

# THE WARSZAWA WEEKLY

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## The European Currency Crisis and Poland

The devaluation of the French Franc and the consequent new monetary laws passed by the French Government, following upon the three months of negotiations between the French, English and United States Governments, not only failed to cause any panic upon the Polish money market, but, what is more, scarcely created even a ripple of surprise.

It had been realised that some such a step was inevitable, partly because of the internal situation of the French money market and the constant drain of gold to which the Bank of France has been subjected during the last twelve months, partly because of the financial and economic policy pursued by the Government of M. Blum, who, in endeavouring to readjust the errors of his predecessors, has unconsciously precipitated the necessity for this step—and, finally because the fact that the two other world currencies, the Pound Sterling and the Dollar, had gone off gold in 1932 and 1934 respectively rendered the position of the Franc extremely difficult and made it obvious that France would sooner or later have to follow suite.

In as far as concerns the Bank of Poland the devaluation of the Franc has had no appreciable effect owing to the reason that the cover of the Polish Złoty is mainly in gold and that the holdings of French Francs have been kept to a minimum for some time in anticipation of such a possible move. Equally the sum total of Polish credits abroad in French Francs is far less than the sum of debits so that on the whole the actual result of the transaction as far as Poland is concerned should be a slight profit, a fact which is shown by the communiqué issued by the semi official "Iskra" agency to the effect that in relation to France Poland is a debtor country and not a creditor one.

At the present stage it is difficult to say what will be the consequences of the devaluation of the Franc. The fact that Switzerland has depreciated the Swiss Franc by some 30%, that the Lat has been reduced in value by nearly 50%, that the Dutch Guilder and the Czech Krone will in all probability follow, indicate that further repercussions may be expected, some of which—according whether the country affected is a debtor or a creditor state—are bound to have their effect in Poland, whether on the financial market or on the balance of trade.

The problem of the Polish Złoty is mainly an internal one being only affected to a small extent by external disturbances. The depreciation firstly of the Pound Sterling was a shock of the first magnitude through which Poland passed almost unscathed,

in spite of the large deposits in English banks made by the aristocracy and the large industrialists and the considerable holding of sterling securities as cover by the Bank of Poland. The subsequent devaluation of the Dollar which had been a secondary money of account for many years and which served as the favourite currency for expressing many transactions in land and goods, created far more internal disturbance but was also successfully overcome.

It was in order to guard against the possibility of further losses in connection with the employ of foreign currencies as cover that the Bank of Poland modified its statutes by basing the cover of the zloty exclusively on gold, foreign currencies being purchased as and when required but not forming part for the cover. In addition the fact that the budget has now been balanced and the imposition of restrictions upon currency movements have guarded internal financial markets from any disorganisation from the present crisis.

### Marshal Pilsudski's Birthplace Made a Memorial

Warsaw. The birthplace of Marshal Pilsudski, the manor of Żulów in the district of Wilno, has been purchased for the nation. It has been rebuilt and restored to the condition in which it had been at the time of the Marshal's childhood, which he spent there. Every detail was taken into consideration and Żulów looks today exactly as it did about 50 years ago, when Joseph Pilsudski played there with his brothers. It will be preserved for ever in this condition, a homage to the great Polish leader. (A. T. E.)

## Belgian Minister of National Economy in Warsaw



Mr. Van Isacker after having been awarded The Polonia Restituta.

## POLAND AND DANZIG'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Warsaw. Poland has communicated to the League the results of the action which it has undertaken with regard to the "Leipzig" incident. The commander of the German cruiser "Leipzig" failed to call on the High Commissioner of the League in Danzig, and from this apparently insignificant fact far-reaching conclusions have been drawn by the parties concerned.

Poland was charged by the League with settling this dispute, and the Polish Foreign Minister presented at the current session of the League Council a report concerning the matter, together with the text of the notes exchanged by Poland and Germany. The German government has stated in its note that in forbidding the commander of the "Leipzig" to call on Mr. Lester it had no intention of infringing "either the rights of Poland in Danzig or the statutes of the Free City".

This statement is important, because at the time of the incident it was believed in certain circles at Geneva that the discourtesy of the German naval officer towards Mr. Lester should be interpreted as a denial of the authority which he represents in Danzig. An additional assurance that the rights of Poland in Danzig have not been challenged is also valuable.

The effectiveness of the Polish diplomatic intervention can be seen from the fact that no new incidents have occurred in Danzig since the visit of the "Leipzig". It had been clear to everyone right from the beginning that the "Leipzig incident" like so many other artificially exaggerated Danzig incidents, has seemed an opportunity for stirring up trouble to people who desire unrest in that part of Europe.

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## Unveiling of Bogusławski Memorial



The Statue of Wojciech Bogusławski (outside the Teatr Narodowy) by Jan Szczepkowski, being unveiled by Vice-Minister Prof. Ujejski on the 27th September

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## LONDON LETTER

By Gregory Macdonald

Mr. Anthony Eden's speech at the Assembly of the League of Nations might normally have provided subject matter for international political debates over quite a long period of time. It was, after the unfortunate affair of Haile Selassie, very temperate in tone, with an implied offer to Germany to separate the Treaty from the Covenant, and a reminiscence of Sir Samuel Hoare's famous suggestion that means of access to raw materials might be provided. But just as the political commentators were dipping into the ink for a discussion of Mr. Eden's speech, the news broke upon the world that the franc was to be devalued in accordance with an international monetary agreement concluded between France, Britain and the United States.

