

Krakow Conference

Because of their cooperative relations with the YMCA movements of America, England, Scotland, and Canada, most of the YMCA movements within the triangle Estonia, Italy, and Istanbul form a fraternal unit. For two years the leaders of these movements have been meeting in a May conference for an exchange of ideas and experience. The fact that the Estonian YMCA is predominantly Protestant, the Polish YMCA predominantly Catholic, and that of Jugoslavia predominantly Orthodox makes no difference. Mutual toleration and respect for each other's religious faith is the well understood basis of the conference.

This year the May conference is to be held in Krakow. May 18 to 26, just after Whitsuntide and just before Corpus Christi, two great religious holidays the seeing of which in an old Catholic city like Krakow adds a tourist interest to the conference. The governor of the province and the mayor of the city will join in the welcome to the members of the conference. We are hoping for guests from England, Sweden and Denmark also, delegates from the first two of these countries having been present last year and made very useful contributions to the discussions.



Colonel Adam Koc.

Towards Unity

Sunday afternoon, February 21, Colonel Adam Koc broadcast a speech to all Poland launching a new political movement planned to bind all Polish citizens in a united movement for the strengthening of the country. He proposed nine main points of policy as the basis of action and asked for the cooperation and active participation of all elements of the population.

His appeal has met with the expected favorable response and organizations of all sorts are declaring their purpose of participating in this new movement.

In these days of powerful unified nations on both sides of her, Poland cannot permit herself the doubtful luxury of party divisions and divided counsels. A movement is needed which rises above all parties and provides a policy and a place to work for all citizens of good will and constructive purposes. Such a movement Colonel Koc, with the full backing of Marshal Smigly-Rydz and other leaders, is proceeding to organize. The prospects of success are good.

The chief bases of the policy proposed by Colonel Koc are as follows:

1. The maintaining of the constitution of 1935, creating a strong executive in the person of the President of the Republic.
2. The army, powerful, respected and believed in by all Poles.
3. The State as the organizer of the life of the nation.
4. The Catholic faith as the historic faith of most Poles, and full toleration of other religious faiths.
5. Opposition to communism, recognition of personal property and individual initiative, but regulation of production by the State. Improvement of the lot of the peasants, who constitute a majority of the nation. No class hatred. State control of relations between employers and employed. State opposition to all social exploitation.
6. Complete modification of the structure of the agricultural class so as to strengthen their economic life and improve rural conditions.
7. Serious efforts to reduce unemployment.
8. State support for scientific work, and such art and literary efforts as interpret and support the moral and spiritual values of the nation.
9. Respect for the individuality of minority elements so long as they do not endanger the interests of the State.

Poles Like to Read

The Warsaw Public Library Association has just opened the 32nd of its series of small public libraries, serving chiefly the people in the poorer districts of the city. They do a world of good. The report shows that the readers draw an average of 37 books a year.

New Industrial Center

For years my wife and I had planned to visit Sandomierz, Poland's romantic mediaeval city on the Vistula River, some 100 miles south of Warsaw, but it was 200 miles there by rail and we never went. Then last year a new railroad was opened up which put Sandomierz only four hours from Warsaw by fast train and in August we made the trip. We were delighted with the old city, located on a high bank of the Vistula in a pleasant region, and regretted that so interesting a place, once a thriving walled city and a royal seat, should have lost its place in life. We wondered if the new railroad would not put it back on the map.

Now comes the announcement that the government plans to make Sandomierz, located in the very heart of the country, a new industrial center, with supporting agricultural and commercial activities. Great sums are to be spent on the development of the region, rich in possibilities, and Sandomierz, with its interesting Renaissance city hall, beautiful gate-tower from the middle ages, fine cathedral, old churches, and quaint streets, is again to play an important part in Polish life. It should become a tourist point also.



Sandomierz. Gate in the old city wall.

International Broadcast

Dr. Stanislaw Snieszko, a member of the Board of Directors of the Krakow YMCA, and the leader of the Y's Men's Clubs for the European district, will talk over the radio about Poland and the Polish YMCA, April 7th, 6.30 p.m. central European time. His talk will be broadcast to all the world from Station S.P.W., using the 22 meter short wave, 10 kw. antenna.



Sandomierz, Vistula River front, Old Castle and Cathedral.



Map of Sandomierz. 1. Renaissance City Hall. 2. Mediaeval City Gate. 3. Old Royal Castle. 4. Cathedral. 5. Mediaeval granary. 6. 7. 9. 10. Churches, several very old.

Our Furlough

In March I complete 15 years of service with the Polish YMCA, and June 1st Mrs. Super and I are to receive our first furlough, to last until November 10. We expect to spend a while in London and to reach New York late in June. Our plans to date include visits to our homes in Savannah, Georgia, St. Louis, Missouri, and Montclair, New Jersey, a vacation in New England, and a re-study of the American YMCA movement. In our journeyings we expect to see many of the readers of "News From Poland", friends old and new.



Sandomierz. Renaissance City Hall.

