

# THE WARSAW WEEKLY

Offices: Czackiego 1, Warsaw, Poland, Telephone 273-77.

English Representative: P. H. Straw, London.

English Distributors: W. H. Smith & Sons, London

Subscription rates—21. 3.50 quarterly, 13.00 yearly.

Foreign 4/- or \$1. quarterly, 15/- or \$3.75 yearly.

Postal Cheque Account: 25858. Warszawa.

Post Office Account: 415 Warszawa

3rd YEAR

WARSAW, SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1937

No. 10

## AFTER COLONEL KOC'S DECLARATION

## Viennese Letter

## THE POLISH-GERMAN TRADE AGREEMENT

## LONDON LETTER

By Gregory MacDonald



Col. Koc broadcasting his famous declaration.

The declaration of Col. Koc has resounded with a profound echo throughout the country. The opinion of pessimists that, since so long a time had elapsed after the famous speech of Marshal Smigly-Rydz in which he appealed to the nation to stand together for the defence and progress of the country, the enthusiasm evoked had died down and would not again be inflamed, has proved entirely wrong. Col. Koc's speech has really moved the people. This is shown by the large amount of organizations which during the days succeeding his declaration have announced access to the action of the nation's consolidation. In fact we may say that all the important institutions of the country have, so to say, placed themselves at the disposal of Col. Koc. To mention only a few such as L. O. P. P., the Unions of P.E.O.W., of Polish Legionaries, of former combatants, of Trades Unions, various women's societies, the Polish Y.M.C.A., the National Economic Bank, a number of delegations from rural districts, Clubs of Senators and Deputies, state employees, social unions and so on. In fact every day brings new signatories. The movement is a distinctly popular one. It may be said that Polish society as a whole is in agreement with the programme and only the extreme parties of right and left are standing out. This was, of course to be expected. When the President of the Republic said, in his pronouncement to the nation, after Marshal Pilsudski's death, that the responsibility for the country which the Great Marshal had borne, now devolved on the people as a whole, all felt that these words were true, but still the community shirked its duty and the need of the strong guiding hand was beginning to be felt ever more strongly. Then came the reminder of Marshal Smigly-Rydz, demanding the union of the country for its defence and development, followed by the declaration of

his spokesman Col. Koc. The nation is called to gather round the standard on which is inscribed the watchword of consolidation for the good of Poland and its defence. The programme, contained in the declaration, embraces all sides of Polish life, national, religious and social. The great majority of the people is convinced that there must be no disunion between the nation and the state, that Polish national thought is not opposed to the mission of the Catholic church, that there is no room in Poland for communism nor for class war and that Polish culture, science, literature, and art ought to be an emanation of the nation's genius. In showing the union existing between the nation, the state and the church, Col. Koc has succeeded in assuring the access or at least the approval of such a power as is the Catholic church in Poland. On the other hand he has emphasized that the religious tolerance exhibited by Poland in the past will continue to be one of the leading principles of the Republic. Other of these principles are the relation of the nation and the state based on the constitution of the 17th April 1935 and the question of social solidarity. While eliminating the class war the declaration points out the necessity that employer and employed should sit at a common table and that the rôle of the state is that of super arbiter in cases of social dispute. All these postulates meet with the undivided approval of the mass of the Polish people who it would seem have been waiting for the formulation of what it has long felt to be a necessity. The aim of the organization is to be the greatest possible concentration of the strength of the citizens in work for the public welfare to exploit every energy in the most economic and most rational way. If this effort meets with success as indeed it ought to, then Poland may look with confidence to the future.

K. M.

During the time which has elapsed since my last letter, important political and economic events have taken place. Although not of a sensational character, we might begin with the speech in the Parliament of the Minister of Finance, Dr. Neumayer, in which he presented the very advantageous results of last year's budget.

According to his deductions, 1936 showed a record influx of foreign tourists which meant increased revenue by 200 million shillings. The great revival of different branches of home industries showed an increase of 17%, e.g. iron ore, 50%, iron adobe, 25%. Austrian exports reached 56 million shillings showing an increase of 2% over the previous year.

