

DICTATOR-LED POLAND SEEKS TO WELD POWERFUL NATION; ARMY PLAYING CENTRAL ROLE

Ku-Klux Klan Preys on Jews, but Premier Warns Its Leaders Are Courting Jail; 'Foxy' Rydz Is Country's Ruler.

BULLETIN

By United Press

WARSAW, July 19.—An unknown man was blown to pieces today in an unsuccessful attempt to assassinate Capt. Adam Koc, leader of the newly formed, Government approved "Party of National Concentration."

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS

Times Foreign Editor

WARSAW, July 19.—Across Pilsudski Square in the heart of the Polish capital five regiments of horse and one of foot stood at attention.

A group of staff officers gazed expectantly down the street. Suddenly there was an exclamation. The massed music struck up the national anthem and as it did so a 16-cylinder Cadillac dashed up and out stepped a slender, well-built officer in a Field Marshal's uniform.

The group of staffers came to a brisk salute. He returned it just as snappily. The music stopped. In perfect unison a roar went up from the soldiers: "Hail the Chief!" Or words to that effect, in stirring Polish. A horse caught the contagion, whinnied loudly and kicked up its heels.

Such was the arrival of Marshal Edward Smigley-Rydz, the Polish Republic's No. 1 man, come to present colors to the waiting regiments. On him the eyes of Europe and the world should keep watch. No country anywhere occupies a more delicate situation than his. None has graver problems.

Poland has 34 million inhabitants. They are a mixed population. To the east is Russia, with 165 million people, and to the west is Nazi Germany, with 68 million. It is a tossup which of these two is the world's most heavily armed power.

Mortal enemies, Hitler and Stalin have warned that if there is a war the fighting will not be on their territory. It looks as if Poland might be the battleground.

Should Germany win, she would likely stay in Poland. If Russia should be the victor, Moscow at least would see to it that a ready-made Soviet government was left behind in Warsaw. In any case Poland would no longer be Poland.

Problem Perfectly Clear

Poland's problem, therefore, is crystal clear. She must be careful not to make an enemy of either Germany or Russia. She must make herself as strong as possible.

And that is precisely what she is trying to do. Col. Joseph Beck, one of the continent's shrewdest foreign ministers, is doing what he can to keep on good terms with his neighbors. Smigley-Rydz is putting the Jews in eastern Europe.

Smigley-Rydz is Poland's ruler. He is above the President and above the Premier. He is 51. Clean-shaved, square of face and of head, he makes a soldierly appearance—somewhat on the Prussian order.

He was born poor. His name, Rydz, is said to mean "mushroom," perhaps because his ancestors grew them. Smigley is a nickname, officially adopted. The word means "foxy" or "nimble," and was earned by him during the war just as Jackson earned the name "Stone-wall" at Bull Run.

New Poland in the Making

Poland is like a citadel besieged. At least that is the way she feels about it, and thus today a new Poland is in the making—Poland which is taking on something of Italy and Germany, of Russia, and something of France, Britain, and the United States.

Led by Col. Adam Koc but backed by Smigley-Rydz, a new nationalist movement is in full swing to create a powerful Poland "led by a single will toward a single aim."

The new political system is to be based upon the army. Around the army the nation is to consolidate. That, says Koc, was Pilsudski's idea.

Communism is rejected on the ground that it is the doctrine of a single group. Class hatred is declared alien. The State claims the right to regulate conditions of labor and the employment of capital.

Land Distribution Vital

Much stress is laid on the fact that Poland's structure is based on the large masses of peasants and workers. The welfare of these, therefore, is to be specially promoted.

The right of private ownership and individual initiative is maintained, but there again the State reserves the right to guard the harmonious development of the national economy in its entirety.

The question of land distribution, for example, is declared vital. Not enough peasants own their land. Where peasants do own land, the average holding is too small (ranging from one to five or six acres). Thus some of the large holdings are to be divided up, some of the uneconomic small ones will be consolidated.

