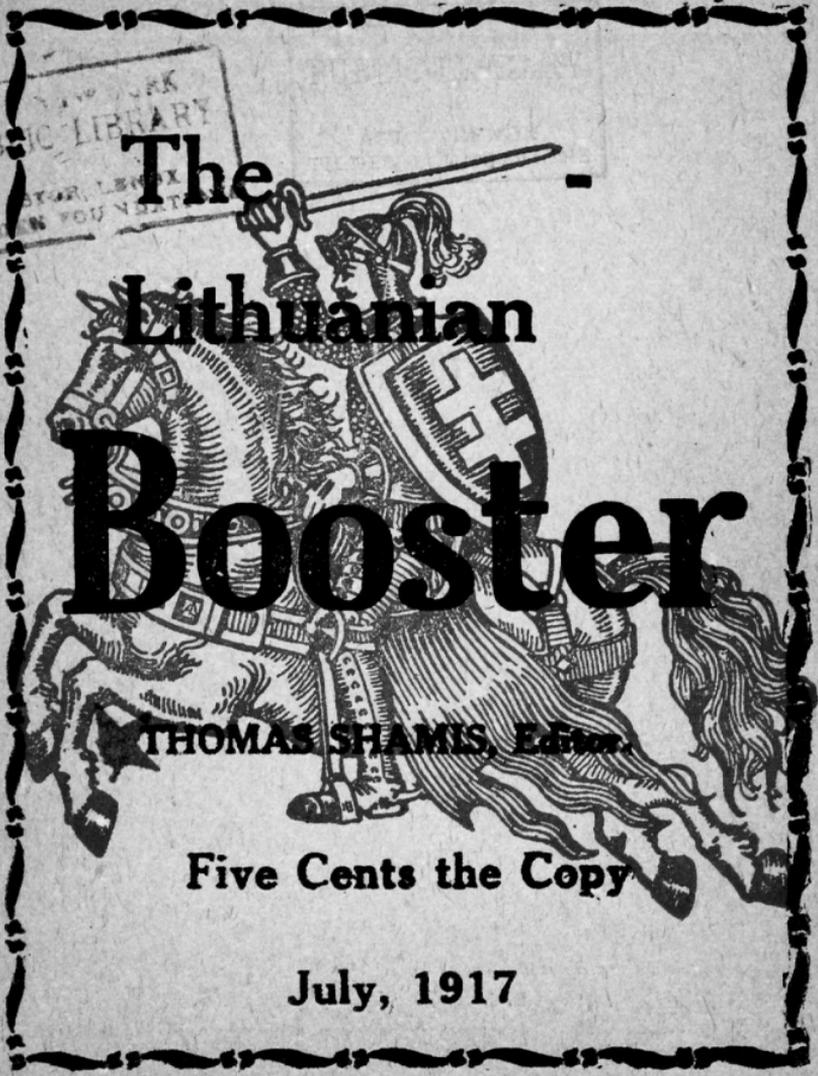
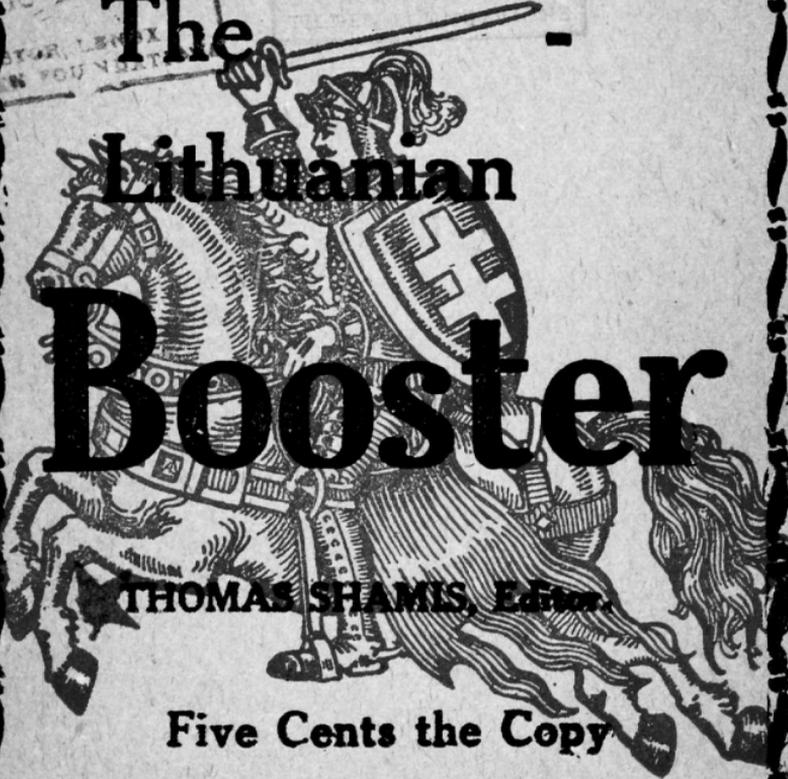


