

POLISH NEWS

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For Our Freedom and Yours.

POLAND'S MOTTO IN HER STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM IN THE
NINETEENTH CENTURY.

MAY 3RD, POLISH NATIONAL DAY

In the year 1942 the entire Polish nation commemorates the 151st anniversary of the great Polish Constitution. On May 3rd, 1791, the Four Year Sejm (1788-1792) accepted the new principles upon which the State system was to be based.

In the May 3rd Constitution the Polish Nation sees not merely the text of the Constitutional Articles which were then given the force of law. The nation sees in it the embodiment of great conceptions of fundamental importance. At moments of good fortune the Constitution is a source of noble pride; at moments of difficulty and sorrow it is a consolation and hope, and above all a source of strength. And always it is a signpost pointing to the future.

The May 3rd Constitution accepted the principle of the sovereignty of the nation :

"All power in civil society is derived from the will of the people."

Further, it adopted the principle of the division of authority. According to the Constitution three separate and equal authorities, legislative, executive, and judicial, were to exist in Poland.

The Constitution further accepted the principle of religious toleration, which had been known in Poland since 1573.

The May 3rd Constitution became a model of measured progress. And for this reason it was able to create the basis of a system founded on modern principles.

The creators of the Constitution were influenced by the political thought of Western Europe, and particularly of France and England. This thought penetrated to Poland, and won rights of citizenship in Polish minds. Polish thought studied the philosophical principles of Locke. They wrote on British Parliamentaryism and on other British institutions; the work of Blackstone was translated. Montesquieu's opinions of the British Constitution

were known, as also his theory on the separation of State functions. Rousseau's work, and especially his theory of the sovereignty of the people, was also known. Sieyès' brochure: "Qu'est-ce que le tiers état" was widely read.

The reforms of May 3rd, 1791, had grown out of Poland's own national tradition, had arisen out of Polish political thought. So it was a native creation, witnessing to the high level of the political and legislative culture of the Polish nation. But the creators of the Polish State reforms also took contemporary political theories into consideration, and applied them to Polish conditions. Their employment, so far as the legal structure was concerned, was even easier in Poland than in the West, because of the fact that in Poland it was not necessary to smash the power of the monarchy, which was already greatly restricted in its rights.

But the May 3rd Constitution was a creation of import beyond purely Polish bounds. It was an event of general human significance, as Edmund Burke truly remarked. It possessed a value by no means without importance to the development of humanity.

After two centuries Poland had at last overcome her difficulties, had triumphed over her internal weaknesses, by laying the foundation of a new State system. She had chosen to work out that State system along a path of greater effort. She travelled that path victoriously, and brought the nation a restoration of old principles and the establishment of new, more progressive ones.

In the course of this operation she met with obstacles. Her neighbouring Powers decided to prevent any further transformation of the new system. Unfortunately, Poland was not in such a geographical situation that she could quietly carry her great democratic work to its logical conclusion.

After the partitions of Poland the May Constitution remained for ever a testament for the nation.

And so it still lives in the tradition. The direction of development laid down by its creators was accepted by the entire nation.

So the Constitution is not a dead letter. On the contrary, it has grown even more vital for the nation. So it is always a considerable potential strength to the nation, and from its inception time and again it was possible to trace its influence in Polish history. That influence was discernible not only in the periods of struggle for independence, but also during the years of enslavement, when democratic opinions and conceptions swept over and took possession of the people's consciousness. There was hardly an important event in the life of the nation during the XIXth and XXth centuries in which conceptions drawn from the May Constitution did not play a part.

Barely a couple of years after the Constitution had become law its programme was already being enlarged.

In 1794 Kosciuszko developed the social reforms of the May Constitution. The peasants were granted further rights, including personal liberty, freedom to leave their locality, and the right to own land.

In the later struggles for independence freedom

of the nation was closely linked up with freedom of the individual. The insurgent governments proclaimed liberty and equality for all and the abolition of socage for the peasants. The secret societies and associations which were organised during the years of national enslavement all had as objects the recovery of State independence and a broad democratic internal social and political programme.

