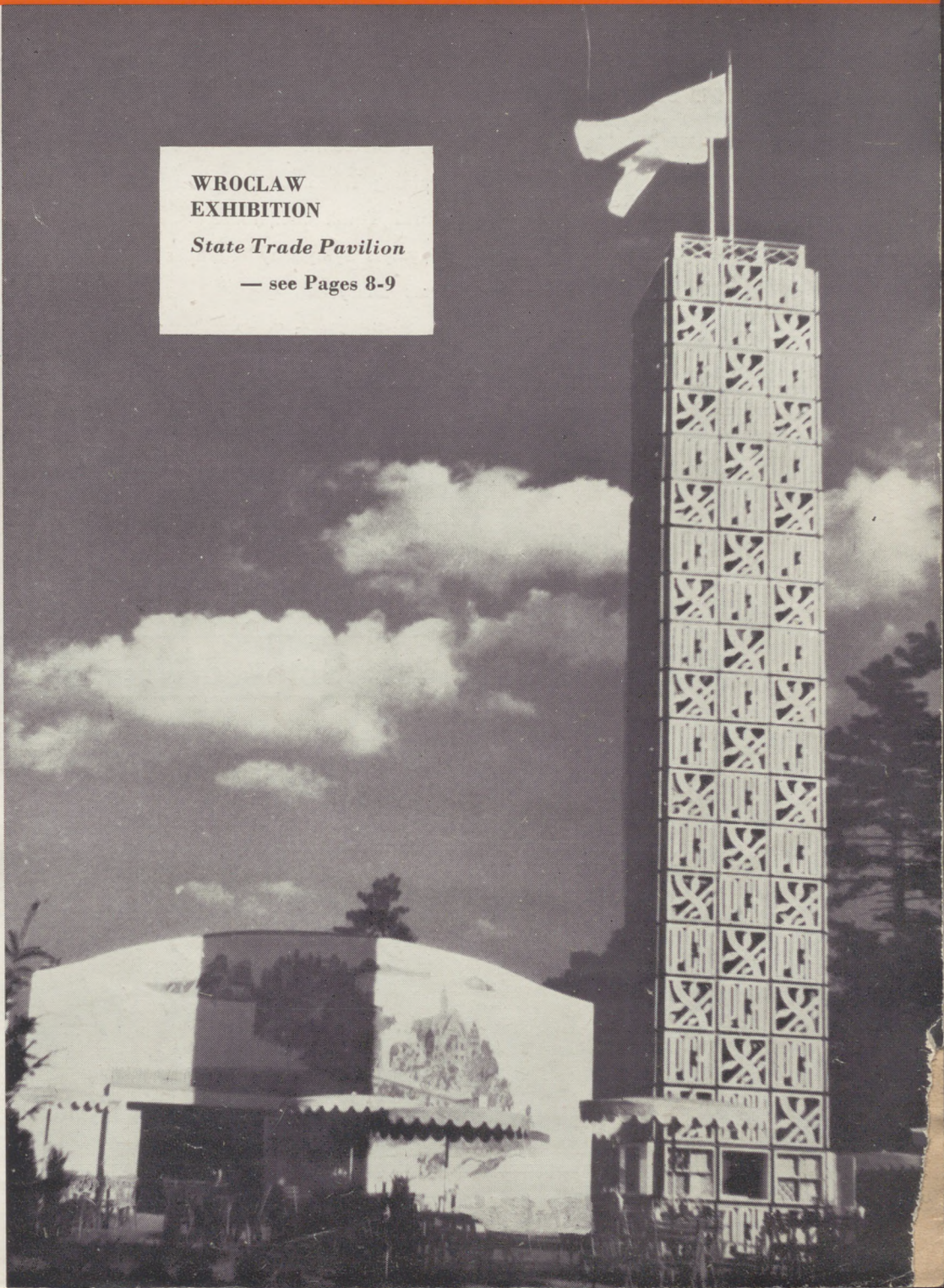
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### WROCLAW EXHIBITION

*State Trade Pavilion*

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# NEW POLAND

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## Poland and the United Nations

*Extracts from a speech by Polish delegate to the U.N., Juliusz Katz-Suchy, on the occasion of the ending of Poland's term of office as a member of the Security Council.*

THE POLISH DELEGATION HAS NEVER considered that it represented in the Council only its own country or even the regional group from which it had been chosen, but we have preferred to regard ourselves as the representatives of all the United Nations . . . We have acted always in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Charter. We have always considered it our paramount duty to serve the fundamental interests of the United Nations and not the interests of one country or a group of countries. This principle has guided us during the two years of work in the Security Council as well as in every other branch of the United Nations in which we were represented.

The war against Fascism taught us that peace is indivisible and collective, and that wherever it is threatened, the security, the peace and the freedom of our people are equally endangered. Therefore,

*(Continued on page 16)*

# Why Poland Wants

## Peace

In foreign policy, as in home affairs, a wide gulf separates new Poland from the old. Far stronger economically and politically, determined to prevent any possibility of a resurgence of German aggression, the Poland of today is one of the strongest forces for peace in Europe. The sources of Polish foreign policy are examined in this article, whose author has made a study of post-war Poland.



*Poland's young people look towards a peaceful future.*

"WE CONSIDER PEACE AS ONE OF the most valued possessions of humanity."

These were the words of Poland's Foreign Minister, M. Zygmunt Modzelewski, speaking to the Polish Parliament last June.

In a world whose recent history has been so littered with broken pledges and propaganda statements, ordinary men and women are entitled to say: "We welcome this sentiment—but is it sincere? Or is it mere rhetoric?"

They are entitled to ask for evidence to back any statesman's professions.

What, then, is the evidence that the new Poland stands as a force for peace in Europe?

The actions of nations are not determined by good or bad intentions, by inherent righteousness or original sin. They have their sources in history—in the social and economic factors which have made countries what they are and will just as surely determine their future.

The Poland of today grew out of the Poland of yesterday. The contrast between the two, and the lessons of that contrast, are never far from the minds of the Polish people and their leaders; indeed it would be near the truth to say that this fact provides a key to Polish policy.

What was this Poland of yesterday that

Hitler's legions invaded on that memorable day in September, 1939? Economically, it was a poor country. Its industry was comparatively weak. Agriculture was its mainspring, but the vast mass of

by

**Mrs. Leah Manning, M.P.**

its peasants gained a miserably poor living by working land which they did not own. So many of its workers sought better conditions abroad that it has been bitterly said that old Poland's chief export was manpower.

Geographically, the Poland which emerged from the 1914-18 War was not a viable State. Its Western frontiers, lying against the most aggressive and powerful nation in Europe, were not defensible. Its only outlet to the sea was artificial and precarious.

Politically (after a renaissance of democracy in the first few years following 1918), the old Poland was ruled by men who retarded her internal development by

their defence of the interests of a near-feudal landlord class and brought her to catastrophe in the field of foreign affairs by their hostility to the only great power which could defend her against Nazi Germany.

That was the picture then. How different now!

In blood and misery, in the terrible lessons of the military collapse, the occupation, the resistance movement and liberation, the Polish people learned who were their friends and who their enemies. They learned, too, their own strength. From this, and from the new international situation which followed the defeat of Germany, emerged a completely new pattern.

Today, Poland is building, with amazing rapidity, a balanced and stable economy, in which, while a prosperous agriculture has its place, industry will soon play a major part.

The return of the ancient Polish lands in the West has at once strengthened the

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industrial base, provided a defensible frontier and restored to Poland her natural outlets to the sea. It has had a moral stimulus, too, which cannot be over-estimated; and this is a feeling shared by every Pole, whatever his political opinions.

The political scene, too, is transformed. In Warsaw today sits a Government which rests securely upon the confidence of the people who elected it—a confidence which it has retained by proving, within three short years, what miracles can be done by a capable and democratic administration which has the people behind it.

### THREE PRINCIPLES

To summarise, then, the Poland of today is a country which, after suffering terribly from poverty, aggression and the effects of being a pawn in big power politics, is raising itself by its own efforts to the status of a prosperous industrial-agricultural country. That is how Poland's people and their leaders see it. That is why, at the bottom of their political thinking, lie three main principles:

*There must be peace for the great tasks of rebuilding and development.*

*There must be guarantees against aggression, and especially German aggression. There must be independence.*

There is no aspect of Polish foreign policy which does not conform to these three principles.

Poland's concern for the general interests of world peace is evidenced by her consistent support for the United Nations and its associated organisations. Her realisation that, economically, there is only "one world" is shown by the network of trade treaties which she has built up with countries of both the East and the West—among the latter, her treaties with Britain and France, which are of the greatest economic importance, not only to Poland, but to those countries.

### "TRADE WITH ALL"

At this point it might be appropriate to deal with the common suggestion that Poland is, and regards herself as, a member of an "Eastern bloc." Poland's leaders have repeatedly rejected this allegation. It was only recently that her Minister of Industry and Trade, M. Minc, pointed out once more that, in spite of all that had been said of "the abyss between East and West," Poland wished to strengthen her economic relations with all countries.

In cultural matters, too, Poland looks to the West as well as the East. Nothing gave me more pleasure, during my last visit to Poland, than to see the excellent relationship which existed between the Polish Government and the British Council, and the evident appreciation of British art and literature. To mention only two facts—in no capital of Europe were there



**EAST AND WEST:** Poland trades with 19 nations of eastern and western Europe. They are the U.S.S.R. (1), Rumania (2), Bulgaria (3), Yugoslavia (4), Hungary (5), Czechoslovakia (6), Austria (7), Italy (8), Switzerland (9), France (10), Belgium (11), Holland (12), the Soviet Zone of Germany (13), Britain (14), Denmark (15), Norway (16), Sweden (17), Finland (18) and Iceland.

