

FREE POLAND

A SEMI-MONTHLY

The Truth About Poland and Her People

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KOSCIUSZKO--THE FAMOUS FIGHTER FOR INDEPENDENCE
MONUMENT AS PROJECTED BY CHODZINSKI.

War Relief Funds

America's generous hand across the seas has helped save many thousand innocent sufferers in Belgium, Poland, Servia and other regions where there has been need. Especially in Belgium and Poland has American money wrought a miracle. But no country which has needed aid has been denied it—just so long as extending that aid did not violate the spirit of neutrality. This article, of course, has nothing to do with our shipping munitions to the allies, but concerns merely the aid we have given out of our generosity to the innocent war sufferers.

The New York World, after a careful investigation finds that the total amount of money given by America to this cause since the war's outbreak totals \$25,000,000. The largest part of this has gone to the allies, although \$5,000,000 went to Germany. In addition to the \$25,000,000 there was a million more in supplies.

To the commission for relief in Belgium the amount given was \$7,363,326. To the Jewish relief committees—mainly for work in Poland—America has contributed \$5,500,000. The \$5,000,000 stated as going to Germany includes also the amount sent to Austria. To the American Polish relief committee \$1,500,000 was contributed. To the prince of Wales fund—a purely British fund—\$158,923 was given. The remarkable American Ambulance hospital in Paris has taken \$750,000 and the committee of mercy \$734,000.

To Armenians, America has given \$450,000, and to Serbians \$253,743. The Armenian fund includes a donation of \$50,000 from the Rockefeller foundation. Various other funds took the rest of the \$25,000,000.

Some of the methods by which the funds were raised are interesting. Especially is it well to note how much greater benefit some of the foreign artists have been to their countries by remaining in America than they would have been by going to the front. Caruso's voice, at one concert, netted \$10,000 for relief of suffering Italian women and children.

Paderewski's wonderful art has saved hundreds—even thousands—of Polish sufferers from death by starvation and exposure. His concert in New York alone netted \$8,975 for the Polish fund, and he gave the proceeds of his concert in Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, San Francisco and other cities to the fund. Mme. Sembrich has also aided greatly in helping this fund. Paderewski, however, was the founder of the fund in this country and

has raised through his personal efforts most of the \$1,500,000 in the special Polish fund.

Edna May, formerly the popular American musical comedy star, came out of her retirement in London to act for the motion pictures in this country, giving the entire proceeds to the Red Cross. Germans of New York gave their services to a remarkable bazaar at Madison Square Garden recently, and three-quarters of a million dollars was raised for the relief fund. Society folk at Palm Beach acted in the movies for the benefit of the American ambulance hospital. Mrs. George J. Gould used her home for an illustrated lecture, charging admission, and giving the proceeds to the fund for French soldiers. A sale of cast-off gowns and hats by society women brought a tidy sum. Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney pays all expenses for a hospital in France. Edith Wharton is doing similar work.

That the generosity and sympathy of America has been appreciated by all of the countries which have been aided is a well-known fact. We have our differences with foreign governments, but the relief funds which we have willingly sent to all of those in distress have made friends for us among the common people of Europe.

American business has made millions by supplying the belligerents with the necessities of war. American business can then well afford to spend a paltry \$25,000,000 for relief.

Nor is this total at all imposing when we consider that before the war the Americans travelling in Europe were credited with spending from \$300,000,000 to \$500,000,000 a year.

"Yet despite this fact", writes the *Chicago Post*, "we count that \$25,000,000 as one of the soundest investments as well as the best deeds of mercy that American history holds. We may be disliked by all nations in the war, but underneath their dislike must run the softening knowledge that, after all, we took upon our shoulders, freely and voluntarily, the duty of lightening some of the bloody burdens of war. We looked after blind soldiers and sick women and little orphans. We did it, asking no praise for it, simply as our humble contribution to the duty of undoing war's horrors.

"But as the years pass we are going to find that in our foreign relief we have cast bread upon the waters, to be returned to us as thousandfold."

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The Unconquered Spirit of Poland

By R. H. ANTOSZEWSKI

WHEN spirit ceases then men and nations die. The history of an age is but a record of the sublime spirit of its heroes. Without the ardor of dynamic spirit behind each peasant's g a r b, the French Revolution would have come to naught. Without the energy of an undying spirit in the hearts of her clansmen, Switzerland would not to-day be a republic; without the force of ambitious spirit Napoleon would have lost his first battle; Joan of Arc perished amid her enemies; Cromwell's state died at its birth. The spirit of '76 freed the American Colonies; that same unconquerable spirit, in the face of unparalleled national tragedy, has preserved the Polish nation. Nation? Yes; for a nation is not determined by geographical lines, but by the intensity and unity of her spirit.

Switzerland defended herself against oppression from behind the highest mountains in Europe. The Thirteen Colonies fought off tyranny across the Atlantic ocean. Switzerland was successful in resisting the onslaught of one nation—Austria, and the world has applauded her: The Colonies, after years of bloodshed, repulsed one nation—England, and their valiant victory has been immortalized. But Poland, for centuries the arena of Europe, the battle-field of the world, has heroically struggled against an ever-tightening circle of encroaching foes. Poland, possessing no natural barriers, has been swept into the maelstrom of serfdom, has been unrecognized, yes, buffeted by the prejudices of civilization. Though her body be torn by the heels of cruel tyrants; though her garments be rent by the ghouls of greed; though her soul be maligned by the pen of false historians; yet the star of her heroic spirit gleams through the dark, unconquered.

Stand in the center of Poland and you are at the pivot of Europe. Here twenty millions of people for centuries breathed and lived and worked. From France came Huguenots; from Spain came the victims of the Inquisition. Pilgrims journeyed from Britain; Jew and Gentile worshiped in peace; for here, and only here, they had religious freedom. Not since Greece, had any country dared a republican government. Here, surrounded by historic storm, a great and free Republic for generations reigned supreme.

During these centuries the heroes of Poland did much for Europe and civilization. Amid the peace and quiet

of the hour, suddenly throughout Europe a cry of alarm ran from village to village, from door to door. Europe trembled and cried out, "To arms, to arms! The Turk is at the door!" In this crisis one man stepped forward, and with his soldiers routed the hordes of barbarism. That man was Sobieski, and the soldiers were the men of Poland. The followers of the Crescent had for years been pounding at the door. Every time the Moslem chieftains hurled their pitiless hordes against Europe's postern gate the cry rang out, "To arms! the Saracens! they come! Poland to the rescue!" and each time her brave warriors bared their breasts and stemmed the flood. They, fighting for home and country,—they, bleeding for wife and child,—fought for all Europe, died for humanity, and saved Christianity itself from the unbelievers' yoke.

What thanks? Poland has been termed the doormat of Europe. But such ingratitude cannot lessen the luster of Poland's victory, nor can it diminish the worldwide respect and admiration for her great men. History shall write their names upon the highest pinnacle of fame, for in peace and war alike the sons of Poland stand among the blest. Copernicus, the father of astronomy, discovered the place of our earth in the solar system. Poland's music plays upon the feelings with an intermingled pathos of mother-love, of country-love, of anguish and despair that thrills and ever shall thrill prince and peasant alike. No musicians are better known to-day than Paderewski and Chopin. Poland's literature, born out of centuries of untold hardships, displays to-day a vividness, a patriotic trust that has been awarded such honors as the Nobel prize. No European novelist has been more read than Sienkiewicz. Empires rise and fall, fire and water and war destroy, man feeds upon the earth and crawls into the grave; but the spirit of Poland lives in her heroes to the end of time.

