

THE WARSAW WEEKLY

Offices: Sto-Krzyska 13, Warsaw, Poland, Telephone 272-77.
 English Representative: P. H. Straw, London.
 English Distributors: W. H. Smith & Sons, London.
 Subscription rates—zł. 3.50 quarterly, zł. 13.00 yearly.
 Foreign 4/- or \$ 1. quarterly, 15/- or \$ 3.75 yearly.
 Sole member for Poland of the North American Newspaper Alliance.
 Postal Cheque Account: 25958. W a r s a w a.
 Post Office Account: 615 Warszawa

2nd YEAR

WARSAW, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1936

No. 42

BELGIAN FOREIGN POLICY

The recent speech of the King of the Belgians has aroused great interest in international political circles.

It stands out clearly from the royal declaration that Belgium has lost confidence in collective security as based on the Locarno pacts. The numerous political events of primary importance which have occurred during the last few years have demonstrated, in Belgian eyes, that the system is no longer practical. The endeavour to harmonise contradictory interests by inserting them in the general and misty framework of legal formulas has failed, as vital interests have shown themselves to be more powerful. For this reason, Belgium, who desires the most real guarantees of peace and security will see itself obliged to seek for a more effective solution and one better adapted to the existing international situation.

Certain European observers consider that from the point of view of Belgian interests the Franco Soviet Pact has annulled the effects of the Locarno negotiations.

The declaration of King Leopold III proves that Belgium prefers to rely above all on her own strength. In view of the intensive arming of the other European nations the desire of Belgium to consolidate its defense organization appears logical and sound. An exclusively Belgian policy as such constitutes for Belgium its second line of defence. This point of the royal declaration finds itself justified by the strain in international relations due to the contradictory nature of the economic and social doctrines obtaining in certain countries. To this should be added the fact that the violent contrasts and even the internal political struggles to be observed in certain states have only added to the general European tension. The political views of the Belgian nation are actually undergoing a definite evolution owing to the anti-communist sentiments of certain groups, who desire to isolate Belgium from the doctrinal divergencies of other powers.

The return of Belgium to the tradition of neutrality — of which much reference has been made in the press — should not be understood as the faithful continuation of her policy before 1914, when it depended on the guarantees of the great powers. As is shown by the declaration of the King, Belgium intends to base her neutrality on the experience of the great war and to adapt it to the present conditions of the international situation. There is no longer a weak Belgium and one therefore incapable of having a decided foreign policy which will be faced with neighbours or other states in a possible conflict, but a Belgium whose foreign policy will be backed by a modern army.

A Marshal's Baton for General Rydz-Smigly



It is announced that General Rydz-Smigly is to be promoted to the rank of Marshal on the 10th of November. Such a promotion would probably have relatively little influence on the part played by Rydz-Smigly in the political life of Poland, as he has already been officially declared to be the second citizen of the Republic, next to the President. The conferring of this title on Rydz-Smigly would be one more confirmation of his position as successor to Marshal Pilsudski — who was the "First Marshal of Poland".

Bank of Poland Return

During the third decade of September the gold holdings of the Bank of Poland increased by 3.6 million, zlotys to 372.8 million while the holdings of foreign exchanges and bills decreased by 3,000 zlotys to 16.5 million zlotys. The bills discounted portfolio rose to 661.9 million zlotys (increase: 21.2 million). Collateral security advances 119.8 million zlotys (increase: 9.2 million) and Treasury bills discounted to 46.9 million zlotys (increase: 4.0 million). The "other assets" item grew to 183.5 million zlotys (increase: 15.0 million) and that of "other liabilities" to 328.6 million zlotys (increase: 1.0 million) with sight liabilities at 196.1 million zlotys (decrease 17.1 million). Notes in circulation rose to 1,047.8 million zlotys (increase: 56.8 million). The gold cover of the note circulation and of sight liabilities stood at 32.29 per cent, i. e. 2.29 points over the statutory minimum. The discount rate stayed at 5 per cent, and the interest rate on collaterals advances at 6 per cent.

The declaration does not in any way signify that — as has been misinterpreted by certain foreign papers — that Belgium denounced her international obligations; it expresses rather certain new tendencies of Belgian foreign policy as faced with the forthcoming negotiations between the states participating in the Rhineland pact.

It should be taken into consideration that this change in Belgian policy is due exclusively to the need assuring the integrity of Belgian territory.

P. I. P.

Poland's Maritime Trade

The total tonnage of goods banded at the two seaports of the Polish customs area during the first eight months of the current year was 8,239,000 tons, an increase of 138,000 tons over the corresponding period of 1935. The goods traffic of the Port of Gdynia during the period under review shows a steady advance, from 4,566,000 tons to 4,876,000 tons and to 4,897,000 tons for 1934, 1935 and 1936 respectively. At Danzig there was no such steadiness of increase, the figures for the first eight months of three years being, 4,167,000 tons, 3,225,000 tons and 3,342,000 tons respectively. It has to be added, however, that imports via Danzig are now steadily increasing, while the decline in the total goods traffic in 1935 resulted from a decrease in exports through that port. It appears from the reports of the Polish State Railways that during the second quarter of the current year in comparison with the corresponding period of 1935, Polish overland exports decreased by 172,000 tons (decrease of 29.5 per cent), and Polish overland imports by 15,700 tons (decline of 17.8 per cent). At the same time the increase of goods exported through the seaports was 77,000 tons (increase of 3.4 per cent), and of those imported through them 57,000 tons (increase of 23.4 per cent).

