

FREE POLAND

A SEMI-MONTHLY

The Truth About Poland and Her People

"Entered as second-class matter January 16, 1915, at the post office at Chicago, Illinois, under the Act of March 3, 1879."

Vol. II.—No. 10

FEBRUARY 1, 1916

5 Cents a Copy



LESZEK THE BLACK REIGNED FROM 1279 TO 1289

THE LOWER SCENE REPRESENTS HIS DREAM—ARCHANGEL MICHAEL FORETELLING A GRAND VICTORY OVER THE JADZVINGIANS, A LITHUANIAN TRIBE, WHOM LESZEK SUCCEEDED IN DESTROYING.

CONTENTS

	Page
1. Protest of the Polish Women's Alliance.....	2
2. The Polish Hyphen.....	3
3. Statistics of the Poles.....	4
4. Furor Teutonicus.....	5
5. Reflections on the Polish Problem.....	7
6. Helping Poland.....	8
7. A Chapter from Count S. Tarnowski.....	13
8. Culled from the Press.....	15

Protest of the Polish Women's Alliance

Following in the footsteps of the Polish National Council, the Polish Women's Alliance of America is voicing its protest against peace at any price. A good sign. The protest is a rather poetically eloquent effusion in the matter.

The protest follows:

Owing to a systematic spreading of the propaganda of "Peace at any price", we call to all who do not know the pangs of exile — to all who have never suffered the torments of tyranny — to all who have not felt the taints of oppression — to all who believe in humanity, justice and liberty, that:

PEACE — without reparation of wrongs for centuries perpetrated on subdued nations — PEACE, without doing justice to their immortal laws of life and liberty — PEACE, regardless of oceans of blood and tortures without number — deaths innumerable for the upholding of law and justice — such a peace would be a new crime of nations and an everlasting shame on our civilization! It would be a sacrilege for the holy sacrifices incurred by this war!

Among the martyr-nations in the first ranks stands Poland feloniously torn asunder in the past century. Poland, the buffer State of Western civilization — the Knight of Nations, the oldest warrior for the cause of freedom and justice — to-day again by violence and force thrown into a horrible combat with each of the enemy-armies, changed into a desert by passing soldiery without number, carrying on their titanic struggle on our own lands....

Poland to-day is like Lazarus, thrown on the bed of blood, fire and embers — murdering her own children by

order of her enemies — sinking the steel in the breasts of her own sons, fathers and brothers. . . .

In view of this terrible tax of blood, property and life devoured by war from our own unhappy nation, which is a crime of humanity and the world — we, the daughters of this downtrodden and blood bespattered unhappy country, do raise our mighty voice of mothers, daughters, sisters and wives suffering beyond measure calling to all nations!

"Create a peace of the world, but a new kind of peace, lasting and holy — not as heretofore founded on injury, misery and violence, on the breaking of laws and enslaving the weaker nations, such a peace must be compensated by most bloody wars, oceans of fire, smoke and annihilation — create a new peace, a peace that will declare to all the world that all harm and grievances are forgotten, that slavery has fallen, that violence and injury are no more, a peace that will hail a new world existence". . . .

It was that kind of peace our Polish Delegates demanded at the Peace Congress at the Hague, and by an appropriate resolution the women of the world demanded such a peace!

For such a new kind of peace, founded on humanity and justice, will honor law and order and promote happiness of all humankind—will end strife and slavery and violence among cultured nations — will for all time stop the cruel torture of the weaker by the stronger!

We, the daughters of a nation whose freedom was seized by force and most brutal violence being in reality a daylight robbery, with one united voice protest with all our souls against all false peace action and activity whose ultimate end is peace at any price!!

ANNA NEUMANN, Pres.
ANGELINE MILASZEWICZ, Vice-Pres.
LUCY WOLOWSKI, Treas.

Directors:

MARIA WEYNA,
CAROLINE SOWINSKA,
MARIA KUFLEWSKA,
SOPHIA SYPNIEWSKA,
JOSEPHINE SPECIAL.
DR. M. O. KACZOROWSKA, C. M. E.
STEPHANIE LAUDYN, Editor.
HELEN CZACHORSKI, Attorney.
A. EMILY NAPIERALSKI, Gen'l Sec'y.

Subscription Blank

"FREE POLAND"

Polish National Council of America
984 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Enclosed please find \$ _____ for which send me "FREE POLAND"
for _____ year from No. _____ Vol. _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____



FREE POLAND

A SEMI-MONTHLY



The Truth About Poland and Her People

Vol. II—No. 10

FEBRUARY 1, 1916

5 Cents a Copy

The Polish Hyphen

RECENTLY there has been marked a growing dissatisfaction with citizens, who for not having completely renounced their affiliations with their native land, have been called hyphenated Americans. This distrust on the part of native Americans is intelligible, and it is difficult to gainsay that its reasons rest on a flimsy foundation. The sympathies of some hyphens as vividly exhibited toward certain European powers have been intensified to so high a degree that they have forgotten their duties to the United States, to which they came of their own accord and which they voluntarily adopted as their country.

As citizens of America, they should doubtless hold its interests in the first place, and it is wrong unconditionally to subordinate them to any alien considerations. Obviously the opposite has happened if President Wilson saw fit to brand their activity in his message to Congress. Small wonder, therefore, that the American community has awakened and expressed itself so strongly against the hyphen, and indiscriminately — in rare instances — even against Americans of Polish extraction. And in that case we fall a victim to injustice, and it is in order to point to several facts and circumstances, which, Americans condemning the Polish hyphen seem to have forgotten.

* *

Above all, it is necessary to remember that in the sea of American immigration we constitute a people that come hither from the land of bondage. The German, the Frenchman, the Englishman, the Italian, or any other immigrant, arrives here, in the first place, to search for gold and prosperity, inasmuch as freedom and liberty of intellectual progress he enjoyed at home in Europe. If, then, these material inducements were sufficient reason for him permanently to abandon his native land, and prevailed over the ideal of love of fatherland, to many it seems but just that he completely forget his fatherland and sever further connections therewith.

The case is different with the Polish immigrant. Love of freedom has created the historical progress of the whole people so that it is impossible for it to live in thralldom. Why, in former Poland, in the XVII and XVIII centuries freedom evolved into license. And when Poland was dismembered, ceaseless in its endeavors to break the shackles in an unequal struggle, it found itself in desperate and hopeless straits, never surrendering its rights to freedom. In its name the Polish Legions captured the defiles of Somo-Sierra; in its name were fought the uprisings of the years of 1830 and 1863.

And when, despite these bloody attempts, brutal force prevented a free Poland, the Polish emigrant set out for America. He came, because under Prussian dominion he was expropriated from his patrimony, while his children were lashed and mistreated by the Prussian schoolmaster.

He came because in the Congressional Kingdom he was strangled by the ruthless paw of the Asiatic absolut-

ism of the Czar, who with the blood of Polish political exiles dyed the snows of cold Siberia and murdered them slowly in the mines of Nerczynsk.

He came because in Galicia, in 1848, the Viennese authorities put a fratricidal knife in the hands of the Polish peasant and ordered him to massacre the Polish nobility; and then the same authorities, by a systematized bureaucratic procedure, strove to kill the idea of an independent Polish state and aimed to make of Poles merely loyal citizens of the Austro-Hungarian empire.

He came in order to bask in freedom, to which he was born, and to the best of his ability to help his brethren in the fatherland in their efforts to regain it. And for this end was founded the Polish National Council, while its publication, "Free Poland", boldly, in the interest of humanity, confesses to this ideal before the American community.

* *

The American who fails to understand this, will do well to place himself in the following situation:

War breaks out — say, with Japan — and the United States being insufficiently prepared, completely submits to the superior force of the enemy and passes under his dominion. In vain are the bloodiest attempts at freedom — brute force prevails and puts an end to American freedom. In that event will not the American, who, unable to bear alien rule, emigrated to another land, consider it his most sacred duty to preserve in his heart the ideals and traditions of America, and strive as much as as in his power to realize the liberation of his fatherland?

In such a position you find placed the Poles in America. If we name as renegades those Americans who volutarily expatriate themselves, what name is to be deserving of Poles, if having escaped from under the banner of their motherland at the time it endured direst misfortunes, they disowned it before the world?

* *

Thus is presented the case of the Polish hyphen from the Polish point of view, and even from the American standpoint it cannot be condemned.

The Poles in America have never been accused of disloyalty towards the United States and its ideals, though, at the same time, they have never been ashamed of their Polish descent. And during the present dreadful war, which, as Wilson points out in his message, has induced even loyal Americans to acts of disloyalty, we have most closely abided by the principles of a strict neutrality; and it should be noticed that it cannot be otherwise, as no upright Pole is anxious to wish success to either Austria, Prussia or Russia — the partitioners of Poland.

