

## **PADEREWSKI.**

(By A. J. DE TOPOR-MARCOWICZ, in  
the "Daily Mail.")

A leonine mane, a strong handsome face, deep, dreamer's eyes, an artist every inch of him, living for his art, and in his art alone: The world's greatest pianist. That is how the world knew Ignacy Jan Paderewski in the old, pre-war days. We lost sight of him during the last few years of stress, so it is no wonder that the news of his being suggested as the future President of the Republic of Poland comes as a surprise to many. An artist to govern a nation of warriors, a dreamer to become a statesman!

But behind the curtain of dreams slept a fighting man, a true son of his race; behind the dreamy blue eyes there was a man of action. It required a cataclysm to wake him up, that is true, but when the call came he responded. Overboard went music and art, and stern reality took their place.

In order to be able to understand the man, and the change that took place in him, one must know and understand the country that gave him birth. Great rolling plains lie peaceful and dreaming under brilliant sunshine in summer, or sleep quietly under the white covering of snow during the long Polish winter. There is a melancholy air about it, a spirit that the eyes of a dreamer reflect; especially in autumn. But spring brings full vibrant, pulsating life with her, a creative power hardly known in different climes. As is the land, so are many of her sons, and Paderewski is one of them.

During the years 1914-1918 he proved himself to be an organiser of exceptional ability, working long hours at high pres-

ability, working long hours at high pressure, organising first the Polish Relief Committee, a branch of the International Red Cross, with headquarters at Geneva; then taking upon himself the work of Polish propaganda abroad. It meant hard work for a patriot to keep a cool head while his country suffered as perhaps no nation suffered before. Out of 20,000,000 people who inhabited Russian Poland prior to the war over 6,000,000 perished of starvation. The death-rate amongst Polish children was enormous. In 1917 there were no children left in Poland under the age of eight. Out of the remaining 14,000,000 inhabitants 10,000,000 were homeless. How they subsisted, how and on what they managed to eke out a living, no historian of that unhappy race has been able to tell us so far. That any survived is due mostly to their powerful physique and generations of clean and simple living, and mostly to the tremendous tenacity of human beings to life,

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and to man's wonderful capacity for enduring pain and privations.

It was the duty of every Pole to help—a duty which was taken up by the Polish Relief Committee, and nobly carried out under most adverse circumstances. But in 1917 it became apparent that any relief, if it had to be effective, must come to the Polish nation, not in the shape of foodstuffs, imported from abroad, but as national independence, which would free Poland from the foreign yoke, especially from the domination and military and political occupation of Germany. Poland, rich in agriculture, was before the war the granary of Europe; under German occupation she could not even feed

man occupation she could not even feed herself. Germany has denuded Polish cities of both raw materials and all machinery for production. Every bit of available metal was shipped and sent to Germany. The Germans also requisitioned the Polish harvest of 1916, leaving the country without sufficient grain to feed her population, and none to sow the fields for 1917. Moreover, such food as was sent from abroad as relief for the hunger-stricken population was likewise commandeered by Germany for her own use.

So the Polish patriots, with Paderewski at their head, started a political campaign, the aim of which was war to the knife with the Teuton, who aimed at the extermination of their nation. It is not generally known that he and his brave little band of workers are in a great degree responsible for the creation and the manning of the Polish legions in France, Russia, Italy, and in the U.S. army. Less still is the fact known that the same influence was at work in Canada, Brazil, and the Argentine, where there are large numbers of Polish peasants, and that it was that influence that helped to frustrate the very energetic German propaganda there. In Canada, of the three States that voted solidly for conscription, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan have an enormous Polish population. There are over a million Poles in Canada, half a million of whom come from Austrian Poland. But they voted for conscription and humanity, for Poland, and their adopted country, and against Germany. It was the same in the U.S.A. and in Brazil. Wherever the Allies called for men, Polish legions were formed, and Ignacy Jan Paderewski was the man who helped in their formation, and whose

who helped in their formation, and whose unceasing efforts welded the forces of scattered sons of Poland into one weapon directed from many lands and from many a battle-front towards one aim—the restoration of free and independent Poland, with access to the sea!