Agricultural standards are to be

out-and-out racial. But it was not. It was economic.

For in other regions of the Pacific Coast, notably in Oregon and Washington, where the Japanese had not "colonized," but had scattered out as individuals and families over a wide expanse of territory, they were heartily welcomed.

'We Like Them,' Said Governor

"There is no anti-Japanese feeling here," said Oregon's Governor. "We like them. They are sober and industrious. They are good workers. I wish we had more of them."

Similarly, I am told by observers here, Poland's Jewish problem is basically economic.

Poland has no intention of following the lead of Germany and attempting to drive out her Jewish citizens. Instead, said Slawoj-Skłodowski, the Government will use every means at its disposal to suppress anti-Jewish disturbances.

But it is admitted that a solution satisfactory to all concerned is scarcely possible.

Nazi Germany, with her 68 million, has only about half a million Jews, despite the furor she is creating over them. Poland, with half the number of inhabitants, has 3,500,000 Jews—seven times as many as Germany.

Majority of Jews Artisans

Poland has more Jews than any other country in Europe. They number 10 per cent of her population. The vast majority are artisans or traders.

Poland has only 150,000 square miles. There are only 46 million acres of arable land. As more than 25 million people live on the farms, the average is less than two acres per person.

"If all the arable land, forest land and meadows in Poland were cut up into 25-acre farms," I was told, "more than 5 million peasants would still be landless."

This surplus farm population presents a terrible problem. Patiently, the land must be made more productive. Patiently, also, some of the peasants must be provided with other occupations. The Government is trying to stimulate the growth of industry in order to get a better balance between farm and factory.

Regarded As Impassable Wall

But about 40 per cent of all artisans in Poland are Jews. Jews are also in trade and finance. Much of the movable wealth of the nation is in their hands. Accordingly, millions of the poorer Poles regard the Jews as an impassable wall barring all hope of advancement.

The Jews complain that they are being taxed out of existence. Poles reply that taxes always hit those with the largest incomes hardest.

Jewish merchants charge they are being ruined by Government-sponsored co-operatives and other marketing devices. The explanation given me is that this phenomenon is not confined to Poland; it is worldwide. The small independent merchant is being put out of business by less wasteful methods of distribution—sometimes privately financed, like the chain stores and mail-order houses in America, and sometimes with Government support, as in Sweden and other countries.

No Anti-Semitism in Yugoslavia

In those Eastern European countries where Jews are not numerous and are spread out—as in Yugoslavia—there is little anti-Semitism. As the percentage of Jews increases with regard to the total population, and the economic equation assumes corresponding importance, anti-Semitism becomes more pronounced.

Nazi Germany is the exception. But there, a dictator with a per-

Recalls Victory March of 1919



Robert P. Miksell—thinks of London and marching soldiers.

Indianapolis Buddy Tramped To Blare of London's Cheers

Robert P. Miksell thought about a London parade today and the slim, khaki-clad boys who marched so proudly down the Mall because they had "made the world safer for democracy."

That parade was 18 years ago today, and every American in it was a picked soldier. Life was at high tide for Machine Gunner Miksell and his comrades that day. They had won glory in what they thought was a great crusade, and were still alive to tell about it.

With them marched their Allied comrades-at-arms—British, French Belgians and Italians. As a "hands across the sea" gesture of brotherhood, the British requested the Americans to take the place of

honor at the head of the triumphal procession.

The American representatives wore tailored uniforms and they were all tall. Infantry soldiers look better if they are long-legged, and their rifles are held at the same level.

Drilled by Gen. Pershing

"They called this outfit the Third Army Composite Regiment," Mr. Miksell said, "and Gen. Pershing had drilled us with the care and personal supervision of an old sergeant.

I see no solution that will satisfy all concerned. Emigration won't do it. Palestine, even if it were all given to the Jews, would be too small. Assimilation is out of the question. Jewry doesn't want it. Pogroms and persecution won't do it. The Jew is an imperishable as time.

Colonies might do it. But where are the colonies?

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