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NEW POLAND

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December, 1949

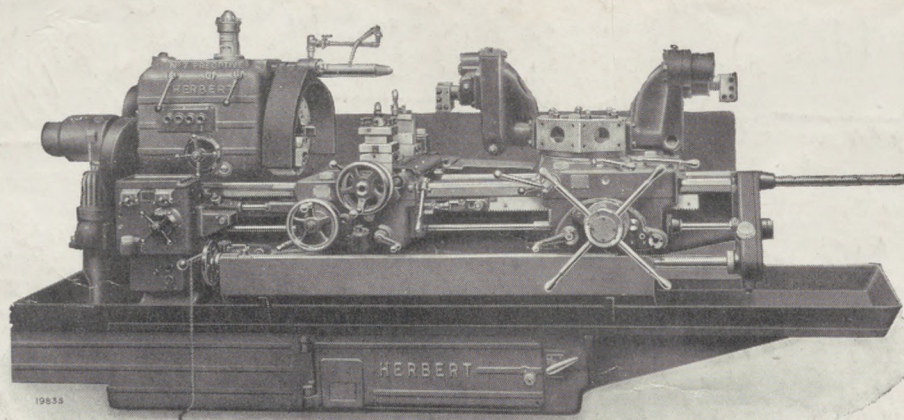
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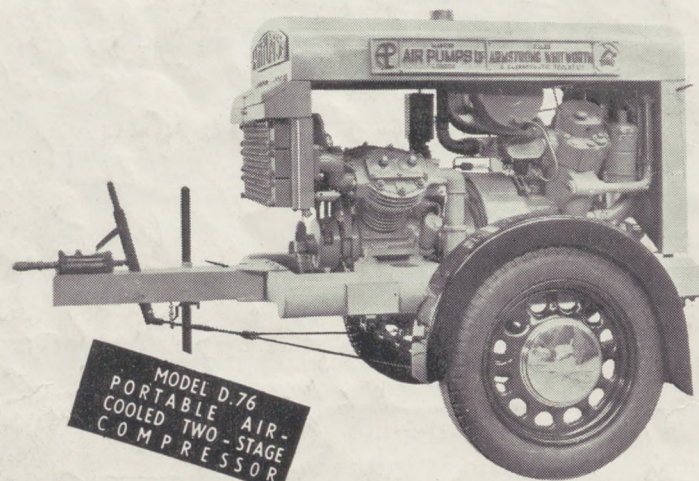
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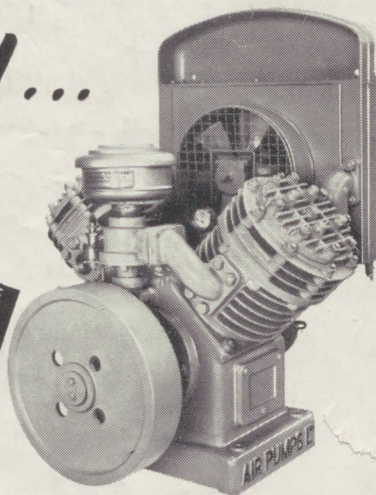
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POLAND AND PEACE

THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD LONG FOR peace, not the peace that is just a temporary state of "no war" but a real, lasting secure peace.

The millions of ordinary folk in Poland, as in Britain and in all the countries of the world, know that they do not want to fight each other, but in Poland particularly the terrible sufferings of the people under war and occupation have given the desire for peace a treble aspect.

They want peace because they have lost loved ones and cling to the survivors of their families, fearing what they know too well war can bring in pain and bereavement.

They want peace to rebuild their shattered country—and not only rebuild, but build anew to new standards and for new objectives.

They want peace so that their frontiers remain inviolate, that their country may plan for the future, for their children's children rather than themselves. So that the tragic history of Poland in the past may never be repeated.

These are good, clean reasons for wanting peace, not selfish or narrow, not

miserly in spirit but something that we can all share and respect. What then are the obstacles that make this loved and desired state of peace so hard to achieve and maintain? Distrust bred of ignorance is one, perhaps, though indirect, the greatest. Political intriguers in Foreign Offices throughout the world could not manoeuvre their peoples into wars if those peoples knew each other well enough. Wars are fought for economic gain, but the common people of the world never make the gain. Win or lose, theirs is the pain and bitterness of war; the profit goes to others.

The people of Poland have a future greater than anything in their past. In material things, in cultural development now for the first time offered to all, in freedom and equality of opportunity for individuals, in all it takes to make a free, full and happy life, the people of Poland have set their feet on the road forward. They will not hang back from positive action of any sort for the securing of peace. Can we, the British people go out to meet them? Surely we can.

A Merry Christmas
to our Readers

from the
Editor and Staff
of "New Poland"

We can insist that the agreements made between the Allies at Yalta and Potsdam remain, as we meant them to be, the cornerstone of policy in Europe. We can see to it that the new Germany that must arise is an agent for peace and not an instrument for war. We can say with the Poles "The Oder-Neisse line is a frontier of peace" and so insist on the inviolability of Poland's territory. We can help to develop the trade that brings us food to end our rationing and make our Christmases feasts again. We can make "Peace on Earth, Goodwill towards Men" the slogan of our nation, not only at this season but for all time.

ON GERMANY

FORMAL RECOGNITION OF THE NEW German Democratic Republic by Poland was no surprise to anyone in this country. It was, however, received with some cynicism by many and discounted as of little importance. It is as well, therefore, to glance at the basic reasons for Poland's attitude to Germany and seek perhaps to learn from them.

Poland is Germany's next door neighbour and Polish political thought approaches the problems of neighbourly relations from a very practical viewpoint. Her experiences in the past centuries have not been of the kind to inspire great confidence. The traditional German expansionism always followed the doctrine of the "Drang nach Osten." It was Poland always that was the first obstacle to this Eastern expansion and therefore Poland which has the closest and greatest interests at stake in the form of Germany's Government.

The new East German Government, whatever may be said from various points of view about its composition, is one which will never take up the slogan of the drive to the East. Since the Eastward drive has always been the first step in German aggression and attempts at aggression against the West as well, Western countries might well consider the policy of Poland—an expert on German aggression—worth very careful study.

NEW POLAND

Mickiewicz Returns to the People

Christmas Eve is the 150th anniversary of the birth of Adam Mickiewicz, Poland's greatest poet. It was his dream that one day his work would be read by the peasants and the working people of his country. To-day, that dream is becoming a reality.

AS EDITOR OF THE SOCIALIST *Tribune des Peuples*, Adam Mickiewicz, Poland's greatest poet, had his roots deep in the liberation movement which shook Europe in the forties of the last century. His "leaders" in the *Tribune* were astonishingly correct in predicting the victory which the Polish workers and peasants were to win in the times to come.

The poet's revolutionary tendencies were, however, overlooked by the literary authorities of Poland in the years between the wars—1918-1939—and what is more, all evidence pointing to his Socialism was either falsified or simply destroyed (like some of the letters burnt by his son Wladyslaw). Official critics of this period called Mickiewicz "the bard of old Poland."

One of the greatest Polish literary critics and writers, Tadeusz Boy-Zelenski, murdered by the Germans in Lwow in 1941, was the first to launch a campaign against this falsified opinion. Thanks to him, Mickiewicz emerged from under the thick layers of misrepresentation in his real stature, just as the pictures in the National Gallery, recently cleaned of the varnish of ages, showed their real colours. Yet only in the new Poland was it possible, thanks to the young generation of critics, to throw a full light on Mickiewicz as the poet and man he really was.

