

THE WARSAW WEEKLY

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3rd YEAR

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THE AUTUMN MANOEUVRES



Marshal Smigły Rydz taking the salute

Mr. Beck's journey to Paris and Geneva

Poland's activity in the domain of international relations in the last month was connected with the visits to Poland of Minister Sandler of Sweden, of Minister Akel of Estonia and, then of the chiefs of the general staffs of Finland, Estonia and Latvia. Afterwards, Mr. Beck departed for Paris, on his way to Geneva. The French government invited Mr. Beck to Paris to visit the Exhibition and his two days sojourn there had a semi-official character. Mr. Beck had several conversations with Mr. Delbos as well as with other members of the French government, including the premier, Mr. Chaumets. The main conclusion of these talks was the confirmation of the fact that the Franco-Polish alliance is entirely independent from current political fluctuations and cannot be affected by any changes of government in either of the two contracting countries.

The French press commented the visit of Mr. Beck more favourably than on some past occasions and has shown generally a considerable appreciation of the part played by Poland in central and eastern Europe. In the past years, although most of the French opinion recognized the importance of the alliance with Poland, greater hopes were laid in Soviet Russia. In spite of the general tendency of the present French

government, the recent events in Russia have shaken the confidence in its value as an ally, simultaneously enhancing the prestige of Poland in that part of Europe.

Of the problems discussed at the present session of the Assembly and the Council of the League, the question of Palestine presents the greatest interest for Poland. It is the desire of Poland to see the Palestine question solved in a way which would permit the absorption of the largest possible number of Jews. The Jewish problem in Poland is growing more and more acute as the population of the country is increasing.

Mr. Beck stated that Poland would desire to be represented in any body charged with discussing the Palestine problem. This request did not apply to the committee of three set up for the purpose of referring the new division of Palestine to Gt. Britain. The plan of a new division will be probably prepared for the next session and Poland will then be able to suggest any amendments which might increase the capacity of absorption of the Jewish State and promote the emigration of Polish Jews to Palestine, which must be the principal, if not the only, territory for Jewish settlement outside of Europe.

(ATE)

The Polish Population of Lithuania

There are about 200,000 Poles in Lithuania, for a total population of 2 1/2 million. Although the Poles form about 8% of the country's population, they are denied most of the civic rights and suffer a severe persecution.

Only the children of persons who have their Polish nationality officially stated in their passports can go to a Polish school. As anyone requesting the authorities to insert the clause of Polish nationality in his passport is liable to be discharged from his employment, deported to another district, deprived of many facilities enjoyed by other citizens etc., only persons of independent means and resolute patriotism can afford to declare themselves officially as Poles.

Working class Poles cannot dare to affirm their nationality in these conditions and as a result their children are forced to go to Lithuanian schools and are not allowed to learn the Polish language. The Lithuanian authorities hope by these means to reduce the number of children in the Polish schools so as to force these schools to close down.

There are at present only 10 Polish elementary schools and 3 high schools in Lithuania, the latter threatened with closing down. The Lithuanian authorities themselves admit that there are several districts in the country where the Lithuanian language is used exclusively by the officials and the population is entirely Polish, as, for instance, the district of Janów. Nevertheless, there are no Polish schools at all in the district of Janów.

The authorities forbid the use of the Polish language in the churches, imposing heavy penalties on the priests who attempt to preach in the only language understood by their parishioners. The situation is all the more difficult in view of the fact that the Lithuanian is an extremely old language, which was almost dead and was brought back from oblivion by official decrees, not unlike the Irish language in the Irish Free State.

The case of Lithuania maltreating the Poles must be a unique instance of a small country persecuting the members of a much larger nation, which moreover is a neighbour. There are many cases, unfortunately, of big nations oppressing small ones, but very few in which the parts are thus transposed. Poland is exactly ten times as large as Lithuania, and has a population fourteen times larger.

Count Potocki returns the Visit of the Duke of Kent

Count Alfred Potocki, who recently entertained in his castle of Łańcut the Duke and Duchess of Kent, left on 22nd September for England, where he will be their guest. As an old Oxonian, Count Potocki will assist at the inauguration of the term at Oxford.

