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HITLER ON THE TIGHT ROPE

The following important article has been specially contributed to the North American Newspaper Alliance by a writer of German nationality who prefers to keep his identity concealed behind the pseudonym "Pontifex". The writer has a wide experience of public affairs in Germany and has been in the closest touch with many of those to whom he refers in his article.

By "Pontifex"

There are three leaderships in present-day Germany: the uncontented general authority of the "Fuehrer", Adolf Hitler himself; that, increasingly overpowering, of the Reichswehr, the Army whose formal leader is General, now Field-Marshal, von Blomberg, but whose leading force is a more or less anonymous body of high officers, and the economic and financial authority of Hjalmar Schacht, President of the Reichsbank and acting Minister of Economy.

The somnambulist security of Hitler, adapting his policy to the alternative predominance of men and problems, produced, up to the present moment, the impression of his playing one of these Powers against the other, and both of them against his Party, or vice versa. And as it is absolutely impossible to express opinions or tendencies openly, either in speech or print, the rather strong undercurrents created or strengthened by Hitler's play are kept invisible — until some clash between those powers makes them appear.

Bold Stroke

Thus a few weeks ago, in fact immediately after the bold stroke of March 7th when the Reichswehr marched triumphantly over the Rhine bridges, Dr. Schacht seemed fallen in disgrace. Or, as he might have termed it himself, decided to resign. Rumours, the unreliable but all the more popular means of public information in Fascist Germany and similar countries, would have it that Schacht, even more so than Blomberg, had objected to the reoccupation of the Rhineland as he feared reactions abroad which might have led to a collapse of the already shaky economic structure of the Reich. There were other reasons besides this; he had got into such a deep rooted conflict with party authorities that there seemed no way out. A few days before he had given an order to his lieutenants breaking up all connections with the dictator of raw materials, Herr Keppler, and his offices and had brought up acutely the question whether he himself or Keppler was to decide to what purpose the all too small influx of foreign currency was to be allotted. His adversaries were for a moment triumphant. Herr Keppler, Dr. Goebbels and other big men of the Party believed that they "had" him this time and, for a moment, the Fuehrer himself seemed dubious. But the Fuehrer knows that what little confidence in the economic and financial foundations of the Reich still exists abroad, is dependent upon Dr. Schacht's

authority to such a degree that his withdrawal would mean a lost battle. And hard as it might be for him to defend that former democrat and free mason against the fierce attacks of the intrinsigent hotheads of the Party — strong as Schacht's own desire might have become to snuff his heavy responsibilities; Hitler cannot spare him yet.

Interlude

So, after an interlude of a few weeks during which Schacht has ostensibly refrained from dealing with all matters outside the routine work of his office and taken some badly needed rest in the Black Forest mountains, all is settled again for the moment, that is for a couple of months. Herr Keppler had to give in, Herr Darre, the Minister of Agriculture has once more a couple of millions for foodstuffs, and the very complicated and clever system of Germany's "NRA" — in fact a renewal and evolution of the war-time economic dictatorship — is once more in the hands of its creator. For that is the clue to the economic conditions of the Reich: strengthened by the strict discipline of the Party, there has been evolved a combination of state-control, state-ownership and state-financing, by which all essential production is directed according to the present needs of an impoverished and hard-pressed country and maybe to needs even more pressing in the case of a future war. Dr. Schacht himself, in a recent conversation, termed it so, that "he had put the country into the sanatorium of foreign currency-restrictions in order to stop the tuberculosis."

Afraid of Quacks

It is quacks he is afraid of. And there are only too many of them amongst the young and daring adventurers who have ridden to high rank and believe in the old German saying, according to which "God gives the understanding to those to whom he has given office." Even Hitler, with his God-like authority and perpetual shouts of admiration for his entourage, can only protect non-party collaborators up to a certain point. When their adversaries, clad in the authority of their party uniform and their rank, put somebody on their "proscription list" as "traitor to the cause" there is danger for him, whatever his official status might be. And having opposed the glorious reoccupation of the Fatherland's sovereignty over both borders of the Rhine is not a very healthy proposition for anybody, to say

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EXCHANGE REGULATED

On Monday, April 27, a decree of the President of the Republic was published in the Journal of Laws setting up a system regulating the purchase and sale of foreign exchange.

