

Our little Pete, ten years old ;  
And 'twas hard, you may guess, to see him  
Lying there, still and cold.

"But harder by far it was, lad,  
To bury him out of sight ;  
Then come home and sit by the fire,  
Leaving him out in the night.  
'Twas then that he came—the parson,  
And prayed with Molly and me,  
And read to us of Heaven  
Beside the crystal sea.

"'Twas all very pretty, I thought, lad,  
The story the parson told  
Of little Pete dressed in a white robe  
And wearing a crown of gold.  
Too good, I thought, to be true, lad,  
Too good, parson, I said,  
But, you know, little Pete is yonder,  
Down in the churchyard, dead.

"But Molly, lad, she believed it ;  
Women are different from men.  
Ay, she believed it and went, lad,  
As she said, 'To meet him again.'  
Went many years ago, lad ;  
And much have I done and seen  
Of the bad, instead of the good, lad ;  
Am not what I might have been.

"But somehow I feel to-night, lad,  
That Molly and Pete are near ;  
So find out the place, will you now, lad.  
Read loud, that I might hear.  
'And He showed me a river of water of life.'  
Lad, read that again to me.  
Why, yes, it is true, there is Molly and Pete,  
And there is the crystal sea."

CHRIS MACKAY.



## A FEW FACTS ABOUT POLAND.

BY L. HAY.

**P**OLAND, or, as it is called by its inhabitants, "Polska," and by the Russians, "Privisljanokij Kraj" (Territory of the Vistula), was, till the end of the 18th century, a powerful kingdom, which also included Lithuania. It is not my place to narrate the history of Poland, but I may state that after the rebellion of 1830, Poland was declared a Russian province, but the Polish language is still spoken by a few millions of its people.

Projecting to the west of Russia, Poland is bounded on the north by the eastern provinces of Prussia, on the west by Posen and Prussian Silesia, and on the south by Galicia. The bulk of the population are Poles, and the prevailing religion is the Roman Catholic.

Poland is divided into governments, and each government is subdivided into ten or twelve districts, while each district is in turn divided into from twelve to twenty "gminas," which include several villages and all farms on their territory.

The entire administration is under a governor-general, who resides at Warsaw, and who is commander of all the military force at Warsaw.

The educational institutions are the universities and gymnasiums. All teaching in the gymnasium is conducted in the Russian language, and the pupils are strictly prohibited from speaking Polish within their walls. Before entering the gymnasium, the pupil is required to be able to speak Russian and to be acquainted with the four simple rules, viz., addition, subtraction, multiplication and divi-

sion, and a full course extends over nine years. If he passes all the examinations successfully, he is granted a diploma at the end of his course, which will admit him to any of the universities of the continent or Great Britain. Free education is unknown, a moderate fee being charged at the gymnasiums. As a result of this system, none of the laboring classes can read or write, and hence they are very much inferior in intelligence to the laboring classes of Canada.

For years Poland has been noted for its agricultural products, and while its agriculture in some respects resembled that of Canada, it differs very widely from it in other respects. On the whole, agriculture in Poland is more advanced than in Russia, and the country, being an undulating plain, is well adapted to farming purposes. Winter wheat is one of the most extensively cultivated crops, Sandomir wheat being known for a long time. The cultivation of rye, oats, corn, beet root for sugar, and potatoes for distilling purposes, has also been extensively carried on. Lupine is grown on many farms, either as a soiling crop or for feeding sheep. Cattle, horse and sheep breeding also form an important branch of farming.

With the exception of the farms owned by the peasant farmers, who own only a few acres each, most of the farms are of rather large size, varying from 400 to 1000 acres. Some of the nobility, of course, own four or five such farms, which they rent, or conduct by means of managers, while, for themselves, they spend most of their time in cities or abroad.

The number of animals kept on most of the larger farms is very great. On a farm of about 700 acres, about twelve or fourteen teams would be kept, besides a number of colts ; and if it was a dairy farm, some 100 cows would be kept, also about ten yoke of oxen, and from 800 to 1000 sheep.

The favorite breeds of light horses are the Arabian and Anglo-Arabian, while of draught horses the favorite is the Percheron, though Belgian draught horses are also used. The Arabian horses are used especially for riding and driving, while from their crosses is obtained the general purpose horse.

The favorite breeds of cattle are the Holstein-Friesian and some of the Swiss breeds. From this fact the reader may glean that very little interest is taken in beef production.

The commonest breeds of sheep are the Merinos, Negretties and Rambolettes, with their various crosses. Only the old sheep, or lambs that are no use for wool production or breeding purposes, are fed for mutton, and the Pole scarcely knows what good quality of meat is.

Farm buildings are built of brick, and in most cases the horse-stables, cow-stables, barns and granary are separate buildings.

Farm teamsters receive about \$12 per year, and are furnished with a house, and the raw material of food. In connection with each house is about a quarter of an acre of land, upon which they may grow their potatoes and cabbages. Besides this, each teamster is allowed the keep of a cow and pig, so that his wages are not so small as appeared at first sight. Farming operations are somewhat primitive, and a great many harvest fields might be visited and no reaper found, while self-binders are almost unheard of, nearly all the grain being reaped by means of sickles and scythes. Women are employed at a great variety of farm work, and many of them are very expert reapers with the sickle, though they cannot be said to be overpaid, the best workers among them receiving about 12½ cents per day without board. Men generally reap with scythes, and a good worker may receive about 30 or 40 cents a day, an ordinary day's work lasting from about 5 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Many people are surprised at the manner in which Poles who come to this country save money ; but when we take the above facts into consideration, we can easily understand the matter. One thing is very certain, the Canadian farmer or laborer need not go to Poland in the hope of bettering his position.