

POLISH NEWS

403663

BIBLIOTHECA

UNIV. JAGIELL

CRACOVENSIS

Vol. I.

Bombay, 15th March 1942

No. 3.

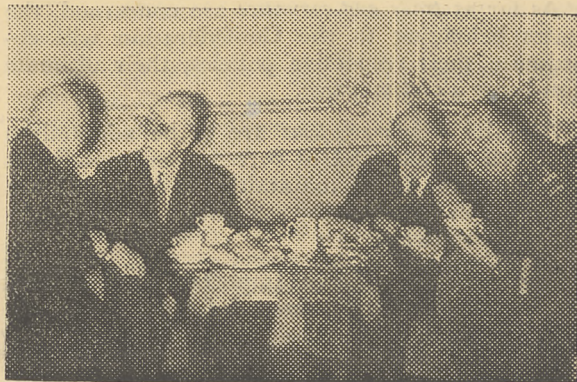
103663 II
(1942), 3, 6-11

Ever true to her faith and to her word, Poland never undertook a war of conquest, but has struggled always for the liberty of peoples and for European civilisation.

LATE CARDINAL MERCIER
Primate of Belgium



Gen. Sikorski and Dr. Benes, the Czechoslovakian President reviewing the Czechoslovakian Army.



At the tea table. From the left, Rev. Sramek, the Czechoslovak Prime Minister, Mr. Racziewicz, the Polish Minister, Dr. Benes, the Czechoslovak President and General Sosnkowski.

CONFEDERATION OF POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The rising of the Third Reich which enabled Hitler to strike at the very roots of the political organization of the European continent, was made possible by the fact that the principle of self-determination, solemnly recognized at the Versailles peace conference and thoroughly sound in itself, had been carried too far and led to the creation of too great a number of states which, while jealously guarding all their sovereign rights, had, at the same time, failed to grasp the fundamental necessity of co-operation for self-defence against foreign aggression. Although the states of Central and Eastern Europe were bound together by common interests which were really much stronger than any petty difference which might have divided them, each of them nevertheless continued to insist upon some or other policy of its own, instead of uniting its forces with those of the other countries which were similarly threatened by the same enemy, and thus creating a strong rampart against any possible aggression from outside. That policy enabled Hitler to swallow those states one by one; first came Austria, then Czechoslovakia, finally

Poland and with her the rest of continental Europe (except Russia). History has taught the states of Central and Eastern Europe a terrible lesson and drowned their petty mutual differences in one huge sea of blood and tears. But they have learned their lesson by now, and out of the ashes of Europe a new and sounder conception begins to arise. The honour of being the first to give concrete shape to this new conception, belongs to Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Already in November 1940, the Polish and Czechoslovak Governments had issued a common declaration, stating their will to co-operate now and in the future, and announcing further steps to be taken in this direction. Those "further steps" have now taken the form of another common declaration, made public on January 23rd 1942, and which amounts virtually to a confederation of these two powers.

In this declaration, the Polish and Czechoslovak Governments expressly state their *will to form a confederation* of two states—with the possibility of

Bar... ; ...

Bibl. Jagiell

others joining them later—which agree to give up some of their sovereign rights for the benefit of the common cause. All those branches of administration which are of vital interest for both the partners, are to be managed by one common authority.

A *common policy* will thus be followed with regard to foreign affairs, social welfare, finance, communications, posts, and telegraphs.

Moreover, the *defence* of the new Confederation is to be entrusted to a common General Staff, and, in the supreme emergency of war, there will be one single High Command.

As far as *trade and commerce* are concerned, the states belonging to the Confederation will co-ordinate their respective policies, their ultimate aim being a *customs union*.

Also the *monetary systems* are to be adapted to each other; independent currency omission banks are, however, to be maintained so as to stabilize the relation between the currencies of the confederated countries.

Another clause of great importance provides for the *unification of tariffs, fares, and postal fees* within the boundaries of the whole Confederation.

