

THE WARSAW WEEKLY

Offices: Czackiego 1, Warsaw, Poland, Telephone 273-77.
 English Distributors: W. H. Smith & Sons, London
 Subscription rates - £1.35 quarterly, £1.30 quarterly, £1.30 quarterly.
 Foreign 4/- or \$1. quarterly, 15/- or \$ 3.75 yearly.
 Postal Cheque Account: 29898. Warszawa
 Post Office Account: 615 Warszawa

3rd YEAR

WARSAW, SATURDAY, JULY 31, 1937

No. 31

Comments on Mr. Eden's Speech

Mr. Eden, the British Minister of Foreign Affairs, has recently delivered a speech in the House of Commons on the actual problems of international life. He touched on some questions in which Poland, as an European State, is directly, or indirectly interested.

Dealing with the economic factors which according to Mr. Eden contribute to the stabilisation of peace, we attribute particular importance to two questions raised in the speech, i.e. the mission of M. Van Zeeland and the problem of raw materials. Some time ago, we devoted special articles to these questions. We shall, therefore, only repeat now, that Poland adopted a friendly attitude towards M. Van Zeeland's mission, being quite sure that he would tackle the problem conscientiously, justly and practically. Indeed, he himself or through his trusted associates, had studied the economic situation on the spot, such as it was in different countries. He endeavoured to draw concrete conclusions from these studies with a view to speeding up international economic cooperation, bearing in mind at the same time, the interests of each State in particular. That is why the Polish Government hopes that M. Van Zeeland's mission will be crowned with success.

When speaking of the question of raw materials, we must not forget that this is one of the most vital problems of the Polish State. Polish public opinion is glad to see that this problem is past the deadlock at which it had arrived on the territory of the League of Nations and that it has been judged ripe for a solution to be reached. Conforming to the thesis officially presented by Poland, the latter hopes that her

legitimate plans will soon be realized.

Reverting to political problems, we must take into consideration that part of Mr. Eden's speech which was devoted to the difficult and at the same time tragic problem of the war in Spain. Poland has no direct interest in the Iberian Peninsula. However, as one of the European powers, she could not refuse to co-operate in the collective effort tending to the localization and, in consequence, liquidation of the conflict and do everything required to maintain the peace of Europe.

Mr. Eden's speech, conveying the assurance that Great Britain, though possessing very important interests in the Mediterranean, has no intention of interfering in the Spanish domestic conflict and that her sole desire is to see the end of the civil war and the maintenance of Spanish integrity, has found a resounding echo in Poland. The Polish Government was pleased to note, that the Non Intervention Committee had, unanimously, confided to England the task of finding a suitable issue out of the crisis which had arisen in the work of the Committee.

It is true that Mr. Eden had depicted the gravity of the situation in dark colours, stressing the fact that the floundering of the non-intervention principle menaces the outbreak of a European war. But at the same time he remarked that there is no country which would tend to change the civil war into an international conflict.

Polish public opinion approves and sympathises with the British tendency to oppose the division of Europe into hostile ideological

groups. This tendency was expressed in vigorous terms by Mr. Eden, who said that Great Britain did not busy herself with the interior form of other nations but was interested solely in the way these governments acted beyond their frontiers. We will not join the international group against communism-assured Mr. Eden - just as we will not accept to the international group against fascism.

Mr. Eden's views on the League of Nations were particularly interesting. He stated that the League of Nations was neither dead nor condemned to death. The work begun in respect to its reform has revealed two standpoints of view: one, which wants to see in the institution an instrument of constraint, the other an instrument of conciliation only. The League of Nations is a union of sovereign states and ought to be absolutely impartial. Advantage cannot be taken of the League of Nations to impose upon one or another country, this or that conception, or such or other system of government. According to Mr. Eden nothing could be more harmful to the application of the principles of the Pact, or to the reestablishing of the League's authority than the division of the world into two groups of Powers, one inside, the other outside the League.

These words conform entirely with the political instinct of Polish public opinion. Polish society heard them gladly, understanding the point of view of Great Britain's representative, and appreciating that a power playing such an important rôle in international life, will undoubtedly have a great influence on the evolution of the League. P.I.P.