With all of these, and with Turkey, she has trade agreements. Other countries with which she trades include Canada, the U.S.A., Palestine, Morocco, China, Transjordan and Brazil.

so many visitors to the exhibition of Tate pictures as in Warsaw; and it is difficult to provide teachers for all the students who desire to learn English.

The evidence, then, bears out President Bierut's statement: "We wish always to keep open a window to the West."

But for Poland there is one part of Western Europe which has to be treated as a special case—Germany.

So much is explained by Poland's attitude to Germany that it is a justifiable simplification to describe this as the cornerstone of current Polish policy. And small wonder. Other nations suffered German aggression, but Poland suffered more. As Vice-Premier Gomulka put it: "We were marked for total extermination, and the name of Poland was to be effaced from the earth."

Further, Poland is fully aware that her newly-regained territories in the West would be one of the first targets for a revived German militarism—as the Sudetenland was for Hitler. Already she

has had occasion to protest against the toleration in the Western Zone of Germany of organisations who object is to launch a new crusade for the reconquest of these lands.

It is these considerations, and not any mystical affinity for the East rather than the West, that has led Poland to oppose plans for the establishment of a separate West German State. And that is how we in the West should view Polish policy, sympathetically and with the realisation that it springs from the determination to prevent any repetition of experiences so horrible that our imagination can hardly grasp them.

If we do this, we shall have gone a long way towards seeing Poland as she is—a rising European power, anxious to build her new life in security, eager for good relations with both East and West, aware that, in the words of one of her delegates to the United Nations: "not only peace and war are indivisible, but prosperity also is indivisible."

NEW POLAND

## "British-Polish Trade Contributes to World Peace"

—says ELLIS SMITH, M.P.

THE BRITISH PEOPLE DESIRE FRIENDSHIP with the peoples of the whole world, and not only a part of the world. We want to end strife, suspicion and war of every kind. The best road towards that objective is by building international economic co-operation by the path of increased trade.

I welcome this opportunity of writing upon the Anglo-Polish Trade Agreement for many reasons. We urgently require a large increase in the volume of world trade. Our own economic position demands it. We must end the world shortages as soon as possible, build improved relationships between all countries and be determined to avoid World War III.

It was in 1927, when I travelled through Poland and stayed in Warsaw, that I saw the need for the great de-

velopment that is now (at last) taking place in Poland. Britain must make an ever-increasing contribution towards this economic expansion and, in return, we shall receive what we require.

A study of British trade statistics since the beginning of this century shows the part played in Britain's present adverse trade balance by the shrinkage in exports of shipping, engineering products and capital equipment generally. Poland is in urgent need of such goods. Nearly half of the £35,000,000 covered by the current British-Polish trade agreement is to be spent on capital goods and machinery. Britain has recently launched two ships for Poland. In return, Poland can supply what we urgently require—increasing amounts of bacon, eggs and other food-stuffs, timber for our housing programme.

Further, in Poland we are dealing with

a country which has a planned economy. The outstanding lesson of the bleak period between the two world wars was the need for local, national and international planning. Modern countries plan or suffer from anarchy, perfect their organisation, or suffer chaos.

In certain countries the crisis-producing forces are gathering momentum, and if that crisis materialises it will lead to the greatest effect on world trade. We should prepare now to insulate ourselves from it as far as possible.

The British-Polish trade agreement is working fairly well, but what is urgently required is a great increase in the amounts that are exchanged between our two countries. We must plan to provide Poland with more capital equipment in return for what Poland can supply to us.

Britain has more to gain than any other country by an increase in the volume of world trade. There should be no "East" and "West" in trade. The world should now be an economic unit. In pre-war days, it was said: "Peace is indivisible." Now we should say: "Trade is indivisible."

Millions of people throughout the world are saying: "There must not be another war." The best way to stop it is by preparing and working now to prevent it. Any contribution that assists towards a solution of mankind's economic problems is a contribution against war.

British-Polish trade is making its contribution. It must be a greater one.

## What Poland Will Buy in Britain

THE BRITISH-POLISH TRADE AGREEMENT, in operation since June, 1947, provides for purchases in this country to the amount of £35,000,000, of which £15,000,000 is to be spent on capital goods and machinery. The remaining amount is to be spent mainly on raw materials, in particular:

Tin Plate—about 1,000 tons in the course of 1948.  
Sisal—600 tons.  
Copper—1,175 tons.  
Rubber—2,000 tons.  
Wool—to the value of £6,000,000, including all purchases in any part of the British Commonwealth.

After the lapse of six months of the current year, it is possible to foresee that these figures are likely to be attained.

All the raw materials mentioned are of the utmost importance to Polish industry, tin plate being used for canning food products for export to the U.K. Of other raw materials of less importance it is possible to enumerate such materials as hides from Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, shellac of Indian origin, some quantities of jute of Pakistan origin, and

tin coming from the Straits through the London trading houses. Apart from these raw materials, Poland also buys quantities of chemicals, precision instruments, tools, dye stuffs, rubber tyres, ropes, conveyor belts, insulating materials, resistance wires, and some types of electrical equipment, etc.

The Agreement also provides for the purchase in this country of goods classified under the heading of Non-Essentials, to the amount of £1,750,000, which includes quite an extensive range of commodities of all descriptions. This list of Non-Essentials has only recently been finally agreed upon, and the actual export of the goods concerned will commence shortly. In return Poland is supplying this country with food products, starting again her bacon exports as a main line, 14,000 tons of which are not to be imported until February, 1949.

The other materials involved would be timber and zinc. The list also includes furniture and non-essentials to the amount of £1,750,000 with a long range of commodities, including chemicals and textiles. The Polish fishing boats land in

the U.K. with quantities of white fish, against which Poland buys in this country cured herrings of the same value.

To help the Polish imports there are two credit facilities in operation, one of which covers the purchases of investment goods and machinery. The other, being a short term credit arrangement helps to finance the purchase of raw materials, in particular wool.

The exchange of goods (with the exception of the activities of the Polish Purchasing Mission) is organised through normal trade channels in direct contact between the buyers in Poland and exporters in this country.

On the Polish side, all three sectors of the national economy, viz. State-controlled, co-operative and private, are participating according to particular requirements based upon the place they hold in the general framework of Poland's economic plan.

Among the imports from Poland, food products, of course, take first place. Apart from eggs and bacon, Poland will be sending fruit pulps, fruit juices, sugar salmon, and 50 tons of vodka.

# Why Poland Works With a Will

IT USED TO BE SAID THAT EVERY POLE was ready to die for his country, but that none was willing to work for it. Whatever limited truth this wisecrack may have had in the days of the Poland of "the Colonels," it is a charge which certainly cannot be levelled at the Polish people today. The visitor's first and last impression of the country is that peasants, industrial workers and the big corps of labour engaged in the physical reconstruction of war-devastated cities are toiling with a will.

Nowhere is this spirit more evident than in the Silesian coal fields. During the course of a tour of Poland in July, I spent some time in the mines around Katowice and Walbszych. After long talks, both with miners and managers, at pits and in the Central Coal Control, I reached the conclusion that labour in the Polish coalfields is working not merely hard but with a real pride in the job.

## INCENTIVES

Simply to say that this is the result of the "energising dynamic" of Socialism is too facile an explanation. In each colliery, as in all other large work-places in Poland, you find—usually side by side, with a small Catholic shrine in between them—branch offices of the two Workers' Parties, the P.P.R. (Communist) and the P.P.S. (Socialist). The influence of these Parties—the trade unions in Poland are non-political and engaged primarily in the promotion of welfare and culture—is certainly exerted to convince the worker that he is playing a key part in the reconstruction of "his" country. But, though patriotism may be a factor in industrial productivity, human nature is unlikely to be completely transmuted by a broad change from a Capitalist to a Socialist regime. There is apt still to be some need for more direct, more intimate incentives.

The incentives which the Polish coal industry has evolved, and which have succeeded in bringing back the rate of output to well over one ton per manshift, despite war- obsolescence of machinery and an acute shortage of coal cutters, conveyors and power loaders, are partly material. The shops in the mining towns are plentifully stocked with a wide variety of unrationed foodstuffs and consumers goods. Thus the miner has a definite incentive to increase his earnings, and there is no serious deterrent in the incidence of P.A.Y.E. Up to incomes of 18,000 zloty (£11 5s.) a month, income tax is negli-

gible; and on earnings of 22,000 zloty a month, it amounts to only 5 per cent.

Minimum wages of unskilled labour in the mines are low, averaging about 8,000 zloty a month—i.e., the equivalent of £5. It has, however, to be remembered that the heavy worker in Poland draws a monthly ration of 30 lb. bread, 4 lb. flour, 2½ lb. fats, and 8 lb. meat, which cost him only about 1s. 6d. a month and thus constitute, in effect, an addition to his cash wages. Further, average rents are extremely low; and, like other Polish

by

## Aylmer Vallance

trade unionists, miners enjoy facilities for holidays at trade union rest houses in the mountains at the nominal cost of about 6d. per day. Thus the purchasing power of these minimum wages is considerably higher than might be inferred from comparing them crudely with British wages on the basis of the official exchange rate.

Furthermore, the proportion of miners on the minimum is small, and the piece-rate earnings of a collier working at the face are relatively high. Several men to whom I talked told me that their earnings averaged 30,000 zloty a month—an income comparable with that of a Cabinet Minister in Poland and about 80 per cent. above the average earnings of skilled labour in engineering works. Incomes of 20,000-25,000 zloty in the mines are common.

Materially, therefore, extra effort on the Polish miners' part is well rewarded; and, as a deterrent against absenteeism

a special allowance of 1½ lb. of extra meat is made to all miners, above and below ground, who do not fail (unless certified sick) to present themselves for the full six shifts a week.