As to the problems of *citizenship and nationality*, the States will retain the right to settle those questions for themselves; however, the free movements of their respective nationals within the whole territory of the Confederation will by no means be subjected to any restrictions, and, in particular, no passports or visas will be required.

Furthermore, the States belonging to the Confederation will of course draw up *their own constitutions*; they are, however, bound to grant their respective citizens certain fundamental rights, as, *freedom of speech, religion, and conscience; equality of all citizens before the law; independent justice; control of the public administration by freely elected representatives of the people (Parliament)*.

These are the main outlines of the declaration laid down in 14 points.

Simultaneously, the Polish and Czechoslovak Governments have published a joint resolution, expressing their satisfaction with the recent agreement concluded by Greece and Yugoslavia on January 15th, 1942. They are convinced that the safety and undisturbed development of the Central-European countries depend, in the first line, on the close co-operation of the two Confederations.

The paramount importance of the above declaration can hardly be exaggerated. Poland and

Czechoslovakia have shown the world the path to a real "new order" in Europe, based upon the free, voluntary co-operation of states which by their own free will agree to give up some of their sovereign rights for the benefit of a Confederation, in order to create a politically and economically sound organism which will be able to resist any aggression.

Even a perfunctory glance at a map of Central Europe clearly shows the necessity of such an organism. The region between Germany and Russia is inhabited by several peoples of Slav origin who, since the beginning of history, have always been compelled to defend themselves against the ever impending threat of a foreign invasion, particularly from the West. Unfortunately, they sometimes forgot the simple and yet vital truth that only complete unity could save them from destruction by their common foe. Instead, they often quarrelled among themselves. But now history has taught them such a grim lesson that they are extremely unlikely ever to forget it again. Their slogan to-day is: "Unity makes for strength." They are tough, these peoples: they have managed to survive the fiercest invasions, wars, and partitions. They have, nevertheless, reached a high level of culture and civilization, and thus have won every right to decide their future by themselves. They have now done so by signing the Polish-Czechoslovak agreement about the future confederation of their states. If, as its initiators earnestly hope and desire, this new political organism is joined by other countries belonging to the same geopolitical region, a Central-European power will arise which, in close co-operation with the new Balkan block, will eventually give Europe the peace which that continent so badly needs.

(continued from page 24)

camps they are being formed into two hundred thousand strong army.

There is another Polish Army trained in Canada....

And as for Poland herself it is evident that 2 years of German rule could not break resistance of our people. Every man, woman and child is like a soldier on this hidden, underground but invincible front where for each German one hundred innocent people are shot at a time. Now practically the whole of Poland belongs to that secret movement and even if Warsaw is starved as threatened by Hitler—there are hundreds of other towns and villages to carry on the struggle...

Mrs. Banasinska ended by quoting certain passages from a Manifesto issued by the Leaders of the "Working Masses of the Polish Nation," and addressed "To the Peoples of the World."

NEWS FROM AND ABOUT POLAND

THE EXPLOITS OF THE POLISH AIR FORCE

From October 1st to December 31st Polish fighters brought down 36 enemy aircraft in addition to some probables and damaged. Thus from the time of their arrival in Great Britain to the end of December 1941 Polish Fighter Squadrons destroyed for certain a total of 414 enemy aircraft, probably destroyed 109 and damaged 52. Polish Bomber Squadrons took part in about 300 raids with 1,495 aircraft. The main objectives during last months were: Bremen, Emden, Hamburg, Duisburg, Antwerp, Boulogne, Le Havre, Cherbourg, Brest, Dunkerque and South France where a distillation factory has been destroyed.