It was a dramatic end to a war which has dragged across the world. At the moment of writing it seems that the end is a decisive one—no mere uneasy armistice. True, an attempt was made from somewhere on Saturday to demonstrate that the sterling-dollar link was illusory, and that the dollar should go higher, when

a million pounds were dumped upon the New York market. But the action taken by Mr. Morgenthau showed that the partners to the agreement could expect it to be defended. A world monetary revolution has taken place and a new order of world affairs has been ushered in. Incidentally, the most trusted of financial writers have been proved wrong in one argument after another. It has already been pointed out in this column that recovery fully set in over most parts of the world when there was no international lending to speak of and an actual decline in commercial loans. Moreover, recovery set in without a rise in prices, although the economists were still discussing the famous cycle of boom and slump.

If there was one phrase that journalists repeated more often than another in discussing a possible monetary stabilisation, it was that peace in the political sphere must come first; but the stabilisation was effected when Spain was at civil war and France on the verge of it, and Soviet Russia in a verbal duel with Germany, and Japan taking military action around Shanghai. Again, every argument had led us to suppose that the value of currencies would be fixed by the price of gold, but instead the price of gold in London is not known until the parities of the



## LONDON LETTER

(Continued from page 1)

dollar, franc and pound are fixed. Now, it was imagined that the character of finance was international, with international trade depending upon international loans; and that economic self-sufficiency was a héresy peculiar to such countries as Germany and Italy. But following the agreement, on the Monday, *The Times* came out in guarded praise of economic-sufficiency with phrases which are a direct contradiction both of *laissez faire* Capitalism and of materialistic Communism:

"Every country is bound to seek a certain degree of self-sufficiency, a certain balance in its economic structure, for reasons, political and social, which are but little affected by financial and economic considerations. The production and accumulation of the greatest possible total amount of wealth is not the supreme end of national existence. More important than this total amount, for the real welfare and social stability of the country, is its equitable distribution among the different classes of the population, and, even more, the provision of satisfying outlets for the energies and capacities of the individual citizens. There are, happily, other motives besides the profit motive by which men and nations are animated..."

The fact is that a new monetary system has taken the place of the old; and the new system is the direct fruit of the policy initiated by President Roosevelt. It is very much to the credit of London and Paris that they came to the tripartite agreement when they did, for the economic war had reached a point where it was threatening the stability of civilisation, and if devaluation had been forced upon the franc without this pact the results would have been disastrous. For it was on the cards that the pound could have been depreciated still lower with a rise in the sterling price of gold (very much raising food prices in England). The franc would then have been in renewed difficulties, and Roosevelt in his turn might have been driven into a further devaluation of the dollar, the final financial crisis on the eve of the Presidential election. His only answer would have been to impose an embargo on the import of gold into the United States, breaking the sterling gold price, because London could not buy all the gold on offer. That would have entailed disastrous consequences for the pound, and for the gold-producing countries, particularly within the Empire, Russia outside it. As it is now well known that political effects follow economic causes, the prospects of revolution and war were not far distant.

Instead, the arrangements of the three countries came to an agreement, the importance of which cannot be over-estimated. A noticeable point about the announcement that was made was that no mention occurred of a revival of international lending. The loan economy which has been taken for granted during centuries, especially in England since the Glorious Revolution of 1688, has passed away. It stands to reason that when a civilisation is based on lending, people must be kept poor or else they will not borrow. And lending entails fluctuations of prices (boom and slump) because when money is hoarded for lending, or sent from one market into another, there is less effective demand in the denuded market and prices fall. But the whole Roosevelt system entails the preservation of a stable price-level as a first principle of governmental action, so that the dollar is now a non-lending currency. The American

## TENDENCIES OF PRESENT DAY WOMEN NOVELISTS IN POLAND AND IN THE ANGLO-SAXON COUNTRIES

By Dr. M. Patkaniowska

(Concluded)

Other books of social aspect belong to the class of regional studies. Mme Dobaczewska in "Joseph Zola" has given a very convincing picture of the district of Wilno, while Mme Gajowiczka in the "Soil of Elzbieta" has painted with excellent truth and talent the life of the border province geographically opposite, Upper Silesia. Gajowiczka also gave a brilliant study of the life of the artisan classes of Warsaw in the novel "The Girls of Nowolipki" for which she was granted the prize of the City of Warsaw.

Let us return now to the psychological novel which we left with Mme Nakowska. A rapid glance through the titles of feminine novels would tell us to what a considerable degree women authors are interested in women characters. Nakowska has enriched Polish literature with a crowd of feminine figures drawn for once, so to speak, from first hand. Dąbrowska's

price level has been stable, since the beginning of 1935, the complete United States Bureau of Labour price index, for example, hardly having fluctuated by one point even during the drought or when the huge sums were paid out to the war veterans. Moreover, the agricultural group of prices is on a par with the industrial group of prices, so that the two parts of the community can buy and sell with one another. The franc, the pound, and other currencies, now find themselves in a position of carefully maintained stability with the dollar, and therefore they are stabilised with the price level upon which the dollar is based.

Instead of gold being the arbiter of civilisation, instead of the international lender being the judge of a nation's credit, every nation is sovereign to itself in the maintenance of a stable price level in connection with the credit system has no meaning. The Government will see to it that there is money in the market to meet the goods in the market. Instead of foreign trade being the first consideration, there will be a sufficiently flourishing foreign trade in surpluses and peculiar products between already flourishing industrial markets. The dangerous tension during the battle between the gold bloc and the sterling area, when certain nations could not obtain raw materials, will now relax.

