

# **EXTIRPATION OF UKRAINIANS IN POLAND**

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## P R E F A C E.

The Central Executive Committee of Representatives of Ukrainian Refugees' Organisations in Czechoslovakia, uniting over 50 political, social and cultural organisations, presents this pamphlet to the entire cultural world in order to inform it about the terrible acts of violence committed on the Ukrainian population by order of the Polish Government of Marshal Pilsudski.

In consequence of such a state of affairs, when almost all leaders are in prison and when all efforts are paralyzed by the terrible official terror, the Ukrainian political parties are deprived of any possibility to apply themselves directly to the cultural world with their protest against these unheard persecutions of the Ukrainian population. Therefore the signed Central Executive Committee, presents this appeal to the World opinion, to the Parliamentary Representatives, to the Governments of the European and oversea States and, finally, to all people of good-will, imploring them to make everything possible in order to facilitate the fate of the Ukrainian population under the Polish sway.

Don't suffer a further destruction of the lives and of the property of Ukrainians living under the cruel and inhuman Polish rule!

Stop the atrocious persecutions carried on by the Polish soldiery against the peaceful and industrious Ukrainian population under the Polish occupation.

We firmly believe that the cultural world shall open its ears to the voice of maltreated, oppressed and robbed Ukrainians — men, women and children.

We hope that the roused conscience of the civilized world shall stop the bestialized bands of the Polish persecutors on their bloody trail!

We believe that Truth and Justice shall be victorious!

**The Central Executive Committee in Czechoslovakia:**

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Prague, November 1st, 1930:

## EXTIRPATION OF UKRAINIANS IN POLAND.

The generally known acts of violence performed by the »sanatory« Government of Marshal Pilsudski in his fight against the Polish democracy during the present pre-electoral campaign in Poland fade in face of the terrible events, which are taking place, now, in the Ukrainian Provinces under the Polish sway and in Eastern Galicia especially.

The question of the Eastern Border-Lands, a territory constituting almost  $\frac{1}{3}$  of actual Poland, with a dominating majority of Ukrainian population amounting to about 7 millions of souls — is, at present, the best scarecrow by means of which the »Sanatory« Government wants to weaken the struggle of the Polish democracy against the dictatorship of marshal Pilsudski. The entire Polish Press alarms the Polish society with the news about the separation of the Ukrainian Provinces from Poland and presents the actual Government as the only defender of the threatened Polish interests. By these means the official Polish press tries to create a hostile disposition of the Polish society against all these political groups, that dare — not regarding such dangerous circumstances — to oppose the Government of Pilsudski, the only saviour of Poland. All the opponents of the »sanation« are put in the position of the traitors to the Polish State, without scruple.

The greatest political competitor of the »Sanatory Unpartial Block« was till now and is at present the zoologically-chauvinist Polish National Democrat Party, the principal number of this party's programme being the reckless extirpation of all non-Polish races within the Polish State, the destruction of their racial culture, in short, the forced polonisation of same, by all means. The most important ace of Polish National Democrats, in their fight against Pilsudski's dictatorship was the apparent undecided assimilatory policy of his regime towards Ukrainians and other

racial minorities. Therefore, Pilsudski, being ready for everything, resolved finally to overtrump this last political ace of the Polish National Democracy. He resolved to liquidate by one stroke, and once for ever, the Ukrainian question in Poland — in a manner practiced once by Turks against Armenians, or by the Czarist Russian regime against Jews. To the Ukrainian territories he dispatched Penal Expeditions of Police, Cavalry and Artillery detachments, which plunder the lands of Eastern Galicia and of other Ukrainian Provinces, destroying all the cultural and economical possessions of the Ukrainian People and persecute the peaceful Ukrainian population in an inhuman way.

This shameful, ferocious massacre of the Ukrainian nation is called officially "the pacification of Ukrainians", by the Polish Government.

This "pacification" commenced in middle of September, and from day to day, puts on more terrible forms. It is not possible to describe precisely all events here, because one would be obliged to write down thick volumes of frightful tales, evoking the indignation and disgust of the civilized people. We shall try to give a brief illustration of these historical events:

On the 21st of September 1930 a 2000 men detachment of Police from original Poland and of the elites of the Police-School at Mosty marched forth to commence the "pacification" of the Ukrainian population in the districts of Zbaraz, Berezany, Ternopil, Stanislaviv, Horodenka, Pidhaytsi, Rohaten, Bibrka, Lemberg, Yavoriv, Sokal, Rudka, Sambir, Peremishl, Dobromil etc. etc. Simoultaneously, squadrons of Polish Cavalry of the VI Corps and of the Polish Artillery invaded the Ukrainian villages. And thus, the bloody harvest commenced . . .

In the first line were chosen the districts, towns and villages, where the Ukrainian population is most conscious politically and where the cultural and political activities are better developed. There, under the pretext of the campaign against the enemies of the Polish national idea, the police and the military detachments begun to destroy all the cultural and human possessions.

In each town or village (the number of them amounts to thousands already) the "pacification" is carried on according to the following programme:

A detachment of 30—150 policemen or uhlans suddenly surround the village, disposing machine-guns in proper places so as to prevent the village inhabitants to escape, and the commander divides his men into separate parties, each of them having another task to accomplish. Then the Community Board is ordered to deliver within 2—3 hours a stipulated contribution to the "armed force". As contribution are demanded generally: 5—200 or even more 100 Kg sacs of oats or other corn, some pieces of pigs and cattle, several scores of cart-loads of fodder and straw, and, besides, the women of the village are compelled to prepare an entirely plucked goose or hen and many other delicatessen for each soldier or policeman. Sometimes several barrels of beer or of other beverages are demanded. If the village is not able to deliver this "order" within the appointed term, it is usually punished with doubling the contribution, and the members of the Community Board are beaten until they cannot move. In some villages also pecuniar fines are imposed.

The heaviest contributions are imposed by the military detachments; the police content themselves usually with beer, brandy, pigs, hens, geese — shortly with everything that can be consumed at once.

As we have mentioned, the collection of the contribution is supervised by one party of the respective penal expedition.

In the meanwhile, another party catches all the people indicated as suspicious by the local police or by local Polishmen. These people are driven to the Community House or to any bigger locality and there they are exposed to a terrible execution — to frightful, mediaeval tortures. This act is performed usually under the direct supervision of the commander of the expedition.

These unhappy martyrs are the local intelligents, the conscious peasants and workers of both sexes, who beside of farming or of their respective professions occupy themselves also with cultural activity of the educational or economical character; thus the members of administration and of the Supervisory Boards of the local Co-operatives and Reading-Circles, the directors of sing-

ing-clubs and orchestras, etc., i. e. the most advanced and cultural people of the place, become victims of the terrible, inhuman persecutions. They are called one after another, in turn. Then the executioners put down the shirt of the victim or even denude him completely, they lay him down on a bench or on the floor and insert a wet rag in his mouth; then two men sit down on his head and shoulders, two on his feet, and then the commander stipulates the portion of whips he has to receive, usually 25—50 or even 100 and more. When the victim faints, they sprinkle him with water in order to bring him to his senses, and then they whip him again. Beside the physical tortures, these modern executioners employ moral torments, too. For instance, after each half-a-score of lashes they command the victim to call "Long live marshal Pilsudski", or they force him to sing the Polish National Anthem. Sometimes they order the tormented man to kiss the "Polish" earth and to vituperate Ukraine. They don't pardon old men, even. Thus, for instance Mathew Mitranga, aged 57, the counter clerk of the co'operative store at Petrikiv, District of Ternopil, was forced to dance during whipping and to sing shameful song between single lashes, and, when the man refused to do so, he was so terribly beaten with the butt-ends of the rifles that he collapsed senseless — and lies in agony at the hospital, now. Ivan Pantcheshen, aged 60, the manager of the co-operative store at Nakonetchne-Yavoriv got 200 lashes of the whip. At Denesiv, District of Ternopil, one Shtchebivolok, aged 85, was mercilessly beaten etc., etc.

