

. . . . Russia without any prejudice recognizes the self-rule and independence of the State of Lithuania with all the juridical consequences . . . and for all times renounces with good will all the sovereignty rights of Russia, which it has had in regard to the Lithuanian nation or territory.

Peace Treaty with Russia
Moscow, July 12, 1920

President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill:

1. Their countries seek no aggrandizement, territorial or other;
2. They desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned;
3. They respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live; and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them.

Atlantic Charter
August 14, 1941

LITHUANIAN BULLETIN

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POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

During the short period of the parliamentary history of Lithuania, its political life was, as is the rule with the democracies, dominated by political parties. These political parties were simply continuations of the parties of the Lithuanian national movement, especially as it had developed since the Revolution in 1905. As a matter of fact, these parties were older than the state itself and this precedence conferred a special flavor of respectability upon them. In addition, they all had records in the struggle for national liberty and this further increased their prestige with the population.

It may be that this fact, namely, that the political parties were part and parcel of the national movement, is responsible for this curious phenomenon; the criterion for the formation of the parties was not so much, if at all, their particular political, economic and social interests and tendencies, as their philosophical attitude toward the problem of the relations between the state and religion. In this respect, we find a clear-cut division. On the one hand, there were the so-called Christian-Democratic bloc, and on the other hand, there were the Free-thinkers. Social characteristics were more clearly manifest within these two solid blocs. The Christian-Democratic bloc consisted of three groups: The Farmers' Union, representing predominantly the interests of the middle-class peasantry, the Workers' Federation, representing labor, whether urban or rural and finally, the Christian-Democratic group which represented the ideological backbone of the entire bloc and in which the clergy played a prominent role. There were certain differences between these three groups, which found expression in differing shades of opinion, but they were united on fundamental questions. While there may be some doubt with regard to certain political practices indulged in by this bloc, its devotion to the independence of the country and the political and agrarian constitution is a matter of record.

On the other hand, the Populist (Liberal) group, reminiscent; in certain ways, of the Russian populist

ideology, represented the small peasants and a large part of the secular intelligentsia. The Social-Democrats, for their part, represented labor and sections of the intelligentsia. These two groups shared the same views with regard to fundamentals as did the Catholic bloc with only one essential difference. This involved their attitude toward religion. They advocated the separation of Church and State and non-obligatory religious instruction in the schools.

Two smaller groups, also a continuation of the parties of the national movement, were the Nationalist Party, formerly Progressive, and the Peasants' Party, formerly Santara. It is interesting to note that the Nationalist party was not represented in the Parliament before the summer of 1926, when they succeeded in winning three seats.

It was this party which, together with some military circles, was responsible for the putsch of December 17, 1926 when the prominent party played by the traditional political parties was practically terminated.

The bulk of the national minorities, as is the case in many other reconstituted or newly established states, used to vote for their own candidates. These parliamentary groups were heterogeneous in respect of their political and social philosophies, although they were united in their common purpose of protecting the rights of their co-nationals. The largest in number and the most important in weight was the Jewish group which, while identifying itself completely with the national aspirations of the Lithuanian people, was anxious to preserve its own distinctiveness.

As a matter of unusual procedure, these political parties were not dissolved after the dissolution of the last democratic parliament in April, 1927, but continued their activities in a reduced way, both through their central committees and their press. Only gradually and after some time had passed were the central committees dissolved and the names of the political parties erased from the register, but the principal news-

papers were still allowed to be published, although in circumstances of the severe censorship.

When after the seizure of Memel (Klaipeda) by Hitler on March 22, 1939, a demand was raised for a coalition cabinet, several members of the two blocs mentioned above were invited to join the cabinet and accepted.

Proof of the vitality of the traditional Lithuanian political parties is furnished by the fact that they survived the crisis of democracy and there is every hope that, after all the adjustments demanded by the circumstances have been made, they may well play their role again in a resurgent Lithuanian democracy.

The European crisis which reached its climax after Muenich, Oct. 1939, produced an unexpected move in Lithuanian political life. Old opponents, Christian Democrats and Populists (Liberals), united for the common cause eliminating religious and other secondary points of difference and signing the same political and economic program.

