

# News From Poland

(For Bulletin Boards and Private Persons)

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## A Picture in Figures

A vivid picture of just how the Polish YMCA is getting along may be obtained by comparing the reports for February 1933 with those for February 1932. I did this recently, and was so surprised and pleased with the result that I am here passing it on to our friends in America. I was perfectly aware that we were making fine progress, but bunching all these items together intensified the impression.

After completing this study I wrote to Dr. Mott saying that if we could make such progress on a seriously decreased income, what great things we could do if we had no money at all! But don't take me up on that!

These figures are for the 3 city associations, Warsaw, Lodz. and Krakow:

### 1. Total Membership.

February 1933	3220	Increase 39%
February 1932	2352	

### 2. Membership by age.

	February 1932	1933
12—15	267	419
15—18	396	762
18—25	731	756
25—	958	1283
Total	2352	3220

### 3. By Vocation.

	February 1932	1933
Working men and boys	110	173
Skilled workmen	175	199
Office men and clerks	276	318
Gov't officials	293	490
Owners and Managers	80	79
Professional Men	271	311
School Boys	469	851
Students	308	375
Miscellaneous	120	187
	2102	2983
Add. Contributors	250	237
Total	2352	3220

### 4. Boy Members.

February 1933	1181	Increase 79%
February 1932	663	

### 5. Volunteer Workers.

February 1933	457	Increase 43%
February 1932	318	

### 6. Physical Work in Our Buildings In Membership Groups.

February 1933	751	Increase 19%
February 1932	634	

### 7. In Non-member Groups.

February 1933	2794	Increase 86%
February 1932	1520	

### 8. Education Class Enrollment.

February 1933	502	Increase 58%
February 1932	316	

### 9. Clubs and Organized Groups.

February 1933	104	Increase 23%
February 1932	84	

### 10. Members in Above Groups.

February 1933	1749	Increase 42%
February 1932	1299	

### 11. All Permanent Groups.

Including gym and educational classes.

February 1933	206	Increase 29%
February 1932	100	

### 12. Members in Above Groups.

February 1933	2784	Increase 52%
February 1932	1828	

### 13. Average Daily Attendance.

Not including work for the unemployed.

February 1933	1254	Increase 35%
February 1932	924	

### 14. Service to the Unemployed.

February 1933	1500	Increase 200%
February 1932	502	

These numbers increased during March to 2900, of which 1800 were children of the unemployed.

The items reported above, giving a rather full picture of the work, show an average increase of 46%, not counting the unemployment work.

There is another group of statistics of an interesting nature.

#### Total Enrolled Participants

	February 1932	1933
Members	2352	3220
Women	270	317
Non-Members	1520	2405
Unemployed	502	1500
Total	4644	7442
		Increase, 60%

## Gdynia Organizes

The proposed new YMCA in Gdynia, Poland's sea-port upon the Baltic, has now taken definite shape. The interested group has perfected its organization and elected its officers. The famous Commandor of the Polish Fleet, Admiral Joseph Unrug, is president of their administrative council with 7 very influential leaders representing different circles in Gdynia cooperating with him as officers of the new organization. They are planning to secure an apartment at once and open it during May as Association headquarters for the young men of that new and rapidly growing city, which a few years ago was but a few fishermen's huts on a sandy beach and is today the most modernly equipped large port on the Baltic, with some 50,000 inhabitants.

## Golombek Reports

Zygmunt Golombek, the head of our YMCA Department for Warsaw Newsboys, came to me this morning with a dramatic story of his having taken 30 of his boys to church, absolutely their first church experience. The priest was surprised to see them but soon realised how eminently appropriate it was for these poor and humble boys to be brought within positive Christian influence. Their clothes, though clean, are torn and patched. When one of the members in the church objected to boys of this kind being brought in, Mr. Golombek reminded him of Jesus' intense interest in just such people and of the great need these boys have for religious influence. The man was soon ashamed of himself and admitted that it was a fine thing for the boys to be there. The impression upon the boys was very marked and Mr. Golombek was literally thrilled with this result of his first effort to get these boys into a church; the Catholic Church, of course, for these boys come of Catholic ancestors and it is naturally the policy of the Polish YMCA to encourage boys in loyalty to their ancestral church. The priest expressed appreciation of the boys having been brought to him.

## John Sobieski, 1683

Groups in Poland are beginning to organize September excursions to Vienna to take part in the 250th anniversary of the deliverance of that city from the Turks by King John III Sobieski of Poland and the Polish army in 1683, one of the most magnificent acts of national unselfishness in history. Though the Poles and the Austrians together numbered only 70,000, they utterly defeated the besieging army of 275,000 Turks, Sobieski's irresistible cavalry breaking the Turkish lines with their impetuous charge. The rulers of Europe, including the Pope, considered Sobieski the savior of European Christianity. It was a fine and knightly act and the Poles of today are justly proud of this star in the crown of their national history.

## Let Us Know

Soon the annual summer influx of important guests from America will begin. If you know of people who are coming to Poland who could give interesting lectures in our YMCA on phases of American life, kindly let us know about them and help us get in touch with them long enough in advance to arrange such lectures in Warsaw and Krakow where we have modern YMCA buildings. By the way, we can house summer guests in the Krakow YMCA dormitory, but the Warsaw dormitory will not be ready this year.

## The Four-Power Pact

The Polish stand against the 4 Power Pact is easily understood by Americans. It is an effort on the part of Italy and England to satisfy Germany's demand for treaty revision and more territory at the expense of Poland. Everybody would be happy and Poland would pay the bill by ceding to Germany the ancient Polish land called the Corridor. Just as though China and Korea and India and Russia should decide to satisfy Japan's demand for more land by giving her California. Quite simple.

## Dyboski's New Book

Professor Roman Dyboski, brilliant and talented Polish professor of English Literature in Krakow University, one of the leaders of the Krakow YMCA, has written a new book about this country, under the simple title "Poland". It is published by Scribners. Professor Dyboski writes crisp and sparkling English, and I dare say no one Pole knows as much about Poland as he. Having lectured both in British and in American universities he is widely known in the English speaking world.

## International Photo Show

The Krakow YMCA Photo Club has made arrangements for an international exhibition of artistic photographs, to be held in the Krakow Palace of Fine Arts August 27 to September 17. An announcement of the conditions of entrance can be obtained from any Polish Consulate in America or Canada, or by addressing Fotoklub Polskiej YMCA, Krakow, Poland. This is a big and serious affair. If it interests you, ask for particulars at once.

## Jews Again Find Refuge

Since the recent persecution of Jews began in Germany, 1,200 Jews have crossed the frontier into Poland, seeking and finding refuge. No country of modern Europe has a record equal in generosity to that of Poland as a refuge for Jews. This dates back to the reign of the good King Kazimierz the Great, in the 14th century. At a time when every other Christian nation of Europe was persecuting the Jews and driving them beyond its borders, this King of Poland opened the doors to them, giving them special settlements with extraordinary privileges of self government and rights of Jewish worship and education.

They became the chief commercial agents of the country and have played an important part in its economic life. They increased and are today roughly 10% of the population. Their excessive aggressiveness and lack of assimilation to European dress and customs have often caused friction in Poland, but never persecution, and the Jews who know Poland's record in this matter turn to her now as a haven of refuge where at least the first elements of decent treatment may be expected and found.

This influx does not ease Poland's Jewish problem but it reminds the Christian world that as regards the Jews Poland has a 6 century record of humane treatment. Oddly enough this date of 1933 is just 600 years since their historic friend Kazimierz the Great came to the throne, 1333.

