

Poland  
(1948)

# POLAND

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## OF TODAY

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Ludmila Murawska at work . . . . . See page 10

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- ZOFIA NALKOWSKA — POLISH NOVELIST
- POLISH RED CROSS AFTER THE WAR
- A THIRTEEN YEAR OLD ARTIST

**PRICE 10 CENTS**

# POLISH — SOVIET AGREEMENTS

THE TREATIES BETWEEN POLAND and the USSR, signed in Moscow on January 26, 1948, have a significance that reaches far beyond the borders of the two countries. They invite a comparison with the situation in the West, with its economic instability, its wrangling over the Marshall Plan, the mutual distrust and disunity among close allies.

In contrast, the Moscow agreements indicate a clear political and economic line directed toward a well-defined goal and contemplate the use of adequate means to achieve it.

The signing of the economic treaties was preceded by an exchange of views on the international situation, disclosing complete agreement between the two governments. Although this disclosure is not novel, it nevertheless loses none of its significance, since it shows that so far the positions of both Poland and the Soviet Union with regard to international problems have not undergone any major change.

Two economic treaties were signed in Moscow. The first sets up the conditions for the exchange of goods for the period of 1948 to 1952, and establishes the basic quantities of the mutual deliveries, which will amount to over 1 billion dollars for each of the contracting parties. Under the terms of the agreement, the extent of the shipments will be decided upon annually, and the prices will be fixed according to prevailing world market conditions.

Under the terms of the second treaty, the Soviet Union agreed to grant Poland an intermediate-term credit of \$450 million. The USSR will supply Poland with all types of industrial machinery, such as equipment for smelters, for the power industry, for chemical, metal and textile plants and machinery for the reconstruction of towns and harbors.

What appears of particular importance is the extent of the credit. Neither in the period between the two world wars, nor after the last war, did Poland ever receive such large credits from any other country. Another charac-

teristic is the fact that this money is to be used exclusively for investment purposes. The post-war credits extended to Poland so far were mainly for consumption, and so were almost all the loans she received before the war. While credits of this type make the debtor entirely dependent upon the lender and place the advantages solely on the latter's side, investment credits enable the debtor to gain economic independence.

The Moscow economic agreements will greatly help step up the tempo of reconstruction in Poland, and will not have any unfavorable effect upon her trade with other countries. On the contrary, by speeding up Poland's economic rehabilitation, they will enhance her export and import possibilities.

Even from this brief summary it can be seen how important were the Moscow treaties and what advantages they give to Poland. As a result, Poland's political and economic position has been further and decisively consolidated.

(From *Rzeczpospolita*)

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## POLAND of TODAY

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# *Declaration of the Foreign Ministers of Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia regarding the Problem of Germany*

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*On February 23, 1948, the Ambassadors of Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia presented identical notes to the State Department. The notes contained the text of the declaration regarding the problem of Germany, issued by the three Foreign Ministers of Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia following their meeting in Prague on February 17 and 18, 1948. The original text was published in French, while the following is an official English translation:*

“On February 17 and 18, the conference of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia on the problems concerning Germany, took place in Praha (Prague). During the conference, the three Ministers have reached a full conformity of opinion with regard to the entirety of the questions relating to the problem of Germany and have adopted the following resolution:

The Governments of Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia state with concern that the development of the situation in Germany takes place in a direction contrary to the principles upon which are based the declaration of the three Powers signed at Yalta on February 11, 1945, and the agreement signed at Potsdam on August 2, 1945, which drew the only correct conclusion from the experiences of many decades and the victory won over Hitlerism at the cost of innumerable victims—principles whose consistent application in the whole territory of Germany is an essential and indispensable prerequisite for the safeguarding of peace for the countries of Europe.

The three Governments declare that the creation in western Germany of a distinct political organism undermines the very foundations of the security in Europe, the indispensable condition for which is the joint control of Germany by the four occupying powers. This action, which represents one of the methods tending to divide Europe into two opposing blocs leads on the one hand

to an artificial transformation of western Germany contrary to the natural development into a political instrument of a single power; on the other hand, this action leads to the encouragement of the revisionist German nationalism and militarism which may become the source of a new aggression, aimed again in the first place against Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia, against the Slav nations, and consequently against the whole of Europe. Considering that this action is contrary to the obligations of the Allies and to the contents of agreements binding upon all signatories; stating that any partition of Germany is contrary to the interests of Europe, to the interests of Germany's neighbors and to the peaceful development of the German people; stating that strengthening of the German democratic forces on the territory of the united Germany is the only road leading to a proper solution of the German problem—the three Governments protest against such action embarked upon, in defiance of the opinion of the countries most interested, as submitted by them at the conference of the Deputy Foreign Ministers in London in 1947, and without regard to the Council of Foreign Ministers which alone is capable to deal with this matter.

The three Governments demand the full implementation of the declaration of the Four Great Powers of June 5, 1945, which is at present disregarded, the resolution concerning the Control Council, and the Potsdam resolutions concerning the Council of Foreign Ministers which provide for consultation by the Four Great Powers with the Governments of the other United Nations on the subject of the exercise of the supreme power in Germany and for the examination of the problems in which they are directly interested.

The three Governments believe that the program of demilitarization of Germany as provided for has been abandoned in the western zones, that the liquidation of the first category of war plants has been restricted, that military formations of emigrant groups are tolerated,

that a German industrial police has been set up—all this being in contradiction with the declaration of June 5, 1945, with the Potsdam agreement and with the resolutions of the Moscow conference of 1947. Neither has the liquidation of cartels been carried out in the western zones.

The three Governments are concerned about the fact that the program for the democratization and denazification of Germany is not being carried out. There is an increasing number of instances of Nazis being appointed to leading positions, which inevitably causes harmful consequences and understandably perturbs public opinion in all peace-loving countries.

The three Governments, while recognizing the importance of the fact that the normalization of the economic life in Germany is to be carried out on a sound foundation which would not threaten the security and peace of Europe, nevertheless declare with apprehension that the recent plan of the reconstruction of western Germany constitutes a menace to the peacetime economic structure of postwar Europe.

The three Governments consider it necessary to stress once more the necessity of applying the just principle of priority of the reconstruction of the countries devastated by German aggression and they therefore consider it necessary to state that the priority of the reconstruction of Germany, before the reconstruction of the countries devastated by German aggression, as is being at present done unilaterally, endangers the principles of equity and justice and conflicts with the interests of the nations of Europe. This policy, pursued within the framework of what is being called the European Recovery Program and aiming at the setting up in practice of a western German state with a considerable war potential, conflicts with the interests of security and with the speedy and effective economic reconstruction of the nations of Europe. The three Governments demand that Germany fulfill the just reparation claims which she will be able to meet on the basis of increase of production in such a way that the provisions of Article 15B of the Potsdam agreement be complied with.

The three Governments state that although the British and American occupation authorities do not formally place in doubt the right to reparations, they have worked out a program of reparations quite insignificant in relation to the direct damages. Later they reduced even this program to one-third and have never instituted the payment of reparation obligations from current production and services.

The reparations to which the Czechoslovak and Yugoslav countries participating in the inter-allied Reparations Agency are entitled, have as a result become almost

illusory. Furthermore, Poland is not receiving the reparations to which she is entitled, because the USSR is not receiving from the western zones the reparations which she has the right to expect and in which, under the Potsdam agreement, Poland is to share. All this constitutes an injustice with regard to the countries which have suffered the greatest damage from German occupation.

The three Governments demand the observance and application of the decisions accepted by the United Nations concerning the prosecution and punishment of persons responsible for war crimes. The three Governments are in particular of the opinion that the unilateral measures and actions taken by the occupation authorities in western Germany, which actually reduce to nil in practice the principles of prosecuting and punishing war criminals, constitute a unilateral violation of the decision and legal instruments accepted by a common accord of all the United Nations.

The three Governments view with concern the revival in western Germany of forces acting against peace, the spreading of revisionist slogans, exploiting for their ends the German population transferred there on the basis of the Allied decisions. The three Governments point out that it is impossible to tolerate in the western zones organizations, whose aim is a criminal action of revenge. The three Governments demand that measures be taken to speed up the assimilation of such transferred Germans with their present environment and to render impossible legally and effectively any revisionist activity.

