



**The**  
**Lithuanian**  
**Booster**

**THOMAS SHAMIS, Editor.**

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LITHUANIA; OF OLD AND TODAY

# The Booster

Thomas Shamis, Editor

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No. 7

## JUST SMILE

WHEN you're flooded with jeer,  
Just smile.  
When everyone points you sneer,  
Just smile.

Don't put off for what's right  
Be the first to lead the fight,  
And when fighting with your might,  
Just smile.

When the whole world seems kind o' blue,  
Just smile.  
And your friends all prove untrue,  
Just smile.

When you chance to see the wrong  
Roll your sleeves, stand firm and strong,  
When your honor's praised in song,  
Just smile.

THOMAS SHAMIS.

## LITHUANIA OF TODAY

by  
THOMAS SHAMIS.

**I**N the confines of Lithuania, in the northwestern part of Europe, under the government of Russia and Germany, live some 5,000,000 Lithuanians, the remnant of a powerful nation. A large portion of the male population are now fighting in the armies of the czar and the kaiser. Lithuania is really at the present the battleground of the northwestern forces and the countless suffering mothers and the numberless bare-footed, half-naked and starving children who are left without means to procure their daily existence. There are thousands of them living among us, bringing here their belief and legends, and a language as ancient as the Sanscrit.

Their fate at home is as that of any of the persecuted people, but hardly a word is said for them, or a friendly interest taken in this ancient race.

How much we might learn from men whose god like that of the Greeks, was the god of thunder; men whose brains have been active for long thousands of years—and how little we know and care about them.

The Lithuanians who are known so little, who stopped the Mongolian invasion, in the past, when civilization was in its cradle. Men who have come and did heroism on this very soil, whose brains outwitted those of Burgoyne's, it was none other than Thaddeus Kosciusko, a Lithuanian, who sacrificed his whole life for one cause—Liberty. A perpetual monument to his memory will last until the winds blow away the last speck of clay that now makes West Point possible.

Peace on Earth,  
Good Will to All.

## GOOD KNIGHT ?

A correspondent of a magazine published in the interest of Germany writes: "The Lithuanians who are a distinct race dwell in the east as well as the northern border district of Memel. In giving a report on East Prussia it is impossible to refrain from including a short survey of the history, writ in blood, of this unfortunate border land. Ever since the Teutonic Order (The Sword-Bearers, The Knights of Cross, et al bands with lust for blood and plunder) entered the country between the Vistula and the Memel in 1230 and spent a goodly half century in wresting definitely from its haathen inhabitants (I, Ed.) (meaning the Lithuanians, Ed.) or in making them at least tributary to them (tried to make slaves of the Lithuanians, Ed.) a state of peace has almost been the exception. The entire remainder of the Middle Ages and also a good part of the modern times were filled with conflicts between the Teutonic Order on one hand and the Lithuanians

on the other, of which the famous battle of Tannenburg on July 14, 1410, which was a great Lithuanian victory over the Germans, is perhaps best known. These wars were always carried on in the horrible manner which was characteristic of former times."

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 AN OLD POEM

More than thirteen hundred years ago, Beodwulf, a Saxon, wrote the very first Christmas poem in English that is known—began with the ancient Latin line "For the Noble Born of Virgin Mary," as follows:

"Puer Nobis Natus est de Maria Virgine,  
 Be glad, lordynges, be the more or lesse,  
 I bryng you tydings of gladnesse,  
 As Gabriel me bereth witesse."



**OPINIONS OF GREAT PHILOSOPHERS  
AND PHILOLOGISTS ABOUT THE  
LITHUANIANS AND THEIR  
LANGUAGE**

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**E**MMANUEL Kant, the most celebrated German philosopher in his preface in the Lithuanian Grammar and Dictionary of G. Mieleke, edited in Königsberg in 1800 inter alia says: "The beauties of the Lithuanian language, as well as its particular characteristics, are sufficient reasons why this language should be preserved and used in the schools as well as in the churches.

"With regard to the Lithuanian people, I must add that they are more impregnated with a personal dignity than their near neighbors (Kant here refers to the Germans and the Slavs). The Lithuanians are accustomed to address their superiors as equal to equal, and with a

cordial frankness; for they do not blame them, and willingly shake hands with them, because a Lithuanian is never wanting in his duty; his conduct, full of dignity, is at the same time the best guarantee of his loyalty, and has no resemblance with that of his neighbor (Polish), who is proud and overbearing.

