

# NEW POLAND

TRADE UNION  
DELEGATION

10th ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATIONS

CULTURAL  
REVOLUTION

POLISH LINEN

SOMETHING TO SING  
ABOUT

—Pictorial Supplement

SEPTEMBER  
1954

Monthly 6<sup>p</sup>



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**EDITOR:**  
Ernest Hanwell

**HEAD OFFICE:**  
81, Portland Place, London, W.1. Tel: LANgham 1471

**SCOTTISH OFFICE:**  
27, Hope Street, Glasgow, C.1. Tel: Central 5050

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**No Visas**

The American Government refused to grant visas to two representatives of the Polish Church who had been invited to attend the World Council of Churches, held in Evanston, near Chicago, last month.

They were Bishop Kotula and Professor W. Niemczyk, Dean of the Protestant Theological Faculty at Warsaw University.

**CONTENTS**

Ten years' progress	... 2 & 3
—report by Boleslaw Bierut	
A friend returns	... 4 & 5
—Marshal Bulganin's visit	
Poland's National Tradition	... 6 & 7
—George Bidwell	
They lied about Poland	... 8
—Gordon Schaffer	
Delegation Report	9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 & 16
—special illustrated supplement	
Something to sing about	17, 18, 19 & 20
—four-page pictorial souvenir	
What an inspiration	... 21
—Bill Ellerby	
Coming Events	... 21

**FRONT COVER:** The dance group and choir at the State House of Culture at Klodzko, Lower Silesia, rehearse in the gardens of the House. Because of the high standards reached by the group, they have qualified as the representatives of Lower Silesia.

**NEVER AGAIN**

JUST FIFTEEN YEARS AGO THIS MONTH German Nazism plunged the world into the bloodiest war in history. On September 1st, 1939 their bombers struck without warning and their jack-booted army marched into Poland.

Three days later Britain, honouring her agreement with Poland, declared war on Germany. Six years later Hitler was dead and Germany was defeated, yet today those very people who supported Hitler and his gang are demanding another army with the sole purpose of having another go at Poland.

That, bluntly and simply, is the meaning for the demands for rearming Western Germany and for the cries that Poland and other People's Democracies must be "liberated." That lies behind the demands for a return to Germany of those parts of Poland which for a century or more were occupied by the Germans and which by agreement among the Allies were handed back to Poland at the end of the war.

Now that the Geneva Conference has rid the world of major wars for the first time in twenty-three years, public opinion must force the statesmen to

meet again to prevent the outbreak of another conflict. This means discussions to find a peaceful solution to the "German Question."

The whole world knows now that talks can succeed where threats and bullying fail.

There was no ready-made solution to the Asian problems, each delegate to Geneva had his own ideas but the result was a satisfactory compromise. The same can be achieved by a conference on the "German Question."

The European Security Pact, as proposed by the Soviet Union, but as it stands, unacceptable to the Western Powers, can form the basis for discussions. The main thing is to get the statesmen together; then from their negotiations a solution can and must be found.

More and more people are demanding "No Arms for the Germans." More and more are determined that the leaders of the interested nations must meet soon. But strong, powerful groups in America, Britain and in Europe are stalling, they say arm Germany first, and then negotiate by strength.

This policy is suicide, it was Hitler's policy. A policy which led the Nazis to invade surrounding countries, which led to the systematic destruction of Warsaw, to the bombing of London, Coventry and other cities. It is the policy of war—atomic war and all the misery this can mean.

It is a policy which is unacceptable to the vast majority of people throughout the world, who, if they unite can stop it before it is too late.

The British-Polish Friendship Society has always opposed the creation of a new German army. It has done so, in the interests of Britain as well as Poland. We say remember September 1939, and raise your voices to demand "Never Again!"

**Output Up**

Overall production in Polish State industries was fourteen per cent higher during the first half of the year than in the corresponding period last year. The target for the period was overfulfilled by 2.8 per cent.

Targets for most basic heavy industries were beaten and output of many consumer goods exceeded the planned figures. Even where the target was not beaten the output figures showed a considerable increase over last year's output.

## BOLESŁAW BIERUT:

### "With Confident Steps we are Marching Ahead"

A review of the achievements of People's Poland since its birth ten years ago

"TODAY THE POLISH PEOPLE celebrate the tenth anniversary of one of the greatest events in their history—the establishment of people's rule. The working people of People's Poland from the Bug to the Odra, from the Baltic to the Tatra are gathered in their towns and villages jointly to review the results of the past ten years."

With these words Bolesław Bierut, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Worker's Party, began his address to the Celebration Meeting held in Warsaw on July 21st, the eve of National Liberation Day.

After reminding his audience that it is ten years since the first Polish towns and villages were liberated from the Nazis by the Soviet and Polish Armies who side by side set foot on Polish soil, Mr. Bierut went on:

"The Polish Committee for National Liberation formed by the National People's Council on July 21st, 1944, became the new supreme organ of the People's State. Ancient Lublin became the first provisional home of the supreme organs of the State reborn after the slavery.

#### Turning Point

"On July 22nd the Committee for National Liberation issued its Manifesto. This manifesto was a programme of revolutionary social transformations and, at the same time, the first historic act of the people's revolution, the beginning of which was marked by the great historic events of the July days ten years ago."

Mr. Bierut then described how the working people along with the working peasants became the leading force in carrying out the transformation of the country's economic and social structure.

"Ten years is a brief span in the history of a nation, but if the past ten years are measured by the great social transformations brought about by the



From this . . .



● The Nazis have fled and the Polish flag is hoisted in liberated Lublin while the first detachment of the Polish Army proudly enter the city

popular masses then they are unequalled in all the thousand years spanned by the history of our State and people. Hence, we must evaluate the past ten years as a period of change, as a turning point in our national history.

"This date is the tenth anniversary of the victory of people's rule established for the first time in our history. Our people are justly proud of this victory and regard it as the source of their profound national pride.

"Our strength," he said, "is that our people are rallied in conscious and creative labour for multiplying their productive forces, and in the fact that labour has become for us the sole measure of social merit, that it is no longer the despised thing it was under capitalism, that it has become the

supreme glory of man and is deeply respected by the people. To be known as a foremost worker—this is the most honoured title for a citizen in our People's State."

Saying "We have restored to the working people their highest dignity and granted them their rights," Mr. Bierut pinpointed a few of the changes which have taken place in Poland during the past ten years.

"Having expropriated the landlords and capitalists, the people's revolution radically changed the economy of our country and gave a new direction and scale to the development of our productive forces. Now each year of our labour multiplies these forces. Industrial output is four times the pre-war level.

"Before the war the capitalist countries

regarded us as being of little significance economically, as being a weak and backward country, one that was without strength and completely dependent on foreign capitalist concerns. Foreign capital controlled almost two-thirds of the capital investments in pre-war industry.

#### Creative Activity

"People's Poland has long ago wiped out this shame; and to-day the capitalist countries may well be envious of the rate at which our industry is developing, of the strength and might of our economy, and first and foremost of the economic and political independence which is precisely what many of these countries are constantly losing.

"The first important act of the people's

State was the land reform which transferred more than 14,800,000 acres of land formerly in the possession of the landlords to the working peasantry, together with premises and stock. There is no land hunger in Poland to-day; the plague of usurers' debts, once the nightmare of the peasants, no longer exists.

"The changes that are taking place in the social, political and economic life in our country have released among the millions of workers and peasants and also among the rapidly growing numbers of the intelligentsia, inexhaustible reserves of creative activity.

"The people's rule has opened up to millions of young workers and peasants vast opportunities for acquiring and deepening knowledge and improving their skills in the different spheres of work. Young people are displaying an

. . . To this



New Poland

increasing interest in art; they are thirsty for knowledge of their own country, and yearn to place their work, their selflessness, enthusiasm and abilities in the service of the people.

"The past ten years have written an unforgettable and important page in the history of the Polish working class—a page on the unification of the working class after it had been divided for tens of years. The political unification of the working class powerfully influenced the strengthening of the unity of the people as a whole.

"Never in its thousand years' history has the Polish people been so monolithic, so united as they are to-day. This is the most valuable source of our strength and the safe guarantee of our coming victories in building up the might and prosperity of our People's Republic. And so our people have been able in the space of a few years to make good the enormous losses and to raise themselves to heights unattainable in earlier times."

#### True Path

Mr. Bierut then outlined the tasks which still face Poland, particularly the need to increase agricultural output as quickly as possible in order to meet the ever-growing demands of the population. After appealing to young people to take careers in agriculture, he concluded his speech on the confident note that Poland is on the right road.

"When we look back over the path we have traversed," he said, "the conviction grows that we have taken the one true path—the only correct, just and reliable path—the path that leads to well-being for Poland and for every honest man and woman.

"Firmly, with confident steps, we are marching ahead, constantly enhancing the grandeur of our homeland, towards greater might, unity and fraternity of the entire camp of Peace and Socialism, headed by the powerful, invincible and fraternal Soviet Union. We are marching forward for the glory of Poland and all mankind.

"Wholeheartedly greeting all our friends in all parts of the world on the occasion of our great celebration of national regeneration, we assure all fighters in the world Peace Movement that People's Poland will never let them down in the struggle for Peace, progress, democracy, for the noble ideals of international fraternity."

● This year Lublin was again the scene of a parade, a victory parade, which highlighted Poland's celebrations on July 22nd. The pictures were taken by members of the trade union delegation

Ten years ago Marshal Bulganin commanded the combined Polish and Soviet Armies which drove the Nazis out of Poland. This year he returned to join the Polish people in celebrating their successes in rebuilding their country from the ruins left by the Nazis. On behalf of the Soviet Union, Marshal Bulganin promises

## Continued Co-operation and Friendly Assistance

**“W**E PEOPLE OF THE SOVIET Union, together with all real friends of the Polish nation, sincerely rejoice in your successes. These successes are so obvious and so striking that they cannot be passed over in silence even by those who can in no sense be suspected of a friendly attitude to the Polish nation.

“All the friends of Poland are glad especially that Poland has changed from a backward agricultural country into a powerful industrial State, and that from the point of view of industrial production Poland occupies fifth place in Europe, preceding Italy and nearly equaling the industrial output of France. It must also be emphasised that in Poland a number of branches of industry have been formed which did not exist before, and that in particular the engineering industry has expanded enormously.