Chinese Minister visits Vienna

The Chinese Minister, Dr. Chang-Hsin-Hai has left Warsaw for Vienna where at the invitation of the Kulturbund he will give a lecture on "Evolutionary problems of Modern China".

LONDON LETTER

By Gregory Macdonald

There has been a noticeable change in world affairs since the announcement of the tripartite stabilisation pact. Concentration upon international dangers has fairly generally given place to a concentration upon the domestic affairs of nearly every country. America would in any case have been absorbed by now in the Presidential election. The Spanish civil war was already occupying the energies of Spain — but in the past two weeks it has actually become a less important international issue: Russia's attempt to bring it to the forefront disclosed some interesting symptoms of Russian isolation from the affairs of Europe, and the internal affairs of the U.S.S.R. themselves claim increasing attention. Austria has carried out an internal revolution with hardly a ripple on the international waters. Belgium is considering first and foremost the question of Flemish separatism. France is passing through an internal conflict between internationalism and nationalism; and although Germany's objections to the speeches of M. Thorez seemed like a recrudescence of friction between Germany and France, they were more accurately judged as an external reinforcement for the nationalist spirit inside France.

What is true of so many other countries is true also of Great Britain. The outstanding feature of internal affairs is the conflict between Communists and Fascists in some of the large industrial areas but more particularly in the East End of London. For two Sundays running there have been demonstrations and clashes in a mood of anger unusual for England. It is even less usual for political conflict in London to revolve around the Jewish question, but there are signs not to be ignored that this question is now at the forefront of debate. The Communists defend the Jewish element as certainly as the Fascists attack it and the East End of London becomes a battleground precisely because it contains so many Jews. The struggle is perhaps more bitter because the Jewish problem which certainly exists is treated as non-existent by the Press, so that political passions are fed by pamphleteers who make anything serve as an argument. If, as many believe, the underlying protest is against the more greedy forms of Capitalism that created the social evils which must now be cured, it is an evasion to blame the Jew alone for these. Christians were as eagerly progressive as Jews in the heyday of the Manchester School. An attack turned solely against the Jew at this juncture might leave the evils undiminished but masquerading under the guise of Christian nationalism.

However, the social conflict has not yet reached a serious

pitch in England. The habit or convention of compromise, which is always regarded as central in the national character, may in fact be thrown off in the stress of new circumstances. But the strong insular and community sense will remain, together with habits of rooted dislike for civil disturbance and a confidence in the forces of law and order. How strong the actual forces of Communism and of Fascism are it is very difficult to determine. That both are growing, and growing secretly there can be little doubt. Yet both are foreign forms, and the opinion can be hazarded that, while the nationalist party or spirit will certainly triumph, it will not triumph in black shirt or brown but under some banner which has not yet been raised.

Processions and demonstrations are spectacular affairs but behind the headlines there are larger and more significant movements to consider. One is the increasing weakness of the Left in Great Britain as all over the rest of Europe. Propaganda of the Left probably reached its peak during the crises of League of Nations and Popular Front politics. Since then, Russian influence has diminished, Spain has promised a significant decision and M. Blum in France has been steadily driven to the Right. The very strange development is now taking place in Great Britain while the slogan of Peace and Democracy (which fell quite appropriately from the lips of nineteenth century Tories) have been taken over almost exclusively by the Left, and while the ordinary politician has thus been almost bereft of platitudes, in actual fact the country is fairly solidly behind a policy of rearmament and self-protection.

The motion passed by the Labour Party Conference at Edinburgh enshrined an agreement with the Government's rearmament policy in a confused harangue about Fascist dictators, the sanctity of treaties and the maintenance of democratic institutions—but the meat of the matter was rearmament all the same. Here there was substantial agreement with the Conservative Party Conference at Margate, where Sir Samuel Hoare spoke optimistically of the arms programme, with the significant addition that it would be carried out without interfering with the prosperity of the country. At the Banker's Dinner Mr. Neville Chamberlain provided the explanation to that statement when he said that the regime of cheap money would continue and that he was "embarrassed" over the Budget owing to the "peculiar difficulties" of the defence expenditure. An unbalanced Budget, which would have been a frightening sign of national bankruptcy some years ago is now seen in

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LONDON LETTER

(Continued from page 1)

its true light as the creation of new money by the Government for the needs of the internal market.

The old internationalism (which had a nationalistic guise) is now giving place to a new conception of nationalism of which the heart is the resumption of financial sovereignty. It goes with a series of checks upon the activities of speculators and grain withering in the importance of the City of London as a financial power interconnected with the Bourses of other countries. Mr. Montagu Norman pointed out at the same dinner that the London discount markets, which five years ago had about two hundred and twenty million bills to cover, five months ago had only one hundred and thirty million. This does not mean that the London trade is failing to recover but that the trade is no more and more working on a cash or barter basis; international trade will recover quickly enough, but it will be trade of goods against goods, and of surpluses over and above the needs of home markets, with international lending fading out of the picture. This aspect of affairs should be connected with the failure of the internationalism of the last century, and itself during last year's crises to be the rearguard action of nineteenth century Liberalism.

The Conservative Party Conference of Margate rejected a Government hint that the revision of Mandates would be considered, and there the question is left for the future. The only power to become of interest later on. For Germany's disinclination to devalue is bound up with her recognition of the bargaining powers which she possesses with the rest of the world. The problem of redistributed raw materials still remains. Some talk is heard that London may grant Germany a credit and therefore the colonial campaign was damped down in the interim. It is not clear, however, at this moment would be equivalent to a grant of sterling exchange to enable Germany to buy raw materials during the interim period of devaluation and would not be a grant of the right of production and consumption in a free economy.

