

FREE POLAND

A SEMI-MONTHLY

The Truth About Poland and Her People

"Entered as second-class matter January 16, 1914, at the post office at Chicago, Illinois, under the Act of March 3, 1879."

Vol. II.—No. 14

APRIL 1, 1916

5 Cents a Copy



WACLAW, BOHEMIAN KING OF POLAND, REIGNED FROM 1300 to 1305.

Ecuador for Poland

The critical, painful and unequalled situation in Poland, which from the beginning of the war has been the principal and continuous theatre of most bloody strifes between millions of soldiers, has engaged the attention of the entire world and moved it, with its resources, to help in lessening the sufferings of that unfortunate country.

Poland is actually a wrecked ship in a sea of blood, whose rescue boats are the material resources brought by all the nations of the world to her unfortunate victims.

Due to this cruel blow over 25,000,000 inhabitants are suffering untold misery.

Two and half millions of its young men, impressed in the three armies of Russia, Austria and Germany, are shedding their blood in repeated fratricidal battles, in order to defend the interests of their oppressors. Her homes and her temples almost completely destroyed, its fields at one time fertile in products which found a ready market in Europe, are now covered with trenches, with every kind of war instrument, of tombs, of graves and crosses without number.

Her tender and innocent children are dying like flies in this appalling tragedy; so that here are no children under seven years of age. This is for lack of bread, with which to satisfy their hunger, of clothing, with which to cover their delicate bodies for protection against the intensity of winter.

This most sorrowful situation has moved deeply the gracious heart of the Holy Father, a sincere friend of Poland. Through his paternal exhortation the Polish Episcopate has sent an appeal to all the bishops of the world, asking all nations in the name of divine mercy for help and material and spiritual succor for their heroic charge.

A rare and singular thing indeed!

Poland, so forgotten until the moment of the present war, now wins the sympathy of all classes of people, of all parties. In entire Europe, the neutrals as well as the belligerents have hearkened to the appeal of the reigning Pope and have hastened with their resources to save the Polish people.

For effective assistance there have been formed committees to collect the funds on their behalf. From all sides relief is being despatched to the General Committee in Vevey, Switzerland, which distributes the funds ac-

ording to the immediate need of the suffering population.

After Europe the words of the Pontiff have found a ready echo in the sympathetic hearts of the inhabitants of America. The bishops, the president, the senators and the governors of the northern republic have appointed days for the collection of money for the Polish victims' relief fund among the philanthropic inhabitants of that rich and generous nation.

South America seeks to rival the North in generosity. And permit me to express my profoundest gratitude in the name of Poland, in the first place, to his grace the Archbishop of Quito and the bishops of Ecuador, who have readily hearkened to the appeal of the Pope and the Polish Episcopate, by publishing in their respective dioceses pastoral letters which eloquently urged for succoring the victims of war.

To the Bishops my fatherland is grateful, as well as to the Pastors who have unflinchingly labored in their parishes with this end in view. Words fail me to express my gratitude especially to the Rev. L. M. Pinto and his parishioners, who have profusely shown their magnanimity by acts of charity.

Furthermore, to the women of Guayaquil, who have shown such a commendable spirit of co-operation, to the press which has lent its columns to portray the pressing needs of the Poles, and to the various generous contributors too numerous to mention, in behalf of my countrymen, I hereby wish to tender my thanks.

The Polish people who have weathered numerous storms and experienced many trials and tribulations for the last century, will survive the present plight which is worse.

From this baptism of blood and destruction there will rise a people, sanctified with the present misfortune and purified by suffering, which will find the manner and means, in the nearest future, of demonstrating to the people of Ecuador their profoundest acknowledgment for the benefits obtained in this hour of misfortune.

JUAN POPOWSKI, Salesian priest.

(This is a translation from the Spanish article printed under the caption El Ecuador A Polonia in the Guayaquil paper EL ECUATORIANO.)

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. 14

APRIL 1, 1916

5 Cents a Copy

Mr. G. Mason's "Poland's Future"

In "THE OUTLOOK"

THE OUTLOOK of Feb. 2, contains an article of Mr. Gregory Mason concerning the future of Poland.

Mr. Mason tries to point out that long-continued Polish independence is impossible and that the Polish question of to-day is, whether Poland is to exist under the protection of Russia or of Germany.

Being pro-English and consequently pro-Russian he certainly has no difficulty whatsoever in solving the Polish question, so cleverly formulated by putting Poland in the arms of the beloved Russian Bear.

England and France at the very outset of the war agreed to it. The first little trouble was the entrance of Italy into the fighting with the understanding that her voice would be no less heard at the peace conference than the voices of her three larger allies.

Fighting on the basis of national freedom of the people, Italy's sentiment in Poland's case are the first things that worry Mr. Mason. The second cause for worry is the retreat of Russia from the Carpathians to the present battle line and the capture of all Poland by the Teutons.

Owing to these two events, and particularly to the success of the Germans in Poland, Mr. Mason fears that Russia alone will not have sufficient power of shaping the future Poland.

If Russia regains Poland, it will be with the consent and the aid of her allies. In that case after the war the Polish question would be an international one. But if the end of the fighting finds the Kaiser's hand still clenched on Poland, and if the German ruler be obliged to make concessions to Poland only to buy the liberation of his battled dreadnaughts, it seems settled that the Polish question would be one of international discussion. Mr. Mason even dislikes the idea of such a case.

He fears that in such a case America's presence at the peace conference would be welcomed by the Poles, for with her passion for freedom and self-government America would naturally be an advocate of Polish self-government and independence. The Poles are trying to gain American sympathy in that direction, and to upset this, Mr. Mason infers that Polish independence is impossible and that the Polish people will be happier while under the rule of Russia than under their own Home Rule.

The world owes much to Poland for her services as "The Buckler of Christendom", but he thinks that her lot will be happier if she is a Slav bulwark linked to Russia and used by Russia against Germanic onslaughts. There

is no need to argue with the man who can say such words to the 25 millions of the oppressed but highly cultured Poles.

The calumnies and misrepresentations of the Polish history, of the Polish national spirit and character in order to justify the division and confirmed oppression of the Polish people by the despotic governments of Europe are usual bread for the Poles even in England and France, but the American literature and press has never published such before.

The glory of the bloody and dreaded spectre of Poland striving for independence from her oppressors, which haunts all the banquets of the royal assassins in Europe, has always been respected and looked upon with sympathy by the citizens of this free country, the home of the brave and the land of the free.

In order to destroy the living spirit of Poland, to obliterate the traces of its past existence, to kill and annihilate her future, European authors wrote new geographies, falsified Poland's history, outraged even her ethnology, but there was nothing of this kind in America. We hope the American people will quickly recognize in whose interest Mr. Mason is working and whom he champions.

The philosophers, book-makers, pamphleteers and editors, who call themselves friends of Poland, and who attribute in their wisdom the dismemberment of Poland to her domestic dissensions only, and argue that she will be happier if governed by Russians rather than if governed by herself, can expect no gratitude from the Poles. We do not intend to defend the party strifes which infected Poland during the last century of her existence as an independent nation. Neither do we wish to defend any of the defects of the Polish national character or government.

We would only task those who on such grounds endeavour to justify the subjugation of Poland, whether it would be beneficial to mankind or to the United States if the English, the Japanese and the Germans should combine against it and should invade and dismember it, because there are in the United States many political party strifes and dissensions and defects.

The ballot is good enough to decide the differences between the parties in the United States, and let it be good enough in Poland without the interference of the Russian Bear.

REV. A. SYSKI.

Mr. G. Cleinow and the Polish Press



R. George Cleinow, the well-known Prussian journalist, lately transferred to Warsaw, where he has already established the official German Press Bureau in the offices of the "Warszawski Dniownik", is actively engaged in endeavors to influence public opinion by acting on the Press ("Kuryer Narodowy, etc.), and through the Censorship, which he has recourse to despite his affirmations to the contrary.