One Polish Fighter Squadron has scored the record figure of 165 enemy planes. Mr. Peter J. O'Grady writes in the "*Skrzydła*" (Wings), an excellent Fortnightly published in Blackpool by the Inspectorate of the Polish Air Force in Britain:

"To gauge the value of this record, one needs but to compare it with the record of the only two British Squadrons entitled to claim more than 150 enemy planes each; whereas these two British Squadrons' record covers two years active fighting, the Polish figure of 165 covers only one year."

Sir Philip Gibbs, the well-known writer, answering questions of American reporters on his arrival in New York by the Clipper, paid a tribute to the Polish airmen. He said that the Poles have a strong love of freedom. No words could describe their devotion to their ideals. The Poles in Britain have made a most favourable impression on the English. It was impossible to relate all their achievements in the struggle against the enemy. The Polish airmen have gained in Britain the reputation of dare-devils, and are more than a match for the toughest foe.

POLISH ARMS IN FOUR CONTINENTS

Polish troops are to-day to be found wherever free men are preparing themselves for the forthcoming decisive battles for the future of Europe and the world. In England and Scotland, in Asia Minor, Libya, in Soviet Russia, and across the ocean, in Canada and the United States, Poles are rallying, or already standing to arms in the common defence of European culture and human freedom. To-day there is news of Polish forces from three continents out of the four in which Poles are in arms.

POLISH VOLUNTEERS

The first batch of Polish volunteers for air service has arrived in Great Britain from Canada. They were heartily welcomed by representatives of the

Polish Air Force and the R.A.F. After a period of intensive training they will join their brother Poles in an all-out effort to crush Hitler. Among them are Polish aviators of the 1939 campaign who passed through Russia and Japan and finally arrived in Canada whence they reached England to continue the fight till victory is won.

THE POLISH NAVAL COLLEGE

Recently 33 midshipmen, pupils of the Polish Naval College were promoted second lieutenants. The college had its seat in Bydgoszcz. Its pupils were trained in practical navigation and became acquainted with seafaring in the schooner *Iskra*, and later in the auxiliary transport vessel *Wilja*.

One course of the Polish Naval College took the midshipmen on a training voyage in *Iskra* and *Wilja* to the Mediterranean. They left Gdynia in May 1939. War caught them in the Mediterranean. After staying a long time in the port of Casablanca, and following an agreement with the British Admiralty, they were brought to an English port, where they completed their training in the Polish depot-ship Gdynia and passed their final examination.

When the midshipmen were detailed to British warships for a practical course, the captains of these ships were unanimous in expressing their praise of the midshipmen's knowledge and skill, as well as of their character and fighting spirit. Four of them, the midshipmen: Stanislaw Czerny, Kazimierz Szymalski, Leon Zmuda-Trzebiatowski, and Kazimierz Zurek lost their lives in H. M. S. Hood together with their British comrades.

During their stay on board of H. M. Ships these young officers gained not only fighting experience—whether during the pursuit and sinking of the *Bismarck*, or in the bombarding of Petsamo, in actions in the Mediterranean, in attacks on U-boats, in convoy and patrolwork—but also established a great friendship with their hosts.

The commander of the Polish Navy, Admiral Swirski promoted the new officers personally. The British Navy was represented by Admiral of the Fleet, Sir T. M. Forbes, and many other Admirals and officers.

In his speech Admiral Forbes said that he received, in his capacity of Commander in Chief of the Home Fleet at this time, the Polish ships which came to England to continue the struggle against the enemy. It was always a pleasure for him to meet the Polish Navy. He learned the value of Polish sailors in the heat of common fighting. In conclusion he wished to the new officers of the

Polish Navy a happy continuance of their collaboration with the British Navy and a victorious sailing to a free Poland. The friendship now established

between the sailors of the two fleets will last for ever.

General Sikorski sent to the new officers of the Polish Navy a message of congratulation.