Not only in peace have these people been great; but they have also been great in war. Thus a people of fighters have been rightly termed "Knight among nations", not through their love of fame and conquest, but through their love of freedom. What does history say of Napoleon's Polish battalions? What of Pulaski's sacrifice for America in the Revolution? Of his noble stand, and nobler death? What of Kościuszko's sword offered freely in behalf of America's Independence? The very walls of West Point are a monument to his ability. Even though you have forgotten this, you build statues to him

in your cities and in your national capital; you honor his name, admire his military genius, and thus pay homage to the spirit of Poland.

The record of Polish heroes is not confined to her men alone. The spirit lives, and has lived, as strongly in her women, whose page in the annals of fame is undimmed. Modjeska had for her stage, not Europe but the world. Madame Sembrich has sung the Polish spirit into the hearts of Europe and America. And to a daughter of Poland, Madame Curie, belongs the honor of the greatest scientific discovery of the age. Why speak of more?

Why speak of more? Because to-day the heroes of this gigantic war are not within French trenches or behind the German guns, are not on England's ships, nor in the Alpine fortresses of Italy; nor are they beneath the poisoned lowlands of Belgium, nor on the bloody hills of Serbia—but on the unprotected, helpless plains of Poland. I see before me an unfortunate creature; no artist could paint her countenance; no pen portray those lines of sorrow and despair. Her eyes are fixed in stolid glare upon a dying babe. Her head is bowed, her shoulders bent, her tattered rags reveal a sunken breast. The famished child wants food, but she has only tears to give, and soon the icy wind will stop those tears, and the white snow form a blanket of eternal warmth. Look,—once a sheltered home—a hut is smoldering in ashes. Look again; ever on, and on, others and others silently smoldering and mingling with the snow flakes. Across the plain I see a myriad of flaming homes, of weeping mothers and their dying babes, of ruined churches, of wrecked factories; a multitude of towns, a thousand cities, twenty million souls,—like the countless snowflakes that hover above them. And on this tragic plain I see the foot-prints of two armies vanishing beyond the grey horizon. That woman's husband was in one army, her father in the other. Each fought for an enemy, and bled, and died; they killed each other—there they lie—Russian saber, Prussian helmet, and Polish upturned faces. O most atrocious crime! O unparalleled wrong! Must Poland pay for the wrongs of others, not by partition only, but by ignoble death!

The breach made by the partition of Poland has widened until to-day the powers of Europe stand tottering on its awful brink. England is beginning to see her mortal mistake, for a century ago had she interfered in the criminal barter perpetrated by the three partitioners, her position in the European war would be different to-day. Russia's policy to absorb her Polish subjects by sending them to Siberian mines, or prohibiting Polish literature has utterly failed. Prussia's efforts to kill the Polish language by torturing and beating school children because they pray in their mother-tongue, her war for the absorption of an alien people has been completely frustrated. They have failed to penetrate the ever living spirit of Poland.

And now the darkest hour of Poland is at hand. Once Poland struggled to save the boundaries, she struggles now to save a race. Once Poland fought for liberty and freedom, she fights now for life. A century ago she looked to Christianity for national integrity; now she looks to humanity for recognition. What will the answer be? As the European powers attempted to crush Poland in the past, they are doing their utmost to annihilate her to-day. Can the people long survive whose sons are conscripted to throttle their own race? Can a nation long

endure whose children have perished for want of food? Surrounded by relentless foes, cut off from the outside world, the voice of Poland rises above the din of battle, asks, appeals, pleads, to civilization for mercy. This hour her people are forced to death; if not by sword, then by starvation. What drama in history has paralleled this? Surely not the French Revolution, nor the struggle of Switzerland, nor America's fight for independence. This is not war, this is butchery; not fighting, but annihilation.

What does this mean to America? We cannot stop the war; but we can send relief to the perishing millions. What will your answer be? America has helped Belgium, will she let an area seven times as great go unaided;—let millions starve where thousands suffered? I see the answer in your faces! The resolute, the unconquered spirit of Poland has touched kindred spirits! You will not forsake a nation in its hour of need. You will not despise Polish heroes, Polish ideals, Polish principles, in her weakest hour. You recognize Polish heroes as champions of humanity. You sympathize with Poland's ideals as those of Christendom. You uphold Poland's principles as those of civilization, of what it stood for and shall ever stand for. Poland's spirit shall not die. Unconquered, it shall be resurrected! Then let Americans rouse themselves at the bidding of Conscience and Christianity; let them touch hands with the four million sons of Poland in this country and answer the cry. Let them strengthen noble hearts, respond to brave spirits, give aid to starving bodies. Clothes for the naked! Bread for the famishing! Seed for the farmer! Help mothers to give their children more than tears! Let civilized humanity remember a country where right is a sacred hope, and freedom a passion. Let America remember a land which aided in her material and moral upbuilding. Then may Poland by the aid of united America outlive this darkest hour. Abstract sympathies alone are useless. Act!

I appeal to you for Poland, whose enlightened laws, whose constitutional government, whose ideals of democracy, whose religious tolerance, were the forerunners of American Independence. I appeal to you for Poland whose heroes in war saved Europe from Eastern invasion, helped America in her time of utmost need, and whose heroes in peace achieved high honors in every realm of human activity. I appeal to you for Poland's men now slaughtered in battle, her women disgraced and cruelly massacred, her children starved and dead. In the name of humanity, in the name of civilization, in the name of Him who bore the cruel crown, I make this appeal that, "tho the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars of heaven shall fall and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken", the unconquered spirit of Poland shall pierce the darkness of tyrannical oppression, and, by the blessing of God, live in peace and joy and happiness forever!

NORTHERN ORATORICAL LEAGUE,
Oration for 1916, By R. H. Antoszewski,
University of Illinois.

Poles Under German Rule

By N. L. PIOTROWSKI



visited all the belligerent countries in Europe except Germany. I was particularly anxious to visit that part of Poland which is under German rule and occupation. To do that I had to obtain permission from Berlin. On my way to that city from Vienna I was stopped at Tetschen, the last frontier town in Austria, where, after having been detained for three days by the German authorities practically a prisoner, I was denied entrance into Germany. Posen, which is Prussian Poland, had a two-fold attraction for me; first, because it is that part of Poland which has suffered the most severe and the most systematic oppression from the Prussian and the German governments; secondly, because the Poles, in that province, have remained silent from the outbreak of the war, as if they had been enchanted.

But although I was not permitted to visit Posen and Warsaw I met in Vienna, in Cracow and in Switzerland many Poles from those parts of Poland, and from them I obtained the most authentic information regarding conditions that exist there and the attitude of the Poles towards the government. Their sentiment was voiced by a prominent gentleman, whose name I am not at liberty to disclose, in the following statement:

"The Poles as subjects of Germany have fully performed their obligation imposed upon them by the government. No ground was given the German military authorities for bloody revenge. With despair in their hearts, but without revolt, over 600,000 Poles went into the German ranks together with an equal number of their brothers in the Austrian rank against their own countrymen who are equally compelled to fight on the Russian side — to shed fraternal blood not for their own cause, but for that of their oppressors. Indeed this is the greatest sacrifice that a subject and oppressed people could possibly make, and a conquering nation could impose.

It is a heartrending tragedy.

Nevertheless the sacrifice was made, but there it ended. And all the efforts of the German government and of those who are directing the political destinies of the nation to obtain from either the Polish parliamentary group in Berlin or from the Polish members of the Prussian diet an expression of loyalty availed nothing. On the contrary, the Polish members of the Prussian diet at the time of the passage of the annual budget, have entered a solemn protest against the oppressive anti-Polish laws. The Poles in the German Reichstag took the same stand. This attitude of the representative Poles in Berlin expressed the sentiment of the bulk of the Polish people under the German rule from the Baltic to upper Silesia. Those who have proclaimed their loyalty to the government can be counted on one's fingers.

