

# THE

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# WARSAW

# WEEKLY

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## The Country School Teacher

The lot of the country school teacher in any nation is a hard one, and the traditional picture of one is the sad, lean little man, serving his pupils upon an insufficient wage, hemmed in culturally by the narrow opinions surrounding him, and his place in the life of the nation is thoroughly fixed by the saying, "Those who can, do, — those who can't, teach."

In the light of statistics recently gathered by the Polish Teacher's Association, the situation of the country school teacher is, materially speaking, a great deal better than that of the city teacher, and, as far as culture goes, is perhaps on a par, as will be shown.

The statistics cover the period of one year, from February, 1935, through January, 1936, and embrace the exact expenditures of one hundred and fifty families. It was found that the average family of the country school teacher was 3.7 persons, and that the average monthly salary was 207 zlotys. This is, of course, not a great sum, but it is far above the variously calculated minimum existence wage, and thoroughly suffices for the purchase of necessities. The total yearly income has been found to be divided as follows:

	in zlotys	percentages
Total . . . . .	zl. 3,406	100
Food . . . . .	963	28
Alcohol, tobacco . . . . .	87	2
Apartment, fuel, light . . . . .	427	13
Furnishings . . . . .	147	4
Medical . . . . .	176	5
Clothing . . . . .	545	16
Cultural items . . . . .	456	13
Travel . . . . .	151	4

There are two positions in this constellation that stand out immediately. The first is the relatively small expenditure for food. For the same percentage to be equalled in the city, a salary of eight hundred zlotys monthly must be considered. This is undoubtedly caused by the low prices prevailing in the country for articles of food, and only reaffirms what has been pointed out again and again that

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## FOREIGN CAPITAL IN POLAND

Poland is one of the countries in which the penetration of foreign capital has made considerable progress. This has been caused by a number of reasons. In the first place, prior to the re-establishment of independent Poland after the Great War, many financiers of the countries previously possessing Polish territory, such as Germany and Austria, had been investing considerable funds in various key industries. The change in political status did not affect, to any great extent, the investments already made, with the result that German and Austrian capital continues to be prominently identified with various Polish companies.

Poland, moreover, as an agricultural country and hampered in the development of her economic life through the years of the partition, has been suffering through the inadequacy of her own capital, although in the last few years great progress has been made in this respect. The bulk of the savings of the nation, furthermore, was lost during the period of inflation in the early 1920s. And so, being assured the necessary safety and adequate income, foreign capital has found its way into Poland.

The effort to trace the exact dimensions of the penetration of foreign capital is by no means easy. One of the best indices is the percentage of participation by foreigners in the capital of Polish joint stock companies. This however, ignores the bonded indebtedness of such companies, principally in bearer bonds, the ownership of which is difficult to trace.

At the end of 1935, of 1421 joint stock companies with the total capital of Zl. 3,422,000,000. — foreign capital participated in 425 to the extent of Zl. 1,614,000,000. — or, say, 47 per cent. — according to such as authority as Mr. Kozuchowski, Vice-Chairman of the National Economic Bank. During the past five years, the corresponding percentages were: 1931 — 44.6 per cent. 1932 — 45.6 per cent. 1934 — 47.2 per cent. 1935 — 47.2 per cent.,

indicating a further increase in favour of foreign capital.

As a rule, the shares representing foreign participation are closely held, as might be seen from the total turnover of the shares of industrial companies dealt in on the Polish exchanges: 1930 — Zl. 24,000,000; 1931 — Zl. 17,000,000; 1932 — Zl. 10,000,000 1933 — Zl. 7,000,000; 1934 — 12,000,000, as compared with three and one half billion zlotys of the combined capital of the above companies.

The total of foreign capital is distributed as follows, the percentage figures indicating the ratio of foreign capital to the above total of foreign investments:

1. French . . . . .	Zl. 413,000,000.—	25.6%
2. American . . . . .	354,000,000.—	21.9%
3. German . . . . .	319,000,000.—	19.8%
4. Belgian . . . . .	168,000,000.—	10.5%
5. Swiss . . . . .	77,000,000.—	4.8%
6. English . . . . .	76,000,000.—	4.7%
7. Austrian . . . . .	54,000,000.—	3.4%
8. Dutch . . . . .	46,000,000.—	2.9%
9. Swedish . . . . .	37,000,000.—	2.3%
10. Czecho-Slovak . . . . .	23,000,000.—	1.4%

Of the above mentioned 475 joint stock companies 154 indicate foreign participation in their capital of over 50 per cent., 86 companies from 25 per cent., to 50 per cent., and the remaining ones below 25 per cent.

