

# THE

## 30 gr.

# WARSAW WEEKLY

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## LONDON LETTER

By Gregory MacDonald

The eyes of the world are fixed on London. The correspondents of the world's press are congregated in the West End, sending back to their countries the speeches and gossip of a League meeting. Perhaps visiting journalists find it less easy to gauge the feelings of the English people about the present crisis than to gauge the probable policies of a visiting statesman.

In private conversations, there are as many opinions as men. Some, influenced by alarmist reports, troop movements along the Rhine, look for an immediate war, though the greater part of more informed opinion would put the war off for a year or two. On this immediate issue, the almost unanimous decision is that there is nothing whatever for England to fight about. Germany has only invaded Germany and the ordinary Englishman sees no reason in the world to assist France in that quarrel. Moreover, Herr Hitler's actual arguments strike the note of commonsense, and in any case the Germans are more like the English than the French are; while France is always disturbing the peace with her perpetual demands for security. Such opinions as these are quite general, although neither wise nor logical in the light of history they do express the political effects of Herr Hitler's very clever tactics. For if he is bluffing, if he secretly desires war, then he has split his opposition to pieces.

Now most people believe that Herr Hitler means what he says: he insists upon equality, but he does want peace. Certainly the recent League policies, and the Franco-Soviet Pact reinforce his moral position, for the introduction of Soviet Russia into Europe, the attack on Italy, and the supersession of M. Laval by M. Sarraut were all deeply disturbing events. So the large number who take Herr Hitler at his word find in the present crisis the first real opportunity for peace since the

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## ROADS, AUTOMOBILES, GASOLINE

These three magic words have been foremost in the minds of practically every civilized country in the world during the past few years. The most striking progress in the motorization of their transport and communications has been achieved by Germany and Soviet Russia.

It is most unfortunate that Poland has found herself at the very bottom in so far as this problem is concerned. Ignoring the financial difficulties occasioned by the crisis, and the slow rate in the increase of internal capital, a lack of understanding of the importance of this problem has been

would assure the adequate amount for maintenance, depreciation and improvement. This, of course, is a potential danger, if not worse. It is estimated by competent authority that at least 40 millions per annum is required for upkeep. This repair, moreover, should have been done systematically and without pause. In this connection it is pointed out that the construction and upkeep of roads should be considered as the foremost means of fighting unemployment. Despite the financial stringency and curtailment in the State budget, there is still an unlimited reservoir of labour that could be utilized for this purpose. This is to say, the country population, conscious of the importance of good roads, is willing to offer not only labour but also equipment, such as horses and carts. Under these circumstances, the money needed for this purpose could well be limited to the amounts expended for materials and technical staff.

There should be, moreover, a comprehensive road building programme extended over a period of years. Private initiative in this direction should be encouraged. To this end, road construction companies should be assured of contracts parallel to this programme, granting a fair income. At the present time such companies are only temporarily engaged, their machinery and equipment are lying idle for long periods, while, at the same time, the bonds with which they are paid by State agencies, maturing in 3-5 years, have to be discounted by them at a heavy loss.

As to automobiles, the picture is completely disheartening. There are, at present, barely 25,782 automobiles in Poland. It is authoritatively estimated that 80 per cent. of existing automobiles is in a most depreciated condition, and they should have been replaced long ago. Thus it would be necessary during 1936 to replace at least 10,000 old cars. The purchase of such

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### Marshal's Nameday Passed Quietly

Yesterday, the first nameday of the Marshal since his death, was remembered with appropriate religious exercises and memorial gatherings throughout the country. In response to the request of the Central Committee, the entire population, with respect and sincerity, listened to the remarks of the President of the Republic, broadcast on Wednesday, March 18, and repeated twice on yesterday, immediately following the service in Wilno, and again in the late evening.

mainly responsible for the present state of affairs. It has but recently become understood, through the constant hammering of the press, that, from the economic, cultural and military point of view, better roads and the motorization of the country are the most important problems to be solved. It is not only the question of new construction, but also of maintenance.

At the recent Economic Conference, the above problems were discussed at some length by the foremost authorities. Thus, for example, while roads already built represent an investment of zł. 700,000,000, there is not in the budget any provision that



## IN BRIEF

The Senate passed the budget for the fiscal year 1936-37, and it now proceeds to the Sejm for final passage. No important changes were made in the original Government project.

\* \* \*

Over two hundred Polish railway workers, employed in Czechoslovakia, have been transferred from the border provinces into the interior.

\* \* \*

Foreign Minister Józef Beck was received in audience by King Edward VIII on Wednesday.

