

FREE POLAND

A SEMI-MONTHLY

The Truth About Poland and Her People

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

Vol. I—No. 17

MAY 16, 1915

5 Cents a Copy



MIECZYSLAW II. (1025-34)

Boleslaw the Brave was succeeded by his Son, Mieczyslaw II, during whose Reign the Danes, the Hungarians, and the Russ made themselves Masters of various Territory occupied by the Poles.

CONTENTS

	Page
1. Killing a People.....	2
2. The Blighted Country.....	2
3. Italy for Poland (Concluded).....	3
4. "Poland Is Not Yet Lost".....	5
5. Death of Poland's Grand Old Man.....	6
6. The Polish National Hymn.....	7
7. An Official Denial.....	8
8. An Account of the Partition of Poland (Continued).....	9
9. Martyred Again.....	10
10. A True Friend of Poland.....	10
11. Hymn of Complaint.....	11
12. Will Russia Prove an Ingrate.....	12
13. The Jews in Poland—By A. Jasiński.....	13
15. Notable Women of Poland.....	15
16. Relief Funds Collected.....	16

Killing a People

It was Mr. Bryce who said the cause of this war is a superabundance of national spirit. It is in FREE POLAND that a writer says: "It is impossible to kill a people that has the will to live."

It is not possible to imagine the German people transformed into French; the French made German; the British made German or vice versa. England has not made the Irish English and even the United States, while all of its immigrant population become American, they do not cease also to be German, French, Irish, Scotch, English, Swede, Norwegian, Dane, Finn, Slav or what not.

A people may be subjugated but their national characteristic cannot be blotted out, nor their national feeling. The Latin races, even mixed in blood and widely scattered, are still Latin; the Saxon stays Saxon; the Teuton remains Teuton.

When they voluntarily expatriate themselves, their nationality and national spirit play but in the minor key. But where subjugated and annexed, they continue the full orchestral harmony with ever recurring bursts of defiance.

Austria has succeeded best of all the European powers with its contiguous foreign people, because she has left them the largest measure of national liberty and recognition. She leaves them their language and local government. But with this they only wait and have to be constantly placated.

Why then should Germany or Russia expect to ever make the Poles German and Russian? Why should Russia expect the Finns to quit being Finn? Why should Austria seek to add the Slavs of Serbia to those of five of her provinces still persistently Slav?

It would seem the folly of folly, this territorial expansion by the annexing of people who never will and who never can be made to be of the family, but will always remain thorns.

It would seem to grow but the more evident as the war progresses, that no peace can ever last save as Vesuvius is at peace, until there is a free Poland, a free Finland, a free Serbia. This would not mean that all Poles should be brought together as a people, nor all Finns, nor all Serbs!

It would mean this no more than that all Germans

must be in Germany nor that wherever there are Germans must be Germany; no more than it would mean this of other nationalities. But there must be a free Polish government, with its flag and language to perpetuate its own national life. There must be a free Poland to which expatriated Poles may turn as do other people under other than their own flags, for inspiration and incentive.

As well as individuals, every people are entitled to a home, and even if away from it, develop most wholesomely, most usefully when they have this anchorage. If this war can give the Poles, the Finns, the Serbs, the Jews and all other now subjugated races a home and a flag while assuring national safety to those who now have national homes, it will no be in vain. Duluth, Minn., Tribune.

The Blighted Country

Poland in the eastern theater of the European war is in scarcely a less pitiable plight than Belgium in the west, with the additional disadvantage that her sorrows are not so widely known, and that any measures of relief will be beset with unusual difficulties. The ancient kingdom has now no national existence, no recognized political life, and consequently no official representatives, to other countries and no diplomats from abroad accredited to her government. This prevents her condition from being made officially known to the rest of the world. Years ago her dismemberment and partition among Germany, Russia and Austria took place; leaving her without particular affection for either. Yet on her devoted territory nearly all the eastern fighting has been done. Germany expected the sympathies of the Poles to be turned against Russia, and Austria for a time indulged the same hope. Both have been disappointed; for Poland has constituted itself a buffer state between Russia and Germany, just as Belgium did between France and Germany; and on these fields, as well as in Galicia, the Polish province of Austria, the heaviest battles of the war have been fought. This eastern war zone covers a stretch of some 300 miles, it has already been fought over several times, 500 towns and villages have been destroyed, crops burned, or trampled down, cattle seized, the country ravaged; and nearly twenty million people are reduced practically to starvation or death from cold.

The distressing situation of the heroic Poles presents to sympathetic Americans another occasion for the display of national generosity on a large scale. Polish societies in the United States have set on foot a movement for relief, but the matter has not as yet received much notice from the people generally. Russia's vast food supplies are believed to be adequate for that part of the old kingdom now included in the czar's dominions; but for Polish Prussia and for Galicia, both of which are, at least nominally, territory of Muscovite enemies, none need be expected from Russian granaries; while the half-hearted loyalty of the people to their Teutonic masters will naturally debar them from relief from those sources. Salt Lake City News.



Italy For Poland

(Concluded from FREE POLAND No. 16.)

Signor Morandotti correspondent of the *CORRIERE DELLA SERA* 7 Jan. 1915 introduces some very significant remarks. He declares that he should not be surprised if the Polish question which formerly served to cement the alliance between Russia and Germany, were again to become the price of an "entente" between those two countries after the end of the war. "In fact, the attitude of certain organs would seem to give Russia to understand that the old solidarity of interests as far as Poland is concerned, although broken for a time by the war, could be again renewed immediately after the end of the war."

Signor N. G. Venturi has published, in the *LAVORO* of Genoa of 27th January, a striking article which shows an intimate knowledge of all that concerns Polish culture and history. The author compares Poland to Belgium and claims for the former "the sad preeminence" in misfortune. "The Belgians have at least had the great consolation of fighting in defence of their own country; whilst the Poles, by a refinement of torture, have themselves been forced to devastate theirs."

* * *

Among the finest and most striking demonstrations of sympathy received by Poland, has been the organization of "Pro-Polonia" committees in Rome and the provinces.

The *RIVISTA DI ROMA*, in a special X-mas and New Year's number publishes the consensus of opinion of the most eminent persons in the political, scientific and literary Italian world.

In an introduction deserving of fuller quotation, Baron Alberto Lombroso enters exhaustively into the difficulties likely to arise in Russia when the Polish question comes to be settled. The same factors—he says—which, under the aegis of the Russo-German friendship and the crime committed against Poland, were used to oppress her... will not fail to exert a powerful influence over the bureaucracy and the military and social circles of Russia; and with an infinitely damaging effect upon Russo-Polish relations." Baron Lombroso considers it "the sacred duty of all sincere friends not only of Poland but of Russia herself", to aid the latter in accomplishing an act of justice equally advantageous to her own interests; Russian public opinion must be armed against the danger of yielding to evil counsels.

To compel Russia to redeem her promises to Poland is, moreover, the duty of Europe and more especially of England and France who are now directly paying for the division of Poland.

Senator Gabba reminds us, in an able preface, that "the Poles, in the 18th century, fought side by side with

France against the European coalition and shared, in Italy, the perils and the glory of the Garibaldian *Epopee*."

Gabriele d'Annunzio, elected honorary president, sends his acknowledgments in the following words: "Thanks, dear fellow members, for this great honour. I hail with joy the certain liberation and resurrection of the Polish nation, hallowed in our affections by the blood of Francesco Nullo."

Senator Caetani, duke of Sermoneta, and Prof. Augusto Murri, also honorary presidents, both sends cordial letters. "Poland", says Prince Caetani — "not only excites feelings of affection and admiration, but still more the hope that Europe, who treated her so cruelly and owes her reparation, will now at last discharge the debt."

Among members of the committee we find men whose names are an ornament to Italian science and literature.

Signor Barbera says: "I wish that Poland, whose fate once moved with pity her suffering sister, Italy, may become free and united like her. But will the desire of so great a number be fulfilled"?

The great dramatist, Roberto Bracco, says: "Russia must keep her word."

Signor Canna "venerates Poland as a sublime example of misfortune endured with dignity, in faith and hope, and as the mother of poets full of sensitive human inspiration."

Signor Cervesato is of opinion that "nothing but the freedom of Poland will determine whether or no this war is really a war of liberation."

Senator Alessandro Chiapelli affirms that Italy who but yesterday re-awoke to life as a nation and who has never joined hands with the oppressors of the weak, has alone the right, with clean hands and a pure heart, to uphold the banner of liberty.

Prof. Cian, of the University of Turin "applauds and welcomes this just and generous initiative, as every Italian should who remembers what Poland stands for in the history of culture and what fruits were the result of its spiritual contact with the Renaissance."

Signor Antonio Cippico, poet and professor at the London University, desires for the Poland of Kościuszko and Mickiewicz that her immortal "white eagle may ever soar higher toward the sun."