The grand total of Zl. 1,614,000,000 is divided among the following industries, the percentage figures indicating the ratio of the foreign to the total capital in each group. Oil industry — 85 per cent.; mining and foundries — 74 per cent.; metal — 29 per cent.; chemical 53 per cent.; textile — 26 per cent.; transportation — 29 per cent.; electric light and power — 81 per cent.

French capital occupies the first place in quantity among foreign capital, and it is divided principally between the mining and foundry industries, oil and textiles. Such interests are represented by the Schneider-Creusot group, Baron de Neuflyze and the successors of Devilder. In addition, French interests are prominently identi-

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## IN BRIEF

On Saturday, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Colonel Józef Beck, left Warsaw for Brussels.

\* \* \*

A Stradivarius valued at 400,000 dollars was stolen from Bronisław Huberman in New York. While Huberman was on stage of Carnegie Hall, an unknown thief entered his dressing room, and took the violin. The loss was covered by insurance.

\* \* \*

Over ten thousand advances in the civil service became effective from March 1.

\* \* \*

Professor K. Sikorski has been awarded the Music Prize of the Ministry of Education of Zł. 5,000. Professor Sikorski is well known for his symphonic, chamber, and chora compositions.

\* \* \*

The cable railway from Kuźnice to Kasprowy Wierch in the Polish Tatras has been opened to public use.

\* \* \*

A project for new passport regulations has been approved by the Council of Ministers. Passports will be issued in four categories, diplomatic, service, individual, and group. No mention, however, is made of loosening present restrictions in granting any kind of passport.

\* \* \*

Mr. O, a lawyer, slapped the face of Mr. S., a manufacturer, when the latter objected to the former's style of bridge. A duel followed. No blood, however, was spilt.

\* \* \*

Through the conversion of short term notes into long term obligations, the City of Warsaw is saving over two million zlotys yearly for interest

\* \* \*

In contrast to 1934 and the first half of 1935, attendance at cinemas has been increasing recently. In spite of this, the tax paid the city by owners has fallen by over ten per cent. This is explained by individual reductions granted to owners.

\* \* \*

A story appearing in the ABC that Mr. James MacDonald, lately connected with the League of Nations, was to be appointed American Ambassador to Poland has been officially denied in the United States.

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A strike in textile Łódź already affects 40,000 workers according to the *Robotnik*. Other newspapers claim the number to be much less. The strike arose out of wage differences.

\* \* \*

The Budget Commission of the Senate unanimously and without change accepted the projected budget for the fiscal year 1936 — 37.

### FOREIGN CAPITAL

(Continued from page 1. col. 3)

fied with several Polish banks, — the Banque Franco-Polonoise, General Credit Bank, Polish Industrial Bank, and others.

American capital is also primarily interested in mining and oil with the Harriman concern and Standard Nobel and Vacuum Oil the chief participants.

German capital is interested in mining, electric light and power and chemicals.

Belgian capital, represented through holding companies like Elektrobels and Europel, is prominent in the light and power field.

The other foreign participations are scattered through the entire field of Polish industry.

### SCHOOL TEACHER

(Continued from page 1, col. 1)

the disparity between prices in the country and in the city is tremendous.

The second item is the large amount spent for cultural items, for which we may read books, magazines, theatres, etc. It should be remarked that in probably no other country is so large a portion of a teacher's salary paid out for such things. The percentage equals that for rent, fuel, and light, and is not much less than the percentage for clothing.

A missing item is "savings." This, however, we may suppose is taken care of in the payments for "social insurances" which were not considered in this study.