\* \* \*

The textile strike, which had affected over one hundred thousand workers in Łódź, was liquidated on Monday.

\* \* \*

The Executive Committee of the Peasant's Party, at a meeting on last Sunday, refused the cooperation of the Communist Party, accepting, however, the principle of cooperation with the workers' parties.

\* \* \*

Wednesday, March 18, was the mameday of General Rydz-Śmigły.

\* \* \*

It is understood that Cuba has applied the highest tariff rates to Polish goods. This makes the export of Polish goods to that country virtually impossible. It is further understood that an unfavourable trade balance between the two countries caused the measure.

\* \* \*

With the introduction in the Sejm of a Government project regulating the capital city of Warsaw, the prospects of a "Greater Warsaw" seem feasible. The territory controlled by the City Council is to be considerably enlarged, thus enabling more coordination in extending the city limits than heretofore possible.

\* \* \*

A "History of the Polish People in Rochester" has just been completed by Norman T. Lyon. Of interest is the fact that, in 1849, there were sixteen Polish families in that city.

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### POLISH - AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS MEET

The annual meeting of the Polish-American Society was held on March 16 under the chairmanship of Mrs. Helena Bisping. The report for the last year was given, and the elections for board membership were as follows: Mrs. Helena Bisping, Władysław Michalski, Mrs. E. Ballenberg, Wiktor Podoski, Stanisław Zwierzchowski, Aleksander Woytkiewicz, Michał Kwapiszewski.

\* \* \*

Under the chairmanship of Minister August Zaleski, the annual meeting of the Polish-American Chamber of Commerce was held on March 16.

The report of the Chairman showed that commercial relations between the two countries were measurably improved during 1935. Polish exports to the United States increased 52.4 per cent., and imports from the United States increased 2.3 per cent. The increase in Polish exports is explained by the rise in agricultural prices in the United States, due to the restriction policy followed by the Roosevelt Government. In addition to strictly commercial affairs, the Chamber undertook tourist publicity, periodical banquets for members, etc.

Elections to the board gave the following results: S. Arct, A. Falter, F. Januszewski, A. Lewandowski, M. Węgrzynek, and A. Zaleski.

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# GRAND LAMA PLANS TO MODERNIZE TIBET

By Gordon B. Enders

The plans of the Grand Lama for the westernization of Tibet, to start with the introduction of aviation, are revealed here by the foreign adviser to the Potentate of that mysterious kingdom in the mountains of Asia. Mr. Enders, born in Iowa, has lived most of his life on the frontiers of Tibet, having gone to India when he was a child. His interest in Tibet ultimately led to his being appointed to the unique post which he now occupies, membership in the Grand Lama's Cabinet. He also is the only foreign member of the Upper House of the Tibetan National Assembly, one of the oldest Parliaments in the world. He is now on a brief visit to America, having gone there for the publication of his new book on Tibet, "Nowhere else in the World."

Brief news dispatches from Northern Tibet bring information that his serenity, the Grand Lama of Tibet, supreme ruler of that mysterious hermit kingdom, has just started to his native land, after twelve years of voluntary exile in China. Throughout Asia this is the most important news event that has occurred in a decade. His return to the Throne is an earthquake to those who shape the international policies of Japan, China, Russia and India. For his mountain kingdom, located in the centre of Asia, may control the balance of power among these Empires.

The Grand Lama is generally known to the outside world by one of two titles. On the China side, he is generally called the "Panchan Lama", the first word being an honorific title meaning "Glorious Teacher." On the side of India, — and therefore to the British and English-speaking world he is generally called the "Tashi Lama," the first word being derived from his traditional seat or vatican in the priest-city of Tashilhunpo, west of the capital at Lhasa. However, his real name is "Ch'osgyi Nyima," with which he was christened 34 years ago when, as a new-born babe, he was chosen by the Lama miracle-men as the reincarnation of god in human form.

A few days ago he re-entered Tibet, from China, at the head of a great cavalcade of priests and pilgrims, and made his way to the huge monastery of Kumbum, near the Chinese border of Tibet. Here 12,000 resident monks received him with pomp and ceremony, and began the liturgies which led this week to the public receptions for which 500,000 devout Lamaists have gathered from all parts of Tibet, Mongolia and Western China.