Briefly speaking, the provisions of the decree are as follows:

Prohibited is free trading in foreign banknotes, bills of exchange, cheques, drafts, except through the medium of the Bank of Poland or a list of designated *devisen* banks. Also forbidden is the publishing of quotations other than the official rates set by the Bank of Poland.

Obligatory is informing the Bank of Poland of sums receivable from abroad (this concerns exporters) and offering to this Bank, or to the *devisen* banks, the right of purchase. The Bank of Poland must also be aware of any amounts borrowed abroad, from whom, and on what terms.

Curtailed is the export of gold, except ornamental gold, and all means of exchange, such as drafts, money orders etc. Bonds and stocks also may not be exported without the permission of the Exchange Commission. Persons going abroad are allowed to take with them zł. 500, to Danzig zł. 100. If several trips are made within the month, only zł. 500 may be taken from the country during the period.

Curtailed is the import of gold, except ornamental gold, foreign stocks and bonds and coupons from them, and Polish stocks and bonds purchased abroad.

Foreigners having accounts in foreign currencies in Polish banks may be allowed to retain them in foreign currencies subject to transfer restrictions.

This, in short, is the foundation upon which, every day, further regulations are being built, and probably some days will elapse before the new system is fully installed and running smoothly.

The reason given for this radical change in Polish monetary policy was the large flow of capital out of the country during the last decade, and the decree was officially termed "temporary", which may be taken to mean that in the not distant future the restrictions will either be lifted or tightened.

The news of the decree, which had been communicated to banking circles previously, was received quietly, and, as the measures it set forth had been urged by some sections of the Press, was not unexpected. Speculation turned to local stocks and bonds, and considerable advances were recorded in Polish Government dollar bonds. The shares of the Bank of Poland also advanced.

In this connection it is of interest to note Polish indebtedness abroad. As of January 1, 1936, the United States is owed zł. 1,090,299,000, Great Britain, 801,953,000, Czechoslovakia, zł. 120,143,000, Italy, zł. 16,274,000, Norway, zł. 15,690,000, Sweden, zł. 6,581,000, Holland, 1,164,000, Denmark, zł. 312,000, and Switzerland, zł. 97,000.

ROOSEVELT STRONGER IN THE MID - WEST

By Jay G. Hayden.

President Roosevelt will be renominated virtually without opposition, and if the vote were taken now he would probably be re-elected.

The Republican nominee for President almost certainly will be Governor AIFM. Landon of Kansas, with an Easterner as his Vice-President. If a reasonably progressive man can be found he is that section. Otherwise the vice-presidential nomination may be offered to Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg of Michigan or one of the Taft brothers of Ohio.

These are conclusions reached after three weeks of travelling through the Middle West, which most people believe will be the chief battleground of the coming campaign. The political current which was running against President Roosevelt in the latter months of 1935 definitely has been checked, if not reversed. This is due partly to the more conservative tone the Administration has assumed in recent months and to the tendency of recalcitrant Democrats to climb back on the bandwagon in the interest of their local tickets.

Demoralization

Aiding Mr. Roosevelt even more at the moment, perhaps, is the demoralization in the Republican camp, caused by the scramble for the Presidential nomination and the struggles of conflicting groups in the States for control of the party. Republican leaders profess not to be greatly alarmed by this condition. This, they say, is the time when the outlook of the opposition party always is darkest, and the picture presented after the presidential candidates have been nominated and the platforms formulated will be very different.

For the time, at least, President Roosevelt appears to have been helped rather than damaged politically by the decisions of the United States Supreme Court nullifying the A. A. A., N. R. A. and other New Deal measures. By repeal of the processing taxes and the crop restriction feature of the A. A. A., for example, the Republicans contention that President Roosevelt is seeking to regiment agriculture and manufacturing industry falls.

Even without these issues, however, there is every indication that the coming campaign will be the most bitter in American his-

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29,463,000, Italy, zł. 16,274,000, Norway, zł. 15,690,000, Sweden, zł. 6,581,000, Holland, 1,164,000, Denmark, zł. 312,000, and Switzerland, zł. 97,000. It has been estimated that Poland is due from abroad the sum of zł. 800,000,000.

