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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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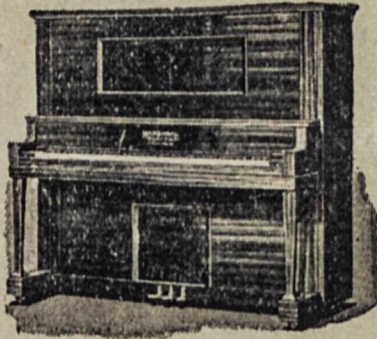
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Vol. 6

Chicago, Illinois, Jan.-Feb., 1924

No. 1



Hail 1924

AMBER

Windows upon windows of seductive displays of beautiful amber made up in various pieces of jewelry make their appearance and are helpfully suggestive to the would-be purchaser of gifts with the approach of the holiday season. Beautiful strings of amber beads, combs, and other attractive hair ornaments, pins, and other articles vie with each other in competing for the shopper's favor.

But this sudden popularity for articles made from amber only emphasizes the long and continued use of amber which goes far back into the distant ages. In Lithuania amber was used long ago for many and varied purposes. Among the women of olden Lithuania the quaint custom of hanging amber beads on the small child sick with jaundice was followed, which was supposed to effect the disappearance of the disease.

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Beautiful rosaries were made from amber, and to Lithuanian girls and women adorn their personal, fair fashioned necklaces from amber beads. Today similar necklaces bedeck the shop windows and their attractiveness and beauty have caused a revival of the use of this substance in the manufacture of jewelry.

This renewed use and display of amber jewelry has elicited many questions as to the history of amber. It is not a stone as has been commonly supposed but is the product of pine limbs. Long, long ago when the earth was not inhabited by human beings, thick forests abounded, the trees growing for thousands of years. Pine trees of those olden times produced far more pitch than the pine trees of today. A flow of pitch would run down the trees, appearing for all the world like melted tallow from a burning candle. Sometimes the pitch flowed from the pines through the broken limbs and hung for many years until the pine became old, rotted, and fell down. When rotted it became mixed with the ground, and a flood would cause it to become covered with soil. After being covered with the soil for many years, the limbs of the rotted pines hardened and became unbreakable like small

stones. Today the pine pitch which flows from the trees bears a marked resemblance to amber.

Amber is found in small pieces. When it is taken from the ground it has a rough covering. On the Baltic coast of Lithuania, it is dug from the sea, while in other parts of Lithuania it is dug from the earth. The incoming tide causes the amber, together with trees and ocean grasses to be thrown up to the shores. These pieces of amber are picked up by regular amber pickers who perform their work with little nets. One wave has been known to give up several pounds of amber, which is quickly marketed. The richest kind is very clear and transparent. Its amazing value is illustrated in the sale of a piece weighing fifteen pounds to a Prussian king for ten thousand dollars.

Today, however, many beautiful adornments are fashioned from amber at very reasonable prices, which is conducive to the renewed popularity of the substance. But its use is no "new fad." Rather as shown in this brief sketch, the ancient superstitious use, the religious use, and the adornment use of amber only proves that history does repeat itself, even in the use of amber.

Confers With President

Mr. S. B. Komaiko, vice-president of the Lithuanian American Chamber of Commerce of Chicago, Ill., recently returned from a three month tour of Lithuania and Europe, during which he held conference with President Stulginskis of the Lithuanian Republic. Mr. Komaiko greeted the President with the following:

"Your Excellency:

"The Lithuanians on the other side of the ocean send you their greetings.

"As loyal citizens of the United States of America, of whose citizenry they form an important element, and thru whose institutions they have learned the meaning of genuine democracy, they express the hope that the new republic of Lithuania, the land in which their cradles stood, will be successful in upbuilding its economic and political life.

"America sacrificed her sons in the last war, and she asked no other regard than to see the emancipation and self-determination of the smaller nations. She did this in the faith that these smaller nations will know how to use their new found freedom in a spirit of justice and

brotherhood toward the weaker minorities within them.

