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OF TRADE UNIONS

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POLAND

SOMETHING FOR
CHRISTMAS

WOMEN'S PAGE

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FILM REVIEW

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Christmas
Greetings

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The Editorial Board and Staff of

NEW POLAND

**send greetings for Christmas and the
New Year to all readers, both at home
and overseas, and to the Polish People**

PEACE and GOODWILL

IN BRITAIN AND POLAND ALIKE, Christmas will be celebrated by millions of ordinary folk as the festival of peace. On this one overriding question of preventing another war which, as Sir Winston Churchill has told us, would bring immeasurable catastrophe to us all, there are and can be no differences between our peoples.

For the people of Poland as for the people of Britain, events of the last few weeks in Asia and in Europe have sounded a warning.

There are still forces in Tokyo, South Korea and Formosa busy planning to revive the Korean war and to spread it to China and the world. In Europe, the fascist elements who supported Hitler's war are becoming more vocal. Franco, America's latest ally, demands special concessions as a reward for being Europe's oldest anti-Communist leader. The Spanish dictator wants to draw his reward for sending his soldiers to fight against the common ally of Britain and Poland. He regards the signature of the Spanish-American alliance as proof that he fought on the right side in the war, while Britain, America and Poland fought on the wrong side.

Encouraged by these events, the politicians, industrialists and generals in Western Germany who supported Hitler are becoming even more open in their demands for war. They openly propose that Britain and the United States should abandon France and Italy who are delaying ratification of the German rearmament treaties and should rely on the new West German army and the carefully indoctrinated troops of Franco Spain. They openly threaten aggression against Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Britain holds the key to this situation. If she refuses to follow the policy of restoring fascism in Europe and preparing for a third world war, those who plan war would not dare "to go to it alone."

The purpose of the British-Polish Friendship Society is a simple one. We proclaim that the interests of both our countries deserve friendship, trade and an opportunity to put into practice our common devotion to peace. That is our Christmas message.

FRONT COVER: *The dancers are reproduced from the Society's Christmas card. Orders for which are now being taken.*
(Design by Tom Clark.)

Polish Delegate's Speech

THE cordial greetings of Polish trade unionists to the Third World Congress of Trade Unions were conveyed by Mr. Wiktor Klosiewicz, Chairman of the Central Council of Trade Unions, who headed the Polish delegation to the Congress.

Addressing the Congress, Mr. Klosiewicz said that it could be seen from previous reports and statements that the influence, prestige and importance of the World Federation of Trade Unions had grown considerably. A growing number of workers were rallying around it, seeing it as the true defender of their cause, as an organisation whose programme corresponded to the real interests of the working people.

The idea of the unity of action of the working class on a national and international scale enjoyed the full support of the Polish workers who were organised in united trade unions.

There was no split in the Polish trade union movement as the sources which were responsible for this split no longer existed. Instead, there existed in Poland a full harmony of the interests of the individual with those of the State, arising from the fact that power was in the hands of the working people and that the interests of the working people were at one with the interests of the nation. On this harmony, rested Poland's achievements.

He then went on to describe how the great and difficult tasks undertaken by the Polish people were being carried out. New housing estates and socialist towns were being built, industrial giants and social and public utility schemes were being constructed capable of meeting the requirements of a working class twice as numerous as before the war, agricultural economy was being modernised in order to make up for the decrease in agricultural labour.

No Charge

More and more secondary and university schools were going up which would train new specialists for industry, more doctors, economists, teachers, artists and scientists, to meet the needs created by the new historical stage of development.

State expenditure on social and culture services was increasing three times as fast as that on other items. In this year's budget, 50.9 per cent was allocated for national economy and 24.2 for social and cultural services.

A sum equivalent to one-third of the wages fund in factories had been earmarked by the State for social and insurance purposes, without any of these expenses being charged to the working people themselves.

The continuous growth in budgetary expenditure on social and cultural facilities was reflected in real services and investments. In the four years of the Six Year Plan, over two million working people have availed themselves of the facilities of the workers' holiday scheme and every year, one million children went to holiday camps. The number of children in crèches and

racy, they tried to organise sabotage and diversion by smuggling saboteurs and subversive agents.

Another more subtle means resorted to was the abuse of the feeling of religious people.

It was common knowledge that no-one in Poland was hampered in his religious beliefs and that the Church was not prevented from spreading religious worship. Freedom of conscience and religious liberty were safeguarded by the Constitution.

The delegations of workers from capitalist countries visiting Poland had seen this for themselves, but contrary to these established facts, the Vatican continued in its base slanders of People's Poland.

The recent trial of Bishop Kaczmarek had revealed that he and his associates had taken part in activities which had nothing in common with religion, but which resulted from the directives and political plans of the imperialist protectors of the Vatican.



Wiktor Klosiewicz (LEFT) is seen here talking to Louis Saillant (W.F.T.U. Secretary) and Lombardo Toledano (RIGHT), Latin American delegate

nursery schools had increased considerably.

Following the development of heavy industry, attention was now being focused on the expansion of the consumer goods industry in order to satisfy the needs of the workers to an ever increasing extent.

This programme could only be realised, Mr. Klosiewicz pointed out, in conditions of world peace and the working people of Poland were well aware of the part played by unity of action of all working people in the fight to avert the threat of another war, the unity which formed the basis of the W.F.T.U. programme.

The forces of imperialism were making many attempts to undermine the unity of the working class movement in the West. In the countries of People's Democ-

Mr. Klosiewicz then went on to talk about the revival of German militarism which had caused much concern in Poland. Taking into consideration that the problem of Germany was of fundamental importance for world peace, the Polish delegation gave its full support to the proposal to adopt an appeal calling on all working people in Germany and in the whole of Europe to establish a united working class front together with all democratic and anti-fascist forces. The object of such an appeal would be to prevent the re-creation in Germany of a breeding ground of a new war and to counteract the threat to peace in Europe and in the whole world.

Continuing his speech, Mr. Klosiewicz referred to the campaign of slander

directed against the People's Democracies by the imperialists and said that the visits of various workers' delegations had helped to counteract this campaign and at the same time to unify the international working class movement.

More and more delegates were visiting Poland every year.

He then quoted a communiqué published by the Federated Press Agency containing a statement by thirty-six British trade unionists denying the rumours of alleged unrest in Warsaw and Silesia as reported in British papers.

International Unity

Many delegates, the statement said, had expressed the view that this exposure of such a scandalous campaign of lies gave serious food for thought about all the other stories currently peddled around, stories which they now recognised as distortions of the truth.

The truth about our life, added Mr. Klosiewicz, cannot be suppressed by a campaign of slanders or terror. The people see ever more clearly who represents the genuine desire for peace and this truth is of great importance in cementing the unity of the working class around the W.F.T.U.

In conclusion, he expressed the conviction that the present Congress could play a considerable part in realising the postulates put forward at previous congresses, concerning a meeting of representatives of the Big Powers in order to reach a peaceful settlement of all controversial international problems.

The unity of the international working class would be able to prevent the emergence of new centres of unrest and the threat of a new war.

MR. KLOSIEWICZ was elected a member of the General Council and the Executive Committee of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

Other Polish members elected to the Council were Mr. Bronislaw Marks and Mr. Zygmunt Kratko. Mrs. Irena Piwowarska, Mr. Marian Czerwinski and Mr. Stefan Ciolkowski were elected deputy members.

Congress Review

By Our Special Industrial Correspondent

MOVING APPEAL FOR WORKERS' unity in the uphill battle to improve living standards was one of the most significant things about the Third World Trade Union Congress, which ended in Vienna on October 21st.

Never have so many ordinary men and women from widely differing races and creeds gathered to hammer out a broad programme of action. In fact, 784 delegates and observers from 79 countries represented 88,600,000 trade unionists there.

Coloured folk from Africa and the West Indies, Japanese, Chinese, Koreans, Vietnamese, Indonesians, Indians, Swedes, Germans, French, British, Latin Americans, Australians, Italians, Russians and Poles, and many more from the other New Democracies worked in friendly co-operation for eleven days.

Simple Folk

Because the leaders of the Trades Union Congress walked out of the World Federation of Trade Unions in 1949 (along with several chiefs of the Congress of Industrial Organisation of America), Britain was not officially represented. But six observers—two dockers, two engineers, a building operative and a clothing worker—gave a good account of themselves.

Farseeing speeches by Guiseppe di Vittorio, the president, and Louis Saillant, general secretary, were received with tremendous applause. But the most simple folk told the most human stories of the struggles of their peoples to live in some sort of decency; of the difficulties placed in their way to build trade unions.

More often than not they came from colonial and semi-colonial countries, and it was not surprising therefore that their rulers, whether British, American or French big businessmen, came in for fierce hostility.

Vivid Contrasts

The descriptions contrasted vividly with the confident accounts given by delegates from the Soviet Union, China and the New Democracies, who told of the immense strides their peoples were taking towards a new and happy life.

Many tears were shed. For example, Pearl Branche, of Trinidad, openly wept as she related how two delegates were arrested on the way home from the Berlin Peace Congress, and how Trinidad oil workers were cruelly exploited.

Pearl, a lively lass, is the general secretary of the Women's Auxiliary Group

of the Oilfield Workers of Trinidad. She drew thunderous applause when telling how women in the colonies encouraged their menfolk to organise and win higher wages and better working conditions.

The road to Vienna was strewn with snags for many delegates. Several had to find ways of beating the ban placed on the Congress by their governments—Dr. Malan's, in South Africa, being one to come down in that vicious way.

Then there was Do Van Quyen, a coal-face worker who, disguised as a peasant, walked for two months through the night during the first stages of his journey to Austria from Vietnam.

Joint Activity

Do Van Quyen, a guerilla, lives in Hongay, which is in territory occupied by the French imperialist forces. He told me that to reach the Democratic Republic he was compelled to make wide detours of French military encampments, in darkness. Arrest would have meant imprisonment—and, probably death.

In Vienna, then, these 784 men and women expressed the desire to improve living standards through the building of strong trade union organisation, with particular regard to colonial and semi-colonial countries, and to live in peace.