The significance of the Belgian neutrality pronouncement has not been lost upon London where it is seen in relation with General Franco's victories in the field and with Russia's angry protests against the work of the Non-Intervention Committee. The implications of King Leopold's speech have been widely discussed in the Press without an echo of the angry outbursts which at first arose in Paris. It was one of those decisions which, as not infrequently in the past few years, dramatically calmed and modified an ugly situation. For just previously Germany and France were at daggersdrawn over the Thorez demonstration in Alsace, Russia was protesting against the coup over the fortunes of Spain, a series of pessimistic speeches was being made even in Great Britain, and there seemed every possibility that under the influence of a war scare a vast amount of capital would be moved quickly across the Atlantic to produce an inflationary boom on Wall Street, in which the American speculator would join. (It is interesting to recall that under the New Deal legislation on Wall Street boom can no longer be created by brokers' loans but it might arise from large-scale cash investment).

Looking back, however, it becomes obvious that the war scares of October 1936 are very mild affairs as compared with what they were six months or a year ago. King Leopold's decision broke any present pressure of an encirclement policy: with

Paderewski makes film in London

They have finished shooting "Moonlight Sonata" at Denham, and Ignace Jan Paderewski, greatest of living pianists, has returned to his home in Switzerland, after this unique experiment in film making.

Although the studios were a strange world to him, Paderewski has enjoyed his experience, and endeared himself by his enthusiasm and unaffailing courtesy not only to his fellow players, but to the thousands of people who, and, indeed, everyone with whom he came in contact. He has a perfect understanding of the English language, and his diction has delighted his director, Lothar Mendes. Also he has impressed the audience with his extraordinary acting ability. The pianist's favourite topic of conversation is bridge, which he was ready to discuss at length with anybody on the set who shared his passion. At the end of each day's shooting, he invariably shook hands with everybody, and at the same time, he was concerned in the making of the picture, and had always a cordial word for everybody.

This picture contains the longest individual sequences ever shot. One 1,000 feet in length, shows Paderewski playing a Beethoven Sonata. Another, lasting over nine minutes, is a complete rendering of Liszt's Second Hungarian Rhapsody.

Some lovely sets have been designed for "Moonlight Sonata" by Laurence Irving, grandson of Sir Henry. The cast includes Marie Tempest, Charles Farrell and Barbara Greene. It is a Pall Mall Production.

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General Franco's successes it completed the discomfiture of Popular Front politics and therefore of Moscow; while it compelled an increasingly nationalist France to undertake some excellent public works for internal consumption from Thionville to Dunkirk. The realities of the European alliances remain what they were, but the unrealities — chiefly expressed by a Russophile League and a Franco-Soviet Pact — are suddenly called in question.

Mr. J. L. Garvin wrote last week in the *Observer* a most significant article on these aspects of the Belgian decision, which he took with other events to indicate that "the foreign policy of the League policy [which] has been abandoned for the last two years has broken down on all hands"; but more than that, the meaning of these events "is that Communism is irrevocably rejected by the majority of every European nation outside Russia. In that respect the League policy has been over. The failure of the Litvinov policy all over Europe — for its discomfiture is as sure now in France as in Belgium — is not only a defeat but a debacle and a rout." The article was an onslaught upon Russia's international policy [which, he is insinuating, is the cause of her present predicament] which would have triumphed in France and Spain, leaving Germany to be dealt with at leisure by a Red bloc or federation. It declared emphatically that "there will be no change for an inch of progress towards peace until the Soviet Government has been rebuffed"; and it intimated that Mr. Litvinov had strenuously obstructed any real reform of the League; and it concluded by praising Stalin as "a great realist and a great nationalist" who had already killed or suppressed the typical theorists of universal revolution, and was now "wise enough to see, if Mr. Litvinov does not, that the old game is up for ever and ever."

AUSTRALIAN LETTER

(From our own Correspondent)

An important Federal and State issue in the matter of taxation reached a disappointing climax today at the Premier's Conference. Several of the States have been hoping for amendments to the present Financial Agreement, but Mr Lyons stated that the Commission would not be able to vacate permanently any field of taxation. The matter is interesting as showing the difficulties of administering as a unit under joint separate state and Federated Commonwealth control. The divergent needs of the six States will only become more prominent as the separate lines of development make the contrast more marked.

Within N. S. W. public feeling has been roused over the proposal to abolish the relief works which have been carried on to keep unemployment within bounds; the men so dismissed will be put back on the Dole, which plan is much resented for the demoralising effect it has on the recipients of such State help without equivalent of work. The matter which has been postponed owing to public feeling, should come up for settlement in the next few days.

Negotiations with Japan on the tariff affecting wool will begin in the next few days, but with reserve on both sides. The vital aspect of the problem lies in whether or not Japan is seriously considering challenging the world market for wool with artificial product, as this will involve her with both the U. S. and England, but meanwhile talk of buying wool from South Africa and producing much of it in Manchukuo is expected by Japan to make negotiations with Australia easier.

Considerable interest is being taken in an N. R. M. A. Pontiac Round Australia Survey trip, to which the press is giving considerable space. In such things Australia being an island, and distant, misses the stimulus of international events such as the Monte Carlo Rally.