"Without taking into consideration the importance and the usefulness the conservation of a nation possessing such good qualities can have on the country, one must again remark, that the antiquity and purity of the language of the Lithuanian people, at the present oppressed and encircled in a narrow space, almost isolated from other races, has a great importance for science (linguistic) and especially for the ancient history of the migration of races. This is therefore another reason why this race and their language should be preserved."

Elisee Reclus, great French geographer says: "If the value of a nation in the whole of humanity were to be measured by the beauty of its language, the Lithuanians should rank first among the inhabitants of Eu-

rope."

Ch. Seignobes, noted French professor at the Sorbonne, in "The Lettish-Lithuanian Nation" writes: "The Lettish-Lithuanian race which we are obliged to call by a hyphenated name because it is cut in twain—has passed through an exceptional and tragic destiny. As much on account of its physical characteristics as because of its language, which is the most ancient of European tongues, it belongs—unlike its timid northern neighbors, the Esthes and the Finns—to the great European family. But it is to be distinguished as much from the Slavonic races (even its nearest neighbors, the Poles) as from the Scandinavian races on the other side of the Baltic. It gives the impression of being an intermediary between the Slavs and Scandinavians."

A. Meillet, professor at the College de France in his "The Lithuanian and Lettish Languages" among other things we read: "The Lithuanian and Lettish languages are the remains of a great family of languages, to which belonged the Prussian language during the

middle ages; but the original Prussian which a few monuments, a small lexicon and some catechisms remain, has been replaced by German, and the former fell into oblivion after the sixteenth century.

"Lithuanian and Lettish are the only languages left of the great family of Indo-Europeans, the Baltic family.

"Since Schleicher took an interest in this language, Lithuanian has become an object of study with linguists. Many distinguished linguists, such as Mr. Muhlenbach and Mr. Endzelin, are making researches.

"Lithuanians and Letts in retaining their mother tongue, they keep the titles of Indo-European nobility that nearly all the other languages have most singularly forgotten."

Professor Carl D. Buck, in "The American Political Science Review," says: "The world has almost forgotten the existence of a Lithuanian people, and that they ever played a role in history."

J. K. T.

### LET US HUSTLE

**I**N our little journey through life, there are two important things worthy of our consideration—they are “Success and Opportunity,” but Success is the most important one.

You are aware of the fact that “nothing succeeds like success,” so if you can grasp it hold on to it and don’t let it go, you will find it a mighty good asset.

Success is much different than Opportunity, from the fact that you can put your shoulder to the wheel, and with vim, vigor and determination you can win, and when you have reached the goal of Success, you will be surprised at the fact that even the shadow of Success spells its own majestic name.

Some people wait for Opportunity to come along, and imagine that Success will follow in its path. But alas! We have been told that Opportunity seldom knocks at our door. Whereas Success is always roaming about. It is here, there, and everywhere, with an

outstretched hand bidding us to grasp it, but most of us decline the offer, thinking it a mere hoax, and in solitude we wait for the approach of Opportunity.

Some men wait in vain, for it is as Josh Billings said: “God made opportunities, but men must hunt them.”

The possibilities of those who are always on the hunt for opportunities are unlimited. Hunt ’em up—even with an old whitewash brush.

If lack of ambition has been an obstacle in your path; that has served as a barrier between you and Success, then hurl that barrier asunder and start a new campaign. Aye, a campaign to win the crowning prize—Success.

Don’t wait for Opportunity to come along and knock at your door; for ten chances to one, if you heard the knock, you would be reclining in an easy chair, and thinking it might be one of your neighbors come over to borrow a cup of sugar, you’d fail to respond to the summons.

Come, shake off those shackles. They have held

you down long enough. See! There is a myriad of brilliant rays in the distance. It is the dawn of a new era. Aye! There better things in store for you but must possess the desired qualifications to partake of them and pave the way for future opportunities. Combine tact and talent and go in to win, and you will accomplish the desired effect.

Success won't come and hunt you up, nor will Opportunity chase after you with an airship—you will have to go after them.

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Census figures show that a man of forty is not past his prime and that he is still liable to "come back". The capacity for work of good quality in a man, after all depends very much upon the man, for youth, like other treasures, can be stored up or it can be squandered.

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Wanted—5,000 more subscribers to The Lithuanian Booster. What can you do for me?

