

FREE POLAND

A SEMI-MONTHLY

The Truth About Poland and Her People

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Wladyslaw II., eldest Son of Boleslaw the Wry-Lipped and Zbislawa, Ruthenian Princess, reigned from 1139 to 1146.—The Scene below represents Dunin Wlast, one of the Opponents of Wladyslaw, having his Eyes put out, as recorded by the Chronicler Gallus.

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What the Berlin, Wis. News Thinks of Our Energetic Agent

Mrs. H. Staś is meeting everywhere with liberal patronage and courteous treatment. We reprint below what the BERLIN, WIS., NEWS had to say of her creditable work:

"Helen Staś, a Polish writer of considerable note, is in our city in the interest of the Polish people. She is selling subscriptions to a semi-monthly magazine called FREE POLAND, published in Chicago and authorized by the Polish National Council of America, which is devoted to the Polish cause and is intended to bring before the American people the cause of Poland and familiarize them with the history of this unfortunate nation and the just cause for which they are striving. Mrs. Staś is a very pleasant lady to meet and convinces one at once of her sincerity in the work she has taken upon herself. She has written a number of excellent Polish works, but when her country was made the battle-field of this great European war, her countrymen were made destitute and homeless, she felt it her duty to do something for their cause and hence volunteered to solicit subscriptions for FREE POLAND. She desires to place herself in the background, making prominent only the cause and need for assistance by her beloved people who are in such dire straits. She urges the reading of the magazine in the

hope that a better knowledge of Poland's history and struggle may be gained. She has been in this work since last December and has toured California, Oregon, Idaho, Washington and Montana, receiving liberal patronage for her magazine and courteous treatment from people everywhere."

Contributors to the Publication Fund of "Free Poland"

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(To be continued)

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Russian Promise of a Free and United Poland

The CHICAGO HERALD of August 25, 1915, published a remarkable interview, given to their correspondent N. L. Piotrowski, by the Prime Minister Goremkin. The statements, officially sanctioned, give promise of a free and united Poland and point to Russia's determination "to carry on this war not only until the Germans are driven out of Poland, but until Germany is completely crushed."

The interview, as published in the HERALD, follows:

Petrograd, July 17.—I had the honor to be granted an interview with His Excellency Mr. Goremkin, the Prime Minister of Russia, the man who next to the emperor is the greatest in the empire in power and influence.

It was not an interview, he said, but a visit, during which the premier expressed his ideas.

He did not receive me as newspaper correspondent for an interview, but he consented to his utterances being published in the Chicago Herald. You will also note on each page (of this letter) the word "Correct", with the signature of S. Yourieff, the premier's secretary, without which it would be impossible for the document to leave Russia and which proves its authenticity.

The interviews or audiences with the other ministers which I have had are similarly authenticated. I considered those utterances and the sources from which they came of such great importance that I did not want to leave the least doubt as to their authenticity.

I was received by the premier in his summer residence at the appointed time, which was 3 o'clock Saturday afternoon. The residence, which is a frame building and situated next to that of the empress dowager, is severely plain, and it typifies the unassuming simplicity and modesty of the great man who occupies it.

The premier, I am told, is 75 years of age, but looks vigorous and healthy. He is rather small of stature for a Russian, who, as a rule, are quite tall, but he has a fine big head and penetrating eyes. He received me very kindly and by his simple, unaffected manner made me feel at home.

I was most agreeably surprised and delighted when I heard that the premier spoke English. While it is true that now all educated Russians speak English, as well as French, almost as fluently as they do their own language, yet during the generation to which the premier belongs the English language was not given the same recognition that the French was.

The conversation was, therefore, carried on in English.

By way of introduction I told the premier briefly the purpose of my coming to Petrograd; that I was an American citizen of Polish nationality; that the people of America are deeply interested in the fate of Poland and

are sympathizing with the Poles on account of their awful sufferings in this terrible war and are contributing money to alleviate their sufferings; that they read with great interest the proclamation issued by the chief commander of the Russian army, Grand Duke Nicholas, promising freedom to Poland, and that they would like to see that promise realized.

I then asked the premier whether the proclamation of the commander-in-chief was made with the knowledge and sanction of the emperor and of the ministry, to which question he replied:

"The proclamation was made by the grand duke with the knowledge and sanction of the emperor and of the ministry."

Next I asked the following question:

"What has been done thus far to put that promise into effect to make it a reality?"

In answer to that question the premier told me that a commission has been appointed, composed of six Poles and of that many Russians, which commission is at the present time engaged in preparing a plan to put the promise contained in the grand duke's proclamation into a concrete form in so far as that will be possible under the existing conditions and circumstances. (I know of my own knowledge that this is true, because I met the Polish members of that commission and talked with them.)

I next called the premier's attention to the fact that the German army is at the present time occupying most of Poland; in view of that, I asked him, how can the promise making Poland free be accomplished? To this question I received the following answer:

"The occupation of Poland by the German army is only temporary. Russia is determined to carry on this war not only until the Germans are driven out of Poland, but until Germany is completely crushed. This is the sentiment of the emperor, of the government and of the whole Russian nation. We are all as one on that point. After that is accomplished then all the three parts of Poland will be united and made free in accordance with the grand duke's proclamation."

I asked him two other questions not relating to the Polish question which he did not answer, but advised me to see the ministers who have charge of those affairs.

I was deeply impressed with the frankness of the premier's answer to my questions.

I may add that the premier began his political career in Poland, having held his first important office of commissioner in that country. He is therefore well acquainted with the Poles and the Polish question.

(HERE FOLLOWS OFFICIAL "O.K." OF INTERVIEW.)

Broader Sympathies

(A correspondence from Ithaca, N. Y.)

On Sunday night August 8, in the Lyceum theatre in Ithaca, N. Y., which is the seat of one of the largest universities in our country, a memorable meeting was held. The hall was closely packed, its interest was that of wrapt attention and the speakers were the Rev. Henry Pereira Mendes, a noted Jewish minister of New York, and Prof. Nathaniel Schmidt of Cornell University; Mayor Thomas Tree presided.

Yet were there any Poles in the audience they must have been surprised at the words of the speaker who branded the Poles as the persecutors of the Jews alongside with the Russian government, and they must have deplored the fact that the venerable speaker allowed his sacred enthusiasm to be tainted with the ungenerous campaign of some Jews against unfortunate Poland, — now of all times when her life's blood is flowing from a mortal wound, the like of which history has not yet seen.

True as are the horrors of war suffered by the Jews in Poland—5 millions of them—the same scourge touches 15 millions of Poles. It would be hard to rival the speaker in pathos and everybody was glad that one more strong voice was raised for the relief of the untold sufferings of this terrible war, yet in the face of this special appeal we must plead for **broader sympathies**, more comprehensive points of views.

Mayor Tree seems to have struck the keynote to the situation even more keenly than Prof. Schmidt in his brilliant speech, when he said that uncompromising individualism is the element that feeds all the strifes of the world and breaks out in the cataclysm like the present. It will take the spirit of fairness, justice, charity and love of all the best people of the world to counteract the cumulative effect of hatred brewing in this war. Let us begin to cultivate even now a truly neutral spirit and not put outside our sympathies the humblest, the weakest and the least able to speak for themselves, as Poland is now, stunted by the hammering blows of three armies millions

strong. More, let us not consider as foes any of the warring nations. Fairness to all and animosity to none!

