

THE WARSAW WEEKLY

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No. 12

AFTER THE YUGOSLAV EXPOSE.

The speech by M. Stojadinowitch, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs for Yugoslavia, made a few days ago at the Skoupchine has awakened a favourable echo in European opinion. It contained a number of passages more especially interesting to Polish opinion.

The geographical situation of Yugoslavia invites us to regard its movements in the domain of foreign policy with attention, all the more that we are united to this country by direct connections of sincerity and friendship. Poland also never forgets the sentiments of cordial neighbourliness existing between Yugoslavia and our ally Rumania.

In the last exposé of the leader of Yugoslavian policy we find a balance of serious constructive efforts, efforts destined to maintain peace and agreement between all the nations neighbouring in this part of Europe. Whilst tightening the bands of her old friendships Yugoslavia does not cease aiming at the normalizing and regulating of her relations with all states animated by a spirit of mutual understanding. The most characteristic example of this is the evolution that has taken place in the neighbourly relations of Yugoslavia with Bulgaria, an evolution recently crowned by a pact of friendship received by the whole of Polish opinion with sincere joy.

In following this way Yugoslavia, which is without doubt one of the essential elements for peace in this region of Europe, effectually opposes itself to the dangerous separation of the states into hostile blocks, one against the other. Confident in her strength and inspired by a sentiment of political realism, it brings an element of peace and balance into international life. But it is not only these constructive principles of Yugoslavian policy which cause us to greet Premier Stojadinowitch's exposé with profound sympathy. We must stress more specially the part of his speech concerning the direct relations between Poland and Yugoslavia.

Premier Stojadinowitch has emphasized that "the relations with the Polish Republic do not cease developing in a spirit of mutual comprehension and sincere sympathy". This declaration was followed in the Chamber of Deputies by a manifestation of friendship for Poland. The Polish nation on its side cherishes no lesser feelings of sincere sympathy for Yugoslavia and of esteem for the efficacious policy of its government. Poland welcomes the words of the Prime Minister as well as the reaction they have awakened in the Skoupchine as a proof that the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries will tighten ever increasingly. PIP

Dinner in honour of Mr. Byron



On the conclusion of Mr. Byron's successful lecture on "English Homes" on Friday the 12th March, he was the guest of honour at a small formal dinner given by Mr. Falter, President of the POLISH BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE under whose auspices the lecture had been arranged. The guests included: Mr. Aveling, Mr. Benis, Mr. Gruber, Mr. Halecki, Mr. Jerram, Sir Howard Kennard, Mr. Leggett, Mr. Minkowski, Mr. Młynarski, Mr. Podolski, Count Potocki, Count Rzewuski, Mr. Saewy, Mr. Staniszewski, Mr. Stankowski, Mr. Sykes, Mr. Tatarkevicz, Mr. Trepka.

Latvian and Polish Riflemen's collaboration

The Commander of the Latvian Association of Riflemen, "Aisargi", Col. K. Praulis, arrived in Warsaw as a guest of the Polish Riflemen's Association "Strzelec". Col. Praulis visited the centres of the Polish Riflemen and held many conversations with the leaders of the movement.

The Latvian "Aisargi" ("Defenders") are a semi-military organisation, with a membership

of 50,000. Its members practise all the sports and undergo a course of military training.

The Polish "Strzelec" is a similar organisation, with over 500,000 members. The friendly relations between these two organisations date back to 1927, and since that time many visits between representatives of the "Strzelec" and "Aisargi" have been mutually exchanged.

Poland and the 1937 Paris Exhibition



Exterior
of
Polish
Building.

Australian Letter

Australians are now taking interest in a problem which is for the country a very vital one, and which follows the discussion of the future of immigration raised at the conference in New Zealand — population. The Federal Minister for Health — well known in Europe as Australian delegate to the Peace Treaty discussions in 1919 — states the matter strongly when he says that "Australia is bleeding to death". The falling birth rate amounts to a loss of 65,000 per year, or a greater loss each year than the aggregate in four years of war. Therefore the task of raising the health of the community, since in such a climate illness is more the result of stupidity in feeding and lack of care than it is in several regions, is a crying necessity.

Taken with this should be another energetic movement for improvement of conditions of life, the formation of a Housing Improvement Board for re-planning Sydney slum areas. Although these slums are not so bad as those to be found in most European cities, their presence in Australian cities at all is unnecessary and

a strong move for their abolition is on foot.

The same progressive spirit finds outlet in propaganda for the celebrations of next year — Australia's 150th anniversary, and discussion is brisk as to what Australia should most advertise to attract tourists, since the field of interests is wide, and it is hoped that the net result will be increase of settlers as a consequence of its advantages being better known.

