

HOPE THAT POLAND WILL GAIN FREEDOM

Winnipeg Poles Prepared to Die to Realize Dream of In- dependent Nation.

Sunday afternoon there took place a mass meeting of the Winnipeg Polish citizens in the school room of the Holy Ghost church. The hall was packed to capacity. The speakers were Father Kowalski, the parish priest, Father Grochowski and M. Victor. The purpose of the meeting was to post the people at large as to the present war situation, and to discuss the gains Poland can make through the present war.

Stand by Great Britain.

The majority of those present were of the opinion that the Poles in this country ought to be prepared for all the eventualities which can arise from the present European war, but no resolutions of any kind were passed, there being no need for such. Father Grochowski, in an eloquent speech, struck a popular note among the audience when he said that their eyes ought to be turned on Poland in the present moment when changes of tremendous importance may take place, and the long cherished dream of the independent free Poland may shortly become a reality, but, said the speaker, "we are Canadians and have direct duties towards our adopted land which gladly took us in her midst giving us all the privileges of citizenship. We have to stand by Great Britain a part of which Canada is; we have to sacrifice our blood for Canada whenever there will be a need for it."

M. Victor spoke on the military preparedness of Poles in forms of athletic associations with military training and independent riflemen's associations which have become especially numerous in Galicia in the past two years. The athletic associations Sokol, have many branches and members throughout United States, and there was no doubt, he said, that when the time is ripe all of them will go to fight for the independent Poland. Messrs. Hyzy, Janicki, Sielski, Dr. Gerzabek and Major took the platform besides the programme speakers.

Take Example from Irish.

In the course of his speech Mr. Major said that the present situation warrants the suspension of hostile spirit prevailing among different sections of the Poles in Winnipeg, and a unity of thought and action would be very beneficial. Let the Irish at home be our example, who at a moment's notice forgot their most serious grievances. Seeing their country in danger, the Catholics of Ireland today are hand in hand with the Ulsterites against their common enemy, and we are in a very similar position." He asked Father Kowalski, as the parish priest of the largest Polish congregation in Winnipeg, to initiate such a move and asked his opinion about it, but the Rev. Kowalski would not commit himself.