

Biblioteka
Główna
UMK Toruń

016929 / 1949 / 4

9/4

07600 I a / 176
nr. 11 III a / 11, 1

NEW POLAND



Bringing in the Harvest—Story on Page 5

**OCTOBER
1949**

Monthly 6d.

**IN THIS
ISSUE**

**BRITISH CYCLISTS IN POLAND
RECORD HARVEST**

A FIRST VIEW — John Platts-Mills, M.P.

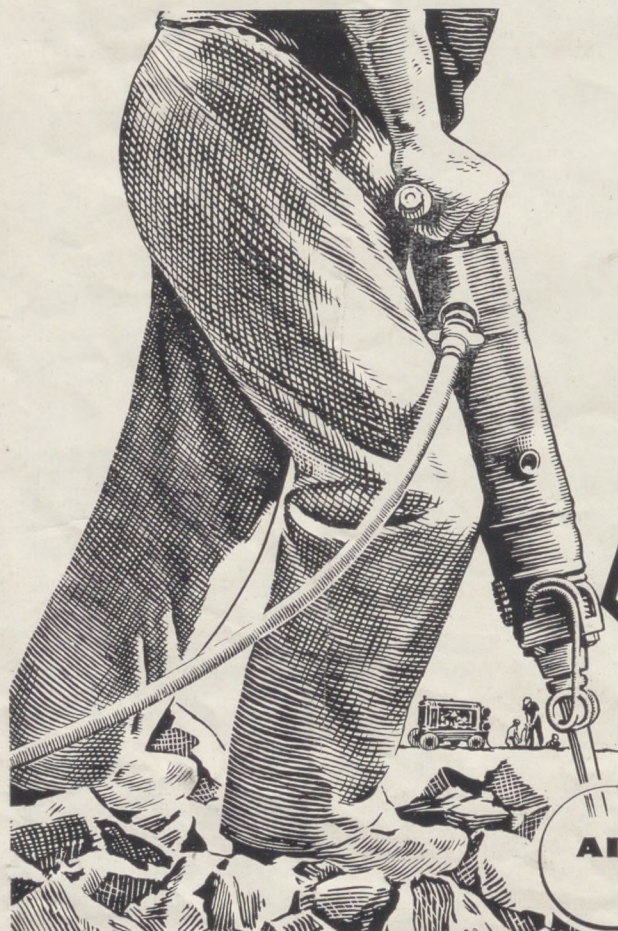


Diesel-electric Locomotives Nos. 10,000/1 each equipped with 'English Electric' 1,600 h.p. diesel engine and generator, traction motors and control gear, operating on the London Midland Region of British Railways.

' ENGLISH ELECTRIC ' traction equipment

is in service throughout the world including Poland

THE ENGLISH ELECTRIC COMPANY LTD.
TRACTION DEPARTMENT - BRADFORD
 Works: Stafford · Preston · Rugby · Bradford · Liverpool



You need the
A.W. POWER-PLUS
140 BREAKER
for that TOUGH JOB

This tool gives outstanding performance for concrete breaking and excavation work in hard materials. It delivers consistently rapid blows, yet is remarkably free from vibration. Supplied to use either 1 1/4 inch or 1 1/2 inch steels. For lighter work and for ripping, type 139 Breaker is recommended.

Write for our fully illustrated catalogue.

ARMSTRONG WHITWORTH
 Air Compressors by **AIR PUMPS LTD.** Pneumatic Tools by **ARMSTRONG WHITWORTH & CO. (Pneumatic Tools) LTD.**
 LONDON

CENTRAL SALES OFFICE, CLOSE WORKS, GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE, ENGLAND.
 Telephone: Gateshead 71261. Cables & Grams— "CLOSEWORK", Gateshead-on-Tyne.

016929

NEW POLAND

ANGLO-DAL LIMITED

IMPERIAL HOUSE, 84-86 REGENT STREET,
 - - - - LONDON, W.1. - - - -

Importers and Exporters

REPRESENTATIVES OF
 VARIOUS POLISH EXPORT-IMPORT ORGANISATIONS

Cables: ANGLODAL LONDON Telegrams: ANGLODAL PICCY LONDON
 Telephone: REGENT 6030 (10 lines)

NOVEL FABRICS LTD.

20-22 MADDOX STREET,
 REGENT STREET, LONDON, W. 1

Sole Representatives
 for
MESSRS

CETEBE, LODZ (POLAND)
 (Central Trading Office for Textiles)

★
 Woollens Rayons Furnishings
 Carpets Clothing

★
 Telephone: MAYfair 1028 (3 lines)
 Cables: NOVELREG

UNITED BALTIC CORPORATION LIMITED

Regular Liner Service

LONDON & HULL
 TO
GDYNIA - GDANSK
 and Vice Versa

Issuing through Bills of Lading to and from
SZCZECIN via GDYNIA

Special rates quoted for Traffic destined to
CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HUNGARY, ROUMANIA, & BULGARIA

For further particulars apply:—

UNITED BALTIC CORPORATION LTD.
 158 Fenchurch Street, LONDON, E.C.3.
 Grams: "ORIENTEAKO" LONDON Phone: MANSion House 3311 (8 lines)

Agents at HULL:—

Messrs JOHN GOOD & SONS LTD.
 Telegrams: "GOODSONS," HULL Telephone: CENTral 15779

Agents at GDYNIA:—

POLISH UNITED BALTIC CORPORATION LTD.
 Dom Izby Przemyslowo Handlowej
 Telegrams: "UNIBALTICO," GDYNIA Telephone: 31-52 & 31-21

NEW POLAND

VOL. 4 No. 12

OCTOBER 1949

EDITORIAL BOARD

GORDON SCHAFFER, MME. J. KROTKIEWSKA, AYLMEY VALLANCE

Editor: Arthur Long

Offices: 81, Portland Place, London, W.1.

Telephone: LANgham 6594.

Subscription Rates: 3s. 6d. for six months, 7s. for one year (post free).

Published Monthly

CONTENTS

"Tour of Poland" Patricia Konarek 3	Jewish Culture (interview) Sholem Shtern 12
Record Harvest F. L. Farr 5	Scots Diary 13
Secret of Warsaw's Builders 7	British-Built for Poland (10) 13
New School Year Max Morris 9	Poland's Coal Industry (British miners' report) 14
First View of Poland John Platts-Mills, M.P. 10	Warsaw Newsletter 15
"Others Will Follow You" (film review) 11	British-Polish Society Notes 15

A MISLEADING STATEMENT AT THE T.U.C.

A COMPLETELY MISLEADING STATEMENT upon the position of the Polish miners was made at the annual conference of the Trades Union Congress at Bridlington last month. Its author, Mr. Ernest Jones, spoke without any personal knowledge of Poland. He was answered immediately by two men who had just returned from that country, one of them a fellow official of the National Union of Mineworkers and the other a Member of Parliament who once worked at the coal face in Yorkshire.

The first answer to Mr. Jones was given on the spot by Mr. Abe Moffat, President of the Scottish Area N.U.M., who told the conference bluntly that the statements of Mr. Jones were "not in accordance with the facts."

The second reply came from Mr. John Platts-Mills, M.P., in a letter to the Editor of *The Times*. This letter was not published. We give the text of it below:

Sir,
I observe from your report of the Trades Union Congress that Mr. Ernest Jones, of the Mineworkers' Union, asserted that the capacity of Polish coal to undersell British coal in the world market was due to their employment of women on the surface, of German prisoners underground and of Polish miners at lower wages and for longer hours

than their British comrades. Mr. Sam Watson, speaking earlier in the year at the miners' annual conference, made a similar suggestion and I had the matter in mind during my visit to Poland, from which I have just returned.

I visited five pits in Silesia, spent a shift down each of two and spoke with miners from a dozen different pits when I visited their holiday homes in the Tatras and the Sudeten mountains. My own knowledge of coalmining comes from my experience at the coalface in the Yorkshire field.

I am not in a position to speak with authority of the employment of German prisoners underground in Poland. I did not see it, I did not hear of it and I do not believe it happens. Even if it were the fact I should not blame them, bearing in mind what the Nazis did to Poland. As for the women, my recollection is that we have girls working on the pit top. The Polish women are given the same rate of pay as the men.

The Polish miners have achieved advances since the end of the war that quite eclipse anything that the Mineworkers' Union can point to in this country. Their rents are negligible. They range from a few pence to a few shillings a month. Their annual holidays are graded, reaching a month with full pay after ten years. Every mine has a crèche where the miner's wife, if working, even outside the pit, can leave her children to be cared for free of charge. Half the total mining population have gone this year to holiday homes of the kind I visited. These are great mansions taken over by the unions. The fare is paid by the union and the cost of the holiday to the miner ranges from 5s.

to 10s. a week. In Katowice, which is comparable with Doncaster, there were more goods in the shops and of greater variety than in any other town I visited. In Katowice, too, there is a miners' cultural centre, the like of which has not been conceived in England. Taxation is practically non-existent for the miner. Family allowances, free coal, free milk for infants, special concessions to trade unionists, social insurance, which is entirely free; on all these points their conditions compare more than favourably with the similar position in Great Britain.