Signor Arturo Colautti, the poet, cries: "Oh, Niobe of the Nations, doomed by diplomacy to a living tomb, Oh, threefold martyr, oh, wondrous mother of savants, of poets, musicians and warriors; by the pure names Kościuszko and Dombrowski, of Copernicus and Chopin, of Mickiewicz and Siemiradzki, oh, great and noble Poland, purified by pain and by art, sanctified by the blood of heroes and the tears of mothers, thou 'art not dead' for thy heart still palpitates and hopes."

Signor Enrico Comitti, a literary man, considers that the reconstitution of Poland "will not only fulfill one of

the earliest and purest of Italian ideals, but is destined to be of the highest political benefit to her, owing to the great spiritual affinity between Poles and Italians."

Senator Luciani tells us that "from his earliest youth, the reconstitution of Poland has ever found an echo of sympathy in his heart."

Signorina Melegari, in recalling her father's life-long friendship for Mickiewicz and Poland says: "If he were still living, I am sure that the new dawn about the break over that unhappy land would fill his heart with joy."

Professor Novati, president of the Milan Academy, declares that if the present war should lead to the realization of an ideal as noble as the union into a single nation of the Polish populations so long and so miserably oppressed by malign lust of dominion, it would be a great and unexpected encouragement to all who long for the liberty and happiness of all peoples.

Professor Orsi, of the University of Padua, rejoices at the thought that this unfortunate country which, notwithstanding her many sore trials, has ever upheld and trusted her ideals, should be remembered with affection by Italy.

Professor Pascal, of the University of Pavia, wishes that Poland, the generous mother of noble sons who through centuries of misfortune and suffering, in unshaken faith and with undaunted courage have been steadily advancing toward the highest destinies, may now arise to new life.

Signora Pierantoni-Mancini, daughter of the late minister for Foreign Affairs, recalls the fact that some of her father's most memorable speeches, in March 1863, were in defence of Poland.

Professor Sella, formerly head of the University of Perugia, demands: "to see the statue of Mazzini at Trieste and that of Kosciusko at Warsaw."

Signor Testa considers it "impossible that the soil hallowed by Kosciusko and which is covered with Italian art and Italian blood, should once more be torn asunder."

In the same number of the RIVISTA DI ROMA we find a splendid article by Arturo Colautti, whose death prevented its completion. The poet, as he passes in review the nations who succeeded in regaining their freedom, says: "One alone, the noblest, worthiest and most unhappy gave no answer to the roll-call. Why? What merits, what talents had the already freed but humble, obscure and miserable Balkan peoples to show to European civilization, in comparison with Poland, still a martyr and a slave?" The writer admits that all these peoples had fought for the Church and the Empire against the Turks and Mongols. "But they only too quickly lapsed into insignificance. Whereas Poland, who had already given a Copernicus to science, a Mickiewicz to poetry, a Chopin to music, not to mention others of minor importance, again gave a Matejko and a Siemiradzki to painting, a Sienkiewicz to letters and a Madame Curie-Sklodowska to the exact sciences."

"And Poland, Latin by faith, western in soul, French in habits and tastes, Poland, the snowy rampart of Europe, already thrice guardian of civilization,.... was condemned to an oblivion worse than hatred, slavery, or death itself."

Signor Enrico Mazel, in an exhaustive article in the same number, examines the question of "Poland and Future Peace". He says that the disappearance of Poland marks the beginning of an era of universal corruption throughout Europe... "Morally speaking, France, indirectly saved by Poland, should, as soon as victorious, have devoted herself to the deliverance of Poland. This, however, she failed to do, which turned out to be the funda-

mental and psychological cause of her own eventual defeat."

We mention lastly an article at once enthusiastic and profound by Signor Alfonso Mongiardini. "The unification of Poland", says the author, "must henceforth be regarded as one of the most important problems to be solved at the close of the present great cataclysm. Poland is contributing 1,400,000 men for the war, these being distributed over the three armies of Russia, Germany and Austria. With such a force now unnaturally employed in self-destruction, Poland would be able to safe-guard her own independence and at the same time contribute to the maintenance of the balance of power and of peace in Europe." Signor Mongiardini insists on the fact that "the Belgian patriots have at least had the satisfaction of fighting for the life and honor of their country", whilst the Poles "are doomed to slay one another while fighting and dying for tyrants." The author then shows how Germany, when colonizing Posen, took care to Germanize the kingdom of Poland. "The Russian government is suffering today from the consequences of the error they committed in favoring the German rather than the Polish element." Signor Mongiardini quotes Anatole Leroy-Beaulieu's opinion according to which "it is absolutely imperative to strengthen the Polish element in the Vistula provinces, if they are to continue to be Slavonic."

Throughout the present war, the Poles have given evidence of possessing such perfect comprehension of their interests as part of the Slav race, that their cordial, sympathetic attitude to the Russian army has been a matter of astonishment to the correspondents of the Petrograd and Moscow newspapers: "Russia has had searchings of heart and admits the injustice of her actions in the past in suppressing every manifestation of national feeling and attempting to Russify Poland". The author reminds us of "the repression of Polish universities, the persecution of private schools and the campaign against Catholicism." And Russia recognizes today that this same Poland, so long and so grievously oppressed by her, is bearing the brunt of the burden of this war. The Russian newspapers agree in admitting that the country is completely ruined. The Germans have systematically destroyed the agricultural machines, looted the cattle, razed the houses to the ground and devastated the land.

Signor Mongiardini remarks, however, that though a transformation has been effected in Russian public opinion "the government has done very little in following the course traced out for it by the Grand Duke's proclamation; it is evident indeed, that subordinate government offices still continue the old system of administration. Now or never!"

"The hour has struck for the decision of the Polish question! Else in vain were the sacrifice of the countless lives who have watered the soil with their blood!"

Signor Mongiardini, in an interesting table of statistics of the European nations, shows that the Poles are 8th in order with a population of 23 millions. It must be added that as in the case of other nations, these statistics include all those speaking the same language, and among them are many who are lacking in national feeling. Allowing for this fact, the Poles, always so united, would occupy the sixth place.

"So the hour has come for Europe to open her eyes to the error in which she has so long persisted, in allowing the Poles to be divided and oppressed; and also for her to recognize what a powerful factor they may be in balancing the action and reaction of the whole world."

Poland is in like manner the subject of the remarks of various Italian lecturers; some, such as Signor Alfonso Mongiardini, Signor Ezio Gray, Signor Olszewski, the barrister, Signor Concetto Pettinato, etc. speak specially on the Polish question; others allude to it as occasion offers. Thus, the eminent lecturer, Colonel Barone, urged the importance of the Polish question from a military and international point of view.

* * *

So we see that the ruin, misery and devastation of which Poland is at present the horrible scene, have found a noble echo in Italian hearts. Not only have words of compassion been uttered, but the Italian press is unanimous in recognizing the importance of Poland as a factor

in the peace of Europe. Even unpretending provincial newspapers have inserted articles full of originality to that effect.

Since the remote days when Italian art scattered the flower of its genius as a magnificent ornament, over the ancient cities of Poland, the two peoples have been united by manifold and indissoluble bonds. Later, in hours of gloom or glory, the mingled blood of the heroes of the wars of independence sealed and strengthened the bond. So one cannot wonder to see that Italy knows everything about Poland; while still a captive, she suffered in sympathy for a martyrdom so like her own; and today that she is free, she raises her voice loud and indignant, in defense of the prisoner.

(THE END)

Poland Is Not Yet Lost

Józef Wybicki, the author of this song, was born in 1747, near Danzig. He played an important part in the Four Year Polish Diet, in the revolution of Kościuszko, and in 1806-7. During the existence of the Duchy of Warsaw he was a senator and in 1818 the supreme judge. He died in 1822. His interesting Memoirs were published by Raczynski in Posen, 1840.

General Dombrowski (1755-1818), mentioned in the refrain of the song, was the organizer of the Polish Legions in Italy; he actually crossed the Warta, and entered Poland at the head of his Legion in 1807.

While we live she is existing,

Poland is not fallen;

We will win with swords resisting,

What the foe has stolen.

March, March, Dombrowski,

From Italy's plain;

Our brethren shall meet us

In Poland again.

We'll cross where Warta's surging

Gloomily its waters,

With each blade from sheath emerging

Poland's foes to slaughter!

March, march, Dombrowski, etc.

Hence unto the field of glory,

Where the life's blood streaming;

Where with talons red and gory,

Poland's eagle's screaming.

March, march, Dombrowski, etc.

Poland! shall the foe enslave thee

Sadly and forever;

And we hesitate to save thee?

Never, Poland, never!

March, march, Dombrowski, etc.

Translation of PAUL SOBOLESKI

Music of "Jeszcze Polska nie Zginęła"

The image shows a musical score for the Polish national anthem, "Jeszcze Polska nie Zginęła". The score is written in G major and 2/4 time. It includes the following lyrics in Polish:

Jeszcze Polska nie zginęła, póki my żyjemy.
Co nam obca przemoc wzięła, mocą od siebie rzeźmy.
March, march, Dombrowski, zziemi włoskiej do Polski.
Za twoim przewodem
Złączym się z narodem.
Złączym się z narodem.

