

THE WARSAW WEEKLY

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3rd YEAR

WARSAW, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1937

No. 47

Nineteenth Anniversary of Poland's Independence

SOCIALISTS CALL ON PRESIDENT

Important Declaration on Danzig



Boy Scouts passing before the Saluting Base

The 11-th of November was observed in Poland as a national holiday in 1937 as in the previous years, but there were some noticeable differences. A military parade was the central point of the celebration, the proportion of mechanized regiments taking part in the parade has increased, and some new designs of tanks were seen. The air force did not take part in view of the very bad weather.

Yet they all marched together and saluted Marshal Rydz Smigly, who took the parade.

It would be premature to draw any far reaching conclusions from the fact of the participation in the parade of the 11-th of November of members of various political organisations, but their presence there was significant.

The task of consolidation, started by Marshal Rydz-Smigly, is making some progress, although

On the 12-th inst. a delegation of the Polish Socialist party, including all its leading personalities, Arciszewski, Żuławski, Stanczyk, Niedziałkowski, Czapiński and Kwapiński, was received by the President of the Republic at the Warsaw Castle.

The fact alone of the socialists soliciting and obtaining an audience was significant. For some years no political party has been received by the President as such. The Socialists have hitherto been hostile to the constitution of 1935, which established the supremacy of the President in the State.

By presenting to the President a petition, requesting him to call a new parliamentary election under a new franchise, besides other suggestions, the Socialists have acknowledged voluntarily his position in the State, as defined by the constitution.

The Socialists called the attention of the President and the Government to the gravity of the international situation, pointing out that the fascist countries were the centre of danger. They demanded a new election, held in conditions allowing strictly equal chances for all the parties, with proportional representation.

The conversation between the delegates and the President lasted for two hours and was held, as the Socialist press admitted, „in an atmosphere of mutual frankness". It is another question whether the President adhered to the views of the delegates. At any rate the presence of the Socialist leaders at the Castle seems to be an indication of a desire for some kind of compromise on their part.

The Socialist visit at the Castle made a considerable impression in political circles. The Governmental press abstain from commentary, since no official communiqué about the visit has been issued and the contents of the conversation are known only from delegates, who may have a one-sided view of them.

Some right wing papers remark that although the initiative of the Socialists was laudable and their desire for a new election justified, they failed to put forward any helpful suggestion which could be useful in a situation described by themselves as very serious. On the whole, however, it is understood that the Socialists have left their irreconcilable attitude and that they may come to some kind of agreement, at least on certain points, with other parties.

One thing was proved by the visit of the socialists to the President and by their long conversation—that the rumours about the fascist tendencies of the Polish government were unfounded. (ATE)

During recent months there has been a further crop of press rumours regarding Danzig, from which it would at first sight appear that their real basis lies in the gradual collapse of the Versailles Treaty with which the legal existence of Danzig is linked.

However, such an association of ideas contains a cardinal error. The breakdown of a large number of the clauses of the Treaty of Versailles, stipulations which were the expression of immediate post war ideas, is the normal result of the evolution of Europe since those days; a fact taken into consideration by Polish policy for a long time. However, the very association of the idea with Danzig constitutes a political dilettantism, in that the real and lasting reason for the existence of the Free City is not bound up in the formal and legal clauses of the Treaty, but rather in Polish economic necessities linked with German ethnological ones. Furthermore the conception of the Free City of Danzig was not the creation of the authors of the peace treaty, it was long before known in history.

The fact of having given to Danzig the structure of a specific political organism, in which Poland has a certain number of evident rights and which has been incorporated in the Polish customs territory, follows as the result of the vital necessity for Poland to be guaranteed access to the sea at the mouth of the Vistula. On the other hand the internal autonomy of the German inhabitants is an ethnic necessity arising from the national configuration of this population.

These facts are appreciated at their just value equally in Berlin and in Danzig. It is for this reason that when there was recently an accumulation of small incidents, obscuring a clear view of the problem, the Polish Government considered it advisable to obtain once again the appropriate interpretation, this time on the basis of an official and direct conversation between the Polish Ambassador in Berlin and the Chancellor of the Reich.

The modest diplomatic formula saying that "Polish German relations could not be exposed to difficulties by reason of the Danzig question" constitutes precisely the conformity of views as to the necessity for maintaining the state of affairs now existing in the Free City.

This explanation was also indicated at the moment when the two governments published, each in their own country, their declaration relative to the Polish and German minorities, creating a situation directly following on the 1934 agreement, and reinforcing the atmosphere of security and quiet on the Polish-German frontier. This quiet could not be realised without the

certainty that at Danzig both interested parties could be assured against surprises of any kind, and it was exactly in this manner that German public opinion has accepted the above quoted passage, realising all the interest which Poland has in Danzig affairs as a question of primary importance for her.

Various small political intrigues, tending to hamper Polish German policy, either by deploring the lessening of the prestige of the League, or in falsely interpreting the passage of the official communiqué relating to Danzig, have, however, found an echo in certain organs of the Polish press.

We have therefore considered it necessary to repeat that Poland has never attempted to free itself from its obligations as a member of the Council of the League of Nations, particularly in as far as Danzig problems are concerned. However, in this case, as in all others, the Polish Government is only disposed to co-operate when it is a question of real international necessity and not when it is one of assisting one doctrine or another.

What is more, it is to Poland that the League owes the saving of its prestige with the Danzig Senate last year. Therefore, each time that the League of Nations, in full conscience of its responsibility for its words and actions, desires to deal with the internal affairs of Danzig, Poland, as a member of the Council will be prepared to discuss the matter in the Council.

It is nevertheless certain that it is only to defend the interests and the rights of Poland in the Free City that Poland would be prepared to intervene actively by throwing into the balance all its power as a State. P. I. P.