In my view Polish mines are mechanised beyond the standard we have yet attained in Great Britain. Skip winding, underground locomotive transport with big wagons and solid stowing by hydraulic power behind the coalface are common form in Silesia. The shift the miners work is not longer than ours.

What really impedes the British industry is the burden of £400 millions of compensation and the deadweight of bureaucratic control by old employers and older trade union officials, both of which have discredited the whole project of nationalisation in the eyes of our miners. These are the problems we need to concern ourselves with.

Yours, etc.,
JOHN PLATTS-MILLS

FOOTNOTE

Mr. Platts-Mills is right in assuming that German prisoners-of-war are no longer employed in Polish pits. The decision to prohibit their employment was taken by the Polish Coal Board last March. The justification for employing Germans to rebuild a mere fraction of what they had destroyed does not need arguing. The main point is that when they were employed they were paid at trade union rates.

Women are also paid the rate for the job—a right which they have not yet secured in the British mining industry. It is incorrect, therefore, to suggest that either prisoners or women were "cheap labour."

To "translate" cash wages at the current rate of exchange is equally misleading. By this method of reckoning, since Mr. Jones made his speech the Polish miner's wage has increased 30 per cent because of the devaluation of the £ sterling. Any calculation of real wages (as the British trade unionist well knows) must take into account how much earnings will buy, how much is deducted from them in taxation and insurance payments and how much is added to them in free or cheap services. Some of these services are mentioned in Mr. Platts-Mills' letter. The Scots miners' delegation, in its official report, estimates that they amount to an addition of 40 per cent to the Polish miners' cash wage.

It is true that Polish coal can "under-cut" British coal in the sense that the Polish industry pays no compensation to the former mineowners. We assume that Mr. Jones does not protest on that score.

—Editor, NEW POLAND

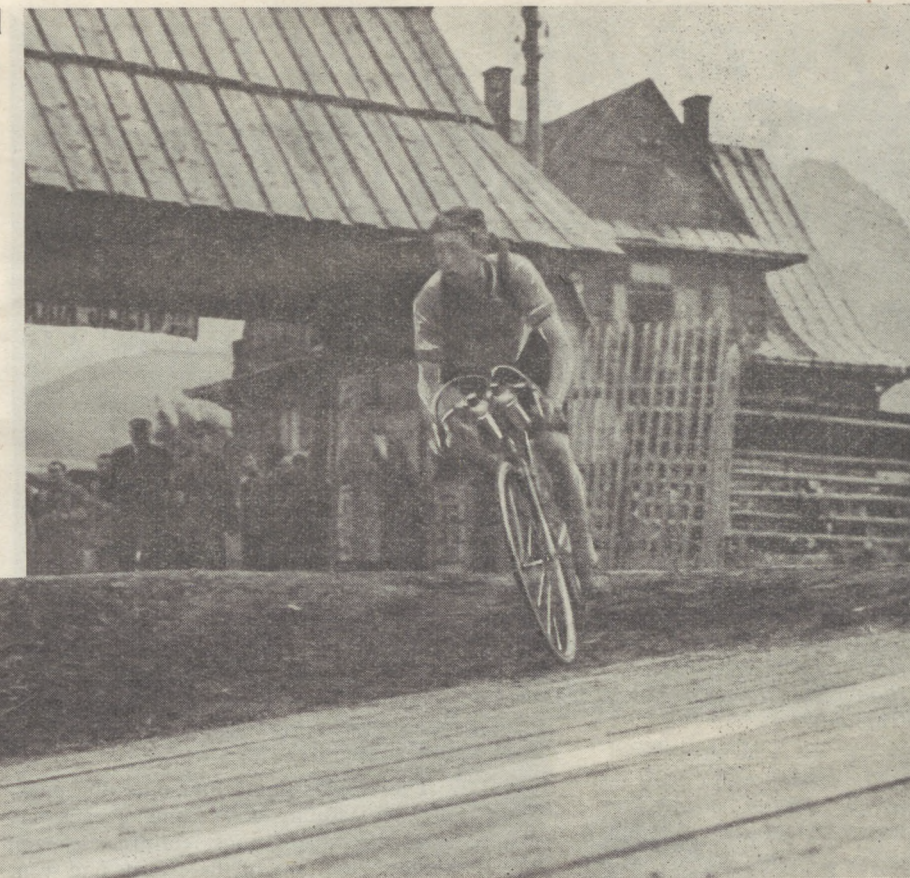
NEW POLAND

British Cyclists Rode Well

Tour of Poland

by

Patricia Konarek



IN THE LEAD: (Right) British rider Geoff Clark going well on the Katowice-Zakopane lap—one of the two which he won before a fall put him out of the race.

TROPHY: (Below) Cup awarded to the British team for securing fourth place in the final classification.

THE SECOND POST-WAR TOUR OF POLAND—or Tour de Pologne—is over. Nowhere else in the world have such wildly enthusiastic crowds gathered to watch a cycle race. And what a race it was! Ten countries took part in this great sporting event and the 120 riders covered a distance of approximately 1,400 miles.

From the British point of view, the Tour was notable for the fact that it was the first occasion on which a British team had competed in a Continental event of this calibre. In these circumstances, the eight men from the British League of Racing Cyclists put up a fine show. They came fourth in the final team placing despite the retirement through injury of their best rider, Geoff Clark, who had won two of the twelve stages. On three of these stages, Britain won the team race.

The whole Tour was organised by four members of the staff of "Czytelnik," the Warsaw publishing house, and the organisation surpassed anything I have ever seen. These four men were helped out in their gigantic task by 5,000 voluntary workers from all over the provinces, while 30,000 militiamen kept the roads open and clear of traffic. Fifteen tons of food (I'm told) was allotted to the competitors, and after talking to the English team I'm quite sure that fifteen tons were consumed.

Polish interest in the race was intense. The Press devoted much space each day

OCTOBER 1949



to describing outstanding events, headlines in red, green or black proclaiming the winners of each lap: *The Englishman Clark First Into Zakopane . . . Olsen of Denmark Wins To-day's Lap . . . Niculescu of Rumania Loses the Yellow Sweater to Spalazzi of Italy.*

I quote two excerpts from *Trybuna*

Ludu, leading Warsaw daily, in which that paper pays tribute to the sportsmanship of the British team:

"Geoffrey Clark of England and Rilgert of France started this lap (Poznan-Wroclaw) at great speed, attaining over forty kilometres an hour. Leading alternatively, they were giving each other drinking water on the way. These were truly sporting moments . . ."

"That which was worthy of particular praise in this lap (the fifth) was the co-operation and mutual aid practised by the British cyclists. Saunders was ill and rode with an obvious effort. For many kilometres, Jones and Parker were helping their colleague, Parker pushing him with one hand from behind and Jones pulling him in front and this is how the three reached the finish."

The teams were housed at the end of each daily stage in some of Poland's best hotels. In Warsaw, they stayed at the Dom Poselski, which is the M.P.s' hotel when the House is in session. Their hotel at Zakopane was the Bristol, holiday home of Poland's leading workers, her "labour champions."

Sight-seeing tours were arranged for the riders on all rest days. This is what two of the Londoners in the British team said after looking round Warsaw: "They did it with carts and horses, too; what couldn't they have done with a couple of

Page Three



START: Members of the British team ready for the starter. Left to right: Kessock, Jones, Parker, Bloomfield, Raines and A. H. Clarke (captain).



FINISH: Karl Bloomfield, "all in" after completing one stage with an injured foot.



RELAXING: Rest day at Zakopane in the Tatra Mountains. Left to right: Bloomfield, Parker, Kessock, team manager P. Stallard and G. Clark.

thought I'd see, in fact, it's something I've never even thought about. At every stopping place we're mobbed like film stars. These crowds in the beginning made our boys nervous, but now they are so used to it that if they didn't have to fight their way through the crowds outside the hotel where we are staying they'd think something was radically wrong. Throughout the tour, we have yet to hear the first hostile word or witness one unfriendly action."

I met the team in Zakopane and spent a day and a half in their company. Geoffrey Clark had won the Katowice-Zakopane lap in fine style, with Olsen of Denmark coming second. Karl Bloomfield, who'd had to change bikes with Saunders, because Saunders punctured, had limped home minus a big toe nail. Yes, he made it, but what it cost him can be seen from the photograph taken after he'd passed the meta (finish).

There are many stories of bad luck to be recorded on the tour and to mention all of them would fill a book, so I will confine myself to those concerning only the Polish and English teams. Geoff Clark broke the front fork of his own bike on the first day; it happened as he rode first into the stadium for the finish, six other riders passed him and he finished seventh. Exactly the same thing happened to the Polish veteran, Napierala, on the last lap. Leading the race into Warsaw, this Warsaw-born boy broke his front fork three or four hundred yards from the tape and lost the lap. The luck of the game, I suppose, but hard luck for all that. Howard Clarke (there were two Clarkes in the British team) strained a back muscle in one lap, but completed the tour, as did Karl Bloomfield with his injured foot.