Such is a bald outline of the week's revolution in world affairs. No doubt it does not mean that absolute peace will be reached, for there are a host of political questions to be settled yet, but the first and most important step has been taken. What no one can fully foresee are the effects of the new system upon the orientation of national policies, upon forms of government, upon financial and political and cultural institutions, but the effects will be far-reaching. The minds of men and their habits of thought have been imperceptibly moulded by the credit system, and nearly all the forms of society have behind them a financial sanction of the old order. With its passing there will be a change upon the world as marked as the difference between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. In a sense, indeed, we have returned to the principles of the Middle Ages, for the managed currency or the stable price level was a mark of that period, and the first duty of the mediaeval King was to preserve it for the sake of the people.

picture of Barbara is perhaps the fullest, the most pitiful, the most unforgettable, the feminine characters of that fiction. It is the same with the work of other writers.

All these women characters living on the pages of the feminine novel in Poland have one feature in common: they all belong to the world of work. They work at home, if they are married, if not, they support themselves or their families in their positions as teachers, artists, office workers of all kinds, social workers, housekeepers, shopkeepers, students, even servants and peasants at their farms. All social classes are represented. This picture of reality is true representation of the position which Polish women occupies in the life of the nation. There are no novels in the fiction of our day that would describe the life of idle women of the aristocracy of birth or money. Between the world of this womanhood and the epoch that could produce such material, so-called butterflies as I would say, Lily Bart in Mrs. Wharton's novel "The House of Mirth", there is a gulf greater than years would justify. There are also no pictures of women of independent means, in which English fiction abounds, which perhaps is characteristic of the differences of national economic pictures, as of the fact that pictures of ease and leisure do not appeal to the generation for whom the time of leisure has yet not come.

In psychological portraiture of feminine character the novel of Mme Gruszecka "Adventure in an unknown country" is one of the most interesting. It is a study of a woman artist, a lonely widow, in whom a subconscious unsatisfied desire for love calls forth a passionate craving for a devoted and understanding friendship with another woman. This desire, represented in a certain Freudian fashion, which is not unqualified, only to find an outlet in intensified artistic creation. It is this novel that brings us closest to Virginia Woolf's "stream of consciousness".

The Freudian element is also strongly emphasized in the character of the above mentioned Barbara, and of the heroine of a recently published study by Mme Kuniewicz entitled "That Foreign Woman". Both these women have married, but not the man they were in love with, and the repressed feeling results in the case of Barbara, in her well-balanced milieu, in hysteria, while in the case of Róża, the "That Foreign Woman", with her artistic temperament and undoubted mental superiority over her husband and family, it deteriorated into a pathological case.

Boguszewska, in her book "The Whole Life of Sabina" gives, like Miss Stackville West, the review of the whole life of a woman. It is really "All Passion Spent". Sabina is an average woman of the crowd, who on her death-bed recollects all her past life. It is a grey, uneventful, everyday life, and in depicting it the book becomes an excellent study of the whole pathos of a novel is a real tonic force from the artistic point of view, as it avoids all morbidity in spite of the special conditions under which the story takes place.

Emancipated in her social and, at least to a degree, in her economic standing, the woman of present day Polish fiction is, like her Western sisters, also emancipated in her relation to man. The period of the fight for

this emancipation which seems so far in the past, now, had distinguished representatives in Poland, of which the name of Młoczesz should be mentioned. However, there remains still the difficult problem of the woman's emancipation from herself. Irena Krzywicka, a gifted literary critic and publicist, the great fighter in Poland, takes up this problem in her two volume novel "Woman looks for herself". Her heroine, having gone through the full code of Love and being finally offered marriage by a man who is her better in education and in means, rejects the offer and keeps to her work.

At the first glance the problem seems rather old-fashioned, and it brings to mind a novel from about 30 years ago, written by the authoress of "Elizabeth and her German Garden", entitled "Fräulein Schmidt and Mr. Anstruther". In this book an emancipated Fräulein of 30 years ago rejected marriage and love in her wish to preserve her rather shadowy independence. Krzywicka's hard working, poor Helen also rejects marriage though it would mean for her a comfortable position in the world of culture and financial safety, she, however, does not reject on principle, she rejects on experience. And she does not reject love. She means to keep up her relation with her lover, but marriage would deprive her of her personal freedom. In her mental and spiritual development through love she reminds us strongly of the heroine of "Maid and Mistresses" of Mrs. Seymour.

That is important, however is another aspect of the book. Helen's sinful relation with a married man, her operation to get rid of her child does not call forth in this novel the wrath of the Almighty or the punishment of society. On the contrary, they mean for Helen a step forward in her mental and spiritual development that perhaps would not be accessible to a girl of her standing in any other way. Her love affair is an experience from which she emerges with new powers to handle her own fate. It is perhaps on purpose that she is represented as a simple girl, with cultural background or education save her professional training, but, like Mrs. Seymour's Sally, with a keen mind and a rather inborn feeling for what is right and wrong. The book makes us wonder how true to life it is, nevertheless, as a document of a feminine tendency, it has its strong expression.

This brings us to the problem of ethics in feminine fiction. The high tone of moral responsibility makes the standard of ethics in this fiction very pronounced. The Polish feminine fiction of the moment emphasizes the responsibility of an individual for the good of the social welfare of the community, for the family and for the young. In this last respect we find a number of books that are entirely devoted to this problem, as "The Girls of Nowolipki" of Gajowiczka and the strange, surprising, stylized novel of Mrs. Szulc-Zarembka "The Wanderings of Joanna".

