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# NINE MILLION POLES ABROAD

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#### NINE MILLION POLES ABROAD

At the outbreak of war in 1939 there were some nine million Poles living permanently outside the frontiers of Poland. The figure varies according to whether their Polish or foreign estimates are taken as the basis.

Two fundamental groups can be distinguished among the Poles abroad. The first comprises the Polish national minorities in areas included within States Texleian adjacent with Poland, namely Germany, Czechoslovakia, Met Lithuania, Latvia, Rumania and the U.S.S.R. group is called the Borderland Poles. The second group comprises all the Poles who have emigrated abroad, scattered over almost all the countries of the world. Its greatest concentrations are found in the United States, Canada, Argentina and Brazil, and, so far as Europe is concerned, chiefly in France. The Borderland Poles are estimated at 3,400,000. At the present time Polish emigrants number 5,637,820.

9,037.820

It is obvious, therefore, that the Poles abroad are an important numerical force, not to speak of their considerable qualitative contribution in the spheres of culture, economics and politics.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the entire Polish nation takes an interest in the conditions of life and labour of the Poles abroad, and that the nation has maintained, and still maintains, contact and co-operation with them. For their part the Poles abroad have tended to retain contact in all regards with the mother country. The essential importance of Polonia, as the Poles abroad are generically termed, for Poland and the cause she represents has been revealed all the more ofgani clearly since the outbreak of war and the occupation of Polish soil by Germany and Soviet Russia.

## THE POLES IN THE BORDER COUNTRIES

The frontiers of Poland as established by the Versailles and other post-1918 treaties did not include a large part of the lands which had belonged to the former Polish Commonwealth of pre-partition days. They did not even include certain areas which possess a considerable Polish majority. Thus, in the border States there is a concentration of autochthonous Poles, living in strictly defined areas. [They had lived there for centuries, and because of this these areas are Polish both in population and in culture.]

Before the outbreak of war in 1939 the life of the Poles in the borderlands was extremely hard. With small exceptions all the States neighbouring with Poland pursued a policy of suppression of the national minorities within their frontiers. Only the methods were different. The Germans always had a cynical and brutal slogan to express their methods in dealing with the Poles: extermination; other States worked for a more or less arbitrary national assimilation. With this policy went efforts directed towards the liquidation of the Polish lingual, cultural, and economic foothold, and a struggle against minority education and minority organized life.

The activities of the border States in relation to the Poles living on their territory were particularly painful and unpleasant to the Poles at home. For it must be remembered that the former Polish Commonwealth was a voluntary federation of three nations: the Polish, the White-Ruthenian-Lithuanian and the Ruthenian, and all the peoples of these nations had the right of free settlement anywhere in the State. In consequence, the Eastern areas of Lithuania, Ruthenia and White Ruthenia received a tremendous contribution of civilization and culture from the Poles. On the other hand, in the west there were the fundamentally Polish areas of Silesia,

Lubusz and Pomerania, all of which had been within the territory of the former Polish State.

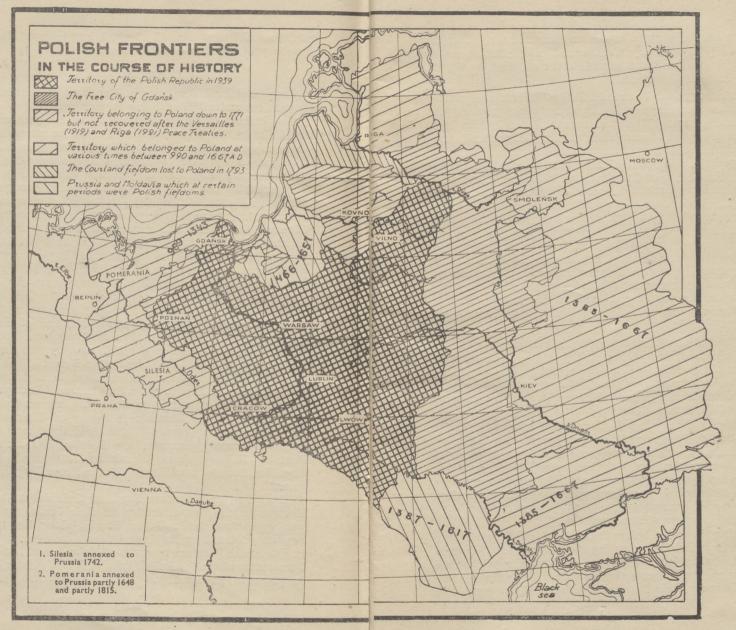
#### GERMANY

Outside Poland the Poles in Germany constitute the

largest concentration of Poles in Europe.

To obtain a proper understanding of the problem of the Poles in the German Reich it must be remembered that the past thousand years of Polish history have been a period of continual national struggle by arms and other means against German pressure eastward. During this period the Germans have succeeded in exterminating numerous Slavonic tribes akin to the Poles, who in the pokrewny tenth century lived in their own free States between the Elbe and the Oder. One may mention the creative and valiant tribes of the Wilks, the Luticians, the Ranas, the Luzyce Serbs and the Pomorzans. In the course of a thousand years the Germans have succeeded by fire and sword in advancing their frontiers from the Elbe to the Oder, and even at one time from the Oder eastward towards the Vistula. The only survivor of those ancient Slavonic tribes is the small island of Serbo-Luzycians, who still live on the river Spree, near Dresden on the Luzycas, which in the 11th century was part of the Polish State of King Boleslav the Brave. This king endeavoured to create a unified Slavonic State which would be in a position to resist the German "Drang nach Osten." The placenames, names of rivers, lakes and islands also testify to the Slavonic character of these areas. For instance, the German Stettin is derived from the Slavonic Szczecin, Sassnitz from Sośnica, Rostock from Roztok, Kolberg from Kołobrzeg, Stralsund from Strzałów, Rugen from Rugia, Wollin from Wołyń, and so on.

The Poles, on the other hand, in their desperate resistance to the Germanization of their lands, are still Maging a struggle in Upper Silesia, along the upper reaches of the Oder, in Lower Silesia, on the Western border of the Western province of Poland, and finally in Pomerania, where the Polish tribe of Kaszubs is fighting to preserve its identity. Unfortunately, in Western



Pomerania the Kaszubs have been almost entirely, though frequently superficially, Germanized. The frontier established by the Treaty of Versailles cut off a large part of these areas from Poland.

The struggle of Poles and Polish culture and civilization in Eastern Prussia is a separate problem. A thousand years ago this area was inhabited by the tribe of Prussians who were akin to the Lithuanians, and whom the Polish kings endeavoured to convert to Christianity. Here the Polish saint Wojciech (a Czech by origin, the Bishop of Gniezno), was killed while pursuing the missionary activities he had organized on Prussian soil. The Poles began to colonize the southern areas of present-day Eastern Prussia very early in history. But in 1226 one of the Dukes of Mazovia, Konrad, brought the Teutonic Knights of the Cross to the borders of Prussia, for the purpose of converting the Prussians to Christianity. But the Knights exterminated the Prussians whom they were intended to convert, destroying them with fire and sword, and in the course of time transformed the area into a German bastion facing against Poland.

In the 15th century Poland and Lithuania conquered the Knights of the Cross, and thenceforth the Grand od acoes Master of the Order paid tribute to the Polish king. Thus Prussia became part of the Commonwealth of Poland. and the lands of Warms and Transvistula were integral parts of the Polish State.

In the 17th century Poland lost Prussia (with the exception of Warms and Transvistula) to the Duchy of Brandenburg. This State extended to the west of Poland, over the lands of the former Western Slavs. Thenceforth this area was called Prussia, completely without historical (or ethnographical) justification, after the tribe of Prussians which the German sword had swept off the face of the earth.

During the period before the domination of the Knights of the Cross, and later during the period of Polish rule. Polish civilization and culture were widely established in Warms. Transvistula and Mazovia. After the 1914-18 war Eastern Prussia again, unfortunately, became a German island amid Polish lands, thus threatening the integrity of the Polish State. For these reasons the Germans oppressed the Poles in Eastern Prussia with especial determination and ruthlessness.

Owing to the decision embodied in the Versailles treaty to keep the Polish lands of Silesia, Pogranicze, Kaszuby and Eastern Prussia separated from the Polish State, a large Polish minority, numbering some 13 million persons, was left in Germany.

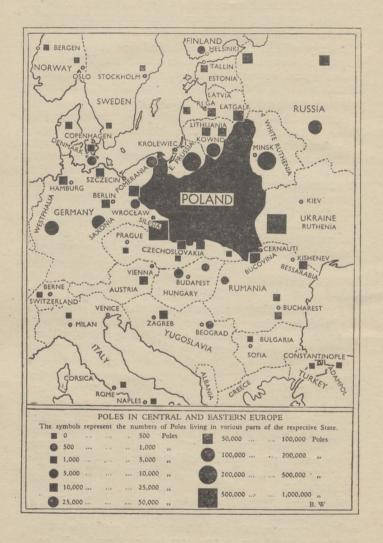
The greatest concentration of Poles in Germany is found in the German part of Upper Silesia and in certain counties of Lower Silesia. The number of people in this area who admit Polish nationality at the present time is some 800,000. The population census of 1910. which the Germans have avoided referring to in recent years, showed that there were then 623,000 Poles living in that part of Silesia which remained in German hands after the last war. Even the very tendentious population census of 1925 showed that there were 535,000 Poles in this area. The following census, taken in 1938 by Nazi Germany, can be completely ignored, for its purpose was wymazae to wipe out Polish civilization and people entirely from Germany, so far as statistics could do it.

The second largest concentration of Poles in Germany is in Pogranicze (Western-border) and Pomerania (Kaszuby), where there are over 80,000 Poles, without speaking of the large number of Germanized Kaszubs.

Finally, there is a third concentration in Eastern Prussia, where the 1910 population census revealed 302,308 Poles, chiefly in Transvistula, Warms and Mazovia.

The German population census of 1910 gave a total of 1,525,556 Poles living in all these areas. Therefore. the Polish estimates of 11 million Poles in the German Reich are very moderate, allow for a decline in the number of Poles, and cannot be charged with statistical exaggeration.

