

BUMPER CROPS POINT TO WAR, POLAND FEARS

Peasants Recall 1812 and 1914; Economic System Weathers Threats.

Following is the last of three dispatches on Poland's attitude and position toward Nazi demands for Danzig.

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WARSAW, Poland, July 7 (U. P.).

—Poland's primitive economic system—regarded by some foreigners as the weakest spot in national defense—appears to have weathered the first shock of war threats as the farm population prepares to harvest a bumper grain crop.

Mile after mile of six-foot barley and rippling wheat stretches across the nation's great plains and, if you listen to what the peasants say, it means war before the snow flies. The peasants, looking out over the yellow fields, argue in this way: There was a record crop in 1812. That year brought Napoleon's armies. The harvest touched a new high in 1914. That year saw the beginning of the World War.

In some ways, the attitude of the peasant is typical of Poland's fatalism, born of centuries of suffering as the battleground between East and West. But now there is added to that fatalism a publicly expressed determination to save today's united Poland and assure its future.

Get Inspiration From Past

On a tree-shaded slope close under the walls of the old red brick Russian fortress on the banks of the Vistula are 220 white crosses. They mark the graves of Poles executed in the uprising of 1905. There, too, are the gallows on which the martyrs were hanged. Spots like this and like "Kosciusko Mount" at Cracow, formed by handfuls of dirt deposited by patriots at a revolutionary memorial, are symbols of new significance to Poles this summer.

As for the economic outlook, the Polish experts claim they can stand up against an indefinite "crisis" pressure and that the national economy will not crack even under prolonged mobilization at a cost of probably a million dollars a day. Foreigners take the viewpoint that the economic problem may well be solved if foreign credits, for which Poland has been negotiating in London, can be found within the next few weeks.

Deflation Is Danger

Deflation is considered one of the biggest dangers. When the Reich first stated their demands there were runs on the Polish banks, hoarding of commodities and a slump in buying.

Then came the national defense loan to which a million persons—chiefly voluntarily but sometimes under pressure or official suggestion—subscribed 400,000,000 zloty (\$76,000,000), payable in five monthly installments.

Such a sum withdrawn even by degrees from money in circulation was certain to affect markets and national life. But according to the Polish economic experts, the nation's simplified and predominantly agricultural economic structure has absorbed the blow and readjusted itself without a sign at present of cracking.

"There was some disruption at first," it was explained at the Ministry of Finance. "People wanted to provide themselves with reserve supplies and industry wanted to lay in stocks. They withdrew funds from the banks. They stopped buying what was not essential. But during the last three months we have reached a new equilibrium."

People Buying Again

"Now the indices of production are up again and people are buying and again depositing money in the banks."

"We believe that the crisis is past and that the nation's economy, particularly if foreign aid comes, is entirely capable of withstanding future shocks."

Such shocks do not affect the morale of a nation such as ours where conditions for centuries have imposed a low standard of living and where the entire structure is not highly integrated and where industrialization has just begun for all practical purposes.

"As a matter of fact, the usual production index for normal is 129.4. It stood at 116.9 in April of 1928 and at 120.6 in January of this year. Now it is 155.4 or nearly 20 points above last year."

In addition to those figures, the freight turnover at the port of Gdynia was 830,900 tons in April against 760,700 tons in April of 1928 and at Danzig it was 731,300 tons last April against 572,900 tons in the same month of last year.

Foreign Trade Good

Foreign trade figures show a good balance. Imports for May were 119,738,000 zlotys and exports 114,829,000 zlotys against imports of 112,663,000 zlotys and exports of 96,051,000 zlotys for the same month of 1928.

Deep central Poland is believed to be removed from immediate danger in event of war and is being developed as a central industrial area revolving around the cities of San-dzierz, Lublin, Zamosc, Radom, Kielce and Tarnob. Huge factories are being built. Large stocks of essential materials are being collected. Railroads, minerals, mining and industrial production are being developed. Private capital is being encouraged by the Government to participate in this development.

