

Remarks concerning the functioning of the Permanent Council in the years 1778–1780

The Permanent Council was the first central executive authority in the history of the Republic of Poland. It was really significant for the development of Polish administration because, in that way, a new form of authority was established. What is important, the Permanent Council was claimed to be able to help the Republic of Poland to deal with the anarchy.

However, the term of office 1778–1780 clearly indicated that the Council was not able to rule the country independently and effectively. First of all, it was caused by the law and the activity of Commissions (called: The Great Commissions) which significantly restricted the Council. The activity of the Great Commissions often collided with competencies of particular departments of the Council, for example, the Revenue Commission with the Revenue Department. In addition, there were not adequate regulations enabling effective activity of the central authority. In fact, a great number of the Council's initiatives remained only on a paper. Moreover, as a „tool of Petersburg”, the Permanent Council was attacked by patriotic circles since the very beginning. It was mainly criticized for the range of its entitlements. The opposition was afraid of the strong Council's rule that could threaten freedom of the Nobility. It was even postulated to abolish the Council.

In spite of all, it is admitted that activity of the Permanent Council was beneficial for the country and it allowed to develop modern forms of administration.

ARKADIUSZ RZEPKOWSKI

Social stratification in Łódź Voivodeship on the basis of censuses done in 1921 and 1931

The structure of Polish population in the interwar period has been already presented by scholars dealing with this issue, mainly in publications of Janusz Żarnowski. However, there is a need for determining the social composition of inhabitants of particular voivodeships of Second Polish Republic. This article is an attempt to present this social stratification in Łódź Voivodeship on the basis of censuses done in 1921 and 1931. Publications on Łódź Voivodeship during the period of Second Polish Republic are yet to be written, partly because the attention of researchers was focused mainly on the capital of the voivodeship – the city of Łódź.

Although Łódź Voivodeship was one of the most industrialized voivodeships of the interwar period Poland, the majority of its population was employed in agriculture and related branches of economy. Because of that the population structure of Łódź Voivodeship during the interwar period was a typical one for a voivodeship of an agricultural and industrial nature. During that time a large part of the population of the voivodeship was economically independent and conducted business activity, they were mostly small business owners, which is typical for capitalistic societies of the first half of 20th century in Central and Eastern Europe. Another characteristic feature of this voivodeship was the fact that a substantial percentage of population worked as hired labor, especially doing manual tasks in big factories, thus a high percentage of workers and home workers, especially in regions of concentrated industry.

TOMASZ SKRZYŃSKI

The role of Tadeusz Banachiewicz in PAU activities as exemplified by National Committees

Before World War I Conseil International des Recherches was the most important international organisation as far as sciences were concerned. A row of international unions were attached to it. Since 1921 PAU (Polish Academy of Sciences) was country's official representative at international science unions. Several national committees were the Academy's auxiliary bodies for the Union matters. Top representatives of particular branches of science belonged to these.

Tomasz Banachiewicz, an astronomer, mathematician and geophysicist was the chairman of most delegations sent by the Corporation for congresses of Survey – Geophysical Union and International Astronomy Union. He was also the chairman and played important role at domestic and international activities of National Committees: Survey – Geophysical and Astronomy.

KATARZYNA JEDYNAKIEWICZ-MRÓZ

„An den Früchten werdet Ihr sie erkennen”. Deutsche politische Elite und die Entstehung der BRD 1948–1949

Der Aufsatz präsentiert Voraussetzungen und innenpolitische Umstände der Entstehung der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, unter dem Gesichtspunkt westdeutscher politischer Elite in den Jahren 1948–1949. An Hand wesentlicher Fragen, die mit der Gründung eines deutschen Teilstaates verbunden waren, wurden ideologische und politische Stellungen deutscher Politiker und Parteien gezeigt, die in dieser Zeit eine Hauptrolle bei der Entstehung westdeutscher Demokratie gespielt hatten. Es wurden solche Probleme berührt, wie Form der westdeutschen Verfassung (BRD als ein Provisorium), Verhältnis zwischen der Legislative und Exekutive, konstruktives Misstrauensvotum, Stelle der Religion und der Kirchen in der Staatsordnung. Obwohl die damals, in heftigen Debatten und Auseinandersetzungen gearbeiteten Entscheidungen nur als vorläufige Lösung gedacht waren, wurden sie Grundlagen für die nächsten fünfzig Jahren der Bonner Republik.

MIROSLAW ROMAŃSKI

Polish-Icelandic contacts after 1945

The text entitled *Polish-Icelandic contacts after 1945* presents previously unknown closer relations between the two countries, ie Poland and Iceland after the World War II. In this paper the author tried to present a general relationship between the two countries, focusing on all major fields of cooperation, namely on diplomatic, political, economical and cultural relations.

Turning points of the text are justified, because renewal of these contacts occurred after 1945, and the cooperation between mentioned countries exists virtually to the present day. Of course, they looked different then, and on other planes Poland cooperates with Iceland today.

Although there were a few texts concerning the studied subject, but they focus more on cultural contacts and Icelandic government's politics on the employment of Poles in this country. For example,

the matter of political cooperation and the attitude of the Polish People's Republic towards the Icelandic policy have not been widely discussed.

The source collections concerning discussed subject acquired Archives of New Records in Warsaw, where we could find the Polish and English documents on Polish cooperation with Iceland in the period. On this basis the author was able to reproduce the conditions and character of these relations. Preliminary archival research was enriched with press sources, but despite their impressive numbers, the information contained in them are often duplicated by different authors.

Undoubtedly topics discussed in this article can be a contribution to do more research in this area, to which the author warmly encourages everyone interested in the subject.

KRZYSZTOF LESIAKOWSKI

Supply for the citizens of Łódź in articles of daily use in years 1980–1983

Thousands of the so called „march of the hunger women” have proceeded at the end of July 1981 in Łódź. It was an expression of the deep displeasure from the citizen of the city for the tragically supply situation. Fact, that in Łódź, the most loudly protest cause, that it belongs to ask as supply of basic consumable article was formed in the period of legal activity of the movement „Solidarność” and how their availability has affected the martial law?

The period 1980–1981 has brought many advantageous changes in sphere of civil liberty of the Polish people but it also meant catastrophe in the system of supply. At the end of the year 1981, in Łódź almost all was missing. It was possible to buy on introduce in this year of food coupon 70–80% due ration middling. The most critical situation was with provision of meat and meat product. Very fast after the installation of the martial law, it was seen that the military dictatorship will not mean a better life situation for the citizens of Łódź. On the contrary, a serious decrease of supply has follow, compare to the years 1980–1981. The symbol of this misery was the problem to get even bread in the first days after the 13th December 1981. Only the increase of prices and the keeping of the system of regulation protect the food market to completely fall down. It was no perspective of increasing the availability of the importing products at all, like ordinary tea. Supplies of articles of housekeeping were unforeseen entirely, furniture etc. In Łódź was missing also textile, clothes and shoes.

Till the end of the martial law, it never happen in the supplying system some changements for better. It is possible to say in its final phase about stabilization of poverty only which meant farthest regress.