Polish-Baltic Economic Collaboration

Mr. Charles Selter, Estonian Minister of National Economy, arrived in Warsaw this week, returning the recent visit of Estonia of the Polish Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Roman.

One of the principal questions discussed by the Polish and Estonian Ministers on that occasion was the problem of directing the passenger and goods traffic of the Baltic countries to America through the Polish port of Gdynia.

Visits of the Ministers of Commerce and Industry to the other Baltic countries are expected in Warsaw in the course of the next few months. Although the agricultural character of these countries does not permit an extensive trade between them and Poland, there are still many unexplored possibilities of collaboration. (ATE)



A detachment of Cadets

Another important novelty was the participation of the youth in the parade. Some weeks ago the Minister of War, Gen. Kasprzycki, launched an appeal to the organisations of youth, asking them to manifest their patriotic feelings by taking part in the celebration. The Polish students are very much politically minded and many of them hold somewhat extreme views in opposition to the government and nothing could force their participation in the parade except their own decision.

The response of the youth organisations was very good. More than 40,000 young people took part in the parade in Warsaw alone. There were socialist organisations, carrying their red flags, and nationalists of exactly opposed convictions.

perhaps not as much as its promoters would like it to make. Rydz - Smigly has succeeded so far in remaining a personality above the parties, never associated with any of them and respected by all. It was easy so long as he did only strictly military work, but less so after he entered actively the political scene.

All the talks and conferences held between the President and the ministers are invariably attended by Marshal Rydz-Smigly, so that there are no separate consultations, which might lead to incongruities of policy. The position of the Marshal is peculiar, but he has the gift of remaining in the background at times and of coming forward only when it is necessary, while watching closely the development of events. (ATE)

LONDON LETTER

By Gregory Macdonald

The drama of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's death has been seized upon to heighten the drama of his political career. The news came to the country as a shock, for he was still near enough to recent events to be recalled as actual member of the Government — he resigned only recently with Lord Baldwin — yet he was lying dead in a liner in mid-Atlantic, finding there the peace which he had sought by a prolonged holiday. The lying in state in Bermuda, the voyage home in a warship, the service in Westminster Abbey and the quiet burial in the Scottish fishing village of Lossiemouth, which he made famous, will afford their contrasts.

Few men of our time in Great Britain saw so many of the ups and downs of public favour. Perhaps the nearest to Ramsay MacDonald in that respect is the brilliant but unsuccessful Winston Churchill — and no two men could in other respects be farther apart. The controversy around the name of the ex-Premier does not only concern the year 1931 when he made the transition from leadership of a Labour Government to leadership of the first National Government. He was a marked man before the war in a highly Capitalist country as a dangerous Socialist, and during the war he was hated because he espoused Pacifism and went into negotiations with the Socialist Internationals. This became an aid to popularity in the disillusioned post-war years, but by the time that the working man had begun to regard MacDonald as the champion against exploiting Capitalism he made the famous *volte-face* which destroyed the Labour Party. And it must be said that the efforts which the Premier made during his term of office went far to weaken his popular appeal; his most recent utterances became famous for an almost complete lack of meaning.

It is usual for the best things to be said about the dead but it is not usual for the best things to be true. And the truth about Ramsay MacDonald is that the decision which cost him the friendship of his colleagues and the affection of the working classes has saved his country up to this date. Contemporary events can seldom be judged with accuracy in these days. The inner facts are not known. Every move is distorted by interested propagandists. But looking back at the crisis of 1931 we can see that a nearly successful attack was being delivered upon the pound. The other major currencies of the world — the franc, the dollar and the Shanghai dollar have all been attacked in turn with varying effects in the political and social spheres. If the pound had gone down in 1931 there would certainly not have been a better future for the British Isles, for the British Empire and for the world than has been seen since — by the often tortuous but ultimately successful policy of the National Government. The British working man would have been broken in inconceivable disaster. A main element of stability in modern civilisation would have disintegrated.

No one can say whether MacDonald was fully aware of these issues or whether he acted by a blind political instinct. His decision was the death-blow to the Party System. It set Great Britain on a road which is now becoming clearly defined. Mr. Neville Chamberlain's speeches of financial sovereignty in association with other financially sovereign Powers; a desertion of nineteenth century internationalism, of free movements of capital and goods, of *laissez-faire* and trade cycle, economics. Probably MacDonald did not see the issues, because to the end of his life he

was credited with a belief in the old theory of Free Trade. But after his initial decision events swept him swiftly along in a Government which had slowly to learn political facts obscured by the teachings of Liberal universities. The fact that the Treasury can testify, have been digested, and Lord Baldwin was happily able to give all praise for his own achievements to Ramsay MacDonald when he spoke at the Guildhall last week.

Barring disappointments — and in these days we cannot custom ourselves to sustained hopes — it really does seem now that the British Government has been able to turn realistically towards policies which have been indicated by commonsense but frustrated by the powerful appeals made by interested parties to British public opinion. The interested parties themselves are now in the doldrums and their voices are growing weaker. True, they are still quick enough to suggest that the Government is surrendering in fright to the threat of the Anti-Comintern Pact, but that is nonsense. Much more likely the key to the announcement of the present policy is to be found in the Wall Street collapse, for heaven knows how many millions the interested parties have tied up there, immobilised when they might otherwise be used for a great protest campaign by movements, periodicals and public meetings. The Government now has the whip hand, especially as the sterility of the groups which caused all the trouble from the Peace Ballot to the Basque children is apparent. The opposite line of policy, which itself dates back to the German Naval Agreement and the Hoare-Laval Plan is now coming to the fore.

There is nothing hasty or inconsidered about the arguments of the Prime Minister's speeches last week and the conversations to be held in Berlin and Rome. They come perhaps as a surprise to British public which was not sufficiently prepared by the omission of any mention of the League of Nations in the recent King's speech in Parliament. Also, the news comes on top of so much else, all spelling the doom of the Franco-Russian orientation: the failure of Brussels, the Anti-Comintern Pact, the Vargas coup in Brazil, and the calm announcement by General Franco not only that he is about to win the war but also that his policy will be one of friendship with Great Britain and France. Collective security on the old model is dead as a doornail whether we like it or not.