He has invited the representatives of the Polish papers to political discussions and has opened his mind as follows to their first delegate, Mr. P—

CLEINOW: "My attitude toward the Polish Question is as well known to the generality of the German public as it is in Government circles—to Chancellor Bethmann, for instance. In spite of that fact, or rather on that very account, I have been appointed to the present post. My object is not only to settle the question of the Censorship proper, but to seek an understanding and act in common accord with Polish opinion, at least with such of its representatives as are not blindly affected with Russophilism. I can certify that my opinions on the Polish Question are identical with opinions and intentions of the German Government.

"Evidently, the realization of those intentions and plans must depend on the issue of the war; it depends, above all, on the utter defeat of Russia—a defeat in the military sense—for even after a complete victory on our side Russia will not cease to exist as a Great Power. Russia cannot as yet be considered as vanquished. The capture of Warsaw is only an incident. Russia will not be crushed even after we shall have taken Brest-Litowski. Our aim is now to occupy the greatest possible extent of her territories; they will constitute our trump card in the negotiations for peace."

PRESS REPRESENTATIVE: "Then our country the kingdom of Poland, is to be considered as a pledge, as something which, under certain conditions advantageous to you, could be restored to Russia? Is a partition of the kingdom between Germany and Austria possible?"

CLEINOW: "I do not think that possible, save in the case of a remodelling of our frontier on the side of Thorn, from Kalisz. The future will depend in a great measure on the behavior of you gentlemen; on the part you will choose to play. We wish to convince you that the future of Poland is possible only in its union with the Central Empires. Russia will not and cannot give you independence. We Germans can tell you quite plainly and definitely: We will never allow the creation of an independent Poland incorporating the slightest portion of land now belonging to us; that is to say, of Silesia and Posnania.

"On our side, we all know what we are fighting for. Should the Chancellor or the Emperor himself to-day seek to create an independent Poland by transferring to it the smallest parcel of our territory, they would be swept away to-morrow by an indignant public opinion. Nor must you run away with the idea that we will tolerate the establishment of an independent Polish State such as the Pilsudski Legionaries desire. There can now be no question of a State politically independent; but we will guarantee you complete cultural liberty, religious freedom, and the use of your mother-tongue; thoroughly free Polish schools, with this categorical restriction, however, that we will never tolerate any attempt at Polonization such as that

which has occurred at Lodz, where an attempt has been made to eliminate the German language from the local schools maintained by the Germans."

P. R.: "Do you intend to consider as Germans Protestants who feel themselves Poles?"

CLEINOW: "No; they are Poles. But Germans must freely possess in your midst their own schools. Your tolerance towards the German schools will be appreciated by us for what it deserves, and will have for consequence scholastic liberty in Posnania; whereas adverse attempts on your part—which we will combat, by the way—would find their counter-action in our intercourse with the Poles in Posen."

P. R. "And how do you gentlemen define your conduct towards the Polish Legions, those which already existed as well as those now organizing; as also towards the tendencies of the Press which supports them?"

CLEINOW: "We tolerate the Legions, so long as their action is confined to a certain agitation for propaganda and mutual assistance; but were these same Legions even to reach the figure of 300,000 that is spoken of, we would not hesitate in doing away with them as so much scum were they to seek to thwart us and to realize the ideal they proclaim in the words: 'The Polish State politically independent.'"

P. R.: "Then we are to expect the incorporation of the Kingdom of Poland either with Germany or with Austria? Are we to consider as men foredoomed the Legionaries who are striving towards an unattainable ideal?"

CLEINOW: "Yes, they are men foredoomed. Poland will, perhaps, attain her political independence; but that is a matter of a far-off future, a hundred years perhaps. Do not forget, Sir, that the Polish body corporate is disorganized; that the Russians have accomplished their work. Russia has given you festivals, entertainments, easy gains; but she has debased your culture and your capacity for self-government. We, and we only, will afford you the opportunity of a free development, and then your future will depend solely upon yourselves. You must not seek to pass at once from utter servitude to complete liberty.

"Your blunders of the years '62-63 must not recur. Wielopolski, though our great enemy, was your only real statesman.

"As to the political system to be adopted in your country, I can make no definite statement. We ourselves are still unable to determine anything; there are various opinions both in Government circles and among the Allies. It goes without saying that the stronger of the Allies will always enjoy the casting vote."

P. R.: "In certain of our social circles the hypothesis has been put forth that if this war terminates in her favor, Germany might take possession of territories situate outside of the Kingdom of Poland, but which are still of great value to our cultural influence: Lithuania, Volhynia, and Podolia. Has Germany any opinion as to the fate of those countries and their bearing on Poland?"

CLEINOW: "That will depend entirely on the result of the war. According to my information our military authorities expect to overrun the country up to the Dryssa. From that point you may draw a line down to Czernovitz. Poland is destined to play a great part as an Oriental country possessing a Western culture; but I repeat once more that she can only attain that future by

her union with the Central Empires. Everything depends on the friendly conduct of the Poles. I may add that we are simply astounded at our friendly reception by Warsaw, a reception we have not met with anywhere else in Poland. We know how to appreciate this; and you see, Sir, that within a few hours we revoked the order suspending the publication of the Polish papers, and have not taken any hostages."

P. R.: "I understand your position as a German; but you must admit that I, as a Pole, can only accept as my ideal and my aim the complete independence of my Fatherland. How, then, am I to understand the immediate future of our nation?"

CLEINOW: "I see what you mean. I have already told you that I thought Poland would recover her political independence, for that is a logical consequence of your existence as a nation of twenty millions. But, for the present, it is an object that cannot be realized, and your future lies in a close co-operation with us. Do not talk to me of 'Hakatism', of the 'Kulturkampf', of 'Drzymala', or of 'Września'. These are side issues. The Russian of-

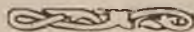
ficial records have come into my hands, and I could mention to you hundreds of Drzymalas and Wrzesnias as instances of your intercourse here with the Russian Government.

"I have not introduced preventive Censorship. I do not hold with it, and, besides, it requires a complicated bureaucracy. But I am determined to combat mercilessly everything that is not in keeping with the principles I have just laid down. As far as I have been able to judge, I fear it will be impossible for me to avoid the necessity of the Censorship if I am to put a stop to the intemperance which certain papers begin to manifest.

"Everything I have just stated has been said with a due sense of my entire responsibility and at the same time in full knowledge of all the importance of my words.

"I trust we may be able to work together in co-operation with Polish society for the welfare of your country."

The above curious document is quite in keeping with German designs on Poland. What Germany seeks is to incorporate Poland as a semi-independent State in the German Confederation. — From the POLISH TRIBUNE, published in London, England.



Is it a Peace Proposal?

Kuno Francke, who is one of the German professors at Harvard, and who is in close official relations with Berlin, has written a letter on the terrible agonies and exhaustion of Europe. He now wants the United States to intervene, to make proposals as a basis for peace, and to side against the one that rejects them, even to the extent of intervening with arms, in order that the further exhaustion of the warring nations may be stopped. He wants no further ambiguities. Here is what he would say to Germany, and what he would say to Great Britain, and to the allies of each:

Let us issue a declaration addressed to both the warring factions. In this declaration let us, in effect, say to Germany and her allies: "We offer to submit for you to your enemies peace proposals which will insure the restoration of Belgium and northern France and the establishment of some sort of Polish independence, the precise definition of these terms to be made a subject for negotiations between the belligerents for which the United States cannot assume responsibility. If you decline this offer we shall assist your enemies in every way possible even at the risk of war, to force you to such conditions of peace." In the same declaration let us say to Great Britain and her allies: "We offer to submit for you to your enemies peace proposals which will leave the territory of Germany and her allies inviolate, and which will assure a sound economic basis for the future peaceful development of the great central European powers, the precise definition of these terms to be made a subject for negotiations between the belligerents, for which the United

States cannot assume responsibility. If you decline this offer we shall cut you off from munitions and all other war supplies, and thereby help to force you to such conditions of peace."

The conclusion of peace on such terms would leave things as they were before the war, territorially. It would of course, include the surrendering to Germany of all the colonies which have been taken from her. In these propositions, Russia is not mentioned, except that Poland is to be wrested from her and set up as a buffer state. Does that include German Poland, also, or only Russian Poland? And does it include Austrian Poland? In other words, is Russia alone to be deprived of what she grabbed from Poland generations ago, while Germany and Austria are to retain their shares? And what about such Russian areas as Germany now holds, why are they not mentioned by Professor Francke? Was that an omission, intentional or premeditated? And what about the lands that the Russians have just taken from the Turks, the lands of the Armenians, are they to be restored to the Turkish butchers, or is Russia to hold them?

