

THE LITHUANIAN BOOSTER

ABOUT LITHUANIA AND LITHUANIANS

Thomas Shamis, Editor

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CONVENTION

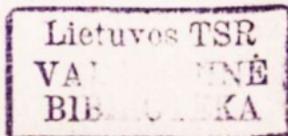
WE have met.

Madison Square Garden was the scene.

Lithuanians showed that they are shoulder to shoulder with Uncle Sam and the Allies. The Lithuanians wish that when Uncle Sam sets down to the Peace Table that he will take care of the Lithuanian question and do justice to this ancient Aryan race with the purest language in existence that the originality be kept alive.

"Is the Lithuanian patriotic?" Huh! can a fish swim, or a bull dog lick a donkey?

P1332-8318



LITHUANIA

LITHUANIANS, being of Indo-European origin, have been dwelling, since prehistoric times on the southwest coast of the Baltic Sea, in the basin of the Niemen. In the beginning of the thirteenth century Lithuanian armies saved Europe from the Mongolian invasion, which was a menace to civilization then in its cradle. In the middle of the fourteenth century, after having liberated a great part of the Russians from the yoke of the Mongols, the Lithuanians formed a Lithuanian-Russian State, extending from the Baltic to the Black Seas. In 1410 the Lithuanians with the aid of the Slavs, stopped the advance of the Teutons towards the East by crushing them at Grunvald. The same Teutons who are at the present strewing a path of fire and blood over Europe. In the sixteenth century, Lithuania contracted a political union with Poland similar to that which existed between Sweden and Norway, or between Austria and

Hungary. In 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 eighteenth century, Lithuania at the same time with Poland, was divided between Prussia and Russia; that country east of the Niemen was joined to Russia, and that west of the river was joined to Prussia. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, Napoleon created the Grand Duchey of Warsaw, to which he added a part of Lithuania, which to-day is known under the name of the province of Suvalkai. After the Treaty of Vienna, the Grand Duchey of Warsaw was joined to Russia. Before the war the largest part of Lithuania was a part of Russia, and the less important part to East Prussia. In spite of the centuries of struggles, and in spite of the foreign influences, the Lithuanians, although divided, succeeded in maintaining their language, and their customs. /

IN NEW YORK

LITHUANIANS: Well, here we are, all met in Madison Square Garden to talk things over. There's no one in to introduce us, and I don't care. I dislike being introduced anyhow. Don't you? Besides there's no need of it. Really, we know each other already, for aren't we all Lithuanian folks alike? Don't we each follow about the same routine day in day out and don't we face the same problems and fight the same inconveniences? Don't we all have to practice the same petty economies and do without a lot of the things we like, and work and save and plan in order to have a few of the things we need?

Then, too, there's something else. The moment has come when nothing matters much but the One Big Thing that touches us all. We find that in our inmost souls we are not only acquaintances, but kin.

So let's drop all formalities and get to talking like

kinfolks always do when they meet.

What is the Big Thing now with all of us? What do we hope and pray for daily? If you could have your dearest wish, what would you wish for? Ah, I know! You'd wish that the war might end right now, and that Lithuania would be free and independent. That is it—this hideous war—we'd like to stop it and put an end to war forever.

Well, now, just how hard do you wish for war to cease, and for Lithuania's independence—hard enough to set about making your wish come true?

When you want a new home do you just sit down and wait and wish till a new comes rolling 'round? No, indeed! You don't take it out in wishing and risk doing without it a long time or maybe never get it. You begin to plan and scheme around to get it. You get mighty busy economizing on expenses, perhaps doing without other things, until enough is saved to buy a home. You know jolly well if you get things you want you've got to deny yourself and work for

them. What are we doing, then, to help get our big wish? Just living and going about our affairs as usual depending upon other people to get it for us? We don't depend upon our neighbors when we want a new home, why should we depend upon them to stop the war or get Lithuania's independence?

As you know, the things most needed for winning the war are men, food, money. Lithuania's independence—loyalty to America.

