

POLAND MOURNS DICTATOR



WARSAW, POLAND.—Marshal Josef Pilsudski, virtual dictator of Poland, whose death was mourned today in Poland and throughout the world. Pilsudski, Europe's first postwar dictator, died yesterday from cancer of the stomach. He was 67 years old.

[The Associated Press.]

sure or aid, may help Gen. Chiang increase Nanking authority in the southwest.

The mere fact that Japan is paying increasing attention to the southwest—a circumstance causing concern in educated circles throughout China—does not in itself mean that Nippon's line there will be to fight national unification.

See No Open Opposition.

In any event, it is believed by sober judges on the spot, a mistake would be made to assume in advance that Japan is going to seek to keep the southwest in a state of inde-

French Peace Pact System Unhinged by Pilsudski Death

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trated large powers in the hands of the presidency, to which Pilsudski was expected soon to have succeeded after the resignation of President Ignace Moscicki.

Speculation over who may be his political heir named Gen. Edward Rydz Smigly, his close friend and popular army leader; Col. Josef Beck, the foreign minister, and Gen. Kasimir Sosnowski. It was generally believed the dictator left a political testament designating his choice.

Plans for a national funeral were being shaped by government leaders today. The dictator's body was placed upon a catafalque in Belvedere castle as the nation entered a period of solemn mourning.

Dies on Anniversary of Coup.

Pilsudski's death occurred on the ninth anniversary of the 1926 coup which brought him the powers of a dictator.

The marshal's health had been precarious for ten years. Ever since his return in 1892 from the Siberian

exile into which he was sent under the czarist regime he had been compelled to take unusual precautions to preserve his strength and submit to frequent rest cures.

Son of Lithuanian Aristocrats.

Pilsudski was born in the manor of Zulow, province of Vilna, on December 5, 1867. His parents were of aristocratic Lithuanian lineage, but the family had taken part in an uprising against Russia in 1863, and most of its estates had been confiscated. In 1874 a destructive fire wiped out the Pilsudski farm buildings, and the family moved to Vilna.

Young Pilsudski attended a high school in Vilna, but was constantly in trouble with his Russian teachers because he insisted on taking in Polish on the school grounds. Finally, in 1885, he finished his preparatory work and went to the University of Kharkov to study medicine.

But in his first year there he organized a socialist group and was expelled. He went back to his home city, continued his political agitation and in 1887 was arrested on charges of being involved in a plot against the life of Czar Alexander III. He was exiled to eastern Siberia for five years.

Exile Teaches Caution.

That experience failed to cure him, but it made him more cautious and he was not arrested again until 1900. He was sentenced to prison, but managed to escape and settled in Cracow, then an Austrian possession. He started at once to organize secret Polish fighting squads in anticipation of an eventual war between Austria and Russia.

His chance came when the world war started in 1914. He entered the Austrian army as commander of a Polish legion and took part in the fighting against Russia in South Poland. From this he progressed to a scheme for an independent Polish army as a nucleus of a rebirth of the nation, but Austria refused to sanction the plan, and Pilsudski quit active service.

He was summoned from this retirement in 1916 when the central powers, at the behest of the German high command, proclaimed an intention to free Poland. Pilsudski was made a member of the provisional government in Warsaw, but soon quarreled with the German organizers of the council. When the Polish legionnaires refused to take an oath of fraternity with the Germany army, Pilsudski was arrested and imprisoned at Magdeburg. He stayed there until the collapse of the central powers in November, 1918.

Returns as National Hero.

He entered Warsaw on Nov. 10, a national hero, and two days later was proclaimed head of the state. In February, 1919, the diet of the new republic made him provisional president, pending a constitutional election. The constitution was not adopted until 1921, and it was 1922 before a regular election was held.

In 1923 he retired also as chief of the general staff, remaining at a country home at Sulejowek, near Warsaw, until his coup d'etat of 1926.

Pilsudski was married in 1894, while he was engaged in his socialist agitation against the czars, to Marie Tuskiewicz. She shared many of his early trials and was arrested with him in 1900, but was soon released. Two daughters were born to them.