

# POLES THE SINCERE FRIENDS OF ALLIES

## Position Stated Clearly in Resolutions Passed at Mass Meeting in Winnipeg.

### Protection of Countrymen in Canada from Treatment as Alien Enemies Claimed.

A mass meeting of the Polish people of this city was held on Sunday night, at the Polish Falcons' hall, corner Manitoba avenue and Parr street, for the purpose of discussing ways and means whereby to render help and assistance to the Polish people now living in Canada, who are frequently exposed to unnecessary hardships, partly through their ignorance of the English language and partly because the military registration authorities were not always able to distinguish between a Pole from Austria and Germany and a German from those countries. The meeting was presided over by K. Sielski, while B. Zeglinski acted as secretary.

The speakers of the evening were J. Nowacki and C. P. Kamienski, who both spoke of the necessity of one of our local Polish organizations taking charge of an adequate protection system for the Poles in this country, who, as former subjects of Austria or Germany, were greatly discriminated against by everybody who did not know their true nationality, and were treated as "alien enemies" just because they had been unfortunate enough to have been born under the flags of those countries which are today at war with Great Britain.

#### Resolutions Passed.

The following resolutions were introduced by Mr. Kamienski, and carried unanimously by a standing vote:

"Whereas, the Teuton, the most dangerous enemy of Poland and all Slav nations, has triumphantly entered the dearly beloved capital of Poland, Warsaw, and in his greed is progressing eastward over the ruins of our homes and the graves of our brethren, sisters, and children:

"Whereas, the Teuton at the height of his power, in his boundless arrogance, is imposing upon our nation a king of his own choice, with the evident intent to still further humiliate unfortunate Poland, who, with her own breast and to her peril, once nursed this treacherous Prussian culture (by establishing the "religious" order of the Knights of the Cross in 1228; in the Baltic provinces, then inhabited by the Prussians, an ancient Slav tribe):

"Whereas, today the whole civilized world is manifesting keen interest in the future of Poland, who fell a sacrifice to Germany's greed for world power, and in consequence of the lack of knowledge of eastern European affairs, as shown by the powers of western Europe of other days:

"Whereas, thousands of Poles living abroad, but born in the German or Austrian parts of Poland, are even now frequently persecuted, if not by the government itself, yet by officials who, through lack of knowledge of our history and traditions, are unable to distinguish between the various nationalities, of which the warring powers consist, and thus frequently classify Poles as Germans or Austrians:

"We Polish men and women of the city of Winnipeg, in the province of Manitoba, Dominion of Canada, assembled this 29th day of August, A.D. 1915, at the Polish mass meeting held in the said city of Winnipeg, resolve as follows:

"We regret the terrible tragedy that has befallen our nation, whose sons, pressed into military service in the armies of our enemies, are compelled to commit the most horrible of all crimes, that of fratricide, to further the lust of blood of the war lords, and whose entire country with the fall of Warsaw is falling into the blood-stained hands of the Prussian executioner, who everywhere is introducing his own barbaric laws, faithfully following his old motto: 'cuius regio--ejus religio,' or, in Prussian, 'Might is right':

"We believe that although the Prussian has checked for the time being our ally, Russia, on the eastern front, yet the ultimate result of the war, however distant it may appear to be, will bring our nation the longed-for freedom and the realization of the dreams of our forefathers, when Poland, with all her former territory reunited, will rise again, resurrected by the allies;

"We recommend that our compatriots, who possess a thorough knowledge of the English language, take advantage of the interest at present shown by everybody in Polish affairs, and not cease in their propaganda for a future Poland, endeavoring to gain as many sympathizers of our cause as possible, not only among our English-speaking fellow-citizens in this country, but all over the British empire;

"And while this terrible war lasts, until the ultimate victory of the allies shall crush the power of the Teutonic world, which historical moment the whole Polish nation is yearning for, we, the exiles and outcasts of a once great and powerful nation, who are now living abroad, hereby appeal to the government of this Dominion for protection of our countrymen living in Canada against persecutions as 'alien enemies,' and ask to be classified as the most sincere friends of France, to whom we are allied by history and tradition, and Britain, who has become our motherland by adoption. In order to facilitate a thorough understanding between the government and the Polish people of Canada, we hereby authorize the Polish Gymnastic association, 'Sekol,' to act in the name of this gathering on behalf and in the interest of our unfortunate countrymen, who, without outside assistance, as former subjects of Austria or Germany, through no fault of their own, find themselves only too often in various uncomfortable and disagreeable situations."