Terms for the running of the air mails have now been satisfactorily settled, but the chief interest in aviation at the present is the arduous discussion following the Federal Government's decision to order 40 N.A. 16 aeroplanes in America for Australian defence. Questions are being universally asked why planes should not be ordered in England, and the proposal to build the planes here has done nothing to allay the resentment of the public at the transaction. Parliament is however in recess and the matter must wait its reassembling for discussion. Meanwhile feeling runs high.

H. Heney.

LINEN SHIRTS FOR POLAND

It is suggested that the National should adopt linen shirts as its uniform. Gen. Żeligowski, the man who gave Wilno to Poland, is at present one of the most active propagators of the use of flax instead of cotton.

As most of the bigger political parties of Europe consider the choice of shirts an essential part of their policy, it would be only natural to wear linen shirts in Poland. It would be a novelty, as instead of the colour the texture would be the distinguishing feature.

LAUREATE CONCERTS

A series of concerts are now being given by the foremost laureates of the Chopin Contest. The first took place at the Philharmonic Hall on Sunday the 14th inst, before an enormous audience. Jacob Zak, the winner of the first prize was the pianist. His recital excited a great interest and much expectation which was only in part fulfilled. The young artist possesses a beautiful singing tone, and an excellently developed technique. His playing betrays a high musical culture and finish, but on the other hand it does not give the impression of a strong individuality or originality of conception. It excites admiration, but does not carry away.

The second laureate concert on the 16th Febr, at the Conservatoire was given by the French pianist Lédie Gousseau and the young Englishman Lance Dossor. Mademoiselle Gousseau has a brilliant technique and played some pieces by Ravel with great finish. Her rendering of Schumann's C. major Fantasia was less satisfactory.

In Lance Dossor we have an artist who promises to attain the highest summit of his profession. Endowed with a beautiful full tone and with exceptionally deep musical feeling in one so young he gave a surprisingly good performance. His Chaconne by Bach - Busoni was remarkable musically and technically.

That he also possesses virtuoso qualities he showed in the difficult Balakieroff piece which was however rather wanting in sparkle. K. M.



Interior of Polish Building.

A VISIT TO THE BELVEDERE

by Cecilia Halpern.

As March 19th was the name day of Marshal Pilsudski we are happy to publish, in all reverence, this sympathetic description of his former home, the Belvedere.

The Belvedere was the residence of Marshal Pilsudski for 13 years from the moment when he came into power after his return from a German prison, in November 1918, until the day of his death in May 1935, with an interruption of 4 years, when it was inhabited first by President Narutowicz for a few days only - and later by President Wojciechowski.

This palace stands in its own wooded grounds in the South part of the town near the Lazienki Park and was originally constructed in 1664 by an Italian architect to be the abode of the Italian wife of Krzysztosf Pac. In the eighteenth century it was bought together with the Lazienki estate by the last Polish King, Stanislaw August, and he arranged there a pottery, the beautiful products of which were well known abroad as the Belvedere pottery. In 1822 the Palace was reconstructed by Kubicki, a Polish architect, and the Administrative Council of the Kingdom of Poland gave it as a residence to the Russian Grand Duke Constantine, Viceroy of Poland, who was married to a Polish Countess.

Nevertheless there had been one moment in its history which made the Palace dear to the Polish heart: in the first night of the November insurrection 29.11.1831 a group of twenty pupils of the nearby Infantry Officers School entered it to take prisoner the Grand Duke Constantine, who, however, escaped and joined the Russian troops. After the rising the Palace became the property of the Russian Government.

To commemorate this first military action of the young patriots Joseph Pilsudski chose the evening of 29th November 1918 to enter officially his new residence as Chief of State. He occupied then as his abode only one large room on the first floor. This room was his bedroom and study. It has a beautiful view on the Belvedere Park and the Lazienki, while on the horizon one can see the greyish ribbon of the Vistula. The decisive night before the battle of Warsaw in 1920 was spent by the Marshal sleepless in this

room, and many more nights not less difficult and not less fruitful. This room was also the Marshal's study from 1926 to 1935. Here he very occasionally received his nearest collaborators. His desk still stands in the middle of the room, on it a list of his collaborators made out by his own hand, a box of his cigarettes, a bronze statue of a Legionary by Lieutenant Wlodzimierz Koneczny, who as a soldier of the first Brigade gave his life for his country in July 1916. On the wall at the head of the bed hang three swords presented to the Marshal: on the other wall a picture of his wife and daughters in Sulejowek (his private residence near Warsaw), and a view of his beloved town of Wilno.

The room as all those which composed his apartment are kept just like they were when he lived there, except that on the desk on which his firm hands were always working - a bronze cast of his right hand rests in black.

In the room nearby, from which there is access to the large balcony on which the Marshal liked to hold conferences or to rest, are kept in cupboards all the private signed copies of his works issued in Polish and foreign languages.