LONDON LETTER

By Gregory MacDonald

Mr. Chamberlain's Budget provided surprises in more than one sense. In most years there are innumerable journalistic forecasts of what it will contain, and in the days after its disclosure the House of Commons is in full cry with criticism or congratulation. On this occasion there was very little newspaper prophecy, the Chancellor's actual proposals aroused interest only by his intention to raise income tax and the tax on tea, and two nights, later the House of Commons hardly held enough members to make a debate possible. The criticism of the Labour Opposition was remarkably inoffensive.

Yet the Budget was a sensational one. Through some channel or other there seems to have been a leakage of information into the City, with the result that insurance policies were taken out at high premiums against increases in income tax and tea duties. The movement was too determined to have been accidental, and it was purely speculative; neither the big tea firms nor the Fleet Street reporters appear to have had wind of it. Members of Parliament have already demanded a searching inquiry which will probably entail a Select Committee examining witnesses under oath.

This excitement has still further obscured more important aspects of the Budget. Increased taxation to pay for rearmament gives the impression of patriotic sacrifice and of financial stringency, so the point has been overlooked that the financial year provided a comfortable surplus and that the coming year promised to be even more buoyant. The new taxes deflate the market in advance of a policy of public works necessitated by the European situation and by the low state of international trade. Just as in the United States both Roosevelt and the Republicans promise to balance the budget, but the Republicans want to balance it by orthodox means, whereas Roosevelt's taxation proposals are wildly heretical, so also in Great Britain the principles of "sound finance" dictate that prosperity must not come out of unorthodox financial practice.

The imminent prosperity of Great Britain is due to a continuance of a stable price level and a cessation of foreign lending. These factors cannot immediately be repressed while America continues along her heretical path and while the gold bloc refuses to be reduced to the sterling level but they can be tempered by an added tax burden which impresses upon the people the orthodox economic doctrines of scarcity and of sacrifice. There is, how-

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LONDON LETTER

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ever, another side to the picture. The added tax burden will incidentally hamper British trade in competition with the products of the United States, where a diminishing debt structure is giving the importer a greater advantage month by month.

The lull in foreign affairs, necessitated by the French elections, had given opportunity for discussion about the League of Nations policy. The people who feel that the League of Nations alone provides a guarantee against war are still numerous and vocal. The League of Nations Union is even proposing that the Italian army should be cut off from its base by a closure of the Suez Canal. This interesting experiment, designed to ensure universal peace, will be announced at an Albert Hall meeting just before the Geneva meeting in May. Perhaps an even larger body are by now convinced that the League of Nations policy was confused and unsuccessful, but they know of no other means to ensure the peace which most people in every country ardently desire.

Rumours are therefore afoot that Mr. Eden will propose some reconstruction of the League on May 11, and if the scheme is an ingenious one, it should at least unite public opinion in this country once more. But it is difficult to see how a reconstruction based on the solidarity of sanctionist states (this is the hint thrown out by *The Times*) can produce any more successful policies than those of last Autumn, and a new League founded on the exclusion of Italy would repeat the weakness of the present one, founded on the exclusion of Germany. There is nothing to be done but to wait for the proposals, which will presumably be hammered into shape after the full voting at the French elections is known. There is every likelihood, from past experience, that Mr. Eden's stand at Geneva will be more in line with the League of Nations Union than with the ideas of Baron Aloisi.

Prison Report

In a report issued for 1934 the Commissioners of Prisons include some remarkable figures of changes that took place during the twenty-five year reign of King George V. For example, commitments to prison for drunkenness fell from 54,700 in 1910 to 6,338 in 1934. In the same period local prisons were reduced in number from fifty-six in 1910 to 26 at the present time, while the annual reception into prison fell from 86,395 in 1910 to 56,425 in 1934. Of the latter figures, 50,349 were men and 6,076 were women.

These statistics are a tribute to the orderly discipline of English life which is indeed famous all over the world. They reflect in one way or another a number of social changes. Undoubtedly the Commissioners are correct in attributing the change partly to improved prison conditions, for while a firm discipline is maintained the prisoner goes back to civil life less inclined to be the enemy of society and perhaps better equipped to follow a trade, or better educated in some useful branch of knowledge.

