

# THE WARSAW WEEKLY

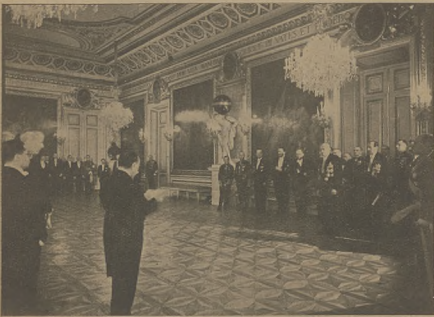
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3rd YEAR

WARSAW, SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1937

No. 2

## New Year's Day at the Zamek



President Moscicki receiving the New Year wishes of the Corps Diplomatique from the Turkish Ambassador

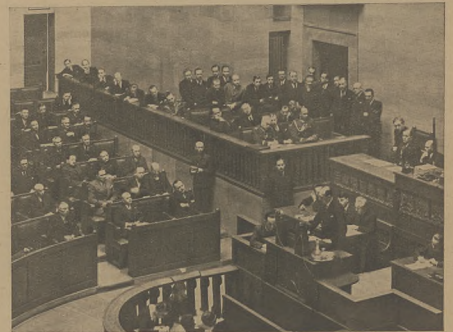
## Mr. Beck discusses the French Loan

Mr. Beck speaking before the plenary session of the Diet on the 5th January, dealing with the foreign political aspects of the French Loan, stated that its object was quite clear. It is obvious that Poland must rejoice for every rifle put into the hands of her soldiers, while he, as Minister for Foreign Affairs, working for peace, felt no contradiction between this statement and his conscience.

In order that peace should not be a vain ideal, continued His Excellency, two conditions must be fulfilled: firstly the sincerity of intention of the state which inserts this word in its political programme and secondly, the possession of the necessary strength to ensure to the political programme of our country the respect due to it by others. On these bases the draft law presented to the Chambers may be considered as justified in all respects.

During the course of the past year I have on several occasions referred in the Senate to the favourable development of our relations with France. To-day I would like to draw attention to the manner in which the agreement between the two countries was ratified, the debate in the French Chamber, the attitude of the French Government and lastly but not least, the unanimous vote of ratification of the agreement by the Parliament, a fact which has never before been noted in the course of the current Parliament.

The past history of our relations with France dates back to 1921 when the Chief of State, accompanied by Ministers Sapieha



Mr. Beck addressing the Sejm.

and General Sosnkowski, visited Paris and met President Millerand and Ministers Briand and Barthou.

This was at a period of chaos following on the dislocation of the world by the great war, a period which has been followed by many illusions and many deceptions, political life which had tended to become a succession of relations between Chancellors sank to even lower level while of the international code practically nothing was left.

Once again we are at the meeting place between two epochs, between the bankruptcy of the first tentative to organise peace between the nations and the new effort in this direction which must be undertaken. And

it is at this time precisely that I am able to assert the vitality of relations between Warsaw and Paris, as manifested by the visits of General Gamelin and General Smigly Rydz, and the unanimity of Polish views on this subject; a vitality such as had not been foreseen by the builders of 1921.

As to the future, I can only say, continued Mr. Beck, that there is a complete understanding between the Polish and the French Governments as to the maintenance of Polish — French alliance in spite of any future agreements on either side. We hope that the conservation of this alliance will be a great element of security to each country and one of the factors of general stabilisation in Europe.

## The French Loan

The loan granted to Poland during the visit of Marshal Rydz-Smigly in Paris is one of the largest credit operations transacted by Poland since the war.

The vote of both the French Chamber of Deputies and the French Senate on the Bill presenting this loan, amounting to about 2,500,000,000 francs, was unanimous. Complete absence of opposition is rare enough in the French Parliament to merit attention irrespective of the object of the vote.

When it is a matter of lending two and a half milliard francs to a foreign government, there must be very important reasons to account for such unhesitating unity among the French legislators, usually divided in their opinion on most questions.

As the main purpose of the loan is the strengthening of the Polish defences by means of completing the equipment of the army and of the key industries of Poland, it appears obvious that French opinion sets great store by these elements of the European situation.

Regardless of her treaty with Russia, France realises that it is absolutely essential for her to be able to rely on the help of Poland. Russia is far away, the strategic position of Czechoslovakia is weak, and France cannot afford inefficient partners in the East.

