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NOTE "AMERICAN DAY."
Schools in Poland Praise U. S. for Aiding in Their Freedom.

WARSAW, March 13.—April 23 will be "American day" in all the schools of Poland, according to an announcement made by Prime Minister Poni-kowski, who is also minister of education.

Illustrated lectures on America will be given that day in every public school in the country.

The role played by America in the liberation and relief of Poland will be emphasized and memorial services will be held in all churches in honor of Americans who have given their lives to the Polish cause.

The Polish press suggests that American schools on the same date organize lectures on Poland. The ministry of education has offered to supply American schools with all needed data.

The Polish population in America is now placed at 4,000,000.

Statistics of women's colleges covering a period of five years show the average college girl of today is six or seven pounds heavier than the college girl of 1870.

MENNONITES DEFY MIGRATION CHARTS
Departure From Canada Lat-est Move of This Quaint and Inoffensive Sect.

"Invited to Russia and exempted from taxes and military service because they could farm, then banished because some of them established a communistic colony; obeying the laws of many lands, but refusing to take part in making or enforcing them; frowning upon science, buttons, life insurance and tobacco—such are various branches of the Mennonites, whose exodus from Canada to Mexico adds another chapter in the centuries-old anabasis of this quaint and gaudy people.

While geographers are studying human migrations on the basis of economic determinism, here is a considerable group who defy any such charting, and move about solely upon the basis of the best opportunity to follow their religious beliefs, as a bulletin from the Washington headquarters of the National Geographic Society.

South Dakota "Promised Land."
"From Holland to Germany, thence to Moravia, Hungary, Rumania and into Russia—so runs the earlier course of the Mennonite wanderings. From the steppes of Crimea and the tireless banks of the Molochnata to Bonhomme-cour, in South Dakota, was not too long a trail for the most home-staying people in the world—so long as they are not any such charting, and move about solely upon the basis of the best opportunity to follow their religious beliefs, as a bulletin from the Washington headquarters of the National Geographic Society.

School Begins at Three Years.
"Compulsory education requirements, including the teaching of English, which could easily be done by more con-promising people, caused the migration from Canada. In some branches of their church every Mennonite child must begin his schooling when he is three years old. From that time until he is six the Bible and the Mennonite catechism are used for his instruction. After three years he takes up the "three R's" but in the more orthodox branches of the church all science, as such, is frowned upon. In farming, however, the Mennonites are efficient and practical scientists. European countries have profited by their example, and to them western Pennsylvania owes much of its prosperity.

"There are various gradations of policy among the various groups, such as the Hutterians, the Amish, the Wislar, the Defenseless and other branches. All hold against taking oaths and non-resistance, which led to their exemption from the draft without any such stigma as attached to many types of conscientious objectors. Their likeness to the Quakers led William Penn to invite them to his colony, where they first established themselves at Germantown, spreading thence to Lancaster, Berks and Bucks counties in Pennsylvania, and later into Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

Have Quaint Dialect.
"In 'Tillie,' Mrs. Fiske disclosed some of the peculiarities of custom and dialect of the Pennsylvania Mennonites. Their adherence to teaching German in schools is not so much that they love that language as because they fear translation would detract from the literal import of their founders' works. Their detachment from the world is shown by their curious use of English. A caller at a Lancaster home rang the bell many times without answer. Finally a woman appeared at the door to apologize, 'Oh,

did you bell? It didn't make.' The women wear poke bonnets, resembling those of the Dunkards. Men, women and children avoid colors, jewels or any grace of dress that might be taken for vanity. Women follow literally St. Paul's injunction about keeping their heads covered in church. Life insurance and organized charity are frowned upon. They have organized an unincorporated company which all Mennonites may join. This company reimburses the loser of property by fire or storm, and assesses its members at the end of each year to cover these payments. No salaries are paid to ministers. Washing of feet is practiced in connection with communion services.

Ban Those Who Disobey.
"One important branch of the church, the Amish Mennonites, insists literally on the 'ban'—that is, the complete ostracism of members who have been suspended from the church. The 'old order Amish' sect lays emphasis on simplicity in dress, and requires its members to fasten their clothes with hooks and eyes, instead of with buttons.

"Most rigid of all the groups, however, is the Bruderhof, or Hutterian Brethren, dating back to Jacob Hutter, a martyr of the sixteenth century, who insisted upon a complete communal organization of congregations. It was this group that had to leave Russia about the time of our civil war for evolving a communism which anticipated that of the soviet government in many respects. Today they are settled along the James river, in South Dakota, declining to cast a vote or hold office or patronize a store. They forewear dancing, play-going and tobacco. They are of German descent, came here directly from southern Russia, and form a law-abiding, prosperous, self-sufficient community.

"There are more than 50,000 Mennonites in the United States. Their communities are to be found in odd corners of the world, where they may follow the simple teachings of their founder, Menno Simons, a Dutch reformer, born the year that Columbus discovered America."

Not From His Viewpoint.
From the New York Sun.
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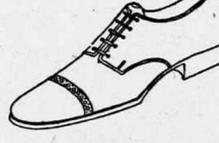
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