The freedom of the individual and the freedom of the nation, these two fundamental features of the Polish Commonwealth's State system, constituted not only the main principles of Polish policy during the period of enslavement, but gave the Polish cause a universal character. Wherever the struggle for freedom was fought there Poles were to be found. Fighting for their own freedom, they realised that they were fighting for the ideal of universal freedom.

To-day also the Polish nation commemorates the anniversary of the May Constitution above all other dates in its history. For the nation regards the democratic and progressive quality of that Constitution as an unchallengeable and undeniable justification of its claim to independent participation in the life of civilised nations and as a symbol of its endurance and resurrection.

NEWS FROM AND ABOUT POLAND

THE CONCENTRATION CAMP IN POLAND

OSWIECIM

Poles are incarcerated in concentration camps at Oswiecim, Oranienburg-Sachsenhausen, Mauthausen, Dachau, Berensbrücke (for women) and in several other smaller camps. Most of the prisoners are drawn from the intellectual classes. Certificates from public departments or public utility undertakings are no security whatever against arrest. The prisoners are often taken away without coats and hats, even in the coldest of weather. They are usually transported in sealed railway trucks, seventy persons to each. Frequently the trucks, after sealing, are left standing on a siding until there are sufficient to make up a train, and cases have been known of prisoners being left thus sealed up on the siding for four or even six days, unprovided with food or water or warm clothing and bedding, at a time of deep frost. When the prisoners stamped their feet and moved about to keep warm, the guards struck their rifle butts on the sides of the trucks and ordered them to be quiet. But in any case, after a couple of days or so the prisoners did not need telling to be quiet.

The concentration camp at Oswiecim, which is

the largest in Poland, merits a detailed description.

The journey to this camp may take from three to five days, according to distance and the travelling conditions. During the journey rations consisting of bread and noodles, which in wintertime were frozen together in a solid mass, were put through the ventilator window.

Sometimes as many as ten bodies are removed from the trucks which have been held in sidings for some days, while in the winter some forty per cent. of the other prisoners had frostbitten hands and feet. It was common for those still alive to remove the clothes from the dead to wear for the sake of warmth.

At Oswiecim railway station the trucks are shunted on to a siding with a platform specially built for the purpose. One end slopes sharply downward, and in wintertime it was very slippery, covered with ice and frozen snow. The trucks are kept sealed until nightfall, when the doors are opened and dazzling arc lamps are switched on. Blinded, numbed with cold, hungry, and dizzy with the sudden fresh air, they are unable to step out immediately, and the police help them out with

rifle butts and kicks. The older men fall and slide down the ramp. Prisoners unable to get up from the floor of the truck are dragged out by their feet or hands and flung down the ramp. The corpses are left in the truck, and are afterwards burnt in the crematorium. The prisoners are then packed into lorries, being beaten incessantly the while.

On arrival at the camp they are ordered to fall in line in order of size. Those who cannot stand are laid out on the ground. After the list has been checked, which usually takes a couple of hours or more, they are allotted to the various barracks.

The barracks are unheated, and there are innumerable chinks in the walls. At one time a man was hanged over the door of one of the barracks, and his body was left hanging for some time. He was one of a group who planned to organise a hunger strike in protest against prisoners being driven out to work dressed only in wet overalls during frosts. There is so little room for sleeping that if any prisoner turns over he disturbs his neighbours. There is only one palliasse for every three prisoners. All towels have to be kept in a single heap, so that no prisoner has his own towel and the danger of infectious disease is greatly increased. Many persons suffering from venereal diseases are deliberately sent to the camp.

Rising time is about 5 a.m., and three minutes are allowed for washing under a cold shower, cleaning clothes, and dressing.

Sick prisoners must work as though they were quite well. No one may report sick unless he has a temperature of over 100.4 Fahrenheit. If anyone reports sick with a lower temperature he is sent to the punishment squad. The prisoners live in dread of illness, as there is no proper medical care for them.

The jailers in charge of the barracks are chiefly criminals who have been given life sentences, but among them are a couple of German Communists. The jailers are degenerates, and have absolute sway over the lives of the prisoners in their charge.

