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SMALL PEASANTS CONTINUE TO JOIN PRODUCERS COOPERATIVES

PRODUCERS' COOPERATIVES, STEP TOWARD COLLECTIVE FARMING -- Rolnik Polski, No 19, 12 Feb 50

There are now 405 producers' cooperatives in Poland. As of 28 January 1950, there were 348 cooperatives registered, with 175 set up within the preceding 3 months. Early in January, there were 273 producers' cooperatives.

At a meeting of secretaries of wojewodztwo and powiat committees of the PZPR (United Polish Workers Party) on 31 January 1950, Roman Zambrowski, secretary of the Central Committee of the PZPR, stated that while there is no mass movement as yet, a large number of small- and medium-farm holders through their delegates, are getting acquainted with the Soviet collective farmers and with the advantages of such farming. Farmers are getting away from the bad propaganda spread by kulaks regarding producers' cooperatives.

Hetmanski, chairman of the Wojewodztwo National Council in Poznan, stated that in the Poznan area there is a great interest in cooperatives. In Nowy Tomysl Powiat, when meetings were first held, it was difficult to get anyone to attend; now meetings are well attended by farmers.

There are still too few producers' cooperatives in the old villages -- only 27 were organized. Various party organizations still do not appreciate the importance of expanding Type I producers' cooperatives as only 24 have been set-up. Cooperation between the PZPR and the ZSL (United Peasant Party) is still weak with regard to the organization of producers' cooperatives.

Many producers' cooperatives have already attained high production. The successful cooperatives are those which apply the standard definitions of man-days contributed for each category of work, where the members have registered their livestock, and where members contribute work for improvements and apply for credit only when necessary. Among the 51 producers' cooperatives in Wroclaw, Olsztyn, Slask, Szczecin, Gdansk, Lublin, and Warsaw wojewodztwos on which harvest figures were obtained, harvests in 47 cooperatives were higher than in nearby farmsteads that were not associated. In 20 producers' cooperatives in Poznan Wojewodztwo which had joint harvests, the yield was higher than for independent farmers in the nearby villages.

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The "15 Grudnia" Cooperative, which is in Saczawienko, Walbrzych Powiat, started with 42 members, some of whom had been in USSR during the war. Its seven-member party organization is active and cooperates closely with the powiat committee. All important cooperative matters, such as credits, construction of new farm buildings, etc., are discussed with the party organization, with the powiat committee, and with the agricultural division of the wojewodztwo committee. The cooperative has 340 hectares of arable land, 85 cows, 35 horses, a large number of hogs, vegetable and flower hotbeds, an apiary with 40 hives, granary, storage space for fertilizers, milk station, carpenter shop, blacksmith shop, clubhouse, kindergarden and nursery, theatre, radio relay station for rebroadcasting, and loudspeakers in every home. During 1950, two barns for 100 cows will be built.

Many cooperatives still do not apply the man-days standard in their accounting. This encourages farmers to work on their own plots. Many established cooperatives fail to avail themselves of livestock owned by members before applying for credit to purchase other livestock. Others have neglected their duties, failing to report tax evasion, and hoarding on the part of wealthy farmers.

PRODUCERS' COOPERATIVES IN SLASK -- Trybuna Robotnicza, No 46, 15 Feb 50

In line with the PZPR (United Polish Workers Party) declaration that the welfare of the working peasant, increased agricultural production, and the use of the latest scientific and technical discoveries is possible only through collective management in the form of producers' cooperatives, preliminary work for the organization of the first producers' cooperatives in Slask was started early in 1949.

Producer cooperatives Types I, II, and III were discussed and explained and an intensive effort was made to convince the peasants that collective management was far superior to individual management. Some villagers were convinced, approved, and decided quickly, others delayed because of opposition from their wives.

Six producers' cooperatives were organized: Type II in Amantow, Raciborz Powiat; Type III in Sliwice, Nysa Powiat, in Goraszewice, Grodkow Powiat, in Karczow and Piotrkow, Niemodlin Powiat, and in Bzinica Nowa, Lubliniec Powiat. Only three began cooperative operations immediately, the others waited until the fall harvest.

Long-term production plans and yearly production plans were worked out for these three cooperatives; a bookkeeping system was set up and they received technical help to facilitate the achievement of their plans. Spring sowing and the planting of root crops were accomplished very efficiently and the peasants outside the cooperatives became slowly convinced that work progresses better in the cooperatives. Other cooperatives were organized in Wysoka, Gluczycc Powiat, in Wilamowa, Nysa Powiat, in Miechowa, Kluczbork Powiat, in Grodczanki, Raciborz Powiat, and in Biedzialy and Kaly in Opole Powiat. The leading powiat is Nysa where Type III cooperatives are being organized in Glebinow, Biala Nysa, and Gorna Wies.

After the harvest of 1949, the number of registered cooperatives was 21 and the number organized, 45. At present, there are 60 organized, of which 38 are registered and the remainder expect to be registered soon.

In accordance with the statute, the inventories are registered with the cooperatives, and state credits are issued to the peasants for repairs of outbuildings and farmhouses and for additional livestock. The yearly income will be divided among the members according to the amount of labor contributed.

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The management of the 14 cooperatives is very efficient; their livestock includes from 15 to 70 head of cattle, a sufficient number of horses, and 70 hogs. This convinces the peasants that the producers' cooperatives are not a temporary illusion but are real and permanent and the future of the small and medium farmer.

Socialism in the villages can be assured only by continued restrictions against the village kulaks ending in their elimination from the economic and social life of the village.

The best proof of the superiority of the cooperatives for the peasants is the fact that members of cooperatives for the past year received an average of 15,000 zlotys per month, in kind or in cash, and in addition could operate their own farmsteads consisting of one or two cows with their young, pigs, and poultry, and could occasionally butcher a 100 or 150-kilogram hog.

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