PROFESSORS OF A 600 YEAR-OLD UNIVERSITY MARTYRED BY GERMANS

In November two years had passed since the arrest of the professors and lecturers of the oldest University in Poland, that of Cracow (founded in 1364) and their removal to a concentration camp at Sachsenhausen-Oranienburg. In honour of the memory of those who died in the concentration camp, were tortured to death, or were murdered by the German authorities in Poland, a Memorial meeting was held on November 26th at the Royal Institution, in London. Among those present at the Meeting were the President of the Polish Republic, M. Wladyslaw Raczewicz, the President of the Czechoslovak Republic, Dr. Edward Benes, diplomatic representatives of Allied countries, Members of Parliament, and many representatives of British and Allied scientific institutions. We give here an extract of the speech delivered by

SIR DAVID ROSS,

K. B. E., D. LIT., VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

"In the case of the first two countries which were overrun by the present rulers of Germany, namely Austria and Czechoslovakia, the Germans were able to attain what they wanted without the necessity of fighting, by the massing of irresistible forces on the frontiers of those countries. In the case of Poland this was not so. They had to fight, and fight hard, to obtain possession of the country, and I suppose it was for that reason and also because their appetite for cruelty had grown by what it had fed on in Czechoslovakia that their fury was let loose with unexampled severity upon Poland. Nothing like that tale of cruelty has been known in modern history.

The Germans pursued the aim of systematic destruction of Polish learning by the following methods :

(a) IN RELATION TO SCHOLARS : By imprisonment (arrest of about twenty Professors of the Poznan and Warsaw Universities), isolation and torture in concentration camps (Sachsenhausen-Oranienburg and Dachau, where almost all the Professors of Cracow University were interned), deportation from their place of residence, as in the case of all the Professors of the Poznan University, expulsion from houses (both private and officially allocated), as in the case of numerous Professors in various universities, robbery of private libraries and collections.

(b) AS REGARDS MATERIAL EQUIPMENT : Denudation of numerous laboratories and other establishments, the equipment of which was mostly taken to Germany, the robbery of the most valuable

specimens possessed by museums and libraries, and the removal to Germany of valuable scientific equipment, and even their sale locally in the case of less valuable objects. There were also reported cases of intended sale of valuable publications as waste paper as, for instance, in the Polish Academy of Science at Cracow.

(c) AS REGARDS ORGANIZATION : Through shutting down centres of learning and higher education, all without exception, regardless of their purpose, character and speciality, i.e., the Polish Academy of Sciences and other research institutions as well as Universities, technical and other colleges.

But a more vivid idea of the methods actually followed may be gained from reading the history of the German treatment of the Professors of Cracow University, the oldest and most famous in the country, founded in 1364 and therefore one of the oldest Universities in the world.

On November 6th, 1939, it was announced at Cracow that a lecture would be given in the University by the S.S. Major, Dr. Mayer, on "The Attitude of the German authorities to Science and Teaching." The Rector asked all the Professors to appear. Nearly 200 people attended, from the oldest Professors to the youngest Lecturers. The lecture was restricted to a short address in which the S.S. Major accused the Cracow Professors and the Jagiellon University of having always adopted an antagonistic attitude towards Germany and German science, and accused the Professors of lack of discipline. As an example he said that the University had been opened without first consulting the German authorities. "For this offence you will be sent to a concentration camp," he declared at the end of the lecture, and then ordered the women to leave the hall. The men were ordered to stand in threes. The whole university building had been surrounded by the police, and S.S. men drove late-comers with shots and at the point of the bayonet to a place near the doors of the lecture hall. Here the Professors were pushed against the wall with shouts of "Haende hoch." which meant that they were going to be searched. The least sign of resistance or failure to obey instantly resulted in insults and blows. The Professors were taken to a place where several lorries covered with canvas were waiting. Into these they were brutally herded. During this rough treatment several of the elderly Professors were severely knocked about,