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The Lithuanian Booster



THOMAS SHAMIS, Editor.

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July, 1917

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THE LITHUANIAN BOOSTER

ABOUT LITHUANIA AND LITHUANIANS

Thomas Shamis, Editor

Entered at Kingston, Pa., P. O. as Second Class Mail Matter.

Vol. 2

July, 1917

No. 2

LITHUANIA

O LITHUANIA, this is my prayer,
 The wish of none but cowards dare?
 Nay, let the battle's front be mine!
 To me the forward ranks assign!
 Deserved success shall gain my side,
 Though e'en with conflict 'tis allied,
 Lithuania, this shall be my prayer.

THOMAS SHAMIS.

GERARD ON LITHUANIA

by
THE EDITOR

WEDNESDAY morning, May 23, I interviewed Mr. James W. Gerard, former Ambassador to Germany. My purpose for the interview was to know the understanding of the German government and the American view of the Lithuanian situation in Europe. "Do you know the Lithuanians from the Poles?" was a question I asked and he answered in the affirmative. "When Germany refers to Poland does she refer to the Lithuanian in the name of Poland?" Mr. Gerard answered that the difference between the two nations and the two nationalities is as bright as day to the average German.

He told me he held the view that the Lithuanians are a sort of Slav race living in the Baltic provinces. I explained to him that the Lithuanian language differs

from that of the Slav. In accounts of the Battle of Tannenburg in some German and in all Polish histories there is claim of a splendid Polish army, but the principle forces were the Lithuanians and the historians erred. I explained to him that the Lithuanian language is the only perfect language in existence. He asked how many Lithuanians live in the United States. I answered that in the United States there are about one million Lithuanians.

He asked who do the Lithuanians prefer, Germany or Russia? I told him that when the two monarchs were on the thrones Lithuania's only hope could be that of a buffer state and a very unpleasant situation between a bear and a dog. On my asking how does Germany look to the Lithuanian question, he said von Hindenburg knows the Lithuanians well and he oftentimes mentions Lithuania and Kurland as a part of Germany proper.

"In your reference to the Polish Problem did you include the Lithuanian?" I asked. "Germany," he said, "knows the Lithuanian and the Pole."

I asked what will the United States do toward Lithuania and Mr. Gerard said that the United States will come to the rescue of Lithuania.



LITHUANIANS

by
ANDRIUKAS

THE Lithuanians for a long time were classed with the Slavs whom they were supposed to have resembled in many features. But from whom, in reality, the Lithuanians, a distinctive race in Europe, widely differ.

At one time they controlled an immense empire extending from the Baltic (Baltas, in the Lithuanian language meaning white) to the Black sea.

A writer of the past generation in: "The Inhabitants of the World" says of the Lithuanians at the time of their loss of prestige in Europe: "During the devastating wars of the thirteenth century the very race itself threatened to disappear, or at least become absorbed in the surrounding elements." The Russians have made attempts to Russianize, the Poles to Polo-

nize, and the Germans to Germanize, a work which they carried on with some success, but not with the success they had anticipated. In spite of fact, that Lithuanians were assailed by fierce and unrelenting enemies, it has contrived to preserve its national individuality to this day, when all Lithuanian sons are awake and alive at work to help acclaim itself to the world. The growth in the pure Lithuanian stock previous to the outbreak of the world war has been great and rapid.