The prisoners are forced to do exhausting labour, frequently entirely useless. On one occasion a group of five men, including two priests, was ordered to do stonebreaking. One of them tried to warm his hands by clapping them against his body, and the guard sentenced him to stand with his hands above his head for half an hour. While performing their task they were not allowed to kneel or squat down. When one of the priests, an old man, knelt down to pick up the hammer-head, which had come off the handle, the guard ran up and kicked the priest so hard that the blood came.

One group of prisoners was given heavy blocks of wood, with which they had to smooth the surface of stone blocks which were to be used for sculpture. A medallion with a stamp of the Blessed Virgin slipped out of the open neck of one man's shirt, and a Gestapo man at once ran up, kicked him in the face, tore the medallion away and ordered him to eat it.

Another group was ordered to construct a pond. As the prisoners may not ruin their boots or socks, they were ordered to work barefoot in the snow and on the frozen mud. All the prisoners of this group were from the intellectual class. One day they were unable to stand any more, and attacked their two guards, trampling them in the mud. The next day a large number of prisoners were taken out to the open field and ordered to run. The guards opened fire from machine-guns. Those who were killed were at once cremated.

In the centre of the camp is a square used as a place for punishment exercise. In the middle of the square is a post. One day some fifteen men had to perform special gymnastics consisting of squatting and rising at the order of a Gestapo man behind them. The prisoners held one another's hands, so that the stronger could help the weaker. This kind of exercise is continued for hours at a time. The Gestapo men in charge are changed, but the prisoners have to go on. Frequently prisoners can be seen pushing wheelbarrows loaded with stones around the square at the double. Behind them a guard rides on a cycle, using a whip on those who do not keep running. Prisoners frequently die on this exercise, as no one has yet succeeded in running round the circle more than 25 times.

Sometimes the prisoners are ordered to set out stones in a pattern, and then collect them again; often they have to carry piles of stones from one spot to another, and then shift them back the next day. They also have to build their own walls, level the ground, etc.

The prisoners are fed very badly. Three times a day they are given 20 grammes of bread (less than an ounce), at noon they get soup, and in the evening a brown fluid called coffee. The food has to be consumed in a very short, fixed period, and when instead of soup they are given potatoes in their jackets they have to eat the skins as well, as they have no time to peel them. Large numbers suffer from digestive troubles, and they suffer all the more because they are allowed to use the toilet only three times a day.

It happened one day that a prisoner ate two portions of dinner. When it was discovered he was led out before the entrance gate, near the cre-

atorium. By the gate two rows of guards with knouts were lined up. One of them told the prisoner that as he had shown so much ingenuity and cleverness in eating an additional portion, he was to be released. The gate was open, and he could run out into freedom. But as stealing was a punishable offence, he must first run the gauntlet of the two rows of guards. He started to run between the lines, being beaten mercilessly on the head and legs with the knouts. Near the end of the line he began to stagger, but he summoned up all his strength and ran out through the gate. Then a machine-gun opened fire, and he was wounded in the belly. The guards called to a man with a wheelbarrow working close by, threw the wounded man on the barrow and ordered him to be taken to the crematorium. The prisoner was sufficiently conscious to see where he was being taken, and in a frenzy of despair tried to say something to the crowd of guards watching the sight. But they only laughed and made their way to the crematorium.

There he was thrown into the furnace, where there were already two half-burnt bodies. The sight of his struggles aroused only jeers and laughter among the onlookers. The two guards in charge of the crematorium were ordered to divide the ashes into three, as the last victim had moved and so had disturbed the ashes of the other bodies.

The least misdemeanour is punished by public whipping, and the principle of collective responsibility is imposed. If anyone is missing at the roll-call the entire group is kept standing for hours in the frost. One day, when one prisoner was missing, a large group of men were stopped after their work and kept standing in their wet clothes from 12 to 6 p.m. of the following day. Anyone who moved was at once beaten. During this period 86 men died under the torture. In order to lengthen the period of torture, when any prisoner swooned he was carried under a pump and brought round by having water pumped over him, and then was returned to the line to be beaten.