He emphasised, in connection with the revival of home industries, the increase of income from all kinds of duties, and the pleasing fact of the re-emigration of Austrian capital from Holland and Switzerland back to Austrian industry. Thus the trend of finance and economics authorities the Minister of Finance to declare that the position of the Austrian shilling is completely sure, and there is no fear of any eventual devaluation.

In the meantime he announced the project of a Government Investment Loan for 1937 amounting to 180 million shillings, which will be used for roads, government buildings, re-employment of the Austrian army and buying up Government obligations.

The second important event in the political life of Austria which was awaited with great tension was the Chancellor's speech on February 14th, at the third meeting of the Vaterlandische Front organisation.

If the economic revival created an advantageous atmosphere for the speech of this statesman, the last political events had put the Government in a rather embarrassing position. On the one hand is the revival of Legitimistic activities, not only in Austria, but abroad. For instance, the visit of Minister Weissner, the political leader of the Party to London. On the other hand are the diametrically opposed efforts of the German-Nationalists to create a great new organisation.

Thanks to the indiscretions of the provincial press, a list of signatures petitioning the Government to allow the creation of a new German-Nationalist organisation, was revealed. This list presenting the most eminent names in the political, economical, scientific and social world, shows how deeply rooted in Austrian life is the Betonte National movement, the aims of which are not always parallel to the aims of independent Austria.

The speech of the Chancellor was complicated by the fact that a week later, the Foreign Minister of the Third Reich, von

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On the 20th February 1937, after three days' negotiations, a Polish-German agreement was signed, prolonging until February 28th 1939, that is to say for two years from the 1st March, the trade agreement between Poland and Germany of the 1st November 1935. Whilst being a prolongation of the former trade agreement, that of February 20th introduces a whole series of essential modifications as well as those of purely technical nature. These alterations make for increasing the effectuality of the programme of reciprocal exchange, of which the business figures have been fixed for each of the two countries at an amount of 176,000,000 a year; they aim, at the same time, inspired by technical necessity, at rendering these exchanges more elastic.

Besides the compensation agreement which enlarges the principles of clearing between Poland and Germany advantageously, two lists of greatly reduced customs tariffs form an integral part of the agreement as well as numerous special contracts of particular nature, such as the protocols concerning the commerce of agricultural produce and timber, of metallurgical industry, agreements relating to the export of cereals from Poland, butter, eggs and alcohol, finally numerous understandings, such as several notes relating to the import of certain articles of German industry into Poland. The list of products exported to Germany has been considerably augmented, above all as regards breeding products. The vital interests of the Free Town Danzig have been largely taken into consideration in this agreement conforming to the tendency always manifested by Poland in this domain. The duration of the negotiations for a prolongation of the agreement, or rather, seeing the considerable changes which have been introduced, for the conclusion of a new economic agreement, constitutes for the impartial observer the proof of the conscientiousness which the two contracting parties have brought to bear upon their task.

The agreement of the 21st February 1937, which is the result of these negotiations has balanced in the most scrupulous way the advantages arising from its clauses for each of the two contracting parties; also it permits us to have confidence in the precision of the apparatus which is to regulate the economic exchange between the countries which will begin functioning the 1st March 1937. This agreement based on the mutual recognition of the economic interests uniting the two countries as well as on respect for the tendencies characterizing the evolution of each one of them, constitutes a new stage on the way towards good economic cooperation between Poland and Germany.

The conclusion of the non-intervention agreement for the patrol of the Spanish frontiers has taken all the excitement out of foreign affairs so far as they affect any country nearer than Austria. News that Russia has withdrawn from the naval cordon, that Senor Largo Caballero is threatening to resign and that Madrid is being quietly evacuated, leaves this country apathetic because there is no longer the prospect of a conference or debate around a green baize table. The Non-Intervention Committee was, it is true, considered ineffectual until it brought off the masterstroke of doing something practical. But its triumph was its death sentence. There is nothing more at the moment to wrangle about. The Reichstag is not being summoned. There are no frontier incidents. No particular effort is being made to keep Europe peaceful and no particular effort is being made to start a European War. So all is well for the time.