Then, too, there is the important factor of production bonuses. Production targets are fixed by agreement between management and labour for each pit, each district, and for the industry as a whole; and every employee, from face worker to clerk, participates in three separate bonuses dependent on the extent to which pit, district, and national target, are reached or exceeded. This seemed to me to be engendering a keen sense of corporate endeavour.

Even more important, however, than these purely material incentives is, in my opinion, the influence of the very successful system of "industrial democracy" which the industry has evolved. A pit committee, with a full-time secretary, is elected by secret ballot among the miners of each pit. The committee, through its secretary, has direct access to the manager, deals with all day-to-day disputes, and has the last word in all engagements, promotions or discharges of personnel, other than top-level managerial appointments made by the Central Coal Control.

Once a month the full committee has an all-day session with the management; and, at this meeting not only are detailed questions of pay, working conditions and welfare discussed, but the whole pro-

(Continued at foot of next column)

## POLAND'S



Miners



Railwayman



Textile Worker



Furnaceman



Motor Engineer

NEW POLAND

# "RESULTS OF THE PLAN ARE IMPRESSIVE"

says MAURICE DOBB, M.A.

Lecturer in Economics, Cambridge University.

THE THREE-YEAR PLAN (AS IT IS called) for the period from 1946 to 1949 was mainly concerned with the reconstruction of Poland's war-shattered economic structure.

It aimed to restore the pre-war level of *per capita* consumption by the end of 1948, which is effectively the middle year of the Plan; and by the final year (1949) to raise the output of capital goods (metals, machinery, etc.) per head of the population to more than double the pre-war level. The latter was to be achieved by a special emphasis on coal and electricity; both of which were to be raised to more than double the pre-war level (partly as a result of the acquisition of the Western Territories).

Over the period of the Plan as a whole, capital investment was to compose some

(Continued from previous page)

gramme of the management, administrative and technical, is thrashed out and agreed.

Differences between a pit committee and pit management are "referred up" for settlement between the National Coal Control and the Executive of the Miners' Union. But the need for such reference appears to be infrequent. From the management side I was assured that this form of "workers' control" worked smoothly and led often to valuable suggestions coming from the elected members of the pit committee. Equally, my impression was that the committees enjoy the full confidence of the workers and do much to create among the miners a real sense that the mines are "theirs," and that it is up to them to get the best out of them in the interests of the country.

20 per cent. of the national income. In the words of the Plan: "The financing of investments should be accomplished, primarily, by our own efforts, secondarily by utilising all available credit sources abroad."

The restoration of agriculture was inevitably a slower process. The target for agricultural production as a whole in 1949 was set at 80 per cent. of the pre-war level, and for grain at 98 per cent. Since the population is smaller by nearly a third, this meant a *per capita* production of agriculture some 10 per cent. above the pre-war level.

## WAR DAMAGE

Indices of production, which are available for the past year and a half, show that Polish economy has shown impressive results in carrying out the aims of the Plan. It is well-known that Poland already became a substantial exporter of coal in the course of 1947. Already by May, 1947, production in the capital goods industries had reached the pre-war level; and the same was true of the consumer goods industry by the end of December of last year. Special progress was registered by electrical power production and also by the chemical industry, despite the fact that in the latter something approaching a fifth of its plant had suffered extensive damage during the war. More backward were industries such as the leather, tobacco, oil and food-processing which had either

suffered abnormally heavy damage during the war or were handicapped by raw material shortages (due to import difficulties, or to the slow recovery of some branch of agriculture, such as livestock).

Unlike other countries of Europe, Polish industry does not seem to have been handicapped hitherto by any serious *general* manpower shortage; and to some extent this increase in production has been built upon a considerable expansion of employment. In the course of the current year, it is anticipated that the number of workers employed in industry will increase by a further 100,000, or by nearly 10 per cent. At the same time, however, the planned targets for the current year provided for increases in the output per worker employed ranging from 9 to 18 per cent. compared with last year.

The results for the first half of 1948 show that leading industries are ahead of their targets and are already approaching the *rate* of production laid down for the year as a whole in the original Three-Year Plan. This applies, for example, to the production of coal and coke and pig-iron, of railway locomotives, of cotton, woollen and rayon fabrics, and of paper. The output-rate for steel ingots and for railway goods wagons in the first half of the year (almost a million tons in the one case and 7,500 units in the other) actually exceeded the output-rate set for the year as a whole in the original Plan (1.7 million tons and 13,800 units respectively for the full twelve months).

## GRAIN EXPORT

The latest news is that the harvest in Poland this year is an unusually good one, and may permit a substantial grain-export. This should further assist the rate of economic progress in the second half of the year.

The signs are that, given international peace, the ambitious tasks of reconstruction which Poland's Three-Year Plan laid down will, in their main essentials, be successfully achieved and even possibly exceeded. Both the standard of life of the Polish people, previously such a low one, and the country's capacity for future economic progress will be by the close of the year substantially above pre-war. In a shattered, impoverished and exhausted Europe this is no mean achievement.

# POLISH CO-OPS ARE GROWING POWER

—says Gordon Schaffer

THE CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL Co-operative Alliance, which takes place in Prague this month, will bring together delegates from both East and West.

So far, despite the dangerous tensions of the international situation, the common bond of co-operation has held firm. There have been sincere disagreements between the Eastern and Western Powers in the co-operative field, but loyalty to the basic principles on which the co-operative movement is built has secured a large and encouraging measure of agreement.

It would, however, be dangerous to deny the fact that world co-operation, like world trade unionism, is threatened today by disruptive forces anxious to destroy the tenuous bridges which still exist between East and West.

That is why it is of urgent importance for co-operators to understand the genuine role which the co-operative movement has played in the rebuilding of the new democracies of Eastern Europe. Inevitably, the part of the co-ops has been conditioned by the vast economic changes which have been made in these countries, but the basic principle of the Rochdale Pioneers—the democratic control by the members and the return of the surplus according to the contribution of each—has been maintained.

## EMERGENCY TASKS

Poland, which even in the difficult pre-war conditions built up a strong co-operative movement, has relied in a very considerable measure on the co-ops during the years of post-war reconstruction. In the early days after liberation, the co-ops were given the task of collecting agricultural products from the farmers and distributing foodstuffs in the towns. They also supervised the sale of industrial goods in the villages as a means of encouraging the farmers to put their surplus products on the market. These were emergency tasks and were but the prelude to the more difficult operation of integrating the co-operative movement into the planned economy of the nation.

Today, that task has been achieved. Through the whole national life of Poland, the influence of the co-ops is apparent. The Government, even if it wished, could not ignore the co-operative movement in any field of activity. But

far from wishing to ignore it, there is a wealth of evidence to show that in production, distribution and agriculture, the Polish Government is steadily giving greater responsibility to the co-operative movement.

In Poland, the power of the monopolies has been broken for ever; banking, insurance and foreign trade are in the hands of the State. Therefore, the co-operative movement has to find a new and more advanced role in the national economy.

The Polish Parliament recognised the fact in May of this year, when it passed three Acts setting up a new structure for the movement. Under this law, central

## CO-OP FACTS

*Immediately before the war, there were 3,559 co-operative enterprises of various kinds in Poland.*

*In December, 1947, the number of co-operative concerns was 11,352. In addition, there were 20,947 co-op shops. Total co-operative membership stood at more than 3,800,000.*

*The movement is still spreading rapidly; latest figures available show that, by the end of February this year, the number of enterprises had risen to 12,333.*

*In 1947, co-operatives handled 70 per cent. of all the grain purchased in Poland.*

bodies were established for each type of co-operative. A precise form was given to the agricultural co-operatives which, as a result of the land reform, had become divided between the older societies and newer ones created by a democratic movement of the peasants. Finally, a new type of organisation was set up in which responsibility is shared between the Government and a co-operatively controlled management.

Each of these central bodies is democratically controlled. An annual delegate meeting, chosen by the membership, will appoint a Council which, in turn, will select an Executive which will have full responsibility. A Central Co-operative Union will unite the central co-operative bodies and will be in control of development and education. The sovereign body for the whole movement will be a National Co-operative Congress which

will be elected every three years by all co-operative bodies, and to which representatives of the various Government departments will be invited in an advisory capacity.

In the organisations in which the Government and co-ops share control, 75 per cent. of the managing body will be elected by a general assembly of members; the other 25 per cent. will be appointed by the Minister of Commerce and Industry. This type of organisation will operate in such spheres as the purchase of livestock, fishing or in trades like grain and textiles, where the co-operative movement has so far failed to secure a hold.

Here is a development of supreme interest to co-operators all over the world. It is a practical illustration of the service which co-operative principles can play in an economy in which exploitation has been abolished. Socialists, in particular, will find it worthy of study.

Experience in Poland provides ample evidence that a firm foundation has been built for this great flowering of co-operative ideals. Latest figures show that Poland has a nation-wide network of co-op retail stores. In some towns like Lodz, the co-op has 350 shops and a magnificent departmental store. In devastated Warsaw, 200 retail shops are in operation.

Yet the majority of the retail trade is still in private hands and the co-operative movement, like its counterpart in Britain, is engaged in a ceaseless struggle to prove the superiority of the co-operative principle. One way in which this is being done is by a vigorous campaign to persuade all members to attend the meetings of their society and to ensure efficient management.

## SHARE IN PLAN

In production and in agriculture, the co-operatives have a different task because of the nationalisation of industry and the land reforms. There, their duty is to unite democratic control with maximum efficiency, and to fulfil the share allocated to them in the national plan.

Poland is only at the beginning of this great adventure, but sufficient has already been done to show how great a contribution her delegates should be able to make to the international discussions at Prague.

LISKOW, A VILLAGE OF 2,000 INHABITANTS near the town of Kalisz, is renowned all over Poland for its neatly-paved side-walks, the houses of its farmers (which are much more like suburban villas than the wooden huts which are usual in most parts of rural Poland), and its public buildings of which many a large town could be jealous.