among them the 70-year old ex-Rector of the University, Stanislaw Estreicher. The total number arrested was 180. The first stop was the military prison. The cells were narrow, overcrowded, without even straw mattresses, and there was nothing to eat. Late in the evening the guard came, but gave only a chunk of bread to each man for the entire night. The next day they were all sent to the barracks in Lobzow, where they were placed under military guard and subjected to the usual regulations for prisoners of war. On the third day the prisoners' families were not admitted, and the Professors were again put into lorries and driven away to the railway station. Their train stood in a siding, and to reach it they had to jump from a platform $1\frac{1}{2}$ metres high, and then to clamber up into the high railway carriage. It must have been pitiful to see these men old spectacled, many of them retired and over 70, burdened with their suit-cases and umbrellas, made to climb about in this way. In the train they discovered that they were bound for Breslau. In Breslau they remained for three weeks. During the daily exercise in the prison yard young and old were all compelled to run round the yard at a brisk trot. Those who were too old to move quickly were transferred to a second and smaller ring, where they could move more slowly and could exchange a few words with each other. If they did not obey promptly there were insults such as "What did you learn in Poland if you don't even know how to march."

One day they were ordered to be ready, but they were not released; instead they were ordered to march. The public which had gathered at the station jeered at them shouting "You Chamberlains, keep your umbrellas." Two professors were released, the rest journeyed for nearly 24 hours in the direction of Berlin until they reached Oranienburg, where they were taken on foot in threes to the camp. One of the professors, who had a weak heart staggered under the weight of his suit-cases, and when one of his colleagues attempted to help him by taking the suit-cases the guard came bounding towards him, shouting that it was forbidden to help each other.

On arrival the Professors were kept waiting in the open for $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours under an icy November rain in the light of arc-lamps nicknamed "The Sun of Sachsenhausen." During this interval there took place a "taming of the slaves," which involved sneering conversations, questionings, and jeers. One of the guards took off a Professor's hat, battered it, and replaced it on the Professor's head back to front, convulsed with laughter all the time. Only when the Professor refused to lose his temper did the guard sober down. Among the higher of the German guards was one who was nicknamed

Der Schwarze Gustav. He behaved like a bad actor, grinning at and simultaneously threatening his unfortunate victims. He approached a Professor and asked him why he had been arrested, and when the answer was "I do not know," he replied "Aha, you don't know, then take that." With that he struck him in the face and then repeated the question. Receiving the same reply, he gave him a blow in the ribs.

Finally, on being admitted to the office the Professors were obliged to listen to a speech by the commander, which began with the words: "Here only will you obtain a proper education."

They were ordered to undress, to go under a shower, and to have their heads shaved. They then had to put on the prisoners' uniform of black and white stripes, and on top of that an old worn-out and ragged soldier's tunic and forage cap. In this get-up, shorn of their beards and hair, many of the prisoners were quite unrecognizable. Every prisoner is compelled to stand to attention and take off his cap on meeting any of the guards. The punishment for not doing this is to be struck in the face.

The prisoners' day always began at 5-30 in the morning with a cold shower. The barracks were not heated; the long corridors through which they had to pass had no windows and were bitterly cold. The wash-rooms were as cold as the open air, and the wet towels froze in their racks. Breakfast consisted of soup made of flour called *Mehlsuppe* and a dry piece of bread if there was any left from supper. The ration of bread for supper was 300 grammes for each person. The soup smelt and tasted abominably, but it was at least hot and could be eaten with bread. After breakfast and when everything had been cleared away, there was the morning roll-call. There were three roll-calls daily. Each of them lasted half an hour, which gave the wardens a chance to beat their prisoners for the slightest breach of discipline or negligence. Some of the prisoners were constantly beaten and tortured. People too weak or ill to walk were brought by their fellow-prisoners to the roll-call and put on the floor. If someone was missing, the rest were detained until the missing prisoner was found. On January 16th, with a frost of 30 degrees Centigrade, the prisoners were kept on parade for two whole hours. A number of them fainted, and some froze to death. The same day sixty internees died in the prison hospital. Their bodies were later brought out publicly in wheelbarrows.

