

# UNCLE SAM FINDING HOMES FOR BELGIANS IN WEST

### Government Arranging to Place Refugee Farmers on Good Lands With Opportunities for Prosperity

PLACES without limit are being made ready in the West for Belgian refugees who find their way to the United States and who are of the material from which good farmers may be made. Two departments of the Federal Government are interested and are coordinating the various agencies that may make it possible for the immigrants from war-imperished Belgium, or for similar settlers from other countries for that matter, to find their way directly to the land for which they come in search.

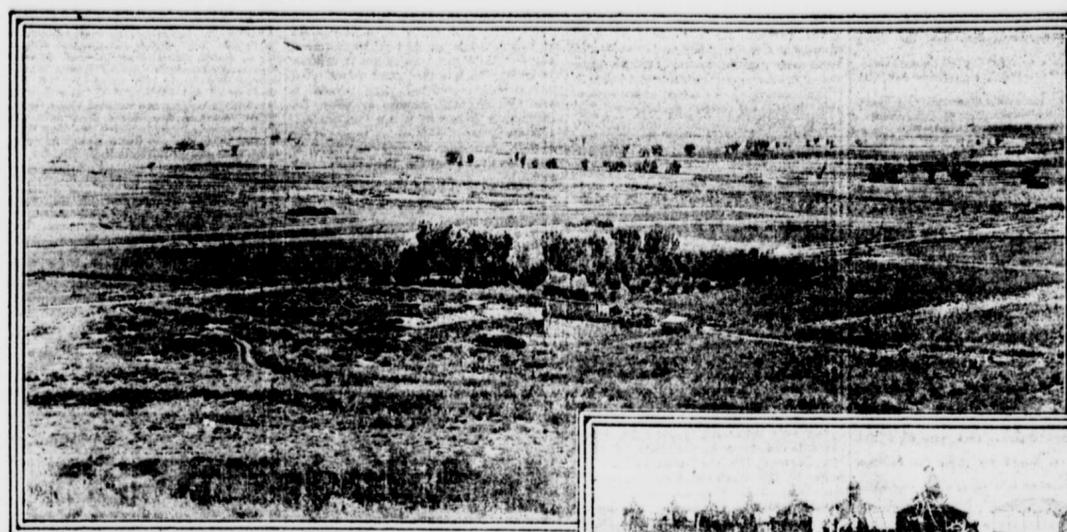
The movement began in the Department of the Interior. Here are administered the unsettled lands of the Government, and here, particularly, is to be found the reclamation service. This service is aiming new lands under cultivation in all the States west of the Missouri. It is bringing water to regions that have hitherto been dry and parched and worthless. It is laying the foundation for ideal farming communities in regions as far removed from the abodes of man that there is a shortage of settlers available when the lands are ready. It is looking for settlers if they are the right sort. It knows that Belgian and French and German farmers would just fill its specifications.

With this idea in mind the reclamation service asked the Department of Labor if there were such farmers available. The Department of Labor and the Department of Immigration and therefore knows about the people who are coming to the United States from abroad. It attempts to aid in the proper distribution of this immigration.

The Department of Labor reported that Belgians were coming in greater numbers than any other class of farmers that were equally desirable. Those refugees who had fled to England and Holland were looking for a chance to make a new start. There was even the shadow of a permanent German domination of their native land, which was anything but pleasant to them. They were looking to America. Many were coming.

The reclamation service made a study of these Belgians. It was interested only in those from the farm, but they were in the majority. It found, in the first place, that the Belgian farmer was intelligent and skilful as an intensive cultivator of the soil. The small farms of Belgium are the best worked in the world. Particularly is the Belgian an experienced cultivator of sugar beets.

Here was exactly the thing for which the reclamation service was looking. The European countries that produce the greater part of the beet sugar of the world were at war and their production practically shut off. The United States saw the great chance of prosperity that awaited those regions over here that are particularly fitted to the production of this crop. These regions were the irrigated lands of the West. This new reclaimed land grows such sugar beets as Germany needs. The sugar beet industry of the West could take care of every Belgian sugar



WHERE FIFTY FAMILIES MADE THEMSELVES HOMES

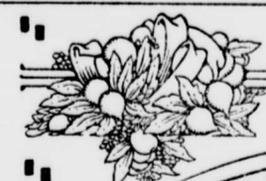
beet farmer it could get hold of. But this was not all. It was found that another section of Belgium, along the Dutch border, was inhabited by a people given over almost entirely to dairying. Here is another industry that leads to prosperity on the reclaimed lands. A little farm laid down in alfalfa will furnish food for a dairy herd that will bring sure and abundant returns to the man who knows how to run it.

On these projects a creamery is usually reclamation service. It is established and so is a market created for the yield of the dairy farms. The climate is so mild in many places that no housing is required. The hay of the alfalfa is an ideal winter food. All that is needed to go into the dairy business is a few cows.

