

THE POLISH REPUBLIC IN THE 1930S

Favish: When Pilsudski took over the anti-semitism came out. The poles robbed the town.

Poland after WWI green-bug river.

They had no system. For example, if a policeman wanted to get something from our store he gave us a ticket for not picking up paper or something. We didn't sweep away the papers from the sidewalk, or... he (just) gave us a ticket. Then we had to go to him and beg him to undo the ticket. So he sent his wife in and we gave her a few pair of stockings. He wouldn't come and say gimme. When I saw the policeman in back of my house...one was named Sochonowski..I saw Sochonowski looking in back and I knew what he wanted. I said (to him) send the wife in. The wife came in. I asked her what do you need. She needs stockin for the children. They were poor too. They weren't paid because (the government) figured they made enough on the side, so why should they pay them.

Favish: There were Jews in the Polish parliament to the end. But when Pilsudski came the power was gone. There wasn't as many (Jews.) There was a Jewish coalition in the parliament. People like Berlin; he was a senator; Dr. Torn; Greenbaum. He was in Israel. He

just died. I belonged to the general Zionists. Favish: There were Jews in the Polish parliament to the end. But when Pilsudski came the power was gone. There wasn't as many (Jews.) There was a Jewish coalition in the parliament. People like Berlin; he was a senator; Dr. Torn; Greenbaum. He was in Israel. He just died. I belonged to the general Zionists. Misha belonged to the Betar.

Favish: I was one of the trustees counting the votes in the election committee. When the elections came they sent police to every house, to every corner, to chase them out of the house, to get them to vote. You have to vote today; otherwise you're going to be in trouble. Old men, women, they pulled them out. Here in America they wouldn't think of going to vote. (We sat there watching) until 7 when they closed the polls.



Jewish representatives to the Sejm (parliament), Poland, ca. 1920:)

When they closed it the head of the commission got up and said, "Well, now you can all go home. it's all finished. He didn't even open the boxes and count.

There was a gentile sitting next to me, a Russian. He told me "Those SOB's. They didn't even open the boxes." Tomorrow morning we heard 100% for Pilsudski, for number one. I went home and I said "the hell with it." That was the election.

Fay: There was a Jewish lawyer, from Lutsk, who was running for the Polish Seine. (Parliament). And he came to speak in Torchin to the voters. While he was speaking to the voters the police came dressed in civilian clothes. The shul was packed to capacity. The chief of police came with another one dressed in civilian clothes. And he told him 'you're arrested in the name of the Polish Government.' The lawyer was a Democrat. And someone was running against them as a Republican. And they wanted the other one to get in. And besides this one was a Jew. They arrested him. He had to stop speaking; that was the law.

They were walking out: There was such a crowd of people that they started pushing. And the lawyer got mixed up with the crowd. And they pushed him out. And they couldn't find him.

In Florida one of our landmen, Shika Rosenblum, was one of those people who took the lawyer out. They knew which way to go. They got through the side roads. The police were trying to arrest him and put him in jail so he wouldn't make any more speeches. This way when they got him out he was able to speak somewhere else. I think he won.

Fay: The Polish Sejm didn't do what Joseph Pilsudski wanted. He stood by the door and told them to come out. He whipped every one of those deputies when they came out. He hit them with a whip when they came out.



The Poretz decided on taxes by estimation. I had no books, no register. They had to estimate. They asked me how much business we do in a year. They looked around. When I told them I did 50,000 for this year they (assessed me) 150,000. Later we had someone who goes around and pays under the table to cut it down. Shlomo used to do with skins and animal hair for brushes, silver fox, skunks, and fancy skins were used to make mens coats.

Fay: The Aaron Shochet lived, not exactly across the street one morning when the Pollacken were going in and out, the Aaron Shochet was sitting and eating breakfast. And he had a ladishke of milk on the table. And that Polish guy wanted the milk. The Shochet grabbed the pitcher. And The Pollak chased after him. And the Pollack chased the shochet around and around the table, trying to get the ladishke. I remember looking at the scene and laughing. The Pollack finally caught him and took the milk. And the Shochet couldn't speak goyishe or Polish. He was an old man. It was very funny.

Fay: The Jewish cemetery was a little far away from the city. I was there once-or twice. One time ...we brought a doctor into town. He died of a heart attack. He died like this. He was a young man; about 40.. It was a big funeral. the whole town.. He was a young man. He. left a wife and 3 children. He left her broke. They had to go around door to door to collect money to send her to Warsaw. She was from Warsaw. He was a Jewish doctor. My father was so upset. He was a young man.

The town needed a doctor. We had a Polish doctor, Dr. Taholski. He was bad. My mother was sick once. She was running a high fever. And she was vomiting. We brought the doctor and he didn't know what was wrong with her. Her fever was terrible. So we got a Dr. from Lutsk. His name was Baila. He once lived in Torchin when he was young. We brought him special. It cost a lot of money. But mother was ready to die. He said she needed something simple. castor oil. Everything they gave her she vomited up. So they gave her castor oil in capsules..

The Polish Doctor said give her pickle juice.'

Baila said' no, not with a fever; give her castor oil. He was an older man already. She took the castor oil and she got better from that.

Misha: I went to Lutsk to go to gymnasium for studies. It was a Jewish secular high school. The language was Polish. We had some foreign languages. We had Latin. The emphasis was on classical studies. The grade school was for everybody. It was probably 2/3 Jewish, because it was in town. This was a secular school, and then there was the tarbut. Religious people, Zionists, sent their children (to the tarbut). But this was later on. There was no Tarbut in my days, when I went to school.

Misha: Later we created our folk university. The Zionist groups were fighting with each other, but when it came to education we had peace. I had to lecture on science. I got books from libraries and brushed up on it. And people used to come: little ones and older people of 50-60. We had libraries. I was the librarian of the entire group. I was very busy. We had, 3 times a week, evenings, 2 hours of lecture; e.g. math. Can you imagine? It was just like a self- made university, a college or whatever you want to call it, to give education to people who couldn't get education.