We are sending the men. Are we just going to bid them goodby and consider our duty done? Of course not. So let us feel that it is our duty to help in every way we can in home, farm and factory. Then there's the money. If we buy Liberty Bonds and Thrift Stamps we are furnishing money—not giving it, but lending it, for every cent of it will be paid back to us with interest. And there are the Red Cross and K. of C. and Y. M. C. A. War Funds and Lithuanian Fund. Any self-respecting Lithuanian has given at least a dollar to each of these—if for no other reason—

because others have done so. But can't we give a little more?

There are two kinds of slackers, the one—you know him; the other is the man or woman who wilfully shirks any patriotic duty that he or she can perform. The one is exactly as contemptible as the other.

Now let us go back to the convention. The resolution demanding independence of Lithuania follows:

Whereas, The Lithuanian Nation forms an ethnographic, cultural, economic and politically inseparable body, and

Whereas, The historic past of Lithuania and the present democratic development of the world reaffirms to the Lithuanian Nation the undeniable right to re-establish its own sovereign State, and

Whereas, In the question of its ultimate political destiny, the Lithuanian Nation maintains the right to follow its own national ideals, and

Whereas, Nations can successfully pursue their cultural course and develop their economic resources only when in possession of their full political freedom, and

Whereas, Every Nation has an inherent right to decide its own political destiny, and

Whereas, The present war conditions have rendered the recognition of Lithuanian political freedom of international importance and therefore it becomes a subject to be deliberated upon at the international peace congress, and

Whereas, No nation engaged in war and striving to enslave Lithuania, but the international congress only can give a true guarantee of the political sovereignty of Lithuania, and

Whereas, Our highly esteemed President Woodrow Wilson adheres to the principle declared by him in the senate of the United States, January 22, 1918, that

“No peace can last, or ought to last, which does

not recognize and accept the principle that governments derive all their just powers from the consent of the governed, and that no right anywhere exists to hand people from sovereignty to sovereignty as if they were property."

Therefore, the Convention of Lithuanians of America, after considering the present political situation of Lithuania, RESOLVED—

To respectfully request the President of the United States and the allied as well as the neutral governments of the world to recognize the following demands:

That for the full and unhindered development of Lithuania it is necessary that Lithuania become a sovereign and independent democratic state within its own ethnographic boundaries with the necessary economic corrections.

That the independence of Lithuania be assured by the international peace congress and that delegates of Lithuania be given right to take part with full deliberative powers.

That these resolutions be respectfully presented to our highly esteemed President Woodrow Wilson, who has unceasingly championed protection of the rights of the small and subjected nationalities, and to all allied and neutral governments.

Resolution supporting the United States Government read:

The cause of the United States in this war is identical with the aims of the Lithuanians, and therefore should be fully supported by the Lithuanians of America, by such works as sale of Liberty Bonds and War Saving Stamps, Red Cross work, etc,

As to the Form of Government of Lithuania:

Whereas, the people of Lithuania consist mostly of the working classes;

Whereas, the democratic spirit has always existed among the Lithuanian people,

Therefore, leaving to the citizens of Lithuania to decide the form of government, but standing for democratic principles, we RESOLVE—

That in the state of Lithuania there be infused most widely the principle of true democracy with a republican form of government;

That all citizens of Lithuania regardless of race, faith, sex or class shall have equal rights;

That in the state of Lithuania, the liberty of speech, press, assembly, organizations, religion, and conscience be guaranteed, also personal and home inviolability.

That in Lithuania there be guaranteed to the working class full right and liberty to develop and unite their intellectual and economical powers, to defend itself against exploitations and wrongs. The concentration of capital in the hands of individuals shall be limited and their abusive power restricted;

That the natural wealth and public institutions of Lithuania be nationalized to the extent necessary for the nation's welfare, without transgressing inherent rights and freedom of an individual.

The return of refugees and rebuilding of Lithuania

be fully recompensed by Russia and Germany. And regarding neighboring nations:

That imperialistic tendencies shall be foreign to the state of Lithuania; also the mutual relations between Lithuania and the neighboring nations be based upon the principle of justice and respect of the rights of every nation concerned.

The Lithuanians shall not bear any political or economic union with any foreign nation forced upon them against their will.