In other words, the gates are left ajar in the professor's proposals, and it is evident, at a glance, that disagreements would arise at once if such proposals were to be made by the United States. Russia also is entitled to consideration, for she has paid for it with lives and treasures. And also, what about Serbia, is that to remain in the possession of the Teutons? Would not a United States proposal have to include all that country, and Montenegro and so forth and so forth?

Interview with Prince Nicholas Stcherbatoff, Minister of the Interior

By N. L. PIOTROWSKI

[The following is a copy of an interview which was written by Mr. N. L. Piotrowski and sent from Petrograd to the Chicago Herald, but which was lost on the way and never reached its destination. Free Poland is grateful to Mr. Piotrowski for his courtesy in allowing to publish the same. It may be mentioned that the above interview with a number of other articles bears the seal of the Russian government censor without which Mr. Piotrowski would not have been able to take it out of Russia.]



AFTER having talked with Mr. Goremykin, the Prime Minister of Russia, and with Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Arcimowicz, from both of whom I obtained an expression relative to the Polish question and the future of Poland, I was also received by the Minister of the Interior, Prince Nicholas Stcherbatoff. His Excellency received me at his summer residence and I had a very delightful visit.

The Prince is comparatively young considering the important office which he occupies. He is about 45 years of age. In his being manners he is very democratic. He appeared to me like an American gentleman rather than a Russian prince, and when I talked with him I thought I was talking with an American banker, manufacturer or manager of one of our big department stores. I believe if he were in America he would be one of our merchant princes or at the head of a big trust.

About twenty years ago the Prince traveled all over the United States. He knows New York, Newport, Boston, Washington, Chicago, Omaha, Denver, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Louisville and many other cities in America. He speaks English, and, of course, I was glad to be able to converse with him in that language.

I told Prince Stcherbatoff practically the same story which I told Prime Minister, Mr. Goremykin. I told him the object which prompted me to come to Russia and of my desire to go to Poland. I asked him practically the same questions which I asked the Prime Minister in reference to the Polish question and he gave me practically the same answers. He assured me that the proclamation of Grand Duke Nicholas promising freedom to Poland was made not only with the knowledge and approval of the EMPEROR and the Government, but it had the EMPEROR'S and the Government's support. The Prince made me feel quite at home and we both talked quite freely. I told the Prince that the establishment of Poland as an independent Nation was a natural thing, because the Poles are a separate and distinct Nation, differing from the Russians, from the Germans and from the Austrians; that they have their own language, their own literature, their own culture, their own customs and their history and tradition; that they also differed from the Russians and from the Germans in religion. It is the language and the religious question that caused the greatest trouble in Russian as well as in German Poland.

It is, therefore, natural, said I, that the Poles should have the right to govern themselves. The Poles have no desire to control the seas, neither do they want to lord it over other nations but they do want "a place in the sun"; they want to have the right and the freedom to develop their own culture and not to have the culture of other nations forced upon them with the bayonet or fines as it has been heretofore in both Russian and in German Poland. Nations having much smaller populations than Poland are free and independent, like for instance: Holland, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Greece and the several Balkan States. Why not Poland, which is the sixth among the Nations of Europe in size of population, numbering over twenty millions of Poles alone who speak the Polish language, not counting the other races?

Prince Stcherbatoff after listening to me attentively unfolded a map, and asked me what in my opinion constituted Poland and what was my idea as to what the boundaries of Poland should be. I frankly answered that in my opinion Poland should be established within her ancient boundaries as they were prior to the first partition. To this the Prince replied that in his opinion Poland should be established along ethnographical lines, rather than within the ancient boundaries, because, he added, the Lithuanians are not Poles, neither are the Ruthenians, although, prior to partition both belonged to Poland.

I admitted that the idea of establishing nations along ethnographical lines and giving those nations the right to govern themselves was just and good; but I called the Prince's attention to the fact that the Lithuanians became united with Poland of their own free will and that certain parts of Lithuania were Polish. However, the question whether the Lithuanians wanted to belong to Poland or not should be left for them to decide. I further added that the Poles have no desire to force their government upon the Lithuanians against their will; that was never Poland's policy.

Finally, the Prince concluded that he hoped and believed that that question will be settled to the satisfaction of all concerned and for the best interests of both nations, — Russia and Poland in accordance with the Emperor's idea as expressed in his telegram to the Commission which is preparing a plan to carry out the Grand Duke's promises into effect. The Prince further said: "It is the purpose of Russia to wrest Galicia from Austria, and from Germany the Provinces of Posen and Silesia, which are Polish, and the City of Danzig on the Baltic, — to give Poland a seaport — and to unite those parts with Russian Poland and to make of those three parts one Country and one Nation. The Prince further

added, "the withdrawal of the Russian Army from Galicia is only temporary, so is the occupation of Poland by the German Army."

I also talked with Prince Stcherbatoff about other matters, especially how to bring Russia and the United States into closer commercial relation, also about the prohibition of the sale and manufacture of vodka, beer and wine; its effects and the ultimate result. I will write on both of these subjects at some future time when I will have more leisure.

Having reduced the conversation to writing I sent it to Prince Stcherbatoff for his approval, and the same was returned to me with the following letter:

(Translated from the Russian.)

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR.

Secretary to the Minister.

July 24th (11th according to the Julian calendar) — 1915.

Dear Sir:

After reading the manuscript which is herewith returned to you, His Excellency the Prince directs me to inform you that he read it and has no objection to it being published.

Please accept the assurance of my esteem and respect.

Signature of Secretary (illegible.)

To the Honorable

N. Piotrowski.

A Letter from a Friend

(There is such a thing as not slandering your enemy. There is such a thing as being all sympathy and understanding the hopes and ideals of the peoples you are historically associated with. FREE POLAND has repeatedly shown this spirit of fairness and impartiality with regard to the different races and nationalities of the world. It has, for instance, objectively dealt with the Jewish question, the Lithuanian question, the Ukraine, and has presented the plight of Armenia. It is pleasing to note that we are being appreciated, as proved by this letter. The correspondent has one of his wishes gratified — the article upon Bohemia (see Free Poland, No. 13). His other suggestion of publishing a series of articles dealing with the Poles of America is a valuable one and will be acted upon at an early opportunity.)

Texas, 21—II, 1916.

To the Editor:

Recently I have read a few copies of your semi-monthly "Free Poland." I have not seen it before, but it seems to be a sympathetic feature that the publication informs us about other Slavic nations, besides Polish, as it is the case with Ruthenia, or Ukraina, in the copies I have seen.

I think I am not alone to expect some articles like those—upon Bohemia, and her relations with Poland, in the near future. "Free Poland" is doing much to inform us about the Polish nation, and conditions in which the Poles live in Europe. Should not it give us some materials about Poles living in America?

How long ago they started to immigrate to the United States? Where they settled mostly? What they are doing? Have they any institutions? Associations? Press?

Yes, I think that many Americans would see a good article upon the Poles in America with even, if not indeed higher interest, as those upon their life in Europe.

A true Friend of the "Free Poland."

Fate of Russian Poland is Still in the Balance

Berlin. — The fate of conquered Russian Poland is still hanging in the balance. Three different schemes are being discussed here by the fate of nearly one hundred millions of people in the hollow of their hands.

The first scheme, whose originators are the Kaiser, Chancellor von Bethman-Hollweg, and Herr Delbrueck, provides for the incorporation into Prussia of the Polish governments of Lomza, Suwalki and Courtland. The governments of Vilna, Kovno, Minsk, and Grodno are to constitute the new Kingdom of Poland, preferable with one of the Kaiser's younger sons as king, and the kingdom must enter into a military custom convention with Germany.

The second project, advocated by the German Crown Prince and Field Marshal von Hindenburg, suggests that Poland be divided between Germany and Austria, the former country to get three-fifths of the conquered territory, including the city of Warsaw. Germany is also to have all the land along the Baltic coast now in her possession.