The poet's most ardent desire, ex-



From an Engraving made in Paris, 1825

pressed in the epilogue to "Pan Tadeusz," his master work, was that his books should be read by the simple peasants. He wanted the working people to read his poems in hours of leisure, after their

by
Antoni Slonimski
Director of the Polish Cultural Institute,
London

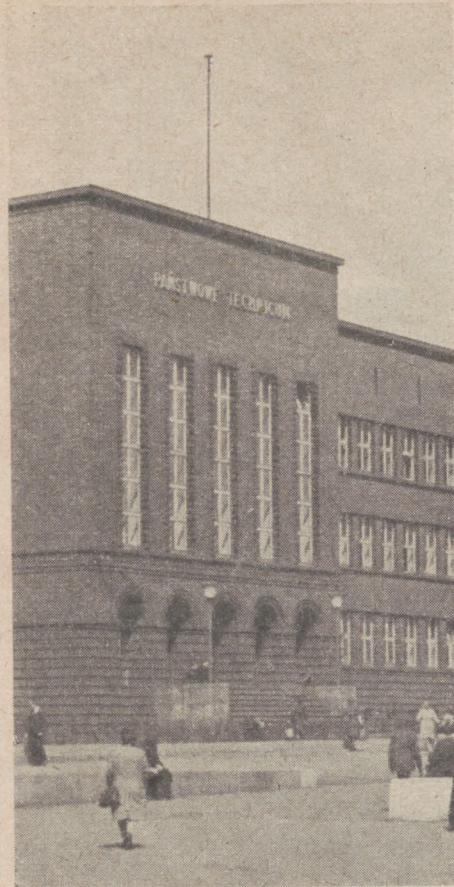
work, and find in them the imagery and rhythm they bear in their hearts.

This desire was destined to become flesh in the Poland of to-day. The new critical approach to Mickiewicz restored to him his real personality of the fighter for the rights of the oppressed and exploited; and our present Government's campaign for bringing culture to the peasant home means the realisation of the poet's wish.

The recently-published luxury edition of Mickiewicz's works sold out its full print of 100,000 copies. The price of a volume was within the means of the average person, but those who cannot afford to buy even a cheap book can still borrow it from the numerous libraries which are being opened by the authorities.

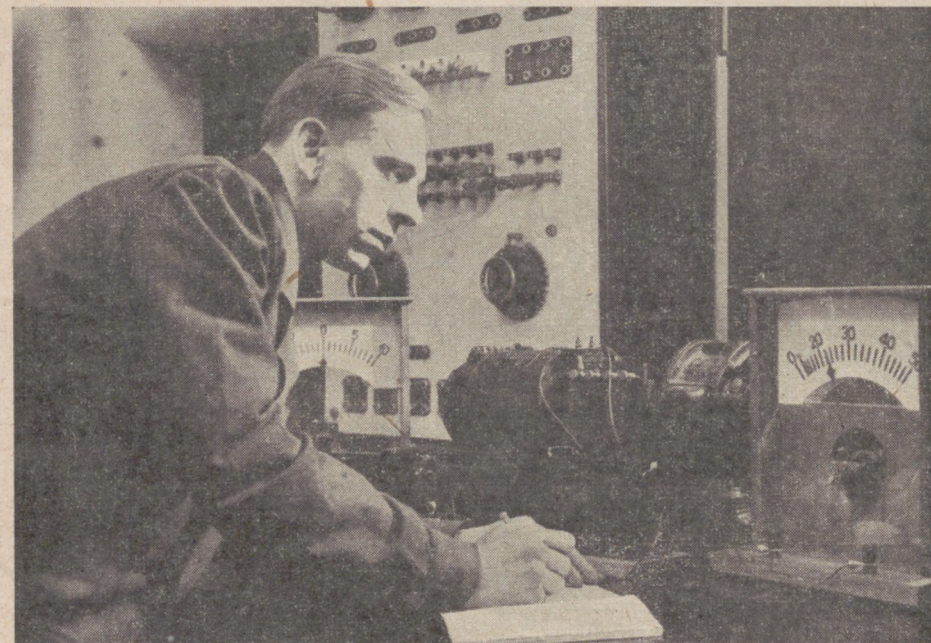
To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the poet's birth, which falls on Christmas Eve of the current year, a special committee, called the Mickiewicz Committee, has been organising lectures, talks and other events throughout the whole country, so that even the remotest villages have their opportunity of taking part in the celebrations.

Mickiewicz, who drew inspiration for his youthful poems from folk-tales and has touched the summits of poetry as a national and world poet, is now returning to the people who inspired him.



Entrance block of the Bytom Technicum, where over 600 worker-students are preparing for technical posts.

The Technicum's youngest student is Rudolf Bugdol (below), champion miner who achieved 700 per cent of the "norm" for several months running.



He was clever, but the old Poland gave him no chance. He had to leave school and get a job when he was 15. That was 28 years ago. Now, the new Poland has sent him back to school—preparing him for the promotion he deserves. There are thousands like him. Here is their story.

The Man at the Bench Goes back to School

by D. G. H. DOUGLAS

JUST OFF THE MARKET SQUARE IN BYTOM, one of the six main mining towns of the Upper Silesian coal basin, stands a large, newish-looking building of purple brick. The words "State Technicum" appear in large letters above the entrance.

It is easy enough to guess that a "Technicum" is some sort of educational establishment, but just what kind? The young men who can be seen walking briskly up the steps of the Bytom Technicum, or talking quietly in the portico, are not the usual run of velveteen-capped college student, rather loud of voice, distraught of manner and negligent of attire. They are neatly-dressed, purposeful-looking young men—and some of them not so young—with an unmistakable something that stamps them as workers, but there is also something of the "intellectual" about

their thoughtful demeanour, to say nothing of their armfuls of books. They are the type of young man, in fact, which is of crucial importance in the societies which call themselves people's democracies. One might almost say that it is this type of young man—the worker-intelligentsia—which gives to the expression "People's Democracy" much of its meaning.

The State Technicum in Bytom, like the other Technicums in Poland, exists to give the opportunity for further education and advancement to workers who have already worked for some time in industry. It is a sort of short-cut educational ladder for those who have been disqualified by their parents' poverty or other reasons from making use of the normal one.

The Bytom Technicum is the biggest and oldest of its kind. It was set up in May, 1945, barely four months after the liberation of Upper Silesia by the Red Army. There are now over 600 students divided between four courses: mining, metallurgical (iron and steel), mechanical and electrical. Naturally, most of the students are from the mines and steelworks of Silesia itself, but the mechanical and electrical courses draw students from all over Poland and from all branches of industry. There is also a sprinkling of repatriates from France, Germany, etc.

Formerly, there used to be a chemical course at Bytom, but this has been moved to Gliwice where there is now a special Technicum for the chemical industry that is centred there. There is also now a textile Technicum in Lodz, a mechanical Technicum in Warsaw, one for the oil industry in Krosno and one for the wood industry in Bydgoszcz. The aim is for every branch of industry to have its own

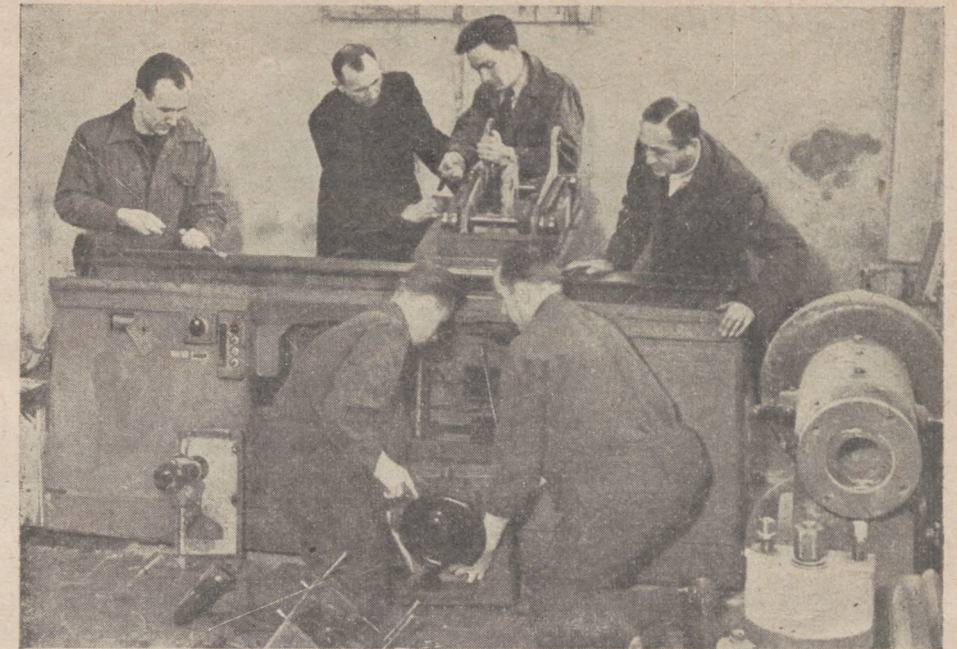
Technicum. Women and men are admitted on equal terms. Though one does not expect to find many women in an establishment catering for the mining and steel industries, there are in fact nine women students at the Bytom Technicum this year.