Fifty years ago this village, too, had nothing but shabby wooden cottages; it was poor, illiterate and sordid, the more as the surrounding countryside was very flat and presented little interest as a landscape. Just as in many other villages in the area where, before 1914, Russian and Prussian Poland met, the inhabitants of Liskow were always tempted to neglect their farming duties for risky but very lucrative smuggling. The money so quickly earned was generally as quickly spent in neighbouring pubs, and disease followed hard on crime.

The metamorphosis of Liskow was due to the initiative and energy of one man—Father Wacław Blizinski, the parish priest, who came to the village round 1900 and was painfully struck by its poverty, illiteracy and low standard of life. He grasped at once that the soil was too poor for a substantial change of conditions to be obtained without cutting expenditure and introducing some new industry in addition to agriculture.

## FIRST CO-OP SHOP

On his advice, the villagers opened in 1902 a small co-operative shop inside the village, which could supply the inhabitants with all essential goods, thus permitting them to save some of the time and money which they hitherto had spent on trips to Kalisz for their shopping. On his suggestion, too, the villagers started to weave on a co-operative basis.

Both enterprises proved so successful that the inhabitants of Liskow were glad to follow a further suggestion of their ingenious priest—namely, the opening of a small co-operative bank which would finance the operations of the two existing enterprises and facilitate the opening of new ones. Very soon, the village could afford to build an impressive People's House where they installed the shop, the weaving workshops and the bank. Dairy and land produce co-operatives came into being pretty soon. The village, steadily guided and advised by Father Blizinski, began keenly to study all possibilities of modernisation and of improving agricultural and breeding methods.

In 1914, Liskow had a fire brigade of its own, which was a very important matter since, on account of inadequate and belated help, many Polish villages had been ruined through fire. It had its own flour-mill and thus was no more paying

# Co-operation Built Poland's Model Village

*This story of the rebirth of Liskow village is told by one of its former residents—*

MARIA CHRZANOWSKA



*Liskow's memorial to its founder, Father Blizinski.*

tribute to neighbouring mills. The villagers did not want to live any longer in shabby wooden huts; they started to build brick houses, but to do so cheaply they began by establishing brick and cement factories of their own. To save the time of the housewives, who had hitherto to bake the bread, a modern bakery was installed. The same was done for meat. The village meat plant specialised in the production of hams and sausages and made good profits by selling these products. Last and not least, the village began to follow the demands of modern hygiene and a Turkish bath was also established. All this work was done before 1914, i.e., during a period of less than 12 years, and since then all these enterprises have remained the common property of the entire village.

In 1920, the village was capable of giving hospitality to an orphanage of 300 children evacuated from Bialystok during the war between Poland and Russia. This orphanage has survived the two wars and

today is housed in several modern and spacious buildings inside large and well-kept grounds.

In the period between the wars, a model school for housewives was opened at Liskow, which was the first village in Poland to establish a special school for cattle-breeding.

## HUNTED BY GERMANS

The last war interrupted the further development of the village and brought much individual suffering to the inhabitants. In the very beginning of the war, that part of Poland was directly annexed by the Germans to the Reich, and many of its inhabitants were forcibly deported eastward to central Poland. Father Blizinski received a warning that the Germans were particularly interested in his person, which at that time was tantamount to a death verdict. He fled and lived in concealment, dying before the end of the war.

After the war, all the surviving inhabitants of Liskow returned to their old homes. The death of Father Blizinski did not mean the end of the "Polish Rochdale"—he had succeeded in educating his flock to a point at which they could continue the great task without his direct guidance. An impressive monument to Father Blizinski has been erected by the grateful villagers and seems to keep guard on Liskow.

## EXAMPLE FOLLOWED

The Liskow cultural and social village committee pays special attention to the education of children. It has issued regulations prohibiting the employment of children during school hours or in any way which would interfere with their studies.

Liskow has not remained an isolated experiment. The village has been a pioneer whose example, especially in the combination of agriculture with industry and in working on the co-operative basis, is being followed in various parts of Poland.

WROCLAW EXHIBITION SHOWS—

# What Poland's West Can Do

**T**O GIVE THE BARE FACTS ABOUT THE Wroclaw Exhibition would tell nothing. In fact, it might even be misleading.

The reader who learns that the Exhibition covers a site of 100 acres, and that hundreds of Poland's leading artists and craftsmen contributed to making its buildings and grounds so striking and often beautiful, may fall (as we did) into the trap of asking: "Was it worth it?"

That question was immediately suggested by the contrast between the shining new pavilions of the Exhibition and the shattered buildings and dusty streets of Wroclaw. But the Exhibition itself, we found, provided the answer.

We started our tour by visiting the section dealing with the ancient Polish inhabitation of the Regained Territories. This consisted of relics of Polish architecture, pictorial histories of battles fought between the Germans and the Poles, and a whole array of exhibits proving historical Polish claims to this territory.

The two hours spent in the next pavilion taught us more about Poland than anything we had previously seen or read, for here was compressed the whole story of the destruction and rebuilding of the Regained Territories. The entrance hall was simple and starkly realistic: German helmets lined the walls and in the middle of the floor was a stone commemorating the liberation of Poland by the Red Army, surrounded by a trench filled with rusty and broken German war weapons. This was Poland after the liberation—liberty achieved at an enormous sacrifice

and a new life to be built from the ruins of war.

Of the statistics given on the destruction caused by the war, one figure sticks in our memory, the fact that 70 per cent. of the whole area of the Regained Territories had to be cleared of mines before work could begin.

The transition from destruction to reconstruction was demonstrated by means of a short cinema show given at regular intervals depicting the old life and the new life in the Regained Territories. From here onwards, the pavilion was devoted to illustrating the energetic

by

**Tom Elliott**

way in which this territory was repopulated and rebuilt and the vital part it plays in Polish economy.

It could be clearly seen that Poland is aiming at a balanced economy, rapid agricultural and industrial development, with a high standard of living for its own people and a good surplus for export. The Polish visitor must derive enormous satisfaction from the prospects sketched before him. He can see that in two years' time the calorific value of his food will be greatly increased, he will be able to buy more textiles, more shoes, consume more electricity and coal, and enjoy increased educational and social facilities, with no fear of slumps or unemployment.

The more prosaic sections of the Exhibition dealing with the industrial production of today, showed nothing that was new to a British visitor—but when we remembered that trench of broken German weapons, the huge lathes and high tension electrical gear seemed miraculous.

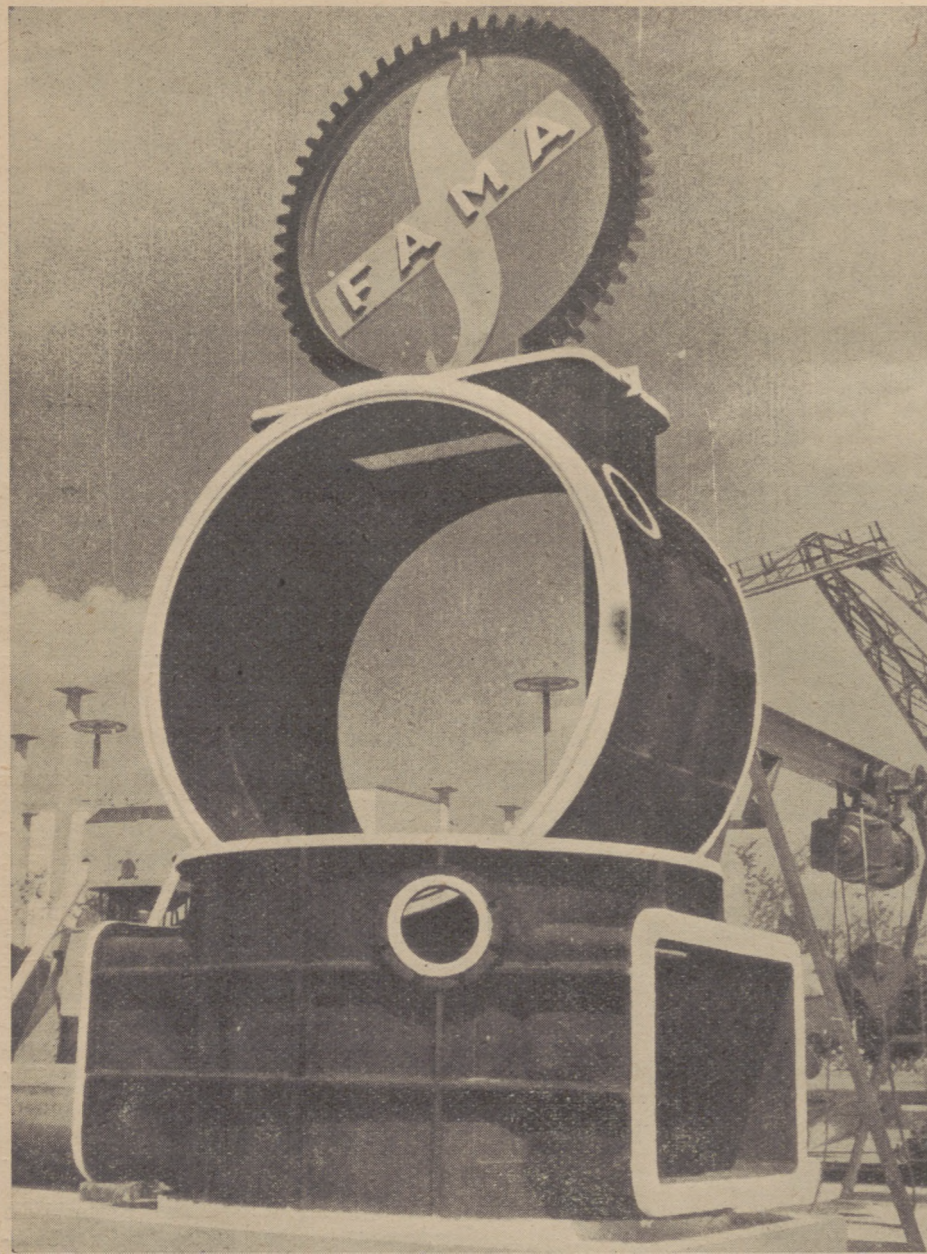
## Western Lands' Big Part in Production