The Foreign Ministers of Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia having met in Praha, raise their voice on behalf of the nations which were the first victims of Nazi aggression and which made the greatest sacrifices in the ceaseless struggle against it, to warn against the attempt at present being made to achieve a solution of the German question which, contrary to the vital interests of the nations of Europe, would transform Germany into a hotbed of troubles and an instrument of new aggressions, endangering the peaceful development of Europe and the European civilization which was saved during the last war by the joint action of the democratic forces of the whole world.

The three Governments are convinced that cooperation between the Allies of the recent war and the recognition of the immense share taken by the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia in the struggle against fascist aggression, as well as respect for the principles of the quadripartite Allied control over the entire territory of Germany and the principle imposing the need of consultation with Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia, and all the other countries directly concerned on matters affecting them are guarantees of enduring peace and security in Europe."

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# POLISH NAVIGATION and RECONSTRUCTION of EUROPE

By *Aleksander Lenowicz-Gordin*

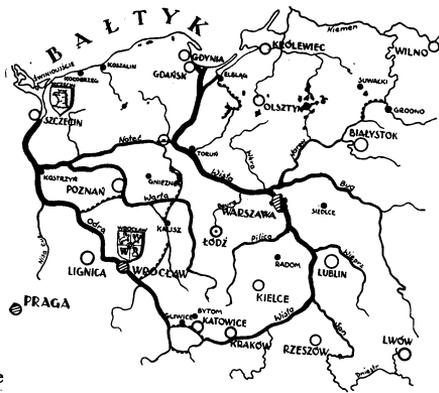
POLAND HAS A sea-coast of 310 miles—a fact of prime importance for the development of Polish foreign trade. Once her harbors are fully utilized, Poland's share in world trade will increase steadily.

## North-South, East-West

A look at the map shows clearly that the Polish seacoast offers the best possibilities for communication between Europe's South (the Balkans) and North (Scandinavia) as well as between East and West. Even before the war Gdynia and Gdansk (which then was within the Polish customs zone) were gaining in importance as transit centers for the countries of Central Europe. In 1936 transit through the Polish ports totaled 794,000 tons and in 1937 it reached as high as 1,434,000 tons.

But at that time they had to compete with the excellent facilities of the German port cities (Hamburg, Bremen, Luebeck and Stettin) which relied on a system of such waterways as the Oder and Elbe Rivers.

Under conditions today, the advantage is all on the Polish side. German commercial power is a thing of the past. Szczecin and the Oder River in its navigable waters are part of Polish territory, and in addition to Gdynia and Gdansk Poland has a number of smaller harbors. Thanks to the railroad network Szczecin - Koszalin - Gdynia - Gdansk - Elblag, this entire area is linked together so as to form one geographic unit. Consequently Poland stands today almost alone as a bidder for the transit trade between Central Europe and Scandinavia. This explains the



profound interest which such countries as Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Austria manifest in the Polish seacoast and the Oder system. One concrete proof of this interest is the projected Danube-Oder canal.

Independently of communications in the north-southern direction, there is a marked development of the shipping trade between East and West. In the system of harbors servicing the Slav countries, Szczecin is the westernmost. It can therefore be assumed that in the trade between Soviet Russia and the countries of Western Europe Szczecin will figure largely as a transit center, since the rapid land traffic will prove much more economical than the slow sea route via the Northern Baltic Sea.

## Coal — Poland's Number One Export

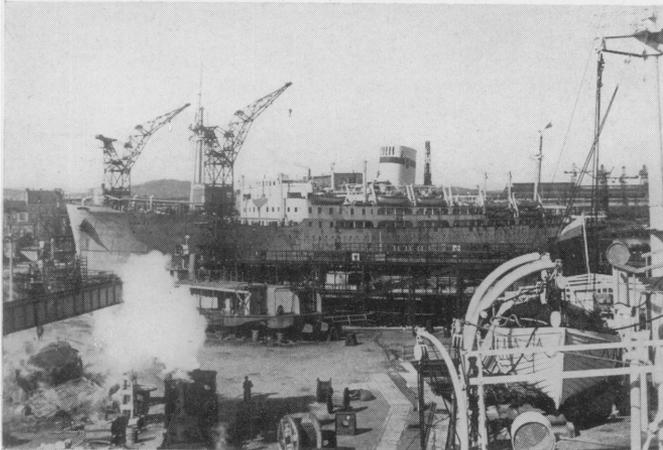
Today coal is already the principal commodity handled in Polish ports. The following figures will illustrate the rapid increase in the export of Polish coal over the past three years:

1945 .....	5,579,000 tons
1946 .....	15,662,000 "
1947 .....	18,500,000 "

Plans for 1948 call for a coal export of 25,000,000 tons, and in 1950-51 it is to reach the 35 million mark.

In 1947 coal was shipped to Sweden, USSR, Denmark, Norway, Finland, France, Holland, Italy,

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*M. S. Sobieski in Her Home Harbor*

Switzerland, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Romania, England, Austria and Iceland. In 1948 almost all of Europe will receive coal supplies from Poland. European needs in 1950 are estimated at some 100 million tons of which England and the Ruhr can supply 50 to 60 million at most. This fact bears out the great importance of Polish coal for the economic rehabilitation of Europe. It also points to the significant role of Poland's Baltic ports: there the vast majority of all the shipments to be used for Europe's reconstruction will be loaded.

Other Polish exports, too, will be handled in those parts, chief among the items being textiles, iron products, glass and porcelain. Polish china goods are already obtainable on the American market.

#### Improvements Urgent

At the present moment Polish harbor facilities are only partially utilized. Removal of rubble still continues, and not all the harbors are as yet within the sphere of international exchange of goods. Reconstruction work proceeds rapidly in Derlow and Kolobrzeg so that these two ports will soon be in use.

But most important of all for a

full utilization of Polish ports is the development of the inland waterways. The Baltic ports which are for the most part situated at the estuaries of big rivers have excellent communication possibilities with the industrial-mining districts of Silesia. The Oder and its right-bank tributary, the Warta River, linked with the Vistula by a canal, rank foremost in this respect. Improved navigation on the Vistula and the construction of a Krakow-Silesia-Oder canal will create a system of inland water arteries which will link the country's major industrial centers with the ports at the Vistula and Oder estuaries.

No less of an innovation will be the improved rail communications between Silesia and the ports of Gdynia and Gdansk. Before the war a trunk line was already built in order to facilitate the transportation of coal to the harbors and of iron ore to the smelting works of Silesia. This line calls for further extension.

Another contributing factor toward a greater merchandise turnover will be the steadily progressing reconstruction and development of Szczecin. Even now the construction of such facilities as shipyards, cold storage houses, canneries, has resulted in higher export figures.

Naturally all these innovations and improvements call for considerable investments, and it goes without saying that foreign credits could greatly accelerate the tempo of this work which will prove of such vast importance for the return of prosperity to all of Europe.

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## TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENTS IN 1948

The investment plan for 1948 provides for a total sum of 34 billion zlotys for transportation purposes. On these 201 billion are assigned for railroads, 5.7 billion for highways, 3.3 billion for waterways, 1.2 billion for airlines, and the balance is for the purchase of buses and vessels.

Railroad expenditures are designated chiefly for the repair of damaged lines. Of new lines the plan considers first of all the line between Tomaszow Mazowiecki and Radom, part of which is already in operation.

As far as repairs are concerned, work will be concentrated on the Warsaw railroad junction, including the enlargement of the cross-town tunnel and the railroad bridge, and the extension of Szczecin harbor. Over 10 billion zlotys have been earmarked for the purchase of new cars (among them 11,000 freight cars) and 170 locomotives.

Expenditures for highways comprise the reconstruction of 1000 miles of highways that were completely destroyed during the war. Priority goes to the main arteries, while roads of lesser importance will have to wait for a later period.

As regards waterways, efforts will be concentrated on navigation on the Vistula and Oder Rivers. Among the undertakings already accomplished is the canal linking Lake Goplo with the Warta River, and repair work in the Vistula-Oder Canal has also been completed. And as for airways, major sums have been appropriated for the construction and extension of the Warsaw and Gdansk airfields.



