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# The Lithuanian Booster



THOMAS SHAMIS, Editor

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# THE LITHUANIAN BOOSTER

ABOUT LITHUANIA AND LITHUANIANS

Thomas Shamis, Editor

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## TO STAND

**L**ITHUANIANS, Poland tries to make us serfs. God made us free; Poland or any other nation has no right to make us serfs. Lithuanians raise in body, show the world, that we, the remnant of once powerful nation, tricked by false prophets and crafty politicians. Century nights have passed, and freeman shall be Freeman—Lithuanians.

## ABOUT LITHUANIA

**L**ITHUANIA is situated along the shores of the Baltic Sea. It occupies the shores of the Niemen river. At one time Lithuania comprised the largest kingdom in Europe, constituting eighteen provinces and four tributaries, it had a population of twelve million. It occupied the lands laying between the Baltic and Black seas. German Lithuania constitutes the greater part of East Prussia, especially those provinces along the sea shore. Russia Lithuania includes seven provinces of which Vilnius, Kaunas, Suvalkai and Grodno are the most prosperous and densely populated.

Lithuania is chiefly an agricultural country. Secondly it is a commercial nation. As an agricultural country it is noted for its great supply of rye, wheat, corn, honey, linen, hemp, etc. Commercially Lithuania is prominent for its exports of lumber, salt and live stock.

The Lithuanians are of Balto-Lettic race of the Indo-European group. The Lithuanian language is the oldest in Europe. It retains most of the archaic forms, as the dual number and a number of cases of the old Sanskrit language. The Lithuanian language is one of the most perfect language in existence to-day.

Originality of the Lithuanian is very fascinating for one must study the Greek and the Latin commentaries to know the Lithuanians. According to Simon Daukantas, a great historian and a scholar who lived in the early part of the eighteenth century and was a master of philosophy at the University of Warsaw, the Lithuanians emigrated from Asia Minor into Europe many centuries before the Christian era. He claims that the Lithuanians inhabited Asia Minor along the shores of the Aegean Sea and that some migrated to Europe and later fell under the rulership of the Persians. This seems very logical since the Lithuanian mythology, stories, names, old religion,

language and even the very nature of the people, in many instances, are almost identical with those of ancient Greeks.

After settling in Europe along the Danube river the Lithuanians found that they were threatened by many surrounding neighbors. Therefore they proceeded toward the north until they reached the Baltic shores at that time called by the names of "Mare Hesperium" and "Mare Suevicum". This country abounded with clusters of lakes, impassable marshes and bristling forests. It was in this country that the Lithuanians settled. Here they lived for many centuries without being influenced by other tribes or nations. During these centuries the Lithuanians developed their own religion, mythology, and democratic principals, which were to predominate in later Lithuanian history.

Although their only outlet was toward the north yet by means of navigation they carried on an extensive trade with the Phoenicians, the Greeks and later

the Romans. The Lithuanians exported a great quantity of amber, which could be obtained only in Lithuania.

During the first ten centuries of the Christian era, the Lithuanians lived in peace and harmony, only now and then disturbed by the Norsemen from the Baltic Sea, and Danes, who finally settled in England in 78 A. D.

From 1386 to 1569 Lithuanian union with Poland remained nominal. In 1569 by the treaty of Lublin the two nations entered on an agreement that each one would be on equal footing. Many Lithuanians emigrated from their country on account of this eternal struggle as early as 1632. Simon Daukantas tells us that the Lithuanians founded many colonies, among which the colony on the island of Guadalupa, which was purchased by King Jacob of Kurtzsh. In 1632 it was captured by the English and the inhabitants were taken prisoners to New York.

Availing themselves of the opportunity the Rus-

sians, and the Germans came into Lithuania. Frederick, made negotiations with Catherine II of Russia and effected the first partition of Lithuania and Poland July 22, 1772, the second in 1792 and the third in 1795. Thus Lithuania was brought to its downfall. Its name was erased from the map of Russia. Its lands were divided into provinces of Suvalkai, Vilnius, Kaunas, Grodno, Minsk, Mogilev and Prussian provinces. In 1864 the Czar of Russia forbade the usage of the Lithuanian language not only in the legal documents but in any publication whatsoever.