To these figures of Poles living on the Polish-German border must be added 100,000 Polish emigrants settled permanently in Westphalia and the Rhine Provinces, and as many again scattered all over



Germany, chiefly in Saxony, Berlin, Hamburg and other German towns.

The Polish population living in the German Reich largely consists of small farmers and workers, who are deeply attached to Poland and Polish civilization. Of recent years these people lacked leaders. After the risings in Silesia, that in Wielkopolska (Western Provinces) and the plebiscites in Upper Silesia and in Eastern Prussia during the years 1919-21, in which the population of the Germanized Polish lands actively demanded their national rights, the former Polish leaders were either exterminated or compelled to flee from the death which awaited them at the hands of the Germans. None the less, in their resolute struggle against German persecution the Poles in the Reich established numerous religious, cultural and educational, economic and political organizations of their own.

The leading organization of German Poles was the Association of Poles in Germany, which looked after the interests of Polish national life as a whole. The Association had its headquarters in Berlin, and was organized in five regions, in all the areas where there was a Polish population. The emigrants who possessed Polish citizenship had their own organizations, the chief being the Polish Union of Labour, which had its headquarters at Leipzig.

During the time of the Weimar Republic the position of the Poles was extraordinarily difficult, vet it became a hundred times worse after Hitler came to power. Under the terrible oppression of the totalitarian system of the Third Reich the situation of the Polish population grew worse from day to day. It is to be doubted whether the world has known anything to compare with their fate. So it is not surprising that there was a steady diminution in the Poles' organizational and social achievement. The local and national administrative authorities did their utmost to hinder national activities, while chicanery and persecution, such as dismissal from work if a Pole openly declared his nationality, led to the slow depletion of the Polish ranks in Germany. In their fight against denationalization the

Poles attempted to develop their own system of education, to organize Polish co-operatives and banks, to maintain journals and obtain purely Polish parishes. Unfortunately, under the pressure of Germanization the Polish foothold in the country was gradually weakened. Over 12 million Poles in Germany had only 58 elementary schools, two higher schools and a few nursery schools, in which altogether some 6,000 children were taught. Fourteen Polish periodicals were published in Germany. Polish economic life was confined to 34 harassed and persecuted co-operatives and the Slavonic Bank in Berlin. At this same period the Germans in Poland, numbering not more than 800,000, had 432 elementary schools and 27 higher schools. 78 periodicals and 856 co-operatives, banks, etc. The Germans in Poland had no obstacles placed in the way of their organizing their life as they pleased. But in Germany it was impossible to initiate a new Polish society, school, economic activity, or start a new periodical, owing to the irreconcilably hostile attitude of the German administrative and party authorities. As the old parish priests died, the Polish parishes established in purely Polish areas along the German-Polish borders were taken over by priests who were extreme German nationalists, and then transformed into yet another means of Germanizing the people.

Yet in these difficult conditions the Poles in Germany revealed a great strength and power of endurance and set an admirable example of unity. Undoubtedly the difficult conditions were responsible for the fact that this particular concentration of Poles set the standard for the thought of all Poles abroad. The Poles in Germany were the originators of the famous "Laws of Poles," which became the guiding principles for all Poles in foreign countries. These laws were: "We are Poles." "The faith of our fathers is the faith of our children." "A Pole is a Pole's brother." "Every day a Pole serves the nation." "Poland is our mother: we devote all we have to her."

When Germany annexed Austria, a further 20,000 Poles, living in that country, were brought within the

frontiers of the Reich. Poles had settled in Austria chiefly during the period when Southern Poland (Galicia) came under the Austro-Hungarian monarchy after the partitions of Poland. An Association of Poles in Austria, which ran a Polish House and three Polish schools, existed in Vienna.

What is the present situation of the Poles in Germany to-day? Immediately after the war broke out the German authorities arrested almost all the most prominent of the Polish leaders, and put them in concentration camps at Dachau and Oranienburg. The Polish organizations were dissolved, and their property was confiscated by the Reich. The decree proclaiming the liquidation of Polish life throughout the Third Reich said that Poles might menace German interests. From time to time news arrives from Germany that another leader of Polish national life in Germany has died a martyr's death, or of arrests and trials. According to German law Poles in Germany are not Poles. They have no national rights, not even the right to use their own language, which is suppressed with the usual German brutality.

#### CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND RUMANIA

At the outbreak of the Polish-German war in 1939 there were small groups of Poles living in *Czechoslovakia*, in small districts of *Cieszyn-Silesia*, the *Czadec area*, and in *Spisz* and *Orawa*. These groups were autochthonous, but of course they contain admixtures of Czech and Slovak elements. Poles have also settled all over the country, though mainly in *Moravia*, these being survivors of Polish migration movements during the days of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire.

It is very difficult to determine the number of Poles living in Czechoslovakia. It is estimated that there are not more than 15,000 living in Moravia, Cieszyn-Silesia and Czadec area, this figure including both autochthonous and emigrant Poles. The number of Poles in Slovakia has been the subject of analysis by Polish

and Czechoslovak scholars. Polish sources have stated the figure to be 50,000, but it has been admitted that most of these have only a slight sense of nationality and contain a considerable admixture of Slovak blood. There are only small groups of Poles in the heart of Slovakia and in Sub-Carpathian Ruthenia.

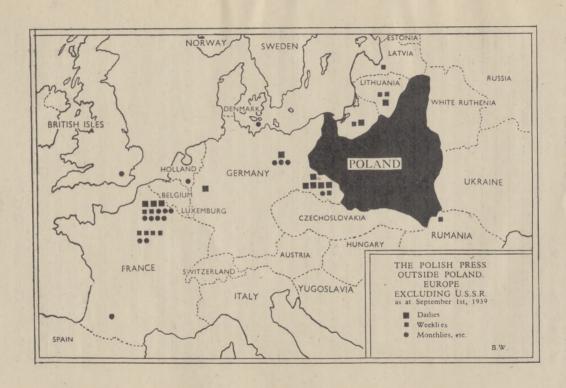
Polish organized life existed mainly in Moravia, where a Polish School Association was active in Morawska Ostrawa, maintaining several Polish schools.

There are two centres of Polish population in Rumania—in the Bukovina and Bessarabia.

It is estimated that there are 50,000 Poles in the Bukovina. They live both in towns and in villages, but are very widely scattered. The capital of the Polish settlements is Cernauti, which has over 12,000 Poles. In Bessarabia there are some 12,000 Poles, chiefly in Kishenev and its environs. A further 3,000 Poles are scattered all over Rumania, there being larger concentrations at Ploesti, the centre of the Rumanian oil industry, at Bucharest, in the Black Sea ports and Transylvania. Altogether there are some 65,000 Poles in Rumania.

The Poles in the Bukovina and Bessarabia have a very interesting origin. The Bukovina, the northern part of which formed part of the Polish State in the 14th century, was situated on an important Polish highroad to the East. In the 14th century Kazimierz the Great built a fortified town to guard this road, at Cecyna on the river Prut. The towns on the Bukovina, such as Suczawa, were important commercial centres, with Polish warehouses, houses, churches and monasteries. Part of the Polish people in Rumania settled in the Bukovina during this period. A second influx of Poles took place in the 19th century in the form of Polish officials and settlers transferred by the Austrians from Galicia, during the period when the Bukovina was administratively integrated with Galicia under the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The Polish population in Bessarabia is a survival of the great Polish influences and emigration to the former State of Moldavia, and also of later Polish migration



movements inside Russia, when Bessarabia formed part of the Russian Empire.

The Poles of Rumania were more successful in developing their own life than those of other border areas. They had their own intellectual class, a numerous and wealthy landowner class, a merchant class and affluent peasantry, and they were able to organize their national life on healthy principles. The chief organization was the Association of Poles in Rumania, which federated the Polish cultural and educational, professional and vouth societies. There were 32 Polish schools, a certain number of them being mixed Polish-Rumanian schools. In Cernauti there was one secondary school maintained by the Polish Education Association. Altogether 2,600 children were taught in the Polish language. National life was centred in the Polish Houses, which existed in all Polish areas of settlement. In the Bukovina and Bessarabia Poles had a number of parishes with Polish churches and priests.

The Poles in Rumania gave particular proofs of their patriotism when, in consequence of the German and Soviet invasions of Poland in 1939, tens of thousands of Polish civilian and military refugees crossed the Polish-Rumanian frontier. The Poles in Rumania organized very considerable aid for them and continued to give aid right down to the occupation of these areas by Soviet forces in 1940. Since that occupation very little news has come through to England concerning the fate of the Poles in Rumania. It is only known that the Polish national organizations in the Bukovina and Bessarabia have been closed down, and the Polish Houses have been confiscated. The "Kurjer Polski," the organ of the Polish minority in Rumania, has ceased publication.

#### THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

The Treaty of Riga, which was concluded between Poland and U.S.S.R. in 1921, was the result of a compromise between the two countries. The result was to leave outside Poland 300,000 square kilometres of the Ukraine and White Ruthenia which had been once part of the old Commonwealth of Poland, and in which Polish

cultural and numerical influence was considerable. Down till the time of the Bolshevik revolution the Polish population had influenced the character of Ukrainian and White Ruthenian towns and throughout the area as far as the Dnieper there were numerous Polish enclaves. More than half of the agricultural land in both these countries belonged to Poles. The influence of the culture jointly created by the three nations, Poles, Ukrainians and Lithuanians-White Ruthenians, was very strong down to the smallest detail, and the consciousness of the many years of State unity under the old Commonwealth had not ceased to exist.

The Riga Treaty left, according to estimates made by Polish statisticians, one and a-half million Poles under Soviet Government. The official Soviet census of 1926 gave the figure of 782,334 Poles, of whom 476,435 lived in the *Ukraine*, 97,948 in *White Ruthenia*, and 197,827 in *Russia* (the Russian Socialist Republic). The rest were scattered over all the immense territory of the Soviet State. The Soviet census of 1939 indicated a very considerable decline in the number of Poles, for it gave only 626,905 Poles as living in the U.S.S.R. at that time.