*Believe me, I'll come home to you . . .*

# ZOFIA NALKOWSKA

By *Ryszard Matuszewski*

IN A SURVEY OF Poland's most prominent contemporary writers it would be impossible not to mention the name of Zofia Nalkowska. Of the fifteen members who made up the Polish Academy of Literature in 1939, only seven were alive in 1945, and one of them was Zofia Nalkowska.

★ ★ ★

Zofia Nalkowska is a psychological writer, her chief interest centers around man and his complex inner world. She has the esteem of her colleagues, and this not necessarily because before the war she was a member of the Academy (which incidentally has not yet been reinstated). The composition of the Academy of Literature in the years preceding the war was not always well-advanced. Many noted writers were barred by the semi-fascist government then in power, because of their liberal and progressive attitude. But not even the most biased of judges could have ignored Zofia Nalkowska. She was considered an authority in the field of literature, no matter what views she held.

In point of fact, Zofia Nalkowska's views reflected faithfully the era and milieu in which she grew up. It was the era of the expiring 19th and the dawn of the 20th century, with their inspiring slogans of progress and democracy.

Her father, Waclaw Nalkowski, a noted geographer, was one of the noblest figures in the Polish scientific

world at the time. He was an ardent champion of freedom of thought, an exponent of rationalism, an enlightened educator, and an implacable foe of bigotry, narrow-mindedness and social injustice.

"Thanks to my father, things were made easy for me since my early childhood days, and there was nothing for my youth to rebel against," writes Miss Nalkowska in her recently published memoirs. "He took it for granted that the problems of childhood were not to be treated lightly, and that all questions were permitted. Women ought to have the same rights as men. . . . All nationalities and creeds were equal. The world of the landed nobility with its prejudices and illusions had long ceased to exist. . . . Property was something to be ashamed of, money and wealth were . . . suspect and questionable."

Zofia Nalkowska's young womanhood coincided with the years of Poland's fierce struggle for independence from the Tsarist yoke and for a just and liberal government. The majority of the honest and clear-thinking youth were associated with the Socialist movement. Nalkowska too had close contacts with these progressive trends of her time. Of her two successive marriages, the first was with an educator and idealist whose whole life was devoted to the welfare of youth. The second—even more romantic—was with a revolutionary of the Polish Socialist Party. He was the central hero of an excellently planned attack on the Tsarist prison in Warsaw, which ended with the liberation of ten patriots held as political prisoners.



*Zofia Nalkowska*

Neither of the two marriages, however, brought lasting happiness for Zofia Nalkowska. In the days after World War II the former revolutionary and fighter became a prominent figure in the Pilsudski regime. Though Zofia was sentimentally and socially connected with the people of the Pilsudski camp, she kept more and more aloof as they increasingly revealed tendencies associated with the fascist movement then spreading over Europe. Her circle was made up of people who like herself, valued sober and independent thinking. She remained true to the ideals of her father, and above all, she was a writer at heart.

## Her Works Are Translated

Her work is characterized by a high regard for man's intellectual attainment, his aspirations and his emotions, and by a sympathetic understanding of his weaknesses and vices. Nalkowska's novels and her less numerous plays deal with the basic problems of our contemporary customs and morals. Some, like the problem of woman's unsatisfied longing for love, or the problem of marital fidelity, may be called eternal problems. But Nalkowska's contribu-

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Mr. Ryszard Matuszewski is one of the editors of the Lodz literary weekly *Kuznica* (The Forge).

tion consists in depicting the extremely complicated social and moral background of our time as a determining influence in these intimate relations. She is also interested in crime as a moral problem. *The Frontier* (Granica), her most mature work, which was awarded the Grand Prize of Poland in 1937, deals with the imperceptible yet definitely drawn borderline between that which is permissible and that which constitutes crime. Another novel, *The Walls of the World* (Sciany Swiata), was completely devoted to the pathological disturbances arising from conflicts with the prevailing order of things.

Zofia Nalkowska spent the two decades between the world wars in Warsaw. Year by year her books were being published and translated into almost all the European languages, while her plays were staged successfully in Poland and abroad. Her reputation and standing as a writer was firmly established and growing steadily. And around her gathered a group of young writers, devoted and loyal friends, for whom she always had a word of advice and encouragement in their struggles with the difficult job of writing. Many a prominent young prose writer—among them such men as Tadeusz Breza, Adolf Rudnicki and Jerzy Zawieyski—were her “disciples” and habitués of her “salon.”

The outbreak of the war found Zofia Nalkowska in the immediate environs of Warsaw and there she stayed for the duration. Her house remained open to all her friends, quite a few of whom had to hide from persecution; some made the supreme sacrifice, in defense of freedom and human dignity. It was in those days of strife and decision that Zofia Nalkowska, always closely associated with the ideals of progress, democracy, social morality and rationalism, came very close to the men and women of the leftist camp.

When in the winter of 1946 the

Polish troops, fighting side by side with the Soviet army, crossed the Vistula and liberated the rest of Poland—and with it what remained of Poland's capital—the first person whom Jerzy Borejsza, one of Poland's most active press organizers, tried to find, was Zofia Nalkowska.

#### The Author of Medalions

Having lost her home, the author lives at present in Lodz, in an apartment offered her by the Writers' Association in the “Writers' House,” where she continues her work as before. Her first post-war book *Medalions* consists of a series of short stories, accounts and descriptions of Nazi death camps. It is more than the mere discharge of a moral obligation to those who lost their lives in the great human tragedy. While representing a harsh indictment of German atrocities, the book is at the same time an enduring document of Nalkowska's great artistry in rendering the unspeakable horror and uncanniness of the scenes described. After having thus freed herself from the nightmare of dark memories, Miss Nalkowska is now about to finish a great novel of manners, dealing with events in the years preceding the

war. The first part of this novel, which is entitled *Bonds of Life* (Wezly Zycia), has already appeared in one of Poland's most popular literary magazines, and the book in its entirety is due to come out in print shortly.

Zofia Nalkowska's biography would be incomplete if we did not mention that which, apart from her outstanding talent, constitutes the secret of her success in life, namely her great personal charm. It is this combination of charm, subtle intelligence and culture, which constitutes the unusual personality of this eminent writer. One more, final remark: it is obvious from Miss Nalkowska's biography that she was born in the last decade but one of the 19th century. Yet no one, disregarding her place in European literature and basing his judgment on his personal impression alone, would guess this indiscreet truth. She seems to possess the elixir of eternal youth. It is hard to say, though, what lies at the bottom of this secret,—whether it is the freshness which springs from her spoken words and gestures, or whether it is the perpetual youth which greets the reader from the pages of her works, and which imparts its regenerating force to the author herself.

## POLAND IMPORTS AMERICAN BOOKS

*Publishers' Weekly* in its January 24, 1948 issue lists book export figures from the Department of Commerce. What is striking in the case of Poland is the enormous increase in the export of American books over pre-war years. In 1937 the total value of American books shipped to Poland (mail shipments excluded) was \$2,341, and in 1938—\$2,969. As compared with this, Polish import figures for 1946 amount to \$254,360 and for 1947 (January to October) \$230,708.

American book exports to Poland assume their proper proportions only

when viewed in relation to other importing countries. Following are the figures for the January-October 1947 period for the countries indicated:

Belgium	\$202,209
Netherlands	\$210,825
Soviet Union	\$219,838
Denmark	\$183,696
Sweden	\$120,494
Switzerland	\$107,427

The only countries that showed higher import figures in that year (excluding the English speaking and some Latin American countries) were: France (\$295,867), China (\$504,404) and India (\$473,942).



# HOUSE IN THE MEADOWS

By Zofia Nalkowska

*In his article on Zofia Nalkowska (see page 5) Mr. Ryszard Matuszewski dwells upon the beneficent influence exercised by her father over her earliest childhood. Of all her early experiences, the happiest recollections are those associated with the house near Warsaw where Miss Nalkowska spent so many joyful years. This house with its beautiful garden, was surrounded by a vast meadow-*

*land, and here in this wondrous world, the young girl could spin her lovely day dreams. It was this house to which she devoted her volume House in the Meadows, first published in 1924. The following chapter is taken from this book, and from it we learn a little about Zofia Nalkowska's relations to animals, — her sympathetic understanding, always tinged with genial humor.*

ONE DAY IN SPRING, the chorus of dear and familiar voices, ringing out to us from meadow and wood, was joined by a strange new sound. This was not the cry of the cuckoo, nor was it a frog croaking in some neighboring pond.