Mr. Neville Chamberlain has a fine power of making statements which relieve the European tension. He has not got the warm national appeal to his own people possessed by Lord Baldwin. But the news which he tells is good, of increasing trade, of sound economic prospects, of possible peace with a sharp hint of reduced armaments. He will not find the people averse to friendship with Germany, though Mussolini will always be doubted. The real snag will be to discover how much Great Britain will have to concede in order to make a new start with the authoritarian countries. Here, most probably, diplomatic finesse will introduce the German and Italian agreements at a moment when the American Trade Agreement is the sensation of the hour. If the Trade Agreement contains a reduction of tariffs and a settlement of the war debts question it can well carry on its hospitable shoulders a monetary stabilisation pact and a solution of the currency problems of Germany and Italy which will solve the raw materials crisis — the cause of so much international unrest.

PRESS REVIEW

Kurier Warszawski of the 13th Nov. writes that the audience granted by President Mościcki to representatives of the Polish Socialist party awakened much interest and some anxiety in political circles. "The new constitution according to which the President stands above all other state organs as political arbiter justifies entirely his direct reception of the wishes and postulates of political parties". Had the audience taken place two weeks ago, the *Kurier* considers, the position of O.Z.N. would have appeared weakened hereby, more especially after the audience granted to parliamentary Jewish representatives. It would have seemed to be in opposition to the attitude of O.Z.N. Now however after the separation of the Young Poland Union from O.Z.N. and the latter's trend towards the Centre, the audience should not be commented as an event weakening O.Z.N. On the contrary in view of the evident antagonism of O.Z.N. and the old group of Colonels, certain facts directly or indirectly touching the group of Colonels automatically serve to strengthen the position of O.Z.N."

Gonicz Warszawski (13 Nov.) commenting the audience given to representatives of P.P.S. by the President says that "the fact itself that the party which till now always practised a system of opposition and in 1933 boycotted the election to parliament, as also the resignation of a delegation of the party by the decision of the State constitutes a political event of great significance". Also *Gonicz* supposes that the question of a change in the electoral system will form a part of this year's parliamentary discussions.

I. K. C. (Nov. 15) discusses an article in *Voelkischer Beobachter* in which the author falsifies history, stating that Poland had deprived the Ukraine of her independence, as happened her territory in the XIV century (Galicia) and again in 1930 incorporating Galicia and Volhynia with a population of 6 million. *I. K. C.* writes, the article obviously intends giving the impression "that the taking away of Galicia and Volhynia from Poland and joining them to future independent Ukraine would be a just and justifiable act. This is obviously a clear support of separatist movements directed against the entirety of Polish territory". The author asks if this sort of article can contribute to neighbourly relations between both States.

Robotnik (13 Nov.) writing of the review and parade of the army on the 11th Nov. makes the significant comment that this was not only a review of the active army but one of the future Polish army, "yesterday's review and parade were to be a testimony of the readiness of the Youth to defend Poland and the independence of the Polish State. The Polish youth answered this appeal of the minister for war with a hundred percent readiness".

The Republic regrets that "a part of the French press has considered the moment a suitable one for beginning an acute campaign representing the inner situation of Poland as well as Roumania and Yugoslavia in darkest colours". Obviously, says *Republic*, each of these countries has its inner political problems, but it does not follow from this that they are on the eve of revolution. Further the French paper expresses the opinion that this campaign in some French papers is directed by the Soviets as all information comes from the same source. Moscow or its European branches. "Even if in Poland a Socialist government were to come into power, it is highly improbable that it would change anything in Polish foreign policy". *K. M.*

Armistice Day in the British Colony.

Owing to the illness of the Reverend Parsons the customary Armistice Day service at the English Church was held by Mr. R. E. Kimens, the Lay Reader, and was followed by a short, but extremely interesting address by the British Ambassador, Sir Howard Kennard, on the morality of the post war era.

Visit of U.S. Ambassador

Mr. Clarence Bullitt, U. S. Ambassador to France, spent last week a couple of days in Warsaw as the guest of the U.S. Ambassador to Poland and Mrs. Anthony Biddle. On Tuesday representatives of the foreign press were invited to meet Mr. Bullitt and were most impressed with the dexterity in which he failed to commit himself in several foreign languages.

AIR DISASTER NEAR WARSAW

An air liner of the Polish „Lot“ company, flying from Cracow to Warsaw in dense fog, struck a high tension electric line when coming in to land in Warsaw. The machine, which was a Lockheed Electra, was totally destroyed, four of the passengers were killed, while the remaining six passengers and the crew of two sustained injuries of varying gravity.

The pilot, Mr. Witkowski, was a man with over 6,000 flying hours experience, who celebrated recently his millionth kilometre flown in the service of the „LOT“ and he is not blamed for the disaster. He has a broken leg. Exceptionally bad flying conditions in fog with a falling dusk are believed to be the main cause of the accident, which is the second fatal accident to a Polish passenger aeroplane within the last ten years.

(ATE)

ECONOMICS

POLAND'S FOREIGN TRADE IN 1937.