LONDON LETTER

By Gregory Macdonald

The Prime Minister arrived back in London from Scotland on Saturday with the remark that he had not enjoyed good fishing. Whether this was a political hint or a statement of fact is not yet definitely known. For the Prime Minister is supposed to be seeking by every means in his power a resumption of close and friendly relations with Italy, yet it cannot be denied that the policies of the Nyon Conference are accepted more cheerfully by the Franco-Soviet group than by the Rome—Berlin axis. The statement is confidently made in some quarters that Mr. Chamberlain will once more address to Signor Mussolini a personal letter of a friendly nature to repeat the good intentions of the British Government. The opportunity is presented by Lord Perth's return to Rome. At all events, the intervention of the Premier in foreign affairs is expected, whether it will materialise or not. He was among the first to oppose Sanctions, and he issued a public warning against attempts to stir up strife between nations.

At the moment of writing politics hang fire. The Mediterranean patrol is being mobilised, the League has ceased to debate, Nyon has been transferred to Geneva, the British Navy has withdrawn from its non-intervention patrol off the coast of Spain, and Signor Mussolini is preparing to visit Berlin. With all these issues in mid-air there must soon be a furious spate of activity similar to that which has just passed. Yet even the lull teaches its lessons. The attempt to revive the League of Nations as a political force came to nothing, as one would expect of any attempt to bring into use once more a weapon which has so often misfired. Senor Negrin's speech had no repercussions in this country and the Aga Khan's presidency of the Assembly called forth no outburst of patriotic pride.

In fact the opponents of the League standpoint are more vigorous than they were. To instance one, Mr. Arthur Bryant,

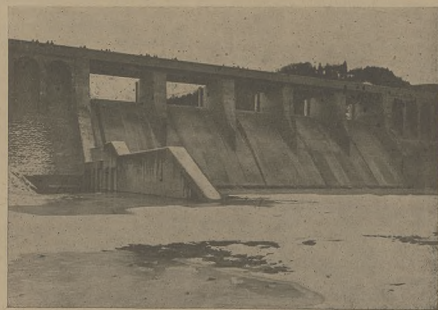
whose articles in the Sunday Observer are commanding considerable attention, devoted himself last Sunday to criticism of all the post-war international conceptions, built upon Versailles and the Covenant; he struck a note of appeal to the common conscience of Christendom, if that could still be heard with the Third International enthroned at Geneva. "With the admission of the Soviet to Geneva—an oriental and heathen despotism dedicated, for all its specious lip-service to a purely hypothetical democracy, to the forcible destruction of every ideal held by the Christian nations of the West—the religious principles of the League vanished altogether and nothing remained but a military alliance." Mr. Bryant, a democratic Tory, is in one of the best positions in Great Britain to influence political thought, and it is not too much to say that the line he follows is similar to that expressed in the speeches of Lord Baldwin or of the present Premier.

These are indications on one side, and many others could be mentioned, showing that the policy of the British Government is traditionalist. Yet nobody can deny that as many indications appear on the other side to show that the British Government accepts the diplomacy of the Soviet at critical moments. There is still a duality of policy. The Press and other organs for the formation of public opinion on the whole lean to the Left even if the responsible members of the Government lean to the Right. No better example could be found than the treatment given to the bombing of H. M. S. Pearlless in broad daylight by an aeroplane from Gijón. Although no attempt is made to call the plane a Nationalist one, and although the newspapers themselves state that British warships have the Union Jack painted right across their decks, nevertheless the incident is dismissed as an unfortunate mistake. Non-intervention goes a bit too far when British warships can be bombed by one side but not by the other. The significant

(Continued on page 4)



A Polish T. B. D. off the Baltic Coast



A new dam in the South of Poland

An English Relation of the State of Poland in A.D. 1598

By Dr. Wacław Borowy

It is to Fynes Moryson, Fellow of Peterhouse, who visited Poland in 1593, that we owe the first competent English description of this country. But in a few years Moryson's record was to be surpassed nearly on every point, in extensiveness, in systematic presentation, in thoroughness and in depth by an anonymous survey called *Relation of the State of Poland and the united provinces of that crown Anno 1598*, which, however, remained unpublished. It has been preserved as a manuscript (now at the British Museum) of over two hundred folio pages filled with careful neat handwriting, provided with marginal headings and initials evidently meant to be presented to some great personage.

