

# LOCAL POLANDERS PREPARING TO GO TO WAR

## Revolutionary Movement Half-Century Old May Now Be Directed Against Russia.

### HAVE \$78,000,000 FUND

### Hundreds Are Expected to Go From San Francisco to Enlist in Austrian Army.

FIFTEEN hundred Polish residents of San Francisco are greatly excited by the possibility of war being declared by Russia against Austria-Hungary. In connection with the Austria-Servia imbroglio that now is claiming the attention of the entire civilized world. In case Russia does resort to arms to protect her little Slav ally, it will mean that a Polish revolutionary plot half a century old, and financed to the extent of \$78,000,000, will be launched at once against Russia. And hundreds of San Francisco Poles will return across the seas to their native land to enlist in Austria's army.

Not only the Polish, but the American residents of San Francisco long have been keenly interested in the revolutionary plot that now is being drawn to a head by the European war scare. During the famous but unsuccessful attempt of the Russian Poles to revolt in 1863, San Francisco citizens subscribed \$25,000 to the revolutionary fund.

This revolution failed because, it is said, the Poles were not prepared. They did not have sufficient funds, nor did they have sufficient arms, and Russia crushed them with ease.

#### SPIRIT GAINS STRENGTH.

But the spirit of the uprising, far from being suppressed, ever since has gained in strength. The Poles declare that, under the rule of Russia, they are tyrannized, and but little less so under the rule of Prussia, or Germany, which governs another part of what once was the kingdom of Poland. On the other hand, Austria, another of their conquerors, they eulogize.

Today, in all parts of the world, there are strong Polish national parties. There are three in San Francisco, the strongest of which is known as the Polish Society of California, branch No. 7. These organizations, representing 5,000,000 Poles in the United States, have been pouring money into the coffers of the Polish National Alliance, until such a time as the new revolutionary plot is ripe.

#### PRIMA DONNA IS LEADER.

Among the leaders in the Polish Society of California are Casimir Konczalski of 2407 Fillmore street, and his wife, Madame Felicia Romanowska, the famous Polish prima donna. In the revolution of 1863, Niczylaus Romanowska, an uncle of Madame Romanowska, led a wing of the revolting army. He was slain by the Russian army in a terrific battle at the little village of Jozefowo—a battle which still is discussed in a spirit of awe.

"Preparations are now under way for a mass meeting of the local Polish people," Konczalski said last night. "The Poles in San Francisco are banded together in a strong alliance, whose aim is to wreat from Russia the government of our oppressed countrymen."

Just a little more than a year ago there was a great mass meeting of Poles at Tiv Hall, on Albion street, at which many patriotic speeches were made. In these speeches, naturally, Russia was condemned as a heartless oppressor, while Austria's attitude toward the Polish territory under her rule was lauded.

#### WAR WAS PREDICTED.

"That war between Austria and Russia was inevitable was the prognostication our leaders made at this meeting a year ago. In light of the coming conflict, we subscribed from 10 cents to \$10 apiece each month, and already thousands of dollars have gone from California to help swell our \$75,000,000 fund.

When Russia steps in to take Servia's part against Austria, that will be the signal for the Polish residents of the United States to act. It is certain that hundreds of thousands of our countrymen will offer their services to Austria in fighting her hereditary foe.

"We will not fight Servia, for there is no reason why we should. The Poles will direct their warfare toward Russia, their cruel master, with the idea of securing an amelioration of the sufferings of the Russian Poles by giving the territory they occupy into Austria's hands. Then, by reason of an autonomy which Austria has extended to her Polish residents, Poland again will govern herself."

#### MAKE BITTER COMPLAINT.

Local Poles complain bitterly of Russia's oppression and recall with sadness the decline of Poland as a monarchy. At one time Poland, they say, was a cultured country, even before civilization invaded Prussia and Russia. Poland was the first European country to adopt a constitution, and in literature and art it once surpassed all its neighbors. But for centuries Poland was the object of armed attacks from all sides, and at length, in 1772, was conquered and divided between Russia, Prussia and Austria.

While Austria, they declare, has extended them every freedom of thought, speech and learning, Russia has compelled them to abandon their own language and their own schools, and all but lose their identity as a nation. Prussia—or Germany, as it now is—also is accused of oppression, but only secondary to that of Russia, which holds Warsaw and the other great Polish cities.

Paul Brzuza is president of the local California Polish Society. Other Polish leaders here are: F. Strzelecki; S. Mallazewski, a veteran of the Polish revolution of 1863; J. Szymanski, R. Protasiewicz, W. Jezewicz and F. Gruszczynski.

# PRIMA DONNA LEADER IN ANTI-RUSSIA MOVE



Mme Felicia Romanowska, the prima donna, one of the local leaders in the Polish revolutionary movement in connection with the present European war.