

FREE POLAND

A SEMI-MONTHLY

The Truth About Poland and Her People

Vol. I—No. 8

JANUARY 6, 1915

5 Cents a Copy



Published by the Polish National Council of America

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Our Correspondence

(We reprint herewith some of the numerous letters we have received from Friends of Poland.)

Editor of "Free Poland,"
984 Milwaukee Ave.,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Sir:

I read with great interest all the numbers of your magazine, and I wish, that you accomplish that great thing, or see it accomplished before long, for which your paper stands for.

Any just man wishes that the great wrong done to the Poles, be at least done away, and that they may be freed from the yoke which has been forced upon them. I know Poland of Prussia and know Poland of Austria. I do not know Poland of Russia. But from all that I have learned in the two before mentioned parts of this Great Polska I know, that "Polska jeszcze nie zginęła" and that "Polska nie zginie." May Poland come out of this struggle free, may it be ruled—if it so desires—by its own kings, surrounded by their own knightly citizens and may the persecution of the Poles be at last done away! This is my wish. The propaganda which you are doing is noble indeed and timely; and I wish you all the success from the bottom of my heart.

Thanking you for your kindness, I am,

Yours very sincerely,

LEO ZELENKA-LERANDO,
Secretary Slavic Hist. Society of America.

Mr. Stanislaus Osada,
984 Milwaukee Ave.,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Sir:

I am in receipt of the publication "Free Poland" and wish to thank you for the copy.

I read your article on "Why Poles Distrust Russia?" and quite agree with you, as I don't believe, in case Russia is successful, that the Polish can expect much from the Russian Government, if we are to judge the future by the past.

Again thanking you for forwarding me a copy of the publication, I am, with kindest regards,

Sincerely yours, **THOS. GALLAGHER.**

Dear Sir:

Please find enclosed money order for one dollar for which kindly send me one year's subscription to "Free Poland," beginning with issue of Oct. 15th.

We hear a great deal of the distress in Belgium through the American newspapers, but no mention of the terrible suffering in Galicia. Is there no way for the Polish organizations in America to cause or bring about the publishing of accounts of this awful suffering, in the American daily papers? This, with the idea of reaching the general public, which, so far, hears only the news from Belgium.

My friend reads of this suffering in Galicia in her Polish paper, and that is how I have learned of it in detail. But I never come across any translation of these accounts in the big daily papers of the American press. Is there no way to attain this end?

I am praying for Poland to be one again, with her own government, and so you know I wish you every success.

Yours respectfully,

ALICIA M. NEVE,
1103 Tampa st.,
Tampa, Fla.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed find \$1.00 as one year's subscription for the paper. Please send me all the previous numbers. The appearance of your publication is most opportune now. I am in charge of the Croatian parish in this town and although not a Pole, from my youth I have learned to love and admire Poland. If the Teutons win, Poland is lost together with the other Slav nationalities of Austria; but if the Allies win there is hope for a better future.

The average American does not know much of Poland, her past and her present sufferings, and I fervently hope that your publication will enlighten many and will help the cause of Poland and other Slavs of Austria.

Yours truly,

REV. JOSEPH MEDIN,
Calumet, Mich.

A Letter from Europe

W. Poblocki, associate editor of the *Nowiny Polskie*, has received from a priest at Kulm, West Prussia, a letter describing conditions there, and saying that the Poles have been persecuted by the Germans since the beginning of the war. The letter is as follows:

"You desire to know how our people received the declaration of war, and how they feel in the matter. Though everybody expected a war for a long time, we nevertheless hoped that peace would prevail for some time to come. The mobilization command caught us, therefore, unprepared, and frightened everyone, to say the least. The sacrifice demanded was not a small one. It meant that every man who was able-bodied had to leave his wife and children and everything he owned, possibly never to see them again; that he had to sacrifice his blood for a foreign cause; that a brother must fire upon his brother—because on the side of the Muscovites there are multitudes of Poles, who are apparently pushed into the first fire. In spite of this, everybody, though with a heavy heart, surrendered himself to his fate.

"Kulm is now, of course, a fortified city, surrounded by forts extending to Starogrod (Althausen), Watorowo and Stolno. Thousands of men labored at these forts day and night, and some are still employed there. About 200,000 soldiers were uniformed in or passed

(Continued on page 7.)



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Polish National Hymn

Translated by the REV. J. P. WACHOWSKI

GOD, who on Poland didst through ages shower
 The choicest favors of prowess and glory;
 Thou, who didst shield her with Thy heavenly power
 From threatening dangers and impending worry;
 O Lord in heaven hear our supplication:
 Restore to freedom our unhappy nation!

Thou, who didst aid us in our combats later,
 When we were struggling for our freedom vainly,
 Who didst shed luster on our deeds, still greater
 Proving our valor to the world most plainly.
 O Lord in heaven hear our supplication:
 Restore to freedom our unhappy nation!

Restore our country to its pristine splendor,
 Make our soil fertile, and our wasted meadows;
 Peace and good fortune to our faint hearts render,
 O stay Thine anger which our land o'er shadows!
 O Lord in heaven hear our supplication:
 Restore to freedom our unhappy nation!

It is but lately since our freedom vanished
 And lo, already streams of blood are flowing,
 How wretched are they from whose hearts is banished
 All hope of freedom's blessings ever knowing!
 O Lord in heaven hear our supplication:
 Restore to freedom our unhappy nation!

O God of justice by whose mighty power
 Thrones of proud rulers, crumble, when convicted,
 Make tyrants tremble and before Thee cower,
 Enkindle new hope in our hearts afflicted!
 O Lord in heaven hear our supplication:
 Restore to freedom our unhappy nation!

O Lord All holy, by the Saviour's passion
 Reward our country's heroic defenders.
 Look on our sufferings with loving compassion,
 Accept the ransom which our life's blood tenders.

O Lord in heaven hear our supplication:
 Restore to freedom our unhappy nation!

O Great Creator, on whose will and prestige
 The world's existence is ever depending,
 Of cruel tyrants banish every vestige—
 For this our nation is ever contending.

O Lord in heaven hear our supplication:
 Restore to freedom our unhappy nation!

O God Almighty, Lord of all creation,
 Preserve our country from all wars felonious;
 An equal freedom grant to every nation,
 Unite all peoples in friendship harmonious.

O Lord in heaven hear our supplication:
 Restore to freedom our unhappy nation!

O God of mercy, see, our tears are flowing
 In constant mourning for our fallen brothers;
 Our band of martyrs is forever growing,—

O may their life's blood bring freedom to others!
 O Lord in heaven hear our supplication:
 Restore to freedom our unhappy nation!

Almighty Father, Lord of creation,
 Free us, we pray Thee, from foes who enslave us!
 And should we later rouse Thy indignation
 Turn us to ashes, but from bondage save us!
 O Lord in heaven hear our supplication:
 Restore to freedom our unhappy nation!

The National Hymn

A LOJZY Feliński (1771-1820) was at one time professor of Polish literature at the Krzemieniec Lyceum. His tragic drama entitled *Barbara*, the story of which is taken from Polish history, is modeled after the masters of the French school of drama. His *Ziemiańin* (Husbandman) is taken from Delille, his *Radamast i Zenobia* from Crebillon, and his *Virginia* from Alfieri. But popularly Feliński is known as the author of the Polish national hymn, *Boże coś Polskę*, set to music by Jan Kaszewski.

