

# FREE POLAND

A SEMI-MONTHLY

*The Truth About Poland and Her People*

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## Our Correspondence

### WACLAW PERKOWSKI to the Editor of the New York Tribune:—

Sir:—Please accept the wishes for a Happy New Year from the undersigned, who has been for many years an appreciative reader of your paper. May it in the coming year be blessed with a huge increase in circulation for its quality; may it in the coming year not only continue to write as fairly about Poland as it has written the past year, but also elucidate more clearly to the reading world the want not only of Alsace and Lorraine to be reunited with their national body, but also of the territories torn from the Republic of Poland, and demonstrate to the world the need to mankind of a reunited Poland, re-erected as a self-active state, able to resume the disinterested, noble work she had been doing for humanity until she was interrupted toward the close of the eighteenth century by the three German bandits—the King of Prussia, the Empress of Russia and the Empress of Austria!

In this connection I should observe that a clearer view of the Polish cause, and one easily attained, may be acquired by a perusal of the material supplied by "Free Poland", which is published in Chicago. I am calling your attention to "Free Poland" because—though I do not doubt that you receive it—I fear that, perceiving by its exterior that "Free Poland" is a publication providing "the truth about Poland and her people," you have immediately concluded that in quality of articles it is equivalent to "The Fatherland" (which, notwithstanding the definite article in its name, stands not for the United States, but for the birth-place of "kultur"), and that you therefore never turn the title page and never scan the contents.

Had you, however, glanced beyond the title page you should have beheld a glaring difference between "Free Poland" and Viereck's "The Germans' Fatherland", the difference between culture, which to the Poles signifies the same that it does to the English, the French and the Italians, and "kultur", which is the nth degree of vandalism and barbarity.

WACLAW PERKOWSKI,

No. 265 West 125th st., New York, Jan. 1, 1915.

## Cardinal Farley's Letter

CARDINAL FARLEY has written the following letter to the American Polish Relief Committee, of which Mme. Marcella Sembrich is the President:

... "I beg to assure you that I am most cordially in sympathy with your work. I recommend it to every citizen of this country who is able to contribute toward the relief of your suffering countrymen in Poland.

We are suffering from hard times here. But how much more would we suffer if this fortunate land of ours, through no fault of our own, was subjected to the scourge of war and made the theatre of such a gigantic struggle as is now going on in Poland. With her business and her commerce gone, her crops destroyed or seized, and thousands of her people homeless as a result of war, Poland has a right to look to us for aid in her distress. She has sent us thousands on thousands of her strong sons and daughters, who have contributed not a little to the prosperity of their adopted country.

I shall do all I can to assist your appeal. I hope this country will be generous to you, and win for itself the undying gratitude of Poland, as well as that of Belgium.

Praying for your every success, I am faithfully yours,

† JOHN, CARDINAL FARLEY,  
Archbishop of New York."

## The Enslaved Poland's Progress

THE 19th CENTURY marks an epoch in human progress. Few Polish names appear in the galaxy of modern discoverers and inventors, yet while free up to near the close of the 18th century, Poland marched abreast of the world's progress and contributed her full share to civilization. Oppressed by slavery, she has not entirely abandoned her contributions to human progress, but they lack the virility and influence which have their source in national freedom. The blame manifestly rests upon the conquerors of Poland. No nation in chains can develop normally, and the case of Poland is no exception. Notwithstanding her tragic plight, Poland of the 19th century gave to the world, among other celebrities, her composers, Moniuszko and Chopin; her artists, Matejko, Siemiradzki and Styka; her scientists, Sniadecki and Mme. Curie, and her incomparable Modjeska and Paderewski. Is there a nation, oppressed for over a century by three powers, that can give to the world more?

WANDA SCHUNERT.

Minneapolis, Feb. 15, 1915.



## The Jewish Problem in Poland

By *JOSEPH S. DRZEWIECKI*

(Continued from No. 11.)

**N**EITHER the Polish, the Russian, nor the German papers have ever mentioned this fact, and yet it would undoubtedly be a most important thing to publish, a thing from which the belligerent parties could coin capital. I must state once more that anyone who even superficially knows Poland and the conditions in that country can never believe what Mr. Brandes said. Mr. Brandes when talking of Bjornsen states that the latter had attacked the Poles, "fortunately for them with such unreasonable exaggerations that the attack did not harm." Whoever supplied Mr. Brandes with information has committed the same tactical error in his nefarious work. It is to be regretted that Mr. Brandes in his bitterness and sorrow has overlooked that obvious prejudice; otherwise, he certainly would not have attacked Poland as he did.

But even if all the stories of atrocities were true, and Poland had actually become a country of possible impossibilities, yet Mr. Brandes draws his conclusions too lightly and charges the anti-Semitic propaganda with being the cause of the unheard of brutalities. He overlooks, however, the fact that during a war the worst instincts of the masses, and an outright criminal mania, takes possession of parties involved. It is sufficient to read the German accounts of French and Belgian atrocities, and vice versa the French and English reports of German brutality. Even in Poland reports are circulated about entire bands pillaging and burning right and left.

There is no doubt at all that Jews were murdered in Poland during this war, and there is not the slightest doubt that they will be murdered in the future also; but in exactly the same way Christians were murdered by Jews and Jews murdered each other, not in Poland but the world over. But it takes criminal intent to draw conclusions from those facts and to build theories on such a flimsy basis.

Of this criminal intent I am accusing those who supplied the information to Mr. Brandes. In the same way, as a thief fearing to be caught himself cries as loud as he can—"Catch the thief!" the informants tried their best to charge the Poles with supposed facts in order to save their rather shaky position. Not only Mr. Brandes but the entire civilized world knew that the Poland of the twentieth century never turned away from its noble tradition of tolerance, and Mr. Brandes will certainly never have any cause to regret his sentiments which he claims to have with regard to our country. The Poles during all their history have shown an unprecedented tolerance in their relation with the Jews and have demonstrated so much of collective good common sense, of which even America cannot boast as yet. The theory of the assimilation of the Jews, which was applied all over the world, was in Poland

alone never imposed on the Jews. Poland alone permitted the Jews to remain Jews, not only so far as difference of religion is concerned, but also as to the keeping of their old time traditions and habits.

There was only one thing which we always demanded from the Jews, and which we always shall demand—that the Jews co-operate with us in the defense of our country, that they be good Polish patriots. It is only fair to state that the Jews for centuries have most loyally lived up to this obligation toward their adopted country, and most actively participated in our conspiracies and our revolutions. The procession of 1861 which so impresses Mr. Brandes was nothing but a natural and logical result of those relations between the Poles and the Jews. They served the same country and the same public cause, and this was certainly a symptom of healthy social conditions.

Things were rather different in other parts of Poland. In Prussian Poland, the Polish Jews soon denationalized themselves and in an overwhelming majority became Germans. There is no Jewish question at the present time in Prussian Poland, although there are countless cases of conflict between Poles and Jews. Yet, both the Poles and the Jews are perfectly aware of the fact that this conflict is neither a racial nor religious, but a thousand-years-old feud between the Teuton and the Pole. The mayor of Posen is a German, an enemy of the Poles at all times and under all circumstances, and the Poles fight him whenever they can, yet nobody pays any attention to the fact that this German is a Jew, and nobody calls this fight against the brother of Maximilian Harden an anti-Semitic propaganda of the Poles. Just as the Jews in Russian Poland considering themselves as Poles fought shoulder to shoulder with us against the Russians, the Jews in Prussian Poland, considering themselves as Germans, fought against us shoulder to shoulder with the Germans. These conditions are only natural, and nobody can possibly expect them to be different.