It is possible, however, to under-estimate the interest taken by the people of Great Britain in the Spanish struggle. It is a question on which the younger generation, at any rate, feels keenly. Many are convinced that in the trenches outside Madrid there are facing one another the last of the Victorian Liberals defending the vote and the wickedest of the new Fascist barbarians who have made up their minds to pillage a peaceful Republic. That story is spread about by interested parties and it is surprising how many believe it. Incidentally, it makes nonsense of the easy contempt for Spaniards felt by the last generation. Both the courageous Spaniards of the Madrid forces and the wicked Spaniards of the Franco forces have deserved the comfortable rôle of lying under a tree for a siesta, with drowsy remarks about Manana. Yet these lively fellows are at the gates of the Mediterranean. What will come of it no man knows.

It is generally considered that a recrudescence of the nineteenth century attitude towards foreigners was responsible for the surprising decision to invite the Negus of Abyssinia to the Coronation. Nobody expected it at a moment when relations with Italy both in the Mediterranean and in the Ogaden were being restored to something like normal. Italy was very naturally incensed and our own papers were plainly mystified: the explanation was put forward that arrangements would be made, if both Abyssinia and Italy accepted invitations, that the two plenipotentiaries would not meet. Yet there may have been a certain amount of calculation behind the move.

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## LONDON LETTER

(Continued from page 1)

Italy might be expected to take umbrage but not to give up the solid advantages of the new peace moves. Believers in the League of Nations case against Italy would be comforted by evidences of governmental consistency. The world would see that Great Britain observed the protocol. All this might play its part in internal politics at a moment when the important elections for the London County Council were being held.

For the first time the plan of canvassing for the London County Council elections has been dictated by the Communists, who are great champions of liberty and of fine points in international law. The present strength of their propaganda derives largely from the hurricane of abuse against the Italian dictatorship which was raised up during the Abyssinian campaign. The same storm has been raised again, more moderately, against Franco. The Labour Party has naturally taken a foremost part in the argument, flooding the country with pamphlets about the baby-killing Spanish Nationalists, but the Labour Party preserved an official attitude of detachment from the Communists. Nevertheless, the Communists have proclaimed themselves the allies of Labour in the fight for seats in the County Council. In vain does Mr. Morrison, leader of the Labour forces in London, protest that he wants no such allies. The Communists placard the East End with commands to vote for Labour, they send out a loudspeaker van with exhortations to vote for Labour, they hire town halls and address meetings in support of Labour.

The situation is an amusing one. Mr. Morrison may possibly lose considerable support from the enthusiasm of his uninvited allies. Nor can he entirely clear himself from the charge of enlisting their support, for some of his closest henchmen are heavily tarred with the Red brush. For the first time, too, the British Union of Fascists is entering candidates in the East End. It is significant to notice that the Fascist supporters are being well received in the poorer districts, despite an almost universal newspaper propaganda against them.

The theory cannot be disregarded that the sudden emergence of the Communists is a sign of weakness rather than of strength. The whole world knows of the split between the Stalinists and the Trotskyists.

Some public move of convincing unity has to be made. A controversy which may be related to the factional split broke out in London this week when a charge was made that gold belonging to Spain was lodged in the Moscow Narodny Bank in London in the name of private individuals. The Moscow Narodny Bank tartly replied that it held no such gold, whereupon a financial paper hinted that the denial made no reference to sterling balances. This week, it may be noted, the Valencia Government defaulted on Government-guaranteed bills falling due in the middle of February, giving the explanation that money belonging to the Bank of Spain had been held up by another bank. The atmosphere suggests that Largo Caballero, his friends and backers, are being left in the lurch by the Stalin faction, which recognises that they are a losing asset. The Spanish gold which drifted into London before the purge or which was converted into sterling balances, is now held by the Stalinists, who are withdrawing from the policy of internationalism. The campaign conducted by the Communists in London may not, after all, be the prelude to a successful Communist revolution as the timid are inclined to think.

The great market flurry caused by the announcement of the huge defence expenditure has now died down. It remains to be seen whether the Chancellor will raise the money by a public loan and by taxation or by the issue of Treasury Bills and the aid of a rising revenue. The former method demanded by the City, means deflation and higher interest rates; the latter method means public works and reduced interest rates. But the attempt to put pressure on the Government by staging a sharp fall in gilt-edged securities was met with no defensive measures by the Government which, knowing that the large institutions in the City were the most important holders of gilt-edged, allowed them to correct the market for their own sake; which in due course they did, with many mystifying remarks about laws of nature and public confidence. In the same way the short boom in commodities — which simply indicated that the money withdrawn from one pocket was put into another — corrected itself. There were a few sick headaches in the City, but still nothing came to light as to the Government's intentions.

## Polish Fairs and Exhibitions during 1937

## National Fairs.

Katowice Fair — 16th May to 1st June  
Gdynia Fair — 20th June to 4th July

## Sporting Events.

Sportive and Tourist Review at Katowice — 20th to 30th June  
"SOKOL" Sportive Competition at Katowice — 26th to 29th June.

## Exhibitions.

Warsaw — Cosmetic and Perfumes — 10th to 25th April  
Industrial and Agriculture Exhibition at Miechow — 4th July  
Handicraft Exhibition at Lublin — 5th to 12th September  
Agriculture Exposition at Kraków — 2nd to 11th October  
Handicraft Exposition at Katowice — 15th September to 15th October  
Industrial and Agriculture Exhibition at Pleszew — 12th to 19th September

## International Fairs.

Poznań Fair — 2nd to 9th May  
Wilno Fur Fair — 21st July to 4th August  
Lwów Eastern Fair — 4th to 16th September

## Local Fairs.

St. Casimir Fair at Wilno on the 4th of March (Peasant industry)  
St. George Fair at Wilno on the 23rd April (Medicinal Herbs, Flowers, Plants)  
Kraków Fair — 27th May to 21st June  
St. John Fair at Lowicz on the 24th June  
Piasek Fair — 15th to 31st August  
Zain Fair — 28th August to 5th September  
Volhynian Fair — 12th to 26th September

## AUSTRALIAN LETTER

The results of the trade agreement with Japan which has led to renewed Japanese buying after non purchase from July to December, are shown by a steadying of the prices at the recent sales. The lower rate of some 5% drop is a good sign showing the market is now on a working basis. Buyers in order of importance were U.K., Belgium, France, America, Germany and Italy for the past years. Good quantities were also sent to Poland, Czechoslovakia and Holland.

The delegation of ex-service men for the Coronation has now been chosen, and includes 50 soldiers and some war nurses. It is said of the men that they are physically in as good condition as a voluntary life saver's club — one of the organisations comprising the finest swimmers and athletes of the Australian coast, who keep in training for rescue work on the dangerous coast beaches. Considering that returned soldiers must be between 38 and 50 years of age, it is a splendid tribute to the interest shown in physical fitness in this country.

N.S.W. has inaugurated another extensive irrigation scheme, to serve 3,000,000 acres by a weir and control of the low Murray. The scheme provides for 2000 miles of channels, and should increase the bearing capacity of the district by 25% and in the course of 30 years double the number of separate holdings by permitting more intensive farming and smaller farms. Yet in spite of the amount of work which has already been done in these regards, so vast Australia that huge areas are still crying out for attention even in the comparatively fertile eastern areas, besides the opening up of the huge arid basins of the interior.

Of great interest to Australia and to all those European countries interested in immigration, is the address of the Secretary of the Immigration Department held in Auckland. Professor Fisher of Western Australia, made an interesting discussion of the subject. Many people, he said, were still thinking of migration in terms made meaningless by the radical change in conditions. Large immigration must give way to smaller immigration of quite a different character. The idea of immigration to keep the envious eyes of other nations from the empty spaces was irrelevant — a million more or less would not affect an invader, but to bring in that number would be the work of years. The Australians should realise the natural limitations of their country, and try to modify the ideas of outside people who have not always considered if there were or were not good reasons why the empty spaces should remain both open and empty.