The third plan, which emanates from Austria, provides for an autonomous Kingdom of Poland under the

suzerainty of Austria. At present this plan is said to be the most favored one, because it is considered most likely to be accepted by the civil population of Poland, and because it will permit of an immediate mobilization of all men of military age still remaining in the unhappy country.

In the meantime all reports from Poland agree that conditions there are going from bad to worse. The country was devastated beyond description by the armies of both sides, and the Russians, when retreating, carried everything away with them, leaving practically not a scrap of metal. Even the trails were removed from the roadbeds of the railroads in many places and thrown into the rivers and swamps or taken away.

The suffering of the population, it is said by the German press, surpasses all imagination. Industry, commerce, and farming alike are stagnant, and even the formerly wealthy classes are on the verge of starvation. Germany is, of course, utterly unable to render any assistance. — By International News Service.

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:

N. L. PIOTROWSKI, Chairman.
IZA POBOG, Secretary.

K. WACHTEL

W. PAPARA

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."

The Polish Ideal

"If you had to choose between Germany and Russia, which would you choose?" I asked a young Russian Pole of some prominence among the radical element of his people.

"Neither", he snorted indignantly.

"But if you had to take one or the other?" I persisted.

"Neither—never either," was all he would say.

Arrant pride and egotism of this sort, an unwillingness to compromise when compromise is necessary..... are the traits in the Polish character that have made Poland's history a tragic history and that will make it more tragic in the future unless these traits are suppressed." — Gregory Mason, in *THE OUTLOOK*, Feb. 2, 1916.

* * *

Nationalism is simply the tangible outward manifestation of the growth of democracy. If the present war, as has so often been stated by the Allies, is to readjust the map of Europe according to the principles of nationalities and of political equilibrium, and according to the actual aspirations of the races, then Poland cannot be called "arrantly proud and egotistic" in demanding her rights as a nation.

She can and should be free and independent under

a concert of European Powers — not only under Russia. This concert of European Powers would form a sort of tribunal for Poland, insuring her welfare and safeguarding her interests.

A victorious Russia will not grant much to Poland. We have repeatedly pointed out that as far as Russia is concerned, the way out is through a greater democracy, a greater power to the people and the machinery for expressing their will. And Gregory Mason, contributor to *THE OUTLOOK*, is partly right when he says that "Poland's salvation lies through the triumph of democratic principles in Russia."

We beg to differ with Mr. Mason, however, when he calls the Pole's hankering after independence "arrant pride and egotism." If before the war the independence of Bulgaria, Montenegro, Greece and Serbia was assured by the conscience of Europe, is it something out of the ordinary to ask that an independent Poland be similarly guaranteed?

Mr. Mason sees fit to emphasize Polish unwillingness to compromise when compromise is necessary and Polish inherent incapacity for co-operation. The Poles themselves are aware of their faults — alas, they were extremists and now readily recognize that much could have been averted in the past through compromise and co-operation. Instances where the spirit of compromise and co-operation was lacking, appear doubtless as unpardonable political blunders to an Englishman, who boasts of his history as being a string of compromises, whereby "Freedom slowly broadened down from precedent to precedent."

This attitude is characteristically English, and Mr. Mason, therefore, with pronounced English sympathies, cannot be too severely blamed if he too strictly deals with this trait in the Polish character. If judged by the present standards, the abuse of power by the nobility, the lack of popular representation, the deplorable condition of serfdom, the stagnant economic conditions: all these were faults which can be neither minimized nor confined to Poland exclusively. "Unrestrained individualism" is the once too often used and abused argument to prove Polish political incapacity.

Mr. Mason, then, says nothing new when he repeats that the Poles bicker as to the selection of an avenue of escape, that they are in constant clash, that they are divided in their plans and hopes, that they display no political sagacity, and that they are at loggerheads with one another.

We have only too often answered those charges of Polish incapacity. If after such calamities as were heaped upon Belgium, you cannot assert that the loss of independence of a country is the fatal consequence of the faults and vices of a nation, how can you, overlooking the ruthless principle that might makes right, attribute Poland's downfall to her so-called political incapacity? Even America is considered wasteful and politically incompetent by the frugal and efficient Germans.

Furthermore, we must note most emphatically that the Poles, as amply shown in America, can surrender and have surrendered their individualism in the service of an idea.

Now the one great idea for Poles in Europe is the *INDEPENDENCE OF POLAND*. In the service of that idea the Poles — and the whole world has seen proofs thereof—have not only suppressed their individualism, but resorted to unheard of sacrifices.

As American citizens, we idealize neither the Czar nor

the Kaiser., we believe in "government of the people, for the people, by the people." As American citizens we cannot and will not sympathize with European autocracies, but, as liberty-loving men, we can support and endorse the idea of an independent Poland. We believe in a reconciliation and even compromise with the Russian PEOPLE. We more strongly believe in a zone of countries WHOSE NEUTRALITY WOULD BE GUARANTEED BY THE POWERS OF EUROPE. That means that we believe in an independent Poland. We hope that the ruins of Poland and Flanders will stand as significant milestones in the progress of humanity.

"Poland", says Mr. Mason, "will be happier if she is a Slav bulwark linked to Russia, used by Russia against Germanic onslaughts." This is Mr. Mason's opinion, and as such must be respected. He has tried his best to do justice to the Polish question.

* * *

However, in his article in THE OUTLOOK, Feb. 16, 1916, he rendered an invaluable service to the Polish Cause with reference to the Jewish problem in Poland.

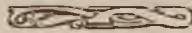
Vilification of the Polish name by some malicious individuals has been answered time again and again. It may be interesting to the Reader to know what Mr. Mason reports on the "pogroms" (For replies to these charges see Free Poland, Nos 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 20), supposedly instigated by the Poles.

"Many apparent outrages", he says, "are excusable when the facts are known... There was the case of a Jewish village in Poland from which the inhabitants had

been sent off on the road with only the clothes on their backs and such few possessions as they could carry in their hands. At first glance this case seemed like an 'atrocious'. But the truth was that that village had been taken by the Germans and then recaptured by the Russians. Then when the Germans first marched up its muddy street, looking as invincible as an invading army always looks, the Jews, concluding that the Germans had come to stay, made up their minds to win the favor of their new masters. They gave the Germans the names of a few of the small group of Poles that lived in the village, telling the Teutons that these Poles were Russian spies. When the Russians retook the town, naturally enough the few remaining Poles 'tipped off' the Russian commander to what the Jews had been doing. He shot a few Jews, and at first that was all. But the village was still almost on the firing line, and morning after morning the Russians found the wires of their field telephones cut. Later, a sentry was found with his throat slit. Overwhelming evidence pointed to the Jews as the culprits, and so, as a last measure, all the Jews were told to 'move on'".

Instances of this kind could be multiplied by other reliable witnesses.

Overlooking Mr. Mason's political creed with regard to the Polish Question with which we beg to differ, we should remember him as one more person of note who has given the lie to the dreadful charges of Polish 'atrocious', which flung so lightly, might have weighed so heavily if they had not been found groundless by such impartial observers as Mr. Mason.



Poland will Rise Again

Verily, Poland, bowing under the weight of her war cross, is passing through her calvary.

The boom of cannon and the mad darkness of war, breathing forth death and desolation, pervades the unfortunate cities, towns and villages.

But the day of Poland's resurrection is drawing nigh. Out of the chaos of war a star of better future shines out for the martyr country. She will rise from her unmerited subjection and ascend the noble eminence which she had so creditably held among the nations of Europe. Poland will yet have a mission to perform, and while here are those who try to say that this knightly nation had already performed her national destiny when she stayed the Turk who threatened to swoop down upon Western Europe, do we assert that Providence has no other mission in store for the land of Sobieski? Rather will Providence bid this much abused country rise from amid her desolation to become another bulwark, if not of Christianity against the Turk, perhaps a mainstay of political equilibrium in Europe. The very fact that the Poles have preserved, despite political repressive measures, their language, religion and customs, their national characteristics pure and intact, strongly points out to the obvious indestructibility of their rights as a nation.

