

THE WARSAW WEEKLY

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POLISH VIEWS ON THE DANZIG QUESTION

The Polska Informacja Polityczna issued on the 7 th. July a communiqué regarding the Danzig question. They state that the matter is divisible into two separate units which are necessarily mutually dependent.

THE "LEIPZIG" VISIT

The first of these questions which is of a purely international character, concerns the arrival of the German cruiser "Leipzig" at Danzig and the fact that during the course of his official visit the Commander of this vessel omitted to call on the High Commissioner of the League. Up to the present there has been no mention of an official or a diplomatic explanation of this gesture.

The Deutsches Nachrichten Büro considers this to be a reaction from the events of last year when, on the occasion of the visit of the German Fleet in Danzig, Mr. Lester, the High Commissioner, invited to the official reception representatives of the opposition parties, which the Nachrichten Büro considered as an insult to the Commander in Chief of the German army, as certain of the guests had made statements against the Chancellor.

The Polska Informacja Polityczna feels that this sensitivity of any soldier in regard to the respect due to his Commander in Chief, is quite a natural feeling and will readily be understood in Poland, but, on the other hand, the fact that the gesture was accompanied by a series of statements in the press in Danzig and in Germany and followed some 10 days later by the attack of Herr Greiser, means that the affair necessitates a diplomatic explanation as to the exact motives which caused the Commander of the "Leipzig" to act as he did.

The only possible source of an explanation is the German Government and pending its receipt, it would be, considers the Polska Informacja Polityczna, too early to make assumptions.

HERR GREISER'S SPEECHES

The second question is the demarche of Herr Greiser in Geneva. As is well known the President of the Danzig Senate has spoken on two occasions at Geneva and each of his speeches was of a completely different character.

Entirely apart from questions of form, which are not in agreement with the gravely becoming to a place where are sitting the representatives of many States, it should be observed that in his first speech Herr Greiser, complained about the intervening of the

League Commissioner in internal affairs in Danzig, while in his second speech, which was couched in an extremely aggressive manner, he demanded the radical revision of the statutes of the Free City.

Herr Greiser underlined strongly the fact that Poland's rights should be respected in Danzig, but in spite of that, the matter cannot be concluded as having been settled from the point of view of Poland.

CHANGE IN CONSTITUTION UNDESIRABLE

If the constitution of the Free City is good or bad — which is a matter for discussion—it must be admitted that it forms a certain unity and that if the Senate desires to be in a position to alter certain parts of it, it might be felt that the guarantee assuring that other parts would be respected would be insufficient; a matter which concerns Poland indirectly and directly, quite apart from the obligation with which it has been invested by the League of Nations.

STATUTES COMPOSED OF SERIES OF BILATERAL CONVENTIONS WITH POLAND

Apart from the clauses of the Treaty of Versailles the statutes of the Free City are composed of a whole series of bilateral conventions with Poland, which latter, in the normal course of events, have been altered and modified on many occasions.

If the Senate of the Free City desire to modify or to change certain of the essential clauses which are felt as hampering to its activities, Poland for its part would be obliged to demand certain modifications of those clauses which, up to now, have not given full satisfaction to Poland, and only under these conditions would it be possible for an agreement to be arrived at.

RISK OF UPSETTING STATUS QUO

It would therefore appear to be expedient for the Danzigers to consider whether the present situation is not better than that which might arrive after the application, not only of their own modifications but also of those of Poland.

Moreover the Polish Government would feel obliged to demand a readjustment which would obviate it having to concern itself too frequently with local Danzig affairs — which are but of moderate interest — and which would at the same time permit Polish trade to utilise the port of Danzig without being hampered by continual political complications.

THE WARSAW OPEN AIR SWIMMING POOL



The Heat Wave—Happy hundreds at the Legia Pool.

PROSPECTS OF THE PEASANT MOVEMENT

The political situation of Poland seems to be centred around the peasant question. The governmental party, the opposition of the right and the opposition of the left, — all are trying to win the favours of the agricultural masses, which form about 65% of Poland's population.

Each of these currents has certain attractions for the average farmer, — but none of them has enough.

The governmental party has a deeper interest in the economic situation and more means for improving it than almost any political organisation; the right wing opposition, composed of nationalists, appeals to the old dislike of the Jews and the equally old religious feelings of the people; finally the socialists have many promises for the landless peasants and the agricultural workmen.