For many years the Lithuanians have endured untold injustice at the hands of Russia and Germany. Their political rights have been taken away, they have been reduced almost to poverty by heavy taxation and illegal confiscation of land and property, which had been in possession of those Lithuanians who revolted against the oppression of Russia in 1831 and 1863. The right of freedom of the press and speech has been forbidden. Thus education was brought to the

lowest ebb. Russia not only has failed to use the high tax money for supporting the educational institutions in Lithuanian, but on the contrary Russia disbanded the University of Vilnius, imprisoned, exiled and shamefully put to death those who attempted to uphold Lithuanian culture and education—even private schools have been prohibited. These are only a few examples of the Russian and German policies used for the purpose of exterminating the Lithuanian.

The day of reckoning has arrived—Russia is in chaos. Germany with its rule is being despised. Crucifixion of the Lithuanian cannot be silenced.

## HEROINE

**T**HE Wide World Magazine No. 235 tells a story of the invasion of Lithuania by the German army:

"Helen Doveika! Helen Doveika! the devils are coming!"

"It was Ona, the aged servant of the schoolmistress of the little Lithuanian town of Zizmory, who spoke, and, as she called up the stairs to Helen Doveika, who was resting from fatigue and anxieties of many days and nights of alarm, due to the German rush over Lithuania, her cracked and tremulous voice laid as much stress as possible on the word "devils," which, in the ancient tongue of the alleged home of the Aryan race, has a special signification. "Devil," in Lithuanian, is a synonym for both German and the Evil One. Something more than a synonym, too. For the Lithuanians mindful of many another Drang nach Osten of the Teutons, who, time after time, have

laid waste their fair lands—and on occasions have suffered sore defeats for their pains, as at Tannenberg, in 1410—picture the devil as veritably a man of typical German physiognomy—a "blond beast," stalwart, unscrupulous, arrogant, and sardonic.

"Helen Doveika, a woman of about twenty-six, with that purity of complexion which is as striking in characteristic of the true Lithuanian as those classic Grecian features that impress all travellers who wander along the banks of the Niemen, sat down near the window and looked out into the garden.

"The door opened, and the drunken captain stood before her, muttering... With a swift movement she seized the wretch's sabre and drove it through his neck... Dressed in a captain's cloak, Helen Doveika, let herself down from the window... Now she is with the Russian Red Cross."

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WHEN WILL THE FOLK BE FREE

**L**ITHUANIA, hungry, torn and weak  
 With heart in sorrow great  
 For woman, child and baby born,  
 All slaughtered in mad hate.

Ah! times there were in days gone by  
 When Beauty's soft caress  
 With Joy and Peace entwined that land  
 And reigned with Happiness.

Beneath each thatched roofed, log-built home  
 The happy fam'lies dwell  
 On Nemunas' green lowlands wide  
 On hill or sloping dell.

At harvest time beneath the sun  
 The rose cheeked girls reap hay;  
 And whistling youths the farming tend  
 Or thirst at brooks allay.

The Angelus so softly floats  
 From distant belfry tower,  
 When happy peasants' prayers ascend  
 At eve's reflecting hour.

Then o'er the woody hills of pine  
 Or mighty oak, the sky  
 Exchanging light for peaceful night  
 Brings rest; in days gone by.

When will this land regain its right?  
 When will the folk be free?  
 'Tis time to liberate the lands  
 About the Baltic sea.

Remove your bloobstained greedy grasp,  
 Allow that people rise.  
 Let clear Lithuanian words resound  
 And echo without disguise.

JOSEPH WILTRAKIS.

## CROSS

**T**HE kaiser is making a special cross for Prince Isenbourg von Birstein, Civil Governor of Lithuania, who has been elected "Doctor Honoris Causa" (Whatever that is, but to the Lithuanians he is: Human Meat Eater.) by the University of Firbourg, in Brisgan, for "services" rendered to the German cause in Lithuania. The prince is distinguished for his brutality and introduction of slavery into Lithuania.

Among the "faithful" we find:

Count York,

Burgomaister Pohl,

Major Putkamer,

Secretary Mohl,

Herr Trautmann and

"Most Faithful" Baron Ropp.

Each of these "honorable humanitarians" are busy raking the chestnuts out of the world war fire in Lithuania.