Poland was ever generous and magnanimous in dealing with conquered nations. She never would exact of them territorial indemnifications. She would never wage war for territorial aggrandizement, nor raise arms to display her military prowess; but if she unsheathed her sword, it was in a just cause. It was because hordes of

Tartars would overrun the country to spread death and destruction. It was because the ruthless Turk threatened to desecrate Christian churches. It was as a measure of self-preservation. If one judges Poland by her characteristics as a nation, one must admit that as a nation she again would serve to other nations an admirable example of national equity.

Poland will rise because men are beginning to recognize the wrong they had perpetrated in dividing and appropriating the ancient Kingdom. Poland will rise because men perceive in the tremendous calamity of the present war a just punishment for the national wrong so wantonly done a century and a half ago. She will rise to the very satisfaction of the three countries which brought about her dismemberment and vainly struggled to extinguish in her language and religion.

Poland will rise because when the war will have been brought to a close and the re-adjustment of territorial boundaries will occupy the mind of European diplomacy, the Polish question will by sheer might of common consent and public opinion focus their attention and will not permit itself to be left unsolved.

Poland will rise because she finds a noteworthy example in Ireland, her co-sufferer, has recently made precipitous strides towards her national emancipation. She will rise because she has suffered enough and purified by suffering, she will rise once more to assume the role of a nation and bear out her salutary influence on the destinies of European nations.

A. J. ZIELINSKI.

Andrew Bobola—the Prophet



HERE is a prophecy regarding the re-establishment of Poland, which may be for a number of our readers of special interest at the present time. The prophecy was published in the "Civitta Cattolica" in 1854.

On October 30, 1853, the beatification of the Polish martyr, P. Andrew Bobola, S. J., took place at Rome amid great solemnities. He was born in 1592 and descended from a noble Polish family. Later on he became a missionary, and in 1624 began his apostolic labors in Lithuania. His fervent zeal and the success with which P. Bobola met in his missionary work, aroused the fanatic hatred of the Russian schismatics, and in 1657 he was put to death at Janow by the Russian Cossacks, out of hatred for his religion.

The following occurrence, which is related by P. Gregorio Felkierzamb, a member of his Order, contributed to the cause of P. Bobola's beatification.

"In the year 1819, the Rev. Father Korzeniecki, a most zealous Dominican preacher, was strictly forbidden by the Russian schismatical government to publish any writing, to preach, or even to hear confessions, under penalty to exile to Siberia. He was much afflicted at being thus deprived of every opportunity and means of working for the spiritual welfare of souls. One evening, about nine o'clock, before going to rest, this zealous religious opened the window of his cell in the monastery where he lived, and looking up towards heaven he made, with great fervor, the following prayer: 'O glorious martyr of Jesus Christ, Blessed Andrew Bobola! you who so many years since foretold the liberation and restoration of our Poland, you who see our masters determined to force her to become through schism an enemy of God, ah, do not allow such a scourge and humiliation to fall upon her. Obtain, holy martyr, from the omnipotence of God, that our common Catholic country may be delivered from her schismatic yoke.' Having after this prayer shut the window and prepared to lie down on his humble bed, the holy martyr appeared to him and said: 'Behold, I am the person to whom you have addressed your prayer; open again the same window and you will see...'

"The good religious, surprised and somewhat terrified, opened the window, when, to his great amazement, the enclosed grounds and little garden attached to the monastery had disappeared, but in their stead he saw an immense plain. Then the blessed martyr said to him: 'You behold now the fields of Pinsk, where I had the glory of suffering martyrdom for the faith of Jesus Christ... Now, look again in the same direction and you will learn what you wish to know.' Father Korzeniecki once more turned his eyes towards the place indicated, and beheld that vast field covered with Russian, Turkish, French, English, Austrian and Prussian armies, and others which he could not well discern, all fighting in a most furious manner one against the other. Not being able to comprehend the meaning of this vision, Blessed Bobola explained it to him in the following words: 'When the war which you see shall end, then the kingdom of Poland shall be re-established, and I shall be acknowledged its principal patron. In token of the reality of this vision and of the realization of this prophecy, behold my hand.' In saying this the blessed martyr placed his hand upon the little table in the cell, and disappeared.

"Amazed beyond expression, the pious religious was attempting to make some short prayer in thanksgiving to God for the favor received, and being entirely restored to his senses he looked immediately on the table and really beheld the impression of the martyr's hand. With sentiments of lively devotion, he kissed it several times after which he quietly retired to his needed rest. As soon as he awoke on the following morning, his first impulse was to look again for the miraculous impression, which he found just the same as on the preceding evening, and this more than ever convinced him of the reality of the vision of the previous night. Then having gathered in his room all the religious of the monastery, he showed them the miraculous sign of the hand, and related all that had happened to him the evening before."

Prophecies of this nature may be regarded with ever so much suspicion and circumspection, yet, the exact enumeration of precisely the principal nations, which are at present actually fighting one another, makes a person stop to reflect.



How Long, O Lord! How Long!

O POLAND! how sad is Thy cruel fate,
Once the home of the brave and the true;
Thy cities and towns now are desolate
And Thy forests are gone from our view;
Thy farms are deserted and lying waste,
And Thy people are dying so fast; —
O help in this time of their trial, haste
For the sake of their deeds in the past.

Thou hast stood as the bulwark for ages long
And the hordes from the East didst repel;
Thou has conquered the Tartar and Moslem strong,
But alas! what dire evils befell?
The horrors of war did with ruins strew,
Thy rich soil that was fruitful of yore;
Thy women and children are starving too,
And Thy men they are dead in their gore.

O Blessed Bobola! how long, how long!
Shall the war and its scourges remain;
O pray to the Lord, for Thy country's wrong,
That it shall be a Nation again.
O Mother of God and its Patron Saints,
For the children of Poland now plead;
That God in His mercy may heed their sad plaints,
As their friend and support in their need!

FOR POLAND, now Blessed BOBOLA, plead,
For its children are calling on Thee;
O help then Thy people, thou knowest their need,
From their bondage they wish to be free
When this war has an end, may the fact you foretold
Be accomplished, without much delay;
And PATRON of POLAND, we shall thee behold, —
Of POLAND, dear POLAND, for aye!

Brother TH. KELLEY, S. J.

The World's Duty to Poland



THREE hundred years ago when this, now the greatest country in the universe was in its infancy, and its political progress was controlled by the hand of England, when Russia was a poorly organized federation of nomadic peoples, when Austria was a petty archduchy, and Prussia a semi-barbarous and diminutive duchy, there stretched through east central Europe the independent and proud Republic of Poland, with a population of thirty million brave and determined people. Poland played an important and at times a commanding role in politics, diplomacy and war, and being an agricultural country, her people were tillers of the soil and her rich plains and fertile valleys added abundantly to the world's supply of food. Socially, Poland was more advanced than her neighbors and in the finer aspects of civilization superior to them. Universities and schools were numerous, literature flourished. Polish genius in music, art and science began to command the admiration of the world.

Poland's armies were at all times ready to fight for civilization and Christianity. Standing out as an historical fact commanding recognition from the entire world is Poland's gallant stand of 1683. The bulwark of Europe, the benefactor of Christianity added luster to its name when headed by the redoubtable and valiant Sobieski. Seventy thousand Polish soldiers marched to Vienna and rescued Europe from the murderous grasp of the barbarous Turks. What prompted? What inspired Sobieski to arouse his resting army and give battle to an enemy whose numbers were so overwhelmingly superior? The entire civilization, the whole Christian world pleaded at the throne of that Godsend king. Envoys from Rome, diplomats from France, prayers from Austria, pleadings from Russia and Prussia poured upon the ears of Poland. While the Turks advanced in Europe each step had the stain of murder, every turn marked destruction, helpless men, women and children were outraged by the mob of savage bloodthirsty murderers who with blood stained eyes rushed onward towards the triumph of their one ambition, — the destruction of Christianity — scattering ruin and desolation right and left.