### Value Peace

“The Polish nation, like other nations, is vitally interested in the preservation and maintenance of Peace. The Polish people, who experienced all the horrors of war, know how to value Peace. That is why they are taking an active part in the fight for Peace and why they fully support the peaceful policy of the camp of Peace, democracy and Socialism.

“Peace is particularly threatened by the fact that the ruling circles in the United States and in Great Britain are pursuing a policy of reviving German militarism and forming a military bloc of six European States with the West-German revanchists in the forefront. Aware of the danger threatening the freedom and independence of the European countries from this policy, the Polish nation, like a number of other

European nations, unanimously supported the proposals of the Soviet Union concerning the German problem and the conclusion of an all-European collective security treaty.

“The peaceful policy of the countries of the democratic camp and the mighty development of the Peace Movement all over the world have led to a certain relaxation of international tension. Last year an armistice was signed in Korea. At the present time the first positive results have been attained with regard to restoring peace in Indo-China. The latest reports show that an armistice has been signed in Viet Nam, Laos, and Cambodia. This is a great victory for the forces of Peace and the direct result of the fight waged for Peace at the Geneva Conference by the delegations of the Soviet Union, the great Chinese People's Republic and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

“The cessation of hostilities in Indo-China might have been achieved much earlier if the American diplomacy had not hampered the work of the Geneva Conference, if it had not worked behind the scenes and exerted brutal pressure on France and Great Britain.

“The camp of Socialism and democracy is the camp of Peace. This is best proved by the fact that the Soviet Union

and the People's Democracies have for long been demanding the prohibition of atomic and hydrogen weapons, since they are of the opinion that the greatest achievement of the human mind, the discovery of atomic energy, should be used not for purposes of war and destruction, but for peaceful building and for making life easier for men.

### Sacred Duty

“The Soviet Government has recently published a statement saying that the Soviet Union has taken the first concrete step on the road to the peaceful use of atomic energy by putting in operation the first industrial atomic power station in the world. This event is of momentous importance. *Trybuna Ludu* was right in saying that June 27th, 1954, the day of the opening of this power station, will mark the beginning of a great industrial revolution, the scope of which we cannot even conceive at the moment.

“It is, however, understandable that as long as the United States does not renounce the use of atomic and hydrogen weapons, the Soviet Union must possess that weapon too, not to be helpless in case of a sudden attack.

“The emergence and consolidation of the Socialist camp, this powerful main-

stay of Peace and security, is one of the greatest achievements of the free nations. We should value this achievement and guard it as the apple of our eye. It is our most sacred duty to sharpen our vigilance, to continue to buttress the camp of Socialism and democracy and to strengthen our friendship.

### Full Equality

“The strength of our peace-loving camp lies not only in its economic and military power, but first of all in its solidarity. Mutual relations between our countries are based not on the subordination of one country to another, but on friendship and mutual assistance, on a community of purpose, on the recognition of full equality of all countries, whether great or small.

“People's Poland is a strong member and integral part of the powerful Socialist camp. She is united by links of closest friendship with all the countries of this camp. Brotherly friendship between the Soviet Union and the Polish People's Republic is of utmost importance for our two countries.”

Tracing the historical development of relations between the two countries, Marshal Bulganin said:

“In the course of the common fight of our nations against their common enemy, German Fascism, new relations were sealed by the conclusion, on April 21st, 1954, of the Treaty of Friendship, Mutual Assistance and Post-War Co-operation between the Soviet Union and Poland.

### Mutual Advantage

“From then on the friendship and co-operation between Poland and the Soviet Union have been constantly consolidating and expanding, embracing all fields of contact between the two countries—political, economic and cultural. Trade between Poland and the U.S.S.R. is steadily increasing, on the principle of mutual advantage; this year, the volume of trade between the two countries will be eight times greater than in 1945. Imports of machinery and industrial equipment, supplied from the Soviet Union on long-term credit terms, are particularly important to Poland.

“The economic relations between the Soviet Union and People's Poland are marked by a common desire to give each other assistance. Relations of this type between nations are the best sign of the new, Socialist type of relations between them, the complete opposite of the relations obtaining between imperialist states.

“The Polish people may be assured that the Government of the Soviet Union will continue to expand the economic and cultural co-operation between

our two countries, and that it will extend to the Polish People's Republic friendly assistance to help it consolidate its independence and security.

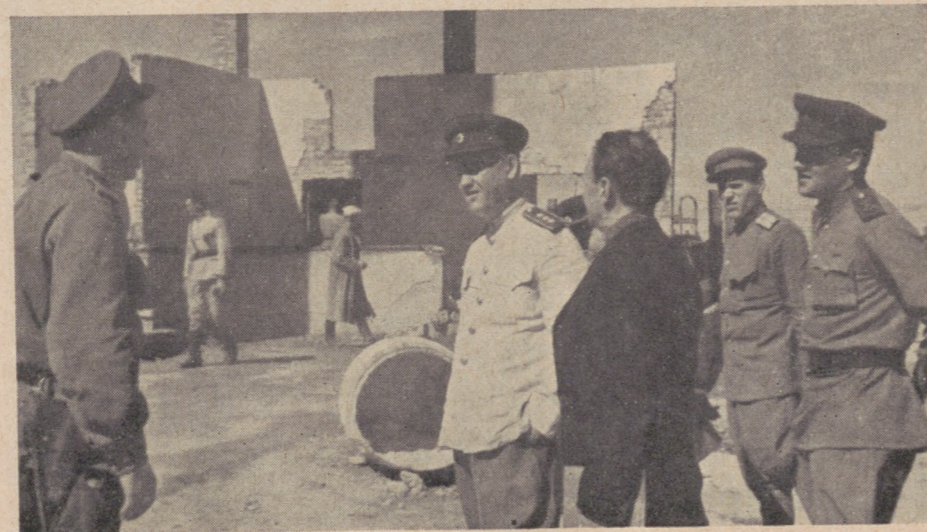
“It is quite understandable that People's Poland strengthens and develops friendly relations also with other countries of the Socialist camp: with the great Chinese People's Republic, with the European countries of People's Democracy, with the German Democratic Republic. Of particular importance to People's Poland is the establishment of friendship and co-operation with the German Democratic Republic—the mainstay of the peaceful forces of the German nation. In contrast to the revanchist policy of the Bonn leaders in Western Germany, the people's Government which has been set up in the German Democratic Republic strengthens friendly relations with Poland, having recognised the frontier on the Odra and the Nysa, the frontier of friendship and peace. The existence of a friendly democratic German State on the Western

frontier of Poland is a factor of great historic significance for the Polish nation.

### Splendid Prospects

“During the past ten years you have accomplished great work; you have achieved great successes, and the future holds out splendid prospects before you. Poland possesses large economic resources. You have everything that is necessary to use these resources for the good of the Motherland and the working masses.

“You have truly a people's power, industriousness and your people's ardent love for their country. You have the permanent alliance of the working class with the working peasants, the collective wisdom of the Party which expresses the interests of the working people, a well-developed industry and, finally, the fraternal, constant support of your friends—the nations of the Soviet Union and of other countries of the democratic camp.”



● Shortly after the liberation of Lublin, Marshal Bulganin inspected the Nazis' concentration camp nearby . . . . On the opposite page is shown the Victory statue, dedicated to the Soviet and Polish Armies, which stands in Stalin Square, Lublin

New Poland



New Poland

# The National Tradition of the Polish People

By George Bidwell

IN POLAND TO-DAY, THE TREASURES OF the national tradition are, together with the classics of the world, the normal intellectual and cultural food of the people, who inherit as a priceless heritage the memorials to the struggles of their ancestors. To see on what a nation-wide scale Poland's traditional monuments, old buildings, historic works of art are being not merely resurrected from the devastations of Nazi barbarism but also shorn of pre-war bourgeois vandalism, and restored to their original beauty, is to set off on a long, but fascinating journey.

Let us start at Gdansk. Dr. Marian Pelczer, a historian, director of the Municipal Library, took me round the city, fundamentally Polish for 1,000 years. The Dwor Artusa—Arthur's Court—built by the burghers of Gdansk in the 14th century, gutted by fire during the Second World War, and now rebuilt, restored to its original form.

### On The Coast

The Barbican, the Golden Gate marking the route by which the kings of old Poland used to enter the city, and all engraved of old with the Polish Eagle, have had cleared from around them the rubbishy relics of commercialism. The defence bastions, the old walls . . . and

the historic churches. The Frauengasse—Ladies' Street—rebuilt as it was before destruction, with its stone balconies, from which the old merchant families gossiped on mild evenings with their neighbours.

Follow with me along the coast to Szczecin, where tradition-loving hands have torn away the tenement blocks with which rent-seeking vandals hid the traditional beauties of the one-time residence of the Dukes of Pomerania, the ancient Piast Castle, now thrown into relief against the sky. The walls of the castle have been carefully secured, the roof restored, and Szczecin cultural institutions function within its precincts.

### In Wroclaw

Now, turn south, along Poland's just, time-honoured, natural, ethnographic border set by the Rivers Odra and Nysa. To Wroclaw, where the historian and the conservator of ancient buildings walk side-by-side, the one drawing on his vast store of knowledge covering a thousand years of Polish culture in the city and province, to help the other, directing restoration, baring for the people's delight the centuries-old gems of Polish architecture which the German interloper sought to mask. The whole area is a vast museum, archaeologically rich and a title deed proving



A scene from Wawel Castle

Poland's inalienable right to her Western Territories.

And so, on to Cracow, where the tablet in the Rynek commemorating Kosciuszko's fight for Polish freedom from alien oppression is deeply revered by the people. On the spot where the tablet lies, Kosciuszko stood, and with his naked sword held erect before his lips, promised freedom to every peasant serf who would rally and fight for Poland's liberty.

Hour by hour over the Kosciuszko tablet are wafted the notes of the trumpeter, blowing his call from the galleries around the tower of St. Mary's Church. That call goes back a thousand years into the mists of antiquity. Lovingly are such traditions safeguarded in People's Poland.

### In The Countryside

On our journey back to Warsaw, manors, mansions, castles and palaces lie off the beaten track. Thousands of these all over Poland, the cultural revolution has taken under its wing. Every house or building, however small, however remotely located, having historic associations, is cared for.

