

UKRANIANS EAGER TO REGAIN LOST COUNTRY

Local Men Hold Meeting and Adopt Patriotic Resolutions.

The true significance of the war cloud which is hanging over Europe today is perhaps not fully appreciated by Canadians and other nations of Anglo-Saxon origin. That the involving of Russia in the war will have the most far-reaching and epoch making results will be more readily understood when it is known that many millions of patriotic Poles and Ukrainians are waiting for the opportunity to revolt against the tyranny and oppression of Russia, and that the present occasion is looked upon as the golden opportunity which these people have been waiting for for over a century and a half. In Canada alone there are 50,000 Poles and 300,000 Ukrainians ready for the signal to join in the revolutionary movement to fight again for the freedom of their country. In the United States there are 11,000,000.

LOCAL MEMBERS CONFERENCE.

Last night a conference of the local Polish and Ukrainian revolutionary parties was held in Ottawa and the question of the strife in Europe was discussed. A review of the events which have led up to the present state of affairs was made and a grim determination, fostered by the acute hate which the Russian government has created by its repressive measures, to carry to its final outcome the revolution which is but on the threshold of its existence, was expressed. Among those present were: Mr. R. Wojewski, secretary; Mr. J. Wojewski, Mr. A. Flaga, Mr. F. Brodner and Mr. M. Chopowik, Jr. Messrs. Flaga and Brodner are the two delegates appointed by the Ottawa branch of the Ukrainian Social-Democratic Party of Canada, to go to Austria within the next ten days to make preparations to join the revolutionary forces there. Confidence in the victory of their cause was expressed, if Russian interference really occurs, and the great opportunity which would thus be offered is being taken as an occasion for the joining of the Polish and Ukrainian forces for a common cause.

RIGHTS OF POLAND.

It was pointed out that a great deal of misapprehension existed as to the position of Poland and her sister nations in the situation. Contrary to published reports that Poland had been lost 400 years ago, that country had been under the Russian yoke only since 1795, when the last partition took place. The nation lost all its rights—parliament and all. The last king of Poland was August II Poniatowski.

The vast proportions of the Polish people would also be more fully realized when it was known that there were 4,000,000 Poles in Austrian Poland, 15,000,000 in Russian Poland, 6,000,000 in Germany, including Silesia, taken 300 years ago, 8,000,000 in the U.S., and 50,000 in Canada. In Chicago alone was a fully trained regiment of 30,000, waiting for the call of the race, in addition to which there were 5,000 in London, Etc. All were fired by the same desire, to throw off the rule of Russia. The last insurrection in Poland was in 1863, which miscarried, through the treachery of Russian "friends." The country had republican institutions long before any other nation had studied the idea, and 50 years before the French Republic.

After the failure of the Polish leader, the people were forced to emigrate. First they went to France, then to England, and later to the nations of the New World. In order to keep fresh the patriotic spirit of the people, committees were organized in every part of the world, and to do so funds were collected, and now the organizations had millions ready for the opportunity which seems near. There are 30 members in the Austrian parliament, and 260 in the provincial houses of that country.

TO REGAIN COUNTRY.

The Ukrainians are in the same manner waiting for the opportunity to regain their lost country. They originally inhabited half of the Russian empire, numbering 30,000,000 but, like the Poles, were now spread all over the world. Five million live in Austria, 3,000,000 in the United States, and 300,000 in Canada. They had kings and princes in the middle ages, and it was not until 1654 that Hetman Bogdan Chmelnicki gave Ukraina to Russia, under contract, as a protectorate. After the death of Hetman, the country was Russified. Revolutionary committees were organized in the same way as the Poles had done, and now the party had branches in every part of the world. They had also many friends in Lithuania and Finland.

All these people were now working in unison for the present revolution without consideration of party or race. Although everything had been taken away from them they still retained the culture, literature and industries, and the millions of people of intelligence and education which they represented, stood for untold strength against the hand of Russia. The day had at last arrived, and victory was assured.

The press were thanked for the publicity given to the committees activities.