And at a time when it seemed that civilization must fall before the fiery onslaught of a heartless invader, when the whole Christian world was thrown upon the last stand of resistance, when the gates of Vienna trembled before that besieging Turkish horde, when capture was Austria's certain lot, when European civilization faced a most pernicious assault, when the last light of hope was but a glimmer, when Mohammedanism had a death grasp at the throat of Christianity, then is when Poland played a role that gave it fame immortal. With the Turk at the height of his murderous career and his increasing power putting fear into the heart of Europe, with Vienna completely surrounded and at the point of capitulation, with rivers of Christian blood spent in vain and the shadows of death darkening the heavens, there loomed up over the eastern horizon the Polish standard. There on that mountainside stood the immortal Sobieski with seventy thousand of his bravest soldiers looking down upon the surrounded City of Vienna and three hundred thousand besiegers. God alone knows what was in the minds of that undaunted leader and his fearless army, but it is recorded in the pages of the world's history and placed among the deeds of valor that with sword in hand

Sobieski rode at the head of his army, descending down the mountainside to meet a force of maddened foe who outnumbered him four to one.

What transpired on that battle-ground within the next few hours displayed to the world the gallantry of Polish character. Like Napoleon at Austerlitz and Washington at Princeton, Sobieski won distinction at Vienna amid the clanking of swords and flowing blood of his soldiers. When the smoke of battle cleared away and the dead were numbered, when the moans of the wounded alone disturbed the air, there could be seen an army still great in numbers but weak at heart and in grief and retreat. The Mohammedans were leaving Vienna because of Poland's bravery, and to the joy of Christianity going back to Asia in defeat over the same ground they had recently swept in triumph.

While the conquered were dispersing under the humiliation of a shameful defeat, the conquerors buried the remains of those sacrificed on the altar of Christianity, and with the praise and honor of the whole world set forth to Poland. Everywhere they were met with admiration. Kings, Queens and Emperors bowed their heads low in respect to them. Aristocracy and peasantry combined and sang praises, and the whole Christian world shook with the force of that thundering ovation.

With the danger from the Turks forever eliminated, Russia, Prussia and Austria began to progress in politics and grow in military strength while internal affairs in Poland took a bad turn. Fictitious promises made by the evil Catherine of Russia to some of Poland's statesmen, and her clandestine influence opened the door to corruption and marked the beginning of the end of that glorious nation. Under the guise of a lily Catherine hid her serpentine nature, and employed dishonorable and underhand means to betray the confidence of a liberty loving and conscientious nation, and as Poland grew weak her neighbors grew strong until at last Poland was no longer a power of the world. She lost the strength that beat the Turks at Vienna and with it the respect she won by her bravery during that battle. While Poland was experiencing such unfortunate conditions, her neighbors were enjoying unexpected success, and she was the object of prey in their destructive minds. There originated in the greedy mind of Frederic of Prussia the plot of that drama that has already been termed the foulest deed in history. On August 5th, 1772, with the world as an audience, the curtain went up for the first act of that terrible tragedy.

Kings that once bowed their heads in a debt of respect to Sobieski were now defying God and repaying the debt that Polish blood deserved by killing Sobieski's children and destroying his country. They who once pleaded at Poland's doors for assistance were now tearing at her very heart with an aim of death. Where was the gratitude of those who less than a hundred years before were delivered from the Mohammedan barbarism? They were killing the people who had saved their lives, destroying the nation that had saved them from merciless assault and pouncing upon the backs that shouldered their hardships.

When the curtain of the first act went down that cowardly triplet of monarchs were rejoicing over the accumulation and division of one-fourth of Polish territory

and at the point of Russian bayonets forced Poland's Diet to ratify the act that plundered their country.

Weak from the strain and bleeding from that terrible blow, Poland was struggling to regain her position among nations, while her powerful enemies, determined upon her total destruction, were preparing the stage for the second act of that lustful tragedy, and when the curtain arose Russia led the bold conspirators and forced upon Poland a constitution that gave Russia entire control. Poland rejected such an act and replaced the constitution with one patterned after that of France. Poland's constitution was not favorable to her greedy enemies, so Russia and Prussia sent their combined armies into Poland and after waging a merciless war they again plunged the knife into the heart of that unprotected and weakened lamb, and this time devoured one-half of her remaining territory.

Although now Poland was not considered a nation, her spirit of 1683 remained and was led by Thaddeus Kosciuszko, a hero of the A. R. The Poles, maddened by the harsh treatment, arose as one in an effort to save their country, but in spite of a remarkable display of valor the fortunes were adverse, and after six months of desperate fighting and insurrection collapsed in torrents of blood, and the exhausted country lay helpless at the feet of her heartless invaders, and the day of Poland's doom was now near at hand — a day whose postponement was but momentarily promised by the contentions of the wolves over their prey.

On January 3rd, 195, the third and last act of that drama was completed. When still in the role of a pack of wolves the three honorless powers concluded their selfish acts by a final partition of the once great country of Poland.

Such is a brief history of Poland's destruction. It was greed, conspiracy and a lustful desire for gain that plunged the knife through the heart of Poland one hundred forty-three years ago. To-day it is the military strength of three combined powers that holds asunder a nation that at one time spent its best blood for the advancement of civilization and promotion of Christianity. And the result is that twenty-five million people are denied political or social freedom—not twenty-five million barbarous heathens but twenty-five million civilized beings, who sent Copernicus forth to give the human mind a new conception of the magnitude and splendor of the universe. Twenty-five million people from among whom came Kosciuszko to fight beside Washington at Yorktown, and Pulaski who fell in the battle of Savannah fighting for American independence. And while Sienkiewicz pacifies the human mind with his pen his brethren are denied the right to read his works. The yoke of bondage makes compulsory the triple division of a people whose ideas are one, whose natural instincts are the same, whose worldly inspirations are identical. It checks the progress of twenty-five million humans denying them

the very right to worship their Creator as they see fit.

The world should demand the restoration of Poland because her destruction instead of being justified was from the beginning a criminal act. Because, while a weak excuse is offered for the first partition as being a regrettable necessity, no sophistry in the world can extenuate the villainy of the second and third partitions! The theft of territory is its least offensive feature. It is the forcible suppression of a genuinely determined national effort of reform, the hurling back into the hell of anarchy and corruption of a people, who, by incredible efforts and sacrifices were struggling back to liberty and order which makes that great political crime so wholly infamous.

Because it is a blot upon civilization and Christianity, because it is detrimental to twenty-five million people while materially beneficial to none.

The war now waged is the most terrible and destructive event since the creation of man. In the advance of the Russian army are Poles. In the front of the Austrian army are Poles. In the lead of the German army are Poles and the battleground is Poland. Poles on all sides fighting in their country, not fighting Poland's battles, but the battles of her enemies. That huge mass of humanity advancing and retreating, moving forward and backward through Polish territory, levelling to the dust everything within its path as a vanguard of Polish soldiers, driving before them Polish women and children, and destroying Polish homes. Beautiful forests and artistic gardens are transformed into one vast graveyard. What were once Poland's productive plains are now wet with the blood of her children, and her streams are red with the flowing blood of her patriots.

How long must Poland continue to be the battlefield of the world? How long must her sons be the contending forces of her worst enemies? How long is that heavy yoke of bondage going to burden the shoulders of so noble a people?

May God grant that when this present war is over and the human mind turns from destruction to construction and progress, Poland may be restored and replaced on the map as a reward for the burdens she has so long borne.

By granting Poland that which is honestly and justly hers, the wrong of 1772 will be rectified, the blackest chapter of our world's history will be erased; that foul deed of greed and destruction will be replaced by righteousness and honesty; that wound that has caused untold agony to the hearts of twenty-five million people shall be healed; that stream of Polish blood that has continued to wastefully flow for over one-hundred forty-three years shall be turned towards reconstruction, and its efforts again directed to fulfill God's assignment. The hands that are now held firmly in shackles shall be liberated and shall strive to promote the advancement of civilization and Christianity.

Break the chain of bondage that is now stretched through east central Europe and twenty-five million people will enjoy the freedom that God grants to man.

Z. L. LEWANDOWSKI.
Detroit, Mich.

Freeing Poland

The freedom of Poland, as is well known, was one of the great ends to be accomplished by the great war. Austria, Germany and Russia were all agreed on this.

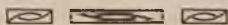
The Austrian emperor said so, the kaiser said so and not to be outdone by competitors, the czar promised that Poland should have self-government after the war. There was need of some such prospect in view of the sad fact that the Poles had to fight in three armies, and that their energies were largely devoted to killing other Poles.