* *

National hymns are indicative of a people's ambitions and aspirations. The English hymn,

Rule, Britannia, at once expresses Britain's desire to dominate the seas. The German hymn, *Deutschland Ueber Alles*, strikes an aggressive chord in every line of its verse. Likewise, Poland's dearest hopes and wishes are contained in her hymn.

And it is a hymn which does not breathe the desires to rule the seas or to hold the four corners of the earth in subjugation; it has only a supplication. Poland does not ask the Lord "to strike her enemies"; one of the English hymns contains those words, although to the credit of Mrs. Grundy it must be said that the stanza is never sung. Poland simply wants a home of her own; she asks for her rights, justice and liberty.

Watchful Waiting for Poland

By FRANK P. GRODSKI



THE present political upheaval is bringing nearer to the Polish people the realization of their most sacred goal—the restoration of free Poland.

Poles know that such event may and will come only through the influence and through intervention of the really free and democratic nations of the world. This never can come by the will of Austria, Prussia or Russia. Poles also know that for the preservation and stability of peace in Europe it is in the interest of all nations, and that of Germany as well as Russia particularly, that a free state of Poland is formed between Germany and Russia. Poles are willing and are ready with their full power to give their active aid for the accomplishment of this cause, but the physical and moral conditions created by the past historical events are such that Poles are able to do it as a united and independent nation only, and never as enslaved people, where brother kills brother, and father kills son, etc.

In realization of these facts, I am of the opinion that the present subjugated Polish nation proved great political wisdom by assuming a position of watchful waiting. The phenomenon of co-operation of armed Polish patriots with the Austrian army, we consider as a result of patriotic oversensitiveness, of thirst for realization and of dread before the northern tyrant. When all comes to all it is again Russia's greedy wavering that

causes the split in political minds of Polish people in Galicia. Poland, as one solid body, has no duty and no obligations whatever to give support to any one of her despoilers. Poland has no interest in their quarrels save that of her own freedom. None of her oppressors has any right to appeal for support to the entire Polish nation, unless the unalienable rights of freedom and independence for Poland are fully restored. The tyrants ought to be satisfied and mighty glad if the Poles, subjected to their respective rules, do not offer them a resistance.

The English-speaking races will play the most important part in the settlement of the present conflict, which will bring freedom to all nations on earth. Particularly the United States, being at peace and occupying a neutral position, represents a ground upon which the opinions can be freely expressed and crystallized. For this reason the opinion of this country will bring high moral influence upon the future Congress of Nations. Fully realizing the exceptional position of this country, it will be our concern and our endeavor to reach the English-speaking people with due information relating to questions of Poland.

We will make also every effort to show that it is the moral duty of all nations as well as their common material interest, to restore to Poland her freedom.



Prussia's Unenviable Position

By A. KARABASZ



IT is noteworthy that the Prussians for many years have enjoyed "splendid isolation" in the hearts of mankind. Moltke's famous words, "We Germans have gained everywhere in respect, but nowhere in love", are through this war being understood even by the most obtusely arrogant Prussian.

This lack of love for Prussia has been brought about by Prussian overweening pride and "Kultur." The Kaiser, it is true, has been advertised as Prince of Peace, but the world somehow or other has failed to believe him. And why?

The world has so often heard the poser clinking his saber and mentioning the "whetted sword and dry powder." The world has so often heard German professors teaching from the chairs of universities that "a great heritage of Belgium and Holland still smiles upon Germany." The world has not forgotten the cry of Prussian publicists, such as Hochwarth, for example, who, in his pamphlet (published two years ago) entitled, "Die Anderen und Wir," writes: "Let us set our proud army on such a footing that it may, within eight weeks after a declaration of war, be able to stand before the walls of Paris. Then we shall for ever over-

whelm not only France, but also England, and this means 'Deutschland in der Welt voran' (Germany at the head of the world)."

Well we remember the satires of Weber ridiculing his countrymen for their megalomania (*Groessenwahn*) and questioning with biting sarcasm whether "Germany is building so strong a deed for the purpose of invading Switzerland in some future time." We have seen Prussia casting her looks lustfully upon Poland, in order to make out for herself, as far as Warsaw, in the name of the German god of politics, to whom was given the task of "rounding out the boundaries,"—a cornhouse for her superabundant growth of population.

Everyone knows that Germany was yoking Austria to her chariot for the sole purpose of having access to the Mediterranean sea through Austria.

We all know of the Prussian public school teacher instructing his pupils in accordance with Kaiser William's direction and motto: "*Gott und der Kaiser*," and training a nation of mad patriots that think the entire world belongs to them by divine right.

Many are earnestly convinced that Kaiser William, surfeited with the glory of orator, painter, composer, architect, lawyer and artist all in all, now ardently desires to equal, if not surpass, Napoleon by his talents and genius of strategy.

Others say that it is not to Napoleon or Frederick II the Kaiser should have compared himself, but rather to Nero: for when he will have once departed from the arena of life, he will leave after him, only the remembrance of whipped and tortured Polish children that only wanted to pray in their mother tongue, of Louvain, Rheims, Kalisz and Czeszochowa.

I fear the greatness and power of the German Empire is already on the decline. It is given a death blow by its ruler, who should have rather scrambled for stage glory among theatrical folk than have directed the ministerial bench. Kaiser Wilhelm has not hesitated to expose empires to an historical catastrophe, to throw United Germany, yea, even his imperial crown into the balance of futurity. The time is not far off, when Kaiser's own subjects, trained in servile humility towards him, shall be cursing him; and after his total defeat he may not find shelter in his own fatherland.

All Europe is looking on. She is fully persuaded that a long and stubborn war is awaiting her.

Europe indeed is not fighting for promoting the boundary lines for a few geographical degrees

to the east or west, but for an olive branch of such a peace, that would blossom forth with happiness for all, even the petty, even the forgotten or unknown nations.

All Europe knows that the road that leads into the "tomorrow" of nations, is a road through an ocean of blood, through a gulf of hell, which the present generations must needs pass.

The Kaiser's unenviable position is complicated by the Polish Question. Prussia's extent of territory was enlarged through conquest of countries occupied by the Slavs beyond the Elba and the Oder rivers. Prussia owes her greatness to the good will of Slavic peoples; she grew rich at their expense in order afterwards to propose to Russia the partition of Poland.

For over a century Poland was destined to be cruelly oppressed. And when she began to jerk her triple fetters, when by her struggles with the oppressors she gave evidence of her right of existence, Europe remained silent and deaf to Poland's cry of distress.

If Poland's freedom would have been preserved, if the nations in conference at the Congress of Vienna would have made Poland free, Prussia, under her own auspices, would never have been able to unite all Germany, in order to give deadly blows to all of her neighbors in turn, and at the same time to enlarge her boundaries by their territories.

Europe, therefore, wishing to come to terms of peace today, must despoil Prussia of her conquered provinces.

Foreign appanages: Alsace, Lorrain, Northern Schleswick; provinces, Posen, West and East Prussia, Silesia—all must be returned to their legitimate owners, namely, France, Denmark and Poland.

When this shall come to pass, Prussia will lose once for all her importance in the German Empire, and the weighty signification of German politics will be shifted from Berlin more towards the southwest.

The betokening of such a future was welcomed by Poland in the words of Asquith: "It is a question of a principle, which must be triumphant; namely, that weaker nations can not be annihilated by the stronger."