Furthermore, Poles are neutral even for this reason that they desire to win American sympathy for the cause of Poland; while acting, on the other hand, against the letter of neutrality, they would eventually incur general ill-will against the Polish Cause.

And if during the progress of the present investigation by the federal authorities of foreign underhand dealing and conspiracies, there should crop up any Polish name — although it is to be hoped that such will not be the case — we can rest assured that it will not be a Pole, but an Austrian, a German or a Muscovite bearing a Polish name. And as regards Poles born in this country, it can most emphatically be stated that you cannot find a single one, whose sympathies for a foreign power would lead him to betray the interests of these United States.

* * *

It may not be amiss to note that Polish and American ideals are so kindred and identical that they perfectly correspond. He who is acquainted with the histories of both the United States and Poland, is well aware that the Polish Constitution of the Third of May (1791) was at the time the most perfect and liberal document in Europe,

proclaiming religious tolerance and far-reaching franchise to the nation.

Can rightly minded Americans point an accusing finger at the Poles because they do not wish to forswear their descent, because giving their hearts to the free land of Washington, in the defense of which they are willing to die to a man, they simultaneously have a tender spot for Poland, for their unfortunate countrymen — mothers, sisters, fathers and sons? Our attitude to Poland is simply that of Wilson's: Just as America, even so unfortunate Poland "asks nothing for herself but what she has a right to ask for humanity itself."

America can rest in peace: the Polish hyphen will not pluck the sentiment of loyalty to her from the hearts of the descendants of Sobieski, Kościuszko and Pulaski. And their loyalty Poles interpret in this manner that they do not speak of themselves as "Polish-Americans", but as "Americans of Polish descent."

W. W. PAPARA.

Statistics of the Poles

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	11,000,000*	8,288,217(?)	
In Rest of Europe	1,100,000		
In U. S. A.	2,930,000		
In Other countries	400,000		

TOTAL 24,411,205

* * *

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

Grand Duchy of Poznan (Posen)	28,963 Sq. Kilometres
The Province of Opole (Silesia)	13,216 "
Galicia	78,532 "
Duchy of Cieszyn (Teschen)	2,300 "
Kingdom of Poland	127,319 "
Total	250,330 Sq. Kilometres

*The Kingdom of Poland, according to official statistics, contains 9,001,334 Poles (in 1909). Lithuania is officially reported to contain 633,182 Poles—an estimate about 400,00 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)	1,000,000

Total (about) 11,803,139

Views from Warsaw



CHURCH OF THE SISTERS OF THE VISITATION

Furor Teutonicus



THE Germans are a peculiar people...

It cannot be denied that they command the admiration and respect of the whole world.

Previously to the world war they were respected, but this respect was rather humoristically tinged: one spoke, for instance, of the rather ponderous German wit, of the rather heavy German art; one laughed at the German ossification and confinement in militarism; withal, one admired the German learning and science, especially that of philosophy, for the Germans are not without reason styled "the nation of philosophers"; one was enthusiastic over German music, and considered unexcelled the German economy, practicality, system, foresight, with which they exploited, wherever conditions would permit, all the possible fields of production and commerce, as witnessed, for instance, in their colonial policy; having initiated their colonial expansion later than any of the other countries, they attained first rank as one of the principal colonial powers, and their acquisitions they succeeded in improving even better than those longer in the field.

These facts were acknowledged, understood, appraised; but this appreciation was coupled with an indulgent bantering of the rather slow-witted and penurious Prussians, with a smiling patronage of their *Gutmuetigkeit* and *Gemuethlichkeit*.... Only their nearest neighbors knew how to judge this foresight and how to understand this apparent simplicity: the Danes in Schleswig, the Alsations in Alsace, the Negroes in the colonies felt the effects of this far-seeing *Kultur*; but perhaps its virtuousness was most keenly felt by the Poles in Posen, in Prussia, in Silesia, and in general, wherever they were in contact with the Germans. Recently the Belgians, the Serbs and again, of course, the Poles, have experienced the blessings of this *Kultur* in such a striking manner that the memory of the German invasion shall remain into the future ages, even as once in Poland there persisted the nightmare of Tartar invasions, even as in ancient Rome mention of Cathaginian invasion would startle woman and child, so that the Roman mothers would frighten with Hannibal, as with a bugaboo, their children into polite behavior.

* * *

Peculiar — these Germans!

It cannot be overlooked that they are a nation possessed of an indisputable civilization which contains most superb qualities.

For example, German love of study, especially of the most venerated of the sciences — of philosophy, then German economy, thrift, practicality, enterprise and thoroughness in every sphere of production: all these are, it is true, qualities and merits of the first order, and one must needs be a chauvinist to consider them otherwise. But along with this admission runs parallel the truism that there is no other nation so universally hated, no other people so heartily detested as the Germans.

* * *

Let us recall the recent times of the excellent execution of Germany's political isolation by one of the greatest crowned statesmen of the last five decades — the English king, Edward VII. This monarch, having understood that the perfectly refined qualities of the Germans are only ill-boding to the interests of other nations, devoted his entire

life to the task of effecting the complete isolation of Germany and surrounding it with a netting of alliances and treaties of anti-Teuton States. The reign of Edward VII, however, was too short, and with his death his masterstroke was somewhat marred, a state of things which the Germans were most anxious to bring about in the political situation of Europe; in the course of years, on the other hand, there became conspicuous that German rivalry with other nations and empires — a rivalry which was rendered all the more difficult and almost impossible in the face of German aggressiveness, German methods of fighting, of competition, — all brought into play with a view to attaining the desired goal, even at the expense of honor... though German honor was ever more or less of the elastic variety and immutably continued to resemble the ideals of the *Raubritter*.

* * *

About the German methods of not only rivalry, but also of thought, we desire to say a few words; we wish to write of what this war brought to light, of those sentiments and moods generally shared by the whole German community, by the whole German people, and that not only in Germany proper, but even in centers far removed from the theater of war, as, for instance, here in America, and it must be confirmed that the war has already deepened, and most likely will deepen some more, this amazing universal ill-will and hatred toward the German: it will intensify the international aversion and contempt for him, point an accusing finger at him, and will continue to do so, unless the years of historical progress shall liberate the people from its bond of barbarism, until the ruins and burnings shall be effaced from memory, and the graves, which bear the German footprints, shall be levelled, even as vestiges of the Hunns were obliterated in the course of time.

* * *

The nation alone amid others possesses in history the rather doubtfully glorious page of *Raubritter*, which knew how to combine chivalry with the craft of robbers and bandits; the nation, whose mythology and prehistorical annals (*Nibelungen*) are distinguished by a bloody monstrosity, by a criminal, almost inhuman fury, where murder after murder, each all the more dreadful, occurs with grimly striking regularity: that nation gave Poland the Knights of the Cross, who left so horrible a memory in the Polish-Lithuanian mind that they thoroughly penetrated into the life, the various ideas of these peoples, as a deterrent, as something completely criminal, cruel and perfidious. There are proverbs in the Polish language dealing with the Knights of the Cross, and their comparison speaks for itself, and gives a mental picture of the tiger to that of the fox,—in a word a nation-hyena, fattened upon the corpses of other peoples.

In art, literature, in folk-lore, in by-words, in the most primitive conceptions of our people there lurks the dread of the spectre — of the Knight of the Cross, who in his infernal perfidy, while "converting to Christianity", devastated the quiet and peaceful hamlets of Poland and Lithuania, violated all principles of morality, and murdered with wanton cruelty his helpless victims. This "Order" grew, increased in power by the life-blood of the neighbor-

ing peoples, and when it had sufficiently fed on the oppressed, it renounced its Christian mission, bespattered the former symbols and almost at once created a new and powerful state which throughout the ages continued consistently from its beggarly and insignificant embryo to develop into the present military power. It was this parasite of our land, this hideous mistletoe of our national tree, this Prussian hangman, whose lords at one time knelt before our Jagellons, in the public square of Cracow and swore loyalty, which was always a breach of faith — that selfsame Prussian knight who prepared Poland's mortal bed and added a nail to her coffin with the bloody hands of Frederick II, that crown falsifier, trickster and miscreant, called Great in the characteristic Prussian manner of thinking.

And the successors to the Knights of the Cross, the Prussian schoolmasters in Posen cudged the Polish children for praying in their native tongue, while the Polish peasant was forbidden to erect a cottage on the soil which he has held from the times of Piast the peasant, an inheritance from father to son.—The German Parliament, true to the Prussian symbol, expropriated Polish estates to further the interests of "menaced" Germanism and violated divine and human laws, endeavored to justify its procedure — again in characteristic German manner — by a show of legality, although the whole world has pronounced one unanimous verdict — that of Germany's condemnation.... These are Germans!

