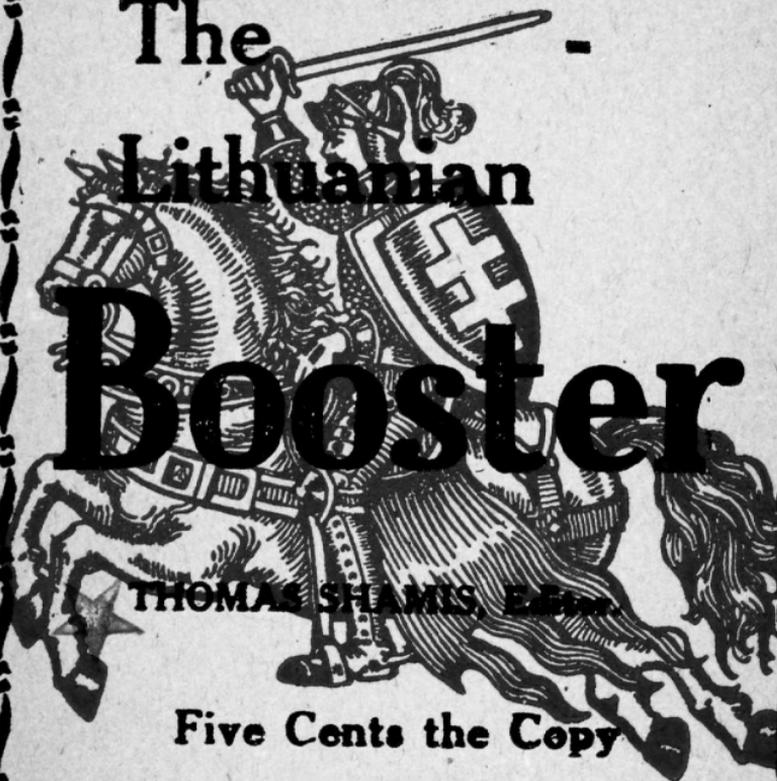


AUG 16 1919

The
Lithuanian
Booster

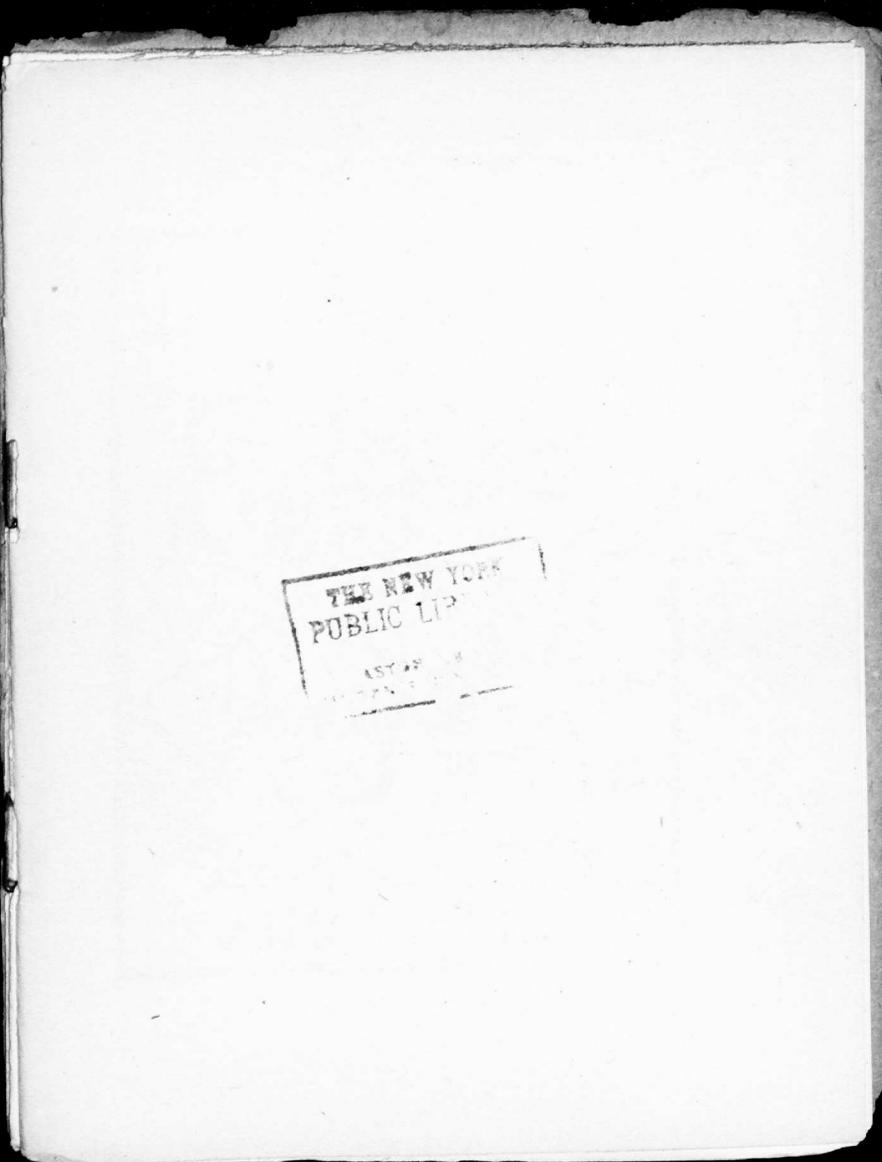


THOMAS SHANIS, Editor

Five Cents the Copy

September, 1917

TKK



LEOPARD CANNOT CHANGE SPOTS

by
THE EDITOR

THE Scranton Times on July 3, 1917 printed "Something About the Lithuanians" and on July 6th in the same newspaper appeared "Lithuania and Lithuanians" by Rev. A. Zychowicz. A violent attack upon Lithuania, Lithuanians and your editor, that, this learned man steps down below the level of truth, recommending himself as a man of honesty and integrity and further attaching the name of a leader of men, claiming to know all the history of Lithuania and Poland, but by his writing doesn't reveal the first part of elementary history of neither country. And who is a living example of the olden Polish patriot runs riot, his sneaking and low-down tactics trying to impress the English reading public with false and untrue statements which are baseless.

He further says that the article was written to advertise myself and "Lithuanian Day" which was held on the Fourth of July. Here he shows his real weakness by falling upon personal affairs which had nothing to do with the main object of his criticism and whereas he should have shown facts to base his claims and a careful reading reveals not the inking of any base. And therefore he simply falls flat and tries to lead the reader by placing himself as a historian, whereas he is not even a student of elementary Lithuanian or Polish history. And all this is shown by his own writings.

His claim that Lithuania is not an ethnological, but a political term is without base. The Lithuanian Race is absolutely distinct from the Slavonic family, is known to anyone versed in elementary geography of the universe. Rev. A. Zychowicz would do well to read the article about the Lithuanians in "Geographie Universelle" by Elisee Reclus, Vol. V; and researches of famous linguists, as, Schleicher, Bopp, Pott and

many others. There Rev. A. Zychowicz will find what position the Lithuanians hold among the Indo-European nations. And that the Lithuanians played an important part in the middle age, in Northern Europe. I will again state that the Lithuanians stopped the Mongolian invasion devastating from the East to West. It is admitted by all the historians, who have studied the history of those nations, as, Vladimirski, Lapp, Budanor and many more.

That Rev. A. Zychowicz made statistics of Vilna (Vilno) himself and also tried to count the whole Lithuania single-handed will be shown, and the reader can judge for himself. According to this "statistician" the population of Vilna is about 150,000 with only 2,400 Lithuanians, and 80,000 Poles, the rest Russians and Jews. Here is the quotations from "The International Encyclopedia" Dodd, Mead & Co. New York, : "Vilna.—A government of western Russia. Area 16,420 square miles. The population in 1897 was 1,591,207, of whom Lithuanians formed