Sometimes it came in a cascade of sharp clear notes, and then again it was only a single crystal-like tone. It continued all day long, at varying intervals, coming from far away, a stranger among the loud and inces-

sant warbling of birds that filled the air, rising higher and higher into the skies.

The days passed by and the sound was still there. Ofttimes at dusk when the world was covered by milky-blue vapors and silence descended upon fields and forests, that tone would suddenly rise out of nowhere, brief and abrupt and singularly clear in the approaching night. I listened carefully, but all was still again. I forgot about the matter and it never

even occurred to me to inquire whence it came.

It was my habit in those days to roam the country, together with my sturdy little colt whom I had christened Tomato. He was a serious creature, with no sense of humor at all. Those common outings of ours took this form: I would mount on his back and remain seated there throughout the trip, while all the rest of the job was his henceforth. The only reason why such conduct does not strike us as peculiar is, that we have become used to it long ago and nobody pays any attention to it.

But upon serious reflection, one comes to the conclusion that this is really a scandalous state of affairs. The mere idea! One creature seated on top of another, and, as if that were not enough, stirring from time to time a piece of iron in the other's mouth. What brazen impudence, indeed!

If a monkey goes horseback riding on a dog, for instance, or a cat sits on top a pig, such a performance is considered fit for a circus show, and nobody boasting any good taste at all will go and watch it. But a man on horseback will exhibit himself freely; nor does this spectacle offend the public taste. On the contrary, to some it really appears esthetic.

The plain truth is that in the relations of man and beast horseback riding is the most glaring manifestation of inequality; it reduces the dignity of a fellow-creature to sheerest mockery. Neither the consumption of oxen and turkeys, nor the drastic operation of milking cows, is equally shocking to one's sense of decency.

Well, let's forget about it. Perhaps I am thinking of all this because Tomato, with his serious demeanor and his stubborn self-assertion always commanded my particular respect. He was somebody whose will I had to take into account, there were things he did not approve, and he had his ambitions and idiosyncrasies. Speaking generally—he had

more character than brains, and that always impresses one more than anything else.

He usually gave voice to his protests when still at home, at the moment I was about to mount him. He would either kick out with his hind legs, or try to slide away from under me, or, if nothing availed, to bite my knee. But once started, he went like a good horse, quite as though he considered my sitting on his back to be perfectly in order.

Only when we came to cross-roads certain difficulties arose if it turned out that our opinions were divided as to which direction to choose. Then Tomato would spin around in one spot, stamping the ground, as if nothing mattered more to him than flattening the sand with his hoofs in that particular place as smoothly as possible. This could go on for quite a while, unless I poked him energetically in the ribs with my whipstick. Whereupon he would rear himself angrily on his hind legs and be off in the desired direction.

But as a rule we had certain established methods of communication on these subjects which worked out satisfactorily.

If I speak of this in such detail, it is because in my relations with Tomato everything was not always as I would have desired it to be. Of course I do not mean anything so profound as a true and tender friendship—which is one of the rare things in this life. But the truth is that there was simply no link between myself and this horse with whom, after all, I used to spend a few hours almost every day.

Already when Kinus, the groom was bringing him along, all saddled and ready for a ride, his stubborn looking away from me had something of a mental shrug about it, as if asking scornfully and ironically: "Again?" He simply did not understand what was the point in riding out if one returned eventually without stopping anywhere on the road.

He did not understand, nor did he wish to understand.

I liked, for instance, Diana, my beloved greyhound bitch of good old English stock, to accompany us on our excursions. So did she. As soon as she saw me preparing for an outing, she began to leap and dance and bark like mad with sheer joy and excitement. "We're going, we're going," I would say to calm her down, and at the same time I knew that Tomato would not like it. He didn't. As a matter of fact, he could not stand Diana. He would look at her with displeasure, considering, as it were, whether he should go at all. It happened more than once that when Diana kept running close in front of him, he would unexpectedly stretch forth his head and grab her with his teeth by the scruff of her neck; and then she would jump aside, whining piteously and casting a questioning look at me, for she was never angry. Later on she remembered and always kept either by our side or in the rear, so as not to get within his visual range.

I made many an attempt to win his friendship—in vain. Whenever I offered him a piece of bread or a lump of sugar, he almost pretended that he did not see; he accepted it ungraciously as if doing me a favor,

and while chewing he would usually look in a different direction—contemptuously. And yet I often heard him whinnying approvingly when Kinus arrived with a fresh supply of oats to fill his trough. He was fond of Kinus. For me his feelings were indifferent, rather on the unfriendly side.

But enough of that. I speak of my animals elsewhere, here I only want to mention that Tomato and I were just trotting along a soft pathway across the fields when I suddenly heard that strange clear ringing sound.

I pulled the reins and noticed the expression on Tomato's elongated face: he was visibly dissatisfied. But, pawing the ground for a while in harmless anger, he somehow agreed to follow in the direction of the sound, though definitely disgruntled.

We entered the shadowy grounds of the Pergul family. There was the good-looking old house, with the barn and the cowshed behind. In the beautiful orchard the grass stood very high. On one side there was a row of old-style bee-hives built into hollowed-out tree trunks. A couple of ferocious dogs were guarding the property, and Tomato gave them a dirty look.

*(Continued on page 15)*





# The POLISH RED CROSS AFTER the WAR

By *Olgierd Langer*  
*Polish Delegate to the American  
National Red Cross*

WHEN THE POLISH Red Cross went to work in the liberated country in 1945 it had literally one asset: the Red Cross tradition of helping people. As for the rest, it was practically non-existent. Supplies were gone long ago, its hospital and dispensaries lay in ruins and its decimated personnel, undernourished and clothed in rags, could have used some help itself. Yet the country needed help more than ever. There was no time to count the meager resources or to discuss how and where to use them; all hands were too busy with actual help, and there was little to take stock of. Nor was there time to ponder if this or that activity was part of the Red Cross work; things had to be done and there were at the time no governmental or other agencies to cope with the tremendous task of helping the nation in distress.

## Limited Facilities

How limited were the means of the Polish Red Cross is perhaps best illustrated by the number of automobiles which the organization possessed at the end of 1946. The entire fleet of the Polish Red Cross consisted then of 264 automobiles, of which 72 were passenger cars, 57 ambulances, 12 mobile hospital units, 2 X-ray trucks and 121 regular trucks. That was all. Let us remember this was more than a year after the Red Cross had started its work in Poland. In the beginning the total of cars was even smaller. Two hundred sixty-four automobiles (many of them in bad shape) for an organization which was trying to help a nation of twenty-four million, in a country with a broken-down railroad transportation, in a country with practically no automobiles except those

owned by the army! And the situation with regard to other kinds of equipment and supplies was no better.

Nevertheless something was being accomplished. Much of it was done thanks to the generous assistance from other Red Cross societies. As soon as the means of transportation were open, help from other member societies began to arrive. The first trains which reached Poland from abroad, the first boats which entered Polish ports carried donations from the American, Canadian, British and other Red Cross societies. Even the Red Cross of little Iceland took part in this international assistance to the Polish Red Cross. (As a matter of fact, most automobiles owned by the Polish Red Cross are gifts from the member societies abroad.)

## A Twofold Duty

More than two years have passed since the Polish Red Cross started its work in the liberated country. The results achieved in that period are amazing, especially if we visualize the dire situation in which the country found itself after its liberation and the limited means at the society's disposal. Like any other member society, the Polish Red Cross has a twofold duty: to act as an emergency organization and to carry on other activities such as health education, preventive medicine, and disaster preparedness. In the first year of its work, the Polish Red Cross was almost exclusively an emergency organization. Other duties were left for later. Even long established rules were temporarily set aside if they happened to interfere with the emergency work. For instance, the Polish Red Cross as a matter of principle does not own hospitals except those which serve as training centers for Red Cross nurses. But in 1945 there was an acute shortage of hospitals and no agencies to organize and manage them. So the Polish Red

*(Continued on page 16)*



# A THIRTEE



UDMILA MURAWSKA IS ONLY 13, BUT POLISH artists refer to her as their "colleague." This blond and blue-eyed little girl, in fact, shows a precocious talent far in advance of the usual so-called child prodigies. This is the history of Ludmila Murawska, as told by her guardian.