Lunch was at noon; it was made up of turnip soup, sometimes a potato, very rarely a portion of tough meat. Experts were satisfied that it was whale-meat. The prisoners ate all the soup they

were given so as to warm themselves. The supper was of "ersatz" black coffee, bread, sometimes a piece of curd mixed with flour. The doctors estimated the quantity of calories contained in the food as amounting to 40-60 per cent of the food required by a non-working man. Their physical condition stood up to it for a fortnight, after that they began rapidly to lose weight and to look like skeletons. This was obvious while the prisoners were washing. It seemed impossible that they could go on in such a state, and yet these skeletons survived for months.

During the second month of the Professor's detention, *i.e.*, in January, the temperature was between 15 and 30 degrees Centigrade below zero. One of the internees had to do forced labour outside the camp.

Punishments depended on the whim of the guard; for instance, prisoners were forced to roll over and over in the snow at words of command. The guards revelled in punishing and insulting the older and weaker internees; some of the older Professors had not been able to stand the rigours of cold and privation, and died in the month of December after only a few weeks in the camp. Kazimierz Kostanecki, the famous anatomist and former President of the Polish Academy of Science, met his end on Christmas Eve. The day before Christmas a roll-call of all prisoners was taken; being so very ill he was unable to attend. His colleagues carried him out, and there he had to lie in the snow, dying and in agony. He was taken to the hospital the next day and died there. No drugs or medicines of any description were available in the hospital except iodine. A temperature of less than 38 degrees C. did not warrant the calling of a doctor. Only accidents, broken and frozen limbs, acute pneumonia, and dangerous heart troubles were considered important enough to be sent to hospital. Few cases that entered the hospital ever left it except as corpses, their bodies being invariably brought out on wheelbarrows.

During this period no less than twelve important Polish Scientists and Professors died. A great blow to the intellectual life of Poland was the death of Professor Estreicher, lecturer on the history of Western European law. His activity went far beyond his University career; he was a man of great culture, and continued the great "Polish Bibliography," begun by his father. As Rector of Cracow University, he organized the intellectual life in Cracow, and as the most prominent journalist of the Conservative Party he will live for ever in the history of Polish culture. He was a man who never compromised with his conscience, and he refused without hesitation the proposals made to him and

to a number of other Professors to take part in a puppet Government which the Germans wished to set up in Occupied Poland in the autumn of 1939.

Christians were ridiculed in a most horrible way. At the sight of a Cross or a medallion of the Virgin Mary the warders burst into laughter and made coarse jokes. One day one of the guards snatched at a professor's Cross and asked what it was. The professor replied: "It is a cross." The guard then ordered him to kiss it, which he did, and for so doing he was slapped across the face. This was repeated several times. Finally, the guard tore the Cross from the neck of the Professor, broke it, and flung it upon the ground.

During the early days of February the Germans released 103 Professors of Cracow University because public opinion outside had raised a wave of indignation throughout the civilised world. These people were released and allowed to take their clothes from the prison office. Most of them had scars and weals on their faces and bodies as signs of the punishment that had been inflicted upon them. Thirty younger Professors and Lecturers were transferred to the camp in Dachau, where they still remain.

The tortures inflicted on the Professors of the University of Cracow had apparently two aims. The first was to threaten, terrorise and break the spirit of the community. The second was disclosed with true Prussian brutality by Governor-General Frank himself, who stated:—

"It is the will of the Fuehrer that you have to become a community of workers and peasants; we don't need Polish intelligentsia; we have enough of our own."

But the Germans failed in their objective. The suffering Professors became a symbol of martyred Poland in the hearts and minds of every fellow-citizen..."