LONDON LETTER

By Gregory Macdonald

Parliament adjourns on Friday for the summer recess, while the people make the grand holiday exodus in a hopeful and prosperous mood. The present Prime Minister will not play the innocent abroad at Aix, but Ministers are taking their holidays far afield, with provision for an immediate return in case of need, and the Speaker is empowered to convene the House before October 21, if that should appear necessary in the public interest. The King will open Parliament for the first time on October 26.

The session will be memorable for Mr. A. P. Herbert's Marriage Bill, re-named the Matrimonial Causes Bill in the House of Lords. The habit of changing a name without changing an identity is deeply ingrained in a country where a politician, after a glorious career as Mr. Smith, disappears from the public view under a geographical alias. The House of Lords no doubt has an itch to change other titles. But Mr. Herbert's enactment will long be known as the Marriage Bill and will go down to history as an example of what can be done by a humourist turned social reformer.

Mr. A. P. Herbert, long known as a writer in *Punch*, a librettist and playwright, showed signs of serious purposes when he insisted upon restoring the Thames as a waterway in competition with the omnibus company and when he later attempted to improve the living conditions of barges. He entered Parliament representing the University of Oxford amidst a general expectation that he would enliven Westminster with quips and winks. Before anyone knew what had happened he drew a Marriage Bill from his pocket and swore to have it on the Statute Book in the lifetime of the present Parliament. With unflinching courtesy the Members took him seriously as he refused to crack any jokes, and the result is that Britons may now be divorced for habitual drunkenness, desertion, insanity and other reasons. The Bill was passed with cheers and there was a chorus of congratulations for Mr. Herbert, whose picture, with his wife and children, appeared everywhere to prove that he was disinterested.

The debates in both Houses had a hypnotic quality which was very interesting to sense. An extension of the grounds of divorce was not popularly demanded. General opposition to it among the people, especially in the provinces, might have been intense had some spellbinder like a young Lloyd George arisen to attack the measure. But even the opponents of the Bill in Parliament behaved with exaggerated courtesy as though at all costs they should not hurt

Mr. Herbert's feelings. The debates were on a very low level, and there was possibly a feeling abroad that anyone who opposed the Bill conspicuously would be satirised by the champion of divorce.

The episode showed what could be done by a private Member with a determination to see a certain measure passed into law. It also illustrated what is now becoming generally recognised, that the spirit has gone out of Party politics. *The Times* referred to this change editorially during the week, taking as its text a speech by Sir John Simon, once a Liberal Minister and to-day Chancellor of the Exchequer in the National Government. Sir John, in his speech, recanted all the purest doctrines of Liberalism with which stolid old gentlemen fumed at the mouth before the War and pointed out that the Labour Party in opposition cannot even oppose. *The Times* recalled the bitter obstructive tactics of pre-War days, congratulating us on a change for the better as though our fathers had never been congratulated on those same obstructive tactics as the chief sign of a healthy democratic spirit. Anyhow, Mr. Herbert's Bill proved clearly enough that issues do not now present themselves as issues upon which Members of Parliament will fight to the death or to the disturbance of the public peace.

Yet the same session has seen two surrenders by the Government to feeling expressed in Parliament - on both occasions the Government capitulated before there was any real danger of defeat, so that one cannot help feeling that a definite policy is being followed to prove that the Government actually does lean upon Parliamentary support. The present Government is actually so strong that it could afford to flout Parliament, or at least to try its patience to extremes. The first occasion was the Profits Tax and the second the Palestine Report. There was general surprise, after a confusing debate, when the Palestine question was turned over to the League of Nations. Perhaps the Government never intended to force the issue presented by the proposal to divide Palestine into two or three pieces: the responsibility would be too great - better leave that to an amorphous body like the League. Perhaps it was considered sufficient to raise the question of dividing up what both Jews and Arabs consider wholly their own. But it was a significant move for a British Government even to suggest such a change, or to countenance the suggestion made by a Royal Commission, and whatever the outcome of the proposal the Balfour Declaration has now been blown upon. The

