

News From Poland . No .10.

(For Bulletin Boards and Private Persons)

Issued by The National Council of the Polish YMCA. Paul Super, General Director. 22 Aleja Ujazdowska. Warsaw. Poland.

Two Birthdays.

Reborn Poland

CELEBRATED ITS 15TH ON NOVEMBER 11TH.

Anniversaries divisible by 5 receive special attention from the Poles. So naturally the 15th anniversary of the regaining of their national independence and unity was made an occasion of rejoicing and a reviewing of progress.

Of much of this progress the American writer of this bulletin has himself been a witness, so in speaking of it he bears testimony to things he has seen and which are vital in his own experience.

My arrival in Poland in March 1922 brought me here in time to see a great deal of the ruin wrought by six years of war, 1914—1920 and extending over six sevenths of Poland's territory. For instance, 1,500,000 buildings had been destroyed. It was a desolate and discouraging outlook even so late as 1922; but the Poles met the situation with faith, courage, determination and toil.

I was deeply stirred by the undiscouragable energy and resourcefulness of this reconstruction work. What I then saw laid the foundations of my faith in the Poles and the passing of nearly 12 years here in Poland has deepened and strengthened and confirmed that faith. It has, of course, been the basis of my own work here. Surely I have not been held here by the charm of the climate, nor by the language, which is one of the most difficult in Europe.

Here are some of the things I have seen this nation do, and with meagre though increasing resources. The list is my own compilation; an official statement might contain quite other items.

1. Rebuild and develop its railway system, now first class.
2. Restore its war-torn agriculture.
3. Restore, modernize, and enlarge its industry.
4. Found the Bank of Poland, the Postal Savings Bank, and two great national banks.
5. Establish and maintain a gold basis currency.
6. Develop a national school system and greatly reduce illiteracy.
7. Locate and work its oil fields.
8. Extend and improve housing for working people and salaried employees.
9. Build that imposing sea port, Gdynia.
10. Develop an extensive system of winter and summer health resorts.
11. Win a Nobel Prize for literature, Reymont.
12. Win a Nobel Prize for science, Madame Curie-Sklodowska.
13. Maintain its traditionally high level of drama, art, and music.
14. Elevate the status of the peasant.



Krakow Fortifications. 14th century.

15. Keep its churches filled with worshippers.
16. Establish national health and retirement insurance.
17. Keep its unemployment down to an average of about 300,000, which is 1% of the total population.
18. Make progress in the solution of its minority problems.
19. Organize a quiet and orderly interior life.
20. Turn its disunited parts of three autocracies into a united democracy.
21. Found a Central Institute of Physical Education, one of the largest and best in Europe.



Central Institute of Physical Education

22. Develop physical education on a national scale.
23. Find a basis of lasting peace with Russia.
24. Restore and preserve the mediaeval beauty of its older cities.
25. Win important international aviation contests.
26. Become one of the pillars of peace in Europe.

Naturally much remains to be done and the nation has serious and important problems. But the solid progress reported above gives the Poles added faith in the future of their nation, and friends of Poland will rejoice with the Poles in the above very concrete accomplishments.

The Polish YMCA

CELEBRATED ITS 10TH ON DECEMBER 8TH.

The Polish YMCA crowns ten years of work as an autonomous movement by the organization of a finance committee which probably has no equal in YMCA history. It is the task of this committee to secure the final \$200,000 needed to finish the Warsaw YMCA building, a plant which when completed will have cost 4,500,000 zloty which, at the present value of the dollar, is over \$800,000. Toward this sum Mr. Sereno P. Fenn of Cleveland, Ohio, contributed the first 2,700,000 zloty. The Poles are giving the rest.

This unusual committee, whose goal is 1,300,000 zloty, is headed by an honorary committee led by the Prime Minister and composed of every member of the Cabinet, the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, many vice-Ministers, the heads of the 5 chief banks, many distinguished generals, leading representatives and senators, the presidents of the five institutions of higher learning in Warsaw, the Mayor of Warsaw, the governors of the Warsaw Province and of Upper Silesia, and two of Poland's leading women, Madame Marshal Pilsudska and Senator Hubicka.

Active Workers.

The active finance committee is also an imposing list of nationally known men, headed by former Minister of Railways Kühn, and two big bank presidents, Seweryn Ludkiewicz and Henryk Gruber, and containing such internationally known Poles as Jan Pilsudski, General Roupert, and August Zaleski.

These are not just names on paper. They are producing money, as witness one contribution of 150,000 zloty, one of 50,000 zloty and several of 25,000 zloty and 20,000 zloty. About 5,50 zloty to a dollar.

Hard work, believe me, for the depression has visited Poland as well as America, and only such a committee could get such contributions. This is preliminary work. The public campaign is set for March.

But when such results as these are secured, those of you who are giving your hard earned money to help supply the Polish YMCA with two trained American secretaries as organizers and advisers may feel your investment is doing business.

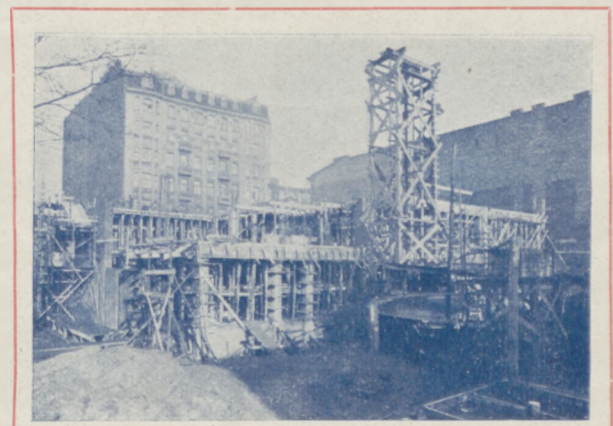
These two secretaries are in Warsaw and in Lodz, and in each city great modern YMCA buildings are going up. The plant in Lodz is to cost 3,000,000 zloty, which is today about \$550,000. Of this \$200,000 comes from American friends. The Lodz building is being erected in 3 wings, and the first of these is about to be roofed.



The Promenade, Gdynia.



Oil Fields, Boryslaw



New YMCA Building, Lodz.