The picture of 500,000 pilgrims, gathered around the hillside monastery of Kumbum, is probably unequalled in modern times. The monastery itself, although the largest and wealthiest in Northern Tibet, has accommodation for fewer than 30,000 pilgrims. The village which nestles beneath it is a huddle of one-room huts, with practically no facilities for such an emergency. Therefore almost all the pilgrim visitors are bivouacked on the steep and rocky hillsides, for a radius of five miles. The narrow trails into Kumbum have been choked with men and animals for a fortnight. The weather is bitter cold at this 8,000-

feet elevation, and the pilgrims must bring their own food, for there is little to be obtained in the vicinity. But no hardship is too great to a Lamaist who comes seeking the supreme benediction of the Grand Lama, regarded by followers as the authentic reincarnation of Lord-Buddha, god in human form.

For the last two years, the Grand Lama has been preparing for his return to Tibet. As his foreign adviser, I participated in all the negotiations which led to the great event. I left His Serenity a few months ago in Shanghai, and my last conversation with him concerned certain final arrangements which had just been concluded.

"I shall be very happy to see my native land again," he said to me in parting. "Not merely my northern capital at Koko-nor, but also the golden domes of Lhasa. The Sacred Potala (Government Palace in Lhasa) has been too long without a leader. It is befitting that I should guide their feet in paths of peace."

The part which Tibet will play in the international maelstrom of Asia will begin to be an important one as soon as the Grand Lama reaches his capital. He is the first in the history of Tibet to possess a first-hand knowledge of the outside world. He has actually heard the guns of the Japanese in Manchuria; he has lived in India and China; he knows intimately the power of the Russians in his territories of Mongolia and Turkestan.

The Grand Lama's "Northern capital" at Koko-nor is located in the same district as the Kumbum Monastery. It is a brand-new city built on the shores of the azure lake of Koko-nor. It includes an adequate Yamen or Government House, a modern radio station, barracks and homes and an aviation field. The aviation field, which has not yet been used, was built at my suggestion, in accordance with the Grand Lama's plan for the future development of his country. Aviation, he believes, is one of the earliest and most important steps in the gradual opening up of the kingdom.

From the viewpoint of the outside world, the most spectacular feature of this air service will be that its freight will consist mainly of gold. Tibet is one of the great gold-producing countries of the world. Its

## ROADS

(Continued from page 1, col. 3)

an amount in a single year in Poland is, of course, under present conditions, a happy dream. One, however, does not need to stretch his imagination to understand the seriousness of the situation.

Apart from the above, it is taxation, duties, administration fees, formalities, and exorbitant gasoline prices that are killing not only further purchase but even the operation of automobiles. In this connection to analyze the elements that go to make up the selling price of one litre of gasoline in Warsaw is a revelation. The retail price is 68 groszy. The following taxes are included in this figure: road tax, 8.76%, municipal tax, 2.92, gr., license fee, 3.40 gr., or a total of 28.30 gr., or 41 per cent. of the selling price. If we add 7.10 gr. for railway transport, or 10.5 per cent, this will make 52.5 per cent. The absurdity of the above is glaring.

As a result of the discussions at the Economic Conference, the following resolutions were adopted. There should be thought out a technical and financial programme that would cover three years; zł. 40,000,000 yearly should be appropriated annually for road upkeep; an additional fifteen million zlotys should be allotted for the cost of road construction undertaken voluntarily by the country population; there should be a decree regulating the contribution of labour to the State Road Fund. The duties of automobiles should be drastically lowered, or rebated, and the existing compensation agreements with foreign countries correspondingly exploited. The purchase price of a new car should be deducted from the income tax return. The existing Polish automobile factory should confine its production to the needs of the army, and to a single model for the private market, as at present. Police and administration formalities should be drastically lowered, some eliminated, so that operating expenses may be brought into line with world conditions.

Mane Tekel Fares has been written on the walls of Polish motorization for quite sometime. Let us hope that our awakening comes before it — is too late.

production has heretofore been an important one, and every one of the 3,000 monasteries in the country has a treasury — more or less important — of gold dust. It is this wealth which the Panchan Lama proposes to use for the westernization of his people.

The first step in the proposed aviation service will be a single gold-carrying plane between Koko-nor and Shanghai. It will carry approximately \$500,000 worth of gold dust on every trip.