After the first world war there was little intercourse between the U.S.S.R. and the rest of the world, and very little information about the conditions of the Poles in Russia came across the frontier. But their condition closely approximated to that of all other inhabitants in the Soviet Union. Polish collective farms existed in the Ukraine and White Ruthenia, a certain number of Polish schools existed, and seventeen Communistic periodicals were published in the Polish language. But from the national point of view the position of Poles in Russia was difficult.

The Poles in *Siberia* deserve separate consideration. Siberia had been the grave of Polish patriots during the years of the Partitions of Poland (and during the present war it has been the place of exile of some 1,000,000 more). Before the 1914-18 war a large number of Poles emigrated to Siberia, a very rich country, from the lands annexed by Russia in the three partitions. Polish



scholars estimate that some half a million Poles went to Siberia, and many of them established families and settled down there. Certain Polish sources maintain that even to-day the number of persons descended from the former Siberian emigrants amounts to 200,000.

These Poles played a great part as pioneers and as spreaders of civilization and culture in Siberia. They were explorers, engineers, railway builders and miners, and large merchants. To-day only the memory is left of their great part in the life of the country. Those who remained, cut off from their country, were Russified or are swiftly being Russified.

#### LITHUANIA AND LATVIA

The Lublin Covenant, the basic pact of the voluntary State federation of both nations, entered into between Poland and Lithuania in 1569, among many other reciprocal liberties, established the right of Lithuanians to settle in Poland and of Poles to settle in Lithuania. This right was the deciding factor in a great mingling of the Polish, Lithuanian and White Ruthenian peoples and of Polish influence in the area of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. It must be emphasised here that the Duchy of Lithuania chiefly embraced White Ruthenian territory, in which the population spoke this Slavonic language. Moreover, White Ruthenian was the court speech of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania. In the course of centuries Polish cultural influences also pervaded the higher Lithuanian-White Ruthenian circles. As a result the Polish element became predominant in the territory of the Grand Duchy.

After the 1914-18 war, and the emergence of Lithuania as an independent State, over 200,000 Poles inhabiting rural and urban areas remained within the Lithuanian ethnographical frontiers, after the main part of the White Ruthenian lands had been incorporated with Soviet Russia. Ten per cent. of the entire population of Lithuania is Polish. The largest concentrations of Poles are found in the districts of Kowno and Kiejdan, and in Poniewiez and Wilkomierz. In Kowno Poles constitute the largest national minority group.

Unfortunately, the new Lithuania pursued a policy of ruthless extermination of the Poles. The agrarian reform, which had no compensation clauses, greatly affected the Polish possession of land, depriving Poles of over a million hectares of agricultural land and forests. At the time of the emergence of an independent Lithuania there were over one hundred Polish Schools, but they were almost entirely closed down. Tendentious legislation rendered it difficult for Poles to have any national life and activity. These difficulties and denationalizing tendencies were expressed in the law of 1923 on the giving of a Lithuanian character to Polish names, which laid down that Polish family names were to be given Lithuanian forms, without the consent of their owners.

The Poles in Lithuania found themselves forced to enter upon a severe struggle which they did not desire.

The Lithuanian authorities also endeavoured to manipulate the statistics in order to diminish the number of Poles living in Lithuania. They freely applied the theory of "Polonised Lithuanians," with the result that in 1923 the census showed only 64,105 Poles living in Lithuania. Meantime, that same year the Polish list in elections to the Lithuanian Parliament contained 63,653 votes. This fact is a good illustration of the tendency of Lithuanian statistics, and also confirms the figure of 200,000 Poles in Lithuania which is estimated by Polish scholars.

At the moment of the outbreak of war in 1939 the Poles in Lithuania were organized both in the cultural and in the economic sphere. There were Polish credit companies in Kowno and other more important Polish centres, as well as Polish co-operatives and agricultural co-operatives. But, owing to the hostile attitude of the authorities, their work was rendered very difficult.

Cultural activities were carried on by the society "Pochodnia," which had its centre in Kowno.

After Lithuanian legislation had been enriched by a number of anti-Polish laws, there were nine elementary schools and three higher schools in Kowno, Wilkomierz and Poniewiez one of which was being closed down. Private teaching of the Polish language was prohibited, and punishable with arrest and exile. Polish students at the Kowno university had to contend with great difficulties in their studies, and of recent years the number of Poles accepted at the University was restricted to a minimum by administrative action.

The Press was represented by the *Dzień Polski* in Kowno and two weeklies, which were all subject to strict censorship.

Despite the many difficulties which the Lithuanian nationalists placed in the way of the Poles, they had considerable influence and possibilities in Lithuania. The opening of normal diplomatic relations between Poland and Lithuania before 1939, with all the modifications in relationships which this entailed, would undoubtedly have led to an improvement in the position of the Poles in Lithuania.

Like the Poles in Rumania, the Poles in Lithuania gave great help to large numbers of Polish refugees after the occupation of Poland in September, 1939.

We have no detailed knowledge of what happened to Polish national life after the Soviets occupied Lithuania. It is known that Polish organizations were dissolved, and the *Dzień Polski* closed down. A certain number of Polish leaders were exiled to Siberia. To-day, now that Lithuania has come under German occupation, there is no prospect whatever for Polish life and activity.

A large part of the territory covered by present-day Latvia was included in the Polish Commonwealth from 1561 onward. As in Lithuania, so in Latvia, Poles have lived for centuries past.

It is estimated that there are 75,000 Poles in Latvia. The population census carried out in 1930 gave 59,374 Poles. Of these 29,698 lived in the district of Latgalia, adjacent with Polish territory, and often called Polish Inflants. There were 16,000 Poles living at Riga, the capital of the country. In addition there are Polish colonies in Libava and Mitava. The great majority of the Poles in Latvia are occupied in agriculture. The

urban Poles are merchants, workers and craftsmen. There were also a number of Polish landed gentry. Of recent years there was a seasonal migration of workers from Poland to Latvia, amounting to some 40,000 per annum.

Polish national life in Latvia met with difficulties. The nationalistic tendencies of the young State had a negative effect on the rights of the Polish minority, especially on its organized life and educational facilities. Within a few years the Latvian authorities had twice dissolved the leading Polish organization in the country. Only immediately prior to the war, after being suspended for some years, was permission granted to it to open up again under the name of the Polish Association in Latvia. As in other countries where there are large settlements of Poles, Polish economic, credit and commercial organizations, and numerous cultural and educational institutions existed in Latvia, and youth organizations, especially scouts, were flourishing. There was a permanent Polish theatre in Riga, with productions on a high level.

Polish educational activities were continually being cut down. Immediately before the war there were 27 Polish schools, including two high schools at Rzezyca and Riga. The high school which had existed in the capital of Inflants, at Dzwinsk (Daugavpils), was being closed down.

The Polish Press was represented by one weekly, Nasze życie, published at Riga.

After the occupation of Poland the Poles in Latvia gave assistance to some 15,000 Polish civil and military refugees, who had fled to Latvia.

When the Soviet troops entered Latvia all the existing forms of Polish national life disappeared. To-day, under the German occupation, the Poles in Latvia are sharing the fate of the entire Polish nation.

#### POLISH EMIGRANTS

To-day there are 5,637,820 Polish emigrants in foreign countries. This figure includes only the prewar emigrants, whether settlers or seasonal workers. Poland occupies fifth place in Europe in respect of the number of emigrants from its territory, the order being Great Britain, Italy, Germany, Spain and then Poland. The largest emigration movements from Poland took place during the second half of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century. This process was closely bound up with the expansion of the Western European States and the development of American industry. At the beginning Polish emigrants went to other countries as seasonal or periodical workers, and after a time they returned to their own country. But as time went on more and more emigrants settled permanently abroad.

Polish emigration was due to two main reasons. The first was the economic under-development of the country, divided as it was among three partitioning Powers; the second was the political conditions prevailing in Polish territory—the persecution of Polish culture and language, especially in the Prussian and Russian parts of Poland.

Prior to the seasonal and permanent emigration from Poland there had been a *political emigration*, of the Polish fighters for freedom, who beyond the frontiers of the country organized successive insurrections against the annexationist Powers. There were particularly strong political emigration movements after the Napoleonic wars and after the Polish-Russian war of 1830-31. The political emigrants who were scattered all over the world rendered great services in the cultural development of many of the young nations, and by those services opened the way for the later Polish emigrants of a seasonal or colonizing character.

Altogether, it is estimated that from 1871 to 1913 3,500,000 Poles emigrated from Poland, going mainly to the United States. Owing to the non-existence of official Polish statistics during this period there are no exact figures. After the great war, from 1919 to 1937, 988,000 people emigrated from Poland.

In discussing the status of Polish emigrants it is necessary to divide them into emigrants to other European countries, estimated at 605,800 persons, and emigrants overseas, estimated at 5,032,020 persons.

# EMIGRANTS TO EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Before the 1914-18 war Poles emigrating from Poland to other European countries went chiefly to Germany; during the years 1871 to 1913, 850,000 persons went to Germany from Poland. They consisted chiefly of workers who later returned to their own country. Yet of this number over 100,000 have remained in Germany down to the present day, living chiefly in Westphalia and the Rhineland, and in Central Germany. After the last war a number also went from Germany to France, Belgium and Holland.

After the 1914-18 war Polish workers emigrated chiefly to France and Belgium. But there are settlements

of Polish emigrants in almost all the States of Europe, and they have known great diversity of experience.

#### FRANCE

The emigration of workers and permanent emigrants to *France* was preceded in the nineteenth century by a great emigration of political exiles who left in France a wealth of Polish tradition.

There was some emigration to France before the 1914-18 war, but it did not exceed some 10,000 persons. During that war the Polish emigrants in France left their mark on history by their participation in the war in the "Polish Detachments," in the ranks of the French Army, and later in the Polish Army in France.