The next speaker PROFESSOR ANTONI JURASZ

DEAN OF THE POLISH MEDICAL SCHOOL
IN EDINBURGH

said:

"...It is impossible to give a complete list of the victims of German barbarity in Poland. Some of the names of our most prominent men of science whose loss we have to deplore are the following:—

PROFESSOR CASIMIR KOSTANECKI, for three years Rector of the University of Cracow, and later President of the Polish Academy of Science; STANISLAW ESTREICHER, Professor of History of Law at the University of Cracow; IGNACY CHRZANOWSKI, one of the most distinguished Professors

of Polish literature ; MICHAL SIEDLECKI, Professor of Zoology ; LEON STERNBACH, Professor of Classical Philology ; JERZY SMOLENSKI, Professor of Geography.

They met a martyr's death in the concentration camp of Oranienburg..."

UNDERGROUND

In one of his recent speeches at Torun Greiser, Gauleiter of the Western part of Poland, illegally "incorporated" with the Reich, proclaimed that the acts of sabotage will be soon suppressed by the German authorities. He underlined with regret that Bolsheviki and Polish Jews are responsible for ever increasing assaults on trains with war-material and soldiers going to the front-line. Mad with rage, Greiser threatened to hang 50 Poles every day in case the acts of sabotage are not discontinued. He said : "There are enough trees in Poland to hang all the Poles if necessary. The Poles should not consider German endurance as weakness. The Polish population should be grateful to the Germans for having raised their standard of living. If I had to decide in the matter I would order 50 Poles to be hanged with their heads down for every act of sabotage. But having in mind unlimited patience of our leader Hitler I have to refrain from doing so."

A German High Official is not ashamed to deliver such a public speech; but the speech itself is a good proof that the conditions in German occupied Poland are deteriorating from day to day and that the acts of sabotage are occurring more and more often.

PRESS IN INDIA ON POLAND

The editors of the "Polish News" have received numerous letters in connection with the first issue of the "Polish News."

We permit ourselves to quote two of these letters as an example of the appreciation of our readers.

Prof. P. V. Kane, M.A., LL.M.,
Advocate, High Court,
Bombay.

Bombay, 20th February, 1942.

Several days back I received a copy of your *Polish News* of 15th January. I am highly obliged to you for the same. As you rightly claim Poland began the world's battle against inhuman aggression and for freedom to live one's own way. Your leaflet gives in a nutshell what is being done by the bleeding yet undaunted country of Poland. Let us hope that Poland will again have a bright day and her freedom.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,
P. V. KANE, M. P.

A. W. Krishna Aiyangar,
The Adyar Library,
The Theosophical Society,
Adyar, Madras, S. India.

8th February, 1942.

No. 15/993.

It was very kind of you to have forwarded to me a copy of the *Polish News* dated 15th January 1942, Vol. I, No. 1... I write to convey our grateful thanks for the kind present on behalf of the Library authorities...

In this hour of trial your country-men are making history and winning laurels in the cause of freedom. We hope and pray that we shall live to see a free and independent Polish State rise from out of the present uncertain conditions carrying the torch of freedom from generation to generation.

Thanking you and with kind regards,

Yours sincerely,
A. W. KRISHNAN, M. P.

LECTURES

On the 21st and 22nd of March 1942, there will be a course of two lectures delivered in Poona under the auspices of the University of Bombay by the Polish Supernumerary Professor Dr. Ludwik Sternbach of the Cracow and Lwow Universities on "The Forms of Marriage in Ancient India and their Development."

* * * *

A lecture on "Something about Poland and its People" by Mrs. R. Cooper for the Calcutta Service and Talents Guild will be held on the 23rd March 1942.

(continued from page 24)

Polish Red Cross which has been rendering them such relief as has been possible. For some time past these children have been living under the most appalling conditions and largely dependent on their own devices. They must therefore be in a very poor physical condition and require special care and treatment.

"The Government of India are making necessary arrangements, with the help of a grant from H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund, for the housing of these children, their maintenance and education at certain centres. The Indian Red Cross Society has offered its assistance in this humanitarian work and it therefore appeals to the public to donate funds for this commendable purpose."