Helen Heney.

## Gdynia Shipyards acquired by Upper Silesian interests

Some months ago, Gdynia took over the Gdynia Shipbuilding Yards from the Danzig Shipbuilding Co., the former proprietors of the Gdynia establishment which was to be liquidated. The Gdynia shipbuilding yards have now been acquired by the Joint-Interests Concern of Upper Silesia, the enterprise to the town being 165,000 zlotys and comprising the original price paid to the Gdynia company plus the outlay of the town since taking over the yards. The municipality of Gdynia has also received a 10 per cent batch of shares in the new company and the right to nominate three of the seven members of the board. The new company will carry on ship repairs in the old plant, while a new shipbuilding establishment on a larger scale will be set up at another point.

## ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

## Deposits with Communal Savings Bank in Poland

The changes in the aggregate deposits with the communal savings banks in Poland during 1936 present a fairly exact reflection of the influences which dominated the economic life of the country. The increased demand for money caused by the animation of industrial production and investment activities resulted in withdrawals in all categories of deposits as did also the nervousness of the Polish money market in connexion with the crisis undergone by several foreign currencies. An inflow of deposits recommenced after the introduction of foreign exchange control and the alleviation of foreign currency perturbations so that by the end of the year the aggregate of deposits with the Polish communal savings banks increased by 9.5 million zlotys as against the close of 1935 and reached 685.9 million zlotys. This advance, however, resulted from increased deposits on cheque and current accounts of which the total rose by 20.5 million during the year, while the joint total of savings deposits decreased by 11 millions. In April and May the institutions in question lost 29 millions of their savings deposits, but this movement was reversed by the middle of the year to be followed by a new transient outflow in October. All these changes were not uniform for the various parts of the country or for the various institutions. The urban savings banks closed last year with a slight reduction in the joint total of deposits as animation of industrial production and other economic activities was more marked in urban areas. On the other hand, the improvement in economic conditions in the provincial towns and villages was reflected by the whole gain in the total of deposits, mentioned above, being concentrated in the district savings banks. In this regard there were also great differences between the several voivodships groups. In the central voivodships the communal savings banks registered a considerable increase of deposits as at the end of 1936, in the eastern voivodships the increase was less marked, while the western and southern voivodships yielded a decrease in deposits. The total number of communal savings banks at the end of last year was 392, including the Gdynia Savings Bank at Lwow, and the Ukrainian Savings Bank at Przemyśl.

## The service of Polish foreign Debts

The Polish delegation of finance experts, headed by prof. Krzyzanowski, negotiated for a long time in America with the representatives of the holders of Polish bonds. The Polish government did not want to take unilateral decisions with regard to the question of foreign debt service, and it finally settled terms acceptable to the foreign creditors.

The foreign creditors insisted that these terms should apply also to Polish holders of Polish government bonds, and this proposal was granted. Both foreign and Polish holders can either receive 85% of the stipulated interest in dollars, or receive new 3% stock for the full amount of the interest.

There always remains the possibility of receiving the full amount in cash in Poland, but such sums must be credited to blocked accounts at the Bank of Poland, and will be spent inside that country, while the 85% or the new bonds can be sent abroad.