The war left France terribly devastated, and she needed a large number of workmen. Poland supplied her with labour power. Polish statistics show that in 1937 there were 601,600 Poles in France, and this figure has to be increased by the large number of Polish workers and miners who went to France from Germany, as well as a certain number of Poles who became naturalized French, whom Polish statistics did not take into account. The French population census of 1934 showed that there were 523,900 Polish citizens resident in France. The difference between the French census and the Polish statistics is due to the fact that there were frequent and extensive fluctuations in the number of Polish emigrants in France. A large number of the emigrants were labourers, and many of them returned home, whereas, on the other hand, as the demand for labour increased, there was a sudden rise in the number of emigrants. Taking the figures of the French 1934 census as a basis, the largest concentration of Poles was in the north of France-in the mining and industrial district of Lille, in the departments du Nord and Pas de Calais. Here there were 207,182 Poles. Paris region there were 170,257 Poles, in the Strasbourg region 73.083 Poles, in the Lyons region 44,910. In addition there were large numbers of Polish workers in the south of France, chiefly in Marseilles, 8,786 and 18,680 of Polish farmers in Toulouse region. In French

North Africa there were 1,000 Poles at the time of the census. These figures may be accepted as representing the position at present.

The Polish emigrants were one of the most vital links between Poland and France, and the far-reaching part which they played in restoring French industry justifies their claim to an important social position in the country.

Polish national life in France was developed by the Poles themselves. The chief Polish organization is the Polish Association, which federates 28 central associations, which in turn possess branches all over the country. There was also a Federation of Polish Workers, a trade union in character, and there were Polish sections in the French General Confederation of Labour. Polish organizations had over 100,000 members in very varied types of organization: trades union, economic, industrial, cultural, sports, religious, etc. There were three daily newspapers, all of them published in the North of France, i.e., Wiarus, Narodowiec, and Glos Wychodzcy. There were also ten other periodical publications. The total number of copies of all journals printed was 100,000. Poles maintained 284 schools for teaching Polish language and history, and 37 nursery schools. 28,140 children were thus provided with education in Polish.

In all centres of Polish population in France the Polish Catholic Mission was active, maintaining numerous Polish parishes with Polish clergy.

Although the Polish emigrants to France consisted chiefly of labourers and colonists, in pre-war years there was a tendency to develop social distinctions, and evolve merchant and intellectual classes. The Polish emigrants had quite a large influence in French society, especially in workers' and trades union spheres.

In addition to the organizations of the emigrant workers there was an Association of Descendants of Political Emigrants, which had among its members a number of prominent Frenchmen of the political, economic, intellectual and artistic world, who were descended from Polish political emigrants of the nineteenth century, who had settled permanently in France.

During the present war Polish emigrants in France have played a great part. After the German-Soviet occupation of Poland the State authorities who transferred to France had the greatest possible moral support and received help of every kind from the Polish emigrant circles. But the part played by Polish emigrants in the formation of the Polish Army in France needs to be particularly emphasised. The greater part of the 80,000 soldiers who constituted that army was drawn from Polish emigrants.

Poles in France find themselves in a difficult situation to-day. In occupied France the prominent Polish leaders have been arrested by the Germans. However, Polish life is not completely extinct, and its organizations are displaying some activity. In former unoccupied France the Association of Poles in France with other organizations of Polish working-class emigrants and war refugees has been working in the conditions which then existed in the part of Vichy France. There is no detailed information as to their present condition.

#### OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

In *Belgium* there are 33,000 Poles, chiefly working class. They inhabit the Belgian industrial and mining areas. In Limburg there are 7,000, and in the south, in the districts of Liege, Charleroi, Mons, Centre and Namur there are 12,000. Most of the emigrants arrived in Belgium after the last war.

The chief Polish organization was the Central Union of Polish Societies in Belgium, which federated eleven central organizations and numerous cultural societies. There were 30 Polish schools and nursery schools, providing instruction for 1,500 children.

In the neighbouring State of *Luxembourg* there were only some 1,000 Poles, and various Polish organizations, centred in the district of Esch.

In *Holland* there were 4,000 Polish miners, living chiefly in Limburg, and well organized in several trades unions and national societies, federated in the central organization, the Union of Polish Societies in Holland. Polish children were provided for in several schools.

During the present war Poles in Belgium, Luxembourg and Holland have sent some 2,000 volunteers to the Polish Army in France, and also made financial collections for the organization of assistance to the army and the many Polish refugees.

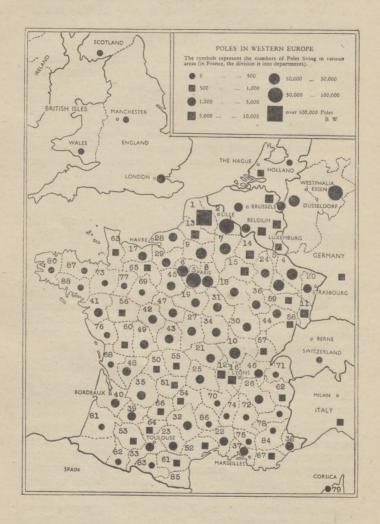
There were some 12,000 Poles in *Denmark*, living mainly on the islands of Laaland and Falster. They had well-developed organizations, headed by the Union of Poles in Denmark.

Switzerland had a small Polish colony of 500, and Italy another of 700, consisting chiefly of intellectuals. In both countries there were Polish organizations which after the outbreak of war organized assistance for the Polish refugees and prisoners of war.

Before the war there were some 3,000 Poles in *Great Britain*, living chiefly in London and Manchester. The majority of them were workers and craftsmen. There are Polish organizations in London and Manchester. Two centres represent the older Polish emigration in London, the Polish Society and the Polish Church, which also has an attached society.

Poles are to be found in almost all the States of Central Europe and the Balkans. There are 7,000 in *Hungary*, and a Polish Association, a Polish school and parish church exist in Budapest.

Some 17,000 Poles live in Yugoslavia, most of them descendants of colonists transferred to Bosnia by the Austrian authorities during the second half of the nineteenth century. They were settled in villages in the district of Banialuk. There are also Polish colonies in Zagreb and Belgrade. The main organization was the Polish Association in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, with its headquarters in Zagreb. To-day the fate of the Poles in Yugoslavia is unknown.

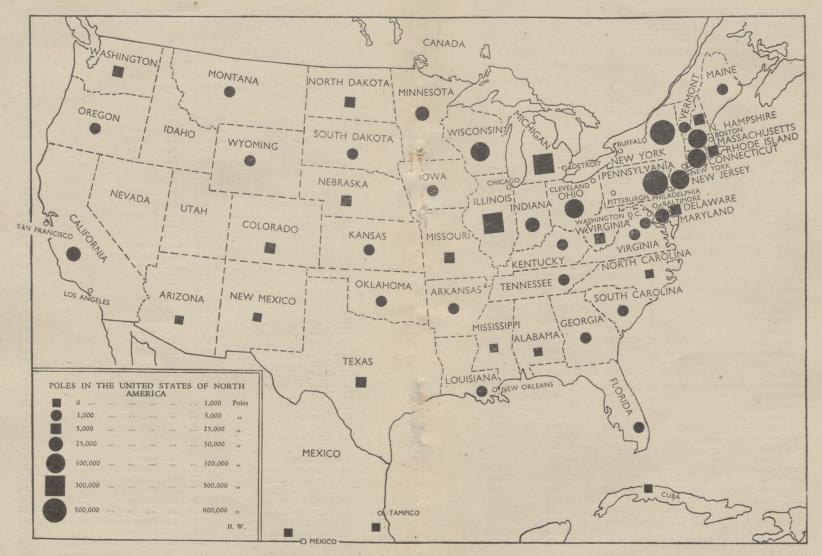


### POLES LIVING IN THE RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS OF FRANCE, ACCORDING TO THE 1934 CENSUS.

(See map: Poles in Western Europe.)

Tables from the "Annual of the Council of Polish Associations in France," for 1937.

	France,"		
Department No. o. 1. Pas-de-Calais	f Poles.	Department No. of	Poles.
1. Pas-de-Calais	125,272	45. Eure et Loire	1,092
2. Nord	81,910	46. Ain	993
3. Seine	56,004	47. Loir et Cher	972
4. Moselle	29,728	48. Charente	970
5. Meurthe et Moselle	21,610	49. Vienne	1,136
6. Seine et Oise	20,769	50. Haute Vienne	953
7. Aisne	18,886	51. Correze	928
8. Seine et Marne	14,564	52. Herault	888
9. Oise	12,358	53. Gers	855
10. Saone et Loire	10,597	54. Cantal	813
11. Haut-Rhin	8,250	55. Creuse	802
12. Loire	7,505	56. Maine et Loire	784
13. Somme	7,034	57. Jura	770
14. Ardennes	6,278	58. Terr. de Belfort	699
15. Marne	6,057	59. Vosges	660
16. Rhone	5,110	60. Deux Sevres	656
17. Calvados	4,979	61. Aude	627
18. Aube	4,313	62. Savoie	617
19. Loiret	4,282	63. Manche	616
20. Bas-Rhin	4,285	64. Tarn et Garonne	567
21. Allier	4,243	65. Orne	521
	4,186	66. Lot	420
22. Gard	4,003	67. Var	401
23. Tarn	3,750	68. Charente Inferieure	394
24. Meuse	3,385	69. Sarthe	300
25. Puy de Dome	2,920	70. Haute Loire	293
26. Isere		71. Haute Savoie	293
27. Cher	2,878		287
28. Seine Inferieure	2,642	72. Drome	257
29. Eure	2,603		232
30. Cote d'Or	2,596	74. Ardeche	225
31. Yonne	2,464	75. Vaucluse	
32. Aveyron	2,460	76. Vendee	199
33. Haute Garonne	2,186	77. Mayenne	
34. Nievre	2,071	78. Haute Alpes	148
35. Dordogne	1,971	79. Corse	142
36. Haute Marne	1,891	80. Finistere	127
37. Bouche du Rhone	1,457	81. Landes	127
38. Alpes Maritimes	1,456	82. Hautes Pyrenees	126
39. Lot et Garonne	1,452	83. Ariege	120
40. Gironde	1,353	84. Basses Alpes	104
41. Loire Inferieure	1,392	85. Pyrenees Orientales	67
42. Indre et Loire	1,340	86. Lozere	88
43. Indre	1,329	87. Cotes du Nord	50
44. Haute Saone	1,300	88. Morbihan	41



The symbols represent the numbers of Poles living in the respective States.