It is difficult to say with certainty who is its author. The most plausible hypothesis, expressed by Professor Stanisław Kot, says that it was a Scotsman, Dr. William Bruce, a travelling soldier, scholar and diplomat, for some time lecturer at the Zamość Academy, in later years British agent at Danzig. But whoever he may have been, his work was a model of ordered and comprehensive information, written with all any particular sympathy for the subject, but without prejudices, cold but in insight, substantial, detailed, and if not always exact in its explanations, generally just in judgement. Its style, though subject to the rigours of composition, is free and vivid. We may judge its character by some passages of the political paragraph containing the description of the Poles' for body and qualities.

"The gentry—we read here—is full of ceremonies, civil and courteous in entertainment, bountiful at table, costly in diet, great gourmards and quaffers, not sleepy nor heavy in their drunkenness as the Dutch, but furious and quarrelsome, high minded and proud, but in a jolly, and not surly, as the Germans: Apert in their dealings, so liberal, that they are rather prodigal and having avarice, they detest the arts and trouble of gaining; great shifters to live bravely (which they much affect) and therefore pay masters; highly conceited of themselves, so that they more easily led and cozened by parasites, who adorning them strip them of their wealth... In Italy they are careless and simplicity in giving and bargaining hath almost silenced the proverb of *Fresco Tudesco* and brought in use *Non sono Polacco*. Their travelling into foreign countries (to which they are much inclined) for knowledge of state and languages makes them now begin to look better to their purse... They are active and of a vast strength... This makes them continue the use of the sabre and other hewing weapons..."

Occasionally we are reminded of the difficulty of discerning what the really general characteristics are, and we find our author expressing an opinion which is quite contrary to that of Moryson such as, e.g. the case with Polish bravery. According to him, "single combat, equality of number and weapons, or any other law of equal duel they use not, but everyone useth what advantage he can against his adversary, wheresoever he findeth him".

Matters concerning the intellectual life of Poland were the most difficult to seize upon for the author of the *Relation*, as they were for Moryson. He observed rightly that the Poles of his time enjoyed Latin in their political rhetoric, and quite convincingly explained a part of this habit by the snobbish vanity

Polish Consul at Bombay fosters Indian art.

Modern Indian art shouldn't be an orphan of the storm much longer if Bombay follows the example set by Mme. Banasinska, wife of that popular host and genial gentleman the Consul for Poland.

As a refer to modern Indian art as an orphan of the storm, because although Bombay and Bengal have all but indulged in throat-sitting over the business, it isn't a subject about which the average person of any of our many communities knows much—though recently in Bombay at any rate it has made up a lot of leeway.

Mme. Banasinska doesn't approve of this too general ignorance, blissful though it be, and so last evening after dinner she invited along about forty of her friends to hear Mr. Ravishankar Raval speak on the subject.

The Polish Consul's residence on Walkeshwar Road is, I suppose, as good a place as any in Bombay for this kind of party, and by the time the show broke up I should imagine that representatives of every community in Bombay, yes, even the Press, knew a bit more than they did previously about how art and artists in Western India are developing.

Mme. Banasinska certainly has a charming quality of boldness. When introducing Mr. Raval she calmly told her friends that they didn't know much about the country in which they were living, particularly about its contemporary artists. A happy cosmopolitan ignorance which Mr. Raval proceeded to enlighten.

of the nobles, but peremptorily and naively added that also "the barrenness of the Polish not affording significant works makes them fall into it".

He was much better aware of the history of the frontiers of Poland, of the form of her government, of her offices and dignities, of the legal position of her different social classes, of her ecclesiastical organization, courts of justice, army and economic life. He knew much about Poland's foreign policy, and considered in a special chapter her relations with England. Prominent political men and groups were characterised. Even practical indications for the choice of future ambassadors to Poland found their place in the survey.

The author's understanding of the country is shown by the careful attention he gave to the numerous unwealthy nobility, their way of living, and their importance as a social class in the State. His perspicacity and profoundness is best proved by his exhaustive and thorough disquisitions on the "Polish liberty" and on the dangers threatening the State. He pointed most shrewdly to the greatest defect in the liberty of old Poland that justice was being administered not "arithmetically" to all citizens, but "geometrically," according to their social class. Among the dangers of the State he particularly stressed the extreme weakness of sea power, and the elective principle of the nomination of kings. But, besides these internal dangers, he well recognized external ones arising from the appetites of neighbours. He did not suppose that there would be any political troubles because of ecclesiastical matters. Equally he did not believe in any graver danger likely to come from the provinces. Despite some dissatisfaction in Prussia, in Livonia, and even in Lithuania "these provinces," he said—are all held in by the sweetness of the Polish liberty, immunities, privileges, honours and security against foreign power by the union, which they should never long enjoy under another government."