Galicia affords a typical example of the evolution of the relations between the Poles and the Jews, and shows how complicated the question of these relations can become in the abnormal conditions under which a country is laboring, and on the other hand, how easy that question can be solved. In Austrian Poland the Jews of Galicia were the pioneers of Teutonism. In the times following the partition of Poland, the Jews espoused the cause of Austria against Poland. Jewish social workers became the most bitter enemies of the Poles, and had comparatively easy play because the masses of the Jews were in those times indifferent to national and social problems. When, however, in the second half of the 19th century Galicia became autonomous and its national life could follow a rather normal way of progress and evolution, the

Jewish question became a very urgent one, inasmuch as the Jewish masses began at the same time to awaken from their lethargy and to participate in the social life of Galicia. It was stated before that the Jewish social workers considered themselves to be Germans and worked for the German cause. A conflict seemed to be inevitable, but the Jews soon realized the danger which might result from such a conflict, not only to the Jews but to the Poles and to Galicia as well. They were not too slow to understand that Polish interests must be and as a matter of fact are their own interests, and that disloyalty to the interests of Poland would mean not only disloyalty to the Polish cause, but disloyalty to the Jewish cause as well. An example of this political common sense of the Jews of Galicia was the noted Jewish social worker and member of parliament, Mr. Byk. At first he was an orthodox German, an organizer of Jewish-German associations in Galicia, and as such was boycotted by anybody and everybody, and fought against most violently on all fields of political and social activities. Finally, he understood that the Poles boycotted in him not the Jew but the German—a thing that the informants of Mr. Brandes do not want to understand. Mr. Byk sacrificed his pro-German sympathy to the interests of his own co-nationals and became a Jewish social worker in Galicia who spoke Polish and followed Polish ideas because he understood that by serving the political interests of Poland, he served at the same time the cause of his own nation. Mr. Byk at the time of his death was a member of the Austrian Parliament, elected by both Polish and Jewish votes, was a member of the Polish Parliamentary Club in Vienna, where he pledged his solidarity with the rest of his Polish fellow members and where he sacrificed the purely Jewish interests of his constituents to the interests of the country, and of the majority. Since the relations between the Poles and the Jews in Galicia proceed along lines of normal evolution, there is no anti-Semitic propaganda in Galicia, except perhaps remnants of old time reminiscences; there may be errors committed by ambitious individuals; there may be personal interests that do not consider anything or anybody; but such symptoms are bound to exist in any community, large or small. At the present time, however, the incumbents of some of the most prominent positions in Galicia, members of parliament, professors of Polish universities, deputy mayors of Lemberg and Cracow, presidents of bar associations, etc., are Jews, whose Polish sympathies and patriotism no one ever questioned or ever will question.

Let us turn back to Russian Poland. Just because of normal relations which existed there between the Poles and the Jews, the co-operative movement there was not considered as directed against the Jews by anybody for ten long years. This co-operative movement gained ground rather slowly in Poland as well as in the rest of the world, and if it has pushed out the small merchantman, it did not harm him beyond repair just because of its slow work, and afforded him plenty of time and opportunity to find other means of earning a livelihood.

In the meantime the Russian government issued in 1905 a series of laws directed against the Jews and began to apply a Draconic system of "extermination" against hundreds of thousands of Jews, and yet, Mr. Brandes is accusing the Poles of that extermination of the Jews. The Jews persecuted in Russia emigrated in masses to Russian Poland. Now let us suppose for a moment that after the present European war is over, a million Russian Jews suddenly came to Copenhagen, and let us imagine that those Jews were not permitted to leave the city. What

would be the result? There would be an over-population and an economic crisis so much so that the Jews would arrive at a destitute condition and would have to find shelter and food. Precisely the same actually happened in Poland. I call the attention of Mr. Brandes to the fact that the foremost opponents of these immigrant Lithuanian\* Jews were the Polish Jews themselves.

I furthermore call Mr. Brandes' attention to the conflicts which arose between the Jews in Russian Poland. The things went so far that the Lithuanian Jews had their separate synagogues, separate associations and separate schools, and before long the most violent conflict between the Polish and Lithuanian Jews broke out on the economic field. The co-operative movement was called an anti-Semitic propaganda because the small merchantman was no longer able to find other means of livelihood, because all other facilities were taken hold of by the newcomers and there was necessarily an over-supply of labor. The most natural result of this conflict was that the Jews began to fight violently against the co-operative movement, while on the other hand the attitude of the Jews created bitter sentiment against them among the masses of the Polish population. All these symptoms were nothing but a natural result of over-population. If we, in addition, consider the fact that the Poles were not independent and could not avail themselves of all the means which in such cases are at the disposal of an independent country, we can easily understand that the situation seemed to be beyond hope. And yet, we believe, that with sufficient good will and some effort we would have found some way to solve the problem, as there was no mutual hatred nor any insurmountable differences of opinion.

There was, however, one bad feature of the problem. These immigrant Jews were unable, and what is still more important, were not willing to recognize the different position of Russian Poland nor did they want to consider our interests, our aspirations, aim and ideas. If these Russian Jews would have observed toward us a passive attitude, and not work against us and against our political interests, we would have certainly received them as poor victims of a worthless policy of an autocratic government. But these immigrant Jews came to us as an element of Russification and at once assumed a hostile attitude toward the Poles. Instead of being victims of Russian persecution they became Russian patriots and proselytes. I want to be understood correctly and, therefore, take the liberty of giving a characteristic example of the condition.

The Poles never objected to the Jews celebrating their new year, and considered it to be not only their privilege but also their duty; therefore, we never had nor have we any objections to Jewish newspapers bearing the Jewish data. This is also not only their privilege but also their duty, but we certainly cannot subscribe to the same Jew and the same Jewish newspapers using the old style Russian calendar date, inasmuch as in Russian Poland even officially the European calendar is in force. Even the Russian government uses on all its official documents in Russian Poland two dates, the old and the new style date, and formerly both the Jews and the Jewish press in Russian Poland did the same. The Russian Jews used neither the European nor the Jewish calendar date but used the Russian calendar in spite of our protests. This undoubtedly is nothing but a trifling matter but precisely this

\* Most of them came from Lithuania, also called "Litwaks" in colloquial slang.

trifling matter illustrates the attitude of Russian Jews toward the Poles, an attitude which they have maintained with the same obstinacy with regard to more serious matters. Their attitude was the same with regard to Polish schoolism for which the Poles fought and still fight, and it is only fair to state that the Polish Jews most splendidly participated in the national fight. The Russian Jews, however, sided with our oppressors. The same was the case with regard to the elections to the Duma, and exactly the same conditions prevailed in the Jewish community of Warsaw, where the Russian Jews and the Polish Jews fought each other whereby such prominent Polish Jews as Dickstein and Bergson were the exponents of Polish patriotism among the Jews.

No wonder that the Poles became antagonistic toward the Russian Jews in the same implacable and passionate way as they are against every other Russian, and no one could expect us to be different. The Poles have given more than one proof that they have no objection to the immigration of Jews and we would have accepted Russian Jews in the same way, sacrificing even our economical interests for the benefit of the oppressed. However, we shall never accept proselytes of Russia or Germany on our soil and we shall fight them to the end. The German Jews in Prussian Poland soon enough realized the simple problem of equal rights and equal obligations; the Russian Jews, however, in Russian Poland demand privileges from us which we shall not give to them under any circumstances. Russian Jews approach the problem from the point of view of racial antagonism—what they say is this: "We are Russian—we are in Russia, and there is no such thing as Poland; you Poles are not permitted to fight us because we are Jews." This theory is the most immoral and infamous one and what is more, it is against the interests of the Jewish idea proper, because this theory bases the entire question on prejudice and unequal rights.

If Mr. Brandes will once more consider the entire problem he undoubtedly will not fail to see that the attitude of Mr. Swietochowski, the most intense, passionate and noble champion of the Jewish cause, was right and just; that the attitude of Mr. Kucharzewski was honest and the attitude of the Polish nation was natural. I furthermore hope that Mr. Brandes will understand that the responsibility for certain abnormalities of the present day cannot possibly be charged to us.

There is one thing that should under no circumstances be forgotten, and that is that Russian Jews have in their fight against the Poles the full and hearty support of the Russian government, and that they are basing their hope of success on this very support. There is no mistake as to the fact that the Russian government did all in its power

to feed the flame of antagonism until the conflict became a boycott of the Jews by the Polish nation. This boycott is a bad symptom of unhealthy social relations and what is more, it is dangerous to both parties; yet, however, the Russian Jews who caused that entire conflict suffer the least from its results. There seems, however, to be no possibility of stopping that conflict which causes so much damage to the country and to the people unless the Russian Jews change their attitude with regard to our national aims and ideals.

In spite of the information which was supplied to Mr. Brandes, in spite of the alleged facts Mr. Brandes has published, I do firmly believe that this present war will put an end to that conflict between the Poles and the Jews. The great idea of regeneration which shines over Poland as well as over the entire world will brush away all these quarrels and dissensions. The Russian Jews inhabiting Poland will undoubtedly absorb Polish ideals and will become loyal champions of the Polish cause just as the Polish Jews were for centuries.

The letter of Mr. Brandes required an explanation so much more as the Jews as a whole will shortly be confronted by a question which will emerge from the present European conflict; they will have to decide between Poland and Russia. The majority of the Jews inhabit countries, the fate of which will undoubtedly be decided upon by a European congress and the Jews the world are confronted by the question—what would benefit their brethren more, an independent Poland or an autonomous province of Russia. An answer to this question is given to the Jews in the Polish history—on one side five centuries of wise tolerance and good neighborly relations, Kischeniew Homel, pogroms and extermination on the other side. This is the tradition of two nations. But if you want information on the present day situation, if you want a proper answer to the so-called facts related by Mr. Brandes, get your information not from Russian Jews but from Polish Jews, who for centuries have served Poland and its cause, ask those to whom the Vistula means as much as the Jordan and Warsaw, as much as Jerusalem. Maximilian Harden views the future of the Jews from the point of view of a German, Zangwill views it from the point of view of a Briton—let the future of Polish Jews be decided by them and not by Russian or by German Jews.

