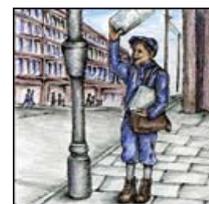




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Los Angeles Herald, Volume 33, Number 71, 11 December 1905 — OPINION OF SIENKIEWICZ [chapter]

OPINION OF SIENKIEWICZ

Declares Bureaucracy Cannot Last Much Longer

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 10.—The Associated Press today had an interview with Henryk Sienkiewicz prior to his receiving the Nobel prize for literature. The novelist said:

"I have not been in Poland for three

weeks. The situation in Russia and in Poland is extremely bad. The bureaucracy cannot last much longer with or without revolution. Its days are counted. The Russian people are good, but the bureaucrats are a set of thieves. That was proved by the war. Count Witte's position is most difficult. Witte is clever and of great capacity, but it is doubtful if he will be able to retain his position."

"We are in the greatest danger as Poles, and a German occupation of Poland is possible in case the revolutionary movement gets beyond the control of the Russian government. Perhaps such occupation would be by consent of the Russian government and perhaps not. However, if the Russian government should acquiesce in the acquisition of Russian Poland, in whole or in part, by Germany, the act would be resisted not only in Poland, but in Russia. Germany does not desire a rapprochement between the Russians and Poles and would not be willing to see Poland free. We will remain part of Russia if Russia gives Poland autonomy. We do not wish a republic and neither Poland or Russia is ready to become a republic. If Poland should revolt it will not be against Russia, but against the bureaucratic government. We love to think of our independence, but while we are strong enough to demand freedom from Russia we are not strong enough to defend it from Germany.

"I do not think that Poland will start an armed revolution, but she will enforce her rights through the douma. I believe that the Russian liberals will give Poland autonomy if they are not defeated.

"Our first demand is for the use of the Polish language in the official schools and universities; our second is for a Polish congress or sejm; our third is for an entirely independent civil and judicial administration, which would give us judges and officials who may understand our laws and language, and our fourth demand is for a separate military administration. In the last mentioned connection let me say that we have splendid Polish generals and it was notable in the

generals, and it was notable in the war with Japan that the Polish soldiers were the best fighters. General Kuropatkin once hated Poland, but now he loves it.

"The printed reports to the effect that I was arrested or that any punishment had been inflicted upon me are untrue, but many of the people of Poland, especially the litterateurs, have been arrested and sentenced to be deported to Siberia. The salvation of these latter, however, is that the government is now without means for their deportation.

"Socialists in Poland are very energetic, but the majority of the people belong to the National party and are anti-Socialists, while the majority of the uneducated Jews in the Polish cities are Socialists. We have not had any Jewish atrocities in Poland for the Poles would not be so barbarous as to assassinate women and children.

"Naturally I feel extremely gratified at the honor Sweden has conferred in recognition of me as worthy of the Nobel prize. I am gratified all the more because the honor is a recognition of Polish literature and thereby disproves the assertion that we are a nation belonging to the past. This Nobel prize, which I do not take as a personal tribute, shows us to be among the foremost nations in the world of thought."

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