President Urged to Aid Lithuanians

Excerpts from Letter Addressed on April 15th, 1943, by Lithuanian R. C. Priests' League of America, Inc. to The Honorable Franklin Delano Roosevelt, President of the United States, the White House, Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

The atheistic Soviet Union regime by repeated pronouncements claims Lithuania to be an integral part of the Soviet Union "legally incorporated". This claim was editorially expressed by the official Russian Communist party organ "Pravda" of February 8, 1943. It was reprinted by the Information Bulletin of the Soviet Union Embassy, Washington, D. C. Again on February 22, 1943, Mr. Joseph Stalin, the Premier of the Soviet Union, in his Order of the Day to the Red Army, officially claimed the Baltic States to be an integral part of the Soviet Union. Lithuania is one of the Baltic States. The Soviet Union bases its claim of legal incorporation of Lithuania upon the mock election staged under duress in that country by the communistic regime in 1940.

The Associated Press on March 30, 1943, reported that you, Mr. President, have stated that a meeting of the officials of our government and of the Soviet Union will be held soon to discuss the war and the post war problems. When this meeting occurs we feel sure that the future status of Lithuania will be discussed. Should the United States, for the sake of appeasement, accede to the Soviet Union demands to annex Lithuania to the Soviet Union, Christianity in that state would be doomed to extinction. It is to be noted that Lithuania is eighty-five per cent Catholic.

Our fear that religion in Lithuania faces total annihilation if she is incorporated into the Soviet Union

is based upon the facts of past experiences. The Russian communist invasion (June 1940-June 1941) proved this only too well. During that occupation, all Catholic life-giving institutions, such as seminaries for the education of priests, schools, convents, other organizations, and the press were suppressed. Many religious leaders were either imprisoned, deported, or executed and all church property confiscated. Simultaneously, the Soviet Union regime launched a vigorous campaign employing the schools, the radio, the press, the cinema, and various compulsory educational meetings to propagate its anti-Christian and atheistic ideology.

Furthermore, the fact should be emphasized that Lithuanians are not of the Slavonic race. They have no national, religious, or cultural interests similar or akin to those of the Soviet Union or their people but differ from them in every conceivable aspect.

Therefore, for the reasons stated above and in the name of the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Priests' League of America, Inc., we respectfully appeal to you, Mr. President, to defend Christianity and guarantee the God-given rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness to Lithuania.

For a century and a quarter Lithuania suffered religious persecution and political enslavement under the Russian and the German domination and earnestly worked and prayed for emancipation. After the first World War, the Great Powers found the cause of Lithuania to be just and her people to be worthy of self-determination and political independence. The Republic of Lithuania was established. During its twenty-two years of independent life this Republic made progress, flourished and proved capable of self-government. And now it seems that a concerted effort is being made again by some of the Great Powers to destroy not only her sovereignty and her national entity but also the religion of her people.

In our opinion the incorporation of Lithuania into the Soviet Union would constitute, from religious, national, and cultural points of view, a crime of international magnitude. We are equally fearful of the godless Nazis. However, we are confident and take it for granted that the Allies shall defeat them, thereby liberating Lithuania from their domination.

Sincerely praying Almighty God to bless you with good health, high courage to defend the rights of all nations, and divine guidance in directing the affairs of our nation in these most difficult times and with the renewed pledge of loyalty and devotion to you and our beloved country, we beg to remain

Very respectfully yours,

Rev. J. A. Karalius, President

Lithuanian R. C. Priests' League of America

129 So. Jardin Street
Shenandoah, Pa.

DECLARATION OF THE LITHUANIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE MOBILIZATION IN LITHUANIA

According to reports received, dated February 27th, German occupational authorities declared a general mobilization throughout the Baltic States. In order to win the support of the population, the Germans decided to restore the property confiscated and nationalized by the Soviets during their invasion in 1940-1941 to its Lithuanian owners.

The population's memory of the nightmarish Soviet occupation in 1940-1941 and Moscow's blind determination to reconquer the Baltic Nations, has undoubtedly facilitated German aims.