## LITHUANIANS

by  
MOBIS

But now let us say a few words of the Lithuanians of to day. The union of Lithuania and Poland belongs to the past, and it is now understood that each nation will take care of its own interests, and work for its own welfare. We might say here that the patriotic Lithuanians never did care for Poland and it was the love of the great language which was preserved and saved from the Polish, who hated the Lithuanians for their ability of superiority. These patriotic Lithuanians worked hard for the complete revival of the Lithuanian language and it was in the XVIII century that they got a foot hold. The first such movement was begun in the Vilna University, which was organized in 1803 and placed on equal footing with all colleges of Europe, Then in 1804 came a Lithuanian paper. called the Vil-

na Weekly, followed in 1805 by the Vilna Daily, both papers containing true Lithuanian spirit. It must be understood that the Polish language was forced upon our nobility by the union of both nations. Many Lithuanians had to learn Polish through the union agreement. But the Polish language was very weak and later on, following the national revival of our language, the Lithuanians who strove to remember their old nationality did not have a hard task.

Now let us look over Lithuania's contribution to the world. First, we have Mickiewicz, the great poet, who although a full-blooded Lithuanian, his parents were victims at the time of the union, and he was writing all his poems in the Polish language. His poems were full of Lithuanian ideas, which showed that he did not forget his country and although he wrote in Polish his original Lithuanian ideas prevailed throughout his works. To-day the energetic Lithuanians are busy translating all his works from Polish to Lithuanian, to which it really belongs. Another man whose name the patriotic

Lithuanian of to-day holds dearest to his heart is Thaddeus Kosciusko, probably known to every American as he helped Washington in the Revolutionary War, and his help was one of the great factors of American victory. Because of his mix-up with Poland, he is to-day thought by many to be Polish, this is wrong, he was born a Lithuanian and his Lithuanian genius is responsible for what he really did. He helped Poland in her great fights against Russia, but that doesn't prove he was Polish. According to the Congressional Library, Kosciusko, was born in Lithuania, near Novogrudek, February 16, 1746. He descended from a noble Lithuanian family. Kondratowicz, another poet of note, who also wrote in Polish, did not forget his fore-father's neglected fatherland. Also Henryk Sienkiewicz, and J. Kraszewski, whose historical classic, "Lithuania under Vytautas," received applause from the world. "The Deeds of the Lithuanian Nation," by J. Narbutt, in nine big volumes represented his best efforts. About  
(Continued to page 18)

## LITHUANIA SUFFERS

**F**AR beyond Atlantic's broad expanse,  
 Last night I saw her in a dream most real  
 With outstretched arms before my eyes she stands,  
 While in my ears still rings her sad appeal.  
 How sad she looked with sorrow in her eyes,  
 As she sobbed to me the sufferings of her race;  
 The pent agony of the centuries  
 I saw most plainly written on her face.  
 How sorrowful her voice was when she spoke,  
 Her words came from a heart o'erwhelmed with grief  
 She raised for me the pall of battle's smoke,  
 I saw the forms of Death and Want beneath.  
 I saw Destruction's red and cruel hand,  
 Steeped and stained with lifeblood of her sons;  
 I saw grim War ride wildly o'er the land  
 And heard the booming requiem of his guns.

I saw the rush of Fire's flaming breath,  
 That left a wake of ruin in its way;  
 I saw lean Hunger, followed on by Death,  
 Like vultures of the air who see their prey.  
 I heard the piteous wail of orphan's cries,  
 As night came down upon the wasted land;  
 I read the depths of grief in Mother's eyes  
 Who strove to comfort them with soothing hand.  
 I saw her valiant sons go forth to fight  
 For kingdoms, that without the sense of shame,  
 Act ever on the creed that Might makes Right  
 And rob her of all things also her name.  
 How long, O Lithuania, shall this last?  
 When shall your new-born day succeed the night?  
 When shall you see once more that glorious past?  
 That is your ancient heritage by right!

EDWARD J. BOYLE.

(Continued from page 15)

this time began great men who cared not for the Polish language but spoke and wrote the Lithuanian language. The first Lithuanian national writer was D. Poszka, whose writings are known the world over he wrote the Lithuanian dictionary. He also published national songs, his short stories are very pleasing. He had a great friend in Father Drazdauskas, who composed short songs of folk-lore. His hymn, "Let All Christians Kneel," is still sung in all Lithuanian Roman Catholic Churches.

S. Daukantas' "History of Lithuania," wins praise from all who read it. Among others who aided in the national movement were Bishop Valanchius, and Father A. Juskevichius, who collected over 5,000 national and folk songs also revised the Lithuanian dictionary.