To crown everything, on the Zakopane-Krakow run Geoffrey Clark, England's hope, had a fall and finished up in hospital with head injuries and a fractured collar bone. Bang went England's chances as a team and bang went Geoffrey Clark's ambition to wear the yellow sweater. It was by no means a vain ambition. Clark had already won two laps and been well placed in others and he was third in the individual's score at the time of this accident.

The English team had two grumbles—Polish roads ("the roughest yet") and Polish tea ("Oh for a cup of tea, like mother makes.")

They also had one very big headache: What would happen at the British Customs when they arrived with all the prizes they had won (92 of them, all told) and no money to pay duty; and how in the first place were they to get all the prizes back to England by plane? I hope that problem worked itself out.

POLAND'S RECORD HARVEST

Despite bad farming weather, Poland has just gathered a harvest heavier than that of the record year 1948. How it was done, how the peasant is reacting to new techniques and what Poland's agricultural programme can mean to Britain are discussed in this article. The writer, who has just revisited Poland, brings up to date the picture of Polish agriculture which he gave in "New Poland" last February.



HOW MANY . . . ? Ministry of Agriculture experts check and record progress of new farming methods. They claim that Poland will soon show the best statistics in the world.

"THESE PEOPLE ARE CRAZY," SAID MY friend. "They're over there in the queue grumbling about a meat shortage." I remonstrated mildly that a meat shortage was not an unreasonable thing to grumble at, anyway, but she was unmollified. "But the 'shortage' is an allocation of a kilo of meat, a quarter of sausages and unlimited offal, and that's not scraps," she answered.

In fairness to my friend, she has just returned to Poland after a sojourn of many years in England and to anyone here the idea of a weekly ration of 2 lb. 3 ozs. of meat plus 9 oz. of rich all-meat sausage, plus as much offal as you like is anything but a shortage in the meat line. Frankly, remembering some of the huge meals put before me during my visits to Poland, I think most of the Poles eat far too much; but the main interest to me is that, after satisfying their own appetites, they export food and their biggest customer in the food line is Britain. We need this good, rich, non-dollar food here and anything that affects the production there is very much our affair. Hence it was with considerable interest that I set out to discover as much as possible about the 1949 harvest, the recent improvements in techniques and methods and the general prospects for the future of Poland's agricultural industry.

From the plane coming into Poland, one can see easily enough that every accessible acre of agricultural land is under cultivation. Long-term schemes of re-afforestation, drainage and reclamation will undoubtedly extend this acreage in

the future, but this cannot produce immediate results. These observations were confirmed for me later at the Agricultural Ministry, where I sought and obtained interviews with leading executives.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform, to give it its full title, is located in a bank building in the not very imposing street named Nowagrodzka and most

by
Frank L. Farr

visitors to Warsaw probably never see it. However, the atmosphere of quiet confidence which permeates this Ministry is something most impressive and unusual. I observed and commented on it when I was there a year ago and this time again I was struck by it. The three men with whom I sat round the table and talked were all keen, capable types, right on top of their jobs and interested down to the last detail in what I had seen and what I had to say and ask. The picture they gave me was a good one.

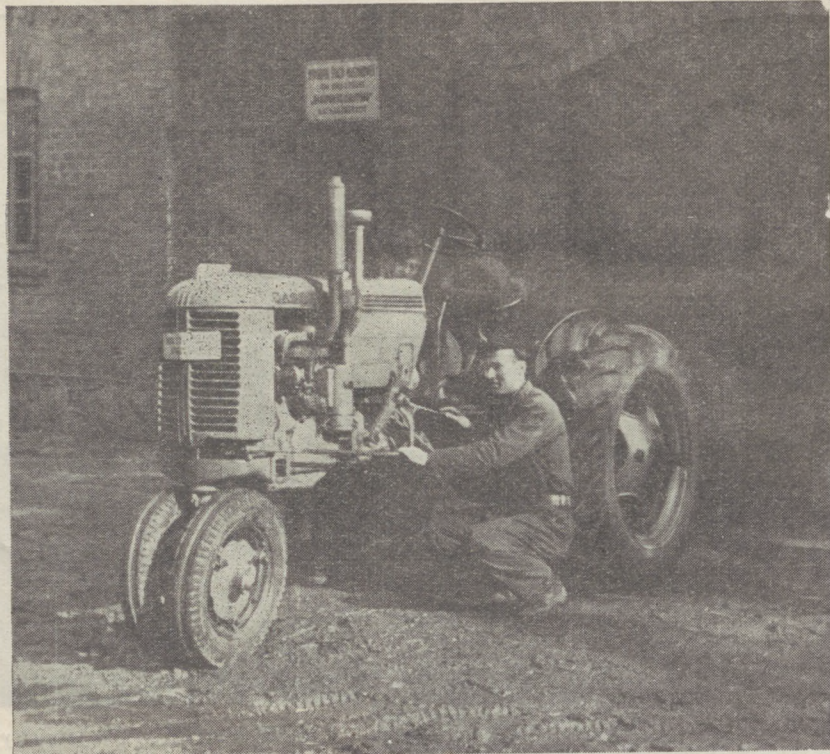
There is a café joke in Poland aimed at the popular "work competition" movement which says that the reason for Poland's bad summer is that "the plan for summer was finished two months ahead of norm." Certainly, by all normal

Polish standards, it has been a shocking season for lack of sunshine and continuous rain. In spite of this, the harvest just gathered has exceeded in total that of the record year 1948. They tied me in knots with quotations of figures in quintals per hectare until I lost track of them in desperate attempts to translate this into the more familiar bushels per acre, but I did get quite clearly the understanding that the yield per acre had been slightly lower than in '48 due to the bad weather, but an increase in the cultivated area had counterbalanced this loss.

Much of the credit for getting in the harvest under the prevailing conditions was given to urban volunteer workers who had turned out in their thousands all over the country to glean the precious crops from the sodden soil. Still lacking modern equipment as she does, Poland depends on the willing hands of her people and she never calls in vain. Improvements in land tillage methods and fertilisation had also increased the weight of the yield in many fields.

This information led me to raise a question which I had brought up a year previously: "What is the attitude of the peasant farmer to the introduction of new techniques in general and chemical fertilisers in particular?" The answer is, in effect, that the traditional conservatism of

(Continued on following page)



THERE WERE MORE THIS YEAR—but there are still not enough. During the harvest more than 1,800 tractors were available to farmers through co-operative "machinery centres." But shortage of machinery is still a problem. Picture shows a tractor being serviced at a centre at Starozreby, near Plock.

the peasant has not prevented him from taking readily to all the new things which have been offered to him. The methods of demonstration and persuasion used by the Ministry have led to their suggestions being well received and the system of guaranteed markets means that every farmer is assured of decent prices and therefore a decent living which will improve as he improves the productivity of his land.

So far as the present problems of Polish Agriculture are concerned, it appears that there are only two major factors limiting the rate of progress.

The first is that the quantity of live-stock of really high quality is inadequate and, as nature sets the limits of times required for a breeding programme, this cannot be dealt with in a hurry.

The second is the shortage of machinery and technical equipment in general. Tractors, combines and farm equipment and transport of every kind are in short supply in view of the demand and, although Poland is making much of this equipment herself, she is trying to import most of it. The "English" summer, as they called it, had led them to take a great interest in some new hay-drying machines they had heard of in this country and they questioned me avidly about these. "Could Britain make them for export? How long would it take to deliver?" There is obviously no difficulty about getting the Poles to buy our stuff if we are allowed to supply them.

British-Polish Trade

Later, at the Ministry of Foreign Trade, I tried to find out how the implementation of the Five-Year Agreement between Britain and Poland was going. I was told that Poland had kept up to date with her deliveries and that she hoped to exceed the figures laid down as minima in the Agreement, in future shipments. Cautiously, as befits a responsible Ministry, they admitted that credits were not quite as free as they had hoped and that Britain's licence policy was a little uncertain, especially over exports of capital goods. It is a great pity if this applies to the agricultural machinery, for Poland needs such equipment, British firms need the orders, British workers need the wages for making the goods which they make so much better than most, and we can all do with the food that such machinery will produce in increasing quantity.

Grain Exports: New Agreement with Britain

For the first time since the end of the war, Poland's harvest has been large enough to permit large-scale grain exports, stated the Polish Press Agency last month.

The report announced the pending signature of an agreement between the Polish Government and the British Ministry of Food for the supply of 200,000 tons of rye, within the next three months, to the British Zone of Germany. The value of the order amounted to £3,600,000.

The British occupation authorities had previously purchased rye for Western Germany in the United States.

The new agreement is independent of the British-Polish Trade Agreement.



ON WARSAW'S DOORSTEP: This Warsaw housewife finds grain taller than herself only five minutes walk from her home on the outskirts of the capital.

A block of 24 flats goes up in twelve days.

A three-man team lays nearly 16,000 bricks in an hour

How is it done? This first-hand report on one of Warsaw's "star" building jobs gives the answer.

Although the methods described here are now widely applied, mechanisation on this site was exceptional. Poland is still short of constructional equipment, which makes the general results obtained by "rationalisation" all the more remarkable.