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FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1936

## Art, Music, Literature



TESSA

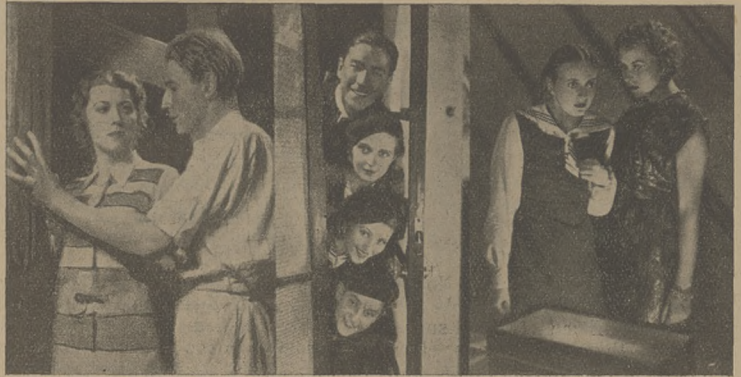
Second act. Lina, Tony and Tessa (Stepniowna  
Andryczówna, Elżbieta Barszczewska)

## TESSA

### The Constant Nymph

That splendid best-seller, the *Constant Nymph* by Margaret Kennedy has proved in its stage version by the author and Basil Dean, as great a success as the book. Translated into French and adapted for the French stage by the well known novelist and playwright, Jean Giraudoux it has come to Warsaw in a Polish re-translation of the French to become one of the deepest, most touching, and most beautiful experiences that our theatres have offered us this season.

In its dramatic form, the *Constant Nymph* has all the virtues of a great play, a perfect plot construction, logically developed action, scenes fairly breathing with "good theatre"; but it has something else besides, - an in-



TESSA. 1. Nakoniczna (Flora) and Ziembiński (Dodd)  
2. Roberto (Pichelski), Tessa (Barszczewska), Lina (Stepniowna) and Sebastian  
3. Barszczewska (Tessa) and Nakoniczna (Flora).

definable "something" that gives the spectator an evening of alternate emotion, joy, sadness, bewilderment, making him forget everything but the action unfolding before him on the stage.

This atmosphere is induced above all by the vividly drawn "Bohemian" bringing up of the children of the great composer, Sanger. We see them in the first part of the play living in a secluded villa in Switzerland, growing up without any planned guidance under the eye of their mortally ill father, exhausted by the intensity of his experiences and creative efforts. A peculiar morality reigns in this home, different from that of the outside world which calls this strange household, "Sanger's Circus." The children, however, are far from being young barbarians; their wonderful instinct for music, their inheritance in a great way of their father's artistic sense, make of them young creatures of extraordinary spiritual beauty and cleanliness. How could they be otherwise? In daily contact with that cleanest, most beautiful, and most noble of the arts, music, they rise far above the stuffy conventions of a reactionary bourgeoisie.

On such a background and subsequently on that of the London proletariat class, Margaret Kennedy drew one of the most interesting and beautiful feminine characters in modern literature, Teresa Sanger, Tessa. Tessa does not differ essentially from her brothers and sisters except in that she may be perhaps somewhat more uncommon, more clean-hearted. She falls in love with Sanger's most promising pupil, Lewis Dodd, who, incidentally, fits perfectly into Sanger's "circus"; and from him and from her ideal love for him, she gets her most painful blows. It is he who betrays his love for her by marrying the wealthy Flora Churchill for her money. Life in his "silver sty" gives him no peace. He returns to Tessa and lives with her out of wedlock which eventually drives her to despair and death.

Her life is clouded with sadness for lack of understanding from him whom she loved blindly and with all the depth of her great pure heart, and from whom she had the right to demand understanding. The spirit of Sanger, which pervades the whole play, although not once does he appear on the stage, evidently did not penetrate deeply enough into Dodd.

The reflection comes to our minds that perhaps the greatest and most noble souls are always tortured with suffering and unhappiness to balance their equally intense spiritual experiences and joys. Many more such thoughts arise as we listen to the *Constant Nymph*. For this play may be compared to great music. One may listen to it again and again with ever increasing pleasure and satisfaction, finding new values in it each time.



TESSA

First act. Tessa and Lewis Dodd. (Elżbieta Barszczewska and Zbigniew Ziembiński)

The *Constant Nymph*, as presented by the *Teatr Nowy*, may be counted as unquestionably the greatest performance of the current theatrical season. Mr. Alexander Wegierko has directed it with insight and talent, bringing out all the nuances, all the play's richness and colour, all its poetry and feeling with artistic culture and freshness. It would be difficult to imagine a more ideal artist for the role of Tessa than Miss Elżbieta Barszczewska. This young actress

(Continued on page 6, col. 1)



# PRESS REVIEW

*Kurjer Polski*, writing on the situation caused by Hitler's act, says that the powers had not reckoned with the sudden movement although the actual fact was not unexpected. The key of the situation lies with England, — England's policy has been one of not irritating Germany, and Baldwin's declaration that the Rhine is the frontier of England was rather a rhetorical phrase.

In England of late an inferiority complex and want of belief in her own strength has arisen. England has serious difficulties in Asia, and has recently feared complications in Africa. In this situation, she does not want to risk any bold steps, and is forcing France to a policy of yielding and compromise.

Germany, naturally, is taking advantage of the situation.

Already in France there is talk of withdrawing from the League of Nations. This must be understood as a sort of threat to England. Translated into non-diplomatic language, this means that either the League will rise in defence of right or that France will withdraw from it. If France, who till now has always defended a policy within the League of Nations, threatens withdrawal, or at least in the French press does so, this is a proof that the policy of the Powers has not been able to maintain the power of the League not only as an instrument of peace, but even as an expression of moral right in international policy.

*Kurjer Warszawski* writes from London that obviously Hitler has succeeded in

putting a wedge between the position of France and that of England. The prospect that Germany may participate in the London conferences is still very attractive to the English side, while the position of Flandin together with that of the Rumanian and Soviet delegations seems to be by far the most decided.

At the present moment, the problem of Germany's participation in the conference seems to be the most burning question.

*Gazeta Polska* has an article from its London correspondent, who discusses that paradoxical fact that the English Labour Party, which was so anxious to apply sanctions against Italy in the case with Abyssinia, is so indulgent and sympathetic towards Hitler's "coup de force." Not that the Nazi dictatorship is dearer to it than Italian fascism, or Abyssinia nearer than France.

The reason is another one. We have to do here with a doctrine of expiation for the sins of the Versailles Treaty, a doctrine which justifies systematically every violation of the treaty by Germany which incited revisionistic ferment even during the epoch of the Weimar Republic. The present crisis is the result in direct line of this policy of principle, and the sentimental errors which, instead of assuring peace, have increased the manifold danger of war. English opinion is on the whole optimistic. We shall soon see if its hopes are realized.

*Goniec Warszawski* quotes an article by General Władysław Sikorski,

who stated that the present moment is very serious, demanding clear and distinct decisions answering the needs of the state.

In particular our military alliance with France ought decidedly to issue from the present international crisis strengthened, regardless of whatever be the final results of the deliberations now taking place in London.

The condition which imposes itself on Polish policy is its complete independence and its understanding with those states which together with Poland arose after the victory in 1918.

The *Goniec* draws attention to the resolution of the Peoples' Party which demands strengthening the Polish—French Alliance, saying that this influx of sympathy for France is significant.

*Warszawski Dziennik Narodowy*, writing about the students' action for obtaining reduction in fees, declares that it is a problem of general significance, and must be considered from the point of view of a solution that would satisfy the students' demands. It asks if, indeed, the financial difficulties are such as to render the favourable solution quite impossible.

We think that there exist ways and means by which the question of the excessively high academic fees might be solved, and the situation of the youth considerably improved.

After elaborate calculations, the *Dziennik* comes to the conclusion that several millions might be saved without injury to the balance of the budget and to the principles of thrift which would enable our youth to study in the higher schools.

*Kurjer Warszawski* has an article on the question of ritual slaughter, which was discussed in the Sejm on March 17. The Minister of Agriculture, Poniatowski, proposed an amendment that the population, according to their religion, which may eat only meat slaughtered by ritual method, be allowed to continue this system for their own consumption, whereas other groups will in the future consume meat non-ritually slaughtered. To the Jewish population must be added also two other groups, namely the Moslems and Karaimists.

This amendment of the Minister for Agriculture places the Sejm in a new position. It facilitates the passing of the bill, and preserving its principle. On the other hand, it strikes at the universality of the principle. It will, therefore, meet with the opposition of the proposer who, basing her position on humanitarianism, will not consent to compromise. Also the Chairman of Commission, Deputy Dudziński, cannot agree to this amendment in view of his position as defender of the views of the commission. Therefore there will be on one side the Minister of Agriculture, on the other the proposer of the bill, and the Sejm will have to choose between the two.

The *Gazeta Polska* quotes the declaration made to PAT by Minister Poniatowski after his speech in the

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### Song Recital

The Polish press is unanimous in praising the English singer, Miss Dorothy Helmrich, who gave a recital at the Conservatory on Tuesday, March 10. Her programme was exceptionally interesting, ranging from Scarlatti to contemporary English and foreign composers. The critics write that the artist has perfect control of all the technical means of her art, and is gifted with a beautiful voice. But, besides this, she is a singer of high musical culture, and her interpretations were marked by great musical intelligence and a refined taste. She did a service to musical art by giving the Warsaw concert-goers an opportunity for hearing compositions of contemporary English writers such as A. Bax, Foss, Peterkin, Warlock, Dunhill and Delius, all of whom are virtually unknown in Poland.