The day-light of that future was welcomed by Poland in the declaration of the Russian commander-in-chief, namely, that "the holy reveries of your fathers and grandfathers are to prove true."

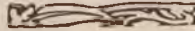
There are not and there can not be differences of opinion on this subject: Poland will be able to exist only after Prussia will have been defeated; it is only after a complete routing of Prussia,

that Poland will be able again to take her place among the civilized nations of the world, free and independent, in order to fulfill her historic mission in the future, to promote culture in the east, and, by her own life, to defend the progress of culture and civilization in the west of Europe.

The question of Poland, buried in the grave and borne down by a heavy stone of politics for the last few scores of years, now stands in its entire reality before the tribunal of Europe and of the whole world.

And indeed, it is with great joy that Poland

welcomes the glorious future in store for her. Considering that in Prussia a grenadier's button is worth more than the life of a citizen, Poland has forgotten the harm Russia has done her; and today, when, through her commander, the latter not only promises freedom to Poland, but also gives an opportunity to organize Polish Legions for the purpose of subduing the common enemy of Europe, she is entering the ranks with enthusiasm, so that her "free" muskets may not be missed in this great historic tournament concerning "the administration of justice even unto the weakest."



Poland and the War

By FRANK SYNAKOWSKI



BELGIUM and Poland are now two vast battlefields of Europe. It may be remarked, with reference to these two, that some of the most noteworthy and decisive battles in centuries past have been waged and fought bitterly upon the same battlefields.

The past of Belgium, as well as the pitiable condition of that country to-day, is well known. Little is known about Poland.

So much is heard of the misfortunes of Belgium and the Belgians, just as if Belgium were the only sufferer. It is not so. Listen:

Poland, a beautiful country, has suffered much more than Belgium ever suffered, suffers now more than Belgium suffers, and in the future it will suffer more than Belgium. Millions of poor, helpless Polish men, women and children clamor for help, but the world hears not this voice of anguish, because the din and glare of the war deafens all sound and because it is so far away. Belgium emits a sigh—and millionaires rush to aid and relief; while these same millionaires might recall that Poles helped more to give them those millions than Belgians, and will continue to do so. Belgium is helped easily, it has many friends, while Poland is surrounded on all sides by wolves and cut off from the rest of the world.

It is possible to help the Poles. They should be helped, for they are a great unit in the present war, and are fighting for liberty. Will Americans, lovers of liberty, overlook this land of the free?

Recently there have been held all over this country patriotic meetings of Polish people to

raise funds for the relief of the unfortunate Poles. This was an act which cannot have passed unnoticed by anyone. It was an act of heroism during the past months of hard times on the part of a people who are not rich, but hard working, patient, enduring and satisfied. The raising of funds was not restricted to one such meeting in a locality, but month after month, week after week similar meetings were held until the sum proved to be of sufficient value and size for the present, always keeping in mind the "hard times" and the high cost of living. These sums are sent over the ocean and there an organization distributes the money so that even a widow's mite relieves a bit of suffering.

Russians, especially the high society circles of women, have also thought of the sufferings and misery endured by Poles in fighting for the Russians, and have offered their services to relieve the victims. The sums raised are extraordinary, and show that when human sympathy is aroused no national prejudices or hatred will prevent good action. The "barbarism" of the Russians becomes a fable; national hatred a soap bubble; all hasten to help human beings, beings which have suffered for many years unjustly.

These charitable efforts do not relieve the sufferings of all the Poles in Poland. Russians help their possessions, Austrians have little time to think about similar actions, and Germans cannot be said to have done anything. The armies destroyed Polish homes, crops and have eaten up everything which came their way, but to repay this nothing has been done as yet, except, as we have heard on part of the Russian.

A Letter from Europe

(Continued from page 2nd)

through Kulm. New multitudes are still passing through here day and night.

"The cathedral bells have been silent for two months. On its towers have been stationed searchlights and other apparatus.

It could be expected that the Germans would now show some recognition to the families of their comrades-in-arms. But this did not happen. The spirit of the crusaders would not permit this. The German philosopher, Hartman, sounded the famous *Ausrotten*. In this spirit the "Hakatists" * worked against us for years, barked at us in the press, and especially at public meetings, where the German pastors showed their enmity towards us. No wonder, therefore, that this devilish seed now began to bear fruit. German mobs, now feeling safe in the presence of their soldiery that filled the streets, shouted from the market square: 'Hang the Poles or huddle them into a shed, pour kerosene on it and set it on fire.' The more intelligent said: 'This is not a war with the Muscovite, but a war with the Slavs in general, a race war—'Ein Rassenkrieg.'

"Monstrous and fantastic fables were circulating among the Germans in town. Some held that the priests had enormous supplies of ammunitions concealed in the church basements, and that these supplies were to be distributed among the Poles; others said that the priests exhorted the soldiers leaving for the front not to shoot at the Russians but to turn on the Germans. It was even murmured that six priests had already been shot. As a matter of fact, no one was shot, but priests and prominent citizens were thrown into jails in large numbers. They were usually dragged out of their beds at midnight, and after a search taken in automobiles to jail, where they were treated, especially in the beginning, like common criminals. In vain did they ask for a reason of their incarceration. 'You will find out later,' was the usual reply. They expected, of course, to be tried before a court of some kind, and that a privilege of a hearing would be granted them.

"But nothing like that happened, although the prisoners themselves demanded these things, and no doubt they would have still been held had not the bishops interceded for them, after being notified of these atrocities by their deacons. After a two and a half weeks' confinement, which had ruined the health of many, they were led out of jail under guard, through side streets, as if the Germans were ashamed of their deed, and were brought before the commander. Here they were told that by the order of the Kaiser, owing to the intercession of the bishops, they were to be freed. But the commander did not even explain why they had been thrown into jail. This fate befell Rev. Lipski from Althausen, Rev. Chmielecki from Wabcz, Rev. Dembek from Nawra, and citizens Slaski from Wabcz, Stefański from Kielp and thirty others. To priests from

Kulm the commander was kind, inasmuch as he only threatened them with death. After summoning them before him he announced that he was informed about the Catholic clerical sentiment against the Germans. 'Remember this,' he said to them with a clenched fist and in a tone most brutal, 'that if anything of this kind should happen I will order the guilty one to be shot without mercy.' This ended the hearing.

"It may be asked where he was informed about the dangerous plotting of the Poles. This is the answer. The local landrat (Prussian district head), who in the very beginning had betrayed his ill-will towards us, prepared a list of all the more prominent Poles. He, of course, denies this, but it was nevertheless done with his knowledge and owing to the pressure of the Hakatists. All the town heads were summoned to prepare the list of prominent Poles, and this list was passed upon by the landrat and handed to the commander. What a pleasant opportunity this afforded to certain ignominious individuals for avenging themselves upon those towards whom they felt any spite! In time of peace evidence would have to be furnished, but here martial law was in order, and it was easy to have this one or that one shot as a traitor. In this way the Hakatists covered themselves with glory as guardians of their fatherland.

"Justice commands us to note, however, that not all the Germans displayed this enmity towards us. For example, the head of the village of Kijew, when he heard that Rev. Szwedowski was also to be jailed, announced emphatically that he would sooner resign his position than dip his fingers in this unclean affair. The landrat of Grudziadz (Graudenz) deserves especial mention for his public proclamation refusing to receive any denunciations and forbidding the persecution of the Poles who performed their duties towards the country as well as the Germans themselves. Even the Pole-persecuting Geselliger of Grudziadz made a similar proclamation.