* *

The war broke out. The Germans were the first to violate all international agreements and political treaties, which only yesterday their lord and emperor had sanctioned with his own hand. To-day he himself disregards these "scraps of paper," invades Belgium, whose neutrality he guaranteed, reduces it to ashes with fire and sword, perpetrates the same tragedy in Poland, only with infinitely increased intensity, and swaying like Samson of old the pillars of the European states allied against the Germans, he introduces scientifically contrived methods of warfare—beside which the sickly and monstrous cruelty of the Caesars from the decline of the Roman Empire, pales into insignificance, as do the degeneracies of Eastern culture. And first you hear of the colossal guns and missiles devised and prepared for special purposes and for every emergency; you have the asphyxiating and poisonous bombs, the mutilating and lacerating bayonets; inflammable cartridges destined for incendiary purposes, the various machines testifying to a thorough policy of preparedness for all event and every possible need, the numerous institutions and apparatus which seemingly had nothing in common with the art of war. All this was brought about by German foresight; science was of tremendous assistance and a whole series of new murderous implements were invented; hundreds of destructive means were contrived with the help of physics, chemistry and every possible department of human lore. To the ends of militarism were dedicated art and science, a state of things which most monstrously warped the German mind and from the very childhood trained it into this perverse method of thought — patterned after the drill and uniform of the Prussian Knecht.

* *

And this efficiency is followed by a whole litany of German cruelties: violations in Belgium and in Poland, indemnities and robberies systematically organized and sanctioned by the authorities, incendiarism on a large scale, methodic pillage of everything that can be plundered

— from a loaf of bread to Polish labor forcibly carried away to German munition plants.

Recall the official reports in Belgium and France, citing numerous instances of how the Germans would mutilate the right arms of boys in order to incapacitate them for future soldiers, if perchance, they should ever be actuated by a desire of revenge. That is German foresight, providing for many years to come. And the submarine attacks, the wrecking and sinking of neutral ships, of passenger vessels, the drowning of thousands of victims who had nothing to do with war, in order to strike terror into the hearts of the enemy, aerial raids, devoid of any strategic significance and also calculated to terrorize, and finally the furious and implacable vexation of the enemy, all was devised by the Germans in their state institutions, invented by German science, and executed by German practicality.

* *

And the whole world is amazed. Humanity is wringing its hands over the gigantic graveyard, afflicted with ineffable misery, as presented to-day by the whole of Europe. With a feeling of horror and detestation it regards the creators of all these monstrosities, who are destroying the acquisitions of many centuries, who devastated the fertile fields, reduced thousands of cities and towns to ashes and ruins, caused the death of millions of people, and maimed many more millions for the balance of their lives; and for the decades and generations to come they leave the horrible apparition of the present war. Perhaps traces of this wholesale butchery shall never be obliterated from the human mind. And centuries from now people shall look at them and say: "Here passed, here were the Germans."

And the Germans shall think, speak, and write of themselves that it was German glory, German virtue, German valor, that caused German patriotism to undergo such boundless sacrifice. They will teach in their schools these German feats of arms, they will corrupt and poison, God knows how many future generations, in order to further this Raubritter tradition and trammel the genuine civilization of mankind.

Why, already to-day in Germany you see, hear, read and feel the trend of this spirit — everywhere, in all the circles, spheres and strata of the nation, there is found in this respect an inconceivable solidarity, a deplorable level of ideals. The foremost German firms and literary names emulate to glorify the skill of the German Knecht and to extoll the efficiency of the German methods of warfare. The entire press, without any exception, enlisted in this official servility and military lick-spitting; art and science completely sold themselves thereto; the whole German-Prussian spirit dedicated itself to—this low ideal; and its entire creative thought degenerated as the result of this war Gospel and of their perfidy which seemed to be in innate characteristic.

Let us look at this spirit, at the traits of this method of thought, and we shall be awe-stricken and helpless with wonder, comingled with amazement, over this inconceivable and unintelligible derangement of the spirituality not only of individuals, but of the collective German people. In fear the world regards this phenomenon, questioning whether it goes, what shall be the ultimate result, where is the end and limit of this terrible social possession, of this blindness to its criminality, of this frenzy, which is intelligible with individuals, and even to certain groups, but not in the case of one of the greatest and most vital of nations. History has no such

(Continued on p. 10)

Reflections on the Polish Problem

By Jan KUCCHARZEWSKI

(Translated from the French by JOHN S. FURROW)

V

Poland and its Rulers

THE three co-partitioning powers were clearly convinced that in order to justify the oppression of the nation, they must find something other than the incessant harking back to the pretended national vices of the Poland of the 18th century. It would have been unrighteous to ascribe the errors of their ancestors to the generations born after the partitions. It is, then, necessary to find pretexts of a later date. They concocted, therefore, an argument as supple as it was unjustifiable. They pretended that the dominant powers were full of good-will to this unfortunate nation, but that, through the immoderate exigencies and continual armed insurrections, it itself compromised and aggravated the situation. Only recently we have ourselves found the echo of these insinuations in one of the works of a French author who enjoys, it seems, the reputation of a historian.

This writer does not hesitate to affirm that the Russian government frequently accorded self-rule to the Poles, but that they themselves through their insatiability and aspiring to a complete independence brought the attempt to naught.

But even if this had been true, would not these aspirations have been lawful and natural? The advantages obtained applying solely to one part of their ancient territory, would not the Poles have been justified in their desire to see them extended to all portions of their dismembered fatherland?

And is it not also astonishing that a foreign author, having only very superficial notions of Poland, arrogates to himself the right of admonishing the entire nation and is angry with himself that she has not abandoned her inner and sacred aspirations to independence?

As to those who formulate this kind of reproaches, if they wish to prove that the Polish people had never a clear idea of what was realizable at a given moment, they knowingly alter an historical truth. It is false to say that the people rejected without due consideration all the concessions which the dominant states had offered them.

It is unjust to represent this nation as ultra-republican and fixedly irreconcilable. We have sufficient proof in the attitude of the Poles of Austrian Galicia during the half-century of its autonomous existence. They appreciated the advantages which had been granted them and became in the monarchy an element of order, of loyalty and of pacific work without, however, renouncing their sacred and time-honored claims of a nation.

Besides, in the two other co-partitioning States, there was created a vicious circle for the Poles; they were oppressed and exasperated through vexations without number, fomenting general discontent, and consequently advantage was taken of manifestations of this discontent in order to justify new repressive measures.

The vicissitudes of Poland under the triple domination gave them the sad conviction that the lot of the nation did not nearly always depend on its attitude, and that, under the terrible yoke of oppressive regime, even

when showing excessive adaptability and docility, they could not do anything for the improvement of their fate. If the dominant governments, though inspired by the spirit of oppression, had recourse to concession, they ever granted it according to their own views, and above all under the influence of their foreign policy, without the least care for the anterior disposition of the Polish nation and its sentiments. In order to better appreciate the justice of this assertion, it is necessary briefly to examine the situation under the three powers.

* * *

In Prussia, it is only too clear that the system of extermination, as applied to the Poles, was not caused by their insurrectionary attempts. There were occasionally repeated, it is true, the stereotyped phrases dealing with the "Polish intrigue", but it was evident that the original transgression of the nation consisted in its vitality. The loyalty of the people did not prevent the government from enacting exceptional measures and aggravating the intensity of oppression. This loyalty even encouraged, in some measure, the government. Let us cite an example. March 18, 1867, the Poles protested against their incorporation in the German Confederation of the North. Bismarck reproached them with ingratitude, while recalling that "despite the encouragements that they received, despite the insurrections which burst out during the fifteen years in the other parts of their fatherland, the Poles under the Prussian domination did not allow themselves to be won over in great numbers to the insurrectionary ideas."

Therefrom he drew the conclusion that the Polish-Prussian subjects were satisfied with their lot, employing their loyalty to their detriment.

Finally, in the last times, they did not cease to pretend that the oppressive measures were a governmental reaction against the underhand dealings of the Poles. They became more sincere and contented themselves with assigning the motivation of their measures of extermination to the phantom of the Polish peril, caused by the sterling qualities of the nation, by its vitality, valor, perseverance.

The Prussian system applied in Poland is only too well known in the whole civilized world. The proscription of the Polish language in the elementary schools and school prayers, the law of forced expropriation of lands appertaining to Poland, the action of the pan-Germanists, the repression of all kinds have acquired a notoriety too extended and too widely advertised to be repeated here.

It is not difficult to learn that the Polish situation in Austria was not in reference to their attitude to the government. This attitude was, after the partitions, perfectly loyal, but it did not prevent the government from exercising against the Poles a system of ill-will and repression. The change of the political state is, in a degree, the result of the constitutional movement and decentralization which was conspicuous after the defeats of 1859 and 1866. It was due to sudden change in the foreign politics of the monarchy, a change which made its way after the forced renunciation of the German Confederacy. The Poles knew how to seize the favorable moment and how to profit thereby, but their attitude was rather

(Continued on page 12).