When I first arrived in Warsaw in January, 1946, in the city which suffered as the result of the Second World War, greater devastation than any other, I used to wonder what were the red plates, lettered in white, affixed to so many ruins, sometimes to nothing but a gateway—all that remained. I soon learned that they denoted the sites of historic buildings or traditional monuments marked, even at that early date, by the Ministry of Culture for restoration to their original beauty. Hundreds of the structures so marked now carry their

message of Poland's great cultural and historic story to the masses of the people who by their labours have tenderly restored them, and who now own them one and all.

### In Warsaw

The Old Town, the Cathedral, the Lazienki Palace, St. Ann's Church, the statue to Poland's greatest poet, Adam Mickiewicz, the King Sigismund Column, the monument to Kilinski, a shoemaker and leader of the Kosciuszko insurrection forces in Warsaw, the University, the Royal Palace—all, with hundreds of other reminders of famous pages of Poland's history, restored or in the process of restoration. Together, they make up a whole, a tradition to be treasured.

Buildings and monuments do not, of course, exhaust the national art treasures which constitute milestones in the cultural and political traditions of the Polish people. Paintings, sculptures, carvings, all go to comprise the people's heritage; many of them were sadly neglected in private hands before the days of the

cultural revolution; vast numbers were removed by the Nazis during the occupation, left to rot in damp cellars, slashed and smashed; many suffered damage in holes in the ground where they were hidden by patriots.

In Cracow can be seen the world-famous Wit Stwosz Altar which the Nazis dismantled, removed and left to decay. This priceless treasure of Polish art and tradition has been fully restored to its 16th century colouring by a team of historians, artists and craftsmen who devoted years of loving work to it. It stands to-day in the Wawel Castle for all the people to enjoy.

The Wit Stwosz Altar is only one outstanding example of hundreds of jewels in the crown of the Polish tradition of culture and struggle, jewels which have been tenderly restored and are being revered by the people as never before. The treasures of the national tradition which have been located, restored and set up by the people for their delectation, are accorded tremendous public interest. Indeed, a feature of the cultural revolu-

tion is the tremendous attraction which the museums of the country have to-day for the working people.

### In Canada

All the more understandable, therefore, is the resentment of the Polish people at being robbed of such heirlooms as the 16th century Wawel tapestries, Szczerbiec, the coronation sword of the Polish kings, and a large part of the former crown jewels. These treasures were taken abroad in 1939 for safe-keeping, and finally deposited in Canada.

The Polish people naturally expected that they would be restored to them after the war, but, despite repeated requests by the Government of People's Poland, and appeals by artists and scientists, the Province of Quebec has so far refused to relinquish the Wawel treasures to their rightful owners. The entire Polish nation demands that these treasures, interwoven with the history and tradition of Polish culture, be sent back by Canada to the Polish People's Government.

Wroclaw Cathedral, destroyed by the Nazis, is now restored in its ancient style



New Poland



The sky-line, Old Town Square, Warsaw

EVER SINCE THE WESTERN POWERS cut Germany in two by unilateral currency reform in the Western zones, some of us have warned that the greatest danger to World Peace was the return to power of the men who created Hitler Germany and who backed the Nazi regime to the end. For years these warnings were disregarded. Propaganda in the Press and the radio attempted to paint the Federal Republic as a democratic State and a bulwark of freedom. Even when the West German authorities disinterred the war criminals, including Joseph Kramer, the "Beast of Belsen," and gave them ceremonial burial, every effort was made to disguise from the people the grim truth that the Nazis were indeed back in power.

### The Facts

But the facts can no longer be denied. Doctor John, who headed the West German equivalent of M.I.5, has fled to the German Democratic Republic because of his conviction that once West German Sovereignty is restored, all those who joined in the attempt to overthrow Hitler in 1944, will be in danger.

The *Daily Express* and the *News Chronicle* are now publishing facts about the return of the Nazis, which the Press has concealed for years.

This is the Western Germany which will not only be permitted to re-arm if the European Defence Community Treaty comes into force, but will also be given the most modern arms by the Western Powers. Members of the West German Government and the military leaders who will be called upon to re-create a new Wehrmacht and Luftwaffe, have never attempted to conceal their determination to use the new German Army for an attempt to regain the territories which were formerly German and now belong to Poland and Czechoslovakia. They also talk of "liberating" Eastern Germany by force, which in plain language means civil war against the German Democratic Republic.

### The Exposure

Apologists for West German re-armament claim that if Germany is linked to E.D.C., the rest of the Western Powers will be able to stop her launching aggression. It is well to remember how Hitler Germany launched the war against Poland in 1939. The story is told by Lord Russell of Liverpool, formerly Deputy Judge Advocate of the British Army of the Rhine, in a valuable new book, "The Scourge of the Swastika" (Cassell 15/-).

He describes how Hitler, on August 22nd, told his Commanders-in-Chief "I shall give a propagandist cause for start-

## GERMAN NAZIS

# LIED

## About Poland

ing the war, never mind if it is plausible or not. The victor will not be asked later on whether he told the truth or not."

To create this provocation the Nazis arranged for the radio station at Gleiwitz, near the Polish border, to be attacked by Polish-speaking Germans. To fake a border incident the Gestapo supplied a number of prisoners who were dressed in Polish uniforms and then shot to give the impression they had been killed while attacking German troops.

The incident went off as arranged and the war began. There is a good deal of evidence that Syngman Rhee took a leaf out of Hitler's book and staged similar incidents to start the Korean War. But on the say-so of the South Korean Government, President Truman ordered American troops into action and the United Nations was inveigled into supporting the war.

Supposing it happens again in Germany. Would Washington repudiate the Nazi Generals whom the Americans now openly describe as their most reliable allies in Europe? Surely those honest men and women who accepted the idea of rearming Western Germany must now realise that the return of the Nazis and the open threats of aggression by leaders of the Federal Republic mean that a new West German Army increases immeasurably the danger of war.

### The Key

Some people are now saying that the danger of West German rearmament will be minimised if E.D.C. is established. But have they read the text of the E.D.C. Treaty? It is true the Treaty proposes to set up complicated machinery for administration of the armies of six West European nations by nine commissioners. But the key article in the Treaty is the one which lays down the obligation of every E.D.C. country to impose conscription on its manpower. That means that from the moment the Treaty comes into force by the ratification of all six States, West Germany will be under an obligation to raise an army. Does anyone seriously believe that nine commissioners sitting in Paris will be able to control the German Generals, once that army has been formed?

says



Gordon Schaffer

The Treaty also lays down the right of the E.D.C. authorities to grant permits for the building of all sorts of armaments, not only conventional armaments, but atomic weapons, guided missiles, bacterial and chemical weapons. The only provision in the Treaty governing where atomic, chemical and biological weapons shall be made is that they must not be situated in "strategically exposed areas." So unless Western Germany is scheduled as "strategically exposed" there is nothing in the Treaty to prevent the Nazi Generals laying their hands on the vilest weapons of all. If Western Germany is designated as "strategically exposed," the Nazi Generals will repeat their demand for attack as the only means of defence.

It is true the Treaty lays down that International Conventions forbidding the use of certain weapons (gas and germs) will be observed, but in view of what happened last time, that is a very tenuous assurance.

### The Alternative

There is a way to deal with this problem. The proposal first put forward by Mr. Molotov at the Berlin Conference and since welcomed by the widest range of opinion in West and East alike for an all-in collective security pact in which every European nation would take part, is the alternative to German rearmament.

If such a pact were concluded, it would prepare the way for the re-union of Germany and the creation of a democratic Germany. It would end the cold war in Europe and lift from our own and other countries, the intolerable burden of arms expenditure.

But Peace cannot be built on an alliance with Nazi Generals. It can be ensured if the peoples of Europe, including those of Western Germany who would assuredly be the first victims if war should break out, unite their forces to prevent German rearmament.

That is why the British Labour, Trade Union and Co-operative rank and file who have already rejected German rearmament have proved wiser than their leaders and have struck a mighty blow for Peace.

# BRITONS see POLAND

Excerpts from the Report of Twenty-six British Delegates

SUPPLEMENT TO NEW POLAND

SEPTEMBER, 1954

## Here Unions Control Profits, Wages and Working Conditions

Work becomes easier, more plentiful and steadier

**SOCIALISM WORKS!** TWENTY-four trade unionists and two representatives of Tenants' Associations who have just been to Poland have seen it. It gives the control of industry to the men and women who work in it, and that ensures easier work, rising wages, ever increasing social services, rising living standards and freedom from fear of unemployment or poverty.

The British Delegates, elected by factories and trade union branches, and the two by Tenants' Organisations, went to Poland so that the British working class could be represented at the Celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of Poland's Liberation.

### ONE THOUGHT

Before the Celebrations, they were invited to have a ten days' tour of the country to see how a People's State works, and what progress has been made in rebuilding a shattered nation. Especially were they invited to inspect the industries in which they worked themselves.

Building workers saw housing estates and factories going up. Shipyard workers visited Gdynia shipyards. Engineers saw several plants; vehicle builders a car factory, and electricians both domestic installation and a new power station.

They came back with one thought agreed by all: to build British trade unionism from strength to strength to bring the same successes to its members.

### UNION RESPONSIBILITY

The Polish unions are built differently. Each industry has its own union, which covers every worker, no matter what his trade, if he cares to join (it is not compulsory).

The union helps control the

factories, from management downwards. It strives for efficiency, for happy workers, high wages, economical methods, high production, and even high profits, because all the benefits of all these things goes back to the workers, and not away to shareholders.

### THE MESSAGE

Instead of having to strive endlessly for higher wages to try to catch up with a rising cost of living, as happens in Britain, the Polish trade unions strive to improve production because it increases their actual earnings and at the same time brings PRICES DOWN.

Since they control their own industries, the Polish workers are intensely proud of them, and determined they shall not be destroyed by yet another war.

Everywhere they insisted on the British delegation bringing home to you, on your job, greetings of firm, working class friendship, and the message *let us make war impossible!*

## They Had to Pay to Learn

Even under Socialism, people are thoughtless until they get used to the new ways.