PEASANT DISTRUST FOR POLITICAL SPEECHES

So far no major success has been scored by any of three competitors and rival suitors. The fact is that the Polish peasant has always showed a distrust for political speeches and movements, and for their leaders, unless they were peasants themselves. It is a kind of instinctive feeling, which has little to do with the programme represented by the politician concerned. Marshal Pilsudski, although a nobleman by birth, was very popular among the peasants, perhaps because his simple and natural bearing and strong personality impressed them more than hardened politicians.

The leaders of the B.B. party, created by Col. Slavek, which has been recently dissolved, have also tried to get the farmers on their side, but the results which they obtained were not proportionate to the effort and expense — as although they obtained the support of some of the peasant's leaders, they did not of the mass.

NATIONALIST CLAIMS EXAGGERATED

The work of the nationalists throughout the country, in small towns and villages, is said to be very active just now. But their claims to a wide circle of followers are exaggerated and based on uncertain assumptions. For instance the nationalist party declared after the violent boycott of the Jews at Przytyk that the activity of the local farmers was due to their leadership.

The facts of the case seem to prove rather that the events of Przytyk had a purely economic background and that the propaganda of the nationalists had little influence on the conduct of the Christian population. One

(Continued on page 2 col. 3)

NEWS FROM DANZIG

(From our own correspondent)

Whilst the press of the world has been busy with the dramatic developments at Geneva, the English newspapers have been devoting much space to the new aspects of the Danzig question, and the local Danzig papers have been surpassing themselves in the reporting of Herr Greiser's boldness before the League assembly. Special editions were being rushed to the printer while the League session was in progress, and last Saturday and Sunday public interest in the proceedings at Geneva was so great that the news-vendors were almost mobbed. The papers all sold out immediately, and Nazi satisfaction at the reports was manifest. Had Herr Greiser announced his return to Danzig just then he would have been accorded a magnificent welcome. He dallied on the way, however, and his loyal followers were bereft of the opportunity of acclaiming him then and there as a hero and gallant defender of Nazi ideals, but although he modestly refrained from making public the time of his return, when he arrived there was a group of officials to meet him on the railway platform, and on emerging into the street he was quickly recognised and surrounded by a jubilant throng.

Some anxiety appears to have been felt abroad that Mr. Lester's return from Geneva might provoke a demonstration of a less happy kind, but nothing untoward occurred, and Mr. Lester walked home quite quietly from

the railway station. General quiet, in fact, has been the order of the day in Danzig, in spite of what the sensation mongers may have been trying to make out. In order to preserve this quiet in political circles also, the Police President has again ordered the suppression of the opposition newspaper the "Volkstimme".

The ordinary small citizen much prefers to go about his business, and the home-loving Danziger has this week been celebrating the 125 years jubilee of the fishing village and bathing resort of Broesen. Fishing interests have naturally played a prominent part in Danzig life, so much so that the two favourite Baltic fish, the flounder and the "Pomuchel", are even depicted on Danzig coinage. The Broesen fish-wives took a notable part in the celebrations, one of them being elected Goddess of the Sea, and old Father Neptune with his long beard was present too. The festivities included fishing boat races, various sports, and culminated in a procession with Chinese lanterns.

The Broesen jubilee was made the occasion for a new issue of stamps, so that philatelists in many lands will now also be interested in this little fishing village and sea-side resort situated just near the mouth of the great Vistula river, a mile or so from Neufahrwasser, on the edge of the Bay of Danzig.

Prospects of the Peasant Movement

(Continued from p. 1).

may add that it was fortunate for the Jews, as violent and unrestrained antisemitism is one of the watchwords of the nationalist party.

The work of the socialists among the peasants is difficult and it has never attained a really wide importance. The aim of a farmer's life is to own more land, at any price, — an ideal which is not in accordance with the best precepts of socialism. The landless peasants, however, have always offered a good ground for all sorts of propaganda. They formed the bulk of most of the so-called populist parties, most of which have not survived the events of 1926. This class is too numerous and weak to have any influence in face of the several millions of farmers, who would never part with their holdings, even though they may be very small.