In general, the punishment depends on the extent of the public popularity of the victim. If somebody occupies several public positions, he is beaten for each of them separately. Thus, for example, Gregory Bereza, the mayor of the Community of Dobromirka, District of Zbaraz, occupied also the positions of the Committee-Member of the Co-operative Store, of the Dairy and of the Reading-Club of that place. Consequently he was beaten first of all for his Ukrainian patriotism, and then for his membership of each of the mentioned public units separately. For each of these delicts he got 25 severe lashes of the whip.

## DESTRUCTION OF THE PRIVATE PROPERTY OF UKRAINIANS.

The "work" of the Penal Expeditions does not include the maltreating of people only. While the above mentioned fearful proceedings are going on, other parties of the respective penal expedition carry on the "home-revisions" in the village. In the first line, they revise the homes of the "indexed" ones, whose names were indicated by the local Police or civilian Polishmen. The parties go from house to house, and under the pretext of searching for arms, they pull down the thatch-roofs, break the windows and pictures, especially the pictures of Shevtchenko, Drahomaniv and Franko and of other Ukrainian writers and statesmen; they tear the furs and pillows and pour out the feathers, they break all pots and vessels, pour out flour and corn and mix it with rubbish, feathers and sand. They pull down the hay and straw heaps and scatter the straw over the entire yard. But the most tragical fact is, that dealing out severe blows they force the very proprietors of the hardly procured possessions to pull down their own houses and to perform all this destruction on their own property. They do not hesitate to beat even women and children. Thus for example, in the village of Shveykiv (District of Pidhaytsi) they maltreated Vassil Dutka' wife, who lie in bed just after childbirth.

## VANDALISM COMMITTED ON UKRAINIAN CULTURAL AND ECONOMICAL INSTITUTIONS.

With the most important task is entrusted the party, which has to perform the revision of Ukrainian cultural and economical institutions. In co-operatives, first of all, they confiscate — without recompensation — all goods they like, or, sometimes, they pay some few pence for a several pounds' worth of ware. Then, they pile up all the rest and scatter petrol, gasoline or oil over it. Thus, for instance, in Kuptchintsi (District of Ternopil), the 9th Squadron of the Terebovian Uhlans destroyed entirely the Co-operative store "Nadia" in the following way: the Uhlans heaped up all the manufactured, fancy and comestible goods on



the floor, scattered petrol, oil and honey over them, and then — they tramped them down. The Co-operative in question has suffered a loss of about 100.000 Polish florins. In the same place a big modern butcher-shop and a dairy were demolished. In the first charge the goods of the Ukrainian manufacture are destroyed: for instance soap produced by the Ukrainian Central Union (Centrossoyous), the cigarette-paper "Kalina", the sweat-meats "Nova Fortuna" etc. Simoultaneously the penal expedition calls on the booking offices of the co-operatives and, dealing out blows, forces the very clerks in charge to burn or to tear to pieces all the commercial books, which are thrown into wells or into manure-basins, then. Then, under the pretext of searching for weapons, the rabid expedition demolish the entire furniture of the co-operative, break down the windows, cut the floors and doors and do not save even the sign-boards.

In the village of Seraphintsi, the expedition made a joke even: after the completed destruction of the co-operative store and of the reading club they made the inscription "Marshal Pilsudski's street" on the wall of the house, just in the place of the pulled down sign-board of the co-operative. Sometimes, — owing to the disposition of the official massacrers — even the entire respective houses are destroyed. In such case, they pull down the tile-roofs and break the walls. After the completion of such work they use to address the maltreated people with the words "Lost is your Ukraine".

The same fate waits for each Reading-Club of "Prosvita" (The Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Society), and always the libraries of the clubs are destroyed, first of all.

### THE FEARFUL HARVEST OF VANDALISM.

Till now, scores of thousands of Ukrainian houses and thousands of co-operative Stores and Reading-clubs of Prosvita, with their libraries, theatre-requisites, musical instruments, briefly, with all their equipment, the very houses not excluded, were destroyed. This work of destruction is carried on in Ukrainian villages and towns. Of course, also the Head-quarters of the Co-

operatives' Unions and of the Cultural Society "Prosvita", and their branches in different towns did not escape these organized persecutions. Thus for example, there were demolished entirely: the premises of the District Union of Co-operatives with all goods, commercial books and furniture, and the branch of "Prosvita" with its library at Berezany; the Podolian Union of Co-operatives, the Branch of "Prosvita" with a splendid library and the Ukrainian press at Ternopil; the Store of the District Union of Co-operatives at Kozlova, etc.

### EXPLOSIONS OF BOMBS.

#### **The Province Centre of Ukrainian Co-operatives, schools and Reading-Clubs blown up.**

The penal expeditions are helped by "an invisible hand" which undermines the Ukrainian Institutes in order to blow them up. Thus were blown up: the Ukrainian private school of the "Ridna Shkola"-Association at Litchakiv in Lemberg; the Reading-Club of "Prosvita" at Manayiv and Danelivtsi (District of Zboriv), same at Zboiiska near Lemberg etc.; two bombs of the military type were thrown into the Co-operative Store at Radelitch (District of Drohobitch); a huge military bomb, which luckily did not explode, was thrown at the District Union of Co-operatives at Sokal, etc., etc.

On October 2nd, "Centrossoyous", the beautiful Province Centre of the Ukrainian Co-operatives' Union in Lemberg came on turn. At night, an infernal machine of terrible explosive power was laid at the groundfloor of the two-storey building of "Centrossoyous". The explosion of this machine ruined the house and almost the entire store of goods. Even the Ukrainian monastery of the Order of Studeetes, in Lemberg, did not escape the bombs.

### THE UKRAINIAN PROPERTY IN FLAMES.

Besides the bombs, fire is another element that destroys Ukrainian institutes, being incended by "an invisible hand", too. Thus, for instance: there were burnt down the Reading-Club of

"Prosvita" and the Co-operative store at Voyoutetchi, District of Sambir, the Co-operative store at Mikulitchin, and also the proprieties of Ukrainian priests; viz.: of the Rev. Lisik at Demyanova, District of Rohaten, of the Rev. Katchala, at Lissniki, District of Berezany, of the Rev. Dr. Yourik at Zolotchiv, of the Rev. Hordinski at Tchernetitsa, District of Horodenka, etc.

#### THE BREAKING OF WINDOWS TOGETHER WITH FRAMES, etc.,

became a matter of course that does not impress anybody. Thus, for example, in Lemberg, even before the eyes of the Police, stones were thrown repeatedly at the windows and at the glass sign-boards of the dairies of the "Butter-Union" at the Sapiha, Litchakivska and Kosciushko streets and at the Main Square; they broke the windows of the Ukrainian National Hotel, the porter of which, having seized one of the terrorists, was treated with knife-thrusts; they broke the windows of the Ukrainian Scientific Shevtchenko Society, of the Shevtchenko bookseller's shop and of the Ukrainian chapel at Zamarsteniv; they demolished the Ukrainian kindergarten, school and Co-operative store at Levandivka etc., etc.

