

THE LIBRARY SPEAKS (Sept. 20, 1939)

S. Parkes Cadman once said, "Nobody dreams of music in hell, and nobody conceives of heaven without it." With radio commentators shrieking, headlines screaming of the hellish horrors in Poland today few people think to go to her music for Poland's story. Of the Poland following the First World War, the poet says,  
"She rises, beautiful, renewed:

She lifts her golden voice. She sings.

And in her song, sweet plenitude

Of love, O son, your bright name rings."

The bright name referred to by the poet was Ignace Jan Paderewski. The story of Paderewski is two stories or rather the story of two men. The story of his artistic career belongs to the history of music; the verdict of that history places him among the great of all time. There is another story of Paderewski as the national leader and international politician.

First let us go back to the Poland early days of his life. Born in Podolia, Russian Poland Nov. 18, 1860. His mother was the daughter of a former professor at Vilna University, who had been exiled to Siberia on account of his political activities. The mother died when he was three and about the same time his father was imprisoned for his part in the Polish insurrection of 1863. The sight of his village burning and his father being carried away by the Cossacks made an impression on him which was later translated into his fiery patriotism. It is said that he early showed little musical talent. He began to take piano lessons from a wandering violinist who was not impressed with his talent. Later he studied at the Warsaw Conservatory where he won first prize in piano playing at the age of 17.

His Vienna debut was made in 1887 followed by concerts in London, Paris and his first American appearance in Carnegie Hall, New York in Nov. 17, 1891. In the meantime he had busied himself as a composer and had written his famous MINUET? HE wrote the opera, MANRU, which was first performer at Dresden in 1901. His SYMPHONY in B MINOR was given its world premiere by the Boston Symphony Orchestra under Arthur Fiedler. See page 2 +

## MUSIC

Paderewski became known as <sup>one of</sup> the greatest painoists of all time. Then came 1914. Like his ancestors he placed his talents at the disposal of his country.. For five years he raised funds with which to feed his starving people, induced Woodrow Wilson to ~~feed his starving p~~ make Freedom of Poland one of his 14 points, organized Polish-American troops to fight for the allies, secured a place for Poland at the Versailles Peace Conference. When Paderewski arrived in Poland in January 1919 there was no Poland to be restored there were three Polands - Russian, German, and Austrian Different tongues, codes of law, systems of education, cultures had been imposed upon the country. To such a Poland Paderewski came in 1919. For 30 years - more or less he had lived in America - he was not a Russian, German or Austrian Pole - he was just a Pole. He made the dream of a free Poland come true, a Poland harmonious and accordant. He harmonized the furious fortissimo of its discords. That done, he gave the composition to his people to play. He went back to his musé. The million dollar hands played on. As a background and understanding of today's war news your library staff suggests that you read PADEREWSKI: THE STORY OF A MODERN IMMORTAL by Charles Phillips.

Next week - answers to letter