LEFT WING LEADERS TOO LONG ABSENT

The leaders of the left wing peasant parties left the country in 1926, and prolonged absence has seldom improved the chances of a politician. Men like Witos, the former Premier, have carefully cultivated their popularity among the poorer peasants, by wearing their dress and using every opportunity for stressing their peasant origin. Besides, dress was not the only matter in which the popular leaders tried to flatter the class of their supporters at the expense of the remaining population. Some of the laws passed during the rule of the populists in the twenties have nearly ruined the larger landowners, who are useful as a class because it is the large and not the small estates that supply agricultural produce for export.

GENERAL RYDZ-SMIGLY'S CHANCES

The one man who may have more luck with the peasants than the others is perhaps General Rydz-Smigly. He comes from farmer stock himself, and this fact should help the farmers to understand him. His peculiar position in the country, which can be only compared to that of the late Marshal, makes every move on his part completely different from a move made by any political party. Everybody knows that he never belonged to any political party and probably never will belong to one.

How and when will be sealed the pact between general Rydz-Smigly, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, and the men who supply the majority of these forces, it is yet difficult to tell. It may be easier to guess what will be the channels of policy which the general will direct the energy of the peasants if he obtains their support.

National Defence in a wide meaning of the term will be probably the task which he will set for them.

The main difficulty, however, is not in winning the trust of the masses, but in finding lieutenants who could share in it. (A.T.E.)

LONDON LETTER

By Gregory Macdonald

A not unfamiliar political comedy was played out when Mr. Baldwin came up to London from the country to resist the rumours that ill-health would compel his resignation. He was warmly greeted in the House of Commons when rising to answer a question, and later in that evening he had a gratifying reception from the members of the City Conservative Association who entertained him at dinner. I retire when I think Mr. Baldwin's first moment that I feel myself to be incapable of sustaining the burden which now rests upon me, I shall be prepared to pass it to other hands, and I shall be no light judge of what the requirements of that position are. But it is for me to decide, and for me to state to you. This bluff determination is one of Mr. Baldwin's best characteristics as a popular statesman.

PRIME MINISTER'S POPULARITY

The reference to dictation was presumably another blow in the long drawn out conflict between the Prime Minister and certain newspaper proprietors; it could hardly mean that Mr. Baldwin is absolute in a constitutional regime. But his reappearance and his speech won the day. Discussion now revolves round the possibilities of conserving the Prime Minister's energies by allowing him a deputy for much his daily business in the House of Commons. Among the objections to this proposal, one is that Mr. Lloyd George's popularity declined as soon as he lost personal touch with the House. Mr. Baldwin's subsequent appearance at Henley for the Thames Challenge Cup semi-finals was another blow at Downing St. showed that he still close-attended his hold on affairs. It is still likely, however, that there will be some delegation of authority or a tightening-up of the nineteenth century Cabinet machinery. For within the sphere of Party politics (which are coming under criticism) there is friction among the Conservatives because the urbane and adroit Sir John Simon, Liberal, was the Prime Minister's deputy in the difficult work of answering questions in the House.

THE STAR OF NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN

Moreover, the star of Mr. Neville Chamberlain is still in the ascendant. He is reaping the publicity from the centenary of his father's birth: the famous Joseph Chamberlain is now seen to have been a man of good fortune when he turned away from Free Trade to Imperial Preference. Also, the Chancellor of the Exchequer's "indiscretion" at the 1900 Club, when he advocated the lifting of Sanctions, happened to anticipate Government policy. And as keeper of the purse he must have a considerable vote in the decisions of expenditure, which increase with the intensification of the rearmament programme.

INCREASED TAXATION

In fact, Mr. Neville Chamberlain had the responsibility last week for making an announcement of far-reaching importance. In a final discussion on the Budget he remarked that this year's additional taxation (amounting to an estimated £1,500,000) represents but a fraction of the additional expenditure we are incurring this year; and he added casually that it is "practically certain that there will be a deficit in this Budget, and the only

question is the size that the deficit will attain". Nor did he regard the possibility as tragic. He thought that, unless there was an undermining of confidence, the country would be able to support the new expenditure with a constantly rising standard of comfort and of health. A few years ago such a statement would have created an uproar. To-day it must be taken as a matter of course when Great Britain joins so many other countries in deliberately unbalancing her Budget and putting out into the internal market sums of money obtained by Treasury borrowing at lower rates of interest. The attempt to make revenue balance expenditure by means of rigorous taxation has at one time or another failed, and, although some experts are forecasting a steep rise in the income tax, there should be no reason to expect this in the light of Mr. Chamberlain's statement.