FREE POLAND

A SEMI-MONTHLY

The Truth About Poland and Her People

PUBLICATION AUTHORIZED BY
THE POLISH NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AMERICA

Edited under the supervision of the Press Committee of the
Polish National Council:

K. WACHTEL, Chairman
IZA POBOG, Sec'y

W. PAPARA
F. X. MEDWECKI

JOHN S. SKIBINSKI, Editor.

Subscription \$1.00 per year. Single Copy 5 cents

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO

"FREE POLAND"
Polish National Council of America
984-986 Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, Ill.
TEL. MONROE 1806.

For Advertising Rates Apply
JOS. P. SHEILS, Advertising Manager
30 N. Dearborn Street, Chicago Telephone Central 2462

Remember

Poland asks to be reconstituted along the lines of
justice and fair play to all.

Poland demands peace with freedom.

Poland, as a buffer State, will be one of the greatest
guardians for the future peace of Europe.

In fact, Poland "asks nothing for herself but what
she has a right to ask for humanity itself."

Helping Poland

THE POLES of America have strained every point to relieve the dire distress of their brethren abroad. Such powerful organizations as the Polish National Alliance, Polish Roman Catholic Union, Polish Women's Alliance, Polish National Council and Polish Central Relief Committee, have been most active in contributing to the Polish Victims' Relief Fund.

There are over twenty million Poles in the war zone, but there is no Polish nation. They are between the millstones of huge contending armies, some of them, as we know, forced to stand with Austria, some with Germany and some with Russia, but really no great nation or party to the great conflict now in progress stands by Poland as a friend and ally.

The Polish organizations have jointly gone one step farther and communicated with the proper authorities to urge that they use their good office to remove the embargo on food stuffs, so that provisions could be sent to Poland.

The cablegram sent Jan. 10, 1916 to Prime Minister Asquith reads as follows:

TO HIS EXCELLENCY

H. ASQUITH, Prime Minister
Downing Street, London, England.

The undersigned, duly elected officers of legally constituted organizations, numbering half million American citizens, representatives of four million Polish speaking residents of the United States, hereby most respectfully

present a unanimous request to His Majesty's Government that the blockade against ships carrying provisions and clothing consigned from the United States and destined for the war-stricken districts of Poland, be raised, and vessels carrying such cargo, be permitted to disembark at the harbor of Danzig or some other suitable inhabitants of that part of Poland devastated by war.

We base this request upon the broadest demands of humanity. The terrors of war visited upon the innocent peaceful population of Poland have been augmented by famine, pestilence and death. One third of a generation, the youngest, has practically ceased to exist. The remaining youth, old men and women, are now upon the threshold of actual extinction by starvation, disease and exposure. The world cannot countenance the termination of an entire nation in such excruciating agony.

The ways of diplomatic discourse are too slow in the presence of such calamity. Death would win the race. We believe action must begin at once. In this honest belief, we appeal most respectfully to the sense of justice and humanity of the Great British nation.

Out of the stricken district forming historical Poland, two and a half million men have been called to fight for the allies' cause. Over twelve hundred thousand soldiers of purest Polish blood have been killed or wounded, and now their families are without food or shelter, suffering far more than any other victims of the war. As the situation there is identical with that of Belgium, the country being almost entirely in the hands of the Central Powers, we earnestly hope and believe that the English Government's magnanimity, and your Excellency's wisdom and generosity will accede to our most urgent appeal.

We are prepared to furnish food and clothing for our stricken brethren in Poland, and earnestly request that we be permitted to render our kin in Poland immediate assistance.

It is our desire and earnest hope that the American Commission for Belgium should take charge of the entire relief work, thus offering to His Majesty's Government complete and absolute guarantee that food and clothing will be distributed only and exclusively among Polish sufferers in districts devastated by war.

Now the very life of the people of Poland depend solely upon Great Britain, permitting us to send food. We trust that the Almighty will inspire His Majesty's Government to grant our request.

Anxiously awaiting favorable reply, we beg to remain

Your Excellency's most

obedient servants,

POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE

K. Zychliński, Pres.
J. S. Zawilinski, Sec'y.

POLISH ROMAN CATHOLIC UNION

Peter Rostenkowski, Pres.
J. S. Konopa, Sec'y.

POLISH WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

Anna Neumann, Pres.
Emily Napieralska, Sec'y.

POLISH FALCONS ALLIANCE

Dr. Starzynski, Pres.
T. Samulski, Sec'y.

POLISH ALMA MATER

Julian J. Nejman, Pres.
M. Brochocki, Sec'y.

POLISH UNION OF AMERICA

Dr. R. Tenerowicz, Pres.
Jacob Dembiec, Sec'y.

POLISH NATIONAL COUNCIL

S. Adamkiewicz, Pres.
K. Wachtel, Sec'y.

POLISH UNIFORMED SOCIETIES

Fr. Porzuczek, Pres.
A. Czechowicz, Chancellor.

POLISH CENTRAL RELIEF COM.

T. M. Helinski, Pres.
S. Osada, Sec'y.

ST. JOSEPH'S POLISH UNION

T. Polanski, Pres.
A. Kazmierski, Sec'y.

* * *

To the British ambassador in Washington the following message was sent:

To His Excellency The British Ambassador,
Sir Cecil Spring-Rice,
Washington, D. C.

The following cablegram will be filed to Prime Minister Asquith, and we bespeak your favorable consideration. If time permitted, we would have liked to present this matter through you, and sincerely hope that you will understand the feeling that prompts this action, though it may not be according to diplomatic usage. (Here follows text of telegram sent to Mr. Asquith).

* * *

Simultaneously the following telegram was sent to President Wilson:

PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:—

As loyal American citizens we believe it to be our duty to advise you of our action undertaken in the endeavor of securing the British Government's consent for the raising of the blockade against ships carrying food and clothing from the United States to the war-stricken districts in Poland. Millions of innocent sufferers in Poland are crying for food and clothing. Over half million American citizens of Polish birth or extraction bespeak your favorable and sympathetic assistance in this humanitarian undertaking and ask your kind cooperation in securing the Belgian Relief Commission to undertake the distribution of this relief.

A cablegram containing this plea is now on the way to His Excellency, Prime Minister Asquith of Great Britain. Our action may not conform in every respect to diplomatic usage, but it is based upon the desire to come to the assistance of our stricken kin in the hour of the greatest need. The cablegram referred to reads, as follows: (Here follows cablegram to Mr. Asquith).

* * *

Mr. Asquith was pleased to send the following communication (addressed to Mr. K. Żychliński, president of the Polish National Alliance) in answer to the above appeal of the united Polish organizations:

I have read with interest the telegram representing the views of the Polish organizations in the United States.

His majesty's government is earnestly considering the question of Polish relief in consultation with the French government, but they are faced with accumulating evidence that not only is the present shortage of the neces-

saries of life in Poland due to the systematic confiscation and export of native stocks by the occupying armies, but, also, notwithstanding the deplorable condition of the country today, this process of spoliation still continues.

The past history of this process was summarized in a report by a leading member of the Polish independence party published in our own press last November, and evidence of the continuance of these confiscations appears daily in the Austrian press.

Four thousand five hundred wagon loads of potatoes were to be sent from Lublin to Vienna last October and a decree of Dec. 23 regulates the importation from Poland into Austria of cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry, eggs, meat, tallow, milk and many other articles. On Nov. 12 the Vienna press announced the arrival of large shipments of geese from Poland.

It is impossible to raise the conclusion that the stoppages of such exports and replacement by Germany and Austria of the stocks seized in the past would remove the danger of starvation and that little if any importation from overseas is necessary.

The first step to be taken in the interest of Poland is the establishment of an organization on the spot to control all remaining stocks and to obtain from the German and Austrian governments the guarantee of a daily ration to the population equivalent to the foodstuffs seized in the past.

In view of what has happened in Belgium, where the Germans have used every effort to remove all resource of the country not governed by specific guarantees, it is certain that any permission to import from overseas before these steps have been taken would only stimulate the requisition of the enemy by giving him the assurance of supplies to replace what he takes. Please accept my assurance of the deep sympathy of his majesty's government.

H. H. ASQUITH.

* * *

Mr. Asquith promises — nothing. He blames the Germans for this tragic state of affairs.

Yet the Polish organizations must strain every effort to reach the authorities at Washington. Washington, in the interest of humanity, should negotiate with both Germany and England in order to secure a safe transportation of supplies to Poland. European officialdom will consider appeals, notes, communications only when they emanate from official Washington.

* * *

As loyal citizens of this Republic, officers of the Polish National Council are appealing to the proper United States authorities to help relieve the tragedy of Poland.

Mr. S. Adamkiewicz received from Governor Dunne, of Illinois, a copy of a joint resolution passed by the second special session of the Forty-Ninth General Assembly to relieve the suffering in Poland.