## POLES IN THE RESPECTIVE STATES OF THE UNITED STATES, ACCORDING TO THE 1930 CENSUS.

(See map: Poles in the United States of North America.)

		Poles.	
State.	Poles. Total.	Born in Poland.	Born in U.S.A.
Alabama	556	556	_
Arizona	581	253	328
Arkansas	1,139	394	745 16,414
California	30,704	14,290 2,488	3,223
Colorado	5,711 133,813	49,267	84,546
Connecticut Delaware	8,939	2,954	5,985
Delaware	3,356	1,562	1,794
Florida	2,094	945	1,149
Georgia	2,403	1,156	1,247
Idaho	2,100	1,100	1,231
Illinois	470,832	173,007	297,825
Indiana	51,616	17,482	34,134
Iowa	4,593	1,875	2,718
Kansas	5,901	1,915	3,986
Kentucky	2,009	899	1,110
Louisiana	1,556	655	901
Maine	3,932	1,706	2,226
Maryland	35,845	12,027	23,818
Massachusetts	187,063	71,442	115,621
Michigan	320,534	119,228	201,306
Minnesota	48,911	15,015	33,896
Mississippi	747	298	449
Missouri	21,270	8,324	12,946
Montana	3,244	1,144	2,100
Nebraska	16,179	4,445	11,734
Nevada			
New Hampshire	10,506	4,101	6,405
New Jersey	262,708	102,573	160,135
New Mexico	272	97	175
New York	778,951	350,383	428,568
North Carolina	788	319	469
North Dakota	7,651 175,608	2,128	5,523 111,115
Ohio	3,888	64,493	2,726
Oklahoma Oregon	4,686	2,086	2,720
OregonPennsylvania	516,041	166,672	349,369
Rhode Island	22,381	8,696	13,685
Tellode Island	22,001	0,000	10,000

### POLES IN THE RESPECTIVE STATES OF THE UNITED STATES, ACCORDING TO THE 1930 CENSUS.

(See map: Poles in the United States of North America.)

`State.	Poles. Total.	Poles.	
		Born in Poland.	Born in U.S.A.
South Carolina	1,156	510	646
South Dakota	2,656	717	1,939
Tennessee	2,087	,960	1,127
Texas	14,369	4,589	9,780
Utah		-	_
Vermont	4,590	1,562	3,028
Virginia	3,005	1,221	1,784
Washington	9,611	3,942	5,669
West Virginia	14,857	5,545	9,312
Wisconsin	139,255	42,359	96,896
Wyoming	1,674	604	1,070

After the occupation of Poland large numbers of Poles passed through Yugoslavia on their way to the west, and the Polish Association organized considerable assistance for them.

Finally, there is a Polish colony numbering some 500 persons, with a Polish Association, in Sofia, the capital of *Bulgaria*.

It must be pointed out that everywhere in the Balkans are to be found the great traditions of the Polish political emigrants who, under the protection of the Ottoman Empire, organized activities against the annexationist powers, but chiefly against Russia.

Returning to the north of Europe, we must mention the 2,000 Poles in *Estonia*, where there were Polish schools and organizations, and the Poles in *Finland*, who did not exceed 700. In Helsinki they had an Association of Poles in Finland. In both countries the Poles are the survivors of Polish emigrants to Russia. In Sweden there are some 500 Poles scattered over the ports and islands. And there are small groups of Poles in Norway, at Oslo and Bergen.

#### OVERSEAS EMIGRATION

The greater part of the Polish worker and colonist emigrants went overseas, chiefly to North America. The movement was started by a group of Poles from Silesia, who went to Texas in 1852 and founded the first Polish settlement. As the years passed Polish emigration developed more and more on the lines of labourers going abroad to earn a living. At the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth centuries the majority of these labouring classes returned to their country with their earnings, while quite often they made several such journeys abroad. But after a time they developed a tendency to remain in the countries to which they had emigrated, and were less attracted by the prospect of returning home. The emigrants came from all parts of Poland, whether German-occupied, Russian-occupied or Austrian-occupied.

In many areas the overseas emigrants played a pioneer role, not only winning a livelihood, but helping in the development of culture and civilization and the well-being of the countries in which they settled. The emigrants were chiefly agricultural and working-class elements. Not many of the labouring class of emigrants were inventors, engineers, scientists, etc., who were found chiefly in the ranks of the political emigrants. Yet the Polish emigrant helped to clear the forests and cultivate the plains, and built factories and mines, winning recognition for himself and for Poland and thus gaining a rightful position in the country in which he had settled, his second Motherland.

#### THE UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA

The history of Polish settlers in the area of the present-day United States goes back to the first years

of British colonization in those parts. As early as 1608 a large group of Polish colonists arrived at Jamestown, in Virginia, and played a distinguished part in the history of that colony.

In the following centuries the names of Poles are frequently met within the United States. A hundred Poles took part in the American War of Independence.

Among them stand out the names of Kazimierz Pułaski, the creator of the United States Cavalry, who fell in the battle of Savannah in 1779, and Tadeusz Kościuszko, later the leader of the Polish rising of 1794. These men are national heroes of both Poland and the United States. During the period of the Polish Partitions numerous political refugees went to the States, most of them being soldiers. They played their part in the development of the country, and many distinguished themselves in various wars. For instance, five thousand Poles fought in the American Civil War, four thousand of them on the side of the Northern States. In the course of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries five Poles were generals in the United States Army.

During the second half of the nineteenth century there was a great increase in the number of Polish colonist and worker emigrants, which lasted from 1852 down to the outbreak of war in 1914. If we discount reemigration to Poland, the United States received between 3 and 3½ million new citizens. After the war, when immigration into the United States was greatly restricted, there was, of course, a decline in the number of Polish immigrants, and from 1919 to 1937 there were only 117,000 altogether. But meantime the total of Poles and Americans of Polish descent in the United States increased to 4½ millions, mainly as the result of a natural increase of population. These figures are given by Polish sources. The American census made in 1930 showed that there were 3,342,398 persons living in the United States who had either come from Poland or were the first generation of descendants from people emigrated from Poland. If we add the total of second, third, and fourth generations of descendants, if we also bear in mind the statistical inexactitude caused by the fact that Poland as a State did not exist before the last war, the figure of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  millions would appear to be correct.

There are States and towns with large centres of Polish population. Taking American sources as our basis, we can mention the States of Illinois, 470,000 Poles; Michigan, 320,000; New Jersey, 262,000; New York, 778,000; Pennsylvania, 516,000. Chicago, Detroit, New York, Buffalo and other towns all possess several hundred thousand Polish inhabitants.

In the United States there are several dozen localities which bear Polish names, such as Warszawa, Krakow, Wilno, Poznan, Lublin, Radom, Kosciuszko, and Pulaski.

The long settled and economically strong Polish emigrants possess an almost normal social stratification. Two per cent, of the total are classed as intellectuals, four per cent. as merchants, 80 per cent. as workers and miners, 12 per cent. as farmers, and the remaining two per cent. are scattered over various trades. Poles are to be met within almost all spheres of American life-industry, farming, science, art, banking, and also in the Army. A considerable number play some part in the country's political life: Ninety-five per cent. of the Polish votes were given for Roosevelt's candidature as President, and there are ten Polish representatives in Congress, over a dozen senators and representatives in various States senates and Houses of Representatives, as well as judges and members of urban councils

Poles have brought their national qualities to the culture and civilization of the United States.

The process of Americanizing Poles in the U.S.A. has already made long strides.

In organizational regards Poles are a great force. They have a strong tendency to organize in Polish national organizations, of which there are estimated to be some ten thousand, with close on a million active members. The leading place in Polish life in the States is occupied by the Polish American Council, with

its headquarters in Chicago, with thirty-three regional branches throughout the country, and federating the majority of the Polish organizations. The task of the Council is to co-ordinate all Polish activities in the United States. Among the organizations which are members of the Council, the greatest part in national life is played by the great societies of a benevolent and sick benefit type. There are more than a dozen of these, but three are of particular importance because of their size, material strength and range of activities; the Polish National Alliance, numbering 274,340 members and with assets of 32 million dollars, the Polish Roman Catholic Union, with 151,576 members and assets of 20 million dollars, and the large organization of Polish women, the Polish Women's Alliance in America, numbering 64,537 members and with assets of 7 million dollars. All three organizations have their headquarters in Chicago.

In addition to these insurance societies, there are very varied and well developed economic organizations, associations of veterans of the last war, cultural and educational associations, artistic and theatrical, choral and musical, regional and professional, and of course political associations. There is a great heterogeneity in the aims and methods of operation of these various organizations. American Poles pay great attention to the education of their children. The most popular organization among the youth is the Boy Scouts.

There are over 100 publications, including nine dailies, published in Chicago, New York, Buffalo, Boston, Milwaukee, Detroit, and Cleveland.

Polish education has great ramifications. There are some 600 Polish schools, maintained mainly by Polish parishes; three hundred thousand children receive their education in these schools. In addition, for youths attending American schools, there are 200 finishing courses in which the Polish language, history, etc., is taught. Thirty thousand young Poles are students in these courses. There are also seventeen Polish high schools. Several of the American Universities have chairs in Polish language and literature, etc., while over

a dozen have lecturers in the Polish language. There are some 6,000 students of Polish origin in American Universities.

The Poles in America have 800 Roman Catholic parishes with over a thousand Polish priests and four bishops. But it has to be admitted that the Poles do not occupy the place in the American Roman Catholic Church that is due to them, if their numerical proportion is taken into account. The higher church offices are held by clergy of German or Irish origin.

There is also a separate Polish National Church, with

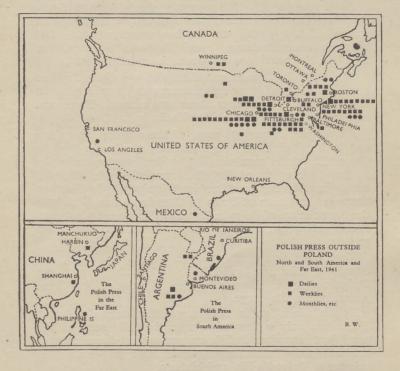
some fifty parishes.