The reports indicate that the Germans intend to put this mobilization into effect in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, either by inducting local recruits directly into the German Wehrmacht, or by permitting separate "National units" to be organized.

According to a reasonable estimate, the Germans can mobilize an army of approximately five divisions in Lithuania.

The people of Lithuania are well aware of the fact that the Germans have resorted to this mobilization as a result of their recent reverses in battle.

With reference to these new events, the Lithuanian National Council wishes again to make clear that **the Lithuanian nation demands complete freedom and independence.**

No restoration of private property will succeed in obscuring the natural rights of the Lithuanian people to their own land. When the hour strikes, the Lithuanians will be ready with weapons in their hands to prove this.

The Lithuanian National Council considers this mobilization as an arbitrary act and openly denounces it.

Furthermore, it states that the sending of the Lithuanian people to the fronts is opposed to the war aims of the great democracies and stands in direct contradiction to international law.

New York, March 30, 1943

Lithuanian National Council

MOBILIZATION IN THE BALTIC STATES

The Estonian Legion

Revaler Zeitung, Jan. 5, 1943.—Medical examinations of the fitness of volunteers for service in the "SS legion

"Estland" will take place on January 5th, 6th, 14th and 15th at Tallinn. Volunteers are between 17 and 35 years of age.

New Appeal for Estonian Volunteers

Aftonbladet, Jan. 10, 1943.—The Helsinki correspondent writes: A new appeal for volunteers for the Eastern Front has occurred in Tallinn and other Estonian towns. The response to the appeal is said to be lively although the German authorities have ordered that only men under 35 years are liable. The volunteers, after military training, will join the SS Legion "Estland" which has already been fighting the Russians for a considerable time.

Finnish Approval for Estonia

Uusi Suomi, Jan. 13, 1943.—A leading article on Estonia signed V. H. says: The Finnish volunteers' help to the Estonians in the War of Liberation had historic significance. Finland is not indifferent whether a friendly or unfriendly nation lives south of the Gulf of Finland. Finland honours the Finns and Estonians who saved Estonia from Bolshevik rule. Therefore, the fate of Estonia, both now and in the future, will be of great interest to Finland.

When in 1939 the Russians occupied Estonia, that nation did not voluntarily surrender to the Bolsheviks. This shows opposition among the Estonians to Bolshevik rule. When German troops then liberated the enslaved Baltic States, the Estonian Sissi troops' contribution to the anti-Bolshevik struggle was conspicuous. This fight the Estonian volunteers are continuing on the eastern front, with so many troops that they win esteem everywhere. Estonia has also made cultural and economic contributions. The Estonian people have now been able to endure one of the most difficult outpost positions in our continent, and will continue to do so in the future.

Auxiliary Lithuanian Formations

On January 26th a battalion of the Lithuanian "Schutzmannschaft" was given a send-off at Kaunas by the SS and Polizeiführer Litauen, Wysocki. They are dressed in German police grey-green uniform with the Lithuanian national emblem on their forage caps.

In Return for the Cannon Fodder

Ostdeutscher Boebachter, Poznan, Feb. 12, 1943.—The Tallin correspondent writes: Colonel Soodla, chairman of the association "Friends of the Estonian Legion" which was founded recently, broadcast an appeal to Estonian youth, saying *inter alia*: "The SS Legion Estland" is being organized and it will be employed to defend Estonia's frontiers. The Legion will consist exclusively of Estonians. Its officers will also only be Estonians.

Native Formations in the German Army

NPD, Feb. 20, 1943.—A War reporter gives the following account of the activities of the voluntary native (landeseigene) formations on the eastern front:

The volunteers of the native formations who for more than a year have been fighting shoulder to shoulder with the German soldiers on the eastern front are imbued with a spirit which is fed by the hatred of Bolshevism and is directed by the realization that the place which each nation wants to occupy one day in the family of European nations can only be determined by its share in the fight.