—K. M.

Sejm concerning ritual slaughter.

The Minister said that the amendment of the Government in no way diminishes the actual value of the original text accepted by the commission. As regards the economic significance of the amendment made by the Government, this puts an end to the abnormal state of affairs which compels the Christian population to eat meat killed according to the ritual system and to bear the financial burden arising from this fact. At the same time the Government amendment, in point of fact, dissolves the cartel of the meat trade.

The Minister, however, defends the right of the Jewish people to consume meat according to the rites of their religion and finally adds that

the project of the law as amended by the Government enables not only the normalization but also the limitation of the amount of ritual slaughter, and in this way renders it possible to regulate the meat market.



## TESSA

(Continued from page 4, col. 3)

gave her Tessa just the delicate lyricism required in the sentimental moments, and yet without a single false note brought out the full intensity of the heroine's sombre dramatic experiences. Endowed herself with a truly nymphlike beauty, Miss Barszczewska played with such unfeigned sincerity, and captivating poetry in expression and movement that we can safely predict a great stage career for her.

Her partner, Mr. Zbigniew Ziemiński, as Lewis Dodd, likewise had an exceptionally lucky evening, entering the complicated artistic nature of Lewis with fine ease and inspiration to create a character of great vitality and truth to life. Miss Nakoneczna, as the rather disagreeable Flora, had a very difficult rôle, but she managed it with rare intelligence and artistry, fighting down her own personal charm to prevent Flora from being liked by the audience, which would have been fatal to the play.

The children of Sanger's strange "circus" were played with appealing directness and simplicity by Miss Stepińska, (Lina), Andryczówna, (Tony), Niwińska, (Kate), and the unnamed on the programme but capital pair of children in the rôles of Sebastian and Susanna. Woszczerowicz did a fine bit of character playing as Cyril Trigorin as did Miss Jarszewska as the thoughtless but highly temperamental Linda Cowlard. Mr. Pichelski, in the rôle of the servant-friend, Robert, succeeded in striking the right note of warmth and simplicity. The bourgeois smugness of Jacob Birnbaum and his sympathy for and partial understanding of Sanger's "circus," was brought out with excellent conviction by Mr. Ziejewski. In general the whole cast, including those unmentioned here, deserve high praise.

The decorations by Mrs. Węgierkowska were impressive for their suggestion of size and for their excellent adaptation to the small stage of the *Teatr Nowy*.

The Constant Nymph will undoubtedly have a long run in Warsaw, and deservedly so. The director and those responsible for presenting such a fine play and in such fine style, merit the thanks of all theatre-goers.

### BOURGEOIS GENTILHOMME

The comedy of Molière, *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*, arose as many other works of that period, thanks to a royal command. For Louis XIV, offended that the envoy of Turkey was not impressed by the brilliance and splendour of the French court, resolved to ridicule Turkish ceremonies. Molière was the author who had

to satisfy the royal whim and to prepare a comedy for a special performance at which the Ambassador of Turkey would be present.

Molière went to work and wrote a comedy with pantomime and ballet, and in order to give the appearance of reality to the absurdity of Turkish customs — developed the story of Monsieur Jourdain, a *bourgeois gentilhomme* and a stupid snob, whose dearest wish was to become a member of high society. Molière by making a Turkish dignity of such a snobbish ass and by parodying Turkish ceremonies by conferring high honours upon him both fulfilled the wishes of the king and satirized the Parisian bourgeoisie. The figure of Monsieur Jourdain is to this day proverbial. The whole comedy, however, has already lost its fresh colours and the modern public finds its kind of humour and intrigue too naïve. We admire the power of Molière's genius in painting human characters with humour, truth and incomparable satire, but his manner of creating the situations and the background for the central figure, even with such talent, as in *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*, can not arouse our interest, and such a performance for the present day theatregoer rather is more soporific than interesting.

Our sleepy impression is due perhaps not so much to the Molière comedy, as to the performance of the *Teatr Narodowy*.

Some days ago we saw the *Comédie Française* interpret to the great satisfaction of the audience *Les Fourberies de Scapin*, a comedy weaker than *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*. The excellent quick tempo of the performance covered up the impossibilities and naïvete of the situations and brought out the wit and humour of Molière in all their brilliance. The directing of Aleksander Zelwerowicz, however, quite killed the humour of *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*. His stage-conception was too cumbersome, the tempo was much too slow and the whole performance made rather the impression of a pontifical celebration rather than of a comedy-farce by Molière. We see that Zelwerowicz had worked hard to make a good impression, but unfortunately his plan of realization was quite unsuccessful. Mr. Władysław Daszewski contributed to the ill-success by preparing sets rather disagreeable in colours and lacking in good understanding of the play's style.