In the view of the repeatedly appearing in the press contentions of Poles, having groundless and for Lithuanians' undesirable pretensions to force the union of Lithuania with Poland into a single political body, or to gain access through Lithuania to the Baltic Sea, this convention is laying its protest against the above mentioned efforts of the Poles.

The state of Lithuania shall guarantee the full cultural autonomy to the people of other nationalities residing in Lithuania.

The convention adopted that the national colors of Lithuania be green, white and red. The national anthems of the two countries were sung. Messages of sympathy were received from President Wilson and the Governors of many States for the sufferings of Lithuania in this the world war. Here endeth the convention as planned by Lithuanians themselves.

Lithuanian will do his best,
In North and South and East and West.



MARCH

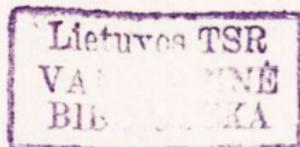
SOUNDS queer! Yes, cannot help it. Funny Times, Just Think! Germany organizes a colonization society for the colonizing of Lithuania; The Poles in all the corners of the world are running secret and public agitations that there is no Lithuania or Lithuanians; Russia does not guarantee independence for Lithuania. Deporting of Lithuanian children to Switzerland to overcome starvation in German occupied territory.

March,
MARCH.

Are you a Booster?

Send in your subscription . NOW.

Kosciusko or Mickiewicz had no germs of Polonia in their craniums that Polish blood was in their veins. True translations of their works show this much. And the Poles bow to these "Clops."



P1332-4318

JUST BETWEEN US

THE LITHUANIAN convention pledged loyalty to America and to the Allies. Nevertheless a representative from a town named in honor of our chief administrator and protector of small and subject nations was ready to answer roll.

"From where?" asked the clerk.

"Wilson, Pennsylvania," he answered.

A LITHUANIAN delegation visited President Woodrow Wilson. The President, replying, expressed his appreciation for the loyal support of the Lithuanian Americans in this war and expressed his heartfelt sympathy with the present condition of Lithuania and with Lithuanian national aspirations.

Have you sent in your subscription yet?

BY THE NIEMEN

(WITH APOLOGY.)

BY the waters of the Niemen in sadness
The lone natives sit silent and weep,
As they muse on the days of their gladness
Now changed to sorrow most deep.
On the banks all covered with flowers
The youths and maids played around;
Then, black death fell sadly in showers
And cruel tyrant in fetters them bound.
Lord, remember the dark desolation
Of thy children, and their sad downfall,
And the boasting of enemy nation
To destroy their dear cities and all!
Oh! behold, how they grieve! but they're hopeful
That their pray'rs will be heard up on High,
That affliction will not be so doleful
That sweet Liberty surely is nigh;

P. J. L.

A VIEW

SVOBODA, a Ukrainian newspaper commenting on Lithuania writes:

"We find an ally in the Lithuanian Nation.

"The Lithuanian Nation in its former intercourses with the Ukrainian nation, leads us to the conclusion that they are our ally.

"The question is a natural one, because the Lithuanian question is the same as the Ukrainian one. The Ukrainian enemy is also Lithuania's enemy. As the Poles are becoming dangerous to the Ukrainians, and the Poles are very unfriendly to the Lithuanians. Historic Poland is dangerous to both the Ukrainians and the Lithuanians. Poles are sharpening their teeth to get ready to get Lithuania and on their right side Ukraine (to the Dniëper river). The Poles believe that they can ride the Jagellon chariot with the Lithuanians and the Ukrainians hitched to this "pan" chariot. (The Poles have another "B" coming

and that is: Never Will "B." Ed.)

"Therefore, without doubt, our goal is communistic. It must be understood that the Lithuanians are friendly toward us. And for that reason we have hope, that this will bring the Lithuanians and the Ukrainians to stronger friendship ties, because there is a hard battle awaiting us, but being friendly we will be victorious over our ancient enemy."

The reader must not draw a conclusion that the Lithuanians and the Ukrainians do not want Poland to be free. With loud voice we acclaim: Free Poland. But never with the Lithuanians and the Ukrainians as the slaves of the Polish aristocracy, or on the false promises of the sons of the godmother who are misrepresenting the Lithuanians and the Ukrainians in the eyes of the world.

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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