Monsieur Vincent Auriol, Minister of Finance, stated expressly before the French Parliament that the loan to Poland was not a form of rescue accorded to the Polish Treasury in a tight corner. He said that, on the contrary, the financial situation of Poland was perfectly sound, but that the co-operation between the two countries demanded the grant of such a loan, necessary in the mutual interests of Poland and France.

His statement was correct, as can be seen from the fact that the budget of the Polish State has been successfully balanced since last April, while the French Exchequer is constantly faced with large deficits.

But the financial possibilities of France as a whole are so immeasurably larger than those of Poland that such a fact could not possibly have any bearing on the question of granting a loan to Poland.

On the contrary, the sound position of the Polish Treasury is a guarantee for the French side that the loan will not be used for salvage operations for the benefit of unstable concerns, but that it will actually contribute to increase the military value of Poland as an ally.

The original amount of the loan was to be two milliard francs, but after the depreciation of the franc, it was decided to readjust that amount in proportion, — so that it will come to about two milliard and a half.

It will be divided under the following sections:

800 million francs in cash, for completing the equipment of Polish key industries, especially those related to national defence. 300 million francs of credit for the purchase of machinery and armaments in France by the Polish government.

500 million francs of re-discount credit of the Bank of France for the Bank of Poland.

350 million francs for building a second track on the railway coal line from Silesia to Gdynia. That amount would be spent in Poland, benefiting rail manufacturers and labour in general.

The above figures have not yet been officially confirmed, so that certain sums may still receive other destinations, as e.g. the construction in Poland of roads,

but the rough plan of the distribution of the loan will probably remain unchanged.

The transfers and purchases are to be made gradually, over a period of several years. The sum of 1,250,000 francs has been mentioned as the probable amount payable in 1937, but the exact figure will not be known until February.

The reason prompting the French government to grant the loan is clear — safety. There is probably less need to enlarge upon the reasons prompting the Polish government to accept it. Naturally the strengthening of the national defence has an enormous importance for Poland even independently of her alliance. But there are also other aspects of the loan which made it welcome here.

As the economic depression is nearing its end in Poland, it is felt that this is the most appropriate moment for an injection of capital, which may give a powerful impulse to the development of trade and industry.

It is argued that such a loan received in a moment when the crisis was at its worst would

## Poland's Trade with European Countries.

The value of Poland's exports during eleven months of the past year totalled 834,606,000 zlotys and that of her imports 819,932,000 zlotys, leaving a favourable balance of 14,674,000 zlotys. The United Kingdom occupied first place as an importer of Polish goods with 191,301,000 zlotys and exported goods to the value of 115,240,000 zlotys, leaving a balance in favour of Poland of 76,061,000 zlotys. Germany came second (Polish exports to Germany were 114,511,000 and imports from Germany 117,881,000 zlotys, i.e. the balance against Poland

was 3,370,000 zlotys (Belgium was third) exports 69,696,000 zlotys and imports 34,713,000 zlotys leaving a balance in favour of Poland of 34,983,000 zlotys, Austria was fourth (exports 46,038,000 zlotys and imports 36,495,000 zlotys, balance in favour of Poland 9,543,000 zlotys). Then followed France (exports 53,171,000 zlotys and imports 37,007,000 zlot., the balance against Poland thus being 4,436,000 zlotys), Sweden (exports 48,209,000 and imports 22,129,000 zlotys with a balance in favour of Poland of 26,080,000 zlotys), Holland (exports 38,682,000 zlot., imports 28,663,000 zlotys, the balance in favour of Poland therefore came to 9,919,000 zlotys), Italy (exports 14,907,000 zlotys), imports 12,945,000 zlotys, balance in favour of Poland 2,042,000 zlotys), Norway (exports 16,352,000 zlotys) imports 11,894,000 zlotys; balance in favour of Poland 4,458,000 zlotys), the U.S.S.R. (exports 2,211,000 zlotys) and imports 11,491,000 zlotys, i.e. a balance of 3,280,000 zlotys against Poland.

not fulfil the same rôle. The Poles believe that it is better to receive outside assistance at a moment when instead of merely stopping the descent for a while, it may help to build up something lasting.

The economic difficulties of the last six years have been fought by Poland single handed, with varying success, but always on the basis of self-reliance.