A campaign is in progress to popularise Australian jams in England, in the form of a large shipments of jam as gifts. This it is expected will be a great help to fruit growers here by popularising our products at home.

the International Loan Exhibition of European Art is still drawing crowds, though for the most part the pictures sent are too few in number to be in any way representative. The wife of the Czechoslovakian Consul gave a well attended lecture on the Czech-Slovak section, which was small but well selected. Poland by not contributing lost a good opportunity for satisfying that interest in her development as a modern state which exists in Australia and has all too few materials for information. *Helene Heneu*

A Jules Verne Society.

Amiens may be famous throughout the art world for one of the most magnificent Gothic cathedrals, and thousands may visit its House of the Man with Three Heads, medieval mansion rich in carved gables, but it is dear to the hearts of thousands as the home of Jules Verne, prolific author of stories of scientific adventure which have delighted readers in all parts of the world. In France the works of Jules Verne are still best sellers.

A Jules Verne Society has now been founded, and tributes to the memory of the great writer of adventure stories are reaching it from all parts. Many come from England, where the earlier works of Jules Verne were made known through the pages of *The Boy's Own Paper*.

Like his friend and adviser, Alexandre Dumas, Jules Verne began as a writer for the stage,

PRESS REVIEW

Kurjer Warszawski writing on the situation in Danzig which has resulted from the dissolution of the Socialist Party considers this a proof that "the national socialists have no intention of sharing their authority with anybody and that they will not allow anybody to interfere in Danzig home affairs".

The *Kurjer* quotes from the speech of the President of the Senate a passage concerning Poland. "If Poland proceeds to execute the task laid on her by the League of Nations, on the territory of the Free City we shall not yield in any way the position preserved by us till now regarding our sovereignty in questions of home policy". This the *Kurjer* says is a warning to Poland to be on its guard against touching the sovereignty of the Germans. The *Kurjer* regard Danzig if not a component part of the Reich in any case as its colony and prepare Poland in advance that her role in Danzig is limited to that of a messenger. The makers said a mission on paper without practical significance".

Front Robinzievicz, the organ of the socialist Moraczewski, finds that the present situation in Polish foreign policy is nearing the line laid down by Marshal Pilsudski and that in view of the solidary policy of the Fascist states it is necessary to strengthen the policy laid down by the Marshal "Therefore after strengthening and refreshing our relations with France, there ought to come and certainly will come a rapprochement between Poland and the States of the Little Entente." The writer states the only reason to be glad that these states (especially after the regulation of our relations with Soviet Union) which are predestined as 'the natural allies of Poland - are getting stronger and are proceeding to strengthen any measures to build up their safety on their own forces'.

Kurjer Polski in an article entitled "Exam of Private Initiative" writes that the exhibition of Metallurgic and Electric Industry has shown that private initiative may be trusted and may be allowed to develop all the constructive talent and strength lying hidden in it and till now kept under. "The moment is important. The country is beginning to wake up and blood

and had written three tragedies and four comedies before his first story of adventure, "A Voyage in a Balloon", which he wrote in 1851, when he was 23 years old. From then on he was 34 that his successful career as a writer of scientific adventure began.

In 1852 Jules Verne placed the manuscript of "Five Weeks in a Balloon" before the publishing of Hetzel. As soon as the manuscript had been read, a contract was made with Verne to supply forty volumes in twenty years. Then followed that wonderful series of books of adventure with "A Journey to the Moon", "Voyages and Adventures of Captain Hatteras", "The Children of Captain Grant", "Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea", "Around the World in Eighty Days", "The Mysterious Island", "Michel Strogoff", "The Clipper of the Clouds", etc.

The wonderful inventions, strange craft that Verne's heroes steered through the air or beneath the waves seemed all of the region of wild, fantastic impossibilities, and yet there is hardly one of the creatures of his brain which has not become a reality.

is coursing always more actively in its veins. The above jump of which Minister Kwiatkowski spoke can and must be performed—under one condition however that the impulse of private initiative should find understanding and support”.

Goniec Warszawa*ski* predicts great political changes in home affairs on the 11th November, connected with the organising of the elections. The appearance of the signs of the approaching change the *Goniec* considers is the resolution of the Peoples Party and P. P. S. demanding dissolution of the present Sejm and the convening of new elections." This concerted move of the two opposition parties is intended doubtlessly as a hint to Colonel Koc and declining hopes that they will not be satisfied nor that they will gain over to any cooperation if the system of election to parliament is not allowed and in this way a possibility created of introducing a new representation of the nation on different election basis.

Czas also foresees important changes forthcoming in November and writes concerning this, "This year the 11th November will be particularly important for the further development of political events in our country. On this day beside the usual celebrations and review an act of important political and military significance will take place,

J. K. has an article by Jean Thouvain in which he discusses the visit of Minister Beck to Paris arguing a still stronger development of the French-Polish friendship. He writes, "The contact between Paris and Warsaw increases," further, after emphasising the fact that Poland will allow neither the Russian nor the German army to pass through her territory, he says, "Poland is indeed a link between East and West Europe. As long as France and Poland are inseparably united so long the danger of war in the East and also in the West will be less threatening".

The author also concludes that the withdrawal of Belgium gives the French-Polish alliance all the greater value. The journey of Minister Beck to Paris has its important significance.

K. M.

He was a tremendous reader of scientific reviews, and from them predicted a world which is daily becoming more true. Beside the airplane and the submarine he even foresaw wireless and television.

