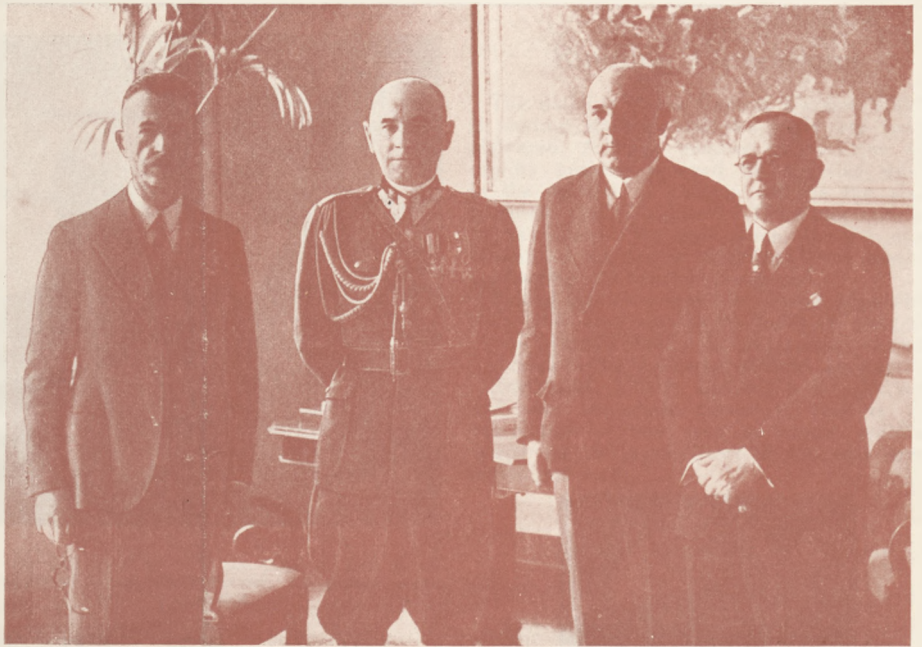


The Krakow Conference

During the middle of May, 26 national and local general secretaries representing the YMCA movements of 8 countries, the World's Committee, and the Springfield YMCA College, met in Krakow, Poland's ancient capital, lovely in its May sunshine and mediaeval buildings, for conference and an exchange of experience, the meeting lasting 9 days. The countries represented were, Estonia, Poland, Roumania, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, and Turkey. The delegates were received by Governor Gnoinski in his official residence and by Dr. Kaplicki, President of the City, in the City Hall, an old Renaissance palace of great interior beauty.

The conference, of which this was the second bi-annual meeting, is somewhat unique, as it is doubtless one of the most far-reaching pieces of cooperation of Protestants, Catholics, and Orthodox leaders on a basis of complete equality and mutual respect to be found anywhere in the world. The next meeting, to be held in 1939, will take place in one of the Balkan States, probably in Yugoslavia, which latter country was not represented this year owing to an unfortunate conflict of dates which arose at the last minute and required the presence of the Yugoslav leaders at home.

The conference passes no resolutions. It is merely an exchange of experience regarding mutual problems and in areas in which similar activities are conducted.



Left to right, Mr. Ponikiewski, Marshal Smigly-Rydz, Dr. Dyboski, Paul Super.

Marshal Smigly-Rydz and the Polish YMCA Delegation

Marshal Edward Smigly-Rydz, Poland's chief citizen after the President of the Republic, early in June received a delegation from the Polish YMCA for the presentation by the delegation of the handsomely prepared parchment document conferring upon the Marshal the Polish YMCA's highest dignity, the title "First Honorary Member".

It was no merely formal reception, the Marshal entering into friendly discussion with the YMCA men for over half-an-hour, going over the affairs of the Polish YMCA and taking up topics suggested by the Association's activities. At the close of the audience the accompanying photograph was taken.

The friendly natural manner of the Marshal, a front-rank man in European affairs, always deeply impresses his guests. One soon finds himself deep in conversation as with an old friend, and has to remind himself that this pleasant gentleman of such marked personal charm is one of the most powerful men on the Continent. My own reaction is one of satisfaction that the affairs of Poland are in such safe, honorable, and capable hands.