Why should we blame Russia for evacuating her war zone of Jews if the civilians of all countries have been subject to the same enforced policy? Cracow alone was reduced in population from 150,000 to 35,000. Deported? Yes. They were all forced to leave abruptly, amidst untold privations and still suffer in the barracks in the interior provinces of Austria. And it was not altogether in spirit of animosity, but rather of magnanimity through suffering, that the Russian press called lately to hundreds of thousands of Jews congested in Poland to seek refuge in the Imperium. "We need you there!" said these voices of new Russia. Should the Jews in their own interest antagonize such attitude? Warsaw was choking with her own peasant refugees, with an influx of Jews from Palestine, she was like one immense committee of charity to all within her walls. Let no charity of judgment be denied her valiant people.

Even in Canada the unfortunate Poles, the subject of Austria and Germany fleeing from oppression, find themselves treated as possible enemies, driven from work and home into detention centers. The biting irony of it all!

Where is fairness comprehensive enough to do justice to all claims? Where is sympathy deep enough to arrest the scalding tears shed unseen? Our necessary limitations, the very fact that we are strong successful individuals, that we battled to some purpose with our fellowmen, make us blind to many needs, as crying as our own. Shall we oppose our claims to others, shall we aggrandize our worthiness by belittling others? Or shall we do our best for those we can reach most easily through the ties of blood and congeniality but always seek to enlarge our sympathies, lest some equally worthy and unhappy remain outside of the Pale?

H. STEIN-HAUSER.



THE TEATR WIELKI, OR GRAND THEATER, WARSAW

From Poland's Martyrology

I.

In Prussian Poland.

One cannot forget that only 25 years ago the Prussian Government established a Royal Colonization Commission, with instructions to buy up Polish territory and re-sell it to German colonists. This Commission was endowed to the extent of a milliard of marks (£ 550,000,000). As the Poles very naturally resisted this attempt to deprive them of the land they have filled and inhabited since the beginning of history, two anti-Polish bills were passed through the Prussian Diet: One prohibited the Poles from building houses, even on their own estates, without the permission of the authorities (often refused!); the other invested the Colonization Commission with the right to expropriate any Polish landowner, by force, if necessary, and without being required to furnish any explanation or excuse.

In spite of European indignation, in spite of the anger of the German people themselves, whose deputies to the Imperial Parliament passed a vote of censure—for the first time in the history of the German Constitution—on the Chancellor, Bethman Hollweg, at the very moment when this law was brought into operation—in spite of a tremendous outburst of popular feeling the government persisted in their anti-Polish policy, and were going even to extreme measures of injustice and repression. It is worthy of note that such measures as the Prussians now proposed, had never before been introduced in civilized countries even in time of war!

It must be mentioned, however, that in spite of this relentless persecution, the Polish national spirit and solidarity are as alive and alert as ever. Dispossessed of everything but their name, the Poles are still a nation.

* * *

2.

In Russian Poland.

About two years ago the Russian Imperial Government decreed to separate the ancient Polish province of Chelm from the Kingdom of Poland, as Russian Poland

is called. The province of Chelm became a government (Gubernia) in the Russian Empire, as having nothing to do with former Poland. Upon the completion of this highly "civilizing" act the Russian government proceeded to the most ridiculous, as well as the most cruel, steps to persecute the Poles.

In the established province of Chelm, whose separation from the Kingdom of Poland was the latest link in the chain of tyranny by Russia over the Poles, achieved as it was in the face of international guarantees of the indivisibility of Polish territory, the Russian government was proceeding to the most ridiculous, as well as most cruel steps to persecute the Poles.

Besides such every day petty persecution as the prohibition of the use of the Polish language on posters and shop signs (which measure, though condemned by the Duma, was still enforced), Russia was preparing a programme which aimed at nothing less than the extermination of the Polish element in Chelm, where by the way, the Poles are even now in the majority.

In its report the committee appointed for this purpose on the plea of protecting the Russians "oppressed" by the Poles in Chelm (how a Pole can oppress a Russian in Russia?) proposed the following measures:

The increase of the Orthodox Church funds and more active assistance in its propaganda;

A special increase in the pay of Russian officials;

The exercise of State control in estate deals;

Absolute state control in all affairs concerning agriculture, thus substituting outside and foreign authority for local and Polish control.

The passing of a law prohibiting all secret teaching, with punishment of 3 months imprisonment or a fine of 5,000 rubles.

In addition the committee proposed to change the names of 120 Polish towns and villages.



French Oil Interests in Austrian Poland before the War

In view of the growing interest of the English public in oil generally and in Galician oil especially it is interesting to note the growth of French companies in this direction. The Galician oil-fields are among the most important in the world, and for quality and quantity certainly the most important in Europe. Though in the beginning the English capital was predominant it had lately been superseded by that of German and French, as well as Polish enterprises. In the last three years (before the war) several French companies had been formed, each of them, making very good profits.

"La Societe Francaise de Karpathes" was founded in 1911 with a capital of 3,550,000 francs. During 1913 its net profits amounted to 2,148,958 francs.

"La Societe des mines de petrole de Potok", formed in 1912, was exploiting about 20 wells and excavating sev-

en new ones. Its production during the last year was 6000 tons.

"La Societe des Petrole de Dąbrowa" formed in 1912 with a capital of 2,000,000 francs, had before the war increased its capital to 11,000,000 francs, for the purpose of buying out, among others the famous "Opiag" company, which produced between 30,000 and 40,000 tons annually.

"La Societe des Petroles de Wankowo" formed in the beginning of last year, was exploiting 88 wells, and producing about 18,000 tons a year, while 16 new wells were under construction.

A year ago the great French syndicate "Consortium du Nord" acquired a half interest in the rich German undertaking "Silva Plana" for the sum of 2,500,000 francs; and only 3 days after the deal was affected one of the newly acquired wells increased its output from 7 to 80 tons a day.

Another Translation of the Polish Hymn

We have published Paul Soboleski's and the Rev. P. J. Wachowski's version of the Polish national hymn. We have received another translation, executed by the Rev. Thos. Grochowski, which he sends along with the following letter:

Brandon, Man., Aug. 12, 1915.

"Free Poland",

Polish National Council of America.

Dear Sir—

I am writing this in English, because the enclosed is for English publication. The translation of "Boże coś Polskę" is almost literal, and I am perhaps conceited enough to think that it has not lost any of its beauty in the translation. It is in rhythm with the Polish air.

I am most respectfully,

Rev. THOS. GROCHOWSKI, C.S.S.R.

* * *

I.

God who hast compassed for so many ages
Poland with splendor of glory and power;
Whose shield almighty oft saved her in stages,
When dangers threatened her ruinous hour.

Unto Thy altars we bring supplication,
Country and Freedom Lord restore our Nation!

II.

It is not long since her Freedom was taken,
But our blood has been shed, deep as a river.
Oh, how unhappy, the people forsaken,
Who are deprived of their country forever!
Unto Thy altars.....

III.

Thou who hast later, when touched by her downfall,
Aided her armies in struggles so holy,
Made the world witness their courage renownful,
Thus e'en in sorrows exalting the lowly!
Unto Thy altars.....