The social changes are not, however, all in the prisoner's character or in the principles of prison management. Some part of the decrease must be due to the improvement of police methods for the prevention and discouragement of crime. The statistics of drunkenness have been affected by licensing laws, by reductions in the strength of beer and by the economic depression. The experience of army discipline and a collectivist trend of modern industrial society have also played their part; while an

PRESS REVIEW

The confiscation of the *Gazeta Polska*, for an article supposed to discuss the disturbances in Lwów has made a great impression in the Press. *Robotnik* writes:

Journalists maintain that this article was confiscated on account of "detachment." The author, creator of the theory of integral deflation, is said to have assured the community that it should prepare itself for a long period of famishing. If this be true, it is really a pity we had not the opportunity of reading such an encouraging perspective of the government of "colonies." It would be useful for some people. It is also a pity that the author of the article does not wish to apply to himself this splendid method of getting out of the crisis.

Naturally the *Gazeta Polska* defended itself, saying that the editor of the *Robotnik*, when that paper was confiscated, protested against the discussion about an article which had been censored, and now does this very thing himself. It then proceeds to say that the quotation made by *Robotnik* concerning the "period of famishing" is not only completely untrue, but also an ugly political trick.

A trick that is applied constantly by the Socialists in trying to persuade their readers that, except themselves, they wish the world to be slaved by alone, the socialists, wish and can act so that all should be happy and satisfied.

L.K.C. criticizes the removal of R. Switalski from his office as Governor of Kraków on the ground that it is undesirable to create the appearance that the Government has yielded to the demands of the rioters for

the strike which was recently carried out through the whole country by socialist elements put forward the demand of a change in the position of the Governor of Kraków. We are now in a period of ferment; this ferment led to the disturbances in Kraków and elsewhere. We stand without doubt, before an organized action of a political character begun by the Left Parties and a revolutionary action begun by extremist elements. The creation of an appearance that, by means of street disturbances, political uses may be obtained, and a similar one for the State and the Government itself.

Warszawski Dziennik Narodowy is of entirely another opinion, saying that it is a question whether the said administrative organ was in fault or not.

If it was in fault then irrespective of the demands and agitation of one or another party the higher authorities must draw the consequences.

If it did not do this, continues the article, the Government would entirely lose its authority.

The re-calling of a Governor may be extremely unpleasant for the Government, but far greater unpleasantness would await it (the Government) if it left an erring dignitary in his position.

Concerning rumours attached to the recent visit of Professor Bartel to Warsaw, suggesting that he was proposed as Premier in place of Mr. Kościalski, the *Kurjer Poranny* writes that this is a manoeuvre to suggest to the public the conclusion that this visit had a political significance. Hence, creation of gossiping rumours at a moment when it is desirable there should be the very least of them, especially in connection with the departure of Premier Kościalski to Budapest.

Kurjer Polski writes that although during the past week nothing very important has happened in home policy, yet it was inevitable comparison between the British statistics and those of America may be explained by a less arduous struggle for wealth and by the settling of traditions of an older country. Yet these figures are remarkable in themselves, and perhaps they are not least a tribute to the promptness and firmness of the judiciary.

an exceptionally animated week for the press.

The postponement of Premier Kościalski's departure for Budapest, the confiscation of an article in the *Gazeta Polska*, the dismissal of Governor Switalski and Colonel Matuszewski from their respective posts, the arrival of Professor Bartel in Warsaw, the great economic conference, and the opportunity for a quantity of rumours, guesses, and combinations on the theme of supposed changes of one sort or another. This aroused a certain panic on the exchange and raised the price of gold, which, however, fell at the end of the week, a fact pointing to a certain calming in internal affairs.

The *Sunday Dispatch* has some sensational news that the British Government intends shortly to make new proposals for the safety of Europe. The idea seems to be to arrange

a complex of regional pacts, one on the model of Locarno, others of the non-aggression type, and these are based on the principle of mutual help. These pacts are to be united into one system by the League of Nations.

In the opinion of this journal, the British government expects to throw a bridge between the German non-aggression treaties and the French plan for mutual help.

The *Temps* has a long article upon Polish-Hungarian relations, and Premier's Kościalski's visit to Budapest.

The policy of Polish-German rapprochement as now conducted by Warsaw together with the preservation of the Polish-French Alliance ought to create a situation of a firm conclusion that conditions may be favourable to a revisionist policy for Hungary.