Whatever the result of the present war shall be, millions of Jews shall continue to live in our midst for ages to come and these Jews will by force of nature drift toward us in spite of all insinuations and underhand work, because we have too many common ideals, common sufferings, common hopes and because too much Jewish blood was spilled for Poland and its cause.

## Pity Poor Poland

By *The REV. FRANCIS E. CLARK*

(President of the United Society of Christian Endeavor and of the World's Christian Endeavor Union.)

**W**HEN Poland was divided between Russia, Prussia and Austria, Russia took the lion's share, about one-half of the territory and half of the people, and probably, on the whole, Russian Poland has been the most contented with her lot of all the three divisions of the ancient kingdom. She has become the manufacturing-plant of the Russian empire. Her wealth and

prosperity have yearly increased; and while she has been treated by Russia like the traditional stepchild, sometimes coaxed and again severely punished for trying to assert her independence, yet she has been so indispensable to the prosperity of the Russian empire; it has been so absolutely necessary for Russia to obtain her cotton and woollen cloth, her boots and shoes, her cutlery and iron-

ware, her saddles and plated goods, from the conquered Poles, that she has often treated them with something of leniency and justice. She has allowed the province to be known as Russian Poland, while there is no such thing as Austrian Poland, but only the province of Galicia, in which most of the Poles live.

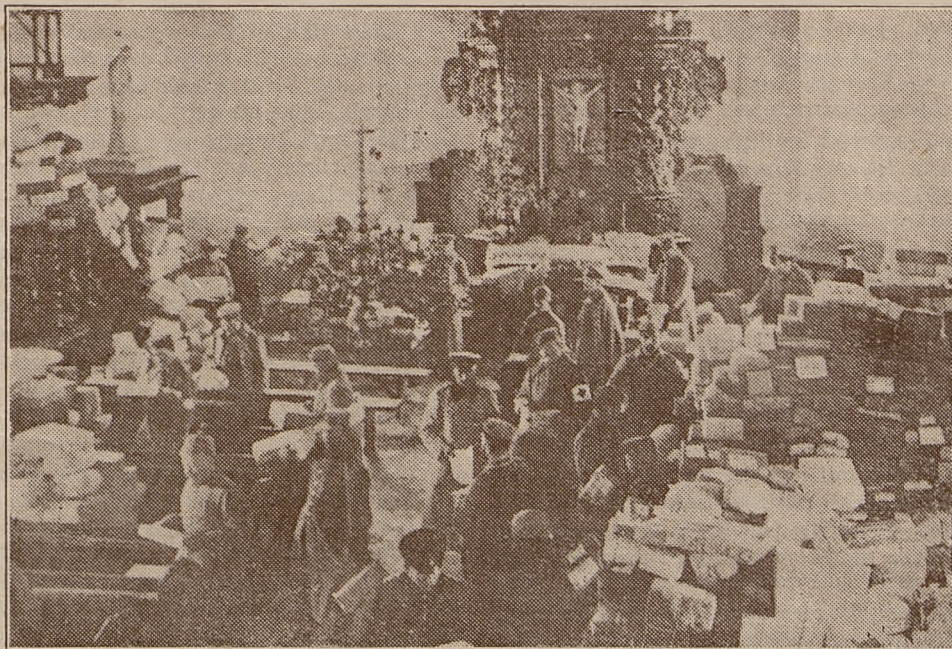
Nor must it be supposed that the Poles of Russia are a rude and unlettered people, and that their factories and business houses are antiquated and their output inferior. In Pabianice, a manufacturing town some ten miles from Lodz, I visited the most complete and up-to-date woollen-factory that I ever saw in my life. It covered an immense acreage; it was equipped with the latest and most modern machinery; its electrical plant was of the most approved type; and an enormous supply of water brought from a long distance seemed adequate for the use of a town of ten thousand inhabitants. But this was only one factory, and the proprietor assured me that there were larger ones in the vicinity, while those in Lodz surpassed

of two hundred miles, with their pastors, and were as alert interesting, and brotherly a set of young people as I have seen in any part of the world.

The best interpreter that could be found was the proprietor of the same great woollen-factory which I have described, a university graduate who could speak half a dozen different languages, and who rendered my addresses with a precision and an eloquence of diction that make speaking through an interpreter a pleasure, instead of the awful torture which it sometimes becomes.

Now, I suppose, all this region is desolate waste of ruin; for the battle has been raging around Lodz for many a long day, and the factories and workmen's houses, and the churches, and the villas of the rich have doubtless shared the same fate, worse than all, tens of thousands of soldiers, and non-combatants as well, have stained red the snows of Russian Poland with their blood.

In still another way Lodz resembles our American cities, namely in the rapidity of its growth. Less than a



**A Polish Church Used by the Germans for the Parcel Post**

anything in that region. The workmen's houses looked as comfortable, from the outside, at least, as those of the factory hands in Lawrence or Willimantic, though, not being able to speak their almost unspeakable language, I did not penetrate to the interior of the houses, or seek an interview with their inhabitants.

The proprietors of the mills and the upper-class workmen in Lodz and vicinity are largely Germans, or of German descent; but one sees a multitude of Jews on the streets; and their long gabardines, their little skull-caps, make them so conspicuous that it seems to the traveller that more than half the inhabitants are Jews.

While the great majority of the people in Russian Poland, aside from the Jews, are of course Catholics, belonging either to the Roman or the Greek branch of the church, there is, nevertheless, a large Lutheran contingent through all this region, and the purpose of my visit to Pabianice was to attend a Christian Endeavor convention of the societies of the Lutheran churches in Russian Poland.

They came from far and near; some from a distance

hundred years ago there was no such city on the map of the world. In 1821 it had only 800 inhabitants. By the time of our Civil War it had less than 35,000 inhabitants while forty years later it boasted 350,000. Since 1900 it has been growing with even greater rapidity unless the report that 700,000 people are on the verge of starvation is tremendously exaggerated.

Warsaw, the capital of Poland, is some eighty-five miles northeast of Lodz, with which is connected by an important railway.

Warsaw may be called the Boston of Russian Poland, a larger Boston, to be sure, for more than ten years ago it claimed 756,000 inhabitants. However, greater Boston and greater Warsaw would probably be of about the same size. This is the political, literary, and artistic capital of Russian Poland. Whether as much can now be said of Boston in relation to New England I am not sure.

Moreover, Warsaw is a great railroad centre, and the eagerness of the Germans to capture Warsaw, and their willingness to expend uncounted men and millions in this

effort, are easily understood when we remember that there are six trunk lines connecting the city with Vienna, Kiev, Moscow, Petrograd, Danzig and Berlin. Warsaw would indeed be a prize worth having.

In the Church of the Holy Ghost is a monument to Chopin, and there the heart of the great musician is embalmed. The monument to Copernicus reminds us that he was a Pole and received his education in the university of the old capital of Poland, Cracow, the besieged.

In every large Polish city one finds a statue, and often a very elaborate one, of Adam Mickiewicz, the beloved national poet of Poland; and Warsaw is no exception to the list of cities that honor his memory. He has been declared to be the equal of Wordsworth or Shelley in his

descriptions of natural scenery, and, though living in Poland's darkest day, has left imperishable pictures of Polish life and manners.

The mention of Mickiewicz reminds us that Poland, like New England, has had her periods of literary activity and has produced some of the world's great writers.

Anton Malczewski, who died when he was only thirty-three, was a poet whose verses became immensely popular after his death and were sung all over the three Polands.

Sienkiewicz's historical novels are known almost as well in America as they are in Poland, especially his "Quo Vadis", which enjoyed the dubious distinction of being the best seller for many weeks after its translation into English.



## A Protest from Rochester, N. Y.

Rochester, N. Y., Feb. 1, 1915.

Editor:

The undersigned, officers of the local branches of the Polish National Alliance, and other patriotic societies in the United States, have authorized the following statement of their attitude toward Prussia and Pan-Germanism, as an official denial of the repeated statements in the papers, that the Polish patriots and people are pro-Germans and anti-Russians.