## Wartime Education

Ludmila was born in Warsaw on December 20, 1934. Her father was a well-to-do executive in one of Poland's major banks, and his little girl had all that is needed for a happy childhood: loving parents, beautiful surroundings, heaps of toys, trips to the country and lots of playmates.

Ludmila does not remember the names of her dolls of those early days, nor does she know any longer the names of all her friends. What she does remember very precisely, though, is that day in September 1939, when her father, holding her by the hand, was running with her through the burning streets of Warsaw, seeking refuge from the fire and the bombs. True, they had tied a handkerchief across the child's eyes, but as she admitted later, she removed it a little, and though not saying a word, she "saw everything, but everything."

Ludmila's father came down with pneumonia at that time and he never actually recovered. Complications set in and he died in 1941.

The house in which Ludmila had lived until the outbreak of the war was destroyed. Ludmila and her mother moved into another apartment which they shared with the little girl's grandmother, aunt and uncle. Her mother's younger brother, a 27 year old student, was arrested by the Germans and sent to the death camp in Oswiecim. Ludmila never saw him again. He died in Oswiecim in 1941.

Four years of her young life Ludmila spent in this new home. They were very important years in her development, and their significance was closely bound up with that very home. It so happened that her uncle was a painter and an art collector. The walls were covered with pictures and the shelves were filled with hundreds of books with magnificent reproductions of the world's great masterpieces. Ludmila made her first contact with beauty. She began to spend long hours pouring over the pictures. And she began to draw herself, for the first time.

But then came the Warsaw Uprising. In August 1944 Ludmila was chased from the burning house and together with her family she was driven through smoke-filled streets amidst thick crowds of fleeing people, trying not to step on



# N YEAR OLD ARTIST

the bodies of the slain. The flow of refugees was stopped by the Germans on a large field outside the city limits. There amid thousands of starving, wretched people, Ludmila spent five days without food and drink. And all the time she witnessed scenes of bestiality that defy description.

One morning, after a night of horror, filled with shooting and the moans of the wounded, Ludmila, who was resting on the knees of her grandmother, begged that nobody should touch her or speak to her. Her eyes were closed, her body rigid—she was like one fallen into a deep trance. The physician who stepped to her side, felt her pulse and left without a word. . . . Somebody offered her smelling salts and after a long while, the child came to.

On the sixth day the field was vacated. The people were driven to the railroad station. When Ludmila had finally dragged herself to the depot, she squeezed her way to the water pump and at last enjoyed the precious drops which she caught right in mid-air.

Then came another camp. From

there the trains forked out in several directions: some were leading to slave labor camps in Germany, others to concentration camps and in a straight line to the crematoriums. But Ludmila's family was able to escape. For several months they were hiding in a little village near Warsaw. Ludmila helped the farmer and tended the geese and the cows on the meadow. Those were blissful days, indeed. Ludmila looks back upon them as the loveliest vacation in her young life. And then at last the war came to an end.

## Ludmila Begins to Paint

There was no point in returning to Warsaw. The old home was gone. And so her people decided to go to Lodz. But here housing conditions were deplorable. For two years Ludmila lived in one room together with ten other people, and the room was so dark that it had to be lit from morning till night.

Her uncle used to bring her paper and paints, just to distract her a little. Ludmila was a very delicate child; she had to stay away from school quite often and naturally became

bored. So she started to paint.

Ludmila does not paint her war-time memories, those recollections which so often haunt her in her dreams and make her wake up with a loud cry in the middle of the night. On the contrary, she paints children on flowery meadows, little girls holding clusters of many-colored balloons, flower-vendors offering splendid bouquets, well-dressed ladies sating themselves in pastry-shops.

Her uncle liked the pictures very much. He enjoyed them together with his little niece. And he began to consider ways and means of developing her talent. His foremost concern was to preserve Ludmila's sensitivity to color and form. He wished to encourage her in every way possible and at the same time prevent her from succumbing to cheap influences. Not everybody, though, appreciated Ludmila's artistic output. Her school-teacher, for example, told her one day she had better stop painting as "it was such a waste of good paints, and these daubs did not resemble anything on earth, anyway." But Ludmila's uncle was of a different opinion altogether. And since his niece had absolute faith in his judgment she did not mind other people scoffing at her.

## On the Road to Success

In March 1946 the Krakow magazine *Przekroj* announced a contest

Child . . .

or artist?



for children's drawings. Ludmila decided then and there to enter the contest. Her uncle, however, entertained serious doubts about the matter. After all, Ludmila's drawings by far surpassed what is usually considered juvenile art. Could they be in all fairness entered into a contest designated for children? But Ludmila had quite a different view, and something like the following conversation took place between her and her uncle:

"My drawings being 'grown-up,' is that good or bad?" she asked.

"Of course it's good."

"Well, if they are good, why don't you want to enter them?"

This reasoning seemed sound enough, and so the drawings went on their trip to Krakow. A few weeks later a gentleman from Krakow made his appearance. The *Przekroj* people did not quite believe that those were really the drawings of a child, and they decided to send someone to ascertain the facts. Thereupon Ludmila



Painted the gentleman's portrait. He left—convinced.

This was the beginning of Ludmila's painting career and also of her popularity among fellow-artists. Her fame spread quickly and finally reached the Ministry of Culture and

Art, which promptly granted her a scholarship.

Ludmila accepts her success with joy, and with becoming modesty.

#### She Is Still a Child

Ludmila is rather tall for her age. She has blue eyes that are wide open, and blond hair which she pins up in a very elaborate fashion so as to prevent it from "getting mixed up with her paints." Her complexion is very pale, and so one day she applied her brush to her own cheeks, painting them a glowing red. She was distraught when her secret was discovered, and explained that without color in her cheeks she did not look artistic enough. And besides, she did not want people to be sorry for her.

Fortunately for her, she has other interests besides, more appropriate for her age. She has numerous friends, with whom she always parts with reluctance, for there are endless matters that simply must be discussed. Under her influence, Basia, her favorite, also took to painting.

Ludmila has only one big doll. She got it during the war from a little girl she did not even know. This doll has a slightly dented head, but Ludmila loves her dearly,

(Continued on page 15)



# POLAND AT HOME AND ABROAD

ON JANUARY 26, 1948 representatives of the Polish and Soviet governments signed two important trade agreements. The Polish delegation to the ten-day conference which preceded the signing of the treaties, was headed by Premier Jozef Cyrankiewicz. Vice-Premier Wladyslaw Gomulka and Minister of Industry and Commerce Hilary Minc. For the Soviets, the conference was attended among others by Premier Stalin, Foreign Minister Molotov and Minister of Foreign Trade A. I. Mikoyan. The discussions revealed full unanimity between the two governments with regard to the international situation.

## Mutual Deliveries

The first of the treaties refers to the Polish-Soviet exchange of goods. It covers the period between 1948 and 1952 and fixes the basic exchanges at the sum of 1 billion dollars each.

The USSR will ship to Poland: iron, chrome and manganese ores, petroleum products, cotton, aluminum, asbestos, automobiles, tractors and other commodities.

Poland will export to the USSR: coal, coke, textiles, sugar, zinc, steel products, rolling stock, cement and other products.

Quantities and prices will be fixed annually, the latter according to ruling world market prices.

## Credits

The second treaty deals with credits for industrial equipment that the Soviet Union is extending to Poland. Under the terms of the agreement, the USSR will supply Poland over the period from 1948 to 1956 with industrial machinery to the amount of \$450 million, on the basis of intermediate-term credits. Payments are to be made over a period of ten

**Poland and USSR Sign Trade Agreements — Spokesmen of Government and Press on Significance of Agreements — Polish Diet Passes Law of Paramount Economic Importance.**

years, at the interest rate of 3 per cent, and in the form of goods only.

The industrial equipment that the USSR is to deliver comprises: installations for a new giant smelter, power equipment, machinery for metal and textile factories, and for chemical plants (especially in the fertilizer, soda and carbide divisions), and machinery needed for the reconstruction of towns and harbors.

Moreover the Soviet Union has agreed to credit additional deliveries of 200,000 tons of grain which, together with previous shipments, will add up to half a million tons. The newly purchased 200,000 tons are to be delivered within the next three months.