"The Polish press in those provinces points to the fact that although there are over 600,000 Poles fighting in the German ranks, the government not only has not repealed any of the oppressive anti-Polish laws, but has not even shown any mitigation in the execution of those laws. In view of that the Poles in Prussian Poland have assumed a dignified attitude of watchful waiting. They are taking no part in the celebrations of German victories for they well remember that the victories in '70 and '71

in the Franco-Prussian war brought them only misfortune.

"The Poles in that part of Poland have passed through a hard school of political oppression, but in that school they became hardened and more persevering; and to-day they form the most energetic part of the nation. Nothing was able to subdue the Polish element in Prussian Poland.

"In spite of the fact that the government has during the last thirty years spent more than 2,000,000,000 marks to oust the Poles from their native soil; in spite of the fact that the school, the military and the civil authorities and even the clergy are working day after day, month after month and year after year to Germanize them, especially the young generation—to drown them in their German "Kultur"; in spite of the hostility of the German element, the Poles are growing stronger and stronger in the development of their national character and their national aspiration, conscious of their indestructibility as a nation and of their national political future.

"During these tragic days the Poles in Posen are devoting their entire time to relieve the sufferings of their more unfortunate brothers and sisters in Russian and Austrian Poland; waiting and hoping with faith in eternal Justice that at the end of this war, over the western lands of Poland, the cradle of the ancient kingdom will rise the sun of freedom."

A Pole from Russian Poland, discussing the conditions in that country, told me the following:

"The situation of the Poles under the German occupation is most desperate, particularly from an economical point of view. The cities of Poland, especially Warsaw and Lodz, the first having a population of 900,000, the second of 500,000, enjoyed before the war great commercial and industrial prosperity. Poland supplied Russia with all kinds of manufactured goods. Now the factories are all closed and several million men and women have been for months out of employment. The Germans tell the Poles that there is no need of their factories being opened, as the factories in Germany can supply them with everything. This means ruin to the whole manufacturing industry in Poland, total bankruptcy to thousands who were wealthy before the war and starvation to millions of working people.

The German authorities want the Polish workmen to go to Germany and seek employment there. But the Poles don't want to leave their homes and their country and go to a strange land, among strange people whose language they do not speak.

From an American correspondent who was in Poland and whom I met in Vienna I have learned that the German government is intentionally bringing about famine to compel the Polish people to emigrate to Germany. They have closed the factories in Lodz, Warsaw and in other industrial cities of Poland and are interfering with the charities. According to *Dziennik Poznański*, a Polish paper published in Posen (German Poland), the petition of the Warsaw businessmen for opening the factories was met with a refusal on the part of the German Governor von Bessler who declared that anybody could find employment in Germany.

Under the authority of the German government the Import Company, Limited, was organized to "import foodstuffs out of Poland into Germany."

By an edict the grain and potatoes in Russian Poland had to be turned over to the Import Company. The company buys it up cheap from the peasants and sells the flour at extortionate prices to the people in Poland.

In the City Council of Lodz Mr. Winnicki, a councilor, asked the question: Why the German Import Company which has the monopoly of buying all the grain in Russian Poland, pays for 100 pounds of rye 7½ rubles, but sells for 23 rubles of flour which contains hardly 40 per cent of rye. In answer to Mr. Winnicki's question burgomaster Schoppen admitted that an injustice is being done to the people of Lodz but he could do nothing in the matter since the prices at which the Import Company bought grain as well as the prices charged for flour were fixed by Field Marshall von Hindenburg.

The German Import Company has also a monopoly on fuel, tobacco and cigarettes.

The Berlin potato company took over the potatoes requisitioned in Poland and distributed them for the extraction of alcohol to the distilleries of Germany. This alcohol was then re-imported into Poland for consumption, while the Polish distilleries were kept in idleness though they are well equipped to do the work.

The forests are being systematically cut down. A special company has been organized for the exploitation of lumber.

The Germans have seized the foodstuff in Poland, withheld their coal, destroyed their industries and now they are bent in acquiring their most inalienable asset—their labor.

The Germans organized Polish food into German warehouses and Polish industry out of existence and they are exploiting Polish labor by drafting men and women into workshops and mines of Germany.

Life in Poland is being made impossible. Everything is done to make Poland a country without future and to deepen the atmosphere of despair. The Polish workman who is not in trenches sees all turning to ruin around him and the starvation of his wife and children is ever present.

One can hardly realize the far-reaching scheme which was conceived by the German government; the destruction of the whole industry of Poland, the financial ruin of the Polish capitalists and the depopulation of the country. After the war the rich Polish soil is to be bought up by the Germans at their own price and colonized with German settlers. Thus three objects will be accomplished: The extermination of the Poles, the Germanization of Poland and the expansion of the German territory. According to their idea the more Poles are destroyed the better for Vaterland.

The German press openly advocates the enactment of a law which would permit Germans alone to rear the profits from the sale of land in Poland.

A certain German publicist published a book in which he advocates the idea that when the new boundary between Germany and Russia will be established the treaty should provide: That Germany should have the right to colonize a strip of land about ten miles in width, extending the whole length of the boundary line with German colonists for whose benefit the native population, the Poles, should be compelled to evacuate the territory in lieu of which Russia should agree to give them land in Si-

beria.... a beautiful scheme — worthy of German culture.

The Poles in Prussian Poland have voluntarily assessed themselves with monthly tax to relieve the distressed Poland — Poles in Russia and in Austrian Poland. Certain Germans and German newspapers see in this charitable act a great political danger which threatens the safety of the German Empire. There were articles written to that effect — and they are claiming that the government should stop this "nefarious scheme which under the cloak of charity is threatening the safety of the Empire." A certain German official in Warsaw expressed himself that he would rather see 500,000 Poles die of hunger, than that they should be brought under the influence of the Poles from Prussia through their charity. He seems to fear that the Prussian Poles would tell their countrymen in Russian Poland what kind of people the Germans in Prussia are.

On the walls of Lodz and in the newspapers the following announcement appeared:

"By order of the Chief Commander all military persons are herewith forbidden to give on the occasion of Sunday collections and contributions for the poor of the town of Lodz. If military persons intend to give anything for charitable purposes from the money saved out of their pay, it is recommended that such money be deposited with the local army command of Lodz, so that it may be used for the support of those of their German fellow-countrymen who have suffered at Memel and its surroundings from the brutal cruelty of the Russians.

Ladies and gentlemen collecting must not in future solicit contributions from German officers or soldiers.

Lodz, March 22nd, 1915.

Imperial German President of Police,

Von OPPEN."

The above would indicate how the German authorities are disposed towards the Poles who have suffered from the effects of war.

The conduct of the German soldiers towards the Poles may be inferred from the following incident; a German officer, who heard one of his soldiers who was a Prussian Pole talking with a native Pole in the Polish language, scolded him, saying: "Aren't you ashamed to talk that barbarous language." The truth of this is vouched by several persons who heard it.

It is conceded that the authorities in Berlin are inclined, at the present time, at least, to treat the Poles with some consideration and to give them certain measure of self-government. In Warsaw the citizens' committee which under the presidency of Prince Lubomirski, took charge of the affairs of the city when the Russian authorities withdrew, is still running the city, and thus far the Germans were unable to find any fault with it and they were wise to leave it alone. But unfortunately there is certain element among the Germans very hostile to the Poles which is opposed to the existing order of things and openly advocates methods that are not only contrary to justice and common sense, but are barbarous. That element is doing everything to bring a friction between the inhabitants and the authorities to give an excuse for the employment of harsh measures.