☐  ☐

IV.

Grant to new Poland all her glory olden,
Over her fields and her plains now deserted,
Let peace and blessing reblossom more golden,
Cease to chastise her, Thy wrath be averted!
Unto Thy altars.....

V.

God Thy just arm can break scepters of iron
Of earth's bold rulers all power defying.
Crush the designs, that our foemen rely on;
Rouse in our Polish souls hopes never dying.

VI.

O God most holy, by Thy mighty wonder
Free us from warfare and murd'rous oppression,
Join all thy nations in Freedom's bonds under
One sceptre of Peace in Thy Angel's possession.

VII.

O God most holy! by Christ's wounds and suffering,
Let light perpetual shine on our departed!
Look on Thy Poland in bondage still offering
Unto Thee victims of sons noble hearted!

VIII.

While amid evils our Poland is falling,
She is imploring for those who have perished.
Would that their martyr crowned brows to us calling
Opened the portals of Freedom so cherished!

IX.

O God most holy! Thy will is supernal,
On Thee dependeth the world's short existence.
Free us from tyrants and bondage infernal,
Help our brave youth in their noble resistance!

X.

Lord of all sovereigns of earth! Thou art able
Out of the dust, by one word, to uplift us,
And Thou can'st punish our fealty unstable,
Turn us to dust but as Free dust yet sift us!
Translation of the Rev. Thos. Grochowski, C.S.S.R.

The Mining Industry in Galicia

The mineral products of Galicia (Austrian Poland) are rapidly increasing every year. Recently the discovery was reported of very rich deposits of coal and paraffin in the neighborhood of Cracow. Steps are being taken, too, to exploit the vast mineral resources. The following are the statistics of the mineral products of Galicia during the year 1912:—

Products	Hundreds of kilograms produced	Value in Austrian crowns
iron ore	161,230	113,206
lead ore	72,990	1,451,469
zinc ore	15,739	70,932
zinc	132,224	7,935,151
coal	19,463,979	15,677,903
salt	1,689,819	16,898,058
paraffin	14,897,824	49,608,865

Anthracite in Austrian Poland

About two years ago a vast anthracite coalfield was discovered in Poland. The find was investigated by Prof. Grzybowski of Cracow, and Prof. Oelwein, of Vienna, in the district round Cracow, the ancient capital of Poland; and they estimated the quantity of the coal present as near 25 million tons.

At Bestwina, a village owned by the Archduke Karl Stefan, a coal-bearing field 3,000 square kilometers in extent was found, and on the sinking of test-shafts, it was ascertained that there were 8 veins of coal in all, each 11½ metres in diameter.

At Raczna, a neighboring village, at a depth of 270 meters, 6 coal veins were found, from 40 to 41.40 meters in diameter. In each case samples have proved on combustion to be of the best kind of anthracite, yielding 6872 calories of heat.

The coalfields are bordered by the river Vistula, affording every facility for cheap transportation.

English Phraseology

Sir—

"I read the eloquent words of David Lloyd George, among which some have struck me more forcibly, on account of recent occurrences. "Look at Warsaw!" says he. "What is happening behind that the Russian people are shaking themselves of stifling debris, their mighty limbs preparing with new spirits and new hope for a new land." The thoughts are deep, the words well chosen, full of truth, and expressive of a mighty wish which millions have had at heart for centuries.

But—just what does all this English noise-making really profit those millions, the Poles and Russians would like to find out. This is no time for speculation, for building up theories of evolution, or revolution, or regeneration, or any other of these long processes in the universe. The Russian people are shaking themselves free of stifling debris.

Is it ruined and devastated Poland that Lloyd-George has in mind? Or is it, perhaps, unnecessary ammunition which they are leaving behind, since the English are supplying Russia so exceedingly well?

To go on: "Their mighty limbs preparing with new spirits and new hope for a new land," may mean most anything. It may mean that if Poland were moved somewhere into the middle of the Pacific ocean it may be assured of peace and of a total lack of friendly, or so-called peaceful nations, well-wishers and civilizers. Or—in these words—his lordship may once have expressed a heartfelt wish that Russia go to the devil, so that she may not aspire the same thing the Englishman has been looking

for—the supremacy in Europe. Or, finally a wish coupled with a blessing for the journey that Russia move towards the glorious East, towards the rising sun, to incomparable Lapland, Siberia, Nova Zemla and perhaps to the North Pole, since the way thither is now discovered. Wonderful ideas!

Below this item, The Times springs forth with a stream of exquisite editorial nonsense, saying: "Meanwhile Russia has rendered incomparable service to the allied cause", especially by permitting herself to be duped by the braggart Englishman, by fighting the Germans alone, by still hoping that the English might warm up the German on the other side, thus equalizing the excessive heat in the east.

Englishmen are wonderful. They foresee difficulties for the Muscovites, they always know what will happen, they have occupied Warsaw with the Germans a long time ago, they have pushed the Russian out of Poland a week ago giving the German all Poland, in fact they are directing the allied cause in such a way that the Germans are really getting the meat and leave the bone for the allies. Here is the wish of many: I hope Russia receives a good beating, but I hope Germany is tired out at the end, and I hope England gets the worst beating a nation ever received so that all ambition is thrashed out of these three and peace be restored in Europe.

One hears this often, especially among the Poles from Russia; they always add "God save us from English generosity, for it cannot be repaid."

Syracuse, August 8.

F. I. SYNAKOWSKI.

Thrift in Austrian Poland

One of the best tests of the growth, not only of wealth and prosperity, but of general culture among any nation, is the progress of savings banks and thrift. It is well-known that the deposits in savings banks come chiefly from the purses of the poor, and their ability to save is as much a proof of culture as of increasing well-being. . . .

In spite of the great floods that caused the ruin of landowners and laborers alike, and in spite of the general instability created by the war in the Balkans, the practice of thrift in Austrian Poland had seen a remarkable development during recent years.

The first savings bank in Galicia was founded as early as 1844, and after six months of existence its deposits amounted to no less than 748,710 crowns. To-day there are 53 savings banks, (in addition to the Austrian Post Office Savings Bank) with 331,901 depositors, deposits amounting to 324 millions crowns, and a net annual profit of 1,448,928 crowns.

In 1912 47 out of the total of 53 savings banks formed a union, which greatly helped to increase and safeguard their prosperity.

Out of their profits the Galician savings banks granted no less than 7 million pounds for charitable and public objects.

In addition to those institutions which may be strictly regarded as savings banks, there existed two other classes of banks catering to the small depositor. The associations of the Schultze-Delitsch type contain 350,161 members

with deposits of 125,530,136 crowns and 46,465,044 shares, while their net profit for the year 1912 was 2,869 crowns. Savings banks of the Raiffeisen type, specially adapted to the needs of peasants, cater to two-thirds of the agricultural population of Galicia. They possessed 1334 independent branches with 288,563 members, 90 per cent of them being peasants and small landowners. These institutions, begun only in 1890, had grown in number and extent with amazing rapidity, for the deposits, which in 1900 amounted only to 642,000 crowns, amounted in 1913 to 63,434,685 crowns.