*The vital part which the Regained Territories play in Polish economy today, and their relative unimportance in the economy of pre-war Germany, are strikingly shown by official figures released recently.*

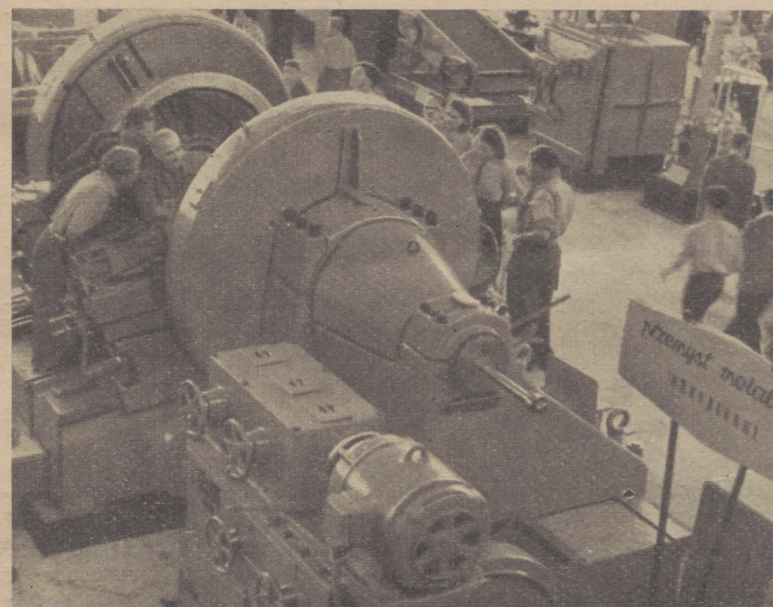
*Before the war, industry in the Regained Territories represented only 7 per cent. of German industry's total value. The industry employed only 9.5 per cent. of the total German labour force. The economy of these territories represented scarcely 10 per cent. of the whole German economy.*

*But, in 1947, the Regained Territories supplied 33 per cent. of the total Polish coal output, 30 per cent. of the total pig-iron, 17 per cent. of the raw steel, 64 per cent. of the total steel constructional work, 36 per cent. of the total electric power, 40 per cent. of fuel gas, 15 per cent. of the total textiles, 36 per cent. of the total cotton fabrics, 20 per cent. of the metal and engineering industry, 22 per cent. of the paper industry, 29 per cent. of the sugar, 37 per cent. of the wood industry, 19 per cent. of the cement output.*

*The Regained Territories supply 50 per cent. of Polish exports.*



HEAVY INDUSTRY is symbolised in this giant casting.



POLISH-MADE MACHINES on view in the Industrial Pavilion.



"LABOUR"—a group by sculptor Kowalika.



INITIALS of the Exhibition's title, built from strips of cement.



SHY YOUNG VISITORS are ready with bouquets at the opening.



## THEATRE

# HAMLET in POLISH

by  
Major A. S. Hooper

TO SEE A PLAY IN A LANGUAGE OF which you don't understand one word isn't so silly as it sounds. For the play I saw on this my first visit to Poland was Hamlet—the one hundredth performance, produced by Szyfman, in one of the few rebuilt theatres in devastated Warsaw.

Since I was the only Englishman in the theatre that night, I had the high honour of being invited to the celebration party on the stage after the show. There, surrounded by the players in their stage dresses, and all the staff of the theatre, Szyfman made a little speech which was translated for me. Szyfman pointed out that the success was not due to the producer and players only, but to the teamwork of all the staff. And then we all drank a toast to further successes and to reaching the two hundredth performance.

Although I know no Polish, I do know my Hamlet pretty well, and so was able to concentrate on the acting, the movements, the stage placing and the scene settings. The acting was beautifully restrained, although in life the Poles gesticulate almost as much as the French. Only Polonius seemed to this Englishman to use more action than I am accustomed to seeing, and this was no doubt right for a Polish audience. Hamlet, an experienced actor, though young, was superb. His restraint throughout only served to emphasise his final outburst of fury in the killing of the King.

The scenery was quite the most artistic of the many productions of Hamlet which I have seen. Of course, the music of Shakespeare's own words needs as little scenery as he used himself in his own

day. But this scenery was not obtrusive and helped as a background. In the final duel scene, Szyfman had used a stage with very little depth but the full width, and this seemed to emphasise the tragic note as the bodies lay strewn along the ground, with Hamlet in the centre, collapsing with his dying words to Horatio. Thanks to a clever system of lighting, the castle of Elsinore looked real and solid stone and the interior marble was as beautiful and cold as real marble.

### PACKED HOUSE

The house was packed; the audience seated in wide and comfortable seats, with room to pass between the rows, and well-tiered to give a clear view for all. The lights of the theatre were slowly lowered till we were in pitch darkness for a few moments, then a gradual illumination showed the first scene, the ramparts of Elsinore Castle. The curtain had been lifted without a sound. The scenes were changed throughout by this method of quiet darkening and gradual lighting on the next scene. The sets are put on a revolving stage. Five scene sets can be put ready and then can be changed as the stage moves round.

I don't think that the delivery and acting of Olivier in our film of Hamlet could be surpassed, but the producer could learn from this Polish production to make the background less predominant and more artistic. And as for the ghost, the cinema with all its advantages should certainly ask Szyfman how he produced such a perfect effect by mere lighting.

Szyfman kindly gave me photographs of the production. When I asked what he

would like that I could give him, he replied: "A book in English on stage work for Shakespeare."

So ended a memorable evening when I was very proud of being English and pleased that, as an Englishman, I was so warmly welcomed by this happy band of brothers of the stage.

Naturally, I thought this must be the cream of Polish drama and was not a little surprised to hear that the first prize in Poland had been gained by Shakespeare's *Tempest*. This had been produced by the theatre of Lodz, the Manchester of Poland. Truly, the Poles are an artistic nation and great lovers of the drama.

### CINEMA TAKES SECOND PLACE

THE NUMBER OF THEATRES IN WARSAW is steadily increasing. Three new ones were built last year. Today, the city has fourteen theatres—and only six cinemas.

In the whole of Poland, there are now 77 theatres. Forty are "straight" theatres, five are opera houses, six are used mainly for light opera and musical comedies, 24 are young people's theatres and two are travelling theatres.

The Vice-Minister for Culture and Art recently announced that 24 of the existing theatres are to be State-supported. Subsidies would also be granted to municipal and private theatres in the big theatrical centres. Another form of Government aid would be the removal of entertainment tax from theatre tickets.

NEW POLAND

## "No Iron Curtain for Trade Unionists"

— Say Visiting Polish Leaders

"WE FIND THAT THERE IS NO IRON curtain between British and Polish trade unionists when they get together."

That was the summing-up of Mr. Szymon Dobrzynski, Press Officer of the Central Commission of Trade Unions (Poland's T.U.C.) after a three weeks' visit to Britain last month.

He and his companion, Mr. Tomasz Brykalski, deputy chairman of the Polish Seamen's Union, had attended a school on trade unionism in Britain held by the British Council. Afterwards, under the auspices of the British-Polish Society, they made a quick tour of firms producing goods for Poland in the Newcastle area and at Manchester, where they attended a meeting of the Trades Council.

By the end of their visit, they had studied and discussed British trade unionism at the school, seen it in action at branch and trades council level, and had a number of informal talks with area officials. And the chief impression which they brought away with them was of the friendliness of their fellow trade unionists in Britain and their readiness, once the facts were put to them fairly, to appreciate the Polish unions' achievements.

"We found many misunderstandings here about the trade unions in Poland," Mr. Dobrzynski told me, "but they came from incorrect or insufficient information. Always, when we explained the facts, it was different. There was great applause wherever we lectured."

### MORE EXCHANGES

Mr. Brykalski—who learned to know Britain when he sailed from British ports throughout the war—confirmed this.

Their conclusion was that British and Polish trade unionists should learn more of each other by every possible means.

"There must be more mutual exchange of information about our movements," said Mr. Dobrzynski. "We want the British to send us material from every trade union—we would do the same. We want to develop exchanges of delegations by sending delegates to the congresses of national trade unions and to all occasions of importance. We in Poland would be happy to encourage that."

Questions put to the visitors at an informal reception and Press conference on the eve of their return were, they told me, fairly typical of those asked by British trade unionists whom they had

met. Here are some, with the answers:

*What is your membership today, compared with pre-war?* Pre-war, 941,000 under divided leadership. Today, a united movement with over 3,200,000 members.

*Is there equal pay for equal work?* Yes, everywhere.

*How many women are trade unionists?* Over 600,000—90 per cent. of the total of women employed.

*How long is the working week?* In some industries, 44 hours, in others 46—we work five days and an "English Saturday."

*Is the "closed shop" enforced?* No, but only a very small proportion of workers choose to remain unorganised.

*Why? Is the non-unionist penalised?* No, but naturally he does not enjoy the substantial advantages of union member-

ship, such as additional benefits during sickness, holiday benefits and cheap cinema and theatre tickets.

*Is there any political discrimination in the unions?* No, except that active Fascists have no right to belong to any society, including trade unions.