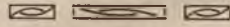
Thus far the conduct of the Poles gave no grounds for bloody revenge. They have shown the greatest self-control under the most trying circumstances.

The Germans brag that they permitted a Polish university in Warsaw to be reopened. And why should't

they have permitted it? It didn't cost them anything and it was a fine scheme to soft soap the Polish people. There hypocrisy however is manifest by the fact that for the last forty years the Polish language has been prohibited to be taught in that part of Poland which is under the German rule and is still prohibited. Should Germany obtain permanent possession of Russian Poland the Polish University in due course of time would become a

thing of the past. There is no difference of opinion among the Poles on that question.

No, the Poles can hope for nothing from Germany. Only those who are completely blind will trust her. Germany will in these days consent to the opening of a Polish university, to the appointment of a Polish Archbishop, but if she wins she will resume the Germanization of the Polish provinces with redoubled vigor.



Bibl. Jag

The Plight of Poland

We have said in the last issue of Free Poland that Germany alone cannot be depended upon to feed effectively the starving population of Poland. Diplomatic considerations are too vast and the damage wrought by the instruments of war too enormous to enable one to meet the situation in Poland in a satisfactory manner.

However, Herr von Kries, chief of the civil administration of the occupied district of Russian Poland, in an interview given to a correspondent of the Overseas News Agency, thinks Germany can cope with the problem successfully; he accuses the Russians of devastating the country when they were driven out.

"This", says Herr Von Kries, "imposed a rather difficult task on the German administration. Fortunately, we succeeded in averting a catastrophe.

"We are certain that we can maintain the population on a safe living basis, although it is not super-abundant, until the next crops are harvested. Germany has taken care that the coming crop will be sufficient, by supplying seed grain to the Poles and assisting them in other ways to enable the country to provide food for itself.

"We are able to feed the people until Sept. 1. But inasmuch as it is necessary to proceed in an economical manner, it would have been of great service to the population if the projected American relief had not failed on account of the conditions imposed by Great Britain.

"Germany had declared readiness to give all guarantees that could be asked on the basis of international law, in order to make it certain that food supplies from America would not be used for Germany's advantage or requisitioned in Poland. The British government, however, made conditions which it must certainly have known could not be complied with.

"One of these stipulations, which is contrary to international law, was that the German and Austro-Hungarian armies of occupation should not be provisioned from Poland. The fact is that Germany has exported no food supplies from Poland in the current agricultural year, which can be proved. But Germany must decline to give up the right conceded by international law to provision the armies of occupation from the occupied territory.

"Furthermore, Germany cannot concede another British demand—which by the way is not clear—that Germany give a certain quantity of other goods as an offset to imported American grain. The British government is not conscious of the fact that Germany is able to feed the Polish population until the next harvest without outside assistance, and entered into the negotiations only because the people must be fed in rather economical fa-

shion and because Germany desired to show her good will toward the Poles.

"The Germans wish to avoid giving alms to the Poles. The retreating Russians destroyed the roads, railroads, bridges and everything else necessary for the life of the country.

"Entire construction must be undertaken and 45,000 Polish workmen have been employed for months in building roads and many thousands have been given other work in order to alleviate public distress. They have thus obtained the opportunity to earn a living which had been made impossible for the workmen engaged in various industries because the British had halted work in factories by prohibiting importation of raw materials.

"That as much has been accomplished as has is due largely to self-government, which previously was unknown in Poland, and was introduced by the Germans. We drew up city and county constitutions and the Poles, who now participate in the administration of the local government, are of course ready to collaborate with the Germans in the interest of their countrymen. As the Russian civil officers had fled, we were able to advance in this direction only step by step.

"Formerly all the judges were Russian. Now almost all the justices of peace are Polish citizens, natives of the country. In the higher courts the Polish element is steadily on the increase. We opened schools in which instructions is given in the Polish language.

"It is generally known that recently we opened the University of Warsaw, with instruction in Polish. We inaugurated university extension lectures to obtain teachers. Our object is to educate the Poles for self-government and thus enable them to take part to an increasing extent in the administration of the affairs of their own country."

But the outlook for the civil population of the belligerent countries of Europe is almost hopeless, according to Frederick C. Walcott of New York, European representative of the war relief committee of the Rockefeller foundation, who arrived to that city from Liverpool. All the private charity in the world could not entirely relieve the distress of noncombatants, he said, unless private aid is supplemented by government assistance from neutral countries, in the form of loans.

"I traveled through the countries devastated by the war", Mr. Walcott said, "and I am convinced that it is the noncombatants of the civil population in Poland, Belgium, Serbia, Armenia and northern France who are being the most severely punished."

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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."

National Safety

The safety of the Republic is the supreme law. Acting in the spirit of this time-honored principle, the citizens of this Republic are forming various leagues and societies to advocate preparedness. They readily see that we have no military or naval policy to boast of, no organized army or navy, no adequate coast defenses, and that we maintain useless and obsolete navy yards and army posts. American patriots, therefore, are sensing the danger and making a plea for an adequate defense of their country. The famous Monroe Doctrine declared that European nations must try no longer to colonize America and that they must not attempt to overthrow American republics in the interests of European monarchs. The Monroe Doctrine will mean something if propped up with the indispensable means of defense.

* * *

But Japan views with apprehension the military and naval program advocated by the Administration at Washington. The Tokio paper *Nichi-Nichi*, for instance, cannot see how President Wilson hopes to reconcile the Monroe Doctrine with his apparent ambition to interfere

with the political affairs in the Orient. Such an ambition, it maintains, must inevitably clash with the aspirations of the Japanese, for in the opinion of the journal Japan has as much right to establish a Monroe Doctrine of her own in the Orient as the United States has in her own hemisphere. And to realize her ambitions, Japan has un-animously approved of an adequate and efficient armament policy. Because with Japan the safety of Japan is the supreme law.

* * *

Naturally, to Germany the safety of Germany is the supreme of law. The Polish Question will be interpreted in the light of German safety. Frankly the Germans explain what they intend to do with Poland.

Discussing the statement of Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, the German chancellor in his recent speech to the effect that Germany intends to free the Poles, the Berlin *Tageblatt* says he really meant that the work of setting the Poles free is not Germany's object, but only a consequence of Germany's action. The *Tageblatt* adds:

"Germany can only be concerned with the problem of insuring the safety of the soil of Germany. This must have been decided during the visit of Baron von Burian to Berlin. No solution of the Polish question is possible if Poland is to be divided between Germany and Austria. We must fortify our eastern frontier, which will be much stronger if we unburden ourselves of new responsibilities.

"We do not want to free anybody. That is not our mission, but we cannot accept the threat of our enemies to free us. A great people like Germany does not receive a new form of existence from a foreign tailor, as if it were an overcoat. We know what is wanted in Germany and we are going to set our minds to the task of remedying what is wrong, but the remedies will come from within, not from without."

* * *

Therefore, the Americans, the Japanese, the Germans interpret their "amicable" and hostile relations in terms of national safety. They know what is wanted in their respective countries and they deliberately set about remedying the evils in a manner consonant with their national welfare.

* * *

This concern about absolute safety on the part of the nations of the world should teach us to demand our own. The world should know that the independence of Poland is with us the supreme law.