## Polish Government Loan in the U.S.A.

The agreement recently concluded between the Polish Government and the American Committee of Foreign Bondholders provides for a provisional settlement of the transfer of payments on account of the Polish debt service in the U.S.A. It concerns the next three payable semi-annual coupons of American issues of the Polish Government and local government Bonds. The Committee has agreed to these coupons being redeemed at 35 per cent of their face value, while the Polish Government has guaranteed the transfer of these reduced interest payments. The American bondholders may either accept such payments in full settlement of their interest claim, or accept now 3 per cent bonds for the full nominal value of the coupons, the new bonds being redeemable after 20 years, or to have the full nominal face value paid in Polish zlotys into blocked accounts at the Bank of Poland; transfers, however, from such accounts are not admissible. Negotiations for an agreement were commenced immediately after the transfer suspension at the end of June 1936, but the conclusion of the agreement was delayed as the Polish Government wished to be quite sure that its provisions could be fulfilled to the letter. The much improved position of the Bank of Poland has now made this possible. The communiqués published in New York and Warsaw contain no information about the arrangements envisaged after the payment of two or of the next three coupons; this will be left for further negotiations. It is in any case important for future relations between Poland and her American creditors that on the one hand the interest on Polish issues has dropped from 6-8 per cent to level more consistent with present day conditions, and on the other hand, that the present agreement was favourably received in the U.S.A. This attitude is seen in the wording of the Committee's communiqué and also in American press opinion. The good will of the Polish Government is duly acknowledged in the U.S.A. as is also the fact that Poland suspended her transfers long after other countries which enjoyed a much better financial situation and only when the loss of gold and foreign exchange reserves at the Bank of Poland was endangering the stability of the Zloty. The provisions of the American agreement also apply to Polish holders of the respective bonds, with the modification that they, of course, cannot have blocked accounts with the Bank of Poland but secure payment of the 35 per cent face value of their coupons in Polish zlotys at the exchange rate of the respective currencies. Coupons of the Stabilisation Loan of which more than 50 per cent are at present held in Poland, are being paid at the exchange rate of Dutch guilders.

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## Viennese Letter

(Concluded)

Neurath, was to pay a visit to Vienna, and therefore this speech had to contain some declarations referring to the Austrian foreign policy. One must say, without flattering the Chancellor, that he fulfilled his task very well. After having presented the improvement of the economic situation the Chancellor emphasized that one of the main tasks of the Government is the reduction of unemployment. Afterwards he addressed himself to the broad masses of workers with an appeal to co-operate with the Government, and he later gave two decisive declarations concerning the problems of the Restoration and the Movements of the German Nationalists.

He announced that the Austrian Government at the proper moment would invite the Austrian population to express its will regarding the form of government. With this declaration the Chancellor puts a brake on Legitimistic propaganda, and refuses the activities of former Minister Wiesner. He also declared that all further efforts of German Nationalists to organize new unions would be considered as aimless. Referring to the foreign policy he first of all emphasized the importance of the Rome protocols, and the friendship with Italy and Hungary. He then expressed great satisfaction about the 11th July Treaty with Germany and finally accentuated the Austrian peaceful tendencies to all its neighbours.

With these declarations he limited the sphere of future debates, giving in the meantime, the point of view of the Austrian Government in all kinds of problems.

On February 22nd, took place the visit of Neurath, which may be considered as a proof of improvements in Austro-German relations. Neurath was welcomed by a very clamorous reception... his arrival gave an opportunity to thousands of organised Austrian National Socialists to manifest in favour of Hitler. This manifestation produced a depressing effect despite official receptions and celebrations, and cooled the atmosphere for negotiations.

Neurath's stay in Vienna gave him and his suite the possibility of discussing several problems, and, concluding these negotiations, an official communiqué was issued which emphasised the importance of the 11th July Treaty as an instrument of rapprochement between the two German countries and announced the creation of a committee for cultural problems.

This communiqué is couched in a very diplomatic style and states the unanimity of both countries to safeguard European peace.

Von Neurath succeeded in obtaining neither an assurance from the Chancellor for full rights for Nationalists, nor the awaited declaration from the Chancellor regarding the anxious problems of the German policy. On the contrary he was given to understand that both these problems belong to the sphere of Austrian interior politics.

One might mention the widespread reports of Reuters and *Le Matin* about Neurath's proposals to Austria to accede the Four Power pact for the price of the resignation of the Restoration. The Austrian legation in London, as well as in Berlin, gave an emphatic denial. The *Balthazaplatz* maintains a mysterious silence in this affair.