The background of the score is a detailed illustration of a Polish legion marching. The soldiers are on horseback, wearing traditional Polish military uniforms, and are carrying flags and banners. The scene is set in a landscape with trees and a building in the background.

Death of Poland's Grand Old Man

(Concluded from FREE POLAND, No. 16.)

Since the Revolution of 1863, Milkowski's person was the central point around which was revived the active policy of the old Democratic Society. A representative of two fighting generations (1848 and 1863), he became the link between those generations and the third generation which was growing up and was already beginning to think of the coming struggle.

Milkowski was a man whose prudence and sound sense always allowed him to discover the essence of a thing behind glittering but alluring phrases.

His sympathy for the Balkan peoples oppressed by Turkey never drove him upon the path of pan-Slavism, nor did it prevent him from fighting in the Crimean War on the side of Turkey in its struggle with Poland's foe, Russia.

During the Turco-Russian War (1877), England en-

ly and distinctly, in a letter to *La Justice*, that thru the overthrow of Germany by Russia humanity would gain nothing, while Poland, as the seat of war, would be ruined utterly.

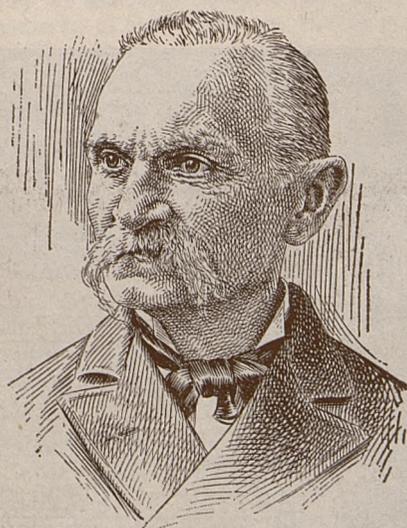
In 1901, in the year of the torturing of the Polish children in the school at Września (Wreschen), Prussian Poland, Milkowski called in the Cracow *Nowa Reforma* (New Reform) for the haling of the Prussians before the court of public opinion of the whole world for their cruelty to the Polish children. He suggested, therefore, that the Polish mothers should acquaint the American, English, French, Italian, Scandinavian, and Spanish mothers with these barbarities and that they should also ask the German mothers,—including the Empress, the three Queens, and all the Grand Duchess and Duchesses of Germany, — whether they knew what their husbands, brothers, and sons were doing to the Polish children, and whether they should be able to behave with indifference if their children were treated in like manner. "Let the world learn", said he, "what an ethical element it got in the Power boosted by Frederick the Great and Bismarck."

His idea was taken up, and protests were collected: in Italy and Bohemia, by the great Polish poetess, the late Mary Konopnicka; in Switzerland, by Milkowski's daughter, Dr. Helena Milkowska; in France and other countries, by committees for that purpose. Italy alone sent 120,000 voices, collected by "Pro Polonia" committees. In the United States, a protest was issued by the Universal Peace Union at the time of the visit of Prince Henry, the German Emperor's brother. Altogether there were collected about 5,000,000 signatures, which are deposited in the Friends of Poland Room of the Polish National Museum at Rapperswil, Switzerland.

In 1900, Milkowski, an old man of 76, dragged himself from the bed of sickness brought on by excess of work, left his family, knowing not whether God's will would allow him to look again upon the beings dear to his heart and made the voyage across the Atlantic, to lift up the hearts of his countrymen here and to remind them of the needs of poor Poland. He was received most cordially and heartily by the Poles in various cities of the United States.

In his farewell address to the Poles in the United States published in the *ZGODA* (Harmony), of Chicago, Milkowski said that as this powerful Republic had already interposed in European affairs, it would perhaps be the Poles in the United States that would play the first part in the liberation of Poland. Foreseeing the possibility of an armed conflict between this country and a foe of Poland, he said:

"Would not the millions of Poles living in the United States, — the millions of American citizens, — all that have either come here lately or that are descended from grandfathers or great-grandfathers that came here, — all that are able to bear arms, — rush to the ranks, into the first fire? That very possible eventuality enjoins on you, my brothers, to join fidelity to your new Fatherland, which has given you freedom and bread, with fidelity to the old Fatherland, the soil of which has been fertilized by the bones and blood of your fathers, your forefathers. This double fidelity does not demand service to two masters, since it will be the service of Pulaski that fought and died



Courtesy "Zgoda"

ZYGMUNT MILKOWSKI

deavored thru her agents to gain the favor of this most eminent survivor of the Revolution of 1863. He was promised considerable sums for the exciting of an armed movement in Poland. Conferences on this matter were held in Vienna between representatives of Poland, England and Turkey. The Polish statemen showed considerable caution, and set as an irrevocable condition, the declaration by England of war against Russia. As England did not resolve on war, Poland did not rise. Only the Poles living in Turkey took part — in the Turkish army — in the war against Russia.

When General Skobelev began (about 1879) to propagate the idea of the overthrow of Germany by Russia with the aid of Poland and France, Milkowski was not blinded by his hate to the Germans; and he showed clear-

for the United States and of Kosciuszko that contributed with arms in hand to its liberation. In those two great Poles, champions for Polish and American liberty, you have an example. This idea of national liberty is one and identical for all on the terrestrial globe. Serving that idea in free America, you serve Poland that is in bondage."

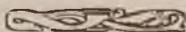
Impressing on the Poles here the importance of education he advised them to send their children to the Polish schools, "in order that in their heads there should be grounded the memory of Poland and in their hearts, love of the oppressed Fatherland", and to the State schools, colleges, and universities, which will "qualify them for the

rendering to the American community of services in the form of counsel and deed."

Milkowski's *Relation of A Tour of The Polish Colonies in North America* is a graphic description of his American tour and the impressions received.

The last public act of Milkowski was an open letter to Emperor Francis Joseph in which he declared that the future of the Poles does not depend on alliance with the Germans and that the proclamation of the Russian Commander-in-Chief may unite Poland.

WACLAW PERKOWSKI,
265 West 125th St., New York.



The Polish National Hymn

O Lord, Thou hast to Poland lent Thy might
And with a Father's strong, protecting hand
Hast given fame and all its glory bright,
And through long ages saved our Fatherland.
We chant at Thy altars our humble strain,
O Lord, make the land of our love free again!

Thou who in nature's deepest gloom inspired
The strife to save the holy cause from shame,
The world's esteem for our brave deeds desired,
And filled it with our glory and our fame.
We chant at Thy altars our humble strain,
O Lord, make the land of our love free again!

Renew, O Lord, we pray, her old renown!
Make rich her soil—life to her fields convey.
With happiness and peace our future crown;
O angry God, grant us this boon we pray!
We chant at Thy altars our humble strain,
O Lord, make the land of our love free again!

Not long our freedom has been lost, but flows
In rivers, blood which heroes' hearts outpour;
How bitter, then, the sufferings of those
Whose liberty is lost forevermore!
We chant at Thy altars our humble strain,
O Lord, make the land of our love free again!

O gracious Lord! whose mighty hand doth hold
The scales of justice o'er world's rulers vain,
Crush out unholy aims of tyrants bold
And hope awake in our poor souls again.
We chant at Thy altars our humble strain,
O Lord, make the land of our love free again!

Thou, holy Lord! thy wondrous might we praise,
Oh, may it freedom's blissful sun restore,
On Polish soil the tower of peace upraise
Which foes shall tremble and recoil before!
We chant at Thy altars our humble strain,
O Lord, make the land of our love free again!

O Lord! who rulest o'er all the wide world hath,
At Thy command we raised from dust may be;
If in the future we deserve Thy wrath,
Turn us to dust—but let that dust be free!

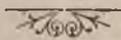
Music of "Boże Coś Polskę"

Bo - że coś Pol - skę przez tak dłu - gte wie - ki O - ta - czał

Coś ją za - sła niał - tar - czał Swej o - pie - ki Od nieszczę - ść
bla - skiem po - tę - gi i chwa - ły Przed Two - je - ta - rze

1 - ma
za - no sim bla - ga nie Oj - czy - znę wol - ność racz nam wró - cić

2 da
Pa - nie racz nam wró - cić Pa - nie.



FREE POLAND

A SEMI-MONTHLY

The Truth About Poland and Her People

PUBLICATION AUTHORIZED BY
THE POLISH NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AMERICA

Business Manager: STANISLAW OSADA

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

F. J. MEDWECKI, Chairman
CHARLES WACHTEL, Secretary
JOHN SKIBINSKI, Editor
THOMAS T. LASECKI
FRANK S. BARC
REV. FELIX LADON
MAX DRZYMAŁA
CASIMIR GONSKI.

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 1808.

To Editors and Publishers

The Polish Question is a timely one throughout the world. The contents of this publication will furnish, we hope, adequate material for use at opportune moments.

An Official Denial

The Poles in Canada are not subjected to unpleasant arrests and persecutions just because they happen to be German or Austrian subjects.