The Reclamation Service wanted to know more about the adaptability of the Belgian to such conditions as existed in the West and therefore took the matter up with the Belgian Consuls in New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore. It asked if they thought that the refugees could be fitted into the American scheme of things.

The Consuls said, in the first place, that certain considerations should be kept in mind in settling these Europeans in the West. It should be remembered that the Belgians were accustomed to living in densely settled communities, closely in contact with their fellows. For generations they had never stirred from one community. They were provincial and unaccustomed even to the manners of fellow citizens who lived a hundred miles away. They stuck to their own kind.

They could probably not cooperate with the open plains. A Belgian family settled among Americans would be very unhappy. They should be handled in groups and settled close together. This exactly fitted in with the scheme of the reclamation service. For these irrigated lands ten acres is sufficient for an intensive farmer. With a settler on



ALL THAT IS NEEDED FOR A DAIRY IN THE WEST

each ten-acre community, becomes almost a continuing village. It makes the sort of community to which the Belgian farmers are accustomed. The Consuls suggested also that it was advisable to establish community centers and that the Belgians were accustomed to a community leader from the priest. It might be advisable to offer certain



RECLAMATION BEETS ON THE WAY TO MARKET.

road radiating in all directions and with the division of the tract so arranged that the farms all about would fit into the scheme of an ideal community center where everybody got the advantage of village life while engaged in farming.

Schoolhouses, churches, post offices and stores were grouped about the

### Reclamation Service Will Help New-comers on Irrigated Lands--Similar Settlers From Other Warring Countries Welcomed

centre of the model village. Its streets were laid out with the idea of ultimate possibilities in mind. The farms, the road scheme of the community, all were so arranged as to make the best possible community when it had grown to its utmost. The Belgians seemed to fit ideally into the reclamation scheme of things.

An alien must have taken out his papers before he can actually settle on Government land. It is also difficult to arrange groups of people in so filling, for the land goes to the first who apply or by allotment, and thus there is a scramble of individuals from many sources. The man who files on an en-

more than he would be allowed years for. He subdivided it into small farms and settled fifty families upon them. These settlers he advised on the best way of farming under the local conditions, as to crops that should be planted, helped them in their marketing. The settlers turned half of their crops toward paying for their lands.

In three years they had paid for and owned their homes. Also they had converted a barren desert into a garden spot thickly sudded with prosperous homes.

A part of the scheme of the Reclamation Service of placing Belgians on the Western lands lies in gathering information as to where there are privately owned lands that may be improved by such settlers. It is getting in touch with such owners throughout the West. It is working out with these people the methods by which groups of immigrants may be placed on these lands.

Local bankers in various communities are figuring out schemes for financing such groups of settlers. In many of the Western States there are great tracts of land that are owned by the railroads. Many of these roads are anxious to settle their lands with immigrant farmers. They are ready to make many concessions to prospectively productive farmers, for they will get to haul the freight as produced after they have got their money out of the land.

The best growers of the West also offer opportunities to the farmer who knows best culture. Such a grower may turn over a forty-acre patch of beets to an immigrant family which contracts to take care of it until it is mature. The family may be paid a flat price for this something like \$25 an acre. It may be enough to start a Belgian family on a farm of its own. So may a start be gained in a new land from almost nothing. So may America profit by gaining the best sort of blood engaged in the most productive and beneficial of callings.

It is probable that there are many individuals and corporations in this country that would be willing to send for groups of Belgians and pay their expenses all the way to the land if it were permitted. The laws with regard to contract labor prevent this. So the Belgian family must have enough to get itself over here and is vastly better off if it has enough to get itself started.

The ideal condition is that of a group of friends from a given community with a little money to go on. Many Belgian refugees have some money. They are a frugal people and most of them have saved. But even where they have landed in America without means there are relief committees in touch with their Consuls who will help.

There are already some Belgians settled on the reclamation projects. On the Shoshone, in Wyoming, there is a group of them, owning their land and developing comfortable homes.

# RUSSIAN POLAND MAKES BITTER WAR ON JEWS--- Georg Brandes Says Prominent Men and Newspapers of Country Lead Systematic Boycotting of Jewish Population--Ill Treatment of Women and Children

The war has brought new hopes to the Poles who have been dreaming of a Poland reunited and autonomous. At the same time Georg Brandes, the eminent Danish critic, declares that the state of affairs in Russian Poland is at present more desperate than it has ever been before, owing to the growth of anti-Semitism. This movement had its first great manifestation in 1912, when the Jews of Warsaw were obliged in self-defence to support a candidate of their own for deputy in the Duma against a candidate who had publicly declared that he desired the election to the Duma only to work for the extermination of the Jews of Poland. An article by Dr. Brandes describing the situation appears in the "Day," Herman Bernstein's newspaper. Some extracts from it are given below.