#### FEARFUL VARIETIES.

The means of "pacification" quoted above, give us the picture of the standard manner of the destruction of the property and health of the Ukrainian population. But, as thousands of different people partake at the penal expeditions, and, as the expeditions last for the second month already — there is no wonder, that in different places the executioners invent different "original" ideas how to accomplish the "pacification" of the Ukrainian nation. For instance the system of "pacificating" the people on index only was not applied in all villages. In many places they whipped everybody and destroyed everything that came in their sight. Thus, for example, in Tcherneliv Russkey (District of Ternopil) the respective squadrons of Uhlans surrounded the village, placing machine-guns on all the roads and drove all the inhabitants of the village, women and children included, to the common.

There, they separated all children of less than 13 years of age and also all Jews and Polishmen and then, they begun to maltreat all remaining Ukrainians — men, women, flappers and lads.

At Roznoshen, District of Zbaraz, the expedition drove all the people to the common where all, with exception of two, were lashed.

At Mozolivtsi, District of Pidhaytsi, 100 of the existing 150 houses were ruined with all their appliance. The expeditioners demolished the entire furniture, beds, stoves and vessels, they cut the clothes to pieces, they tore all pillows and scattered the feathers, they pulled down the roofs of the houses, they broke all pictures and windows, pulled up the floors, destroyed the agricultural machines, etc.

They did not even save the wells, which were filled with rubbish, pieces of bricks from the demolished stoves and with feathers. They beat everybody whom they had found in the village, children not excluded. The bestiality of the expedition went so far that they did not restrain themselves of maltreating the deadly sick old man Joseph Halina, who has lain sick in bed for one year already. As all the vessels are broken, people have nothing to drink from. After the expedition's withdrawal, the village looks like after a terrible earthquake.

#### AN ORIGINAL IDEA.

Having completed the ruining of the village of Kuptchentsi (District of Ternopil) and performed the usual flagellation of its inhabitants, the respective expedition withdrew and left for Denesiv. To cheer up the party they took Alex Rosolak, the Community Assessor, tied him to a car by his neck, and, lashing him mercilessly, forced him to run — together with the horses — from Kuptchentsi to Denesiv.

#### VIOLATION OF WOMEN.

Having such an illimited freedom of action everywhere, the penal expedition, of course do not deny themselves the pleasure

of violating Ukrainian women. Thus, for example, in the village of Shela (District of Zbaraz), just during the very heat of the ruining of property and of the maltreating of people — the penal expedition chased young girls and drove them into separated localities, where the defenseless girls were brutally violated.

There are thousands of similar facts, but we want to save the reader's nerves and shall not enumerate all of them precisely.

### BEAT HIM UNTILL HE DIES!

The purpose of these bestial tortures inflicted on innocent people is not only to terrorize Ukrainians and to humiliate their human dignity, but also, principally, to dispatch — by means of this severe maltreating — the most valuable Ukrainian public workers, who are uncomfortable to the Polish Government, and who could not be punished or removed in accord with law. Till now many people died on injuries already, and still more — having suffered fractures of the extremities and of ribs or internal hemorrhages — will expire, soon. Among these victims are people of different professions: priests, lawyers, teachers, physicians, peasants, workers and students, for instance: on injuries caused by whipping died: Michael Tutko, aged 18, peasant of Haii near Lemberg; Hrycyna, peasant of Sokhivtsi (District of Pidhaytsi); the advocate's clerk, Bomba etc., etc. The ex-deputy Dr. Yavorski has suffered fractures of legs and of ribs; Ivan Varenitza, the mayor of Denesiv — fractures of one arm and of several ribs; further, Dr. Andrew Kokodinski, physician and Ing. Andrew Turyanski from Nove Selo (District of Zbaraz) were maltreated to death, etc., etc.

This is to illustrate the manner of the performance of these capital executions:

On October 2nd, the penal expedition sent to the village of Daniltche, District of Rohaten, begun their work with whipping Andrew Hrevnak, the mayor of the village, a very intelligent peasant and important public worker, who was also the candidate to the Polish Parliament. He obtained an abundant portion of lashes of the whip, kicks and blows in his own house, where

the Community office was located, and then he was ordered to climb up to the loft, where they pretended to do a revision. There he was beaten once more, until he lost his senses, whereupon the brutes threw him down on the ground floor, from the loft. Later on they transported him to the neighbouring village and put him in the community jail, where he was kept for two nights. Each night five policemen came to him and took their pleasure in tormenting him anew. In a very serious state he was transported to the prison at Rohaten. The poor one began to spit and to urinate blood after this "pacification". Shall he live?

The same was the fate of Michael Harassim, mayor of Moloshkivtsi, District of Yavoriv, who having absolved his University studies started farming, dedicating himself also to co-operative and cultural activity. The military penal expedition who ruined his village, were very angry because of his absence from home, at this time. Some days after the expedition, Harassim betook himself to Yavoriv to a conference of mayors that had been called by the Political District Administration. After the meeting, he left the building of the Administration, in front of which half-a-score of uhlans of the 14-th cavalry Regiment waited for him. They seized him, transported him in a military motor car to Nakonetchne, a suburb of Yavoriv, and there they took him to the Reading-Club of "Prosvita". There they denuded him completely, laid him down on the floor, several soldiers sat down on his arms and legs, and others, having inserted a wet rag in his mouth, gave him about 100 lashes of whip, saying: "So you want to build Ukraine — you son of a bitch?" After the operation was finished, the poor man lay for a while, and then, having gathered himself, he tried to put on his clothes. But Uhlans: "Oh, it was not enough for you, then?" — and they began to maltreat him anew until he lost his senses. Then, they brought him to a hotel, where he lies in agony of death.

In quite a similar way they tormented the graduate of philosophy Ivan Oleksytch in Yavoriv, too. The priest who came to give him the last consolation fainted at sight of the massacred body of the sufferer.

Ostap Linda, student of the 6th class of the Yavoriv College,

who was given 300 lashes of whip is dying, too, in consequence of this pacification.

The most important fact here is, that in consequence of the pressure of authorities, Ukrainians are not admitted to hospitals. Also private physicians, being terrorized by the Government decline to give medical aid to the injured ones and the Ukrainian physicians, wanting to aid their countrymen, are not allowed to do so. Thus, for example, the Ukrainian physician Dr. Bohdan Makarushka together with the Canadian physician Doctor Deyl (from Winnipeg) had the courage to hasten to give the first aid to the injured ones in villages; but the Polish Police arrested them both brutally, and escorted them back to Lemberg.

#### CATHOLIC POLAND TO UKRAINIAN PRIESTS.

The constant instigations of the Polish official and chauvinist press against the Ukrainian Catholic priests, the revisions made in their homes and the unjustified imprisonments of them — became matters of course and don't impress anybody. But the penal expeditions do not only destroy the property of priests — they also maltreat them bestially.

Examples?