The problem of the younger generation in the present day Polish feminine fiction deserves a special study.

A decided feeling for the necessity of God comes forth especially in the novels about the young. Religion, however, and its forms appear as traditional and ordinary than as full of living value. One is inclined to say that it is rather the general secular ethics which

## POLAND AND DANZIG'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS

(Continued from page 1)

Frequently, trifling events in Danzig have been given undue prominence in the foreign press, which grew fond of describing the Free City as the "powder barrel" or the "danger spot" of Europe. So far the events have not justified these nicknames, although prophecies about very imminent danger have been freely circulated, notably by certain sections of the British press, already many years ago.

The scaremongers have not yet despaired, however, of getting a real good thrill out of Danzig and they rubbed their hands when the news about the "Leipzig" visit came through. Naturally enough, Poland does not wish to have any trouble at Danzig, and the note of the German government in which it stated expressly that it did not mean to affect the rights of Poland in Danzig, thereby recognizing them once again, created a good impression in Warsaw.

The relations between Danzig and Poland are generally speaking in the domain of home affairs, and the "Leipzig" incident proved it, as Poland acted here not as one of the parties in the dispute, but simply as the power responsible for the conduct of Danzig's foreign relations.

It is time to drive out of some heads the notion that Danzig or Poland are danger zones in Europe, any more than other countries, whether situated in the west, the south or the east. That there is danger in Europe, there seems to be little doubt. Where it can come from is also fairly obvious. But to say that one country of all the others should be in a very much greater danger than the rest may prove a serious mistake. Moreover, it can have the result of lulling the remaining powers into a sense of false security, while the present danger is actually more generalised and more evenly spread than almost any other danger in the history of Europe had ever been.

Poland prefers to do her share of the work for peace by regulating such concrete details of policy as they may be. It is probably "Leipzig" than by raising alarms, which are bound to be harmful, even if well meant. This view seemed to be shared also by Mr. Eden, when he expressed his satisfaction with the results of the Polish intervention in that incident, which was formally declared closed. (A. T. E.)

in the leading force of morality in the picture of the present day life as it appears on the pages of these writers. As regards the private life of woman, the standards of appreciation have changed. She claims for herself the rights that heretofore have been reserved for man only, and whichever way she decides, her decision does not affect her social standing and does not lower her value as an individual in the life of her society.

It would be difficult to speak of immediate influences of English and American fiction on the Polish fiction of to-day. The school of Virginia Woolf with its study of the subconscious, of the instincts of the sensations has had its influence, as was pointed out above. On the whole, however, it is safe to speak of the general affinity of subjects and problems that appeal to feminine mind and find their expression in literature written by women authors in all countries.

There are, however, other similarities. The English, American and Polish women authors display the same care for the art and culture of composition, style and language. In Poland women writers have in this respect decidedly surpassed men writers. (Continued on page 2)



# Wojciech Bogusławski

1757 — 1829

The Creator of the Polish National Theatre.

One hundred and seven years after the death of Wojciech Bogusławski, Polish artists and society are paying due homage to his immortal merits and services in creating the national Polish stage by unveiling his monument which will stand in the capital city before the *Teatr Narodowy*.

Wojciech Bogusławski has deserved this gratitude of cultured Poland for his great work in founding and developing the Polish theatre. Before him, when other European countries had already a splendid dramatic literature and had developed great cultural resources on their dramatic stage Poland lacked an earnest stage and dramatic art; the theatre was an institution with no profound importance, the players and the plays were of foreign origin, and the greatest interest of the public was directed toward the opera and especially the ballet. Comedy and drama were completely neglected, and we know well that they are the backbone of the theatrical art which always has the most profound influence on the hearts and minds of the people.

This situation was somewhat lightened with the accession to the Polish throne of King Stanisław August Poniatowski, whose merits in all branches of art are unforgettable, and who arranged for the Polish stage, then created by Bogusławski, with his protection.

Born in 1757 in Glinno near Poznań, Wojciech Bogusławski first sacrificed himself to the career of a soldier, but in 1778 he quit the military service and began his activities as a man of the theatre. He was at the same time an incomparable manager and organizer of theatrical life, an excellent artist, a highly merited writer and translator of more than 80 plays, and he traveled with his troupe to all the greater cities of Poland.

The principal territory of his artistic activities was, naturally, Warsaw, where, under the auspices of King Stanisław August, he created the first national stage and showed that Polish players could sing as well as Italians and interpret drama in the same profound manner as the Germans and comedies with Parisian elegance and humour. In 1811 he opened the first school of dramatic art in which were educated a great many famous artists. With a profound understanding of the mission of the theatre, he proposed several theatres designated for specific purposes. One, wished Bogusławski, should be an institution on the highest artistic level, a theatre for connoisseurs and scholars (Polish comedy and drama, for a classic repertory). Another kind must be popular appealing to the masses of the people, and finding a road to their hearts in popular and interesting plays. These principles of theatrical organization are still today the foundation on which all theatrical life in Poland is developing. For these services to the Polish theatre, Bogusławski deserves comparison with the work of Shakespeare in England and of Molière in France.

Another sphere of Bogusławski's activities on the stage was a social and patriotic one, always to be found in the 50 years long career on his theatre. For Bogusławski understood that the theatre is not only a place for amusement, but that it is a stage all the faults and ills of the social organization can be shown in the most glaring light while patriotism and virtue could

be developed by the showing of splendid examples on the stage. When we remember that the theatres of Bogusławski were in the years 1778—1814, that is to say in the era of *Stanisław August*, the *3rd of May Constitution*, and the partition of Poland, we should not wonder that the performances of Bogusławski often take on a political character.