"At present the storm has somewhat subsided, but enmity is shown towards everything that is Polish at every opportunity. It is evident from this to what degree the Hakatists have poisoned the minds of their countrymen. Our general feeling was, I believe, best expressed by a plain woman from a village:

"If the Muscovite will win it will be bad, but if the Germans are victorious then the Poles will be hanged or drowned in the Vistula.'

"Here I have described what transpired in Kulm alone. Conditions were worse near the boundary line, in the neighborhood of Lidzbark (Lautenburg), Działdowo (Soldau) and Jablonowo. The soldiers behaved as though they found themselves in the country of an enemy. In the castle of Princess Oginska they destroyed costly furniture, punctured the couches and chairs with bayonets and tore up gowns of women. One of the German captains boasted to a priest that his men had done about 3,000 marks worth of damage. There also the priests suffered no less than here. Of this I may write later. It behooves us all to cry with the church: 'From the elements, hunger, fire and war, preserve us, o, Lord.'

"In Prussia we are not yet affected with hunger, but in Russia it is already in evidence."

* By Hakatist Poles mean a Prussian, who advocates the extermination of their language and nationality.

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To Editors and Publishers

The Polish Question is a timely one throughout the world. The contents of this publication will furnish, we hope, adequate material for use at opportune moments.

Helping Poland

The Appeal of the Polish Central Relief Committee states in part that Poland has not been abandoned by all; that there is America to look up to for aid and assistance. Indeed, the trust placed in America has not been betrayed. While touched by the plight of Belgium and her seven millions of stricken people in need of food and clothing and homes, the American public feels that the appeal to the people of the United States for help for Poland comes with even greater force. There are over twenty million Poles in the war zone, but there is no Polish nation. They are between the millstones of huge armies, some of them forced to stand with Austria, some with Germany and some with Russia, but really no great nation or party to the great conflict now in progress stands by Poland as a friend and ally. That is the reason this country is playing the role of Good Samaritan.

The Poles of America have an efficient relief committee into which enter such powerful organizations as the Polish National Alliance, Polish National Council, Polish Roman Catholic Union, Polish Women's Alliance and others. To date the Polish National Alliance has sent \$21,-

000, the Polish Women's Alliance, \$2,000, and the Polish National Council, \$2,000. It is then self-evident that the relief committee, behind which stand such influential organizations, can but assure the public that the best possible use will be made of all contributions.

Of course, the efforts of well known individuals or groups of eminent citizens are just as noteworthy and helpful. Several days ago, for example, the American Polish Hospital in Warsaw, Poland, was opened officially, the American consul, as well as a number of prominent Polish citizens and Russian officials participating in the opening ceremonies. The opening of the hospital was made possible through a fund raised in America at the instance of the following committee: Charles G. Dawes, treasurer; James A. Patten, Ralph Van Vechten, Mrs. Harriet Smulski and John F. Smulski. December 1, the Committee had nearly \$2,500 on hand.

Then, Madame Marcella Sembrich heads the Polish national relief fund committee, composed of women, just organized in New York City, which appeals to the public in the name of humanity, womanhood and motherhood. The plea runs in part:

"Like Belgium, Poland is an innocent victim of this terrific clash of arms, and, like Belgium, she is bearing the brunt of the fighting with all the horrible desolation which accompanies such stupendous warfare as is now being waged. The men of Poland have been drafted into three hostile armies to slaughter each other. Their homes were left unprotected to the ravages of war and their families unprovided for the concomitant misery, suffering and starvation. The unfortunate women and children cannot expect any succor and help from their governments or friendly neighboring nations, as the Poles have no government of their own to care for them and no neutral neighboring country wherein to seek temporary relief and shelter. They must remain helpless and starving with their little ones unless relief arrives from across the seas, from that land of promise and liberty of which they have heard since the days of their childhood." Contributions to the Polish fund may be sent to the treasurer, Miss L. Krajewski, 265 Central Park west, New York City.

Mme. Marcella Sembrich is really honorary president; Mrs. Thomas F. Krajewski, president; Mrs. John Rade, vice-president; Mrs. E. Lewinski-Corwin, secretary, and Miss L. Krajewski, treasurer. Members of the committee are: Miss Emilia Benda, Miss Jadwiga Benda, Mrs. Prescott Hoard, Mrs. Boleslaw Lapowski, Mrs. Ernest de Manowski, Mrs. John Moszczenski, Miss Zofia Naimska.

Funds are being deposited with the Guaranty Trust Company of New York and forwarded through the American consul in Warsaw to the central relief committee there for immediate distribution. Later Cardinal Farley was also chosen vice-president, and to begin with, the Cardinal contributed \$2,000 for the aid of noncombatants in Poland. Over \$4,000 have already been collected through this relief committee.

In Baltimore the Russian Poland Red Cross Relief Fund Committee has been very busy getting a shipment of medical and surgical supplies and contributions of clothing, blankets, etc., ready to be forwarded to Russian Poland. The first shipment, under the auspices of this committee, which was brought together by former Governor Edwin Warfield, through the appeal from his daughter, Countess Louise Ledochowska, consists of 25 boxes—5 boxes containing clothing, 15 boxes containing ether and chloroform and 5 boxes containing cotton and surgical supplies.

The Poles of this city have been taking a great interest in this work and have made liberal contributions. The many friends of the Governor's daughter, Countess Louise Ledochowska, have been sending contributions of bandages and medical and surgical appliances and clothing and things most needed by the unfortunate people in Poland. The statement of the suffering and the conditions of the poor in that section made in the letters from the Countess has awakened deep interest.

The committee will continue to work and will receive any further contributions at its room, 1104 Fidelity Building, and will forward them by the next steamer. It is hoped that the Russian Government will be able to keep the port of Archangel open, so that shipments may go that way, as it is the most direct. There is no other way to ship supplies to Poland except by the Pacific ocean and trans-Siberian railroads.

The boxes have been sent direct to Mr. Mayre, the American Ambassador at Petrograd, who has promised to forward them to the Countess of Wolochiska, in Russian Poland, for distribution, etc.

The late Father Barabasz, of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church, had been one of the most enthusiastic workers for this relief fund, and only a few hours before his death sent his best wishes to former Governor Warfield and the other workers in the cause.

In Springfield, Mass., the following committee, to help the non-combatant sufferers in the war in Poland, has been organized:

President, Curtis Guild; treasurer, William P. Blake, 27 Kilby street, Boston; executive committee—Henry L. Higginson, Augustus Hemenway, Mme. Antoinette Szumowska-Adamowska, Mrs. Timothee Adamowski, Jan Romaszkiwicz, Timothee Adamowski, Joseph Adamowski.

The distributing center will be Warsaw, and arrangements are being made for a committee on the other side of the ocean, including such names as Sienkiewicz, Paderewski, possibly Baron Kronenberg, and representatives of all classes.

Representatives of the Polish population of St. Paul met at St. Adalbert's hall, Charles and Galtier streets, and perfected plans for raising funds for relief of the war-made orphans and widows of Poland.

The following committee is in charge: Rev. Peter Roy, chairman; Ben Koleski, secretary; Andrew Rozmarek, treasurer; Rev. H. Jajeski, Francis Rosenthal and A. Nowak.