The late George V was an admirer of Jules Verne and had read almost all his works. Kipling, once asked the best means of getting a boy to study French, advised the inquirer to give the boy the first volume of "Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea" in English, and then give him the second volume in French and watch the result.

Jules Verne has a monument to his memory in a public garden in Amiens, and the new Société intends to create a Jules Verne museum in the house where he wrote his famous works. Many readers in Poland who in their youth delighted in the glorious adventures of Jules Verne's heroes may like to become members of the Société Jules Verne, about which full information can be obtained from the Secretary, 21, rue du Cherche-Midi. Paris. VI

As is known to many Jules Verne was a Pole by birth.

ALEXANDER FREDRO

(1793—1876)

The greatest Polish comedy writer, Alexander Fredro, author of *Sluby Panienskie* (*Magnetism of Hearts*) was born in *Surochów* (near *Jarostaw*) on June 20, 1793. His childhood was passed on the family estate of *Bienkowa Wisznia*, where he received his first education, as was then the custom, at home. Here, also, the penetration of the future comedy writer had opportunity to make acquaintance with the characteristic figures of the old Polish landowning gentry, afterwards models for many of the characters in his plays. Here, also, he tried, for the first time, his abilities as a playwright, creating a one act comedy entitled *Strach Nastraszony* (*Fright Frightened*).

In 1809, when only sixteen years of age, Fredro entered the ranks of the Polish soldiery, and remained with the army through the episode of the Duchy of Warsaw (1809—1812). He often changed his place of residence, the most beautiful remembrance coming from Lublin where he made the acquaintance of Aniela Trembicka. This young lady was the model of the future heroine of *Sluby Panienskie*. Her beauty and charm inspired Fredro afterwards to create this uncommonly beautiful feminine character.

Upon the opening of the new war with Russia, Fredro was already a major. He took part in the campaign of 1812, only by a miracle avoiding death near *Berezina*. In the period 1813-1814 he remained with the army of Napoleon, taking part in the battles of Leipzig, Eriburg and Hanau. After Bonaparte's abdication, he returned to Poland. This epoch in military service showed the young Fredro a new side of life, the dangerous side, and developed in him the knowledge of human character. At the same time, Fredro had the opportunity of visiting the theatres of Paris, thus developing his own qualities by studying foreign playwrights.

In 1814, Fredro was in Vienna during the famous Congress. Here he met Zofia Jablonowska, then the Countess Skarbek, who later became his wife. After returning from Vienna, Fredro spent the next three years between *Lwów* and *Bienkowa Wisznia*. His first comedy achievements date from this time.

They were not very successful, but marked with the talent of wit and characterization. The scholarly treatise of Frederick Schiller on the theatre, its cultural and artistic mission in the life of the nation, made a great impression on Fredro, and he began to prepare himself in earnest for the career of a comedy writer.

In 1818, at the estate of *Jatwieg*, he first became acquainted with the works of Molière, which he studied and read with passion and diligence. Molière was at the same time the master and friend of Fredro, that is to say the latter spent all his time with the works of the French author. He then created his first comedy entitled *Pan Goldbach* (1818), two years later presented with great success on the Warsaw stage, and then a one-act play, *Zrzędnosc i Przekora* (*Possiveness and Spitefulness*), a perfect work in the pseudo-classical style. The best play of this period was *Maz i Zna* (*Huband and Wife*) 1820-1821, full of a plastic moral picture showing in glaring lights the hypocrisy and false morality then prevailing in married life.



MISS ELŻBIETA BARSCZEŃSKA as Aniela in *Sluby Panienskie* of Alexander Fredro (Teatr Narodowy)

A trip to Italy gave him the opportunity of discovering the famous Carlo Goldoni (1707-1733) this reformer of the Italian stage and representative of the best comedy of that country. The comedies of this master made an impression upon Fredro, who introduced into one of his plays,

Przyjaciele (*Friends*) some of the ideas of the Italian playwright.

Upon his return to Poland, he wrote the comedy *Odludki i Potola* (*Misanthrop and the Poet*), a perfect portrayal of small town life, a defence of youth and its ideals. Then followed the farce, *Damy i Huzary* (*Ladies and Hussars*), an amusing history of the marriage projects of the old boys, the hussars.

The year from 1825 to 1833 is the epoch of his greatest creations, for during this time his best works appeared on the stage and in print. Among them were *List (Letter)*, *Noceleg u Apentinach* (*A Night at Noceleg*) and *Przyjaciele* (*Friends*), which had for a theme the old experiences of the writer, who still could not bring about his marriage with the Countess Skarbek. In 1826, there appeared *Gwaltu co się dzieje*, containing many allusions to the contemporary situation of Poland and to the oppressing government.

In 1828-29, we have his masterpiece of poetry and humour, *Sluby Panienskie*, *Dulizans*, and, finally, the *Concert*, which ended this period of Fredro's activities.

After 1830 he created several patriotic poems, and, finally, a comedy, *Pan Jowialski*, demonstrating and deploring the thoughtlessness and inactivity of contemporaneous dignitaries who spent their time in stupid and often bad enjoyment. A beautiful comedy, written in a truly Polish sincere style, was *Zemsta* (*Revenge*) in which the heroes were old noblemen (the epoch after the *Constitution of Bar*) whose characteristic trait was a desire to go to court.