American Poles, who constitute the largest group of Poles in any foreign country, played a great part in the struggle for Polish independence from 1914 to 1920.

The name of Ignacy Paderewski, the great pianist and great Polish patriot, is indissolubly associated with American Polonia. Among his many titles that of "spiritual leader of Polonia" has always remained. All his great activity during the last war was achieved in co-operation with and with the support of American Polonia. Among the Americans he won support for the Polish cause from outstanding politicians, with President Wilson at their head. A memorandum by Paderewski inspired President Wilson's famous speech of January 22nd, 1917, in which he called for the righting of the wrongs inflicted on Poland by Germany, Russia and Austria. This part of the speech became the basis of the thirteenth point in the famous Wilson Fourteen Points of January 8th, 1918, in which the President laid down the restoration of an independent and united Poland with free access to the sea as a condition of the future peace. During the last war the Allied camp owed much to Paderewski, who threw all his fame, all his great authority, into the scales on their side.

Paderewski's activities among American Polonia during the last war were crowned by the formation of an army of 27,000 men, which fought in Poland and France.

During the present war Paderewski, as chairman of the Polish National Council, went to America, to fight once more for the cause of Poland and the Allies, to arouse Polonia to new activities and to reveal all the menace of the war to Americans, and the need for assistance. He died there, in New York, in June, 1941. He was buried in the National Cemetery in Arlington, and after the war his remains will be transferred to Poland.



Before the United States entered the war, Poles in America were helping the fighting Democracies, working in the manufacturing of various arms and materials required for the war effort, and helped to guard them from sabotage. All Polonia's public activity was directed against Isolationist and Fifth Column influences.

As regards the part played by the U.S.A. Poles in the

present war, next chapters of this brochure will give its full account.

#### CANADA

According to the 1931 census there were 145,503 Poles in Canada. This figure has since increased to some 180,000 owing to further immigration. The greatest concentrations, over 80,000 altogether, are found in the provinces of Manitoba and Ontario.

The Poles in Canada are chiefly of one class, for the great majority of them are farmers and workers, while in the Eastern provinces there are miners. There are comparatively few Polish intellectuals in Canada.

Altogether, in various parts of the country, there are over a hundred Polish organizations similar in type to those in other countries. The leading organization is the Federation of Polish Associations in Canada, which has its headquarters in Winnipeg. In Toronto there is the Union of Poles in Canada and in Winnipeg the Association of Poles in Canada. There are also sixty Polish parishes and 120 church missions, served by Polish priests.

There are three weeklies, of which two, Czas and Gazeta Polska are published in Winnipeg, and the Związkowiec in Toronto. The circulation of these journals is quite large.

Polish education is not very extensively developed. There are only a few schools in the full sense of the word, but in various Polish centres several dozen courses are held in the Polish language and other subjects appertaining to Poland's life and history.

Like their brothers in the United States, the Poles in Canada immediately set to work on behalf of Poland as soon as the war began, making financial collections and carrying on propaganda. The Canadian Polonia also supported the recruiting activities in North America to reinforce the Polish Army. The two training centres were in Canada, and the Assembly point (Windsor) still

GREENLAND ALASKA O DAWSON YUKON AND NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES BRIT. COLUMBIA ALBERTA /SASKATCHEWAN LABRADOR MANITOBA EDMONTON OUEBEC VICTORIA O VANCOUVER REGINA WINNIPEG ONTARIO N. BRUNSWICK
QUEBEC OMONTREAL 1,000 Poles O HALIFAX 2,000 1,000 TORONTO 10,000 U.S.A. 30,000 40,000 45,000 .. B W

the respective provinces. The symbols represent the numbers of Poles living in

# POLES LIVING IN THE RESPECTIVE PROVINCES OF CANADA, ACCORDING TO THE 1931 CENSUS.

Province.					Poles.
Alberta					 21,157
Brit. Columbia				·	 4,600
Manitoba					 40,243
N. Brunswick					 121
Nova Scotia					 1,488
Ontario					 42,384
Quebec					 9,534
Saskatchewan					 25,961
Yukon and No	nth Wast	Territe			16
Yukon and No.	I till West	161110	JIICS		

exists. A number of soldiers recruited in North America are of Canadian Polonia.

#### BRAZIL

According to Polish estimates, in default of any corresponding Brazilian statistics, there are some 300,000 Polish colonists in Brazil. 150,000 are settled in the State of Parana, 80,000 in Rio Grande do Sul, and the others in Santa Catharina, Sao Paulo, Espirito Santo, Rio de Janeiro, and elsewhere.

The Polish settlements in Brazil date from the end of the 19th century, so they are of long standing and are well organized. The majority are engaged in agriculture, of course, though the Brazilian Poles have prominent representatives in the fields of science, economy, and in the Brazilian army.

Because of their great services in the development of the Southern States especially, the Poles in Brazil are a valued and respected element.

Down to 1938 Polish organizational life was developing splendidly. Out of 272 Polish societies 208 were grouped in the leading organization, the Central Union of Poles in Brazil. There were 236 Polish schools, providing education for 12,000 children. This meant that close on eighty per cent. of the Polish children were

being taught in their native language. Numerous Polish parishes and clergy ministered to the colonists' religious life. The Polish press was represented by five journals.

In 1938, the new Government introduced prescriptions of a nationalistic character. In consequence the Polish language was forbidden in Polish schools, and a Brazilian curriculum was enforced, with Portuguese as the language of instruction.

The Polish organizations were dissolved, the press was restricted by a severe censorship and by the order that everything was to be printed in both Polish and Portuguese, the Polish church was compelled to hold services and preach sermons in the local language. On July 31st, 1941, the two remaining Polish journals in Curitiba were closed down. Practically nothing was left of all the system of nationally organized Polish life which had been built up over decades.

So it is not surprising that during the years immediately preceding the war there was a falling off in Polish emigration to Brazil.

To-day there are only three Polish organizations in the whole of Brazil, and these are chiefly concerned with Poles of Polish citizenship.

However, there are certain hopes that the Brazilian authorities, being aware of the importance of the Polish emigrants to the Allied cause, will relax the binding terms of the nationalistic decrees.

Nevertheless, Polish emigrants in Brazil try to do their best to help their Motherland. The Brazilian Committee of the Polish Relief Fund could obtain great results only because it was supported by the colony of 300,000 Poles.

The fighting effort of Brazilian Polonia has expressed itself in sending a certain number of volunteers to the Polish Army in Britain. The number may be increased in future as Brazil, after her entry into the war, may give her support to the recruiting effort of Polish citizens.

Similarly, as in the United States and the Canadian Army, the Brazilian forces have a considerable percentage of Polish soldiers in their ranks. In fact, 20 per cent. of the recruits from Southern Brazil are Polish.

## ARGENTINA, URUGUAY, PARAGUAY

There are not more than 60,000 Poles in the Argentine. The largest settlement is in the northern province, in Misiones. It was founded before the last war, and to-day some 15,000 Poles live there.

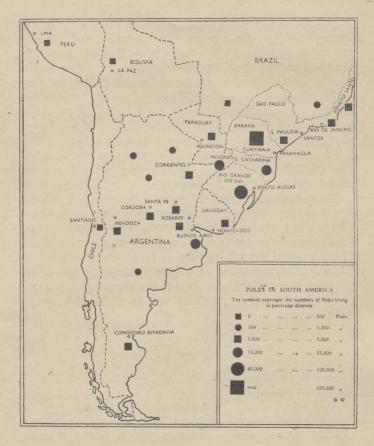
Polish centres of a worker-colonist nature are to be found at Buenos Aires and its neighbourhood, in the provinces and towns of Santa Fé, Cordoba, Mendoza, Chubut, Chaco, Entre Rios, Corrientes, and elsewhere. All these are much younger settlements, for they were founded after the last war.

There are some forty Polish organizations throughout the country, the majority of them federated in the Union of Poles in the Argentine. These organizations maintain several Polish schools. The Polish press is well developed, for a daily newspaper as well as four weeklies and a monthly (in both Polish and Spanish, devoted to Polish-Argentinian rapprochement) are published at Buenos Aires and Misiones.

Argentinian Polonia has been outstanding in its great devotion by work and monetary contributions to Polish causes. Together with the Poles in neighbouring Uruguay it has already supplied a large contingent of volunteers for the Polish army in Great Britain.

In *Uruguay* the Polish colony, consisting chiefly of working-class settlers, numbers 3,000. They have four active organizations, a Polish parish, and a school.

In *Paraguay* the Polish settlement consists largely of colonists. The chief aggregation of Poles is in the south of the country, in the territory of the "Fram" colony. Here there are 2,000 Poles.



## OTHER CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES

There are only very small groups of Polish emigrants in other countries of Latin America. But Polish political emigrants, as well as numerous Polish scientists, engineers and explorers, have played a great role in these States. Their names are met with throughout the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries.

In Chile the Polish colony numbers not more than one hundred people, living mainly in Santiago, the capital.

The name of the great Polish political emigrant, Ignacy Domeyko, the discoverer and organiser of Chilian mining, a great scientist and the author of numerous scientific works, is still remembered to-day. His family now occupy important positions in the State.

There are some seventy Poles in *Peru*. Numerous Polish engineers, with Ernest Malinowski as the most prominent, have played a leading part in the development of the country. Malinowski was the constructor of the railway built at the highest elevation in the world, in the Cordillera mountains. Small groups of Poles are also found in *Bolivia*, *Ecuador*, *Venezuela*, and *Colombia*.

There are over a hundred Poles in *Mexico*, and another five hundred in *Cuba*. Others are found in *Panama*, where they are employed in the canal service, or are members of the American armed forces stationed along the canal for its defence.

In other republics of Central America Poles are occasionally met with, or traces are found of Poles who lived there at various times in the 19th century and even earlier.

## ASIA, AUSTRALIA, AFRICA

In the Middle East Poles are to be found in Turkey, Palestine and Iran.