"The attitude of the Government", writes the Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Laird Borden in his letter of April 20th, "towards all persons of enemy nationality domiciled in Canada at the outbreak of the war is set forth in Orders-in-Council on the 8th, 13th and 15th of August last, copies of which I enclose for your information, and in notices issued to the public on the 2nd September.

"The policy of the Government is further set forth in a speech which I delivered in the House of Commons on the 19th August last and in addresses since given in December last before various Canadian Clubs; copies of these are also enclosed for your information."

The policy of the Government as set forth in Mr. Borden's speech declares that those people who were born in Germany or in Austria-Hungary and have come to Canada as adopted citizens of that country, whether they have become naturalized or not, are entitled to the protection of the law in Canada and shall receive it, that they shall not be molested or interfered with, unless any among them should desire to aid or abet the enemy or leave this country for the purpose of fighting against Great Britain and her allies.

"If any of them should be so minded", says the Prime Minister in his speech, "we shall be obliged to follow the laws and usages of war in that regard with all the humanity that may be possible. But up to the present, we have

seen no disposition among these people to do anything of the kind.

THE CANADA GAZETTE, published by authority, contains this public notice in its extra issue of September 2, 1914:

"TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN—

"It has come to the attention of the Government that many persons of German and Austro-Hungarian nationality who are residents of Canada are apprehensive for their safety at the present time. In particular the suggestion seems to be that they fear some action on the part of the Government which might deprive them of their freedom to hold property or to carry on business. These apprehensions, if they exist, are quite unfounded.

"The policy of the Government is embodied in a Proclamation published in THE CANADA GAZETTE on 15th August. In accordance with this Proclamation restrictive measures will be taken only in case where officers, soldiers or reservists of the German Empire or of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy attempt to leave Canada or where subjects of such nationalities engage or attempt to engage in espionage or acts of a hostile nature or to give information to or otherwise assist the King's enemies. Even where persons are arrested or detained on the grounds indicated they may be released on signing an undertaking to abstain from acts injurious to the Dominion or the Empire.

"The Proclamation directs as follows:—

"That all persons in Canada of German or Austro-Hungarian nationality, so long as they quietly pursue their ordinary avocations be allowed to continue to enjoy the protection of the law and be accorded the respect and consideration due to peaceful and law-abiding citizens; and that they be not arrested, detained or interfered with, unless there is reasonable ground to believe that they are engaged in espionage, or engaging or attempting to engage in acts of a hostile nature, or are giving or attempting to give information to the enemy, or unless they otherwise contravene any law, order in council or proclamation."

"Thus all such persons so long as they respect the law are entitled to its protection and have nothing to fear.

JOSEPH POPE,

Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs."

We have also received a letter from Mr. A. P. Hurwood, Chief Commissioner of Police, in Ottawa.

"Those natives of Poland", he writes in his letter of May 3rd, "who are of Austrian and German nationality have in certain sections been required to register and to report and cannot leave the Country without permission, but I am not aware of any other interference that they have been subjected to. Some of them in the Northern part of Ontario and in some other places were engaged in a form of drill, without arms, of course, and this agitated the people who did not understand it, and it was thought advisable that they should not continue it at the present time in view of the disturbed state of public feeling, so they were required to discontinue it for the period of the war, but surely that is a very small reason upon which to base complaint."

The GAULT REPORTER LIMITED protests vehemently against the representations of ill treatment as quoted in the letter sent to the Polish Central Relief Committee.

"The attitude of the Canadian Government", writes Mr. J. D. Clarke, managing director, "towards alien enemies has been absolutely fair and above board, and we have personal knowledge of the fact that conditions as stated in your circular do not exist."

An Account of the Partition of Poland

By *SIR JAMES MacKINTOSH*

(Originally Published in the *Edinburgh Review*, Vol. XXXVII.)

(Continued from *FREE POLAND*, No. 16)

As the storm which demolished this noble edifice came from abroad, it is now necessary to turn our attention to the connection of Poland with foreign States. On the 29th of March 1790, a treaty of alliance was concluded at Warsaw between the King of Prussia and the Republic of Poland, containing a reciprocal guarantee of territory, and specifying the succors which each party was to afford to the other in case of attack; but peculiarly distinguished by one stipulation, which it is necessary to insert in this place. "IF ANY FOREIGN POWER, IN VIRTUE OF ANY PRECEDING ACTS AND STIPULATIONS WHATSOEVER, SHOULD CLAIM THE RIGHT OF INTERFERING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND, AT WHAT TIME, OR IN WHAT MANNER SOEVER, HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF PRUSSIA WILL FIRST EMPLOY HIS GOOD OFFICES TO PREVENT HOSTILITIES IN CONSEQUENCE OF SUCH PRETENSION; BUT, IF HIS GOOD OFFICES SHOULD BE INEFFECTUAL, AND THAT HOSTILITIES AGAINST POLAND SHOULD ENSUE, HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF PRUSSIA, CONSIDERING SUCH AN EVENT AS A CASE PROVIDED FOR IN THIS TREATY, WILL ASSIST THE REPUBLIC ACCORDING TO THE TENOR OF THE 4th ARTICLE OF THE PRESENT TREATY." The aid here referred to was, on the part of Prussia, 22,000 or 30,000 men; or, in case of necessity, all its disposable force. The undisputed purpose of the article was to guard Poland against an interference in her affairs by Russia, under pretence of the guarantee of the Polish constitution in 1775. No other danger of this nature existed. For this exclusive object was the stipulation framed.

It is true, that the King of Prussia, after the conclusion of the treaty, urgently pressed the Diet of the cession of the cities of Danzig and Thorn. But that claim was afterwards withdrawn and disavowed. On the 13th of May 1791, Goltz, then Prussian Charge d'Affaires at Warsaw, in a conference with the Deputation of the Diet for Foreign Affairs, said, 'that he had received orders from his Prussian Majesty to express to them his satisfaction at the happy revolution which had at length given to Poland a wise and regular constitution. On the 23rd of May, in his answer to the letter of Stanislaus, announcing the adoption of the constitution, the same Prince, after applauding the establishment of hereditary monarchy in the House of Saxony (which it must be particularly borne in mind, was a positive breach of the constitution guaranteed by Russia in 1775), he proceeds to say, 'I congratulate myself on having contributed to the liberty and independence of Poland; and my most agreeable care will be, to preserve and strengthen the ties which unite us.' On the 21st of June, the Prussian minister, on occasion of alarm expressed by the Poles that the peace with Turkey might prove dangerous to them, declares, that if such dangers were to arise, 'the King of Prussia faithful to all his obligations, will have it particularly at heart to fulfill those which were last year contracted by him.' Thus did the Government of Prussia, three times after their knowledge of the new constitution, ratify and confirm the al-

liance with Poland, and expressly declare an attack by Russia, in consequence of that revolution, to be within the stipulations of the treaty. With the revolution of the 3rd of May fully before him, the King of Prussia three times solemnly declared, that a war on account of that revolution was one of the cases comprehended in the defensive alliance. Had it been reasonable, then, to place any reliance on the faith of treaties, or on the honor of Kings, the republic of Poland might have confidently hoped, that, if she were attacked by Russia, in virtue of the guarantee of 1775, her independence and her constitution would be defended by the whole force of the Prussian monarchy.

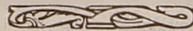
The remaining part of the year 1791, passed in quiet, but not without apprehension. On the 9th of January 1792, Catharine concluded a peace with Turkey at Jassy; and being thus delivered from all foreign enemies, began once more to manifest intentions of interfering in the affairs of Poland; with respect to which she had for some time before observed a very unusual degree of caution and forbearance. She was emboldened by the removal of Hetzberg from the councils of Prussia, and by the death of the Emperor Leopold, a prince of experience and prudence; and she resolved to avail herself of the disposition which then arose in the European Governments, to sacrifice every other object to preparation for a contest with the French Revolution. A small number of Polish nobles furnished her with that very slender pretext with which she was always content. Their chiefs were Rzewuski, who, in 1768, had been exiled to Siberia, and Felix Potocki, a member of a potent and illustrious family of whom all the rest were inviolably attached to the cause of the Republic. These unnatural apostates deserted their long-suffering country at the moment when, for the first time, hope dawned on her, in order to aid the arms of her old, rancorous, treacherous, and cruel enemy.

PERHAPS NO MEN WERE EVER GUILTY OF A MORE ABOMINABLE AND AGGRAVATED TREASON. They were received by Catharine with the honors due from her to the betrayers of their country. On the 12th of May 1792, they formed a Constitution at Targowica. On the 18th, the Russian minister at Warsaw declared that the Empress, called on by many distinguished Poles who had confederated against the pretended constitution of 1791, would, in virtue of her guarantee, march an army into Poland to restore the liberties of the Republic.