The following figures represent the savings of the poorer classes in Galicia in 1912:

Deposits:	
Savings Banks	323,768,450 crowns
Schultze-Delitsch bank	125,530,136 "
Raiffeisen bank	65,434,685 "
Total	514,733,271 (Over 40 million pounds.)

In addition to those of course must be reckoned the considerable deposits of the Austrian Post Office Savings Bank.

The figures given are really very high for the population of Galicia (8 millions) when compared with the 181 millions of pounds deposited in the British Post Office Savings Bank, during 1912, in a country with a population of over 45 million.

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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.

Watchful Waiting

The Rev. G. J. Blatter, in his article entitled "From a Friendly Outsider", published in FREE POLAND, Aug. 16, 1915, considers it "a great misfortune for the Polish nation that even now, when events crowd one another to show that Germany will be supreme in Europe, the Poles will let their policy be dictated by feelings, and not by cold and hard facts." He is convinced that the English statesmen "laughed in their sleeves at the discrepancy between the sentimental effusions of their poets and the tight-fisted commercialism of English world policy." With Germany, he maintains, lies the salvation of Poland.

* * *

On the other hand, another of our subscribers, Miss E. G. Salt, of Valparaiso University, sends us what she considers to be "the answer to the Rev. G. J. Blatter, as to why the Poles do not (as she writes) expect a free Poland to be brought about by Germany."

The clipping is an editorial from the London Weekly Times, of August 6, 1915. The editors of the weekly consider themselves "old and constant friends of the Poles and steady advocates of their right to nationhood."

The weekly continues: — "In the proclamation of the Grand Duke Nicholas of last August Poles have a pledge as comprehensive as any the Germans can tender them. Is it not the more solid of the two? We welcomed it when it was issued, not only as an engagement between Russia and the Poles, but as an engagement between Russia and the Allies. We have reason to believe that the Tsar has himself adopted it and sanctioned it in a peculiarly solemn way. It promises the Poles not only national union, but freedom 'in faith, in language, in self-government.' Since it was given the Polish peasants have come for the first

time to know the Russian peasant soldier as a protector and a friend. Sympathies have been evoked in both peoples which will not lightly die. New Liberal currents are visible everywhere in Russia, and particularly in the Duma, to which the war must lend fresh authority. The Allies, one and all, are as determined upon victory as ever, and their victory means the re-union of Poland. Whether a German-Austrian victory would have that meaning, the Poles will doubtless consider in the light of their own past history and of the acknowledged principles of Austro-German morality in politics."

The future of Poland, the weekly declares, depends upon close agreement and cooperation with her Russian kindred.

* * *

And now Karl H. Wiegand, correspondent to the Chicago Tribune, reports M. Jaworski, president of the Supreme National Committee (Naczelny Komitet Narodowy) as considering "the restoration of united Poland an unrealizable dream." M. Jaworski, who represents the smug Austrian officialdom, thinks the fall of Warsaw is synonymous with the resurrection of Poland. Consisting of Russian Poland, or the part known as the Congressional Kingdom of Poland, and of Galicia, Poland, like Hungary, would constitute a powerful unit under the Habsburgs. As to Prussia, Jaworski says that Germany cannot be expected for her numerous sacrifices in the present war to restore her Polish territories; it is certain that Prussian Poland will not enter into the composition of a future Poland.

The opinion of M. Jaworski is characteristic of the Polish-Austrian officials, who being in the minority, cannot be considered as the spokesmen of the Polish people.

* * *

Poland "demands nothing for herself but what she has a right to ask for humanity itself."

In love with neither the Kaiser nor the Czar, she neither rejoices over nor regrets any of the victories of her enemies engaged in mortal combat. Whatever be the result, it must be remembered that of all the peoples who have suffered in this war, the Poles are the people who have suffered most. The promises made are vague and illusive—nothing is certain but the fact that the devastation of Poland, at the end of the war, will have been complete and her inhabitants will have been found helpless and starving.

The recapture of Lemberg, the fall of Warsaw, the recent Russian naval success are all but detached episodes in the war which in no way convince the majority of the Polish people that a solution of the Polish Question is already at hand. Poland is waiting with a patience which is the wonder of the ages. She cannot accept as a basis of her national policy any temporary situation which the victory of her despoilers may create.

Despite the ill fortune that dogs her steps, Poland hopes. M. Jaworski and others of that ilk are isolated instances. The bulk of the Polish people have never forgotten the old kingdom. They never cease to sigh for their lost independence. The hope of independence at some time in the future burns as strongly in the Polish breast as burns that of another Zion among the scattered sons of Israel.

In answer to the Rev. G. J. Blatter, to the London Times, and M. Jaworski let it be said that Poland eternally hopes for an ultimately independent political entity and, in the meantime, watchfully awaits the realization of the promises made by the modern exponents of the "scrap of paper" theory.

Germany's Activities in the United States

Those were prophetic words of Mr. Casimir Gonski, one of the eminent and most widely known writers on the Polish question, when in his comparison between *The Fatherland* and *Free Poland* (see *Free Poland* for June 16, 1915) he wrote: "In time of stress, like the present, we, the American people, resent such attacks as Mr. Viereck's upon our government. If the editor of the *Fatherland* will put his ear to the ground he will hear something that bodes no good for him."

The "something that bodes no good for him" has happened. The *New York World* is publishing documents and other evidence bearing on Germany's activities in the United States since the beginning of the war. The mass of evidence collected by the *New York World* indicates an official German propaganda in the United States to promote war advantages and pro-German sentiment.

The persons said to be connected with this propaganda were Herr von Bethman-Hollweg, chancellor of the German Empire; Ambassador von Bernstorff, Dr. Heinrich F. Albert, the chief financial agent of the German government in the United States, and a great many other officials.

One of the important features of the German program was said to be to control moving picture shows, to enlist the support of American citizens and foment discord among the American people to the advantage of the German Empire.

Apparently the German government is the financial backer of the *Fatherland*, a publication which is said to be receiving a monthly bonus from Financial Agent Albert.

Evidence was also produced making it appear that the German government was actually building and extending a large munitions plant in this country, that this plant will turn out projectiles for Germany beginning Sept. 1, and running at full capacity Jan. 1, and that this company had negotiated to furnish ammunition for the Allies, without any penalty for failure of delivery and without any real purpose to deliver the shrapnel. Charges are also made that the German propaganda is designed to foment strikes in munition plants in the United States and to control the supply of chlorine shipments used to asphyxiate the nemy in the Ypres trenches. Another agent disclosed an alleged attempt to obtain control of the Wright aeroplane factory to prevent shipment of machines to the allies.

The financial features of the entire campaign are said to be in the hands of the Deutsches Bank of Berlin, S. Sulsberger and Sons Co., a bank of Frankfort and the Guarantee Trust Co., New York. One estimate is made that these transactions for the German propaganda totalled \$2,000,000 per week.

The propaganda in favor of Germany began with the appearance of Dr. Bernhard Dernburg, Prof. Hugo Munsterberg and other alleged exponents of German thought.

The *Fatherland*, a weekly magazine, was established, and now has a circulation of 75,000 copies. George S. Viereck, 31, editor of the *Fatherland*, is frankly pro-German, and has attempted to stop the sale of munitions to the allies, and has made several trips to Washington to coach Senator Hitchcock, Nebraska, who fathered a bill to prohibit the exportation of war materials to the allies. Correspondents show that Viereck was once closely connected with the secret service of Germany.