The first three quarters of Poland's foreign trade resulted in an adverse balance of 62,152,000 zlotys as against a favourable one of 15,579,000 zlotys for the corresponding period of 1936. For the two periods under review the value of Polish exports to European countries rose from 629,373,000 to 684,372,000 zlotys, and although much of this increase of nearly 55 million zlotys, resulted from higher prices on the world's markets, it is yet very considerable in view of the import restrictions and regulations still applied in most European countries. An even greater advance, from 111,921,000 to 183,228,000 zlotys was registered during the first nine months in the value of Polish exports to non-European countries. The gain was one of 71,4 million zlotys in Polish overseas exports, the largest part having been taken up by the U. S. A., but Argentina, Brazil, China and Egypt also considerably increased their buyings in Poland. First on the list of buyers of Polish goods was the United Kingdom (168,738,000 zlotys as against 170,611,000 during the first nine months of 1936), Germany came second (113,141,000 as against 103,103,000 zlotys) the U. S. A. third (76,787,000 as against 44,327,000 zlotys), Sweden fourth (65,164,000 as against 42,998,000 zlotys), Belgium fifth (51,505,000 as against 60,864,000 zlotys), Holland sixth (46,201,000

as against 36,098,000 zlotys), Austria seventh (42,896,000 as against 40,885,000 zlotys), followed by France (37,654,000 zlotys), Czechoslovakia (39,128,000) and Italy (37,495,000 zlotys). Polish imports from European countries were for a value of 583,620,000 zlotys as against 463,142,000 zlotys during the first three quarters of 1936, and Polish imports from non-European countries came to 346,132,000 zlotys as against 262,240,000 zlotys. First place in imports to Poland was taken by Germany (128,632,000 as against 104,414,000 zlotys), second by the United Kingdom (112,956,000 as against 100,635,000 zlotys), third by the U. S. A. (110,815,000 as against 93,644,000 zlotys), fourth by Austria (43,777,000 zlotys), fifth by Belgium (42,369,000 zlotys), sixth by Holland (41,633,000 zlotys), and seventh by British India.

THE CONGRESS OF POLISH CHRISTIAN TRADE IN WARSAW

A Congress of Polish merchants was opened in Warsaw in the presence of the President of the Republic and of members of the government. About 4500 Polish merchants from all over the country attended. The deliberations of the Congress are devoted to problems of better organisation, credit facilities and other business matters, while the question of the Jewish competition was also discussed with great interest. (ATE)

Anglo-Polish Trade Balance

In the first half of 1937, imports from England increased in value by about 23%, whereas exports decreased by roughly 10%. The balance in Poland's favour decreased by 54%, as proved by the following data:

(in 1000 zloty) January — June

	1936	1937
Exports	105,088	95,090
Imports	60,635	74,795
Balance	44,453	20,295

In 1000 zl.

	Imports		Exports		Balance	
	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937
Malta	—	—	537	613	537	613
Borneo	—	14	—	—	—	—14
Ceylon	1,816	2,095	11	4	-1,805	-2,091
Hong-Kong	—	—	14	14	—	—
Malaya	2,132	4,316	208	564	-1,954	-3,662
Palestine	5,443	5,027	3,293	4,327	-2,150	-700
Gambia	—	—	1	1	—	—1
Cameroon	—	20	13	22	5	2
Mauritius	—	—	7	11	7	11
Nigeria	2,996	4,325	69	143	-2,927	-4,182
Nyasaland	—	12	—	—	—	—12
South Rhodesia	—	32	377	156	208	124
North Rhodesia	—	61	15	6	—	-56
Sierra Leone	—	524	1,466	2	-522	-1,468
Somaliand	—	8	11	3	—	-5
Tanganyika	—	381	425	52	-309	-423
Togoland	—	—	85	1	—	-84
Gold Coast	2,218	2,891	44	80	-2,169	-2,811
Honduras	—	—	—	4	—	—4
Guyana	—	—	9	5	9	5
	15,149	21,067	4,425	6,078	-10,716	-14,989

A decrease was evident in the export of plant products, live-stock and animal products, timber, as well as mineral products, hides, furs and a series of other smaller items. On the other hand, there was a certain increase in the export of foodstuffs, textile raw materials and their products.

The trade turnover between Poland and the British colonies, protectorates and mandates, included in the commercial treaty, was as follows:

ART



C.F. Winzer, Nepalese Girl.

Kramsztyk. The portraits are very interesting too, particularly No. 87, by its expression and No. 120 by its general design. The collection consists in the main of landscapes among which No. 78 should be noticed for its experimental treatment.

On Saturday, Nov. 20th, a new exhibition will be opened at the Zachęta, including i. a. the V-th Triennial Salon of the Association of Polish Graphic Artists, which will contain woodengravings, etchings and lithographs. Among the exhibitors are E. Bartomiejczyk, S. Chrostowski, Marya Dunin, B. Frydrysiak, and other wellknown engravers.

A new exhibition was inaugurated at the I. P. S. on the eve of Armistice Day and proved better by far than the preceding one. It consists of four individual shows. R. Kramsztyk, a painter of established repute shows a selection of portraits, landscapes and still-life pieces ranging from 1912 to 1937. Some of them are very good indeed, in particular the portrait of a sculptor (No. 20). Their most striking common characteristic is their vitality. Mme. J. Simon-Pietkiewiczowa whose work has attracted notice ever since she began exhibiting a few years ago has for the first time exhibited a collection of her paintings. They are extremely interesting and no less interesting the fact that quite a number of them are marked as private property although one would imagine that the intensity of their weird expressions would make them uncomfortable companions in a private house. In this intensity of expression they resemble the work of the late T. Makowski, but they have none of the sinister malice which seems to lurk in his pictures only a plaintive, concentrated melancholy which is best exemplified in the "Dead Puppies" (No. 144), the "Child with a Pigeon" (No. 173) or the "Portrait" (No. 138). This last lacks the wishfulness of the others and for this reason, besides that of being in itself a fine piece of work stands out among the rest of the collection. M. C. F. Winzer is an artist hitherto unknown in Warsaw whose present exhibit is insufficient for forming an opinion. His oil paintings do not appear to be in any way remarkable, but some of his pencil sketches seem to show a promising interest in the possibilities of a much neglected technique.