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In any case, the place of the country school teacher in the economic scale in Poland is not at all to be underestimated, and if there be great poverty in the country, he is not sharing in it, but rather benefitting

# LONDON LETTER

By Gregory Macdonald

There was a point of special interest in King Edward's choice of last Sunday for his broadcast. It was Saint David's day — the feast of the patron saint of Wales, the country which for so long gave the King his princely title — and it must be generally known that David is not only one of the King's many names, but also it is the name used for him in the royal family. The broadcast itself he made a very personal affair, as all who heard it will agree. Although no novice in the difficult practice of microphone - speaking, he must be regarded now as among the best. In this way he continues a tradition built up by his father, but he also adds his name to a small list of men in public positions who reinforce statesmanship with a power of personal, conversational appeal to millions of unseen listeners.

The speech contained many interesting points quietly expressed. If the very first words recalled "an ancient tradition of the British monarchy," the next sentence brought the ancient tradition into the XXth Century by the remark that "science has made it possible for me . . . to speak to you all over the radio." What made the message especially personal to the millions throughout the world, and to the thousands of ex-service men or unemployed at home, who had welcomed the visits of the Prince of Wales, was the simple declaration: "I am still that same man." But there was an equally firm declaration that that same man was now King, seeking peace, understanding, prosperity and happiness, and striving to promote the well-being of his fellow men. It was at once a regal and popular address.

The White Paper describing the Government's plans for national defense is expected to appear this week. Only with its recommendations in view will the controversialists be able to bring the present debates on national needs down to bedrock. Last week, however, the Prime Minister announced that the task of coordinating the defense plans would be entrusted to a Minister, acting as deputy for the Prime Minister as president over the Imperial Defense Committee, keeping in touch with the Chiefs-of-Staff, and performing certain other duties.

It was amusing to watch the flutter in the political dove-cotes caused by the announcement. There has seldom before been such a turbulent canvassing of names. *The Times* quoted with great solemnity the opinion of an anonymous "Visitor to Westminster" (who probably never travelled beyond Fleet Street) that Mr. Neville Chamberlain was the heaven-sent man. Others suggested Lord Swinton. Ano-

ther rumour took up the name of Lord Eustace Percy. Mr. Winston Churchill received considerable support. The reason for all this lobbying was that Baldwin might have nominated (and possibly will nominate) Sir Samuel Hoare. Ever since the Hoare-Laval plan, that statesman has been a stormy petrel of English political life. By one group he is put forward to occupy highest office. By another group he is regarded as a standing menace. Indications point to the conclusion that Sir Samuel Hoare represents interests which are more or less national in their political and economic views, while the groups who sincerely believe first of all in the international approach to political and economic problems are exerting all their influence to oppose him.

Mr. Baldwin's position is not entirely a happy one. There are too many brilliant or influential men of conservative leanings who remain outside his Cabinet, and there are too many men of less exalted gifts who remain inside it. And it is now becoming apparent that the able successor to Sir Samuel Hoare at the Foreign Office will have equal difficulty in steering between the Scyllia and Charybdis of the League of Nations policy. A few months ago Mr. Eden was the outstanding and most uncompromising exponent of a forward policy at Geneva. His speech last week in the House of Commons was, for him, expressive of great caution; and now the cavalry charges of last autumn can hardly be repeated. Developments in the Far East, the resumption by an encouraged Italy of a position of influence along the Danube, and the rising price of wheat are all combining to curtail initiative.

An observer in England can, however, see some striking results of the League of Nations policy so far undertaken. One is the almost universal Leftward trend of the Press. Formerly the English social scene hardly permitted of a distinction between Left and Right in the continental manner. Today the alignment is still indistinct, but nevertheless real, for while the official Opposition differs from the National Government only in demanding a more vigorous prosecution of Left policies, there is also a distinguished but smaller group in the House of Lords, the House of Commons, the services and up and down the country, which dislikes the association with Russia, the effects of League policy upon many European countries, the policy of sanctions, and the general preparations for war without painstaking investigation into the possibilities of peace.

Among the economists and the *intelligentsia* generally there is certainly an increased enthusiasm for Russia. And economists will be heard to remark that there are only two systems of economics, the orthodox and the Marxian, and that the Marxian is

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right; it has not occurred to him that orthodox and Marxian economies are very similar and that they are both wrong. As little attention as possible is paid to President Roosevelt's more radical revolution, although the man in the street instinctively sympathizes with it. In the same way many of the intellectuals are convinced that Russia, above all countries in the world, is a land of peace, of collective security against an aggressor, of wide-spread plenty and social comradeship. England will probably never go so far to the Left as Spain, but there are many cultural influences and there is much propaganda all tending to move her in that direction.