THEY STARTED DIGGING THE FOUNDATIONS of the "quick construction" house in the Mokotow district of Warsaw on August 19. Four days later, the house had risen to the first floor. On August 27, the ceiling of the second floor was started. The whole three-storey building of 7,500 cubic metres, with 24 two-roomed and three-roomed flats, was completed in 12 working days. On September 2, electricity and sewerage had been laid on, the central heating fittings were installed, the paint was drying on the door and window frames and the staircases. This had taken the usual staff of sixty people or so, working in three eight-hour shifts.

What is the secret of these sensational results?

★ Teamwork

First, there is teamwork. Working in teams of three or five bricklayers has made it possible to use two or four general labourers with one skilled bricklayer only. To lay a brick, the bricklayer makes 40 different movements, only 15 of which demand special skill. According to the method which is now spreading everywhere in Poland, the bricklayer's mates do the 25 unskilled movements for him. When he lays 1,000 bricks, the bricklayer must bend 1,000 times, not to mention his having to reach for the mortar, the trowel and the hammer. Under the new Polish system, one helper hands him the bricks, the second, with a spade, lays five times as much mortar as with a trowel, and the bricklayer does the rest.

Another time-saving system in use on thick main walls is that of having frames of eight bricks made up on the ground and transported to the bricklayer, who "lays" each complete frame in one operation.

★ Headwork

Rationalisation, or the use of one's mother-wit to get the best results with the least effort, has helped, too. In Mokotow, for example, special wooden frames attached to the rising walls made the use of the plumb-line unnecessary.

Then, there is prefabrication. And thereby hangs a tale. It is a long time

(Continued on following page)



RECORD-BREAKERS: Bricklayer Krolikowski and his team who set up a new record by laying 15,771 bricks in one eight-hour shift.

Method is the "Secret" of Warsaw's Record-breaking Builders

From Our Own Correspondent



Laying prefabricated frames of reinforced concrete on the Mokotow site.

since ingenious Polish technicians first learnt to make use of the brick-rubble and brick-dust as building material. Here in Mokotow, there is not only a building site but also an improvised building materials factory. In 70 seconds, cement and rubble are vibrated together to make the hollow bricks, used for the ceilings, which are dry in three days. The ferro-concrete beams used on the roofs, the cornices and the door and window frames are prefabricated on the spot. So inventive are Polish builders that they press together special corner-shaped bricks used in making the angles of doors and windows. Most of this prefabrication is the invention of the workers and technicians themselves and special appliances have been devised here for the purpose.

Another factor of great importance is the mechanisation of the work. The visitor to the "quick construction" site rather expects to find an army of workmen feverishly flurrying about, with the worried faces of those who fear they will miss their train. In fact, there is nothing of the kind. Everybody was working calmly, as if their work was something quite ordinary, when I came. On the other hand, I did not notice one worker carrying in his hands something that could have been borne mechanically.

The lime, prepared in big reservoirs some distance away from the site, the sand and cement that were going to the concrete mixer, everything was carried in trucks along narrow-gauge railways that chequered the whole place. Four big lifts of Polish invention were constantly taking up the trucks with mortar, two conveyor belts ceaselessly brought up bricks to the upper storeys. There were two cement mixers on the job, "so that work can go on when something goes wrong with one," explained the foreman. You could see that everything was in its place and not one second lost in waiting for materials or tools.

Last, but not least, there was the mood of the workers, their quiet determination to get on with the job, their consciousness that they were making building history, their pride at the achievements of the whole team employed on the "quick construction" house.

"We can do wonders with the group which are working here," said Engineer Przymaoowski, after he had taken me round the site. And another "labour champion" of the building jobs, Religa, (who had been on the night shift, but had come back to the site as soon as he was up "to see how things were getting on") chimed in:

"Don't forget to come round in the afternoon and prod us again, Panie Inzenierze. We want to get on with this house and show the whole of Poland what we can do!"

"An Education System Which Bids Fair to Become a Model. . ."

THE NEW SCHOOL SESSION COMMENCES in Poland this year in an atmosphere of high hope based on solid achievement. In the course of the five years that have passed since the country's liberation, the ravages of war and occupation have not only been made good but the foundations have been laid of an education system that bids fair soon to become a model of democracy. The time-worn slogans of the progressive movements of other countries, "Equality of Opportunity," "Secondary Education for All," are being realised in the new Poland with truly astonishing rapidity.

600 New Schools

The basis of the progress being made is the conquest of the material problems posed by educational reconstruction. This year alone, tens of thousands of Polish children will study in 600 new or rebuilt Basic Schools (catering for the age groups 7 to 14). The meaning of this is that, for the first time in Polish history, compulsory education has become effective: no Polish child will be denied basic education and the curse of illiteracy with all its implications will never recur.

I visited some of the schools just completed in Silesian villages and was very envious for our own children here in our rural areas, who almost invariably are educated in material conditions which are a disgrace to the British countryside. The new village schools compare most favourably with anything we are doing here in school building. What struck me most of all was their spaciousness, their brightness and the amenities provided.



The Brightest School Year In Poland's History

by
Max Morris

*British teacher who visited
Poland last month*

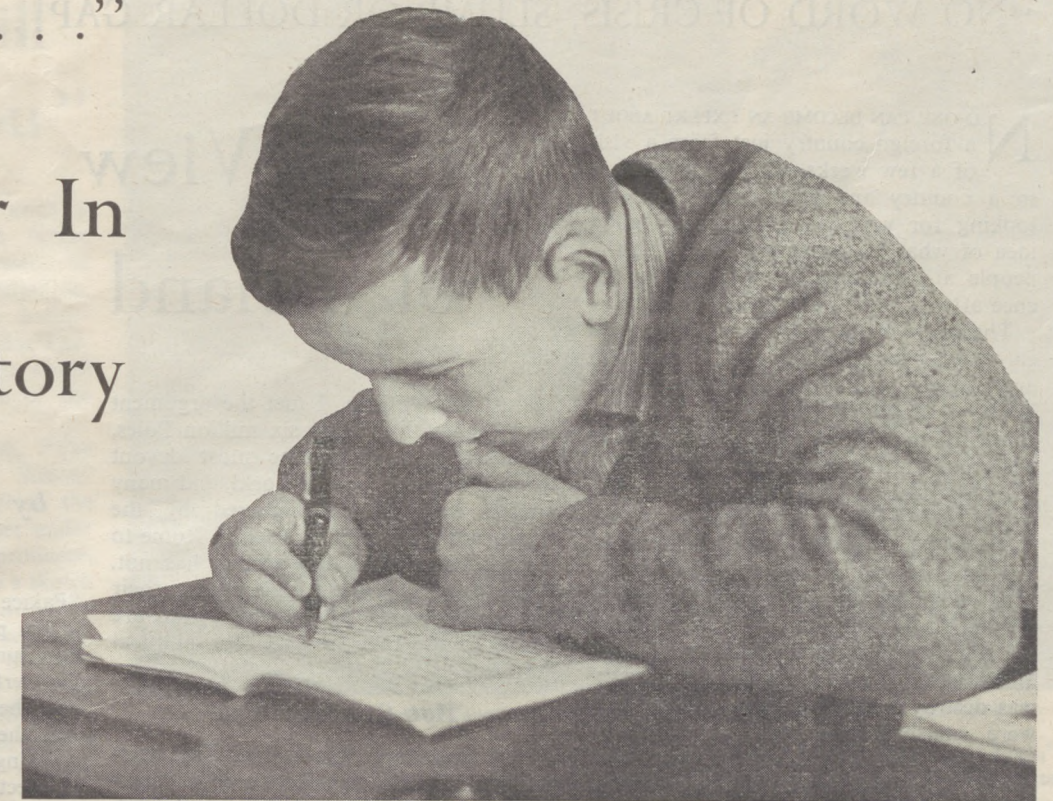
The completion of at least one of the schools I saw seemed to me a symbol of the spirit animating the people; for, in order to have it ready for the first day of the new session, practically the whole village had turned out to lend a hand. The heroes of the village were the building workers, who regarded their job as one with a high social purpose—part of the national plan for creating a genuine democracy.

Polish compulsory education commences at seven, but it is built on an ever-broadening foundation of nursery schools. Already there are about 270,000 kiddies (age groups 3 to 6) in some 6,000 nursery schools and the numbers are steadily on the increase. The nursery schools are the latest thing in educational architecture. It was astounding to me that, with all the tremendous construction problems that face Poland, the country was devoting such ample resources to the beautification of its nurseries. To the Poles, it is evidently a case of first things first—and that means the best of everything for the kiddies.

The 1950 budget shows an increase in educational expenditure of 30 per cent over 1949. What that means in terms of schooling can be deduced from the steady development of secondary education.

HOLIDAYS END—but there's no sign of that end-of-holiday look on the faces of the lads in the picture on the left. They are taking part in an eve-of-school rally of Warsaw children who have returned from holiday camps.

AND SCHOOL BEGINS (Right): Parents, visitors and fellow-pupils listen as this Warsaw schoolgirl speaks on opening day. It's not such a serious occasion. There will be an entertainment afterwards, then home. Work does not start until tomorrow . . .



Though the minimum leaving age is fourteen, there is a steady increase in the numbers of children continuing their full-time education in the various types of secondary schools. During the new school session, 219,000 children will attend the "general education" secondary schools and almost a million the technical secondary schools.