But the great axe fell, when in 1864 the Russians, jealous of the growth of the Lithuanian language, forbid the Lithuanians, under the severest punishment to publish anything in the Lithuanian language. A lull of

silence swept over Lithuania, which was under Russia and the language faced ruin. But the quick thinking Lithuanian was not to be fooled and they still talked and read Lithuanian secretly. Then Bishop Valanchius and S. Daukantas died which added to the misery of the country. Tilsit, Lithuania, then under the rule of Germany and at the present, was the center of Lithuanian proceedings, and any article published there was smuggled into Lithuania and in this way the Lithuanian language maintained its importance in the world. In 1883 Dr. J. Basanavichius, began to publish a monthly journal, at Tilsit. Rev. A. Burba, helped national movement in America and it was through his writings and speeches that he succeeded in separating the Lithuanians from the Poles.

Now the Lithuanian has fully awakened, conscious of his separate nationality. Lithuania was a great country and while to-day she cannot boast of writers and poets, such as Shakespeare or Goethe, still she had great ones, and some to-day are good standard poetry

writers as Maironis, Zemaite and the late Dr. V. Kudirka. translator of Byron's and Schiller's works into the Lithuanian language, earned the reputation of being the best essayist. His and other of the Lithuanian writings are translated into the English language to give the English people an idea of their extraordinary ability.

In the United States are to be mentioned: Dr. Jonas (Rev. Zilinskas) poet, historian and novelist, translator of Mickiewicz's works from Polish to Lithuanian. Dr. J. Szliupas, historian, writes on political subjects but is very biased; J. Szernas, who successfully popularize scientific questions; Rev. A. Burba, journalist, poet, and novelist, a very popular man; Selinas (Rev. A. Kaupas), able journalist and author; Rev. A. Zebris; M. Petrauskas, composer of many operettas, songs, etc. His works are known all over. Pocius, recent graduate of the Chicago University of Music, shows promising talent.

THE END.

## CALLING

**I**N these days of wars and rumors of wars, when Europe is drenched with blood, and complete devastation, it is meet that we turn our thoughts at times to a house where nobler things are taught.

While the peoples of other nations are answering to the call of the God of war, let us consider the teachings of the Prince of Peace.

When the labors of the week are ended and the day of rest is at hand, let us spend an hour in the house of darkened windows, where sweet voices sing the praises of the meek and lowly Nazarine, who gave his life's blood that we and others might be ennobled by the fruits of his sacrifice. While the day of rest is being profaned by other nations of the earth—While shot and shell are leaving the maimed and the dead and dying on the crimson field of carnage—let us of America give heed to the wisdom of the black robed men of God, whose teachings proclaim peace on earth and

good will to men.

While the Omnipotent One is bowed with grief that His children in other climes should be as the beast of jungle—rending, tearing, destroying—let us look into our own hearts, that we may avoid the pitfalls that are engulfing our brethren across the seas.

Let us journey to the house of God on Sabbath and there join with the minister in his supplication to the kings of kings for the restoration of peace and a return to the ways of righteousness and sanity. The house of God calls us. Let us go.

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When the door bell rings a women always looks out of the window before she will answer the ring. She wants to see whether it is a collector or an agent with something. If it is a thing to sell she will open the door and buy something. If it is a collector trying to get an installment on something the last agent sold her she is not to home.

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## THE KINGDOM OF THE PAST

by  
THE EDITOR

**P**OLAND is to be free, a national State with a hereditary monarchy and a constitutional government. But it is not likely that Prussia and Austria will surrender parts of their empires to make up the new kingdom. The German proclamation grants to the Poles the right of self-government in the newly occupied territory. They must raise an army, and must first fight for Germany and if their service is not satisfactory then they might lose the grant. Poles in Austria well treated, and the Poles in Prussia driven away, are not allowed to share the benefits of this grant. The Poles at a mass meeting held in Warsaw sent thanks to the kaiser among which is found: "German armies have liberated two towns equally dear to the Polish heart—Warsaw and Vilna." When was Vilna a Polish

city? When was the Baltic coast Polish? Ye noble patriots of Poland! Gather your brethren from Austria and Germany and **bear in mind** that Vilna is a Lithuanian city and that the inhabitants of the Baltic are Lithuanians. Further ye noble patriots of Poland, ye cannot revive Poland at the expense of Lithuania! Lithuanians who are so dear to you as you tell the kaiser do not care for you and can handle the reins without the direction of the sons of Warsaw.

Poor Poland! You may still remain the Kingdom of the Past.

---

Kingdoms may come, Kingdoms may go but Lithuanians live on forever.

Lithuania, Free and Independent.

Mind, after peace is restored.

Promises now are not unlike the day dream without the "thing" to "carry it."



## JUST BETWEEN US

MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Let some happy sunshine in your heart.