The ground floor where is the apartment occupied by the Marshal since 1926 is also kept untouched. I would like to mention that even in the official reception rooms one never had the feeling of emptiness and coldness of an official abode. It was full of the Man who lived and worked there, whose greatness had nothing artificial in it, but was before all human, living, full of modesty and simplicity.

When visiting these now abandoned rooms, I had the impression that the Great Man is not gone for ever, but that he is just only resting - and still present.

Passing through the two waiting rooms and the chancery of the aide-de-camp, one enters the room which served the Marshal as a cloak room. Here

on the table were usually deposited his cap, and gloves (the sword was in the chancery). Now, in one of the chests there are kept his uniform, his overcoat, his favourite short legionary tunic, the belt which he wore in 1920, etc. In the other his multi dress, the famous black dress coat which he wore in Geneva, and others which he used to wear in the country. The next room is his library: full of books - Polish, French, German, Russian, English, mostly presented to him by the authors. The dining room where he invariably joined his family at 3 p.m. for lunch, to take his simple food is haunted by the memories of his animation and of the jokes which he used to make with his daughters. Then his bedroom, mahogany furniture, on a table to the left a photograph of his beloved mother as a beautiful girl of fifteen, on the other table the two morning papers which he read last, a box of cigarettes, a box of his favourite sweets, books which he read last - and in a glass vase always fresh flowers. A photograph of his eldest brother and his sister. On the walls two portraits of his daughters, a picture representing his quarters in Laski in 1914, another of the head of his favourite mare "Kasztanka". Thus in this room were things dear to his heart.

Passing through the "green salon" one enters the "corner room" his favourite place during the last few years. Here he liked to work and to rest, here he died. . . . The room is beautiful, full of light which comes through the large windows facing the park. Now the park is full of noise, not a sound of the noisy city to be heard. And again everything is left as it was then. In the corner a cosy sofa, before it a table on which lies a pack of patience cards, a game which helped him to concentrate his thoughts. He liked this room, its Karelean birch furniture, the Eastern carpet and the signs of the Zodiac on the ceiling. And so it happened that in this room he passed away surrounded by his family. . . .

Next was the large reception room. How often we have seen photographs representing the Marshal sitting on the Louis XVI sofa and engaged in a lively discussion with some notable foreign visitor. This room has been changed into a mourning chapel, its walls and windows are covered with black and it remains just as it was when his body lay there in state for his last rest in his home. Hundreds of Polish and foreign inscriptions on ribbons taken from the countless wreaths which were the last farewell, are now its decoration. Here we stand still paying the last homage to Poland's greatest son and slowly, on tiptoe, we leave his house. After the death of the Marshal the Government decided that the Belvedere should become the the Pilsudski Museum. The part containing reception rooms and the private apartment of the Marshal was left as it was during his life. In the remaining rooms which have been renovated will be located the rest of the Museum.

The Museum is understood as a Memorial to the life and deeds of the Great Marshal. It will consist of sections: I) containing souvenirs illustrating the life of the Marshal from his early childhood to the moment of his return from Magdeburg prison in 1918. II) On the first floor - Marshal Pilsudski as Chief of State 1918-1922. III) The apartments of the Marshal in



The Marshal's bedroom

the state in which they were from 1926 to 1935. IV) Gifts from the population - a large range of presents from all classes of the nation. Portraits, sculptures from artists, handicrafts, work from workmen and peasants, naive children's work, a large range of gifts from all regiments and branches of the army. V) Souvenirs connected with the funeral of the Marshal.

Great stress is laid by the Directorate of the Museum on the preservation of the manuscripts of the Marshal, which will all be collected, with the exception of the official documents at present in the State Archives. A special part will be occupied by the manuscripts of his works which the Nation considers to be the commandments left by the Great Marshal for the present and the future generations of Poland.

Although the portions of the Museum are daily open to the public and the number of visitors varies between 400 and 3000 a month, the Directorate, which rests in the energetic

hands of Col. Adam Borkiewicz and Dr. Joseph Kluss, is working hard in arranging the other parts of the Museum, a part of which will be opened for the public on the 19th of March of this year - which is the day of the Marshal's patron saint.

The staff and attendants are recruited from people who were in attendance on Marshal Pilsudski during his life. They have all known him personally and it is therefore no wonder that they look upon his house as a sanctuary. In this sense will the palace be regarded not only by the present generation but by those to come. There is no national ceremony which would not be started by paying homage at the gate of the Belvedere. At the principal entrance to the palace one can always see a crown of flowers deposited by some organisation. And on the night of 29th November the patrol of the Infantry Officers School mounts the guard in the historical uniform of the first Polish troops which tried to fight the oppressor, and to do honour to the Man who has done so.



The dining-room



The drawingroom