The resolution reads:

WHEREAS, the people of Poland are suffering and dying from starvation and exposure, on account of the ravages of war; and,

WHEREAS, the suffering from the widespread want and destitution is far beyond the ability of the people of Poland to alleviate and relieve; and

WHEREAS, our country holds in loving remembrance the valuable assistance rendered to the American people during the Revolutionary War by the Polish people, and parti-

cularly the Polish patriots, Tadeusz Kościuszko and Count Casimir Pulaski, the latter having given his life for our country, dying from wounds received in the siege of Savannah, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the people of the State of Illinois owe a depth of gratitude to the Polish people for their assistance, the services of these noble patriots, and also for the many men and women who have left Poland to become worthy and loyal citizens of our country; therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the Senate of the State of Illinois, the House of Representatives concurring, that we appeal to the people of the State of Illinois, urging them to give of their bounty, for the relief of the sufferings of the people of Poland; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Governor appoint a committee of three citizens to receive all moneys and supplies for that purpose; and be it further

RESOLVED, that said committee of three citizens shall expend all moneys received for that purpose for the purchase of supplies; and that all such supplies received,

or purchased from moneys received for that purpose, shall be transmitted by said committee of three citizens to the proper authorities in Poland, for the relief of the sufferings of the people of Poland; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Governor be requested to communicate with President of the United States to urge that he use his good office to remove the embargo on food stuffs, so provisions can be sent to Poland.

* * *

Food is scarce in Poland. There are no Polish children under seven years of age. More than 1,200,000 Poles, impressed in the Russian armies, have been killed or wounded. Over 5,000,000 have vanished. And famine and ineffable misery stalk through the devastated land.

Bread is scarce in Poland. Therefore, let us raise a hue and cry to help remove the embargo on food stuffs. It means the saving of our brethren from dire starvation.

Cannot "man's inhumanity to man" stop to save at least an innocent people from practical annihilation?

FUROR TEUTONICUS

(Continued from p. 6)

parallel — therein is no testimony nor record of any such collective criminal insanity of so many millions of people.

Let us look more closely at the different phases of this national frenzy. Even the most decent of the German press deify, for instance the conquest of Serbia, that unfortunate country which found itself helpless before the combined German, Austrian and Bulgarian forces. We understand, let us say, the strategic necessity of this conquest, but we fail to understand how this unequal combat can be termed an act of heroism, for chivalry requires, as one of its fundamentals of fair combat, justice and equal chances for both opponents....

* *

But the Germans have styled as heroic even what constitutes plain murder, not to mention these gigantic struggles. The frequent submarine attacks of passenger ships, the repeated ballon raids of localities completely devoid of any strategic value, are nothing but plain murder. To be sure, war has its dark sides and injury is inevitable; but in Germany the entire press, the opinion of the entire German community rejoice over the sinking of the Lusitania, or over the hundreds of victims of the numerous aerial raids — they rejoice and term as acts of heroism these oft-repeated murders.

Let us take another example. It is an accepted custom among cultural peoples not to scoff at the conquered adversary, such sneering being considered inhuman. But if we study the present German humor, we must needs burst with anger upon reading the ponderous and vile fancy of the German humorous weeklies as displayed in their offensive and absurd attempts to mock the enemy. You would say that this is done only by Prussian periodicals. Alas, if we look through the humorous publications of Munich (hence, South-German), we find that they even excel in this particular manner of composition.

* *

And in their perfidy the Germans are losing control over their own action and understanding, which already borders upon the insane; and the rest of the world must needs be insane if it would give credence and justification

to this German argumentation and procedure.... Therefore, there is created in Germany a whole literature which aims to prove that the war was not brought about by the Germans, — whereas their method of action is the only logical proof of the truism that *hic fecit, cui prodest*... Germany alone was prepared for war, while its enemies, even at this late period, and with all the greater difficulty because in the midst of war, are making and completing their preparations. The Germans from the very beginning entered upon the path of lawlessness — upon the invasion of Belgium, but they paid no regard for another's injury. It is characteristic that the word *Schadenfreude* is to be found only in the Prussian dictionary.

And now, after a year and half of war, when there spread rumors of peace, the Germans, having seized stretches of land almost equal in area to their country, *proclaim* through their officialdom that they shoulder no further responsibility for the war, as they are willing to negotiate peace, proposals of which they soon await from the enemy. As if they were also waiting that France should sign quitclaim to Alsace and Lorraine and the northern provinces; that Belgium should renounce its very existence and that Poland should forswear even its hopes and aspirations! The Germans are ready to discuss peace, amid these conditions — further responsibility falls on the shoulders of the victims and not of the wrong-doers, pillagers and invaders... This is an example of German reasoning.

To complete the inner picture of the German mind, let us yet glance at the Germans removed from the war center — for instance, at those living in America.

Ocular examples will perhaps best illustrate the point. There are exhibited moving pictures, depicting the war at the front. We pass over the noticeable detail that French pictures, for instance, impress the spectator as wholly frank, natural, faithful, unpretentious preparations, warmly taken from the life, whereas the German pictures convey the effect of stage direction. We are also aware of the suspicions that those German pictures are not altogether an innocent reproduction of mere reality,

but they are also a well planned propaganda of *Deutschtum* in a foreign country, calculated to disseminate pro-German sympathies, — more far-reaching than the applause of on-lookers in theatres, because aiming at the munition plants, the press, the leading factors of public opinion. German sympathizers — the German government is not sparing of expense — will force German ideals in the news papers, oppose undesirable enactments of the government, thwart the friendly relations with the Allies, and now and then successfully prevent shipment of military supplies to the Allies. In fact, we already meet with many facts and happenings, explicable on the surface, but strongly falling under the aforementioned field of activity.

But that is not our matter.

That the belligerent may have the right of legitimately creating public opinion and sympathy, is easily understood; it is, however, more difficult to understand the bullying insolence of German-Americans in their furious ill-will towards Washington, solely because the national authorities are not to their mind, and are unwilling to be modeled along the Prussian paragon of *Kultur*. It is known that the Germans have developed a gigantic campaign, hostile to the government of the United States, aiming, as it were, to found a state within a state. No other nationality, represented in this country, has succeeded in organizing so intensive an activity on behalf of the war across the oceans as have the Germans. Even this activity would be intelligible, if it would not encroach upon the most vital interests of this republic and violate the spirit and principle of its constitution.

But let us return to our moving pictures. We have seen them with our own eyes, we have not missed a single series, and we have a well-grounded opinion with regard to the exhibition and the sentiment of the German-Americans. We have seen how our fellow-citizens, Germans, applauded the dreadful and sorrowful pictures of war: when the film showed the fallen enemy, or when the German soldiers derisively led throngs of harassed prisoners of war. We have heard them laugh when the film showed a group of Germans in the act of stealing the only cow of a poor Polish family, the woman, surrounded by her children, tearfully mourning her loss; for the children milk is indispensable, and thousands of Polish children have died for lack of that necessary article of food, according to the latest reports. "There are no small Polish children", wrote Shaw. But the soldiers were laughing, and having milked the cow, they lap this precious fluid to the accompaniment of the tragic weeping of the mother and her children. And the German-Americans, evidently considering this act a huge stroke of humor, burst out with laughter until their hands were well-nigh swollen with the repeated clapping. They continued their thunderous applause at the sight of tragic processions of fugitives from Warsaw — where on one hay-wagon was showed the cold corpse of a child in its mother's arms, where there were seen groups of bare-footed, tattered and hungry boys, standing in the nasty weather of autumn and gazing at the German armored automobiles. There you see looming up the spectre of terror, tears, famine, death; and here

they almost shout applause. And then, to cap the climax, doubtless for the edification of us free men, or perhaps to strike terror into the hearts of us citizens of this great Republic, the screen shows the portrait of William II.... Thereupon followed a veritable explosion of German enthusiasm: the Germans, no more German-Americans, no more our fellow-citizens rise from their seats and do homage to this self-styled "Prince of Peace" by a series of acclamations, guttural vociferations and deafening applauses, and this is happening in this country, which is liberated from the ancient monarchical superstitions and survivals and is dedicated to the principle of a government by the people, for the people and through the people.... We listen, we rub our eyes — and then clench our fists: Is this Berlin or Chicago — Prussia or America?.....

* * *

And we again stand helpless in our wonder at this phenomenon, asking, what is the reason therefor? Mad, or possessed? They say it is patriotism. Then really we do not know what patriotism is? But if the majority is in the right, then the world is correct in branding the Germans as modern barbarians.

There still remains one question: In contemplating any phenomenon, the human mind is wont to reach at the cause thereof; therefore, in our case we inquire, what is the real cause of this *Furor Teutonicus*?