Another rumour which merits more attention is the fact that Chancellor Schussnigg and von Neurath, each in his turn, will pay a visit to Rome. One might draw a conclusion that the centre of gravity of Austro-German relations is again being transferred south of the Brenner.

Hinterhof

## British Council delegates eminent publicist to visit Poland



Mr. Byron, who is giving a lecture on "The English Home" at 5.30 on Tuesday 12th March at the "Kamienica Książdz-Mazowieckich" Stare Miasto 31, was born in 1905 and educated at Eton and Merton College, Oxford. His principal interests are travel and architecture and he has travelled widely in Europe and Asia.

His publications include: Europe in the Looking Glass; The Station; The Byzantine Painting;

The Birth of Western Painting; Articles on New Delhi in "Architectural Review" and "Country Life", 1930 and 1931, An Essay on India; The Appreciation of Architecture; First Russia, then Tibet; Articles: Between Tigris and Oxus; "Country Life", 1934-35. Information may be obtained from the Polish British Chamber of Commerce Plac Napoleona 9 tel. 281-51.

## News from the Societies

### GDYNIA.

In October, 1936, the Anglo-Polish Society in Gdynia entered upon its fourth year of existence, under the presidency of its founder, Mr. Jan Derezinski. The Society has now nearly two hundred members, the average attendance at the weekly meetings being between fifty and sixty. Meetings are held on Wednesday evening, and this arrangement, which was made in the first place in the hope that passengers and officers from English ships, which are in the port on that day, would sometimes be able to attend, has allowed the Society to welcome a number of English visitors.

The Society's programme during the last year included twenty-five lectures, four debates, two plays, which were specially written for presentation by the Society's members by Mr. Arthur Osborne, and one recital. Two commemorative meetings were held on the occasion of the death of King George V and on the tenth anniversary of President Prof. Moscicki's elevation to office. The occasion of Prof. Dybowski's lecture to the Society was marked by a record attendance of some hundred persons.

The annual income of the Society is about seven thousand zlotys and this allows a small reserve to be set aside, after the payment of all expenses.

Since September, 1936, the Society has had the assistance of Mr. Robert Rayne as lecturer and organiser of the English courses which are arranged for members. Mr. Rayne is the fourth graduate of the University of Oxford to collaborate with the Society in this way.

The Society's library contains some six hundred volumes, of which one hundred were received two years ago, as a gift from the British Foreign Office. The

books have been selected chiefly from among the works of contemporary writers, and are in constant demand by members. The Society subscribes for a large number of periodicals and newspapers, which are available for the use of members, who are thus enabled to gain an idea of matters and movements in present-day England, and to keep in touch with English affairs.

Among the arrangements which have been made for the period before Easter may be mentioned the lecture to be given in March, under the auspices of the British Council, by Mr. Robert Byron.

### TORUN

The Anglo-Polish Circle in Torun was founded in November, 1933, under the presidency of Mr. Szczepkowski, Professor at the Torun Naval Academy, who has continued to hold that office. Active members number at present thirty five, and there is an average attendance of fifteen to twenty members at the weekly meetings. Besides lectures and more informal meetings, the Anglo-Polish Circle has combined with the Polish-French circle in organising social events during carnival. An exchange of speakers between the Torun circle and the newly-founded circle in Bydgoszcz has been tried and promises to be successful, and in September, Miss Singleton lectured to the circle on the occasion of her visit to Torun. The circle has a library of two hundred and fifty volumes, which, since January 1937, has been combined with the library of the *Towarzystwo Wiedzy Wojskowej*, so that it is now available for the use of all English speaking inhabitants of Torun, whether they are members of the circle or not.

M. Fenwick

## PRESS REVIEW

A sensational initiative of America is the headline of information given by *Petit Parisien* concerning the projected action of the Washington government which, as this newspaper reports, "intends soon to enter into contact with the British and French governments for purposes of negotiation in the matter of concluding economic understandings, foreseeing above all a stabilization of valutas. This understanding is also to include reduction of arming".