So many people rushed to order free medicine when it was first introduced, and so many of them never bothered to take it when it had been made up, that there was a lot of waste. Now you have to make a small payment in advance, when you ask for the medicine—and people only order what they are going to take!



The delegates busy taking notes at one of the many meetings

## When You Are Boss

**WHAT IS IT LIKE, WORKING IN** a factory, on a building site or in a service where your own trade union runs the show?

As seen in Poland, this is what happens:

You cannot get the sack. You cannot be victimised for your trade union activity or anything else. You cannot be overworked.

If you don't like the boss, you sack him! The works director is elected by the workers, according to his qualifications. And you run your own show, doing everything from rate-fixing on piece work to wage-fixing on other work, through your union and the works council.

### YOU DECIDE

(You do not have to belong to the union, and there is no compulsion to do so. But if you don't belong, you cannot take part in the works council activities or have anything to do with the management of the job.)

You help decide how much profit has got to be made, help to make the job more efficient so that the profit is still higher, then

decide how the profit shall be spent—in improving the plant, and in improving things for the workers as well as giving them extra benefits.

Instead of more production making capitalist bosses richer and you poorer, you find it brings higher wages for increased production, and lower prices. The lower prices mean wages can buy more, more people want the goods, so there is more work to be done.

### YOUR PROFITS

If you can see a way of making the job easier, quicker, cheaper, or more economical, it helps you and your fellow trade unionists to try it. There is every facility for you to try it, and you get a generous cut of whatever money benefits result, such as extra profits or savings in cost.

Practically all industry is nationalised, and the rest of the profits go to the Government, which therefore does not have to raise much money in taxes. Think of it: income taxes are sixpence to shilling in the £, and family allowances for children go on to age twenty-four if necessary!

# Their Methods Are Foreign To Us

## But they do the job

RON CHILTON, TALL, SHAGGY-haired builder from West London who works on the new London Airport, and the other delegates from the building industry earned the name in their first few days in Poland of *The Battling Builders*.

They were out to go into the last detail of building construction techniques, the whys and the wherefors, the safety regulations, the accident rates, accident and sick pay, working conditions and hours, canteen facilities, and anything else they could get information on. And they wouldn't accept any answer to a question if it did not satisfy them. They quizzed the executives through the interpreters, they seized workmen here and there at random, fired at them odd words of English, German, French, Polish, or even a queer sort of invented language, and if all failed called in the interpreters to sort out the result.

### WHY—WHY?

What struck them first was the ragged, unfinished state of many of the outside walls, even after the building had already been occupied. Why weren't the walls pointed? If they were going to be faced, why had that not been done when the plasterers were already in the building to complete the inside? Why was the roof put on (in the case of a huge metal shop at the Stalin Metal



The brick has still to be faced but the flat is occupied

British builders look over a building site and are surprised by the amount of machinery



Works, Poznan) and left before the rainwater pipes had been fixed to keep the walls dry?

The questions tumbled out, and the replies made it evident that the Poles, based on their own experience, have adopted a different building technique. Brick work is erected as rapidly as possible without regard to finish. Many bricks salvaged from old buildings are used (there are special plants to which they are carted, where they are cleaned up and checked, then issued for re-use); and many bricks are re-constituted salvaged materials, old rubble and broken bricks being crushed down then mixed with cement and compressed into blocks.

### FIRST NECESSITY

Brick-laying is strictly a utility job. The first necessity is to get the walls up, and the roof on, just as fast as possible, so that the inside can be completed and used. The outside is left for from one to two years to dry out before it is either faced or pointed, and in spite of the severe frosts this is apparently found the most satisfactory technique in the local climate. Because of the cold, walls are much thicker than here. They are designed to break the weather and throw off snow and ice effects as far as possible.

In some cases, white facing bricks are being used, but the pointing of these is also delayed.

Even the down rainwater pipes are considered a secondary matter and the dampness in the wall during the first few weeks, through lack of them, as of little importance.

Of interest was one roof which was explained. It consisted of two thin layers of concrete with cardboard between. It was claimed to be light and easy to handle and hoist into position, durable, and hard to break.

### OWN TECHNIQUE

Polish workmen have devised their own terrazzo techniques, and are not relying on any Italian labour. In a big staff welfare and canteen building at the Poznan steel works and foundry, terrazzo flooring was being expertly laid. They used a two-and-one mixture of marble chips and cement, laid it, sand-smoothed it, and polished it all themselves, on the stairs and landings. In the general rooms, bituminous flooring on layers of wiring and sawdust were being laid, much as at home.

The clean finish of the walls,

and the quick drying out of the plaster work, were reported on favourably by those who know.

Concrete window frames, with the glass itself set in the concrete, were a surprise in one factory.

### SAFETY NETS

As regards safety, this seemed to be a matter more of voluntary action than compulsion. We did see safety nets strung across the upper works where steel erectors were working on roof construction. And there are safety rules and regulations. But there is no system of inspectors to enforce them, and no victimisation of anyone who breaks the rules. The whole thing is in the hands of the men on the job, the members of the union in particular, and as there is a shortage of manpower and a great need for production, most people are safety conscious and not only take care themselves but see that their mates are not foolish either.

Said one factory manager "The rules are there, but we cannot make them obey them. We cannot punish them. It is up to themselves."

## How the Poles Become Owner-Occupiers

OUTSIDE EVERY TOWN WE visited, we saw hundreds of new houses. Whose?

The policy of the country is to do everything possible to build more houses, and new houses, so that everyone can have a decent, modern home. But they go further, and encourage everybody to build themselves a house and own their own home.

So there are building co-operatives, who can get an advance to cover the cost of materials, provided they build themselves homes. For three years they pay small instalments off the loan. Then the homes are handed over, debt free, and the people in them are homeowners. And even the instalments have not had to be paid in cash; they can be worked off in "contributions" of work for the local authority. Once in their own homes, people can sell, share, bequeath or exchange them freely, at will.

Other people, too, can either buy ready-made homes that fall

vacant, or build their own, getting a loan to cover the cost of materials, and doing their own work, provided the house is not bigger than eight living rooms. If they want to, they can take in lodgers or sub-tenants without interference, and charge what rent they like, except that if they charge too much, the tenant can go to a rent tribunal.

What fun they must have planning their own homes! Every house is different in layout and style, and each stands on its own plot. The big stumbling block to home ownership in Britain is, of course, the cost of the site and connecting the drains, water supply, lighting and heating. The State undertakes to provide the site for the would-be homeowner in Poland, and to lay on the public services, free. This ensures proper, adequate sites and gardens, with room for every family to grow some of its own food, such as fruit and vegetables, or keep a goat, pigs, or even their own cow.

New Poland

## A Sunday Morning Stroll in Warsaw

IT WAS A PEACEFUL SUNDAY morning in Warsaw; calm after the storms that had swept across the country the night before.

On the street corners were the paper sellers by the score. At many a kiosk shutters were being taken down, ready for the day's business of selling lemonade, cigarettes, sweets and magazines. Here and there a sun-wrinkled couple, sometimes obviously mother and daughter, or man and wife, were up from the country with a barrow-load of cherries to sell.

### EARLY TRIPPERS

The old man was lounging beside the road, watching the early trippers make their way down to the river steamers for day outings on the Vistula. But a Polish *Teddy boy* was out early, too, and hurled some remark at the old man as he went by.

It could have passed unnoticed, but a few yards away were two more youngsters, and they heard



Bill Smith enjoyed his Sunday morning stroll. A snap of Polish church-goers by T. Corbett is shown on this page, which emphasises freedom of religion

what was said. One of them swung round on the *Teddy boy*, ticked him off, and swung a good fist to drive it home. Hardly had the victim had time to recover when the other youth landed another fist for good measure. Then the two went on towards the river, the youngster who caused the trouble made off, and the old man went on sunning himself in the roadside.

### OUT ALONE

It was a glimpse of the seamy side of Poland that only one member of the party saw. He was Bill Smith, from Nelson. He had

New Poland

woken up too early and gone out by himself for a stroll at 6 a.m. He didn't know where he was going.

"I just walked along a couple of blocks and thought I would go to the river, and when I saw some people going in one direction for a day out I just followed them," he said at breakfast later.

Other things he and other early risers saw when they took an unscheduled, and unwatched stroll:

Churches filled with people crammed to the doors and standing outside to hear the service because they could not get in.

Early eights and other rowers out on the river.

Family parties and conducted tours setting out for the day, almost before breakfast time.

That night, over dinner, I popped the question across the table: what has stuck in your mind to-night as the thing that strikes you most about the Poles at home on a Sunday?

### FAMILY DAY

"Sunday being such a family day," said one delegate immediately, and that was agreed by several. So very obviously, most people we had seen were out for a stroll with the family. There were the parents and children; the occasional grandmother or grandfather; the courting couples. But certainly the fine weather was taking most people out for a stroll, and mostly the family was going together.

They were sunning themselves in the streets, on the river banks—and even beside the railroad; and so very many of them were strolling through the memorial spaces commemorating the fallen, particularly those who fell to the execution squads.

### HOW SAD

How unspeakably sad was a fresh bunch of deep red carnations that had been laid only a short while, they were so fresh, at the foot of the execution wall!

Organised parties were taking large numbers of mostly younger people from provincial towns and factory groups, to see the ghetto, the citadel, and the spots where so many had died for their opinions.

And every few hundred yards along the streets where there was a small memorial plaque noting that so many had been shot by the Fascists, fresh wreaths and flowers had not long been put in position by those who will never forget.

## The Poles Are Keen Gardeners

SWEET PEAS, ANTIRRHINUM (SNAPdragons), tagetes and marigolds, flowering tobacco plants, stocks, dahlias, petunias in profusion, salvias and begonias, especially in beds, and many geraniums.

These were the main flowers we saw in towns and villages.

They are keen gardeners in Poland, but most of their effort is concentrated in kitchen gardening, especially growing extras like strawberries and fruit bushes, and tomatoes.

Thousands of flats have window boxes—at least a quarter of those in newer blocks, and in older blocks balconies, though dangerous with decay, were gay with trailing and climbing pot plants, nasturtiums, geraniums and ferns, as well as those mentioned above.

Indoors, plant growing is very popular. In street after street plants line the inside of the windowsills or stand on tables.