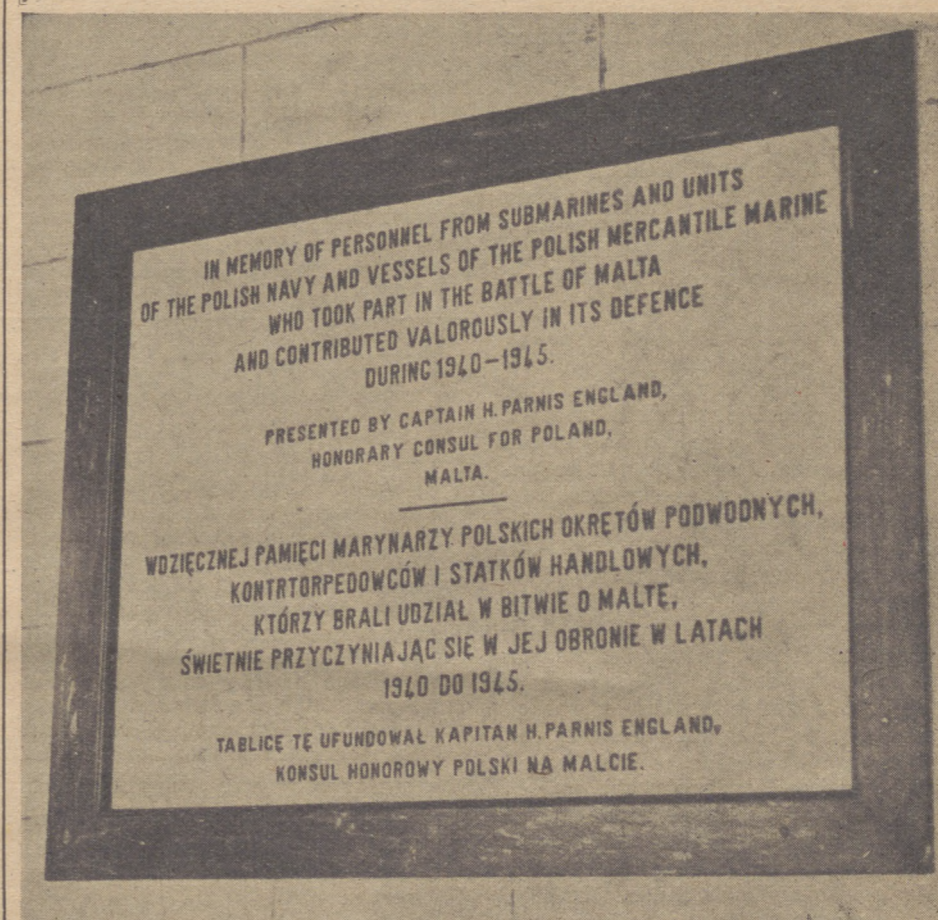
*How high are trade union dues?* One per cent. of wages.

### WAGES ON A PAR

At the reception, Mr. Brykalski had a long talk with three officials of the British National Union of Seamen. Afterwards, Mr. James, a national organiser of the Union, said: "We, as British seamen's representatives, are perfectly satisfied with the answers to the questions we have put to you. Your wages and conditions are on a par with those we have in Great Britain."

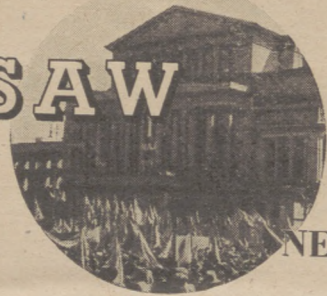
A.S.L.

## TRIBUTE TO POLISH SEAMEN



This plaque, commemorating the part played by Polish naval and merchant seamen in the defence of Malta, was unveiled recently.

# WARSAW



## NEWSLETTER

WARSAW, August.

**B**READ HAS MADE NEWS HERE, LATELY. And the news has been good. For the last three months, the slight fluctuations on the grain market have been *exactly the reverse* of what used to happen before the war and immediately after it.

In June, there was a small but significant fall in the price of bread that made everybody sit up: it was, in fact, an enormous achievement for the Government.

Before the war, the price of flour and cereals regularly went up just before the harvest. By then, most peasants had consumed their stores; rich farmers and middlemen who had stocked grain could charge what they liked.

I saw something of the kind happen last year, too: by mid-day, in June, 1947, bread used to disappear from the shops. The number of old *babas* (peasant women) hawking bread in house porches increased as it became scarce; they charged fancy prices for their fancy bread.

Why did the price of bread go down, this year at the same period? Because the Government had managed to have a surplus; besides, it now has at its disposal an adequate distributive machinery that enables it to release large quantities of grain if necessary.

Just before the harvest, judging from the conversations, you would have thought yourself in the heart of the country, not in Poland's capital. Was the rain going to stop at last? Everyone from Cabinet Minister to taxi-driver, was on tenterhooks to know whether the harvest would be good and whether Poland would achieve grain self-sufficiency this year.

Well, a bumper crop has been gathered. Under the pre-war regime, this would certainly have meant a sharp fall in the price of grain. Up to the ears in debt, having gone very short of food since their potatoes and rye had run out, the poorer peasants would sell their grain as soon as they had gathered it. As there were

far more poor peasants than rich farmers, the bottom dropped out of the grain market. A good harvest made things only worse.

Nothing of the kind has happened this year. Before the harvest was over, the State announced its intention of buying rye and wheat directly from the producers at almost the same price as a month before. The peasants will reap the fruits of their labour and be convinced by experience that farming pays in the new Poland.

As for us town-dwellers, we prefer the price of grain to remain stable knowing that it means guaranteed rations and plenty of free market bread.

As yet, there is no talk of lifting the bread ration. Not that we do so badly on what we get. For a family of four, we receive a monthly fifteen pounds of wheat flour with which not-very-brown bread can be baked for the children, in addition to the rye bread which we get on the bread ration.

This year, Poland will no longer need

to import grain; she will even send a little barley abroad. So it won't take many good harvests to lift bread rationing.

Have you ever seen a French *quatorze juillet*? Well, this year, on July 22, Poland's National Day, the same atmosphere of carefree celebration was to be found in Warsaw and in all other Polish towns.

The fun started in the morning, when children dressed in the colourful Cracow costume recited and sang to adults; elsewhere, they danced, and in Warsaw's largest park they were given free donkey rides. Grown-ups went in for light athletics; football matches were played in spite of the 32 degrees Centigrade in the shade. In the afternoon the crowds, in their best New Look dresses or smartest shirts, strolled from coconut shies to lucky dips, stopping on the way for a soft drink or an ice, sold everywhere at very reasonable prices. (Incidentally, I didn't see a single case of drunkenness during the whole day.)

As evening fell, the whole of Warsaw started dancing near the bands that had arrived everywhere, on the Vistula banks, in the parks, in every square: young and old, respectable mothers of families and teen-agers in cotton prints and short socks, portentous gentlemen and young "in service to Poland" recruits who had been given special leave for that evening; swing and polkas, waltzes, mazurkas and blues—they would try everything. When they were tired, dancers could go to free open-air cinema shows, watch tap dancing or listen to variety singers. Finally, a shower of coloured stars lit up the July sky and the guns boomed to mark the end of a perfect day. J.P.R.

## For the Record: *Some of Poland's international activities during the past month.*

**P**OLAND'S APPREHENSIONS UPON THE policy for Germany laid down at the London Six-Power Conference, have not been removed by the British reply to her Note of protest. This was stated in a further Note handed to the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bevin, by the Polish Ambassador in London on July 30, and published last month.

The Polish Note rejected the British contention that Poland's refusal to take part in E.R.P. discharged Britain from the obligation to take into consideration Poland's interests and her views upon German problems. Under "E.R.P.," it added, the economy of States which were victims of German aggression would be subordinated to the recovery of Western Germany.

In a Note delivered to the Secretary-General of the Council of Foreign Ministers on August 7, the Polish Government

advocated the placing of the former Italian colonies under the trusteeship of the Italian Republic and the United Nations. It also supported Abyssinia's claims to an outlet to the sea in Eritrea.

Poland has asked that the British authorities in Germany should not legalise the Refugee Law passed recently by the Landtag of North Rhine-Westphalia. This law declares that an end could be put to refugees' adverse conditions once and for all only by their return to what it calls "the German Eastern territories."

New Polish-Turkish trade and payment agreements were signed in Ankara recently. Goods which Poland will supply to Turkey include agricultural machinery, chemicals, paper and sugar. Among those she will receive in return are raw wool, cotton and hides.

NEW POLAND

## TRAINING TO-MORROW'S SAILORS

"**S**HE'S A LOVELY SHIP" THEY SAID IN Liverpool, and when it comes to ships Liverpool knows quite a bit. She's lovely by any standard, a fine, full-rigged, three-master, lofty and graceful in rig, and with a shapely steel hull able to withstand the heaviest seas. She is the "Dar Pomorza", the training ship of the Polish Merchant Navy, and she came into Liverpool a few weeks ago and stayed for a week.

Probably the best-equipped sailing ship afloat today, the sixteen hundred ton "Dar Pomorza" combines the traditional beauty of the best in sailing craft with the most efficient in modern sea-going equipment. She has radar, radio-telephone, "asdic," echo-sounding gear and telephone inter-communication. Her auxiliary oil engines run generators which provide current for this equipment and for electric light, fans and other equipment throughout the ship—to say nothing of the "frig" (old-time windjammer sailors would probably put that first in importance). Everything that the modern sailor needs to know he can learn on this ship, and the 168 cadets aboard are really keen lads, more than willing to learn.