She soon after published a manifesto, in which, with her usual effrontery, she professed to justify her measures, in the sight of God and man. She once more solemnly declared, that she would not violate the integrity of the Polish territory, and desired the Poles to rely on her well-known justice and magnanimity! This language, and these measures, however, monstrous, were at least perfectly consistent with the whole system of Catharine towards Poland. Other hopes, as we have seen, might have been entertained of the King of Prussia. But these hopes were speedily and cruelly deceived. In May 1792, Lucchesini, the Prussian minister at Warsaw, gave a vague and evasive answer to a communication made to him respecting the preparations for defence against Russia. He answer-

ed coldly, that his master received the communication as a proof of the esteem of the King and Republic of Poland; but that he could take no cognizance of the affairs which occupied the Diet. Stanislaus also claimed his aid. On the 8th of June 1792, the King of Prussia answered, "In considering the new Constitution which the Republic adopted, without my knowledge and without my conference, I never thought of supporting or protecting it." THUS DID FREDERICK WILLIAM DENY HIS OWN REPEATED DECLARATIONS, BELY HIS SOLEMN ENGAGEMENTS, AND TRAMPLE UNDER FOOT ALL THAT IS HELD MOST SACRED AMONG MEN. So signal a breach of faith is not to be found in the modern history of great states. It resembles rather the vulgar frauds and low artifices, which, under the name of Reason of State made up the policy of the petty usurpers and tyrants of Italy, in the fourteenth century.

Assured of the connivance of Prussia, Catharine now poured an immense army into Poland, along the whole line of frontier, from the Baltic to the neighborhood of the Euxine. The spirit of the Polish nation was unbroken; and the army displayed the most intrepid valor under Prince Joseph Poniatowski and General Thaddeus Kosciuszko. who then began to signalize himself by that patriotic heroism which will for ever render his memory dear and venerable to all lovers of their country. A series of brilliant actions occupied the summer of 1792, in which the Polish army, alternately victorious and vanquished, gave equal proofs of unavailing gallantry. Meantime Stanislaus remained in his capital, willing to be duped by the Russian and Prussian ambassadors, whom he suffered to continue at Warsaw.



Martyred Again

Those who wish for German success are pleased that the Teutonic forces defeated the invasion of Prussia and have penetrated into Russian territory. Those in sympathy with the allies rejoice that the Russians have overrun Galicia and are threatening Hungary. But where is any satisfaction, or amelioration of the situation, for the Poles—those people whose kingdom was overthrown by powers now at one another's throats and rule over them parcelled among their oppressors, and whose country is now literally swept by fire and sword while the Polish men are compelled to serve in contending armies, brother against brother! No race has suffered from the war as have the Poles, the conditions in Austrian, German and Russian Poland are awful, prompting Christianity to cry aloud in soul-felt protest.

A further account of Poland's tragedy is furnished by Ignace Paderewski, the world-famous musician, and in general assertion and in details it is most harrowing. He declares that what has happened in Belgium is as nothing compared with what has happened in Poland. "There is," says Paderewski, "above the gigantic issues involved the colossal standpoint of a common humanity, in the name of which our committee is appealing to every neutral and all the allies alike. The whole world stands aghast and impotent before it, all amazed that it as at once the victim and the culprit." He says that ten million human beings are perishing of starvation, and continues: "As to actual battles, I can hardly speak of them. It is torture even to think of them. Only consider! Our one nation is divided, as it were, into three sections, which are thrust each

He made a vain attempt to disarm the anger of the Empress, by proposing to her that her grandson Constantine, should be the stock of the new Constitutional Dynasty. She haughtily replied that he must reestablish the old Constitution, and accede to the Confederation of Targowica. "Perhaps", says M. Ferrand, "because a shrine acquired without guilt or perfidy might have few attractions for her". On the 4th of July, he published a proclamation, declaring that he would not survive his country. But, on the 22nd of the same month, as soon as he received the commands of Catharine, this dastardly and pusillanimous Prince declared his accession to the Confederation of Targowica; and thus threw the legal authority of the Republic into the hands of that band of conspirators. The gallant army, over whom the Diet had intrusted their unworthy King with absolute authority, were now compelled, by his treacherous orders, to lay down their arms amidst the tears of their countrymen, and the insolent exultation of their barbarous enemies. The traitors of Targowica were, for a moment, permitted by Russia to rule over the country which they had betrayed, to prosecute the persons and lay waste the property of all good citizens, and to reestablish every ancient abuse. They sent a deputation to Petersburg, to thank the Empress for having stopped the fatal progress of the monarchical spirit, and restored the nation to its Republican Government. However strange it may appear, the principal charge made by Catharine and the Confederates, against the Polish Revolution, was, that it introduced hereditary monarchy—that it promoted despotism—and was founded on the subversions of republican liberty.

(To be concluded)

against the others to work out their own destruction. It is parricide! It is fratricide, nay, suicide! Compulsory suicide! That is what it is."

No doubt the picture of Poland's misery is not overdrawn. America has saved Belgium. Will it not assist to save Poland's hosts of starving women and children?

BUFFALO, N. Y., COURIER.

A True Friend of Poland

In the recent death of Curtis Guild of Boston the American Polish relief committee of 14 East Forty-seventh street New York, has lost one of its most ardent workers in behalf of stricken Poland. He was formerly United States ambassador to Russia and especially familiar with conditions in Russian Poland. When the war devastated Poland and left millions of people homeless and starving he volunteered his services to this committee and was put at the head of list of vice-presidents. His co-operation with Mme Sembrich, the president, and the other officials proved of great value, and his services in this time of Poland's greatest need will be sorely missed. Mr. Guild was three times governor of Massachusetts.

Only a short time before his death Mr. Guild made the following statement: "Of all the unfortunate noncombatants who are suffering from the horrors of war none are in so terrible a condition as the unhappy people of Poland. I am informed by private letters constantly of cases not merely of cold and hunger, but of death from exposure and starvation. I know of no people so deserving of our aid as the innocent sufferers in Poland."

Hymn of Complaint

By KORNEL UJEJSKI

Kornel Ujejski was born 1823, at Beremniany, County Czortkow, Galicia. Influenced greatly by Slowacki, he is known for the chaste and classic form of his verse. His poem on the DEATH OF MICKIEWICZ, the ENAMORED BRIDE, THE FUNERAL MARCH, THE DREADFUL NIGHT, and the BIBLICAL MELODIES, along with his PLOUGH AND THE SWORD, are some of his most valuable contributions. THE FLOWERS WITHOUT FRA-GRANCE and THE WITHERED LEAVES are justly popular.

His HYMN OF COMPLAINT, which is sung at every patriotic celebration, was written during the terrible up-rising of the peasantry, instigated by rascally officials, in Galicia in 1846, when towns and villages were burned and sacked by the infuriated mob.

With smoke of burning—with blood outpouring,
O Lord! our voice we raise to-day,
In fearful wailing, in last imploring,
In bitter sorrow that turns us gray!
Songs without murmur we have no longer,
Pierced are our temples with thorny bands,
Like Thy monuments of wrath grown stronger,
To Thee imploring we raise our hands!

O Lord! how often Thy hand has scourged us;—
Our red wounds bleeding and yet unhealed;
We sought Thee vainly when anguish urged us:
Thou art our Father, and Thou shouldst shield.
But when we call Thee with hearts confiding,
Then does the mocker, with fury shod,
Trample upon us and ask, deriding,
Where is that Father? Where is that God?

We search the heavens for sign or token,
But signs of omen no signs unfold;
The silent azure is only broken
By eagle pinions that soared of old!
Our dreams grow fearful—with shadows teeming—
By doubts distracting our souls are stirred;
By hearts that suffer not rash blaspheming,
Judge us, O judge not each frenzied word!

O Lord! what horrors, what woes surround us!
What days of terror upon us come!
The Cains are many whose deeds confound us,
The blood of brothers will not be dumb!
But judge not sternly,—their eyes are blinded,
Nor see the evil they do, O Lord!
O punish instead the baser minded
Who roused the anger that grasped the sword!

In our misfortunes Thou still dost hold us
Close to Thy bosom. We pray for rest

Like birds grown weary:—Thy pinions fold us,
Thy stars shine over our household nest.
Thy future favor reveal unto us,
Thy hand protecting above us spread;
Let flowers of suffering to slumber woo us,
And sorrow's halo surround the head!

With Thine Archangel to go before us
We'll march to battle and win the fight;
In hearts of Satans who triumphed o'er us
We'll plant Thy standard of victor's might!
Then erring brethren—of error shriven,
At Freedom's symbol their knee shall bow;
To vile blasphemers—the answer given,
"God is almighty and reigneth now!"

Translation of PAUL SOBOLESKI.

Music to "Z Dymem Pożarów"

CHORAK

Z dymem pożarów, z kurzem krwi bratniej,
do Ciebie Panie bije ten głos, Skarga to straszna
Jek to ostatni, Od takich modłów bieleje włos!
My już bez skargi, nie znamy śpiewu, Wielec
cierniowy wrośł w naszą srogi, Wielec nie jak pomnik
Twojego gniewu, Sterczy ku Tobie, błagalna dłoń.

Will Russia Prove an Ingrate?