In a letter written on the letterhead George Sylvester Viereck, addressed to Dr. Heinrich F. Albert, the financial agent of Germany, Mr. Viereck acknowledges the receipt of \$250 for *The Fatherland* and encloses a statement of \$1,500 for expense for June.

Mr. Viereck adds that he is sending a letter by boy, as he does not wish for obvious reasons, to have it go through the mail. Annexed to this was a memorandum:

"June 29, 1915, \$1,750,
"Of which I received \$250,
"Leaves a balance of \$1,500."

This is cited as fixing the financial responsibility for the backing of *The Fatherland*. Dr. Albert later wrote to Mr. Viereck that he must have "practical control over the financial management" and "an understanding regarding the course in politics which he will pursue."

Dr. Viereck reported to Dr. Albert that some neutral publishers, like Funk & Wagnalls, should publish books for the Germans during the war. Mr. Viereck advised the building up of a strong magazine and a publishing house to be the center of German culture in the United States.

* * *

As against *The Fatherland*, *Free Poland* offers a pleasing contrast. Its publication fund has been printed, the contributors are known, and now after a year or so it is fair to admit that backed up by small individual offers, *Free Poland* is struggling with financial difficulties.

Yet we are proud of our modest little magazine. First, because as an American critic noted, it is free from bombast. Secondly, because it is loyal to the government of the United States. Thirdly, because it is not polluted with foreign gold.

Free Poland with dignity presents the Polish interests before the world, relies upon the sympathy of the people of the United States, and is far from fomenting discord among the American people. It demands peace with freedom for Poland, for all oppressed nationalities, without resorting to vile, scurrilous attacks and underground intrigue.

Jubilee Sale on our 5000 home things.
Secret terms and extra credit.
See page 15

The Reason for War



PERHAPS if we should consider some of the reasons given for the present war we might be better able to give a satisfactory answer.

1. German imperialism and German ambition.

Germany's will to win her place in the sun and Germany's ruthlessness in so doing, as witnessed by the ruin of Belgium. It is said that if Germany should achieve her aims and win the place in the sun she so ardently desires, other nations would soon find themselves eclipsed and more than that, finally subject to the wonderful energy and tremendous force of the Teuton giant. So that the safety of the world demands an impediment placed in the way of such a contingency. This opinion of the nations seems justified by the facts of the war thus far made evident. And yet I feel sure we have not stated the ultimate reason for the war.

2. Again, many find in England's jealousy and alarm at Germany's marvellous commercial expansion the real reason for the war. For many years now England has been mistress of the sea. Her proud title is justified by the fact that the sun never sets on her wide empire; that the numerous colonies need the protection of the mighty fleet, and more than all that, where English policy is dominant there the races of mankind are benefited by those ideals of justice and thrift which have been approved as sound by the greatest Teacher the world has ever seen, the Galilean.

It is claimed that Germany's ideals are in direct conflict with those of England and that the world approves our English cousins in taking up the gage thrown down by Germany when she trampled into dust and blood her Belgian neighbors, thereby clearly outraging that sense of justice and mercy common to mankind. So that here, indeed, is found a reason adequate for the war. However this may be, I will beg to differ from this most reasonable conclusion and state most emphatically that we have not yet found the reason for the war.

3. Another theory is the deep-seated revenge of France. About forty years ago the heart of France was sorely wounded by the loss of her two beautiful daughters, Alsace and Lorraine. Germany was the brutal ravisher. Like a tiger stung to madness by the cruel loss, France has waited for the opportunity to spring at the throat of her neighbor; and now at last the time has come and all her children are heart and soul fired with a spirit of revenge that will be satisfied by nothing less than German life and blood and the recovery of beautiful Alsace and Lorraine. Single-handed, France could never have succeeded, but now that her powerful friends, England and Russia, are found willing to join hands with her in curbing once and for all the dangerous tendencies of German ruthlessness, she believes her hope may be attained. Once again it may be frankly replied we have not yet found the reason for the war.

4. It is a long way from the sunny fields of France to the cold and frozen heart of Russia. But the stream of madness flows very swiftly in these days of war, and the torpid, sluggish, frozen Russian has become aroused at last, the summons to war has met a quick and ready response, the growl of the bear is heard, his claws and cruel mouth are stained with the blood of his Western neighbors and his dull heart is fired with what he thinks a noble ambition, to sweep away at last the barriers which for so many centuries have, like a wall of adamant, withstood his progress to the sea. At last an open port is in

sight, and that port Constantinople. A door of wider opportunity is opening and soon Russia hopes that her immense grain fields will prove a veritable stream of gold in providing food for many millions beyond her borders. Surely none can find fault with so noble an enterprise, none can question the right of Russia to improve and develop her people and incidentally to increase her wealth. Is she not justified in entering the tremendous conflict and making the most of that opportunity now presented by joining the allies and winning her way not to the sun but to the sea? Single-handed, she, too, could not hope to achieve her aim for many years to come, because time, much time, is needed yet to develop her resources and teach her millions those lessons of obedience sacrifice and manhood absolutely essential in contending successfully with such an antagonist as Germany.

Have we not at last the answer or rather is not the answer to be found by the combining of all the facts stated regarding Germany, England, France and Russia? Is not the war due to the jealousies, fears and false ambitions of all these nations of Europe? Once again we must say no; but we will admit that all of these are secondary or contributory causes.

Let us try once again. Italy, the land of poetry and song, the land of art and sculpture, the home of the beautiful, the aesthetic, the delicate; Italy, whose wonderful climate and more wonderful people draw to themselves all the admirers of the elevated, the pure, the charming; Italy, even Italy has at last drawn the sword and become partner in this feast of rage, passion, blood and devilishness. Moreover, her enemies say that Italy is a traitor, a turncoat, a coward, waiting until her allies, Germany and Austria, are surrounded by the foe and weakened by many a hard-fought battle, then leaving them in the lurch and pointing hands with the Allies because she believes the Allies will win and that she will be a sharer in the spoils of war. My opinion is that such statements are unjust to Italy. Rather do I believe that Italy, finding herself allied with nations who believe that scraps of paper may be destroyed at will, that solemn treaties may be abrogated if national ambitions run counter to them, has decided to leave such partners, finding their methods incompatible with her sense of reason and right, and has chosen wisely the best time for doing so. What folly for her in the beginning of the war to have taken such a step as she now has taken! All the world was amazed, stunned, at such action on the part of Germany. The confusion of ideas arising from such a piece of folly, the uncertainty as to her best future policy quite natural under the conditions, and the unquestioned ruin she would bring upon herself if in revenge at her disloyalty the armies of Austria "came down like a wolf on the fold, their cohorts all gleaming in purple and gold"; all these seem to me good and sufficient reasons or Italy doing as she has done. If I find that my partners are rascals, shall I forfeit my self-respect by continuing my partnership with them?

Have we not at last found the reason, the true reason, for the war in Italy's decision; a decision in harmony with the sentiments of the world condemning the ruthlessness and barbarity of Germany and Austria? And once more shall we say, most emphatically, no!