## LONDON LETTER

By Gregory Macdonald

Exactly one year after the worst period of the Abyssinian crisis the news of an Anglo-Italian declaration of mutual assistance in the Mediterranean relieved a situation which was not made happier by the Palestine trouble and by the Spanish civil war. There is cynical comment in some quarters on the grounds that the transition from enmity to friendly respect is rather sudden, that the League of Nations was broken by a struggle now ended without a blow, and that Italy is too deeply committed on the side of General Franco to be able to meet Great Britain's Mediterranean interests.

Certainly the accord signed in Rome last week is of great importance, involving as it does the balance of European forces and the relations of both signatory Powers with France and Germany. The accord is correctly described in Rome as a friendly handshake; it is not an assistance pact or an alliance. But an assurance to maintain the territorial status quo in the Mediterranean does relate to the Spanish civil war (as well as to Corfu and other centres of interest) while the determination to work together in the Mediterranean, perhaps allows us to see the principal contestants under another aspect. For Soviet Russia, in so far as Russia remains international, with the Comintern its director of foreign policy and with its International Column in Madrid, must still be as anxious as ever to retain power in the Mediterranean, especially as against Fascist Italy. The forces which inspire Popular Fronts in more than one European country — the forces which were a year ago the inspiration of the League of Nations — would be equally likely to want to see tension rather than accord between Great Britain and Italy. But the discomfiture of the League was in itself a sign that these international elements had been weakened and now that their effort in Spain seems to be just at the point of failing it may be considered, not only that a strong peace move in the Mediterranean is a lead towards peace everywhere, but also that both Rome and London, and the two national capitals they never had serious grounds for friction after all.

It is said in some quarters that the accord detaches Italy from Germany, going some way to restore the Stress front, and as considerable stress is laid in our Press upon the economic difficulties of Germany there appears to be cause for believing that Italy is prudently withdrawing from too close an association with Nazi Germany. This interpretation means that the Anglo-French understanding is as close as ever and that Italy is being drawn into it. The truth seems to be otherwise. More probably the British Government, aware of the seriousness of the international situation, is ready to be a little less friendly with France and a little more friendly with Italy, so as to be on equal terms with both, in the full knowledge that between the Third Republic and Fascist Rome, between what M. Blum represents and what Signor Mussolini represents, there can never be a full or lasting agreement.

A significant event of last week, upon which there has been

remarkably little comment, gave an equally strong proof that the Anglo-Italian accord was not directed against Nazi Germany. No doubt there are elements which would like to see strong pressure exerted against Germany, and many inspired reports describe the joint Anglo-French proposals about intervention in Spain as Anglo-French pressure. On the contrary, the real pressure on Germany seems just now to be internal, for the exchange difficulties and the shortage of raw materials allow certain groups to make their own demands and even to take their own independent action. But almost at the same time as the signature of the Rome accord the British Government acting through the Treasury encouraged a move which definitely relieves the exchange and raw materials impasse. In fact, last week the British Government did something to implement the vague hint as to access to raw materials thrown out by Sir Samuel Hoare at Geneva in September 1935. This move, it is worth noting, was criticised last week in some sections of the financial Press.

The move in question was the foundation in London of a new company — Compensation Brokers, Ltd. — to enable Germany and certain other countries to secure raw materials from the Dominions and Colonies by barter exchange for German industrial products. The arrangement had approval of Whitehall, of the Dominion Governments and of the German Government. At the same time the U. S. Government issued a similar approval of barter transactions with Germany. The fact that the new company has the backing of three of the big international houses misleads some critics who see in it just a resumption of international loans but it is nothing of the sort; rather, international loans are now so much out of the picture that the big houses have to be content with trading commissions, with perhaps another aspect that they better than others know how serious the present international situation is and that something has to be done quickly to alleviate the stress. Hence, possibly, Sir Henri Deterding's decision to send foodstuffs into Germany. Compensation Brokers, Ltd., is strictly a trading venture, allowing Germany to obtain foodstuffs, fats, oils, skins and hides, sisal, jute and rubber, and to export her goods in return.

The provision of short-term credits to Dominion producers is part of the arrangement for the period of awaiting payment is subsidiary. But politically the new company must be considered a definite attempt to relieve the strain on Germany, an attempt favoured by the British Government. It therefore offsets many rumours of Anglo-French pressure on Germany, and it allows the Anglo-Italian accord to be seen in new light.