Names of candidates are submitted every six months by the works' councils and management to the Central Board of the industry, which selects the best and agrees to meet all the costs of their stay at the Technicum. The only qualifications required are an age of at least 24 and five years' work in industry (though even these are waived on occasion), and an adequate competence in the three R's. There are students at Bytom whose entire formal education consists of only five or six years of elementary school. For these, there are special six-month preparatory courses at the works.

How They Got There

Naturally, it is the best and most intelligent workers—those who are not only best on the job, but who show an interest in understanding the place of their particular job in the life of the people as a whole—who get selected. There are many *przodownicy pracy* ("work champions") and *racjonalizatorzy* (worker inventors) at Bytom. For instance, the young miners Rudolf Bugdol and Eryk Cyron, both *przodownicy* who dug more than 700 per cent of their monthly norm of coal. For instance, Jozef Czyzewski, a young electrician from Lodz who, on his own initiative, repaired a foreign-built voltage-regulator worth 2,700,000 zlotys for which the makers themselves had refused to take responsibility. This regulator, which qualified engineers had given up for scrap, has now been working for two years without a breakdown. For instance, Pawel Rosol (his name means "soup," but there's nothing soupy about him) who, at 43, is the Technicum's oldest pupil and who, amongst other things, invented a new tool for cutting grooves in steel plates which could be mounted on the old Polish-built jigs and thus obviated the necessity of importing expensive new cutting machines from abroad. Pawel Rosol also invented a new machine for grinding cylinders which was not only more rapid but more accurate than the ones that had been in use at the "Pokoj" (Peace) Steelworks ever since he started to work there in 1937. Pawel Rosol left school, as he thought, at the age of 15, and has worked in steelworks ever since. Now, after 28 years, he is back at school again.

The course at the Technicum lasts two years, during which time the students get free board and lodging in the Technicum hostel, free books and stationery, free laundry and mending, and in addition are



Students repair a lathe, salvaged from a scrap-heap

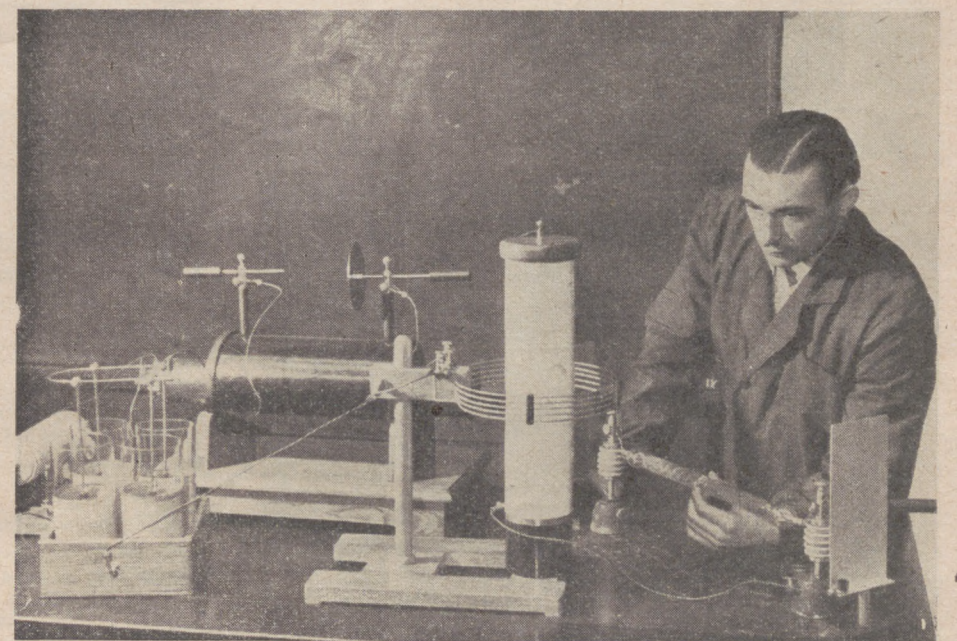
paid the normal wage for the job they were doing before, so that they do not have to worry about their wives and families (over half the Technicum students are married) while they are studying.

At the end of this time, the successful student is passed out as a *technik*—which is, one might say, the third rank in the Polish technical hierarchy, below "engineer without diploma" and above *majster*, or skilled craftsman. As it usually takes five years' schooling (three years Gymnasium, two years Lycium) to become a *majster*, one can appreciate that the Technicum sets a hot pace. Actually, the Technicum student spends 44 hours a week in the classroom and on top of that he has an equivalent amount of

"homework," reading and revising to do.

Director Stefan Kaluski, however, does not complain that his students fail to make the pace. On the contrary, he rather complained that, however often he tells them that the hours between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. are intended for sleeping, they do not seem to believe him.

It is the aim of the Technicum not only to turn out so many technicians, but also to produce civilised human beings who understand something of the world they live in. That is why, in addition to the technical subjects, the course includes Polish Language and Literature, General History, Political Economy, Economic Geography, Elementary Natural Science and Current Affairs.



Eryk Cyron, another ex-champion miner who is now at the Technicum

You may have been promoted, but

Don't be a Snob!

by Dr. Wanda Markowska

Warning to the newly-promoted by the Professor of Current Affairs at Bytom Technicum (see story on Page Four).
Translated from the Technicum's magazine by G.D.H.D.

MANY THINGS HAVE CHANGED SINCE the old days and many things have remained the same . . .

Kazik went to the Technicum. Now he belongs to the ones who give the orders.

How's things, Kazik? Don't you recognise me?

My old school friend and workmate—friendly, openhearted and, as I thought, sensible—gave me a quick, cold look, raised his eyebrows slightly. Then, after a momentary, but noticeable, hesitation, he carelessly gave me the tips of his fingers. And he was already looking somewhere else, gazing round with his faint half-smile, bestowing on others the brief, bored condescension of his notice.

Aha, I thought. These are the visible manifestations of greatness and promotion. These are the stamps of an institution of which Kazik—to the misfortune of his future subordinates—was an ornament!

Kazik, I thought, is one of the anachronisms. These manners of his are a survival of the past. For was it not for-

merly our Polish habit to "stand on our dignity," to "make our weight felt?" Isn't Kazik just another victim of our pre-war cult of "status?"

Once, before the war, I happened to be present when an old peasant in the Vilna district addressed a forester as "you." The forester jumped. His face turned as purple as one of his own turkeys. "How dare you speak to me like that?" he roared. "I'm Sir to you! Understand?"

"Poland is a strange sort of country," a French journalist said to me once. "When the squire's lady goes into church all the old dames of the village line up to kiss her hand." Wasn't he right? All this kissing of hands and bowing was the symbol of a social order. And the result was that Poland was something of a monstrosity among nations. A normal person felt as if he had got into the wrong world! A cavalry officer quite seriously imagined that he was something better than an infantry or artillery officer. And all three obviously felt themselves a cut above a civilian in a civvy suit.