At Nakonetchne they beat the Rev. Kotis, than they smeared his head with butter and covered it with feathers. Also his wife was maltreated, and then the whole family was forced to thresh corn "for the armed force", on Sunday. At Luben (District of Pidhaytsi) the Rev. Fedynski was maltreated in a terrible way; during the execution the soldiers forced him to sing the Polish National Anthem and mocked at him saying: "So you want Ukraine? There, take her on your . . . backside."

The following fact illustrates the best how Ukrainian priests are treated: the Rev. Blozovski et Pidhaytsi, was heavily beaten at his own home. But the bestialized policemen were not satisfied. They took him with themselves and put him in the cellar of the town-hall. At night about five men came in the cellar and tormented him again. In the early morning they brought him

to the town-hall's yard, and there begun again to maltreat him bestially: they threw him down on the earth and beat him, untill he lost his senses. When he regained his senses, the policemen carried him out and dropped him on the pavement, just in front of the townhall. There he was found, lying, by some passers-by, Jews, who brought him home. Still more sadism was shown by another penal expedition on the person of the Rev. Moudrey et Bohatkiwtzi: first they gave him a good portion of butt-end strokes and kicks on his back, untill he fainted. Then they brought him to his senses with water, laid him down on his back, one policeman stood on his chest and the rest beat him on his stomach, hands and legs — untill he fainted for the second time. The policemen revived him again with cold water and then they poured boiling milk and hot potatoes on him. Before their departure, they overturned two tables on him. It is sure, that after such "pacification", this unfortunate priest shall not enjoy his life very long. We could quote still many such facts and incidents.

#### ETHICS OF POLISH OFFICERS.

During this terrible war with the peaceful and defenseless population not only the Police have proved their "high technical science" but also the regiments of the Polish cavalry and Artillery in head of which stands the elite of the Polish nobility: the sons of Polish landowners, of high dignitaries and of magnates. These noble officers were not only in command of the penal expeditions and they not only enjoyed the fearful scenes of maltreating innocent men, women and youth — but they also laid their noble hands on the hardly acquired other people's property, which they robbed not only on behalf of the military stores, but also for themselves and for their families. To consider only how many pigs, chicken, geese and other delicacies disappeared in the kitchens of the noble officers! And how many waggon-loads of oats, robbed from Ukrainian peasants under the pretext of contribution — were sold to fill up the pockets of young Polish noblemen. To illustrate:

At Pidberiztsi, near Lemberg, the uhlans of the 14-th Yazlovez-Regiment, while performing the work of destruction and of



maltreating the people, did not fail to slaughter almost all chicken and geese, which were deposited on the pasture. After the accomplished pacification the officers gave orders to bring clean pillows to the pasture, because "Polish soldiers were not accustomed to sitting down on the earth". They made fire and had a banquet. Then, some motor cars with ladies arrived, and the entire society amused themselves — till late evening — while in the peasant cottages severely thrashed people were moaning and parents were weeping with sorrow, with their children... Finally the uhlans withdrew, and the motor cars loaded with fresh poultry and even with pillows left for Lemberg...

There were also quite simpler stories: After the "pacification" of Nakonetchne, the suburb of Yavoriv, the Ukrainian citizens were forced to contribute one wagon's-load of oats, which were immediately transported, on 20 cars, to the military stores at Litchakiv, Lemberg, and besides plenty of poultry were required. Yet, in the evening, still another motor car arrived from Lemberg with four majors, who immediately gave orders to soldiers to collect three big sacks of ducks and hens and several boxes of eggs. The noble majors took all these things in the car and departed to Lemberg.

There are many other similar facts.

#### WORSE THAN IN THE TIME OF THE TARTAR RAIDS.

This brief and hasty description makes it understandable, why, at the first notice of an approaching penal expedition, the Ukrainian population leave their homes and take their refuge in forests, fields and marshes. Happy are the people of the villages with forests surrounding them. So lucky were the inhabitants of Hclhotche, District of Pidhaytsi, who succeeded in taking refuge in the surrounding forests — but only few cases of similar luck, in other places, were noticed. It is necessary to emphasize here that the cavalry always pursued the escaping people and woe to that one they overtook! He will not live long!... The escaping people are shot by the heroes of the pacification, in fields like hares. Thus for example uhlans of the 14th Regiment have shot

dead one Demetrious Pidhirney at Selyska near Bibrka, in October 1930.

The Western Ukrainian Provinces, and Eastern Galicia especially witnessed all the horrors of the World-War. Huge-Austrian, Czarist Russian and bolshevist Armies each crossed this unfortunate country several times, but all this was nothing in comparison with what is going on there, at present. It is difficult to find a match for the actual ferocious acts of violence by the bestialized Polish soldiery.

Even the world-known Tartar raids written down in red on the pageants of Ukrainians History, were not as terrible and cruel as the actual "pacification" by the Polish Government, because the Tartars dashed quickly through villages and made captives but did not maltreat them just for pleasure. The present Polish penal expeditions are not satisfied with attacking a village only once. There are many villages, which suffered two, three or even four penal expeditions within a fortnight's time. Each time there came different detachments of cavalry and Police. For example, four penal expeditions were at Denesiv, Kuptchintsi etc. There are many people who were inquisitioned for four times already and nobody knows how many expeditions shall still come...

## THE RED TAPE OF PROVOCATION AND RUIN.

### The "electoral action" of the Government.

Up to-date, tens of thousands of Ukrainians were imprisoned, and with regard to the lack of room in regular jails, they were dislocated in military jails and even in military barracks. In the first line these people were arrested, who could have made an electoral propaganda unfavourable to the electoral list of Pilsudski. As it is technically impossible to put in jail all Ukrainians, at least for the time of the suffrage, the actual Government tries to terrorize the Ukrainian masses — by means of a universal maltreating of innocent people and by brutal destruction of their personal and public property — so as to detain them from taking an active part in the elections. In some villages, the penal expeditions force the population to pass resolutions obliging all

Ukrainians to give their votes to the list of Pilsudski, or to restrain from voting completely.

### THE PROVOCATIVE METHODS OF THE POLICE.

In order to prove to the Polish society formally, that the Ukrainian population is guilty in reality, the Polish police apply methods, used by the Czarist Russian police once: in the places of revision they secretly conceal accusing material as weapons, illegal publications etc.; and, then after having "found" them, they communicate the sensational results of the revision to the Press. These methods are applied by the police at revisions of such cultural institutions, which the Government decided to liquidate, in anticipation. The standard type of a revision of this kind is: 20—30 policemen rush into the respective localities, then, having ordered all the present people to go out, they perform the revision alone and without witnesses, and having finished it, they call in the intimidated and wondering people and show them the "discovered" accusing material. For instance, at Seraphintsi (District of Horodenka), while performing the revision at Juhayevitch's, a local farmer's home, the policemen assembled the father and the sons in one room, forbade them to move from the spot, and then started to upset everything in the house. One policeman went out to the yard, took a fuse out of his own bag and begun to shout, that he had found it concealed under the thatch roof... But a little girl, Juhayevitch's own daughter — who was standing in the yard and whom the policeman did not perceive, saw his machination with her own eyes. She at once communicated her observation to the policemen and was, therefore, beaten untill the poor child fainted.