One last comment on the new company is a sidelight upon the degree of recovery in the British internal market of which I have often spoken in these columns. The arrangement whereby German industrial products pay for Dominion raw materials meets the present extraordinary situation that Great Britain cannot meet all her orders from the Dominion and Colonies because her factories are fully booked. The London Press opens the New Year with glowing and slightly puzzled accounts of a rapidly increasing prosperity which is described by habit as "the upswing of the trade cycle" but which is really nothing of the kind. This recovery is not orthodox because it is not a leading boom; the creditworthy

## PRESS REVIEW

*Kurjer Warszawski* in an article on the neighbourly relations between Poland and other countries bordering with her, contrasts the position of the German minority in Poland with that of the Polish minority in Germany which undergoes severe repressions from the side of the authorities. Against them (the Polish inhabitants) the whole enormous apparatus of a modern state — of a "total" state has been brought into operation and in addition appeal has been made to the voluntary help of the always readily combative German community". The *Kurjer* regrets that the Senate did not discuss this question during the debate on the exposé of Minister Beck but adds that the watchfulness of the Polish people is profoundly and permanently awakened regarding the symptoms of Polish-German good neighbourly relations".

*I. K. C.* discusses the chances of an outbreak of war in 1937 and finds that the most vulnerable point is Czechoslovakia which is the most likely to be attacked by Germany ostensibly in order to protect the three million Germans inhabiting the Sudet region. "If France and England in spite of passing weakness (England is not yet sufficiently prepared and France suffers from internal unrest) do not capitulate in that case Germany France suffers from internal unrest) do not capitulate, in that case Germany will have to capitulate. If she does not wish to be massacred, she must agree to compromise. There will begin colonial, economic barterings. Europe will be saved from war. On the contrary if France and England show hesitation, they confirm Berlin in the conviction of the helplessness of the west then the storm will burst in Central Europe."

*Polska Zbrojna* discusses the importance of foreign capital for Poland and warns against the danger of generalizing. Because the Żyrardów enterprise was a failure is no proof that all foreign capital is dangerous to Poland, but only on the condition that it seeks only honest profit can work in Poland usefully".

"An example of the favourable importance of foreign capital for our economic life is the dam constructed at Porąbka and the opening of the first electrified line on the Warsaw Junction".

A congress of the People's Party is to be held in January. Writing about it the *Lwów Dziennik Polski* says: "the following questions are to be discussed: the dissolution of the parliament, change in the suffrage system and the question of new elections for the local boards. Also the question of the defence of the country. Rumours that the congress is in connection with the return of Vincent Witos, as the leaders of his party declare, are little probable".

borrower is no longer borrowing — he is paying off all forms of debt, and wages are rising as rates of interest fall. It is also worthy of record that the British price level is faithfully following the American, which under such management is now being lifted back to the level of about 1928 where the pre-depression debts were incurred, and where we may take it that the stability will once more be maintained. So long as these conditions obtain we are passing out of the old world into a new, for the lender of money will no longer dictate to statesmen the forms of political life.

The Press publishes in full the speech of Minister Kościalski broadcasted on New Year's Day. His most important declaration was that "for the first time since many years we witness an improvement in the economic situation of the country. The production indicators show increase employment likewise has increased in nearly all branches of industry. We have made successful efforts in diminishing the misfortune of unemployment, we have greatly increased the number of workmen employed in public works". Hence the minister concludes that if by means of public help the three winter months can be tided over the fight for a better future will be won. The *Agencja Press* writes from Danzig that the former President of the Senate of the Free Town has declared in an article that appeared in a periodical, *Der Deutsche in Polen* "that the first condition for peace in the region of the mouth of the Vistula must be a declaration from the Berlin government as to the intentions of the German Reich respecting the Free town Danzig". According to him the German Government ought to declare openly if it intends to respect the present position of Danzig based on the Versailles Treaty or if it intends to reincorporate Danzig within the Reich. Dr. Rauschning foresees the birth of a new party the "Danzig Party" under the united lead of Poland and Danzig. This party, he writes, would find many supporters among the non-Hitlerite population. He finds that the removal of the mediation of the League of Nations and the direct conversations between Poland and Berlin on the Danzig question are a mistake". The removal of the League of Nations is tantamount to removing the buffer between Warsaw and Berlin in the question of Danzig.