Le *Petit Parisien* adds also that the voyage of the American Ambassador in Paris, Mr. Bullitt, to Washington had for its object the preparation of the chief lines of these negotiations.

*Kurier Polski* has an article warning against too violent an opposition to the rise in prices which it says is a national and logical consequence of the undoubted improvement in economic conditions. It writes "If we do not allow even in a period of better economic relations a return, maintenance and strengthening of profit in national economy in all its domains, when indeed is that economy to be profitable? How, by what miracle is Polish industry to develop which is not only the most important economic but also social problem? And in conclusion the author says: "Economic thought cannot turn in a circle of hopeless crisis defeatism. It must perceive the change in situation and draw the right consequences from it."

"*Gazeta Polska*", discussing the declaration of Col. Koc, says Poland has a good constitution making a framework within which the organization of the state allows Poland to be a match for powerful neighbours. In reality the disputed question in the nation is not the constitution but only the question of summoning the representatives of the nation or - and it is not

one and the same thing - the suffrage system". "But" the writer concludes, "the power of Germany and Soviets results from their ability to fascinate the masses which have been brought within an iron ring of uniform direction". And how do we look in comparison? We have good constitutional legislation; a good organizing framework within which state work has an assured efficiency; finally we have a deep foundation of potential good will and patriotism, reminding vividly of our individual tradition of the general levy. Beside the organization of the state the organization of the Polish Nation must draw up in battle array".

Czas says that Col. Koc has appealed to the common sense of the people. "Hitler and Mussolini played on the feelings of their peoples, Koc appeals to the common sense of Poles."

L. K. C. quotes from the lecture of Dr. Henry Gruber, president of P. K. O., who spoke of the gradual economic uplift in Poland and among other things said that it was a mistake to attribute to international reasons the improvement in Poland, closing eyes to the initiative and enormous effort made by the Polish community. This is an invidious economic inferiority complex. The favourable period which is just beginning was called up by the realization of great intentions, the beginning of which is due to the state. The more cautiously those intentions are carried out the more certainly the eventual possible crisis of over investment is avoided. The creation of new economic values ought to take place systematically and gradually and not by way of "boom". A gradual progress, perhaps not effective but steady, is the best method of animating economic life".

K. M.

## Cultural and Art News in Brief

On the 26th of February, the Polish Federation of Professional and Business Women celebrated its annual International Night simultaneously with the other national branches all over the world. Over a hundred members and guests gathered in the Karłowicz Memorial Room at the Chopin Music School and were addressed by Mme Jadwiga Krawczyńska, who spoke on the international collaboration of women, while Mme Ludwika Wolska had a talk on "Women in Governments around the World", a topic chosen by the International Federation for this night.

The speeches were followed by music, of special interest being the ladies choir giving songs by Mme Klechowińska; later Mme Sławinska-Lenczewska sang, Mme Grus played the piano and there was also a quartette with a harp.

Dr. Władysław Natanson, the well known professor of physics of the Jagellon University and Vice President of the International Physic Union, died on the 26th of February at his home in Krakow, at the age of 73.

Dr. Alfred Denizot, Professor of Physics of the Poznan University and author of many books on electrotechnics, died on the 23rd of February in Poznan.

Peter Fleming, the Times staff correspondent and the well-known author, spent a few days in Warsaw last week for the purpose of collecting materials for a new book on Poland, Germany and the U.S.S.R.

The Musical State Prize for 1936 has been awarded to Professor Bolesław Woytowicz, well-known composer and professor of piano of the Chopin Music School at Warsaw. His compositions were played at the Vienna and Paris Music Festivals of 1932 and 1935 respectively.

It is of interest to note that during the month of January last 30 new periodicals were registered including: 13 - monthly, 11 - weekly, 4 - bimonthly, and 2 - bulletins. According to their contents 5 - are cultural-social, 6 - professional, 4 - bulletins of unions and societies, 3 - literary, 3 - technical, 3 - economic, 2 - for young people, 1 - general.

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