Among the great number of such plays we must mention those which aroused the greatest interest and had the profoundest influence. The first is *Powrót do Ojczyzny* by Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz (1791) criticizing the customs of the old system as the liberum veto or the free election of kings, the next *Szlachcizna Mieszczańskim* by Wybiicki (1791) propagating the equalization of the classes in Poland, *Tęcza* by *Wł. na Kosciuszko* (1792) of Bogusławski, showing the intrigues reigning at the court, and especially *Krakowiaci w Górale* also by Bogusławski, which was a most famous and popular play of that time, and which undoubtedly had some influence on the *Kościuszkowski Insurrection*, under the symbolic figures of the Crocoviens, showed the Polish people in contrast to the Russians, represented as mountaineers. These plays, at first not understood by the censors, caused him much trouble later under the oppressing governments, and he was forbidden to appear on the Warsaw stage.

During the Napoleonic epoch he was an enthusiast of his ideas and his great propagator on the stage, seeing in him the recreator of free Poland. During these times Bogusławski's theatre was a patriotic and political outpost which proclaimed each deed of Napoleon or of the Polish military to the public. Napoleon, during his stay in Warsaw, was present at a special performance of the opera *Andromeda* by Osieński with music by Elsner which was the apotheosis of Napoleonic deeds.

These patriotic instincts of Bogusławski were, at the same time united with a high level of artistry which always reigned in his theatre. His artists, as in the old time theatres, were not only perfect interpreters of drama but also excellent singers of opera. We must add that Bogusławski also created Polish opera, and for the first time performed Italian and French opera with a Polish text.

This short sketch shows that Bogusławski accomplished a great mission in the artistic, political and cultural life of Poland, as manager, artist and writer, as propagator of Polish art, as a great citizen, who loved his fatherland.

The unveiling of the monument to Bogusławski took place last Sunday in Warsaw after a solemn divine service in the Cathedral of Saint John. The President of the Republic was represented by Minister Ujejski, the City of Warsaw by its president, Starzyński and vice-president Pohoski. The President of the Society of Polish Stage Artists, Józef Sliwicki opened the ceremonies with a speech characterizing the great and eternal services of Bogusławski for our theatre and our artists. After this speech, Minister Ujejski unveiled the monument.

The statue, in bronze, is a very realistic and plastic portrait of Bogusławski, and is the work of the well-known Polish sculptor, Professor Jan Szczep-

## ART SHOWS

Our article on the autumn show at the Zachęta in last week's issue by a regrettable oversight omitted mention of the work of M. Kazimierz Wiszniewski, which is exhibited in the same room as Marya Dunin's. Wiszniewski is a most interesting personality, a deaf and dumb artist almost entirely self-taught, whose standard of achievement is astonishingly uneven, but who sometimes produces work of very great merit. This time he exhibits only a collection of small prints, mostly book-plates. By their very nature they cannot equal the emotional appeal of his best work (e.g. the tragic "Pieta", reproduced in the "Print Collector's Quarterly", 4 (XX)), but in general they are good and one or two are striking, as for instance the chess-player's book-plate. A few had better been omitted, but they do not spoil the whole.

The IPS is collecting prints for the 2nd International Exhibition of Wood engraving which is to be held there in December.

The Army Museum is showing a number of selected sculptured portraits of Marshal Piłsudski. The general artistic standard is a relief after the horrors of the open competition at the Zachęta some months ago, but as yet there is nothing entirely satisfying and possibly there never will be, though the exhibition is destined to be completed and modified from time to time.



A scene from BOGUSŁAWSKI of *Wincenty Rapacki (father)*. Wojciech Bogusławski (Mr. Józef Węgrzyn) and the artists of his theatre: *Satomna Deszner* (Miss Nina Swierczewska), *Barbara Sierakowska* (Mrs. Leokadja Pancewicz-Leszczyńska) and *Franciszka Jaworska* (Miss Elżbieta Barczewska). (Phot. Jan Malarski.)

kwski. A speech by President Starzyński ended the ceremony. In the afternoon a solemn Academy took place in the *Teatr Narodowy*. The programme of this Academy embraced lectures of such scholars of the Polish Theatre as Wiktor Brumer, Ludwik Simon, Tyman Teleski, Bohdan Korzeniowski and Leon Schiller, all on the life, work, and significance of Bogusławski. The *Teatr Narodowy* for this occasion presented the play of Wincenty Rapacki (father) entitled *Bogusławski i Jego Scena (Bogusławski and his stage)*. This colorful picture of Bogusławski and his artistic life in its relationship to King Stanisław August and his court was warmly and enthusiastically received by the audience.

Leon Schiller, who adapted the play, added some fragments from the writings of Bogusławski (*The History of the National Stage*) and so the hero obtained many characteristic missing in the work of Rapacki. Schiller brought the play with songs from the plays of Bogusławski, and, as an epilogue, a performance of the famous *Krakowiaci w Górale*,

## PRESS REVIEW

*Iskra* states concerning the devaluation of the French franc that this will have no influence on Polish financial relations as Poland had already introduced control over the circulation of foreign currency and the traffic in gold thus stopping the outflow of gold from the Polish Bank for speculation purposes. The financial value situation in Poland, writes *Iskra*, "has lately been greatly strengthened owing to the increase of gold stores in the Bank and the return of confidence on the private money-credit market in consequence of the balancing of the budget. These facts assure to Poland the possibility of continuing her policy of a stabilized valuta". It is now clear that Poland whilst issuing only in April valuta regulations has succeeded to the last minute in maintaining a healthy valuta and the perturbances called forth by the French decision find Poland with a balanced budget and a regulated valuta situation. Hence according to *Iskra* "the Polish government stands with entire decision on the position of maintaining the present currency of the złoty".

