

# No. 7 News From Poland 1936

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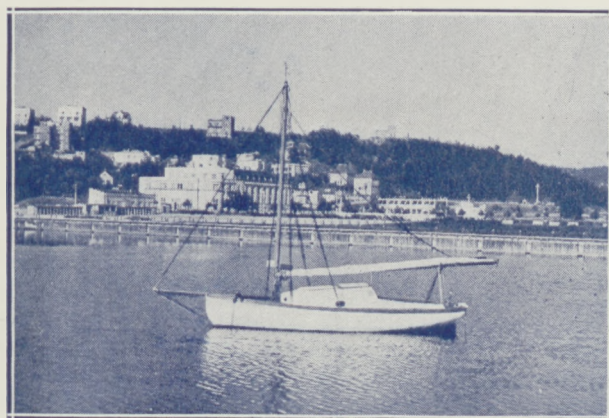
## Poland's Chief Problem — — Over-Population

Poland, with 34,000,000 inhabitants, occupies the sixth place in Europe as regards both population and area but in relation to all the countries of the world, though ranking only 26th in terms of area, she ranks 11th in population. This is a striking discrepancy between the relative proportions of population and territory, and the problems created by it are aggravated by the fact that Poland's natural increase of population exceeds 400,000 persons a year. As regards birthrate Poland ranks fourth in the world and is led by only one large Power, Japan.

Poland is thus heavily overpopulated and this is one of the main causes of her present and protracted economic depression. Because she has an insufficiency of raw materials and lacks capital for her internal development (land reform bringing only minor relief), Poland must necessarily turn to emigration on a wide scale in order to solve the problem of overpopulation with its attendant results, unemployment, poverty, and malnutrition.

Before the great depression, in the period 1926—31, about 175,000 persons a year emigrated from Poland. One of the manifestations of the universal economic crisis was the discontinuance of emigration possibilities in all lands. Poland's emigration is now practically without significance.

The situation of the country would have found an immediate solution had Poland, like other Powers, overseas territories at her disposal. She could then find accommodation for her surplus population, a market for her products and raw materials. The League of Nations and other organizations interested in world peace might well now turn their constructive attention to these great problems of overpopulation and seek their solution by peaceful means, having learned from recent experience the disasters which follow when problems of population seek their own solution. When the time of the heralded discussion on the subject of the re-distribution of overseas territories comes, Poland's necessity of finding an outlet for her excess population should be considered along with the demands presented by other nations.



The new sail boat of the Gdynia YMCA

## Gdynia YMCA Launches a Yacht

The Yacht Club of the Gdynia YMCA has secured rather a firstclass small sail boat and begun its career upon the water. The boat is a very popular addition to the equipment of the Gdynia Association. This association is now in process of buying a lot upon which in due course will be erected a YMCA building, a \$75,000 project.



Major-General Edward Rydz-Śmigły

## First Adviser to the President of the Republic

The high moral authority of General Rydz-Śmigły has recently received official recognition in a decree issued by the Prime Minister that apart from General Rydz-Śmigły's position as Inspector-General of the Army and Commander-in-Chief in case of war, he is to be officially recognised as the first adviser to the President and in that capacity the chief person of the Republic after the President. The President is elected for a definite term of 7 years, premiers and cabinets change from time to time; it is the thought of this order that General Rydz-Śmigły is to represent the element of permanency and stability in the councils of the state.

When Marshal Pilsudski died in 1935 he designated General Rydz-Śmigły, who surely stood next to Marshal Pilsudski in the esteem of the nation, as his successor at the head of the armed forces. The designation met with universal approval, and from that day the moral authority of the general has been recognized and respected.

It is hard to give a picture of personality in a few words. General Rydz-Śmigły is 50 years old, long recognized as a strategist and military officer of extraordinary ability, but along with these qualities often found in soldiers, General Rydz-Śmigły combines personal qualities not always found in military men. He is a landscape and portrait painter of recognized standing, a man of superior intellectual parts, friendly in his personality, somewhat liberal in his social and economic tendencies, and yet, notwithstanding these peaceful qualities of mind, he has the determination and strength of character necessary to his high position as, next to the President, the deciding factor in Polish affairs. General Rydz-Śmigły has long been a member of the honorary committee of the Warsaw YMCA.

It is appropriate to speak of the head of the Polish Army at this time, for as this issue is being completed Poland is celebrating August 15th the national "Holiday of the Soldiers", the date upon which the Polish Army, following the strategy and leadership of the late Marshal Pilsudski, stopped and turned back the Bolshevik Invasion of the summer of 1920, and in that act, referred to by the eminent British statesman Lord d'Abernon as "the 18th decisive battle of the world", saved European civilization from the greatest menace it has experienced for many a decade.

## Warsaw Y Extension Plans

At the June meeting of the Board of Directors of the Warsaw YMCA a general plan was adopted for the expansion of that association throughout the city. Its \$900,000 building will be completed in 1937 and coincident with its completion a movement will be launched to build 5 small buildings in different parts of the city devoted entirely to work for working people. These will be located in those parts of the city in which the working population is chiefly found.

## Hitler Jugend Visit Poland

When a group of older German boys from Frankfurt-on-Main, "Hitler Jugend", told the Polish Consul in that city that they would like to visit Poland and then have a group of Polish boys come to their country on a return visit, the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs asked the Polish YMCA to take care of this exchange of visits. The 11 German boys were met at the Polish frontier, escorted through some of the chief Polish cities and finally taken to the well equipped summer camp of the Polish YMCA in the Carpathian Mountains, Mszana Dolna. There they spent a week with the Polish boys and then with 11 boys from Poland they together went to Germany. Their entertainment in Germany consisted among other things of a ride over Frankfurt in the great new zeppelin "Hindenburg", a courtesy never before extended to any visiting group. The German boys and the Polish boys both speak enthusiastically of their respective visits. Events of this kind do much to cement international friendship.



The Hitler Jugend from Frankfurt with Mr. Lewandowski, director of the Krakow YMCA.

## Krakow Y Developments

A few years ago the Krakow YMCA secured several rooms as a place in which to do temporary work for a group of very poor boys, at that time 40 in number. The success of this work so commended it to the leaders of the Association and of the city that what was taken up as a temporary matter has now become a permanent establishment. An apartment of one large room and 8 small ones has now been engaged and in this, firstclass permanent work for poorer boys will be begun the 1st of September. The rooms accommodate about 300 boys. For those who are utterly homeless and without any sort of protection the YMCA is building a small building which will at first house 20 and later 40 or 50 boys. In the YMCA the boys will then receive their housing, food, clothing, education and, through the cooperation of two young priests, religious instruction.

The boat-house on the Vistula has proved a great success during the summer. Thus the Krakow YMCA is developing in four distinct points; its central building, its boat-house, its rooms for poor boys, and its home for deserted boys. It is not much wonder that this Association is well thought of in the city.

