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UNHAPPY POLAND.

**Treatment the Dismembered Kingdom
Is Subjected To.**

A LONG RECITAL OF OPPRESSION.

**Russia's Greed which Threatens the Peace of Europe—
The Means taken to Suppress Patriotism Among
the People of that Country.**

Chicago Inter-Ocean,

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WARSAW, November 25th.—The situation is deplorable, so deplorable indeed that, in the presence of the persecutions to which the nation is subjected, you are led to ask: "Is not this civilization that humanity prides itself on an evil devoid of all reason?" The partition of Poland was pronounced a crime. To-day it is perceived that it was not only a crime but also a fault, a grave blunder by which Europe lost one of the elements of its political balance that held in check Russia, Prussia and Austria. Among the consequences of the destruction of Poland was the colossal growth of the Russian Empire. Prussia succeeded in vanquishing France and in securing her preponderant position because Poland had ceased to exist as an independent State. It is due to the absence of Poland from the family of nations that militarism has been developed to such an alarming extent, and Europe kept in a condition of uneasiness. It has been found necessary to replace, by artificial means, one of the natural factors in the arrangement of continental politics. The proceeding has cost Europe dearly, and the result is a ceaseless menace to public tranquillity. We are living in a state of armed peace which threatens to terminate sooner or later in a general war—a calamity that would be impossible if Poland existed and held the balance between Russia, Germany and Austria. She would act as a geographical barrier between the great powers that are now contiguous and inciting each other to warlike measures by their very proximity.

The suppression of Poland was, therefore, a fault; and this fault is evident to anybody who will examine with attention and without prejudice the present situation of Europe. Every nation suffers to-day in consequence of this lamentable act, and above all the Poles themselves. Their State has been destroyed, and at this moment a vigorous effort is being made to annihilate their nationality; first Poland and now the Poles. Two of the co-partitioners of Poland—Prussia and Russia—are particularly active in this shameful task, so contrary to the true interests of civilization. To describe the position of the Polish subjects of those two States is to enumerate a long list of exceptional laws to which they are amenable, and to tell of persecutions and sharp practices without end that they have to undergo. There is, however, one difference in the sad lot of these two fractions of the Polish nation. As there exists in Prussia at least the shadow of a representative system of government, "the powers that be" are somewhat embarrassed when they try to enforce exceptional measures. They must justify

their acts. But this is not a difficult task, especially after Herr Von Hartmann, as a philosopher, and Prince Von Bismarck, as a statesman, have declared that the Polish element, hostile to the chief interests of the German people, ought to be extirpated from Teutonic soil. It was only natural after this that a decree was signed expelling from the country 30,000 Polish families, and that the Berlin Parliament voted the appropriation necessary to colonize these depopulated provinces of the former Kingdom of Poland with native Germans. Besides this, the Polish language has been shut out of all the state schools in the Polish provinces, and German alone is permitted in the courts, in the administrative offices, in the police department, etc. All the vexations attending the differences with the Pope, Culturkampf, have been removed in the German provinces, but retained in the Polish provinces, and German names have been substituted for those of Polish origin in the case of towns. Such are a few of the thousand and one petty annoyances and galling insults that Polish Germans are forced to endure. It must be admitted, however, that the wronged may make a complaint, they may defend themselves up to a certain point, appeal to public opinion, and organize themselves so as to defend, within legal limits, their imperiled interests. Such action has just been witnessed in that portion of Prussia known as the Grand Duchy of Posen. The wealthy Poles of the province have established a bank, with a capital of 30 millions of marks, for the purpose of furnishing the means to counteract the plan of colonizing the country with native Germans; and the Berlin Government is forced to take up the gauntlet thus thrown at its feet by those indignant and patriotic sons of old Poland.

Nothing of this kind is possible here in Russia. It may be seen that all the laws that affect the Poles in this Empire are exceptional; and—what is not the least of the evil—these laws are executed by subordinates who have no account to render to anybody, and are enacted by the Czar, whose greatest weakness is his hatred of all things Polish. The Emperor of Austria loves the Poles; Prince Bismarck and the Emperor of Russia hate them. This personal animosity of Alexander III exercises an enormous influence on the condition of the Polish nationality, which, as has just been seen, is protected to a certain degree in Prussia on account of the representative system, but which in Russia, where autocracy flourishes in all its strength, is left to the hard mercy of a single man, and he is declared a foe, and is exposed to persecution which knows no check. A complaint, even the idea of attempting a defense, is considered a crime, which, though not formally judged, is strictly punished by means of what are called "administrative measures." The Governor of a

province has the power to deport whomsoever he pleases, without having to give the reason for his act to anybody but the Emperor. The newspapers announce the fact, that is all. They don't venture to comment upon it. Then there are the legal prescriptions, the ukases, which form a long list of regulations affecting Poles alone. For instance, they may not acquire titles to land in the Lithuanian and Ruthenian of the former kingdom of Poland, nor speak their national language there, and nowhere in the Czar's dominions may they aspire to public office. In the schools the teaching is all done in Russian, and in Lithuania and Ruthenia the number of Polish children allowed in the schools may not exceed 10 per cent. Poles may not form financial, commercial or agricultural societies; they may not secure land by lease for a period longer than twelve years, they may not make a will nor sell their property. Russian landlords may not engage Poles as workmen. The Polish press is gagged and dare not protest against such a state of things, while the Russian press does not cease to insult and denounce the Polish population. To complete this dark picture you must add to all these hardships the tolerant persecution by the Catholic Church and the implacable persecution by the Greek Church. It is not an exaggeration to say that under such conditions as these the Polish subjects of Russia are in an intolerable position. This nation is eminently Slavonic, and yet it is oppressed by a sovereign who proclaims himself to all the world to be the defender of the Slavonic race. Forced to struggle for its very existence, although disarmed and trodden upon, the Polish people keep up the good fight, passively but firmly.