Philadelphia's contributions to the Polish War Relief Fund grew \$2,500 when more than 1,000 Polish citizens witnessed the performance of the old patriotic drama, "Kościuszko Under Raclawice," at the National Theater, 10th and Callowhill streets, under the auspices of the Central Polish Committee.

To aid Polish war sufferers bazaars are being held in Buffalo, N. Y. Five hundred articles have been received for sale, mostly from girls attending the parochial and public schools. They include laces, knitting crochet work, embroideries, pillows, cushions, aprons, books and fancy articles of all kinds.

The bazaar movement was started a few weeks ago, when news came that the people of Poland are almost destitute. Private correspondence also carried news of great privation among Polish widows and children.

The funds gathered by the committee will be remitted to Europe through the American Red Cross association or through the American embassy.

* * *

From this bird's-eye view of efforts to succor suffering Poland one sees that the American public has generously responded. And all honor due to our American press which by printing the Appeal has lubricated the wheels of charity. We find the Appeal for Poland printed and quoted and commented upon in the following:

Chicago Tribune, Chicago Daily News, Chicago Post, Chicago Examiner, New York Sun, Auburn (N. Y.) Citizen, Cohoes (N. Y.) Republican, Schenectady Star, Buffalo News, Boston Transcript, Utica (N. Y.) Press, Holyoke (Mass.) Telegram, Toledo Blade, Bridgeport (Conn.) Standard, Lorain (Ohio) Herald, Cleveland Plaindealer, Johnstown (Pa.) Leader, Chattanooga (Tenn.) News, Peoria (Ill.) Star, Mobile Item, Bay City Times, Green Bay (Wis.) Gazette, St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer, Milwaukee (Wis.) News, Milwaukee Sentinel, Chicago Live Stock World, Patterson (N. J.) Press, Pasadena (Cal.) Star, Oakland (Cal.) Tribune, Saulte Ste. Marie News, Winnipeg Press, Hamilton (Can.) Times, Chicago Waisenfreund, Pittsburg Dispatch, Detroit Journal, Grand Rapids Press and Saginaw Courier.

* * *

The Pittsburg Dispatch, commenting on the situation in Poland, writes in part:

"More than five hundred Polish towns have been ruined. Each army accuses the other of looting and cruelty. The flight of the civilians from Lodz was one of the most tragic episodes of the war, while one correspondent pictures the fate of Kalisz as a repetition of Louvain, with the slaughter of 400 civilians and the sacking of the city."

* * *

The Patterson (N. J.) Press contributes the following:

"Like Belgium, Poland is an innocent victim of this terrific clash of arms and like Belgium she is bearing the brunt of the fighting with all the horrible desolation which accompanies such stupendous warfare as is now being waged. The men of Poland have been drafted into three hostile armies to slaughter each other. Their homes were left unprotected to the ravages of war and their families unprovided for the concomitant misery, suffering and starvation."

* * *

The Springfield (Mass.) Republican prints the following notable appeal:

"The universal sympathy for the noncombatant victims in unhappy little Belgium has distracted public attention from the thought that in the second great battle ground of Europe similar dreadful conditions exist.

"Especially in the region about Warsaw the battling forces have left ruin in their wake. In addition to ruined harvests, burned homes, wrecked industries and the horrors of all wars, the houseless and breadless inhabitants of this entire district are now at this present moment facing the awful rigors of the approaching winter. The horrors of Napoleon's retreat are being borne, not by soldiers this time, but by helpless women and children.

"The emperor of Russia has contributed magnificently toward this relief, even to the extent of providing for the rebuilding of the Catholic churches. Still, in spite of this, there is much left to be done. It is a fact, to quote the testimony of an eye-witness, 'Poland is devastated. The people have nothing to eat.'

"Though divided among three nations, it happens that from the Baltic to the Carpathians the noncombatant sufferers nearly all belong to the Slav race, the districts in question having at one time or another nearly all belonged to the ancient kingdom of Poland. Though that kingdom does not exist to-day, a plea should be made to the public regardless of the events of past history or future prospects, not for any political purpose, but in the name of common humanity, for a race that, exactly like the Belgians, is undergoing a special crucifixion, not merely in the persons of its fighting men, divided under three national flags, but in those of its helpless women and children."

* * *

Los Angeles Examiner notes the following:

"Funds for the maintenance of the Polish-American Red Cross Hospital and Relief Corps, recently established in Warsaw, Poland, and organized in Chicago by Polish-Americans, are being appealed for a every large city of the United States. John Roman, 610 Brand boulevard, Glendale, and Frank Baierski, 203 Bryson Building, have been appointed members of the committee to handle the Southern California contributions."

* * *

Baltimore American gives publicity to whatever aid is rendered war sufferers, as for instance:

"Mrs. T. Harrison Garrett has four boxes ready for shipment to the Polish sufferers from the war. They will be sent on their way early this week. Recently Mrs. Garrett received a donation of 25 pounds of antiseptic bandages, which was very valuable to her in her relief work."

* * *

New York Sun has the following:

"It seems strange that the effects of the war in Poland have been comparatively unknown in America to date," said Mr. Straszewicz. "Western Europe is busy with her own sufferers and Russia already has a tremendous load to carry. The Czar has sent what he could and many of the wealthy people in Petrograd and Warsaw have tried to help the refugees who have flocked into Warsaw by the thousands from the outlying districts which the Germans have taken."

"Practically all of Poland is covered by armies and Warsaw has been converted into a huge camp. The coal belt on the frontier has been seized by the Germans and the people are practically without fuel save such as is brought from Russia. The sugar refineries near Lodz have been destroyed and the sugar beets, which are the staple product there, are rotting in the ground."

"The Red Cross burial service, which I accompanied

followed in the wake of the armies and we buried Russians and Germans alike. Many of the burial trenches were necessarily shallow, as we had to hurry." Mr. Straszewicz showed pictures of trenches so shallow that the feet of the dead soldiers were not covered.

"We saw no instances of dum-dum bullets," he said, in response of inquiries. "Our men felt a high respect for the efficiency of the German officers as compared to the Austrians, whom they considered very weak in military tactics."

* * *

New York Tribune publishes Mme. Sembrich's letter which is as follows:

"Your readers have been informed of the efforts which are making to relieve the sufferings of the non-combatant population of Poland. The committee which was called into existence some weeks ago under the title of the Polish National Relief Fund has since then been merged into the American Polish Relief Committee of New York."

"I have been honored by election to the presidency of the new committee. We all know (nobody can help knowing) how large the demands have been upon the generous Americans for help for all the people involved in the fearful calamity which has come upon the world. Nobody can help feeling grateful for all that has been done by America for them, especially for the Belgians, who till now have been the chief sufferers. But little or nothing has been done specifically for the Poles, who are sufferers in more ways than one—a patriotic people, whose national patrimony was long ago divided among the nations now at war, and who are being despoiled whichever way the tide of battle turns."

"If I make an appeal, therefore, that the benevolence of Americans include my poor countrymen in Austrian, Prussian and German Poland I am asking only that their warm hearts go out to an inconceivably poor people, who have no place to go, either east, west, north or south, when they are compelled to flee before the armies battling in the territory which once belonged to a proud and happy nation—a nation whose love for freedom sent its hero, Kościuszko, to help Americans fight for their liberty."