The idea of a German-Polish, Hungarian Bloc with, perhaps, the support of Rome, is still active in certain political spheres in Hungary.

But Poland is bound by her alliances with France and Rumania which preclude action against the Little Entente. The revisionist campaign would present a danger for Poland herself. . . . If it is a fact that Warsaw loyally observes the treaty with Germany, it cannot at the same time be ignorant of Germany's revindications with regard to Danzig and Memel and also of the enormous rearmament of the Reich with violation of existing treaties, all of which constitutes a serious danger both for Poland and all the neighbours of the Hitler Reich.

The *Temps*, however, finds it is a good sign that Minister Beck did not accompany Premier Kościalski on his visit to Warsaw, and sees in this a proof that no political arrangement has been arrived at there.

Kurjer Poranny discusses the consequences of the new regulations for foreign exchange and comes to the conclusion that, in order to attain the greatest advantages from these regulations, they must be accompanied by an order to exchange gold in private hands and all foreign exchange into zlotys.

Liberalism in monetary economy has failed. As in all spheres of economy so also in that of money it has shown its incapacity to solve any of the problems that have been entrusted to it. Now we have entered a sphere of compulsory monetary economy which will operate with the methods peculiar to it.

ROOSEVELT STRONGER IN MID-WEST

(Continued from page 1, col. 4.)

Roosevelt spending spree summarily checked and the Federal Government turned definitely in the direction of a balanced budget. Existence of laws permitting the President by his own fiat further to depreciate the currency, and distribute to his support, The Republicans will demand that these laws be repealed and that every effort be made to achieve an international stabilization of currencies.

VIENNA

The latest beauty treatment sounds like transferring the dentist to another sphere of activity — it is the drilling out of freckles. Small freckles are frozen with a "hydrogen needle" to render the spot insensitive, while for large ones a local anesthetic is used. The beauty doctor then takes a drill and bores the freckles away, but so lightly that the skin is not injured. It is claimed that the drilling does not leave scars and that the freckles will not reappear.

BUDAPEST

The "June Weeks" (June 7 to 21) will be marked this year by two interesting exhibitions. In the Salon, the old Hungarian masters belonging to private collectors will be shown and privately owned objects connected with Liszt's life and music will be gathered together in the National Museum.

A new ballet, "Mephisto", with music by Liszt will be presented at the Opera House, and several of Verdi's operas will also be given. There will be two operatic performances at Count Esterhazy's estate in Tata on June 11 and 21; the first will include Dohnányi's "Holy Torch" and the ballet "Fanny Elser" by Nádor, Faragó and Tüdös, and the third act of "Siegfried"; the second performance will be "Fidelio", conducted by Erich Kleiber.

Another attraction will be the open-air representation of Ujhazi's "Missa Solemnis in Pecs". For this mystery play it is proposed to substitute Liszt's "Eastergown Mass" music for that of Beethoven. More than five hundred persons will take part in the performances, between June 11 and 14.

MUNICH

Interest in Hitler as a painter has increased since the opening of the exhibition of his war-time works in the Wurtemberg Library at Stuttgart. It is estimated that between 70 and 80 water-colours executed by the Führer before the war are either in private hands or in the Nazi Party archives here. One Munich chemist is the proud possessor of five water-colours which he ordered from Hitler in 1912. It is, of course, well known that Hitler earned his living in Vienna and Munich for several years before the war as a free-lance painter. During his war experiences in France and Flanders he carried his paint-box in his knapsack and the Stuttgart exhibition reveals his fondness for architectural subjects in which he is still interested. People do not appear in the pictures; one dated November 1916 is a real war study, a devastated wood with the ruins of a house and grim tree stumps; in the trenches near Ypres, in December 1917, Herr Hitler painted the ruins of a cloister at Messines with ruined houses nearby. Another picture is of a field dressing-station in a half-ruined house. The paintings are signed "A. Hitler" or "Adolf Hitler".

The English Vocal Sextet At The Conservatory

Under the patronage of the British Embassy, the English Vocal Sextet gave a concert at the Conservatory on Monday, April 27. This Sextet devotes itself to the performance of old English music dating even from the XIII Century, and they have penetrated so successfully into the spirit of the Elizabethan period that one really has the illusion that one is listening to a company of madrigal singers of the XV or XVI Century.