At Rohaten, the police have performed a thorough revision in the private Ukrainian College of the Ridna Shkola Society. They revised all classrooms, cabinets, the library and even the loft but did not find anything illegal, what was officially certified by them in the respective minutes. Yet the Governmental papers reported, "that a great quantity of accusing material had been found". Three days after this revision, on September 25-th, about 20 policemen rushed into the school and immediately went to the

loft. The director and the beadle of the school desired to witness the revision; but were not admitted there. After a while the policemen produced a bomb which they pretended to have found in the loft. After a short time the director of this school received a communication from the School Superintendancy in Lemberg, informing him that the school was closed by virtue of the decree of the Ministry of Education, dated 24 of September 1930. Having compared the dates we see, that the punishment came sooner than the "crime" was committed. In a similar manner the Ukrainian colleges at Ternopil and in other places were dissolved.

But the provocations of the Polish police go still further. Sometimes, in connection with bomb attempts on Ukrainian Institutions, they arrest the very Ukrainians under the pretext that the attempts were made by themselves. For instance, just at the time of the explosion of a bomb in the Ukrainian elementary school at Litchakiv in Lemberg, the beadle of that school, called Roodey, a Ukrainian — was sleeping in a room on the first store. By the explosion of the bomb that went off in the groundfloor, the floor of that room was lifted one metre high and the entire furniture of same was destroyed. The man's life was saved as by a miracle. But, ten minutes after the explosion the police arrested Roodey under the pretext that he himself was guilty of this attempt. Or, in connection with the explosion of a bomb in the reading-club of the "Prosvita"-Society, at Zboiiska, the chairman of the Society was arrested etc., etc.

#### THE LAND OF ILLEGALITY AND OF WILFULNESS.

All these terrible bestialities and crimes committed by the Polish military and police on the defenseless population — find the unanimous approbation of all the responsible organs of the Polish Government. The representatives of the Ukrainian political parties, Ukrainian lawyers and the representatives of the high Church hierarchy (Archbishop Sheptytski) applied themselves with protests against these ferocious persecutions and illegalities, unheard among the civilized nations — to the respective Governorates, to the Minister of the Interior and to the Minister

of Justice, but at each instance they received the unanimous and cynical answer, that the measures of the military and of the police, concerning this "pacification" were regular and lawful.

Ukrainians, who became victims of the persecution cannot obtain protection of their human rights on the part of the Polish Courts of Justice on the contrary the Polish judiciary authorities try to support and to justify these ferocious illegalities. To illustrate the elasticity of the Polish Justice we quote only one example (because of lack of space):

Mayor Andrew Hrevnak who was mercilessly maltreated by the penal expedition on October 2nd (we have mentioned his case already), was still "dangerous" to the Government, because himself being the candidate to the parliament, his martyrdom could have helped him to win the sympathies of the electors, the more. At the demand of the competent administration, the District court of Rohaten issued the act No. S 25/30/2, dated 11-th of October 1930 ordering to impose the imprisonment on remand on this man, accusing him of the following "crime":

On July 7-th 1930, during the meeting of the members of the Co-operative Store in his own village, called Danilitch, Hrevnak persuaded the members with his speech to pass the resolution that the members of all Ukrainian Societies at Danilitch should buy goods only at the Ukrainian Co-operative. By this fact of "forcing" the members-Ukrainians to do so, he committed — according to the examining magistrate's opinion — such a heavy crime, that it appeared necessary, three months after the committal of same, to send a penal expedition on him and then to arrest him.

Every cultural man is seized with horror at such terrible moral decadence, if one considers that this arrested one, suffering on malignant fever in consequence of maltreating — lies in his cell, on the very eyes of the Court!

Indeed — justice and judges, that could not be found beyond the limits of Poland!

## OFFICIAL REASONS OF THE PENAL EXPEDITIONS.

(An unheard cynicism.)

The official reasons of this "pacification" of the Ukrainian population were given by the so called "sabotages" accomplished by the secret Ukrainian Organisation to which organisation the Polish Government attribute the numerous arsons on the Polish farms in the Ukrainian Provinces — as it was spread far and wide by the Polish Official Press.

But were all these arsons committed by the Ukrainian secret organisation indeed?

In the course of the last few months even the Polish official press itself strikes alarm because of the numerous conflagrations of farms in the entire Polish territory and decidedly accuses the owners themselves, that — in the time of the actual acute agricultural crisis — they commit these crimes from speculative motives in order to obtain the insurance premiums in cash, at once, and generally in a value far surpassing the real value of the burnt down property. To give an example we quote the following passage from the Polish Cracov daily "Ilustrowany Kurjer Codzienny" (No. 268, dated October 4th 1930): "During the last months the plague of arsons in Pomorze (the Sea-Shore-Land) spreads over the country in an alarming way. There was noticed again a series of fires at Nowy Dwur, Komorov, Mislemin, Gosteshin, Jernovtze, Retvan, Leshnya, Philipov, Krotoshen, Ludzikov and in many other places. In the first line, the living houses and barns become the prey of fire. It is characteristic that, for the most part, the proprietaries are set on fire by the proprietors themselves, who desire to win the high insurance premiums in that way... Since a series of months we alarmed the public, that the actual policy of the Insurance Companies, consisting of the general elevation of the figures of the evaluation of immovables, having the quick accumulation of higher insurance rates as its purpose, was a direct encouragement to commit arsons. The facts of everyday life confirm our expectations in all Provinces of Poland". (All the underlinings were made by the "Kuryer".) But in spite of this confession the entire official press, the

"Kuryer" included, attributes every fire in the Ukrainian provinces of Poland — to the sabotage action of the Ukrainian military Organisation and summons the Polish society to revenge, and the Polish Government to the persecution of the entire Ukrainian population.

### A DEPRESSIVE ATMOSPHERE.

By the decision of March 14th, 1923 the Allies have delivered Eastern Galicia — against the will of her native Ukrainian population — to Poland, and Poland engaged herself to treat Ukrainians on equal terms with the rest of her citizens and to guarantee them the free cultural and economical growth.

But Poland cynically mocks at the International Treaties, which is frankly admitted and discussed in the Polish press, by the way. Since the very beginning of the installation of her power in Eastern Galicia and in other Ukrainian territories, the Polish Government mercilessly and with an iron consequence destroy all economical and cultural possessions of the Ukrainian people: they transform Ukrainian state schools into Polish ones (f. i. of 3120 Ukrainian elementary schools that existed still in 1922, only 716 were left at present) and dissolve Ukrainian private schools and Cultural and sporting societies. Even the Boy Scout organisation was dissolved. In the first line Ukrainian economical Societies and Co-operatives are persecuted.

In the sphere of the agrarian policy, too, the Ukrainian population is treated with an incredible injustice. Regardless of the great agrarian hunger of Ukrainian peasants, the Polish Government bring retired Polish soldiers from original Poland to Eastern Galicia, and distribute among them, at State expenses, the ancestral Ukrainian land; they establish settlements and farms for them, they arm them and encourage them, with the aid of the local administration, to terrorize the defenseless Ukrainian population and to split Ukrainian organisations.

The hatred against the Ukrainian nation fed daily by the chauvinist papers and even by the official press, has created among the Polish public an atmosphere of thirst for vengeance with the dominating device to exterminate and eradicate every-

thing Ukrainian. It is frankly discussed in the papers; different Polish, so called "Border Land Organisations" pass, in their meetings, thousands of resolutions demanding the entire liquidation of Ukrainian cultural and economical institutions, briefly of the Ukrainian question as a whole. To illustrate these circumstances we quote the resolutions passed by the General Assembly of Polish High School students on October 12th 1930:

1. We summon the Government to dissolve all Looghs and Sokols (Ukrainian Physical Culture Associations).

2. We demand the dissolution of all Ukrainian classical middle schools and Teacher's Colleges and the transformation of the utracvistic schools into Polish ones.