We have mentioned that it lies in the specific qualities of the German spirit — it appeared in the dawn of German history, in the earliest example of German spiritual creativeness, in such instances as the Knights of the Cross, the Raubritter and Frederick II. Through the course of their history there is woven the blood-stained thread of conquest, of cruel engrossment, of extortionate tendencies to grow rich even at the expense of murder, which is later eulogized and extolled to the skies.

This spirit, this tendency is still manifest in our days. It is exemplified in the German government, which seemingly constitutional, is at bottom a *par-excellence* imperial corporation founded on militarism. We have recently seen a German illustration underscored: "Why we win war?" The picture shows a number of German brats playing soldiers and practicing in the cruel art of war, in order some day all the more efficiently to spread the Gospel of *Kultur*. In Germany everything and everybody is subordinated to the ends and purposes of war; the school, the youth, the various official departments are all bent and trained to idealize the uniform which enjoys special privileges, such as are to be found nowhere else in the world.

This apotheosis of the mailed fist is the offspring of German psychology; under its symbol the German spirit remains, acts, fights and strikes terror into the world and its people.

Kipling, in his poem from the first days of the war, says:

Once more we hear the word
That sickened earth of old—
No law except the sword,
Unsheathed and uncontrolled.

KAROL WACHTEL.

Reflections on the Polish Problem

(Continued from page 7.)

a consequence than cause of change in the policy of the government. At all events, their loyal declarations could only find an echo and produce the desired effect in the atmosphere and under the impression of the grand events of the general policy.

* * *

The situation of the Poles under the Russian sceptre demands particular attention. First, because actually in Western Europe, especially in France, the Polish problem was often reduced to the question of amelioration of relations between Russia and Poland.

Afterwards, it is to Russia that fell due after the partition the most important parts of Poland both in point of territorial extent, population and natural resources. It is there that is found the center of gravity of the nation, and it is there that several times were decided, by force of arms, the destinies of Poland.

Finally, in Russian Poland there were two short periods of oppression. And it is not without interest to examine the real causes of these changes.

* * *

Let us lay aside the epoch which followed immediately upon the partitions and which was one of vigorous Russification; the accession to the throne of Alexander I, which brought a certain relaxation. Let us begin with the Congress of Vienna which reunited the Kingdom of Poland with Russia. The two periods of concessions of which we have made mention were those from 1815 to 1830 and 1861 to 1863; the periods of repressions which followed them lasted: the first from 1831 to 1861, the second from 1863 to our days.

The repressions exercised during these two periods were occasionally represented by the oppressors as a necessary consequence of the Polish insurrections of 1830 and 1863. We shall not here ascertain whether these atrocious *r e p r i s a l s* were a means well chosen to secure the attachment of the population and to preserve the state from new insurrections. We shall learn that they never refrained from suppressing the insurrection by force of arms and bloodshed, and from suppressing the political liberties, so dreadful in the eyes of the despotic government. The government inaugurated each time a systematic method of oppression and gradual and progressive Russification. It was not only to establish Russian prestige in Poland, but also to weaken, to degrade and disorganize the nation, to introduce the Russian element, the Russian tongue, the Russian spirit, in all the branches of public life, and to shut in the Polish life in the narrow circle of family relations and strictly private intercourse.

During the period of 1831-1861, the attitude of the Polish people was perfectly loyal. In 1846 a national insurrection burst out in the Republic of Cracow and in Austrian Poland; it had no repercussion in the Kingdom of Poland. In 1848 the revolutionary movement swayed almost all peoples; it found an echo in Austrian and Prussian Polands where a serious uprising took place; Russian Poland remained quiet. During the Crimean war, the western powers counted on an insurrectionary movement in Poland; the times were extremely propitious therefor. The bulk of the Russian army was engrossed in terrible struggles, and Austria assumed a menacing attitude; the peace of the Kingdom of Poland was unruffled.

The police, extremely vigilant, dealing vigorously with the least sign of disturbance, during this period could only uncover a few insignificant complots participated in by a handful of youth. And moreover, this attitude of the people did not ameliorate its plight. The successor of Nicholas I, Alexander II, came to Warsaw and pronounced his famous address of May 23, 1856, where the words "no dreams" were repeated twice, followed by a severe admonition: "The welfare of Poland depends on its entire fusion with the peoples of my empire. That which my father did is well done: I will maintain the system."

The reforms of 1861-62 were issued due to a concurrence of circumstances, which had reference to foreign statecraft and were granted precisely at a period when serious outbreaks and anti-governmental manifestations took place in the Kingdom of Poland.

The perfect loyalty of the Polish people during the half-century consequent upon the year 1863 was unable to stop the incessant march of Russificatory measures and of exceptional laws. On the contrary, Polish complaint was stamped the product of the imagination of several hot-heads, while the masses were plainly satisfied with their lot.

(To be continued)



THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY VIRGIN, WARSAW.

A Chapter from Count Stanislaus Tarnowski's History of Polish Literature

(Translated from the Polish by C. Smogor)

WE cannot begin to narrate the history of Polish literature from the old pre-Christian era, nor do we attempt to unravel from the folk-lore of to-day what kind of element it embodied, for these are, at most, but feeble conjectures of what was at one time going on in the pagan Slavic and, therefore, un-Polish state of our people. Neither can we date our literature from the moment when the newly created knights of our already established kingdom burst forth, as the legend would have it, in a battle hymn to the Mother of God 1); nor yet can we claim as the beginning of Polish literature that period in which a foreign chronicler wrote his impressions of the splendid achievements of the chivalrous Boleslaus 2). Neither can we accept as the dawn of Polish literature that period in our national history when a Polish monk 3), according to the then prevailing western fashion, began to write in Latin what he learned or remembered of his country's past; nor shall we take the echoes of those historic songs which broke upon the ears of the chroniclers of the XVI century, but which reached us only in fragments they themselves composed, as a sign of an awakened national spirit expressing itself in writing; nor yet shall we regard the first translation of the Bible, the Psalter of Queen Margaret, or the Bible of Queen Sophie, as that first milestone whence the journey of our literature takes its course 4).

We are not in possession of the popular poetry of the time; that of to-day may open the field to a very laborious, still very partial and doubtful study as to what precisely were its primitive constituent elements prior to the establishment of the Christian religion, but yet this does not give us the right to speak of an ancient, instinctive popular poetry. To speak of literature without any visible, material object, without any work whatever, a fragment, or even a trace of any work, would be entirely as vain as to suppose the existence of an event, devoid if even a legendary tradition, which may have occurred, but which slipped irretrievably into oblivion. The tradition of

our knighthood singing the hymn to the Mother of God, is undoubtedly a clue, nay more, it is in reality a proof that our nation had already acquired a historical, political and civilizing significance, but this clue by no means indicates or proves that there were germs of any literary value at all. Nor does a sporadic chronicler, of foreign descent, who details the conflicts and triumphs of his esteemed prince supply these materials. And even when at a much later, very much later period, a native Pole, Kadlubek, undertakes to write a chronicle, he will only demonstrate that civilization itself, yes, that the necessity of writing, and recording events of history, made in the meantime some progress, that this fact was acknowledged by the native inhabitants, but even he will not constitute a type of literary activity, since he will be the exception, without company and without successors, a some kind of beginning without continuity; hence he will not be without any value to history for the reason that he relates a number of important events, without any value to the history of literature, because there was no such history at the time. In a word, there is no literature without a continuity, without an uninterrupted connection of writers. Such sporadic writers indicate, indeed, that literature may be developed here at some distant future, but what they write is not literature, is not even its beginning.

And this application holds in regard to those fragments of Polish song and those rather late versions of the Holy Scriptures into Polish. Important and interesting as they are, as ancient specimens of our language for its history, for literature they are no objects of fascination. Some of them are so sordid and meager that their meaning and form cannot be determined; others, again, are translations into the mother tongue of forms and ideas borrowed elsewhere.

Agas, therefore, and long centuries roll by from the baptism of Miecislaus to the baptism of Jagiello, and a good deal longer still, and yet we have no right to speak

which was reprinted even 300 years later. The XIV century can boast of but one chronicler John of Czarnkovo, an archdeacon, of Gnesen, who, however, surpasses all his former rivals from the point of view of style and ripe judgment in political matters.—Translator.