*) See "A Cambridge Man in the 16th century Poland", The Warsaw Weekly No. 34.

He is one of those persons, all too rare, alas, who know their subject so thoroughly that they can speak for a quarter of an hour or more without becoming technical.

He admitted that he was surprised that foreign friends should take an appreciative interest in the art of the country when his own compatriots had by neglected lost the flavour and impulses of art in the country's life.

He went on to draw a remarkable picture of the artist in India before the eighteenth century, when "our life was a scroll of pictures, rhythmic and colourful".

He told how every palace and temple had its Chitrashalas, or picture galleries, where large frescoes were painted in a style which everyone could understand; of the days when a house without a picture was compared with a cemetery; and when scribes used to illuminate their texts with such beauty and imagination as are evident in the Jain Kalpa-sutras.

Regarding the present, Mr. Raval complained that though there have been important publications on Indian art they have all been in English or foreign languages, so that struggling artists and the masses generally knew nothing of them. The would-be art student in this country today has to be a language student as well—a tiresome handicap, said Mr. Raval. His picture of Indian art as it is was rounded off by Mr. Karl Khudadadala.

He told us something of Mr. Raval's work in Ahmedabad. Now Ahmedabad may be famous for its millionaires and mills, but one doesn't hear much about art or artists in connection with that historic city. It has both however, as we learned.

Mr. Raval has started an art school there and a press which turns out excellent books on Indian art.

His students don't pay anything; in fact he supports them and they are often lads from villages, their only qualification—imagination unspoiled by contact with big town life.

They learn to paint and draw, unaffected by foreign influences and judging by the examples of their work which Mr. Raval brought with him last night, this "clean slate" method has been eminently successful. Several in fact are on the way to becoming very well-known indeed—for example Kanu Desai.

Such an organisation, where an artist guru has gathered round him a group of students, willing to work hard for love of their craft, is rare enough in these material days to be worthy of more than passing notice.

(From a correspondent)

THREE WORLD RECORDS IN ONE DAY.

Miss Stanisława Walasiewicz, (Stella Walsh) the holder of several Poland's women's athletic records, beat in Drobobyz the world's records for 80 yards—in 9.6 seconds, 100 yards—in 10.8 seconds and the long jump—6.25 metres.

The beating of three world records at a provincial meeting, without any appreciable competition, must be regarded as a remarkable achievement. The records were timed and measured by the requisite number of referees and will be eventually recognised by the International Athletic Federation.

Miss Walasiewiczówna intends to retire from active participation in athletic events after the Olympic Games of Tokio at which she hopes to defend Polish colours.

(ATE)

ECONOMICS

Coal Conference

Between the 23rd and the 25th of this month Polish and British coalowners have discussed in Krakow the extension of their export agreement, which is due to expire on January 1st 1938.

The agreement excluded costly Polish-British competition, especially on the Scandinavian markets, by fixing a certain proportion between the total British and Polish coal export. The Polish coalowners, however, desire certain amendments to be inserted in the original agreement.

The present conference will be the first one held in Poland, as all the previous conferences had been held in London or in Paris.

Non-poisonous Gas in Warsaw

The engineers of the Warsaw municipal gas company have perfected a system whereby carbon monoxide is eliminated from the gas, rendering it harmless to human beings.

The content of carbon monoxide is reduced from 18% to less than 1%, which is practically harmless. Although the process of elimination is generally known, no large gas company in Europe has as yet applied it on a large scale. The only town in which all the gas produced is harmless, is Hammeln in Germany, but its production of gas is quite small (3 million cubic metres per year).

The present production of non-poisonous gas in Warsaw is one million cubic metres per year, which is only a small proportion of the total production (55 million cubic metres). But the proportion of the safe gas is constantly increased and within three or four years all the gas produced will be harmless.

Naturally the innovation will save many lives of persons, poisoned by gas either accidentally or for purposes of suicide. The safe gas is indistinguishable from the ordinary gas in smell, it burns in the same way, but it can be breathed without any appreciable danger.

Two New Broadcasting Stations.

The Polish Broadcasting Corporation is building a new transmitter of 50KW in Baranowice in Eastern Poland. Another 50 KW station will be built in Łuck, in South Eastern Poland.

