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★ THOMAS SHAMIS, Editor.

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THE LITHUANIAN BOOSTER

Thomas Shamis, Editor

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COME NEW

THE sands of 1916 have run through the neck of Time and the Keeper has turned the glass.

We are on the threshold of a new year. Let us first be thankful to those who helped to make 1916 a booster year. The last half of Time was the coming to life of your big little magazine. The purpose of the magazine, as all my readers and boosters know is to get a better understanding of the Lithuanian, both in this country and beyond the seas. 1917 has been planned. I have many good things in store. The world will witness before the last sand of 1917 has fell there will come **FREE AND INDEPENDENT LITHUANIA.**

THOMAS SHAMIS.

Application for entry as second-class matter at the post office at Kingston, Pa. pending.



LITHUANIA: OF OLD AND TODAY

PLIGHT OF LITHUANIA

by
THE EDITOR

TO BE denied one's own tongue is inhuman and brutal. To be cut, divided and by force or otherwise taught that it is best for one to lay aside his mother tongue is more so. Instructed by Christian messengers that a pagan language is only understood by a pagan god and that you must have a selected language to please the Christian God, seems absurd, still we find it a fact. You may cut, divide a nation, tear the dear family ties and even murder. Such is Lithuania's plight! But you cannot obliterate the love of liberty, the love of mother tongue from the hearts of a people. Every Lithuanian new born face reads: "Freedom and Justice."

There are many people when asked, who are the Lithuanians, will answer that they are the same as the

Polish. It is very erroneous to confuse two distinct nationalities. The Lithuanian comes from a sturdy stock and who's historic past is one of splendor ranking with the Romans and the Greeks. As a race it occupies the middle place between the Scandinavians and Slavs. The Lithuanians belong to the Indo-European group and have been dwelling since prehistoric time on the Southwest coast of the Baltic Sea, in the basin of the Niemen, have been protected from foreign influence. Pagan worship was at its height when about 1228 A. D. Christian nations fell upon Lithuanian. These massacres resulted in the betterment of the Lithuanian for it impressed him that he must fight for his language and its beautiful customs. By learning this the Lithuanian was at least able to hold his own and by so doing to-day we have one of the oldest languages in existence. In the thirteenth century Lithuanian armies occupied Poland taking with them thousands of prisoners. The next century, Aldona, daughter of Gediminas, Grand Duke of Lithuania, married Casimer, the

son of the King of Poland, bringing with her a dowry of 25,000 Polish prisoners of war set free by her father. The forementioned is sufficient to prove that Lithuania was a neighbor whom it was not safe to ignore, and from this time on the Poles sought friendly relations.

In the latter part of the fourteenth century the Poles basing their claim on the facts by the marriage of Grand Duke Jagello, with Hedwige, Queen of Poland, went so far as to exact a hegemony and the prepondering power in Lithuania. Lithuania then possessed territory three times the extent held by Poland. They still consider as their enemies all Lithuanians who, remaining true to their mother tongue, develop their literature and defend their nationality, and look upon them in the light of the worst opponents of history.

Poland tells us of an ideal union with Lithuania. Nevertheless, an impartial examination of the past shows a continual tendency among the Lithuanians to break with Poland. First to separate was Grand Duke

Vytautas, who was proclaimed king of the country. In 1410 the Lithuanians with the aid of the Russians, Poles and Slavs, stopped the Eastern advance of the Teutons by crushing them at Grunvald. In 1569 Lithuania contracted a political union with Poland similar to that of Norway and Sweden, or Austria and Hungary. In the beginning of the next century some noblemen were Polonized, but the common people remained true to national traditions, upholding their mother language, with its beautiful customs.

In the latter part of the 18th century, Lithuania, at the same time with Poland, was divided between Russia and Prussia. In 1776 there came to America Thaddeus Kosciusko, who after meeting with Benjamin Franklin in Paris, and at his request came to help the colonies in their fight for independence. He was a great Lithuanian warrior, not a Pole as some claim. Kosciusko in his declining years said: "Lithuania, My first fatherland; America, I consider my second fatherland." Adam Mickiewicz, the great Poet, turned to his father-

land for inspiration and countless others did likewise. A large number of illustrious men and a great many leaders who led Poland to victory in her battles were Lithuanians, but Poland would never give any honor to Lithuania. After the last Polish insurrection in 1863 the Lithuanian "dictator" Kalinauskas, declared that Lithuania would struggle for its own freedom, like Poland, but that it would always remain independent of its neighbor. "Never again," said he, can we put the destinies of Lithuania in the hands of the godmother of Warsaw."

Russianization was more intense, for father Time stood at the dawn of enlightenment, so something must be done quick. The Russian Ukase forbade the reading of Lithuanian prayer books, literature and to immediately destroy all the books in the homes of the Lithuanians in the Lithuanian language and in their place substitute Russian. Millions of Russian books soon fed fire in the homes of the Lithuanians. Lithuanians were not to be fooled, so in secrecy they taught their

children the language with its beautiful customs. After forty years of the strictest kind of censorship the Russian government felt that it was powerless to accomplish its task, so in 1905 the Czar granted the freedom of speech and the press to long oppressed Lithuania.

Now Lithuania with its millions of population is completely devastated, her cities and villages have been reduced. What of the land which has been the scene of armies driving forth, and retreating, each time taking a bigger toll? Such is Lithuania today!