The Constitution of the Third of May, the 125th anniversary of which will be celebrated by a series of patriotic festivities, was a remarkable instance of knowing what was salutary to the interests of the Polish nation.

May this anniversary inspire the Polish organizations to put up a united front in demanding the inalienable rights of the Polish nation.

May America, repaying the old debt, accept un-animously the recent resolution of Senator Newland, of Nevada, which demands the independence of Belgium and Poland.

Then Polish independence shall not be interpreted in terms of German or of Russian safety. The reawakened conscience of the world shall make the independence of Poland be the supreme law.

A Frenchman's Opinion

"Not so long ago", reported the Daily News (see Free Poland No. 15), "the newspapers of Paris took up the cause of Poland and declared the entente should at once guarantee the restitution of the Polish crown and the acknowledgment of Poland as a kingdom. It was a subject that might well appeal to the heart of a Frenchman. Immediately the Russian ambassador at Paris made representations to the French government that the Polish question is an internal question and concerns only the arbiters of the Russian empire, and so should not be discussed openly in the columns of the press of an ally. The French government, eager to conciliate Russia and not a little uneasy about the sentiment for a separate peace in Russia, clamped the muzzle on the press. The discussion ceased." — Mr. Edmond Privat, however, as we read in *The Polish Tribune*, is one of the few writers who have understood the importance of the Polish Question for the future of Europe, and who have had the courage to insist on the only possible solution — the Independence of Poland. The following is the Preface to his book, "La Pologne sous la Rafale."

Since my last visit to the Poles the line of the front has been displaced: German troops now occupy almost the whole of the country. A million of men, women and children evacuated by force by the Russian army prior to its retreat, are driven towards the East like miserable flocks, decimated by hunger, wandering along the roads or shivering in open trucks, and strewing their dead all along the way. But what could not have changed is the desolate aspect of the landscape, blackened at times by smouldering ruins or sometimes interspersed with funereal crosses; it is in particular the soul of the Polish people; whose grandeur in suffering and constancy in hope nothing can shake.

No doubt it will never be known what a cross Poland has had to carry since the first partition in 1772.

Torn into three shreds, oppressed by Prussia and ground down by Russia, and exploited by Austria, she has paid with her blood all her attempts to free herself.

To-day her soil is ravaged by the implacable war of her rival enemies, each of whom holds out alluring promises to her.

In the meantime her noble sons are falling in the trenches of the Caucasus, of Curland or of the Argonne while fighting under foreign flags—often against each other.

Their ancestors with Kosciuszko, as to-day the Belgians under their gallant King, at least felt the supreme consolation of being able to fight for their country in a last corner of their land still free.

But the Poles of to-day have not even that joy, and their cup is more bitter if that be possible: they are drinking it to its dregs.

And yet I know they are tired of being pitied; pity is for them heavy to bear.

Yet that must not discourage any one from flying to the assistance of the awful distress now prevailing throughout their devastated plains. On the contrary, there is something better to dignify help: there is sympathy—the sympathy that understands; that which respects and also that which can admire.

To say that a people are suffering is not enough. One must also know how they bear their fate, for this is the standard by which to measure their moral force,

their right to live. Now if "poor Poland" and her afflictions are oft spoken of, her constancy and greatness under the most dreadful trials are not so well known.

A century of bondage and separation has not affected the ideal of this people, determined on living.

Neither the violence of Russia, the persecution by Prussia nor the flattery of Austria has succeeded in rooting from Polish hearts the sacred love for their country.

Banished from the schools, and hunted down even in cottage homes, the Polish language is to-day stronger-living than ever, and its literature is one of the richest in the world.

In Russian Poland the Imperial officials not only neglected the maintenance and material progress of the country, but they very often stifled private initiative and threw a thousand obstacles in the way of the best improvements. It follows, that all the social institutions, the agricultural banks, the asylums, hospitals and private schools due to that private spirit of enterprise constitute as many proofs of the dogged perseverance and organizing genius of the Poles.

In spite of their lamentable fate, those intelligent people have succeeded in preserving their serene cheerfulness. How I enjoyed its charm on the occasion of my first visit to the country in the time of peace! To-day, under the terrifying hurricane of blood and iron, amidst ruins in ashes, graves, and crowds of the homeless, the Poles I have met with: peasants or town-dwellers, have one and all left on my mind an impression of firmness, calm, and charity that will live there for ever. Their hope and determination remain unconquerable.

By her unshaken constancy throughout her long martyrdom Poland has demonstrated her right to live.

Besides, she never deserved to die. Her history is a glorious one; it is a long epic of struggles for liberty. The country stood for centuries a shining light at the gates of the West, which it defended against barbarism. Under the walls of Vienna Sobieski saved Vienna from the Turkish invasion.

A chivalrous and courteous nation, it afforded asylum at all times to the unfortunate.

A generous and magnificent nation, it honored art and artists.

Never did its kings persecute any faith. Protestants lived freely in the country; and if Poland is to-day sometimes rendered uncomfortable by the so numerous population of Jews who have invaded her towns, it is because the Poles, in history, are the very first Christian people who treated the compatriots of Christ as brothers and not as dogs!

Their Catholicism was ever tolerant; and affliction has created among them a religion more simple, more humane, and more fraternal than in many other countries with a more powerful clergy.

Mention has often been made of "Polish anarchy" as having brought about the death of the Republican Kingdom.

The words were but a vile pretext by which it was sought to cover a crime; but History has done justice on them. The truth is that Poland was sentenced to death by the three neighboring Empires for having, like France, decided on reforming her body politic and introducing therein more justice and better order. Other States went

under in a like attempt at the close of the XVIIIth Century; but the Congress of Vienna in 1815 restored them to their place in Europe. It wilfully omitted Poland, a country almost as large as France but which had the misfortune of resembling the latter too much. It was no doubt considered sufficient by the Empires to tolerate the existence of a France to the South-West, without keeping another in the North-East! This consecration of a shameful crime has made of Europe a cripple for the past century. The next Congress of the Powers will have to make honorable amends and repair the error by reestablishing Poland — like Belgium — in her independence and in her unity. She has a right to govern herself.

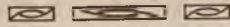
The fate of Poland is neither a Russian question, a German problem, nor an Austrian affair: it is a European duty.

True, diplomatists are "plenipotentiaries"; but now-a-days public opinion is no longer powerless, it is even formidable. Those know it well who mobilized it at the same time as their armies by spreading false news like marching orders.

There are questions that the fate of arms will solve. Such is not the case with the Polish problem; and that is why we may discuss it while fighting is going on in the trenches. Nor is it idle to do so; it has even become necessary.

Let not our free opinion fear to affirm itself in favor of a noble people. We can all do something for Poland, first by reading her history, and then by speaking out frankly. The voices of all is Public Opinion.

EDMOND PRIVAT.



Our Lady of Chenstochowa

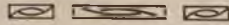
Our Lady of Chenstochowa, pray
For POLAND, the martyred land;
For ages its people loved Thy name,
Thy shrine, they esteemed most grand.
They came there to pray with faith and love,
As children devout and true;
And Thou as their Mother, ever kind,
Thy love Thou wilt show anew.

Our Lady of Chenstochowa, long
Thy picture lay hid, unknown;
Except to a few in Palestine,
Who knew of its worth alone;
Their fathers had said how blessed Luke
Had painted the Maid, most mild;
On a cedar board where oft did eat,
Herself and her Holy Child.

Our Lady of Chenstochowa oft,
As the pious legends say: . .
"Thy picture shone when the veil was drawn
As bright as the sun at day."
The sick and infirm were cured by Thee,
And pilgrims all sought Thy shrine;
To Thee, do they fly, when trials come, —
O keep them forever Thine!