Let us not puzzle ourselves any further, but say that the true reason for this war and all the wars the world has ever seen is found in the eating of an apple. Ages

and ages ago, when the soul of man was born, there began a conflict in that soul entailing all the sorrow, all the tears, all the bloodshed and all the sin of man. It will be recalled that the scene was a beautiful garden filled with luscious fruits and fragrant flowers. The Owner of the garden, a man, a woman, and a serpent were the actors in a tragedy. The serpent beguiled the woman and tempted her to eat an apple; she induced her husband to partake. The Owner of the garden was angry at the man and the woman because He had told them not to eat the fruit of that particular tree. In His anger He drove them out of the garden because of their disobedience. The descendants of the man and woman inherited their tendency to disobey, and so sin came into the world. All will admit that if there was no sin in the world there would be no sorrow, no tears, no crime, no war, for all would live at peace and every one would think as carefully of his neighbor's rights and happiness as of his own. Now, war is like an epileptic fit. When the fit comes on the patient falls to the ground, wallowing and foaming; he is bereft of reason and is altogether a most disgusting and fearful object. The fit passes, reason returns and the patient becomes quite normal again. But the disease is still there and only time is needed for the recurrence of the terrible symptoms, declaring most positively there is no hope of release for the tortured sufferer until the cause of the disease is removed. All the wars of the world are but the recurring fits of madness and insanity which will surely continue to afflict mankind until the disease of sin is removed. Is there no hope? There still stands, glorious and beautiful, that tree whose leaves are for the healing of the nations. The leaves are a sure panacea, a never-failing cure for the terrible curse. All the world knows of the cure, ten thousand times ten thousand souls will swear to its wondrous power in their own lives and the glorious peace and calm content that follows like a benediction falling on the troubled hearts of those who take the Master at his word, who heed His call: "Come unto me for my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Again, is the rod in the hand of Almighty God, laid on the backs of disobedient children who continually flout Him, break His laws and follow their own wills. Some day the world will wake up to the fact that it is folly to arouse His anger and to invite the lightning of His wrath by such asininity, when it is very much more comfortable and pleasant to live in harmony with Him and to enjoy the favor of His approval. He showers His richest blessings on those who seek Him and who try to order their lives in accordance with His commands.

It needs but brief consideration to show clearly the relationship between sin and war. It was admitted that the ambitions of Germany, the greed, the jealousy and fears of England, the revenge of France and the aims of Russia have had much to do with war; undoubtedly they are secondary and contributory causes. It only remains to show how these secondary causes are due to sin. Are not these secondary causes plainly the result of forgetting or of breaking the law of God where He says: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

How is love for one's neighbor to be reconciled with an ambition so cruel and ruthless that the ruin of a nation of seven millions is but an incident? How is love for one's neighbor to be reconciled with the ideals of an empire willing to reduce a nation of over three hundred millions to the depths of vice and crime by forcing upon them use of opium, with all its horrors for the love of money? How is love for one's neighbor to be reconciled with the fierce and fearful spirit of revenge that for forty years has been one of the guiding impulses of a mighty nation? "Vengeance is mine, I will repay", saith the Lord and his command has been entirely overlooked, forgotten, or disregarded. How is love for one's neighbor to be reconciled with that absolute disregard of one's own people, that terrible, cold, calculating, indomitable grinding down and blotting out of all the hopes, longings and aims inherent in the human soul, seen in the cruelty of Russia?

Is any further evidence needed to show the intimate relationship between sin and these secondary or contributory causes of the war? If breaking the law of God is sin, surely the nations of the world have sinned most grievously. And yet this is only a part of the black record. What shall we say of drunkenness, vice, murder, indifference to the suffering of toiling, dying men and women around us? What shall we say of that lack of appreciation of the mercy and love of an infinite God so clearly proven by the worldly, selfish, pleasure-loving multitudes, both in and out of the church, which merits the comment, "Without God and without hope in the world"? Surely the lightnings of His fury and the thunderbolts of His wrath are more than justified. And should our fair land, too, be wrapped in the consuming flame of His punishments, would we not bow our heads most humbly and say, with contrite heart: In all Thy dealings with Thy children Thou art just?

JAMES W. JOHNSON.

New York, June, 1915.

Poland, 1683-1915

THY valor, Poland, stemmed the tide of fate
Onrushing from the east in olden days,
When proud Vienna saw with dread amaze,
Vast Turkish hosts before her walls, elate
In victor pride, inflamed with zealot hate!
Then Sobieski did thy banner raise
Triumphant, bore it through the battle blaze,
And saved from Crescent rule the Christian State!

And what was thy reward, O Land of Woe?
'Twas thine to see thy kingdom torn and rent,
And all a proud and vanquished people know
Whose necks beneath a conqueror's yoke are bent!
Yet thou has kept through all thy centuried night
An altar flaming clear with Freedom's light!

And now again the tide of war has swept
In mightiest wave the world has ever known
Across thy plains by battle scarred, and prone
A Nation lies! War's fury that long slept
To greater madness waked! The bounds it kept
In older times are swept away, and strown
Thy fields are with thy dead, while moan
Of dying men shows where War's cohorts stept!

And Warsaw fair, where slow the Vistula flows,
Where Kosciusko fell in Freedom's cause,
Now once again a conqueror's presence knows
While issue vast that all the world now awes
Hangs trembling in the balance stern of fate
Whose dread decree all Nations now await!

H. F. SUDDUTH, in *New York Times*.

Our Correspondence

New Haven, Conn., August 9, 1915.

Editor "Free Poland",
Dear Sir—

Allow me to thank you for the courtesy in mailing me the July and August numbers of "Free Poland" on my subscription. I am deeply interested in the cause for which the Poles are fighting and being editor of a Catholic Page on one of our local dailies I am in position to greatly help the cause through the medium of its columns and will cheerfully do so.

Wishing you every success in the good work which you are accomplishing I remain

Respectfully Yours,

LOUIS R. TIERNEY,
Catholic Editor—Times Leader.

Okarche, Okla., July 10, 1915.

Rt. Rev. Bishop P. P. Rhode,
Chicago.

Monseigneur—

Enclosed please find draft for \$25.00 for the poor, war-stricken Polish people, who, indeed, deserve the sympathy and assistance of every human heart, in view of the unheard sufferings, they are undergoing. To think

that this same glorious nation, had so often in the past been the bulwark of Christianity against the murderous attacks of the Turks.

May God have pity on this generous nation, and restore her to her quondam glory and independence.

Vive la Pologne!

Yours very respectfully,

Rev. ZENON STEBER,
Rector of Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

Akron, Ohio, July 8th, 1915.

Editor "Free Poland",
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir—

Thank you for the courtesy of a prompt reply.

I am enclosing a check for the contribution to the Relief Fund (\$70.24).

The credit should be given to the First Congregational Church of Akron, Ohio.

Your paper is excellent. The last two numbers have been of unusual quality, especially the last issue. It should have a large circulation.

Poland, next to Scotland, has always had the warmest place in my heart, always excepting America!