The Polish-American citizens in this country cannot view with indifference the possibility of German success in the present terrible trial of military power continuing as it does, day after day and week after week, between the allied armies of France, Russia and England, fighting as they are, for the freedom of the lesser nations oppressed by the despotism of the Prussianized German empire. We know too well that if merciless German militarism triumphs, the Prussian oppression of the Polish people which is now historic, will seem moderate, compared to that to come from the Teuton victors flushed with this second proof of their invincible power. We have not yet forgotten the cruel oppression inflicted on our fellow patriots by our "paternal" Prussian protectors, who punished with almost unbelievable barbarities the use of our national Polish speech, even in the public and private exercises of our traditional Christian worship. This itself ought to be evidence sufficient to convince the most sceptical, what the "Deutsche Kultur" is, and how greatly it is imparted to non-German nations, people who have passed unwillingly under the "protection" of Pan-Germanism, through no desire of their own.

And if this be not sufficient we will cite also, the Prussian land laws, expropriating Polish land owners, that their property may be available for use by favored German settler whose increase was intended to displace eventually all resisting Prussian peasants and anti-Prussian patriots. And lastly, this proof of permanency of Prussian appreciation of the self-sacrificing patriotism of the Polish soldiers of the wars of 1866, and 1870 to 1871 may

be mentioned. It is well known in Poland that although Polish soldiers during these wars of German aggression, were decorated with the famous "iron cross" even this proof of "Imperial appreciation," has not protected the wearer of it, from persecution if by chance it was later discovered, that its Polish possessor was lucklessly born without the boundary of Germany. More than one case is known in which the non-native patriots were forcibly expelled from Prussian Poland, and forbidden to return. To the credit of much slandered Russia, be it here stated, that in more than one instance, was an expelled Polish veteran extended the hospitality of that great Slavic empire, whose ruler is said to have been alluded to by the German Emperor shortly before the war, as an "Asiatic barbarian." We are content to let the accurate descriptions of German military methods contained in the dispatches from the battle fields, printed without comment as they are day after day by the neutral and non-partisan press of America, decide, which nation's triumph is more to be feared by the suffering people of western Europe, the Belgians, or by their fellow sufferers of the East, the Poles.

And yet we read from time to time in the papers, "Poles not in sympathy with Russia." To all such shameless falsifications of fact, let the individual manifestoes of the famous Polish novelist, Henryk Sienkiewicz, and other equally noted patriots, calling all fellows Poles to rally to the assistance of Russia, in crushing once for all the power of the Prussian military despotism, be the only answer necessary, for any unprejudiced reader whose study of the current history of the cruel contest, has enlightened him somewhat concerning the meaning of the phrase "die Deutsche Kultur."

Signed, DR. JOSEPH MARYANSKI,  
955 Hudson avenue,  
Rochester, New York.

W. PAPRZYCKI,  
Pres. of Local Branches of Polish National Alliance,  
1073 Hudson avenue,

# FREE POLAND

A SEMI-MONTHLY

*The Truth About Poland and Her People*

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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.*

## Those Calumnies Must Cease!

Poland has suffered much from the war and it will suffer more. The invading German army in all probability contains Polish regiments from Posen, compelled to engage in fratricidal conflict. Poland is wrecked and devastated, trampled and harried, a tragic state of affairs which Henryk Sienkiewicz has so eloquently described in his letter. To use Nietzsche's phrase, Poland, in order to exist, must "live dangerously." To cap the tragic climax, a certain publication of New York is carrying on a concentrated attack upon the innocent Polish community of Europe. It aims to discredit the Poles in the eyes of the world and accusingly sets forth in its articles that their hands extended appealingly to America for help are not clean. The said publication has forgotten the American principles of honesty and fair play and is ignobly exciting race prejudice and hatred. The Polish organizations are soon to enter a vigorous protest in the matter. Those slanderous articles must stop!

## The First Polish College in America

The silver jubilee of the St. Stanislaus' Kostka College, the first Polish college in the United States, was celebrated February 10th. The Reverend Ladislaus Zapala is president of the institution.

The College Alumni Association took charge of the festivities and arranged for a solemn pontifical mass said

by His Excellency Archbishop Weber, who is still sojourning at the St. Stanislaus' Rectory, accompanied by Right Reverend Bishops P. P. Rhode and Ed. Kozlowski. A grand parade preceded the mass at the St. Stanislaus' K. church, Noble and Ingraham streets, in which all of the alumni and former students of the college were participants.

During the mass Andrew J. Kwasigroch, who has been for the last forty years organist at the church, directed the choirs. After mass there was dinner at the St. Stanislaus' K. College refectory.

At 8 o'clock in the evening of the same day a banquet took place at the St. Stanislaus' Auditorium, which was in exclusive charge of the alumni members.

The association has over 200 members. Of the members fifty are clergymen or soon will be, while among the others are Municipal Judge Ed. K. Jarecki, John Konopa, the secretary of the Polish Roman Catholic Union; Thomas S. Blachowski, secretary of the St. Stanislaus' K. choirs and owner of the Polish Colonization and Real Estate Bureau; Fr. H. Janiszewski, lawyer; S. L. Kolanowski, banker; Thomas T. Lasecki and Joseph Lasecki, editors of the Polish Daily News.

The association has undertaken to gather \$25,000 through voluntary contributions and from the profits of the various entertainments to be arranged during the year 1915.

## Unhappy Poland!

(An Editorial of the Chicago Daily Tribune.)

HENRYK SIENKIEWICZ, eloquently describing the sufferings of his countrymen, has emphasized the most tragic aspect of their fate. We in this country know the bitterness of civil war. But how doubly, trebly bitter must be the fratricidal strife which forces mutual destruction upon the Poles of Germany, Russia and Austro-Hungary in a war that is not for Poland or the Poles! When north fought south in 1861 each fought for its own cause, for great principles and for interests pertaining to each. But the Poles of Posen, Silesia and Galicia fight for Germanic culture, ambition, or defense; the Poles of Russia for the czar.

The only political consolation lies in such hope as may be derived from the promise of the czar that he will unite the Polish people in case he is victorious and grant them autonomy, and in the reported willingness of the Austrian emperor to set up a Polish kingdom within his empire.

But the Poles are not so forgetful of the past nor so naive as to the present that they greet these enforced bids for loyalty with great enthusiasm. There is a horrible certainty in their sufferings, their devastated towns, their ravaged fields, their streams of Polish blood running to turn the mill wheels of their conquerors.

The world has wept for Belgium and hastened to give such succor as is possible to her unhappy people. But Poland's case is worse, morally and materially. No Belgian is destroying his brother, and as for material loss, what must be left to Poland after wave upon wave of invaders and defenders have passed over her!

Wretched indeed is the fate of the buffer states and the marginal peoples of Europe when empires and alliances wrestle for the world.



# An Account of the Partition of Poland

By *SIR JAMES MacKINTOSH*

(Originally Published in the *Edinburgh Review*, Vol. XXXVII.)



LITTLE more than fifty years have passed since Poland occupied a high place among the powers of Europe. Her natural means of wealth and force were inferior to those of few states of the second order. The surface of the country exceeded that of France; and the number of its inhabitants was estimated at fourteen millions, a population probably exceeding that of the British Islands, or of the Spanish Peninsula, at that time. The climate was nowhere unfriendly to health, or unfavorable to labor; the soil was fertile, the produce redundant: a large portion of the country, still uncleared, afforded ample scope for agricultural enterprise. Great rivers afforded easy means of opening an internal navigation from the Baltic to the Mediterranean. In addition to these natural advantages, there were many of those circumstances in the history and situation of Poland which render a people fond and proud of their country, and foster that national spirit which is the most effectual instrument either of defence or aggrandisement. Till the middle of the seventeenth century, she had been the predominating power of the North. With Hungary and the maritime Christendom against the Turkish tyrants of Greece; and, strength of Venice, she had formed the eastern defence of on the north-east, she had been long its sole barrier against the more obscure barbarians of Muscovy. A nation which thus constituted a part of the vanguard of civilization, necessarily became martial, and gained all the renown in arms which could be acquired before war had become a science. The wars of the Poles, personal adventure, depending on individual courage and peculiar character, proceeding little from the policy of Cabinets, but deeply imbued by those sentiments of chivalry which may pervade a nation, chequered by extraordinary vicissitudes, and carried on against barbarous enemies, in remote and wild provinces, were calculated to leave a deep impression on the feelings of the people and to give every man the liveliest interest in the glories and dangers of his country. Whatever renders the members of a community more like each other, and unlike their neighbors, usually strengthens the bonds of attachment between them. The Poles were the only representatives of the Sarmatian race in the assembly of civilized nations. Their language and their national literature—those great sources of sympathy and objects of national pride—were cultivated with no small success. They contributed, in one instance, signally to the progress of science; and they took no ignoble part in those classical studies which composed the common literature of Europe. They were bound to their country by the peculiarities of its institutions and usages—perhaps, also, by those dangerous privileges, and by that tumultuary independence which rendered their condition as much above that of the slaves of an absolute monarchy, as it was below the lot of those who inherit the blessings of legal and moral freedom. They had once another singularity, of which they might justly have been proud, if they had not abandoned it in times which ought to have been more enlightened. Soon after the Reformation, they had set the first example of that true religious liberty which equally admits the members of all sects to the privileges, the offices and dignities of the commonwealth. For nearly a century they had afforded a secure asylum to those obnoxious sects of