### LIKE OURS

The municipal authorities do not have much manpower to spare for street decoration, so, though flower beds are freshly dug and planted, grass grows lank and weedy.

The president of the railwaymen's union told us that 90,000 of his members are keen amateur gardeners, either in their own homes or on allotments.

But it is among the indoor



The Palace of Science and Culture, Warsaw, a gift to Poland from the Soviet Union, aroused much interest

workers that there is the biggest demand for an allotment for a hobby and for outdoor exercise. Thousands of allotments have been created, roughly the same size as those in Britain, but the demand is still unsatisfied. That is why some workers try to save enough to buy themselves a new, suburban house; most of these are detached and stand in their own small plot.

In the main, we saw potatoes, beans, cabbage and beetroot being grown for the kitchen.



At the end of their tour  
the delegation issued a

# JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

**W**ARSZAW, THE CITY WHOSE SPIRIT is unbreakable. Poland, the country which sees no limits to what can be achieved.

For two weeks, we British trade unionists have enjoyed unbounded care and hospitality as the guests of Polish Trade Unions, and these are probably the impressions that have been most deeply made on us, on this Tenth Anniversary of your Liberation.

We have suffered bombing in our own cities and homes at the hands of fascism and think Britain has done well in recovery. But how many people could rouse within themselves the will to face such incredible and appalling destruction as we have seen with our own eyes in Warsaw, and set to work to rebuild a beautiful city, using even the rubble itself, is almost beyond our comprehension.

The same spirit must lie behind the developments we have seen in the provincial towns, and in the countryside, in our tour.

## So Full of Hope

For some of us taking our first glimpse of Poland from the air, the outstanding first impression was of a country where no land lies waste; where every acre is under the plough and space is not even wasted on hedgerows, though farmsteads scatter miles apart. A country, too, which must be rich in timber despite the losses in the war; timber which is being fostered, nurtured and used with skill and economy.

But it was the people of Poland, and how they were working and living, that we were most anxious to see. In the faces of the older among them, we felt we could read much of the excruciating tragedy they had suffered in a lifetime—and in generations before them with successive invaders and partitions of the country. The contrast, therefore, of the younger generation, still fresh, untired, and so full of hope and enthusiasm for the future, is to us most striking. Never may the new generation know and suffer what their predecessors knew.

Building workers among us are impressed with the speed at which new buildings are being brought into use,

without waiting for the finishing touches. When they are completed, they achieve considerable architectural interest in spite of the utilitarian approach to their construction.

Our engineering members admired the achievements in this field, and look forward to the day when free East-West trade may bring both countries a full share of the greatest advances in technical skill, improved equipment, and the peaceful use of atomic energy.

## New Source of Life

The Polish electrical workers have built thousands of kilometres of high and low tension lines all over the country, which the British electrical industry members of the delegation recognise as one of the most important developments in bringing a new source of life to every part of the national economy. We visited the new power station now under construction in Jaworzno, in Upper Silesia, which, when finished will be one of the largest in Europe, and we were very impressed by the standard of work and maintenance, and the new equipment being supplied within the framework of mutual co-operation by the U.S.S.R.

Our timber workers have been impressed with the skill achieved by apprentices within the first years of their training, and with the best standards achieved in the workshops, though the latest mechanical equipment is still in short supply. The mechanical handling, and economical drying, storing and use

of timber, as demonstrated to us in one new plant, were impressive.

The part women play in working alongside men in every section of industry—protected by law from strenuous duty, and provided with every facility for ante-natal and post-natal care as well as care of their children—with equality of pay, conditions and opportunity with the men, is a striking example of industrial development.

Similarly the very big part played in industrial management by the Trade Unions, and the tolerance the Unions show to non-members working in the same factory, point to a very high stage of Trade Union development. Non-members, though not able to play a part in management, have full access to very many of the benefits of workshop amenities; it is no wonder that few who are qualified to join fail to do so voluntarily.

## So Much Achieved Already

To members of the delegation who struggle for improved child welfare and education provisions in Britain, the services provided in Poland are almost Utopian. They claim that their children are their nation's greatest treasure. Nothing is spared in expanding as rapidly as possible the provision of every possible medical care and attention—not just curative, but preventive, too. Such happy children, too, even when we saw them in hospital.

We were lucky enough to have a coloured delegate with us, and he was greeted like Father Christmas himself wherever we went. Among children and grown-ups, too, there was unabashed delight among people who flocked round in factories, in the streets—in fact, everywhere we moved outside our own rooms—to see the first coloured man most of them had ever met. It was all frank friendliness, and not a breath of colour prejudice.

The warmth of this welcome we all felt, not only for ourselves but for the entire working class of Great Britain. So many Polish people know at least a few words of English, and were anxious to greet us as soon as they heard we were in the vicinity. Members went off

for walks in the various towns on their own, and so often made these unexpected contacts.

Those with a religious turn of mind have been enormously impressed by the evident freedom to worship. Never have we seen such consistently large congregations; and all over the country are wayside pulpits and shrines to patron saints. The story of assistance to the churches in the way of buildings and educational facilities, as explained to us in detail, was most interesting.

There are great cultural achievements already, though celebrations we attended were marking only the Tenth Anniversary of National Liberation. The whole world will delight that the research workers have had such great success in discovering and piecing together the

fragments of folksong and dance, costume and music, which were a cultural gem in danger of being lost for ever. These form a brilliant national asset as they are revived. On the other hand is the Palace of Culture being built by Russians themselves in the heart of Warsaw as a gift from their nation; a building dominating a vast area as a symbol of the future.

We should like to compliment the layout and comprehensiveness of the National Farm Show at Lublin, of which we were fortunate enough to have a preview. It was remarkable for its conception, its planning, and its comprehensiveness.

To sum up, we would say that with so much achieved in just ten years from starting virtually from scratch, it is

certain that in a few years Poland will have a vast storehouse of technical development to share with the world.

As we leave Warsaw, we leave a message of warm thanks to our Trade Union hosts; to all who inconvenienced themselves for our visits to homes, our interruption of meals and work; particularly to the children of town and country, to whom we say "We hope you have enjoyed seeing us in your land, and that you will grow up to value the friendship of your fellow workers in Great Britain and their co-operation in establishing a more peaceful and happy world."

The words Peace and Friendship are ringing in our ears. May they be ever more closely cemented by free international trade.

**Mr. T. R. James**, 4 Liverpool Grove, Walworth, S.E.17. Builder. Elected by the Lambeth Borough branch, A.U.B.T.W.

**Mr. P. Ellis**, No. 90, site 2, London Caravan Co., Barnet-by-pass, Elstree. Engineer. Elected by the Kodak Employees branch, A.C.T.

**Mr. G. F. Johns**, 29 Azenby Road, Peckham, S.E.15. Builder. Elected by the Camberwell branch, A.U.B.T.W.

**Mr. S. Le May**, 4 Moorhouse Road, London, W.2. Builder. Elected by the Bishopsbridge Road, Building site.

**Mr. A. Taylor**, 28 Montague Street, Russell Square, W.C.1. Chairman of Montague Street Tenants' Association.

**Mr. H. R. Chilton**, 23 Holly Road, Hounslow, Middlesex. Builder. Elected by the Hounslow branch, A.S.W.

**Mr. H. Sunarsky**, 144 Marsh Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex. Vehicle Builder. Elected by the Shop Stewards' Committee of Messrs. Vanden Plas (England) Ltd.

**Mr. G. D. Chown**, 53 Neasden Lane, Willesden, N.W.3. Vehicle Builder. Elected by the Works' Committee of Messrs. Thrupp and Maberley.

**Mr. F. G. S. Hill**, 38 Bendmore Avenue, Abbey Wood, S.E.2. Engineer. Elected from Messrs. Oliver and Pell and Co.

**Mr. T. Ball**, 103 Victoria Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex. Builder. Elected by the Wembley branch, A.U.B.T.W.

**Mr. R. Jeffs**, 682 Woolwich Road, Charlton, S.E.7. Engineer. Elected by the workers at R.E.M.E. Workshops, Woolwich Arsenal.

**Mr. J. Parnham**, 11 Salisbury Road, Newark, Notts. Engineer. Elected by the Joint Shop Stewards' Committee of Ransome and Marles.

**Mr. L. Lloyd**, 27 Craven Road, Leeds, 6. Vehicle Builder. Elected by the Crossgates branch, N.U.V.B.

**Mr. B. Barker**, 1 Stanley Street, Spital, Chesterfield. Engineer. Elected by the Sheepsbridge Stokes Engineering factory, Shop Stewards' Committee.

**Mrs. A. Noble**, 171 Brockburn Road, Glasgow, S.W.3. Secretary of the Scottish Council of Tenants' Associations.

**Mr. W. Dougan**, 14 Rathlin Street, Glasgow, S.W.1. Boilermaker. Elected by the Clydebank District Committee of the Boilermakers' Union.

**Mr. T. C. Corbett**, 1220 Shettleston Street, Glasgow, E.1. Railwayman. Elected by the Parkhead branch, A.S.L.E.F.

**Mr. J. Reoch**, 51 Boydstone Place, Carnwardric, Glasgow. Engineer. Elected by

the Shop Stewards' Committee of Weirs Engineering Works, Cathcart, Glasgow.

**Mr. A. Glass**, 50 Budhill Avenue, Glasgow, E.2. Railwayman. Elected by the Glasgow No. 9 branch, N.U.R.

**Mr. L. Hesse**, 36 Arnold Street, Liverpool, 8. Electrician. Elected by the Liverpool Station Engineers' branch, E.T.U.

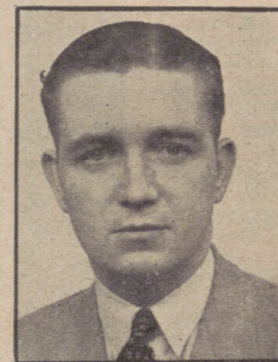
**Mr. W. Larkin**, 53 Court Hey Drive, Liverpool 16. Engineer. Elected by the Shop Stewards' Committee of the Automatic Telephone Co., Liverpool.

**Mr. W. Smith**, 19 Burlington Street, Nelson, Lancs. Textile Worker. Elected by the Nelson Clothlookers' and Warehouseman's Association.