The Lithuanians are divided into two groups: The upper, Samogita (Augstaiciai) and the lower, Zmude or Zemaiciai. Of all the European tongues the Lithuanian closely resembles the ancient Sanskrit.

Making a study of olden Lithuanian literature and poetry this same writer finds beautiful national traits. He says "The Lithuanian songs or dainos show them as shrewd observers, at times mildly sarcastic, gentle and sad, full of feeling for nature. Notwithstanding many stormy days and great national

heroes they have preserved the memory of no single hero, they sing of no warlike deeds, and rather than boast of their deeds they weep for those who fell on the battlefield." That is characteristic of the Lithuanians who were a tolerant and peace loving people that lived in great forests, and rushed off fearlessly to protect their brothers when an enemy had fallen upon them. In the present war they are made to slay their brethren and destroy their homes, because of their former sentiment. Of the national songs this same writer says: "The national songs are favorably distinguished by a marked reserve and delicacy of sentiment. They have deep affections but never give public expression to them in unbecoming language. Of all European tongues, Lithuanian while destitute of augmentives, is richest in diminutives of endearment, which may be multiplied indefinitely by being applied to verbs, and adverbs as well as to nouns and adjectives. These diminutives of endearment impart a peculiar tone to their songs, which, however, abound also in expressions

of grief, sadness, and even of despair. Of the earliest literature, consists largely of the *raudas*—that is songs of mourning or farewell and of wailings analogous to the Corsicans, but without the fierce strain of violence mingled with the grief of the southern races. The poetry of the Lithuanians has the sadness, one might say, of a people that is dying out." This is how the Lithuanians appeared to this writer, and well-founded were his doubts of its future, whereas he found but one publication "*Auszra*" in the Lithuanian language at that time. How differently he would have concluded one may surmise from the fact that in the United States alone there are over thirty Lithuanian publications, dailies, weeklies, etc. Books are coming out rapidly, new writers, writers of talent and promise have already dipped their pens, poets are singing new and beautiful songs, Lithuania is vibrating with the freshness of awakening, of youth. With each day their greatest labors are forced ahead with growing impetus,

MEMORANDUM

by the
Lithuanian Information Bureau
Washington, D. C.

To the Department of State of the United States:

The latest news from Europe announces that a certain German political party has suggested to the government the annexation of Lithuania to Germany. Lithuanians most violently protest against such an idea. This is the sort of a recompense which the Germans offer to a nation whose country has been reduced to ruins and all of value carried off to Germany, and whose sons have been forcibly enrolled in the ranks or deported to Germany.

Lithuanians pray the good God to help the United States to a speedy victory, as they believe a question of Lithuania will then receive a better consideration, and they hope that the United States will help to restore political independence to the Lithuanian nation.

A despatch also reaches us stating that the Polish Council demands of the Central Powers that its activities be extended to part of Lithuania. Lithuanians ask the Poles to keep off of Lithuania once and for all. Poland for Poles, Lithuania for the Lithuanians.



TOLERANT

THAT Poland's patriots could not become true brothers of the Quakers or other civilized, in a despatch from Narva where there is a large number of Lithuanian refugees and among them there is a Lithuanian priest who at church services sang hymns in the Lithuanian language immediately a few Polish women who happened to be in the church at the services started to make noise, but the priest or the people did not stop, and soon after the services these trouble makers attacked the priest in his home for bringing a "pagan language" (? Ed.) into the church and angrily informed the priest that they will carry their wrong to the bishop. Their wrong because a Lithuanian refuses to say his prayers in the beloved language of the Godmother of Warsaw! Poland only wants the Lithuanian body and soul, cap and boots, etc. This Lithuanian priest is a true Lithuanian, and his example should be followed by all the Lithuanian priests in the stranded lands and also in these United States.

MY POVERTY

by
ANDRIUKAS

MY Environment is of the rich. Mechanically propelled revolutionaries, pungent hot fumes arising from the forge below; ceaseless ten hours of rumbling, thundering noises. Here my soul finds its pleasures and delights. It is my inspiring environment giving food to my soul contributing fuel to its burning spirit.

