

# THE WARSAW WEEKLY

Offices: Sewerynów 4, Warsaw, Poland, Telephone 273-77.

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

Subscription rates—zl. 3.50 quarterly, zl. 13.00 yearly.

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

Postal Cheque Account: 29598. Warszawa  
Post Office Account: 615 Warszawa

4th YEAR

WARSAW, SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1938

No. 10

## The Central Industrial District

In order to understand to the full the conception of the Central Industrial District and the part played by it in the economic life of Poland, it is necessary to be well acquainted with the trends of the development of Polish economic life.

Poland enjoys the opinion all over the world of being an agrarian country, in fact she is so to a great extent, occupying, as she does, the fourth place in Europe in the employment of land for growing, pastures and woods, with 37.9 million hectares, as compared with 46.8 million in Germany, 30.5 million in Spain, and 55 million in France. The agrarian structure of Poland is accentuated by the fact that 73% of her population is connected with agriculture, three peasants existing for every townsman. In the Eastern districts this relation rises to 7 to 1.

The economic doctrine of Poland since the war has been going in the direction of upholding its agrarian structure. The recent crisis has seriously damaged this policy as during its continuance Poland was heavily hit, not only by the catastrophic drop in the prices of agrarian products, but also by restrictions in international commerce and the withdrawing on a large scale of foreign capital from the Polish market.

In the first years of the crisis Poland tried to defend herself by initiating a bloc of the agrarian states, without, however, entering the path of autarchy and neither inflating nor introducing currency restrictions. The further development of events, however, forced Poland to introduce a certain amount of restrictions in the defence of her national economy.

At the same time new points of view became visible, such as the necessity for transforming the agrarian type of country into an agrarian industrial one, as a certain number of European countries had entered the path of self-sufficiency in foodstuffs, this, together with the erection of various barriers and difficulties brought about a realisation of the fact that the undeveloped state of industry and the shortage of urban population has been holding back the economic development of Poland.

The necessity for initiating a programme of industrialisation has arisen from the fact that the agrarian countries, in the present restrictions in the international exchange of people, goods, and capital, have the lowest incomes per head of population, and can employ and feed much less people than industrial countries. If the 73% of Polish agrarian population are to develop economically, there must be opened possibilities for intensification of agrarian production by lowering of costs. However, such an intensification of agrarian production, if it is not to leave a surplus, is only possible when there is a corresponding growth of consumption. As it is

difficult to find such increased consumption abroad it must be created at home by the carrying out of a policy of industrialisation and urbanisation.

Such a programme is an absolute necessity for Poland owing to:

- 1) The overcrowding of the Polish countryside and the necessity for finding work for the unemployed peasants in the towns.
- 2) As the best and surest manner of increasing the general riches and the national income.
- 3) For defence and political reasons.

The initiation of the Central Industrial District is based upon the above precepts.

The whole of the district has special reductions in taxes for industrial investors. It lies to the South of Warsaw and has an area of 55,000 square kilometres, or 15% of the whole of Poland, with a population of 9,000,000 persons, or 10% of the total population.

The district has convenient conditions for development, and borders on the most populated district of Poland, so that it will be easy to obtain cheap labour. In the neighbourhood of Sandomierz the central point of the district, is one of the more important communication tracks for both internal and external traffic, a great centre from an industrial point of view. It will be possible to use for transport the Vistula which cuts the Central Industrial Area right through and connects it with Upper Silesia and also the San, a tributary of the Vistula, which will be connected by a canal to the Dniestr to facilitate trade with the Black Sea.

Another important fact is the nearness of large supplies of natural gas for power, and also large quantities of water for hydro-electric schemes; these two factors together ensure ample supplies of cheap power. Further the Central District is situated near the main raw material sources, to the North West in the Kielce district lie deposits of iron, pyrites, lime, phosphorites, clays, etc. all suitable for the metal and mineral industries. In the Lublin region there are ample supplies of foodstuffs, which will enable the setting up of foodstuffs industries. In the Sandomierz region there is petroleum, earth gas, hydro-electric power, and raw materials for chemical, metal, mineral and other industries.

The development plan for the Central District has only come into actual being in 1935/38, although planned before. This was thanks to the balancing of the budget by Minister Kwiatkowski when it was possible to include the necessary appropriations in the economic plan of the government. The general state investment plan provides for 90% of local finance, and foresees an expenditure in 1938 of 1 milliard zloty by the State, as against 800 millions in 1937, and 500 millions in 1936, of these sums some 25% go to the Central District.