During last winter the mortality in the camp was terribly high, an average of 70 to 80 persons dying every day. On one day 156 people died. Even the Germans were forced to arrange for the inspection of the camp by a sanitary commission, after which the mortality fell somewhat, and during the spring and summer was some 30 daily. During the winter months three crematorium furnaces were insufficient to cope with the bodies to be cremated.

The Oswiecim camp is built to hold 40,000 persons. All around the camp is a great strip of "neutral" area, beyond which is a triple wall, Be-

fore the walls posts are set up at every fifty yards, bearing the inscription: "Neutral zone. Anyone crossing this line will be fired on without warning."

THE JEWISH GHETTO IN WARSAW

The position of the separate, self contained Jewish quarter in Warsaw, created in November 1940, has only recently been regulated legally.

According to regulations now issued, having the force of law, it constitutes an independent administrative self governing unit, subject to a special German commissar who possesses the competence of a rural *starosta* (head of county) and also (in the sphere of self-government administration) to the chairman of the Jewish Council, who is granted the competence of burgomaster (mayor). The work of the Jewish Council is divided among several administrative departments, and is also in control of the "Order Guard" (Jewish police), as well as a special institution for supplies, now being organised in the form of a limited liability co-operative.

There is a treasury office for the quarter, concerned with collecting State taxes and also acting as the local executive office, which at present is transmitting all receipts from communal taxes to the treasury of the Warsaw city administration.

The ghetto population at present numbers between 510,000 and 520,000, of which 240,000 are listed as indigent and have to be maintained from community funds. But by no means all this number is being assisted, as the very small quantity of food allowed enables the community to issue only some 120,000 portions of soup, barely half the quantity required. The individual rations allowed on ration cards are completely inadequate, consisting as they do of only 2,500 grammes (not quite 6 lbs.) of bread and 180 grammes (less than $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.) of sugar per month. All other food must be bought on the open market, which is supplied exclusively with smuggled goods, as the import of food, fuel, etc., into the ghetto is officially prohibited.

In such conditions food prices in the Jewish ghetto are far higher than prices in the Aryan quarters. Recently the following prices prevailed: Bread, 3.25 zlotys a kilogramme; potatoes, 8.50 zlotys a kilo; butter (almost unobtainable), 100 zlotys a kilo; lard 80 zlotys a kilo. (The pre-war rate was 25 zlotys to one pound sterling.)

The prices of other commodities have not risen quite so steeply, and as the largest wholesalers in Warsaw are situated in the ghetto area there is a brisk sale for goods smuggled out into the Aryan quarters. Needless to say, all trade with the Aryan quarters is on an illegal basis, as all commerce

between the ghetto and the outside world is possible only through the intermediary of a special German department, given the official title of *Transferstelle*. This department for settlements exists solely for the purpose of acting as intermediary in the purchase of goods from the Jewish quarter. It collects a commission of from 10 to 25 per cent. on all transactions, and the sums paid into the department for individual Jewish accounts are not paid out to the rightful recipients. Moreover, by the nature of things this administrative method of conducting commerce is completely unsuited to trading activities, and so not only do Jews and Poles avoid resorting to it, but even Germans, and especially the military authorities, ignore it. The military place orders or make purchases directly in the ghetto, paying the sum due in cash to the vendor, although this is legally prohibited.

The terrible position in regard to food supplies, and the hopeless living and sanitary conditions are causing a very high mortality, which is growing month after month. Some time ago it was 5,000 persons, which is equal to a rate of 120 per thousand per annum, or a twelvefold increase over the pre-war rate. As births have fallen to a very low figure, there is no natural increase in population, but rather a decline.

None the less, the population of the ghetto is steadily increasing, as Jews are continually being brought in from the provincial towns, where the Germans do not intend to set up separate Jewish quarters.

Some 9,000 people have been taken for forced labour, chiefly in connection with river conservancy and improvement schemes. This low figure is explained by the circumstances that comparatively few Jews are suitable for heavy physical labour. Every day the bodies of people who have died under this labour are brought in (on an average twenty daily) while the dangerously ill are sent away for treatment. The labour conditions under this forced labour, and even the living conditions in the barracks and state of food supplies, are terrible. The treatment meted out to the Jews by the camp guard, who consist mainly of Ukrainians, is also very bad.

