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*Communities*

INTERVIEW WITH STANLEY WESOLOWSKI

OWNER OF NEWSPAPERS KRONIKA

336 HUNTERDON ST.

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" Early settlers came to nobody. They had to go on their own. Soon they organized the Polish community and built the St. Stanislaus Church on Belmont Ave. This was their first settlement."

The next settlement was in the Ironbound district. From the Ironbound and from Belmont Avenue many of the Poles moved out in the direction of Irvington. In Irvington they have their own colony.

Very few Polish children attend Polish schools, "900 families belong to Irvington. Only fifty of their children attended Polish school the last year."

"Poles don't have any more difficulty with the language than any other foreign group. I have an editor who has been in the United States only three years and he speaks and writes English better than a lot of Americans."

On the role of the saloon, Mr. Wesolowski vehemently denied that the Poles in 1912 had only the saloons to go to for recreation. He said that they had their church, their Polish Falcon halls and their Polish educational hall. He added that the Poles had their Polish movie house in 1915. The Polonia Theatre at Court and Belmont Avenue.

He declared that Poles do not hold on to their money but spend their money freely and are well-known for their hospitality and leave all their money in this country. They like to enjoy themselves.

Some of the additional information he gave me was the following:

There were no church adjustments nor church conflicts. All Poles are devout Roman Catholics.

"The reason some people think Poles got into fights and broke bottles is because Russians, Ukrainians, and other Slavs who were responsible for these acts were called "Polaks" and Hunkies" for whom the Poles took the blame. These groups were bitter enemies of the Poles, The Liths were also their enemies."

He said it was untrue that Poles had been more disposed toward Poland than America. He said Poles had always placed America first in their mind and hearts. He declared that a Polish-American Club with 1400 members existed in 1902. In 1898 there was a Polish-American Club (Republican). Johnny W. Jurkokowski was the head of it.

"Because of Americanization Polish schools did not meet with much success."

I had informed Mr. Weslowski that I had been at the Johnson employment agency. When he learned this he said that they wouldn't give me an honest picture of the Polish people. He declared that the head of the agency was more for Hitler than he was for Poland. Mr. Weslowski had a violent dislike of Jews.