about one-half. The rest was composed of Russians (army men, editors), Poles and Jews. The latter numbered about 240,000." I call the kind reader's attention that it is not an uncommon thing in Russia for a governmental censusmaker to record all Lithuanians, who speak Polish or Russian, as Poles and Russians respectively. Hence so large a percentage of Russians and Poles figures in the census books of the forementioned province. And all this in the English language it may be that this Polish reverend cannot read English figures. He concludes that there are about one million Poles in Lithuania who speak the Polish language and will not give up their nationality. Now as I have said on many occasions that the Lithuanians are tolerant but we cannot stay close-mouthed when thieves and misinformants who are discrediting the Lithuanian in the eyes of the world are at work. The Poles can keep their language and customs, the Lithuanians want the Poles to keep off Lithuania once and for all. Poland for Poles, Lith-

uania for Lithuanians.

That Rev. A. Zychowicz errs on Kosciuszko, and falls from being a Polish patriot by giving away Kosciuszko to the Russians. The old saying: "If it's not mine, it's not yours." This tale of his is plain nonsense. Before writing he should have read Chodzko's "Histoire militaire, politique et privee de Kosciuszko," "Leben Kosciuszko" by Falkenstein, "Appleton's American Biography," vol. III, p. 572, "Archiv Vilienskavo General-Gubernatorstva" t.v.c.I, Vilna 1870, p. 143, 144, 145, 146, 147. Again I state that Taddeus Kosciuszko came from Lithuanian stock.

A. Mickiewicz hardly spoke Lithuanian, though as a Lithuanian by birth and as a philologist he must have been acquainted with the language of his fatherland, especially when we remember that at that time the question of Lithuanian language attracted attention at Konigsberg and Vilna universities. But following the custom and exactions of his contempo-

raries Mickiewicz wrote in Polish, though the spirit and the subject of his writings, especially before he left Russia, were truly Lithuanian national. Not counting his poetical works of lesser importance, his great masterpieces, Pan Tadeusz, Konrad Wallenrod, Dziady and Grazyna, are so saturated with the Lithuanian nationalism and Lithuanian patriotism, that a more patriotic work could not be expected from our most ardent nationalist. Konrad Wallenrod and Grazyna will inspire the spirit of nationalism in Lithuanian hearts.