**Mr. N. Ryder**, 12 St. John's Place, Nelson, Lancs. Textile Worker. Elected by the Works' Committee of Messrs. Walter Pollard Ltd., Nelson.

**Mr. B. Conlan** (Chairman of Delegation), 1 Ashvale Street, Gorton, Manchester, 18. Engineer. Elected by the Shop Stewards' Committee of Renolds Works, Didsbury, Manchester.

**Mr. F. E. Williams**, 8 Landore Avenue, Margam, Port Talbot, S. Wales. Boilermaker. Elected by the Joint Craftsmen's Committee of the Steel Co. of Wales.



B. Conlan, Delegation Chairman



The delegates went out to see for themselves and then quizzed their guides and others





## We Saw the Meaning of Nazism and Were Stunned

Ask one of the delegates to tell you about the brutality of the Auschwitz concentration camp

A COW IS LOWING INSISTENTLY as though it has lost its calf.

It is the most insistent noise in a great chorus of noises that seem part of a vast silence and stillness. The sun is going down behind an oak. In the distance there are woods, and nearer the fields are dotted with young trees that ten and fifteen years ago were saplings. Just across the ditch, younger trees still—oak, lime, elm, willow and rows of evenly spaced oak Lombardy poplars, stand on land which then was trampled bare.

All are filled with the busy bird chorus of chaff-chaffs, warblers, thrushes and blackbirds.

### DEATH

You can hear voices of children playing not far away, who moments ago were teasing their dog.

In the distance a train whistles occasionally—a sound that a few years ago was heralding death for a few more thousands being delivered to the biggest death factory the world has ever known.

For this is Auschwitz, the cemetery of 4,077,000 Poles, Jews, Czechs, and people of eighteen nationalities who were done to death here by Fascism.

Only the rumble of bus loads of tourists and the detached recitation of the story of Auschwitz, disturb the peace.

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The cow lows mournfully again; the only mournful sound in the solitude of the great silence in which you can contemplate the former high tension electrified fences, the fast decaying wooden watch towers of the guards, and the huts where so many spent their last hours.

### SHOCKED

This is where the lesson of Auschwitz becomes alive, vivid, ghostly. So moving that our party of delegates comes back to the bus white-faced and shocked at what they have seen and heard.

This is not the place to re-tell the oft-repeated story of the concentration camps. We merely draw your attention to the horror that war means, the beast it makes of man.

And we invite you to call in our delegates to talk personally to you and your friends on all they saw, and what it stands for.

### Angels With Dirty Feet

COUNTRY CHILDREN, USED FOR generations to going barefoot round the countryside in fine weather, find it hard to get used to wearing shoes, and often kick them off as soon as they are on their own. They get tough, healthy little feet, but feet which present a washing problem if they have to go into a clinic, because they are so tough they almost need scrubbing!

One clinic we saw has invented a special foot bath, like a maze. Children walk along a winding, tiled trough which twists round and round. Tiny jets of warm water squirt out on their feet at one end, and they paddle through warm water till they come to the drying section, where the water gives way to warm air. By the time they reach the end of the maze, their feet are clean and dry, ready for bed.

### Have a Drink

Most modern factories we saw have their own bar open all through working hours. At any time, without having to get the foreman's permission, anyone can go and buy himself a bottle of beer or mineral water, sweets, cigarettes or a snack.

## DID YOU KNOW...?

That eighty-four per cent of Warsaw was completely destroyed by the Nazis.

That more than six million Poles lost their lives during the war and over three million were disabled.

That there were eight million unemployable peasants in Poland before the war and that there is now a labour shortage on the land.

That there have been two all-round price reductions in Poland during the past nine months.

That Poland is producing such things as mining machinery, agricultural equipment and other industrial products for the first time in its history.

That much of this is being made in Poland because of the American imposed ban on East/West trade.

That during the ten years since the war, Poland has changed from one of the most backward agricultural countries into a leading industrial country.

That Poland now shares the fourth place in Europe, excluding the Soviet Union, with France, for industrial output per head of the population.

That Poland's output is still on the increase and each year her production targets are overfulfilled.

That there is no civil defence in Poland because they claim there is no defence against the atom bomb and because they are concentrating on building for Peace.

That Poland is represented on both "peace commissions" in Korea and in Indo-China.

### Motoring Note

GARAGE SERVICES IN, FOR example, Warsaw, are organised like chemists' shops in Britain.

They work a rota service to take turns in remaining open all night for the benefit of motorists needing fuel or immediate repairs.

Delegates were rather expecting to find that cars either made or designed in Russia or Czechoslovakia, which predominate, as the Polish car industry is in its infancy, would look like something out of the films. They weren't a bit like that.

It would be almost impossible to tell at a glance an average democracy-made car from an average British family car. Outside and in, the resemblance is very close, even down to the details of

the dashboard. And allowing for the cobbled roads, their cars have something over the British in terms of performance.

Of motor-cycles, we learnt that the most prized is a British Norton. There are British B.S.A.s, Ariels and others to be seen, but the Norton is considered the best all-rounder for tough yet fast performance on the rough roads.

It is taking years to switch from horse transport to motor transport in the rural regions, because the horse is an all-purpose possession which can be used on farm, in field, or for a family outing.

Good progress is being made with re-building the cobbled main roads on modern, smooth, non-skid surfaces, but such roads are rare as yet.



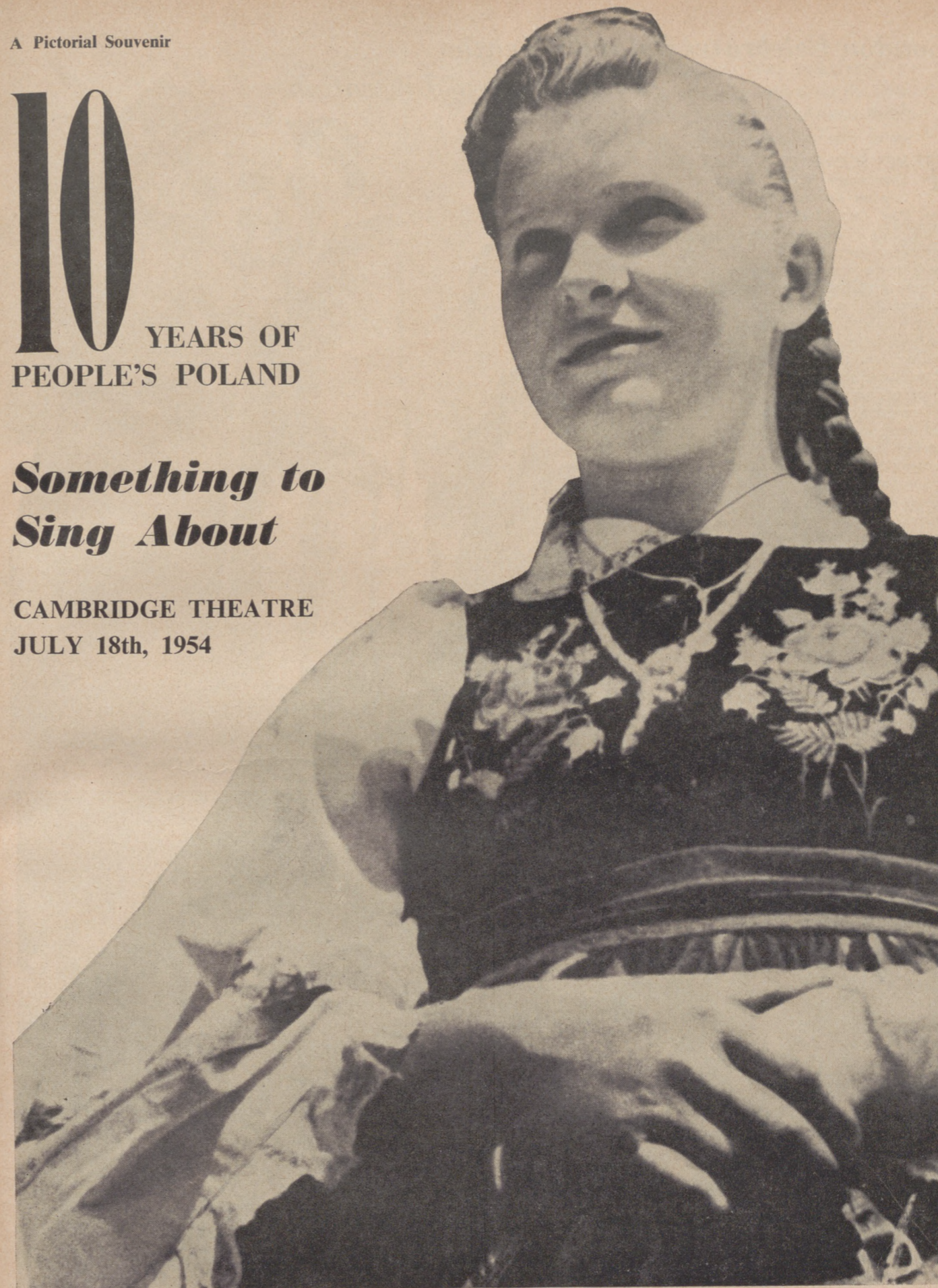
The delegation spend a couple of days at a Trade Union Holiday Home at Zakopane in the Tatra Mountains. The picture shows some sailing down the Dunajec River which forms the border between Poland and Czechoslovakia. The raft-like boat is made from hollowed out tree trunks filled with leaves

A Pictorial Souvenir

# 10 YEARS OF PEOPLE'S POLAND

## Something to Sing About

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE  
JULY 18th, 1954



## London Celebrates Poland's Tenth Anniversary of Liberation

**T**HE SCENE IS SET IN THE Sosnowiec Miners' House of Culture on Poland's National Liberation Day, July 22nd, 1954.

The day is a special day, for Poland is just ten years old. Ten years old, but no longer a young immature country. It is young in spirit and enthusiasm but old and wise in experience.

In the Sosnowiec Miners' House of Culture are representatives of the Polish Radio, there to broadcast the reactions of the local inhabitants to ten years of People's Poland.

Young and old tell of the struggles and victories, the joys and sorrows which marked their lives during the birth of People's Poland. And they tell and sing of the future which for them is assured.

It is an occasion of rejoicing and, of course, there is good humoured leg-pulling, there is singing and dancing, music and jokes.