The National Economic Bank in 1936

The Annual Report of the National Economic Bank for the year 1936, the 13th year of its existence, gives an extremely interesting survey of the economic situation of Poland during that period. It draws attention to the fact that the revival of economic life has not been so much all round but rather a wave of internal improvements in individual countries, in many of which the renewed economic animation has been due to rearmament. The refusal of the Polish Government to inflate its currency and the imposition of currency restrictions marked a turning point in Poland's economic relations with abroad, allowing for the regulation of transactions to secure to Poland indispensable raw materials and means of production. The improvement in agriculture was more pronounced in 1936 than in the previous years, thanks to the steady rise

in prices, the average index having increased from 35.8 to 38.7, while prices for industrial products needed by the farmers declined from 66.3 to 64.6. Agricultural exports rose from 164 million zł. in 1935 to 201 million zł. in 1936, while that of animal products rose by 46% to 195 million zł., all factors tending to enhance the improvement in the position of the Polish farmer.

In industry the general production index rose by 8% to 72% with a marked increase in production and turnover towards the end of the year. The largest expansion was in the iron and steel industry where in some sections the output increased by 48%. There was a greatly increased amount of building work carried on, as this represents one of the few normal commercial investments available for the investing public. Quite a large number of new factories were

opened and others extended, mainly in the metal, engineering and electrical industries. A new assembly plant for motor vehicles was opened in partnership with an American concern, while large extensions were made to munition factories. Thanks to all the above the aggregate number of hands employed in the mining, smelting and manufacturing industries increased by 35,000 to 710,000.

Foreign trade amounted to 2,029 million zł. in 1936 as against 1,785 zł. in 1935, being equally divided between imports and exports. While the budgetary year 1935/36 was closed with a deficit of 263 million zł., the nine months ending December 1936 were closed with a surplus of 26 million. The total of the budget estimate for 1936/37 was 2,221 million zł. and for 1937/1938 2,317 million zł. The public debt

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THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC BANK

(continued)

on the 1st October amounted to 4,662 million zł. including 2,921 million zł. foreign debts, this latter figure having dropped by 398 million zł. during the year mainly owing to the depreciation of certain foreign currencies. The restrictions on the service of foreign loans are only applicable to transfers abroad, the full sum of money due being paid into blocked accounts in Poland. During the year a State investment plan to be financed from nonbudgetary sources was prepared providing for expenditure from July 1936 to June 1940 of 1,800 million zł. on all State investments. In 1936, 320 million zł. of this was spent on the reconstruction of the Warsaw railway network and on the extension of the port of Gdynia. The cover in gold for the note circulations against sight liabilities of the Bank of Poland was 32.07% at the end of the year and the bullion and foreign currency reserves stood at 423 million zł., of which 393 million was in gold. The circulation of money was 1,462 million zł. at the end of the year, an increase of 50 million zł. on 1935. The State deposits in financial institutions was 4,108.4 million zł. at the end of 1935 and 4,176 zł. at the end of 1936, while that of short term credits was 3,498 million zł. and 3,558.4 million zł. respectively.

The deposits of the National Economic Bank were 835 million zł. at the end of 1936, being some 4½ million zł. less than at the end of 1935, the reduction being caused by a decrease of 90 million zł. in treasury deposits which was not entirely compensated for by the rise in other deposits. The total of credits rose from 1,962 million in 1935 to 2,134 million in 1936, of which latter over half were in cash loans. Here it is of interest to know that the

distribution of cash credits included 438 million for State institutions, 37 million for associated undertakings, 192 million for local authorities, 92 million for co-operative societies, 85 million for banks, 63 million for agriculture, 187 million for mining, industry & trade, and 204 million for various, mainly building, making a grand total of 1,210 million zł. The net profit shown by the Bank for 1936 was 226,000 zł.; 339,000 zł. less than in 1935. This reduction was more apparent than real, the Bank having written off 11,763,000 zł., or 4,458,000 zł. more than in 1935 for the relief of indebtedness. The Bank is the majority shareholder in the Starachowice Co., the Society of Polish Mechanics from America, the Godziek Chemical Co., the Buzka Chemical Co., and the Potassium Salts Co. who between them employ 9,798 workers and sold 66 million zł. worth of goods during 1936. After three years interval the Bank issued in 1936 bonds for 150 million zł. against communal and building loans granted in cash in the last few years. After allowing for redemptions, the total issues of the Bank were 898 million zł., an increase of 131 million zł. over 1935, to which should be added 25 million zł. for issues of the former Polish National Bank. At the end of the year the Bank had granted 9,536 issue loans to a total of 1,064 million zloty. 38.6 million zł. was allocated during the year for building, bringing the total of building credits up to 690 million zł., of which 632 million were from Government funds and 58 million from Bank funds.