Other topics under discussion were the implementation of the treaty signed on March 5, 1947 regarding technical cooperation and deliveries to Poland of German reparation goods due in 1948.

## Polish Foreign Trade to Increase

On their return from Moscow, the leaders of the Polish delegation held a conference with representatives of the foreign and domestic press at which they made their appraisal of the newly signed treaties. Questioned as to what the effect of these treaties would be upon Poland's trade with other countries, Minister of Industry and Commerce Hilary Minc said:

"As Poland's industrial capacity expands, so too the industrial and agricultural products she can send abroad will increase in number. Thus the Polish-Soviet trade agreements will have a positive effect on Poland's foreign trade."

Answering a question on how the

Soviet deliveries are going to be used, Minister Minc said that a major portion of the investments has been earmarked for the Recovered Territories, where soon new giant smelting works are to be built. As for the Three Year Plan, the agreements will not affect the 1948 quotas, but they will show favorable results in 1949.

Minister Minc then went on to explain that the treaties do not provide for increased coal deliveries to the USSR. Poland will send to Russia in 1948 6.5 million tons of coal, which is exactly the same quantity she sent in 1947. The same holds good, with minor changes, for the next five years.

Foreign press correspondents, attending the conference, asked Mr. Minc to explain the difference in the aid given to Poland by the Soviet Union and the aid that Poland might have expected under the Marshall Plan. Mr. Minc replied: "I refrained from making any comparisons in this respect, since in my opinion participation in the Marshall Plan would not be a help to Poland but on the contrary, a burden. The recent Po-



Hilary Minc



Konstanty Dombrowski

lish-Soviet treaties are an expression of economic cooperation between two friendly countries. We are concerned with Poland's industrialization, and the Soviet Union, too, is interested in seeing her all strong and industrially equipped."

This opinion expressed by Mr. Minc was supplemented by the statement which Premier Jozef Cyrankiewicz made at the press conference: "The great significance of these agreements," he said, "lies among other things, in the fact that there are no political or economic strings attached, which might infringe upon our sovereignty; on the contrary, by strengthening our country economically, they add to our independence."

#### "A Credit of Friendship"

Elsewhere in this issue (see page 2) we quote an editorial of the semi-official Warsaw daily *Rzeczpospolita* on the subject of the Moscow treaties. But the rest of the Polish press, too, comments in an equally favorable manner. "A credit of friendship" is what the Socialist daily *Robotnik* calls the material aid which Poland is to receive from her eastern neighbor. Commenting on the mutual deliveries, this newspaper adds: "The five-year economic agreement, the most important of all treaties heretofore, carries exceptional advantages

for our economy, because it enables us to base our plans upon concrete facts. In 1947 we were handicapped in the realization of our economic and financial projects because we were disappointed in our expectations of imports from the West. The Polish-Soviet trade agreement will prove of outstanding importance for our planned reconstruction and economic rehabilitation."

#### Diet Passes Law on Compulsory Saving

On January 28, 1948 the Polish Diet discussed two important laws pertaining to the country's economy. The first introduces compulsory saving, the second provides for government sales to private persons of 10,000 property items (apartment houses, building sites, industrial enterprises) on very convenient terms. The sales are to take place within the current year.

The law on compulsory saving makes saving obligatory for persons whose monthly earnings exceed 20,000 zlotys. Those earning 20,000 to 50,000 zlotys must put aside 1 to 2 per cent of their income; those earning 50,000 or more—3 per cent. The savings will be deposited with the National Savings Fund and will be used for investment purposes. The government estimates that in this way some 20 billion zlotys can be gained.

In submitting the draft of this bill, Finance Minister Konstanty Dombrowski declared that in no way could this compulsory saving be regarded as an additional tax. For the law provides not only for a return of the money but also for the right to use it as collateral in obtaining loans. Moreover, the deposits will carry interest. The savings will be returned in such cases as the demise of a close member of the family, the birth of a child, a wedding, and for other reasons of comparable importance. The savings entitle the depositor to purchase life insurance, and after completion of his 65th year he

may withdraw his deposit plus interest, in case his means of support are insufficient. And finally, the depositor can obtain loans for investment purposes of his own, such as, for instance, the purchase of agricultural machinery, fertilizer, furniture, etc.

The second law authorizes the government to dispose of or lease out to private persons certain government assets. After the war, the Polish government found itself in possession of great numbers of small property items—houses, building sites, workshops—which are much better utilized by private owners.

As a result of this law, 10,000 such items will find their way into private hands in 1948. The buyers will, in addition, profit from far-reaching advantages: the purchased property will be free of all debts and mortgages, the industrial enterprises will not entail possession of a licence; in cases where a licence is obligatory, the fee can be paid in instalments, and if it has to be paid in full, substantial refunds are granted. The sums paid by private individuals for these property items will be considered investments, which in turn implies tax relief and other advantages.

In submitting this bill to the Diet, Minister Dombrowski pointed out that it was one more proof of the fact that the Polish government was not pursuing a policy of liquidating private ownership. On the contrary, the government wants to do all in its power to encourage private enterprise to contribute its share toward the country's well-being.

Minister Dombrowski then made the following statement: "The government has pledged to the Diet that it will make every effort to maintain stable market prices, to maintain and even raise real wages, and to carry out fully the economic plan both as regards consumption and investment. In order to fulfill this difficult and responsible task, all the country's resources must be mobilized."

## A THIRTEEN YEAR OLD ARTIST

(Continued from page 12)

and, for reasons unknown, calls her—Dolores.

She has other dolls, too, tiny ones, all made by herself. She builds magnificent houses for them out of boxes of all sizes, with bedrooms and living rooms, with porches and—of course—studios with easels in them. The bath tubs are made of nut shells, the flower vases of bits of paint tubes, and the furniture, the pianos and radio sets are of paper.

Ludmila attends public school and is in the seventh grade. She is considered a talented pupil. This is a new school, and even the drawing master there appreciates Ludmila's paintings! Apart from the obligatory home reading, Ludmila is extremely fond of fairy tales,—apparently she is making up for what she missed in her thwarted childhood.

Other books that fill her with delight are those devoted to painting. She really is a collector of these art books and folders. She already has books on the French impressionists, Bonnard, Matisse, and on Gothic art. The other day she saw a folder of Renoir's paintings, and in her rapture pressed a kiss on it.

Ludmila dreams of having some day all that an artist's heart desires: a studio of her own, and that of course in Warsaw, and heaps of books on art,—especially on Negro art and the art of Egypt, Italy, the Netherlands, and China, all of which she knows only by hearsay.

With all her exquisite sensitivity to color, which for this child is synonymous with the joy of living, Ludmila's attitude toward life is diffident and tinged with irony. Thus she usually concludes her day dreams with this observation: ". . . And when I shall have all these things, at last, they will again start some war, and everything will be burned down. . . ."

## News in Brief

- The number of rural settlers in the Recovered Territories rose from 2,270,000 to 2,853,000 in the course of the past year. About 90 per cent of the arable area is in private hands. The balance is taken up by experimental farms, cooperatives and other organizations.

- The Polish Shipyard Association has concluded an agreement with the Italian shipbuilding company "Ansaldo". Under the terms of the contract, "Ansaldo" is to draw up the blueprints for a group of vessels, construction of which is soon to be begun in the Polish shipyards. First to be built are two cargo ships: one a 650 ton vessel for navigation on the Baltic Sea, and the other a transatlantic steamer with a capacity of 7,500 tons.

- In 1947 Polish markets were supplied with 1.5 billion eggs. Of these 20 per cent was shipped abroad. The average consumption per capita was 47. In 1948 production is expected to go up 20 per cent.

- The first Polish penicillin factory is being built in Tarchomin near Warsaw. It is to begin operation by the end of 1948. The Tarchomin plant is expected to supply the country's full requirements of the drug.

- There are at present 644 cooperatives in Warsaw, with a membership of 105,000. This means that one in every five inhabitants of the Polish capital is a member of a cooperative enterprise.

- Poland had 425 three-grade industrial schools with an enrollment of 50,000 students in 1947; also 26 industrial junior colleges with 2400 pupils. In addition, there were 50 industrial prep schools for peasant boys and girls who were not employed in industry heretofore. These schools were attended by 24,000 young people who apart from free tuition

## HOUSE IN THE MEADOWS

(Continued from page 8)

Something had changed here since the owner's death.

