

POGROMS IN POLAND

Views of Representative Jews— Persecution Alleged

BRITISH MISSION'S INVESTIGATION

Mr. A. J. Markowicz writes complaining of what he describes as "a bitter campaign of slander" against the new Republic of Poland, in regard to alleged atrocities and persecutions of Jews. He asserts that the stories of pogroms have been repudiated by Jewish deputies in the Polish Diet, and by the American Minister at Warsaw, and that an American mission, headed by Mr. Henry Morgenthau, formerly U.S.A. Ambassador to Turkey, himself a Jew, after an exhaustive investigation, absolved the Polish nation from responsibility for the excesses.

Germany has used the Jews for her anti-Polish propaganda, states our correspondent, and the report of pogroms are, in fact, inspired from German sources.

We have submitted these statements to Rabbi Cohen, and other well-informed members of the Jewish community in Sydney. They reply that there is no doubt whatever that terrible massacres of Jews did take place in various parts of Poland, accompanied by excesses of the most revolting character. In these pogroms Polish soldiers participated. How far the Government of Poland was responsible for these events has not been

far the Government of Poland was responsible for these events has not been established, but that they took place within the boundaries of Poland has been officially confirmed in the House of Commons by a British Minister, and it is obvious that the Government was not able to prevent their occurrence. As recently as last September, anti-Jewish excesses took place in Lodz. Similar pogroms have more recently been reported in the Ukraine, Hungary, and other parts of Europe.

Sir Stuart Samuel and Captain P. Wright recently visited Poland with the object of investigating the treatment of Jews on behalf of the British Government, and the report of these Commissioners should, it is urged by representative Jews here, be awaited before any opinion can be fairly expressed on the matter. There is abundant evidence that the old prejudice against Jews in Poland has not been dissipated, and they still suffer serious disabilities. The anti-Semitic Polish papers greeted Sir Stuart Samuel's mission with vitriolic fury, thus indicating that their hands were not altogether clean. Mr. Morgenthau was not taken seriously by his co-religionists in Poland, with whom his relations were not at all cordial.

Our informants deny emphatically that the Jews have allowed themselves to be used for German purposes, and they state that information in Sydney on this question is largely derived from tainted American sources. British citizens, whether Gentiles or Jews, will be very happy to acclaim Poland, when she shows that pogroms and other religious disabilities are not possible within her reconstructed borders. So far, that has not been shown.