## LONDON LETTER

By Gregory Macdonald

Great Britain once more lives up to its reputation of passing through a political crisis with very little sign of disturbance. For this happy state of affairs the principal actors deserve a great deal of credit. There were moments at the time of Mr. Eden's resignation, and again during the debate in the Commons, when tempers rose high. The Commons debate was a return to the old time style of verbal thrust for which Parliament was noted during acute controversies like that of Home Rule before the war. But a general moderation was observed even by antagonists, and Mr. Eden's speech to his constituents at Leamington finally allayed any fear that might have remained of the formation of a caucus to disturb the unity of the National Government. When Mr. Winston Churchill spoke at the Constitutional Club his references to the Government were equally responsible, so that the audience was prepared to cheer a subsequent speaker, Sir Patrick Hannon when he pleaded first of all for a closing of the ranks.

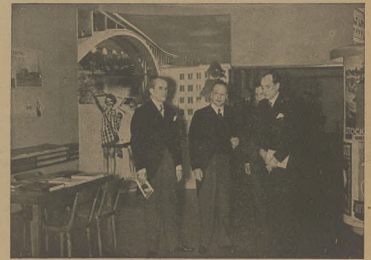
The question remains whether the opinion of the country supports Mr. Eden in his resignation or the Prime Minister in his determination to achieve if possible a settlement of the Mediterranean question. That opinion will not be directly tested, for a General Election is not speaking with obvious half-heartedness. But indications such as letters addressed to Members of Parliament, resolutions passed at public meetings, and an absence of spontaneous protest, satisfy political observers that Mr. Chamberlain has a very widespread popular support throughout the country. The people here, as in every other country want peace achieved through friendly negotiation rather than an impasse leading to a war of ideologies. There is a general feeling of relief that a cobweb of platitudes has been blown away and that the way is open for negotiations by which at least goodwill can be thoroughly tested.

The remaining political question centres upon the choice of Lord Halifax as Foreign Secretary. He is personally popular, with a name as a pacifier in India and in Europe. But his comparative isolation in the House of Lords runs counter to the modern tendency to allow immediate contact between the Commons and the direction of foreign affairs. But the Prime Minister will himself assume the responsibility of answering questions for Lord Halifax in the Lower House. And the argument is a sound one that no man can concentrate effectively on the heavy tasks of the Foreign Office if too much of his time is taken up by Parliamentary duties. As things are now, the work of establishing contacts with many countries, of maintaining the

(Continued on page 2)

## Opening of Swedish Arts and Crafts Exhibition

Minister Beck and the Swedish Minister



## Mr. Beck's Visit to Italy

The official visit of the Polish Foreign Minister to Rome which has been announced for the 13th instants, comes at a moment when the international situation is particularly complicated, mainly on account of a crisis of the forms of international collaboration.

The weakening of the system based on the League of Nations, which worked more or less satisfactorily through the first years following the war, is one of the principal causes of that situation. It has become clear that the League is no longer capable of assuring the safety of its members. Nevertheless there is a tendency among certain powers to assume that "there is no real peace outside the Covenant".

Such a fictitious assumption is designed to serve certain particular interests, as it permits some powers to pose as the only champions of peace, opposed to those who might think it possible to preserve peace by other means.

Poland has avoided a fanatical attitude in that respect and remained in the League, though admitting that the League is not the only existing medium of international relations and that every State can judge best what means are suited for the defence of its interests. That is why Poland's relations with the nations which left the League are not affected by the dangerous "Abbyssinian complex". They remained dependent on the bilateral obligations of the countries concerned, irrespectively of the fact that Poland is still a member of the League, while some of her political partners are not.

As far as Italy is concerned Poland abandoned the sanctions before any other nation, thus testifying to its realist view of the situation, consequent on the fact that the sanctions were at no time completely effective or general.

The public opinion of Poland has always appreciated the fact

that Italy was quick to realise the importance of Poland as an element of peace in Europe. The old traditions of friendship between Poland and Italy, dating from the times when Polish kings married Italian princesses are continued to-day in the economical and cultural, as well as political, spheres.