*Kurjer Warszawski* also writes that "of late years a number of countries and among them Poland have gone pretty far in the direction of valuta autonomy. We must count with this and appraise

the international financial situation with entire calm".

*Czas* criticises the agrarian policy of the Minister of Agriculture Mr. Poniatowski, on the ground that it tends to diminish the size of estates to such a degree as to render impossible strong and healthy agricultural production. "We should like to know", says *Czas*, "if authoritative factors, especially military spheres, whose first duty is to assure proper conditions for the country's defence therefore the best for provisioning the army and towns, share the opinion of the Minister".

*Kurjer Poranny* imputes the anger of *Czas* against the Minister to the fear of the Conservatives of losing some of their possessions and influence and as to the arguments concerning the country's defence writes—"the history of the last wars shows that after mobilisation it is the small landed estates that produce the most effectively, that can the most easily get on without hired men's help and on moreover the great development of aviation in the last years makes the purposefulness of centralised production questionable".

*Gazeta Polska* maintains that "at present the chances of "world economy" are growing, the chances of fixing some new statute for world economy, which at present is in a state of decay. But are these chances sufficient? The *Gazeta* then proceeds to discuss the German mark and the difficulties which may arise from the side of Germany in creating a world economy and that probably a bartering will begin soon with Germany as to what it can get in exchange for the par of its valuta and this bartering will constitute the overture to "world economy". The *Gazeta* concludes "we may expect in the near future a strong upward movement in prices seeking a new platform suitable for changed monetary conditions.

*Kurjer Poranny* congratulates Poland on having money limitations which isolate her from the valuta crisis. Quoting the opinion of Morgenthau that the French action will prove to be the turning point on the road to universal peace the *Kurjer* writes "it lies in the interest of our country that this optimistic prophecy proves to be a reality. Before this happens however we ought to congratulate ourselves on the fact that by introducing control over money turnover we have rendered our country independent of all foreign disturbances and have created conditions that remove the danger of valuta fluctuations and enable us to conduct our own economic policy without endangering the basis of healthy economic development—the stability of national money".

*Stowo*, a Wilno journal discussing the question of the future President of the Polish Republic considers that Gen. Rydz-Śmigły has the best chance "that if till the time of the elections, nothing alters in the mood of the Polish people this high office is most likely to be filled by the greatly loved and popular Gen. Rydz-Śmigły. Doubtless his knowledge of military affairs, as well as his knowledge of the country would give him the qualifications that are indispensable for ruling the State".

K. M.

## SPALDING

Tennis Balls and Rackets

The World's Best.  
ŚTÓ-KRZYŻKA 13

Arro.



# Plays and Films

## Ryk Byłego Lwa

(Teatr Maly)

The plays of Bruno Winawer, probably the only intellectual Polish comedy writer, are very clever satires on vital problems, very pertinent and spiteful observations on our life, and, finally, in some measure deserve comparison with the creations of the great George Bernard Shaw. This comparison does not in the slightest suggest that Winawer is following the example of the Irish author (the scope of their talents and the sphere of their interests divide them), but rather I wish to confirm their relationship of mind governed by intellectualism and an ironic philosophy of the world and of life.

The last comedy of Bruno Winawer, *Ryk Byłego Lwa*, now presented by the Teatr Maly represents very well the technique of its author. The theme of the comedy is developed on a comic accident. After more than 20 years, Dr. Cerwus finds a series of love letters written to his wife, Lorcja, by his old friend, the architect Parny. The doctor is a man with a high sense of honor, so a duel must solve this unhappy accident of Lorcja's youth. On this theme Winawer has created a series of amusing burlesques, showing that life has played the doctor and architect a more painful trick in that both are elderly, and that the ideal of their youth has become a more than Balzac-age old lady. The duel does not take place as rheumatism and various illnesses does not permit them to undertake such heroic achievements. Life has made of them, to use a bridge term, "kibitzers" instead of players.

Returning to the comparison of Winawer with Shaw, this play shows all the faults of the great G.B.S. The construction is ill-planned, the tone of the play is sometimes burlesque, sometimes comedy, and in the third act especially it has the painfulness of a drama of human life, of old age and its uselessness. Winawer's comic talents do not in any case overshadow that sadness which emanates from the stage when we see the two heroes, some years since the Don Juans of Warsaw, now unnecessary old men. Winawer, through the mouth of Parny, puts the question—why is nature so cruel that old age makes men not only unnecessary but deformed.

### Municipality of Gdynia buys the Gdynia Shipyards.

The town of Gdynia has acquired 76 per cent of the share capital of the Gdynia Shipyards Co. from the Danzig Shipbuilding Co. The price paid by the town is 150,000 zlotys covering the whole complex of buildings of the Gdynia Shipyard Co. Ltd. with the exception of the floating dock. The remaining 24 per cent of the company's shares are in the hands of three Polish firms and will probably also be acquired by the municipality. A private company will be formed for running the shipyards under the control of the town authorities. It is intended at first to restrict operations to repair work and to the construction of smaller craft for the port service, and it is expected that the yearly takings of the shipyards should amount between 650,000 to 800,000 zlotys.