On one side, the fence had been torn down and, flanked by old trees, growing out of their midst, as it were, rose a building that had not been there before, with blackened walls and smoking chimneys. Two plows and some iron tools were leaning against the wall. Through the open door I could see the fire in the hearth and in front of it the dark figure of the blacksmith swinging his hammer.

And so it had been only the sound of this hammer which could be heard all over the country.

I stopped short, surprised. The blacksmith stepped out and looked at me inquiringly.

"I had no idea we had a smithy so close by," I said, trying to guess who the man was and how he had come to settle in the Pergul grounds.

"Oh sure, sure," he replied with a friendly smile, disclosing two rows of shining white teeth. "And that horsie of yours I know very well, indeed. They brought him to me several times. He is a good-looking little chap, but very impatient, and awfully hard to shoe."

Evidently, Tomato, too, remembered him, for he simply refused to stand still any longer. He turned round, and off we were without a moment's warning.

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were given full board and lodging and also clothing. Costs were covered by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

- In 1947, Warsaw university had a total enrollment of 7,460 students, or 85 per cent of the 1938 figure. The University library which was to a great extent despoiled by the Germans now comprises 1,100,000 volumes.

## POLISH RED CROSS

(Continued from page 9)

Cross organized 30 hospitals all over the country with the intention, however, of transferring them to other agencies as soon as such agencies became available.

Gradually, the transformation from the emergency work to peacetime activities took place. As the country is still a long way from "normalcy" the Polish Red Cross continues to engage in many projects of an emergency character. Among these are the 12 mobile hospital units which offer hospital service in the areas which

### THE POLISH RED CROSS MAINTAINED IN POLAND IN 1946:\*

#### A. Medical Service

- 21 hospitals
- 4 sanatoriums
- 3 preventoriums
- 3 homes for convalescents
- 17 health centers
- 7 stations for aid to mothers and infants
- 317 dispensaries
- 30 infirmaries
- 3 blood donation centers
- 12 mobile hospital units
- 2 X-ray units
- 15 medical brigades
- 150 Rural Posts
- 388 First Aid stations without doctors
- 20 First Aid stations with doctors
- 16 bathhouses
- 16 disinfection units
- 3 Red Cross trains
- 7 railroad hospital units

#### B. Social Service

- 8 Red Cross rooms at railroad stations
- 4 nurseries
- 15 children's homes
- 2 school dormitories
- 14 kindergartens
- 60 children feeding centers
- 156 overnight shelters
- 7 hospices
- 107 kitchens
- 121 nutrition centers

\* The figures for 1947 not yet available.

have been totally devastated and are still without proper medical facilities. The housing shortage coupled with an unprecedented mass movement of population (about five million Poles have moved from the former Eastern

provinces to Western territories) is the reason for another emergency expedient: the overnight shelters and hospices which the Polish Red Cross has opened at many points throughout the country, and the first aid posts which it operates at railroad stations.

As emergency projects we may also classify the campaigns against tuberculosis and venereal diseases. In its fight against tuberculosis (which heads the mortality list in Poland) the Polish Red Cross operates three sanatoriums, one specially for children. Moreover, it maintains three preventoriums for anemic youngsters. The Red Cross also plays an important part in the nationwide campaign against venereal diseases which the Polish government has recently organized.

In addition to these emergency projects, the Polish Red Cross is steadily widening its other activities. First on the list of plans for 1948 is the educational program. Two more Schools of Nursing will be opened this year, thus bringing the total to six (as compared with two before the war).

#### Returning to Peacetime Activities

Moreover, the 1948 plan provides among other things for a number of

### THE POLISH RED CROSS ON JANUARY 1, 1947 COMPRISED:

14 districts	
321 local chapters	
21,686 units	
735,707 regular members	(272,739 in 1939)
1,388,069 junior members	(712,739 in 1939)
10,161 workers of whom 3,982 were volunteers.	

courses in first aid, nutrition and infant care. The return to peacetime activities is reflected in the planned transfer of Red Cross hospitals to other agencies. Out of 30 hospitals organized by the Red Cross, nine have already been turned over to various governmental or communal agencies and the plan for 1948 provides for further reductions. At the same time, however, the Polish Red Cross plans to rebuild the Red Cross Hospital in Warsaw which the Germans had totally destroyed. Before the war it was run as a training center for the Red Cross nurses and as a model hospital as well.

An increased demand for blood and its derivatives, the result of experience gained in the war, has added another item to the list of services performed by the Polish Red Cross.



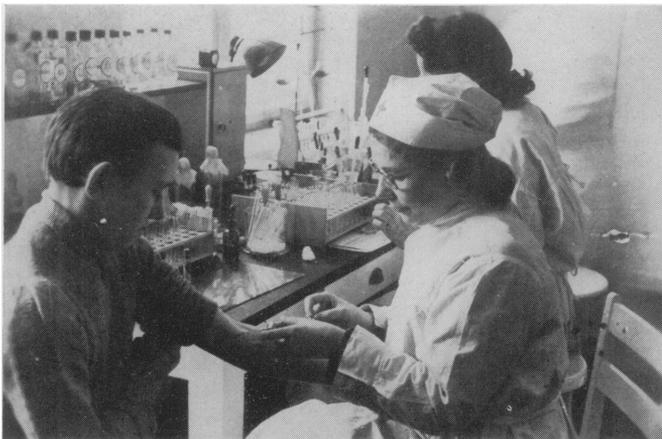
P.R.C. Canteen serves free meals to repatriates

The society maintains at present three blood donation centers; this year two more will be put in operation and four others are planned for the near future. In addition to actual blood donation service (collection, processing and distribution), the Polish Red Cross has also taken charge of the recruiting and enrollment of blood donors.

### Program for 1948

The 1948 program also provides for a further increase in the number of the Polish Red Cross Rural Posts. The Polish Red Cross Rural Posts are entirely a new feature, introduced only since the war. The Polish Red Cross organized them in order to improve the standards of health among the country's rural population. From the very beginning the Red Cross Rural Posts met with an enthusiastic response on the part of the farming population which in many instances pays for their maintenance. The Polish Red Cross Rural Posts are connected with infirmaries (from four to twelve beds) visited 2 to 3 times a week by doctors.

No account of the achievement of the Polish Red Cross would be complete without mention of one of the society's deepest concerns,—its constant and vigorous campaign against war. Perhaps the Polish Red Cross stresses the idea of peace more than other member societies, but this is only natural in a country which witnessed the horrors of war, and in six



*In the Infirmary*

years lost more than one fourth of its entire population. It is not politics but the sanest principle of self-preservation which compels the Polish Red Cross to preach the gospel of peace among nations. As far as politics is concerned the Polish Red Cross like other member societies is non-political. Though it cooperates closely with the government it is in no sense a part of it. Its membership is open to everybody regardless of political affiliation and the principle of self-government is insured in its charter which is similar to the charter of other members of the International Red Cross. It could not be otherwise in an organization whose supreme aim is to give aid wherever needed without distinction of nationality, creed or political beliefs.

## Labor News

- The decree on family insurance went into effect on January 1, 1948. Under its provisions, workers receive benefits for each child under 16, and in case the child still attends school, up to the age of 24. Allotments are also given to workers' wives who are not gainfully employed. The benefits are uniform, irrespective of the parents' income.

- The district committee of trade unions in Katowice has organized for its members a series of symphonic concerts. The concerts are given in the Katowice Philharmonic Hall and admission fees are very low. The concerts enjoy enormous popularity among the working population.