Yours very truly,

H. S. MacAYEAL.

Some Statistics

It is difficult to estimate the exact number of Poles in the whole world, since there being no official state of Poland, no official statistics are published, but these are the approximate figures:

	1910	1900	1890
In Prussia	4,014,221	3,470,000	3,025,587
In Austria	4,967,984	4,252,483	
In Russia	11,000,00	8,288,217 (?)	
In Rest of Europe	1,100,00		
In U. S. A.	2,930,000		
In Other Countries	400,00		
Total	24,411,205		

Of this number 19 millions inhabitat the geographical territory of Poland which is divided as follows:

	Sq. Kil.
Grand Duchy of Poznania (Posen)	28,963
The Province of Opole (Silesia)	13,216
Galicia	78,532
Duchy of Cieszyn (Teschen)	2,300
Kingdom of Poland	127,319

Total Sq. Kil. 250,330

The Kingdom of Poland according to official statistics contains 9,001,344 Poles (in 1909). Lithuania is officially reported to contain 633,182 Poles—an estimate about 400,000 short. Ukraina is reported to contain 424,552 Poles, but the statistics of the bishopric of Zytomir, which are considered as absolutely accurate, gives the Polish population for 1909 as 801,790. In the other parts of Russia the Poles may be numbered at about a million. The estimates then are:—

Kingdom of Poland	9,001,349
Lithuania (about)	1,000,000
Ukraina	801,790
Rest of Russia (about)	1,000,00

Total (about) 11,803,139

96,726 sq. miles, while at the time of the partition of the territories of the Polish Crown the area was 730,752 sq. Kilometres, or 275,263 sq. miles. The following figures of the other European States may serve for comparison:—

	Population	Area
1) European Russia	120,588,00	1,826,524
2) Germany	64,925,993	208,780
3) Austria Hungary	49,211,727	231,277
4) United Kingdom	45,369,000	121,396
5) France	39,601,509	207,504
6) Italy	34,671,377	110,550
7) Poland (Ancient Pol.)	24,411,205	275,263
8) Spain	19,558,688	194,793
9) Belgium	7,423,784	11,873
10) Rumania	7,248,061	50,720
11) Netherlands	6,022,452	12,648
12) Portugal	8,925,985	35,480

The following are the chief Towns having more than 50,000 inhabitants, the letters (A) (R) (P) representing respectively Austria, Russia, and Prussia.

1. Warsaw (R) 872,478; 2. Lodz (R) 408,330; 3. Lwow (Lemberg) (A) 206,113; 4. Wilno (R) 184,582; 5. Poznań (Posen) (P) 156,691; 6. Cracow (A) 151,886; 7. Sosnowice (R) 80,710; 8. Częstochowa (R) 69,525; 9. Bytom (Beuthen) (P) 67,718; 10. Dublin (R) 65,870; 11. Przemyśl (A) 54,078; 12. Brześć Litewski (R) 53,224.

The birth rates for Poland are extremely high, varying from 36.2 per thousand in Silesia to 39.5 per thousand in Posnania, 39.9 per thousand in Galicia, and 48 per thousand in Russian Poland, which is quite a record for Europe the figures for other States being 19.8 in France, 25.9 in England, 26 in Switzerland, 31.6 in Germany, 32.9 in Italy, 33.2 in Austria and 33.5 in Spain.

Wiesław

(Continued from FREE POLAND, No. 23.)

You see the son
Of honest sires,—though they, alas! are gone,
And sleep beneath the turf:—yet other sires
Have, pity-touched, fanned all affliction's fires,
And taught him virtue. They have given him food;
Trained him, an orphan, to be wise and good;
To labor, to obey them,—in the fear
Of God and duty. He became so dear,
They called him 'Son'; they made him jointly heir;
And well he has repaid their pious care.
Their harvests go not from the scythe to seek
The tavern;—Sunday wastes not what the week
Has earned:—God's blessing smiles upon their way
Rich wheat gathered from their cultured clay;
Their fields are white with sheep, and full their stall.
They have four steeds that bear to Cracow all
The produce of their land.—From them I come,
And ask yon maid to decorate their home.
Her Wiesław saw, and seeing, flew and prayed
Their sanction to espouse that blushing maid.
And Stanisław has sent me to demand,
From thee, from her, the lovely damsel's hand.
He said, 'Go bring her here:—his guide be thou;
She shall be welcome if she love him now!
Now, mother, thou hast heard me. Give the maid,
And heaven shall blessings with new blessing braid;
I'll praise the youth, though he be here,—though praise
Too oft beguiles us, and too oft betrays.
They deem too easily to win their end;
And counsel hurts, and kind reproofs offend.
Wiesław was modest and laborious;—Still
He sometimes was a Szpak, 1) and had his will;
He once stopped even the Wojewode: his delight
Has been to revel in an inn at night;
And he has driven (O sin!) th' imperial troops,
Cesarskie Wojaki 2) thence; and at the loops
And sandals of the wandering highlanders 3)
He grinned and laughed till his mouth reached his ears:—
He was a sad wild fellow, but he grew
With time both wiser and sedater too:
For as in spring to swelling stream rolls by,
Foams, dashes o'er its borders furiously,
Then flowing further glides serenely on;
So youth is gay and wild, till youth is gone;
Till taught by thick anxieties and years,
It sheds the excess of blossoms which it bears,
And, shaken by the winds of want and woe,
Its flowers drop off upon the sod below.
And he has known the smiles and frowns of Heaven;
To him has sorrow all its lessons given:
And now to crown his blessings, he requires
A good and steady wife; and his desires
Upon Halina dwell; — with her the rest
Of life shall all tranquillized and blest.
My mission is discharged;—Behold my son!
Give a kind ear to Wiesław — I have done."
The observant maid stood aside; and traced
Each shadowing thought and secret jest that passed
Across the good man's mind and countenance:

He could not, would not wound her,—for his glance
Had watched the influence of each playful word.
But Wiesław bowed in silence, and he poured
A stream of suppliant tears, that said, "Forbear!"
Then there was silence,—silence everywhere,—
Till a full torrent o'er Halina's cheeks
Poured,—as when many a pregnant spring-cloud breaks
Over the Vistula, and flowers are dewed
With freshened joy; while the bright sun renewed,
Towers glorious o'er the mountains.. So the eyes
Of the fond children sparkled: with surprise
And with delight the mother watched them—proud
And joyful.. But some gloomy memories crowd
Upon her thoughts;—Halina, she had nought;
Nor dower, nor parents, nor parental cot,
Nor hope of wealth;—so Jadwicz heaved her breast,
And thus spoke frankly to her listening guest:—
"There is a God in heaven who judges all
He tries us when we rise, and when we fall:
And raising or depressing, his decrees
Follow our deeds, and guide us as they please.
Halina is an orphan! at my side
E'en from her childhood wanted to abide.
The sun has risen on our abode: its fire
Is far too bright;—for how should she aspire,—
She, a poor maid,—to wed the wealthy son
Of a rich peasant!—father she has none,—
No friends,—not one,—to counsel or to care.
O noble youth! may God reward thee here,
Thy generous heart—this kind design;—yet to tell
This story of Halina,—and farewell!
When Poland's crown was by disasters rent,
My husband and my brothers swiftly went,
Though armed with scythes alone, our land to save:—
But they returned not,—they but found a grave.
The cruel stranger all our country razed,
Our palaces destroyed,—our village blazed.
How dreadful is the memory of that day;
E'en now the thought is death! We fled away,—
Old men, young mothers,—to the blazing woods,
That scared us from their frightful solitudes.
O 't was a hideous—'t was a hideous sight;
When life's last beam went out and all was night;
Till blazed for leagues the horrid flames again;
Children and mothers straggled o'er the plain:
I saw them, and I wept,—I looked, and wept
Till tears had dimmed my sight. A child had crept
Tremulous to my side;—I seized it,—pressed
The trembling little orphan to my breast,
And asked its name, its parentage, its home.
It answered not, it knew not: it had come
(So said the sobbing child) from fire and flame;
But it knew not its nation, nor its name;
Strangers had led it thither:—and no more
The infant said. I seized the child; though poor—
I was a mother once; — I thought of God,
And let the orphan to my mean abode,
And watched it;—and her smiles, her toils repaid,
Ten-fold repaid, the sacrifice I made.
She grew—industrious, healthy, prudent, fair:
And we have toiled together many a year,
With self-same wants and with the self-same care.