### CADET TO CAPTAIN

Thirty-nine-year-old Captain Stefan Gorozdawski commands the "Dar Pomorza." He began his sea career twenty years ago as a cadet on this same ship! He speaks perfect English. ("A sailor without English is a lost man," he says.) His uniform bears British war ribbons; this in common with ten of the twelve officers on the ship (the other two wear the tattooed numbers of the German concentration camps on their arms), and his war story is typical of many Polish sailors. He escaped from Poland in April, 1940, and got to France, but was just in time to meet the collapse there. He got out of Paris two hours before the Germans came in and made his way to Casablanca. There he found two small Polish ships and, with one other officer and scratch crews, took them to Gibraltar and thence to Liverpool, arriving there on July 27, 1940, eight years, almost to the day, before his arrival with the "Dar Pomorza." He served with the Polish Navy under British command till the end of the war and then returned to Poland. Now, he trains cadets on the ship that trained him, cadets who will be officers in the new Polish Merchant Navy.

The new territorial changes resulting from the war have meant a tenfold

(Continued at foot of next column)

SEPTEMBER 1948



From a Special Correspondent

Warsaw, August 18.

**F**OR THE LAST TEN DAYS, WARSAW HAS been subjected to a very friendly, multi-coloured and multi-lingual invasion. Young men and women from all over the world have met here for the first International Conference, since its formation in 1945, of the World Federation of Democratic Youth.

The Conference was attended by nearly 500 delegates from 47 countries.

The Polish youth organisations, acting as hosts and organisers, have worked for months to make this conference a success. The Conference received a very sincere message of welcome from President Bierut and Poland's Minister of Labour, in person, welcomed the delegates on behalf of the Government.

The streets of Warsaw, trams and buses were beflagged in honour of this event. Banners with slogans in four languages were to be seen everywhere.

The Conference started with a very colourful march of the delegates through the streets to the Roma Hall for the opening ceremony. The British delegates received a lot of applause during the march as they were led by Steve Peaston, Scottish Miners' representative, complete with kilt and bagpipes, which he played well and heroically, in spite of the intense heat.

expansion in the Polish coastline, the acquisition of four new ports and the opportunity to provide maritime trade links for the other Central European countries. To meet this, Poland plans to expand her Merchant Navy fleet as rapidly as possible. Apart from shipping recovered after the war, and that allocated to her under reparations agreements, she is building six ships in her own Gdynia shipyards and has five on order in British yards at the present time. The biggest problem in this expansion has been provision of trained crews and particularly trained officers, and it is this job that the "Dar Pomorza" is doing now. Her combination of the man-testing regime of sail with modern, scientific, navigational equipment and the keenness of her officers, crew and cadets, will make sure of the job being well done.

F.L.F.

## Warsaw's Welcome to World Youth

The march was led by the fighting youth of Greece, Spain, Indonesia and China, while the Polish Youth organisations brought up the rear.

The hall which the delegates entered was, as one of the British delegates said to me, "the most beautiful and most tasteful hall I have ever seen, and I have seen some in my time." It really was a revelation. The flags of all nations were draped at the sides of the hall; at the back, a white Polish eagle against a group of Polish flags made an arresting picture. But the outstanding feature was the execution of the emblem of the Federation, which hung, discreetly illuminated, above the platform. Flowers, of course, were everywhere, white and red gladioli.

### SYMBOL OF HOPE

Guy de Boisson, the president, opening the conference, declared that it was symbolic and significant that the Federation, whose aim is to unite youth in the fight for peace and a better life, should have chosen Warsaw for its first International Conference. Warsaw, that tortured and mutilated city, whose reconstruction astonished the whole world, represented now a symbol of hope and confidence in the future. The future was the responsibility of youth and the aim of the Federation was to unite the youth of all lands, colours and creeds, in the fight for lasting peace.

During its ten days' work, the Conference passed resolutions laying down the basic demands of young people everywhere—the right to work under proper conditions, to adequate leisure and education; the right to vote and to be elected and to organise in bodies of their own choosing; the right to freedom from any discrimination on grounds of race, colour or belief.

The British delegation included representatives of the Welsh and Scottish miners, the Electrical Trades Union, the L.C.C. Youth Committee, the International Students and the W.F.D.Y. itself.

POSTSCRIPT: *Where there is youth there is love. American girl met Polish boy at International Youth Festival, Prague, 1947; they marry at International Conference, Warsaw, 1948.*

Page Thirteen





"OLYMPIC SYMPHONY"  
COMPOSER

THE "OLYMPIC SYMPHONY," WHICH won the supreme award of an Olympic Gold Medal for Professor Zbigniew Turski, is one of the two works of this young Polish composer which are still in existence.

All of Professor Turski's pre-war and war-time compositions were destroyed during the Warsaw Uprising, among them a symphony, a piano concerto and a violin quartet.

When I talked to Professor Turski in London last month, I found that, naturally enough, he did not like to recall those bitter days of the German occupation, when he had to earn his living as best he could in an atmosphere which made any free or creative work almost impossible. But I found that even these experiences had not made him lose his sense of humour.

"After all," he interrupted me, "I am not a hero. My most heroic deed during the Warsaw insurrection was to make a slam in diamonds while I was sitting on the top floor during one of the most heavy night-bombing attacks. That," he added with a half-serious smile, "was my first big slam in life."

About his Olympic success, he was typically modest. "I was really surprised when I heard that my composition had been awarded first place," he told me.

Of the fact that the Olympic Symphony was not performed at the Games, Professor Turski said: "It was a great disappointment to me—and I'm sure it will be to all the people of Poland."

Born in Warsaw in 1908, Professor Turski completed his studies at the Warsaw Conservatoire in 1937 under Professor Rytel. He is now working on a violin concerto and teaching in the State School of Drama in Warsaw. J.C.

Scots Diary

by

John Cartwright

(Our Scottish Correspondent)

AMONG THOSE INVITED TO THE WORLD Congress of Intellectuals at Wroclaw, is that famous Scotsman, Sir John Boyd Orr.

Sir John Boyd Orr is regarded by many as the greatest living Scotsman, and Scotsmen the world over are proud of him. He is so well known that comment is superfluous.

Upwards of 130 guests, including representatives of most of the nationalities of Europe, assembled at the Polish Consulate in Glasgow to celebrate Poland's National Day on July 22. Major Stanislaw Teliga, Polish Consul in Glasgow, presided.

In a short address, Major Teliga quoted aptly from the Manifesto issued on July 22, 1944, by the National Committee of Liberation when the Polish and Russian Armies entered Polish soil for the first time after five years of Nazi occupation. The quotation is as follows:

*"Brotherhood in arms, consecrated in the blood spilled against the German aggressors, must make ever deeper our friendship, and cement*



SCOTLAND'S GIFT ARRIVES: Polish Minister of Health Michejda and the British Ambassador in Warsaw headed this party which inspected the six ambulances presented to Poland by the Scottish Branch of the British Red Cross Society.

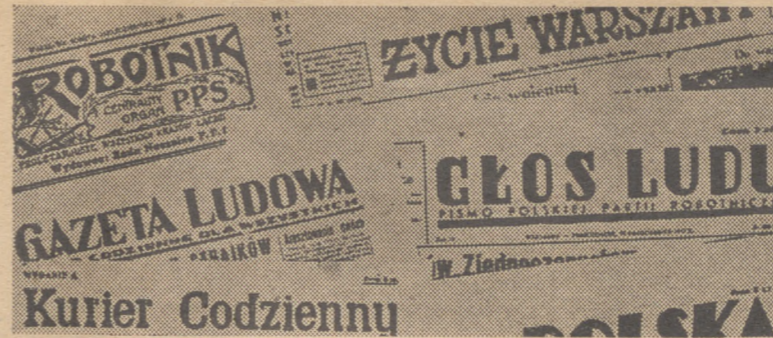
our alliance with Great Britain and the United States of America. Poland will strive to cultivate our traditional friendship and alliance with re-born France, as well as co-operating with all democratic countries of the world.

It was fitting after Major Teliga's address that he should propose the toast: "For the future of Poland and the peace of the world."

This was suitably replied to by Admiral Sir James Troupe, who declared that the desire for peace actuated Britain's policy in world affairs.

At the reception it was a pleasure to meet again Colonel Arthur, of the Scottish Red Cross, a man of character and kindness. Lord Inverclyde was present and our friends of the British Council were also there. Miss Betty Ferguson represented the British Broadcasting Corporation. It was a graceful gesture also to invite six of the staff of the Croft Body Building Engineering Company, the firm that built the mobile ambulances, referred to in this correspondence last month.

Moving tirelessly among the guests was Kurt Matuszick; for years a well-informed and lovable member of the Consulate staff in Glasgow. Many of us have since learned with regret that he has left Scotland for his native land. Contrasted with the leaden skies and impure atmosphere of Glasgow, who could grudge him the sunshine, the blue skies and the clean pure air of Poland. Long may he enjoy it. The good wishes of all who knew him in Glasgow accompany him to whatever future awaits him in his Fatherland.



Polish-Czech Co-operation

On Polish-Czechoslovak co-operation: "The results of the second session of the Polish-Czechoslovak co-operation council are far-reaching. They pave the way for large-scale industry on Slav territory which will counterbalance German industry, a factor always dangerous to peace. The Katowice-Ostrava basin will be on an equal level with the Ruhr. This will be Poland's and Czechoslovakia's greatest contribution to European recovery. Not dependence on other rich countries, but untiring effort for reconstruction as equal and sovereign nations, will lead us to our objective."—DZIENNIK POLSKI.

Two Kinds of Recovery

"There are two conceptions of European recovery. One tends to revive pre-war Europe, with Germany as one of the dominating countries. The second one aims at the shifting of the centre of gravity of European economy from Germany to other countries, thus preventing German aggression. Polish-Czechoslovak co-operation is carried into practice in accordance with the second conception. It will contribute to the economic independence of Eastern Europe."—ZYCIE WARSZAWY.

Labour Olympiad?