Anabaptists and Unitarians, whom all other states excluded from toleration; and the Hebrew nation, proscribed everywhere else, found a second country, with protection for their learned and religious establishments, in this hospitable and tolerant land. A body, amounting to about half a million, professing the equality of gentlemen amidst the utmost extremes of affluence and poverty, forming at once the legislature and the army, or rather constituting the commonwealth, were reproached, perhaps justly, with the parade, dissipation and levity, which generally characterize the masters of slaves; they felt the dignity of conscientious independence; and they joined to the brilliant valour of their ancestors, an uncommon proportion of the accomplishments and manners of a polished age. Even in the days of her decline, Poland had still a part allotted to her in the European system. By her mere situation, without any activity on her own part, she in some measure prevented the collision, and preserved the balance, of the three greatest military powers of the Continent. She constituted an essential member of the federative system of France; and, by her vicinity to Turkey, and influence on the commerce of the Baltic, directly affected the general interest of Europe. Her preservation was one of the few parts of continental policy in which both France and England were concerned; and all governments dreaded the aggrandisement of her neighbors. In these circumstances, it might have been thought that the dismemberment of the territory of a numerous, brave ancient, and renowned people, passionately devoted to their native land, without color or right or pretext of offense, in a period of profound peace, in defiance of the law of nations, and of the common interest of all states, was even not much more probable, than that it should have been swallowed up by a convulsion of nature. Before that dismemberment, nations, though exposed to the evils of war and the chance of conquest, in peace placed some reliance on each other's faith. The crime has, however, been triumphantly consummated. The principle of the balance of power has perished in the Partition of Poland.

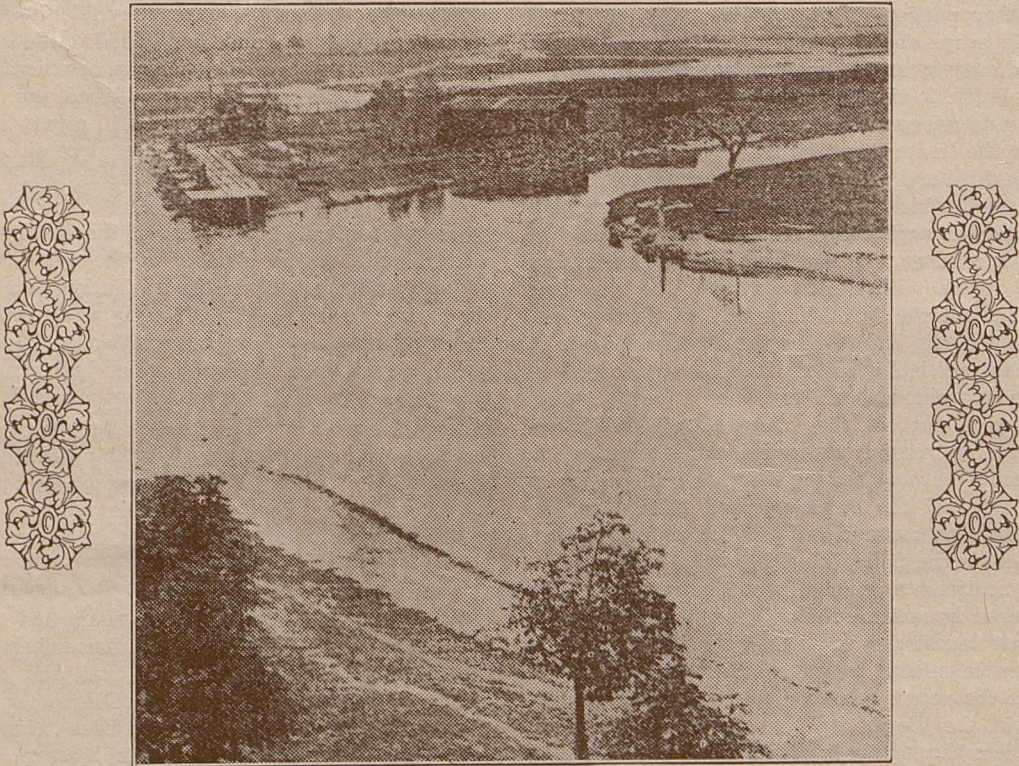
The succession to the crown of Poland appears, in ancient times, to have been governed by that rude combination of inheritance and election which originally prevailed in most European monarchies where there was a general inclination to respect hereditary claims, and even the occasional elections were confined to the members of the reigning family. Had not the male heirs of the house of Jagellon been extinct, or had the rule of female succession been introduced, it is probable that the Polish monarchy would have become strictly hereditary. The inconveniences of the elective principle were chiefly felt in the admission of powerful foreign princes as candidates for the crown: but that form of government proves rather injurious to the independence, than to the internal peace of the country. More than a century, indeed, elapsed before the mischief was felt. In spite of the ascendant acquired by Sweden in the affairs of the North, Poland still maintained her high rank. Her last great exertion, when John Sobieski, in 1683, drove the Turks from the gates of Vienna, was worthy of her ancient character as the guardian of Christendom.

His death, in 1696, first showed that the admission

of such competition might lead to the introduction of foreign influence, and even arms. The contest which then occurred between the Prince of Conti and Augustus, Elector of Saxony, had been decided in favour of the latter by his own army, and by Russian influence, when Charles XII., before he had reached the age of twenty, having already compelled Denmark to submit, and defeated a great Russian army, entered Warsaw in triumph, deposed him as an usurper raised to the royal dignity by foreign force, and obliged him, by express treaty to renounce his pretensions to the crown. Charles was doubtless impelled to these measures by the insolence of a youthful conqueror and by resentment against the Elector; but he was influenced by those rude conceptions of justice, sometimes

pendant of the Czar was for a moment suspended by the treaty of Pruth in 1711, where the Turks compelled Peter to swear that he would withdraw his troops from Poland and never to interfere in its internal affairs; but as soon as the Porte were engaged in a war with Austria, he marched an army into it; and the first example of a compromise between the King and the Diet, under the mediation of a Russian ambassador and surrounded by Russian troops, was exhibited in 1717.

The death of Augustus, in 1733, had nearly occasioned a general war throughout Europe. The interest of Stanislaw, the deposed king was espoused by France, partly perhaps because Louis XV. had married his daughter, but chiefly because the cause of the new Elector of Saxony,



### "THREE EMPERORS' CORNER"

Silesia (Germany) in the Foreground, Austria on the Right, and Russian Poland in the Background.

degenerating into cruelty, which were blended with his irregular ambition. He had the generosity, however, to spare the territory of the republic, and the good sense to propose the son of the great Sobieski to fill the vacant throne;—a proposal which, had it been successful, might have banished foreign factions, by gradually conferring on a Polish family an hereditary claim to the crown. But the Saxons, foreseeing such a measure, carried away young Sobieski a prisoner. Charles then bestowed it on Stanislaw Leszczyński, a Polish gentleman of worth and talent, but destitute of the genius and boldness which the public dangers required, and by the example of a second king enthroned by a foreign army, struck another blow at the independence of Poland. The treaty of Alt-Ranstadt was soon after annulled by the battle of Pultawa; and Augustus, renewing the pretensions which he had solemnly renounced, returned triumphantly to Warsaw. The as-

who was his competitor, was supported by Austria, the Ally of England, and by Russia, then closely connected with Austria.

The Court of Petersburg then set up the fatal pretext of a guarantee of the Polish constitution, founded on the transaction of 1717. A guarantee of the territories and rights of one independent state against others is perfectly compatible with justice; but a guarantee of the institutions of a people against themselves, is but another name for its dependence on the foreign power which enforces it. In pursuance of this pretence, the country was invaded by sixty thousand Russians, who ravaged with fire and sword every district which opposed their progress; and a handful of gentlemen, some of them in chains, whom they brought together in a forest near Warsaw, were compelled to elect Augustus III.

( To be continued.)

# J. Ellis Barker on the Polish Problem

From *The Nineteenth Century*.