Up to the microphone comes everybody, some eagerly, some reluctantly, but all because they are typical of the Polish people in every town and village throughout the country.

The main characters were based on real people and they told true stories all of which underlined the fact that the Polish people have *Something to Sing About!*



Old Anna (Edith Miller) relates her story of how she switched on the electric power to the village



Chairman of the local committee for National Day Celebrations (Morris Sweden) is encouraged to talk about his younger days



Foundry worker Marrian (Wm. Taylor) tells of his amazing production figures



Young Poland (Raymond Jones) below, leads the singing of "Ten Years Old Today," a song especially written for the occasion by Ewan MacColl. Traditional Polish Folk Dances added movement and colour



The Grand Finale—colourful, gay and confident

The Society's Polish Folk Dance Group was again a great favourite



The play was written by Jack Lindsay and Gordon Raffan and produced by Harry Ross. Photographs by Henry Grant

SECRETARY'S LETTER

By Bill Ellerby

## What an Inspiration!

SEVEN YEARS AGO I WENT TO POLAND—Warsaw was then in ruins and the countryside a battlefield: a simple statement, yet no added adjectives can convey the desolation which one met everywhere. But the ruins were not barren, the desolation was not despair. Triumphantly the human spirit was blossoming, in the rubble-filled streets and in the derelict countryside.

I have just returned once again from Poland and seen what a people, free, triumphant and determined can do in seven years. It is at once an inspiration and a vision of what is to come—

"For I dipt into the future,

Far as human eye could see.

Saw the Vision of the world,

And all the wonder that would be."

How I wish that all members of the Society could visit Poland and see for themselves something of what we try to bring to them through the medium of these printed pages.

One tends to become impatient and indignant with the silly and vicious stories which appear from time to time in the British Press. Stories of terror and stories of starvation. Yet one sees rounded happy faces everywhere and the random snapshots I have taken all over Poland of children of all ages, give the direct lie to much of the nonsense that is printed.

One oft repeated tale is that no Pole dare correspond with friends or relatives in Britain. An engineer whom I met and who spoke very good English (he was in Anders' Army) was amused when I told him this. His brother, he told me, is very reactionary but they still write to each other every two or three months and the mother writes to the son over here more frequently, and hears regularly from him.

The engineer said he wished his brother would return to Poland, "But," he concluded, "I don't think he will, he doesn't like hard work and at present he's a bookie's runner and in the last election he assisted the Tory agent in his constituency!"

**National Day in Lublin.** The delegation from our Society and the Trade Union Delegation invited by the various

Bill Ellerby

Because secretary Ann Herbert remarried last month the Executive Committee has appointed Mr. Bill Ellerby as acting secretary. Bill has already taken over his responsibilities and looks forward to meeting members in the near future.

Polish Trade Unions were honoured guests on National Day. The celebrations were held in the ancient city of Lublin—the first important Polish city to be liberated.

The parade was headed this year by impressive contingents of Poland's Armed Forces in commemoration of the Liberation. Then followed for two hours a colourful, youthful, happy, singing parade, rank after rank, section after section, with banners high and flags flying—a river of colour and rhythmic movement representing all aspects of Polish life.

Before the parade started Boleslaw Bierut gave an inspiring address to the people of Poland. The chairman of our Trade Union Delegation, Mr. Bernard Conlan, an engineer and member of the Labour Group on the Manchester City Council, occupied a seat on the main rostrum with him and other honoured guests.

**National Day Concert.** I have already in the Society Members' Newsletter dealt at some length with this highly successful event at the Cambridge Theatre on July 18th. Congratulations continue to arrive at the office and I am sure that all who helped to make this event such a triumph are aware of the real gratitude of the Society for their willing co-operation.

**Delegates Reporting.** Although August is the holiday month and all other activity is at a low ebb, nevertheless some of our delegates have already been active. Mr. Alf Taylor of the Montague Street, Holborn, Tenants' Association, has addressed a meeting in his house, of thirty-three neighbours and friends. He tells me that their attention and questions left no doubt as to their interest.

Mrs. Aggie Noble, the other delegate from a Tenants' Association, comes from Glasgow. She was the life and soul of the delegation and is already busy telling of her experiences. Her sterling work for women in her own area makes it certain that many more women in Scotland are destined to learn about and become increasingly interested in British-Polish Friendship.

Most of the delegates will be reporting in September to the bodies which elected them, so from then on we are planning a very full campaign of activity.

**Welcome Home Social.** September 15th will find us all at the Conway Hall giving a royal welcome to delegates who have recently visited Poland. For an hour, from 6.30 p.m., while refreshments are being served, we shall be able to renew acquaintances and meet new

faces. Then as a prelude to the evening, that most interesting film, *Warsaw Lives Again*, will be shown, followed by three of our delegates who will speak about what they saw and heard in Poland.

Gordon Schaffer has kindly agreed to tell us, as only he can, how all we are seeing and hearing about Poland is related to the vital question of German rearmament.

The Folk Dance Group will end the evening for us in their own enchanting style. If you cannot arrive for the refreshments and get together at 6.30 p.m., please note that the film showing commences at 7.30 p.m.

**Scotland** will celebrate a return of our delegates by a meeting on Sunday, September 5th, in Glasgow. Charles Nixon our Scottish organiser, fresh from his holidays has been busy organising this event.

For three weeks up to about the beginning of October, our chairman, Mrs. M. Pritt will be spending a vacation in Poland. We hope she enjoys the rest (if in fact she is allowed to rest.)

We know that she will return full of impressions and have no doubt that she will be kept busy on her return by organisations who know her capacity to convey with sympathy and understanding, vivid word-pictures of life in the New Democracies.

**Provinces.** Roy Sear, who will visit Poland this month will on his return be busy with the Society's work in the Provinces. Meetings are to be held in Manchester, Liverpool, Sheffield and Nelson and other meetings are projected for Leeds, Bradford, Chesterfield and Nottingham.

We have a number of delegates from recent delegations in various provincial centres all willing to help the Society in its work. We hope to take very full advantage of this enthusiasm in the coming months.

### COMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, September 1st:**

Club Night, Warsaw Club, 7.30 p.m.  
Speaker, Bill Ellerby.

**Friday, September 3rd:**

"Never Again"—Gordon Schaffer; chairman, Bill Ellerby, Warsaw Club, 7.30 p.m.

**Sunday, September 5th:**

Delegates' report back meeting, Glasgow.

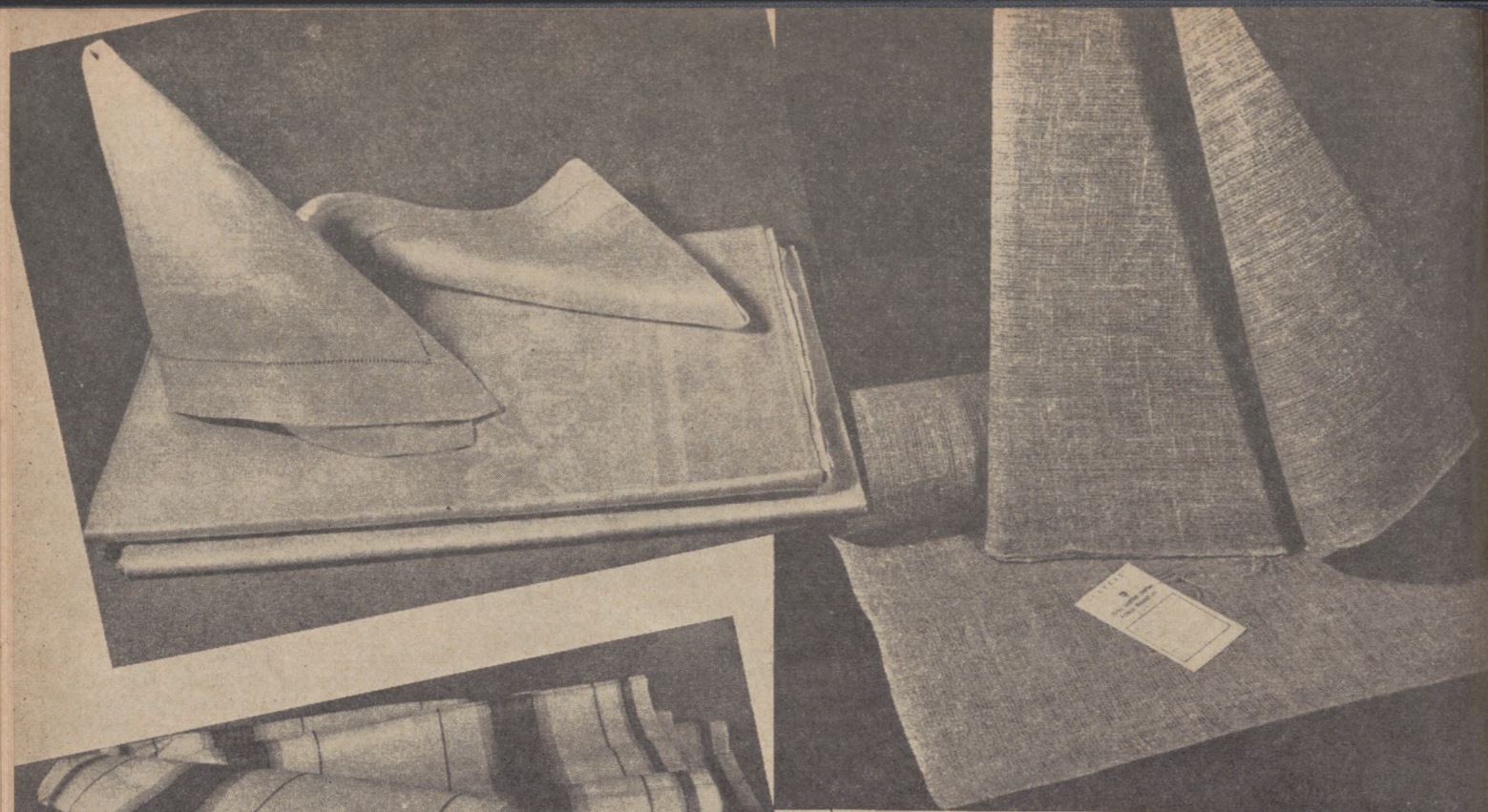
**Wednesday, September 15th**

Welcome Home Social, film show and meeting, delegates' report, Conway Hall (see Secretary's Letter).