Calling for unity everywhere, they supported the approach—already made by the World Federation of Trade Unions to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions—for joint activity around a limited programme of demands. And the hand of friendship was again held out to the members of the Confederation.

British-Polish

The six British observers were impressed by Mr. Wiktor Klosiewicz, chairman of the Central Committee of the Polish T.U.C. They appreciated his warning on the menace of German rearmament and on why the workers of Europe, who have experienced two bloody wars in a lifetime, should get together quickly to prevent a third and even worse war.

And they were particularly pleased when, at a pleasant little social gathering of both delegations, he spoke of the deep feelings of mutual friendship held by Polish and British workers.

There were broad smiles, clinking glasses and handshakes all round as Liverpool docker, Jack Lyden, reciprocated with a simple toast, urging efforts to strengthen that friendship.

A Gift from Poland for each Delegate

FOR EVERY ONE OF THE DELEGATES and observers, and the many back room boys and girls whose work made for the smooth running of the Congress, there was a gift, a souvenir, which will not only remind them of the Congress but also take a little bit of Poland to every corner of the world.

It was the Third World Congress souvenir scarf, a gift from the Polish trade unions.

Colourful

It was a terrific sight when during one of the sessions the scarves were handed out and suddenly the auditorium, previously showing a predominance of dark coloured suits and costumes, became a sea of colour as even the men draped the bright scarves round their shoulders.

The idea for the scarf came from Mrs. Irena Piwowarska, one of the secretaries of the Central Council of the Polish Trade Unions, who was elected a deputy member of the W.F.T.U. General Council. Some months ago she put the idea to the Shop Stewards Council in the textile factory in Kalisz, where she herself used to work.

Greetings

The workers in the factory thought it a grand idea and immediately got together to design and make the 1,200 scarves. When the Congress had finished the Polish delegation had not a single one left, but they were well rewarded for their gift.

Not only did the delegates wear the scarves from the day they received them till the day they left, but everyone was full of praise for the material, design and colouring, as well as for the thought behind the gift.

Poland certainly left its mark on the delegates, not only by the scarves and the beautiful cut glass vase, a present to the W.F.T.U., which was on show with other presents throughout the Congress, and was greatly admired for its fine workmanship, but also by the speech of Mr. Klosiewicz, which is summarised above, and by the friendliness shown at the many informal lunches and dinners with other delegations.

At the lunch with the British observers all the eighteen delegates signed the following message which they sent via New Poland: "Hearty and fraternal greetings from the Polish delegation to

is described by **FRANCES WHITE**, "New Poland's" Women's Editor, who attended the Congress.

the Third World Trade Union Congress to all trade unionists in Britain."

Then at a concert organised by the Austrian trade unions for the delegates, Poland provided the star attraction of the programme. The hundreds of delegates presented cheered themselves hoarse when it was announced that Halina Stefanska, the celebrated Polish pianist, was in Vienna and had offered to play as a surprise item.

It must have been the greatest international gathering she has ever played to, but the ovation she received showed that such playing as hers is appreciated by people all over the world. When she later joined the Polish delegation to listen to the rest of the concert she was kept busy signing autographs.

To-day four British girls, who did not



The Congress scarf

attend the Congress, are also proudly wearing the Congress scarf. They are the four girls working for the *British-Polish Friendship Society* in London. Maybe they are "cheating" a little bit by wearing them, but the Polish delegation do not think so, for it was they who remembered their friends in London and who insisted that I bring back a scarf each.

It was just one of those little human touches and thoughtfulness which the Polish people show in their friendship with other nations and other people.



The Congress scarf is bordered with the word "Peace" in five languages on one side and "Unity" on the other. On the other two sides in Polish is the title and date of the Congress. The Dove of Peace is intermingled with the official emblem of W.F.T.U.: three clasped hands, one white, one black and one yellow, which depicts the unity of all peoples

Congress Appeal To All European Trade Unionists

TO the men and women workers! To the trade unions of the countries of Europe! The Third World Trade Union Congress addresses you in the name of 88,600,000 workers represented.

For the third time since the beginning of the century threatening clouds are gathering over Europe. International reaction, in agreement with the Adenauer government, is attempting to rebuild fascism and militarism in Western Germany, and trying to form Germans into the main shock troops of an aggressive military bloc. The Bonn government is building up military units at an increasing rate, it is constructing warships and warplanes, and developing the manufacture of war materials and munitions. The industry of Western Germany is becoming the arsenal of a new war; generals of Hitler's Wehrmacht and war criminals are set at liberty.

SABRE RATTLING

Adenauer, supported by the American imperialists, with the complicity of the governments of the Western countries, rattles his sabre and openly proclaims his plans of revenge. His policy is a constant threat to the united action of the workers and their trade unions.

The warmongers, worried by the development of the forces for peace, resort to adventures and provocations.

The atrocities and privations of the second world war are still fresh in your memories—the torture chambers of Buchenwald and Auschwitz, the ruins of Stalingrad and Coventry, the ashes of Lidice and of Oradour, the millions of men, women and children murdered and tortured by the Hitlerite butchers. The aftermaths of the war are still visible to-day: there are among you many disabled men, many widows and orphans, many men and women who have lost their families during the terrible years of the war. A new war would plunge mankind into the greatest

of catastrophes. Mass methods of destruction, atomic and hydrogen bombs would turn whole countries into deserts.

War which brings suffering and misery to the workers produces colossal profits for the capitalists. This is one of the reasons why the monopolists increase their war budgets, speed up the arms drive and hold the people under the constant fear of a new blood-bath.

UNITED FRONT

The implementation of the Bonn and Paris agreements would be one of the means to facilitate and speed up the rearmament and the remilitarisation of Western Germany. The remilitarisation of Western Germany bears dangerous consequences for the peaceful existence of the peoples of Europe and of the whole world. It is in the first place a tremendous threat to the German people themselves. The war which the imperialists are hastening to prepare would lead the German people to a new and more terrible national catastrophe.

Men and women workers of Western Germany!

We appeal to you to intensify your struggle for unity of action of the working class, for the formation of a front uniting all the democratic forces in order to prevent Germany from becoming a hotbed for a new war and to avert the threat to peace in Europe and throughout the world. Do not forget that yours is the great responsibility for preventing the revival of fascism and militarisation of Germany. Workers—Social Democrats, Communists, Christians, workers of no Party—trade unions of Western Germany, we appeal to you to join the workers of all the countries of Europe. Do not remain isolated from the broad movement of the workers' struggle which has the power to thwart the Paris and Bonn agreements.

Men and women workers of Europe!

To prevent war you must immediately oppose the revival of the forces of aggression in Western Germany.

Close your ranks, intensify unity of action, show resolve and courage in the fight against the revival of fascism, against the preparation of aggression.

Draw closer in fraternal solidarity to the German workers who are struggling against the aggressive plans of the Adenauer government. The path which Germany will take, the path of militarism and aggression, or the path of peace and friendship between the peoples of all countries, depends on your solidarity and your unity of action and on the determination of the German workers.

DECISIVE FORCE

It is the duty of all of us to help the peace-loving forces of Western Germany in their struggle against the war policy and actively to support the actions for peace by the workers of the German Democratic Republic and their unions.

United, join in the battle against the ratification of the war treaties which Eisenhower and Adenauer are imperiously demanding from the parliaments of France, Italy, Belgium and Luxembourg. Frustrate the criminal attempts of those who seek to continue the Hitler adventurist policy.

United you will become a decisive mighty force.

Frustrate the realisation of the monstrous plans which could be put into action in the event of the ratification and the realisation of the Bonn and Paris agreements!

Defend peace and the national independence of the peoples!

Long live unity of the working people of all countries!

Polish United Workers' Party To Hold Second Congress

THE Second Congress of the Polish United Workers' Party is to be held in Warsaw next month.

Making this announcement, the Plenum of the Party's Central Committee also issued the agenda.

The six point agenda is:

1. Report of the Central Committee
2. Report of the Central Auditing Commission.
3. The principal economic tasks of the last two years of the Six Year Plan (1954/55).
4. The development of agriculture during 1954/55 and the means of increasing agricultural production.

5. Organisational tasks and amendments to the Party Rules.

6. Election of supreme Party authorities.

These points with the report to the Plenum by Boleslaw Bierut, the Polish Prime Minister, which covered the need to quicken the rise in living standards, form the basis for pre-Congress discussion.

Delegates to the Congress are being elected by secret ballot at local Party conferences on the basis of one delegate with a vote, for each 1,000 members.

Newspapers in Poland

by Martin Lane

THE PRESS IN PEOPLE'S POLAND is very diverse. It includes a large number of newspapers and periodicals of many kinds.

For instance, there is *Trybuna Ludu*, the central organ of the Polish United Workers' Party. It has a circulation of 500,000 copies and enjoys great popularity and prestige not only among Party members, but also among non-party people. Apart from it there are sixteen local Party journals, of which the largest are the Stalinogrod *Trybuna Robotnicza* (The Workers' Tribune) with a circulation of 500,000, the Wroclaw *Gazeta Robotnicza* (The Workers' Gazette), the Ldz *Glos Robotniczy* (The Workers' Voice), *Gazeta Krakowska* (The Cracow Gazette) and *Gazeta Poznanska* (The Poznan Gazette).

The theoretical organ of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, *Nowe Drogi* (New Paths), and the widely read magazine *Trybuna Wolnosci* (The Tribune of Freedom) which has a circulation of about 850,000 copies, also enjoys great popularity.

Trade Unions

The leading non-party newspaper is *Zycie Warszawy* (The Life of Warsaw) marked for its high professional and literary level. The circulation of non-party journals greatly exceeds 600,000 copies.

A few evening papers are also published in Poland and they are widely read. The largest of them is the Warsaw *Express Wieczorny* (Evening Express). The joint circulation of evening newspapers exceeds 500,000 copies.

The United Peasant Party publishes *Wola Ludu* (The Will of the People), and the Democratic Party the *Kurier Codzienny* (The Daily Courier) in Warsaw and the *Ilustrowany Kurier Polski*

The thousands of bookstalls and newspaper stands to be found throughout Poland are always busy as the people try to satisfy their growing thirst for knowledge

(The Illustrated Polish Courier) at Bydgoszcz.

