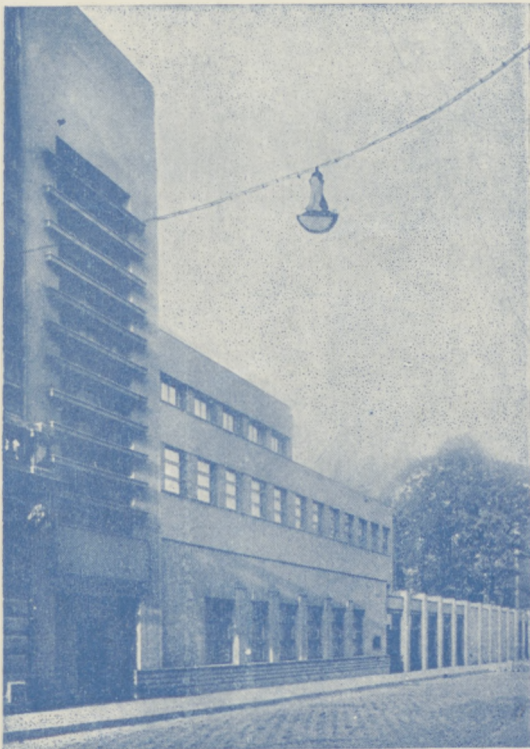


No. 8 News From Poland 1935

Series III.

(For Bulletin Boards and Private Persons)

Issued by The National Council of the Polish YMCA. Paul Super, General Director, Konopnickiej 6, Warsaw. Poland



Lodz YMCA Building. The part now open. The main front is not yet completed.

Now Open — First Third

There are certain large cities whose very streets cry out for a YMCA building, so impressive are the obvious needs for work of this kind. In the United States, Chicago; in the Orient, Canton. Such a city is Lodz. And now, in the very heart of this city, the first third of the new YMCA building opens its doors. The completed section includes a large gymnasium hall and a smaller one, a 25 meter tile-lined pool of the most modern design, locker rooms and showers for older men, younger men, and boys separately, a group of social rooms, 7 class rooms, and 40 apartment rooms for young men.

The second section, including the complete set of social rooms for men and boys and 60 more living rooms, is under construction, work proceeding as funds are secured or pledged.

The third section, a much needed auditorium, must wait a year or more.

The Leadership

The American secretary helping the Poles develop their association in Lodz and build the building has done wonders. It is a hard field. The city is unattractive, materialistic, backward in civic development. But its very lacks and needs appeal to a man devoted to human welfare, and call out all he has to give of devotion, leadership, constructive ideas, and resistance to difficulties.

But as always and everywhere there are idealists in Lodz, rich and poor, and these are uniting to develop what is going to be a truly great YMCA, a joy to those who have helped produce it, a satisfaction to those who lead it and work in it.



Mr. H. J. Rounds, Gen. Sec. Lodz YMCA.

THIS NUMBER IS DEVOTED TO LODZ, "THE CITY OF A THOUSAND SMOKE STACKS"



Lodz, the Manchester of Poland.

Introducing Lodz

Ever since I first visited Lodz, some 13 years ago, I have been fascinated and somewhat appalled by this huge cottonmill town of 600,000 inhabitants. When I first knew it, then housing some 500,000 souls, it had no water works and no sewer system. It was only then recovering from the devastation and wanton destruction of the war. It is an odd sort of place, strung along one long street and two less important flanking ones, with no real residence section, for the great factories are social units, composed of the mills, the houses of the workers, and the mansion of the owner.

We took Dr. Mott to Lodz in 1924 and 1927, and he was profoundly impressed with the city and its obviously great needs, such as the YMCA can in some measure meet. He said he could never forget the thousands of people surging up and down that one long street. What impresses Dr. Mott receives attention; he resolved to make it a point to help Lodz get a YMCA building, and soon reported that he had \$200,000 for that purpose on condition that \$100,000 be raised in Poland.