Russians, White Ruthenians, Estonians, Lithuanians, West Ukrainians, and Bessarabians gave evidence of this as early as a few weeks after June 22nd, 1941. They came as volunteers. As auxiliaries, or as drivers, later on as fighting units, they took their places in the German Army. The first amongst them passed through their baptism of fire in front of Leningrad, the Tartars on the Crimea, the Russian, White Ruthenian and Ukrainian soldiers and the Cossacks. Hundreds proved themselves good, reliable comrades in arms in numerous skirmishes with the partisans. The German Command expressed its appreciation of the soldierly bearing of these volunteers by giving them uniforms with their national colours and placing their leaders as fighters with equal rights under the command of a German general.

Under an oath specially designed for these formations, these active idealists of the peoples of the former Soviet Russia fight for the liberation of the homeland from Bolshevism and for the basis of their cultural and economic development in the community of the European family of free peoples. This means the solution at the same time of other questions which can be solved after liberation from Bolshevism.

By orders of the OKW the volunteers of all peoples of the former Soviet Union are given the same rights as the German soldiers with regard to pay, rations, clothing and pensions. In catering to them, their native and religious customs receive far-reaching consideration. The uniforms are like those of the Germans in colour and cut and have the national emblems. Their wounded and sick are treated in German military hospitals. War invalids, widows and orphans also are cared for in the same way as those of the German allied soldiers. Volunteers who can no longer be employed in active service, because of serious injuries or disablement, are given the chance to continue serving their homeland by working for the administrative authorities. Provision is also made for re-training courses.

An oath similar to that of the volunteers of the native fighting formations is sworn by the volunteer auxiliaries who assist the unit as drivers in supply col-

umns, work on the quartermaster's staff and in bridge and road construction battalions, as well as in local auxiliary police detachments. They are recruited from native volunteers and prisoners-of-war who have been released.

The volunteer formations have the opportunity to lead a cultural life of their own. They act, watch theatre shows and attend political cabarets; they dance their own dances and sing their own songs. Moreover, they receive newspapers in their many native languages which are full of contributions from the volunteers.

The General in command of the eastern troops, the war reporter says in conclusion, received many reports during the past week about new outstanding feats of the native formations serving in the German armies in the winter fighting. A Turkestan battalion under the leadership of a Turkestan Company Commander took part in the heroic fighting of the Sixth Army in Stalingrad. It, too, fought to the last cartridge and to the last man.

Estonians Desert the Red Army

The Tallinn correspondent of the *Karjala, Viipuri*, **Feb. 21, 1943**, reports: One thousand Estonians who, after being deported to Russia were mobilized to serve in the Red Army, deserted to German troops during the fighting around Velikiye Luki.

Latvian Legion Formed

Brussels Radio, Feb. 24, 1943.—Latvia has established a Volunteer Legion which will fight at the eastern front, shoulder to shoulder with the Germany Army. Volunteers are enlisting in great numbers.

Baltic Mobilization: The Lithuanian Legion

Zeesen Radio, Feb. 25, 1943, Mobilisation has been ordered in Lithuania today. A volunteer division is to be formed to fight the Soviets.

Feb. 26, 1943.—Reich Commissioner Lohse, of Riga, made an appeal to the Lithuanians urging them to join their own legion to fight Bolshevism. He said, *inter alia*:

"To arms! To work! With Adolf Hitler to victory! Your country will be liberated by the Fuehrer's orders! The struggle has now reached its culmination. Bolshevism threatens to destroy Europe. Thereby, your country will be the first to perish. Step into the ranks of the Wehrmacht. Support the struggle by doing war work! Put all aside that does not serve for victory! Victory will save the lives of you and your children, your property, your culture, and the future of your peoples in your homeland."

The Lithuanian Legion

Feb. 27, 1943.—The SS and Polizeifuehrer Litauen, Wysocki, the Commissioner General, Renteln, and the Commander of the Sicherungsgebiet Litauen, Just, made a joint appeal to the Lithuanians to enroll in the newly-established "Lithuanian Legion" to fight the Bolsheviks. "Join the Wehrmacht to fight and as one willing to help. Your rights and duties will be the same as those of the German soldiers. Consider the small and heroic population of Finland who fought Bolshevism single-handed and yet defied it. Therefore, join the colours to fight this fateful struggle of Europe, from which you will return victors and heroes, in order to give the world lasting peace and social progress. After victory the people of Lithuania will be grateful that you have not hesitated today! The homeland calls! To be or not to be is the meaning of the struggle! Decide either for freedom or slavery!"