3. We demand the dissolution of Ukrainian Student Organisations.

4. We demand that Ukrainian students suspected of disloyalty to the Polish State will not be admitted to the University (practically all Ukrainian students are considered to be disloyal by the Polish chauvinists).

5. We resolve that all Polishmen in Eastern Galicia give their votes to the one, united list of Polish candidates, and we resolve further to make all possible impediments to Ukrainians, during the elections.

Now, is it possible to maintain peace in such country, where the citizens of one state are divided in two categories: in people possessing rights and priviledges and in — outlaws?

This depressive atmosphere created by the Polish chauvinist regime was just the reason, why in Ukrainian territories under Poland, there appeared Ukrainian groups that begun to counteract with terror against the illegalities and terror of the Polish Government. It is quite possible that the intolerable tension between the Polish colonists and the native Ukrainian population impelled single persons to set on fire the properties of the Polish colonists. But this could not become a universal, monster appearance, as it was not difficult to understand, that the fires did not cause loss to the respective proprietors, but, on the contrary, they helped to increase their property in the form of high insurance premiums, the recompensation of which shall be collected, in form of increased taxes, from the Ukrainian population as well, at the



end. By the way, the Lemberg Governor, Nakonetchnikoff-Klutchkovski confessed to press-reporters, in September 1930, that he himself attributed but 50% of arsons in Eastern Galicia to Ukrainian sabotage. Even if we believed these "precise" informations of Mr. Nakonetchnikoff we would be obliged to ask, why the entire Ukrainian population, children, women and sick should bear a bloody 100% responsibility for the deeds of unknown groups and individuals?

### THE REAL INTENTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

These official motives of the "pacification" have been presented by the Polish Government in order to misguide the world's opinion and to disguise the ferocious methods of extirpation of the Ukrainian population that were still unknown to the cultural world. By means of this march of thousands of bestialized sadists, dressed in the uniforms of Polish military and police, the actual "saviours" of Poland aim to liquidate the whole Ukrainian question, i. e. to liquidate it in the way of the physical extirpation of the Ukrainian People and by means of a complete destruction of their cultural and economical possessions. The question is not a liquidation of a sabotage, but the universal extirpation of Ukrainians. These simple truth is proved by the fact, that the "pacification" is carried through also in thousands of towns and villages, where there was no single case of arson or of sabotage in general. For instance at Tcherniliv Russkey (District Ternopil), Shveykiv (District Pidhaytsi) etc., etc.

It is a great and unheard crime, contrary to the fundamental principles of human justice and morality, to make seven millions of Ukrainians responsible collectively for the deeds accomplished by conspiratory and secret organisations or single persons, who do not and cannot underly to any public control. Yet the Polish Government of Marshal Pilsudski has determined to transfer the responsibility for the deeds of secret groups and of individuals — on the entire Ukrainian population without exception, and delivered all Ukrainians in Poland to persecutions unheard in the History on Mankind.

## TO THE CULTURAL WORLD.

7 millions of the Ukrainian People under the Polish sway raise their voice in appeal to the whole world! Hasten to help us, defenseless ones, to defend ourselves before the invasion of modern Vandals, merciless executioners who want to exterminate us from the surface of our ancestral country! Do not allow that our human dignity be tramped down in this ferocious way still longer! Do not let us lose our last faith in the most valuable human possessions, that bear the proud name of Humanity, Truth and Justice!

The Polish Government have communicated to foreign press reporters that the "pacification" was stopped; but, in reality, they dispatched still bigger bodies of military and police, that destroy our existence with still increasing bestiality. The greatest persecution known till now in the History of Nations is being continued further.

In the name of human rights and ethics, we appeal ourselves in the first line to these Nations and States who have delivered ourselves and our country to Poland. We solicit and immediate intervention of objective international Commissions which would examine all these terrible, ferocious bestialities committed by the Polish Government on the defenseless, peaceful Ukrainian population — in the face of the entire cultural World.

We implore the entire civilized world to také under most painful consideration the terrible events that have struck, like a malignat plague, the Ukrainian People under the Polish rule.

As dictatorship and terror are practiced in Poland and in the Sovietic Union, there is to be feared that a danger of a possible armed conflict might emerge, especially, if the Bolshevist Government, in their actual desperate political and economical situation would resolve to play the part of the Redeemer of Ukrainians persecuted in Poland.

Once, the unsettled national relations in the Balcans had caused the Great War of 1914—1918, for which the mankind had to pay with millions of sacrifices.

The cultural World ought to take necessarily all measures in order to stop immediately the extirpation of the Ukrainian population by Polish chauvinists and in order to prevent new international catastrophes.

Help us, unfortunate victims of mad persecutions inflicted by the cruel and merciless Polish rule!



**Pictures Illustrating the Proceedings of the Penal Expeditions  
ordered by the Polish Government.**

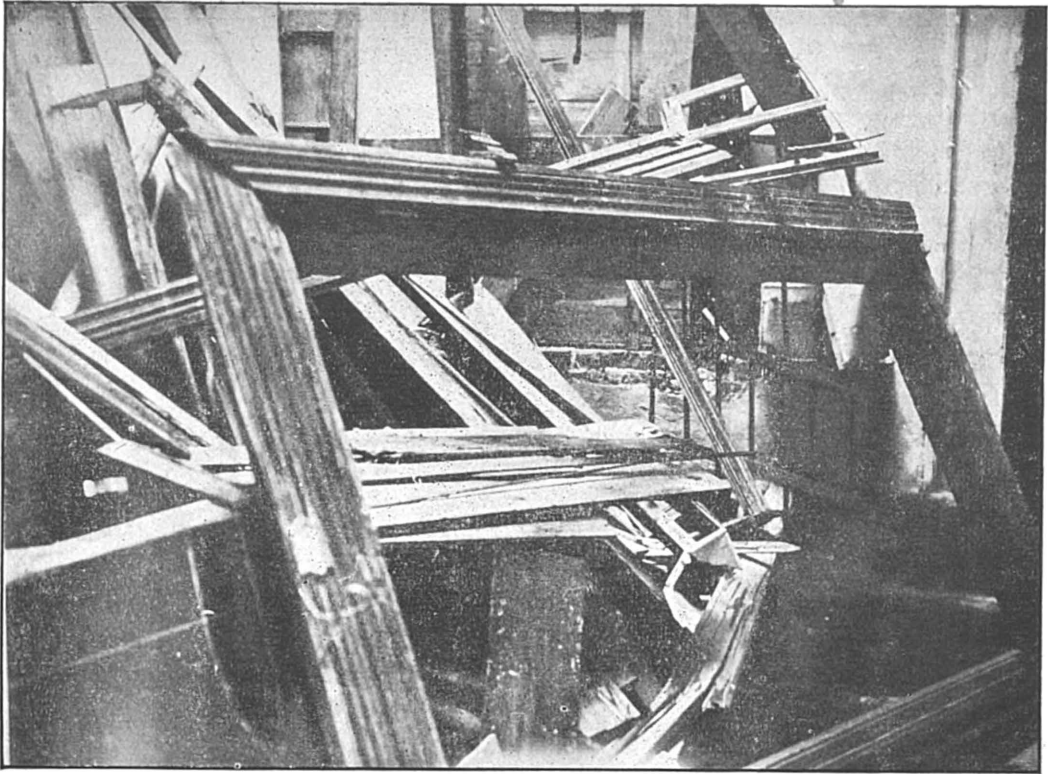
(We are in possession of thousands of similar pictures, but because of lack of room, we bring only a few examples.)