The balance sheet details including treasury funds administered by the Bank were Zł. 2,571,716,980.12, including 65 million cash on hand. The profit and loss account is given below:

Expenditure	Income
Interest paid 18,551,928.18	Interest received 38,515,582.34
Exchange differences on securities 2,413,375.87	Commissions 4,054,238.76
Expenses 13,485,182.62	Exchange differences on drafts and currencies 316,630.04
Amortization 888,621.32	Administrative charges payable to Bond Issue Department 4,881,509.12
Write off 7,362,680.06	Administration of real property 591,898.71
Raising of local authorities of debts 4,000,000.—	Refund of sums previously written off 1,420,918.20
Net profit 2,626,012.12	
Total 49,780,775.17	Total 49,780,775.17

London Letter

(Continued from page 1)

episode may have been rather less democratic than it looked.

Capitulations to Parliament are not in accord with a Government policy which is in general more assured, both internally and externally, than the policy of any British Government since the War. Ministers at last give the impression that they know what is happening, and they are spreading the reassurance (partly as a consequence of the progress of British rearmament) that there is a very good chance of preserving European peace. The Prime Minister told a meeting of M. P.s in the dining room of the House last week that his hopes of securing peace were based on special communications just received. In other words, negotiations are afoot; and meanwhile British policy, with hardly a flicker of moral conversion, has turned over towards Rome and Berlin. The change follows the fall of Bilbao, the weakening of Russia by a series of purges and the confusion imported into France, but in fact the change is inherent in the policy being followed by the British Government. Britain wants peace which will not be found among the Reds of Valencia or elsewhere.

Consequently (despite the valiant efforts of the rumour-mongers to start up a conflict over Gibraltar if nothing else serves) every attempt is being made to secure a peaceful accord on the Spanish question, or to draw it out by negotiation while Franco fights the Battle of Madrid. And behind the diplomatic stage of the Spanish crisis we may be sure that the economic and financial discussions perhaps prematurely cited in King Leopold's letter to Van Zeeland are coming to fruition. It is no small point — and a reassuring one for the British Government — that Roosevelt has won the Supreme Court battle after all. Financial arrangements made by him will not now be declared unconstitutional by the Nine Old Men.

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THE ORIGINS OF THE POLISH STATE

By Max Goryński

(Continued from No. 29)

No coherent story can as yet be evolved out of the several centuries of confusing movement of East Teutonic tribes over part or the whole of Poland; the number even of these centuries is an object of incessant polemics. Apart from the quarrel over the Lusitanian culture, most German scholars assign to B. C. 1000 or B. C. 800 the beginnings of Germanic expansion into Poland, first from the west, and after some time and on a larger scale from the Scandinavian north; Polish scholars speak only of cultural West Teutonic influence, and the arrival of Scandinavians in Pomerania is timed by them not earlier than about BC 150. Roderich von Ercken's map of the expansion of Teutonic and Celtic peoples in Europe at about B. C. 500-50 in *Helmut's Weltgeschichte* serves to illustrate two important chapters on Teutons and Celts contributed by Professor Eduard Heyck. Though otherwise of great merit the two contributions do not even mention the Lusitanian problem, and the first appearance of the north Teutons, who were to become the East Teutons, on the Continent is treated cursorily. Writing of the origin of the East Teutons Prof. Eduard Heyck makes, however, a very illuminating remark; those emigrants from Scandinavia, he says, "are nothing else than early Vikings, such as went in search of land in historical times and through thoughts of settling down which they were able to realize in various parts, while in others they were repulsed. Those old East Teutons also are not peoples who migrated as a whole..."