"Lithuania has suffered enough, she has had more than enough of her share of the fires of war, and her borders are even yet not free from the menace of war. The good days are fast coming, however, when Lithuania will become a happy people. Then it will be for all her citizens to remember that just as they all suffered together for their fatherland, so have they all the right to enjoy its prosperity.

"As a Jew, who had part in the disposition of the Memel question, I feel satisfied and hopeful that all obstacles will be removed which stand in the way of the happiness of Lithuania and of her citizens, regardless of religion or race.

"Mr. President, I greet you."

The President replied:

"I have already heard of you, Mr. Komaiko, and of your activities in America with regard to the Memel affair. To you and to all our other friends of America, I express the profoundest gratitude in the name of the Lithuanian Nation.

"The Lithuanian people have endured very much indeed, and one can readily imagine the

trials of a young country in the period of her development, with her children scattered in all parts of the world. But we shall always remember with gratitude your free America who gave us her sympathy in the darkest hours. We are still at work organizing our land, and we are exerting all our energies to bring about understanding among the various elements of our population that they may work together in the interests of our common country. I am looking forward to that great day when Lithuania will be complete and strong, and she will then remember thankfully all her friends in general and America in particular."

Mr. Komaiko to the President.

Rev. Maliauskas, professor of the Lithuanian University.

To a representative of this magazine Mr. Komaiko said:

"The people of Lithuania long have been oppressed by foreign land owners. With a population of slightly over several million people they have maintained a standing army of 70,000 men to insure the freedom which they only recently won.

"There are two classes of people in the country, the very rich and the very poor, and the peasantry of Lithuania remains on the same mental plane today as it was thirty years ago. Op-

pressors refused to allow books to be printed in the Lithuanian tongue, nor would they allow the peasants to be educated.

"Rapid changes for the better of the poor illiterate have been made. The people of the country are poor, but their lands are rich and suitable for cattle raising and agriculture. Flax will be an important crop in Lithuania in the near future. The country now is going ahead with might and main to establish schools and colleges to bring their people out of the darkness. Lithuania has suffered enough. She has more than her share of the fires of war, and if her borders, which are even yet not free from the menace of war, although they have been established by the league of nations, are at last made safe, the good days will be coming fast when the little country comes into its own and its people enjoy the prosperity to which they are entitled."

Mr. Komaiko, during the world war, was director of food publicity in foreign newspapers for the food administration, and he also was chairman of the Delegation on the Memel Problem that called upon late President Harding asking that the United States insure the sovereignty of Memel, Lithuania's only port on the Baltic sea.



KOMAIKO AND ROSENBAUM IN KAUNAS

The above is the likeness of S. B. Komaike, vice president of the Lithuanian American Chamber of Commerce, Chicago, Ill., and S. Rosenbaum, Jewish Minister of the Lithuanian Cabinet.

Baltic Entente

For sometime past there has been considerable agitation among certain of the Baltic nations for a Baltic entente. Not only have these nations been striving more or less toward this end, but Poland, also (which, in the true sense of the word, is not classified as a Baltic nation) has sponsored the idea, and indeed she has been aspiring to the position of leader of such an association. Were Poland possessed of the confidence of the entire Baltic group, there is a possibility of her assuming such a role, for she is the largest of any of the nations concerned.

Conferences have been held at infrequent intervals on this subject, the last one adjourning August 16th. However, as usual, nothing definite in this direction has been attained, and this may be attributed very largely, if not solely, to the friction existing between Lithuania and Poland.

A Baltic entente, to be of any importance at all, must of necessity include Lithuania, she being the connecting link in the chain between Poland and the other Baltic States. In addition to Lithuania, there would be Finland, Poland, Esthonia and

Latvia. With this group acting in entire accord, a Baltic league would be an accomplishment of no little significance.