The new stations, which will be opened in the spring of 1938 will counteract effectively the Soviet propaganda disseminated by the Russian stations. The activity of the communist propaganda on the air has been lately very strong and its effect was felt particularly in Eastern Poland, where some Russian stations, placed specially near the frontier, were heard better than Warsaw and the other Polish stations. The construction of two new transmitters of 50 KW each will entirely change that situation.

New Ships for the Polish Merchant Marine.

The Gdynia-America Line, Ltd. has ordered in a Danzig shipyard two motor ships of 6,500 tons each. They will be destined for the "Cotton Line", from Gdynia to the Gulf ports via New-York.

The new ships will have a length of 120 metres each, and their Diesel engines of 2,200 H.P. will give them a cruising speed of 16 knots. The crew of each ship will number 30 men and there will be accommodation for 12 passengers. They will probably be ready towards the middle of 1938.

Coal Exports

Coal exports from Poland in August totalled 952,000 tons as against 1,000,000 tons in July 1937 and 733,000 tons in August 1936. The distribution by market groups (in thousands of tons; comparison with last July bracketed) was as follows: Central European markets 72 (increase: 6), Scandinavian markets 320 (increase: 3), Baltic markets 17 (decrease: 5), Western European markets 238 (decrease: 8), Southern European markets 146 (decrease: 18), non-European markets 30 (decrease: 19), bunker coal 97 (decrease: 8), Free City of Danzig 30 (decrease: 1). Coal shipments at the seaports reached 830,000 tons, via Port of Gdynia 552,000 tons (decrease: 21,000), via the Port of Danzig 278,000 tons (decrease: 30,000 tons).

Direction of Exports

The value of Poland's exports during the first seven months of the current year totalled 680,380,000 zlotys as against 690,039,000 zlotys for the corresponding period of last year. European markets accounted for a total value of 536,812,000 zlotys and non-European markets for one of 143,578,000 zlotys. In comparison with the corresponding period of last year the value of Polish exports to England declined by 8 million zlotys, that to Denmark by 1 million to Greece by 2 million and to the Soviet Union by 3 million zlotys. There was a rise in exports to Austria, Czechoslovakia, France, Holland, Norway, and specially pronounced increases in exports to Germany (by 9 million), Italy (by 7 million) and Sweden (by 9 million zlotys). Increases were also registered in Polish exports to overseas countries, the most substantial rise of about 30 million zlotys being in exports to the U.S.A.

Railway Materials for Holland

The Dutch railways have ordered in Poland 10,000 tons of railway materials for the value of one million guilders. The first consignment of 2,000 tons is to be delivered immediately, the rest up to January 1938.

Swiss capital in Poland

According to data compiled by the Association of Swiss Banks, the total of Swiss capitals invested in Poland amounted to 224 million Swiss francs on the 1st May 1937. Of that sum, 22 million francs were dividends and profits which could not be repatriated to Switzerland, owing to the introduction of the currency regulations in Poland on April 26th, 1936.

It appears from these figures that the Swiss capital invested in Poland earned over 10% profit in the course of one year. This is a very satisfactory return, considering that few Polish capitalists bring such a high income, after the deduction of taxes and other expenses. The profits earned by foreign capital in Poland are now re-invested in the country, as it is preferable to the alternative of keeping the funds on a blocked account in the Bank of Poland, yielding no interest.

Increase of 46% in the Consumption of Petrol.

The consumption of motor spirit in Poland has increased by 46% since last year. In July of 1936 the consumption of motor petrol in Poland amounted to 5744 tons, while in July 1937 it reached 8392 tons. The increased consumption of fuel testifies to the development of the motor traffic, which was temporarily arrested by the economic depression.

THEATRE

(Irena Eichlerówna — Wolves in the Night — Three Aces and One Queen).

Irena Eichlerówna's appearance. These words are for the Polish audiences most suggestive and powerful, as for a long time the Polish stage has not possessed such an original and talented artist, as Eichlerówna who, without doubt, is destined to continue in the finest traditions of Polish histrionic art, the worthy successor to Helen Modjeska (Modrzewjska) and Irene Soltska.

Miss Eichlerówna during the first few years of her career has displayed an unusual talent, incomparable power of suggestion and original beauty together with a ravishing voice. A born tragedienne and classical heroine—Eichlerówna is at the same time a finished actress in modern drama or comedy, perfectly in accord with each style and epoch. With equal inspiration she renders the loves and passions of the great world, as also the misery, tears and happiness of the poor. With the same ease she is queen, princess, peasant, or representative of a modern city. Her acting is always polished, original and brilliant; she must today be counted among the greatest contemporary actresses in Europe. It is no wonder then, that each new rôle she plays is a big artistic sensation for theatrical life in Warsaw and opportunity to admire the finished style of Eichlerówna.