In his expose of May 13-14 1937 Count Ciano referred to Poland in terms which could only meet with a favourable response in Warsaw. He said: "The fact that we desire to renovate the Locarno treaties in their principal clauses as a western pact does not mean that we are ignoring the vital interests of other powers in other geographical regions. That concerns mainly the interests of Poland, with which we have always had cordial relations and which was the first to abandon the sanctions, even before the decision of the League. We are aware of the pressing reality of these interests".

Although Poland and Italy are not contiguous, their interests meet in certain points, as for instance in the Danubian region, which is in the sphere of direct interests of both Italy and Poland. The present visit of Mr. Beck to Rome is not occasioned by any negotiations on definite subjects, but in view of the general international situation the conversations between the Italian and Polish ministers will certainly have a considerable importance.

Since Italy left the League there have been fewer occasions for meetings between the Polish and Italian statesmen, which could permit an exchange of views and opinions on current problems. It seems obvious that such exchanges of views are a very useful contribution to good international understanding and for that reason the visit of Mr. Beck to Rome will not have been fruitless even though no pact may be signed between the two countries. (ATE)

## TO OUR READERS

Owing to administrative reorganisation the next issue of The Warsaw Weekly will appear only on 19th March

## LONDON LETTER

(Continued)

exchange of information with France, and of conducting the negotiations with Italy will give Lord Halifax more than enough to do.

It need not be assumed that there will be a revolutionary change outwardly in the foreign policy of Great Britain. The first act of the Government after the Commons debate was to repeat a note of protest to General Franco and that was followed by a remonstrance to Japan over the protection of British lives and property in China. But there will be a lessening of tension in every direction, for it is well understood that much of the friction between one country and another is due to misunderstanding to a lack of adjustment between different viewpoints, and even to deliberate trouble-making by irresponsible agencies adept at circulating rumours. It is too early as yet to forecast that the new direction of foreign policy will result in a widespread settlement, but it may be assumed that the Mediterranean question is not isolated. A realistic attempt to avert a general war will include economic with political discussions. It will therefore cover Europe, and it will have the hearty endorsement of Washington.

The Irish question is still before the eyes of Great Britain as one aspect of good relations nearer home. The talks continued last week were interrupted for a time by Mr. Valera's return to Ireland, and it appears from his statement at Kingstown that the difficulties have not all been cleared away. But Irish talks have never been conducted before in such a hopeful atmosphere of give and take. An agreement on trade, on defence and even on Constitutional problems may be assumed. The crisis in Ulster which will remain a difficulty at least in the lifetime of this generation, for national, economic and religious controversies are there combined. Mr. de Valera, however, is not likely to ruin a settlement by grasping at the shadow of a victory when he can attain its substance, leaving time to do the rest. Opinion in England is not these days fanatical pro-Ulster. The Six Counties themselves are less obdurate than they used to be. And the recent General Election disclosed that the Prime Minister of Ulster, Lord Craigavon, has a considerable opposition even among his own followers.

One of the immediate results of the outcome of the political crisis was a considerable increase of activity on the Stock Exchange in what became known as the Chamberlain Boom. This did not mean necessarily that the City was in favour of a policy no longer resting on Collective Security, for opinion was divided on that point, but the realisation was immediate that Italian conversations leading to an increase of trade would bring Italy and perhaps other countries into the markets again as buyers, with an increase especially in the activity of commodities. So the year opens well from the economic point of view, and a general feeling of hopefulness is confirmed both by the Budget forecasts and by reports from the British Industries Fair. The Budget expectation is of a large surplus over last year's estimates. With six weeks to go, the ordinary revenue had already passed the full year's estimate by £2,000,000, and the estimate itself looked to an increase of £38,000,000 over the real income of 1936-7. The surplus will go far to meet out of revenue the costs of rearmament for which the Chancellor took powers to borrow £80,000,000 during the year. Up till now the expenses of rearmament have been only £22,000,000 in excess of revenue. A noticeable feature is that the

## Economics and Finance

### POLISH BUDGET FOR 1938-39

The Sejm voted to-day the budget for 1938-39. The new budget provides for a revenue of 2,476,029,935 zł. and an expenditure of 2,474,975,620 zł. The budgetary surplus is expected to amount to 94,915 zł., but a considerable part of the expenditure has the character of an investment. (ATE)