**F**ORMERLY there was no Polish nation. The Poles consisted of 150,000 nobles and of many millions of ill-treated serfs. Hard times and misfortune have welded the Poles into a nation. The property-less serfs have become prosperous farmers, and the people of the middle and of the upper class have become earnest workers.

Between 1900 and 1912 the deposits in the Polish Co-operative Societies have increased from 12,420,057l. to 46,970,354l. In every walk of life Poles have achieved most remarkable successes. Although education among the Poles, especially among those in Russia and Austria-Hungary, is still extremely backward—there are only two Polish universities—the Poles have created a most wonderful literature. The Polish literature is the richest among the Slavonic literatures, and it need not fear comparison with any of the Western literatures. In music and in science also Poles have accomplished great things. Among the leading living writers is Sienkiewicz, among the greatest living musicians is Paderewski, among the leading living scientists is Madame Curie-Sklodowska. Formerly, the Poles were thriftless and incompetent in business and agriculture. How wonderfully they have changed may be seen from the fact that in the Eastern Provinces of Germany they are rapidly ousting the Germans, although these receive most powerful support from the State. Notwithstanding the enormous purchase of land made under the Settlement Acts, by which 35,000,000l. have been devoted to the purchase of Polish land for German farmers, the Germans have on balance since the year 1896 lost 250,000 acres of land to the Poles in the Polish districts.

The Poles are to a certain extent to blame for their misfortunes. In the past they have lacked self-command and a sense of proportion. It is noteworthy that during the revolution of 1863 Polish leaders published in Paris maps of an independent Poland, which comprised large and purely Russian districts with towns such as Kieff, on the ground of historical right. Yet Kieff was the cradle of the Russian Orthodox faith.

In Western Russia, in Eastern Prussia, and in Galicia there dwell about 20,000,000 Poles. If the War should end, as it is likely to end, in a Russian victory, a powerful kingdom of Poland will arise. According to the carefully worded manifesto of the Grand Duke the united Poles will receive full self-government under the protection of Russia. They will be enabled to develop their nationality, but it seems scarcely likely that they will receive entire and absolute independence. Their position will probably resemble that of Quebec in Canada, or of Bavaria in Germany, and if the Russians and Poles act wisely they will live as harmoniously together as do the French-speaking "habitants" of Quebec, and the English-speaking men of the other provinces of Canada. Russia need not fear that Poland will make herself entirely independent, and only the most hot-headed and short-sighted Poles can wish for complete independence. Poland, having developed extremely important manufacturing industries, requires large free markets for their output. Her natural market is Russia, for Germany has industrial centres of her own. She can expect to have the free use of the precious Russian markets only as long as she forms part of that great

State. At present, a spirit of the heartiest good will prevails between Russians and Poles. The old quarrels and grievances have been forgotten in the common struggle. The moment is most auspicious for the resurrection of Poland.

Since 1815 the misgovernment of Poland has not only been constant but growing. And with the misgovernment the discontent has been growing in at least an equal ratio. Yet they ought not to have been a difficult race to rule. The very abuses to which they had been for centuries exposed should have made the task of satisfying them easy.

Russian statesmen might well bear in mind the recommendations of that great statesman as to the way by which Russia might satisfy her Poles. Lord Salisbury wrote:

"The best that can be hoped for Poland is an improved condition under Russian rule. The conditions which are needed to reconcile the Poles to a Russian Sovereign are manifest enough and do not seem very hard to be observed. The Poles have not only been oppressed but insulted, and in their condition insult is harder to put up with than oppression. A nation which is under a foreign yoke is sensitive upon the subject of nationality. . . . If Russia would rule the Poles in peace she must defer to a sensibility which neither coaxing nor severity will cure. All the substance of power may be exercised as well through Polish administrators as through Russian. The union between the two countries may for practical purposes be complete, though every legal act and every kind of scholastic instruction be couched in the Polish language."

It would be hazardous, and it would probably be foolish, to give Poland complete independence. Poland has grown into Russia and Russia into Poland. After all, it cannot be expected that Russia will abandon her principal and most promising industrial district with two of her largest towns. In politics one should endeavor to achieve only the practical. The question therefore arises: How much self-government will Russia grant to Poland? Will she give her a separate legislation, taxation, post office, coinage, finances, army? The arrangement of these details may prove somewhat difficult. It is to be hoped that during the negotiations between Poles and Russians regarding a settlement the Poles will endeavor to be cool and reasonable, and that the Russians will be trusting and generous. Happily, a spirit of hearty good will is abroad in Russia, the Czar is kind-hearted and liberal-minded, and the reactionary party is weak.

The greatest grievance of the Polish nation is not that it lives under foreign rule, but that it lives under oppression and that it has been parcelled out among several States. Owing to the partition of Poland, Poles have been taught to consider as enemies men of their own nationality living across the border, and now they have been compelled by their rulers to slaughter each other. At present more than a million Polish soldiers are engaged against their will in a fratricidal war. That terrible fact alone constitutes a most powerful claim upon all men's sympathy and generosity.

Although Russia has in times past treated the Poles far more harshly than has Prussia, and although the German Poles are far more prosperous than are the Russian,

the Poles see their principal enemy not in Russia but in Prussia. After all, the Russian is their brother Slav, and they are proud of their big brother. Besides, they recognize that Russia has been misguided by Prussia, and that Prussia was largely responsible for Poland's partition and for Russia's anti-Polish policy.

When the peace conditions come up for discussion at the Congress which will bring the present war to an end—and that event may be nearer than most men think—the problem of Poland will be one of the greatest difficulty and importance. Austria-Hungary has comparatively little interest in retaining her Poles. The Austrian Poles dwell in Galicia outside the great rampart of the Carpathian mountains, which form the natural frontier of the Dual Monarchy towards the north-east. The loss of Galicia, with its oilfields and mines, may be regrettable to Austria-Hungary, but it will not affect her very seriously. To Germany, on the other hand, the loss of the Polish districts will be a fearful blow. The supreme importance which Germany attaches to the Polish problem may be seen from this, that Bismarck thought it the only question which could lead to an open breach between Germany and Austria-Hungary. According to Crispi's Memoirs, Bismarck said to the Italian statesman on the 17th of September, 1877:

"There could be but one cause for a breach in the friendship that unites Austria and Germany, and that would be a disagreement between the two Governments

concerning Polish policy... If a Polish rebellion should break out and Austria should lend it her support, we should be obliged to assert ourselves. We cannot permit the reconstruction of a Catholic kingdom so near at hand. It would be a northern France. We have one France to look to already, and a second would become the natural ally of the first, and we should find ourselves entrapped between two enemies.

"The resurrection of Poland would injure us in other ways as well. It could not come about without the loss of a part of our territory. We cannot possibly relinquish either Posen or Dantzig, because the German Empire would remain exposed on the Russian frontier, and we should lose an outlet on the Baltic."

In the event of Germany's defeat a large slice of Poland, including the wealthiest parts of Silesia, with gigantic coal mines, iron-works, etc., would be taken away from her, and if the Poles should recover their ancient province of West Prussia, with Dantzig, Prussia's hold upon East Prussia, with Koenigsberg, would be threatened. The loss of her Polish districts would obviously greatly reduce Germany's military strength and economic power. It may therefore be expected that Germany will move heaven and earth against the re-creation of the kingdom of Poland, and that she will strenuously endeavor to create differences between Russia and her Allies. The statesmen of Europe should therefore, in good time, firmly make up their minds as to the future of Poland.



The Old Royal Palace of the Polish Kings in Warsaw

## Martyrdom of Poland

The Daily Mail's correspondent at Zyradow, near Bolimow, describing a recent battle on the Bzura river which he witnessed, says:

"The martyrdom of Belgium is not more tragic than the martyrdom of Poland, which is being overrun by the enemy for the fourth time in the present war, for it involves a ghastly racial tragedy, hundreds of thousands of Poles who live under the Austrian and German flags being compelled to shed the blood of their brothers who are fighting under the Russian eagle.

"When the battle began by a German attack from Skierniewice the Russians at first took it for a bluff, not believing that after their previous experiences the Ger-

mans would venture to attack again. The battle proceeded in a snowstorm. It was largely hand to hand fighting. Prince Woroniecki tells me the slaughter was the most appalling he had seen on the whole eastern front. At one point the Germans came on twenty ranks deep."

The correspondent describes the drastic efforts of the Germans to stamp out cholera. He says they are burning all hamlets in Poland where the disease has shown itself, regardless of the entreaties of the destitute Polish peasants. At Lodz, the correspondent says, the Germans sacrificed everything to sanitation, and are inflicting ten year's imprisonment for any infraction of their sanitary regulations.