Total Mobilisation of Baltic Manpower

Svenska Dagbladet, Feb. 28, 1943.—It is reported from Berlin that the Reich Commissioner of the Ostland, Lohse, issued an appeal for total war to the Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians, summoning these nations to full collaboration in the war with arms and in civil work and expressing his recognition of the present work of the Baltic nations.

Lohse said: You have collaborated in the fight against Russian-Bolshevism since 1941 by working in the towns, in the country, in active police work and near the front. Register now in the Legions of your fatherland, to fight actively as front soldiers and German Army volunteers against the threat of Bolshevism. Support the fight by carrying out work which is important to the war effort. Leave whatever does not help the way to victory. To arms! To work!

The Berlin correspondent of *Stockholms-Tidningen*, Jan. 28, 1943, writes: Under the scheme of European total mobilization, Hitler has enlisted the three Baltic countries against the Soviet Union. The Legions will be organized and supplied with weapons. It is not yet known whether they will be under German command or if the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Legions will be commanded by their own officers, and if so to what extent. The male population of the three countries must choose between joining their respective Legions in their countries or enrolling in the German Wehrmacht as fighting soldiers, chauffeurs, dispatch riders, etc. It is expected that these Legions will be formed immediately. "Thus Hitler has taken the first step to requisitioning soldiers from occupied countries of Europe."

The paper alleges that the reintroduction of private ownership in these countries has, in some measure, contributed to restoring confidence in the German authorities and adds: It goes without saying that those who fail to report for war duty in the Baltic countries will

forfeit the right to claim the return of their former property.

Total Mobilisation—The Latvian Legion

The Riga correspondent writes: A group of "Knights of the Order of the Bear Slayers" (Baerentoeorden), which is the highest Latvian military decoration, visited General Dankers to announce the decision of all the officers decorated with this Order to enroll in the new Latvian Legion.

The Lithuanian Legion

SS und Polizeifuehrer Wysocki is entrusted with the groundwork of forming the "Litauische Legion." According to him the Legion will represent all arms, and as a closed unit will be incorporated in the Waffen SS. All Lithuanian men between the ages of 17 and 45 may enroll provided they are "aryans" and have not been convicted by any law courts or police and are mentally and physically fit for service. Preference is given to officers and n.c.o.'s of the former Lithuanian army, also medical officers, veterinary surgeons, etc. Legionaries will enjoy the same rights, in every respect, as the SS men, and they will wear field-grey Waffen SS uniform with the Lithuanian colours on the left arm. The first enrollments were registered a few hours after the publication of the Reich Commissioner's call to arms.

The Latvian and Lithuanian SS Legions

The Berlin correspondent of *Stockholms-Tidning*, March 4, 1943, reports: One Latvian and one Lithuanian legion has now been established. Contingents of the Volunteer Defence Corps form the framework for the Latvian SS legions. The soldiers wear field-grey uniform of Waffen-SS with Latvian colours on the left arm. All Latvians between the ages of 17 and 45 can join the legion if they are willing to serve for the duration of the war. The same conditions are valid for the Lithuanian legion.

German Fortifications

Nya Dagligt Allehanda, March 4, 1943.—According to reliable information sent by a paper from Riga, German pioneer troops now occupy building fortifications on both banks of the river Dvina, near Riga and down as far as Dvinsk. The Riga inhabitants have been ordered to keep away from some parts of the streets near the river and to disregard explosions occurring in connection with special fortification works.

Lithuanian Wall is in Construction

Unconfirmed reports reached this country to the effect that a newly mobilized Lithuanian army started to build a line of fortifications running along the eastern boundary of Lithuania, about 80 miles east and south of Vilna, which is the capital of Lithuania. Presumably, this Lithuanian Wall will be based on a series of lakes, swamps, hills and rivers of Eastern Lithuania.

Physical Training for Soldiers and Workers under the Total Mobilisation

Svenska Dagbladet, March 4, 1943.—Owing to total mobilization in the Baltic countries all public sports have been cancelled. Only soldiers and workers are allowed to do gymnastics, etc., but they have to obtain permission, and then they are only allowed to do so on private premises.