### BANK OF POLAND

The report for 1937 of the Bank of Poland, states that the adverse turn in the Poland's balance of trade last year did not react on the Bank's reserves, part of the increased imports being paid for out of frozen Polish claims, whilst Polish importers received goods credits for larger sums and for longer terms than in 1936. The cash part of the French loan of 1936, the extensive liquidation of domestic gold hoarding which took place in May, June and July and a temporary decline in expenditure on the foreign debt service, all contributed to increase the Bank's gold and other reserves. During the year the gold holdings of the Bank rose by 42.0 million to 434.9 million zlotys in the Bank's vaults and the holdings of foreign exchange and bills by 6.4 mill. to 38.1 million zlotys. The great liquidity of the money market resulted in a drop in credit demands on the Bank of Poland, the aggregate being 790.8 million on December 31, 1937 as against 947.9 and 959.1 million zlotys at the end of 1936 and 1935 respectively. The Bank's gross takings came to 40.6 million, of which 26.5 million were from discount operations, 2.3 from interest on collateral security loans, 7.4 as interest on the Bank's own holdings of securities, 0.9 million by rises in quotations, and 2.4 million zlotys from commissions and other sources, while 1 million zlotys was recovered from written-off claims. Overhead costs totalled 27.4 million zlotys. After writings-off and transferring to reserves a total of 5.1 million zlotys, the net profits amounted to 8,040,000 zlotys. In accordance with the proposals of the Board, the General Meeting of 10,000 shareholders, on February 18th resolved to allocate a dividend of 8 per cent, a payment to the Treasury of 20,000 zlotys as its statutory share of net profits, and to carry forward 40,145 zlotys.

most disappointing item is a failure of stamp revenue owing to the depression on the Stock Exchange; but it is noteworthy that in these days a depression on the Stock Exchange can exist side by side with a large increase of economic activity.

Both London and Birmingham report large orders for the British Industries Fair; orders which will grow larger this week with the arrival of American buyers. Orders for Birmingham last week set up a record. For London they were an increase on 1937. They came not only from all over the Empire and from Europe, but from Mexico, Brazil, China, Japan, Malaya and the United States.

Preparations are now complete for the Annual Dinner of the Anglo-Polish Society, which will be held at the Hyde Park Hotel on Tuesday, H. R. H. The Duke of Kent will propose the Toast of the Society, to which H. E. Count Raczyński will respond. The Chairman, Professor Malinowski will propose the Toast of the Guests, to which response will be made by the Rt. Hon. W. G. Ormsby-Gore, Secretary of State for the Colonies. About 240 guests are expected to a brilliant function.

### PAPER PRODUCTION

Last year's production of paper in Poland, as in most countries of the world, showed an increase as against 1936. The gain was 15 per cent, while for the first time the total annual production exceeded 200,000 tons. As there was a greater demand for higher qualities the value of the production rose by 21 per cent. The increase of domestic sales caused a decline in paper exports from 9,720 tons in 1936 to 6,415 tons in 1937.

### IRON ORE MINING

Work on sinking shafts and constructing roasting furnaces has already started in the district of Koskie (voivodship of Kielec) where some months ago extensive deposits of iron ores were discovered. The new mining territory extends 90 kilometres from east to west and 50 kilometres from north to south; the deposits are estimated to contain about 50 million tons of iron ore yielding between 30 to 40 per cent of iron. The iron ore production of the Radom-Kielec region is at present several thousand tons a month, and it is expected that with modern methods it will be possible to attain at least a tenfold increase by working the new deposits. A new railway line will be constructed across the new mining district.

### PIG AND MEAT EXPORTS

Computed by head of live pigs, Polish exports of pigs and meat in 1935 totalled 610,000 head, rose to 1,060,000 head in 1936, and to 1,290,000 head in 1937. In comparison with 1936 a further change in the composition of these exports was achieved last year in favour of Poland, as the share of raw material in the total exports dropped from 28.2 per cent to 27.5 per cent, the share of half-finished foodstuffs from 39.2 to 27.5 per cent, while the share of finished goods rose from 38.6 to 42.0 per cent. The chief article of export was bacon which represented a total of 393,000 head of pig; in the form of tinned ham 381,000 head of pig were exported, lard represented 57,000 and salt meat 62,000 head. Exports of live pigs totalled 230,000 head, exports of slaughtered pigs and of fresh pork 125,000 head. England took up 39.1 per cent of the total export, the U.S.A. 29.9, Germany 13.5, Austria 10.8, and other countries 6.7 per cent.