4) While the Latin language was dominant among the educated, the vernacular was not altogether forgotten for obvious reasons. The ecclesiastical authority was bound to make the doctrines of the Church understood even by the uneducated masses in the administration of the sacraments and the various practices of devotion. The same applies to civil authority in dealing with the subjects in the Latin tongue. Hence we find extant numerous linguistic documents in Polish of great antiquity. The Latin texts of the XIV and XV centuries are replete in the margin with Polish words and phrases. Consult Baudouin de Courtenay on the Glosses, Thaddeus Wojciechowski, Lelewel, Maciejowski, Hube, Helcel etc. Thus, to the XIV century belong the Holy Cross Sermons discovered by Prof. Brueckner in the library of St. Petersburg, 1890; the general confession and the Lord's prayer contained in a manuscript at the University of Cracow; the Psalter of Queen Margaret, found in the library of St. Florian's Abbey (near Lintz) by Rev. Chmel, the librarian.—The XV century abounds in more numerous literary remnants, as: the translation of the Statutes, published by Lelewel 1824, the Gnesen Sermons, preserved in the cathedral of Gnesen, the Bible of Queen Sophie at Saros, Nagypatak in Hungary, the Pulaski Psalter at the Czartoryski Museum in Cracow, the Prayer Book of Queen Hedwig, the Magdeburg court decisions.—Translator.

1) The hymn to the Mother of God—*Bogurodzica*—according to Brueckner was composed by a Franciscan monk, Bogufal, for St. Kinga. This is a distinct blow to the old tradition that the hymn was written by St. Adalbert, the patron Saint of Poland and Apostle of Prussia. Prof. Brueckner has, moreover, settled, beyond doubt, the question of its authenticity, maintaining that the Franciscan monk wrote the first two stanzas, while the other stanzas are an outgrowth of a later time. The oldest manuscript of this song, preserved in the University of Cracow, contains but two stanzas, of which the first is directed to the Virgin-Mother and the second to God, the Father, but the manuscript is evidently only a copy of the original, dating to the middle of the XV century. The hymn was sung on the battlefield of Gruenwald, where the Teutonic Knights were defeated with their German cohorts; it was intoned by Card. Zbigniew Oleśnicki at the coronation of Ladislaus as a Polish-Hungarian King, in the cathedral of Cracow, and it is still sung to-day each Sunday at the cathedral of Gnesen.—Translator.

2) Surnamed *Bentlip* on account of a deformity in the lips. Martin Galus, from all accounts a Frenchman, compiled a history of Poland, embracing the events of Boleslaus' reign to the year of 1113.—Translator.

3) Vincent Kadlubek, bishop of Cracow († 1223), who later joined the Cistercians, chronicles the events of the reign of Casimir the Just. Toward the close of the same century Martin Polonus, a Dominican († 1280), became famous for his chronicle of the Popes and Emperors,

of Polish literature. There is literature when works are preserved in the native tongue through oral transmission (as the Saga in German), or when a nation begins to write, not at one particular time, nor as an individual occasionally, but steadily, out of a sheer necessity to write something common to many, to a majority, and on all subjects embraced by the mind of man or by science, by personal and social life as well.

Whence it follows that our literature begins really in the XVI century, for prior to that time there were but germs and roots of what was in due course of time to grow and flourish. That is rather late, and a Pole who will reflect on this, who will call to mind how German literature from the Gothic days continues to thrive without a break, and English literature from the Saxon, if not the Celtic times, how the literature of the Latin races had left behind a long history, a mighty series of changes, even of epochs, and not a few names immortal for all ages to come, when he did not even begin to write, or think, he feels, at the first instant, greatly humbled and shamed. However, there is no cause for it. He is the youngest of all the western nations, he entered later into the world of history, he lived, moreover, in the farthest corner of that European world and consequently he received the rays of light at the latest hour. Hence the youthfulness of his civilization, by means of which Szujski interpreted quite a number of puzzling affairs in his history, explains also why he could not have a translation of the Bible co-eval with Ulfilas, nor hear the songs of the Troubadours and Minnesingers, nor yearn for the sonnets of Petrarch, the novels of Boccaccio and much less for the *Divina Commedia* of Dante

In view of the late beginning and of the geographical position of Poland it must be admitted that her history was bound to have a different character; her life needs different conditions; her conflicts different effects from those in the west and south. Those older nations not only developed earlier, but developed simultaneously at an equal pace like students of one class; thus they were more or less on an equal plane of civilization whether we study them from the viewpoint of law, knowledge and manners, or from their social and political organization. When wars broke out among them, the effects were political only, the warring nations could change their relative power, but the results of those wars were never civilizing factors, for they could not change nor lower the standard of civilization. With us it was different. Scarcely had the primal seed of the future king-

dom been planted, when, in order to maintain its life, it became necessary to be on guard and to wage war in two sides for the purpose of protecting the interests of the Slavs, along the shores of the Elbe from the ever greedy proclivities of the strong and enlightened organism of the German empire and from the rougher neighbors of the east and north. By his conversion to Christianity Miecislus shielded himself from both sides. The western enemies had no longer a pretext for making inroads and fresh conquests, and the eastern were restrained by the strong arms of Miecislus, seconded by the new order of things introduced from Western Europe. This step was so wisely taken and was so highly fortunate that straightway the successor of Miecislus was not only enabled to free himself from the yoke which his father was compelled to endure, but to win the crown and become the head of the nation, in fact, the most potent, formidable and conquering genius on every side. But our Boleslaus the Brave, as Charles the Great in the west, anteceded by far too much his own community and created an order of affairs which without a strong and guiding head it was not able to sustain. Strengthened and better organized, advanced to a higher position, the kingdom with his demise merged rapidly into the condition it occupied before, into the necessity of maintaining a continuous defence against the encroachments of the empire on the one hand and the smaller neighbors, such as the Bohemians, Russians, Lithuanians and Prussians on the other. With varying fortune amid short intervals of suspense the conflict rages without abatement. All hostilities bear unmistakable proofs that the kingdom is clearly a distinct power, though the nation is still but weakly rooted and in an unfinished stage of development. Each war with Russia and Prussia is a defence of a civilization already acquired and advanced to the east, which stubbornly resists to withdraw from the limits to the center whence it sprang. The division of territory among the sons of Boleslaus the Wry-lipped, natural as it seemed to be from the ideas which then prevailed, added to the situation still greater evils and most deadly perils. Quite naturally the division of power paved the way to unprincipled rivalry, to civil wars, and compacts which, while serving the interests of one or the other of the Piast regions, must have damaged the unity, and political independence of the nation and kingdom.

This partly accounts why Polish literature began to flourish at so late a date.

Note to Our Readers—

John S. Furrow's article on the Ukraine will appear in No. 11.

Mrs. H. Piotrowska's version of Sieroszewski's "Offering" will appear in the next issue.

CULLED FROM THE PRESS

The CHICAGO POST contained the following eloquent editorial:

President Wilson has set apart New Year's day as a day of special benevolence for the cause of suffering Poland.

The generosity of America has found many outlets in Europe. Belgium and Serbia have occasion to think with gratitude of the United States. The plight of Poland is as desperate as that of either of these two countries and has received only a tithe of the consideration bestowed upon them.

There is abundance in America. Not one of us but can spare some part of our plenty for the relief of suffering. In Poland hundreds of thousands of people are homeless: starvation is accounting for innumerable deaths; the bitterness of winter assails young and old pitilessly; disease follows in the pathway of want and hunger. We may not lessen our care of our own; we must retain our interest in the needs of Belgium and Serbia; but we cannot withhold from Poland the help it prays for.

It is America's highest privilege to serve the world's oppressed in this tragic hour. Let us make New Year's day a day of new hope for the heroic land that gave America Kosciuszko.

* *

In the CHICAGO JOURNAL we find the following:

After the Romans had crushed Macedonia at the battle of Pydna, they devised a clever plan for looting the country of its last drachma before annexing it to the Roman dominions. They divided it into four districts, and prohibited the inhabitants of each district from traveling

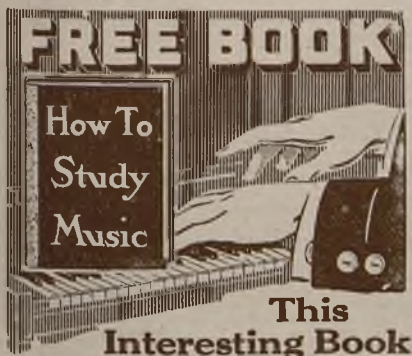
or trading in any other. Roman merchants, however, were allowed to cross the borders at will. The result was that these merchants had an air-tight, rock-ribbed, sword-supported monopoly, and they reduced the country to utter beggary before a wiser statesmanship broke up the scheme.

According to a member of the Polish independence party, Germany has managed Poland much as Rome handled Macedonia, though modern improvements have not been lacking. A year ago this winter the German military rulers of so much of Poland as was in their hands forbade the transport of food from one district to another. The natural result was bankruptcy in rural districts and starvation in the industrial towns. Then the sole license to trade in grain, flour and provisions in Poland was conferred on a German company, thus completing the parallel with Macedonia. It is not often that edicts of 2,000 years apart in time agree so perfectly.

Since that time, of course, all food in Poland has been commandeered by the German authorities, and the Poles claim that all grain has been sent to Germany, adding that the German government has promised to return 80 per cent of the flour after milling.