As for the wives of the various local

grandees—you'd think an Olympian goddess had come down to earth!

The war presented us with a heavy bill for all this "gentlemanliness" and refinement. The fictions of aristocracy, superiority and the rest blew away like smoke on the barricades of Warsaw, in the woods, at the secret printing presses, and even in the adventures of the black market. Anybody starting up with the old "Do you realise who I am?" was liable to get the reply: "Yes, you're a poor b——y Pole, the same as the rest of us."

Thus Kazik's nose, so much up in the air, did not get there automatically. It is the product of historical processes, of the pre-war atmosphere of traditional pseudo-authority and arrogance, when the nation was divided by barriers of family and of money—so completely out of place today, when free education provided by the State opens the way for everybody to the trade of his choice and the job to which he is suited.

But Kazik isn't the only one of his kind. We all know the senior clerk, so polite to the director, but so insufferable to his juniors and so impatient of clients whose very existence seems to get on his nerves. We all know the secretary, full of smiles for her boss, who a moment ago was snarling at the applicants she loves to keep waiting in her anteroom.

At government level, or even at Wojewodstwo (provincial) level, these things are pretty well understood. It is when one comes down to the lower rungs of the hierarchy that sometimes one finds a return to the days of the squire and his lady.

So much depends on us. To fight for your country is not merely a matter of a cavalry charge or throwing petrol-bottles at enemy tanks. Those things are useful, of course, but, it must be said, they are the easier form of heroism. The heroism we need to-day is not the heroism of exceptional deeds of glory, but that of daily, regular, quite inglorious actions which make up the life of an individual and of society. We have passed through the period of the "art of dying"; now it is time to learn the art of living.

Technicum graduates! After getting your diploma you may possibly find yourselves in a very much higher position in the social scale, perhaps very much higher than your former workmates. But don't let it go to your head! Keep up your old contacts and keep them warm, and keep your old directness and simplicity! Don't look down on anybody and don't try to scare anybody. And remember that snobbery and swank that were so much the thing before the war stand very low in the market to-day. Today we value people by their work and character alone.

The Polish Walkie Man

An account of the life and hard times of a Zakopane street photographer.

by
Patricia Konarek

THE Polish walkie man and his assistant, I think, win first prize both for originality and for a never-failing sense of humour.

Mr. Walkie Man's assistant is a Mr. Bear who wears white tennis shoes and makes queer whistling noises (queer for a bear, that is) at all the pretty girls who rush giggling past. Occasionally, he finds a lonely lady (although, as he says, "there aren't many lonely ladies about") and, then, gallantly, he either shows her his pictures of former conquests or tells her she'll look perfectly sweet.

The white bear and his hug are memories carried away by six out of every ten visitors to his domain, with a photograph to prove that this isn't just another tall story.

Proud parents are his best customers and (the thing that amazed me most) Polish children are never afraid of shaking hands with Pan Misho, as they call him. They even sit on his shoulder, tiny little mites as well as half-grown ones; and yet I can remember going into a big London store, more than once, round about Christmas time and hearing small children screaming because they'd been asked to shake hands with a man wearing a long white beard, although he still looked like a man for all that. I asked one small girl of three, who was busy having her picture taken, if she wasn't afraid of Pan Misho. "No," she replied scornfully. "It's a man like Daddy," she went on hurriedly, "I seed his eyes frough his mouf."

But the walkie man's life is not an easy one. His day usually begins with guerrilla attacks by the local small boys, who smartly whip Mr. Walkie Man's assistant across the nether end with a switchy stick, a school satchel or a brick, whichever is handiest (Polish small boys being like all other small boys). Once school is in, he can get down to business with a will for at least four hours. Not that he is left completely unmolested during that time. He must be continuously on his guard against every little cur which has to be dragged past bristling with rage or snapping wrathfully. I wasn't really surprised when he told me that he preferred the bigger and wiser dogs, which invariably creep past him and his assistant with tails dragging between their legs.

Occasionally you can find the walkie man and Pan Misho reading a paper when business is slack—seeing, perhaps, what won the three o'clock. Sometimes you can even find them asleep on the greensward, Pan Misho with his head under his arm and the walkie man using Pan Misho as a pillow, which I think is a bit thick!

As dusk turns into evening, if you will walk down Krupowki Street, Zakopane, you will see Pan Misho and the walkie man standing on their corner, while other Pan Mishos and walkie men slowly pass homewards, the day's work being done; and the expression on our Pan Misho's face will say more plainly than words: "Now who's that walking on my pitch?"



What won the three o'clock?



"Madam you'll look perfectly sweet."

"How much?" asks Mother, cautiously.



"I'm very sorry, gentlemen, but I can do nothing for you to-day. In a quarter of an hour I must be at our late director's funeral and the deceased was always very particular about punctuality!"

—Cartoon by Miklaszewski

Warsaw's Planners Keep Their Promises

—by A. G. Ling

TO APPRECIATE THE ASTONISHING SPEED at which Warsaw is being rebuilt, you must pay at least two visits.

At the first, you will be appalled by the devastation and the immensity of the problem; you will be impressed by the grandeur of the plans and the ambitious programme of execution, but you will probably come away slightly sceptical of the possibility of such rapid achievement, in spite of the evident progress already made.

At the second visit, any doubts you had will quickly be dispelled. All that you were told has been done, and more.

My first visit was in May, 1948; my second 18 months later in September of this year. On arrival,

I found a new station had been built where previously there had only been a temporary barrier at the end of a row of platforms. Then, crossing the road bridge just outside the station, I had an impressive view of hundreds of men excavating for the new suburban railway line at lower level with long lines of earth-laden trucks moving almost continuously away. It reminded me of those nineteenth-century coloured prints of railway building in England.

I felt sure that anything else I saw

would be an anti-climax, but I was wrong. The five mile long East-West Road, with its tunnel under the old city centre and new bridge over the Vistula, had been opened two months earlier and was now busy with traffic and sightseers. In 1948, I thought it would be at least two or three years before it was complete; the ancient buildings were still in ruins, the tunnel had not been started and only excavation work was in progress with the aid of a single mechanical excavator and a "fleet" of peasant carts to take away the earth. The completion of this project in 95 weeks, including all the design work,

has done more than anything else to convince the people of Warsaw that the majority of them will live to see their new

city complete. Before they were hopeful, now they are sure.

Alongside the road in the new Mariensztat Square with its shopping arcade, fountains and open air café, gay with coloured umbrellas, people can escape from the ruins of Warsaw and imagine themselves in their new city. From the road over the tunnel the Vistula is opened up. Previously, views of the river were completely obstructed by buildings, but now sloping lawns enable a wide

Mr. Ling is Senior Planning Officer of the London County Council and senior lecturer in town planning at University College, London. He has just paid his second visit to Warsaw.



stretch of the river, with Praga suburb on the east bank, to be seen. The only offending building is the headquarters of Warsaw Trades Council; this had to be kept, as it was relatively undamaged, but President Bierut has promised the architects that it can be removed after the Six-Year Plan has been completed.

The East-West route and its surrounding development has a mature look in spite of its recent construction. This is due partly to the fact that many of the buildings are restorations of the originals, but mainly to the numerous trees of substantial size which decorate the lawns. Most of these are 20-30 years old and were moved from the city's tree nursery during the early months of this year. Mr. Prus, the city's head gardener, explained to me how he had moved over 100 of them with the aid of a crane and an open metal basket of his own invention.

The only complaint I heard about the East-West route was told me by the Vice-Minister of Construction, Mr. Zakowski, who encountered a drunk one evening cursing and swearing at the Government and all its works, particularly the East-West Road. When asked what his trouble was, he replied: "You have altered everything so much I can't find my way home." However, the extent of popular support for the project is indicated by the voluntary contribution of 1½ billion zlotys which represents one-third of the total cost.