### THE INTERNATIONAL JEWISH PROBLEM

The Polish delegation to the International Union of League of Nations Associations presented a memorandum concerning the Jewish question and claiming:

- 1) The opening to Jewish immigration of the frontiers of countries which have a small percentage of Jews, as a result of an anti-Jewish policy in past times.
- 2) The assisting of the Jews in the foundation of a national home in Palestine or elsewhere.
- 3) The organisation of international financial assistance for the emigration of Jews from the countries where their high number is a burden on the national economy.

4) The convocation by the League of Nations of an international Conference for the solution of these problems. It is clear that unless all the other nations, or at least all the members of the League of Nations, collaborate with Poland in a peaceful and humane solution of the Jewish problem, they cannot criticize the Polish policy with regard to the Jews, whether of the present or of any future government. (ATE)

### THE WATCH ON THE BORDER



Soldiers of the Border Defence Corps on duty.

One of the features of the geographical position of Poland is the extensive frontier running for thousands of miles and bordering many countries. Only a small strip of land is girded by the sea; here and there mountains separate Poland from her neighbours. But most of the eastern frontier bordering on Russia, Lithuania, and other countries stretches on a length of 2307 km. (nearly 1500 miles) through marshes and forests, lakes and plains. Great is the variety of the landscape but a very short while ago some features were characteristic in common to all these lands on the border. These were the low standard of living, of civilization, education and cultivation and also the hopeless condition of the roads. This state of affairs was thought by Tsarist Russia to be the best defence against influences from abroad, against an awakening of the peasant to the realities of life, and also against a possible invasion. To the prewar rulers of Russia the natural jungle and the jungle of mind seemed the surest safeguard of their power.

When the great war changed the map of Europe, when Poland regained its liberty, here on the border, war and unrest were still raging a long time after the Versailles Treaty. How Bolshevism was kept out of Europe, how under the leadership of Marshal Pilsudski, the eighteenth decisive battle of the world was won, how fate brought about what is called the Miracle of the Vistula, has already been told many times. But outside Poland not many know that on this Eastern frontier there was no peace for the peaceable population even after the end of the last war and the signing of treaties with all our neighbours. Bands of robbers came over the border burning the villages, pillaging and murdering the inhabitants. Smuggling of goods and of suspect individuals at uncontrolled points of the frontier line were a daily occurrence. Small detachments of police were helpless against overwhelming numbers of criminals and many a brave man found his death in an encounter with the bandits.

Not only a stop has been put to all this but also the general condition of these parts is improving every year. This new situation is the result of the valiant "Watch on the Border". Seeing that only a radical step could bring relief to the inhabitants of the borderlands the authorities gave orders for the forming of a special corps. The first squads were dispatched to their posts in the year 1924. Temporarily occupying the former quarters of the police, they soon built a chain of watchhouses all along the frontier. Like the Roman Legions the Border Defence Corps keeps watch on the most exposed outskirts of the Republic, bringing at the same time civilisation into the wilderness, tilling the soil and building houses.

Tartars, Turks, Wallachians have in the past threatened the frontiers and the heathen

avalanche was more than once kept back by Polish swords. The soil on the border, so says Polish song and legend is soaked with the blood of the defenders of faith and country. And even in our times many a young contemporary might feel keeping the same watch, the legacy of his ancestors.

The work of the Border Defence Corps is no simple routine, it is not even limited to the fight with smugglers, secret agents and emissaries breeding unrest.

It has also a large programme of constructive work, the task of building watchhouses and roads, establishing telegraphs and telephones, planting trees, turning waste lands into gardens and fields.

It may be said with confidence that the Border Defence Corps is a sort of universal school for the population around. First of all comes good example. The peasant till now content with raising poor crops and neglecting seemingly useless plots round his hut envies the beauty of the soldiers' gardens, sees what crops can be got from the same soil, what profits made from orchards. He comes for advice and is proud of the improvements. The better roads, the market for his products which he sells to the Corps, also help to overcome the peasant's inborn distrust of the soldier. And after a while he eagerly clutches at all the possibilities brought to these forsaken parts by the activities of the Corps.

These activities are manifold and extensive especially when it comes to the spreading of knowledge and education. The privates and the non-commissioned officers themselves use the long evenings to supplement the gaps in their education. Courses of varying standards, taking into account the differences of previous schooling, are part of the days programme. Special teachers and correspondence courses, information and advice from professional schools help the members of the corps in their striving for more knowledge.