Loudspeakers are to be installed in public places in Tallinn, Riga and Kaunas to announce without delay new decrees and important news.

The Baltic Manpower

Nya Dagligt Allehanda, March 6, 1943.—A private information received says that the inhabitants of the three Baltic countries now discover to their disappointment that Hitler's promise to reintroduce private ownership only serves the purpose of switching their countries totally into the German war machinery. Lohse's recent order invited all able-bodied Baltic men to enroll in the German army or Labour Service, to prove their gratitude for the Fuehrer's gift.

It is said that in spite of the deportation to Russia and the "repatriation" to German occupied Polish territories, there are still in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, according to a reliable estimate, about **half a million men able to bear arms**. The paper maintains that it is very tempting for the Germans to mobilize them for employment and use them as a reinforcement Front between Leningrad and Velikiye Luki.

The informant adds that since the Germans are uncertain about the loyalty of the Estonians, Latvians, Lithuanians to their present masters, and apparently doubtful whether they will turn against the Russians, these men will not be employed as independent units but will be incorporated into units of the German army.

The Baltic Legions

Transocean, March 11, 1943.—It was announced in Berlin on March 11th, that separate volunteer battalions of Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians, who will be commanded by their own officers, are now being formed. The Estonian legion (Legion Estland) has already been completed.

German military quarters state that large numbers of volunteers of these three nations have been fighting in the German ranks against the Soviet Union ever since the liberation of their respective countries by the German forces. These will form the nucleus of the new Legions. Legionaries will wear the field-grey uniform of the German Waffen-SS with the coat of arms of their country on the left sleeve.

A Swedish paper reported a year ago—March 4th, 1942—that the Germans were then making a great propaganda drive to obtain volunteers for the Russian war. Just after the "liberation" when enthusiasm was greatest no volunteers were allowed, since then "much has happened to cool their ardour." The Latvian radio announced on February 17th, 1942 (Kuldiga, in Latvian) that the Fuehrer had decided to allow the Latvian people to form Latvian Volunteer Battalions. The first regiment of Lithuanian volunteers was reputed to have left on February 1st, 1942.

Breslau Radio, in English, March 11, 1943.—General Kubiliunas, First General Councillor of Lithuania, reminded his fellow countrymen of the misery which their nation had gone through during the 12 months of Soviet occupation, and then called upon all able-bodied men to volunteer for the Lithuanian Legions to fight for the protection of Lithuania against Bolshevism.

Partisan Activity

Ny Dag, Stockholm, March 15, 1943, reports that guerillas have revived their activities in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. It is reported that they have damaged some Tallinn factories, a Swedish shale oil works at Sillamaegi and the cellulose mills at Kohila and Jaerve. The Sillamegi works are said to have suffered badly in 1941 but were rebuilt afterwards by the Germans.

Lithuanian Police Formations

Kauener Zeitung, March 15, 1943.—The "Litauische Schutzmannschaft des Einzeldienstes" was mustered last Saturday in Kaunas by Schutzpolizei Hauptmann Bunger, in the presence of Stadtpolizeifuehrer Renegeris and SS-Polizeifuehrer Major-General Wysocki. This mustering takes place periodically.

Police Training for Estonians

Nachrichten fuer den Aussenhandel, March 16, 1943.—The Tallinn correspondent reports: A new four-months' course begins next May for Estonian "Sicherheitspolizei" in Tallinn. Applicants, aged 35 to 45, must be Estonian citizens and possess at least elementary education. Front soldiers are preferred. Graduates of the "Sicherheitspolizei" school receive appointments in the "Sicherheitspolizei in Estonia."

Lithuanian "Volunteers" for the German Army

March 19, 1943.—The first group of Lithuanian volunteers who have joined the German Wehrmacht will be given a send-off from Kaunas on Saturday by Major-General Just, who commands the "Sicherungsgebiet Litauen."

Total Mobilisation in the Baltic Countries

Svenska Dagbladet, March 18, 1943.—According to a private informant total mobilization is now in progress in the Baltic countries. To secure the maximum employable men and women radical rationalization in the distribution of goods is being carried out and many undertakings are being closed down.