In 1835 in the *Krakow* newspapers there appeared an article by *Saweryn Gzyczynski*, entitled the *New Epoch of Polish Poetry*, in which the comedies of Fredro were very criticized. Because of this attack, Fredro interrupted his work, and did not allow his new plays to be played or printed. His last work was *Dożyciucie* (*Annuity*).

The silence of Fredro forms a long epoch in his life. Only after public homage given him on March 23, 1865 by contemporary authors and the whole of Polish society did he return to his pen. In the last period of his life he was still able to create many scenic characters and plays, full



Teatr Narodowy. *Sluby Panienskie* (*The Magnetism of Hearts*) of Fredro. Miss E. Barszczeńska as Aniela and Mr. Jerzy Leszczyński as Gustaw. (Phot. Malarski)

of life, which were found after his death. Among these was the comedy *Wielki Człowiek do małych Interesów* (*A Big Man for a Small Deal*), which title has become proverbial. Fredro died in *Lwów* on July 15, 1876.

The comedies of Fredro may be characterized by saying that they are full of humour, wit, and burlesque, and no less poetic and sentimental. The military and landowning society among which he passed his years furnish the material for his heroes. The types in his comedies have been so well drawn that their names have come to designate different types of people.

At the same time, without exaggeration, Fredro can be compared with Molière as a true master of scenic construction and vivid plastic dialogue. These values united with poesy, charm and the well drawn background and well-chosen themes preserve the masterpieces of Fredro in their freshness and attractiveness.

The most beautiful of Fredro's work is undoubtedly *Sluby Panienskie*. This charming story is of two girls, Aniela and Klara, who, after reading several romances, decide that they shall never fall in love and never marry. But Gustaw, the hero, is able to kindle the interest of his beloved Aniela, and also to join Klara with the romantic Albin, who loves her. These sentimental tribulations and complications of the hearts are so poetically and beautifully treated by Fredro as to make of them a true jewel in our theatrical romantic literature and the figure of Aniela one of the finest and most charming in our comedies.

SLUBY PANIENSKIE AT THE TEATR NARODOWY

The *Teatr Narodowy*, in presenting such a masterpiece, is charged with special duties in its execution. As Molière is the specialty of the *Comédie Française* so Fredro should be that of the *Teatr Narodowy*. From this point of view the new realization of *Sluby Panienskie* is not a success. We can easily see that the performance was prepared in a hurry and without sufficient rehearsals, thus lacking that uniform style which should be given the works of Fredro on our first dramatic stage. The unevenness in the cast is very glaring. The roles of Gustaw and his uncle, Radost, were played by true masters of word expression, Jerzy Leszczyński and Stanisław Stanisławski. Leszczyński is, perhaps, because of his age, not quite the young lover, but the artistry of his poetic interpretation was truly satisfactory. But the other roles, in contrast, did not seem sufficiently prepared and even understood. Miss Świerczewska was miscast as Klara, the affectionate playing of Mrs. Sulima did not correspond with the directness of Mrs. Dobrońska (Aniela's mother), and Mr. Wesołowski gave too many farcical traits to his interpretation of Albin. Only Miss Barszczeńska as Aniela well interpreted the style of Fredro, bringing out all the poetry of this role with rarely delicate and charming lyricism. Her ideal physical qualities combined with her undoubted talent give great hopes that she will shortly become the incomparable interpreter of Fredro's heroine.

ARNO.

STANISŁAW MONIUSZKO (1819—1872)

Stanisław Moniuszko, next to Frederic Chopin the greatest Polish composer, is one of the representatives of romanticism in the history of music. The most important pages in Moniuszko's musical activities, winning for him immortality in Polish cultural



MONIUSZKO

history were his operatic achievements. He is the true creator of Polish national opera, possessing his own style, which up to now

is unsurpassed in popularity and artistry.

He composed a great number of operas, including *HALKA*, *STRASZNY DWÓR* (*The Haunted Castle*), *HABANIA* (*The Countess*), *VERBUM NOBILE* and *PLIS* (*The Raftsmen*) the best known and remaining even today not only in the repertory of Polish operatic stages, but also of many foreign ones.

Among these masterpieces of Moniuszko the opera *HALKA* has attained the greatest popularity and has achieved the highest number of performances (more than one thousand). The melodies of *HALKA* are known and appreciated not only by operagoers but also by the whole of the Polish people, belonging as they do in some degree to folksong.

As Franz Schubert began in Europe the period of artistic song creation, so Moniuszko (to whom Schubert was always an example of the highest artistry in song-writing) can easily be named as the father of Polish artistic modern song. For the vocal lyrics of Moniuszko, works of true

talent and culture, were a base and a model for a great number of composers, who afterward created Polish songs, forming a post-Moniuszko epoch.

Moniuszko's songs are always truly Polish and very simple in style, very melodious and their accompaniments are written with cleverness, care and delicate effect. The best of his songs have as themes love or folklore, very often in their musical construction resembling an operatic fantasy. Many of Moniuszko's songs can still be heard at concerts and have indeed almost become folksongs.

In concluding these short remarks on Moniuszko's activities it must be added that the famous author of *HALKA* has also composed three symphonic overtures, in style resembling the symphonic music of Mendelssohn-Bartholdy. Among them *BAJKA* (*The Fable*) has attained greatest popularity on concert stages. It is a romantic and poetical work and has rather the character of a great symphonic poem, well constructed and with all the marks of Moniuszko's brilliant compositions.