This is emphasized by their manner on the platform, where they perform while seated around a table. As the director (Guthbert Kelly) explained, in older times at the manor house of an ordinary English gentleman the hosts and their guests sat around a table, the music books were brought out, the parts divided, and all joined in a madrigal. At that time it belonged to the education of every gentleman to be able to sing at sight a part song. Now this was not easy for, as we heard at the concert, the counterpart was often very intricate, and would at the present day present no easy task to professional singers. "The times have changed," signed Mr. Kelly.

As to the performance of the sextet, one can but speak in the highest terms of praise. Their voices are beautifully blended, their rhythm irreproachable, phrasing excellent. The whole is pervaded by an atmosphere of charm and refinement. Nor, where necessary, is humour failing as we heard in some of the old folk songs.

The Sextet may be most warmly congratulated on its success, and we wish them a speedy return to Warsaw.

Obviously a return to simplicity, and true feeling is becoming the demand of the concert public all over the world, and its fulfilment will perhaps bring back the audiences to the now empty concert halls.

—K. M.

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Art, Music & Literature

NORWID: THE RING OF A GREAT LADY

(Pierścień Wielkiej Damy)

Cyprian Norwid is perhaps one of the most interesting of the Polish writers of the XIX Century. His deep mind, great poetic talent, his specific style, and the intense feeling emanating from every one of his works have given him a niche peculiarly his own in Polish literature. About Norwid there has always been and there still is a sharp conflict of opinion between his enthusiasts and opponents. The former find under Norwid's undeniable power a great poet and thinker; the latter accuse him of lack of artistic expression of incoherence and needless complexity of style, and a hopelessly amorphous and muddled philosophy arising out of a too credulous acceptance of mutually incompatible systems of thought advanced by others. Although his critics may be right to a certain degree, still no one will deny him the genius and overflowing feeling of a true poet that in page after page strike home even to the most phlegmatic reader. Though one must admit that Norwid's sentences and ideas are often tangled up into an almost incomprehensible jumble, — something in the manner of Browning at his worst, nevertheless a keen and sensitive reader will find in a work like *Promethidion* an inexhaustible treasure house of new and weighty thoughts, of unerring judgements on art, and a deep understanding of the artist's burden. Particularly for artists may *Promethidion* serve as a catechism; for example, much can be learned of the true meaning of Chopin and of the inherently Polish folk elements at the bottom of his music from a familiarity with the judgements pronounced in this work. In fact, no where is Norwid's attitude towards art more clearly expressed than here.

Our great artist and man of the theatre, Juliusz Osterwa, was perhaps the first to appreciate the importance for an artist of Norwid's artistic creed, and has never tired of inculcating in his pupils the principles of art expounded in *Promethidion*, in this way establishing a sound attitude toward art in a whole group of the coming theatrical generation. It is not to be wondered at, then, that the *Reduta*, that theatrical and cultural centre unique of its kind, directed by Osterwa, should assume the task of presenting *The Ring of a Great Lady* (*Pierścień Wielkiej Damy*) a work written by its spiritual leader, Cyprian Norwid.

ness, great and naked, takes the place of those sensitive moments that tragedy can colour with blood, we' and red. This kind of drama is called high comedy, for the same reason only that Dante calls his great work a comedy, that is, by reason of its pleasant ending, which, incidentally, demands all the more subtle dramatic shading in the course of its development."

Such is Norwid's characterization of a work with which he meant to enrich Polish dramatic literature.

The second gap in Polish literature that *The Ring of a Great Lady* was to fill was that of creating a full length figure of a woman, which in Norwid's opinion had never been done. He supports his opinion:

"Finally, there is a beautiful duty for a dramatist among us Poles, something which at the same time presents a deep need to actual psychology,—and that is: Polish artistry has never yet acknowledged women!—Those great profiles and almost ideal heroines which (omitting the Ancients) are given us by Dante, Calderon, Shakespeare, Byron... with an exception (for sake of decorum), are not to be found in *Wanda*—who did not want to marry German,—we don't know what she did want!—she is a woman with but one leg, beautiful though it may be, *Teli-mena* (perhaps the most complete as an artistic creation) is not spiritual enough... *Zosia* is only a schoolgirl, and the beautiful *Marya of Malczewski* had no time to reach maturity, having been smothered to death in pillows, in other words, engulfed by the bog."