However, as forementioned, the very prerequisite to such an association is that the relations among these nations must be amicable and without any misunderstandings. This is true in practically the case of all with the exception of Lithuania and Poland. Due to the attitude which Poland has assumed and maintains toward Lithuania, Lithuania has categorically refused to participate in any Baltic conference to which Poland was a party. This is to be regretted, but Lithuania's attitude seems to be quite fully justified, and perhaps is the only logical course that is open to her.

Ever since Poland seized Vilna and other parts of Lithuania. Lithuania has declared that she could not and would not have any relations with Poland until the latter agreed to submit the question to an impartial solution. The Vilna controversy is extremely intricate and has been long out standing. Poland would consider the matter closed but Lithuania has re-

peatedly declared that she will not view the matter in that light so long as a solution to which she has not agreed is attempted to be forced upon her. The question truly concerns both Lithuania and Poland, more so Lithuania than Poland, and one therefore cannot conceive of any legal solution not bearing Lithuania's sanction.

This controversy, therefore, is the root of all ill feeling existing between Lithuania and Poland at the present time, and it is a well assured fact that Lithuania will pursue her present policy of isolating herself completely from Poland as long as Poland refuses to make any compromise in the matter.

One of the primary objects of a Baltic league would be for defensive purposes; hence, one can clearly see that, with Lithuania abstaining, there is practically nothing of any appreciable import to be derived from Baltic league that does not include Lithuania.

Needless to say, Poland thus far has not shown any disposition for a reapproachment with Lithuania. True, she has often declared her willingness and desire to establish normal relations with Lithuania, but such declarations thus far have been, it would seem, mere utterances. There must be a genuine effort,

and surely with such intentions on the part of Poland, Lithuania could ill afford to pursue her present course. It is sincerely hoped that such a time may not be far off.

William Montryn.

MEMOIRS OF A STEEL WORKER.

The poetic mysticism so often found among humble folk, the common tragedy of immigrant parents who in old age find themselves isolated from their "Americanized" children, and much of that melancholy brooding over childhood days in their native lands which must have come upon all pilgrims to the new world since the first Colonial settlement was founded—all these poignant elements are contained in the following communication from a Lithuanian toiler in the American steel mills:

"I am now a broken old man, physically. The best years of my life were spent facing hell's fire in the steel blast furnaces of Pennsylvania. There I helped with my muscle, and at the cost of great weariness, to complete the work which Nature started but failed to finish.

"As a reward for my efforts I am practically independent, in a material sense. My wife has

gone to her just reward these many years past. Her grave lies amongst these hills. Flowers will barely grow upon her grave. The damned dust that is in my lungs, and which gives me and my friends no peace — because I cough continuously — also covers her grave. This seems terribly logical to me.

"My children have grown up. They are educated, and the education given them by America has taken them from me. I speak English only as an untaught alien can speak it. But children know all the slang phrases and they can even speak English with Negro, Irish and Dutch dialects. They speak differently, they act differently, and when they come to visit me they come alone. They do not explain why they do not bring their friends, but I instinctively sense the reason. They should not fear. I would not cause them any embarrassment. But they too look upon their old father as an inferior, an alien, a round-head — a bohunk.

"So my only consolation is my memory. And strange as it may seem to you, my experiences in America are not the ones that crowd my thoughts. No! It is the memory of my childhood days, spent in far away Lithuania. I remember the folklore and the great green forests. The

story of Perkunas, chief god of Lithuania's old paganism, comes to me. And the story my mother told me of that heaven for other creatures than men and women.

"Once I asked my mother to explain the noises that we heard coming from the heart of the forest after sundown. This forest formed the background to my birthplace. And my mother said the sounds were the songs of joy and thanksgiving uttered by the spirits of departed animals that had lived freely and passed on naturally, wild and unrestrained, to their Creator. The heart of the forest, she said, was their heaven. After I learned that story the heart of the forest and all natural fastnesses were always holy places to me.

"So now these simple memories are with me, not the thought of America's greatness. Maybe it is because I was so strong in body when I left Lithuania, and am now a broken old man. And the forest did not take my health and my children away from me."

Interpreter.