It is hard to understand why A. Rychtarski's collection of paintings has been labelled "25 Years of Teaching Activity", both in the invitations to the Exhibition and in its catalogue. The paintings have nothing to do with teaching and the exhibition is sufficiently good to need no justification. Rychtarski's very honest, straightforward, and serious work is set on a note of absorbed reflectiveness which causes it to be overlooked or inadequately appreciated at general exhibitions. It is only on seeing a fuller picture of his development that one can grasp the full value of the individual effort. Thus for instance the two massive nudes (Nos 107 and 111) look entirely different now than they did when individually exhibited. It is noteworthy too, that in spite of their ugliness and apparent grossness they awaken none of that feeling of disgust which for some mysterious reason is almost inseparable from modern nude studies — may be proved by contemplating the very capably painted nudes by



J. Simon-Pietkiewiczowa. Girl with doll.

English recognition of Polish graphic art

The fifteenth annual issue of "Fine Prints of the Year" which is now being edited by Mr. Campbell Dodgson has been extended to include work by artists of several Continental countries. It is gratifying to note that Poland has been among the first to receive this recognition of the high standard of its work. Among the one hundred and twenty three artists whose work is reproduced in the 1937 issue we find E. Bartomiejczyk, A. Półtawski, W. J. Goryńska and W. Zakrzewski. It is interesting to find that while only one fifth of the reproductions are woodcuts (as against four fifths of etchings, metal engravings and lithographs, in the Polish contribution the proportion is reversed and we have three woodengravings with only one etching.



R. Kramsztyk.

Still Life.

Death of Bolesław Leśmian

Bolesław Leśmian, one of the most eminent modern poets and a member of the Polish Academy of Literature, died suddenly in Warsaw on November 5th.

He was born in Warsaw, in 1878, and was educated at Kiev, where he attended the University and took a degree in law.

His first lyrics, published in 1897 in the periodicals *Zycie*, *Tygodnik Ilustrowany* and *Wędrowiec*, at once drew the attention of critics to the young poet, who already showed real emotional depth.

From 1900 on, Leśmian published his verses in *Chimera*, a paper edited by Miriam Przesmycki, and became one of the most outstanding of Przesmycki's collaborators. He is to be classed as a member of the group, known to Polish literature under the general name of *Chimera*.

All the poems written by Leśmian up to 1912 were printed in daily newspapers and periodicals. About the same time — in 1911 — he became one of the founders of the *Teatr Artystyczny* (the Artistic Theatre), where he successfully tried his talents, as stage producer.

The first collection of Leśmian's poetry, entitled *Sad Rostajnyj* (Cross-Road Orchard) appeared in 1912 and brought the author popularity, success and the praise of the critics.

The second triumph of Leśmian, as a poet, was achieved with *Ląka* (Meadow), a volume of verse, published in 1920. Finally, his later poems, published in 1936 in a new and beautiful work, *Napój Cienisty* (The shadowed drink), which once more demonstrated the brilliance of his now mature talent.

Apart from his poetical achievements, Leśmian was also the author of an interesting book for the younger generation, entitled *Kiechdy Szazamow* (The Legend of Sesame) 1913, and of a fantastic novel *Przygody Sindbada Żeglazka* (The Adventures of Sindbad the Sailor), printed in 1915. These prose works however, also reveal the poetical quality and character of Leśmian's creative imagination.

Leśmian and Leopold Staff are the poets whose style and works most influenced the younger generation of Polish poets. The original language and the romanticism of Leśmian's poetry, will secure to him an established position in Polish literature.

The unexpected death of Leśmian has caused profound sorrow in the Polish literary and cultural world. A new volume of his lyrics, *Dotyka Leśmian*, now in the press will again show all his originality and artistry. J. M.

A new Member of the Polish Academy of Literature

Mr. Jan Lorentowicz, the well known literary and dramatic reviewer, has been elected by the member of the Academy of Literature to fill the chair vacated by the resignation of Karol Hubert Rostworowski. Mr. Lorentowicz, born in 1868, is the author of many literary works and has been the director of several Warsaw theatres.

A new member will also have to be elected shortly to take the place of Mr. Lesmian, who died suddenly a few days ago.

POLISH BALLET

The interest of artistic circles in Poland has recently been concentrated on the Polish Ballet, organized by the Polish Society for Artistic Performances (*Towarzystwo Polskich Widowisk Artystycznych*) under the management of Dr. Arnold Szyfman, which is to give a first night in Paris on November, 19-14.

After six months of very intensive preparation, the ballet now starts on a two years' tour, beginning at the *Grand Théâtre des Champs Elysées*. It will remain abroad for two years and afterwards will give a series of performances in London. The first year's tour will embrace all the capitals and great cities of Europe. The second year will be dedicated to Australia and North and South America. The purpose of the organisers of this tour is to establish the Polish Ballet as a permanent institution, which will pay constant and periodical visits to all the cultural centres of the world.

The artistic management is in the hands of the famous Bronisława Nijmska, who will look after scenery, production, choreography and mise en scène. Nijmska comes of a family which is very closely linked with the finest traditions of the Polish ballet. Her parents and grand parents were members of the Ballet at the *Grand Théâtre (Teatr Wielki)* in Warsaw. She herself, on the conclusion of her brilliant career as a world famous dancer (in 1925), dedicated her talent and experience to choreographic production and composition, thereby winning fresh laurels, amongst which we shall only mention the ballet in Reinhardt's film production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and the *Great Coronation Ballet* in London this year.

Nijmska's direction guarantees a high level of performance. We may count on inventive artistry, fine scenic composition, and also the utmost technical finish. Madame Nijmska's desire is to make the Polish Ballet not merely a display of soloists, but a perfect ensemble, in which each member will also be a star.

The Ballet's repertoire, conceived by Dr. Arnold Szyfman, includes dances drawn from every period of Polish history, beginning with legendary times, passing through medieval, rococo and romantic styles, up to the modern burlesque.

The repertoire will include 8 separate items, sufficient for 3 different evening-performances.