With the great cataclysm came Russia's chance and Poland's opportunity. Russia made use of it, the Poles seized it. That is why there are few desertions from the czar's Polish legions, numbering about 500,000 men. For the first time in history Polish blood is being willingly shed for Russia, hateful to the Polish soul before, but apparently a friend now. Will the new Russia, in view of past lessons, prove an ingrate and go back on its solemn pledge to a brave and chivalrous people? Will Russian autocracy, already showing signs of moderation, dare in this enlightened age to fly in the teeth of an aroused public opinion—"the foremost of the great powers"—fast being crystallized throughout the world in behalf of the oppressed and the weak? And can Russia afford, on the day of final reckoning, to affront its allies, particularly France, and deny liberty to Poland?

It has been asserted repeatedly in the British and French press that Russia did not issue the ukase without first consulting its two powerful allies. An influential London daily has this to say editorially on the subject:

"This is an example of astute and enlightened statesmanship and we may be confident that it has not been made without the knowledge of Great Britain and France, and probably at their suggestion. The partition of Poland is one of the deepest blots on the modern history of Europe. It has always been resented in France. Even as late as the beginning of the present Russian-French alliance, a well-known French statesman greeted the czar in Paris with the cry of "Long live Poland." It is therefore, quite certain that Great Britain, with the French republic, will hold the czar to his promise, and it should be noted that this promise at once minimizes the fear that when the war power in Berlin has been destroyed, Europe may be menaced by a similar power in Petrograd."

That, in substance, is the key to the whole situation. Even should Russia wish to go back on its word, France and England will see to it that no such perfidy takes place, in order to safeguard their own future and insure the peace of Europe for years to come. They will insist on a free Poland from selfish motives, if no other. They are aware that a powerful and independent state—a buffer if you care so to call it—is needed in that part of the continent over which Sobieski once held sway. The balance of power hereafter will be maintained at whatever cost. A free Poland will be a big factor in preserving that balance.

There are other and no less cogent reasons why France and England will insist on a new Polish state. They see an opportunity effectively to weaken Germany and Austria by depriving both of their Polish possessions. It is easy to figure out what a solar-plexus blow it would be to the kaiser's aspirations if he lost a part of Prussia, a slice of Silesia and all of Posen. No less would Austria be crippled by losing the rich province of Galicia and probably Bukowina, if nothing more.

Yet the allies could plead justification before the tribunal of world opinion. "We are doing nothing more than restoring stolen property to its rightful owner," they could say, and rightly. The world would not look upon such an act as too severe a punishment for a vanquished enemy. The neutral nations of Europe know too well the tragic history of the Polish people to look with disfavor upon a transformation which would bring them into their own at the expense of their foes. And I believe America, the greatest neutral, would applaud the birth of a new

nation on the ruins of the old, the birth, no doubt, of a republic.

The allies have promised Russia the great prize it has coveted for centuries — an outlet to the Mediterranean from the Black sea. "For Constantinople and the Dardanelles Russia would be willing to exchange Poland even were there no other considerations", said a prominent Russian economist soon after the allied fleets battered their way into the entrance of the straits. It is not likely the czar will be given complete possession of both or of either should the triple entente bring the war to a successful end. In that event the Dardanelles would be proclaimed absolutely neutral and Russia still would have the much-desired outlet for its increasing commerce. Odessa would become a second Liverpool, another Hamburg.

After all, the loss of Poland would not be such a heavy blow to Russia territorially. The resources of that monster empire of 8,764,586 square miles scarcely have been touched. Its vast plains and steppes beyond the Ural mountains hardly are more than wastes, yet whose soil is rich. Of minerals there are boundless stores. Development in that direction has been stunted by lack of a proper outlet. The monumental Trans-Siberian railway falls far short of Russia's real need. Therefore, should Russia find it expedient to relinquish Poland, never rightfully possessed, for an opportunity to develop its own vast possessions, there is no doubt the swap will be made.

On the other hand, the Poles have no illusions as to what would be their fate should Germany win out. They see repeated in Belgium and in northern France the horrors, only in some degrees worse, due to the exigencies of war, which they have been compelled to endure in their own grand duchy of Posen. Is it any wonder they sneer at any promise the kaiser might make?

"The Poles breed like rabbits and should be exterminated", was the humane declaration in the German parliament by no less a functionary than Prince von Buelow, the former imperial chancellor, the man who is now making supreme efforts to keep Italy neutral at Austria's expense. And this wolfish policy of extermination and Prussianization has been ruthlessly pursued, even to the barbaric extreme of beating to death little Polish children who refused to pray to their Maker in any but their native language.

If German school teachers can be so cruel to their charges, is it surprising that German soldiers, fired by blood-lust, have committed outrages on an enemy they have conquered? That affair at the schoolhouse in the Polish village of Września, about fifteen years ago, in a measure explains Louvain, Malines and Rheims.

For every village destroyed by the Russians in East Prussia the German army officially was ordered to destroy, and is destroying, three enemy villages. Suwalki and other cities were burned only the other day. The Russians ravaged German territory, but the German reprisals for this do not fall on Russia and the Russians, but on Poland and the Poles. Yet the kaiser expects Polish support!

"We will free you from the Russian yoke", read German handbills dropped from an aeroplane into Warsaw. At the next instant the same taube dropped bombs which freed sixty-four souls from that many bodies of Polish women and children!

The Jews in Poland

A Reply to Mr. Bernstein's "The Tragedy of Israel."



T APPEARED to everyone in Poland that with the war all questions not bearing immediate relation to the war were closed. The Polish nation stood united—there were neither Jewish nor Christian but Poles. Both were children of the same soil, struck by the same calamity, who, hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder, were watching the events with open hands and hearts to help all suffering, to bring relief, material and spiritual, to all needy without difference of creed.

The Warsaw paper "Day" ('Dzien') Jan. 11th, repeating the words of the Primate of the Roman Catholic church in Russia, Archbishop Kluczynski, said: "The Polish-Jewish question with the beginning of the war ceased to exist." All other Warsaw papers are treating this question in the same way.

The time of vain words is gone; the time now is of anxiety and hard work. Side by side with Polish clergy and noblemen, representatives of Jewish communities are sitting, not discussing politics, but on an errand of mercy; the shadows of hunger, sickness, misery stand among them; there is no place for foolish accusations or discussion; the time is for quick and prompt action.

They are children of the same soil. This misery is a common calamity.

Here in America, many thousand miles from the modern pandemonium it is easy and safe to discuss the situation there. But still it is not necessary to add misery to misery, to enhance the frightful position of the unfortunate millions of starving and homeless inhabitants of Poland, by hearsay stories and gossips circulating everywhere, where panicky conditions prevail,—be it in Poland or Belgium.

The truth—the plain truth—is sufficiently terrible, and even more staggering than mere inventions and exaggerations of the most productive imaginations.

The story of Poland and its inhabitant Christians and Jews six months ago living in prosperous villages, towns, and cities—now a mass of ruins—is a frightful tragedy of a once powerful nation. There is no need to turn it into a melodrama for the sake of making the copy more popular, nor to vilify the whole Polish nation for crimes not committed.

Mr. Herman Bernstein, editor of "The Day", a journalist of high abilities, in "The Sun", published an article "The Tragedy of Israel in Poland", in which he tries to represent the Poles as a horde of criminals of the worst kind. Laying aside what Mr. Bernstein says about the Russian government, army, and soldiers, as we are not responsible for the actions of the Russians, and Russia has her diplomatic and consular service to take care of her interest, I am going to deal with those questions of Mr. Bernstein's article in which he refers to Poles in Poland.

Before the readers of "The Sun", the Polish people are on trial. Mr. Bernstein represented his case. I am going to defend my accused country—Poland. The readers of the "Sun" will act as an honest jury, and will pay as much attention to the defense as they paid to the accusation, and in spirit of fairness towards my opponent, I presume that he, preparing his accusation, was obliged to rely often upon second hand reports through the lack

of knowledge of the Polish language and that his statements were made bona fide.

The author did not give even a superficial account of political conditions preceding the war which would have greatly helped to add light to many dark points.

He says, "for several years before the outbreak of the European war, the Jews in Poland suffered as no oppressed people ever suffered anywhere else on the face of the earth!!....." The anti-Jewish boycott started not "several years" ago, but just two years before the outbreak of the war. The cause of the boycott was the result of the election in the city of Warsaw.

Warsaw, a city of over 800,000 inhabitants, elects one deputy to the Russian Duma—two Polish candidates, one National Democratic, and a Conservative, were through the fraudulent registration defeated by an international Socialist, the candidate supported in this very instance by the Russian government and who in Petrograd, joined not the Polish deputies, but the Russian Socialists. The Jews expelled from Russia called by Polish Jews "Litwaks" numbering more than 20,000 in Warsaw, boasted that they elected him in spite of the Poles. The Litwaks, were always regarded as staunch supporters of the Russian government, always helping the government in all its anti-Polish measures. The action of the Litwaks not being repudiated by the Jewish press of Poland, some politicians proclaimed a boycott against the Jews, which controlled not less than 90% of the Polish retail and wholesale commerce. The boycott was supported by some Polish papers, bitterly opposed by others. (Such papers as Kurjer Waszawski, Goniec, Kurjer Poranny, Kurjer Polski, Slowo, were among those which were against the boycott.