We have also to consider the critical examination the late Professor Hans Delbrück has made, with revealing results, into the problem of migrating peoples. We know not beyond any doubt that the strongest of the migrating tribes, the Visigoths, in 378, when they defeated and slew the Emperor Valens in the battle of Adrianople, mustered against the 12,000 of the Emperor's, and that their whole human swarm, including women, children and slaves, did not exceed 60 to 70,000 people. If such was their number about six generations after their settling down on the shore of the Black Sea, how very small must have been the posse of the "early Vikings", their ancestors, when they descended on the shore of the Baltic. The bulk of the Ostrogoths numbered about 6000 to 8000 fighting men, the Burgundians about 5000 at the time of the conquest of Africa 8000 to 10,000. At the highest estimate these East Teutonic tribes in migration represent 250,000 people, about one fifth of the number of Europeans who in 1907, the peak year of pre-war emigration, left the Old World for America, and only about 75,000 more than the number of persons who in 1914 emigrated from Poland to the New Continent. Of course, at the time of the so-called Great Migrations all Europe outside the Roman Empire was very thinly populated; 250,000 people were probably quite a large fraction of the population between the Carpathian range and the Baltic, possibly one fourth or even one third of the total. Considering what we have already noted of the country's "encumbered" nature and also the constant fights going on among the East Teutonic tribes themselves, it is hardly possible to imagine that at any time one of them should have succeeded in establishing even the crudest form of a state of some extent in the jungle between the Oder

and the Priepet marshes. The story of Hermanarich's great Gothic "Empire" stretching from the Crimea to the gulfs of Danzig and Riga, and from the Dniester and Vistula far beyond the Wolga, as neatly depicted in *Putzger's Historischer Schul-Atlas*, is also a figment of over-heated nationalism; Jordanis, the Gothic historian in the VI century, had some justification for boasting of the power of the lost empire; it does not befitt historians in the XX century, with Prof. Hans Delbrück's works at hand, to repeat medieval fables for the "instruction" of schoolchildren. Just like Rurik and his immediate successors five hundred years later, Hermanarich's Goths had to content with levying tribute wherever and whenever the natives were not strong enough to refuse it. In the Gothic "empire" the tribute, as we know by archeological finds, partly consisted in coin, mostly, however, in kind of which again "brides" must have been a very valued commodity, all migrating or newly settled peoples being attracted from their temporary homes on those migrations that were to end in disaster for all of them. It could not be otherwise with such small fragments of peoples who ventured into the still populous and, in comparison with the invaders, highly civilized provinces of the Roman Empire. If the Franks were the only ones to escape the same fate, and succeeded even in giving rise to two new powerful and splendidly gifted races, the French and the German ones, it was because, as Prof. H. A. L. Fisher points out in his chapter on the Germanic Invasions, they were also the only ones who never lost direct contact with their continental home the old home beyond the Rhine.

Bastarns, Rugians, Burgundians, Goths, Gepids, Vandals were the principal swarms of the Teutons in their various periods since about B. C. 200 entered different parts of Poland where they remained for some length of time. A complete list of the tribal names, a rough chronology of changes in the territorial distribution of the invaders presents no interest to the general public. At the turn of the fourth Christian century no larger compact group of Teutons was left to the east of the Oder and to the north of the Carpathian ring, the Vandals being the last to march off in the direction of the Rhine (A.D. 407). They and the Goths had held in Poland the widest expanse of territory for the longest time. But there is not the slightest doubt that of all the Teutonic warriors — Prof. Antoniewicz points out, "below the layer of Germanic conquerors the Lusitanian population still continued to live", and there is also sufficient archeological evidence that for their back-rushes from the Baltic Sea against the Vandals the Goths organized auxiliary forces of Slavonic tribes from the Dnieper basin. Even to-day the Polish language has many words, in particular military terms, borrowed from the Gothic, like *miecz* (sword) which comes from the Gothic *mekk*, *helm* (helmet) from *hilmis*, possibly also *patk* (regiment) from *folk*; *cesar* (emperor) was not taken from the Latin *Caesar*, but from the Gothic *kaisar*; *kisladz* (originally prince, ruler, to-day priest) from *kung*, *lekarz* (physician) from *leikis* which

the Goths in their turn had borrowed from the Celts. Considering the small numbers of the Goths, the Slavonic forces they took with them on their expeditions against the Vandals must have been numerically quite important anyway. If the view be accepted that the old Lusitanians were not of the Slavonic race, those expeditions, which appear to have started shortly after the arrival of the Goths on the shores of the Black Sea, were of great importance for the expansion of the race towards the West. The Gothic-Slavonic attacks extended all along the reversed trek Teutons had taken on their way from one sea to the other, that is to say along the Dniester, Bug and Vistula rivers as far as Pomerania, and to the west of this line of waterways as far as Silesia and Great Poland. The main result was a close intermingling of Goth, Vandal and Slavonic cultural elements over the whole territory affected. On the other hand, the influence of the Goths spread powerfully also to the east of this line, in the Niemen and Dnieper basins, unmistakably Viking-like in its combination of plundering raids with trading enterprise.

