

POLISH EMBASSY

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POLISH WORKERS INITIATE
IMPROVEMENTS IN INDUSTRIAL METHODS

The movement to raise the quantitative and qualitative level of industrial production in the Polish People's Republic and a consistent campaign to lower costs make use of both group competition and individual initiative. During the past month, Glos Pracy, daily newspaper organ of the Polish labor unions, as well as other newspapers and trade journals, have been running accounts of prize-winning production units with outstanding records in national competitions held in the fourth quarter of 1952.

Other stories dealt with the growth of the voluntary rationalization movement in Polish industry during the past year. For example, the Polish machine tool and machine building industry announced that it had received from workers, foremen and engineers last year 38,262 proposals for improvements in production processes and safety and health measures, including a number of entirely new inventions. Of that number, approximately 14,500 were found to have some practical value. The announcement declared that the resulting annual savings were estimated at 108,000,000 zlotys (\$27,000,000).

Another instance of national recognition extended to individuals and groups in honor of their creative enterprise is an exhibition which recently opened in industrial Wroclaw and which includes 70 new rationalization ideas in the field of assembling electrical installations. Various sections of the exhibit demonstrate the results of individual and group enterprise in the mechanization of Polish small industry. The show also includes innovations which have permitted

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the replacement of expensive non-ferrous metals by less expensive substitute metals. These were worked out by an engineer, Alfred Rath, and also by a brigade of rationalizers headed by Jozef Korba.

In the field of industrial competitions, it was announced recently that the workers of the Dubois Cotton Mills in Lodz had won a money award for the plant's social fund and the prize banner of the Textile Workers Union as the outstanding production unit in the Polish cotton industry for the last three-month period in 1952. This is the fund into which a percentage of the factory's profits is returned and part of which is used to provide the workers and families of that plant with special facilities such as additional vacation camps for children, extra decorations for the factory clubrooms, etc. Second to the Dubois factory in the competition was the Dzierzynski Mill, also of Lodz.

For the second time in a row, the Odra Linen Mill in Lower Silesia captured the top award in the bast fibre industry. In southern Poland, workers of the Cieszyn Knitwear Factory received first prize in the knitwear industry. They not only exceeded their production target for the last quarter of 1952 but also cut production costs and raised the quality of output.

Following a recent address by Premier Boleslaw Bierut on the key importance of coal in the industrialization of Poland and the growth of its foreign trade, a special miner-sponsored drive for increased production got under way, with the workers of the Eminencja Mine taking first place in recent weeks. Other crews which have won public praise for outstanding records are those operating the Piast, Lagiewniki, Silesia and Concordia mines.

Newspapers in Warsaw--biggest construction site in a nation where construction is a huge industry--announced that a team of building workers at an apartment house project in the Grochow community of the capital were the winners of the competition for the best building brigade in the nation during the quarter ending December 31 last. The papers also carried reports that increased mechanization of work, as well as the introduction of new methods of teamwork, had resulted

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in an increased volume of building construction in 1952. This had special meaning in view of the fact that the press of industrial and housing construction elsewhere had made it necessary to reduce the construction force assigned to jobs in the capital by approximately 20 percent. The 1952 record continued in the first months of this year, according to recent announcements. Although January was a month of exceptionally bad building weather, construction crews completed almost 12 percent more dwelling units than were foreseen by the Six Year Plan.

Winners in competitions held in the field of industrial building materials during the last quarter of 1952 included the workers of the Zywiec Brick and Tile Works in the Krakow District, who met their annual target by December 16 last despite a serious labor shortage. This was done, it was reported, by enlisting every worker in the plant as a participant in a labor competition. The Zywiec plant won a money bonus, as well as the challenge pennant of the Building Workers Union. In the cement industry first place for the last quarter of 1952 went to the Grodziec Works. Other winners in their respective fields were the workers of the Gogolin Lime Works and of the Krakow Quarries.

Labor competition in Poland, however, is not limited to industry or agriculture but extends into many cultural fields.

Newspapers recently announced completion of the first stage of a great national competition for the titles of best recreation center, best club, best library and best district and voivodship house of culture. The competition was organized by the Central Council of Trade Unions in conjunction with the Farmers Mutual Aid Association, the Polish Youth Union and the Ministry of Art and Culture. The extent of the competition may be seen by the fact that participants included 7,992 trade union cultural centers (of which 1,507 were in areas predominantly rural), 2,006 libraries, 138 social clubs and 72 houses of culture.

The competition resulted in an intensification of cultural activities by these groups, it was reported. During the period of the competition 66,150 lec-

tures and 14,505 formal meetings were organized, as well as 53,285 concerts and other artistic events and 5,918 exhibitions. Some 2,000 new meeting groups were set up for joint study under the auspices of the Polish radio's University-of-the-Air.

Several of the outstanding prizes in the cultural competition were taken by groups in the Poznan area of western Poland. Title of the best recreation center in the country went to the center operated by the Railwaymen's Union of Leszno. Winner of the banner awarded the best trade union library was the library at the Gniezno Sugar Refinery. A third first place was won by the House of Culture in the district of Rawicz. It was cited for its drive to assist in the functioning of 45 recreation centers on nearby State Farms, all in the Poznan Voivodship.

The title of best union central library was given the institution run by the Wroclaw Building Workers Union, which now has 100 branches and which put on a special campaign for readers of technical works of interest to construction workers. The social club at the Kosciuszko Iron and Steel Works in Czestochowa was named the best union club as a result of activities involving 1,200 of the workers at that plant. Title of the best Voivodship House of Culture was awarded during the competition to the cultural center in Krakow.

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