

## POLES MOURN DICTATOR; HIS RULE LIVES ON

Three Possible Successors;  
Foreign Minister Beck and  
Premier Slawek Take Helm

WARSAW, May 12.—Marshal Pilsudski's death tonight cast the entire nation into mourning and



WALERY SLAWEK.

at midnight to pay the official homage of the nation.

National mourning was ordered and a bereavement message by the President at the "loss of the greatest man the country had" was ordered read in all army posts.

Flags were lowered to half-mast and theaters and all amusement houses closed until further notice.

The government is in strong hands with Premier Col. Walery Slawek and Foreign Minister Col. Josef Beck dominating.

Speculation concerned itself with the fact that a new "dictator" might turn out to be one of three men, the new Marshal and Inspector-General Ward Rydz-Smigly, known to be Pilsudski's confidant and "strong man" of the army; Foreign Minister Beck and General



JOSEF BECK.

# MAN OF DESTINY

*Pilsudski's Career an Epic of  
Exile Who Rose to Power*

War  
Gave  
Chance

## IMPRISONED IN SIBERIA AND GERMANY

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WARSAW, May 12.—(U.S.)—Unlike other dictators of Europe, Marshal Josef Pilsudski, who died tonight, was a professional soldier.

It was as a soldier that he welded Poland together.

He served his life in the army, was an exile in Siberia and later a German prisoner of war and he finally saved Poland from anarchy. His career was rich with devotion to his fatherland.

Pilsudski was born on December 5, 1867, at Zilow, Vilan province, son of Josef Pilsudski and Marie Billewicz, of noble lineage. He studied medicine at Kharkov University in Russia, and as a result of illegal anti-Czarist activities was exiled by the then Russian overlords of Poland to Siberia.

### Guerrilla Fighter

After five years in Siberia he came to Warsaw and founded with others the Polish Socialist party. He was again imprisoned by Czarist police, but escaped and organized a Polish volunteer military force in Krakow, carrying on guerrilla warfare against the Russian soldiers.

In August, 1914, Pilsudski's force joined with the Austrians in attacking Russia. All Polish units acknowledged Pilsudski as leader in 1917, and when the marshal refused to swear fealty to the central powers he was arrested.

The German revolution resulted in his release and he again returned to Warsaw in the blood-red month of November, 1918.

### Seizes Reins

Pilsudski assumed supreme power and had the constituent assembly (Sejm) confirm him in office. With Paderewski, Poland's great pianist-statesman, aiding at Versailles, the powers recognized Poland's independence.

Pilsudski became chief of government as well as chief of the army, and Paderewski served as the first premier of the reborn nation.

As provisional president and army chief Pilsudski led Poland in the war against the Soviets and took Kiev in May, 1920, losing it after a hard siege in June, then taking over the defense of Warsaw before becoming marshal and generalissimo in August.

### Married Twice

When his wife, Marie Juszkiewicz, whom he had married before



FATHER OF COUNTRY—Marshal Josef Pilsudski, the Polish dictator, who died yesterday. He was generally recognized as the father of modern Poland.

International  
News photo.

as Pilsudski's right-hand man, although elected by the people.

Although premiers came and went, Pilsudski retained control of the War Ministry, and was enabled virtually to rule the cabinet and the government.

It was Pilsudski who made the laws and drafted the reforms, who debated the advisability of diplomatic policies and who drew France close to Poland in the post-war years. He was twice Prime Minister and since 1926 had headed Poland's army—the only man who still wore the "flat cap" of the original Polish legionnaires of 1914.

Pilsudski was a familiar figure in Warsaw streets. He traveled little and, like Stalin in Russia, preferred not to strut.

### Lover of Poetry

He loved to walk, and his soldierly bearing belied his 67 years. His secretaries took his dictation while he paced the floor, hands behind his back, his blue eyes thoughtful.

The man who led a nation of 33,000,000 was a stickler for military etiquette, but he loved poetry.

Mlle. Casimira Illakowicz, a famous poetess, was his private secretary for many years.

day, but he never touched liquor. He ate moderately, but he worked from the middle of the morning generally till 3 or 4 o'clock the following morning—despite his physicians' advice.

### Friend of Pope

He was, in many ways, more like Stalin—whom his nation generally fears—than like Mussolini or Hitler, the other dictators of Europe. He rarely spoke in public.

He greeted foreign envoys principally through his foreign minister, Col. Joseph Beck.

Though a lover of the theater, he rarely attended.

He was a Catholic. When Pope Pius XI was still Mgr. Achille Ratti and papal nuncio to Poland, the marshal enjoyed long evenings of philosophical conversation with the man who was destined to rule over the church.

## WAR FEARED BY CHICAGO'S LEADING POLES

Effect of Dictator's Death  
Weighed; Nation Lacks  
Successor, Declares Editor

Grave concern for the future of Poland and the peace of Europe as a result of the death of Marshal Josef Pilsudski was expressed last night by Frank S. Barc, editor of the Polish Union Daily.

Asserting the dictator's death would create an emergency which he feared no successor could meet, he added:

"The future looks dark for Poland and for the whole of Europe. As many statesmen have pointed out, he held the key to the peace of Europe. It is significant that news of his true condition was withheld. His death will add greatly to the general uneasiness of Europe politically."

Informed officially by radiogram of the death of Marshal Pilsudski, Dr. Wacław Gawronski, consul general of Poland in Chicago, issued a statement notifying all Chicago Poles and expressing deep grief.

### CHICAGOANS COMMENT.

Scores of other Polish leaders in Chicago expressed themselves as shocked. Among those who commented were:

ANTHONY CZARNECKI, Former Collector of Customs—He was Poland's outstanding patriot. Prior to the World War he worked incessantly to free his country. His great opportunity came with the war. He was the purest kind of patriot. Poland's constitution, just drafted, was largely his inspiration.

COUNTY JUDGE EDMUND K. JARECKI—Poland has lost a great patriot and leader. I doubt if he can be replaced.

SUPERIOR JUDGE PETER SCHWABA—He was the perfect patriot, a man of genius who thought first of his people.

CIRCUIT JUDGE WALTER LA BUY—He lived for the advancement of his people and for the resurrection of Poland.

PAUL DRYMALSKI, Member of the Board of Education—Poland has suffered a vast loss. Marshal Pilsudski's great purpose was the resurrection of Poland. He was an idealist as well as a man of action.

CIRCUIT JUDGE STANLEY H. KLARKOWSKI—He was a great statesman, and Poland has suffered a great loss. He helped cement friendly relations between the United States and Poland.