It is noteworthy that the German authorities tend to separate the Jewish quarter in political regards also. For instance, there is a tendency to deprive Jews of personal identification papers proving their Polish citizenship, and to replace them by Jewish passports. Also there is a tendency in the direction of introducing a special currency for the ghetto. Apparently the explanation of this is that the Warsaw ghetto is an experiment on which

all Jewish existence throughout Europe is to be modelled in the future when the New Order has been introduced.

Polish Air Squadron 303 holds a Royal Air Force record for scoring on the *Luftwaffe*—all told Poland's avenging eagles have bagged upward of 450 German planes!

PUNISH THE GUILTY

The Polish Government is preparing special lists of Germans responsible for crimes and persecution against Poles in Polish territories, and asks all those with information to co-operate. All Poles abroad possessing precise information of such German crimes must submit it to the nearest Polish diplomatic mission or Consular offices to be forwarded. Specific evidence, with dates, names and exact description of the crime, is desired.

POLISH—CZECHOSLOVAK COLLABORATION

Animated by the declaration of the Polish and Czechoslovak Governments of the 11th November 1940 and the 23rd January 1942 the Administrative Boards of the Polish Union in India and the Czechoslovak Society in Bombay selected six of their Members to form a joint Committee created for the purpose of mutual Polish-Czechoslovak collaboration. The following are the members of the "Polish-Czechoslovak Collaboration Committee": Mr. O. J. Litawski, Mr. F. Sarnowicz and Dr. L. Sternbach acting for the Polish Union in India and Dr. Z. Augenthaler, Mrs. M. Herbrych and Mr. A. B. Schwarz representing the Czechoslovak Society in Bombay.

The Committee at its meetings on the 6th, 8th and 9th May 1942 worked out bases for the said collaboration, comprised in four clauses: 1st relating to Information and Propaganda, 2nd dealing with social and cultural life, 3rd regarding preparatory work for the post-war economic relations between the two federated countries and India and 4th concerning mutual assistance.

In the matter of Information and Propaganda the Committee decided to publish a booklet in English on Poland and Czechoslovakia, besides regular publications in Polish and Czech languages relating to the Polish-Czechoslovak Collaboration. Bulletins in English will also be published and a series of lectures given on appropriate subjects. As far as clause 2 is concerned every Saturday, at 5 p.m. social Polish-Czechoslovak gatherings will

take place in the premises of both Societies (Colaba Road, Heliopolis, "Toyo House," Bombay) in order to facilitate their intercourse. Concerts, excursions etc., will form part of this clause.

All persons interested are requested kindly to communicate with the "Polish-Czechoslovak Collaboration Committee" by mail or personally on Saturdays at 6 p.m. (Colaba Road, Heliopolis, "Toyo House," Bombay).

POLISH RED CROSS IN INDIA

THE EXPEDITION OF THE POLISH RED CROSS RETURNS FROM RUSSIA

On their return from the USSR the members of the expedition of the Polish Red Cross were welcomed by the Polish Union in India on April 27th. The chairman of the Union, Mr. Knoff, addressing the meeting, described how the expedition had been carefully prepared in India, then travelled through India and Iran to the USSR, and how it finally carried out its task after reaching its destination. He particularly stressed the good work done by Dr. Lisiecki, the leader of the expedition, who carried food, clothes, and medicines to Soviet Russia for the Polish masses there, and brought back with him 161 Polish children together with 11 Polish ladies and Father Pluta who acted as guardians. At the conclusion of his speech, Mr. Knoff thanked Dr. Lisiecki, the Polish Vice-Consul, Dr. Konarski, and Mr. Dajek for the good work they had done by helping the deported Poles in Soviet Russia. Subsequently Dr. Lisiecki delivered a short speech in which he thanked the Polish Union for their kind reception on behalf of the members of the expedition.