# Poland's Main Hope is Independence

The outcome of the war in Europe is of great moment to 7,000 residents of Bay City—the Poles. Their hearts bleed for the remnant of the once great country which has like Belgium, been dragged into the great conflict and made the field of the bloody battles. The ultimate fate of Belgium and Poland is a conundrum. With their cities and towns destroyed, their fields devastated and the whole country in a state of ruination, it would take more than a score of years to rehabilitate either under the most favorable circumstances. Little Poland is a tremendous sufferer under the iron heel of war. Its people are on the verge of starvation. They have lost their all—as the crushing wheels or bloody carnage have rolled back and forth over their once happy and prosperous land.

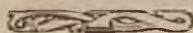
Poland is watching and waiting. It has its hopes and its wishes, but it expresses neither. It waits until the carnage ceases when it will take account of itself and determine what course is best to follow. Austria, Germany, and Russia have sought its allegiance in this war.

Those powers which have been the executioners of the downtrodden country and shared in the spoils, have suddenly become the greatest friends.

Poland has always been oppressed, or driven on one side or on the other. The idea of the other powers has not been to rule Poland but to absorb Poland. There has been Prussianization, Germanization and Russianization, but the spirit of Poland has remained with what was left of the country. The Poles hope for nothing from Germany but total absorption. They hope for more from Austria but fear Austria's ability in the event of a victory. Between the Poles and Russians, a wide gulf of hate and blood exists.

And so in this old world conflict the Polish leaders are counseling wisdom and patience. Their feelings are aroused and their hopes live, but peace is desired that will bring Poland out a victor with the victors.

Bay City, Mich. Times.



## De Reszke's Letter

THE BEAUTIFUL land of Poland, torn asunder by the Russians, Austrians and Germans over a century ago and divided as the spoils to those various nations, has kept alive its yearning for a reunited, individual nation all that time.

Americans remember how ardently Modjeska, the famous actress, worked to re-establish Poland. Kościuszko and Pulaski served the cause of freedom in America as well as in Europe. Paderewski, the great pianist, is a Pole. Sienkiewicz, the author of "Quo Vadis", is a Pole. Jean and Edouard De Reszke, the great opera singers, are Poles. Fr. Ledochowski, just elected general of the Society of Jesus, is a Pole.

A letter from Edouard De Reszke, just received in America, pictures vividly the suffering now going on in that country. For Poland is the battle ground of the eastern nations today, with each striving to capture Warsaw, the capital of Poland.

De Reszke writes that his estate and all around is a desert.

"We spend most of the week in our cellars" writes the singer. "We have no coal, no means of lighting—for there are neither candles nor oil—no salt and no sugar. The coffee ran out long ago, but we have some tea left. When that goes we must drink water. Prince and Princess Lubomirski, whose palace has been razed to the ground, have come to us, so have our nieces and nephews.

"We all keep together, wondering whether we shall live through the day or not. The nights are the worst, for we are in darkness all the time, and the roar of the guns seems worse then. But we put our trust in God and hope for the best."

Jean de Reszke is in Paris. His only son, talented writer and painter, 21 years old, is serving as a volunteer in the French army. Jean's Polish estate has shared the fate of others in that part of the country.



## Poland Filled With Wounded

In a letter to her parents, former Governor and Mrs. Edwin Warfield, Countess Ledochowska recounts the horrors of the battles which have recently raged in Poland, of the desolation and destruction in that hapless land, and of the enormous number of wounded soldiers and refugees from the country who crowd the cities. In Warsaw there are over 200,000 wounded soldiers. In Kief, which is about one-third the size of Baltimore the Countess says, there are over 100,000 soldiers, prisoners of war and refugees from the rural districts. In Russia it is estimated that there are 2,000,000 wounded soldiers, or one to every three inhabitants.

In her letter to her parents Countess Ledochowska tells of the happiness with which she awaits the arrival of the hospital and other supplies recently forwarded to her from Baltimore. She then continues:

"How can I ever thank you and at the same time tell you how delighted I am over the prospect of having the boxes from home, and what a help the contents will be! There is a great need of medical and surgical requirements. There is a poor, struggling hospital, completely overcome with the number of wounded, at Constantinoff, near here, and I want to try and help it out as much as possible with the contributions from Baltimore.

"The hospital at Frydrykow is in good running order. I have just had a telegram from Jeanne, asking me to meet her in Kiew the end of the week. She wants me to help her get supplies, etc. If all goes well at this end will leave for Kiew tomorrow night. While in Kiew will visit the different hospitals, especially the one run by the American Red Cross."

## The Polish Question in the American Press

**Tacoma (Wash.) Ledger:**—A short item of large significance comes from Warsaw, Russian Poland, saying that Grand Duke Nicholas, head of the Russian army, has authorized the formation of a Polish legion, which will be the first Polish contingent flying a distinctive flag in the present war. There are many Polish volunteers in the Russian army, the item says, but the new organization is to be distinctively Polish.

The organization is based on Russia's promise of an independent Poland. It is quite probable that the offer of service under a distinctive flag implying the independence of Poland will result in thousands of volunteers, though Poland is still divided as to whether Russia will keep her promise.

Polish leaders in the United States are quoted in recent publications as being of the opinion that the road to independence is safest and clearest if the Russian promise is accepted and Poland co-operates with the allies. These leaders believe that Great Britain and France will use their moral influence in behalf of Poland if Russia should waver when the time comes for settling international boundaries after the war. At the same time it is admitted that a considerable minority of Polish people distrust Russia and are not enthusiastic about her promises.

Leading Poles of the United States consider that accepting the Russian promise and acting accordingly is the chief hope of a reunited Poland, for they contend that if Germany should win she would never give up Prussian Poland, but not unlikely would ask for more Polish territory.

Grand Duke Nicholas' authorization of a Polish legion in which already 4,000 Poles have enlisted will bring to the support of Russia and the allies thousands of believers in an independent Poland who would have held back had Russia not promised to restore Poland.

The dismemberment of Poland in the latter part of the eighteenth century by Russia, Poland and Austria is often characterized as an outrageous crime. The final partition by the congress of Vienna in 1815 apportioned the country as follows: To Russia, 220,500 square miles; to Prussia, 26,000 square miles, and to Austria 35,000 square miles. Russia got the lion's share.

Now Russia proposes to restore Poland, giving up what she took about 100 years ago and compelling Germany and Austria to give up their shares at the same time. Should Russia and her allies succeed in the present war there will probably be an independent Poland to be in the future a buffer state between Germany and Russia.

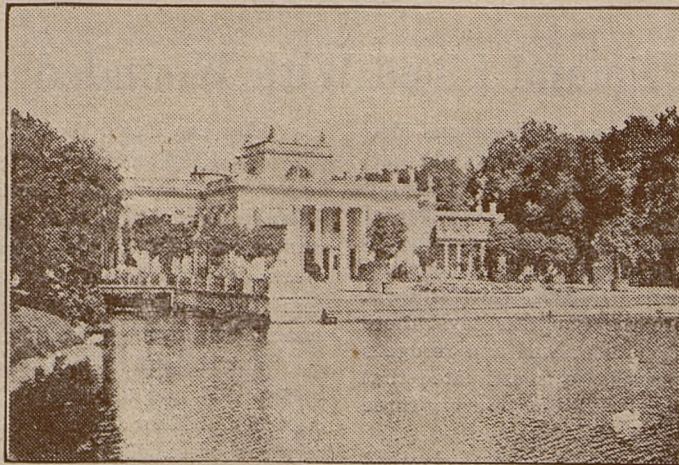
\* \* \*

**Milwaukee (Wis.) News:**—The efforts of the Poles in various parts of the world in their efforts to raise money for their stricken countrymen and their work for the freedom of "The Fair Land of Poland" should be applauded. These people are seeking religious freedom and the preservation of their language. They are opposing Russian oppression and trying to make that government live up to its repeated promises.

The Poles have always been friendly to the United States. During our great struggles they sent some representative soldiers over here, and these men fought in the forefront for this nation, valiantly and with considerable distinction. There is a natural bond of sympathy between lovers of liberty and this down-trodden people, who in spite of tyranny in its worst form have managed to preserve their entity as a people. And this was done while their country had no political existence and was partitioned among other nations years ago.

The remarkable achievements of individual Poles puts the nation in the forefront in a number of achievements. Great Polish musicians, writers and scientists have come to world attention. Their works are immortal, penetrating into all parts of the world and recognized by the best authorities as ranking with the highest anywhere. There must, then, be sympathy for such a people whose land is harried, and whose liberties are trampled under the iron heel.