* * *

Detroit (Mich.) Journal submits the following:

"Poles and Jews in Galicia are miserably in want, many of them driven from their homes now by one army and now by another, buffeted by fate. No matter who wins, Austria or Russia, the common people will suffer. The victory of kings spells the defeat of the poor. Not for liberty is this sword unsheathed, but for tyranny."

* * *

In brief, the Appeal has reverberated from end to end. Mr. Casimir Gonski, of Milwaukee, in particular has wielded an able pen in behalf of Poland's sufferers. If we have more like him, this country from coast to coast will become acquainted with the pitiable conditions obtaining in Poland. "From coast to coast," should be our slogan.

(To be continued.)

Poland's Plight

Written By CASIMIR GONSKI



IN the gory stage of Europe's terrible drama Poland occupies the goriest place. It is not her war, yet she suffers for it; it is not her cause, yet she brings the bloodiest, the most pathetic sacrifices. Poland, the Niobe of nations, numbering about twenty millions under the respective domain of the three powers, who have partitioned her, has nearly two millions of her sons under arms, arrayed against each other. Half a million each in the German and Austrian armies and about one million in the Russian forces. Lest the mind fail to grasp the terrible significance of figures and conditions: out of every unit of one hundred Poles living to-day in Europe, twenty are arrayed against each other in bloody combat. The Pole in the service of the Hohenzollerns and Habsburgs is shooting and bayonetting the brother impressed into the uniform of the Romanoffs. The Pole in the German or Austrian army must burn and devastate, perchance, the very hamlet where his cradle stood in Poland under Russian domain.

We have read in history that in the wars of the Persians, Macedonians, Greeks and Romans, prisoners, enslaved into military service, were sometimes compelled to advance in the front ranks upon their free, fighting brethren, to serve as a shield or to bring about confusion. And in this enlightened age of Christianity, progress, civilization and "Kultur" Christian monarchs are excelling their cultured and uncultured predecessors of two thousand and more years ago. It is not easy for the human mind to fully grasp and comprehend the horror of such a situation. At least, the American mind, filled with sympathy for Belgium, has largely failed to look beyond it, has failed to see the inexpressible suffering of a nation that has lived in oppression for more than a century and has yet survived, that has lost her own liberty, yet has fought valiantly for the freedom of other peoples; that has never known the mad pursuit of riches, yet has freely and abundantly given of her intellectual treasures to friends and enemies alike.

Do we, of the practical American mind, want facts and figures before our hearts are touched with pity? Here are such facts and figures: The government of Lublin is situated in the south of Poland under Russian domain; about 175 miles due south of Warsaw, and about the same dis-

stance northeast of Cracow. It comprises about 300 square miles and has a most fertile soil, highly cultivated and studded with prosperous towns, villages and hamlets, and well provided farms and estates. The latter part of the sentence should be read in the past tense. Recently there operated in this province the German and Austrian troops and after their repulse by the Russians an inventory of the devastation caused by the military operations showed the following result, in six counties: Houses on farms and estates destroyed or burned, 4,301; their value, \$1,705,440.00. In four counties: houses burned in towns and villages, 947; their value, \$261,500.00. And this is only a part of one province, and there are seven such provinces in Poland under Russian domain. And the Poland under Austrian and Prussian domain fares not much better when the Russ is the invader.

Poland has her Louvain; Kalisz, a thriving city of 40,000 population, was leveled with the ground at the beginning of the German invasion; the city was unfortified and unoccupied by Russian soldiers, yet was bombarded by German artillery and four hundred of her peaceful inhabitants were killed; yes, women and children among them.

The women and children of those 5,248 burned and destroyed homes in six counties of the one province of Lublin, driven shelterless and without adequate clothing or provisions into the relentless rigor of the Polish winter, where are they? What has become of them? What friendly countries in Europe or America are filling their hearts with the hope and expectation of their sympathies substantiated by Christmas ships bearing gifts and vessels laden with food and clothing? The Belgians are sheltered by Holland, England and France; the generosity of the United States has been spontaneous and of a most substantial character. Milwaukee alone has given \$12,000 which were collected in a short time. But Poland, where the bloodiest drama of this war unrolls itself day after day, is left to shift for herself. Why, up to the very moment of writing this, the Polish Relief Committee in the United States, who have collected money for their unfortunate brethren, are apprehensive to transmit it, lest some hostile power seize the money and divert it to other purposes than intended by us. "Impossible"! the reader may say, "almost positive," answer we, who know.

But soon we hope to find a safe way, even though we are almost wholly without the friends, the money and the powerful influences that Belgium's cause so readily commands.

A concerted effort on behalf of Poland will be made in this country in the very near future. The appeal will be for a nation as deserving as Belgium and in worse straits than she. The twenty millions, who are now suffering and being devoured

by the Minotaur of Militarism, who have not had a "place in the sun" for more than a century, devoutly hope, that America's response to such appeal will send a ray of hope into the darkness of their desolation.

CASIMIR GONSKI,

Member of the Press Committee of the
Polish National Council of America.

Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 18th, 1914.



The Lighthouse-Keeper of Aspinwall

By HENRYK SIENKIEWICZ

HE had grown accustomed to the thought that he would not leave the tower till death, and he simply forgot that there was anything else in the world aside from it. Moreover, he had become a mystic; his mild blue eyes began to stare like the eyes of a child, and were as if fixed on something at a distance. In presence of a surrounding uncommonly simple and great, the old man was losing the feeling of personality; he was ceasing to exist as an individual, was becoming merged more and more into that which inclosed him. He did not understand anything beyond his environment; he felt only unconsciously. At last it seems to him that the heavens, the water, his rock, the tower, the golden sand-banks, and the swollen sails, the sea-mews, the ebb and flow of the tide,—all form one mighty unity, one enormous mysterious soul; that he is sinking in that mystery, and feels that soul which lives and lulls itself. He sinks and is rocked, forgets himself; and in that narrowing of his own individual existence, in that half-waking, half-sleeping, he has discovered a rest so great that it almost resembles half-death.

III.

BUT the awakening came.

On a certain day, when the boat brought water and a supply of provisions, Skavinski came down an hour later from the tower, and saw that besides the usual cargo there was an additional package. On the outside of this package were postage stamps of the United States, and the address, "Skavinski, Esq.," written on coarse canvas.

The old man with aroused curiosity cut the canvas, and saw books; he took one in his hand, looked at it, and put it back; thereupon his hands began to tremble greatly. He covered his eyes as

if he did not believe them; it seemed to him as if he were dreaming. The book was Polish,—what did that mean? Who could have sent the book? Clearly, he did not remember at the first moment that in the beginning of his light-house career he had read in the "Herald", borrowed from the consul, of the formation of a Polish society in New York, and had sent at once to that society half his month's salary, for which he had, moreover, no use on the tower. The society had sent him the books with thanks. The books came in the natural way; but at the first moment the old man could not seize those thoughts. Polish books in Aspinwall, on his tower, amid his solitude,—that was for him something uncommon, a certain breath from past times, a species of miracle. Now it seemed to him, as to those sailors in the night, that something was calling him by name with a voice greatly beloved and nearly forgotten. He sat for a while with closed eyes, and was almost certain that, when he opened them, the dream would be gone.

The package, cut open, lay before him, shone upon clearly by the afternoon sun, and on it was an open book. When the old man stretched his hand toward it again, he heard in the stillness the beating of his own heart. He looked; it was poetry. On the outside stood printed in great letters the title, underneath the name of the author.