Education is not limited to general knowledge. The Corps is taking hand in the foundation of agricultural centres, co-operative societies and such like. Advice is freely given on all possible matters and the instructors of the Corps are regarded as general advisers. Material help, money as well as work is forthcoming when it comes to building of schools, bridges, club houses, redecoration of churches and chapels.

In times of draught or floods, food and clothing for the needy and specially for the children is provided. The world does not perhaps realize what sort of watch the military doctors sometimes the only one for miles and miles around, is keeping here. If this watch were to relax, from over the border epidemics would spread farther and farther across Poland and beyond into other countries. Medical examinations of adults and school children, vaccination, disinfecting of dwellings, the care of mother and child, instructive courses, exhibitions and lectures on social

(Continued on page 3)

# A R T

New Exhibition at the I. P. S. and the Zachęta

The exhibition of Swedish arts and crafts at the I. P. S. is interesting in several respects, quite apart from the aesthetic pleasure to be derived from it. Even more clearly than an exhibition of so-called "fine art" it shows the essential similarity of all modern design. Among the pottery, the furniture, and the rugs we find shapes and designs almost identical with those seen at the exhibition of interior decoration last year or with those to be found at the "Lad". Still more plainly than the last international exhibition of woodgravings it proves that with the present-day development of communications and of printing

green pottery with silver inlay looks very splendid. In the room devoted to home industries some of the patterned linen is very fine and will probably be a point of special interest for the enthusiasts of the Polish peasant linen industry.

The glass is certainly the best part of the Exhibition. The Stromberg Works exhibit several entirely plain pieces where the material and shape are fused to a really delightful perfection, whilst Orrefors show several ornamented glasses in their usual severely restrained style and some pieces of fantastically coloured and shaped glassware that make one think of strange sea animals. It is characteristic that almost in every case only the name of the firm is given, not the name of the designer.

The organizers of the Exhibition have taken account of the restricted space of the IPS and have very wisely shown only a small selection of Sweden's rich production in this field while yet giving an idea of its wide range since the Exhibition includes modern jewellery, silversmith's work, textiles, bookbindings, pottery tableware, toys, and travelling kit, besides the other objects already mentioned.

The exhibition of the "Confraternity of St. Luke" at the Zachęta is well worth seeing. It is but rare for an exhibition which fills all the rooms of that gallery to have so high a level. It has its weaker points but on the whole it is far superior to the general run of exhibitions. The whole room to the left of the staircase had been filled by the work of Jan Wydra, a fine gesture of respect for the artistic achievement of a prematurely deceased colleague. Nearly all of his work seems to have been collected, including the first picture by which he attracted attention at the School of Fine Arts the "Adoration of the Child Jesus". He was undoubtedly an artist of very great gifts and particularly his unassuming landscape studies are full of a deep emotion which is the greatest quality of his work and which is perceptible also in his more ambitious compositions, though there it is often marred by a certain crudity of conception.

Three new members have been accepted into the Society — MM. Frydrysiak, Kubiicki, and Flużniński. The last-named exhibits only pictures which are already known through other exhibitions, but they can be viewed again without displeasure. B. Frydrysiak is for the present a much better etcher than painter, for in painting he has not yet developed any individuality of his own. J. Kubiicki exhibits two very pleasing and interesting landscapes (Nos 136 and 7) far superior both in treatment and in design to his later presentations of Trivoltus ladies. Of his frivolous ladies there is a decided glut in the show and though one cannot deny them a certain amount of charm it palls considerably with repetition. A picture entitled "The Taking of Sandomierz" (No. 128) seems to promise well for the future.



Furniture displayed by A. B. Nordiska Kompaniet, Stockholm

a modern national style is impossible save as the result of conscious effort based on tradition and that all too often is in danger of degenerating into mere masquerade.

The exhibition gives the impression of an admirably high standard of mass production, or at least what may be called mass production in comparison with Polish conditions. This has made for a rejection of all extravagances but it has also — with one exception — eliminated that personal creative touch which is necessary to the perfection of a work of art. Nearly every one of the objects exhibited is a pleasure to look upon, but with the exception of the glass, more particularly the famous Orrefors cut glass, they rather accentuate than bridge the gulf that is supposed to exist between "fine" and "applied" art. Apart from the glass the most remarkable thing in the Exhibition are the colour effects which are very charming and almost entirely attained by the use of dulled, pastel tones. Some of the pottery glazes are also very fine, particularly two shades of blue produced by the A. B. Ystad Metallindustri. The

## THE WATCH ON THE BORDERS

(Concluded)

health welfare are the doctor's contribution to the civilization work here.