These were no "national" expeditions of a Gothic "empire". Just as in *Germania Magna* tribes and clans were constantly warring against each other, so did the Goths in their new home in the Crimea and the South Russian steppe, where Terwings, Taisals, Amalungs, Balths, and what there was of other sects and individual leaders capable of winning the fealty of a band of followers, were adventuring on the look-out for constantly new fields of home or abroad. Between A. D. 214 and 302 the Goths raided the Roman provinces Moesia Inferior and Dacia twenty two times, until Aurelian withdrew the Roman forces from the Dniester and relinquished Dacia to the Goths and Vandals. About A. D. 300 the Amalung Hermanarich succeeded for the first time in uniting the Goths under his personal rule; he was a centaurian when, in 375, his kingdom was overthrown by the Huns. In the midst of the old Greek colonies still flourishing on the shores of the Euxine, and under the influence of Constantinople the Goths had developed a respectable civilization, and though they did not found a real empire, they to the end remained a race of fierce warriors, they played a very important part as middlemen between the Roman world and the European East, just as the Vandals did, perhaps even on a larger scale, in the trade relations of East-Central Europe with the Roman provinces on the Rhine and Danube.

Apart from this slow process of infiltration of Mediterranean civilization, the presence of Germanic tribes did not contribute to the rise of real nations or states between the Carpathians and the Baltic. We have to think of the country as very sparsely dotted with small communities of different races and tribes as the scene of tribal wars and family feuds. The concept of life in an African jungle, or, for all we know from Tacitus and the later Roman historians and geographers in *Germania Magna*.

(To be continued)

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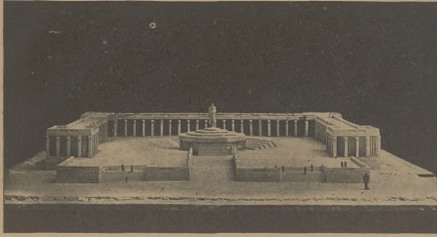
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Monuments in honour of Marshal Piłsudski



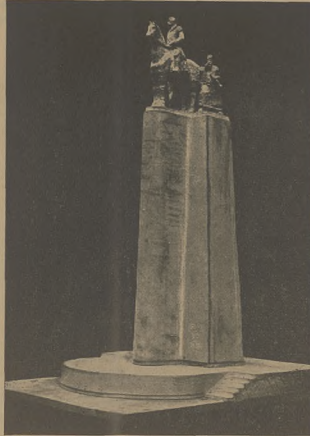
Jan Szczepkowski.

In accordance with the plan of the great Piłsudski Avenue which is to become the main highway of the southern part of the town and which will considerably alter the present lay-out of the streets, a monument is to be erected to the Marshal at the point where at present three streets (Koszykowa, 6 Sierpnia, and Szuca) converge on the Aleja Ujazdowska. A great number of sculptors and architects have attacked the problem and their efforts are now exhibited to the public in a newly constructed and not yet finished wing of the National Museum in Aleja 3 Maja.

Three designs have been chosen by the Committee for further consideration: that of Jan Szczepkowski in collaboration with J. Sianogłoch, that of Henryk Kuna in collaboration with Boni and that of Marjan Wnuk with Kocinski. The most interesting is decidedly that of M. Wnuk, but the small-scale model and the somewhat larger fragment presenting one of the figures are insufficient to show whether the execution is likely to do justice to the spiritual importance and the artistic difficulties of the task. The figure of the Marshal on horseback is placed on a towering pinnacle as of rock and is accompanied by the figure of a soldier of his Legion and by that of *Wernyhora* (this was the name given to a blind peasant minstrel of the south-eastern border in the XVIIIth century, who was credited with the gift of prophecy — it became almost the synonym of a seer). J. Szczepkowski's design is the

most elaborate of the three and the most precise in its architectural details. It comprises a statue of the Marshal against the background of a great colonnade and a triumphal arch with an equestrian statue of him some distance away from the main monument. *H. Kuna's* design is somehow sad. It would make a fitting monument of the nation's grief but it does not express the personality of its hero.

