

No. 3 News From Poland 1939

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Winter Sports

During the past ten years Poland has increasingly become a center for winter sports. Deep snow in the mountains, weather only a comfortable number of degrees below freezing, newly developed winter hotels and sport facilities at Zakopane, Krynica, and other places, 17 in all, sport trains to the skiing centers, and above all, a new attitude toward sports for young and middle aged, have combined to establish Poland as a ski and winter resort.

This year, as this goes to press, the international winter sports known as F.I.S. are being held in Poland at Zakopane in the Carpathian Mountains 50 miles south of Krakow, February 11-19, with a rich program of ski racing, ski jumping, and slalom. Zakopane's winter tourist accommodations are estimated as caring for 12,000 persons, and new hotels are going up each year both in the town and out at the best skiing places.

The countries taking part are Canada, England, France, Germany, Italy, Finland, Hungary, Norway, Roumania, Sweden, Switzerland, Jugoslavia, and Poland. The contests are for the championship of the world in the ski sports.

For these international contests the Polish YMCA has offered a handsome prize for the youngest Pole winning points in the events.

Four Veterans

The transfer of Mr. Walter Sikorski from Krakow to Lodz to take charge of the large physical department in that growing Association brings four veterans into the four chief positions in that Association. The other three of the quartette are: Mr. Trypka, the general secretary, Mr. Kozłowski, the program chief, and Mr. Cackowski, the business secretary; all have been with the Polish YMCA from its very beginning; all of them served the Polish soldiers in 1920 as YMCA secretaries, and before that all of them were themselves soldiers in the World War. Three of the four have in recent years received the Silver Cross of Merit from the Polish Government. We rather expect something of that combination, all of them under 45 years old, all knowing the discipline of war, all tested YMCA workers, all of them having at least one year of education abroad.

The Beauty And Joys Of Deep Snow

Winter Scenes In The Polish Mountains



Starting home. High mountains, deep snow, late afternoon sun, twilight clouds.

Polish Pavilion

The Polish Pavilion at the New York World's Fair will be officially opened May 3 with a solemn Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. This date is chosen because it is a Polish national holiday in honor of the adoption of its great liberal Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791. Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. and at 3 p.m. the Pavilion will be opened to the public with appropriate ceremonies. Poland's Minister of Commerce, Mr. Antoni Roman, will be present, with a large delegation from Poland. A Rodzinski concert in Carnegie Hall, a Polish Ballet, and an official banquet will round out the day's program.

Sport Notes

Early in February the Warsaw wrestling team went to Koenigsberg for a wrestling match in which the Poles defeated the Germans 15-8. A day later the Polish boxing team in Poznan, Poland, defeated the Hungarian boxers 14-2.

Growing

A recent comparison of our work with its status a year ago. December 1937, shows some interesting facts. The membership of the Polish YMCA December 31, 1937 was 8,957 and December 31, 1938 it had reached 10,649, neither of these figures including the thousands of non-members enrolled in gymnasia and swimming classes. The enrollment in educational classes rose in the same period from 1015 to 1093; physical department enrollment, 4285 members to 5,316 members, plus about 9000 non-members each year. Group work enrollment increased from 3015 in 190 groups to 3322 in 195 groups. Our two boys' camps grew to three. The current expense budget grew from \$224,062 to \$283,019. One detail is of special interest; there are now 882 boys in the working boys' branch of the Warsaw YMCA, against 548 a year ago. A third secretary has been added. Very little of this is mass work; the whole program is based on intensive group work. We have discovered the wide possibilities of work in this field and are seeking means of expansion; area; the money can be obtained.