The boycott, aimed principally at the Litwaks, in that direction, was a complete failure, and even to them, mostly wholesale commission agents, brought additional incomes; but in some places it hurt the Polish Jews, those whom the author of the boycott did not intend to hurt. The boycott was neither general nor supported by the whole political party. Politically, the boycott was a regrettable mistake, and economically, did not bring much of a result. Poles were never inclined to embark in commercial enterprises, but always were farmers. The war put an end to the boycott, and even without war it would have died. If it lasted so long, it was only because the Russian government tried to interfere, in that way adding one more reason for its existence, and thus doing something in spite of the wish of the government.

"The Jews hailed Poland's freedom in a spirit of genuine joy"—so it was after the publication of the war manifesto of the Grand Duke Nicolaus—and up to now they have not changed their opinion. "Gazeta Warszawska" of January 11th publishes an article entitled "Love of Jews for Poland", a translation from the leading Warsaw Jewish paper "Moment" in which that paper explains that the love of Jews for Poland is so great that even if Russia abolished the pale of settlement, and permitted the Jews to live, and move freely in Russian, not many would go there, perhaps some merchants or some workmen with a trade. "There is no use of thinking that we Jews born in this country will quit Poland."

Would the "Moment" print such an article if of what

Mr. Bernstein accuses the Poles was true? If such conditions existed in Poland as depicted in the article incriminating the Poles, would one of the leading political Polish papers—the very paper which started the boycott—republish it? There is no question that the Zionist movement among the Polish Jews has many adherents, but the majority are Poles without the hyphen. The term Jew is used as a description not of a nationality but rather of a class of people like the words “clergy”, “landowners”, “peasants.”

It is really an unpardonable error on the part of Mr. Bernstein to accuse a whole nation of committing crimes when mentioning articles supposed to have been published in Polish papers, he forgets to give not only the number or date of issue, but even the name of the publication; as for instance, when he says “One of the leading Polish newspapers commenced the new campaign by publishing an article declaring that the Poles could not be expected to respect the rights of the Jews because in all Russian official documents the Jews are spoken of as aliens and not as a nationality.”

As we read Polish papers and have never met anything like it, I am not going to regard it as anything more than hearsay, till the contrary is proved. In the following paragraph, the Poles are accused of another crime.

“Blame the Jew.” This order, spread by the Polish leaders, was intended to serve two purposes. The Jews were to be compromised and discredited so that the Poles would not have to respect their rights when Poland became autonomous. In the second place, their own disloyalty would be rendered less conspicuous.”

The leaders have names. Unfortunately, their names are not given to strengthen the accusation, but the leaders of all leaders were then in Germany, and were returning to Poland via Sweden and Petrograd from Germany.

If anybody tried to compromise Poles and Jews alike, it was the Austrian government and its provoking agents, sent in to Russian Poland with advance guards, among whom were Poles and Jews alike. And one of them, Arthur Hausner, a Polish Jew from Galicia who is just now in America, was sent to raise among American-Poles a pro-Austrian sentiment.

The Austrian provocateurs, to encourage Poles to join the Austrian army, went so far as to publish a list of prominent people, many of them Russian subjects as having already joined the Austrian legions.

Among others, was the name of Dr. Simon Askenazy, professor of the University of Lwow, and a Polish Jew and Russian subject. Dr. Askenazy, who is a member of the Polish relief committee in Switzerland, was not a member of the Austrian legions and never intended to join them. “Naprzod”, the paper which first published that information was published in Cracow and was edited by an Austrian-Polish Jew, by the name of Haeker.

The attitude of the Poles in Warsaw and whole Poland was a real surprise to the Poles themselves, to the Russians, as well as to the Austrian government. It was a surprise, and a pleasant one for the Polish leaders as well as for the Russian government.

We expected for the last two years the outbreak of the European war, at any moment, and were prepared to see a repetition of the turmoil of 1905, to see the Polish Socialist party, the Socialist Democratic party, and the Jewish Bund (Socialist) rise in favor of Austria. We are glad to hear that the Poles are quiet.

The whole Polish press and Polish leaders has no other message to their people than to be quiet, to be strictly neutral. Strict neutrality for Poles as well as

Jews was the only way to preserve their homes, towns and cities.

If anything else happened, do not blame the Poles, but the sinister hand which in 1846 arranged the massacre of Poles in Galicia, and is now responsible for hundreds and thousands of young Polish people, Christian and Jews, who, perhaps, innocently were hanged as traitors, spies, and induced innocently by provoking agents.

Villages, towns and cities were burned and destroyed in punishment for the disappointment, as Austria and Germany had expected that Poland would rise as a unit against Russia. They misjudged the sentiment of the Polish people, who hated the Russian much, but the Germans still more.

As to the story of the synagogue of Skierniewice, it is a pity that Mr. Bernstein does not mention what the Germans did with the Catholic church, whether they kept there their prisoners or also turned it into a stable. The story of Poles influencing the German military authorities is so absurdly improbable that I pass it without answering.

Concerning Gen. Schiedeman, who was a Russian official, I can only say that von Schiedeman, a German in Russian service, was dismissed by the Russian government. I willingly concede that among the hundred thousands of homeless Poles wandering and looking for shelter were some robbers. It is a fact that even on the battlefields of France and Belgium were human hyenas robbing the dead and wounded; such maybe were in Skierniewice too, and robbed the Jewish houses and stores, but it is a childish story to tell that they took possession of said places and could not be dislodged. If such a thing happens, the laws in time of war do not play with offenders. They would have been hanged promptly on the nearest tree.

In case of intercession with authorities in Warsaw, Jews needed no better protector than that of Mr. Bergson, President of the Warsaw Jewish community.

The suburb of Warsaw, Praga, in which over a hundred thousand people reside, is no more a den of thugs “than is Brooklyn in the city of New York.”

There is no paper by the name of “Dwa Groski” (Half penny), but there is one “Gazeta Poranna”, so nicknamed, which never published the statement attributed to it, namely:

“Now is the time for the Poles to take control of the Polish trade and crowd out the Jews.” I challenge the author to produce the copy of the paper or give the date of the issue.

Now, resuming the whole case, it is no more than a series of baseless accusations against the Poles founded on hearsay and gossip.

Such things as names of papers, dates of issues, names for instance of such people as of the burgomaster of Skierniewice, to corroborate the truth of accusation, are omitted. No jury, howsoever prejudiced, could convince a person, and it is a question of a nation of many millions of people against such evidence.

I presume the readers of the “Sun” will refuse to convict on such evidence and will declare the accused Polish nation “not guilty”.

As a matter of fact, from the beginning, the Polish relief committee in Europe did not discriminate when giving material help between Christian and Jewish Poles. Money collected and sent by the Polish-American committee in Chicago, collected exclusively by us among Christian Poles, went to the general committee composed of people of all creeds and political parties which on this errand of mercy have no other aim than to help those who need help.

The discussion of the terrible position of Jews and Poles in Europe and efforts to put the fault of some one's shoulder is not only vain and fruitless, but even can have a sinister significance.

Poland when it had its own government, treated the Jews well; why should the same nation, if it regains autonomy, treat them in a different way?

The spirit ruling a nation does not change over night. The attitude of Poles towards Jews does not justify any special anti-Polish crusade. If the Poles were at fault, the first to start to write against them would be the Jewish press right in Warsaw—but the whole anti-Polish campaign has its origin not in Poland, but started with anti-Polish outbursts in Kiev, Russia, and in Copenhagen, Denmark, sometime last November. If the Poles are partly divided, the great majority siding with Russia in this great war, still some sympathizing with Austria, the Jews are hopelessly divided too.

There are some Russian Jews with strong pro-Russian sentiment, who would like to abolish the pale of Jewish settlement in Russia, and not lose hold on Poland. Most of the Polish Jews are for Poland and with Poland in this struggle. Austria, of course, has some sympathizers in Russian Poland, practically exclusively among the working classes belonging to the "Jewish Bund", a socialistic

organization, and there again are the Zionists, so the Jews are divided into four different parties with four different aims. To start an anti-Polish campaign can only help those who have other political ideas and other objects in view than the Polish Jews.

The Jews in Poland will get their rights because they will deserve to get them. All those who purpose to abuse the Poles by their action, render poor service to their Polish co-religionaires, cannot do much harm to the Poles, but do a great deal of harm to those for whose interest they claim to stand.

Though it was not my intention to interfere with the doings of the Russian authorities, yet may I ask Mr. Herman Bernstein whether he read the legend under the picture illustrating his article "Jews Fleeing from Warsaw waiting to go to Posen"? Warsaw was always occupied by Russians, Posen, by Germany. Did he realize the meaning which that legend conveys? Perhaps not, because it is strictly prohibited by the laws of war of all nations to pass through the lines of their own country into those of the enemy. The legend is a denunciation of the Polish Jews to the Russian government.

ALEXANDER JASIENSKI,
Editor of "Gwiazda Wschodu."

Notable Women of Poland

WOMAN AND THE REBIRTH OF A NATION.