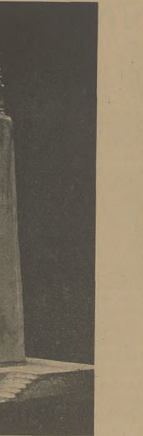
A number of designs by other artists have received honourable mentions. A not unpleasing one comes from Poznań and is distinguished by being the only asymmetric architectural construction among all those submitted. Another shows the Marshal on horseback, forming, as it were, the crest of a wave of soldiers. The large head of a soldier exhibited with this design looks very promising. On the whole the architectural results are better than the sculptures, and in some cases where the general design is good the fragments of modelling show that most likely the execution would not come up to that highest level of artistic achievement which must be demanded in this case. Of those designs which have been awarded no distinction, Nr. 22 seems to promise well, though of course it is hard to say whether the rhythm of soldiers' figures would give the same effect when enlarged to the colossal size which the monument is like to have. The figure of the Marshal, too, is somewhat conventional. Nr. 53 is most certainly by the sculptor of the *Szukalski* school,



Marjan Wnuk.

The whole design is too weird and the horse is certainly a nightmare, but the figure of the Marshal himself has very considerable merit—the expression is excellent, both in the face and in the attitude and the modelling is very fine.

A design which attracts attention is one in red and black, where the Marshal's figure, sunk in thought, stands in absolute solitude at the head of a great



Henryk Kuna.

stair. It expresses a great deal but it would not be at all suitable for the present purpose.

Apparently not a single woman sculptor has tried her hand in this competition, which is rather astonishing for there are several who were surely equal to the task.

It is to be hoped that some of these designs will be completed, fulfilling the promise shown by many of the sketches, and will find a place in other towns.

The most interesting of the prophecies attributed to the original *Wernyhora*, which was well known long before the Great War and widely recalled later, was that "when a mighty ruler with a withered arm will wage war on the whole world, when Easter will fall on St. Adalbert's day, and when the Turk will water his horse in the Horyny" then would Poland rise again. In 1916 Easter Sunday was on April 23rd, St. Adalbert's day — a very rare occurrence — and the last German Emperor had not the full use of his left arm which was injured at birth — as for the Turk there were certainly some small Turkish detachments in Volhynia with the Austrian army.

BOLESŁAW PRUS

(Aleksander Głowacki)

(Concluded)

The *Placówka* (An Out-Post) is dedicated to Polish countrymen in the last few years of the past century. The German colonisation of Polish lands at that time, was carried on at an alarming rate. In this novel Prus has shown how the attachment and affection of one peasant to his native land defeated Prussian colonists and saved a whole village from foreign settlers. The land-owner, a lightheaded individual, sells his estate to Germans, but the hero of the novel, Slimak, who has only a small farmhouse, remains on a hill necessary for the colonists to establish a saw-mill and refuses to sell it, in spite of offers of money far in excess of the real value of the land. Neither the deaths of his son and wife, the fire, nor the chicaneries on the part of the colonists, are able to press the Polish countryman into selling his cottage. He remains on his "out-post," and the Prussian colonists therefore leave the village, selling their estates to several Polish inhabitants. One brave countryman (supported by the faith of his wife) preserved the Polish village from colonisation. Prus offers him a well merited homage.

Placówka as well as being of social and to-day historical value, is at the same time a true work of art. The rather comic caste-spirit, the relations between land-owner and countryman, the countrymen and their servants; the work in the village during each season, and especially the psychology of the peasantry, are rendered by Prus with great conviction. At the same time in *Placówka* Prus treats very originally nature and animals. They are inseparably included in the lives of countrymen, they form in some way an element of their soul. It is no wonder, then, that Slimak undertakes long discussions and conversations with the soil during its cultivation; with the cow, when the sorrowful necessity of selling it comes, etc. This kind of treatment of animals and nature,

is another beautiful and original form of the Prus' work—that noble picture of a Polish village and a monument to peasants' merits in Polish history.