## THE WARSAW WEEKLY

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FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 1936

## Art, Music, Literature

### Pan Twardowski

The sensational advertisements, preceding the première of the new Polish picture, *Pan Twardowski*, announced that it would be our first film, reproducing with a great outlay of expense, care and artistry the legends and history of medieval Poland.

As *Pan Twardowski* is one of the most beautiful and popular of Polish legends, offering much poetry, fantasy and interesting action for a scenario, against the picturesque background of XVI century Kraków, our hopes were high.

Unfortunately, a sad disappointment met us. The realization of *Pan Twardowski* is very far from our expectations. The first and most serious fault is the lack of good directing. The director, Mr. Szaro, was on the one hand barren of any fresh ideas and on the other singularly oblivious to the necessity of a snappy tempo on the screen. The whole romantic, legendary theme, especially in the group-scenes was treated with blissful naïvete; for the magic conjures of Twardowski, his flight on a rooster, none too skillfully stuffed and his "stationary transportation" to the moon were not only crude, but downright flops! The scenery was too obviously a pasteboard backdrop and the buildings of the *Rynek Krakowski* seemed to have only the depth of the linen they were painted on. It is a great pity, for, although we see that there were good intentions, we must nevertheless admit that *Pan Twardo-*

*wski* reminded us not so much ancient Poland, as of the first Polish films.

There is only one great merit in *Pan Twardowski*: the leading rôle of *Neta (Pani Twardowska)* is the screen debut of Miss Elżbieta Barszczewska, the youngest great talent of the

experienced players, gave very interesting and creditable performances. The title rôle of Twardowski in the interpretation of Brodniewicz had many effective and well-turned moments, but as a whole was rather banal in its artistic conception.

Jerzy Macierakowski



[ELŻBIETA BARSZCZEWSKA]  
as Pani Twardowska

Warsaw stage. Her fascinating beauty and feminine charm united with great dramatic talent and discretet but expressive interpretation mark her as the most promising star of the Polish screen. We may therefore expect from her many another brilliant film creation.

The remaining cast of *Pan Twardowski* included a great number of the best artists of our stage and screen. Without good directing, however, there was no uniform style in their playing. So some of them gave rather operatic creations, as for example Junosza-



Scene from "Pan Twardowski." Tadeusz Wesotowski and Elżbieta Barszczewska.

Stępowski as the Devil or Węgrzyn, as *King Zygmunt August*; others gave no artistic expression at all to their rôles — Bogda and Lindorfówna. But Malicka, Cwiklińska, Halska, Kurnakowicz, Jaracz, Wesotowski, Sielański and Dominiak, all excellent artists and

## ADA SARI AT HE OPERA

Ada Sari is without doubt the best colouratura soprano in Poland, so her appearances on the stage of the Warsaw Opera are always enthusiastically welcomed. The musical timbre of her voice, her superb control, and her innate artistic culture forever excite us to new superlatives. Having long ago reached the perfection attainable for any colouratura, it would seem that Ada Sari could have nothing new to offer us, that she must needs have exhausted her store of artistry. Meanwhile she goes on singing without in the least betraying any tendency to settle into any definite manner of singing or acting, and gives us a fresh original performance at each appearance. Since it is impossible to improve on her already perfect technique, Ada Sari continually enriches her singing with fresh emotional effects, deeper interpretation, and vitally sincere acting.

Her last appearance as Violetta in Verdi's *La Traviata* is another splendid success. The difficult aria in the first act, she performed with incomparable dash, and in final scene of the opera, she was perhaps more moving than ever before in her career, so beautiful and subtle was her interpretation.

Ada Sari's partners, besides the pleasing lyric soprano, Miss Tokarzewska, as Flora, were Płoński as Germont, and Raczkowski as Alfred, both having rather promising voices, but neither as yet completely prepared for operatic singing. This makes itself evident not so much in the tonal clarity of their voices as in the utter lack of any interpretative expression.

The whole company, as usual insufficiently prepared especially as regards the acting, was directed by Conductor Bolesław Tyllia. Arno

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# PRESS REVIEW

The visit of Minister Beck to Brussels awakens lively interest not only in the Polish press but also abroad.