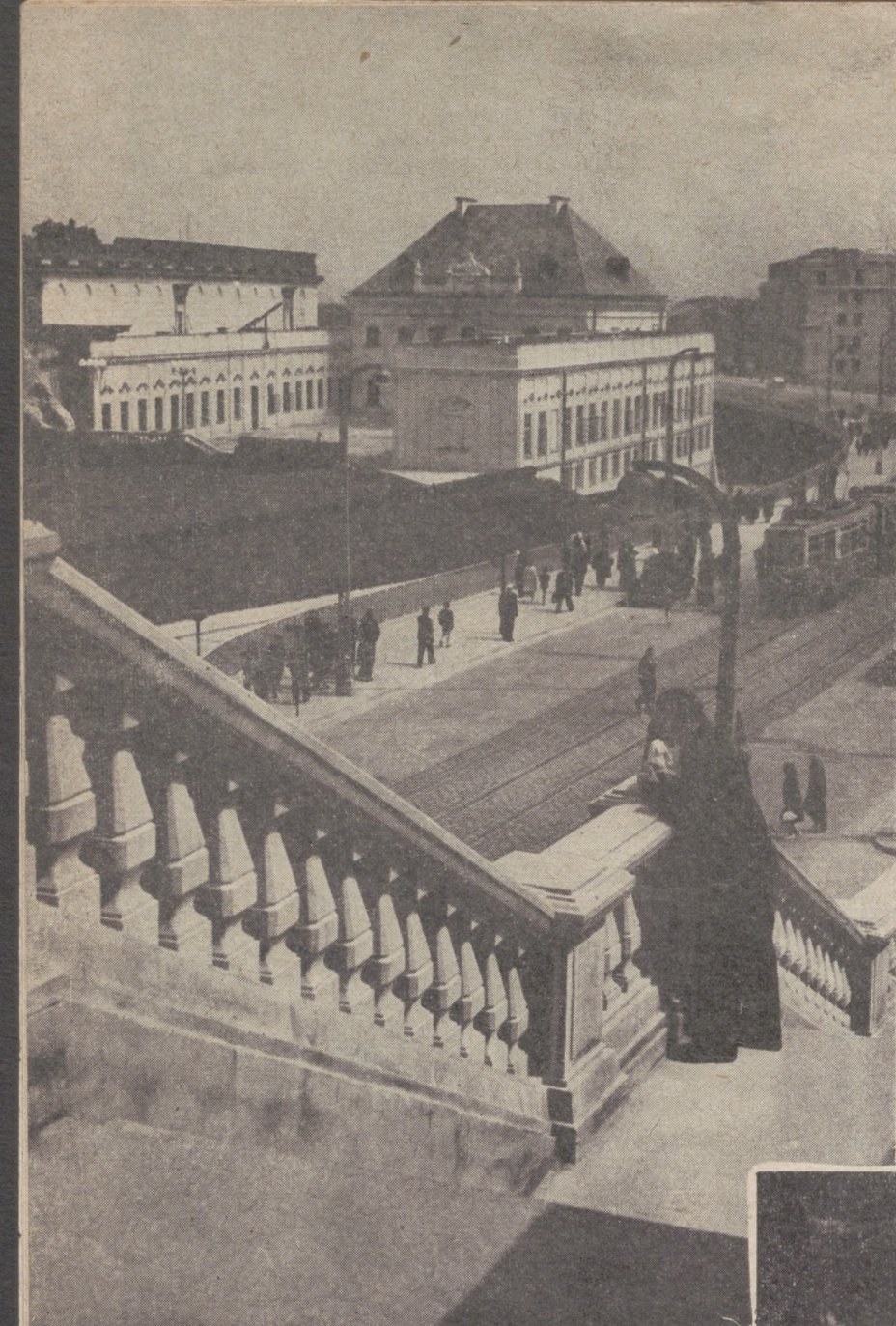
While I was in Warsaw, I stayed in

Nowy-Swiat (New World) Street—a street about half a mile long which has now been reconstructed. The last stage was the removal of tram lines and the relaying of pavements and asphalted road. This was commencing just as I arrived and when I left, a fortnight later, it was almost complete. New lamp standards had been erected and they were getting ready for the opening ceremony. Such rapidity is achieved by a concentration of labour, with assistance from the youth organisation known as "Service for Poland." Nearby, in General Sikorski Street, the road was being excavated for the construction of a new railway tunnel, duplicating the existing line access to Praga.

New or restored buildings and buildings under construction are to be seen in all parts of the centre. To mention a few, there is the completed Ministry of Industry in Trzech Krzyży Square, the Ministry of Communications' skyscraper in Chalubinski Street, the headquarters of the United Workers' Party next to the National Museum and the eight storey Post Office Savings Bank in Marszałkowska Street. These are not only important buildings in themselves, but are also contributions to the new plan because, at the same time, the surrounding areas are being reconstructed according to the new layout.

It is true to say that the whole of Warsaw is one vast building site, but to be

(Continued on Page Seven)
Seminarium Filozofii i Historii
przy Uniwersytecie M. Kopernika
w Toruniu



Looking at New Warsaw

(Above) The East-West Road, viewed from the steps leading up the escarpment. The building on the extreme right is the headquarters of Warsaw Trades Council (see story).

(Right) A corner of the new workers' housing estate of Mariensztat, built as a part of the East-West Road scheme.

(Top right) Flats at Zoliborz—typical of the "neighbourhood units" now being developed by Warsaw's central housing organisation, Z.O.R.



Chopin Contest— from the Jury's Room

by Arthur Hedley

Mr. Hedley, eminent British authority on Chopin's life and music, was vice-president of the international jury at the contest. The Polish President has awarded him the decoration "Pogona Restitua."

THE CHOPIN CENTENARY WAS POLAND'S first great post-war artistic occasion, and one which has left an indelible impression on those who had the good fortune to attend it.

It is unnecessary to emphasise the importance which the Poles have attached to the worthy commemoration of this centenary. No-one needs to be reminded of what Chopin has meant to Poland in the past and means today more than ever. He is to her a symbol of her past achievement and of her latent powers—hence the resolve to make the Chopin Year, 1949, a landmark in her cultural history.

With an admirable sense of what was appropriate, the Polish authorities decided to combine the Centenary with the re-birth of the International Chopin Competition for pianists and to set aside the months of September and October for that purpose, while arranging that the Competition should come to a solemn close on the centenary day of Chopin's death, October 17. The last competition

had been held two years before the outbreak of war, and once the decision to restore it was taken, all Poland's artistic resources were mobilised so as to ensure complete success for this difficult and arduous undertaking. Having had the pleasure and privilege of witnessing the whole affair from start to finish, as vice-president of the Jury, I am glad of the opportunity to vouch for its perfect organisation and well-merited success.

In order to discover and reward the world's most gifted young Chopin interpreters, the Competition was thrown open to all countries which chose to present candidates. Since the first rush of applications brought forward over 300 aspiring pianists, separate selection committees were set up in various countries so as to sort out those who might be thought worthy of making the trip to Warsaw in order to defend their own, and their country's, musical reputation before an international jury of distinguished musicians. As a result of these preliminary "bap-

tisms of fire," about 60 candidates were able to accept the Polish Government's invitation and hospitality—and one should add that this hospitality was magnificent.

The competition itself was organised on lines calculated to ensure absolute fairness to each candidate. A group of second-tier boxes at the Roma was turned into a jury room separated from the hall in which performances took place by a wooden grating, like a Venetian blind, which allowed the jury to hear perfectly without being able to see and identify the players. Each player had a number, and the connection between names and numbers was known only to the confidential liaison officer. Thus the jury went simply by what they heard.

During and after a performance there was no discussion. Each member of the jury acted on his own conscience and responsibility and gave his mark without reference to his colleagues. In this way, the possibility of influence by dominating personalities was ruled out. It was provided, of course, that in difficult and special cases a member of the jury could propose that a discussion might take place; this eventuality, however, rarely arose.