The first ballet is *The Legend of Krakow* (*Baśń Krakowska*), a ballet version of the famous legend of the Polish Faust — Master Twardowski. The libretto is prepared by the well-known Polish playwright and poet, Ludwik Hieronim Morstin, the music is by Michał Kondracki, and the settings and costumes are by Teresa Roszkowska.

The second ballet, against a special peasant background, is entitled *The Song of the Earth* (*Pieśń o Ziemi*). The ballet is divided into three parts, each showing the customs and traditions of the Polish village, e. g. *Dożynki* (Harvest Home), *Wesele* (Wedding) and *Sobólka* (St. John's Eve). Music by Roman Palester; settings and costumes by Wacław Borowski.

The *Concertino* to music by Bronisław Wójtowicz, is an admirable pastiche of the epoch of King Stanisław August Poniatowski. The frame of costumes and scenery is prepared by a pupil of Vincent Drabik, Miss Irena Lorentowicz-Karwowska, who is already known abroad for her successes in the Grand Opera in Paris, where amongst other things she has prepared the settings and costumes for Karol Szymanowski's masterpiece *Harnasie*.

An especially interesting experiment will be Frederick Cho-



Olga Stawska.

pin's *Concerto in E-minor* with a ballet accompaniment devised by Bronisława Nijmska, in the settings and costumes of Wacław Borowski.

Finally, the fifth ballet will be *Apollo and a Girl* (*Apollo i Dziewczynka*) with a libretto by Światopełk-Karpiński. The cult of Apollo is here presented at various epochs. The entire ballet is conceived on modern burlesque lines. The music is composed by one of the most popular Polish modern composers, Ludomir Różycki, the settings and costumes are by the excellent stage-designer, especially talented in burlesque, Władysław Dąszewski.

Apart from these, there are also in preparation three ballets set to the music of Karol Szymanowski, Jan Młakiewicz and Eugeniusz Morawski.

Before the Ballet left for Paris, Dr. Arnold Szyfman invited representatives of the Warsaw Press to attend a rehearsal. The company was rehearsing as usual, in the old *Théâtre Royal* of Stanisław August Poniatowski in the grounds of the *Lazienki*. Their programme included five of the ballets which they are to give in Paris and London. We could therefore admire the energy of Dr. Arnold Szyfman, who in such a short time has brought together such an excellent troupe of dancers, so many promising and talented stage-designers and the best modern Polish composers. This rehearsal, in the old tradition of Stanisław August Poniatowski's Royal Theatre, had a distinctive charm.

All the ballets were produced without settings and costumes, but even in this work a day form, the fine results of Madame Nijmska's were evident. The company has attained an excellent technique — indispensable to the ballet, and is now able to execute every wish and requirement of its ballet-master. The ballet also made a great impression on account of their fine stage composition and grouping. *The Song of the Earth* was a feast of Polish peasant customs, traditions, and dances. *Concertino* displayed all the finesse of Rocco. Even the ballet rendering of Chopin's *Concerto in E-minor* — a difficult problem — was entirely satisfying.

This rehearsal is sufficient augury that the first performance of the Polish Ballet in Paris — which are taking place as this goes to press — will bring great prestige to Polish art. It should be added that, whereas the choreography is in the hands of Nijmska, the orchestral preparation and direction of the ballets has been undertaken by Mieczysław Mierzejewski, the most talented of the younger generation of conductors, who has conducted many symphonic concerts and operas in Poland and abroad.

Theatre and Music

BOOKS REVIEWED

Warsaw Amusements

Dozywocie (Life Annuity)

Alexander Fredro's comedy, *Dozywocie*, (Life-Annuity), occupies much the same place in Polish literature *L'Amore* does in French.

Although influenced by Molière dramatist, *Dozywocie* is nevertheless a highly original piece of work. The Polish miser, Łatka, is related to Harpagon only by the similarity of his hideous passions. Fredro, moreover, is underlying the various aspects of Łatka's miserliness exceeds even the limits set by Harpagon, Łatka being in fact even more abominable in that without touching his fortune he lives in misery, far from all feeling of humanity, quite overshadowed by the lust for gold.

At the same time, *Dozywocie* gives other characterizations of misers — in the person of Twardosz, and also to some extent in the landowner, Orgon, whose respectable appearance masks the lowest human instincts, since he is willing to sell his young and charming daughter to Łatka in order to remain rich himself.

The scene between the two users and misers, Łatka and Twardosz, in which each tries to cheat the other in the gentle art of money-making, is one of the best in Fredro's dramatic works. Finally however, Łatka — like all other misers — becomes the victim of his own passion. The life-annuity craftily bought from the careless youth, Leon Birbancki, returns to its original possessor, thereby enabling *Dozywocie* to finish happily i. e. with the love-match of Leon Birbancki and Różia (happily rescued from the clutches of the detestable Łatka).

Dozywocie is produced by Ludwik Solski, who also plays the leading rôle. The company includes Aleksander Zelwerowicz (Orgon), Ludwik Fritschew (Twardosz), Franciszek Dominiak (Rafał Lagena), and above all Jerzy Leszczyński (Leon Birbancki). The only woman in the cast, the little Różia, is played without much variety by Miss Alina Żelawska.

Dozywocie is preceded by *Pan Benet*, also by Fredro, a charming picture of family life among the Polish gentry during the last century. This life, with its shortcomings and advantages, is painted with Fredro's customary humour and sentiment. In its dramatic construction, this one-act comedy is conceived on classical lines, with a perfect development of plot and character. This comedy shows Fredro at his best. The style of the period, the beauty of the verse, Fredro's characteristic sense of fun, all find expression. It is produced by Stanisław Stanisławski, the most eminent connoisseur of Fredro in Poland who also plays Mr. Benet, thus carrying on the acting tradition begun at the Teatr Dramatyczny and now established at the Narodowy. The cast, and the production are worthy of the greatest Polish writer of comedies.

Wojciech Brydziński does full justice to the character and appearance of the colonel — a skillful combination of frankness and military rudeness. The performance of the young lovers by the beautiful Miss Irena Wasiutyńska and the high-spirited Leon Łuszczewski is in excellent taste.

Jarocki's settings, especially in *Dozywocie*, are not particularly attractive. And was it necessary to have so many little doors? The taller actors found it impossible to make entrances without ducking.

Arno.

Gala Performance at the Teatr Wielki.

On Thursday, November 11th, on the occasion of the 19th Anniversary of Poland's Independence Day, the *Teatr Wielki* gave a special gala performance, at which the Polish President, Professor Ignacy Mościcki, and Marshal Smigły-Rydzki were present.

The programme included the first act of Stanisław Wyspiański's *Noc listopadowa* (The Night of November 29th) in four *scènes* of 1830 insurrection. It was produced by Stanisław Wysocka, with Leokadia Panieczkówna, Marjan Wyrzykowski, Alina Huleka, Zofia Niewska, Helena Halaśnicka, and Zofia Lindorówna in the leading rôles, and it was followed by Ludomir Różycki's beautiful national ballet *Pan Twardowski*, in the unforgettable settings and costumes of Włodzisław Drabik.

The performance was preceded by the National Hymn and by a speech of Stefan Starzyński, the President of the city of Warsaw. ARNO

New Polish Plays.

We announce the appearance on the Warsaw stages of two interesting Polish plays, *The Case of Monica*, Maria Morozowicz-Szczepkowska presents in *Województwo* *Dom*, excellently produced by Zbigniew Ziemiński. At the *Teatr Polski* the first night of *Gałęzka Rozmarnu*, a play in two acts, by the same author, an enormous triumph for the author, Dr. Zygmunt Nowakowski, and for the producer, Aleksander Węgliński. A full review will appear in our new issue. ARNO.

An Armenian from Beyruth.

The new comedy by Adam Grzymała-Siedlecki, *An Armenian from Beyruth*, like most of this author's dramatic work, is disappointing. Humour and situation both lack taste. The handling of the background in this case — Beyruth with its medley of oriental inhabitants — is singularly naive and old-fashioned. All the characters represent the lowest types and instincts, only ruffians, sharpers, swindlers, misers, etc. etc., appear on the stage. Moreover, as the play is innocent of any social or ethnological purpose, the whole production seems a waste of time. It does not even provide an evening entertainment, seeing that Grzymała-Siedlecki's "humour" is surprisingly without humour in the ordinary sense of that word.

Every time we see a play by Grzymała-Siedlecki we are reminded — let us repeat this — that he has a dual personality. Mr. Grzymała-Siedlecki the dramatic critic, and Mr. Grzymała-Siedlecki the playwright. The critic is a very severe person who underlines even the smallest shortcomings in the plays that come under his notice, and demands perfection in theme, construction, and execution — and was beside the unfortunate author — falls below a certain exacting level. But alas, Mr. Grzymała-Siedlecki, the playwright, commits nearly all the faults which Mr. Grzymała-Siedlecki, the critic attributes to others. He constantly writes plays which are trivial in theme, devoid of culture, taste, and literary even of wit (which quality slightly offends the artistic insufficiency of his early work). *An Armenian from Beyruth* is undoubtedly one of the worst of Grzymała-Siedlecki's plays. It is hard to believe that it was really written by an eminent dramatic critic in Warsaw, whose judgment of comedy might be presumed to be as severe in his own case as in that of others.

Last season, reviewing Juliusz Słowacki's *Horstynski* (at the *Teatr Narodowy*) at the *Teatr Wielki*, Mr. Grzymała-Siedlecki wrote — amongst other things — that *Horstynski* was "a good of mountain air in the sultry climate of Warsaw." Just and reasonable words! But how paradoxical that the plays of a man without paying undue homage to the "sultry climate" of the Warsaw stage...

The play is produced by Mr. Roman Niewklowicz at the *Teatr Letni* with a talented cast including Janina Piaskowska, Ols Leszczyńska, Antoni Fortner (in the title rôle), Stefan Hydryński, Czesław Skonieczny, and others. They acted with correctness and self-sacrifice for it is sacrifice to appear in such a play. To amuse the audience, was, however, beyond their power. ARNO

English man (20) requires room near centre of town, with breakfast and evening meal possible. Use of bath. Please reply to HEB, Tow. Reklamy Międzynarodowej, Sienkiewicza 12.

We have received from Messrs Penguin Books Ltd, London, copies of the ten latest issues in their "Pelican" series, which will maintain the high standard set by the first books in this series, published some months ago. Short reviews of the books are given below and attention is drawn to the fact that copies can be obtained at Zl 1 each at any good bookseller in Poland.

11. *The Great Victorians*, Vol 1. The lives of forty of the greatest figures of the Victorian Age concised by well known writers of the day.

12. *The Inequality of Man* by J. B. S. Haldane. The son of the well known biologist, himself an authority of note, discusses in a trenchant manner the current social problems of the day.

13. *Liberty in the Modern State* by Harold J. Laski. The famous chief of the London School of Economics reviews the anti-democratic political tendencies of the day.

14. *Social Life in the Insect World* by J. H. Fabre. A translation of the masterpiece of this well known author.

15. *The Growth of Civilisation* by W. J. Perry. The development of civilisation as viewed by an anthropologist of note.

16. *A History of the English People* by Ellis Halsey, Vol 2. The conclusion of this standard work on the cultural and economic development of the English during the last century.

17. *A Book of English Poetry* from Chaucer to Rosetti; collected by G. B. Harrison.

18. *After the Deluge* by Leonard Woolf. The psychology of man as a social animal.

19. *Social Life in the Insect World* by J. H. Fabre. A translation of the masterpiece of this well known author.