DEFENCE LOAN EXPECTED

Another expectation is that a Defence Loan will be floated, but there is no likelihood either of a break in the present stable price-level or of a rise in interest rates. The Government will remain the only considerable borrower and, as in America, will dictate its own terms for interest. Treasury borrowing is already at the rate of about 12s. per £100 and would be lower but for a gentleman's agreement among the lending houses. Before that it had sunk to 3s. 11d.

RECOVERY IS PROCEEDING ON A CASH BASIS

This view is supported by an ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Reginald McKenna, who told the Institute of Municipal Engineers and Treasurers last week that there need now be no increase in interest rates as trade recovery passes a certain point. "We know," he said, "that the trade recovery attained thus far has been unaccompanied by any appreciable rise in interest rates, and all that the monetary authorities have to do if the requirements of business continue to increase is to add further to the quantity of the volume of money". The belief that business must proceed in a cycle of boom and slump is a belief of the past. In Great Britain herself the low level of commercial borrowing, part of that for refunding, and the record height of the note circulation, which now stands at about £440 millions, both mean that the recovery is proceeding on a cash basis.

The chief task of the monetary authorities, in Great Britain as in the United States, should be to watch the stability of the price-level, with a readiness to guarantee bank deposits by buying back Government securities (otherwise known as debt) as the recovery continues. It is already evident, from the attitude towards international investment in South America, New Zealand and Canada, and from the rise in wheat prices following drought in North and South America, that new monetary policies must be conceived; rearmament is only one factor in the situation. Neither a rise in interest rates nor a stepping-up of taxation will allow for a "constantly rising standard of comfort and of health" — this standard is a political as well as a military necessity.

The Times rightly comments on Mr. Chamberlain's statement, that "the essential condition of this optimism is that confidence should be maintained; and confidence depends on leadership. If leadership were to be lacking, the Government would have only the negative recommendation that the confusion of the Op-

position makes any alternative even less inspiring; and nothing great can be achieved by negative virtues... Confidence can survive mistakes in action, but not the fatal blunder of an appearance of drift." Given firm leadership the present Government can do very well, for the nation has every desire to support it. And, given a more flexible financial policy, the present Government can easily implement firm leadership. The Opposition is caught by the contradiction that it demands belligerent policies and objects to rearmament. The people as a whole wants peace ensured by efficient defensive forces.

Polish National Gliding Competition

On the 28-th June the Polish National Gliding Competition opened at Ustjanowa, to last until the 12-th of July. Gliding has become one of the most popular sports in Poland. There are 3,000 holders of A and B pilots licences in the country, 643 C and 23 D licences. By way of comparison it may be interesting to note that Germany, has 10,000 A and B licences, Italy 1,817, France 1,169, St. Britain less than a thousand, etc. In this as in the other aspects of soaring, Poland is distanced by no country except Germany, where the sport originated. The Polish records in motorless flight stand as follows: altitude 2,630 metres, by Wlodarkiewicz. Duration — 20 hours 13 minutes, by Olenski. Distance — 210 kilometres, by Oficerski. The Competition at Ustjanowa will be restricted to the best pilots only and not more than 80 gliders will be allowed to take part, which will contribute to the improving of the general level of the contest. Next year the Competition is to be organised on international lines, greatly enhancing its sporting appeal. (A.T.E.)

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"Lot" to extend to Helsingfors

Helsingfors. M. Makowski and Piatkowski, directors of the "Lot" Company of Warsaw have arrived here to discuss with the Finnish "Aero" Company the establishing of a direct air communication between Poland and Finland, as an extension of the already existing Polish air line from Salonica in the Aegean sea to Riga, through Burest, Warsaw, Wlino. The negotiations will be concluded in Warsaw. (A.T.E.)

Visit of Indian Rajah

(picture below)

Among recent visitors to Warsaw was the Rajah of Dharmpur — a small Indian state of about 100,000 inhabitants — who passed through Cracow and Warsaw on his way to Moscow. A picture of the Rajah on his way to deposit a wreath on the Tomb of the unknown Soldier, will be found below.



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