For this reason, even to young people, this is a very pessimistic outlook and not the ground for comic burlesque. We do not find the story of Dr. Cerwus and his friend so very amusing. We hope, therefore, that the play did not realise the wishes of the author, for, interspersed with witicism as it is, it is the painful story of two old gentlemen, and old age so presented cannot be the theme of a comedy but must always have the traits of the drama of human life.

*Ryk Byłego Lwa* found good interpreters of the leading rôles in Mr. Stanislaw Grolicki and Mr. Jan Kurkowiak, both of whom discreetly and with sentiment have shown us gentlemen transformed from youths into old, tired men. The rôle of Mrs. Lorcja, their old ideal, now a very uninteresting and insupportably exaggerated and affected old lady, was overplayed by Mrs. Janina Muncelgrowska, who gave to the interpretation too glaring tones. The remaining players, Wasutyńska, Kreczmar, and Wokowski deserve mention for their artistic achievements in the pallid episodic figures of the comedy. Direction by Mr. Edmund Wierciński and the decorations by Mrs. Z. Wegierko.

Arno.

### New Season In Theatres Polski.

Last Tuesday the Teatr Polski opened its new season by presenting the premiere of *Pickwick Club*, the scenic version of the famous Dickens story. This performance was a triumph of Alexander Wegierko, who by his intelligent, fresh and delightful witicism in the direction gave to the play all the humour, sentiment and colour associated with the book of Dickens. The review of this premiere will appear in the next issue.

Arno.

### Correction

In the last number of *The Warsaw Weekly*, the photograph of Miss Alina Halska in the rôle of Sara Ackland *Family Affairs* was wrongly titled. We correct this misprint.

### Bank Amerykański w Polsce Sp. Akc. (American Bank in Poland)

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## The 1937 British Industries Fair

Latest reports concerning the 1937 British Industries Fair, which will be held in London and Birmingham from February 15 to February 26, show that already, six months before the Fair, last year's figures for exhibiting space have been broken.

The Department of Overseas Trade announce that up to Monday, August 10, no fewer than 1,232 United Kingdom firms had applied for 568,930 square feet of exhibiting space in the sections of the Fair to be held in London, whilst 290,000 square feet of space has already been applied for at Birmingham.

The Fair in London in 1937 will have the advantage of the new Earls Court building which is claimed to be the largest and most thoroughly equipped exhibition building in the world; the section of the Fair to be housed at Olympia next year will benefit from the improvements which are being carried out there (at a cost of £250,000).

New buildings at Olympia include a six-storeyed service garage to hold 650 cars. Alterations are being made in the Empire Hall, which add greatly to the convenience alike of exhibitors and buyers. Escalators to all floors will replace the central stairways and a glass roof of the most recent design is another of the many improvements. A covered way from the Railway Station to a new vestibule to the Addison Road Entrance is being built.

Among the trade sections which will be accommodated at Olympia next year are family goods; pottery and glassware; stationery and printing; jewellery, silver and plate etc.; leather and leather goods; toys and game; sports goods; chemicals and drugs sundries, etc.

Novel opportunities for effective display are offered by the new Earls Court exhibition building where the textiles, furnishing fabrics and floor coverings, furniture, and food-stuffs sections will be housed. Here visitors will be able to exhibit by the Governments of the Dominions, India and the Colonies, which have hitherto been accommodated at Olympia. Earls Court has twelve acres of floor space; of the ground floor's six and a half acres, two and a half are unbroken by pillars. There is room on the ground and first floors, even when they are occupied by exhibition stands, for 40,000 people to move about with ease.

The area allotted to the Textiles Section is equal to any previous Textiles Section of the Fair. Lancashire textiles will be given every help and it is proposed to group their products in a special section. The Fashion Theatre, so popular a feature at the White City, is planned at Earls Court where the corridors between the stands converge; it will be the centre of the textiles display. In design, lighting, and arrangement the Fashion Theatre will be equipped with every modern device to enable British fashions to be displayed to their fullest advantage.

Special facilities for rapid and direct transport are provided at the new Earls Court. Six railway lines run to an unloading station under the building, and motor lorries can be raised bodily on giant lifts to the exhibition floor. In short, it will be possible to run direct from factory or warehouse to the display site.

## Warsaw Amusements

### THEATRES

ATENEUM Closed.  
KAMERALNY "Matruza"  
LEPIŃ "Cwiartka waleczna"  
MALICKIEJ "Protesja Pani Warren"  
MAŁY "Ryk Byłego Lwa"  
NARODOWY "Boguslawski i jego scena"  
NOWY "Dwodek osobito"  
POLSKI "Klub Pickwicka"  
REDUTA Closed.

### MUSICAL SHOWS

OPERA Closed  
OPERA "The Merry Widow"  
CYRULIK WARSZAWSKI — "Karjera Alfiego Oniegi"  
Hollywood — "Review with music"

### ART AND OTHER EXHIBITIONS

I. P. S. (Closed)  
ZACHETA. Autumn Vernissage.  
WAR MUSEUM. Marshal Piłsudski in Sculpture and Cigligński Exhibition  
METAL AND ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES EXHIBITION. Pulawska 2a.