The dread waste which used to be known as Poland may have known what it was like to be oppressed, but its past grievances are forgotten in the woe and misery of being freed. There are seven or eight million people, formerly fairly prosperous, who are now without homes, without work and without food. The young men are in the armies which have been systematically laying the coun-

try waste in their numerous retreats. The old men, the children and the women are wanderers, begging for bread, the babies are dead.

The most awful commentary we have heard on civilized warfare, as it is conducted in this year of our Lord one thousand, nine hundred and sixteen, is the statement that there is hardly a child of three years or under left alive in Poland.

This is what the peoples of Europe, under the war-making system of their rulers, have to do to each other in order to fight for national ideals, achieve national ambitions, confer freedom and spread culture. If the peoples of Europe, do not rise and swat the war-making system at the end of the war, there is no hope for mankind. Such a tremendous and costly lesson ought to do some good to the world. — Waterbury, Conn., Republican.



Books and their Authors

(ENGLISH)

The PRACTICAL HANDBOOK OF THE POLISH LANGUAGE, by Jos. F. Baluta, satisfies a long felt need. English speaking people who desire to learn Polish will find this book very useful. The manual consists of about three hundred pages and is divided into five parts as follows: The Alphabet, Rules of Accent, etc., Fluency Exercises, Grammar, Common Phrases and Practical Conversations, and Vocabulary. Single copy, cloth bound, \$1.25, by mail \$1.35. Address: The Polish Book Importing Co., 83 Second ave., New York City, New York.

*_*_*

THE PROBLEMS OF THE COMING PEACE, by Felix Mlynarski, Ph. D., is among an avalanche of books on the war, the first book on peace. It is a thorough and impartial review of the political, national and economic conditions in Europe by a profound student of history. The author is bitterly opposed to Pan-Slavism, because it spells imperialism, and to Russia, because the program of Russia is the expansion in the name of the idea: "Cuius religio, eius regio." Hence, the author contends, the problems of peace should mainly concern themselves with factors which would tend to weaken the aggressive imperialism of Russia. Therefore, the independence of Turkey should be maintained because then Russia would not be admitted to Constantinople; for the same reason guarantees of autonomy should be given to Armenia, Syria and Arabia within the structure of the Turkish Empire and within the frames of the Turkish constitution. Austria-Hungary should be strengthened as a first-class power because it would be a check on the imperialism of Russia. Bosnia and Herzegovina should be recognized as the Kingdom of Croatia and Slavonia in the sense of trialism and in accordance with the teachings of history and statistics, and without injuring Serbia, whose claims against Austria-Hungary, by the way, are only a reflection of Russian Pan-Slavism.

Furthermore, to combat the imperialism of Russia, the Polish Question, the author avers, should be solved as follows: "Either absolute independence should be granted to Poland, or Poland should be restored as a state within another state, which means Austria.

"The union of the Polish provinces under the scepter of the Czar", he writes, "and on the basis of the manifesto of the Grand Duke Nicholas, will be, in spite of all appearances, only an injustice to Poland. A Polish state within a federation of German states would be an anomaly. A Polish state in union with Austria-Hungary on the basis of a triple union would be a favorable solution of the problem. But happiness and justice can only be brought about by absolute independence, since this form of political independence was lost by Poland due to the 'crime of Partition'".

To summarize, the coming peace should for the sake of justice accept for a basis the following five principles:

1. Settlement of the divergent interests of England, France and Germany by means of colonial possessions, particularly in Africa, so as to prevent violation of the principle of liberty of nations by territorial changes on a greater scale in Western Europe.

2. Enforcement of the principle of liberty of nations in the Eastern theatre of war by reconstructing Poland in the first place, thus preventing Pan-Slavism, which, if established, would inevitably bring forth as a reaction Pan-Germanism or Pan-Romanism.

3. Re-establishment of the freedom of the seas.

4. Submitting the question of changing the peace-footing of the army and navy, to the control of a special peace tribunal, the legal authority and executive power of which should be based on a specially ratified international treaty.

5. Sparing the vanquished from utter destruction by abstaining from exacting excessive war-contributions.

The author, as can be gleaned from above, is virulently opposed to Russia. He fails to take account of the slumbering spark of revolution within the breasts of the Russian people, which may burst out into a sweeping democratization of bureaucratic Russia. He omits Bohemia from his scheme of things, although an independent Bohemia would increase the zone of neutral states which would work for the liberty and the political equilibrium of Europe.

However, his discussion is most interesting and throws a vivid light on the difficulties which the coming Peace Congress will inevitably have to encounter and solve. The book is published by the Polish Book Importing Co., 83 Second Ave., New York City. Price per copy, cloth binding, \$0.75.

(IN POLISH)

WOJNA W POLSCE, 1914-1915, (War in Poland), by Dr. Stefan, is an interesting account of the conditions in Poland shortly after the outbreak of the war by an eye-witness and member of the Red Cross

The War in Poland is more than a mere description of what the author saw in that it contains his reflections and philosophy, which give the book an interest peculiarly its own. Dr. Stefan has a broad outlook on life and is a strong advocate of the idea of a federation of the peoples of Europe. Of interest to the Reader will be the widely known Warsaw "prophecy" which is given in the body of the book by Dr. Stefan in toto. The "prophecy" as uttered by Miss. R. S. at one of the psychological meetings in Warsaw Feb. 28, 1914, and as rewritten from a hectographic copy in October, 1914, by Dr. Stefan, follows:

"There will be bloody crops this year. A war will break out in entire Europe. Our country will be deluged with Teutonic hosts beyond Warsaw, beyond the Vistula, just—as Belgium will. The German people will work hand in hand with their government. The Germans will be opposed by France, England, Russia and heroic Belgium. Forgotten by the whole world, Poland likewise will prove herself a heroine and no one will be able to fathom the tragedy of a country where brother will rise against brother.

"The first year will witness frequent vicissitudes of conflict. Galicia will pass from hand to hand. And the result? Ruin, conflagration, violence, desecration, expulsion, despair, misery and

epidemics — one enormous cemetery.

"Siding with Germany and Austria will be Turkey, while Italy will join France, England and Russia. Warsaw will have been in German hands before the end of the year of 1915.

"The scales of victory will seemingly sway to the side of Germany.

"One of the belligerents will be minus a leader.

"The Germans, as the conjectural victors, will throw out 'feelers' for peace, which will find an echo in the dynastic interests of Russia. Though stifled and warped by the governments of the belligerents, the slumbering ideality of the war will be enkindled into the dawn of freedom for mankind. Hitherto the governments have spoken with the voice of cannon and butchery of millions; now the nations will begin to speak with the voice of the millions and millions of victims.

"The year of 1916 will mark a world revolution, the beginning of a new era and the beginning of a universal conflagration. Revolutions will break out in Austria, Turkey, Russia, China, India. Japan will try to impose its authority on China.

"Materialized America will strive to preserve her neutrality but in vain. The peoples of America will respond to the voice of liberation abroad.

"A revolution will break out in America and revolutionary America will head this world-wide movement of liberation. There will perish the boundaries of Canada, the States, Mexico. This movement will spread to South America.

"The years 1917 and 1918 will be the years of greatest revolutionary strain. Germany, France, England and Italy will find themselves in the throes of revolution.

"Russia, Germany and Austria will fall as empires, and on their ruins will rise the Federation of the Free Peoples of Europe.

"Hence Poland also will be independent. Turkey will be expelled from Europe, and Constantinople will be a free town.

"England will be deprived of her colonies. Egypt will become independent.

"There will come about a federation of the peoples of Asia and the whole world.

"That wandering people — the Jews will secure for themselves the right to determine their own lot.

"The nations will not perish, but will become individualized.

"This process of becoming, of creation will last a long time.

"First in 1920 shall we witness the beginning of peace and a new era in the progress of mankind on earth."

"War in Poland" will be sent to our readers upon receipt of 75c. Address: Polish National Council of America, 984 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Ill.

* * *

We read of Goethe that his masterpiece, FAUST, was more than sixty years in the making. When he was twenty, the Faust legend had fascinated his imagination; for three years before he went to Weimar he had been working on certain bits of the play; and though he suspended actual composition on it during three distinct periods, it was always to resume, and he closed his labors upon it only with

his life. "The significant puppet-play legend" (that of Faust), as he writes in his "Dichtung und Wahrheit", "echoed and buzzed in many tones within me."

