

POLES IN LEAGUE AGAINST RUSSIA

Local Societies Form Union--- Will Raise Funds to Help Their Countrymen.

Between 150 and 200 Polish residents of San Francisco, in mass meeting yesterday afternoon at Tiv Hall, 141 Al-bion street, formed a league whose purpose will be to aid in a financial way the alignment of Poland with Austria, in anticipation of what they say is an inevitable conflict between Austria and Russia. Thirty-two dollars was subscribed yesterday toward the Polish fund, and members of the league promised to add to it at the rate of from 10 cents to \$10 apiece each month.

Speakers yesterday recounted the history of the Polish people. Poland was a cultured country long before civilization invaded Prussia or Russia, they said, and was the first country in Europe to adopt a constitution. Notwithstanding early advances, Russia tyrannized the Poles, compelling them to abandon their own language and their own schools. So acute has this oppression become, they said, that it is necessary that Poland take steps to win back its rights.

Throughout yesterday's meeting Austria's attitude was eulogized. Austria, which governs Galicia, a part of Poland, has allowed the Polish people every freedom. Universities have been established, and the lot of the Pole in Austria is far different from that of the Pole in either Germany or Russia.

There are 1500 Poles in San Francisco, it was brought out yesterday. These are banded together in three societies, the largest of which is the Polish Society of California, Branch No. 7. In the United States are nearly 5,000,000 Poles. These are preparing to form one large league, which will contribute to the fund by which Poland hopes to regain recognition as a country.

F. Strzelecki presided at the mass meeting. Speakers were as follows: Mme. Felicia Romanowska, the Polish prima donna; S. Maliszewski, a veteran of the Polish revolution of 1863; J. Szymanski, R. Protasiewicz, W. Jese-wicz, F. Gruszczynski and others.

Announcement was made of a celebration of the adoption of the Polish constitution in 1794, to be held on May 18th, at Golden Gate Commandery Hall, Sutter street, between Steiner and Pierce. There will be special music and several prominent speakers, including Mayor Rolph and Professor George R. Noyes of the department of Slavonic languages, University of California.