At the present moment she is appearing at the Teatr Narodowy in a comedy by Tadeusz Rittner, *Wolves in the Night* (Włki w nocy) as Zaneta Dylska. Her characterization of a woman, careless in her passions and her way of life, yet full of sincere feelings and love is one of the best in her repertoire... Possessing such an artist, Polish theatres ought to exploit all the possibilities of her talents, giving her the chance to appear, as *Lady Macbeth*, *Balladyna* (in Słowacki's tragedy), *La Dame aux Camélias*, *Adrienne Lecouvreur*, *Celmine* (in *Le Misantrophe*), *Salome* (in the tragedy of Oscar Wilde), and *Eliza Doolittle* in *Pygmalion*, as these rôles should—in her interpretation—form a new "golden era" in the history of the Polish theatre.

Wolves in the Night, one of the best comedies by the subtle and original Polish playwright, is also to-day full of colouring and suggestion, especially in its satirical part, when the author shows the dualism and changes of ethics and morality even of a most cruel and inconsiderate attorney, Jan (the hero of the play), when his own opinion and self-interest are concerned. The rather poetical moments of the play—the breaking of ideals and hearts with the tragical circumstances of life and prose of the world are perhaps beyond modern audiences, but nevertheless always noble and beautiful.

Wolves in the Night in the Teatr Narodowy is staged by Stanisława Wysocka.

The leading male rôle of the attorney is played with conviction and great expression by Józef Węgrzyn, perhaps a little undecided at times between the burlesque: Stanisław Stanisławski and *Se weryna* Bronisłówna portray well the manners and morality of the bourgeoisie. The



IRENA EICHLERÓWNA

world of idealism finds mediocre interpreters in Stanisław Dączyński and Maria Malanowicz-Niedzielska, who fails in the second feminine rôle of the play by her lack of expression and poor acting.

The settings of Stanisław Jarocki are bad and none too clean.

Mr. Denys Amiel, the author of the *Three Aces and One Queen* (*Trois et Une*), a comedy presented by the Teatr Nowy, is a decided enemy of women.

A famous artist and a very interesting woman, Lois Erland, has three sons each with a different father. They display the traits of their fathers, as Charley—the son of a boxer—is a keen sportsman, Marcel—the son of a financier—is a business man, while Peter, the son of a famous pianist is a composer. Lois Erland, as the mother, original in her psychology and individuality, remains only a means to multiplying the human race without making an impression on their characters.

On the other hand, Colette Dallier, the Queen among the three aces, the personification of femininity, represents the lowest instincts. She does not understand the profound and poetic feelings of Peter, the pianist, and becomes the mistress of the sportsman Charley, rather insolent in his treatment of Colette. Furthermore Charley leaves Colette after a night, finding that peace with his brothers (who are jealous of his success) is worth more than a woman.

This truly French treatment of women, in the play, makes on the other hand a good comedy, with vivid dialogue, but having many tasteless scenes.

The production is by Antoni Cwojdzki, the talented author of Freud's *Theory of Dreams*. He is not so successful, however, as when a playwright: the tone is too undecided and the play veers from drama to farce from moment to moment.

Among the three aces Marian Wyrzykowski, our finest young dramatic hero, demonstrated, in the rôle of Peter, a new side of his uncommon talent: a perfect style of comedy playing, full of lightness, elegance and exquisite

HARVEST IN POLAND

The reader must not expect that this article will bring a story as weird and fantastic as the one Geoffrey Dennis offered, many years ago, to the English public under this title. The harvest, the plucking for the abundant crops, and the festival attached to it are institutions as old nearly or possibly older than Poland itself. In an agricultural country they are a part of the cycle of everyday routine repeating itself with the regularity of a clock. But notwithstanding its ancient origins, or perhaps because of them, the ritual is full of charm and primitive beauty.

Several months ago I wrote here about the valiant young girls in the camp of Bieniewice, who under the auspices of a wise and friendly administration took up the fight with the adversities of life and with unemployment. They have now finished the building of a happy home for themselves and those who will come after them. They have settled down, and having brought in their harvest, they decided to follow tradition and hold a harvest festival. They sent out invitations to their comrades in different camps in different parts of Poland and to their many friends of whom I feel proud to be one.

