

**Prince Leon Sapieha to Count Beust  
Letter on Galician Autonomy, 1868**

From: Baron Henry de Worms, *The Austro-Hungarian Empire: A Political Sketch of Men and Events Since 1866* (London: Chapman and Hall, 1877), pp.278-282

Most Noble Count,

In the sitting of the Diet of the 24th September, 1868, the following resolution has been passed, in virtue of the 19<sup>th</sup> paragraph of the provincial statute:--

“The Diet of the kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria, and of the Grand Duchy of Cracow, declares, in virtue of § 19 of the provincial statute, that the organization of the Monarchy, as established by the fundamental laws of the 21<sup>st</sup> December, 1867, does not confer upon our country so much legislative and administrative independence as is due to the same in consideration of its historico-political past, its separate nationality, civilization, and territorial extent, whence it results that it does not respond to the wishes of the country in respect of its national development, or to the conditions necessary thereunto, nor to its real requirements; and as a continuance of this state of affairs must give rise to general dissatisfaction, it follows that great prejudice to the prosperity of our province and to the welfare of the whole Monarchy must accrue therefrom.

The Diet of the kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria, and of the Grand Duchy of Cracow, makes the following proposition, in virtue of the 19<sup>th</sup> paragraph of the provincial statute:— “National self-government shall be granted to the kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria, and to the Grand Duchy of Cracow, in such wise as shall respond to the requirements and to the particular conditions of the country.

Above all:

1stly. The Diet shall exclusively determine the mode of electing its members for the Reichsrath.

2ndly. The delegation of the Galician Diet shall participate in the deliberations of the Reichsrath only in respect of such affairs of this kingdom as are in common with the other parts of the Monarchy represented in the Reichsrath.

3rdly. The hereinafter enumerated affairs, in so far as they concern the kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria, and the Grand Duchy of Cracow, are withdrawn from the sphere of action of the Reichsrath, as determined by the fundamental law; and, in virtue of § 12 of the same law, they shall be transferred to the competency of the Diet,—to wit :—

- (a.) The institution of the chambers and organs of commerce.
- (b.) The legislation concerning credit and assurance institutions, banks and savings banks; but banks of issue excepted.
- (c.) The legislation concerning the rights of natives or naturalized persons.
- (d.) The establishment of the principles of national education, in respect of primary schools and the gymnasia, and the legislation concerning the universities.

(e.) The legislation concerning criminal jurisprudence, correctional police, and civil laws, and mining laws.

(h.) The legislation concerning the principles of the organization of the judicial and administrative authorities.

(g.) All enactments requisite for the execution of the fundamental laws, in respect of the common rights of the subjects of the state, and in respect of the judicial, governmental, and executive authority therein referred to.

(h.) The legislation on such matters as have reference to the duties and circumstances of our country, in its connexion with other countries of the Monarchy.

(i.) The legislation on corporations (commonalties) with out the limitation provided in the 4<sup>th</sup> article of the fundamental law of the 21st December, 1807, concerning the common rights of the subjects of the state.

4thly. For the provision of the expenses of the civil and judicial administration, for public instruction and worship, for the public safety, and the culture of land in Galicia, a sum sufficient to cover the real requirements shall be taken out of the state treasury, and placed at the disposal of the Diet, and the details of its application shall be removed from the competency of the Reichsrath.

5thly. The estates belonging to the kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria, and the Grand Duchy of Cracow, the so-called Cameralistic estates, shall be incorporated into the public fund of this kingdom, as property belonging to the country.

6thly. The saltworks (salines, mines, and salterns) in the kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria, and in the Grand Duchy of Cracow, shall not be sold or given in exchange, or encumbered, without the consent of the Diet of this kingdom.

7thly. The kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria, and the Grand Duchy of Cracow, shall have its own supreme court of judicature and court of cassation.

8thly. The kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria, and the Grand Duchy of Cracow, shall have a local administration responsible to the local Diet in all matters pertaining to internal affairs, to public justice, instruction, and safety, and to the culture of the land, as also a minister of the country in the council of the crown.”

Whereof I have the honour to make this communication to your Excellency, in order that this resolution may be laid before the Imperial Royal Government.

Receive, most noble Count, the expression of our most distinguished high esteem.

Lemberg, 24<sup>th</sup> September, 1868.

The Land Marshal,

L. Sapieha

Countersigned

Pfeiffer