In Turkey Poles have played a prominent part in numerous historical events of an interesting nature. Turkey was the only country which never officially recognised the Partitions of Poland. On its soil the Polish liberation movement always found support and assistance. After the failures of the Polish risings, and especially the November Insurrection of 1831, numerous Polish soldiers found sanctuary in Turkey. Many of them joined the Turkish army, the most famous of these being Gen. Józef Bem and Michał Czaykowski. Prince Adam Czartoryski, the organizer of many Polish political activities during the 19th century, had his

emissaries on Turkish soil. Through his endeavours in the middle of the 19th century a Polish colony called Adampol was founded on the Asiatic side of the Bosphorus, and here former Polish soldiers took to agriculture. This colony, numbering 300 people, still exists, and retains its Polish tongue and customs.

In addition to the people of Adampol there are some 200 Poles, later emigrants, living in various parts of Turkey. The centres of Polish life are at Adampol and Istambul, where there is a Polish House.

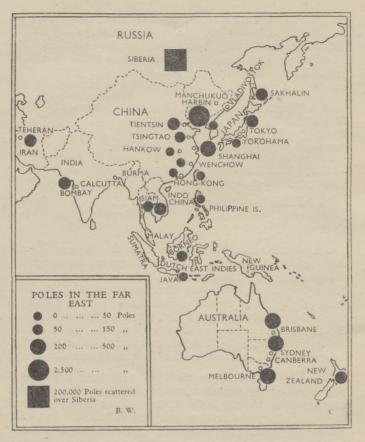
A few Poles are living in *Palestine*, mainly in Jerusalem and Tel-Aviv.

In the Far East Poles have reached China, Manchuria, Japan, the Philippines, and also Australia and New Zealand, chiefly by way of Siberia.

As we have already mentioned, in the days of Polish enslavement Siberia had a dual history; on the one hand it was the place of exile for political prisoners, and on the other it was an area for immigration, to which enterprising Poles from the Russian partition migrated when they were unable to find work at home. So the Poles in this country were explorers, pioneers and builders, and brought Western culture with them. Poles helped to build and service the Chinese Eastern railway.

This was the main impulse to the foundation of the Polish colony in *Manchuria*, where Polish officials were concentrated, chiefly in Charbin, in the railway service. It was not long before they had established fine forms of Polish national life, had built a Polish high school, buildings for various organizations, and a church. After the Manchurian war, when the Japanese took over the railway, the colony declined to some 2,500 persons. To-day many of the Poles in Charbin are engaged in trade, some of them have taken to agriculture, some have removed to the neighbouring parts of China, to Japan, and even to Australia.

However, until Japan came into the war, there were at Charbin a Polish high school, primary school, parish, as well as Polish organizations, with the leading society



The symbols represent the numbers of Poles living in the respective towns, or in the entire area of the respective States.

Polska Gospoda. The Poles in Manchuria had a weekly newspaper, Tygodnik Polski.

During the present war the Poles of Manchuria have provided a number of volunteers for the Polish army in the Middle East.

In China there was a small but until recently quite rich and well organized Polish colony numbering 500 persons. Three hundred of them lived in Shanghai, where they had organizations of their own, with the Association of Poles in China, a Polish parish, a Polish school and a Polish journal, Echo Shanghajskie. There were also Polish groups at Tiensin, Wenchow, Hongkong and elsewhere. Frequently the Poles were grouped around the Polish Catholic Missions at work in China.

After the occupation of Shanghai by Japan the Polish activities were stopped almost entirely. However, the Japanese authorities gave permission for a Polish Assistance Committee to be found for the relief of all

the Poles living in Shanghai.

There are 150 Poles in *Japan*, with small groups at Tokyo and Yokohama, while there are seventy Poles in South Sakhalin, where they have a Polish organization. The Poles in Sakhalin are former exiles sent by the Tsarist Government to this island when it was entirely under Tsarist rule, or the descendants of such exiles.

Until the occupation of the islands by the Japanese, the small group of Poles in the *Philippines* had their own

organization and journal.

Before the Japanese aggression there were, and even still are, small groups of Polish merchants, engineers, business men, mechanics, etc., as well as working-class emigrants living in *India, Siam, Indo-China and Dutch East Indies*. There were also Poles engaged in drilling for oil wells in Sumatra and Java.

There are not more than a thousand Poles in *Australia*. They are found mainly in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, where they have Polish clubs and other organizations.

Poles are also found in New Zealand, and in the Island of Hawaii, as well as other islands of Oceania. They probably found their way there from the United States.

There are only a few Poles in Africa. The largest group, numbering about a thousand, is in *French North Africa*. Poles in *Egypt* number a hundred, and in the *Union of South Africa* three hundred. There are also Polish centres or Polish owned plantations and enter-

prises in Madagascar, Angola, the Cameroons and the Congo.

This completes our survey of the Poles scattered

throughout the world.

## POLES ABROAD AND POLAND

As we mentioned at the beginning of this brochure, the people in Poland have never forgotten the Poles scattered all over the world. Although Polonia lives in foreign countries, it has been and remains a vital part of the Polish nation.

Before the outbreak of war, until September, 1939, there was very close co-operation between the mother-country and Polonia. The Poles abroad always reacted very vigorously to all Polish issues, not only themselves drawing definite advantages from the fact that they possessed their own Mother-State, but also frequently aiding in the reconstruction and development of that State. To organize co-operation between the Home country and Polonia, an Organizational Council of Poles Abroad was set up in 1927, and in 1934 it was transformed into the World League of Poles Abroad. This League federates all the leading Polish organizations in the world.

During Poland's twenty years of independence, by the joint efforts of the Homeland and Poles abroad, Polish organizations were set up in almost all the centres of Polish large-scale emigration, guiding the life of the particular centres. Among these organizations were the Federation of Polish Associations in Canada, created in 1931, the Polish American Council in the U.S.A., created in 1936, and the Union of Poles in the Argentine.

Poles abroad developed their co-operation with Poland in all directions, but especially in the cultural and economic spheres. With the co-operation of the World League of Poles Abroad courses were organized in Polish Universities for young Poles from abroad, as well as cultural and educational courses, while excursions to Poland were organized for wider circles of emigrant Poles. Poland extended its oversight over Polish schools abroad, and provided Polonia generally with books, journals, educational assistance, etc. Every five years delegations from all the Polish world centres arrived in Warsaw for Congresses of Poles Abroad. Two congresses, in 1929 and 1934, were held, and were great demonstrations of the unity of all the Poles in the world. A third Congress was to have been held in 1939, but owing to the threat of war it had to be postponed.

The congresses elected the governing bodies of the World League of Poles; the Presidium and the Central Council. Representatives of all the Polish centres in the world had a share in the work of the governing bodies.

The activities of Poles abroad and those of Poland herself on behalf of Polonia had no political basis. This is witnessed to by the declarations of principle passed by both congresses, but especially by the second congress, held in 1934. In the courtyard of the Wawel Castle in *Cracow* the Congress proclaimed the creation of a World League of Poles Abroad, and also defined Polonia's attitude to the countries where Poles are domiciled, in the following words:—

"The Second Congress of Poles Abroad, assembled in Warsaw on August 5th to 9th, 1934, declares that Poles, wherever they may live, constitute a compact national community, solid in their work for the Polish nation and in the endeavour to strengthen and develop the national culture. The good name of the Polish Nation, its requisite honour and the creative force of the national culture are the common good of all Poles. The care for this common good is the most honourable and the highest duty of every Pole.

"The Congress expresses the conviction that the hatred sown among the nations is threatening the peace and is holding up the economic reconstruction of the world. Only the harmonious co-existence of the nations, arising from a conviction of the justice inherent in reciprocal respect for the right to exist, is capable of assuring all people equally their participation in the

benefits of the peaceful labour of civilization. All violence and disturbance is equally harmful to all the nations of the world, for it undermines mutual confidence and faith in the future.

"The Congress considers that work for the Polish Nation cannot in any way cause the Poles living in foreign countries to have difficulties in regard to their surroundings and the States in which they are living. On the contrary, their obligations to these States must be fulfilled with all loyalty, and it should be the ambition of every Pole to participate in the public life of the State in which he dwells. Such an attitude on the part of Poles living abroad must be regarded as the best assurance that their right to free cultural development will be not only guaranteed but respected by the States in which they dwell."

Because of this Poles abroad have never adopted the attitude of a nationalistic separation of themselves from the communities in which they live. They have always held views completely contrary to the policy of Germans and Italians abroad, who regarded the members of their colonies abroad as the advance guards of militant nationalisms. The task of the Germans and Italians abroad was not to build up the future and wellbeing of the world in loval co-operation with all nations, but to prepare the way for the world hegemony of the totalitarian States. In all States directly affected by the war Germans and Italians have provided the cadres of spies, saboteurs, diversionists and first-class material for the Fifth Column. Activities of this kind have not been confined to Europe, but have also developed in North and South America, where the Germans and Italians were doing everything they could to hinder the full participation of the Western Hemisphere in the war effort of the democratic front.

The role played by Poles abroad has always been and remains completely different.

Before the war all activities aimed at maintaining contact between Poland and the Poles abroad received the utmost support of and was warmly welcomed by all Poles in the Mother Country. Apart from their full realization of the need for this kind of co-operation, they were moved also by family ties and a reciprocal, profound kinship of sentiment.

While speaking of Polonia's co-operation with the Mother Country one must stress the great part which the present President of Poland, Władysław Raczkiewicz, has played in this sphere. In 1934 the Second Congress of Poles Abroad elected him the chairman of the World League of Poles Abroad. Under his guidance the League greatly enlarged its scope, and entered into co-operation with all the centres of Polish settlement throughout the world. One expression of this co-operation was the establishment in Warsaw of a House for Poles Abroad, which was the result of the common efforts of all the Poles in foreign countries. The House was officially opened only a fortnight before the outbreak of war.

After the occupation of Poland the World League of Poles Abroad first carried on its activities in Paris, and then, after the fall of France, in London.

For the period of the war the activities of the League are concentrated on co-operation with all Poles abroad, especially with a view to meeting the needs arising from the war situation.