At the same time the black market is flourishing; the prices are fantastic and exceed those prevailing in Latvia during the Russian occupation. According to *Deutsche Zeitung* in Ostland a pair of braces costs 90 RM. Mass arrests of profiteers have occurred.

Moscow broadcasts in Latvian that thousands of men in Latvia are armed and ready to strike at the first opportunity. In Latgalia partisans are armed, inter alia, with machine-guns, having at their disposal one aeroplane. Near Jelgava an enemy troop transport train was attacked and derailed.

Baltic Recruiting under Himmler's Supervision

A private informant of *Aftontidningen*, March 21, 1943, writes: The pressure against Estonia increases daily and the approaching danger is reflected in energetic preparations to meet an attack against Estonia. The Baltic Legions have accelerated their recruiting, personally supervised by the Gestapo Chief, Himmler. Last week he repeatedly flew to Tallinn and other Estonian towns where legionaries were being recruited and equipped.

According to the *Revaler Zeitung*, boys aged 17 are to be called up and schools will be closed early in the spring. All property either nationalized by the Russians or expropriated by the Germans will be returned to the legionaries or their relatives, all of which facilitates recruiting.

According to the local press reports the ranks of the Baltic legionaries grow daily just as does the women's element in the factories, especially the textile factories.

Characteristic of the times is that the Russian cathedral at Kaunas is being used as a garrison church.

LITHUANIA

Black Markets Out of Control

Kauener Zeitung, Oct. 21, 1942.—An official announcement states: Smuggling, illegal barter, corruption and infringements of the distribution regulations have grown to such an extent that the existence of the population is being seriously injured, and the war effort as well as resistance of the Lithuanian population influenced in a bad way. It cannot be doubted that the authorities are no longer willing to look on without taking severe measures. Whoever takes advantage of the distress of

the population and tries to enrich himself or to injure work essential to the war effort, cannot expect to get away with a mild punishment. There is only one punishment for him, and this is the death sentence.

Death Sentences

Kauener Zeitung, Nov. 17, 1942.—A. Popiersinskas and B. Labokas, of Kaunas, stole textiles valued at 25,000 RM. They sold the articles on the black market at very high prices, asking, for example, 57 Mk for a pair of stockings. When they discovered that the police had traced them they tried to bribe the police. Both of them have been sentenced to death.

Sugar-Beet Cultivation in Lithuania

Krakauer Zeitung, Nov. 28, 1942.—Sugar-beet cultivation in the eastern occupied territories will be increased to the extent of 20 to 25% and the areas extended will presumably be predominantly in Lithuania.

Police Check-Up in Lithuania

Kauener Zeitung, Dec. 12, 1942.—It is officially announced that all persons of Lithuanian origin who with their families after June 15th, 1940 became residents in Kaunas must report before December 15th for registration. At the same time all house owners and their agents must submit lists of those people living in their houses who moved there after June 22nd, 1941.

German Court Sentences Lithuanian

Revaler Zeitung, Dec. 15, 1942.—The German Special Court in Kaunas has sentenced to death Eduard Papertis, age 23, for murdering Juozas Majanskas, aged 17, and stealing his clothes, etc.

All Milk to be Handed Over

Owing to the unsatisfactory delivery of milk during the past few weeks, which was not sufficient to guarantee even minimum supplies to working people and young children in towns and led to a complete stoppage of supplies to the fighting troops, Dr. von Renteln, the Commissioner General for Lithuania, ordered that every farmer and others keeping cows must surrender all the milk produced except the quantity indispensable in their own households. At the same time cooperative dairies and local authorities have been enjoined to organize transport of milk to railway stations, etc. Farmers liable to communal transport must at once be mobilized for the purpose of bringing milk to the places of destination. The announcement closes with a warning that those who do not comply with the order and fail to perform the duties allotted them in this connection must expect confiscation of their cow or cows without any compensation whatever. The order came into force on December 20th, 1942.