The BOOSTER

The one bona fide publication in the world devoted exclusively to the interest of Lithuania and Lithuanians

Published Monthly by
The Booster Publishing Co.

THOMAS SHAMIS, Editor
20 E. Jackson Blvd. Chicago, Ill.
Phone Wabash 5212

HELP

Organization is the key that unlocks the door of achievement. By united effort men accomplish things that individually would be impossible. This is one of the strongest arguments for concerted action and this is why we are continually advocating that the Lithuanians in America work and pull together.

In every live community today there is a lodge or branch of some large organization, the name matters not, that is constantly on the lookout for the advancement of the locality in which it operates. The urge today to every Lithuanian is that we get in harness and pull on on the traces.

The individual interests are served by those of the community and the community's interests are served by those of the individual. Every farsighted Lithuanian today admits this fact, and that is why in all localities where progress is sought the Lithuanian people travel together.

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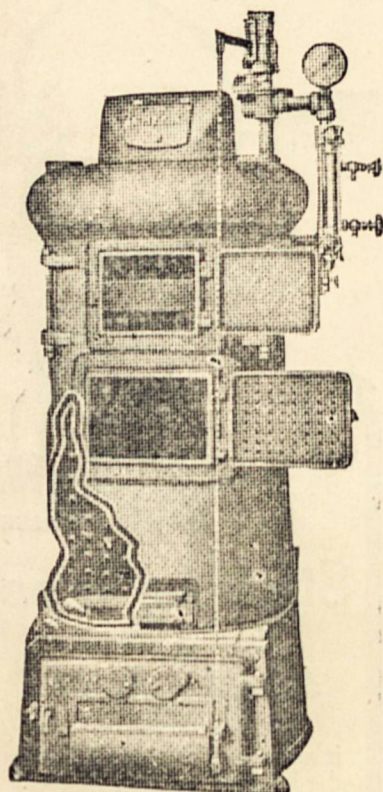
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Resolution

passed at a Conference held at Geneva on the 23th and 24th of September 1923 by the Ukrainians, Bielorussians and Lithuanians oppressed by Poland and by the Germans expelled by the Polish Government.

The representatives of the Ukrainians, Bielorussians, and Lithuanians oppressed by Poland, and the Germans expelled from Poland met at Geneva on September 24th and 25th 1923, and having examined the situation created for the said nationalities by the Polish Government state that the latter continues to inflict on them iniquitous measures, with a view either to their complete extermination or to their compulsory Polonisation.

Our nationals are deprived of all their rights, delivered to the mercy of their oppressors. Not to speak of the privation of their civil rights our fellowcountrymen are the victims of the most atrocious persecutions.

The Polish Government wrest from us our soil by colonizing it with Poles; it drives our fellowcountrymen, especially the intellectual, from their native land; it forbides the use of our

mother tongue in the Government offices and in the Courts; it imposes upon us Polish schools by closing our national ones; it hinders the development of our national organizations; it prohibits our newspapers by imprisoning our writers; many political prisoners are compelled to go on hunger strike and they are likewise tortured with the object of making them confess etc.

This state of things cannot continue. Placing our confidence in the lofty task undertaken by the League of Nations, we appeal to her, respectfully beseeching her to intervene in the interest of our respective nationalities, in the interest of civilization itself and in the interest of European peace.

Basing our revendications on the memoir which we herewith present, we appeal with confidence to the assembly and to the Council of the League of Nations.

1. The Ukrainians, the Bielorussians and the Lithuanians protest against the decision of the Conference of Ambassadors of March 15, 1923 concerning the Eastern frontier of Poland, by which parts of the Ukraine,

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of Bielorussia and of Lithuania were placed in subjection to Poland, and they ask for:

a) the revision of the said decision as being contrary to the spirit of the treaty of Versailles, which recognized the plebiscite as the *essentiel condition* (*conditio sine qua non*) of territorial changes, even in the case of conquered countries (Silesia, Upper Silesia, East Prussia etc.)

b) the securing under her auspices to the Ukranian, Bielorussian and Lithuanian provinces the right of free determination.