## FREE LITHUANIA

**L**ITHUANIA declared her independence of Russia on January 8, 1918. Dr. Szlupas, formerly of Scranton, Pa., in a cablegram states that he presided at a conference of Lithuanian delegates held in Stockholm, beginning January 5, at which the declaration was made. This conference followed one held at the end of last October in Vilna, which was attended by 250 delegates from all parts of Lithuania. They unanimously adopted a resolution favoring independence for Lithuania and its union with Lettland. When the declaration of independence becomes effective, it will add to the nations of Europe one whose inhabitants have proudly preserved their purity of stock for centuries, resisting alike assimilation by Teutons and Slavs, and continuing, in spite of persecution, to speak a tongue closely akin to Sanskrit.

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Poland's movement to engulf Lithuania is about crushed but the tail can only wiggle a little while.

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### GERMAN GLUT

**T**HE famous forest of Bielaveja, in Lithuania, the largest in Europe, has fell prey to the Germans. They have installed forty mills and are working day and night and they (Germans) will not be able to exhaust it for a number of years to come. This forest is also famed for the habitat of the few flocks of Aurochs, the hunting of which was reserved for the czar. The forest has been the object of many legends and songs. Now it is the scene of numerous prisoners of war driven by the German Glut.

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A break in machinery accounts for this April-May issue. It must be remembered that war operations have the right of way everywhere now and that all business is subject more or less to delays. We hope to avoid delay in the issuing of this magazine hereafter.

## POLANDS PRIDE

**Q**UIETA non movere so Poland's puff begins, and it (Poland) will swallow Lithuania et al. In The Journal of Race Development, for October, 1917, there is a puffed article by Mr. B. Kulakowski, who is steeped in Polish propoganda that even India will become Poland. Here is his first statement: "The free with the free, the equal with the equal." so read the ancient paper. Good! Who were the ones to start the riots during the sessions at Lublin and other places? The Poles! When the Lithuanians quelled them then the Poles hitched the Polish heirarchy to the cart and spread "Polski Wiera" and instead of carrying the message of brotherhood did the most destructive work that ever could be conceived in a human mind. Second statement: "The polish, Lithuanian and Ruthenian (Ukrainian) nation will for the

second time in their history build up a nation which will be again the source of strength and riches, etc." Peace in Europe, Good will to Poland, but the Lithuanians, Ukrainians and others: RAUS !?!

His data is so fictional that he makes one imagine that there is no equal to him for this puffing stunt. The figures are so nicely covered and so much absurd. And this same "pan" gives one the understanding that Polish lands are the main sustenance of Russia. Cut off Poland and Russia starves. If the writer puffed his article on statistics need we say anything of morals? And it takes seventeen pages of paper which the Lithuanians or the Ukrainians never will approve.

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## ARTICLE

**I**N The Journal of Race Development, Vol. 8, No. 2 October, 1917, appeared an article: "Lithuania: Its Desires and Claims," by John S. Lopatto, Esq., President of the Central Committee for the Relief of Lithuanian War Sufferers. The article briefly writes of location and history.

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**Statement of the ownership and management of THE LITHUANIAN BOOSTER, published monthly at Kingston, Pa. (Required by Act of Congress, August 24, 1912.)**

Editor, Publisher and Sole Owner, Thomas Shamis  
27 Short Street, Kingston, Pa. Signed, THOMAS SHAMIS.

Sworn to and subscribed to before me this ninth day of April, 1918. W. I. Williams, J. P. (My commission expires January, 1922.)

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## SIMONDS QUILTS

**I**N "The New York Tribune" and a few other newspapers there appeared articles by a certain Frank H. Simonds, who writes that Lithuania is Poland and that there are no people of the Lithuanian race. His attack started in one of his articles "Germany's Peace Proposal to Russia" which brought protests from the Lithuanians and Ukrainians, And after the facts were made Mr. Simonds' stories could not stand for the rights of small nations. About the middle of January, 1918. Mr. Simonds resigned from "The New York Tribune" he would not give reason for his resignation. "It is true I have resigned," he said, "There is nothing further to be said about the matter."

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## 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.

For dates and terms address,

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LITHUANIA SUFFERS

FOR MANY MONTHS PASS THE SHOWER OF SHELL