Our Lady of Chenstochowa, help
The victims of deadly strife;
The children of those who honor Thee
Are leading a starving life.
O Mother of God, in heaven plead,
That this cruel war may cease;
We ask by the title lately given
To Thee as the "Queen of Peace".

Brother THOMAS KELLY, S. J.



Poles in the United States

I am giving some statistics, collected by me and other Polish priests, as was authorized by the Second Convention of the "Union of Polish Clergymen of North America", Jan 27 and 28. There were His Excellency Most Rev. John Bonzano, D. D., Apostolic Delegate to the United States, the late bishop of Buffalo and the Polish Clergy represented by 400 delegates with the Most Rev. Archbishop Weber of Chicago, the Rt. Rev. P. Rhode of Green Bay and the late Rt. Rev. E. Kozlowski of Milwaukee.

We have lately printed a large book containing 672 pages, 300 illustrations, dealing with the Poles in the U. S., entitled the "Album Jubileuszowy", for 1916, edited by the "Wydawnictwo 'Polskie Kościoły i Instytucje w Ameryce Północnej.'"

It appears that there are 928 parishes, 312 missions, 1240 churches — all Polish.

There are well organized towns, numbering a purely Polish population, without churches, to the number of 349. The Polish parishes and colleges find 1019 clergymen, both secular and congregational, performing their ministrations for the benefit of their countrymen.

Excluding independent church members and Protest-

ants of Polish nationality, there are 3,373,109 people of Polish descent or extraction.

There are 664 parochial schools, which exceed the number of 800 if we include the institutions controlled by the Polish organizations.

Polish children are taught in most instances by Polish teachers, Sisters of Polish and other orders, who reach the number of 3039.

The Polish Catholic Schools in the United States number 187,109 pupils; in all Polish schools the number of pupils reaches 250,718.

The property of Polish churches represents the value of \$38,858,189.


There are 3599 Polish Catholic societies; the number of Polish national societies, which is great, is not included therein. Membership in these Polish Catholic Societies reaches 2,000,000.

As to the Press, the Poles have 7 big Polish Catholic daily papers in the United States, 40 weeklies. Some more statistics later.

REV. JOSEPH B. CHODKIEWICZ,
New York City, U. S. A.

"Poland's Reasons"

I.

N the vast conglomerate of facts and opinions relative to the present war, two questions command particular attention both for their intrinsic importance and for their wide awakening interest. The one more than the other agitated the universal mind at the beginning of hostilities. It is the just cause of the war, or more precisely, whether the cause was such as to justify the declaration of war, and whether this or that individual country had a right to fight. The other question is becoming more important as the war progresses, and, we hope, draws to its close; it is the effect of the war as considered under a particular aspect, or the adjustment of boundaries and the eventual liberation of those countries which have hitherto been unreasonably kept in subjection.

We take the war as a fact and dismiss the first question by expressing our hope that the respective countries now involved in the war are subjectively right; that they are convinced no matter what the contention of their opponents may be of the justness of their cause, and that they are fighting for their rights. We espouse the second question which concerns the national emancipation of certain countries, particularly Poland.

The present European crisis is undeniably without precedent, and such as will create a radical change in European affairs. Among other things which follow a war there is the territorial and political adjustment. There are many nations in Europe which have for a long time longed for freedom, both because they consider themselves capable of self-government, and because they had been wantonly subjugated, and every means has since been resorted to to denationalize them, either by assimilation or expulsion, a course which is obnoxious and in the utmost repulsive to the instincts and sensibilities of any nation.

Poland is one of these countries. A powerful country once, she had to yield to physical force and has been since used and much abused by her conquerors. This historic country has hoped for freedom ever since her unfortunate dismemberment by Prussia, Russia and Austria, and whilst her hopes would flow and ebb as circumstances favorable to the realization of her hopeful reckonings would present themselves, the present war more than anything so far aroused anew Poland's just desire for freedom.

Many indifferent as regards nationalities in general, and unfamiliar with the history and aspirations of the Polish people naturally ask, "What does Poland want?" Is she not satisfied with the government of the respective countries to which she had been apportioned? Is she not receiving a square deal? Why then should the Poles seek independence?

Since such questions present themselves and as we wish to respond, we give the following facts in defense of the rights of Poland.

Poland like any other subjugated country desires and reasonably demands freedom. In this she does no more than follow the dictates of national consciousness. Never has Poland been satisfied with foreign rule, imposed upon her contrary to her will and consonant to every thing that tends to the denationalization,—nay, extirpation of her multi-million people.

"Ausrotten" — extirpate, was the term used by the noted German philosopher Edward Hartmann when he taught the government how to get rid of the people whom they took upon themselves to rule. Poland has been wantonly tampered with by her conquerors as regards her religion, language and all which go to make up a nation's ideals which are so intimately connected with a given race, that the mere idea of despoiling a people of them sounds paradoxical.

Poland, then, justly asks for freedom and the grounds on which she places undeniable claims are the following:

First, there is the historical right. That Poland was a mighty nation cannot be gainsaid. Long before the tenth century when the present nations began to crystallize into their definite shape, after the migration and temporal intermixture of races consequent upon the drive of the Huns from the East, Poland had her King. Mieszko was Poland's first ruler and his domain embraced, roughly speaking, the country between the Oder and the Vistula together with what was then called the Cracovian territory. Mieszko received baptism in 966 and it was thus that Christianity introduced into Poland by her first King, linked itself inseparably with the Polish nationalists, so much so that even to-day a Pole who is not a Catholic is considered an anomaly.

We read of Otto III, Emperor of Germany, paying the Polish King Chrobry a visit in the year 1000 with a view to enter in an alliance with him, a circumstance from which we readily conclude that even at that remote period Poland was a Kingdom to be reckoned with.

When we start from this period and go down the course of history, we meet Poland abreast with other nations—nay, in many respects we find her in the lead. Towards the end of the 4th century Poland unites to herself Lithuania, an extensive, though then as yet, a pagan country and propagates therein Christianity, thus accomplishing peacefully and after the manner of a missionary what the Knights of the Cross endeavored to attain by extortion and contortion. With the close of the 16th century, Poland under her warlike King Stephen Batory gains a complete ascendancy over Russia.

It is asserted reluctantly often by her adversaries that Poland had been the bulwark of Christianity and in fact the shield of the Western Kingdoms. Indeed when we consider her territorial position which was well-nigh the centre between what is called Western Europe and the Balkan States and consequently Turkey and admit that each nation is entrusted with the performance of a particular mission, then we must admit that Poland's mission had been to guard Western Europe against the menacing infidel. And well had she performed her mission. Let one instance suffice: Sobieski of Poland under Vienna. — No comment is required on the inestimable service this valiant ruler of Poland rendered Teutonicism and Christianity; the Crescent had forever been crushed whilst the Cross and the Black Eagle triumphed.

Towards the end of the 18th century whilst she should have deservedly held her place among the family of nations, and every consideration accorded her by those whom she was wont to benefit, Poland was subdued and crushed. And while historians are ready to bring forth many reasons, yet the one reason had been Unpreparedness.

Capability to govern is the essential qualification of the one who wishes to govern. Thus in choosing a president of the United States, we ask: Is the prospective President capable of fulfilling the office of the highest executive of the country? The same principle applies to the self-government of a country. Without going further we assert that Poland is fully capable and competent to govern her own people, and it is on the capability and the competency to rule her own people that Poland bases her second reason why she should be free.