The trade unions, too, possess numerous Press publications. Here one would mention the central organ of the Central Council of Trade Unions, the journal *Glos Pracy* (The Voice of Labour), the Council's theoretical organ *Przegląd Zwiaskowy* (The Trade Union Review) and six magazines of which the largest are *Gornik* (The Miner), circulating 260,000 copies, *Metalowiec* (The Metal Worker) circulating 200,000 copies and the railwaymen's *Sygnaly* (The Signals), circulation 150,000 copies.

The Press of "the countryside" has developed powerfully. To show the measure of its popularity it is enough to quote the following data: the weekly *Chlopska Droga* (The Peasants' Path) has a circulation of 240,000 copies, the periodicals *Gromada* (The Village Community) and *Rolnik Rolski* (The Polish Farmer) appear twice a week and have a circulation of over 1,200,000 copies. The magazine *Robotnik Rolny* (The

Farm Worker) and *Spoldzielnia Produkcynja* (The Production Co-operative) also play an important rôle.

Twenty-four magazines deal with the popularization of agricultural knowledge, agrotechnic, breeding and veterinary science. One of the most widely read periodicals is *Przyjaciolka* (The Women's Friend) intended primarily for the women in towns and villages. Its circulation reaches 2,200,000 copies.

The Press of the youth growing on a large scale merits particular attention. The circulation of the organ of the Central Board of the Union of Polish Youth, the daily *Sztandar Mlodych* (The Banner of Youth) is read by great numbers of youths and recently exceeded 700,000 copies.

Apart from the *Sztandar Mlodych*, a youth weekly *Pokolenie* (The Generation) appears, also a social and literary weekly *Po Prostu* (Simply) intended for the youth studying at higher educational institutions and a periodical for school children and scouts, *Swiat Mlodych* (The World of the Young).

Children's Papers

Great success has been achieved by illustrated popular periodicals like *Swiat* (The World), *Przekroj* (The Cross-Section), *Film*, and foremost the weekly *Przyjazn* (Friendship) devoted to strengthening Polish-Soviet friendship, it has a circulation of about 400,000 copies.

In People's Poland, the youngest readers also have their own children's magazines. The present circulation of the children's Press [the main magazines are *Swierszczyk* (The Little Cricket) and *Plomyk* (The Little Flame)] is five-fold

the circulation of children's magazines before the war.

Great popularity is enjoyed by two satirical weeklies *Szpilki* (Pins) and *Mucha* (The Fly) whose joint circulation reaches 145,000 copies.

An important part is played in People's Poland by periodicals devoted to culture, art and literature. There are twenty-seven such periodicals with a joint circulation of half a million. The leading papers of this type are: *Nowa Kultura* (The New Culture), *Przegląd Kulturalny* (The Cultural Review), *Tworczość* (Creation) and *Teatr* (The Theatre).

There are 27 economic magazines, 48 technical, 41 devoted to education, pedagogics and libraries, as well as 34 medical magazines.

Catholic and Protestant journals and periodicals appearing in People's Poland have a joint circulation for each edition which exceeds half a million copies.

Worker Correspondents

The Press in People's Poland, both party and non-party, is a Press of a new kind closely in touch with the masses of readers, who take an active part in co-editing their newspapers. This finds expression first of all in the continuous and speedy growth of the movement of worker and peasant correspondents and in the increasing numbers of readers' letters to the editors' offices.

This correspondence more and more often concerns social problems of great moment. More and more often they are an expression of the growing political consciousness and activity of broad masses of the nation. They are often a stimulus for many measures taken by the *Seym*, the Government and National Councils. In this way does the correspondents' movement become, to an ever increasing degree, a form of direct participation of the people in governing the State.

Readers' Letters

The number of correspondents grows steadily. In 1949 there were 8,800 of them; in 1950, 12,000; in 1951, 20,000; and in 1952 about 23,000.

The following figures speak for themselves. The number of letters to the editor of *Przyjaciolka* is about 12,000 a month; to *Gromada* an average of 6,000. During the nation-wide discussion on the Draft Constitution of the Polish People's Republic and in the course of the electoral campaign to the *Seym*, daily newspapers alone received tens of thousands of letters.

That is in general the outline of the character, structure and the direction of development of the Press in the Polish People's Republic.

The figures should be compared with the fact that the total population is only 26,000,000. It should also be remembered that pre-war circulation was very low indeed.

INTERVIEW

Postman Baran

By Our Warsaw Correspondent

HE'S TALLISH, SLIM AND WALKS with a springy, confident gait. He is under thirty, but a family man, with a small son, Andrew, in his first year at school proper, and a daughter, Danusia, settling down in the kindergarten.

His name is Eugeniusz Baran. We take a look at him because he is a typical product of People's Poland—and Poland's People. He is an example to confound those in Britain who say that executives for management cannot be found from among the workers. For not only is he a true son of the working people; he is a product of the system of opportunity, education, and training for all who want it which are available in People's Democracies.

Enthusiasm

For Baran was a Nazi internee. He came back after liberation with a gap in his life of five years lost in a concentration camp. No training. No education beyond that he had in pre-war primary school; no trade—and virtually no home, for there was no family farmstead or peasant holding for him to return to.

But he got back to his remote village with three great assets: a burning enthusiasm for the new régime in Poland and making it work to produce the fullest life for the people, with some reading which he had done at every opportunity, and a tremendous drive and will power.

In the family history there was some connection with the postal services—grandfather had been a linesman, an uncle a telegraph worker, and he himself had been a postman for a short time when he was 18. So it was to the post office he not unnaturally turned and found a corner.

Training

He started again as a postman, but in a few months was in charge of a small post office (his staff, two) in a remote village in the Recovered Territories.

But all around he was seeing the tremendous expansion of the post and telegraph services. The new lines and cables being installed, speedier services, and greatly improving standard of public service. And he decided he wanted to play the biggest part he could in this expansion.

It was an ambition that could only be realised by the closest study of both

technical matters and methods, but, by postal courses, workers' educational courses, specialist training and similar facilities given by the department for the benefit of all who wanted them, he worked his way through until, by 1949, he completed an advanced course which brought him an executive post in the post office administration at Wroclaw.

Responsibility

"That was probably the most difficult period in my life," Mr. Baran tells you with a grin. "My work involved great responsibility and was most arduous. I still felt that I was insufficiently trained for my job and that I lacked the necessary theoretical basis.

"I sometimes worked twelve hours a day learning the standing instructions, familiarising myself with the postal organisation and administration. I read a lot, particularly books on economics.

"In the meantime I got married. I owe much to my wife. She encouraged me. 'You are young,' she would tell me. 'Your future is all ahead of you.' And she was right.

"In 1950 I was picked out to attend a course of higher post office administration."

Graduated

The course was run at Swider, a locality not far from Warsaw, surrounded by pine forests and lying close to the Vistula. For a whole year the people attending the course had to work very hard to keep up with the stream of knowledge and information imparted to them by helpful but strict tutors. The students had to become acquainted with the complexity of postal problems, the telecommunication system, and also make good many shortcomings in their general education.

The curriculum was very wide. It covered foreign postal organisations, international postal communications, the principles of telephone communication, the principles of automatic telephone exchanges and the whole of radio-telephone communications. It also comprised legal problems, the basic principles of economics, mathematics, logic and psychology.

Mr. Baran graduated successfully, and was promoted Deputy Regional Director, Warsaw.





Making most of the weather to get an early start so that there will be even more food next year

Going Up!

BETTER TECHNIQUE AND GOOD weather have enabled a more efficient sowing of winter crops in Poland this year than in 1952.

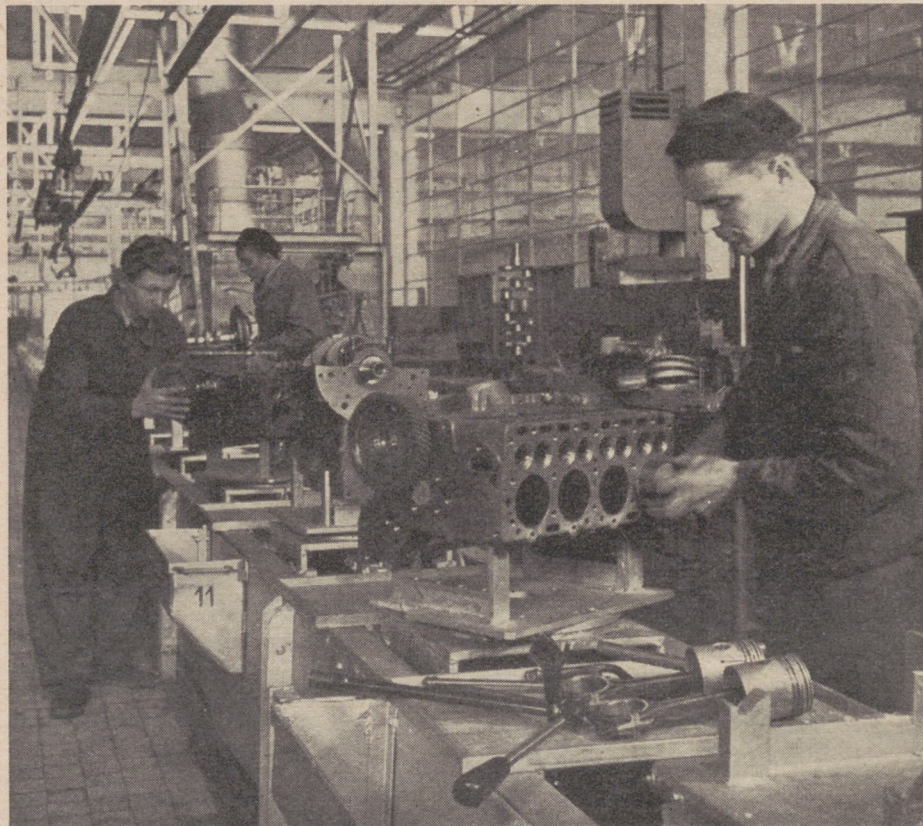
This coupled with the heavy harvest of root crops, sugar beet, nine per cent, and potatoes, seventeen per cent, heavier than last year, means that the steady improvement in the living standards of the Polish people will be maintained.

