

LL  
16 August 1951  
N

POLAND

INDUSTRY  
Artisans

Like other small independent artisan enterprises, smithies in Poland have been nationalized and turned into cooperative workshops or machine centers. There are still a few blacksmiths in villages who practice their profession secretly, but of course, they cannot hire any assistants.

The nationalization of smithies gathered momentum in 1948 when independent blacksmiths stopped receiving raw materials with the result that they were forced to "join voluntarily" the nationalized workshops. Following nationalization, the incomes of blacksmiths have gone down by at least 50 per cent. Now a blacksmith in a village gets 600 to 700 Zloty a month and yet prices are higher than they used to be. One of the reasons for this is the fact that farmers who used to give blacksmiths a great deal of business, have stopped buying new tools or having their old ones repaired; they have stopped caring about their farm equipment since they too have lost their farms to the state.

Other small independent businesses that have suffered as a result of nationalization are car repair workshops.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 1948 to 1951

EVAL. COMMENT: Source : usually reliable;  
Information: confirmed by evidence.