*Kurjer Polski* emphasizes the unanimity with which the French parliament has ratified the loan for Poland which clearly shows the importance of the French people attaches to the rôle played by Poland in the international situation. "A loan is granted in such a manner only to a state of great specific importance, holding a keystone position, a state which within a given geographical region has to play a part of great consequence".

Further the *Kurjer* says not only the French Government but the whole nation looks upon Poland as such a state and "no political situation could have called forth this relation between France and Poland if the widest masses of the French community were not deeply convinced of the great political, military and moral importance of Poland constituting the basis of the present phase of Polish-French relations."

*Robotnik* is energetically calling for a new more democratic government demanding "a government voicing the masses and based on the will of the masses; a government leading with a plan and decidedly towards a new constitution; a government subject to control — a real, conscientious control free of all clique favouritism."

*Kurjer Warszawski* announces an improvement in the amount of orders in industries. It writes the measure for the improved situation of the manufacturing industry in Poland for the autumn of the last year is not only observable in comparison with the preceding year relating to the amount of active establishments, and the amount of workmen employed but also to the amount of orders received by separate industrial enterprises". Especially in the last months great changes for the better have taken place, says the *Kurjer*. *K. M.*

## DANZIG LETTER

Unseasonable weather has marked the Christmas season in Danzig, and up to the time of writing, it still continues. There was heavy rain on Christmas Eve, and New Year's Day was more like early spring, with warm and brilliant sunshine. For the many enthusiasts of winter sport, this was most disappointing, but for those taking part in the execution of the elaborate ceremonial which has now become the tradition for the observance of New Year's Day in Danzig, it was very welcome.

The generally accepted European custom of exchanging official visits on January 1st has developed here into a carefully arranged and punctiliously observed programme of ceremonies, carried out with strict adherence to a set time-table. The celebrations commenced with the visit of the Polish diplomatic representative, M. Chodacki, to the President of the Danzig Senate, who received him in the historic reception room of the ancient city hall, the 14th century Rathaus whose tall and slender spire is one of Danzig's well-known landmarks. This was M. Chodacki's second call on Herr Greiser within a couple of days, for he only arrived here on December 30th, the day before Mr. Papé, his predecessor, bade Danzig his adieu.

Following the Polish visit, Herr Greiser then received the congratulatory visits of all the members of the consular corps, who assembled together and tendered their good wishes through their spokesman, M. Birznieks, the consul general for Latvia. After this Herr Greiser received the good wishes of all the local government, and National Socialist party officials, and then he took the march past of a picked parade of Nazis, brown and black, from the steps of the city hall to the rousing strains of a military band.

Then Herr Greiser returned the Polish visit, called upon the doyen of the Consular Corps, and finally, with all the high state and party officials visited the highest official of all, the National Socialist district leader, Dr. Forster, the while M. Chodacki, in his turn, was receiving the visits of the consuls headed by their doyen, who again acted as spokesman.

The past year has brought some notable changes in the ranks of these important personages in Danzig. One or two of the senators have changed, there have been a new Polish minister of the Interior and a new general, a new Italian and a new Danish consul, and Mr. Lester is also going away. As a matter of fact, he is not in Danzig just now, but taking a holiday, and he may be returning for a few weeks before starting in his new post at Geneva, but still the question of his successor as High Commissioner of the League of Nations has not yet been decided.

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# II-nd International Exhibition of Wood-engravings Warsaw 1936

The Polish section is by far the largest in the Exhibition and deserves to be treated separately. If we compare its catalogue with that of the Polish section at the Exhibition of 1933 we find that there are 57 exhibitors against 55 in the first Exhibition, but only 122 prints against 168 which were shown then. In part this is pure gain and evidence of severer selection, on the other hand the fact that at the 1st Exhibition a number of artists exhibiting by invitation were free from submitting their work to the jury of selection and nearly all showed four prints of their own choice made for a clearer picture of the whole. Of course the present system, which knows no exception from the jury of selection is much more fair, particularly to the less known artists, but the general impression is somewhat

bewildering. It is difficult for one, not a member of the jury, to judge of the rightness or otherwise of the selection made, but there are one or two gaps in the catalogue which are striking—for instance the lack of *Wacław Wąsowski's* name, the very meagre representation accorded to the work of *Marya Danin* and *Janina Kłopotka*, who both differ considerably in their style from other Polish artists. As far as it goes however, the exhibit seems to be a fairly comprehensive representation of the present-day state of wood-engraving in Poland. A stranger contemplating it with an entirely fresh eye might perhaps discern some common, unifying feature—to one lacking that freshness only the very great diversity of approach and treatment is plain. If I were asked to pick out anything