This project was not born of the present tension with Germany. It has been under way several years. But it would be of greatest importance in event of a showdown leading to a conflict in eastern Europe.



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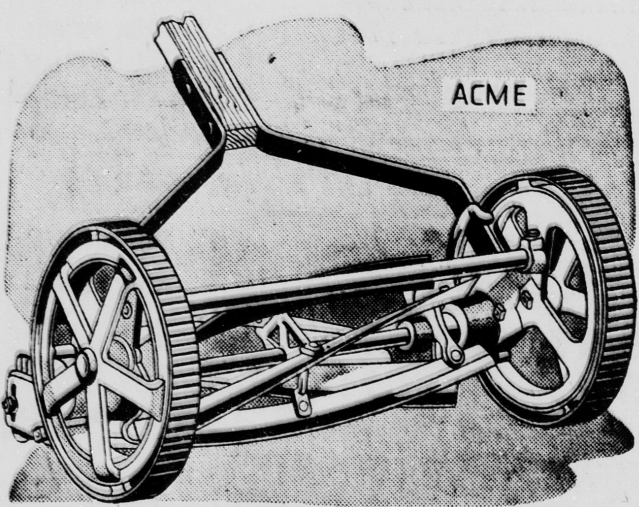


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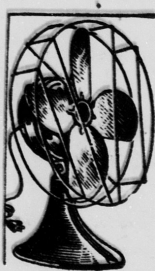
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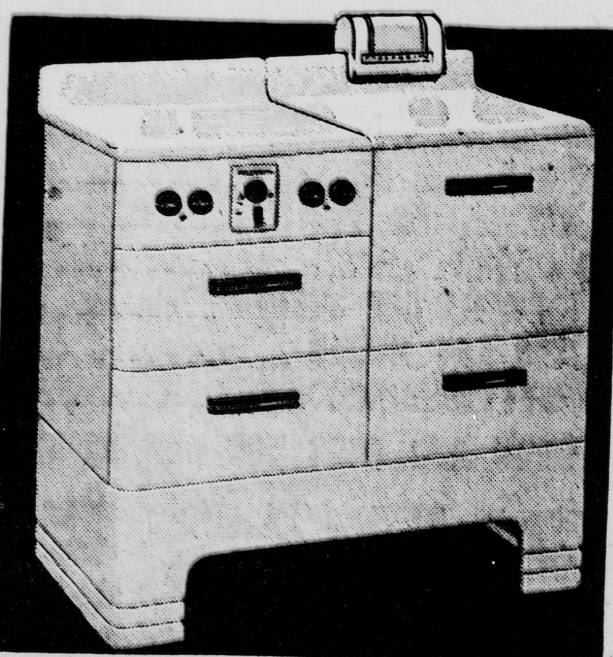
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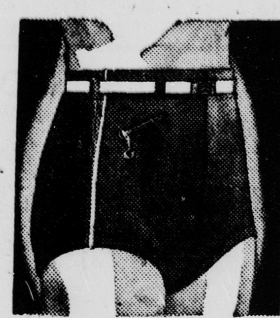
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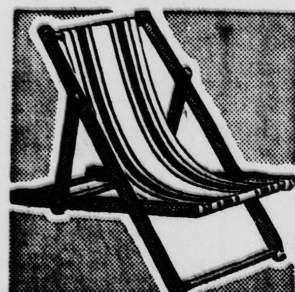
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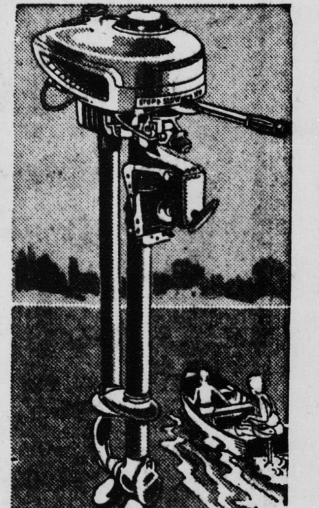
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