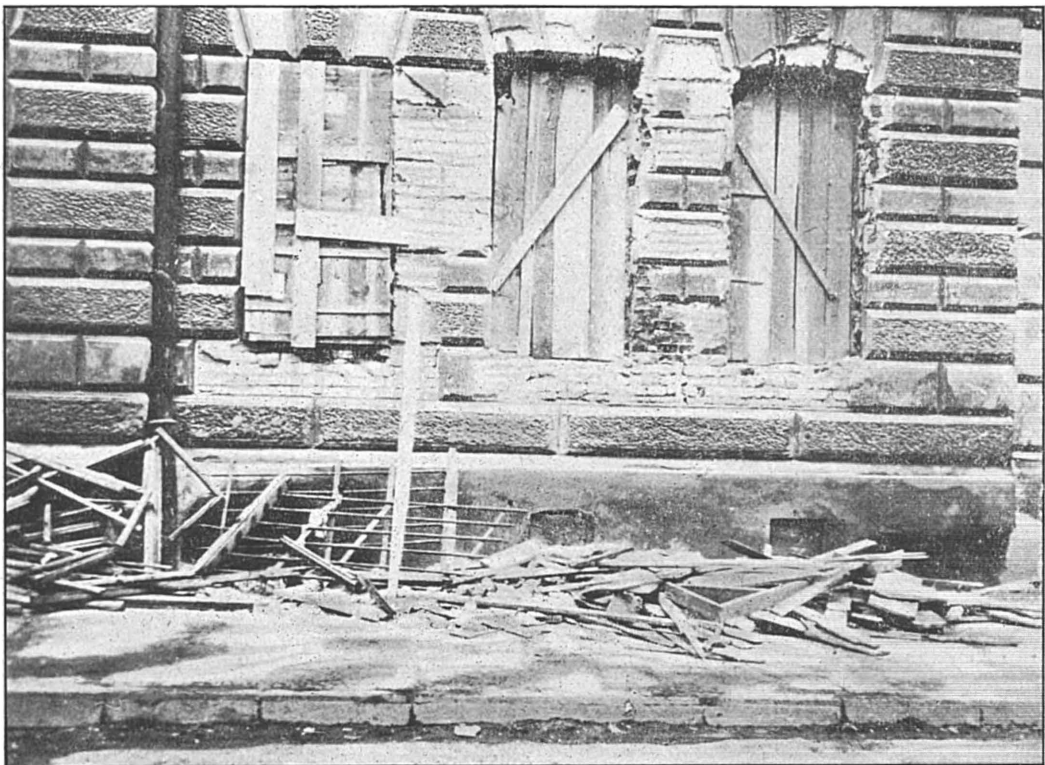
**The Store-House of the Podolian Union of Co-operatives after the »revision« performed by the Polish police.**



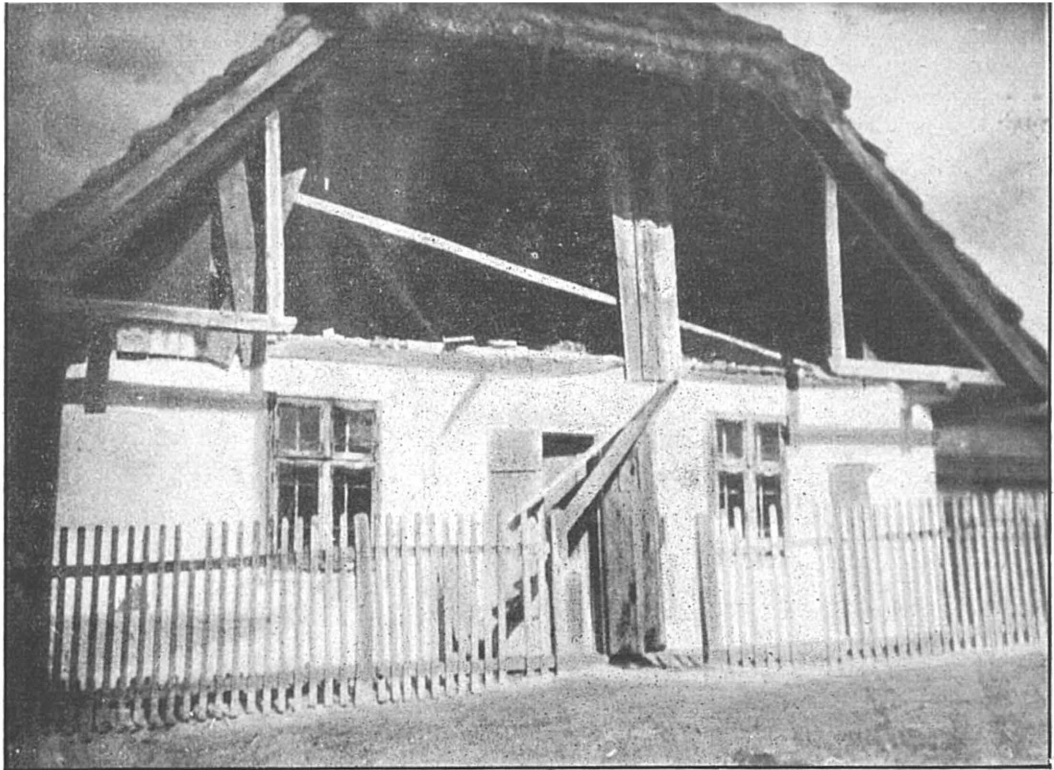
**The Co-operative »The Common Work« at Kadlubeska, District of Brode, after the »visit« paid by the penal expedition.**