*Gazeta Polska* writes that the welcome of Minister Beck in Brussels was of an unusually cordial and festive character. It became the occasion for a warm manifestation of Polish-Belgian friendship. The press (Belgian) unanimously emphasizes the realistic character of Minister Beck's policy, pointing out, at the same time, the fundamental fact that this policy is preeminently peaceful and constructive.

The Belgian *La Metropole*, in discussing Polish international policy, stresses that the present foreign minister continues the political line followed by Marshal Piłsudski.

The tendency of Polish policy is markedly peaceful, and Poland may be considered with the greatest confidence as a factor for peace as is proved by her entire diplomatic activity, her treaties, diplomatic initiative, and so on. Poland's voice is distinctly audible in the European concert. In tempestuous and restless Europe, therefore, the existence of Poland—a block of 33 million people—constitutes an element of peace.

In conclusion, the writer says that the "Polish policy of balance has inclined her to sign the agreement with Germany."

*Paris Midi*, writing of Polish-Belgian economic relations and the participation of Belgian capital in Polish life, says that the national economies of both states mutually complete each other. Poland exports raw material and agricultural products to Belgium, and imports industrial and manufacturing products.

Minister Beck is not unknown in Belgium. He may be certain that he will find a friendly reception. It is foreseen that the conversations that are taking place in Brussels will be fruitful both in the field of economy and in that of politics.

*Kurjer Polski* publishes an interview with the new Czecho-Slovak envoy to Poland, Dr. Slavik, in the course of which a new era in Polish-Czecho-Slovak relations is prognosticated. The envoy expresses his conviction that

both countries have many common aims which are far more important than momentary difficulties which have arisen in mutual relations. In the nearest future, I wish to devote my chief efforts to extending our cultural relations which consider to be one of the principal ways of bringing our nations together.

Dr. Slavik also pointed out the advantages of cooperation in the field of transport trade via Gdynia, and suggests that Poland should profit more than heretofore by transport communication with the Danubian ports.

I consider that with good will, such as we see in mutual trade relations, we shall be able to find many points where both interests meet and render cooperation possible.

*Goniec Warszawski*, writing of the Economic Conference just held in Warsaw, says:

The theses expressed opposition to the reductions of cartel prices, and were in favour of lowering the costs of production. They were against compulsory cartels, and oppose help being given state enterprises. We asked one of our noted economists what he thought of the results of the conference. "I have heard many postulates," he said, "but I see no attempt to create any politico-economic synthesis."

*Front Robotniczy* discusses changes which are taking place in political life in Poland. There are signs of a new political move, the centre of which is said to be Vincent Witos, who, according to the *Front*, is preparing to play the role of a Polish Führer. "His party, defending the interests of the wealthier peasant class, is in continual receipt of instructions and orders from its leader." A quotation from the party organ, *Piast*, runs as follows:

The great days are approaching when the forces of the working people, the peasant and the working man, allied with factors standing unequivocally on the ground of sensible democracy and the national idea will reach out for authority in the state."

The *Front* foresees an alliance of this party with National Democrats and Conservatives of the former B.B., and concludes with the reflection that the

capitalistic necessity of the day is an alliance of monopolistic capital with the rich peasantry. Such an alliance is dictated by economic-social symptoms in a time when the former capitalistic basis is crumbling away in the name of the people. Such an alliance is Fascism.

*Kurjer Poranny* has an article on giving real help to the student youth. The authorities have reduced the fees for those who are needy, but it has been impossible in the interest of the whole to give reductions to all, although they are very willing to make the greatest possible allowances in individual cases for those most in want of help.

This decision of the Government in favour of the poorest has not met with good will on the part of the better situated youth, who are under the influence of party fanatics, carrying on opposition for the sake of opposition. The students have even declared war against the Society for helping the student youth, (T.P.M.A.) to which many professors and rectors belong. This is caused by agitation which knows no choice of means and is pushing the youth onto a path which is anti-social and against the interests of the youth themselves. Not only the University authorities, but the students themselves ought to oppose these party factors, and the student "politicians" who are in their service. The community does not grudge sacrifices for the youth who wishes to learn, and willingly comes to his help, but it has the right to demand that these sacrifices be used to the best advantage.