20. *Vision and Design* by Roger Fry. The late Roger Fry was one of the pre eminent English art critics of the present era and this selection of his works is well worthy of perusal.

AT THE FILHARMONIA

The Symphony Concert on Friday last contained a diversified programme. The conductor from Yugoslavia Mr. Lovro Maticic is not unknown to Warsaw and is justly esteemed for his musicianly qualities. That he was not able to completely control an orchestra, which has no permanent conductor and every week is asked to respond to a different musical individuality, can surprise no one. Of the orchestral performances the *Brüchner Symphony, the Variations* for voice and orchestra by Maliszewski were perhaps the most successful, although the intonation of the wind instruments left much to be desired. Prof. Maliszewski's variations on an original theme for soprano and orchestra reveal a highly skillful musician who goes his own way without paying undue homage to the most up-to-date trends. He had a very competent interpreter in Miss Jadwiga Zwirówna. The pianist Miss Monique de la Bruchollerie more than justified the good opinion she gained at the last Chopin contest. Cesar Franck's *Variations Symphoniques* are perhaps more suited to her individuality and elemental temperament than Mozart, but her fine musicianship enables her to enter into the style of the Salzburg master and to curb her impetuous spirit where necessary.

K. M.

THEATRES

NARODOWY. "Dozywocie" by Fredro, or "The man who was Thursday" by Chesterton.
POLSKA. "Gałęzka rozmajna" by MALY. "Walęsy są dom" by Morozowicz-Szczepkowska.
NOWY. "Skiz" by Zapolska.
MATEJKO. "Maria Stuart" by J. Słowacki.
ATENEUM. "Panna Malczewska" by Zapolska.
KAMERALNY. "Christian" by Noe.
LETNI. "An Armenian from Beyruth" by Siedlecki.
NOWOSCI. "Jacob and Esau".

MUSIC.

TEATR WIELKI — OPERA.
Saturday: }
Sunday: }
Monday: } Programme unknown at
Tuesday: } time of going to press.
Wednesday: }
Thursday: }
Friday: }

KONSERWATORIUM.

Monday: 24 songs of Schubert "Die Winterreise", text by Wilhelm Müller; Doda Conrad — bass; Ignacy Rosenbaum — piano.
Wednesday: Song recital of Ada Sari.

FILHARMONIA.

Sunday: Early Matinée of Mozart's and Beethoven's music. Dir. — Zofia Godlewska. Piano — Lola Strasserzanka.
Friday: Symphony concert. — Dr. — Herman Abendroth. Piano — Wilhelm Backhaus.

MUSICAL SHOWS

CYRULIK WARSZAWSKI. "Ktoś z nas zwadziowa".
TEATR S.I.S. "Virtuous Susanna".
WIELKA REWIA. "Honey-moon trip".
MATEJKO PRO QUO at Ziemiańska — "Upstairs".

ART.

L. P. S. Paintings by Kramczyk Rychłowski, Simon-Pietkiewicz and Winzer
ZACHETA. Several one-man shows.
NATIONAL MUSEUM. Monuments of Marshal Piłsudski.
"Egyptian Excavations"

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105757	HEIFERMAN Chaimel	67	D	30.11.37	30.12.37	
(Original immigration certificate No. 105757 — HEIFERMAN Chaimel at this office).						
F.2377	ZELWIANSKA Adela	37	H	31.12.37		c/o D. Lezczycy 6-go Sierpnia 19 Lodz.

AWARD OF POLONIA RESTITUTA

Count Andrew Osieciński-Czapski, Managing Director of the American Seantic Line in Poland, was awarded the Order of the Polonia Restituta on the 11th November, Polish Independence Day, in recognition of the distinguished services he has rendered to the development of the Port of Gdynia and to Polish maritime and mercantile relations with the United States. Count Osieciński-Czapski was previously twice decorated with the Cross of Merit.

Reserves of Wild Game.

According to an estimate made on the occasion of the International Hunting Exhibition in Berlin, at which Poland carried off most of the prizes, the number of wild animals in Poland are roughly the following: Roebuck — 20,000, stag — 3,000, Elk — 2,000, Bear — 300, Lynx — 9,000, Bison — 35, Wild boar — 12,000. Naturally there is much more of the smaller game. (ATE)

CINEMAS

ATLANTIC. D. Durbin and L. Skokowski in "A Hundred Men and one Girl". (*Good American musical*)
BALTYK. Darrieux in "Port Arthur" (*Good French spy film*).
CAPITOL. Barszczyńska in "The Quack". (*Interesting Polish drama*)
CASINO. Eggert and Kiepara in "Gypsy King". (*Amusing German musical*)
COLOSSEUM. Conrad Vold in "Dark Journey" (*Good English spy drama*)
EUROPA. Isa Miranda in "The strange life of Nina Petrovna". (*Pre war Russia*)
IMPERIAL. Loretta Young and Tyrone Power in "Cafe Metropole" (*Rattling American comedy*)
PALLADIUM. Mac Donald and Eddy in "When the Lilacs blossom". (*Average American musical*)
PAN. "Trojka hultajska" (*Polish farce*)
RIALTO. Danielle Darrieux in "Mamouille ma Mere" (*Delightful French comedy*)
ROMA. Anna Neagle in "Queen Victoria". (*The history of a dynasty*)
STYLW. Barszczyńska and Gwilińska in "Dzięciwa z Nowolipki" (*Good rendering of the well known novel*)
STUDIO. Kitty Santzen and L. Diehe in "A Life at stake" (*Tense German drama*)
ŚWIATOWID. Dymysz in "Niedorajda" (*Polish farcical comedy*)
VICTORIA. Astaire and Rogers in "Let us Dance". (*Well up to their usual standard*)

NOTE: In response to numerous requests we have introduced a new system of film noting which we hope will satisfy our readers.

Starred cinemas play at 5, 7, 9, others at 6, 8, 10.

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