No one can deny Poland's political capability unless he is ready to deny an admitted fact. That Poland governed her own people for nearly 1000 years is proof unassailable of her governmental competency. But let us go into the nature of the form of her government. If we judge in the light of present political tendencies, the administrative capacity of a people by the progress they make in approaching nearer to a republican form of government or even nearer to what is called a temperate form of monarchy, such as at present obtained in England, in which the people enjoy their share in the government as opposed to an absolute monarchy, such as prevails in Russia, where the people have no voice in the affairs of their country, then we cannot help admitting what the Polish people had been possessed of a high administrative genius.

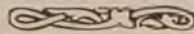
Poland would not recognize the "immediate" divine right of the King to rule, but holding that such power primarily resides with the people, she would elect her own rulers. The Poles would choose for their King such men as were able to execute the office of a King, not as was customary among her neighbors who, whilst they recognized the immediate right, were often subject to the rule of one who lacked all reasonable qualifications of a ruler and who was more fitted to perform the mental service of a King than to perform the office of a King. We will form a clear idea of Poland's political capability

when we learn that even in her time she resembled the political ideals of the present England more than any other leading nation in Europe; we can consider Poland occupying the middle place between a rigid monarchy and a republican form of government yet leaning towards the republican administration; we can call her in form monarchical, yet in fact republican, for Poland, whilst she had a King, was designated a *respublica*.

During the years (1788-92) fifteen years after the first partition of Poland, to improve internal affairs and to protest against the rapacious invasions of her neighbors, the Polish statesmen framed a constitution of the "Third of May", so called from its promulgation on that day. This constitution forms a decisive monument of the political capacity of the Poles, so much so that if anyone denies to the Poles their high administrative genius, his denial is tantamount to a paradoxical absurdity. An embodiment of the political genius of the Poles, the Constitution of the 3rd of May gave Poland the best form of government which then prevailed in Europe. It struck the happy medium between a rigid monarchy and the then rather progressive political doctrines of the French revolution. Men like Frederick of Prussia and Leopold II, emperor of Germany, were struck with admiration at its practicalness and genius.

An American will readily form a fair estimate of Poland's political capacity, when he is reminded that the constitution of Poland in its essentials resembles that of the United States, and whilst he is justly proud of the profound political genius of his forefathers who framed and signed the American constitution, the pride and boast of every American citizen, he will not believe that the people who are capable of framing such a constitution are incapable of self-government.

A. J. ZIELINSKI,
St. Louis, Mo.



Homeless at Home

The harrowing conditions in Poland are vividly described by F. Czarniecki, correspondent to the CHICAGO DAILY NEWS. He reports the following from Lublin, Russian Poland:

"In my trip just finished through that part of the war zone in Poland which is under Austro-Hungarian rule, from the time I left Cracow several weeks ago I have found myself groping through a land plowed with bodies of brave fighting men and of helpless women, children and the aged.

"When riding in an auto or train from one place to another I saw before me a country which in times of peace is rich and fertile and of great natural beauty. Now it is one continuous stretch of ruins, wreckage and desolation, with wooden crosses everywhere marking individual graves or newly arranged cemeteries. These are so numerous and so close together that from a distance they might be mistaken for young tree nurseries.

"When to follow the trail of the battling forces and to visit the places away from the railroads, where the strife had been bloodiest and the havoc greatest, I climbed into a rickety country rig or mounted an ancient horse which but for the war would be retired from service, I found not only that the scene did not change, but that

the plantations of death increased. In truth, Poland today is one great cemetery, one great house of mourning.

"And every cross and grave was extending from it heart strings to some home and loved ones. Oftentimes, even — in the most out of the way spots, I encountered grief stricken old couples who, after many miles of travel, not at all easy in Poland in these war times, came to kneel at the graves of sons. They prayed in various tongues and came from various countries, but their mission was the same. Young women mourning their sweethearts, and widows with little orphans were daily met. War prisoners held in large number by the Austro-Hungarian authorities, too, were among those whom I saw with bowed and bared heads paying their tributes to their fallen comrades and even to their foes.

"One of the saddest and most gruesome sights witnessed almost every day in my travels, especially in those parts of Poland that were not long ago in the battle line, was the work, systematically conducted by the Austro-Hungarian government, of transferring to new cemeteries soldiers' bodies which are strewn throughout the length and breadth of this country. This is being carried on to prevent the spread of diseases and enable the peasants to go ahead with their plowing, which in

many cases was impossible because of the numerous bodies scattered over the farms. War prisoners are used for the work of transfer.

"In places where battles were fought near cemeteries the soldiers were buried therein. Thus it is that I found old Jewish cemeteries in which were fresh graves with crosses marking them, presenting a strange contrast with the old marble tablets and Hebrew scrolls, while tributes to Turks were found among new graves of soldiers in old Christian burial grounds. It was explained to me by the local military authorities in the various sections where these conditions prevailed that in time these bodies would be transferred that the religious customs of the different creeds might be respected.

"In the wake of the fighting armies are dread diseases which bring more graves. In virtually every place I visited there was not a day went by in which dread cholera, typhus and smallpox didn't claim its toll of victims.

"As I made my way among these villages and cities I was sincerely thankful for the warnings of various officials and physicians at Cracow which caused me before starting on my trip to safeguard myself against every possible disease in sight. As a matter of fact, without the preventive treatments and certificates from physicians I should not have been permitted to enter most of the cities, towns and villages in that part of old Poland which is now termed Galicia and in that part of the so-called Russian Poland which is now under Austro-Hungarian rule.

"Even the buildings that still stand in the trail of battle are mute evidence of the avalanche of fire and conflict that passed in and around them. A smashed window, a broken door, a battered down part of the wall and complete denuding of all exterior ornaments are the outside evidence. Inside, old books and manuscripts, antique furniture and rare paintings, broken mirrors, chinaware and sculptures lie scattered and battered in devastated rooms. Pianos and other musical instruments are chopped and broken.

"It is a smileless, sad and pale faced people that you meet on the journey through Poland. Many are ill, many hungry, many roofless, in tattered rags, shivering in the cold, but all hoping for the better and clinging to life. The spell of death, of pain and of hunger is visibly imprinted upon the wrinkled countenances of the aged, the women and even the children. In the villages, towns and cities where the torch or the artillery fire laid low the dwellings and the places of labor, it is evident that the people do not know any more how to smile or be happy in Poland is indeed literally and horribly true.

"And yet suicides are almost unheard of. In places it seemed to me as if the people, having reached the depths of suffering and need, were becoming numb to any further heartaches or physical pain.

"Standing by the side of smokeless chimneys, which are the sole remnants of dwellings, you do not find the people weeping. They are asking one another what is best to be done.

"There is a lack of horses, of agricultural implements, of grain to sow and of hands to do the work in many places, but those remaining do not despair, but are doing the best they can in their great difficulties. In many places the government has aided much. Various relief committees also have done their share. The people in parts most desolate are waiting and hoping that they, too, will be reached in the ministrations.

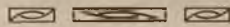
"Thousands of family groups in towns and villages that have been destroyed are making their homes in dugouts, compared with which the catacombs of Rome are places. These people had to choose between the fate of digging themselves into the earth for the cold winter months for lack of building material, or of freezing to death.

"In spite of the horrors and desolation the people insist upon clinging to the plots of ground upon which once were the houses now in ruins. Everywhere you hear stories of the bravery of mothers going under the greatest artillery fire for milk or other food for their children rather than forsake the old home soil.