Whilst *Placówka* depicts splendidly the life in a village—the town with its lights and shadows, and all sides of its life is portrayed by Prus in his three-volume novel *Lalka* (*The Doll*). Warsaw about the year 1888 is the town chosen by Prus. The leading contents of the novel include the tragic love affair of a rich tradesman, a noble citizen and a brave man, Stanisław Wokulski with Izabela Łęcka, an aristocrat. Izabela is that doll, heartless and full of aristocratic prejudices, who finally causes the failure of Wokulski and his death by suicide. The action of the novel is painted on a fine background—political, social and society-life of Warsaw are all included. Prus demonstrates here all the Varsovian social classes beginning with the aristocracy and going through the tradesmen, bourgeoisie and the academic world, including finally artisans and the poorest population, giving a very characteristic portrait of Poles in Warsaw of that time. Not all fragments are closely linked with the essential action of the novel, but all are written with such perfectly snatched characters of types and relations that instead of diminishing they increase the literary and artistic values of the novel. To such elements we must count also this true pearl of Prus' humour: the memoirs of Stanisław Rzecki, Wokulski's friend and manager. Rzecki is one of the most beautiful and beloved figures created by Prus. Here, above all, the humour of the author compels us to smile and cry at the same time.

Lalka also shows us the changes and socio-political currents of that period undergone by Warsaw. The society includes three generations, influencing one another. Firstly, the old, living always with the hope of a new insurrection, in the land of

dreams, in spite of the tragic failure of 1863; secondly the younger generation representing the Warsaw positivism; and finally, the youngest inspired by the newly born idea of socialism.

This novel belongs to the greatest Polish works, thanks to the artistry, style, penetration and incomparable humour of Prus, all in *Lalka* at the summit of their development.

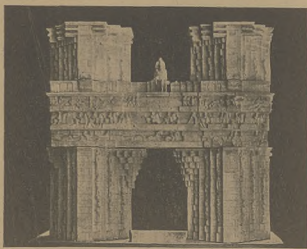
Konstanty Wojciechowski, one of the best connoisseurs of Prus, has justly defined *Lalka* in the following words:

"Those who wish to acquire a knowledge of society of Poland's capital of the time about 1880 could not do better than to read '*Lalka*'. The reader will have the illusion, that he sees the people and hears their conversations".

In another novel, entitled *Emancypantki* (*Emancipationists*) he gives different types of emancipationists and pseudo-emancipationists, creating a rich and truthful gallery of women characters. The novel is rewarded by the leading figures of the heroine, Madzia. She is an ideal type of an emancipationist. Her wish is not to be a noisy and clamorous woman (in reality without value and idea) but to attain liberty and possibility to work for the good of humanity and to sacrifice herself for the liberation of women.

Into other worlds Prus introduces the reader in *Pharaoh* (*Pharaoh*), a novel from the history of ancient Egypt. It ranks high in the achievement of the author as a novelist. Here Prus reproduces the world and people of ancient Egypt with their customs, traditions and superstitions. Pharaoh, in addition, demonstrates a universal thesis: the sacrifice of a man for a new, great and noble idea is in each case and epoch equally valuable and fruitful. Ramses XIII, the young Pharaoh and the unfortunate reformer of the Egyptian state, fails in the war with the priests. But the

(Continued on page 4)



Jan Szczepkowski.

Opening of the Third International Fur Fair.

Wilno. The opening of the III International Fur Fair took place in Wilno. The opening was preceded by a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry during which several speeches were delivered. Commercial spheres call attention to the fact that this year's fair is supplied in goods to a much greater extent, than in previous years. The goods brought there are valued at 5 million zloty. Among foreign exhibitors at the fair are London, New York and Danzig firms, also the arrival of numerous Scandinavian merchants is expected. On the 27th and 28th of July a fur auction took place.

A meeting of the General Polish Association of Importers, exporters and manufacturers dealing in furs is to be expected. The Fair will last till the 4th of August.

Esperanto World Congress.

The XXIX Congress of World Esperanto will take place in Warsaw during the week from the 7th to 15th of August, under the auspices of President Professor Ignacy Moscicki. The presence of numerous delegations from America, Australia as well as from the majority of European countries is announced.

The Secretariat of the Congress is situated in Warsaw, 24/8 Chmielna street, where all information is obtainable.