A word about myself; cloaked in a patched intellectual suit, resembling the outward side of a chimney, it is made of random bits of leftovers of greater intellectual cloaks.

Leaning upon the bending cane of experience, I guide myself onto an imaginary goal. The wayside of my journey has its delights and sorrows, which

delay my progress. The shady lanes of a quiet loving and trusting heart bid me enter and enjoy.

The deep chasms of gloom and despondency with its accompaniment of melancholy frighten me, as the blackness of a stormy sky.

In night's garden my star shines beckoning me to hasten, to quicken my step. It smiles at my simple contentment along my journey's road. It bends down to me and whispers of great happiness, of glory, of honor.

Down upon my fast wearing sandals of ambition I gaze, mournfully I think that they will not last me to reach my destined domain. I sink upon the earth to rest and imbibe myself with new strength to go on.

RISE LITHUANIA

OUT of the Pagan darkness,
 Out of descensions, vain,
 Rise, Lithuania, beloved,
 Rise, and take heart again!

Out of taxation's ravage,
 Out of the despot's sway,
 See, Lithuania, is dawning
 For thee a new, free day!

Out of the smoke of battle,
 Out of the din and strife,
 Rise to a larger triumph,
 Rise to a nobler life!

Gather thy sons and daughters
 Out of the East and West,
 Thrill them with love of Country,
 Zeal to do thy behest.

Call them to give their substance,
 Time, talents, money, all;
 Call, for thy loyal children
 Wait but to hear that call!

See, they will bring thee wisdom,
 Gathered in lands afar;
 All their best gifts are waiting
 To speed thy rising star.

Call them to render service,
 Service of heart, head, hand;
 They but wait thy bidding,
 Their loved, their native land.

Work out thy own salvation
 Then in the fear of God;
 Shake off oppression's fetters,
 Shake off the tyrant's rod!

Gather thy sons and daughters,
 Seek them the wide world o'er;
 Welcome them to their home-land,
 Bid them depart no more.

Then from the rack of ages,
 Then from the age-long strife,
 Rise, Lithuania, beloved,
 Rise to a glorious life.

MARY E. MARSHMAN.



GERMANS

LITHUANIA has been occupied by the Germans and have placed the inhabitants in a prison and locked the door, so that little news comes from the people, very seldom it is mentioned in press despatches. Since the German occupation they are publishing a Lithuanian newspaper that comes to America. The purpose of the newspaper is to be the best informant on the present day, but little credit can be given to this paper as it is censored by the German officers. Therefore its news cannot be relied on. Since Germans occupied Lithuania, they put heavy taxes on the people, together with other taxarion it makes things burdensome, but the climax is reached, they are robbing mother nature, annihilating forests, putting poison in lakes and streams, poisoning the fish, all this is done that nothing be left of natural resources for the poor starving Lithuanian.

The Germans have cast a line for the Lithuanian. Newspapers state that it was announced for February to give the proclamation to the Lithuanians for the establishment of the Kingdom of Lithuania. The German councils vision of the recruiting of Lithuanian soldiers is plainly seen they want to get hold of Lithuania offering them a kingdom, and then Lithuanian soldiers taken over by the German officers and it will be with pleasure to hear of this Lithuanian legion being filled by prisoners of war as was the case of Poland's. Poland went after the bait. Lithuania has steered clear. Germany, had better offer her dirty tricks to some south sea island inhabitants than offering them to a nation who knows Germany.



BOOSTERIALS

America All.

The entrance of America into this world war will brush the earth from the old tyrannies into newer liberty.

The governor of Ryga is a Lett.

China is divided. Her internal revolution may mean the uniting of Asia against democracy.

Soft coal just twenty cents more per ton and hard coal just sixty cents more per ton, all this to meet the seventy million dollars mine workers wage increase. There is no third party to this affair, he is supposed to foot the bill.

JUST The truth, for that's enough;
JOIN The Boosters—that's the stuff.

The time is ripe to let the czar try Siberia for a while.

From Berlin comes news that high authorities have recognized the Lithuanian Council composed of prominent Lithuanians in Lithuania.

Poland's patriots want the world to know that for cultural, economical and political reasons Lithuania must belong to the ancient kingdom of Poland.