By GEORG BRANDES. THE leading men in Russian Poland, who in a matter of fact, through the whole new century had fought against the Jews, although secretly, for fear they should forfeit the sympathy of the intellectual aristocracy of Europe, used this electoral victory of the Jews, which had been won by a vote of the masses, and openly act as their passionate enemies. The so-called cooperative movement developed during the last twelve years, and in itself nothing but a fight against the Jewish commerce under a different name, now changed into a systematic and cruelly effected boycotting of the Jewish population. In private, as in public life, the openly pronounced password was: not to buy from Jews, not to associate with Jews.

At the head of this movement marched the intelligence of Poland, among others some of its most famous authors, avowed free thinkers and democrats, such as Alexander Swietochowski, Literary Life presents many changes, metamorphoses, which in thoroughness are not very much inferior to those of Ovid.

A good deal is necessary to make one who for a half century has witnessed the want of character among his people feel even the slightest surprise. But I should willingly have sworn that I should never have lived to see Alexander Swietochowski a Nationalist, the most uncompromising adversary of Nationalism, who endured a good deal for his conviction, to see the poet of "Baba Jaba" an anti-Semitic agitator. Not only does all that Alexander Swietochowski wrote rise against him, but also the words, the powerful words, which issued from his mouth in his public days.

The whole Polish press placed itself at the disposal of the movement. Young Polish boys were posted outside the Jewish shops and ill treated the Christian women and children who wanted to buy there. By means of the well known Danowski, a new paper, "Dnia Glosi," was started, which simply urged pogroms. It soon came to bloody outbreaks.

Jewish undergraduates killed an old Jew in the Siska street in Warsaw. In the little town of Weln peasants poured naphtha on the house of a Jew and put fire to it, burning a large family. Similar acts occurred in several other places, until the Russian Government stopped this pogrom movement in order to prevent the Polish pogromism from getting stronger.

The Polish priests in the villages incited the people from the pulpit to boycotting of and war against the Jews. After the sentence in the Belitsa action the Polish newspapers were almost alone in publishing on circulars the information that Belitsa had been acquitted but that the existence of religious murders had been satisfactorily proved. Nay, the free thinker, Nemojewski, wrote a book in which he maintained the monstrous lie that Jewish religious murders are facts, and travelled all over the country with an agitatorial lecture to the same purpose.

Under the circumstances the Jews in Russian Poland turned to the few men whose names were so esteemed on the characters were so undisputed that their words could not be unheeded. Ludlasi Mickiewicz, the excellent son of the great Mickiewicz, who had passed his whole life in Paris, first as a publisher and translator of the works of his father, and then as a Polish patriot, author, convenor together with some other prominent men, a great meeting at Warsaw to restore the inner peace. In vain he begged and besought his countrymen, who had enemies enough otherwise, not to act as enemies of the Jews, who had always been their friends. No Polish newspaper gave any report of his speech.

All this took place before the war. The provisional result was the economic destruction of the Russian Polish Jews. But now during the war the glow of the bloody hatred of the Jews has blazed out in far stronger flames and the Russian Government has as yet done nothing to subside or quench the fire.

During the mobilization several Polish newspapers, for instance the "Glos Lublinski," brought the alarming news in heavy type. In England great pogroms against the Jews in the English Government does not check them. The paper was conscious of the lie. But the question was to set an example to follow.

When the lack of gold and silver began to be felt the Polish newspapers accused the Jews of hiding the valuable metal. A closer examination it was found that many non-Jewish business people (for instance, Ignachowski in Lublin, a very rich Pole) were withholding whole bags full of gold and silver coins, for which they were punished rather severely; but this was not proved against a single Jew.

Furthermore, the Jews were, among other things, accused of having smuggled in a coffin 1,500,000 rubles in gold into Germany, and the protest against

the accusation entered by the representatives and ministers of the Jewish congregation of Warsaw was printed in Russian papers, but not in a single Polish one.

All these things were preparations for pogroms that many others were made. The anti-Semitic printed proclamation in Yiddish in which the Jews were called upon to revolt against Russia, they took care that this proclamation was put into the pocket of the unsuspecting Jews in the streets of the different towns; those who had distributed the papers denounced the party concerned to the police. Everybody upon whom the proclamation was found was shot.

At last the Jews were, as in the Middle Ages, both in word and writing accused of having poisoned the wells. If some Cossacks or other Russian soldiers died the Jews accused the Jews of having caused their death.

The chief accusation was, however, the accusation of espionage, which obtained credence and was used both when Austrian troops came to some town or village and when Russian troops expelled the Austrians. The result was the same. A suitable number of Jews were conscientiously shot by the Russians as well as by the Austrians.