Production figures for the third quarter of this year show even greater increases than in the past. Output plans for many luxury and semi-luxury goods have been surpassed and the shops have a bigger selection of goods than ever before.

Cotton, woollen, linen and silk fabrics, leather footwear, wireless sets, motor cycles, sewing machines, sweets, beer and wines, are a few of the "better things in life" that are more plentiful in Poland to-day because of the consistent record-breaking production.

Alongside the increase in consumer goods there has also been an increase in capital investment and for the period from July 1st to September 30th this amounted to seventeen per cent more than the same period last year.

The total production plan for this period was bettered by five per cent, making an increase of eighteen per cent over last year's production.



The Zeran motor works, Warsaw, will be turning out 12,500 cars a year by 1955

MINES AND MINERS

COAL

DECEMBER 4th, Miners' Day, is the day when past achievements and future plans for the Polish coal industry are reviewed.

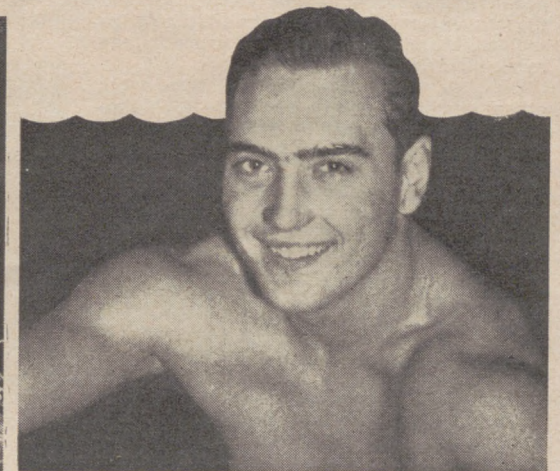
This year there will be much to celebrate for the miners continue to raise more and more coal. In the third quarter of this year they overfulfilled their target by two per cent.

This is a great achievement for it should be remembered that during this period, July to September inclusive, the annual holidays are taken, and underground workers receive three weeks' holiday if they have worked below ground for twelve months or more.

This year, too, several new coal mines have been put into production while others have been sunk. More and more machines are in use and for the first time Polish made coal-cutters are coming off the production line.

The British miners who visited Poland this summer found that the miners are the most privileged section of the population. The Polish miners are proud of their position in society and they justify it by shattering all agreed targets time and again.

Henryk Blaszczyk and Roman Galeziowski, coal face workers, are two of the many who have introduced new working methods to push up output



● More and more pithead baths and other welfare facilities are constantly provided

● The day's stint is discussed before the actual production starts. In this way many snags are overcome and stoppages avoided. Note: smoking is allowed in some Polish pits



TRADE REVIEW

**SOMETHING
FOR
CHRISTMAS**

*An old expert passes on a few tips
to a younger worker*

DECORATING the Christmas-tree is a thrill to adults as well as to the children. That infinite care in an effort to get a better display than the next door neighbours is all part of the Christmas spirit, not only in Britain but in many countries of the world.

In Poland, because of the individual design of Christmas-tree decorations, and in those countries which import them, one can imagine the delightful results of such competition.



Polish Christmas-tree ornaments enjoy great popularity. The considerable demand for and the mass export of them is due to artistic design and perfect craftsmanship. This is, primarily, the result of their being hand-made.

Every glass ball of Polish manufacture, every other item of Christmas-tree decoration produced by skilled glass blowers, is subsequently ornamented and painted by talented artist-decorators.

Hand painting of Christmas-tree ornaments makes possible, according to the craftsman's initiative, ingenuity and perception, a frequent modification and augmentation of the range of patterns, the introduction of new colour schemes and novel designs.



The range of Polish Christmas-tree ornaments is thus extremely wide and varied. It comprises spheres, round and oval ornaments in a variety of brilliant colour finishes and frequently emblazoned with tinsel pattern, lyres, violins, fruit, mushrooms, gnomes, birds, and other shapes. These provide an attractive tree decoration and are the delight of children.

Painstaking handwork in every single ornament ensures high quality and perfect finish. Production of Christmas-tree ornaments is, to ensure their high standard, under rigorous supervision, individual batches being, prior to

their despatch abroad, carefully seeded by a commission appointed for this purpose.



Packing of goods so fragile as Christmas-tree ornaments, is of particular importance. Polish Christmas-tree ornaments are being exported to numerous overseas countries, and there can be no dispute about the fact that the method of packing adopted has stood the test of time. Every item is carefully wrapped in tissue paper and placed in a double cardboard box; the boxes are then packed in suitable wooden cases, a method ensuring safe delivery to destination.

Although they are but a seasonal line, production of Christmas-tree ornaments continues

throughout the year, and deliveries are made as early as in the first quarter to ensure timely arrival of the goods to even the most remote countries adhering to the fine old tradition of decorating Christmas-trees.

A trade agreement between Poland and France was signed in Warsaw on Oct. 29th.

Under the Agreement, which is valid for one year, Poland will import from France fertilisers, iron ore, metallurgical goods, drugs, chemicals, fruit, spices, etc.

Polish exports to France will include coal, timber, earthenware, metal articles, etc.



It is "Eyes Down" for these two decorators as they set new output records in their Gdansk factory

IN POLAND

*It's just
like in
Britain*

DECEMBER IS A BUSY MONTH FOR the Polish housewife, for like her British counterpart she finds much to be done in readiness for Christmas.

The buying of presents and extra food, cleaning the home from top to bottom, selecting and decorating the Christmas tree, all these things mean more work than usual, and just as in this country the excitement mounts as the month goes by.

On Christmas Eve when the factories close earlier than usual, the Christmas trees are lit up in every home and in all the town squares. Then in the evening the families settle down to the traditional Christmas feast.



Midnight Mass is held in every church for those who wish to attend.

Christmas Day itself is a quiet day, mainly spent at home, for there is only a limited amount of transport. It is on Boxing Day that the visits to friends and relations are made and the festivities soon become more noisy.

The children are the lucky ones for, in Poland as in Britain, Christmas is a children's holiday. Their celebrations continue until the New Year. It is then that "Father Frost" brings them presents.



Factories, offices and other institutions organise children's New Year parties and again "Father Frost" gathers the little ones round the New Year tree and gives them presents.

The main festivities are held round New Year and the children not only perform their own plays but are very often entertained by the leading artistes. It is a time of singing, dancing and eating.

Yes, Christmas in Poland is very similar to Christmas in Britain, with the emphasis, as in Scotland, on the New Year.



*Buying a Christmas Tree in Warsaw
Lighting the Candles on Christmas Eve*





Bouquets and smiles at Stalinogrod

Poland In Pictures

THE reborn Polish Army is free from any desire to invade other countries. The Polish Army is inspired by the spirit of brotherhood and friendship with all nations which are fighting for peace, freedom and Socialism. It is linked with the Soviet Union and its heroic Army with particularly deep ties of friendship.

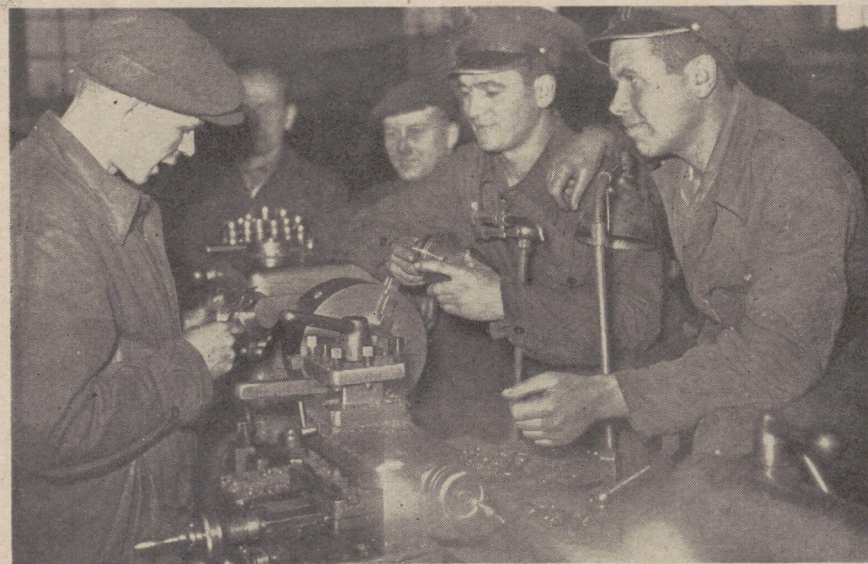
"The tenth anniversary of the Polish Army is being celebrated at a period when the forces of the great camp of peace are growing in strength. But the American imperialists and their lackeys had not ceased to plot and to stir up trouble. This makes it necessary to be continually vigilant and watchful.

"Under the leadership of Marshal Rokossowski, and in brotherly alliance with the Soviet Army and the armies of the People's Democracies, the Polish soldier stands guard over the greatest treasures of our nation—independence and peace."—
(GENERAL KAZIMIERZ WITASZEWSKI, Deputy Minister for National Defence, speaking in Warsaw on the Armed Forces Day, October 12th.)



Volunteers in a Park of Culture, Warsaw

AN ARMY of PEACE



Engineering class at Poznan



Harvest time, when extra labour is always welcomed, finds many volunteers in the Polish Army



War against the Colorado-beetle

This year Poland has been honouring the country's greatest scientist. Exhibitions, lectures, conferences and discussions have been held throughout the country. During the period of the celebrations, foreign delegates have visited Poland to pay their tribute to the man who changed the whole outlook of science and in doing so set free the knowledge which benefited all mankind. *New Poland* has published several articles about the Copernicus celebrations, about his influence on progressive thought, particularly in this country. In this, our last article of the series, Dr. Michael Seaton, a well-known British Scientist, tells :

what Copernicus means to Poland

READERS OF *New Poland* WILL have heard a good deal about Nicolaus Copernicus during the past year. This is as it should be, because the 1953 Copernicus Anniversary has been a very big event in the life of the Polish people.