The chief section of each competitor's trial took the form of a recital of Chopin's selected compositions lasting about an hour. Those who passed this test with high marks were admitted to the final—the performance in public and with orchestra of one of Chopin's two piano concertos. The marks gained in this final stage were added to those gained during the previous recital and the prizewinners were designated by the total of marks gained.

After a long and exhausting recital-stage lasting many days, 18 candidates were left in the final. Then began the series of concerto performances during which the Venetian blinds were removed and both jury and public saw and heard the competitors as in an ordinary public concert—a nerve-racking test for these young musicians who knew that every note and accent was being listened-to by sharp and critical ears, both in the hall and outside, for every concert was broadcast. Finally, amid tense excitement on the night of Saturday, October 15, the marks were added and the totals declared.

By a remarkable coincidence, two candidates were separated by a fraction of a decimal point for the first prize! After a hasty midnight consultation with Vice-Minister Sokorski, it was resolved that the prize-money should be doubled and then shared by the two girls, a Russian and a Pole, who had obtained extremely high marks. Thus the first prize

(Continued at foot of next page)



IN LONDON LAST MONTH: Miss Halina Czerny-Stefanska, Polish co-winner of the Contest, gave her first London recital at the Wigmore Hall on November 26.

WARSAW WORKER . . . TSARIST CONSCRIPT . . . NOW—

Poland's New Defence Chief



MARSHAL KONSTANTY ROKOSOWSKI, son of a Warsaw railway worker who became one of the most famous commanders in the Soviet Army, has been appointed Marshal of Poland and Minister of National Defence.

The appointment was announced on November 7, after the Soviet Government had agreed to a request from the President of Poland that Marshal Rokosowski, in view of his Polish nationality and popularity among the Polish people, should be released from service in the Soviet Army and placed at the disposal of the Polish Government.

Konstanty Rokosowski was born in 1896. His father met with an accident and died in 1904. After the death of his mother, five years later, 13-year-old Konstanty had to stop his studies at a technical college and work for a living. His first job was in a Warsaw hosiery factory. Later, he became a stonemason and took part in building the old "Poniatowski" bridge over the Vistula.

In 1912, Rokosowski was arrested for taking part in workers' demonstrations in one of Warsaw's squares.

In 1914, he was conscripted into the Tsarist Army and fought as a private against the Germans. With the retreating army, he went to Russia.

When the Soviet Republic was created, Rokosowski took part from the first in forming the Red Army. He distinguished

himself in battles against the armies of intervention and in the civil war, and rose to a leading command in the Red Army cavalry.

After the end of the civil war, Rokosowski studied at several military academies and in 1940 he was promoted to the rank of major-general. In 1941, at the time of Hitler's attack on the Soviet Union, he commanded an armoured corps.

During the war, Rokosowski proved to be one of the most able commanders in the Red Army. He led the 16th Army which defended Moscow and later he took over the command of the front on

the River Don and played a most important part in the encircling operations of Stalingrad. After the annihilation of Paulus' Army, Rokosowski was in command of the Kursk front. Under his leadership, the Soviet Army liberated the Ukraine and swept on into Poland. The provinces of Chelm, Lublin, Bialystok and, later, a part of the Warsaw region—those Polish territories which constituted the base for the activities of the Polish National Liberation Committee—were freed by Marshal Rokosowski's army.

During the winter of 1944-45, he was in command of the "second front" responsible for the annihilation of the German armies in East Prussia.

In spring, 1945, Rokosowski forced the Oder and, after taking Szczecin, reached the Elbe. The First Polish Army fought under Rokosowski's command during the liberation of Lublin province and of Praga (Warsaw) and also in the battles near the Vistula and Studzienki. The armoured brigade "Heroes of Westplatte" was under his command in the battles for the liberation of Gdynia and Gdansk.

The title "Hero of the Soviet Union" was twice conferred on Marshal Rokosowski. He has also been awarded the highest Polish decorations, the "Virtuti Militari" and the "Order of Grunwald," in addition to various other medals.

CHOPIN CONTEST—continued from Page Ten

(2,000,000 zlotys) was divided between Bella Davidowicz, U.S.S.R., and Halina Czerny-Stefanska, Poland. Eleven other prizes were likewise won by Russian or Polish competitors.

Let me say at once that this result was not at all surprising to those who realised what high musical merit, great talent and intensive preparation had been displayed by these Slavonic candidates. The general, all-round standard of the candidates was extremely high; the Poles and Russians surpassed all others (and easily!) by the perfection of their technique, the beauty of their phrasing and the careful finish of their playing. Some of Chopin's works

were better played at this competition than I have ever heard them in my life, even under the hands of some world-renowned pianists. There were, unhappily, one or two lapses on the part of some of the foreign guests—needless "improvements" on what Chopin had written, or "original" interpretations such as are better left at home on these occasions.

In spite of unavoidable disappointments and, of course, little "temperamental" troubles, the spirit of the whole competition was excellent—a first-class example of international working together in harmony for a serious artistic purpose.

More to Buy This Year —and Less to Pay

J. P. R.'s Warsaw Newsletter

AUTUMN USED TO BE THE FAVOURITE time for the concerted manoeuvres of speculators to "corner" the market in dairy produce, meat and other necessities here. This year, too, the familiar rumours have gone round that prices were about to go up. But it just hasn't happened.

There has been no run on flour or sugar. At co-operative and State butchers' shops, ration card holders—95 per cent of the population—duly receive their weekly allowance of from three to five pounds of meat and sausage; on Thursdays and Mondays those who are not entitled to a ration can buy three pounds of meat at a time.

After a seasonal rise in the price of dairy butter, farm butter at less than controlled price has appeared in shop windows. There is plenty of milk and even that which is bought on the children's ration cards—which was far from satisfactory last year—is now full cream milk. The co-operative dairies are supplying pasteurised milk in sealed bottles and have started home deliveries. Apples, as plentiful as last year, are even cheaper than before.

WHAT IS THE SECRET OF THIS transformation of the market? What has happened is that the distributive apparatus is constantly improving. The magic letters W.S.S., standing for *Warszawska Spodzielna Spozyc*

weza (Warsaw Consumers' Co-operative) now appears in every street, at every step. Profiteers inspired by political motives have directed their attacks against the workers' pockets and morale; but the co-operatives are beating them.

Take the eggs, for example. Their price was going up, if only for the simple reason that hens were laying less. Immediately, co-operatives started distributing preserved eggs at about half the price asked for eggs which might or might not be fresh—and prices took a downward trend.

Then the co-operative food shops are often the main distributors of food imported by the State. Just recently, it was possible to buy rice on the coupons of children's ration cards at a quarter of the "normal" price. Thanks to the co-operatives, too, Varsovians have been eating delicious Bulgarian grapes. Another innovation this year has been the appearance of W.S.S. apple carts on the streets.

To those whom the sights of the street interest, the State fisheries, "Centrala Rybna," provide an unflinching source of amusement with their huge water tanks placed flush against the shop windows, where pike swim, carefully segregated from bream and tench. Inside, huge pyramids of tinned salt-water fish testify to

the skill of the window dressers. To the Polish housewife, they mean wholesome and inexpensive food.

THEN THERE ARE THE STATE TRADING centres, with their navy blue capitals "P.C.H." on a light blue shield. They, too, are food shops, but specialise in preserves: fruit, vegetables, tinned meat and fish, sweetmeats and chocolates, dried mushrooms and bilberries, pickled cucumbers, the native red currant wine and mead, or the more expensive Hungarian Tokay.

The initials "W.S.S." also appear on the frontage of textile and leather goods shops. The largest of these is accommodated on the premises of the Hotel Bristol. The State tailoring factory, christened "Warsaw's Defenders," which was opened for Independence Day in July, already regularly supplies the Bristol with moderately-priced children's and women's garments.