Technical Education

It is important to explain to the English reader, firstly, that this differentiation in secondary education does not commence until 14 plus and, secondly, that it means a difference in emphasis rather than a clear-cut division into distinct educational forms. The emphasis on the technical secondary school is a reflection of the urgent economic needs of the country and the truly colossal demand for technically equipped personnel with a high educational level. One thing at any rate it shows, and that is that the Poles suffer from no pseudo-psychological inhibitions about the impossibility of providing secondary education for all. Both types of school provide a four-year course until eighteen, giving Poland a considerably higher proportion of the school population with a full secondary school-

ing than exists here. And in the course of the current school year, with the progress of the building and teacher training plans, the numbers will be substantially increased.

Secondary school expansion has its natural complement in the expansion of university numbers. Sixteen thousand more students will be accommodated in higher education institutions than last year and the increase in numbers involves, too, a radical change in the social composition of these institutions. Before the war, they were almost entirely the preserve of the wealthy classes; to-day, already, 50 per cent of the students are of working class or poor peasant origin.

The refreshing thing about the Polish educational administrators and teachers to whom I talked, including Mr. Jablonski, the Deputy Minister for Education, and Mr. Kuroczko, the General Secretary of the Teachers' Union, was their utter frankness about the problems that still remain to be solved and the efforts that still have to be made before they will be anything like satisfied with the schools. But even the briefest visit must convince the visitor that to the Poles a problem is a challenge. And, as the world well knows, the Poles are bonny fighters. Good luck to you all, teachers, children and administrators, in the fine job that you are all doing!



NO-ONE CAN BECOME AN EXPERT ABOUT a foreign country just from a visit of a few weeks. But when you are in a country and know what you are looking for you can get a pretty good idea of what is happening and what the people are thinking. That is my experience after a short holiday in Poland.

The overwhelming impression that you carry away from Poland is of destruction and tragedy, on the one hand, and on the other, a flood of irresistible effort in reconstruction; a flood that is penetrating every corner of the national life.

I have seen Warsaw. It was destroyed by the Germans as no great city was ever destroyed in history. It is difficult to picture; but go and look again at the City, behind Moorgate and stretching through to Aldersgate. In Warsaw there are miles of devastation like that. There are thousands of acres of it. All industry was destroyed, the whole of the services were smashed—transport, water, drainage, gas, electric—all the bridges were down. They had to find the very streets by compass.

The rebuilding of Warsaw must be reckoned as one of the most heroic acts in human history. At first it was doubtful whether it was worth rebuilding at all or whether it was not better to go somewhere else and start again to save the trouble of clearing the ruins. But they are rebuilding. They are doing it at a rate and with a vigour never imagined in our country.

Feeling Against Vatican

The Poles are a deeply religious people. In contrast with those in our country, the churches are filled to overflowing at all the Sunday services. Travelling in the countryside on Sunday morning, you see the peasants streaming across the fields from all directions towards the church. On weekdays, the churches are constantly in use for prayer and meditation, while the innumerable shrines and crucifixes in town and country alike are punctiliously saluted and acknowledged. I don't believe there is another country in the world where you would find a chapel, lit and tended, 1,800 ft. below the surface, in a coalmine. No wonder the Polish Government are giving priority to the rebuilding of churches.

It is against this background that you must consider the effect on the people as a whole of the recent announcement from the Vatican that those who support the Polish Government are liable to drastic religious penalties. There is no doubt this threat to freedom of conscience has provoked widespread feeling among the people, generally in the form of bitterness

First View of Poland



by John Platts-Mills, M.P.

against the Vatican. I met the argument on all sides that while six million Poles, including millions of the most devout Roman Catholics in the world, and many priests, were being butchered by the Nazis, not a finger was raised in Rome to protect them. This new feeling has not, of course, turned the people against their religion, but only against those who are trying to use their religion for political purposes.

How the People Fare

How are the people faring? The question should really be: How are the working people faring? For in the new Poland, it is only those who work by hand or brain who count. Whatever is going, they get it. For example, practically all the fine mansions in the mountains, and at all the old holiday resorts, have been taken over by the trade unions. To these places, workers go for their holidays, which are up to a month with full pay. The cost in these luxury places ranges from 5s. to 10s. a week. The balance is paid by the trade union, which also pays the fare.

Rents "Ridiculously Low"

Rents are down to a figure that in our eyes is ridiculous. In most places they are the equivalent of a few shillings a month. What a weight this must be off the back of the working people! All social insurance is free to the worker, being paid for only by industry and the State. And, what is more, it is administered on the spot, so far as industry is concerned, by the trade unions. In every enterprise where more than 100 women are engaged, and in every major enterprise, however few the women, there is a crèche big enough to look after all the children. They are free and the children are fed and bathed. Typical was a great chocolate factory I visited, employing 1,200 women, where there were 200 infants in the crèche and another 200 older children away on holiday in a summer camp organised by the crèche. This provision of crèches gives the guarantee that women who want to work, or who need to work, can do so with confidence.

Likewise, in every factory there is a clubroom. In every town there is a

"Palace of Culture." In most places, it is a real palace which has been taken over and run by the local trade unions. The wonderful decorations and furnishings have been maintained and even extended and the whole is made available to the working people for every kind of cultural, intellectual and sporting activity. The best teachers, coaches and organisers are there to assist.

They are making a great thing of sport. I saw a mid-week football match at 6 p.m. in a mining area. Two or three hundred lorries (the workers are entitled to use them out of working time) had brought people from the more distant mines and factories. The total gate was about 40,000. In the grandstand, each trade union branch had its own box. If you wanted that night to meet the leaders of the working class movement in that area, there they were in the grandstand.

Is Poland, then, such a paradise? No it is not. Wages are low and work is hard. Transport is desperately overcrowded, the cost of textiles is high and leather is scarce. There are other shortages, too, but food is plentiful and cheap. The housing problem reflects the immense destruction.

Without Dollars

They have one asset, however, that neutralises all this. They have complete confidence in the future because they see the improvement day by day in their very lives. Everyone tells you of the contrast between now and the past. They take this as a token for the future. Above all, they are proud that they are doing it all without a single American dollar, without any directions from Washington, without any G.I.s parading their streets, without any Superfortresses flying overhead. There is not a single word about crisis, slump or dollar gap; there is no possibility of any of them. The talk is only of reconstruction and of peace.

"Others Will Follow You"

AN HONOURABLE FAILURE—THE KIND OF failure that may forecast future success—such is my impression of the recent Film Polski production, "Others Will Follow You." The distinction awarded to it at the Marianskie Laznie Film Festival in Czechoslovakia would seem to indicate that others are of the same opinion.

The original title of the film, "The Printing Press in Grzybowska Street," indicated its main theme. But from the history of a clandestine newspaper under the German occupation, the producer, Anton Bohdiewicz, extended it to a sketch of the emergence and development of the "People's Guard"—the military organisation which the paper represents. Now the "People's Guard" was set up by the left-wing section of the underground movement, which very early in the occupation advocated armed guerrilla struggle

Reviewed by a Warsaw Correspondent

against the Nazis. Under conditions of extreme terror, they had to win over public opinion influenced by the "wait and see" policy of the right-wing leaders of the resistance. Thus the scope of the film is enlarged to give a cross-section of every class of the Polish community under the occupation—a Herculean task in which it is no dishonour to fail.

Central character is Anna, a "society" girl who, from being merely a student at a secret university course, becomes an active member of the resistance movement. But Anna's development proves too slight a thread on which to hang so much material. Good as the acting is, she and the other central characters all seem rather vague because the wealth of episodes makes it impossible to represent them otherwise than as symbols.

For the plot is made more difficult to follow by an infinity of episodes, almost each of which might be the subject of a separate film: the opening scenes of the civilians seizing the arms of the German outpost at twilight—the birth of the People's Guard; the trade in forged papers for Jews, pursued by the hyenas battenning on the Ghetto victims; the glimpse of a working-class home and its frugal meal, in contrast with the repast crowned by cakes, chocolates and liqueurs of the bourgeois living in clover; the transport of the clandestine papers in a coffin after the curfew and the encounter with the German patrol; the street raid by the S.S. which ends in



Lech, the "underground" printer, and his assistant Katarzyna.

Oswiecim extermination camp for the men and women and children caught in it; the children of the tenement house happily playing at "executions" in the yard . . . and there are more.

Sometimes, such an episode is given in a flash and disappears before the spectator has had time to draw his breath and take it in. So the interest never flags, but the attention is dispersed and the spectator often bewildered. The love interest is far too weak to put all the fragments together and the fate of the paper is not brought sufficiently to the fore to make the film a compact whole.

One fragment, obviously recalling a

restaurant scene in "Rome—Open City," is perfect. I have in mind the scene following the Gestapo raid on the printing press. In the telephone booth of a café, Katarzyna, in code, warns her comrades of what has happened; next to her, black marketeers splash their money about, while a German soldier sells illicit vodka to the barkeeper. Here is life reproduced in full, many sided and rich in ironies.