Present at the meeting were : the Polish Consul General, Dr. E. Banasinski, the Czechoslovak Consul and Mrs. Urban, the Delegate of the Polish Red Cross, Mrs. Banasinska, the Czechoslovak Consul Dr. Augenthaler, the wife of the Polish Minister of State, Mrs. Kwapinska with her daughter, the managing committees of the Polish Union in India and the Czechoslovak Association in Bombay, and numerous members of the Polish and Czechoslovak communities in Bombay.

POLES IN INDIA

ARRIVAL OF THE POLISH CHILDREN IN INDIA

The first group of the Polish Children composed of 90 girls and 70 boys, 11 lady guardians and a Polish Military Priest, Father Pluta, crossed the Indian Frontier on the 9th of April.

The most difficult part of the journey—across Iran was made in lorries belonging to the Polish

Government—six in all, and from the frontier station Nokkundi down to Bombay by a special train composed of three third class, one mixed first and second class bogey, a kitchen and dining car and a brake. A rather hard job of catering on the way was very successfully done by Messrs. Spencer and Co.

The children arrived in quite a satisfactory state of health owing to special care with which they have been looked after by the leader of the Expedition, Dr. Lisiecki, and Dr. Konarski. They have also done all the work of collecting the children in Russia and putting them through quarantine arrangements in Meshed.

Right from the Indian Frontier the children were met by the authorities and by the general public with the greatest sympathy and attention. Sweets, cold drinks, clothes and toys were given to them at several stations and wherever the train stopped for a longer while the children gave little concerts of Polish songs which were greatly admired by those who happened to be at the station. In Bombay extensive arrangements had been made for meeting the children thanks to Mr. J. B. Graves who had offered his Bath-Canteen for bathing them upon arrival. A group of the members of the Indian Red Cross Society, St. John's Ambulance Association, the Polish Red Cross and the Polish Relief Committee, divided among themselves the functions of washing the children, distributing to them fresh clothes and escorting them to their Bandra Home.

But unfortunately the train arrived very late and it was impossible to carry out these arrangements in conditions of complete black out. Now the children are settled temporarily in Bandra in two spacious bungalows right on the sea-front. To relieve congestion 9 tents have been given by the Bombay District Area H.Q. and they were put in the gardens. Administration of the little settlement has been entrusted to Mr. Sarnowiec. The kitchen is organised under the supervision of a Polish Matron and the Indian cooks are learning quickly how to prepare various Polish dishes. All the children have been vaccinated and at present they are being inoculated against typhoid. Dr. Tundulcar, residing in Bandra, has offered his services as an honorary house physician and he pays daily visits to the Children's Home.

Since May the children have started their regular lessons. They are divided into 4 groups, according to their age and they are learning English, religion, history, geography, Polish literature, natural science, singing and gymnastics. Father Pluta is in charge of their education and the lessons are conducted by trained teachers who also

arrived from USSR. The Polish Children's Home is often visited by the people from Bombay and Bandra, who are showing them extraordinary kindness and sympathy.

A large quantity of toys has been collected to say nothing of cakes, sweets, books, clothes, fruits and other things meant to make their little lives in this country as cheerful as possible.

His Grace the Archbishop of Bombay is taking great interest in these children. He visited their

The next group of the Polish children is already waiting for the transport arrangements on the Russian frontier and 400 of them can be expected to be here early next month.

All these children will be settled for the duration of the war in Navanagar State in a place called Balachedi, where a special Camp is being constructed for them by the Government of India and where a very beautiful site right over the sea has been donated for the purpose by the Jamsaheb of Navanagar.



His Grace the Archbishop of Bombay visiting the Bandra Home for Polish Children

Home on several occasions and celebrated for them a special service on St. Joseph's day.

Lately some parties have been arranged for them. On the 8th May Sir Alwyn Ezra invited them all to his bungalow in Juhu for the whole day for seabathing and on Saturday they are going to a tea party arranged by Mrs. Donald Hill at the Princess Victoria Mary Gymkhana where special amusements will be provided by the Members of the Club.

The Girl Guides Association is very anxious to help these children, they intend visiting them in groups from time to time to arrange some games.