There are, however, lists of those who really have been unmasked as spies. A Poleski was among them and had to pay for it with his life, but no Jewish name is found on these lists.

The legend about Judas was without exaggeration described as one of the most foolish legends of antiquity; that it has been believed is one proof among thousands of the indescribable simplicity of mankind. Few legends carry like it the stamp of lie on their faces, and few legends have millennium after millennium caused so many evils and horrors. It has tortured and murdered by hundreds thousands.

According to the supposition the story is impossible. The supposition is that a man in possession of superhuman attributes, a god or a demigod, day after day goes about and speaks in the open air in a town and its neighborhood. So little does he make a secret of his doings that a short time before he has made his entry at broad daylight, welcomed with exultation by the whole population.

He is known by each and all, by each woman and each child. So little does he want to hide that he walks about accompanied by His disciples, preaching day and night, sleeping among them. And to think it should be necessary to buy one of His disciples to denounce Him and deliver Him, to betray Him and that—for the sake of the effect—with a kiss! Indeed if He had hidden in some cellar then there would be some meaning in it, but as things are those who seek Him need only ask "Which of you is Jesus?" He would not have tried to deny His name.

Judas is then not only quite superfluous but an absurdity, the origin of which is to be found in the desire to place the black traitor opposite the white hero of light and in the hatred of Jews arising among the first Gentile Christians, who later made the world

instruments to this leader, such as establishing a church and parsonage.

This fitted in with the plan which the reclamation service had followed since its inception. It was found that reclaimed lands offered the ideal opportunity for laying down model community centres. On many of the projects towns have been laid out with

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In the town of Brestka, conquered by the Austrians, the Polish leaders, among whom was a very well known estate owner, applied to the Austrian commandant, accusing the Jews of secret connection with the Russian army. In consequence of this the Austrians killed sixty-seven-year-old man called Wallstein, and his seventeen-year-old son.

When, after a short time, the Austrians were driven away, the same estate owner accused the Jews of the town to the Russian commandant of being in communication with the Austrians, having delivered to them all provisions for the purpose of depriving the Russians of them. In consequence of his accusation many Jews were shot and their houses burned down.

In the towns of Janow and Krasnik the Jews were accused of having put out mines to destroy the Russians. The Jews, and among them many children, were hanged on the telegraph poles and the two towns destroyed.

The town of Samosch was conquered by the Austrian Sokol troops, those beautiful slender people whom you do not forget when once you have seen them train in the capital of Galicia. When they were driven away from the Russian army the Poles accused the Jews of the town of having been the accomplices of the Austrians. Twelve Jews were arrested. When they denied the charge they were sentenced to death.

Five of them had been already hanged, when in the middle of the execution, a Russian priest, carrying an image of the Virgin in his hand, appeared and with his hand on this image took the oath that the Jews were innocent and that the accusation was all an outcome of Polish hatred of the Jews. He proved that the Poles of the town themselves had supported the Austrians and that even a telephone connection with Lemberg could be found. The seven Jews were then set free; five had already been hanged.

Not a few Jewish soldiers have already won the highest military distinctions, may a few of them have even received them from Mr. Reinkenampf the

commander in chief himself, who used to be a zealous anti-Semite, as the Russian court on the whole is passionately anti-Semitic. The manifesto from the Czar "To my dear Jewish subjects," which has been printed in the French newspapers, has never been anything but a fabrication.

While the usual accusation against the Jews in Russian Poland was that of sympathizing with the Russians, for which they have no special reason, A. Warinski, who in Russia is classed among the black ones, also called the true Russians in *Poltiken*, has made the charge against them that the German attempts of gaining the Poles "have only had the effect desired on the Russian and Polish Jews, as these elements because of psychological relation with the Prussians feel disposed to place themselves at the side of Germany."

This accusation and the arguments for it might express the culmination. The Jew shall and must be Judas. If it cannot be accomplished in one way the opposite way is tried.

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been able to believe, as I for my part cannot believe, that the last outcrop of nationalism in Russian Poland is more than a temporary epidemic.

This spring during my stay in America I was continually attacked in the American Jewish papers as the cautious dealer of the Jews. It was nonsense, as is most of that which appears in print, but it proves at least that it is not on behalf of my blood but on behalf of my mind that I speak on this occasion. My sympathy is not with the Jews as Jews, but as the suppressed and ill treated.

I am the man who a generation ago wrote: "We love Poland not in the same way that we love Germany or France or England, but as we love liberty. For what is to love Poland but to love liberty, to feel a deep sympathy with the misfortune and to admire the courage and that combative enthusiasm. Poland is the symbol of all that which the supreme among mankind have loved and for which they have fought."

These were my words and hitherto I have adhered to them. Shall I have to feel ashamed of having written them, now that Poland's future is being decided?

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