I felt very honoured to be invited to visit Poland during the summer in order to participate in the Copernicus celebrations. In the present article I want to describe some of my experiences and to try to explain why the Copernicus anniversary has such great significance for the Polish people.

Set Dogmas

To appreciate the achievement of Copernicus it is necessary to understand some aspects of the world in which he lived. During the Middle Ages nearly all learning was in the hands of the Church. Science as we know it was practically non-existent. The Church laid down a set of dogmas as a part of the faith.

These dogmas came partly from a literal rendering of the Bible and partly from the teachings of Aristotle. A very important dogma was that the Earth was



Members of the World Peace Council delegation at the Copernicus Memorial in front of the Academy of Sciences

the centre of the Universe, and that the Earth stood still and that the Sun, Moon, stars and planets revolved around the motionless Earth.

This was held to be part of the natural and unchangeable order of things, just as the existence of feudal serfs and feudal lords was natural and unchangeable.

Progressive Part

For many centuries such ideas helped to hold back human progress. But as time went by changes took place none-the-less. At first there was an increase of trade and a development of new industries. With this went a renewed interest in learning and the arts. This was the age of the Renaissance.

During this period the Polish towns on the River Vistula engaged in very prosperous trading relations with places as far apart as Bruges and London, Venice and Novgorod. A centre for this trade was the Vistula town of Torun. It was here that Copernicus was born in 1473.

He was a typical man of the Renaissance. One of the greatest astronomers of all time, he was also skilled in medicine,

linguistics, economics and art. Yet with all this learning he never shut himself away from the problems of his fellow countrymen. Throughout his life he played an active and progressive part in the day-to-day affairs of the Polish people.

The achievement for which the name of Copernicus will always be honoured was simply this: rejecting dogmas about the nature of the universe, he appealed to the facts. The facts showed that the Earth is not at rest. It revolves on its axis, giving us day and night. It also revolves around the Sun, giving us the seasons. Furthermore, it is in no way specially privileged, but is quite an ordinary planet.

Epoch Making

Thus was founded all of modern astronomy and much of modern science. These ideas gave a crushing blow to medieval dogmatism and opened up entirely new vistas for human thought.

If the epoch-making significance of this work should be doubted, it is only necessary to recall the relentless fury with which the forces of obscurantism and backwardness sought to persecute the followers of Copernicus and to destroy all his works. Men were burnt at the stake for the sin of Copernicanism.

We can now appreciate why the Copernicus celebrations have such significance for the Polish people. In present day Poland there is much that recalls the spirit of the Renaissance. The great feats of construction and reconstruction are animated by a profound faith in man and in his ability to master nature.

New Ideas

Everywhere there is the most lively interest in science and learning, and once again old dogmas give way to new creative ideas. It is in this atmosphere that the great progressive traditions of the past take on their full significance.

Many of the fine Renaissance buildings of Poland were destroyed during the war. To-day they are being rebuilt and restored to their former glory. On the Polish National Day (July 22nd) I was present for the opening of the magnificent Old Market Place in the Old Town of Warsaw, which has been completely rebuilt. Before the war this area was one of Warsaw's worst slum districts; now it is the pride of People's Poland.

This pride in the reconstruction of historic buildings provides yet another reason for the Polish people's interest in the Renaissance period.

The spread of culture and learning has to be seen to be believed. In the small Baltic coast town of Sopot, mainly a holiday resort, I saw bookshops, specialist,



The delegation inspects the Old Town Market Square

science and art bookshops, such as would be found only in the very largest cities of Western Europe.

High Standards

It is a real education to visit the market place in Cracow. They sell flowers, vegetables and books, but books above all. Wander round the market and you see cheap editions of Balzac, Shakespeare, Cervantes, Tolstoy, Anatole France, Dickens and many other classics of world literature and Polish literature.

I was able to visit several University centres. In order to meet the country's need for many more specialists the Universities have been greatly expanded during recent years. Bearing this in mind, I would not have been surprised to find that makeshift arrangements were sometimes necessary in the teaching laboratories. Instead, I found standards which could be compared favourably with those of the best University laboratories in this country.

Generous Support

Before the war it was often impossible to carry out serious scientific research in Poland. Many of Poland's greatest scientists left Poland and worked elsewhere. The best known is Maria Sklodowska, better known as Madame Curie. To-day the situation is transformed, Poland's research scientists receive very generous support, administered by the newly formed Academy of Sciences.

Many problems of shortages of research equipment have had to be tackled. Although better supplies are now available, both from new Polish industries and also from the Soviet Union and the Peoples' Democracies, Polish scientists are still anxious to develop trade with us in

scientific instruments. They have plenty of funds to buy these and can pay in any currency.

Unfortunately our Government is preventing the development of normal trading relations. Spectroscopes and voltmeters are supposed to be "war potential." They are no more war potential than the eggs and timber which we could receive in return. Further trade can only strengthen both countries.

Still Developing

Anyone who has visited People's Poland cannot fail to be impressed by the profound desire for peace and friendly relations which is found wherever one goes. This was particularly clear to those who visited Poland for the Copernicus celebrations.

The Poles rightly insist that Copernicus was a Pole, and not a German as is sometimes alleged. At the same time they emphasise the important contribution made by scientists of many countries to the development of Copernican ideas. The ten years which Copernicus spent in Renaissance Italy were of profound importance for the development of his own viewpoint. After his death his work was carried forward by the Italians, Bruno and Galileo; the Dane, Tycho Brahe; the German, Kepler, and our own Isaac Newton. They have been further developed in the present century by Albert Einstein.

This spirit of international collaboration remains vitally necessary for the development of present-day science. The Copernicus celebrations helped to promote cultural exchange and friendly understanding between the peoples of many countries.

Poland Stands By The Agreement

By GORDON SCHAFFER

FOR MOST PEOPLE THE PICTURE OF the long drawn out repatriation discussions in Korea is completely confused. They read in the newspapers of fighting in the prisoner-of-war camps and even the American authorities have been unable to deny that agents of Syngman Rhee and Chiang Kai Shek are busy intimidating those prisoners who wish to return to their homes in North Korea or China. But little information is available about the part played by the members of the neutral nations repatriation commission, which has the duty of carrying out the terms of the truce agreement.

Polish Move

That is why a statement by Mr. Stanislaw Gajewski, the Polish representative on this commission, is of special importance. Mr. Gajewski was interviewed after he had withdrawn from a meeting of the Commission in protest against what he termed a "flagrant violation of the agreements on which the work of the Commission is founded."

He explained that under the cease fire agreement, both sides have a right to give explanations to their own prisoners and it is the duty of the Commission to see that all facilities are provided. Early in the proceedings, the neutral powers became aware that certain prisoners were being prevented by Syngman Rhee and Chiang Kai Shek agents from leaving the camps to hear the explanations. So the Commission decided unanimously that where necessary, Indian troops would be entitled to use compulsion.

Only Way

Mr. Gajewski said that when the time came to carry out this decision, certain members of the Commission opposed the use of compulsion on the ground that it might lead to casualties.

"In our view," he went on, "it is only by breaking up the reign of terror in the camps that further casualties can be avoided. Those who went back on the

decision of the Commission, in fact, strengthened the power of the terrorist organisations and of the agents inside the camps. If such an attitude is accepted it will completely frustrate our basic task of enabling both sides to give explanations to all the prisoners."

Mr. Gajewski stressed that as soon as the Commission was given a chance to carry out its work in accordance with the agreement, Poland would resume her place as a true neutral. This she has done.

America's Role

The methods used by Syngman Rhee and his supporters to prevent the neutral Commission from doing its work are on all fours with those used to prolong the fighting for two long years. The demand of the people for an end to the bloodshed became so strong that in the end he was obliged to accept the cease fire agreement. But he and those who are ready to join him in rekindling the flame of war throughout Asia are determined to prevent the negotiations from succeeding.

The repatriation commission has been deadlocked and the political conference scheduled to meet by the end of October has not yet been called.

The Americans, against the advice of Britain, India and other Powers, used their automatic majority in the U.N. Assembly to devise a form of conference which they knew neither China nor North Korea could accept.

Forced Agreement

In the background to these manoeuvres is the threat of Syngman Rhee to resume the war if a settlement on his terms is not reached. That threat would be no more than the blustering of a discredited dictator but for the fact that Mr. Dulles, U.S. Secretary of State, has given it backing and has forced America's reluctant allies to sign an agreement which would lead to a resumption of the war against not only Korea but China as well.

It is fortunate that there are neutral representatives in Korea who can act for the conscience of the world in these critical moments. Poland like India has earned the gratitude of the people for the stand she has taken.

AS we went to press, news was received from Warsaw of drastic reductions in the price of many articles.

Food, cut by twelve per cent, all clothing by ten per cent, repairs to shoes and clothing, furniture, cosmetics, leather goods, and certain machinery all slashed by varying amounts from five to forty per cent.

The reductions were announced in a Government statement on Sunday, November 15th, which also stated that the new lower prices came into effect immediately.

In our next issue we shall give a full account of the very wide range of reductions, which not only mean a better Christmas for the Polish people, but also a continued better living standard with more to come, for many agricultural machines are now cheaper and will therefore have a significant effect on next year's harvest.

FACTORY PAPERS

FACTORY NEWSPAPERS, WHICH ARE edited jointly by Polish United Workers' Party committees and works councils in a hundred large factories in Poland, play an important rôle in mobilising the workers for the fulfilment of the Six Year Plan. These factory papers are published weekly, fortnightly or monthly, and many of them are richly illustrated with photographs and drawings.

The Shipyard Workers' Voice is very popular with the workers of the Gdynia and Gdansk shipyards and the editors of the paper have initiated many meetings to discuss quality of production, lowering running costs and work organisation.

Criticism

The factory papers pay a lot of attention to work competition and the organisation of work. For example, the *Stalin Shift*, published by the works council and Party committee at the Stalin Cotton Mills in Lodz, printed the appeal of a young worker who called for the elimination of waste and a full utilisation of materials.

Besides this, the factory papers play a big part in improving social and living conditions and are also a platform for criticism and self-criticism. In the organ of the Batory iron and steel workers, *Forward, Iron and Steel Workers*, letters often appear criticising the work of various administrative centres and trade union groups which do not carry out their tasks.

A large number of the papers also publish regular features on the cultural and educational life of the workers and give local sports news.

(See also Page Six)

POINTS FROM POLAND

A large modern wine factory has gone into production at Nowy Sacz, Cracow. Situated in the valley of the Poprad River, it is in one of the richest fruit-growing districts of Poland.

* * *

Members of the Polish Government attended a meeting held in Warsaw to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the death of the French writer, François Rabelais, at which a lecture on his life and work was given by Professor Mieczyslaw Brahamer, of Warsaw University.

* * *

By the beginning of last month the sugar harvest was in full swing in Poland and more than 100,000 tons of sugar had been produced. The Klemensow sugar refinery, Zamosc, near Lublin, produced 30 tons a day more sugar than last year.

* * *

A new medium length documentary film showing the history of Gdansk, its links with Poland throughout the centuries, and the construction of the new city, has just been completed.

TO HELP YOU

THESE points are intended to provide you with additional information which can be used to supplement speakers' notes or to provide ammunition for debates. They will be featured regularly in future issues of "New Poland."

Our other new feature, "Poland in Pictures" will also appear regularly. We suggest that, if possible, you use this on your branch notice board or works' wall newspaper. To make it easy to take out, "Poland in Pictures" will always be on the middle pages.

The Spartak football team, five times champions of the Soviet Union, toured Poland last month.

A consignment of fifteen Bronze turkeys from Miss J. E. Cassidy, of Huntingfield, Halesworth, is on its way to Poland. The turkeys, all stags, have been bought by the Polish Government as breeding stock. This is the third batch of turkeys Miss Cassidy has sent to Poland.—Item in the "Eastern Evening News," Norwich.

The second blast furnace at the Bolestaw Bierut iron and steel works is now in the final stages of construction.

Paging You

IF you have ever seen Polish Folk Dancing, you could not have failed to be impressed and interested. The Government of Poland has done much in the reconstruction of new Poland and it has always placed the culture of the people high, and folk dancing is one of the many cultural activities that is popular in Poland.

I might add that it is also popular among some members of the *British-Polish Friendship Society*. A folk dance group was formed some time ago and quite a number of Polish dances have been learned.

The group has performed in public from time to time, notably on such occasions as Poland's National Liberation

Poland and Bulgaria have signed an agreement providing for a further development and improvement of postal, telegraph and radio communication between the two countries.

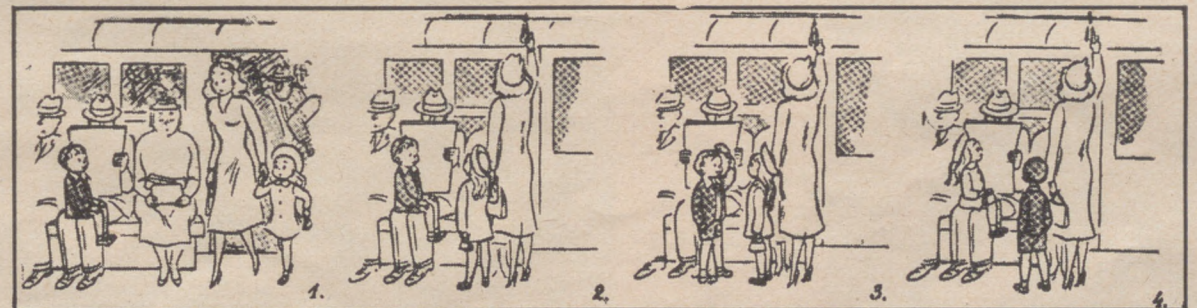
On November 2nd the Polish Airways "Lot" extended its Warsaw-Budapest line to Sofia.

Over 3,500 photographs and documents have been collected by the Fryderyk Chopin Society, which is also preparing a microfilm of the manuscripts of Chopin's works. The microfilm and a catalogue, printed in several languages, will be made available to interested institutions and individuals.

Day Celebration, held every year in London by the Society.

The folk dance group extends an invitation to anyone who would like to become a member of the dance group, and to participate in its activities, to come along to the Warsaw Club, 81 Portland Place, W.1, on Tuesday evenings between 7.0-9.0.

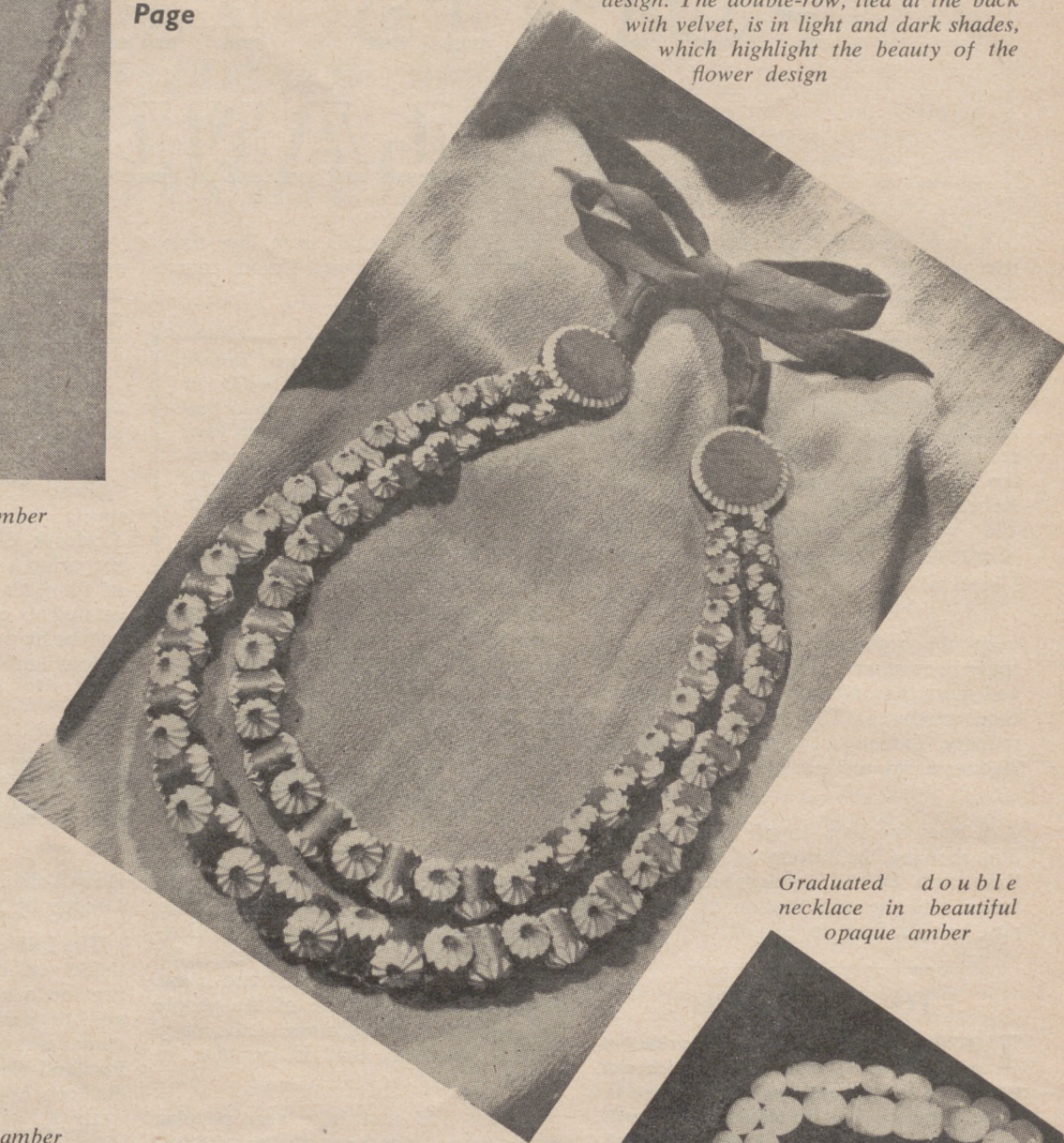
The group will be pleased to see many more members, and hope that there are some, among the many readers of *New Poland* who will be interested in this most enjoyable form of cultural activity, which can also play an important part in fostering peace and friendship between the peoples of our two countries.—
Frank Jezard.



A Warsaw Gentleman

**Women's
Page**

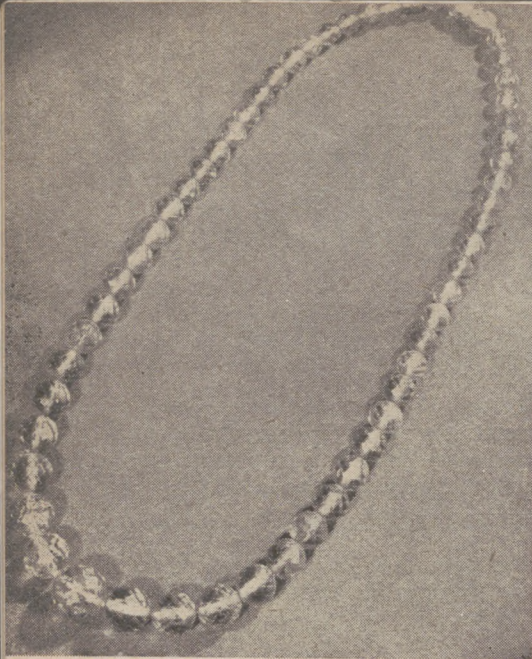
Wooden necklace in intricate hand carved design. The double-row, tied at the back with velvet, is in light and dark shades, which highlight the beauty of the flower design



Graduated double necklace in beautiful opaque amber



Single-row necklace in clear amber



Unusual flower shaped amber brooch. To bring out shading of the petals clear and opaque amber are used

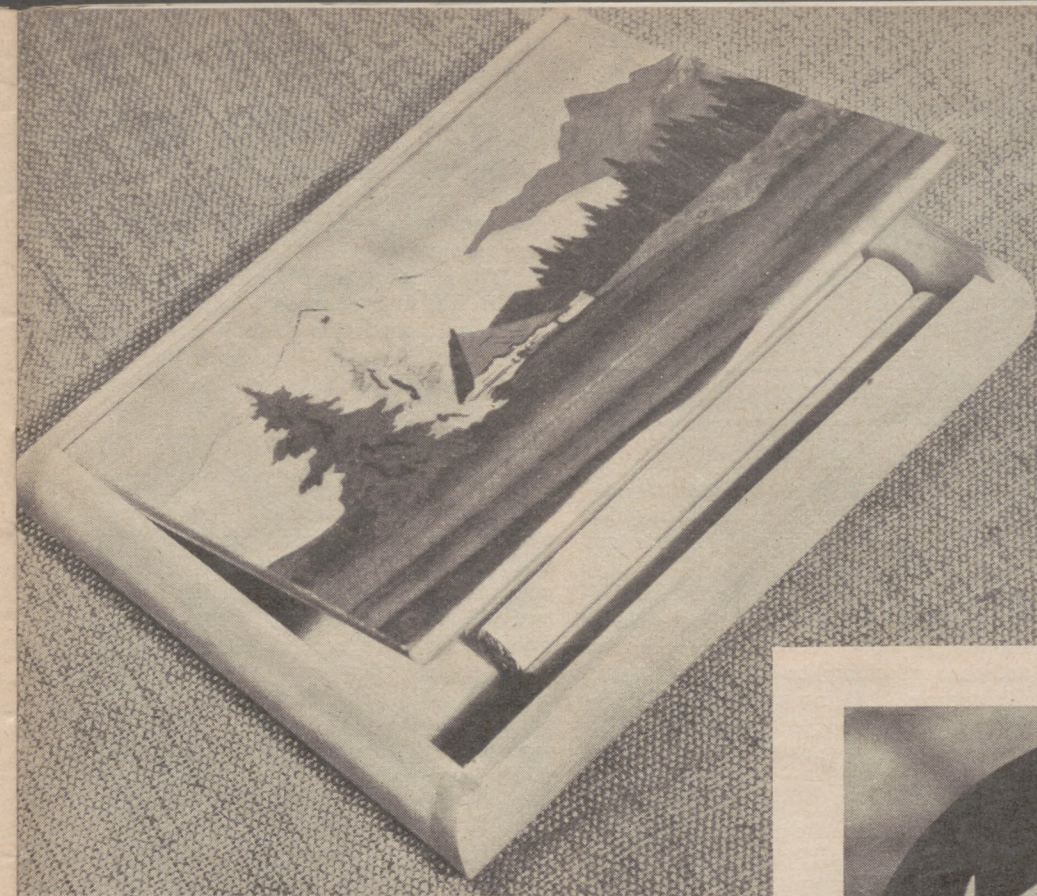


**Polish
Handicrafts**

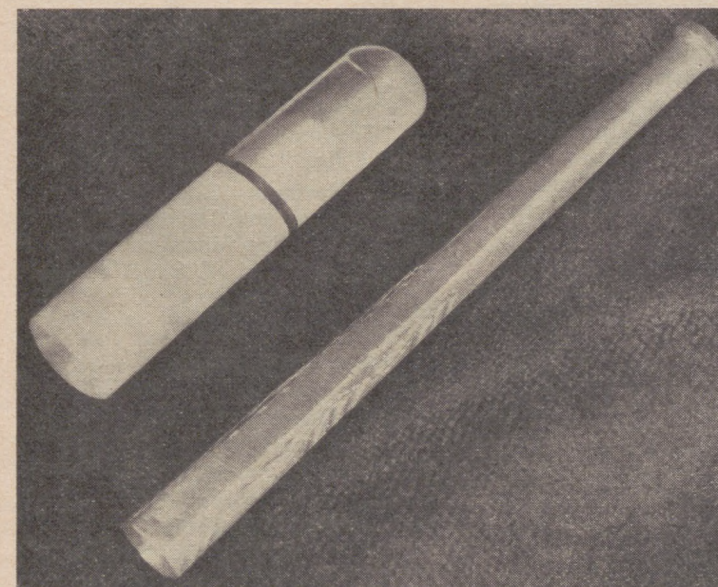
Carved wooden compact. Black with contrasting Edelweiss design, the leaves delicately tinted in shades of green



Inlaid cigarette box. The box in light wood, the "mountain scene" worked in different woods from almost white to dark brown



Two cigarette holders. The short one in opaque amber, the other in hammered silver design in elegant slim line



WOMEN'S PAGE this month is devoted to typical Polish handicrafts, the kind of little luxury goods which every woman loves to receive.

Amber, found in the Baltic, is a high favourite. So are wooden goods, in a country where timber is one of the most important natural resources.

To-day, more than ever before, every encouragement is given to the many craftsmen who make the beautiful things shown in the photographs.

In People's Poland, local handicrafts are considered an important part of the country's culture, which at one time was faced with extinction, and is now being brought back to life.

To-day the shops are full of these items, and Mr. Poland on the look out for that special gift for "her" is having a tough job in choosing.

These handicrafts also form a large part of Poland's export trade.

Secretary's Letter

THE FIRST THURSDAY OF THE month is the day on which the E.C. of the Society meets. We gather round the tables in the office, and bang on time Mrs. M. Pritt, the chairman, opens the meeting. We get through quite a lot of work . . . reviewing the work of the past month, planning ahead. New ideas flow, criticism and argument add strength to the work.

A quick glance round at our last meeting on Guy Fawkes night, and you took in Gordon Schaffer's amiable features, Bill Adams (straight from an engineers' meeting for the 15 per cent wage increase), Professor Levy of the wise look and tousled hair. Next to him the Rev. Stanley Evans leaning forward, eager to come into the discussion. Our old friend, Bill Pearson, Secretary of the Scottish Area of the N.U.M., was there, too, the lilt of his voice followed by yet another Scot, Charlie Nixon.

Wide Activity

Special guests at this E.C. were members of our Trade Union Advisory Committee. Among them were two new members, Harry Harwood, painter, and Wally Togwell, building worker, both delegates to Poland this year. There were, of course, other members of the E.C. present also, but it would take too long to mention each one.

The report for the month gave an interesting picture. Our "Diary of Events" showed that during October there was a total of thirty-eight events organised by the Society. These were either film shows, lectures, public meetings or social events. More than one event each working day of the month. Moreover, this is quite apart from the large number of "Report Back" meetings this year's delegates are doing in Trade Union branches and elsewhere. To our certain knowledge there have been at least one hundred of these reports since August.

Just imagine what all this means . . . conversations, discussions and questions on the factory floor, the canteen, the pit, in a neighbour's home . . . hundreds of people, at last, getting an honest account of life in People's Poland. And the questions go on and on. When you think of the outrageous stories put out by the press, you appreciate the value of these delegations and why it is so necessary to members and readers of *New Poland* to

By ANN HERBERT

hear what they have to say. Whether you live in London, Scotland or the Provinces you have only to write to the Society for a speaker or film, or both, and we can help you.

Speaking of Scotland, two of the liveliest meetings recently were those held at Edinburgh and Greenock, with an audience of eighty to listen to Charles McMannus, building worker, and sixty-four to hear George Raphael, foundry worker. Now there is to be a "Reunion Meeting" on Saturday, December 19th, at the Kenilworth Hotel, Glasgow. Here members will have the pleasure of meeting new friends, especially the Scottish delegates to Poland, as well as representatives from union branches and pits where they were elected. It promises to be an enjoyable occasion, one which the Glasgow readers should not miss, and if you want to hear more about the programme, then write to the Scottish office of 27, Hope Street, Glasgow, C.1.

Warsaw's Theme Song

There is a song that has a lilt to it . . . a merry song with a sparkle to it . . . You hear it all over Poland, and especially in Warsaw. Young and old, at work and play, whistle and sing it. But now it is becoming known in Britain too. The Society first introduced it to an audience of six hundred people at a National Liberation Day Concert at the Whitehall Theatre. It was sung in English (arranged by Alan Bush, who conducted) with great spirit by the Workers' Music Association Choir, and soon the whole theatre joined in the chorus. As we have been asked time and again for the words and music, we have decided to have a record made of it. This will be ready early in January, and we invite you to send 6/- for your copy, plus 1/6 for postage.

Here is the first verse and chorus:

Early in the morning on my bus-ride
My dear city meets my sight,
Tho' the people hustle, tho' they bustle,
What I see fills me with delight.
The highways and byways are shining
and new
And buildings are sprouting like flowers
in the dew.

Chorus:

A bridge to the right, a bridge to the left
Above the Vistula flowing,

And here's a house, and there's a house,
Beside the Vistula growing.
The gay scarlet buses are gleaming,
And the gay morning workers are streaming,
There's more for us, in store for us,
In Warsaw, the town I love best.

On the second side there is a record of a delightful Polish Folk Song, one of those popularised by the Maszowsze Dance and Song Ensemble. This too is sung in English by the W.M.A. Choir.

Christmas Card

It is December again, and you will be sending the season's greetings to family and friends. Why not send a bright, colourful one with a message of Peace and Goodwill between Britain and Poland. We have a most attractive one to offer . . . very much like the front cover of this issue, and in the same vivid colours. At 6d. each, you can afford to remember all your friends this year. But don't leave it too late . . . send your order with money to-day.

COMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, December 2nd:
Club Night, Warsaw Club, 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, December 3rd:
"Press stories about Poland—what are the facts?"—Mrs. D. Purcell, Warsaw Club, 7.30 p.m.

Sunday, December 6th:
Central Hall, Glasgow, Film Show, "Warsaw Lives Again," "Birth of a Coalmine."

Wednesday, December 9th:
Club Night, Warsaw Club, 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, December 10th:
Warsaw Club, Film Show: "Light to the Villages," "Birth of a Coalmine," "For a Happy Childhood," "Warsaw Lives Again."

Friday, December 11th:
Kirby, Lancs., Film Show, "Sport in Poland," "Poland To-day," "Country School," "When we are Building."

Saturday, December 12th:
Film Show and Delegates' Report Back Meeting, Mansfield; speakers, W. Baker and W. Singleton.

Sunday, December 13th:
Selston, Film Show.