Zelwerowicz, in the title rôle of Monsieur Jourdain, instead of arousing humour and joy aroused only melancholy and sorrow. And if Monsieur Jourdain makes such an impression, the whole play must necessarily lie flat on its back because it all depends on that rôle. The remaining cast played their parts with intelligence and talent, but without conviction.

The best were: Tadeusz Frenkiel, Jerzy Woskowski, Tadeusz Chmielewski, Jan Kreczmar, Marja Żabczyńska, Alina Żeliska, Janina Janecka, Ziemowit Karpiński and Janina Piaszkowska.

The pantomime of the third act was somewhat amateurish and the musical side of the performance lacked finish.

In a word — *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* is a classic comedy, which can be revived in our time only in the effective frame of quick-moving inscenization, bubbling with merriment. But when the directing blots out even the values of Molière's humour, then the performance becomes too naïve, and can not remain on the bill of a modern stage.

The translation of Tadeusz Boy-Żeleński, perfect in uniting Molière's style with modern wit and humour, was pleasing to listen to.

Arno.

### BERLIN

Herr Hitler seems to be putting on weight, like his two fellow dictators, Mussolini, and Stalin, who have both gained in flesh since reaching their present eminence. All three dictators however, are notably abstemious. Hitler and Mussolini are vegetarians and Stalin, though carnivorous to some extent, lunches on black bread, sour cheese and red Georgian wine.

It is not generally known that for the two successful operations for polypus performed on Hitler within the last few months, the Führer sent Professor von Eiken 50,000 marks but the doctor refused anything above his regular fee of some 3,000. Later, the Chancellor sent him a big Mercedes car, which also was returned to the donor.

This year's experience in Zakopane, where due to lack of snow thorough training could be accomplished, will probably result in the construction of a ski jump in the higher Tatras.

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## LONDON LETTER

(Continued from page 1 col. 1)

war. This conclusion does not lead them into any anti-French feeling. Rather they look to a common feeling between ordinary men and women of all nations who hale feverish preparations for war when war itself should be prevented by sensible statesmanship. So they are questioning the statesmanship of the National Government.

They are questioning the League of Nations, which in England at least has declined considerably in prestige. They are questioning the bases of modern Capitalism (as well as the bases of Communism) asking what are the motives of international policy, and to what degree the causes of the present crisis are economic. It is quite another problem whether out of this unformed body of opinion there can arise concrete proposals for a new political and economic order promising peace. It is a safe conclusion, however, that many people in all countries are more willing to live at peace with one another than to engage in a useless war. For the first time in many years, a mass movement for peace and disarmament is not Communistic propagand.

So there are many convergent reasons why the National Government finds itself in a difficult position at the moment when the League Council is meeting in London. One comparison is an interesting one. There is sufficient information to hazard the guess that Herr Hitler opposed Doctor Schacht and possibly the Reichswehr, when he occupied the Rhineland. By taking that action he overcame what might have been a serious internal check upon his policies. At this moment, Mr. Baldwin is facing an equally serious opposition, but so far as one can see, less cleverly. One of his difficulties is that many of the most brilliant politicians of his own party are outside his Cabinet. His appointment of Sir Thomas Inskip to coordinate the defenses brought to a focus all the opposition of this group, which includes (in various degrees of association) Sir Austen Chamberlain, Mr. Winston Churchill, and Sir Samuel Hoare. Admittedly what they want is more vigorous rearmament and an active prosecution of League of Nations policy, what Mr. Churchill calls "the great processes of international law," whereas the people are vaguely determined to have done with the post war structure if possible; but even the adherents of the League can hardly feel happy about the handling of affairs by Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Eden. The unexpected choice of Sir Thomas Inskip bids fair to be the occasion for a remodeling of the National Government if not for the fall of the coalition altogether.

All Jewish \* shops \* Tuesday as a protest against recent anti-Jewish sentiment. This has centered around the projected anti-ritual slaying bill, which is now being discussed by the Sejm.