There, and in the co-operative footwear shops, which are never empty in the day time, strong leather shoes, for instance, can now be had for less than 4,000 zlotys. Now Warsaw women have taken to longer skirts, the native knee-high felt and leather *Kapce* (boots) have been replaced by an ankle-length variety, and the co-operatives sell those at a price far below that asked by the Warsaw private shoe shops.

THE LIST OF SHOPS UNDER SOCIAL management would be incomplete without a mention of the three Warsaw State universal department stores. There, you can buy anything from china dinner-sets to warm underwear, from electric kettles to face powder and eau de cologne, from watches to carpets and radio sets (the latter sold on the instalment system). It is characteristic of the rising standard of living here that comparative luxuries like an embroidered sheepskin coat—the *kozuchy*—are snapped up as soon as they come. At the moment, I am keeping a look-out in the

department store in my district for the new electric sewing machines whose arrival has been announced.

In the State department stores, as in the co-operatives, the personnel, largely women, has gone through six weeks' training and practice before being taken on permanently. In all these shops, too, general meetings are called periodically, where customers can air their grievances about the shop service and where announcements of further consignments of goods are made.

Needless to say, these stores are always crowded, or at least they were until the Ministry of Home Trade tried the experiment of leaving them open until 10 p.m. every day. The experiment has been so successful that it is unlikely to be discontinued. Now, the advertisement which told the readers of all papers: "If you want to avoid a crowd, call at the State department stores," has indeed come true, especially between 7 and 10 p.m. A man may ponder as long as he likes before investing in a new suit and a woman can try on a dozen woollen dresses before making her choice. This is important when one considers that these purchases still represent the expenditure of a large sum of money for the average working man or woman.

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every night at

POLISH RADIO'S ENGLISH LANGUAGE programme, transmitted daily on the 48.25 metre band at 19.30 Greenwich Mean Time, has recently been extended from 20 to 30 minutes. The extra time is being used for more Polish music, a greater variety of features and commentaries, more news. Here are the main items in the week's programme under the new arrangements:

WEEK'S LISTENING AT A GLANCE

EVERY DAY . . . News from Poland

SUNDAYS

"This is the New Poland": Popular, factual accounts of everyday life in the People's Poland.

Sacred Music.
"The World During the Week": Commentary on international events and their significance for Poland and for Britain.

MONDAYS

"The Week in Poland": Commentary on things which have made news—and some things which have not made news—during the past week.
Sports News—often with outside broadcasts of sporting events.

TUESDAYS

Polish Folk Music.
Review of Polish Literary and Social Journals (primarily cultural and educational).
Polish Press Review.

WEDNESDAYS

"Social Commentary": A picture of current events in one selected social field—e.g., trade unions, women's organisations, co-operatives, youth movement, etc.
Transmission of Outside Broadcasts to illustrate news items or information given in talks.
Polish Press Review.

THURSDAYS

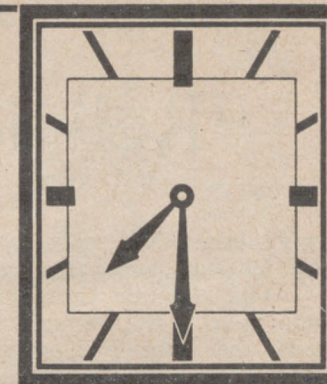
Economic Review: Latest news of Poland's march towards Socialism.
Classical Music.
Polish Press Review.

FRIDAYS

Cultural Topics: A series of popular talks upon literature, films, theatre and art in Poland to-day.
News Items of Cultural Interest.
Review of the Polish Press.

SATURDAYS

"Holiday Evening": Short stories, plays, humour—the lighter side generally.
Polish Light Music.
Polish Press Review.



on 48.25 metres

One of the Polish staff responsible for the programme writes:

"We have been thinking a good deal about how to make the best possible use of this 50 per cent increase in our broadcasting time. We should like New Poland readers to send us their criticisms of our plan and any suggestions they may have for improving it. The programme is designed for their interest and entertainment. Ask them to write to us now, and write to us later when they hear how the new programme works out in practice. The address is simply:

English Language Transmission,
Polish Radio,
Warsaw, Poland.

IN THE STUDIO



Stepania Grodzienka, actress and writer

Warsaw's Zoo is rapidly growing in size and popularity. Among the latest arrivals are the lioness, llama and chimpanzee pictured here.



“Religious Persecution is a Myth”

WE HEAR MANY STATEMENTS ABOUT religious persecution in Poland. Like the Iron Curtain, this is a myth. Never have we seen so many priests and nuns walking about the streets as we did in the towns and villages of Poland. Hardly a man or woman passes a church without the man raising his cap and the woman giving the usual Catholic blessing. With our own eyes we saw new modern churches being built in various parts of Poland and all the old historical churches, which also suffered as a result of the intensive bombing of Poland, are being restored.

Four of our delegation decided to attend Chapel on Sunday, July 24, in Zakopane, to see for themselves. At the service the church was overcrowded and, in fact, many had to wait to get in until others came out. So quite the opposite of religious persecution exists, and we only wish that serious religious workers, whether Protestant or Catholic, had the opportunity to see for themselves how religion has the utmost freedom in the new Poland.

The people of Poland have had enough persecution and terror under the old regime and during the German occupation. They suffered more at the hands of the German Fascists, probably, than any other nation. Alongside the great sacrifice of life and destruction of their towns and villages, they have a monument still intact to remind them of the inhuman events which took place—the concentration camp at Oswiecim. Under German control, it was the biggest in Europe, and we saw the chamber of death where men, women and children

died in millions. There are 400 acres of land and 500 blocks for sleeping under the most terrible conditions. Here, in the highly organised gas chamber, the ruins of which can still be seen, the Fascists put to death 4½ million people. The Polish people will never forget this terror and persecution, although many of the opponents of the new Poland would like the Poles and us not to remember these things.

If there were the same response in other countries as in Poland to religion

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

and attendance at church, the churches would be in a very strong position indeed.

We cannot conclude this report without making reference to the tremendous reception which we received. Whether in the coalfield or at the holiday homes, in the factory or on the street, and not least in the salt mining district which we visited, the reception was the same.

Everywhere the hand of friendship and unity was extended to all of us without exception. There is no talk of a third world war in Poland. All they want is peace and time to rebuild their economy, which they are undoubtedly doing. They have suffered enough from war, and if we had lost seven million of our people and gone through all the suffering and sacrifice experienced by the Polish people,

we would not be talking about a third world war either.

The people of Poland want tractors to cultivate their land in place of tanks. They really want houses in place of bombs, and above all they want full economic co-operation with all countries and especially with Britain. Their recent trade agreements with Britain and the building on the Clyde of ships for Poland is proof of their sincerity. They want still more trade and it must be understood that this would be to the benefit of the people of Britain, as Poland does possess many of the foodstuffs which would be welcomed by every housewife in Britain.

We would like also to say a word to those Poles who remain in this country and who may have been misguided by slanderous propaganda about the new Poland. Your country is rebuilding its economy on an entirely new basis, which will, we believe, guarantee security for the people of Poland. They have done a grand job already and they will do better in the future. They require more hands to assist them and we appeal to you, as friends, to consider returning to your country so that you also can play your part in building a new Poland.

In conclusion, we want to thank all our comrades in Poland, too many to mention by name, for the arrangements made and the hospitality which we received during our visit to Poland. We hope that we will have the opportunity of expressing our appreciation in a tangible way when the Polish miners' delegation visits our country. We are quite sure that the Scottish miners will give them a real Scottish welcome.