"There seems to be a hush everywhere as if the people feared to wake the dead. You feel yourself removing your can in the presence of the groups, but it is the absence of despair in the face of the worst misfortune, that makes a visitor realize that he is among a people strong in religious faith. Perhaps it was a mother who on that day had buried three of her loved ones who were claimed by a dread disease, a wife who received word that her husband had been killed in battle or an aged father who was told of the death of his only boy—I found them all seeking solace in prayer and in church.

"It was only when walking along in the streets of Lemberg that I saw an outburst of despair. Marching with full equipment on its way to the battle front was a regiment of soldiers. On the curb I saw a widow in black, who held two little children, burst into tears and piteously moan "Oh, God, that is just how my husband marched a few weeks ago!"

"Another thing evident in the sections scourged most by the war is the wiping away of all class and religious distinctions. You find princess and countess mingling with and helping the needy. You find the Jew and the Gentile sharing lodgings and food. The suffering which in some instances has brought on breaches that it will be the work of years to bridge has in others brought together elements which for years have been separated. Whether these are mere temporary conditions or permanent results of the common tests of fire and blood remains to be seen."



A Letter from Our Reader

April 5th 1916.

Free Poland,

Polish National Council of America,

984-86 Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen: —

Enclosed please find my subscription for "Free Poland" for one year.

As an American of Polish descent I think that Free Poland is a very fine magazine and think it is ably and fairly gotten up so that the question of the Polish future

is placed before the great American in an unadulterated manner. It sets the blood of any descendant of the great Polish people tingling and gives much food for thought.

Wishing the magazine and its many contributors success and the realization for all Poles and Americans of Polish descent a free and independent Poland, I am,

Very respectfully yours,

ADAM FELERSKI,

985 Hudson ave., Rochester, N. Y.

Statement of the Ownership, Management, Circulation Etc.,
Required by the Act of Congress of August 24, 1912.

OF Free Poland, published semimonthly at No. 984 Milwaukee ave., for April 1, 1916.

STATE OF Illinois) ss.
COUNTY OF Cook)

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Editor of the Free Poland and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management of the aforesaid publication for the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Name of—	Post office address—
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MANAGING EDITOR John S. Skibinski
BUSINESS MANAGERS Press Committee
of Polish National Council, N. L. Piotrowski,
Pres. of Committee

2. That the owners are: — The Polish National Council of America, 984 Milwaukee ave, —
S. A. Adamkiewicz, Pres. 1029 Milwaukee Ave.
K. Wachtel, Sec'y 1455W. Division str.
T. Jaszkowski, Treas. 2962 Gresham ave.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgages, and other security holders owning 1 per cent or more, of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: —
None.

JOHN S. SKIBINSKI, Editor.
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 17 day of April, 1916.

John Jankowski.
(My commission expires Aug. 9th 1919.)

A Notable Contribution
to the Publication Fund
of Free Poland.

The Polish-American Democracy of Cook County, Illinois, upon the initiative of Mr. Frank Danisch, Chief Clerk of Municipal Court, contributed the helpful sum of \$407.00, sent to the office of Free Poland along with the following resolutions:

"Whereas all Polish organizations and societies, as well as every upright Pole personally, are helping, as much as it is in their means, their countrymen in Europe, who are suffering with famine and indescribable misery, by contributing funds to that end;

"Whereas the periodical Free Poland, published by the Polish National Council of America in the English world to acquaint those unfamiliar with the Polish question, is likewise in need of material aid, in order to spread more widely the truth about Poland and her people and in order to agitate all the more effectively for the Polish Cause with a view to forming favorable public opinion among the nations of the world and the diplomatic and political circles;

Be it, therefore, resolved

"That the Polish Democratic League of County Cook enlarge the sphere of its activity in the spirit of its constitution and in the field of Polish political endeavor, firmly convinced that by its influence it will often lend a hand in order to realize Polish national aims and aspirations together with the proper Polish organizations, working with this end in view; furthermore,

"That the League, as its first act in this direction, ad assist the Polish national publication of Free Poland, by providing for it materially, in order that it may not only continue spreading the truth about our Fatherland, but also develop and effectively contend with foe and oppressor; finally,

"That we appeal to all members of the League in particular and to Polish-Americans and others in general with the request to contribute to the publication fund of "Free Poland", and also, that the League initiate contributions for that purpose."

Executive Committee of Polish
Democratic League of County
Cook.

FRANCIS P. DANISCH,
Chairman.

JOHN S. DERPA,
gen. sec'y.

The list of Polish Democracy contributors to Free Poland follows:

County Commissioner, Thos. Kasperski	\$50.00
County Commissioner, Albert Nowak	25.00
Election Commissioner F. X. Rydzewski	25.00
Clerk Municipal Court F. P. Danisch	50.00
Ex-Alderman John M. Nowicki	25.00
County Custodian, John Czekala	10.00
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Joseph A. Hellmuth	10.00
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Judge Joseph S. LaBuy	50.00
Clayton C. Pickett	10.00
Rickard J. McGrath	10.00
John S. Derpa	25.00
	\$407.00

Contributions may be sent to the secretary of the League Mr. J. S. Derpa, 814 City Hall, or to the office of FREE POLAND, 984 Milwaukee Ave.

A Diplomatic Conference

That the Central Powers do not intend to return Russian Poland, or the greater part of it, to Russia after the war, is the general belief among European diplomats, and in this connection the visit of Baron von Rajecz, Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, to Berlin, for a conference with the German chancellor, is regarded as significant.

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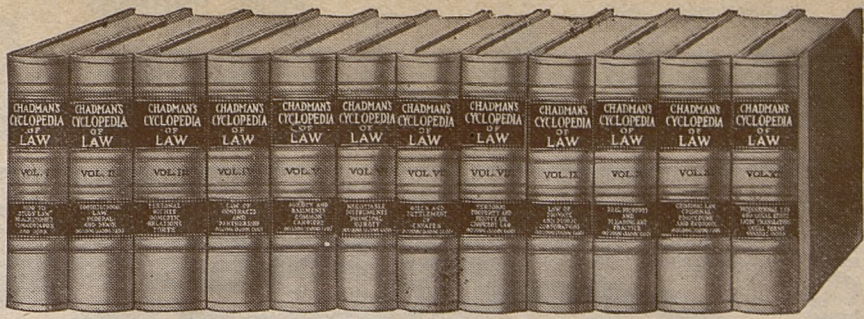
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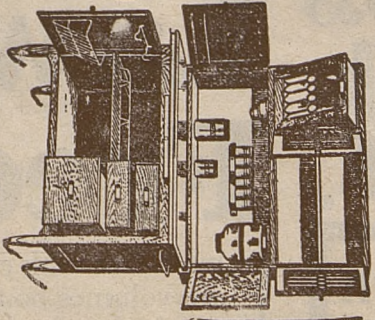
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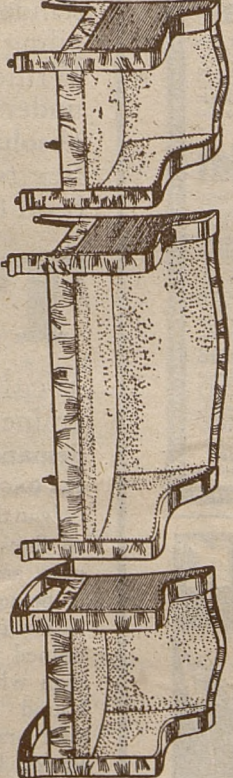


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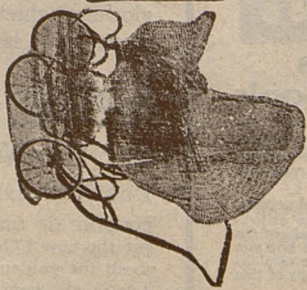


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