"Olympic records are praiseworthy and interesting. But there are other champions whose feats, though more important, are not applauded. Forty-year-old Felicja Matczak, a spinner and mother of three children, reached 373 per cent. of her production norm. She, too, has broken a world record yet she is not famous. Judging by British and French output figures, the Polish miner, Cyron, beat the world coal mining record when he raised over 700 per cent. of his norm in July. If a world labour Olympiad were organised, we would certainly be among the winners in individual and team competitions. We would like to suggest an annual honorary reward for the best miner, foundry and textile worker, engine driver, musician, sculptor and scholar."—ZYCIE WARSZAWY.

Aims for the West

"The national economic plan has set the following aims for industrial planning in the Regained Territories: the unification of the industries of the Regained Territories with those of the rest of Poland; the rebuilding of the production of raw materials, export and capital

GUIDE TO THE PRESS

ZYCIE WARSZAWY:	Non-party, Liberal.
GLOS LUDU:	Organ of the Polish Workers' Party (P.P.R.).
DZIENNIK LUDOWY:	Peasant Party.
DZIS I JUTRO:	Catholic Weekly.
ROBOTNICZY PRZEGLAD	
GOSPODARCZY:	Trade union monthly.
TRYBUNA WOLNOSCI:	P.P.R. weekly.

THE POLISH PRESS SAYS

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

goods; the reconstruction of communications on the Oder with a view to the needs of Poland and the Danube basin; the modernisation of obsolete industrial plants; the uniform location of industry tending to disperse crowded centres; the supply and schooling of cadres."—ROBOTNICZY PRZEGLAD GOSPODARCZY.

Catholics and Youth

On the International Youth Conference: "We have watched, with sympathy, these first steps towards real world unity which is one of the most important principles of Christian universalist thought."—DZIS I JUTRO.

No Ivory Tower

"The World Congress of Intellectuals will not be an isolated gathering of snobs meeting in an ivory tower. The participants in the Congress will be connected with their peoples not only by radio waves, telegraph and telephone but—what is most important—by ties of common thoughts and feelings, of common aspirations and common action."—TRYBUNA WOLNOSCI.

"The best intellects of Europe and America will meet to raise their voice in defence of peace. The Congress will prove the unity of world culture denying all barriers or curtains. The Congress is a symbol of a peaceful co-operation of nations. Peace and progress are in conflict with imperialism and neo-Fascism. Such a situation demands that those who feel the moral responsibility for their generation should clearly define their stand."—GLOS LUDU.

Emigrants Return

"Poland is becoming a country which can accommodate former emigrants. The newcomers from France have been granted 25 acres each in the Regained Territories, while in France they lived in want. Seventy thousand Polish peasants still in France write letters expressing their homesickness and ardent wish to return home."—DZIENNIK LUDOWY.

POLISH-BULGARIAN PRESS AGREEMENT

A Polish-Bulgarian agreement on the exchange of Press information and co-operation between the Polish Press Agency (P.A.P.) and the Bulgarian Telegraphic Agency (B.T.A.) has been signed in Sofia, it was announced last month.

The Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister, Eugen Kamenov, and representatives of the Bulgarian daily papers and the Polish Legations in Sofia were present. The Polish and Bulgarian representatives, in their addresses, stressed the necessity for co-operation between the two nations, which would contribute to mutual understanding and closer friendship.

Journalist's Tribute

"I am convinced that everything we have seen illustrates not only the efforts of the Polish settlers, but testifies to the way in which the whole Polish nation is putting its shoulder to the wheel."

This tribute was paid by Joel Cang, president of the Foreign Journalists' Union, after foreign journalists had visited the Wroclaw Exhibition at the invitation of Vice-Minister Kosciński.

"The Polish people," continued Cang, "can justly be proud of their achievements. I was struck by the comparison made by Vice-Minister Kosciński, who contrasted the use formerly made of industry in these territories with that made today. Under the Germans, the industry of the Regained Territories served war and a policy of aggression — today, it works for the cause of peace. We must keep this in mind. Whenever I write on this Exhibition, I shall not forget to impress on my readers that the Exhibition represents work for peace."

## Poland and the United Nations

(Continued from page ii)

to every Pole, the United Nations, representing the universal interest in the maintenance of peace and security, likewise represents the primary basic interests of the Polish nation.

The war has taught us that only by the common efforts of all nations, small and large, can we maintain and guarantee the peace. At the same time we learned that the role in maintaining the peace varies and that much more responsibility in this matter is to be assumed by the Big Powers. This is the lesson of life in the gravest hour of our nation, much stronger than any theory evolved in the schools. It was, therefore, our desire to continue this new form of international collaboration, born in our common fight against the enemy of humanity and embodied in the structure of the United Nations, and in the special function of the Security Council and of the Permanent Members of the Council. We recognised that at the very basis of the organisation of the United Nations lies the principle of understanding and compromise. This is the only way the United Nations can work and achieve their purposes. Therefore, whenever possible, my Delegation has attempted to bring about such com-

promise and understanding, and always—although often in vain—pleaded for understanding . . .

Poland demanded an effective disarmament and an effective control of weapons of mass destruction. Having started disarmament in our own country, we submitted plans for both disarmament of conventional weapons and control of atomic energy. Instead, we find that no progress has been made, that atomic bombs are being manufactured and stock-piled, that experiments with new weapons are being continued, and the threat of bacteriological war is becoming real. We wanted to end the war of nerves which was started on August 5, 1945, by the blast in Hiroshima and which since has been fought in the hearts and minds of the common people of the world.

We note with regret the attempt to eliminate differences between aggressors and victims . . . New criteria are being advanced and from them stem the claims for help and reconstruction of Germany at a time when her victims are being barred from most needed commodities . . . If it is possible today on this side of the Atlantic to think of war, I say, that the very thought of war is beyond

the realm of possibility to my people, who twice in one generation saw world war and occupation; it is equally inconceivable to the men and women of Warsaw who are being denied mechanical tools and must, with their bare hands, remove the rubble from their streets. That is why we say that there is no return to a Germany which may again become a centre of future aggression.

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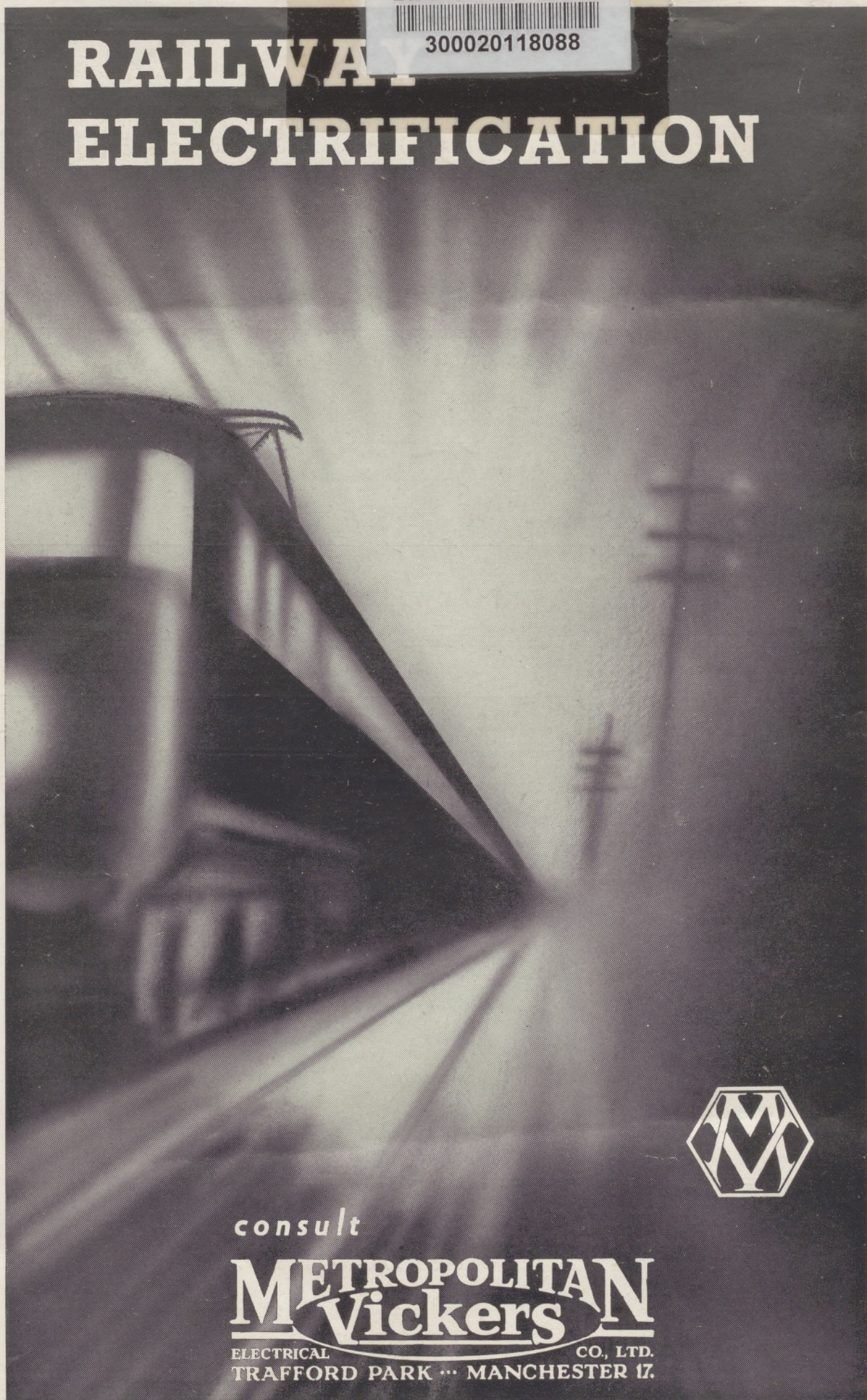
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