characteristically Polish among these prints—apart from subject-matter, of course—I should unhesitatingly point to the work of *Bogna Krasnodębska-Gardouška*, but I am afraid I cannot give any reasonable grounds for this excessive choice. Her manner of treatment has changed again (for the fifth or sixth time within my recollection) and in her present style there is a marked kinship with *Kulstiewicz's* although it remains entirely individual. It is by far the most interesting work she has exhibited for some time past. Of other well-established artists we have *E. Bartłomiejczyk* who has three prints very characteristic of his style and one (*Motif* from *Tirnow*) which seems to presage something new, at least in wood-engraving, though it is slightly reminiscent of some of his pen-and-ink illustrations. It is a well-balanced design with a very clever use of the artist's mark. *S. Chrostowski* shows three well-known prints, among them the "Wood" which I consider one of his best, and a portrait of the late *Władysław Skoczyła* which unfortunately somehow misses complete likeness.

*T. Cieślowski jun.* has four prints, all of them good, but the two new ones mere variations of his usual subjects, whilst "Poland" lies by the *Sa (33)* and some interesting new features, and the excellent "Head of a Sleeper" (338) is a surprise from an artist who scarcely ever attempts the human figure. The one print by *Marya Danin* which is shown is chiefly remarkable for the sharp characterisation of the figures. As a design in black and white it is somewhat restless. The work of *T. Kulstiewicz* and *S. Mroziński* has been discussed at length in the "Warsaw Weekly" not so long ago, so that the few words which could be devoted to them

(part 3)



K. WIŚNIEWSKI  
"WILNO"



A. POŁTAWSKI

here could not add anything of interest. *S. Mroziński's* portrait of G.K. Chesterton was mentioned in the first article of this series. It is very happily enlivened by an *aperçu* of the artist at work in one corner of the print. The work of *L. Tyrowicz* was also reviewed on the occasion of his exhibition at the I. P. S., at the same time that of *Mroziński*. *Jadwiga Hładkówna's* colour prints are pleasant and restful designs (332, 353). *Janina Konarska's* prints are interesting as always. At a first glance the "Ducks" (362) are the most striking (the "Freckled Cow" is already well known) but closer scrutiny shows the "Milkmaids" (363) and the "Head of a Knight" (364) to be even better. "Milkmaids" has a solemnity as of some ritual, while the "Head", apparently inspired by some old

sculpture, contrives to be neither a representation of sculpture nor a portrait but a thing with a mysterious life of its own. The work of *E. Mantuffel* is eminently suited for book illustration, its light colour would go extremely well with print, far better than the majority of modern wood-engravings whose heavy black destroys the unity of the printed page. *W. Podoski* is not as well represented as he was in the 1st Exhibition. The best of the three prints exhibited is, to my mind, the "Still-life" (396), a very characteristic piece of work, carefully designed and carried out with unflinching artistic logic. The portrait of a girl is interesting in expression, but the print entitled "Morning Toilet" bears no comparison with the two prints of nudes which were

(Continued on page 4)

## War About the Parish Priest

From "Elizabeth's Country" by Pola Gojawiczyńska  
(Continued from last week)

So it was. When they had gone into the splendour of the curia, they felt uncomfortable, and especially when the bishop himself received them graciously, gave them his ring to kiss, they were lost. He told them that that church, that parish famous for its miracles, needed a great deal of care, and great capability, even a gift for administration in its priest. The present priest, who was loved there in the curia and appreciated no less than in the parish, was weak in health and could not do everything, for the material resources were very small, and very many pilgrims came there. In the further conversation, the bishop told them that among the lesser church dignitaries who were present at the audience, accusations were made that the Catholic action was too weakly carried on about the associations and societies, even about the benches to be had for money by the richer, and more distinguished parishioners, which the priest did not want to bring into the church. With the sight of all this practicality and the full splendour before their eyes, they came back with no result. The same day the new priest arrived. They saw his carriage from a distance, coming from the station, and those, who had bicycles, were the first to bring the news. Then the village fairly boiled! They lost possession of the keys of the church, nearly smothering the sacristan in the process, and the gloomy groaning voice of the bell, which rang out just at that moment, was certainly