Perhaps Bohdiewicz will try not to say everything at the same time in his next film. If he learns to be simple, I should say that his future films will be worth watching.

CAFE INCIDENT: The Gestapo agent recognises Anna's companion as a Jew.





Jewish Culture Is Alive

says Sholem Shtern

“NEW POLAND” Interview

SOLOM SHTERN, CANADIAN YIDDISH writer of distinction, recently visited Poland where he stayed for four weeks. During that time, he toured the country studying the life, and in particular the cultural life, of the Jews.

Most of the time he spent in Lower Silesia, where the majority of Polish Jews are living. He was not content with seeing the main centres, but visited remote villages where Jews had established themselves as farmers, and the mining areas where he found Jews working as coal miners, side by side with their Polish fellows, and distinguishing themselves by their outstanding achievements in the country's drive for greater output and higher quality. There were no barriers, he told me, between Polish and Jewish workers, and all the prejudices of the past were gradually disappearing.

He was particularly impressed, he said, with the scope and intensity of Jewish cultural activities, carried out at every level. His lectures and recitals of his poetry were attended by hundreds of people—quite an unusual experience for one who was accustomed to find, in his own country, that such functions were mainly affairs for small literary circles.

Culture, he found, was invariably the theme of public speeches and local or national conferences, whatever else their subject might be. Here is the picture as Mr. Shtern described it:

The Central Committee of Jews in Poland, the Jewish Cultural Society, with branches all over the country, the Jewish Historical Institute, the Regional Jewish Committees—all devote great attention to spreading knowledge, encouraging artistic activities, arranging lectures and exhibitions. The Union of Jewish Writers, the associations of Jewish artists, painters, sculptors, musicians and composers—they are all at the service of this great, all-embracing effort. Rallying centres of

“MARTYRDOM OF THE JEWS”—
Painting by the Jewish artist Lei Grunding, an exhibition of whose works opened in Warsaw recently.

Jewish culture are the two Yiddish theatres in Wroclaw and Lodz, whose performances in their own theatrical buildings and while touring the country won for them high praise. Recently, a number of Jewish artists and producers who had left Poland before the war have returned to join the two theatrical companies, both of which have been promoted to the status of State theatres and are fully maintained by the State.

A high place, in fact the centre of attention, is given to the question of education. There are Yiddish elementary and secondary schools (the first secondary school was opened last year in Wroclaw) with a unified educational programme. A four-years teachers' seminary is being instituted this year in Warsaw to cater for the growing need for teachers in the Yiddish schools. The students receive State stipends during the time of their studies.

The Government showed consideration for the particular situation of the Jews by permitting the opening of Jewish schools in places where there are at least 25 children, as against the general rule which requires a minimum of 50 children for the establishment of a new school. For this reason, the shifting of smaller communities into more concentrated areas is being encouraged, mainly in order to secure better education for the children. The Government, significantly, is also promoting the moving of head offices of the Jewish central institutions and leading bodies from the provincial areas to Warsaw, the country's capital, with the result that the Jewish population of the city is gradually increasing.

All this, concludes Mr. Shtern, points to the fact of the firm consolidation of the Jewish community in post-war Poland. There are only a hundred thousand Jews in Poland to-day, out of a pre-war population of nearly three million. But the majority of the survivors have found new roots in new Poland and have allied themselves to the country's steady advance to Socialism. At the same time, they are given every opportunity to develop their own national culture—and it depends entirely on them to what extent they will make use of it. The first national conference of the Jewish Cultural Society, which is opening in the middle of October in Wroclaw, will be of outstanding significance as marking a further stage of consolidation in that direction.

This is how Mr. Shtern summed up his impressions:

“I came to Poland afraid to find people with their hearts broken after what they went through during the war. Instead, I found people full of hope and determination, with their heads high and with their hands creating and building a new life for themselves and their children.”

“The Last Stage” at Edinburgh

DESCRIBED BY *The Scotsman* AS “horrifying,” the Polish film “Oswiecim,” or “The Last Stage” as it is called in this country, was shown during the Edinburgh Festival in the Montaigne Picture House, Edinburgh. This was the first public showing in Britain, and in these days when “forgetting and forgiving” the horrors of Nazism is all too prevalent in certain quarters, the film is a corrective and a reminder of the millions of innocent human beings—men,

Scots Diary

by

John Cartwright

(Our Scottish Correspondent)

women and children—who were savagely done to death on the orders of the sub-human rulers of the Third Reich.

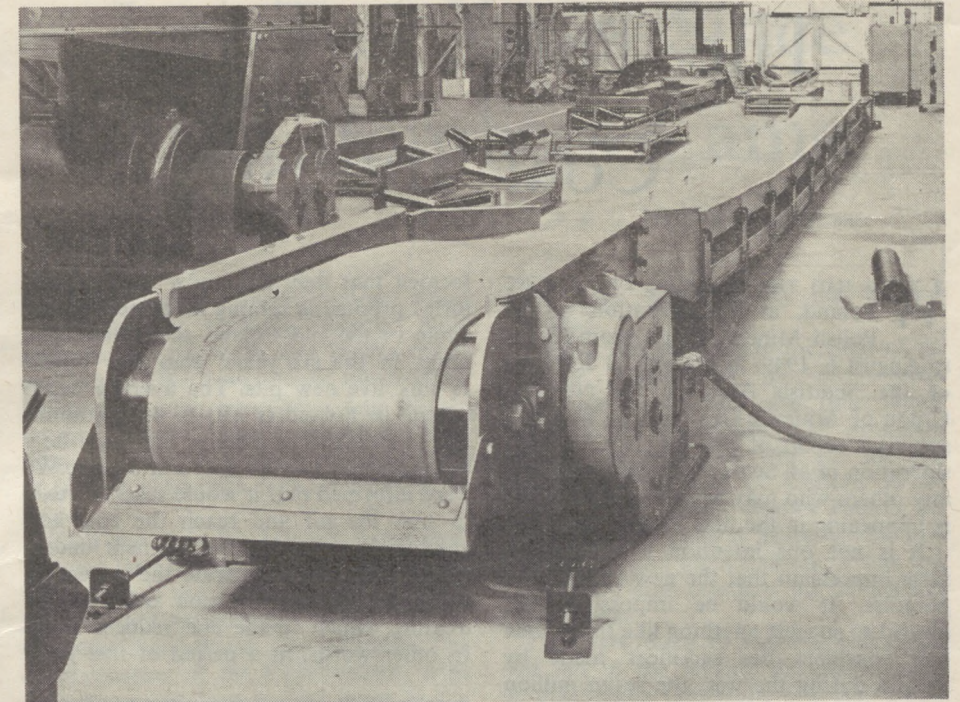
“There is no place for slick critical jargon in talking of such a film,” says the writer in *The Scotsman*. “The very stench of the incinerators seems to come from the screen as we watch these dreadful processions and see the belching of the smoke from the chimneys.”

I have before me the report of the Central Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Poland. It contains 270 pages of the most gruesome and sadistic crimes ever perpetrated on the human race. In setting out the facts, the Commission in a foreword expresses the conviction, “that no one (knowing these facts)—however deaf he may be—will ever fail to hear their voices.” This film seeks to keep alive these voices and directs a warning to those sitting in high places who still nourish the incontinent sadism of *das grosse Vaterland*.

I understand the film has been bought in Britain and will be shown throughout the country in due course.

Whilst the Anders' rump keep snarling at the homeland, there is a steady trickle of Poles on their way back to Poland. Many others have applied for visas, but they now have to bear the expense of the journey and it is not easy for a man earning £4 3s. per week to save the necessary amount for his passage and other odds and ends. Mournfully, they regret their missed opportunity of free transport with others who were not so easily bemused with tales of shootings, stone walls, imprisonment, torture and religious persecution.

BRITISH - BUILT FOR POLAND (10)



A TB/30 “drive head,” ready for test in the maker's works.

MINING MACHINERY

ALTHOUGH POLISH MINING CONDITIONS differ considerably from those of Great Britain, it is evident that mining machinery which was developed originally to work in British coal mines is applicable to mines in Poland, a fact which is borne out by the orders recently received from the Polish Government by British mining machinery firms.

A large section of the conveyor equipment order went to Hugh Wood & Co. Ltd., of Gateshead-on-Tyne, who are supplying a number of their CGB/40 and CTB/30 drive heads with auxiliary equipment. The consignment consists entirely of medium power conveyors. It would be difficult, under a bulk buying system, to determine the duties to which each of these conveyors will eventually be put, but a probable arrangement in the thick coal seams of Poland is that the CTB/30 conveyors will receive their load direct from duckbill loaders and the coal will then be transferred to the larger CGB/40 conveyors for transportation to loading points.

The drive head, as its name implies, is that part of the conveyor in which the drive is imparted to the belt by one or more drums driven by an electric or compressed air motor, through reduction gearing which gives the desired belt speed. Conveyor drive heads can be classified

into two main varieties, those in which the coal is delivered over one of the drums contained in the head structure, and those in which the coal is delivered at some distance away from the head over a drum mounted in a separate structure. The latter type is used solely for the large conveyors forming the second and subsequent links in a series of conveyors working in sequence, while the former, those conveyors incorporating a delivery drum, are used principally on the coal face itself and receive their load either from the shovels of the miners, or from the loading machine which takes their place.