Naturally the Marshal's interest in the Polish YMCA and his acceptance of its highest honor is greatly appreciated by the Association.

The delegation consisted of Mr. Marian Ponikiewski, president of the Polish YMCA, Dr. Tadeusz Dyboski, vice-president, and Mr. Paul Super, general director.

The Warsaw building

Work has begun on the exterior finish of the Warsaw YMCA building, to be completed early in the autumn. After this there remains

Growth

The annual report of the Polish YMCA for the fiscal year just closed shows 17,012 different persons enrolled in activities in its three large and two small buildings as compared with a little over 12,000 a year ago.

Of these, 12,418 were enrolled in physical department activities, as compared with 8,858 last year.

Of the above 17,012 persons, 6,653 are men and boys belonging to the Association, 1544 are women members, and the other 8,815 are men and women, boys and girls, belonging to non-member groups using the YMCA building at regular hours.

The daily attendance at each of the three large buildings runs about 1500 a day.

One Association, Lodz, gave 2829 physical examinations in its physical department during the year.

3239 members are enrolled in 175 organized clubs and groups in the five Associations.

38 secretaries and 847 volunteer workers conduct the activities.

858 men and women were in the educational classes, compared with 580 a year ago.

1461 enrolled readers used the 14,078 books, a reader for each 10 books.

The year closed with receipts slightly exceeding expenditures. The current expense budget for the year now begun calls for Zl.1,135,993.30, which is \$216,368.24, all but about \$2,100 of which will come from Polish sources.

to be done only the large auditorium, for which purpose funds are now being sought, some \$25,000 being needed. It would be a splendid memorial hall, with the exception of Parliament the only large auditorium in its section of the city. There is no debt on the building and the \$900,000 plant will be completed free of encumbrance.



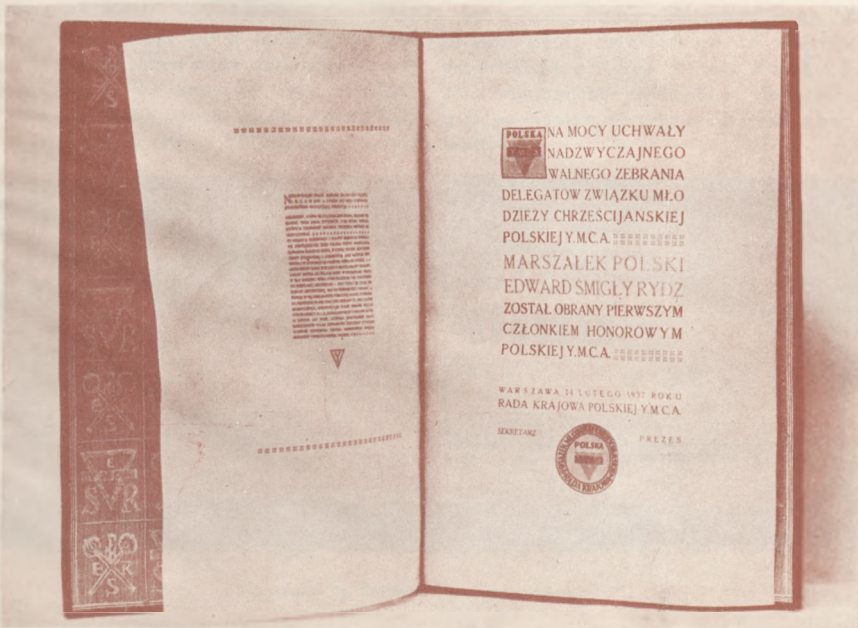
Mr. Anthony J. Drexel Biddle, new Ambassador of the United States to Poland, presenting his credentials to Dr. Ignacy Moscicki, President of the Republic.

Personal

As this issue goes to print Mr. and Mrs. Paul Super are on their way to the United States for their first furlough after fifteen years of service with the Polish YMCA. They will spend a week in London and then proceed to the United States, where they expect to remain until November 1st.

As usual there will be no August issue of "News From Poland". Issue No. 8 will appear in September.

During Mr. Super's absence the issues of "News From Poland" will be prepared by A. E. Zawisza.



The parchment document presented Marshal Smigly-Rydz conferring upon him the title of "First Honorary Member of the Polish YMCA".

