

Breslau, Saxony, 9 March 1925

Dear Mr. Proske,

Thank you very much for sending the paper which is very welcome, my favorite guest from far away. I don't want to be without that news! I return home from work around 2.30pm. I work at the Institute for the Deaf and Dumb and rent a room in a flat where I am welcomed by the Giddings newspaper and it seems to say to me "Welcome, Mr. Herden! I have come across the ocean to this beautiful land of Silesia, into the town of Breslau." I am greeted by my German readers who greet me from far away. I change my clothes and shoes and relax on the sofa and sink myself into the Volksblatt.

Dear Mr. Proske, let me tell you a little bit about Breslau, the main city of Silesia. Years ago a mean critic called this town one which did not move forward and up. I don't agree with him. Life is good here and it moves forward and can compete in the world. We don't dream and don't sleep. All forces are moving forward, politics, science, art, social areas and a desire to make this place a better one.

Herr D. Wagner, our mayor, is a man who holds the fate of this city of 550,000 inhabitants securely in his hands.

I want to mention two items which are of utmost importance to the development and life of Breslau:

1. The completion of the new "Messe" (convention center) in the Scheitniger Park area located near the One Hundred Year Hall with its unusual architecture and the largest existing organ. Both buildings are the works of Mr. Berg, municipal surveyor, who just retired. Not everybody agreed with his choice of architecture. The One Hundred Year Hall offers sports events.

2. The growing "Giesche" city. I will follow here the reporting from the *Breslauer Neuesten Nachrichten* (in earlier times called the *Breslauer Generalanzeiger*) a newspaper with neutral opinions printing about 150,000 copies.

A year ago the heirs of the mining organization Georg von Giesche bought 300 "Morgen" on the north-east side of Breslau which is located at the river which flows around Breslau. In the last 10 months this industrial area was built up by an electric power plant, engineering works, a manufacture of artificial silk and a weaving company. Homes for officials have been built and apartments for laborers.

An administrative building is planned for the entrance to this area with a swimming pool, dining area and lounge. On the east end of this area they will build a super phosphate plant. The plan is to take natural phosphate and mix it with sulphuric acid to get super phosphate which will be used for fertilization of the fields. Every effort is made to prevent escape of fumes and contamination of water for the population.

I will further share with you the planning of a farm for silver fox and other animals with a pelt. In the last meeting of hunters of this area Mr. Ludwig (retired) spoke of his experience with pelt animals. In Germany you have 17 fox farms. Germany's geography is very suitable for the raising of pelt animals. A blue fox will cost 2000 Marks, a silver fox 5000 Marks. Silver and red fox will also be crossed. On these farms you can also raise polecats, beech-martens, tree martens, ermines, skunks, Siberian sables and rotifers.

Breslau also enjoys a rich life in theater and music. The stage manager of the opera is Mr. Tietjen, the best of the best. The house for the operetta is under the leadership of Dr. Löwen. In

February our dumb and deaf people celebrated Shrove Tuesday in the theater hall which they had been looking forward to for some time. The fairy tale “Frau Holle” (Mother Holle) was mimed by these handicapped people. Decorations and costumes were fabulous.

But now it is time to come to a closing. Dusk has fallen and I want to go outside into the city for a while and enjoy the old town.

Cordially yours
Julius Herden

Translated by Margot Hendricks