POLISH RED CROSS IN INDIA

The work of the Polish Red Cross at the present is most intensive, as it has been entrusted with the task of dispatching new parties of goods purchased by the Polish Government for the Relief of Polish Population in U. S. S. R. There are already about 55 tons of goods stored at Quetta, pending arrival of the lorries which took the first consignment to U. S. S. R.

In connection with this, the working group, organised by the Polish Red Cross, is busy every day in sewing and knitting and repairing garments for the new consignments, as well as for the Polish children who will be brought to India by returning lorries.

These children, are being evacuated by the Polish Government to India, where they are offered hospitality by the Government of India.

The plan is to settle them in healthy localities, in the hills, with Polish teachers and under medical supervision. A grant of Rs. 50,000 from the Viceroy's War Chest was received for clothing them and for other immediate needs.

The Polish Red Cross is assisting the Government of India to make all the necessary arrangements in connection with their arrival and now it is completing preparations for settling them temporarily in Bandra, near Bombay, which is to be considered as a clearing station where they will be segregated, and sent to various places according to their age and state of health.

There are many letters received by the Polish Red Cross offering homes to children for the duration of the war—all these offers are being carefully dealt with and it is possible that about 15 children will have the benefit of these kind offers.

A group of Indian Red Cross Society nurses volunteered to help to receive the children and settle them down in Bandra. Some offers came from the Ladies of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Polish Relief Committee.

A fact deserving a special attention is a recent action undertaken by the Indian Red Cross Society, which in connection with the arrival of the Polish children has issued the following appeal:—

“A large number of Polish refugee children are expected any day in India. These children are believed in almost every case to be orphans, their parents having died in concentration camps, etc. They have been collected from Poland and various parts of Russia and evacuated to India by the

(continued on page 23)

POLES IN INDIA

POLISH UNION IN INDIA

The general meeting of the Polish Union in India was held on the 1st March 1942 at the new premises of the Union, situated at “Toyo House,” Colaba Causeway. The Report on the activities of the Union since its establishment was read by the Secretary and the Report concerning finances of the Union—by the Chairman of the Financial Control Commission. Both Reports have been approved unanimously and the vote of thanks for a hard and efficient work proposed to the retiring provisional Board.

The new Administrative Board has been elected for the term of one year. The objects of the Union are : (1) To unite all the Polish citizens resident in India either permanent or temporary. (2) To extend to them all possible assistance and protection in conjunction with the appropriate Polish authorities. (3) To create for them a cultural and social centre. (4) To collaborate with official Representatives of the Polish Republic in India. (5) To keep in touch with the Polish communities outside India. (6) To promote cultural and social relations between Poles and persons or associations of the allied countries in India. (7) To further good name of Poland and Polish interests in India.

NATION WIDE OBSERVANCE DAY

International Business and Professional Women's banquet was held on the 10th instant at the Y.W. C.A., Bombay, under the chairmanship of Mrs. K. Banasinska, wife of the Consul General for Poland, who began her speech by saying a few words about Poland : As you all know Poland was first to accept the challenge, first to take up the struggle—and first to be luted overrun by prevailing enemy forces.

Tortured and persecuted, starved and driven out of their homes our people were dying in thousands. There are graves all over Poland. Graves in the gardens, graves in the public squares, graves in the streets of our heroic capital—Warsaw. But these graves are not silent. Like a trumpet call comes out of them calling for justice, calling to those who are still alive not to give up the struggle but rally into a mighty force—underground Army of Poland. The spirit of infinite love for our land has worked up wonders. Now after two years of war we see Poland still stronger in spirit. And growing stronger in arms. All over the world—there are Polish troops in action. They are in Scotland, their wings are over Germany. We see them in Tobruk and in the Desert battles, we see them on the Russian Front where hardly out of the interment

(continued on page 18)