These are the two aims that Norwid had in writing *The Ring of a Great Lady*. What was their realization? If we are to treat this play as an example of a new form of dramatic expression and as the creation of a full feminine character, the result is acceptable, but of course not complete. Treated as an artistic phenomenon, however, it is a work of uncommon talent and beauty. The charm of romanticism pervades the whole and invests it with a poetic atmosphere for the story of Countess Mary Harrys and her two suitors Mak-Yks and Graf Szeliga. The complicated style weighs on certain parts of the performance and clouds the meaning as does the rapid succession of deep ideas; perhaps the exposition of the play is over long-drawn-out, and the first two acts are more of an introduction to, than a development of the plot; but in the third act when the dramatic conflict gets its full expression, and the situation indeed becomes tragic (without blood and death), then, when the heroine, Countess Mary Harrys, makes the supreme offer of her ring and hand to the less nobly noble Mak-Yks, then indeed we appreciate what Norwid intended *white tragedy* to be.

Mary Harrys, as the portrait of a woman, must yield the palm to many others in Polish literature; she does not fill the gap that Norwid meant her to, but nevertheless she is a character very subtly drawn, of a richly convincing and of a richly convincing and trivial no less than of the heroic. She stands as a great tribute by the author to women and to the power of their love which they give unselfishly and far more nobly than men. Side by side with Mary Harrys, Magdalena Tomir, too, is a very interesting feminine character, sketched by the author with great charm



JULIUSZ OSTERWA

and insight, showing how friendship may exist together with jealousy, how reason may dictate to the heart. Her conquest of Graf Szeliga is a subtle bit of psychological painting by the author, and at the same time is a model of a truly elegant drawing-room dialogue of the XIX Century.

The *Reduta* deserves our deepest gratitude for its presentation of *The Ring of a Great Lady*. First of all nothing can popularize an author and his aims more than the theatre; and if we remember that Norwid is known to only a very limited circle of the public, the service of the *Reduta* in the endeavour is indeed great. Then again, *The Ring of a Great Lady* is one of the finest performances seen of late in Warsaw. Careful study and understanding of the text, the clean-cut manner of presenting each thought, and the utter naturalness and ease in handling Norwid's difficult language, — these are the elements that the creative directing of Osterwa gave to the performance. There was not a single weak moment nor a false tone is it from beginning to end; this is what gave it such an atmosphere of complete reality. To fully appreciate Osterwa's work as a director and his influence and the artists under him it would be necessary to write a separate study of this great representative of directing art in Poland.

As Graf Szeliga, Osterwa played with incomparable subtlety and penetration, surrounding this character with all the poetic charm of the Romantic era. There is no one in Poland more able to do the heroes of the XIX Century than he.

Countess Mary Harrys was very ably played by Marja Brydzińska (Countess Potocka), with just rare charm and dramatic expression brought out all the trivial as well as the noble elements of the feminine nature.

Miss Hanna Parysiewicz was a very elegant and refined Magdalena Tomir, playing the rôle with the exotic charm so indispensable to it, and Mr. Kazimierz Wilanowski as Mak-Yks struck the audience immediately with his sincere, convincing acting. All the rest of the cast, headed by Mr. Mr. Wołkajko as Judge Dureykn, played their rôles in admirable fashion.

The Ring of a Great Lady does credit to the aims of the *Reduta* and to its artists no less. Juliusz Osterwa in his activities as director and theatre manager, has again done a deed of lasting value for the Polish theatre, and for Polish art.

ENGLISH BOOKS

American and British Magazines
American, British and Continental Editions.

Books on Poland and Road Maps —

Dictionaries.

Book store, H. Art. Nowy Świat 35.

Exhibition of Lettish Art.

The Lettish Exhibition does credit to the "Zachęta". The pictures bear the stamp of powerful individualities, after the restoration of Latvia following centuries of foreign domination, the national spirit springs forth undaunted from the mass of the people, and it is vivified by the great international art currents. The result is a production which might be said to stand on the best European level. These are mostly specimens of modern — contemporary trends with the prevalence of colour research, more or less in the impressionist manner.