2. The Germans in Poland, ask for the application of the treaty of minorities, which Poland undertook to respect, to national minorities and for the reparation of their rights, which, have been infringed.

3. All the above mentioned nationalities ask that a commission of inquiry would be sent without delay to Poland for the purpose of putting an end to the iniquitous abuses of which they are the victims.

Drawn up at Geneva on the 25th day of September, 1923.

Prof. LOZYNSKY

Delegate of the National Ukranian Council Former Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

V. LASTAUSKI

Former Prime Minister of the Bielorussian Republic.

Prof. Dr. M. REINYS

Former President of the Lithuanian Agricultural Society "Rytas" at Vilna.

Dr. JAHN

Delegate of the Union of Germans of expelled from Poland.

REQUEST

O Sun in western shades now lowering,
 Thou gift of nature, joy of man and beast,
 Dispel the sombre clouds thy radiance covering,
 Fail not thy journey henceforth from the east.

O luminous castle on height's sublime, unreach'd
 With thy rosy handmaids tint the western sky;
 Freshen flowers by thy midday radiance bleached,
 Assure us protection with thy chariot nigh.

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AVENUE



SUFFRAGE

American's recent step in the direction of woman's emancipation bring to mind the position in which her sister has occupied in Lithuania. The Lithuanian woman because of her invaluable work in inculcating cherished ideals and culture in the minds of her children, has been

granted equal rights with men in the reestablishment of her country. Yet her influence on the destiny of Lithuania was strongly felt and acknowledged long ago in the days when the people were separated from their own beliefs and converted to Polonism. With her husband outside of the home, working in

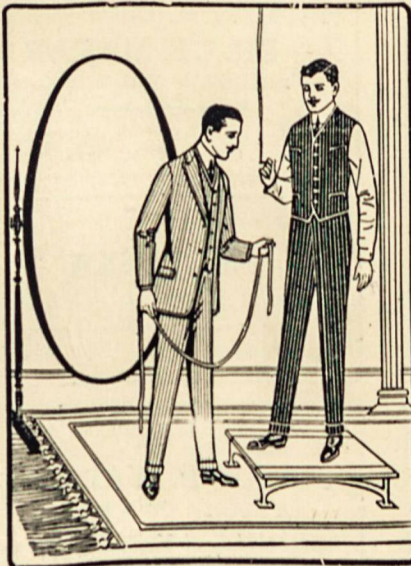
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a Polish atmosphere, it was the Lithuanian woman who still clung to her own country's cultured ideals and imparted them to her children, thereby handing them down to future generations. And in the various stages of development and progress, the Lithuanian woman deserved and received grateful acknowledgement for her home participation in the destiny of her children and country. Those in America who eye suspiciously the imagination of suffrage from American women have only to look to the women in Lithuania who have at all times been active in the welfare of their country. Their reward came before the American woman's despite their many handicaps in the way of progress, but while America was tardy, doubtless she will benefit from the advantage of having as an example woman's acknowledged equality in Lithuania.

JUSTICE

In Lithuania justice is meted out in quite a different way than in any other country. In spite of the fact that Russia had lorded over the country up to not long ago, before the Lithuanians declared their independence, they administered justice according to their own code and

not according to the Russian laws.

Civil cases were disposed of by a yearly selected jury in every village to whom the claimant submitted his case and before whom the defendant pleaded. There were no legal papers and no lawyer's fees to be paid. The claimant stated his case and the defendant entered his plea. The jury deliberated secretly and brought out a verbal verdict, in clear language, which was irrevocable. Often the verdict was accompanied by severe censure for either of the two parties. Questions of property and land were thus settled with good horse sense by men who understood the question.

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Either the claimant or the defendant had the right to ask the exclusion of one or more of the jurymen before the case came up. He did not have to give grounds for doing so. He had to be satisfied that the jury was impartial. The ethics of the village demanded that both parties declare themselves satisfied with the verdict of the jury.

