

BRITISH MISSION TO POLAND.

To Colonel H. H. Wade, Commissioner.
From, Rowland Kenney, Assistant Commissioner.

WARSAW.

25th February, 1919.

Some days ago I had a conversation with two Officers of General Pilsudski's Staff. These men had both followed their General's fortunes from the beginning of his adventurous career, and their faith in his ability to consolidate the various forces in the Polish State, and make Poland a great nation, is complete. The best proof of his strength is the present lack of disorder in the country. They indignantly repudiated the charge that he had capitulated to the National Democrats in taking office with M. Paderewski, though they admitted that in the Socialist Party there was some slight dissatisfaction with him. Apart, however, from this slow and insignificant group in the Socialist Party, whatever dispute there is, is with M. Paderewski and his colleagues. Poland was told that by accepting M. Paderewski and the National Democrats, money would flow into the State coffers, and immediate help would be forthcoming from the Entente powers. Life would be easier for the Polish people. These hopes have not been realised. The soldiery is still badly fed, either without uniforms or with very bad clothes, and in many cases without boots. But it is absolutely unfair to blame General Pilsudski for this.

We may leave all this on one side however, and come to the great question, which is that of Bolchevism. General Pilsudski is the one barrier between Poland and Bolchevic chaos. He should be supported by all progressive peoples in his effort to create a throughgoing and definite

force against Russian Bolchevism. Given supplies he will make an army, and this army will be the model of what a citizen army should be, for General Pilsudski is popular amongst his men and Officers, not merely because of his heroism in the field, much as that is admired, but upon his whole conception of what a soldier should be.

There is some slight danger of reaction in the army, because of the numbers of ex-Russian and ex-Austrian officers who are now entering it. They are men of low standards of culture and ideals, but such is the belief in General Pilsudski's influence, that Captain Koc and Lieutenant Tedrzejewicz are convinced that even this new, and ~~improbable~~ not very promising mass, will be absorbed into the legions and imbued with their ideals. Each one of the men who have fought and adventured with Pilsudski is a centre of influence. He will work upon the new mass, and out of it create a still greater army of real citizens for Poland. As for the influence of General Dowbarny/snicki, it is on the wane. This man is too compromised in the eyes of the country. It is believed that the funds he appropriated when on the Russian border are being used for the corruption of troops, and this matter will have to be threshed out, perhaps by the Diet. In short, General Pilsudski will before very long find himself at the head of an army which will combat Russian Bolchevism and defeat it, and at the same time be so strongly progressive and democratic, that there will be no possibility of reaction in internal politics.