J. MACIERAKOWSKI

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Music and Plays

STRASZNY DWÓR

(The Haunted Castle)

The *Teatr Wielki* opened its new season under the new management of Jerzy Mazurkiewicz with the revival of the Polish masterpiece *Straszny Dwór* (The Haunted Castle) by Stanisław Moniuszko.

This is undoubtedly the finest work of the famous author of *Halka*. The rhythmic musical style of *Straszny Dwór*, its perfect instrumentation, its melodiousness and its truly Polish character make this opera a representative work not only of our romantic opera, but of all operatic literature. This beautiful work of Moniuszko also contains a fine libretto by Jan Chęciński showing the life, customs and amusements of the Polish gentry and countryfolk.

The overture and prologue (The return of the Knights), are both inspired with the genius of true Polish music. This style shows itself in the first act (The homecoming of the young heroes) where the singing of the trio is especially delightful. The second act (At the Haunted Castle) is rich in the effects of the ensemble scenes and contains most beautiful solos and chorus sung by women; while the fourth act contains the famous *mazurka*, one of the best musical compositions of this national dance, and it also portrays Moniuszko's ideas in the inception and production of his musical problems. But it is in the third act (The Night at the Haunted Castle) that he achieves his real triumph, as a composer. The poetry and romanticism of the music can here be compared with the best works of this kind.

In *Straszny Dwór* as well as in other works of Moniuszko composed during that fateful period of Poland's captivity, apart from the artistic values, the great impression is made by their national character. In these works (as also in *Pan Tadeusz* by Mickiewicz) all Poles find a picture of ancient Poland in all her glory and splendour.

The brilliant premiere of the new season gives us ground to hope that the artistic level of the *Teatr Wielki* will be a high one in its repertoire as well as in its production. *Straszny Dwór* was certainly prepared with the greatest possible care and artistry.

The orchestra-chief Mr. Mieczysław Mierzejewski possesses that perfect contact between singers, instrumentalists and conductor so indispensable to the production of the opera, at the same time interpreting Moniuszko's music with good understanding of its style. The stage direction was in the hands of Aleksander Zelwerowicz who arranged the group scenes with plasticism and who gave much character to the acting of the singers which was exceptionally good. In past years the second act was always played inside the house, but this year it has been changed to the outside of the house which, in our opinion is a mistake and strikes an unnatural note. The picturesque sets were carried out by the talented stage designer Józef Wodyński, the well known authority on old Polish style.

The cast of *Straszny Dwór* was composed of first class artists, among whom we should like to mention: Karwowska, Platonowa, Bręgi, Bender, Michałowski, Mossakowski, Znicz, Dobosz and others, who sang and acted with culture and a very real sense of music. The ballet was by Sascha Leontiev.

J. Macierakowski.

AIDA

One of the most favourite operas of the Warsaw public *Aida* was presented in *Teatr Wielki* last Saturday. Miss Siewa Orłowska (dramatic soprano), an interesting young singer made her debut in the title role. She has a freshness of voice, especially good in the high notes, together with a fine sense of musically, excellent diction and dramatic ability. She is an artist, who has a great future before her.

The other roles in *Aida* were very well and artistically performed under the baton of Jerzy Siliński. These included: Leska (Amneris), Bender (Pharaoh), Michałowski (Ramphis), Golebiowski (Radames) and Jerzy Czaplinski who with his uncommonly beautiful voice triumphed once more, as Amnator. The dances showed an uncommon talent of the new ballet-master Sascha Leontiev.

J. Macierakowski

SZIGETI AT THE PHILHARMONIC

The appearance of the Hungarian violinist, Joseph Szigeti is always sure to attract a large audience and this was the case at the Symphony Concert on the 18th. October. He played the Brahms' concerto and to say the truth, however great our love and admiration for this noble work yet one cannot wish that violinists, especially such eminent ones as Szigeti, should extend their repertoire and allow us to hear them in the works of other masters such as Bach, Mozart, Vivaldi, etc. or even of more modern composers whose acquaintance we should gladly make. Moreover the violinist was not in his usual form.

The Director of the Opera in Zagreb, Lovro Matice conducted the E-Minor Symphony of Mozart in a musicianly way if somewhat lacking in fire. There were two novelties, Concerto for orchestra by Michael Kondracki, a young composer of great talent. His concerto is brilliantly orchestrated, effective and colourful, naturally very modernistic, but without deeper appeal. It was succeeded by Dulka, Medicins Appreht and a Symphonic Poem, also a novelty by a Yugoslavian composer, Goto.

As usual the programme was too large and fatiguing. It is impossible to listen with due attention to two unfamiliar orchestral works in addition to a Symphony, Concerto and Orchestral Scherzo.

K. M.

THE CAREER OF ALPH OMEGA

(TEATR CYRULIK WARSZAWSKI)

We all witnessed a few months ago the tremendous and spontaneous ovations which took place during the people of the sojourn of Jan Klepura, the great Polish tenor. We can still remember the enormous crowds of people before the Philharmonia, the Hotel Europe, The *Teatr Wielki* and even in the streets when the motor car of the singer appeared. This is the pride of the admiration given him by the Warsaw people.

Now, some months after these ovations given by the people of our city the *Teatr Cyrulik Warszawski* is presenting a musical comedy written by two well known theatrical playwrights, Julian Tuwim and Marian Hemar, entitled *The Career of Alph Omega*. This is a parody on the last visit of our tenor in Warsaw, which also portrays in twelve scenes the beginning, the present and the future of Alph Omega and it contains much first class wit and humour touching on actual political events and satirising many well known Warsaw people always with the slogan "To have voice is all in art and in politics".