Already in the early hours of the morning vast crowds of people flocked, by car and carriage, by lorries and on foot, to the camp which in honour of its guests was gaily decorated with national flags and harvest emblems. On the vast space before the main building an altar was erected with woods and bushes as its background, and there the thanksgiving Mass was read. After Mass the new recruits of the camp took the oath. Like a multicoloured wreath girls in flowery dresses of different hues, with garlands and ribbons in their hair, stood at attention till at the end of service the measured and earnest tones of the song *Bóg nasz Polskę*, as dear to every Pole as the Polish Anthem itself, broke out and everybody in the crowd joined in.

After the religious ceremony we went to visit the exhibition of the produce and work of all the camps. The agricultural centres provided vegetables of their best. A gigantic still life, a carpet woven of beetroots, carrots, cabbages and onions, was very cleverly arranged at the entrance of the shed in which the best kind of sowing grain, prize poultry



Something for dinner

and prize cattle, honey and drawings of different buildings, beehives and implements were skillfully displayed.

The central building housed other exhibits, giving a survey of different activities in the camps of Raszyn, Warszawa, Herby, Bieniewice, Rogoźno, Dąbrowa Górnicza, and Siemianowice.

Handicrafts, cobbler, nursing and education, child's welfare, housework and cooking, dressmaking and many other subjects useful to the future housewife and good citizen are taught to pupils and practised by them.

A very interesting feature of the life in the camps is the development of small consumers as well as producers co-operative societies. The success of the consumers societies is explained by the needs of the camps, and the advantages of membership are recognized by all girls. But the producers societies seem to grow out of the conviction that life in close community like this in the centres for unemployed youth calls for joint work and joint efforts. Most of those small co-operative centres, the hairdressing, the bookbinding, the dressmakers, the furriers and leather goods cooperative societies, are self-supporting, and some of them are even helping others providing them with the initial capital. The hairdressers co-operative society of Bieniewice which not long ago had only 8 members, has not only increased their membership but is actually holding a hairdressing course for a class of 22 girls. Very useful and interesting are the poultry breeders co-operative circles formed by some of the girls with their savings as capital. They provide pure-bred high class poultry and eggs for breeding

purposes to the estates and peasant farmers thus improving one of the farmers' sources of income.

After a lunch—served to nearly a thousand people with a precision and smartness speaking well of the military drill of the girls—the band started playing, and on the big meadow massed groups of girls, bearing garlands, crowns, sickles woven and plaited from ears of corn, and wheat and flowers, advanced where the military commander of all the labour camps, Colonel Kunz, whose part was that of the squire, was sitting surrounded by his guests.

The procession was led by the smartest girl, called in Polish *przodownica* or the leading girl, a title won in the fields by hard work and the greatest skill in harvesting. She is the main actor of the show, she starts the dances and the songs, she recites in it ditties and verses composed in honour of all the important persons present.

Dożynki, the harvest festival, is a sort of open air theatre with choir and ballet, amidst bickerings and teasings going on, the whole thing a living continuation of ancient rites and usage. It is a custom preserved from olden times full of the joy of life and healthy humour. There might be some resemblance to the remnants, some reminders of Bacchus feasts in it but here in Bieniewice only the sober part of it was acted.

The endless rows of young girls, waving and rocking, the ribbons flying in the wind, the light-footed, rhythmic exercises with scythes, banners and hatchets, the background of green leaves under a glaring sun—all left an unforgettable impression.

The ceremony ends with the leader fettering the squire with a chain of straw. He must buy his freedom from her with a gift, and then start the dance. This is a signal for the *bal champêtre*, and when those who had to leave early started on their way back, they were followed for quite a distance by the sounds of the band and the pure voices of youth praising in a song the blessings of work and its reward.

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humour. The two other artists, Jerzy Stwiński and Lucjan Krzemieński were very provincial; Stwiński in spite of his mannerisms, is undoubtedly a very promising actor.

The part of Lois Erland, the mother of the three aces, is correctly performed by Marta Gella. A good episodic figure is given by Helena Salima, an actress who is always very intelligent in creating the exterior and character of even the smallest rôle. Colette Dallier the heroine of the play, was completely miscast, as the possibilities of Zofia Lindorówna do not correspond with the character and temperament of the "Queen".

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