The name was not strange to Skavinski; he saw that it belonged to the famous poet*) whose productions he had read in 1830 in Paris. Afterward when campaigning in Algiers and Spain, he had heard from his countrymen of the growing fame of the great seer; but he was so accustomed to the musket at that time that he took no book in hand. In 1849 he went to America, and in the adventur-

*) Mickiewicz (pronounced Mitskevich), the greatest poet of Poland. His greatest work is his epic *Pan Tadeusz*.

ous life which he led, he hardly ever met a Pole, and never a Polish book. With the greater eagerness, therefore, and with a livelier beating of the heart, did he turn to the title-page. It seemed to him then that on his lonely rock some solemnity was about to take place. Indeed, it was a moment of great calm and silence.

The clocks of Aspinwall were striking five in the afternoon. Not a cloud darkened the clear sky; only a few sea-mews were sailing through the air. The ocean was as if cradled to sleep. The waves on the shore stammered quietly, spreading softly on the sand. In the distance the white houses of Aspinwall, and the wonderful groups of palm, were smiling. In truth, there was something there solemn, calm, and full of dignity. Suddenly in the midst of that calm of Nature was heard the trembling voice of the old man, who read aloud as if to understand himself better,—

"Thou art like health, O Litva, my birth-land! *
How much we should prize thee he only can know who
has lost thee.
Thy beauty in perfect adornment this day
I see and describe, because I yearn for thee."

His voice failed Skavinski. The letters began to dance before his eyes; something broke in his breast, and went like a wave from his heart higher and higher, choking his voice and pressing his throat. A moment more he controlled himself, and read further:

"O Holy Lady, who guardest bright Częstochowa,
Who shinest in Ostrobrama and preservest
The castle town Novgrodek with its trusty people,
As Thou didst give me back to health in childhood,
When by my weeping mother placed beneath Thy care
I raised my lifeless eyelids upward,
And straightway walked unto Thy holy threshold,
To thank G od for the life restored me,—
So by a wonder now restore us to the bosom of our birth-
place."

The swollen wave broke through the restraint of his will. The old man sobbed, and threw himself on the ground; his milk-white hair was mingled with the sand of the sea. Forty years had passed since he had seen his country, and God knows how many since he heard his native speech; and now that speech had come to him itself,—it had sailed to him over the ocean, and found him in solitude on another hemisphere,—it so loved, so dear, so beautiful! In the sobbing which shook him there was no pain,—only a suddenly aroused immense love, in the presence of which other things are as nothing. With that great weeping he had simply implored forgiveness of the beloved one, set aside

because he had grown so old, had become so accustomed to his solitary rock, and had so forgotten it that in him even longing had begun to disappear. But now it returned as if by a miracle; therefore the heart leaped in him.

Moments vanished one after another; he lay there continually. The news flew over the light-house, crying as if alarmed for their old friend. The hour in which he fed them with the remnants of his food had come; therefore, some of them flew down from the light-house to him; then more and more came, and began to pick and to shake their wings over his head. The sound of the wings aroused him. He had wept his fill, and had now a certain calm and brightness; but his eyes were as if inspired. He gave unwittingly all his provisions to the birds, which rushed at him with an uproar, and he himself took the book again. The sun had gone already behind the gardens and the forest of Panama, and was going slowly beyond the isthmus to the other ocean; but the Atlantic was full of light yet; in the open air there was still perfect vision; therefore, he read further:

"Now bear my longing soul to those forest slopes, to those green meadows."

The dusk obliterates the letters on the white paper,—the dusk short as a twinkle. The old man rested his head on the rock, and closed his eyes. Then "She, who defends bright Chenstohova," took his soul, and transported it to "those fields colored by various grain." On the sky were burning yet those long stripes, red and golden, and on those brightnesses he was flying to beloved regions. The pine-woods were sounding in his ears; the streams of his native place were murmuring. He saw everything as it was; everything asked him, "Dost remember?" He remembers! he sees broad fields, between the fields, woods and villages. It is night now. At this hour his lantern usually illuminates the darkness of the sea; but now he is in his native village. His old head has dropped on his breast, and he is dreaming. Pictures are passing before his eyes quickly, and a little disorderly. He does not see the house in which he was born, for war had destroyed it; he does not see his father and mother, for they died when he was a child; but still the village is as if he had left it yesterday,—the line of cottages with lights in the windows, the mound, the mill, the two ponds opposite each other, and thundering the whole night with a chorus of frogs. Once he had been on guard in that village all night; now that past stood before him at once in a series of views. He is an Ulan again, and he stands there

* Lithuania.

on guard; at a distance is the public house; he looks with swimming eyes. There is thundering and singing and shouting amid the silence of the night with voices of fiddles and bass-voils "U-ha! U-ha!" Then the Ulans knock out fire with their horseshoes, and it is wearisome for him there on his horse. The hours drag on slowly; at last the lights are quenched; now as far as the eye reaches there is mist, and mist impenetrable; now the frog rises, evidently from the fields, and embraces the whole world with a whitish cloud. You would say, a perfect ocean. But that is fields; soon the land-rail will be heard in the darkness, and bitterns will call from the reeds. The night is calm and cool, a true Polish night. In the distance the pine wood is sounding without wind, like the roll of the sea. Soon dawn will whiten the East. In fact, the cocks are beginning to crow behind the hedges. One answers another from cottage to cottage; the storks are screaming somewhere on high. The Ulan feels well and bright. Some one had spoken of a battle to-morrow. Hei! that will go on, like all others, with shouting, with fluttering of pennons. The young blood is playing like a trumpet, though the night cools it. But day is dawning. Already night is growing pale; out of the shadows come forests, the thicket, a row of cottages, the mill, the poplars. The well is squeaking like a metal banner on a tower. What a beloved land, beautiful in the rosy gleams of the morning! Oh, the one land, the one land!

Quiet! the watchful picket hears that some one

is approaching. Of course, they are coming to relieve the guard.

Suddenly some voice is heard above Skavinski: "Here, old man! Get up! What's the matter?"

The old man opens his eyes, and looks with wonder at the person standing before him. The remnants of the dream-visions struggle in his head with reality. At last the visions pale and vanish. Before him stands Johnson, the harbor guide.

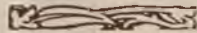
"What's this?" asked Johnson; "are you sick?"

"No."

"You didn't light the lantern. You must leave your place. A vessel from St. Geromo was wrecked on the bar. It is lucky that no one was drowned, or you would go on trial. Get into the boat with me; you'll hear the rest at the Consulate."

The old man grew pale; in fact he had not lighted the lantern that night.

A few days later Skavinski was seen on the deck of a steamer, which was going from Aspinwall to New York. The poor man had lost his place. There opened before him new roads of wandering; the wind had torn that leaf away again to whirl it over lands and seas, to sport with it till satisfied. The old man had failed greatly during those few days, and his body was bent, but his eyes were gleaming. On his new road of life he held at his breast a book, which from time to time he pressed with his hand as if fearing that that too might go from him.



Views of the Press

Winnipeg Free Press:—Yesterday was the eighty-fourth anniversary of last endeavor of the Polish people to achieve the restoration of their national independence, which has now been promised to them by the Czar. In honor of that anniversary, and in compliment to the Polish people in our country, the national flag of the ancient kingdom of Poland, which has a red field with a white double eagle, floated, with the Union Jack, over the Free Press building all day until sundown. It was noted with interest by the crowds before the bulletin boards, eager for the latest war news, and great numbers of people of Polish origin turned out to see it.