Similarly, the legend of Master (Mistrz) Twardowski, the Polish Faust, "echoed and buzzed in many tones within". Mr. S. Szwajkart, the author of Mistrz Twardowski, a drama in five acts, on sale by the Polish National Council of America. The story of Twardowski, as the author points out in his Forword to the play, had attracted him forty years ago. He then had conceived a plan of writing a dramatic trilogy—the first part of which, now published, presents Poland towards the end of the times of the Zygmunts, the second was to portray the decline of the Polish Republic, while the third was to depict the resurrection of Poland. A gigantic conception indeed! Twardowski, who in Polish popular legend is said to have sold his soul to the devil, is interpreted, in Mr. Szwajkart's conception, as combining with the powers of Hades in order to save his beloved fatherland from threatening danger.

This first part of the Trilogy is richly illustrated.

Mistrz Twardowski will be sent upon receipt of \$0.25 to the address of the Polish National Council of America, 984 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Ill.

* * *

CICHE PIEŚNI, by Karol Wachtel, is an admirable collection of poems, which will be received with no small interest by all lovers of Polish poetry. Divided into six headings: the WIERSZE ROŻNE (Various Poems), written in a serious vein; the SONNETS, which contain a cycle of American motives, like "Michigan" and "Starved Rock"; the series THOU KNOWEST, which contains a number of beautiful outpourings of matured love, the translations from the Bulgarian, from Heine, F. Rueckert, Cervantes, Lessing and Kipling ("The Vampire" and "The Hun at The Gate"); the "Melodies of a Wanderer", which depict the longing love of a patriot for his fatherland, and the charming SCHERZO ditties:—the poems give evidence of an unusual versatility on the part of the author. The following, a translation of one of the American Sonnets, will be welcomed by American readers:

AT THE FOOT OF LINCOLN'S MONUMENT IN LINCOLN PARK:

From the curule chair he rose... so tall...
They look at him—they listen: he bent his head,
He's silent... he weighs his words as yet unsaid:
MALICE FOR NONE AND CHARITY FOR ALL.
He spoke... his words like thunderbolts are spread
And rush like a Canadian forests's stormy brawl.
The throngs with powerful—simple words he fed—
A commandment, their pride, for aye shall be his call.
The multitude listens with reverent love subdued,
Records his words in eternal memory,
Ever strengthened by this spiritual food.
And nothing will seduce their faith in Thee,
O Lincoln, no other force will them delude —
They bless Thy name with deed in harmony.

J. S.

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.
N. E. Cor. Milwaukee & Ashland Aves.

Res. 1432 Holt Avenue

Telephone Monroe 5622

Telephone Haymarket 1027

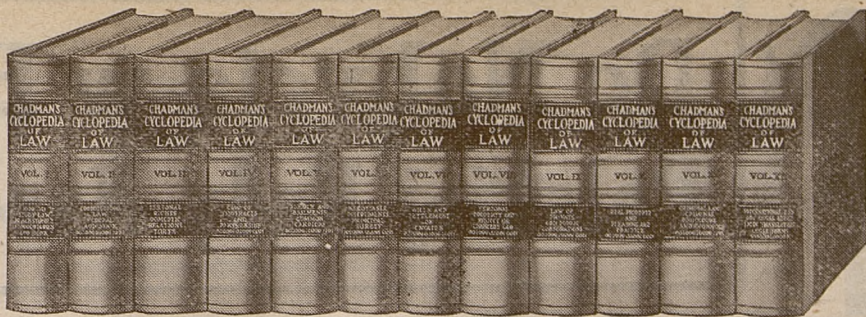
CHICAGO, ILL.



Paderewski's Playing

There never has been a pianist — not even Vladimir de Pachmann — who could approach Paderewski's loveliness of tone and poetry of conception in the playing of Chopin. The performer delivered himself of an exquisite presentation of the A minor mazurka — a dance, but full of poignant expression. There were portions of the A flat ballade which were of melting beauty.

Mr. Paderewski must have played these pieces thousands of times, but their charm has not grown stale for him.



Law Library Free

Yes, we will give this complete and comprehensive Cyclopaedia of the Law absolutely free with each Course and Service. Twelve splendid volumes bound in three-quarters law sheep. The standard authorities of the world were consulted in compiling this remarkably complete Cyclopaedia of the Law. Written in plain, simple language so that any one can understand the most complex legal problems. **Now absolutely free**—on a great offer. Yes, absolutely free to ambitious men with our Course and Service. Send the coupon for new 173-page free book.

The Law Is Calling You Now!

Wealth, position, honor—a high place in an eminent profession is at your finger tips. Today the demand for law trained men far exceeds the supply. Not only in the profession itself but in all lines of business law trained men are needed. Big money is being paid. \$5,000 a year is an ordinary salary for law trained men. **You** can be the man who holds the jury spell-bound with the brilliancy of your oratory. **You** can be the leader. Greater, bigger and more glorious achievements are yours through the law. Send coupon.

Masters of the Profession Will Train You Personally

On this great special offer you can now read law right in your own home directed by master minds in the profession. Many of the foremost lawyers in the land studied law at home. Over 40,000 men have utilized our Course and Service and their stories of success point the way for you. We guarantee to coach free any graduate who fails to pass the bar examination.

Great special reduced price offer now being made in many localities. Write today.

Send the Coupon For the New 173-Page Book

Put your name and address in the coupon or on a post card now and get the new 173-page book that tells you about the golden opportunities that await you in the law. Do not delay. The profession is calling you. Absolutely no obligations in getting the book. It's free. Send the coupon today.



American Correspondence School of Law
3495 Manhattan Bldg., Chicago

American Correspondence School of Law
3495 Manhattan Bldg., Chicago

Gentlemen:—Please send me free and prepaid your new 173-page book and full particulars of your special reduced price offer on which I get the law library free.

Name.....

Address.....

JANASZEWSKI & JANUSZEWSKI

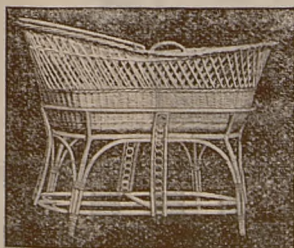


Diamonds,
Jewelry,
Medals and
Society
Emblems

Janaszewski & Januszewski
175 Tremont St., Boston, Mass.

Roman Sobolewski

Willow Furniture
Willow, Rattan
and
Reed Baskets



ROMAN SOBOLEWSKI
1633-35 Grand Ave., Chicago
Telephone Monroe 4331

Do Nabycia w Biurze Polskiej Rady Narodowej

WOJNA W POLSCE, 1914—1915. Napisał Dr. Stefan—zajmujące opowiadanie przez naocznego świadka i doktora, członka “Czerwonego Krzyża”, zawierające także warszawskie proroctwo o zakończeniu wojny — bogato ilustrowane
Cena\$0.50

MISTRZ TWARDOWSKI, poemat dramatyczny S. Szwejka — bogato ilustrowany.....\$0.25

CICHE PIEŚNI, przez K. Wachtla — wytworne wydanie poezji. Ryciny J. Maciejewskiego.

SZKOŁY PARAFIALNE A PUBLICZNE, w dwóch częściach, przez Stefanię Laudyn\$0.25

SKAUTING, w dwóch częściach, ułożył St. Osada\$0.10

ZBIÓR DOKUMENTÓW w Sprawie Polskiej od Sierpnia 1914 do Stycznia 1915\$0.25

WIDOKI Z POLSKI — Pocztówki — 1sza serya (po 6 kart) przedstawia widoki miast polskich — 2ga serya (kart 6) zawiera sceny wojenne z Polski. Cena za 12 kart\$0.25

VIEWS FROM POLAND — First Series of Post-cards representing Views of Polish Towns — Second Series portraying the Effects of War in Poland — Six Cards in each. — 12 Cards\$0.25

Należytość przesyłać można przekazami bankowymi, pocztowymi lub w znaczkach.

Dochód ze wszystkich powyższych wydawnictw przeznaczony na P. R. N.

POPIERAJ

Polską Radę Narodową

984 Milwaukee Avenue,

Chicago, Ill.