The czar has promised Poland autonomy and the restoration of her national institutions; but the people put little faith in this. Yet it may be that after the war, Russia will be forced to keep the faith with this plucky and indomitable nation which so persistently refuses to lose its identity. This is a consummation devoutly to be wished.



The Palace in the Lazienki Park in Warsaw

# Our Correspondence

Gentlemen:

I wish to congratulate you most heartily, and we all endorse most highly your effort of bringing the just cause of Poland before the American people by means of that timely and able publication "Free Poland." You struck the correct note when you issued "Free Poland"; these means are bound to correct many a false idea on the part of non-Polish people.

REV. I. MIKOLAJ,  
Wells, Minn.

Dear Sir:

Please put me down for "Free Poland." Ever since I read of Poland's sorrows, and of her glorious record in Christian History, I have prayed for her freedom. May this come about in the terrific clash of arms.

Yours sincerely,  
REV. A. D. GRUNGER,  
Kankakee, Ill.

## Contributors to the Publication Fund of Free Poland

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Local Committee No. 92, Detroit, Mich.....	15.00
Very Rev. J. Pacholski, Winona, Minn.....	5.00
Rev. K. Skory, Grand Rapids, Mich.....	5.00
Mr. S. W. Burda, Pharmacy, Chicago.....	2.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$3,946.07</b>

## Relief Funds of the Polish War Sufferers Collected in the United States

By the Polish Relief Committees:

Polish Central Relief Committee, Chicago.....	\$67,000.00
Polish National Council, Chicago.....	45,000.00
Polish National Alliance, Chicago.....	54,000.00
Polish Roman Catholic Union, Chicago.....	4,500.00
Polish Women's Alliance, Chicago.....	13,000.00
Polish Falcon's Alliance, Pittsburg.....	14,500.00
Polish Relief Committee, Buffalo.....	8,500.00
Polish Red Cross, Pittsburg.....	2,800.00
Am. Pol. Relief Com. of N. Y. ....	24,226.77
Am. Pol. Relief Com. of Boston, Mass. ....	22,824.97
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$256,351.54</b>

## American Polish Relief Committee of New York

Madame Marcella Sembrich, President,  
14 East 47th st., New York, N. Y.

Previously acknowledged .....	\$18,775.77
G. W. Craft.....	1.00
Edith C. Phelps.....	3.00
Wladyslaw Kucharski .....	5.00
Anonymous .....	500.00
Emma C. Larsen .....	50.00
Mrs. Geo. Zabriskie.....	25.00
Mr. C. N. Fay.....	10.00
Mrs. Charles McKnight.....	1.00
Caroline P. Dixon.....	10.00
Cash .....	2.00
War Relief Com., Honolulu, Jas. A. Rath, Sec'y..	1,000.00
Mr. J. Kennedy Tod.....	100.00
Mrs. Maria Kennedy Tod.....	25.00
Miss Ethel M. Dixon.....	1.00
Miss Euphemia Johnson.....	1.00

Anonymous .....	10.00
Memory of H. W. Ostrowski.....	25.00
Mrs. Felix Warburg.....	50.00
Helen Kinne .....	5.00
Mrs. Margaret D. Sibley.....	100.00
Dr. John Woodman.....	5.00
Cash .....	1.00
Mr. James Byrne.....	100.00
Mrs. Lucien Oudin.....	25.00
Ensign B. L. Dombrowski.....	7.00
Mabel G. Kingsbury.....	5.00
Miss Cress .....	20.00
Miss Susan E. Daniels.....	10.00
Mr. T. R. Beal.....	25.00
Mrs. C. F. Wassenberg.....	1.00
Dr. B. Onuf.....	2.00
Mr. Eugene Gorski.....	5.00
Miss Breslin .....	10.00
Mrs. Matilda Brownell.....	5.00
Frances Tracy Morgan.....	10.00
Mrs. Wm. Allen Butler.....	10.00
Mr. Stanislaus Gorski.....	10.00
Headquarters for sale of Mr. Van Norman's Book	16.50
Miss Dorothy Lee.....	1.00
Dr. James D. Voorhees.....	10.00
Bertha G. Brooks.....	25.00
J. M. Anderson.....	5.00
Mrs. Gustave Schirmer.....	20.00
Mr. Geo. F. Cox.....	5.00
Mrs. Mary C. Thaw.....	50.00
Mr. R. D. Douglass.....	100.00
Miss Anna Davis.....	5.00
Mrs. Sidney Webster.....	50.00
Miss Ellen Jay.....	5.00
Elizabeth Wickshire .....	5.00
Barber & Company.....	100.00
Mrs. A. M. Kidder.....	25.00
Blanche W. Walton.....	10.00
Mrs. Henry Johnson.....	15.00
A. Piecywik .....	2.00
Miss Winifred E. Howe.....	5.00
Mrs. John Jay Chapman.....	25.00
Mrs. Mary B. Bristol.....	50.00
Mr. G. H. Weaver.....	10.00
All Souls' Church (Mr. Lawrence E. Jackson)..	3.30
Students of Mt. Holyoke College.....	25.00
Mrs. Amelia Willets.....	25.00
Katherine Ford .....	10.00
Miss Goodrich .....	1.00
Mrs. F. M. R. Biggs.....	10.00
Mr. George Zabriskie.....	100.00
From a Friend.....	1,000.00
Mrs. George R. Read.....	25.00
William R. Castle, Chairman War Relief Com.,	

Honolulu .....	1,225.00
William H. Sloan.....	5.00
Emma B. Holden.....	2.00
Mrs. Smith .....	50.00
Eliza D. Kirkbridge.....	3.00
Mr. S. Skowronski.....	2.00
Proceeds of Mr. Louis Van Norman's Lecture...	250.20
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Total .....	\$24,226.77

T. W. R. (additional).....	25.00
Miss Marjorie Newell.....	10.00
M. N. ....	10.00
M. E. R., Brookline.....	50.00
Mrs Thomas L. Winthrop.....	25.00
John Townsend Trowbridge.....	25.00
Mrs. J. M. Bell.....	50.00
Anonymous .....	25.00
G. O. G. Coale.....	5.00
John A. Gilman, Newton.....	10.00
K. C. I.....	100.00
A Friend .....	1.00
A Friend .....	5.00
Westwood Branch of Women's National Alliance	5.00
Charlie O. Dexter, New Bedford.....	50.00
Ernest M. Lovell, Wayland.....	7.00
B. (additional) .....	25.00
Charles P. Bowditch.....	250.00
A. A. Lyman.....	2.00
Mrs. E. A. Freeman.....	10.00
Anonymous .....	5.00
A Friend, Princeton.....	2.50
Philip W. Wrenn.....	50.00
M. F. M.....	10.00
S. T. Downer.....	10.00
Francis Peabody .....	60.00
Medford Branch of Public Interests League....	20.00
Thimble Club, Boston Swedenborgian Church...	25.00
Proceeds of concert at Ludlow, Vt., given by	
Frances W. Snow.....	46.53
A Friend, Milton.....	500.00
Miss Katherine Lord.....	10.00
From the Poles, January payment.....	75.50
Miss Helenka Adamowski, collected through	
chain letter (additional).....	102.96
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Total .....	\$22,824.97

Yours very truly,

MISS LEONIDA KRAJEWSKI,  
Assistant Secretary.

Checks may be sent to treasurer: Guarantee Trust Company of New York, Fifth Avenue and Forty-third street, New York, N. Y.

**American Polish Relief Committee of Boston, Mass.**

Madame Adamowska, President.

Previously acknowledged .....	\$20,291.73
Mrs. Hacker .....	1.00
E. S., Newport, R. I.....	3.00
Miss Emma W. Lee, Newburyport.....	5.00
Dr. Denman W. Ross.....	50.00
Anonymous .....	20.00
Mr. and Mrs. William Hooper, Manchester.....	25.00
A. M. L.....	15.00
Mrs. W. S. Warland.....	25.00
George A. Peabody.....	200.00
Miss J. E. C. Chapman.....	5.00
John A. Lansing.....	5.00
Anonymous .....	50.00
Miss C. Gilman.....	3.00
Miss Helen E. Day.....	1.00
Miss Mary A. Day.....	5.00
Proceeds of a concert at Salem, given by Mme.	
Szumowska Adamowski .....	482.75
From E. and M.....	5.00
Miss Annie J. Pecker.....	25.00

Two installments of the fund have been safely sent to the Warsaw Central Relief Committee. Report of the Polish Day receipts will be made later.

W. P. BLAKE, Treasurer.

27 Kilby street, Boston.

**NOTE** The first number of FREE POLAND was published August 1st, 1914. Upon receipt of One Dollar (\$1.00) subscription we will mail you FREE POLAND for one year, together with all previous numbers.

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