The insurrection of 1830 was immediately due to the influence of the French revolution of that year and to the widespread belief among the Poles, partially justified by the language of the Czar Nicholas, that Polish troops were about to be used against the Belgians, who had just proclaimed their independence of Holland. The deep-seated discontent which thus found expression was, however, due

to the desire for their own independence and for the restoration of the kingdom of Poland—a desire which had survived three partitions of their country among foreign powers, the first occurring in 1772 and the last in 1794. The Congress of Vienna, which followed the Napoleonic wars, had substantially supported the third partition, with the result that Austria retained Galicia, Posen and Gnesen were left to Prussia, and Lithuania and the Ruthenian Palatinates continued to be incorporated with Russia. Cracow was for some years a guaranteed republic and the remainder of Poland was formed into a kingdom under the Russian emperor as Tsar.

Social conditions had created a sharp division of the Poles themselves into two parties. On the one hand there were the nobles, who did nothing to alleviate the miserable state of the peasants and who, as landlords, were exercising a baneful influence over the country; on the other hand, was the extreme party who would have gone to great lengths to re-establish the full kingdom of Poland.

With the emperors of Russia, as czars of Poland, the Diet failed to maintain friendly relations, owing to sharp divergences of view on questions involving the national institutions and liberty of the Poles. When therefore, the irritation from the causes mentioned was added to this state of affairs, the extreme party succeeded in obtaining the upper hand and a rebellion against the Czar broke out in Warsaw. The Poles put into the field a well-drilled army of 30,000 men, augmented by Russians to about 80,000; the Russians, despite the reputed strength, could produce only some 114,000 immediately.

An appeal to the powers by the Poles failed, probably on account of the abrogation of the Congress of Vienna. Successful in its early stages, the insurrection was finally put down by Russia in less than a year, the cause of the Poles being weakened by their internal dissensions and want of discipline.

Springfield, Mass., Union:—The Polish National Council of America has sent out an appeal on behalf of the sufferers of a country denationalized and now being laid waste by the German and Russian armies. Comparatively little has been heard by the general body of American people about the injuries wrought in the Eastern war district, but there can be no doubt that those injuries have been terribly severe and have fallen upon a people ill prepared to bear the privations. From time immemorial Poland has been overrun with battling hosts. It has been its fate to have its people and properties trampled ruthlessly under foot. And now its soil is again being bathed in blood as the armies surge back and forth over its territory, no body knows for how long.

This experience has befallen a people whom adversity and oppression have felt impoverished and who lack even the solace that they are a free people, having a nation to defend by their valor. While Belgium is finding sympathy and relief from France, England, Holland and our own country, Poland, it is to be feared, fares but poorly in that regard. The three nations that profited from the partition of Poland have been impressing its male population into their respective armies so that, to quote a phrase from a Polish writer, "brother meets brother as enemy upon the battlefield, and the father, discharging his weapon, knows not what cruel fate may send the bullet into the breast of his own son. This may seem overdrawn, but it forcibly suggests the distressing situation that now exists in that unhappy land.

It is to be hoped that the reflection that "Poland suffers without hope of reward or betterment" will be proved unfounded by later developments, and that some very substantial good will come to Poland with the readjustment of European conditions.

Cleveland Leader:—Committees, appointed by the Polish Chamber of Industry, of Cleveland, will call this week on the Chamber of Commerce, Chamber of Industry, City Club and other civic organizations, and try to enlist them in the cause of helping suffering Poland.

The Polish Chamber of Industry has, from its own treasury, and by collection among local Poles, raised a fund of \$2,500, and the activities of a great number of Polish organizations indicate that this sum will be substantially increased in the next months. But the reports received from Russian Poland convinced the chamber that all the combined efforts and sacrifices of the Poles in America will fail to raise such a relief fund as would be in some proportion to the misery and sufferings to be relieved.

"The Poles of Europe need and deserve aid and relief from the great American public at large," said Attorney Joseph F. Sawicki, president of the chamber, in explanation of the chamber's move. "Much is heard and written about the sufferings of the Belgians and the sad fate of Belgium, but hardly any mention has been made until now of the similar fate of Russian Poland and the Poles in Europe. Their country has also been devastated by the terrible war. They have also lost their homes and all their belongings. Almost every Pole, even young boys, went to war and the women, small children and old folks are suffering from hunger and exposure.

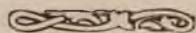
"Terrible fighting has been going on in Poland ever since the war started. Many a great battle was fought on her soil. No matter how the war ends and what the ultimate fate of Poland will be, it will take the hard work of a great many years to restore normal economic conditions.

"Poland is not a rich country. She could not develop her natural resources, could not establish great industries under the Russian regime, as it was conducted in the past. It should be kept in mind that there are over twenty million Poles in Europe who need immediate help. We hope generous America will not refuse her aid and sympathies to unfortunate Poland and her people."

The Polish chamber will invite the different civic bodies to appoint a committee to take charge of the relief movement.

Antony F. Kotowski, secretary of the chamber, is assisting President Sawicki in his efforts to secure the active co-operation of the civic bodies.

Franklin P. Merrick in Chicago American:—"The soil of Poland is purple with blood; it is a gigantic symphony in red."



CONTRIBUTIONS TO POLISH RELIEF FUND

To succor the non-combatants in Poland the Poles have contributed the following:

Polish National Council.....	\$7,600.00
Polish National Alliance...	31,200.00
Polish Catholic Union.....	2,100.00
Polish Falcons' Alliance....	10,000.00
Polish Women's Alliance...	8,200.00
In Polish Central Relief Committee from Polish organizations	3,469.67
In Polish Central Relief Committee from Americans	1,174.30
Total	\$63,743.97

From our American Citizens we have received the following contributions:

List No. 1.

Clemens Thein, Mt. Vernon, Wash.	\$ 5.00
Rev. Dennis F. Coyle, St. Thomas parish, New York..	10.00
North-West Side Tax Payers' Assn., Chicago	12.80
G. E. Pease, Minature, Neb..	5.00
Rev. J. F. O'Boyle, Dayton, Fla.	2.50
Carrie B. Leonard, U. M. Associate Editor, The New Century, Elgin, Ill.....	10.00

Rev. W. V. Fitzgerald, Roselia, Wash.	5.00
J. R. Kirchner, and Capuchin Fathers, Norndon, Kas....	10.00
S. L. Hermanson, Marinette, Wis.	10.00
C. A. Walker, Plainville, Wis.	1.00
Miss Mary Fisk, Buffalo, N.Y.	3.00
James A. Patten, Western Union Bldg., Chicago.....	1,000.00
Henry J. Patten, Western Union Bldg., Chicago.....	50.00
Dan'l R. Forgan, National City Bank of Chicago....	25.00
Wm. J. Chalmers, 1733 Edison Bldg., Chicago.....	25.00
Total	\$1,174.30

Contributors to the Publication Fund of "Free Poland"

Balance	\$3,397.82	Rev. F. Czelusta, Rosford, O.	5.00	Rev. Joseph S. Kamiński, Grand Rapids, Mich.....	5.00
The Polish Clergy Association of the diocese of Green Bay, Wis.....	50.00	Rev. Sigm. Tomczykowski, Shamokin, Pa.	3.00	Miss Leona Wyrzykowski, Beauseyour, Man., Canada	5.00
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