The CGB/40 is one of the conveyors in which drive head and delivery are separate units, so that the drive head can be placed at the most appropriate point in the roadway, delivery being by means of a delivery jib which can be extended to reach the loading point. The belt is driven by two 18 in. diameter drums in tandem through a train of gears. The gears can be altered to give belt speeds from 160 to 318 ft. per minute, a range sufficient to cover all normal trunk and gate conveyor requirements.

The CTB/30 drive head, on the other hand, is intended for a smaller output, its function being to take the coal on its first stage from the coal face and to deliver it on to a trunk conveyor. In this drive head the delivery drum is part of the head structure and the belt is driven by two drums geared together, but of different diameter, a construction which allows the maximum power to be concentrated into the lowest possible height.

Handwritten notes: october november, january february march april may june july august september october november

The Polish Coal Industry

WE HAD THE PLEASURE OF VISITING Poland, at the invitation of the Polish Miners' Union, from July 13 to August 6, 1949, as the official delegates of the Scottish Area of the National Union of Mineworkers, and we herewith submit a report of our visit for the consideration of all Scottish mineworkers and any others who may be interested in what is happening in the new Poland.

It is not our intention to create any false impression that the new Poland is a paradise. It would be impossible and absurd to suggest anything like that, when one considers the sacrifices made by Poland during the war, the seven million people killed and the vast destruction in the towns and villages of Poland. We are therefore endeavouring to submit a report based on our own observations and the conversations we had, mainly with Polish workers.

We were surprised to find how many people could speak English. Wherever we went we found someone who could speak English and who was always very proud to tell us of the places in Scotland where they had lived during the war . . .

GREAT INTEREST IS TAKEN IN THE mining industry since, as in our own country, it is the backbone of the economy of Poland. Like the rest of Poland, the pits suffered tremendous destruction at the hands of the Nazis. In the first year following liberation—1945—output was 27 million tons; in 1946 it was 47 million tons; and in 1948 it was 72 million tons. This amazing increase is due mainly to the efforts of the miners, who understand very clearly that the elimination of foreign and Polish capitalism lays the basis for the elimination of misery, poverty and unemployment, which they had to suffer under the old regime.

It has been said in certain quarters that this increase in production in Poland was due to the number of prisoners-of-war employed in the Polish mining industry. We raised this point with representatives of the National Coal Board and they informed us that they were happy to say that in March, 1949, a decision was taken to prohibit the employment of any prisoners-of-war.

In our joint discussions with the Coal Board and the trade union, we were in-

formed that they have now thirteen factories producing mining machinery alone, while in the old Poland there had been none. In the six years' plan they intend to sink five new pits. The average depth of pits in Poland is 250 to 400 fathoms, and we asked a mining engineer how long it would take to sink a new one. We were informed that it would take 2½ years to sink the pit and reach the coal and another 2½ years for development underground, since they operate the system of driving to the demarcation and then re-treating, which in the end reduces costs. In other words, in a period of five years

From the official report of the delegation from the Scottish Area of the National Union of Mineworkers which visited Poland recently.

Further extracts from the report, including a section dealing with the standard of living, will appear in the next issue of New Poland.

the pit will be in full production. It would be a good thing for some of our British technicians and experts to visit Poland to ascertain how this is done, as it takes approximately ten years for a new sinking in our country.

Low Accident Rate

We also asked about the death and accident rate and were informed by the Minister of Mines, who was previously Chairman of the Polish Miners' Union, that the death rate was 1.9 persons per million tons of coal produced per year. This is indeed a very low death rate for the mining industry. A full-time doctor is employed at each colliery from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Great attention is paid to safety committees, on which there are representatives of each grade of workmen at the colliery.

Another point which we raised with interest with the National Coal Board there was the question of export of Polish coal. They are at present exporting 26 million tons per year. We asked whether the Government was giving any subsidy for

the export of coal from Poland and were given a definite answer in the negative. Under no circumstances, they said, was the Government subsidising export trade from the Polish mining industry.

WE SPENT A FULL DAY AT EMMA Colliery, examining the surface plant, including a by-product plant, and also the underground workings. It is not classified as one of the modern pits, as it was sunk in the year 1870. It employs 3,200 workmen, including surface and by-product plant personnel, and produces approximately 3,500 tons per day.

The section which we examined was between four and five miles from the pit bottom, but they have no difficulty in the transport of either men or coal. Two shifts work at the coal face, which is 6 ft. high. No machine is used for cutting, the method being firing shots and hand got with chain conveyors. There are 44 men employed on the face and they get 400 tons of coal on each shift. Very few non-productive workers are employed in the section. As a matter of fact, we saw practically none all the long distance out from the coal face to the pit bottom.

Mechanisation

The system of man haulage to the coal face is magnificent. One load takes all the men into their place of work, travelling at a speed of five miles per hour. The method of transport of coal, even in this old pit, is unbelievable unless you see it with your own eyes. One load consists of 100 trucks or tubs, as we call them, each truck containing two tons of coal. In other words, they only require to run two complete loads for the full shift's output. Here again is a further example of how coal could be produced more cheaply without attacking miners' conditions. We have no hesitation in saying that their geological conditions are more favourable than those in Scotland, but this is not the sole reason for the high output. As already explained, it is due to the effective organisation and particularly to the haulage system, which is the main problem facing the mining industry in any country.

Having examined the baths and lavatories on the surface at this colliery, we would say that they are not up to the standard at British mines, although it should be noted that one-third of our British miners are without any baths. The canteen at this colliery was quite good and it is important to note that there are canteens at every colliery in Poland. The lavatory accommodation was not good at this colliery, but of course the new regime has had to give attention to the most pressing needs of the country in the short years following liberation, and we have every confidence that this welfare side will be improved in the future.

NEW POLAND

ONCE MORE, SEPTEMBER HAS BEEN celebrated as the Month of Warsaw Reconstruction. September was chosen in memory of the month of the invasion of Poland in 1939, when the capital suffered a good deal, and of September, 1944, when the Nazis set about their methodical blowing-up of the capital, house by house.

This year, September has had an added significance as the tenth anniversary of the outbreak of war. The lessons of the tragic days of September, 1939, and of the decade which has followed, have been discussed by the Press and the people not only in Warsaw but throughout the country. They were discussed, too, by President Bierut in a broadcast to the nation on the first of the month. The President, one felt, put into words the feelings with which so many were looking back on that day. He pointed to the contrast between the Poland at which Hitler's legions struck and the Poland of to-day—then, a gallant people prepared to fight heroically but condemned to defeat by the foreign and domestic policy of corrupt and undemocratic leaders; now, a nation which had "finally won the victory over the Fascist invader and over Fascist decay at home," a nation rebuilding fast on the solid basis of an economy controlled, for the first time, by the people, and firmly allied to the Soviet Union and its other friendly neighbours. "The People's power and its policy of brotherly alliances is the best guarantee that the Polish nation will never again feel left alone, abandoned and helpless," said the President.

COMPLETION OF THE EAST-WEST ROAD has given a real stimulus to Reconstruction Month. Activities are well under way.

Schoolchildren and the Polish Scouts are mobilised to make street collections

BRITISH-POLISH SOCIETY NOTES

FLYING START FOR NEW SEASON

ANew SEASON OPENS. WITH SUMMER and the pleasures of the open air more or less behind us, the Society looks forward to a season of record activity in many fields.

Already advance bookings for our lecturers total over 60 for the next three months and, with our panel of speakers larger than last year's, these form the best fount of information about Poland and things Polish that is available in Britain. We can add some attractions to these "straight" lectures by the use of pictures on our epidiascope. Our very popular lecturer, Major Hooper, has just returned from his second visit to Poland with a complete new set of lantern slides from his own photographs.

Plans for making available a library of 16mm. films have recently been approved and we hope to have some ready for

OCTOBER 1949

Just Ten Years Since the Bombers Came

J.P.R.'s Warsaw Newsletter

for the Warsaw Reconstruction Fund every Sunday. Suitable slogans have appeared on the walls and in the trams and buses. "We have rebuilt the bridges. Draw your own conclusion and donate to the Warsaw Fund," says one. On a full-size poster, a Warsaw mermaid built of freshly-laid bricks calls on everyone to help.

With the East-West Road completed, the next task for the Warsaw Reconstruction Office is the extension and broadening of Marszalkowska Street into a powerful North-South thoroughfare. The reconstruction of the Royal Palace, with the same pious care as was given to the historical monuments along the Trasa, will be started. The rubber-tyred, horse-drawn carts, so typical of Warsaw, are even now clearing the rubble from the Castle. Every time they leave, the contents of the carts are checked to prevent any worthwhile historical fragment from being thrown away.

IN THE PRECEDING YEARS, IT WAS perhaps permissible to think that the voluntary manual work undertaken each September by the inhabitants of Warsaw on the capital's ruins was more effective from the propaganda point of view than from the angle of the work

done. That will certainly not be true this year.