(To be continued)

1) Starling:—a bold noisy fellow.

2) Austrian Soldiers.

3) Gorale:—the mountaineers of Carpathia.

The Attitude of the Polish People.

The attitude of the Polish nation in the European war has been a subject of much speculation—first on account of the geographical position of Poland, making it the probable center of military operations, and secondly because of the racial character of the coming strife, in which the Poles, members of the great Slav family, are expected to play an important part.

All the points of possible invasion by Austrian, German and Russian armies into each other's territories lie in Poland. They constitute those artificial frontiers that have dismembered the once-powerful British kingdom into three provinces belonging to the three powers now preparing for war. It is plain that the enormous devastation that is to be brought about the unparalleled conflict of powers will fall upon Polish territory and its people.

It is equally plain that the Poles will not be satisfied with the role of impassionate onlookers while their cities fall in ruins and crops are trodden into the ground.

After 120 years of subjugation the Polish nation stands to-day as strong and consolidated as ever before. The artificial boundaries failed to divide it. The attempts of Russia and Germany to exterminate the Poles were equally unsuccessful. For 120 years the Poles have obstinately refused to be Germans and Austrians, and waited for a better chance for the realization of their national necessity of territorial consolidation and independence.

This opportunity seems to be ripe now. The territorial division of 1814, by which Poland was partitioned among Russia, Austria and Germany, was void the moment these powers started the war. In the new adjustment of national claims it will be a matter of international justice that Europe should grant Poland a complete independence, thus settling the Polish question once and forever.

But before that ultimate and idealistic arrangements comes true the Poles expect to gain a great deal by the force of their desirability to the sovereign powers as allies in the time of war.

That the sympathy of the Poles is earnestly sought by the Russian and Austrian governments since these two powers foresaw an impending conflict is evidenced by the fact that a municipal self-government was decreed by the

czar for the Poles in Russia almost on the eve of the Austro-Servian war. Almost at the same time came the imperial ukase permitting the existence of Polish schools. The Austrian government, the most liberal of the three toward the Poles, has tolerated for two years the existence in Galicia of Polish military organizations preparing to start an uprising in Russian Poland.

As members of the Slav family the Poles have a natural sympathy toward the other Slavs. But the horrible experience of Russian oppression caused such a profound distrust of that so-called "brotherly rule" that there are many Poles who would rather see Poland under the rule of Habsburg than belong to the barbaric monarchy of the czar.

Therefore, while being inclined to accept any possible alliance, with the only exception of Germany, the Poles are looking for their own aims and ultimately for the restitution of an independent Polish republic.—The Polish National Daily.

Freedom of Speech in Germany

At the same time that the German government prohibited the explorer Amundsen from speaking in Norwegian at a public conference in Berlin, because that language is closely related to that of the Danes, a number of whom have been Prussian subjects since 1864, every means, no matter how unscrupulous, has been employed to prevent the Poles from using their own language in public assembly. Since May 15th, 1908, this elementary right has been denied to the Poles by law, and they have been forced to seek the hospitality of a country outside the confines of the German Empire in order to confer in peace. On Nov. 2nd, for example, they organized a meeting at Winterswyk, in Holland, which was attended by no less than 1,100 persons, not to conspire against Prussian tyranny, but to discuss various social questions, and especially religious life among the Poles in Prussia.

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War Babies Only Crop in Poland

Poland's only crop this year will be war babies. Upon the trail blazed by the invading German army, between 300,000 and 400,000 helpless unfortunates will open their eyes before autumn, only to close them again in death by starvation.

There will be nothing for them to eat as there is nothing now for their mothers, or for any of the inhabitants of this once prosperous country. The fields are barren.

"A land of starvation — that's all Poland is now," Mme. Ignace Paderewski, wife of the great pianist, said. "The land has been the highway for the war ever since it began. A nation is dying there from hunger. That is why my husband is so heart-broken; that is why he, and other men like him, are devoting all their time and incomes in trying to raise a relief fund to allay the destitution in their native land.

"Think of it! They are expecting at a conservative estimate nearly half a million war-babies in that country. There is scarcely anything to eat any place, except in a comparatively small area near Warsaw. There is not a cow in Poland; the German army took all cattle in that first invasion of last August. The people can not cultivate the ground because they have neither seeds nor implements, nor respite from the continual marching of troops and recurrent encounters of the soldiery.

"It will be years before anything can be grown there again. To a depth of twelve meters the ground has been dug and plowed up for trenches.

"This is not a question of individuals—it is a question of a nation; of havoc worse than sudden flood or earthquake, with everything taken, and nothing left. Those poor girls—

they are dying now, and their babies will die when they come. Nothing everywhere but agony and suffering.

"Belgium's woe is less, bad as it is. In Belgium there were about 7,000,000 people, but Poland had 27,000,000, and of these at present over 20,000,000 are in actual want. Polish people are in a more inaccessible position than any of the stricken. Both man and

earth seem against Poland in this struggle—man by his inhumanity and earth by its geography.

"The Polish people in Chicago have been generous, but all that people give is so little in the face of the suffering of that whole country. Mrs. Bryan Lathrop has been most kind in aiding in the work." — Chicago Tribune.



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Opinion of the Press



BOSTON GLOBE:—One of the most significant events in Polish history since “freedom shrieked when Kościuszko fell” is the issue on United States soil of a journal devoted by its title and program to a “Free Poland”. The new periodical comes from the Polish National Council of America, and may be said to represent the views of thoughtful Poles in all parts of the world.

BUFFALO COURIER:—“Free Poland” is the title of a periodical the publication of which has been started by the Polish National Council of America. The current number is replete with interest.

Walter J. Ballard in **LOS ANGELES TIMES**:—“Free Poland” is the proper title for the publication just begun on behalf of Poland and her people because they should aim at nothing less than the highest, even if they resort to arms to realize it at once after they have been accorded the rights and the privileges promised by the Russian Emperor.

ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE:—Of the numerous partisan publications that have appeared since the beginning of the war, quite the most interesting and ably edited is a semi-monthly periodical called **FREE POLAND**. The articles in it are free from bombast, and two or three of them are first-rate literature. **FREE POLAND** presents interesting facts which are probably unknown to, or forgotten by a large number of Americans.

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