When Mother has three or four daughters Father always finds enough store hair around the house to stuff a sofa pillow.

With cooler weather and longer evenings people will read more. Now is the time to send in your subscription.

I am looking for new subscribers—you'll do.

PEOPLE WILL KNOW

"What's the use? Nobody knows."

How often have young men—and men not so young—and some women—deluded themselves into false security by the thought that "nobody knows."

But somebody does know—often everybody knows.

No matter what our imperfections may be, there are those who know—and what a few know, the people will know.

It matters not what our aims and aspirations may be the people will know sooner or later—will always know.

No mouth is so close but that a word is dropped here and there, and when two and two are put together brains will call it four.

The man who totters on the brink of dishonor must reconcile himself to the fact that some will know—many will know—eventually everybody will know—and

will judge as they know.

The woman who perils her soul must accept the world as her audience, for a few people will know—and others will know—and then all will know—and again judge as they know.

The churchman who bespatters his cloak of religion is not immune. People know—know him—know his ways—know him for what he is—and judge him as they know.

The man who swaggers through life with pride in his wickedness is also known—known by his deeds—by his sins—by his lack of morality, of sense, of brains. He, too, will be judged as he is known.

No act is so small, so characteristic, so infinitesimal, but that the people will know—will always know.

And people will talk—some softly—some noisily—with a shrug here—a wink there—or a grin.

For the people will know—will always know—and will judge us by what they know.

What's the use? There's every use.

Make it a good deed here, a word of kindness there, a helping hand to the afflicted and the needy, for every little act has its influence on each and every one of us.

And in this the people will know—will always know—and will judge us as they know!

For people were born to know.



Wisdom sometimes falls from the mouths of infants
An egg's reputation always is good until it is cracked.

How one of these old-time, town feed stables with the front painted red, white and blue, in the form of a checker board, would delight the heart of the average cubist.

There is no investment which an honest man or woman can make which will pay so high returns as time and money spent judiciously in good reading.

WHAT LANGUAGE IS CENSORED

An exchange prints the following: "Governors of Prussian provinces have been instructed to take up a campaign against words of foreign origin. The governors have been supplied with lists of common foreign expressions with their approved German equivalents and are instructed to use these in the most tactful manner possible to so change the language of the people that it will eventually contain nothing but words of pure German origin."



Last Sunday the parson said that the man who was a Christian and didn't let the fact be known was standing at the top of the tobaggan with grease on the seat of his pants and ruination at the foot of the slide.

Something to it.

The sort of a woman who has to carry a revolver to protect her Personal Honor usually hasn't much to protect.

BUSINESS IS SOUND

WE cannot foresee or even hazard a guess as to the length of the conflict now going on between the great European powers. Its results aboard cannot be overcome for years, even though the conflict lasts but a comparatively short time.

The aspect to the United States, a neutral power, is surely interesting, and providing strict neutrality, aggressiveness and conservatism is maintained, the advantages to the American business will be tremendous.

To supply what is normally imported from Germany and other European countries is not, in any sense, taking undue advantages of the misfortune of manufacturers aboard.

All the world will look to American energy and resourcefulness in supplying necessary commodities as well as the luxuries.

Our banks are in excellent condition to stand all rea-

sonable demands and every precaution has been taken by the government to protect our gold and provide ample currency upon which to base credit.

With everything in our favor the only danger lies in possible alarm and panic among the people which might lead to hoarding money, withdrawing it from the banks and suspending payments.

It is our duty then to reflect optimism in order to stimulate confidence in our financial institutions and encourage business men to continue their affairs in a conservative but aggressive manner.

The one billion Americans are going to live and live well. The Europeans, with their business shattered, need our products. The demand of South American countries will find its source of supply in the United States.

Be optimistic!

Business is sound.

How about that subscription? Mail it NOW.

JUST BETWEEN US

A Happy New Year to you! May the coming year be the best ever.

There are many things in life more to be desired than money. A certain amount of money is needed to enable us to live and enjoy life, but money sought as an end in itself cannot bring happiness. I fully realize this, and that is why I am publishing THE LITHUANIAN BOOSTER. If I wanted money only I would go into some other line of work. The Lithuanian Booster is my pride, and I want to make it lead its field. If my subscribers would help me by renewing their subscriptions promptly, and help by getting new subscribers I could publish a better magazine. If you like The Lithuanian Booster show your loyalty in a practical way. Now is the time. DO IT.

Lack of success is the fruit of wasted opportunities.

Success is often compelled to wait till you get out of the way. Success is a normal condition, and always at your elbow. It was found by Watt in his mother's kitchen. There are hundred successes right close to you, almost where you stand. You, with your mental and physical equipment should bag one.

When the husband thinks he could have done better and the wife thinks she couldn't have done worse, some divorce lawyer gets the price of a new runabout.

The original September A. M.'s are all married now and have children of their own. They were the girl babies who had their pictures taken while they were sitting in an old-fashioned wash bowl.

After a man takes a day off and tries to follow his own advice he isn't surprised that other people never pay any attention to what he says.

This would be a better world if Mother got more help and sympathy when she is alive and less bawling and flapdoodle when she is dead.

Have you sent in your subscription yet?

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by

J. Gabrys

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