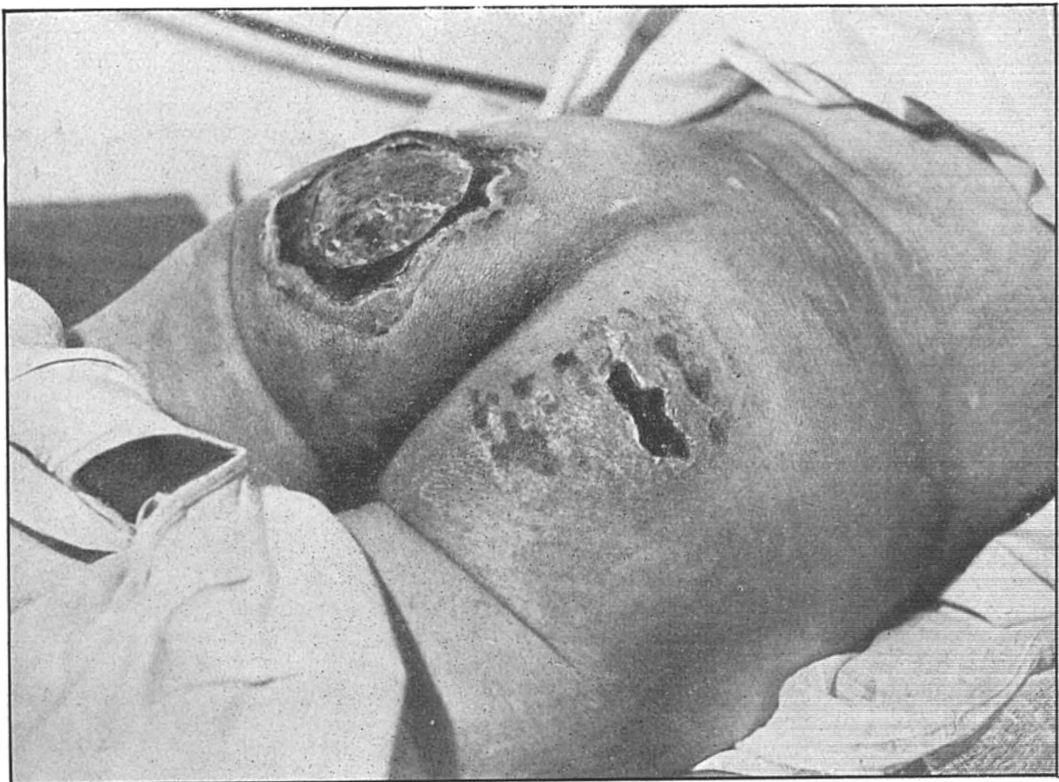
The interior of the »Centrossoyous« in Lemberg, after the explosion of the bomb.



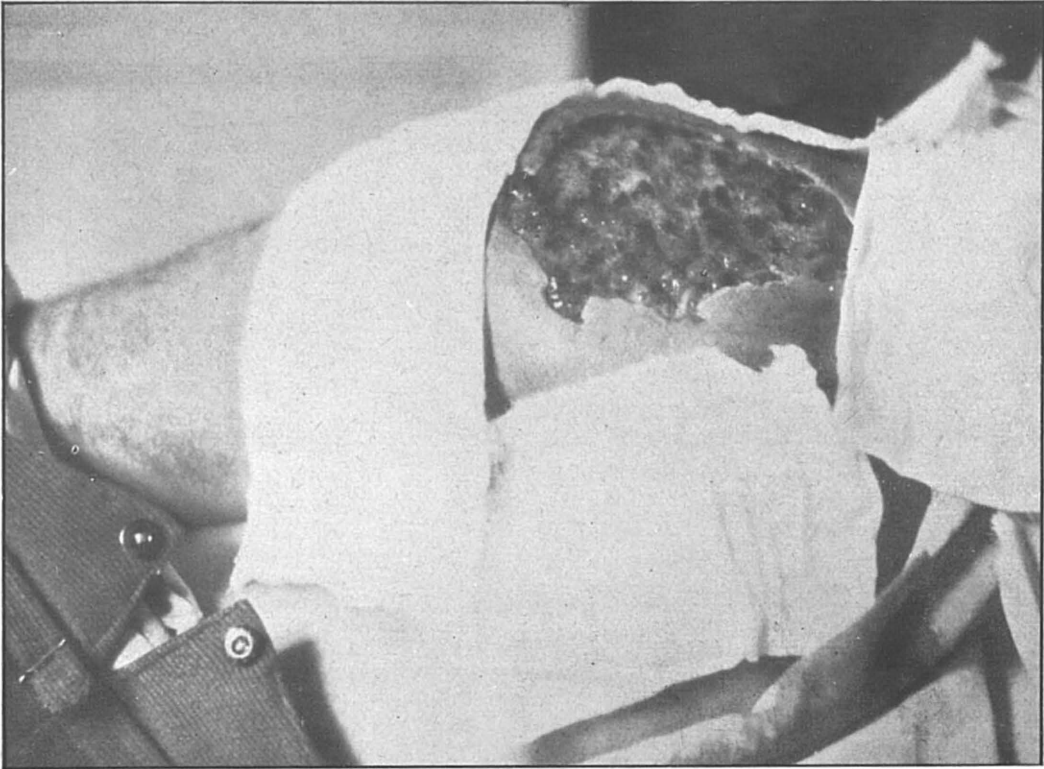
The Ukrainian Provincial Central Co-operative »Centrossoyous« in Lemberg, a day after the explosion of a bomb, on October 3rd 1930. The view from the Stashitz-Street.



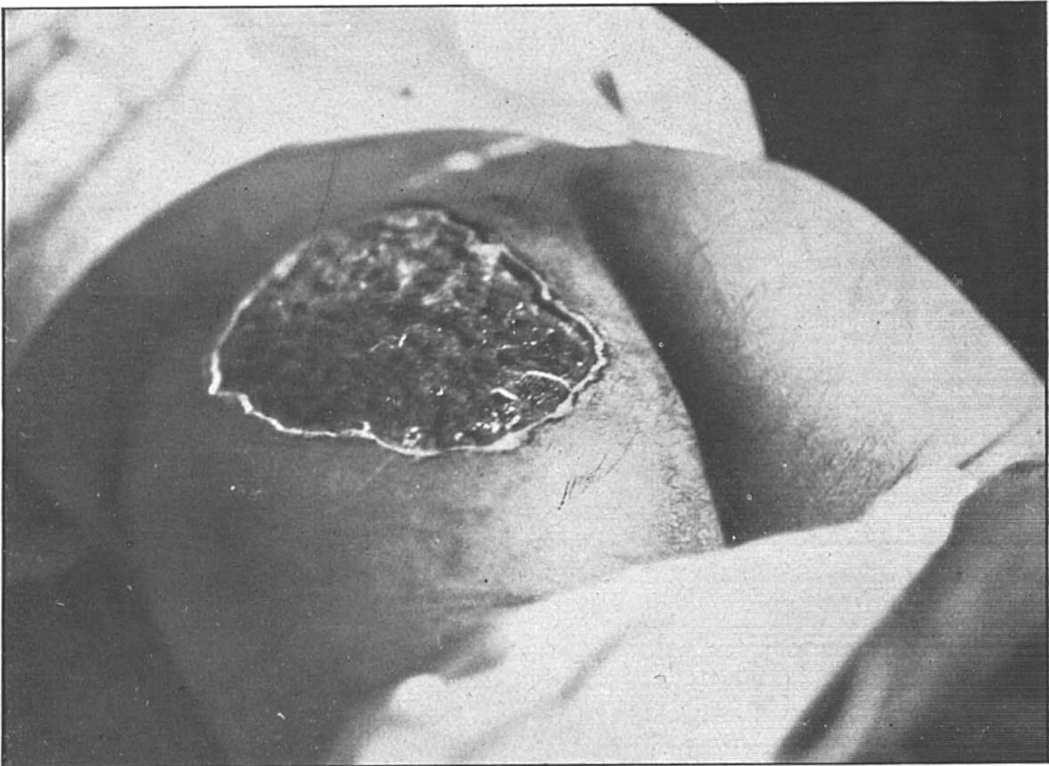
The exterior of the house of the Reading-Club of »Prosvita« at Haii, after the »revision« held on October 5th, 1930.



The »pacificated« Gregory Artemiv at Borintze, District of Bibrka.



Philipp Tantchen, from Relenetz, District of Bibrka, beaten down by the Polish penal expedition.



The work of the Polish whip upon the body of Cyril Shipra, at Pidyariv, District of Bibrka.