The Press is unanimous in admitting that prices have been lowered, but, according to a pro- or anti-Government point of view, stress the advan-

## SYMPHONY CONCERT AT THE PHILHARMONIA

The symphony concert of February 28 introduced two musicians well known to the musical world in general, but new to Warsaw. They were the Vienna conductor of the Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde and of the Vienna Radio, Oswald Kabasta, and Walter Gieseeking, the famous German pianist.

The conductor captivated the audience at once by his evident command over the orchestra, and the individuality of his interpretation. The Brahms 3rd Symphony lost somewhat its effect by the involuntary compaction with the performance of the same work by the Berlin orchestra under Furtwängler. We know that "comparisons are odious," but in this case it was inevitable. The misfortune of the Philharmonic Orchestra is that it has no uniform direction, but changes its conductor from week to week. Considering this, one can but marvel that it plays as well as it does, and can only regret that it has not the advantage of being regularly under the direction of such an able master as Oswald Kabasta. The performance of Strauss' Till Eulenspiegel was very good, and the humour of the piece extremely well brought out. The accompaniment to the Beethoven E flat major concerto was also entirely satisfactory.

Walter Gieseeking is a pianist of high order. His tone is full and rich, his technique flawless, and his mastery complete. His performance of the Beethoven concerto was powerful, dignified, and where occasion demanded, temperamental.

In obedience to the stormy demands of the audience, the pianist gave some solo pieces of Debussy and Ravel which were masterpieces of subtle and refined interpretation. It would be difficult to imagine a more delicate and plastic rendering of these tone poems.

K. M.

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tages or disadvantages that have ensued. There is general agreement, moreover, that the public has not yet benefited. The pro-Government *Gazeta Lwowska* writes that the evil lies

in every case in the want of ethics in our economic life. The excessive profits which our industry drew have created injurious ambitions, not to be satisfied with honest profit. Hence, independently of the purchasing power of the community, independently of economic reason, not all are willing to agree to lower profits.

## Art, Music, Literature

### Manru

The single operatic work of Ignacy Paderewski, *Manru*, has all the qualifications to remain in the regular repertory of our opera, for its uncommon musical values bear witness to the interesting talent and great culture of its creator.

On a theme, taken from the life of gypsies and Polish mountaineers Paderewski has given us music very interesting and profound, as well in its content, as in its brilliant, truly symphonic instrumentation. The dramatic experiences of *Manru's* heroes are in perfect harmony with the noble music, especially beautiful in the second and third acts. Three elements contribute especially to the value of Paderewski's music: the Polish mountaineer themes; the gypsy atmosphere given so perfectly and with such temperament in the choruses, the aria of *Aza* and the splendid stirring march of the third act, and finally the tragic love story of *Manru* and *Ułana*, his wife. This last motif above all marks the talent of Paderewski; — *Manru's* love song is a moment of rare musical beauty almost unequalled in Polish operatic literature. It has emotional power that has remained undiminished all these 35 years since the première of *Manru* in 1901 in Dresden.

Modern music has made great progress not only in musical ideas, but also in form and effective instrumentation, but Paderewski in composing *Manru* was ahead of his time and produced a work that is still fresh, beautiful and interesting, even though it betrays certain influences of Wagner.

The revival of *Manru* on the stage of the *Teatr Wielki* was an evening not only of artistic emotions for an opera lover, but also another proof of the sincere love and admiration, which all Poles have in their hearts for one of their greatest countrymen, Ignacy Paderewski.

The performance of *Manru* in the *Teatr Wielki* was one of the best, that we have seen of late on our opera stage.

Mr. Adam Dołżycki attained excellent results with the orchestra, for thanks to his talent, artistic temperament and understanding of Paderewski's ideas, he was able to draw out with no little subtlety all the values and beauty of the music.

The directing of Zygmunt Zaleski was also effective, especially in the group scenes and in rendering the dream of *Manru*.

Of the cast, the women's voices gave much more pleasure than those of the men. Miss Franciszka Platówna, as *Ułana*, stirred the audience with the noble beauty of her soprano, and

Miss Wanda Werwińska, as the gypsy *Aza*, gave all the dramatic expression and temperament to her singing so necessary in this rôle. But Mr. Stanisław Drabik, as *Manru*, and Stanisław Znicz, as *Urok*, were disappointing.