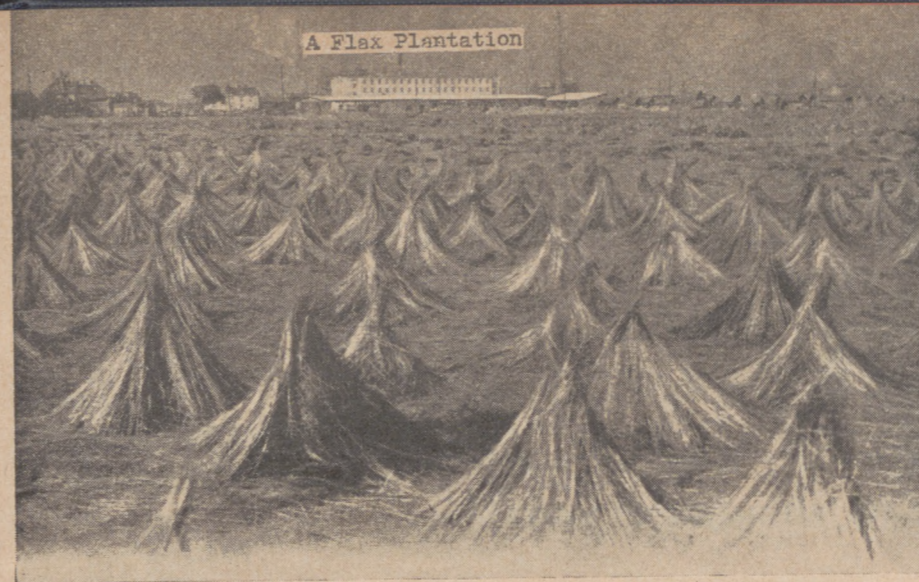
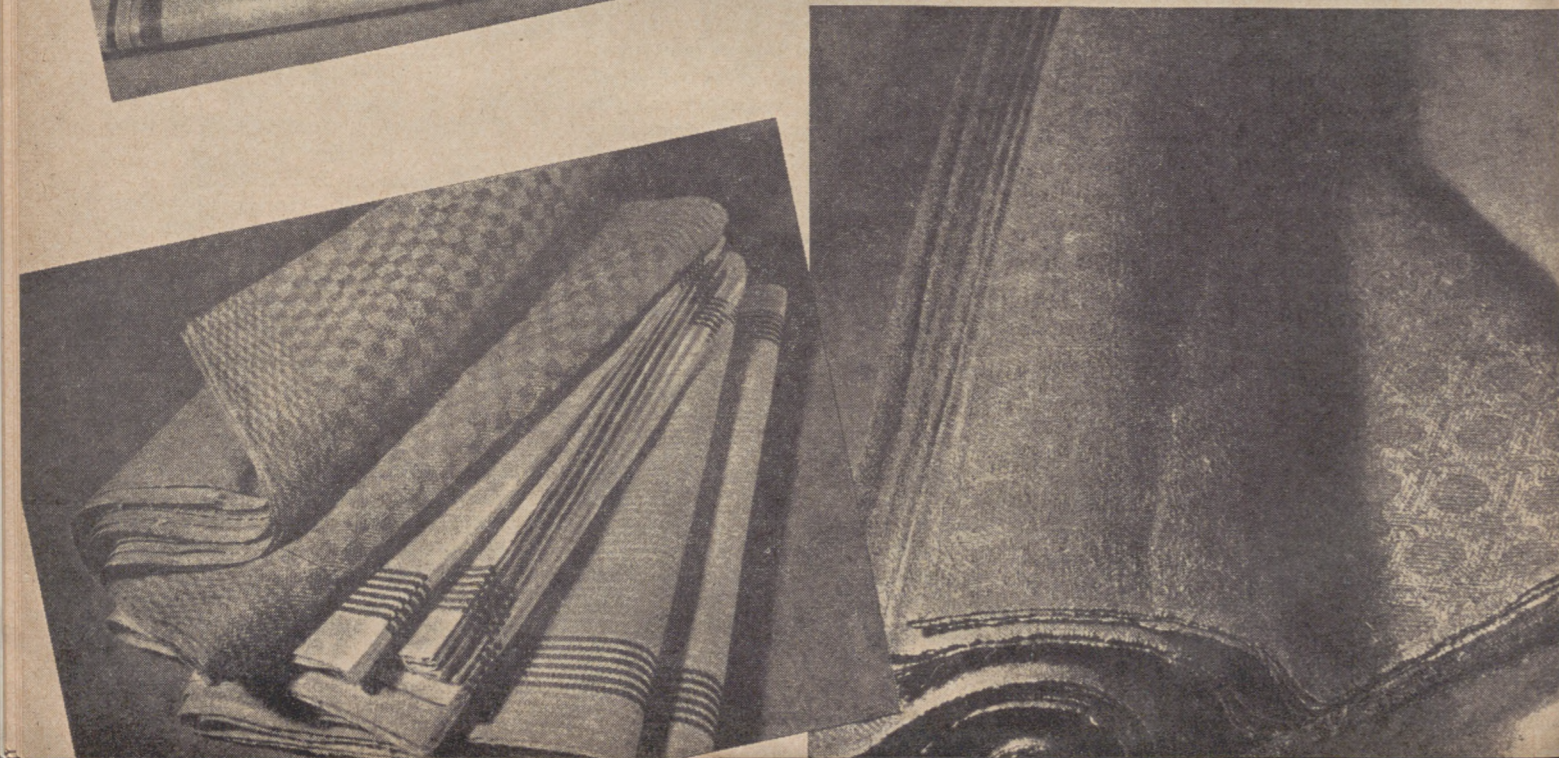
**Monday, Sept. 20th to Saturday 25th:**

"Drawings from Poland"—Paul Hogarth; exhibition, McLellan Galleries, Glasgow, daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Every Wednesday Night is Club Night at the Warsaw Club



reproduced from  
"The Polish  
Foreign Trade"



## Polish Linen

By G. B.

THE CRYSTAL GLASS TRAY ON MY dressing table in the hotel was certainly beautiful, glistening in the sun that shared out its rays between my room and the hills on which I looked out. The early morning tea set—duck egg blue, with pale pink roses and the handles and the top of the teapot and the sugar bowl artistically fluted—which was placed beside my bed—had about it the stamp of the combination of the work of the individual craftsman with modern production methods.

Glass tray and tea set as well as the tasteful oak furniture and the great soft rugs in tints of blue and old rose were all the products of Polish industry. But what caught my attention most was the linen—the strong but soft sheets and pillow cases, the dressing table runner of Polish jacquard damask, and the unbleached linen table cloth faintly patterned with white flowers.

### Long Tradition

I wanted to know more about Polish linen—and I found that there was indeed a great deal more to know. The story begins in the Polish countryside where, in the ideal soil—light, with a subsoil of moisture-retaining-loam—flax has been grown from time immemorial. In many regions, you see vast stretches of blue and white flowers perched on the short erect stems above narrow, lance-like leaves—the potential raw material of linen manufacture.

The cultivation of flax in Poland has a long tradition, particularly important with such a plant, calling for careful handling, expert firming of the seedbed and conscientious weeding.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, there settled in Poland, near Warsaw, an inventor by the name of Girard. He made vitally important inventions which solved the problem of the mechanical working up of flax, and started a new era in the development of the linen industry. The district where he settled took his name, Zyrardow, and even now has one of the largest and most up-to-date establishments in the linen industry.

Flax dressing was traditionally carried on in Poland as a rural home industry. There are to-day nearly three times as many flax spindles in operation as in 1939. The purchase contracts for flax inaugurated by the People's Government have led to a great extension of the area under flax cultivation.

### Polish Invention

Instead of the former few retting plants poorly equipped in the technical sense, there are now over fifty modern flax retting establishments which supply the industry with far better raw material than was obtained by the primitive method, usually employed before the war, of retting the fibre in rivers. Factory-retted raw material—of which Poland now has a higher percentage than most other countries—is one of the factors contributing to the high quality of Polish linen articles.

Flax used to have one serious drawback: owing to the difference in the length of flax and cotton fibres, the two could not be spun together. This difficulty has been overcome by the method known as the ribbon cottonisation of flax, invented in Poland by Professor Bratowski. This invention has enabled

Polish industry to produce a variety of mixed tissues which combine the qualities of both cotton and flax.

Goods made from flax are seen in every walk of Polish life. It is used wherever its greater durability and the fineness of its finish counterbalances the lower price of cotton fabrics. Table linen, bed linen, kitchen towels, upholstery fabrics—those are obvious lines. Polish jacquard damask table linen in particular is widely popular.

At the seaside and in the country, linen shirts, linen shorts and jackets or blouses are in vogue for yachting, hiking, water sports and general use: they ensure good ventilation and freedom of movement as well as being durable and coming well out of the laundry.

Linen for personal wear is treated by a special process which produces textiles with an *uncrushable* finish—proof against being crumpled in wear. Experiments have recently been made in Poland with the object of producing knitted linen goods, especially flax pull-overs suitable for summer wear or in hot countries.

### More Popular

The sails of sea and river craft are made of Polish linen; tents for the young people's holiday camps; and tarpaulins to protect out-door stores and farm machinery. Linen sacks are becoming more and more popular because they last so much longer than jute ones—especially in damp storage.

The control of the Polish linen industry has been centralised. This has benefited all concerned. The flax growers—small farmers and co-operatives—have an assured market for their crops on a contract basis: the raw material can be better selected—to the advantage of the ultimate purchaser of the finished article—and a more rational distribution of raw material among the various retting establishments and factories is made possible.

The experience of individual enterprises—formerly kept as closely guarded secrets by any one establishment from all others—is, moreover, now pooled to enable all concerned in production to achieve the maximum efficiency and turn out the best possible linen goods.

Exports of flax goods have almost completely changed in character as compared to pre-war days. Almost the only form of flax export at that time was the raw material—flax, fibre, tow and textiles. Foreign industrialists did all they could to prevent a linen fabric industry from being developed in Poland. But the People's State has changed all that.

Shown on the opposite page are some of the more commonplace goods which have already earned a name for Polish linen on the world markets.



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