The modern improvements mentioned above are found in the treatment of mining and industrial regions. Nearly all the coal mines in the Dombrova district of Poland are reported to be destroyed, the raw material and machinery of the Lodz wool and cotton factories have been requisitioned; and the workmen from these once busy hives have been obliged to go to the mines and mills of Germany to get work.

There was no one to succor Macedonia in her distress, but surely America will not be indifferent to the sufferings of Poland.



FREE BOOK

How To Study Music

This Interesting Book

shows the keen delight and personal satisfaction which a musical training will bring you; and how you can obtain this training easily and thoroughly in your own home at one-quarter the usual cost.

It tells how this most prized of social accomplishments greatly increases your own enjoyment of life and the enjoyment of others. It tells of the concert career which may be open to you, and how you can increase your earning power by giving musical instruction in your spare time. Send for your copy of this valuable book today; it is free.

Dr. Quinn's Famous WRITTEN METHOD has revolutionized the study of music. By the use of Dr. Quinn's remarkable device the **COLOROTICNE** (patented) you save three-quarters of the time and effort usually required for learning piano or organ. You play chords immediately and a complete piece within a few lessons. The method is scientific and is at once practical and simple. It is endorsed by leading musicians and heads of state universities. Equally effective for children or adults, beginners or experienced players. Practical graduates everywhere. Diploma granted. Special reduced terms this month. Investigate without cost or obligation by writing today for free book "How to Study Music."

Marcus Lucius Quinn Conservatory, Box 650 F2, Chicago

Mr. ADAM KARCZEWSKI is our Representative for the Eastern States, authorized to solicit and collect subscriptions for "Free Poland".

ANTHONY A. TOCHA

Architect and Engineer

Designer of latest Style Building For every kind and Class of Building

Prepares Plans and Specifications for Churches, Schools, Residences, Halls, Stores, Theatres, etc. at Reasonable Terms.

Room 207, Home Bank Bldg. Res. 1432 Holt Avenue

N. E. Cor. Milwaukee & Ashland Aves. Telephone Haymarket 1027

Chicago, ILL. Telephone Monroe 5622



IN PUBLIC LIFE

IN BUSINESS

IN COURT

The Man of The Hour

He is picked for business leadership—he is selected to fill important public positions—he administers the rights and duties of humanity. His knowledge means power—he is a law trained man—THE MAN OF THE HOUR.

Do you want to become a leader of business? Do you want to occupy important public office? Are you ambitious to become a lawyer? Do you want to become the man of the hour?

A knowledge of law has proved to be the stepping stone for hundreds of men—like you—to bigger opportunities—to bigger rewards. What these men have done you can do.

Our new 165-page book, "The Law Trained Man," tells how a law training has helped men to reach important public positions—how it has helped men to succeed in business—how it has helped men to enter the profession of law—how a law training may easily be acquired during spare time at home. Write for your copy today. It's free.

The World's Greatest Home Study Law School

Blackstone Institute, (including The Sprague Correspondence School of Law) has successfully trained more than thirty thousand men and women in law. It was founded in 1890 and is by far the oldest and largest law school for non-resident instruction in the world. Among its graduates are the Governor of a state, United States Senators and Congressmen, State, County and City officials, many Judges and thousands of successful Lawyers and business men everywhere.

If you are unable to attend a resident law school, you can secure a thoroughly complete and satisfactory law Course and Service at home—one that is universally recommended and approved by Bench and Bar, Deans and Professors in resident Law Schools and by our Graduates and Students. Take this opportunity to investigate the

The names, records and qualifications of the leading Judges, Lawyers and Teachers who prepared and conduct the Course and Service are in themselves a sufficient guaranty of its unusual merit and practical value.

We Prepare You to Practice Law

Our Course and Service will prepare you on all subjects required in the bar examination, as it has already done for many others in your own state and in every other state in the Union. The legal profession offers unlimited opportunities for honor, prestige and income. The demand for good lawyers has never been so great as now. Every state, every city, every community and every hamlet needs the services of lawyers.

Our 165-page free book, "The I-w Trained Man," tells you how you can become a lawyer during your spare time at home. Send the coupon for your copy of this inspiring book today.

Grasp the Big Opportunities in Business

Big Business has decided that only a legal training fully equips the mind with the power to analyze, to direct, to control. Business problems are now far too complex to be successfully handled, even by men of experience who more fully finance, accounting, sales, costs, etc. At least a working knowledge of how these great forces may be legally applied is now absolutely essential.

Thus we see men like Lovett of the Union Pacific, Gary of U. S. Steel, Whelan of United Cigar Stores, picked for leadership because of their grasp of the fundamentals of law; because they know just what may be done lawfully and how and when to do it in the best way. One need not pass a bar examination to be able to do this.

Our free book will tell you how to make yourself doubly valuable to your own or some other business by becoming a law trained man. Clip the coupon and mail now.

Law and Public Life

The greatest honors within the gift of our democracy will always go to the law trained man. Of every hundred men in the public eye—Presidents, Cabinet Officers, Senators, Congressmen, Governors—more than two-thirds are men of legal training.

Every important public event—every crisis—calls for the services of the law trained man. In the days of the American Revolution, it was such men as Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and Patrick Henry; in the Civil War it was Abraham Lincoln; and today in the present world-wide crisis it is President Wilson and his cabinet; all law trained men—whose double power to analyze and construct makes them the men of the hour.

Our free book tells you the rewards which are yours, if you know law. Send for your copy now.

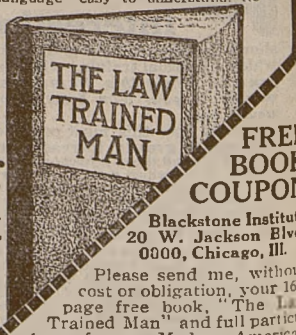
Learn Law at Home in Spare Time

Do not let advancing years find you in the "disappointed class" looking back on neglected opportunities! A few hours' reading of this Course and Service in spare time will show results at once and will equip you to pass the bar examination and become a lawyer, or to become a leader in business or politics. The Course and Service is clearly written in plain, simple language—easy to understand. No specific preliminary education is required.

SPECIAL OFFER— Investigate Without Obligation

The recent union of Sprague Correspondence School of L.C.W. with Blackstone Institute marks an epoch in the history of law instruction. To commemorate this union and to bring the student body immediately up to the number which our increased facilities now enable us to serve, we will accept a limited number of enrollments at a reduced fee and especially liberal terms. Decide today to investigate this most unusual opportunity. Clip the coupon now for our 165-page free book, "The Law Trained Man," and full particulars of our Special Offer. Everything will be sent to you free and prepaid. There is no obligation or expense of any kind on our part.

Get This Free Book TO-DAY



Blackstone Institute
20 W. Jackson Blvd.
0000, Chicago, Ill.

Please send me, without cost or obligation, your 165-page free book, "The Law Trained Man" and full particulars of your Modern American Law Course and Service and the Special Offer now in force.

Name

Address

What Subscribers Say

(Names and addresses furnished on request.)

"My books show that I have realized in nine years more than \$20,000 from my practice and property acquired through or by my profession."

"I have made in the practice of law during the last five years about \$16,000 above my expenses. I consider your school one of the best ways of securing a knowledge of the law for any one having limited means or spare time to devote to the subject. I had no trouble whatever in passing the examination."

"I received the Democratic nomination for Representative of the Forty-ninth Senatorial District, composed of _____ County and received the largest number of votes of any candidate nominated for that office in the district, and served in the forty-second General Assembly, and became a member of eight of the most important committees of the Assembly. I am duly grateful to Blackstone Institute (including The Sprague Correspondence School of Law) for what it has done for me."

"I enrolled for your course only a few months ago. My reading has already saved the Company considerably more money than the fee for the complete course. I am convinced that your course will pay me several hundred percent on my investment."

"I am now serving my second term as Mayor of this city, having been elected both times without opposition and by practically unanimous votes. Your system of instruction is indeed a valuable aid to the student in search of thorough knowledge in our Jurisprudence."

"I took up the study of law for business purposes. When I began your Course, five years ago, I was earning \$2,000.00 a year. I am now drawing \$10,000.00 a year with the same company."

(These letters are typical of thousands which have been received from pleased and satisfied subscribers).

Modern American Law Course and Service of Blackstone Institute

This Course and Service has been prepared for you by eighty eminent legal authorities, including:—

- Chief Justice John B. Winslow, LL.D., Supreme Court of Wisconsin; Hon. Geo. C. Holt, LL.D., former Judge United States District Court, New York; Hon. Paul S. Reisch, A.B., Ph.D., LL.B., United States Minister to China; Judge A. L. Sanborn, United States District Court, Wisconsin; Dean Oliver A. Harker, College of Law, University of Illinois; Dean Henry H. Ingersoll, College of Law, University of Tennessee.

Blackstone Institute

20 West Jackson Blvd., 2122 Chicago, Ill.