A plan has been made for each of the separate districts of the city, where every Varsovian will give four hours' work during the month. The Mokotow district, for example, will get the site ready for a Palace of Culture to be housed in the rebuilt Szustra Palace; the inhabitants of Central Warsaw will prepare the ground for a stadium; Praga will plant trees and greenery on its squares and avenues.

The main piece of work is being carried out in the seventy devastated acres of the former Ghetto in Muranow. This vast heap of rubble, 10 ft. deep, is an immense reservoir of bricks. If seven thousand people work there for another four hours daily in September, they will be able to collect fifty million serviceable bricks or half-bricks, which are badly needed for the many blocks of flats to arise here this autumn and next spring.

RUBBLE-CLEARING IS REALLY GREAT fun. People working in the same establishment usually go together, as different institutions are assigned a certain piece of work to perform. First, the leader of the gang distributes spades and pickaxes. You uproot the weeds and dig the brick-dust until you get to the rock-bottom of bricks. Of course, it often happens that the architect and the foreman of a building site, for example, find themselves directed by an experienced navvy.

Chains are formed to pass the bricks from hand to hand; there, the charwomen often score over the office workers, whose fingertips get sore sooner and whose manicured nails get scratched. But bricks and jokes fly around, everybody is in a good temper, especially if the "golden Polish autumn" sun is shining. Polskie Radio, which has installed loudspeakers in Muranow in preparation for the "battle of the bricks," plays lively folk tunes and two hours pass in no time. During the break, long queues form before the lories of the Warsaw Food Co-operatives which sell coffee and snacks. Physical work does give one an appetite!

Finally, when the working parties leave the battlefield, neat stacks of bricks bear witness to the good work done.

F. L. F.

Nahums

NAHUMS UNION MILLS LTD
COTTON SPINNERS AND DOUBLERS

Single and doubled yarns for all purposes
Cable address: 'Selfactor, Manchester'

NAHUMS FABRICS LTD
and Associated Companies

Manufacturers of Cotton and Rayon
piece goods, Dress goods, Furnishing
Fabrics, etc.

Cable address: 'Efrani, Manchester'

Enquiries to
CUMBERLAND HOUSE, CUMBERLAND STREET
MANCHESTER 3

R. KAMSTRA (HULL) LTD.

6, HUMBER PLACE, HULL

IMPORTERS OF FRESH FRUITS
AND VEGETABLES

POLISH BILBERRIES
AND ONIONS
A SPECIALITY

Telegrams: Kamstra, Hull Phone 15525/4

GDYNIA-AMERICA SHIPPING LINES LTD.

also MANAGERS of
POLISH-BRITISH STEAMSHIP COMPANY, Ltd.
and ZEGLUGA POLSKA, S.A.

45/7 WHITCOMB STREET, LONDON, W.C.2

Telegraphic Address:
Inland: POLAMERYKA, LESQUARE, LONDON
Overseas: POLAMERYKA, LONDON

Telephone:
WHITEHALL
7561 (10 LINES)

REGULAR PASSENGER & CARGO SERVICE between
United Kingdom and Poland

Also REGULAR SERVICE from
Poland to Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium,
Near East, U.S.A., and South America

Head Office:

13/15 ULICA PORTOWA, GDYNIA, POLAND

BUNZL & BIACH (BRITISH) LTD., LONDON, ENGLAND.

TEXTILE & PAPER SUPPLY CORP. ATLANTA, U.S.A.

BUNZL & BIACH (A.G.) VIENNA, AUSTRIA.

WOOL, NOILS, TOPS, WOOL WASTE,
NEW & OLD WOOL RAGS, COTTON
RAGS, RAW COTTON, LINTERS, COT-
TON WASTE, SHODDY & MUNGO, PAPER
PULP, WASTE PAPER, SILK WASTES.

Head Office:
25-35 CITY ROAD, LONDON, E.C.1

Cable Address ;
BUNZLANA, LONDON

CHOPIN
CENTENARY CONCERT

1849-1949

Solo Pianoforte: **ROBERT CASADESUS**

at the

Royal Albert Hall

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17th, 1949

at 7.30 p.m.

(Under the auspices of H.E. the Polish Ambassador)

Tickets may be obtained from:

THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL; and
POLISH CULTURAL INSTITUTE
81, Portland Place, London, W.1.
(LANgham 6593)

Prices 2/6 and 3/6 only
Block bookings 10% discount

SERVICES for Goods to and from
Central Europe and Overseas by
SEA - RAIL - AIR

for prompt service and economical rates consign through

PSA

and their



Transport Ltd.

Organisation abroad

Additional Specialities: Chartering and Passenger Service

PSA TRANSPORT LTD.

Coventry Court, 47, Whitcomb Street, London, W.C.2.

Telephones: WHITEhall 9161/7

Telegrams: Polsteam, London

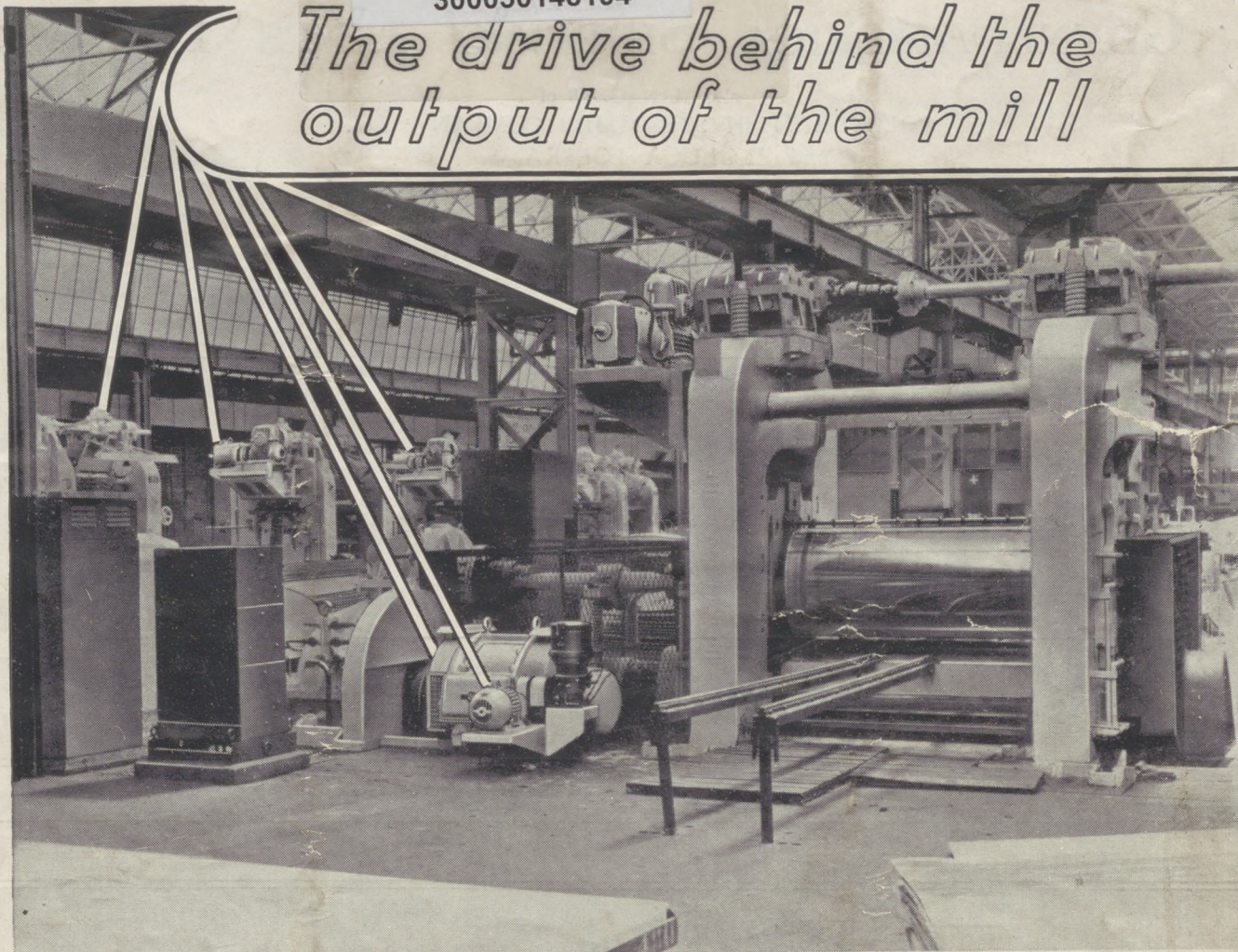


Biblioteka Główna UMK



300050148194

The drive behind the output of the mill



The photograph shows Metrovick motors driving a Brightside cold sheet mill for finishing aluminium sheets.

Main drive : 150 hp 585 r.p.m. continuously rated slipping motor.

Screw down : 12 hp Type DK motor fitted with 10" Perigrip brake.

Grease pump : 1½ hp totally enclosed fan cooled S.C. motor driving pump for continual supply of grease to roll necks.

In the background the screw down gear seen on the 4 stand sheet mills is also driven by 12 hp Metrovick motors.



METROVICK MOTORS

METROPOLITAN-VICKERS ELECTRICAL CO. LTD. MANCHESTER 17.