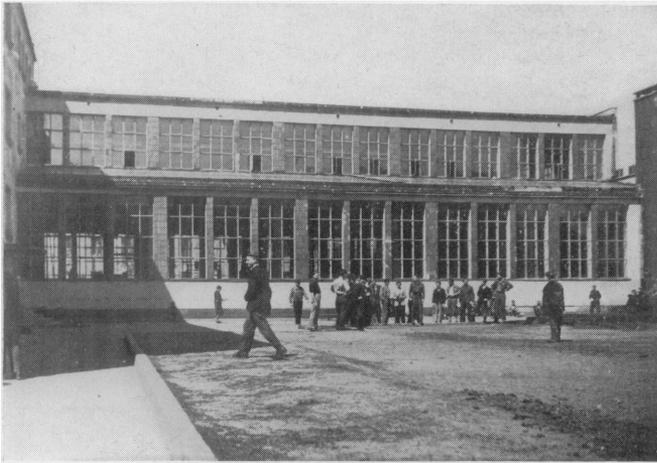
- The Chemical Workers' Union convened in Katowice from January 17 to 20, 1948. The Union has 114,000 members. As a result of the new collective agreement, negotiated in 1947, production rose 25 per cent, with a simultaneous wage rise of almost 30 per cent.

- In 1947 more than 33,000 persons benefited by educational courses arranged by the trade unions. The purpose of these courses was to compensate for the gaps left by unfinished elementary education.

### POLISH RED CROSS (POLSKI CZERWONY KRZYŻ)

#### Executive Officers:

COL. BRONISLAW KOSTKIEWICZ, M.D., *President*  
 JERZY DOBROWOLSKI, *Vice-President*  
 FELIKS KACZANOWSKI, M.D., *Vice-President*  
 WLODZIMIERZ DYBCZYNSKI, *Secretary General*  
 PROF. MARGIN KACPRZAK, M.D. *Chief Medical Services*  
 REV. WACLAW PYSZKOWSKI, *Treasurer*  
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 Headquarters: NOWOGRODZKA 49, WARSAW.



*New Technical High School in Warsaw*

# REFORMS IN POLISH EDUCATION

By *Celia Stopnicka*

*(This is the first of two articles.)*

A GREAT EDUCATIONAL reform is gaining impetus in Poland today. For the first time secondary education has been made freely available to all; a new school system and new curricula are being instituted in which the traditional Polish objectives of democratic education are now being fully realized.

In order to understand the new educational system it is necessary to examine the history of pre-war school systems, because side by side with the new forms which are becoming predominant, old educational forms survive.

As a result of the traditional policy of the partitioning states—Austria, Prussia and Russia—tending to denationalize the Poles and to stifle their culture, educational standards in the annexed lands were at a low level. Thus, when the day of freedom and independence finally came in

1918, education was in a deplorable condition and three different school systems, inherited from the partitioning states, existed in Poland. Thus the people were confronted with the difficult task of building a universal and unified school system from the very foundations. A very strong movement for tuition free and compulsory education spread rapidly, resulting eventually in the incorporation of these principles in the democratic constitution of 1921. It was then that the seven-grade public school came into being. At the same time there continued to exist the pre-war "Gymnasium" which was the traditional high school, requiring tuition. It consisted of a three-year primary course, followed by five years of secondary schooling. The public school system, on the other hand, comprised a straight seven-year primary course.

Thus, the two systems paralleled each other at certain levels. The first four years of a child's school career were spent either in the public school or in a private school. At the end of the first four years in public school, the student had the choice of finishing his elementary education in the public school, or continuing it in a Gymnasium. Once this choice was made, it was practically impossible for the student to transfer thereafter from public school to a Gymnasium, for even though the age levels of the last three years of public school and the first three years of Gymnasium ran parallel, the curricula and syllabi were entirely different. Thus a student who wished to avail himself of secondary education was obliged to pay tuition for three years of primary schooling. Very few children of peasants and workers could afford a secondary education because of the expense which it entailed.

The first major school reform in 1924 changed the curricula but failed to change the parallel structures of the public school and Gymnasium.

In March 1932, the so-called Jedrzejewicz reform was introduced. The avowed purpose of this reform was to establish a unified educational system embracing all school levels. Each level was to be based on the one below. To effect this, four basic grades of education were instituted: Elementary School, Gymnasium, Lyceum and University. Only the first of these remained tuition free. The elementary school, according to the aims of the reform, was to be the basis of the whole system of Polish education. Actually, however, the public elementary school varied according to three organizational and curricular types.

The first type had a seven-year course, but only four classes: one to two teachers and one to two classrooms. The second type had a seven-

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year course with six classes: three to four teachers, and three to four classrooms. The third and best type of elementary school had a seven-year course with seven classes and five or more teachers. As far as elementary education was concerned, the lowest type, type I, predominated. According to the census of 1937-38, the last census in Poland, 67.2 per cent of all elementary schools were of type I, 16.7 per cent of type II, and only 16.1 per cent of type III.

It must be mentioned that the Jedrzejewicz reform also introduced changes in the structure of the secondary school. A four-year Gymnasium replaced the previous eight-year Gymnasium. It is interesting to note that the children entering Gymnasium did not have to be graduates of the seven-year elementary school, but could enter Gymnasium after completing their sixth year. The rest of the children, the very great majority, attended the seventh grade of elementary school before continuing their studies in a Gymnasium.

The Jedrzejewicz educational system, which existed until World War II, was reconstituted in Poland after the end of the war. This was done because it was imperative that the educational system should start to function immediately.

In June 1945, a nationwide Educational Conference was held in Lodz. There were educators, scholars, representatives from clergy, political parties, professional and social organizations, who came together to work out an education reform. From their deliberations and the compromises of their various viewpoints a plan was finally evolved. This plan was further modified after wide and heated discussions in the Polish press.

The purpose of the new reform was to put this aim into practice by building a truly integrated structure in which each category of school is based on the one below. First comes the Kindergarten for children be-

tween the ages of four and seven. The basis, however, of the reformed school system is an eight-year primary school for children between the ages of seven and fifteen, followed by a four-year secondary school, which are tuition free and compulsory. The certificates awarded in the secondary school, the so-called Lyceum, are in turn the prerequisites for higher education.

The reform further endeavored to eliminate the one-room schoolhouse.

This goal has been almost completely achieved. Thus the new reform for the first time in the history of Poland realized the old objective of an integrated school system. There is no longer a division into schools for the privileged and schools for underprivileged children. Of course at present there still remain schools of the pre-war type. It is estimated that primary and secondary education, tuition free and compulsory, will be fully realized within ten years.

## Polish Industry in 1947

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce recently published the results achieved by the various branches of Polish industry in 1947. At the same time it indicated production increases expected in 1948. The figures are in dollars at the exchange rate of 1937.

Industry	Value in million dollars	Percentage of expected increase in 1948
Coal	280	17
Smelting	40	23
Metal	150	35
Power	71	14
Chemical	125	25
Sugar	50	17

Textile	286	29
Food	36	15
Canning	8.6	40

The total output of the nationalized industries under the control of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce is expected to rise some 23 per cent in 1948. While in 1947 it amounted to approximately \$1,344,600,000, it should be about \$1,653,300,000 in the current year. Under the Three Year Plan the productivity of the miners is expected to rise 14 per cent, in the smelting industry—9 per cent, in the power industry—8 per cent, and that of metal workers—13 per cent.



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## THE READER'S SAY

From our mailbag.

*Mr. Charles M. H. (at present London, England) writes:*

"I have just been reading No. 9 September 1947, *Poland of Today* in which is a very interesting article entitled "Polish Scouts at Work" by Ryszard Gajewski. As a former Assistant Scoutmaster and having been a scout for the past twelve years, I was very much interested to read of the activity of the Polish scouts. I am sorry to learn that the scout work is handicapped by lack of equipment and wonder if any attempt is being made in the USA to have troops send equipment to Polish scouting."

As announced in our December issue, we are beginning a new feature, called "The Reader's Say." We are going to alternate this column with "Americans About Poland."

*Mr. Allen S. (Lakewood, New Jersey) writes:*

"I congratulate you for the fine news and information you are giving in *Poland of Today*, but one item under "News in Brief" aroused my special attention, namely the amount of eggs supplied Britain in 1946 and 1947. The amount of 28.8 million supplied in 1947 and 3 million of eggs supplied in 1946 is quite a number to be considered, yet I think that dividing the number of eggs into dozens and multiplying by cases, it

would not be too much. Therefore, I would suggest that this industry be built up by the government of Poland or by private people with the help of the government—and in a very short time it could not only increase the revenue of the Polish treasury, but it could also employ thousands of people."

*(Note from the Editor: We passed on Mr. S's suggestion to Warsaw. We think however, that the main obstacle to building up the egg production on a larger scale is the shortage of laying hens in Poland.)*