Krzyżanowska's quiet, metallic shimmer of the grey sea or polished surfaces of ponds and varnished wood, shown in the Polish section, lose much by contrast with the marvelous sheens of the Lettish artists whose seas and skies especially glitter in endless melodies of dazzling silver (Kalnoze and Liebert with his rutilant church of St. Mark in Venice, similar to an enchanted snow castle). Other masters of the whites and greys are Skuland (the Shepherd Boy), Celavys (Yawning Girl), a sturdy Workman smoking etc. An interesting feature of the pictures is, in several instances, their original composition: the portrait of the writer Saulitis (by Bine) is seen through a window from the back in a studio behind the room depicted in the foreground, and the quaint perspective of the Drinking Workmen makes one of them seem to pounce out of the picture towards us (Miesniks). The landscapes are painted in vivid but harmonious shades — Skricke's "Fishermen's Hamlet" being a beautiful symphony of greyish greens. A favourite theme is that of the farmers, peasants and the humble people at work. Eliass gives fine samples of the kind in colours dark and compact without heaviness.

They resort to different touches of the brush. Sticks renders his peasants or still lifes in gradations of one-tone yellow-browns or greys. Tone shows a sleeping girl half drowned in shadows and oddly cut across by rays of light; Skulme's "Mother and Child" are a flat image emerging in relief of colour strikingly vivid in the painter's knife and there are other interesting achievements.

A contrast to these impressionists is the unfringed nude of clear outline on dark background of Skume, Kazak's portrait of himself, and the soft, smooth landscapes of Verdaunia. Vitoles presents delicate and savoury landscapes in water-colour while Hilda Vika handles the same medium albeit in an utterly different vein. She reminds us of Stryjenska with decorative folk in picturesque attire and background to match, but she shows perhaps more meliorous humour and less poetic fancy than the Polish artist.

The engravings and drawings are striking by their variety in spite of the small number of exhibits. Suta suggests form in a masterly way by fragmentary curves of intense indian ink whereas the same medium in Vidberg's hands comes out in fine designing resembling Japanese illustrations. The book illustrations of Strunke in grey, brown or light colour touches are most pleasing to behold, and Pajda's treatment of the "After Death" public in soft touches of light greys fantastically borders on the perverse.

As to the Polish animalist section, it seems somewhat puerile to unite in an art exhibition the Animals (chiefly domestic ones or birds) just for

The Polish Artist's Union In Warsaw

The Union which was formerly located at Filitrowa, now has its headquarters at Ujazdowska 37/27. Drawings of all kinds, in pencil and various inks or the brush, were on show and their variety is not surprising if we consider that no one of these modern artists endeavours to copy nature servilely in a photographic way: theirs is an endless scope for fancy and individual expression. And so we have the muddled, faded whirlwind lines of Langerman opposed to the greyish compositions of Polanski, throbbing with light; Grabowski's very sober, plain line portrait, the delicate pure line of Stawski's Nude and again the elow-thin and elusive pen-point figure of Pękalski, the contrast of Kauring's brickish and blackish rough figures with the softness of Treffer's landscapes. Women seem to stand foremost if we are to judge by Karbowska's picturesque nook of the old city in greys and pinks, Kuczbarski's delightfully clear water-colour landscape "Mrs. Centnerszwer's fine workmanship, etc. Their one common trait is a care of the synthetic, of the whole, undue detail being decidedly eliminated.

M. G.

BUDAPEST

There has been a great slump in marriages in Hungary, 3,802 fewer being celebrated during the past year than in 1934. And statistics show a birth rate proves to be the lowest ever recorded for the country. The low rate of 1934, when 194,279 children were born, has been reduced by 8,861.

ROME

The Library of the Italian Centre of American Studies, which has recently been transferred here from Turin, consists of 18,000 books dealing with America and published in different periods. Originally, it belonged to Count Giordano, who presented it to the Centre. The object of the Centre is the scientific study of the American Continent and its inhabitants, for the promotion of cultural and economic relations between the two countries.

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the sake of the subject without particular value of interpretation, excepting perhaps in the case of Rudzka's "Chang-Toy" a delicate decorative scheme, or of Molly Bukowska's sketches of pussies.

The animal sculptures are better (Miss Gross' birds and hogs and especially Kraszewski's well-set, synthetic figures).