### CINEMAS

\*\*\*APOLLO "Jadzia" Polish.  
\*\*\*ATLANTIC "Pasture". American  
\*\*\*BAJTYK "In the Spotlight". Austrian.  
\*\*\*CAPITOL "Tredowata". Polish

CASINO "Fredek uszczęśliwiał swiat" Polish  
\*\*\*EUROPA "Mary Queen of Scots" American  
\*\*\*FILHARMONJA "Royal waltz" German  
\*\*\*MAJESTIC "The Bohemian Girl" American  
PAN "Bolek i Lolek". Polish  
\*\*\*RIALTO "Vie versus Secretary". American  
ROMA "Eve Teeth and claws"  
\*\*\*STYLOWY "Bright Lights" American  
\*\*\*SWIATOWID "Mayerling" French  
\*\*\*STUDIO "Mayerling" French

What the asterisk mean —

\*\*\*A outstanding feature.  
\*\*\*Very good. \*\* Good.  
\* Average entertainment.

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### BRITISH PASSPORT CONTROL OFFICE UL. AZDOWSKA 18, WARSAW

No 11 The following persons are entitled to receive visas or immigration certificates for Palestine:

No. of certificate	N. NAME	Age	Category	Latest date for departure	Address
106899	LEKER Kalman	17	C	30. 9. 36	Kielec, Piotrowska 6
98389	MARGULIES Regina	12	D	15. 12. 36	Wloclawek, Spichlerzna 20
99406	FISHEL Herszel	46	D	16. 12. 36	Sosnowiec
99412	GORNSTEIN Etel	61	D	18. 12. 36	Bereszeczko
99413	KOKACIJA Sina	26	D	18. 12. 36	Krakow, Szeroka 38
99416	TRUBOWICZ Michel	80	D	18. 12. 36	Nowogrodzki Klek
99417	HALBERG Shulem	61	D	18. 12. 36	Toruń, Szczytna 9
99419	SZTUL Chaim	46	D	18. 12. 36	Rowna, Wodoczałowa 15
99420	NAPARSTEK Marjem	25	D	18. 12. 36	Zyrardow
99421	DREZNER Laja	52	D	18. 12. 36	Radom, Reja 14
99478	UCKER Chana	61	D	21. 12. 36	Rzeszow, Lwowska 19
99479	BOMBERKICZ Chana	21	D	21. 12. 36	Barnow
99490	EBER Mordechaj	61	D	21. 12. 36	Lwow, Berka 29
99498	SPIRA LajaBuz	56	D	21. 12. 36	Lodz, Zawadzka 6
99497	SZWARCMAN Frida	29	D	21. 12. 36	Lodz, Nowa 2
99491	SZWEJMAN Perla	52	D	22. 12. 36	Peretz St. Rowno
99492	KRUGLAK Chana	60	D	22. 12. 36	Sokolka, 11 Hatopala 16
99499	KOLOZYCIC Szostka	21	B/2	22. 12. 36	Siemiatyca, Podolaka 8
99503	BRAND Perla	21	D	27. 12. 36	Kierozna, pow. Lowicz
99505	PETT Tauba	27	D	27. 12. 36	Turka n/Strzym
99508	ROZEN Ghel	20	D	27. 12. 36	Lodz, Zachodnia 50
99510	COHEN Mordchai	56	D	27. 12. 36	Ostrow Mazowiecki
99513	RUBINSTEIN Chaja	62	D	27. 12. 36	Warsaw, Gesia 19/36
99518	RAPAPORT Ajda	19	D	27. 12. 36	Lezansk, Lanout 5
99520	KROIN Feiga	43	D	28. 12. 36	Pionsk, Rynek 9
99514	" Szmul	13	D		
99515	" Haim	11	D		
99516	" Hellek	8	D		
99524	FRIDBERG Sara	18	D	1. 1. 37	Dukla, pow. Krosnenski
99527	HARON Balcia	24	D	4. 1. 36	Lubow, Zamartnowska 30
99528	SWISZ-OKSI Sinech	28	A/1	28. 12. 36	Warsaw, Karmeliska 5
99531	GELBART Moses	15	B/3	1. 1. 37	Jagielnica, pow. Czortko
99532	BERNHAIM Wolf	17	B/3	1. 1. 37	Lodz, Skwerowa 20
99534	CHAIM	16	B/3	1. 1. 37	Lodz, Skwerowa 20
99536	JANOWER Dawid	15	B/3	1. 1. 37	Wloclawek, 3-go Maja 18
99540	LAMBEN Mowzsa	18	B/3	1. 1. 37	Brisk
99541	PIERNIKIENI Henryk	16	B/3	1. 1. 37	Warsaw, Krolewska 20/5
99543	TALBERSZTADT Aron	25	B/3	1. 1. 37	Warsaw, Fedalski 5
99551	IZKOWITZ Hendel	27	D	27. 12. 36	Wieruszow, Klasztorna 10
99554	BABEUJA Dandel	56	D	27. 12. 36	Wlodzisz, Smocza 2
99554	RYWKA	54	D		
99512	CWIGIEL Elizora	63	D	27. 12. 36	Warsaw, Nowolipie 47/46
99513	LIBLING Elizora	13	B/3	27. 12. 36	Szczeczyn

Following persons will be granted immigration certificates in Cat. A (0) —  
F. 2265 I. 54. BERKOWER Abraham A/1 —  
" Henryk  
" Jakob  
" Marcus  
(Mr. BERKOWER — subject to fulfilment of certain financial conditions)  
F. 2265 PUDLES Hirsz 43 A/1 27. 12. 36 Tarnopol  
" Fanny 37  
" Sulo 8  
" Neomi 2  
(Mr. PUDLES — subject to fulfilment of certain financial conditions)