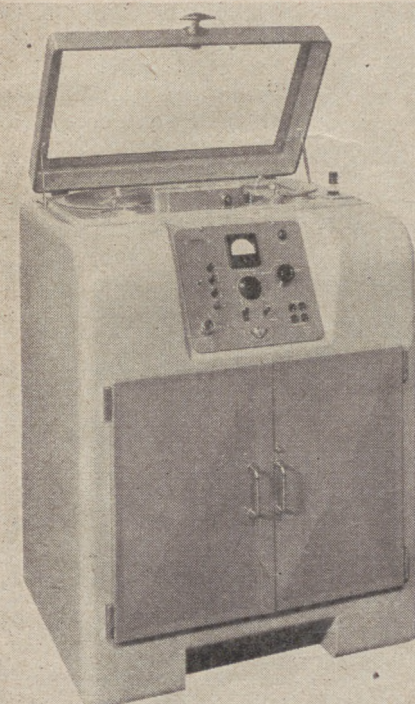
1945-1949: Warsaw's oldest church—the Church of the Holy Virgin—before and after rebuilding.

British-built for Poland (12)

TAPE RECORDERS

ELECTRICAL RECORDING APPARATUS OF the latest type is being supplied to Poland by E.M.I., of Hayes, Middlesex. On the point of completion is an order for 29 tape recorders of the type shown—the largest order yet received by E.M.I. from any one European country for this advanced and costly equipment.

The E.M.I. tape recorder will take a high-fidelity recording of any kind—voice or music—for an unbroken period of 21 minutes. By employing more than one



machine, continuous recordings can, of course, be made indefinitely. Its chief use is for radio studios (the Polish radio system is expanding rapidly). Replaying is carried out by the same instrument. The recording is made on a plastic tape. Recordings can be made on tape which has already been used, the old recording being automatically erased, and this process can be repeated at least 1,000 times without in any way affecting the fidelity.

events at “81” but we want to plan our next three months' programme to extend these audiences. To do this, we want the reactions of those who have not, so far, come to any of these functions.

* In brief we want suggestions—What shall we do on our Friday nights for January, February and March? What would you come to in a fog? A phone call or a postcard from you may give us the clue to a really popular line and we shall be duly grateful. F.L.F.

* = *make a note, please!*

Profile

Major Hooper



“AND that reminds me of a man I met in Cracow. Nice chap, he was . . .” Yes, that is Major Hooper talking. Talking, you'll observe. Not lecturing. Major Hooper's insistence upon the difference between these two words goes a long way to explain why his travel talks, illustrated with slides made from his own photographs, are so popular with audiences varying from schoolchildren to old-age pensioners, trade unionists to Rotarians. For Major Hooper is a master of the quiet joke, the odd reminiscence, the personal anecdote which brings life to the people on his screen and laughter to his audience. But behind this is shrewd judgment based on a wealth of experience as traveller and lecturer (sorry, Major). He and his camera have been in Canada, the Soviet Union, Persia, Yugoslavia and Poland (this leaves out of account his period of Army service, which involved some less comfortable travelling in Belgium, France, India, China, New Zealand and South Africa). His 1937 book on Russia, with a foreword by Bernard Shaw, sold 150,000 copies. In his library of lantern slides, Poland (which he has twice visited) claims a larger number than any other country. It is talks on Poland, these days, which keep him busy. Already, he has given nearly 100 during this year. And practically every one of the “customers” asks him to come back . . .

BRITISH-POLISH SOCIETY NOTES

Record Month for Lectures

RECORD BROKEN AGAIN. THE NUMBER of lectures given by the Society's speakers in the month of November reached the record total of 56 spread all over England.

The interest shown in Anglo-Polish trade, Polish cultural activities and straight travel talks from recent visitors seems to be increasing as our work becomes known.

* An immense variety of organisations hears these lectures—Is yours one?

In a somewhat specialised sphere, an interesting talk was given on the 18th by Mr. A. G. Ling, leading architect and planner who returned recently from his second post-war visit to Poland. He spoke on the reconstruction work that is being done there mainly from the viewpoint of the technical specialist in the subject. Even a heavy London fog failed to deter a large audience from attending this, perhaps, unique occasion, a professional planner giving his impressions from a private visit.

If the Society could arrange for all its members to go to Poland to “see for themselves,” we should undoubtedly consider this a Good Thing. It is, of course, quite impossible, so we are trying to do the next best thing with our series of illustrated lectures under the title “Poland in Pictures.”

The first of these was given by Major

A. S. Hooper on November 4 at 81, Portland Place. Major Hooper is well known throughout Britain both as a lecturer and as the author of travel books, and the standard of his work is high. With the aid of the slides, which he has made from his own photographs during his visits to Poland, he manages to bring the scenes and people of his travels right into the room to his audience. On this occasion, the large audience expressed the liveliest appreciation.

* Society members who are also members of other organisations will be glad to hear that Major Hooper offers to talk anywhere within reason where an interested audience can be gathered.

Chess is not everyone's meat, but some devotees of the ancient game have found a new interest through the British-Polish Society in the series of Chess Evenings we are running at “81.” We have arranged a series of friendly games between London trade unionists and members of the Polish Civil Servants' Union in London. The various players have now had the opportunity to find their levels and the stage is set for a six-a-side match on December 9. Interested spectators will be welcome, if quiet!

Now a membership problem. We can get a very fair “audience reaction” from the people who come to our various (Continued at foot of column one)



(Continued from Page Nine)

more precise actual construction is taking place on an area of 1,956 hectares (equivalent to 7½ square miles). This includes several large housing sites where Z.O.R., the central housing organisation, is developing new neighbourhoods at Mokotow, Ochota, Kolo and Zoliborz, providing for 22,276 dwellings.

At Mokotow, I saw a four-storey block of flats of approximately 3,500 cubic metres, which has been erected in 14 days. This excluded internal and external finishes, but included the installation of the hot water and heating systems. Such rapidity had been achieved by careful preparatory planning, new methods of bricklaying,* prefabrication of building components and competition between building teams with bonus payments for output above the norm.

The housing scheme was started on May 1, 1948, and by December 15 of that year 13 blocks of flats were ready and 10 were in course of construction. The prefabrication of beams, hollow tiles for floors and other components contributed towards the achievement of this speed. I watched the floor beams being prefabricated on the site. After the reinforcing bars had been placed in position, a two-part metal casing was put on either side and clamped together; then concrete made partly of crushed brick gravel from the

runs was poured in and vibrated. The casing was immediately removed and taken along to the adjoining site, a foot or so away, ready for the next beam. I timed the whole operation—it took exactly seven minutes.

There was a great improvement in building equipment since my last visit particularly as regards hoists. The site engineer showed me a half-ton hoist of his own invention which pivoted horizontally so enabling the materials to be brought right on to the building. He told me that the building operatives were encouraged to make suggestions for improvements in technique or equipment and that monetary rewards were given for any that proved successful and were adopted.

The Clerk of Works showed me a drawing illustrating a suggestion made by a building worker. In submitting his idea he had emphasised that it was not really his own but he had come across it in an old book which described methods used in the construction of the Pyramids in Egypt. Normal excavation by digging with a spade was extremely wasteful of effort, particularly in the lateral movement necessary to deposit the earth to one side. The Egyptians used a tripod arrangement from the top of which a rope was attached; the other end of the rope was attached to the handle of the spade just

above the blade. By this means the spade and the excavated material could be moved laterally with little effort because it was supported by the rope. Experiment had shown that 40 cubic metres of earth could be shifted in an eight-hour day instead of 4 cubic metres without the tripod apparatus.

There are small as well as big changes in Warsaw and these are of some significance. Many new trees have been planted in the streets and small flower beds and plots of grass have been made or planted along the pavements. The grass is maintained in very good condition, and the begonias in the flower beds do not disappear in spite of the thousands of people passing every day. During September, the streets were also decorated with brightly-coloured bookstalls of varied design. The children were just starting their autumn term and there was a special display of school books at very cheap prices.

The equal emphasis on small and big improvements indicated a determination on the part of Warsaw citizens to improve the quality of their environment. By a combination of official and personal initiative, the new Warsaw is being constructed with astonishing speed. The disaster of almost complete destruction has now been turned into an unique opportunity to build the finest city in the world.

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