Meanwhile the choice of Sir Thomas Inskip, made after long delay at a moment when the international balance is very delicate, is interpreted to mean that the Government will strive first and foremost for conciliation. The appointment of Mr. Churchill, for example, would have recalled vividly the approach of war in 1914. The only similarity between the two is that Sir Thomas Inskip's war-time connections were also with the Admiralty and it is assumed that his personal interest will still be naval rather than military. Yet, short of not impossible aggravation in the present crisis, the signs are that the National Government does not want an intensive programme of rearmament—Talk of a £300,000,000 Defense Loan has petered out. Instead, the plans so far announced allow for an expenditure of £50,000,000 in addition to last year's, and the common assumption of the financial press is that the money will come out of revenue than out of increased taxation. Any larger programme financed by loan or by Treasury borrowing would be regarded as inflationary by the banking community. Mr. Baldwin, in the House of Commons, has shown a marked disinclination to discuss the full cost of rearmament or the method by which it will be financed.

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### MODERN TIMES

The opening night of "Modern Times," featuring Charlie Chaplin, exceeded all expectations. It seems to us that the long interval in which Charlie Chaplin did not produce was used for the improvement of his acting. Charlie Chaplin, although the same mustache, the same bowler, the same flat feet, is a greater actor than ever. In "Modern Times" he represents the tragedy of one of those, whether employed or not, who is condemned to lead an unhappy life until the cheering smile of a young girl brightens his life. But the dark spots are not emphasized by Chaplin, who takes everything from a comical point of view, and that is where his genius comes to his rescue.

The picture as a whole is a masterpiece, and we feel quite sure that it will entertain our public for many months to come. *adv.*

### PALERMO (Sicily)

The finest form of tragic art in ideal surroundings will be offered this spring at Syracuse in the eighth series of classical revivals for which Italy is now famous. The ancient Greek theatre at Syracuse is the most architecturally perfect of its kind and every three years Greek tragedy brings

it to life again, recalling the times when Syracuse rivalled Imperial Rome itself as a Mediterranean centre. The 1936 season will last from April 22 to May 10 and the programme includes the "Hippolytus" of Euripides and "Oedipus Coloneus" by Sophocles. Modern conceptions of scenery and dancing will be combined with the ancient dignity of the Greek drama.

### HEIDELBERG

In June the University of Heidelberg will celebrate its 550th anniversary and by this time the Church of St. Esprit will have recovered its ancient dignity. For two centuries it has been dedicated to two faiths, the nave of the Church being Protestant and the choir Catholic. To avoid possible troubles a wall was built in 1705 separating the two portions of the Church. This wall is now to be pulled down and St. Esprit restored to its original aspect. It was built in 1400 by King Rupprecht, whose tomb, together with that of his wife Elizabeth of Hohenzollern, lies within it.

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### BALTYK

"Tale of Two Cities" Ronald Colman  
 American Production

### CAPITOL

"Wielki Czarodziej"  
 Soviet Production

### CASINO

"Modern Times," Charlie Chaplin  
 American Production

### EUROPA

"Curly Top," Shirley Temple  
 American Production

### FILHARMONJA

"Mazur," Pola Negri

### MAJESTIC

"Monte Carlo," Lillian Harvey  
 British production

### P A N

"Pan Twardowski"  
 Barszczyńska, Brodniewicz  
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### RIALTO

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**HORIZONTAL**  
 1—Sheets of glass, 6—To force, 11—To note, 12—Trimmer, 14—Forward, 15—to welcome, 17—Lake in Ethiopia, 18—Undeveloped flower, 20—Fathers, 22—Torrid, 23—A flower, 25—Roman date, 27—Musical note, 28—Female divinity, 30—Blows, 32—Man's name, 34—Certain, 35—Craves, 38—Rewards, 41—Article, 42—Relates, 44—Speck, 45—Hard-shelled fruit, 47—Narrow boards, 49—To petition, 50—Harvest, 52—To be of use, 54—Prefix: again, 55—Weirder, 57—To scowl, 59—Dams, 60—Restrained.

**VERTICAL**  
 1—Poverty, 2—Part of "to be", 3—To scold, 4—Mistakes, 5—Roll of yarn, 6—Purposes,

7—Pronoun, 8—Apt, 9—Eskimo settlement in Greenland, 10—Girl's name, 11—A bird, 13—Prices, 16—Love god, 19—American coins, 21—Animal fluid, 24—Spar, 26—Painful spots, 29—Employs, 31—Retains, 33—Basement rooms, 35—Ball, 36—Becomes of use, 37—European, 39—More sullen, 40—To guide, 43—Male deer (pl.), 46—Civil wrong, 48—Place for fodder storage, 51—Pastry, 53—Tennis stroke, 56—Type measure, 58—Pronoun.

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