A morning cinema show is offered to them at Eandra by the Paramount Pictures Ltd., India,

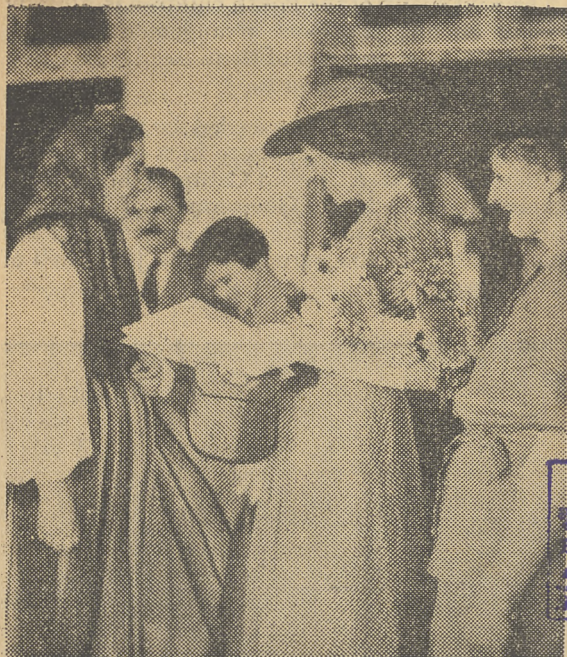
List of donations for the Children's Fund will be published in the next number of the "Polish News."

LADY LUMLEY WITH POLISH ORPHANS. VISIT TO BANDRA HOME

Lady Lumley, accompanied by Miss Mary Lumley, visited the Polish Children's Home in Bandra on Thursday, May 7th.

Lady Lumley was received in the garden of the Home by Madame Banasinska, wife of the Polish Consul-General, and Madame Kwapinska, wife of the new member of the Polish Cabinet in London, who arrived in Bombay from Russia with the first group of children.

The children were lined up on the steps of the bungalow and sang the British National Anthem,



Lady Lumley among Polish Children

after which Madame Banasinska presented to Lady Lumley those members of the Polish Red Cross who have helped her with the arrangements for the orphanage. The staff of the orphanage and the women who arrived with the children as their guardians and teachers were also presented. After the presentations the children sang some Polish folk-songs, and Lady Lumley was then shown round both the houses—one for girls and one for boys.

Lady Lumley was keenly interested to hear the story of the orphan children and their adventures since they left Poland.

On leaving, Lady Lumley addressed the members of the Polish Red Cross, congratulating them on the excellent work they have done in their endeavours to make the life of these children in India as easy and pleasant as possible.

CELEBRATION OF THE POLISH NATIONAL HOLIDAY ON MAY 3RD

On the initiative of the Polish Union in India the Polish National Holiday was celebrated this year at Bandra near Bombay where the Polish children brought back from the USSR have been accommodated. At 10 a.m. a Solemn Mass was said at St. Peter's church by Father Pluta who also preached a patriotic sermon. Present were: The Most Reverend Thomas D. Roberts, Archbishop of Bombay, the Polish Consul General

Dr. E. Banasinski, members of the Consular Corps, the Polish community in Bombay, and numerous friends of Poland.

After Mass a celebration was held at St. Stanislaus' High School. After the Polish National Anthem had been sung, the Polish Consul General addressed the meeting, reminding them of the hard and cruel struggle of the Polish nation for freedom and independence. Subsequently Father Pluta delivered an inspired patriotic speech on the significance of the Polish Constitution of the 3rd of May.

Then the Polish children sang several popular Polish songs, and Mrs. Hanka Ordonowna, the famous Polish singer and dancer, sang a few songs which were received with great applause.

The celebration ended with the British National Anthem.

POLISH UNION IN INDIA

At the general meeting of the Polish Union in India held on the 1st March, 1942 the following members have been elected to the Administrative Board of the Union:—Mr. Cz. Knoff (*President*), Dr. E. Sternbach and Mr. S. Goldlust (*Vice-Presidents*), Mr. O. J. Litawski (*Secretary*), Mr. H. Cynowicz (*Treasurer*), Dr. I. Jortner and Mr. F. Sarnowicz—(*Members of the Board*). To the Control Board have been elected: Mr. J. Osnos, Mr. B. Jaglom, Mr. Zywolt.