Physical training, camps for boy and girl-scouts, different sports, among which hunting and steepclimbs have here the loveliest and most natural backgrounds, are part of the life full of varied interests, led by the members of the Border Defence Corps. A life which notwithstanding its hardships is full of meaning and beauty. To do justice to this kind of life the pen of a Kipling would be needed and there is many a similarity between the heroes of his Border tales, and the Border Defence Corps of Poland.

Stanisława Goryńska

B. Cybis, J. Gotard, C. Wdowiński, and J. Zamoyski play a less important part than usual in this exhibition. A. Jędrzejewski and A. Michalak are very much to the fore. Although contrary to previous opinion A. Michalak is certainly not the most important artist in the group he is certainly the one with the largest range of treatment. The portrait exhibited under No. 148 is a very fine piece of work. A. Jędrzejewski seems to have the largest number of pictures in the Exhibition. They are in his usual style but with certain changes in the colour scale and very much improved in design. E. Kanarek in his portraits of children is very successful in capturing and differentiating their expression, but apart from the faces which are very good and full of life the composition tends to be rather stichily sentimental (possibly in deference to the wishes of fond parents) and the drawing is occasionally aliphoid. Of Professor Pruszkowski's three exhibits the portrait of himself is by far the best. J. Podolski has a very remarkable portrait study entitled "Saint with a Doll", painted in disagreeable, black-blue tints but with a really very fine face, full of expression (No. 183).

The Management of the Polish State Forests have printed for private circulation a booklet "Mr. Pickwick in Timberland", containing 14 drawings by E. Kanarek. The originals are to be seen in the exhibition at the Zachęta and show that some injustice has been done to the artist by the excessive reduction in size and by the manner of printing. It is in any case a puzzle why in a publication of this sort which should be done very well or not at all three different kinds of paper are used and then the drawings pasted in, a proceeding which is in itself a gross lack of proper respect for the canons of his craft. The preface by Mr. Laver is very good and the typography of this part is tolerable.

## LECTURE BY MR. K. G. FALLENIS

The Polish Institute for Collaboration with Foreign Countries, arranged on the 2nd March a lecture by Mr. K. G. Fallenis, Secretary General of the Polish Swedish Society at Stockholm, on "Echoes of the 1863 Revolution in Sweden", during which he spoke of the great sympathy felt in Sweden for Poland at that period, and of the kindness shown by the Swedes towards those few Polish refugees who managed to reach there. The lecture was well attended and was followed with great interest.

## MUSIC PRIZE FOR 1937

The annual musical prize of the Polish Government has been awarded to Mr. Ludomir Rogowski, for his general musical activity. He is the author of several symphonies and musical illustrations of masterpieces of Polish literature. He is the director of the musical school in Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia and frequently conducts the symphonic orchestras of Zagreb and Belgrade.

(ATE)



Pottery by A. B. Gustawski's Fabryk Interssantnan, Gustawskog

# Karol Hubert

# Rostworowski



K. H. Rostworowski (1877-1938)

With the death of Karol Rostworowski Polish literature and the Polish theatre have lost their greatest modern dramatist, whose name will remain in the history of Poland's culture, as a tremendous intellectual force, a sincere believer in Catholic ethics, and a poet of unusual power.

Rostworowski did not immediately recognize his own great dramatic gifts. He began as a lyric poet and printed several volumes of verse. Shortly afterward, however, his work in drama began, but his two first works, *POD GÓRĘ* (UP-HILL) and *ECHO* gave no indication that a great dramatist had appeared. They were received with cold reserve by contemporary critics, and Rostworowski's possibilities as a dramatist seemed dubious. A want of clarity in his ideas and ideals, a too complicated and intricate construction, and finally an unnecessary profusion of philosophical comment in these two plays even led one of his critics to advise Rostworowski to give up all idea of a dramatic career.

