

## Imperial Germany

that the Poles were thrown into a state of violent excitement, that they prepared to defend themselves, and with their splendid organisation, largely supported by the Polish clergy, plunged into the fray. The antagonism between the two nationalities grew more acute. The policy pursued in the Eastern Marches influenced the whole of party politics, for the Centre supported its Polish co-religionists, and the Radicals thought it due to their principles to consider every step of the Prussian policy in the Eastern Marches as an exceptional measure which was contrary to their theoretical ideas of liberty. It is quite true that our home politics were not made easier by our national policy in the Eastern Marches, that a new cause of trouble and excitement was thereby added, and that the propaganda among the Poles in Prussia for the re-establishment of Polish independence grew more general and more violent.

The opponents of Prussian policy in the Eastern Marches, Germans as well as Poles, are fond of employing the argument that great unrest has been caused by this national policy, begun by Bismarck himself and carried on subsequently in accordance with his ideas. Such an argument can only be based upon the general political shell and not on the core of our national problem as regards the Poles. It means nothing more than the easy and cheap platitudes, that in foreign as well as in home politics peace and tranquillity may always be had if we strive to reach no goal which can only be attained