Rev. A. Zychowicz takes hint that my article is against Christianity. The Lithuanians are not against Christianity or culture. In the main the Polish hierarchy carried on the Polonizing of Lithuania whose missionaries instead of learning the Lithuanian language forced the Lithuanians to read Polish prayer books and confess in the Polish language. To further this work they (Polish bishops in Lithuania) disrobed hundreds of our national workers who heeded the call to God

but were stripped of their belongings and forced out of the country. Rev. A. Zychowicz must not forget that the Czecks converted Poland and never dared use the low-down methods the Poles carried on in liberty-loving Lithuania.

Could the Lithuanians tolerate such a union with murderous treachery of Grand Duke Jagello, who murdered his uncle Keistutis, who ruled Lithuania from 1344 to 1382. Also had Vytautas cast in irons. And this same Jaggello "Judas of Lithuania" who sold himself for the rustle of the silken gown of a Polish princess. Has earned for him the title of a degenerate and a traitor to his motherland, Lithuania. Rev. A. Zychowicz says, that Poland was tolerant to all languages. He means the reverse. For any Lithuanian to-day will tell you that their fathers know when Poland was in power it tore down Lithuanian signs in Lithuania, and in there place substituted Polish. This is a sample of their brotherhood. The Poles like to be idolized, with their proud and over-

bearing spirit want the Lithuanians to kneel at the feet of the sons of the godmother of Warsaw.

That Poland tries to keep the Lithuanians under her folds and is having a hard time to keep them together is shown by the unity of their collections. The Lithuanians collected four times more money for relief of the Lithuanian sufferers in Lithuania than the Poles. And the trickery of the Poles did not help them collect under misrepresentation. Telling the donors that their donations will reach Lithuania. Whereas, many individuals of different nationalities have contributed for suffering Lithuanians, but as these donations were transmitted to the Polish Committee in Vilna, they did not reach the Lithuanian sufferers, the money being used for the establishment of Polish schools in Lithuania for the purpose of Polonizing our nation. "Lithuanian Day" on the Fourth of July last was a success and holds the first place for the largest attendance at Valley View Park. And here I will tell Rev. A. Zychowicz that at their outing

on Decoration Day last I was at the park and could lay claim to 50% of the attendance were Lithuanians. And you could count the Poles on your fingers on the Fourth. Do the Poles exchange friendship or fatherly spirit they profess? Well, I should say NOT. A priest should practice what he preaches, telling his flock to do same. As for Lithuania uniting with Poland, Never, not after the past experiences the Lithuanians had with these unfriendly, slandering and malign friends. Lithuania will be free, and the Poles will have plenty to look after in their own Poland.

Rev. A. Zychowicz labels me a forger and a counterfeiter. And in his own ranks overflow with historic forgery. Poland's patriots are trying to deprive Lithuania's just due. In "Munsey's Magazine" Vol LIV, No. II, there is an article "The New Kingdom of Poland" by F. A. Ogg, on page 257 there is a map of the tenth century. The eastern part of Europe is marked Russia bordering the provinces

of Poland. When as the case was then that between these provinces of Poland and Russia extended Lithuania. Now this big humbug is approved by Mr. Ogg and passed the editors of Munsey Magazine. And these Polish patriots thought no one will see the error and all will be Poland. He who laughs last, laughs best.

The reason for Poland's windstorm about Lithuania is because the Lithuanian after many stormy days and a great many national heroes they have preserved the memory of no single hero, they sing no warlike songs, never boast of their deeds, but weep for the fallen. The Poles seeing this spread news that there is no Lithuania or Lithuanians. The Lithuanians cannot unite with such tricksters. Rev. A. Zychowicz would do well to learn more of his own Galician history and not try to cope with the national by his baseless fallacy. The wide world can be surprised to hear that in the lips of a Polish priest is such historic slander. Rev. A. Zychowicz

would do good, if he studied a little more history himself instead of advising others to do so.

* * *

To The Scranton Times for publishing the Polish view of Lithuania, I express thanks in the name of suffering and gagged Lithuania.



To know Lithuania read
A Sketch of the Lithuanian Nation
by
J. Gabrys
And other Lithuanian Literature.
All for fifteen cents. Postpaid.

Address:

THE LITHUANIAN BOOSTER
27 SHORT STREET :-: KINGSTON, PA.

THE LITHUANIAN BOOSTER

ABOUT LITHUANIA AND LITHUANIANS

MAGAZINE FOR BOOSTERS

Edited by THOMAS SHAMIS

Five Cents the Copy - Fifty Cents the Year

Published Monthly by THOMAS SHAMIS

27 Short Street Kingston, Pa.

