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POLISH ORGANIZATIONS OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

Question: Are women admitted? If so, what are the proportion of men and women in each?

Answer: To date, so far as the Stamford Polish Societies are concerned no women are admitted to any society with national affiliations. As will be seen from Report IV, auxiliaries are attached to each of the societies of national scope. During the past two decades these auxiliaries have acquired more influence, have drawn closer to the parent body. There has even been a move, I am told, to petition the National Association to permit membership in full standing to certain women, particularly widows of deceased members. To date, this move has gotten nowhere by reason of the foreign-born element in each organization.

Question: State exact size of membership of organizations.

Answer: In so far as the Poles are concerned, this is indeed an ingenuous demand. Membership figures may be secured from any number of sources: Secretaries, leading members, the Proboszcza (Priest in Authority) of the Parish, readily and willingly. However, when all are tabulated, the figures of each authority will be found to vary as much as 20%. The "exact" size of membership of any of the organizations of National affiliation is, therefore, difficult to obtain short of examining the membership rolls. This is impossible to anyone not an officer of the society in question. The reason for this reluctance will be obvious to any who has the faintest knowledge of Polish history and the national reticence developed therefrom.

Question: State the proportion of native born in each organization.

Answer: The unavailability of "exact" figures on membership, makes an exact answer to the above impossible. "The Waterside Colony today has approximately 35% foreign-born", says Father Widasz, "who are members of the John Sobieski Society." "Today it is about 50-50 in all the nationally affiliated societies," says Jos. Kaminsky, Executive Secretary of the Stamford Chapter of the Polish National Alliance, Local 804. From a number of statements of this nature, I believe an average of from 40-45% foreign-born may be accepted.

Question: What, specifically, are the benefits derived ^{by} the members?

Answer: The specific benefits derived by members in all of Stamford's Polish Societies of National affiliation are:

- a. Death benefits. (Financial and eleemosynary)
- b. Sickness and disability benefits. (Same)
- c. Loss of employment benefits. (Financial)
- d. Old age benefits. (Financial and eleemosynary)
- e. Prestige of membership in a National Polish organization. (Social)
- f. Educational benefits for new-comers.
- g. Orientation on the new terrain for new-comers.
- h. Social benefits.

Question: Is there any ritual connected with the organizations.

Answer: Ritual for the sake of impressing (the members) is never a part of Polish society meetings. We Poles are realists. When a priest is present an opening and closing prayer is offered by him."--Rev. Francis Włdasz, Proboszcz, The Holy Name of Jesus Parish.

Question: What, specifically, are the qualifications required of a candidate for membership? What are the restrictions?

Answer: The qualifications required are:

- a. At least 50% Polish blood.
- b. Membership in the Catholic (Holy Roman) Church, preferably the Church of the Holy Name of Jesus.
- c. Financial responsibility.
- d. Four or more sponsors of good character.
- e. Ability to read, speak or write Polish or in the case of a young candidate, to have passed the Polish requirements of some parochial school, accepted by the board of admissions.

Question: Enumerate the group needs that the organizations satisfy.

Answer: The group needs which the Stamford Polish Societies aim to satisfy are:

- a. Polish financial solidarity.
- b. Polish national solidarity.
- c. Polish social solidarity.
- d. Care for the aged.
- e. Care of the sick.
- f. Care of the temporarily unemployed
- g. In some case, re-employment of the unemployed.
- h. Insurance of all sorts.
- i. Limited credit and banking facilities for recent arrivals whether from Poland or other parts.
- j. Investigation of outside agencies seeking to do business with members.
- k. Educational opportunities for adults.
- l. Educational opportunities for families and children of members.
- m. Social life.

Question: What situations in the group life and in the environment are responsible for the existence of these organizations?

Answer: See following reports: June 14, 1937, "The Poles of Stamford" An opening analysis: June 29, "Historical Background of the Poles in Stamford", and, July 15, "The Polish Colony of Stamford", The Evolution of Waterside.

Question: In what type of environment would these organizations cease to exist?

Answer: These organizations will exist so long as there is a minority of pure Polish blood to hold them together., prevent them from Americanization. Only years of miscegenation and restricted emigration can sublimate the Polish to wish to preserve his racial integrity.

Question: Indicate the number of chapters and total membership of the mother organization.

Answer: On July 24, I addressed a letter to

Polish National Alliance of the United
States of North America
1200 North Ashland Ave.
Chicago, Ill.

I have not received a reply to date.