Hemar and Tuwim must be congratulated on their work for we have not seen for a very long time a performance of a musical comedy containing so much intelligent, satirical but excellent humour. The scenes where Alph Omega sings from the railway station, from the balcony of a hotel and also from a street lamp are really amusing, and his speeches are gems of parody which can be appreciated by those who heard the original speeches of the tenor.

The opening scene where Alph Omega begins his career as a state official is very sympathetic and in her two sentimental songs gave a show of his artistic interpretation, the music and the lyrics. We must also mention the achievements of Miss Stefka Górska, Mr. Tadeusz Olza (a capital burlesque of a high state official) and Mr. F. Jurek, who played the role of a splendid interpreter of Mr. Achilles Blum, who wishes to make a career thanks to a good actual conjuncture of the time. The music composed and executed by Mr. Bornański and Mr. Gimpel.

BOOK NOTES

LIFE WITH FATHER

By Clarence Day

Life With Father by the American author Clarence Day, has appeared in the Albatross Library. It is a charming book full of humour, a living portrait of a father, a living portrait of a family awakening is all our sympathy and affection while we laugh at and with the warm-hearted, benevolent family depicted so utterly unconscious of his own egotism and at the same time so deeply and sincerely devoted to his wife and children. However impossible he is in his rage and roarings we always love him. The chapter when "Father says on a button" is extraordinarily funny. The whole man is summed up in the conclusion of the book when he declares he will buy a new plot in the cemetery all for himself "And I'll buy one in a corner" headed triumphantly "where I can get out". Mother looked at him, startled but admiring, and whispered to me, "I almost believe he could do it".

THE TOP LANDING

By W. Townsend

The *Top Landing* by W. Townsend published now in the Tauschitz Edition is a good story of a young writer who lives in a third rate London boarding house for the sake of cheapness going to write his novel undisturbed. He gets mixed up in the lives of the other apparently dull inmates who turn out however all to have their own dramatic lives. The young author, who is a self lives through a romance far outstripping anything he has attempted to invent and we gather that life becomes the novelist's best master. The comic touches in the portrait of the landlady and her husband show a truly humorous vein. The deeper lying idea of the book however is expressed by one of the characters, a disabled soldier, who says, "The most worth-while thing we've got to get left money or fame or anything but character. And character isn't formed by everything going the way you want. Character's formed by adversity, as you might put it".

K. M.

Publications received:

"*Morze*" official journal of the Polish Sea and Colonial League, October number.

"*Balkan Herald*"—only English Newspaper covering exclusively the Balkans and the Near East, October number.

FIRST MAIL FLIGHT BETWEEN POLAND AND PALESTINE

On the 27-th of October the first mail plane of the Polish Air Lines "Lot" will leave Warsaw for Haifa and Jerusalem. It will be at the same time a test flight preliminary to the opening of a regular passenger service between Warsaw and Palestine air line. It will be an extension of the already existing Polish Warsaw-Bucharest-Sofia-Salonica-Athens air line. The passenger service on the Palestine line will be inaugurated in the spring of 1937.

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Adolf Dymarski played Alph Omega to perfect mimicry and dancing in a more intimate fashion and generally delighting the audience with his interpretation of the role of tenor. He is a popular actor, the favourite of Warsaw public, and now he has added singing to his accomplishments!

His partner, Miss Janina Brochiewicz is very sympathetic and in her two sentimental songs gave a show of his artistic interpretation, the music and the lyrics. We must also mention the achievements of Miss Stefka Górska, Mr. Tadeusz Olza (a capital burlesque of a high state official) and Mr. F. Jurek, who played the role of a splendid interpreter of Mr. Achilles Blum, who wishes to make a career thanks to a good actual conjuncture of the time. The music composed and executed by Mr. Bornański and Mr. Gimpel.

Arno

Warsaw Amusements.

THEATRES

NARODOWY "Siuby Panienki" POLSKI "Klub Piekawica" NOWY "Dowód osobisty" MAŁY "Zwycięska Płeć" LETNI "Cviartka papieru" MALICKI "Profesja" Pani Warren ATENEUM "Szkoła Zna" REDUTA Closed. KAMERALNY "Matura"

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MUSICAL SHOWS

OPRETKA — "The Merry Widow". CYRULIK WARSZAWSKI — "Karjera Alfa Omegi"

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MAŁA ZACHĘTA. Exhibition of Zofia Stankiewicz.

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| 99691 | " Golda | 14 | " | " | " |
| 99692 | KATZ Chana | 55 | D | 18. 1.37 | Lida, Suwalka 123 |
| 99693 | TALMUD Brandia | 40 | D | 18. 1.37 | Naselsk, Rynek 1 |
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| 100488 | " Sara | 63 | D | 15. 1.37 | Pinsk |
| 100489 | NETEL Gila | 52 | D | 15. 1.37 | Zamosc, Ormiański 8 |
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Advertising Rates: 50 groszy per millimeter. Term rates on application. Classified advertising — 20 groszy per word.

The Warsaw Weekly is published every Saturday by E. Sykes, Warszawa, St. Krzyżak 13

Editor: EGERTON SYKES.

Assistant Editor: CECILIA HALPERN.

Redaktor Odpowiedzialny — CECYLIA HALPERN

Zakłady Graficzne B. Pardecki i S-ka Warszawa, Zielna 56, tel. 5-22-05