New Paper to Counter Enemy Propaganda

Kauener Zeitung, Jan. 6, 1943.—To replace the newspaper *I Laisve* which suspended publication on December 31st, 1942, a new daily paper *Ateitis* (Future) has been started in Kaunas and the first copy appeared on January 4th, 1943. It is emphasized in a leading article in *Ateitis* that the paper's chief task will be to give authentic information in order to unmask the enemy's lies, and thus enable the population to continue peacefully producing what the front and the country most need. The paper states: "Without talking much about any mission whatsoever Lithuanians live in the belief in their country's better future in New Europe."

Deutsche Zeitung im Ostland, Jan. 8, 1943, reports that 700 Lithuanian volunteers who after nine months' work in the German Labour Service recently returned home, were welcomed in Kaunas by the Commissioner von Renteln. All of them will remain and work in their native country.

Unexploded Bombs

Kauener Zeitung, Jan. 9, 1943.—Six persons were killed recently when a live bomb at Stasys Buivydas' house in Buivydai village exploded, and the public's attention is again directed to the danger of handling grenades, bombs, etc., in an unauthorized manner instead of reporting them to the police.

Lithuanian Labour Service "Volunteers" Return

Kauener Zeitung, Jan. 12, 1943.—The second large contingent of Lithuanian workmen who have returned from Germany on completing their service in the RAD has arrived in Siaulai. (Schaulen)

Horses Requisitioned in Lithuania

Kauener Zeitung, Jan. 14, 1943.—The Commissioner-General in Kaunas has announced that the owners of horses who fail in good time to deliver their animals for military mustering will face fines up to RM 5,000 or imprisonment or both. In cases of flagrant disobedience, confiscation of animals will be ordered apart from the fines and imprisonment.

Administrative Appointments

Jan. 15, 1943.—A new Kreisleiter, Colonel Gauschas, has been installed in office at Ponevezh, Lithuania.

Threat to Farmers

Kauener Zeitung, Jan. 15, 1943.—The price control authorities have announced that henceforth all farmers who do not surrender their products, or who sell them on the black market, will be removed from their farms.

Orthodox Seminary at Vilna

Novoye Slovo, Berlin, Jan. 24, 1943.—It is reported that an Orthodox Theological Seminary was opened at Vilna in the monastery of the Holy Spirit in November,

1942. The means for the Seminary's maintenance were collected in Ostland churches and the Orthodox population contributed largely for this purpose. During service in the Orthodox cathedral after an appeal by the Exarch Metropolitan 1,000 marks were collected. Vasilii Vinogradov, formerly a professor in the Moscow Theological Academy, was nominated rector of the Seminary. He is one of the few surviving Moscow academy professors.

Editor's note: About 5% of the Lithuanian population is Greek Orthodox; approximately 80% are Roman Catholics, 5.5% Protestants, 8% Jews. Russian speaking population of Lithuania is about 3%.

Red Cross in Kaunas

The Reich-German members of the Red Cross, and also Germans living in Kaunas who wish to undergo First Aid training, must report.

Christmas in the Baltic Countries

Svenska Morgonbladet, Dec. 23, 1942.—A private correspondent in Riga writes: Since no electric light is available for the rural population of the Baltic countries, and wax candles, paraffin and carbide are not available, country people are resorting to torches. Wood must be saved, so cows are milked in darkness. Church services are never held after dark. However, to celebrate Christmas Eve, all churches in the Ostland will be illuminated, in villages by tallow candles saved by villagers for the occasion.

The food is scanty; large Christmas trees are strictly rationed and people are allowed to use only tiny trees. Christmas tree decorations are plentiful; they are being imported from Germany. For the first time there is a shortage of Bibles, owing to the tormented Baltic peoples' thirst for the word of God. The churches are crowded and should the number be doubled, there would be hardly room for those wanting to attend.

NEW BOOKS ON LITHUANIA

The Economic Reconstruction of Lithuania after 1918.

By Anicetas Simutis. 148 pp. New York: Columbia University Press, 1942; \$1.50.

Outline History of Lithuanian Literature. By Antanas Vaiciulaitis. 54 pp. Chicago, 1942; 0.40 c.

The Lithuanian Language (A Characterization). By Alfred Senn. 49 pp. Chicago, 1942; 0.40 c.

Orders for copies of these books should be addressed:

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