That sum has been pledged and most of it paid, and the first third of the building will be opened in September. It is located just a few yards up a cross street, near where the constant surge of humanity so impressed Dr. Mott. Unfortunately the value of the American dollar has shrunk so during the past two years that we shall have to raise far more than the \$100,000 first contemplated. In terms of today's money the cost of the building will be about \$600,000. That is, the original proposal and the present plan is a building costing 3,000,000 zloty.

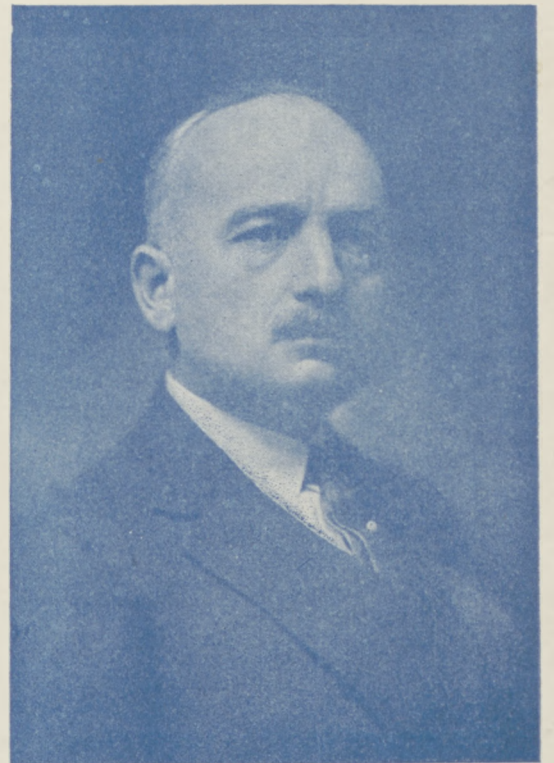
Lodz in Literature

Not its beauty, but its unusual sociological and human interest brought Lodz into literature. Ladislav Reymont, who received the Nobel prize for his classic "The Peasants", dealing with the rural side of Polish life, followed this with "The Promised Land", a story about Lodz. The English translation was published by A. A. Knopf of New York.

A few years ago I published a series of extracts from that book, with permission; they describe most vividly the city, the mills, and the workers, and thereby show the need of a YMCA building for the thousands of young men and boys who throng the streets of the town after working hours. Those extracts played a part in securing the \$200,000 of American money contributed through Dr. Mott toward the YMCA building now about to enter into use. If you want to feel the environment in which this new building will work, read Reymont's vivid novel. For something shorter see the article "Lodz" in the International Encyclopedia, 1918 edition.

One might mention here that Esperanto was invented by a Lodz man, one Zamenhof.

The president of the Association is Mr. Gustaw Geyer, of the century — old cotton firm Geyer and Co, a vigorous man in middle life and associated with all the recent development of this interesting Association.



Mr. Gustaw Geyer, Pres. Lodz YMCA.

The Pilsudski Mound

The Poles commemorate the work and perpetuate the memory of their greatest personalities by erecting huge conical mounds of earth, partly from soil in some way connected with the work of the individual. The largest of these is The Kosciuszko Mound in Krakow. In the same city there is now being built up a mound to the memory of Marshal Pilsudski. In this country no higher honor can be awarded any man. To this mound the Polish YMCA will contribute soil from its three city lots and its two camps; an appropriate tribute, for the Marshal was the First Honorary Member of the Polish YMCA and his support of the movement has been valuable beyond words.

Mr. Kazimierz Stamirowski

Foreign friends occasionally ask us to tell them about the leaders of the Polish YMCA, so from time to time we like to publish pictures and short accounts of the men who are helping make this movement a success.

One of our most helpful friends in the matter of financing the great building of the Warsaw YMCA is Mr. Kazimierz Stamirowski, former Vice-Minister of Interior, President of the Bank of Acceptances, Vice-President of the National Bank of Agriculture, and a very popular man in high official circles.

Before entering civil life he was the colonel of a regiment of Polish cavalry, in which capacity he rendered distinguished service. He is an active worker on the Building-Finance Committee of the Warsaw YMCA where his friendly method of working with us is valued equally with his effective financial leadership.



Minister Kazimierz Stamirowski.