no welcome to the newcomer. He got out of his carriage, tall, impressive, with a fatish face full of dignified graciousness, but the church remained closed, and the way to the priest's house was filled by a stormy crowd. He tried a jesting diplomacy. "Let me in, my brothers, for a little chat with your priest", but they answered that just as they wouldn't let their priest out, so they wouldn't let this man in. "As long as we're alive, our priest remains here, and nowhere else, we have our own priest and don't need any other!" They saw the red surge up into his big face. Putting his foot on the step of his carriage, he said to the police sergeant Gromek "The responsibility for what is happening here falls on you" and he gave the order to drive off. Gromek, sizing up the crowd with his eyes, shrugged his shoulders. Let it be so. He had already taken the responsibility, announced the affair to the authorities and demanded reinforcements. A second delegation was formed, to go direct to the capital, to the archbishop, to the church and state authorities. If necessary, they would go to the pope himself, in defence of their priest! Nobody could lead them by the nose in such things. Already the papers were writing, without knowing anything about it, of the "violent occurrences" in the village. The delegation set out, with whom at their head—a woman, Agnes. Ligenza, a powerful woman with a head for thinking, who wouldn't let herself be frightened! When it

was decided, when she was dressing with all speed, the widowed Mrs. Mistol asked suddenly "is she going like that?" and pointed to the other's black dress. She had a head for use, too. From the trunk they brought the costume, the damask apron, the coral, skirt and headdress, the only dress suitable for such an occasion. Agnes dressed hurriedly, and when she appeared, tall and broad, with a calm face and light blue eyes under her snowy cap, people gained confidence that the affair would be properly defended. Their son was going to the defence of its son, already it was not people but the people which was sending its representatives. The village calmed down by degrees. They scattered to their homes, to work, and the day passed in some sort of quiet. The day passed, the next came, and still there was no news from the delegation, when those who remained near the priest's house brought the news that he seemed to be preparing to leave. Again the rumour collected crowds, people dropped everything and ran, pouring into the churchyard, the church, the grounds of the priest's house. "Maybe it wasn't possible, he simply couldn't do that?" Inside, quiet reigned. But at the side door stood a car, ready to start, police were in the hall—well then, they must be kidnapping the priest! Suddenly, as they stood talking, the house door opened quietly, and the priest appeared. "You are pagans!" he said. "Pagans! I order you to go home in peace! I wouldn't even think of remaining with such a pagan people!"

He was scourging them with sharp words again. There you had him, the priest, small but indomitable. But already Aloysius, the bookkeeper, fell weeping at his feet, crying "Then tread on us, father, if we're pagans step over us out into the world!" Then they saw that the priest, leaning his head against the doorpost, was weeping. That was too much to bear: days they had spent in threatening excitement and now that weeping freed them, humbled them, beat them to their knees. A cry spread, tears, groans—oh, father, little father, shepherd, stay with us, stay with us, don't leave us! In this pleading, wailing, someone, raising his hands, began to intone the supplication. A quivering, beseeching singing rose, broken with sobs and lament. The priest disappeared into the car, the doors closed, with the crowd gathered round. When among the singing, the car began slowly to move between the people kneeling in the road, among the raised hands, the bells began, madmen seized the people, they crowded together, shoulder to shoulder, forming a long row along and across the road, only giving way when in the open window flashed the hand of the priest, making the sign of the cross over the kneeling crowd. So the whole village stood, right to the station, here and there showed the flags of the religious societies, rolled as a sign of mourning, but the car had not moved from in front of the mine, when, in the door of the post office, stood Elizabeth in her heavy mourning, with a paper in her shaking hand. Only those nearest could catch her weak voice, but at that moment, as though thunder had sounded, they burst out "he's to stay! he's to stay!" the paper, passing from hand to hand, reached the car, Sergeant Gromek seized and read it aloud. Agnes had telegraphed in the name of her daughter Elizabeth that the priest's transference had been rescinded, everyone was to behave quietly. From the open car, trembling with emotion, the priest got out. They seized him in their arms with joyful cries, and, not in the car, but like a king, carried high on men's shoulders, he returned to his home. But no-one foresaw in the light of human reason, for how short a time they had preserved him, for how short a time they were to keep him among them. After these stirring events the little priest fell ill, and one day at twilight the curale found him dead, with his face turned to the miraculous spring. They buried him near the church he had built, in the separate, beautiful chapel, on the hill.

Translated by Helen Heney

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