

## ELOQUENT AND PRACTICAL.

In paying a tribute the other evening to Winnipeg's Polish citizens, Dr. Bland contrived to combine in a superlative degree, sympathy and sound practical advice. The doctor declared that the partition of Poland was one of the greatest crimes of modern European history. Rapacious neighbors had made an intelligent and honorable people eat the bitter bread of subjection. To that tragedy, however, had contributed the treachery of Poland's ruling class. Sooner or later, said Dr. Bland, a country which fostered a ruling class was betrayed by that class, and Canada had been no exception to the rule.

But Dr. Bland gave the Polish people a vision. He showed that it was not the Russian people, a kindly and freedom-loving people, who had compassed the national downfall of Poland, but an autocratic Russian Government. It was no extravagant dream, he thought, that the Russian Government would one day become democratic enough to raise the different Slav peoples to the dignity of self-governing states.

Then Dr. Bland had a word of sound advice for Manitoba's Polish population. He pointed out that if the Poles were to take their due place in Canadian citizenship and Canadian nationhood, if they were to fill positions of responsibility, they must see to it that their children mastered the English language.

Of the Polish language Dr. Bland spoke in the highest praise. In his opinion, it would be a world calamity for the Polish language, the treasure-house of one of the world's greatest literatures, to perish and be forgotten. It was the duty of the Polish people jealously to preserve their language. But, at the same time, it was their duty to see to it that their children had a full and fair opportunity to take their due place in the councils of the Canadian nation. There was nothing incompatible between the two.

The Free Press has on many occasions, perhaps not so eloquently, voiced the same sentiments of those of Dr. Bland in this regard. We believe that thoughtful and reasonable people appreciate the great advantage of the upkeep in Canada of foreign

languages. How this is best to be done, and just how far the public schools may properly be used for this purpose, is, of course, a matter of controversy. But, in our opinion, it is only a small minority who would wish to see every language other than English ruthlessly banished from the public schools.

The question of Polish and Ukrainian nationality is, of course, also a most contentious one. But there are few Canadians, we think, who will not admit that the subjection of the Polish and Ukrainian peoples was an act of high-handed tyranny. And yet it may be sincerely questioned whether national agitation in Canada will deal as effective a blow at European autocracy and tyranny as the building up in Canada of a strong and powerful democracy. So inter-related are all the nations of the earth,