JUDAS OF KERIOTH (which appeared in 1913), opened a new epoch. The enthusiasm for the author was unusual and the general opinion was that Rostworowski was the new poet-dramatist destined to continue the tradition of Polish poetic drama, begun and so brilliantly developed by Juliusz Słowacki and Stanisław Wyspiański.

Whereas UP-HILL and ECHO were written in prose, JUDAS is a dramatic poem written in short, concise verse, which admirably brings out the theatrical effectiveness of the work and also does full justice to the characters appearing in it, although, on the other hand it still reveals something of the influence of Stanisław Wyspiański's literary technique. The author decided to give a new interpretation of Judas and of his life's tragedy. Whereas, up to this time, hate was the only feeling aroused by Judas, Rostworowski awoke a new feeling for him: that of pity. Basing his work on the story of Judas, handed down by the tradition of the New Testament, the author owed that to the cause of Judas' treason was the complete imperfection of his nature. Judas is a coward, the greatest coward in the history of the world. For this reason he cannot overcome the adversities with which he is faced; and in a fatal moment he betrays his Master, makes himself wretched, and dies a tragic death after the greatest and most cruel crime in the world. Judas in this view is conceived is also in some way destined by consequence of world history to commit this greatest crime.

Rostworowski developed his idea in a perfect artistic form. The psychological portrait of Judas, a penetrating analysis and emphasis of his hesitation, heart-break and tragic emotional struggle, — is given by Rostworowski with unusual conviction and faultless logic in his depiction of human suffering.

Later Rostworowski directed his artistic interest to the figure of the famous Roman emperor Caius Caesar Caligula. The historical preparation and the creation of this drama occupied some years of Rostworowski's life. It was therefore not until 1917 that CAIUS CAESAR CALIGULA appeared. The treatment of Caligula is also a very interesting creative experiment, to which the dramatist strives to give a logical basis.

The history, given to us by Suetonius and Tacitus depicts Caligula as one of the most cruel tyrants who ever lived. Rostworowski, on the contrary, with a deepening knowledge of Caligula's Rome, comes to the conclusion that Caius Caesar was

the only true man in the whole empire, whose other dignities and innumerable were reminiscent or savage beasts.

Under the impress of the tragedy of the world war and the menace of Bolshevism, Rostworowski wrote a Christian mystery, *MŁOŚCIEKAZIE* (CARITAS). It is a very original work for the stage, in which the author once more comes to the conclusion that sin is eternal. CARITAS has some impressive scenes, amongst which the symbolic moment under the three black crosses is unforgettable.

CARITAS was followed by a ten-year silence after which Rostworowski began again to write symbolical and enigmatical plays on human and social themes. This is the period of Rostworowski's allegorical plays, *STRASZNE DZIECI* (TERRIBLE CHILDREN), *ANTYCHRIST*, and *Z M A R T W Y C H W S T A N I E* (RESURRECTION). This last work, written in 1922 was a tribute to Adam Mickiewicz.

Rostworowski's second great period begins in 1929, with the great realistic drama, *NIESPODZIANKA* (SURPRISE), the first of a trilogy, in which Rostworowski turns once more to prose. SURPRISE is based on an actual incident. Just as Wyspiański got his inspiration for one of his dramas, *SĘDZIOWIE* (THE JUDGES) from a newspaper, so the dramatic imagination of Rostworowski was influenced by reading the description of a murder committed at Szymborze, a village near the Carpathians. In the stage version the story has the pathos of real tragedy and the profound sincerity of life.

The family of Szybala, a peasant, is in extreme misery. The son, Franek, is studying in Krakow, but there is no money for his education. At the moment of this moral and financial crisis in the family, an unknown man appears at the hut with a pocket-book full of dollars. As he is very tired after his long journey, the Szybals see him asleep in the house and come to the criminal decision to murder this stranger, so that Franek may have money for his education. The dire thought changes into reality. How cruel and tragic, however, is the revenge of Fate! The murdered man proves to be none other than the Szybala's son, who has been absent in America for years and has now returned at home. His native country, SURPRISE is written with such dramatic power and such tremendous directness of human tragedy and passion that it commands comparison with ancient Greek tragedy in its profound treatment and development of the theme. The scenes, after the crime, of the mother's insanity and the father's tragic remorse, are beyond doubt the profoundest tragic creations in modern Polish literature. Their reality is so glaring and true that during and after every performance of SURPRISE the audience is quite shaken. Not only, therefore, does Rostworowski in

(Continued on page 4)

