

# The New York Times

Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.  
"All the News That's Fit to Print."

ADOLPH S. OCHS, Publisher 1896-1935.

Published Every Day in the Year by  
THE NEW YORK TIMES COMPANY.

ARTHUR HAYS SULZBERGER,  
President and Publisher.

JULIUS OCHS ADLER,  
Vice President and General Manager.

GODFREY N. NELSON, Secretary.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1940.

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## IN GERMAN POLAND

On the German side of the frontier that has been drawn across Poland with a sword lie the districts of Posnan and Gniezno. A document printed in THE TIMES this morning tells the story of life as it has been lived in those provinces since the German Army conquered them. This document is a memorandum presented to Pope Pius and published with his authority. To a large extent it chronicles the hardships and the indignities imposed upon the Church, but it is also a record of the hardships and indignities imposed upon helpless people caught in Hitler's trap and defenseless against the brutality of those who execute his orders. This is an "atrocious story," in the sense that "atrocious" is the only word strong enough to describe the methods and the measures it reports, but it is

extent it chronicles the hardships and the indignities imposed upon the Church, but it is also a record of the hardships and indignities imposed upon helpless people caught in Hitler's trap and defenseless against the brutality of those who execute his orders. This is an "atrocious story," in the sense that "atrocious" is the only word strong enough to describe the methods and the measures it reports; but it is a story documented with detail. At such a place in such circumstances such a thing happened to such a man or such a woman. What happened is frequently enough to make one sick with shame for the human race. Such systematic terrorism can only be the work of a conqueror determined at all costs to destroy the Polish spirit and disperse the Polish people. "This is true extermination," the memorandum itself notes, "conceived with diabolic evil and executed with a cruelty without equal."

It may be said that the document is an ex parte statement, in the sense that it comes from one of the victims of the German tactics. This is true. But who, beyond the Church itself in Poland, is to examine at first hand the conditions reported in this memorandum? Disturbing reports from Poland reach Germany itself. But there are no disinterested eye-witnesses to Germany's rule of Poland. The German Government has made sure of that. It is an open secret that agents of neutral relief agencies are allowed in Poland only on condition that they do not speak of what they see. The foreign press is barred entirely. This newspaper itself has repeatedly made application for permission to send a reporter into German Poland and has been refused on each occasion. This is equally true of the press associations. It is also equally true of applications made in Moscow for permission to send reporters into Russian Poland.

The shades have been drawn tight at every window looking into Poland. The only possible conclusion is that they have been drawn tight to hide an ugly spectacle.

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### ONE WAY TO SAVE

The Prison Association of New York makes a plea to the Legislature for adequate psychiatric, psychological and other professional services. The sternest advocate of economy may consistently give attention to this request. Our prison population is increasing, not because there is more criminality but because sentences are more severe and parole more rigorously applied. The only safe way in which we can reduce the number of our prisoners is to determine scientifically the number of those who are likely to go straight if returned to civil life. In this field even science has its limits, but it is the best guide we have. Behind the difficult words of the learned doctors is common sense.

The treatment of convicted law-breakers becomes increasingly a problem as old ideas of punishment are