Lithuania will never unite. No while there is a drop of Lithuanian blood.

It is very easy to catch flies with vinegar.

To let the Mexican "work out his own salvation" will be the first good work he had anything to do with.

Norway is groaning under the hardships from the German warfare.

On account of the many crooks along the road of life many people prefer to cut the corners.

Sunshine is said to be healthy, but there is nothing to beat a shady spot on a hot day.

Don't confuse hope with foolishness.

ECONOMY

AMERICA is facing a crisis. Now is the time to demonstrate our ability not only as producers, but as economists; assistants to the great cause of humanity and permanent peace.

Let us meet it bravely, forego the luxuries, economize time and money. Assist the neighbor in any way practical to solve the impending problem. Use a little artistic sense and trim your last season hat, touch up that pretty gown your friends so much admired and wear it with the air of a patriot, knowing full well as a loyal woman that not only to our country, but to the great Master above we are making a sacrifice in his name for the betterment of humanity at home and abroad. The time is here.

Germans are very inhuman to the Letts in a month they have shot over 2,000 Letts upon circumstantial evidences drummed up by petty officers.

Being grateful to the man who tells you to forget your troubles; gives you the opportunity to listen to his.

The Chinese method of paying his doctor when he is well and making the doctor pay him when he is sick, could be worked in this time of high prices; when food stuffs are down below normal then make the people pay, and when they reach high mark make the speculators pay the people.

Uncle Sam depends upon you to back your patriotism with money by subscribing to the U. S. Liberty Loan.

German "kultur" has reached its height now they are transforming dead human bodies of soldiers into oil and fertilizer.

America is said to be the melting pot, and Russia is a smelting furnace. Out of this furnace a new nation will come.

Your editor during the past month addressed several of the high schools, seminary and private clubs. Telling the aspiration of the Lithuanians with brief reviews of the history of this ancient race and language forms. Lauding Lithuania as the earliest home of civilization. The schools visited:

Wilkes-Barre High.

Kingston High.

Edwardsville High.

Dorranceton High.

Wilkes-Barre Business College.

Scranton Central.

Plymouth High.

Shickshinny High.

Ashley High.

Wyoming Seminary.

Y. M. C. A.

Are you a Booster?

Every Lithuanian should request his member of the House of Representatives to amend House resolution Forty-one so that it would include the establishment of a united Lithuania.

The duma has put the "nick" in Nicholas.

Chicago's nights are changing from the white way to plugging in the garden.

Russia should guard her liberty, for it lies between the overthrow of despotism and the advent of the political boss.

Ireland has a home battle. It is time for the friends and relatives of soldiers who are fighting side by side to stand side by side at home. Ireland is somewhat commercial, but mainly religious. Ireland's love of the religious feuds runs high. There is new hope in the union. Canada, French and British; Protestant and Catholic, can work in union. It is time for Ireland.

Send in your subscription NOW.

FACING STARVATION

The Lithuanian Bureau at Lausanne has made public statistics received from the region of Lithuania occupied by the Germans. From these it appears that 160,000 civilians are penniless and starving, living in cellars and dugouts. Four hundred thousand farms in that region are reported to have been devastated.

The death rate is said to be growing alarmingly on account of the unsanitary conditions under which the people are living. The people need quick help.



Lithuanian deputation, who waited on the German Foreign Secretary Dr. Zimmermann, were assured that the German Government desired to grant Lithuania self government at the conclusion of peace, according to a Berlin despatch to Reuter's. The delegation outlined the reforms desired by the Lithuanian people.

X

Pingu darymo paslaptis.
 Patarles. P. Mulevicius, Chicago, Ill.
 Vaizdeliai.
 Didesnis, Negu Hindenburgas.
 Apie Religijos Pradzia.
 Pazinkime Socijalizma.

LECTURES

HISTORIC LITHUANIA.

THE LITHUANIAN QUESTION.

These talks are designed for churches, lodges, literary and historical societies, and trade and commercial bodies. They are an attempt to make people think to some purpose about the Lithuanian.

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Woodrow Wilson, Washington, D. C.,
May 25th, 1917.