The sets of Józef Wodyński, enthusiastically applauded by the whole public were undoubted proof that the work of this talented artist was very fruitful for our opera, and it is a great pity that he is no longer connected with the *Teatr Wielki* of Warsaw.

The revival of *Manru* should remind us that it is a Polish opera which has been presented on many foreign stages, always with great success. Dresden, New-York, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, Baltimore, Pittsburg, Vienna and all great Polish towns have seen and enthusiastically applauded it.

Arno

### The Flower of Hawaii

In as much as part of the Warsaw press has been accused of too bitter an attitude toward the Opera, I decided this time to forget the mission of the Opera as an artistic centre and imagine myself at a performance of Abraham's *The Flower of Hawaii* as at one of the ordinary run of popular theatres, which, not enjoying any special privileges, should not therefore be subjected to any superlative artistic demands.

From this point of view, what are the values of *The Flower of Hawaii* in its Warsaw presentation? The operetta itself is of course unbelievably naive in its theme, and slow in developing its frankly impossible situations. Abraham gave his work a very primitive instrumentation, — a far cry from the exquisite grace of the operettas of Strauss, — and an eastern motif so banal as to give the lie to any suspicion even that he had attempted to reflect the real thing; but the music in spots is pleasant enough in a tinsel-like way.

The execution? Its main fault was the lack of any originality in directing and the absence of any aesthetic feeling in the costumes and scenery. Mr. Zdzitowiecki is evidently pre-war in his conception of the way to put on an operetta, — lifeless group scenes and no snap to the dialogues; and Mrs. Jewniewiczowa's decorations, especially the lamp-lit parrots in the second act, would have been first-class, possibly in a provincial theatre, but hopeless in Warsaw. The costumes, too, were unpleasant in form, as well as in colours.

Mr. Pianowski directed the ballet very successfully, especially the American Grand march, which may be counted as some of his best work. The solo dances, both exotic and classic, by Miss Loda Halama, in the rôle of Hawian girl, brimmed over

## FASHION NOTES

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Blouses have become exciting essentials; you may have them in brilliant printed taffeta, finely pleated crêpe de Chine, piqué and cambric (for morning suits), net, cotton or silk paisley and tartan effects and, for evening, organdie, lace or plain satin.

\* \* \*

Simple tailored styles in soft shades of grey have been chosen for spring wear in the Royal nurseries and schoolrooms. Both Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret have little coats of grey flannel, and Lady Mary Cambridge, who is some years older, has a grey double-breasted coat on military lines, with three frogs braided across the front. Lady Mary is launching a new beret. It is also in grey and is fastened down on one side with a band so that it cannot be pulled out of shape.

Mauve and white linens will be worn this summer by the little Princesses, whose lead will be followed by many mothers.

with temperament and rhythmic expression; it was a real pleasure to watch her

The cast except for Miss Halama's excellent work, was so-so. Miss Nina Grudzińska seems to lack verve on the stage, and the heroine did little more than look beautiful and speak her prose lines badly. Her singing did not come up to the requirements of her rôle any more than did that of her partner, Mr. Adam Raczkowski, in his. In this respect only Lucyna Szczepańska and Feliks Szczepański stood out as pleasing exceptions.

As for the Polish translation, little good can be said of it. We could have excused the grammar if there had been any humour to justify it, but when neither the one nor the other was present, and the jokes frequently descended into bad taste, the total impression was very average indeed.

And now when we remember that *The Flower of Hawaii* was presented in the Opera, we cannot even with the greatest good will find anyone to congratulate for the choice of the piece or for its execution.

On second thought we might single out the really excellent Loda Halama, — but not for her dancing which we all know to be good. Surely Miss Halama a few years back never even dreamed that she would sing one of the leads on the stage of the Warsaw opera, and *nota bene* often in a better and stronger voice than those of her partners from the opera company.

# IN BRIEF

It is understood that the city authorities are endeavouring to reduce the taxi fare for one kilometre from one zloty to sixty groszy. The cab owners, naturally, are opposed to this measure.

All Polish societies in Germany have decided to merge their identity under the name "The United Poles of Germany."