WHEN a nation seeks its regeneration, it must commence the work from its very basis.

The basis of every society is the family; from it society originates, of families it is composed. Only sound families can produce a sound society. But in order that a family may do justice to its calling, its founders, man and woman must possess certain definite rights and obligations.

A man's duty is to work for the national wealth; a woman's, the rearing of the future generation, the watching over the heart of the nation.

And woman alone — a mother — can bring up her children to be true patriots and upright social workers. In order to raise a nation from its ruin, in order to insure its welfare and independent existence based upon the enlightened patriotism of all its members, the united effort of men and women citizens in the community, of husband and wife in a family, are indispensable.

* * *

When the downfall of the great Roman Empire, "The Ruler of the Earth", had begun, all the endeavors of its geniuses and patriots were of no avail. Neither could the swords of the armor-clad praetors nor even the change of religion, save it. With those remedies they were only putting a strong heavy roof on a tottering building, when they should have started to strenghten its foundations; there was not, in all these efforts, the cooperation of the woman in the family.

The woman in Rome did not share the cares of her husband, she possessed neither rights nor duties: in a word, she was there only to make life more pleasant for her husband. Hence, Rome lacked the power which could save it from ruin and its people from debasement.

With the fall of Constantinople "The Scepter of the World" passes into the bands of the Moslems. They rule tens of peoples; they dictate and impose their will upon nearly all the powers of the World. This power, however,

has been also descending into oblivion, during the last few centuries; it has lost its mighty sway, and the vast lands it once conquered; and finally, Turkey is now thinking of how it may preserve its own independence.

For the past few years we have looked upon the attempts of the Turkish patriots to revive the nation; upon the revolution of the Young Turks and upon various other means undertaken to restore the strength of Turkey.

But in spite of all those good intentions on the part of patriotic Turks, the latter have been unable to crown their work with success; they have not regenerated Turkey; they have not prevented the misfortunes which will inevitably bring about the loss of their liberty.

Studying the fate of that country, the desperate strivings of its patriots, we must of necessity sympathize with them, as we see the futility of their noble endeavors; their labor cannot be fruitful, just as the leaves of a tree cannot retain their greenness of color when the trunk has dried.

Turkey has no families.

The Turkish women living in harems have not the slightest conception of the nation's needs; they are not allowed to labor for it, but only to amuse themselves with music, embroidery and pleasures. A Turkish woman is a delightful creature, that entertains her husband, but is not his companion in labor or associate bearer of his cares.

And it is because of this that Turkey is decaying.

* * *

The causes of Poland's downfall were different. Inability to cope with existing conditions, exclusive idealism, extreme faith, etc., were among the causes well known to everyone; but there were absent the national debasement and the corruption of life-principles. Even during the time of the government's decline, our people astounded the world with their soundness of morality: the Polish

family could serve as a beautiful model to the whole world with its virtues and commendable qualities.

This is the nucleus of our entire history; the family has always constituted the basis of our nation; the man governed the country but at the fireplace the woman was supreme. In the history of no nation can we meet such examples of respect paid to womankind as those in Poland. Hence, in our history we have a whole series of prominent women who have brought honors to their country. Already in the legendary annals of our nation we have the happy memories of Princess Wanda, later Dombrowka, St. Kinga, and Queen Hedwig; of more recent date: Kono-pnicka, Orzeszkowa, Sklodowska, etc., etc., a whole endless

chain of names, the equal of which no other nation can boast of.

And this is the best proof of the fact that the men have not borne alone their burdens of life, but that the latter have fallen in like measure upon the shoulders of our women. And it is on this mutual work of our people, and on the equality of both sexes that we base our hope of existence. And on this principle, we believe that Poland cannot perish; that it must be born again!

LOUISE UCZCIWEK.

(This is the first of a series of articles dealing with the notable women of Poland.)

Relief Funds for the Polish War Sufferers Collected in the United States

AMERICAN POLISH RELIEF COMMITTEE OF NEW YORK

Madame Marcella Sembrich, President,
14 East 47th st., New York, N. Y.

As previously reported \$28,380.82

Mrs. M. D. Ellison, Westfield, N. J.	1.00
Mr. W. A. Gallagher, New York Life Ins. Co.	22.00
H. F. Berghorn, Jersey City, N. J.	2.00
Mr. G. G. Zabriskis, New York	10.00
Mr. Charles C. Roosa, Buffalo, N. Y.	5.00
Mr. Frederick Condit, North Stoughton, Mass. ...	6.00
R. Fulton Cutting, New York	500.00
A. S. Davis, Geneca Falls, N. J.	1.00
Earl Cobb, Amerillo, Texas	5.00
Antoni Sadowski, Passaic, N. J.	2.60
Charles R. Crane, New York	1000.00
Anonymous	5.50
Proceeds of Madam Szumowska Adamowski Recital	48.00
Mrs. Emily C. Gorham	5.00
Adelaide Wright50
Dr. H. H. Lauderdale, Paulding, Ohio	2.00
Alex F. Gilman, St. Paul, Minn.	2.50
Mrs. Charles Langdom Adams, Passadena, Cal. ...	20.00
Mrs. George Small Franklin	10.00
Dr. Ch. L. Minor, Asheville, N. Carolina	25.00
Anonymous	10.00
Mr. H. S. Woodward, Rochester, N. Y.	5.00
Mr. Edgar Nelton	1.00
A. M. Corner	5.00
Miss Rena Kurth, Easton, Pa.	1.00
Mrs. Edward C. Hood, Flushing, N. Y.	2.00
Henry P. Howell	5.00
Mr. L. H. Foster, Palmyra, N. Y.	2.00
Mrs. Thomas Garton Coombs	12.50
From a friend of Madam Sembrich's	1,500.00
Rev. Fenner Smith, Jr. Phila, Pa.	10.00
From sale of Emblems at Horticultural Tea	82.00
Proceeds of Tea at Horticultural Hall	707.93
One cup of tea, Horticultural Hall	50.00
Miss Elizabeth Kean	25.00
G. W. Craft	1.00
G. H. Weaver	10.00
Mrs. W. H. Kriskern, Catskill, N. Y.	25.00
Mrs. George T. Bingham, Summit, N. J.	10.00
Mrs. Elinor L. P. Lyon, Plainfield, N. J.	5.00
Mr. & Mrs. Francis Lynde Stetson	50.00
Mrs. L. W. Labrot, Frankfort, Ky.	15.00
Myron I. Arms, Youngstown, Ohio	50.00
N. Y. Symphony Club, with Mr. Ernest Schelling	3,500.00
Mr. Alexander Andrews	10.00

Miss Bliss	500.00
Mrs. A. N. Jones, Westfield, N. J.	1.36
Mrs. H. N. Taylor, San Antonio, Tex.	5.00
Mrs. D. C. Royall, Sewanee, Tenn.	10.00
Mr. R. C. Morrow	1.00
Mrs. Wm. H. Bliss	250.00
Mrs. Alfred H. Smith	20.00
Mrs. E. E. Miller, Columbus, Ohio.	10.00
Mr. J. K. Sharpe, Indianapolis	25.00
Mr. Wm. H. Rockwood, Pres. Union Sq. Savings Bank	25.00
George Schwarz	4.00
Mrs. Wm. A. Bliss	250.00
A. H. Sanford, La Crosse, Wis.	4.00
Isborn T. Beckwith, Hartford, Conn.	10.00
Miss Bliss	250.00
Miss Clara E. Ramskill, Chicago, Ill.	3.00
Miss Marian E. Dwight	15.00
Mrs. William Proctor	50.00
Ada Sterling	10.00
Mrs. Margaret A. Colgate, Orange, N. J.	100.00
Mr. W. C. Meeker	2.50
Mr. Joseph Karawiecz	20.00
Mr. H. F. Draper	2.50
Mrs. Kerby S. Miller, Medford, Oregon	3.00
Total Proceeds of sale of Emblems at "Night in Poland"	263.75
Mr. John S. Moczewski	24.00
Mrs. Perry W. Jones	5.00
Private Casimir Mlochowski, S. S. Rhode Island ..	2.00
Mr. Joseph Nieliwodski	15.00
Rev. Chauncey W. Goodrich Coll. Brunswick, Me..	22.00
Mrs. Emily L. Nourse	5.00
Mr. Frederick A. Halsey	25.00
Miss Katherine P. Moore, Detroit, Mich.	10.00
Mr. M. B. Hartwig, Foley, Minn.	100.50
Mr. L. A. Langford, Redlands, Cal.	10.00
Miss Belle Gurnee	1.50
L. R. D. Blodget	5.00
Miss E. P. Ely	5.00
Proceeds "Night in Poland"	5,407.89
Mrs. Florence M. Hall	5.00
Mr. E. W. Kellog	5.00

TOTAL \$43,631.35

Yours very truly,

MISS LEONIDA KRAJEWSKI, Ass't Treas.

Checks may be sent to Treasurer: Guarantee Trust Company of New York, Fifth Avenue and Forty-third Street, New York, N. Y.