

POLES UNABLE TO AID RELATIVES

Transmission of Money to Stricken Land at Sender's Risk

The question of a safe and rapid means of transmitting money to Poland is a problem which faces bankers in Canada and the United States. Whereas thousands of dollars a month were being sent across to that stricken country only a few months ago, bankers will now only accept it at the sender's risk. Local dealers in foreign exchange are daily turning away people who have relatives in that country and are anxious to send money to their assistance.

Advices to exchange dealers here go to show that Polish banks are in an inefficient and congested condition, and that many months pass before the payee receives, if he ever does, the remittance. Mr. Meyer Rotenberg of Rotenberg's Ltd., who formerly did a big share of this business, stated yesterday that the political situation, inefficiency of the banks, and the enormous volume of business, as well as an attempt at profiteering by the banks there, was responsible for the congested condition.

Cannot Handle Business.

When the Peace Treaty was signed, Poland was under a separate Government, and many millions of dollars were being sent from the United States and Canada to that country. The greatest percentage of the Jewish people, as well as the Poles, come from what is now Greater Poland. Russians were in charge of the banks before Poland was put under a separate Government, and now the Poles themselves are in charge. However, the thrusting upon them of this enormous volume of business found them in no condition to handle it. Money was being continually sent, but the matter of delivery was found to be almost an impossibility.

Some time ago the big American banks, through which money must be forwarded, refused to accept remittances for that country. The result is, that at the present time the Poles are a starving people, and relatives here are practically unable to get funds to them. Some smaller New York institutions are sending money, but there is no way of knowing whether it ever arrives or not.

According to Mr. Rotenberg, ninety per cent. of the Jewish people here still have relatives in that country, whom they have got to help out, as Poland, at the present time, has no industries of any great extent. He stated that if the doors of this country were open for Polish immigration there would not be ships enough to bring them.

In an odd instance, an American express order is sent, or an effort is made to overcome the difficulty by drawing on London, but, as Mr. Rotenberg pointed out, people who need money immediately for bread can do little with a draft on London.