The World League of Poles Abroad is fulfilling the role of an information centre for the Polish Press and organizations all over the world, thus supplementing the activities of Polish governmental authorities in this regard. The League office sends out an information bulletin, as well as communiqués on current events. These publications supply the Polish Press abroad with information on the situation at home, on the work of the Polish Government, the Polish Army, Polish centres all over the world, and Polish refugees.

The League's information service is supplemented by the distribution of publications on Poland and current photographs. By such activities the World League influences the views of Poles in America and elsewhere in the direction of mobilizing the moral and material forces of all Poles behind the democratic front. The World League also keeps Poles in Great Britain and in the Polish Army informed of the life and work of Poles abroad. For this purpose the League issues an information bulletin, a weekly survey of the Polish Press abroad, and a Press service which supplies the Polish Press in Great Britain with news of Polonia.

As soon as it established headquarters in France the League proclaimed the slogan of "armed Polonia," and this is now beginning to yield results in the shape of an influx of Polish volunteers from North and South America. Thus a new period was opening in the story of Poles abroad. It must be added that the present recruiting activities overseas were preceded by a mass recruitment among the Polish emigrants in France, Belgium, Holland and other European States.

In agreement with official circles the World League of Poles Abroad keeps Polonia informed of the needs of refugees, prisoners of war, people interned, and those sent into the heart of Russia. In consequence of this activity the help which is forthcoming from Polonia is directed along right lines and takes into account the most urgent needs. The League works in co-operation with a number of social committees, the Polish Red Cross, and other organizations called into being for such purposes by the Polish Government.

In its endeavours to provide auxiliary service for the soldiers of the Polish Army the League extensively developed the scheme of "fostermothers" for the troops in France, drawn from Polish women abroad. This scheme has now been reorganized on new lines. The League also helps the soldiers in the Polish Army to seek their relations who at various times have emigrated from Poland, but whose addresses have been lost, or were never even known. In both these activities the object of the League is to draw Polonia into the work of providing auxiliary services for the Polish troops, giving this work an individual character, while strengthening the connections between Poles abroad and Poles temporarily forced to leave their country.

One of the greatest cares of the League is to maintain the already existing assets of Poland abroad. The

war which has devastated the Polish State has also seriously affected Polish life all over the world. But it is the object of the League to ensure that all the Polish organizations, large and small, also schools and institutions, should go on working for the Polish cause, so that when conditions are normal again it will not be necessary to begin the work anew. Acting on this basis, the League strongly encourages Poles abroad to give particular care to the training of their youth, and to ensure that they receive instruction in the Polish language, and in knowledge of Poland.

In all these activities the League has the most understanding support of Polish centres all over the world.

## POLONIA IN THE PRESENT WAR

The part being played by Poles abroad in this war is by no means ended, so it is impossible to give a complete survey of its activities. But it must be emphasized that the war, which has laid heavy obligations and burdens on all the Polish nation, has also laid them on all Poles abroad, both those settled in adjacent countries to Poland, and those overseas.

When Poland was invaded the Poles in adjacent countries immediately came to the help of Polish refugees. They continued this assistance all through the war, until they themselves came under Soviet or German occupation. This assistance was particularly extended to those refugees who were making their way to the West, to join the Polish Army in France and to fight at the side of the Allies. A certain number of Poles from adjacent countries also joined the Polish Army in France. Owing to this help Poles in Rumania, Latvia, Lithuania and Hungary, and even to some extent in Germany, have all contributed to the story of the present war.

Poles overseas were confronted with other tasks, owing to their more favourable political situation.

Wherever possible, in France and other countries of Western Europe, volunteers or conscripts were forth-coming for the Polish army formed by General Sikorski in France. The Polish divisions, which fought bravely amid the chaos of the French disaster, consisted mainly of the sons of Polish emigrants to France and other Western European States. While providing volunteers and recruits, the Poles of Europe also assisted to equip the Polish army.

All Poles abroad gave their utmost support to the Government of National Unity and Defence, set up in France under the Premiership of General Sikorski.

From the moment of the occupation of Poland Poles abroad did all they could to assist the Homeland. The Poles in the States of North and South America were particularly active in this direction, sending aid to Poland as long as it was possible to do so. After the Soviet occupation of the Baltic States, Italy's entry into the war, and other changes on the Continent, this assistance had to come to an end. Then American Polonia took up the task of assistance to prisoners of war on the one hand, and on the other began all the more intensively to assist the Polish refugees and Polish interned troops.

American Polonia co-operated energetically in the organization of assistance for close on a million Polish exiles in Soviet Russia, who were deported into the heart of the U.S.S.R. during the Soviet occupation of the Polish

Eastern provinces.

Meantime, Poles in all countries are carrying on propaganda, information and political activities for the Polish and Allied cause. One example of such political action was the support given by Poles to President Roosevelt at the Presidential election in 1940, when 95 per cent. of the Poles in the country voted for him, and he was called "the Polish national candidate."

General Sikorski's visit to America in the spring of 1941 was the preliminary to the creation of Polish volunteer formations in America. General Sikorski appealed to all Poles to come to the aid "not only of Suffering but also of Fighting Poland." Assembly points and training

camps were organized at Windsor and Owen Sound, Canada, for these forces. There was a special Polish Military Mission sent from Britain to train the volunteers.

The object of these formations was to reinforce the ranks of the Polish Army, Air Force and Navy. These activities progressed in Canada and the United States until the entry of the United States into the war. Thanks to them, the Polish Army received a few contingents of soldiers from America. After the Pearl Harbour incident the principles on which Polish volunteers were called up had to be changed. The young Americans of Polish origin who previously had been joining the Polish forces. had to be changed. Henceforward the young Americans of Polish origin who previously had been joining the Polish forces, enlisted in the American Army. Therefore, after General Sikorski's second visit to America in spring 1942, the Polish training camp in Canada was liquidated and the majority of the Polish Military Mission came back to Britain. There is, however, an Assembly point in Windsor, Canada, which recruits the Polish citizens living in America.

The Poles in the United States are now facing great tasks in the American war effort scheme. Their rôle is a very important one as they constitute the greatest group among all the Slav nations living in America. Hundreds of thousands of them have joined the ranks of the United States Army, Air Force and Navy, and they are fighting on all the fronts. The war communiques often quote the names of Polish soldiers who have distinguished themselves during the fighting in the Far East and in Europe, on land, sea and in the air. History repeats itself—during the last war 300,000 Poles living in America fought under the Stars and Stripes for the glory of the United States and Poland.

In South America, a great number of volunteers joined the Polish Army in the Argentine, Uruguay and other States. A considerable percentage of those volunteers, especially those who joined the Polish Air Force and Navy, are already in the fighting line. Recruiting in South America is still in full swing and the number of volunteers is steadily increasing.

Generally speaking there is no Allied country where Poles would not be playing an important part in the production and fighting effort. They are fighting under the American, Canadian and many other banners.

After the United States' entry into the war Polonia doubled her efforts in the war production. Hundreds of thousands of Poles are engaged in the production of raw materials, the construction of aeroplanes, engines, guns, tanks and ships destined for the Allies. In some of the war industries the workers of Polish origin number 30 per cent. or more.

President Roosevelt has often emphasized the great part American Polonia is playing in the American fighting and war effort. His message to the American Polonia, sent through the Polish American Council during its meeting in Buffalo, N.Y., on October 17th and 18th, 1942, is of special significance. It reads as follows:

"I am happy to be able to send my greetings to the Polish American Council, and through its intermediary to all my American friends of Polish origin. In our country there are no other citizens who could exceed them in their loyalty and patriotism. During the present war they are living with only one aim in their hearts—victory. Thousands of them are fighting in various fronts and still more are unceasingly turning the wheels of our war industry.

"Need we tell them about the atrocities of Hitler's

régime-they know only too well about them.

"Is it necessary to tell them how the enemy is depriving their country of food and fuel, leaving the people in hunger and cold, condemned to death and diseases—is this necessary?

"Do we have to tell them that there can be no place for a compromise with the powers of evil and paganism—

only too well do they know this.

"And is it necessary to emphasize that Victory is as

certain as the sun rising—they know it, too.

"Solemnly I pledge my word that the leaders who in their sheer barbarism have violated all our Christian principles by these organized atrocities *shall* be punished and Poland *shall* rise again." After the war, the Poles of America will be confronted with a particularly important task. They are destined to play the part of link between Poland and the States of Central Eastern Europe, on the one hand, and the Anglo-Saxon world, especially North America, on the other. American Polonia will be able to supply Poland, devastated both in terms of population and economically, with fresh forces for the restoration of the country.

## DISTRIBUTION OF POLES ABROAD

(Estimated figures.)

(Estimated lightes.)	
Countries adjacent with Poland:	
Germany and Austria	1,500,000
Czechoslovakia	60,000
Rumania	65,000
Soviet Union	1,500,000
Lithuania	200,000
Latvia	75,000
Total	3,400,000
European Emigration:	
France	523,900
Belgium	33,000
Luxembourg	1,000
Holland	4,000
British Isles	3,000
Denmark	12,000
Switzerland	500
Italy	700
Hungary	7,000
Yugoslavia	17,000
Bulgaria	500
Estonia	2,000
Finland	700
Sweden	500
Total	605,800

<sup>\*</sup>Including those who possess the nationality of the countries in which they reside.

## Overseas Emigration:

### America:

United States of North America	4,500,000
Canada	160,000
Argentine	60,000
Uruguay	3,000
Paraguay	
Brazil	300,000
Chile	100
Peru	70
	100
Mexico	
Cuba	500
Total	5,025,770
	3,023,113
Asia, Australia, Africa:	
Turkey	500
Iran	100
Palestine	100
China	500
Manchuria	2,500
Japan	150
Australia	1,000
Egypt	100
Union of South Africa	300
French North Africa	1,000
	0.050
Total	6,250
Total of Poles and persons of Polish origin abroad	9,037,820

Note: The foregoing statistics do not take into account the small Polish settlements in all the remaining States of the world, as the figures are of no significance.



Printed by
St. Clements Press, Ltd.,
Portugal Street, Kingsway,
London, W.C.2.