Just smile.

Mark it with true Christmas spirit.

Pass the good cheer around, it is the best booster.

I wish you all A Merry, Merry Christmas.

When I started The Lithuanian Booster I did so with a full understanding of what I was going into. It was not a slipshod experiment, but a carefully thought-out project. For the past ten years the publisher has seen the need of just such a magazine, and every move has been carefully planned in advance. I intend to make The Lithuanian Booster a great big success in every way, and my motto shall always be:—"Lithuanians Against the World." If The Lithuanian Booster is not treated right, it will be your own fault, not mine.

Subscribe now—50c a year.

Along about this time of a year the June bride wonders what she was drinking when she promised to obey a mutt that she could lick with one hand.

Mother's idea of a calamity is when the pastor is ill and there are no services on Sunday. But father's idea of a calamity is when the beer man is ill and doesn't show up on Saturday and Father has to go dry on Sunday.

A member of Mother's Association said: "Girls these days wear their waists too low and their skirts too high. They go dressed like nymphs in a Greek dance and they paint and powder like Comanches on the warpath."

The female whose family consists of a poodle and a fern never forgets the date of Mother's Day. But about the only date the mother of five or six children can remember is Wash Day.

A lot of men wonder why girls close their eyes when they are being kissed. But if the men would look into a mirror they would see the reason.

The Editor on behalf of the Lithuanian people wish to express thanks to the American people for the generosity of the donations given for our stricken brethren in Lithuania. The first order has been sent via the wireless and will help in alleviating the suffering of a people who have no interest in this bloody carnage.

Again I thank you.

The Editor after receiving numerous request for a book on the Lithuanian people in the English language. Decided to find a suitable and authoritative book on the subject and could not find one that would come up to the requirements as "A Sketch of The Lithuanian Nation." ably told by J. Gabrys, of Paris, France. The book is low priced and contains a volume of information. The price is 15 cents, postpaid, together with a batch of other literature. I have a limited amount on hand and as they cannot be procured on account of the war, First come, first served.

The war in Europe seems to have upset a whole lot of men in this country. But Mother's idea of a world-disturbance is to have the wash postponed until Tuesday.

There are 3,172 languages in the world and Friend Wife can use every one of them when she finds a dainty perfumed, lace bordered handkerchief in your pocket.

Jim Johns, the store man, paid three dollars for a page ad to be used in program for a show that the Local Society for the prevention of Cruelty to Jack Rabbits was getting up. He said as to how they was to have a supper after the show and for his consideration in taking the ad they said they would buy the oysters and other fixings of him. All he sold them was a tin dipper and they wanted him to take that back the next day saying that it wasn't used hard and besides he ought to help a good cause along.

Jim sez it do beat all how some people is so blamed considerate of jack rabbits and at the same time don't keer how hard they pull a feller's leg.

### I STAND ON MY OWN FEET

Because I am fostering the Lithuanian movement, I do not want my readers to get the impression that I am catering to any particular individual or class. It's facts I want; "Brass tacks; evidence, and plenty of it." I am going to "hew away, let the chips fall where they will." I have an object in view that means a great deal to the patriotic Lithuanian.

The bandstand was on one side of the plaza near a asphalt street where the dance was to be, and the street was roped off each way to keep back vehicles. It was said they were going to "dance the Tongaree," but I confess myself too ignorant of such things to be able to tell the Tongaree from the "Tongaree Trot," but a very few moments convinced me that it was the most immodest dance I ever saw, and I verily believe that the police should take such participants into custody, where they could be sent to the reform school. If society keeps edging more and more on vice-breeding dances I wonder what the end will be!

Henryk Sienkiewicz, the author of "Quo Vadis" is dead. Born of Lithuanian parents, near Lukova over seventy years ago when his parents moved to Poland at the beginning of the Russian war. Was educated in the schools at Warsaw and was a victim of Polonization. His father was a victim at the time and the sweet lullaby that Henryk's mother sang when she fondled him in child hood was taken over by the Slavs at the grave. Such mixture will win no laurels.

A New York daily prints the following: "It has not escaped the attention of Poles in this country that the boundaries of the new "Kingdom of Poland" are to be **announced** in the future, These dubious observers would **like to know** whether the Polish subjects of Prussia and **Austria are** to be included; or merely of the occupied Russian territory. If the latter only, it is not Poland." The last sentence explains itself. Ed.

All the world loves a lover and all the world loves to rubber. You may rubber at this paper, each month for one year, if you send in your four bits.

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**J. Gabrys**

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