The apartment of the Danzig correspondent of the *Gazeta Polska* was searched by the Free City police, he himself was temporarily detained for questioning, and only released after intervention by the Polish authorities. It is understood that this measure was adopted because of certain dispatches sent from the Free City by the correspondent.

A bill is to be introduced in the Sejm providing that no Polish citizen may receive a foreign decoration without the consent of the President of the Republic.

Unseasonably warm weather caused the ice to break up on the Vistula, and in several places ice jams formed. Near Kielce, the ice jam caused the water to break through the levees in several spots, and aeroplanes had to bomb the jam to break it up.

In connection with a mass excursion to Warsaw in April, all those having vacant rooms to let are asked to register them with the Tourist Bureau.

A postoffice will be opened on the cable railway from Zakopane to Kasprowy Wierch.

Every Sunday and on holidays the Polish Airways have organized short flights over Warsaw. The tickets, which may be purchased from Orbis, entitle the holder to an inspection of the civilian airport, and the flight over Warsaw.

In 1934, through the National Tourist Bureau, railway tickets for the sum of Zł. 26, 150, 324 were sold, and in 1935, the corresponding figures were Zł. 33, 311, 668.

## PARIS

A subject for animated discussion is the proposed new Eiffel Tower, which figures prominently among the plans submitted for the 1937 Exhibition.

M. Faure Dujarric, a Government architect, and M. Lossier, an engineer, have worked out the project for this 1-1/4 miles high tower, a mighty cone of concrete, rising — it is proposed — from the flying ground of Issy on the west of Paris. There would be circular platforms to the concrete tower one-third and two-thirds of the way up and another at the top, each covered by a corrugated, conical roof, so that three enormous mushrooms placed one on top of the other would describe the appearance of the new structure. Plans provide for motor roads within the tower, for winter sports centres and sanatoria on the platforms and observation stations at the top.

It is claimed by M. Lossier that since the tower would attract tourists by the hundred thousand it would be a commercial proposition. Five million cubic metres of gravel, however, would be required for its building, as well as 1,200,000 tons of cement, 600,000 tons of steel, 4,000,000 tons of wood and an army of something like fifty thousand workmen.

## ROME

After two centuries of silence the great organ in the Church of St. John Lateran has played again, just in time to add its music to the celebrations of the fourteenth anniversary of Pius XI's coronation. Workmen have been busy restoring and cleaning it, mending the great bellows and clearing the pipes, for two years. The Lateran is the Pope's own church and he alone may officiate at its High Altar. Nevertheless, Pius XI. was the first Pope since 1870 to leave the confines of the Vatican.

### POLISH and FOREIGN ART

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## VIENNA

The new smarter Vienna cannot find room to leave standing any longer the great seventeenth century "Freihaus" in the heart of the city, where Mozart had his modest apartment and composed most of his "Magic Flute." The nearby café where the composer used to recreate himself was demolished with that part of the Freihaus some years ago and indeed the death sentence of the ancient building was passed forty years back, the rebuilding plans having been abandoned when the war came. The courtyards of the Freihaus have long been used as garages. The extension of the new street, the Opern-gasse, will also entail the disappearance of the old "Bacrenmühle" (Boar's Mill), originally a famous mill and later converted to an inn in the sixteenth century.

## GENEVA

If the Swiss Federal Railways finally decide to make the new speedway under the Simplon Pass by utilising one of the two tunnels at present crossing the Pass, the speedway will cost only 3,000,000 Swiss francs instead of 100,000,000 for a new tunnel under Mont Blanc. Passing Lausanne, the speedway would open up direct road communication between Paris, Rome and Berlin.

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Zakopane, dnia 23. III. 1936. 15. 57.

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*Eug. Zaczynski*



A scene from "Curly Top," featuring Shirley Temple. John Boles & Rochelle Hudson, will open Saturday in the Cinema Rialto. 20th Century Fox

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**HORIZONTAL**

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17—Cut short, 19—To shock,  
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27—Persian poet, 31—A beve-  
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63—Some.

**VERTICAL**

- 1—Wing-like part, 2—Thor-  
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- assist, 5—Subtracting, 6—Be-  
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Respect, 11—To marry, 16—Cus-  
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