For minor misdemeanors the jury was generally very severe. They did not order imprisonment. The peasants were not keen on giving board and food to drunkards and thieves. They used all the means, enforced labor being one of them, to compensate the damage done, done, or the loss encountered, thru the act of the accused, but after this was done, they generally ran the culprit out of the district. As for capital crimes, they had capital punishment. But the criminal had all the advantages to prove that the crime was done under provocation, self-defense or some other motive which showed that he was not a habitual criminal and that the crime was an accident. In this respect the unwritten law was frequently applied. However, there was less crime in Lithuania than anywhere else in Europe. Only in very rare occasions was capital punishment applied. But under

most circumstances the criminal had to supply the dependents of the one he had killed.

SPRINGS

Lithuania, given proper exploitation, could become famous as a health resort, for the little country boasts of several health resorts with mineral ful locations on the banks of the River Niemen. Birstonas and Druskininkai are the best known.

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And beseeched your Heavenly grace,
O Merciful and Righteous Father;
Protect our suffering race.

We have not lost our devotion,
For Thee our Protector Divine
And await with Christian patience.
Your word of judgment sublime.

O Vilna, sacred Vilna,
Despair not of your woes,
For God Almighty in Heaven
Will crush your beastly foes.

And then with joyous ardor
Happy and hand in hand,
We shall be hold you again,
With your faithful Motherland.

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EXTRACT FROM THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Article II—Objects

The Lithuanian-American Chamber of Commerce is organized for the purpose of establishing closer commercial, economical, industrial and political relations between the United States and the Republic of Lithuania, to defend, promote and advance the political integrity of Lithuania, and to acquire, preserve and distribute industrial and commercial statistics and information of value between Lithuania and the United States, and vice versa, and to present the Lithuanian situation in its proper light to the American people.

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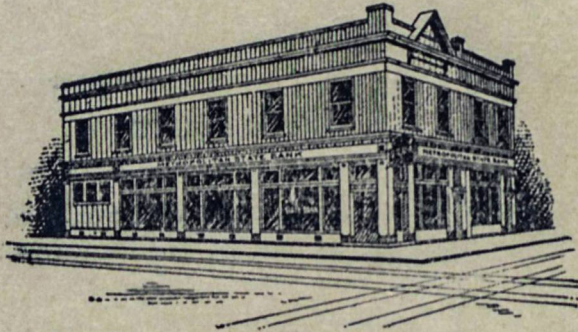
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Capital and Surplus Over
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We also handle foreign exchange to Lithuania and other
countries; Steamship tickets on all lines; Real Estate
Loans; Insurance in all its branches; etc., etc.

Visit or Write us on any Financial Question.
Expert Advice will be Cheerfully Furnished.

METROPOLITAN STATE BANK

Under Government and Clearing House Supervision

2201 W. 22nd St.,

Chicago, Ill.

Who Saves Your Money?

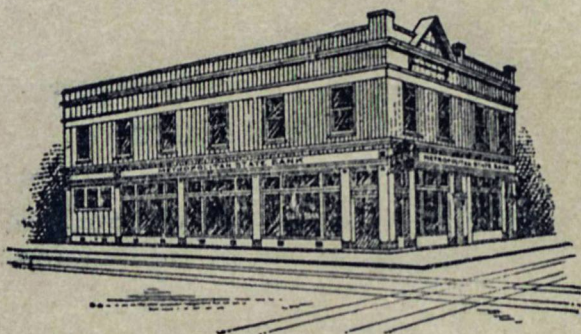
YOU THINK YOUR "LITTLE" IS NOT WORTH
SAVING BUT YOU WILL FIND SOMEONE IS
CARRYING IT TO THE BANK

Would it not be better for you to bank that money yourself
and see that it is placed to your own credit?

It's never too late to start. Open a savings account here
with at least \$1.00 and deposit something each week.

Saving becomes as easy as spending if you do it as often
and the fun lasts longer.

Resources Over \$2,700,000.00



Capital and Surplus Over
\$275,000.00

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