Paderewski's name has been suggested for the Presidency of the Republic of Poland, and thus far he has been received with enthusiasm by a great part of his country. Whether he will reach the Presidency or not, the future alone will show. The National Assembly is the sole arbiter of this question. There are many obstacles in his way. There are Germany, the Bolsheviki, and an assassin's knife, or a bomb, or a bullet, has ere now ended the career of many a man, be he military leader or statesman. But perhaps the greatest obstacle of all presents itself in the person of General Pilsudski, commanding the Polish army in Russian Poland, whose aim is military dictatorship.

Pilsudski belongs mentally to the older generation. A warrior, every inch of him, he commands a numerous following, but a large proportion of the population, especially the intellectual leaders,

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regard him as too reactionary to lead the nation in time of peace. Friction has already taken place between the two leaders. When peace is declared the National Assembly will finally decide between them. In the meantime the new Republic is fighting for its very existence, threatened on one side by the semi-savage and almost entirely illiterate hordes of Ruthenian (Ukrainian) (?) Bolsheviki, and on the other by the German menace. And already our one-time

menace. And already our one-time dreamer-artist has proved himself (if the cables correctly inform us) a leader of men, and a resourceful general.

The times are changing, and the demand for professional politicians and diplomats is diminishing. Poland's sister State, the new Republic of Czecho-Slovakia, has chosen for her leader a scientist, Professor Masaryk. Why not a great artist for Poland?

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No sooner has the world decided that there must be no more secret treaties, than we are told that an embargo is placed on the publication and beyond that the discussion of all Peace Conference proceedings, the old political game— withhold in one hand and give with the other.

Can we believe them? Well, probably Kupp's munition workers do mean what they say, when they assert that mighty establishment for providing cannon fodder will never be used again for war purposes. Would a free and unlimited tap of beer change their views?

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No doubt about the coming of the commercial plane or multi-plane after the war. And by the bye which is it to be? Inflated sausages or heavier than air machines? The planes seem to have it at present. Does it ever strike Imperial federationists that the navigation of the air must help along vastly not only the federation of the Empire, but also of the world. There must be swift transit of men, ideas and programmes, if dominions and nations are to be grouped in the larger unity.

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Let us think what the scheme for a Common Colonial Empire in Middle Africa

... BUT AS THINGS STAND THE SCHEME FOR A  
German Colonial Empire in Middle Africa  
would mean if the Huns ever succeeded  
in putting the Suez Canal out of action.  
And yet there are some Australians, who  
think that as long as the Commonwealth  
is not attacked all's well. Seeing that  
Australia is not self-supporting, the Ger-  
man project has considerable interest for  
us.

Lots of people want to know what the  
Bolsheviks are seeking. It is not difficult  
to answer that question. It is just what  
every political organisation has been out  
for since it took form—power. In that  
respect all politicians live in glass houses  
and so, can't throw stones.

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Just as Vasco de Gama gave the world  
a Good Hope in linking up two oceans, so  
the Prince of Wales is giving democracy a  
new departure in citizen kingship. The  
heir to the throne has won golden opin-  
ions from the Sammie officers and more  
luck to him he has a keen eye for a pretty  
girl.

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Those who have never been overseas  
can't grasp the position of the Dominions.  
One can picture Billy Hughes' withering  
indignation at Australia being classed as  
a "small nation," which it is, of course,  
as to population. Anyway Greater Brit-  
ain is to be represented specially and a  
very good reason for the representation  
there is.

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Assassination won't help along na-  
tional progress. It is a great pity revo-  
lutionaries don't recognise this. When  
they down Militarism do the revolution-  
aries not realise that if slaying in war be  
murder then so is slaying in street fight.

murder then so is slaying in street fighting. What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander.