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The symbolic opening of the long-closed Polish-Lithuanian frontier.



President Moscicki Addressing The Nation.

An Ancient Friendship Restored

Out of a sad event has grown a happy one. The shooting of a Polish frontier guard by a Lithuanian frontier guard a few weeks ago led Poland to take strong action and to demand of Lithuania a full normalization of the relations of these two countries between which there has been no direct communication since Poland drove the Bolsheviks out of Poland in 1920 and later occupied Wilno, a city the Lithuanians would like to have had as their capital but which, by virtue of its Polish population, Poland felt should belong to Poland.

For many years Poland has sought to establish friendly relations with Lithuania, and this would long ago have been possible had Lithuanian statesmen acted on their own and represented general Lithuanian sentiment instead of foreign pressure from sources not wishing to see Poland and Lithuania agree. When my wife and I were in Lithuania in 1931 we felt that the whole friction between these two countries was artificial and did not represent the deeper sentiments of either nation.

Now one of the most ancient of European friendships is restored. It is a relation of equal with equal. The mutual benefits are instantaneous and real. The satisfaction at the dropping of a senseless quarrel is very deep. The results are a strengthening of both the parties concerned, and a crystallization of a great Baltic bloc devoted to peace in eastern Europe.

In the middle ages Poland was a kingdom and Lithuania a far-flung grand duchy. In 1386 the queen of Poland and the grand duke of Lithuania became man and wife and a joint dynasty but separate administration resulted. Together these great Powers defeated their mutual aggressor the Teutonic Knights of Prussia, in 1410, and in 1413 strengthened their ties in that most remarkable and Christian of all European treaties, the Act of Horodlo, part of which you will find in English in my "Events and Personalities of Polish History", pages 26-27.

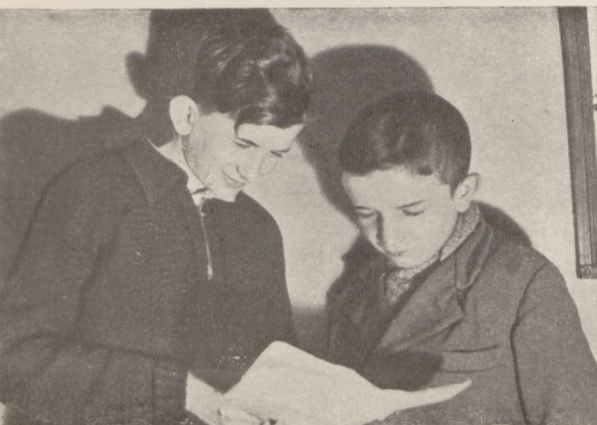
In 1569 Poland and Lithuania united as one country, largely at the request of the Lithuanians, who saw in such union their own hope of existence in the face of German pressure from the west and Muscovite pressure from the east. This union obtained until the partitions of Poland between Germany, Russia, and

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Austria, in 1772, 1793, and 1795. After the Great War both Poland and Lithuania set up as independent countries. Their common boundaries could unfortunately only be established by struggle. Hence all these years of trouble.

Now relations are normalized and I believe the deep satisfaction to be mutual. Knowing the Poles as few foreigners know them, I can testify to the relief on this side of the line that this quarrel is settled and to the feeling the Poles have that the future holds better days for both nations. Though Poland is some 12 times the size of Lithuania, it will scrupulously and in a friendly way observe the full rights and dignity of its smaller neighbor.

Of the frontier guard whose death brought things to a head, Poland's Minister of Foreign Affairs Beck said to the Polish Senate, "If his blood will seal the understanding between two neighboring nations, Poland and Lithuania, he will have given his life for a noble cause. If it will be possible to establish our neighborly relations on a basis of mutual good-will and of respect for the rules and customs generally observed in international life, Poland will most certainly accept that fact with genuine satisfaction. The road toward that result is open."



Above: Friends
Below: The Office.



The Daily News.



Above: Shop.
Below: Instructing two new members.



"Old Town" YMCA

Down in the "Old Town", among the less privileged boys of the city, the Warsaw YMCA conducts a piece of work of which it is justly proud. This branch, housed in a second storey apartment of nine rooms, enrolls 599 boys and young men at the end of March, the close of the fiscal year; of these nearly 500 walk the mile and half to the Central Y to use the gym and swimming pool. The total enrollment in 35 organized groups is 580 members and all take part in one or more of the many activities of the branch. The accompanying photographs give an idea of the boys, the rooms, and the work. The place is a bee-hive of activity. Some of the leading men of the city form the committee back of the branch.