Wednesday, December 16th:
Club Night, Warsaw Club, 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, December 17th:
"Ideological Problems in the New Poland"; speaker: Prof. Levy, Warsaw Club, 7.30 p.m.

Saturday, December 19th:
Grand Christmas Dance, Warsaw Club, 7.30 p.m.

SPORT

and CULTURE



It is in the many Parks of Culture, such as this one, that the youth of Poland can develop their bodies by participating in outdoor sports and activities



Polish Army gymnasts going through their paces at their Stadium in Warsaw



Ballet for beginners. There are ample facilities for all aspiring ballerinas



Champions of to-morrow? Some of the competitors in the youth competition

Many Thanks *Ernest Hanwell*

WHEN YOU GET THIS ISSUE OF *New Poland*, Christmas may still seem a long way off, but this is our Christmas number and the sixth issue for which I have been responsible.

So I think it is appropriate to reminisce. Publishing a journal is a great adventure, it is hard and exacting work, at times it is tiring, but it is always thrilling.

★

Planning ahead, sometimes for months ahead, in order to give a wide variety, carefully choosing the most interesting and appropriate pictures gives lots of fun and lots of headaches.

Then working on an issue, balancing the contents of the journal, keeping to a strict schedule with the printers, seeing the finished job in your mind and creating it page by page, has its snags and disappointments, its joys and pleasure.

All the time one must try to improve on the last issue, to remember the bad points raised by the Editorial Board, the criticisms of the readers, to bear them in mind in view of any technical difficulties.

And long before the issue is off the press, to be formulating plans for the following issue. So it goes on, with one brief respite, the day the last page has been checked and the printer given the O.K.

On that carefree day the aftermath has to be cleared away so that a clear start can be made on the next issue before you, the reader, has received the current copy.

As Jo Florent, my colleague in the *New Poland* office describes it, "It is like a permanent pregnancy."

So it is, a new child is born with every issue, for we journalists look upon our publications, which we have helped to create, as our own child.

★

Publication day is always a thrill, the new copies still smelling of printer's ink always a pride!

But to me the greater pleasures are to come later, when the issue has been read by the readers. Then I soon learn whether the issue is as good as I think it to be. Your criticisms are always honest and fair and they mean a lot to me.

It is always encouraging to be praised,

we all like it, and it is most useful to have your points of view, these are the yardstick by which the value of *New Poland* can be measured.

So please remember that although I may look upon *New Poland* as my baby, it is your journal. Help me and my colleagues on the Editorial Board to give you the best possible. Let us have your criticisms, your suggestions and points of views as you have in the past.

Whatever some of you may think about journalists, we can not be accused of being selfish. We like the best of our work to be shared with as many people as possible. So if I can use a well worn phrase: "If you like our journal tell your friends."

★

Seriously, *New Poland* has an important rôle to play and it is essential that more and more people read it, so will you help us to build up the circulation by persuading your friends to buy it and, of course, to read it?

It is, in my opinion, good enough for your best friend that is why we are making a special offer to you, if you buy a subscription for a friend.

Incidentally, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the help and encouragement you have given me in the past and I ask you to give me even more in the new year. Many thanks!

BELOW, THE LATEST POLISH FILMS WHICH ARE AVAILABLE ON 16mm., THROUGH THE BRITISH-POLISH FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY, ARE REVIEWED IN

New Polish Films

By ROY SEAR

WARSAW LIVES AGAIN: 55 mins.

WARSAW, town of historic achievements and store-house of priceless cultural riches made over the centuries. The capital that was destroyed during the war with all the ruthless thoroughness of the diseased minds of Nazism. Here is a film that makes this picture come to life, then tells us of the new Warsaw. We see Warsaw in the past, we watch old prints that tell of the struggle against Tsarist oppression. Then we are appalled by the three stages in the deliberate and planned destruction of this fine capital by the Germans. It is all the more terrible because many of the shots are taken from German newsreel sources and the story is grimly real to all of us.

Then comes the saga of reconstruction. No-one can really conceive of a town of this size that literally had been erased from the map, unless they see a moving film of it. Here it is in all its terrible significance. But the people of Warsaw returned and went to work in a town with no gas, no electricity and practically no buildings to live in. In this review you will see how they turned Warsaw from a pile of useless rubble and built afresh. Not only did they do this. They built a better town, but never excluded the

rebuilding of objects of value. You will see the old town centre rebuilt as well as monuments so much loved by the population.

Now the initial stages are over and they have built a magnificent East-West highway, replaced the bridges that were entirely destroyed and have a town that is already beautiful. This documentary tells a magnificent story that has to be seen to be believed. Warsaw lives again.

LIGHT TO THE VILLAGES:

16 mins.

HERE is a short film that tells the history of the final exam for young Warsaw electricians. When the time has come for them to take the great step into the future, they leave their desks, pack their bags and go off to a country district.

Their exam. consists of laying on electric power to a small Polish township. We see their struggle to do the job. They even cut down their own trees for the power poles. At one point they

make a miscalculation and twelve poles have to be uprooted and replaced elsewhere. The weather is wet and cold, but the job is carried through.

After a celebration the young apprentices return to Warsaw as fully fledged electricians. The tremendous belief that there are no obstacles that their new life cannot conquer is underlined as the film ends. The final scene fades out as electricity comes to the peasants' cottages for the first time. Darkness falls and we see the light pouring from the windows. Another step in Poland's development has been made.

POLAND TO-DAY, 1953, No. 1:

10 mins.

THIS short ten minute newsreel of Polish life and everyday events is extraordinarily effective. We see North Korean war orphans moved nearer to the capital and get a glimpse at them in their schools.

We also see the Polish dancers of the future having their ballet lessons in the new wing of the Warsaw Opera House and numerous other scenes that pinpoint the life of the Polish people to-day.

Most symbolic of all the episodes is one that underlines their determination to live in peace and friendship with everyone. This is the film of the Prague-Berlin-Warsaw cycle race. Won by a German, the winner is feted by Warsaw people in inspiring enthusiasm.

BIRTH OF A MINE: 10 mins.

THIS is a film of general interest to film-goers. We see a brand new mine, with all modern equipment, created, serviced and put into operation.

This is
WARSAW *calling*
ON MEDIUM WAVE EVERY DAY
6.30 a.m. 7.30 p.m. 10 p.m.
on 367 metres

Polish Radio gives the listener news and views of a kind that does not get publicity in the Press and radio programmes of the West. The world peace campaign is fully reported and there are vivid accounts of the new Poland.

SPECIAL ITEMS

FOR WOMEN there are special talks every Wednesday on the life of women and children in Poland and the other Peoples' Democracies—and in capitalist lands.

YOUNG LISTENERS are invited to hear our Youth Programme every Thursday.

WEEK IN POLAND is the title of a regular Friday feature spotlighting current Polish events.

BY REQUEST—tell us what you would like to hear: A gramophone record? Answers to your questions? Every Saturday there is a programme made up of listeners' requests.

We welcome any suggestions or comments from listeners and are specially grateful for reports on reception. See that your friends know the times of our programmes.

DAILY SCHEDULE

6.30 a.m.	41	49	367 metres
5 p.m.	41	49 metres	
7 p.m.	41	49 metres	
7.30 p.m.	41	49	367 metres
8 p.m.	41	49 metres	
10 p.m.	367 metres		
10.30 p.m.	41	49 metres	

POLISH RADIO (ENGLISH SECTION) WARSAW, POLAND

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Why not take out a year's subscription to "New Poland" and give a present to be remembered for a whole year?

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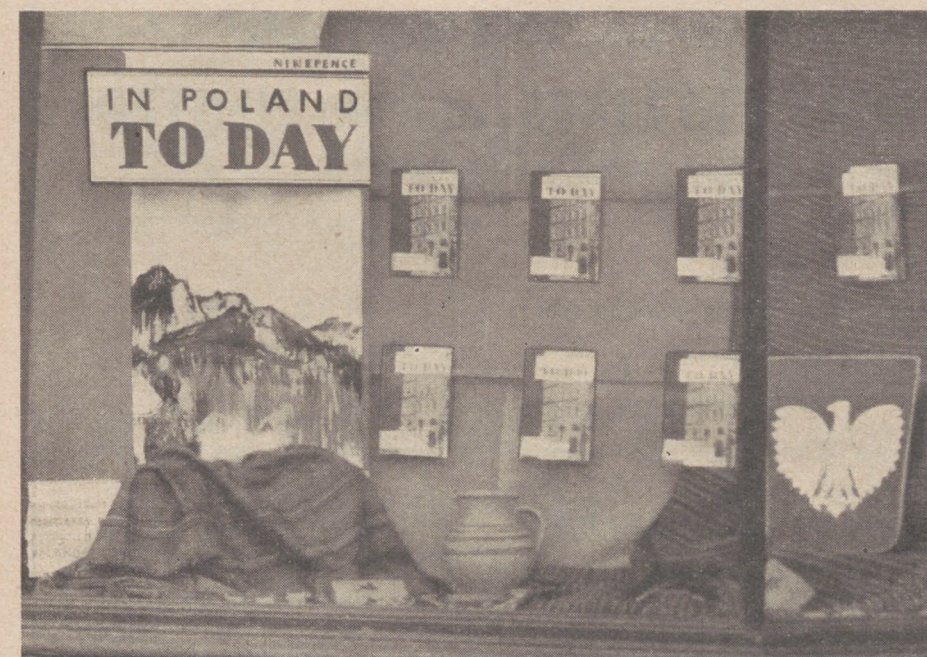
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IN POLAND TO-DAY, the report of the July delegation to Poland, was featured in a special window display at Central Books, Ltd., Parton Street, London, W.C.1, last month.

The result was an immediate rush for copies, 150 of them being sold in the first three days. The moral to this is simple. The Report will sell easily where it is shown.

So why not take some supplies into your factory or trade union branch? A discount of threepence a copy is given on all orders of six or more.

Some trade union branches are doing a good job with the Report as are many individuals but there is still room for further sales. With the vicious stories which have appeared in the Press recently it is most important that people get to know the truth of what is really happening *In Poland To-day*.

Help us to do this by ordering supplies of the Report to-day.

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