

... 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

Published by the Lithuanian National Council
73 West 104th Street, New York, N. Y.

This Bulletin contains information on current events in Lithuania and neighboring countries

Vol. I

October 25, 1943

No. 8

Address

Delivered by **Kaarel R. Pusta,**

former Estonian Foreign Minister, at the Lithuanian-American Conference on Sept. 2, 1943, in Pittsburgh, Penn.

It is to my capacity of Estonian that I owe the honor and pleasure of being among you and addressing you to-day; to the fact that I come from a nation friendly with Lithuania, where you or your father came from. For, although you are good Americans, you feel that a man from the Baltic, where all the traditions, beliefs, habits, modes of expression, fears and ideals of your race were born, is near and like you. Having suffered together in the past, near one another in the present turmoil, were and are the Baltic peoples. Of nationalism, which is among the strongest stimulants in these peoples robust in both body and soul, they have retained mostly the love for their country, a feeling of constructive rivalry, an unsatiated desire to build their national cultures. Nationalisms cannot be invented, they are born with the peoples and will live as long as there are men on this earth.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau is quoted to have said of the Poles that if they could not prevent their neighbors from swallowing them, they can at least secure that the neighbors will not succeed in digesting them. The same is true of the Baltic peoples: Lithuanians, Latvians, and Estonians, who retained their character, their tongue and culture despite all devastations and oppression. No foreign domination has been able to assimilate the Baltic populations. When their time came, they formed a national life, constructed an economy, a social existence. The Baltic Republics needed only time, they had to abide, in order to become precious factors in the relations between the western Democracies and Russia.

We can, and I believe, must say aloud that nationalism to us means freedom, independence, the source from which the vitality, the culture will be drawn, thus a supreme satisfaction and fulfillment. We believe also that the freedom of our peoples is no menace for any other people, for, even united, they have neither the means nor any interest whatsoever for plotting against the security of other nations. Moreover, the independence guarantees to all powers, especially to Rus-

sia, security from any exclusive domination of the Baltic Sea by other powers and provides at the same time Russia with access to that sea. Restoration of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia in their innate rights is not a problem of 'buffer states'. It is matter of justice and of saving millions of human beings who want to live in peace as free men on the lands which have been theirs and their forefathers for the past two thousand years. The Baltic peoples have clearly demonstrated in the course of twenty years of their independence, that they were capable of creating a democracy other than of one single class or party; they created communities which served the happiness and improvement of the individual and not the Moloch-State, irrespective what flag it flies — the Nazi swastika or the red banner with gilded sickle and hammer.

It is completely misleading to pretend that the small nations, and especially the Baltic States, have been an obstacle to the development of commerce and free intercourse in the world. In 1936-38 the three Baltic States, with a population of hardly six millions, imported British manufactured goods to exactly the same extent (4,400,000) as Soviet Russia — with a population of 170 millions. The foreign trade turnover of Finland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania (together about 9,500,000 people) in 1938 amounted to \$585 millions, while the turnover of the Soviet Union was only of \$525 millions.

It is an undisputed fact that the small nations never originated any systems of economic isolationism (autarchy) or the bellicose doctrine of the 'have' and 'have not' nations. As for the Baltic States, they have always been in favor of a wider economic co-operation from the very beginning. As a matter of fact, just before their occupation by the Soviets plans were under way to co-ordinate their industrial and agricultural production as well as their monetary policy. The question of a customs union between Estonia and Latvia was in principle virtually adopted, with the prospect of possible extension to Lithuania. It is certain that the experience of the past, and above all the sufferings which the Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians have been enduring in the last three years, will induce them to a closer co-operation, particularly in the economic sphere. The Baltic nations

may and certainly will associate themselves with other democratic nations pursuing the common cause of the economic and moral reconstruction of Europe. It is worth mentioning that the three Baltic States possess together about 15 million acres of arable land. Thus it is likely that, in view of the healthy and well-organized agriculture, based on a highly developed system of co-operatives, these countries will emerge from the war with only modest requirements for relief and that, in some degree, they may be able to contribute to the relief of other countries in Europe. But they will never consent to be sacrificed for the complacency of any other nation.

The same reasoning applies to the question of security, which is so often raised as an argument against the existence of small states. Is it the number of inhabitants which determines the defensive capacity of a nation? In such case, what justification has China, with her over 450 million inhabitants, to depend so much on the assistance of other nations? And where would the Soviet Union be to-day, if it had not been for the materiel, food, and military co-operation of the United States and England? The truth remains that no nation, however rich and well equipped, can boast selfsufficiency against an even more powerful aggressor or coalition of aggressors. The solution, therefore, must be sought in a system of co-operation of nations, large and small, inspired by the same ideal of liberty and by common respect for the liberty of others. Baltic nations definitely belong in that category of peoples, and the Baltic States are not a vanishing mirage.

The Baltic nations, it is true, have bound their fate to the victory of the democracies. Such a victory, however, would never be complete, nor would the ensuing peace be durable, if the rights of any one free nation were disregarded for reasons of momentary opportunism or for the benefit of someone's long range 'strategy' of new wars. Unfortunately, there are, as there have always been, persons who feel that if an injustice has been committed towards a small nation, this injustice itself becomes small and insignificant. Such a petty mentality prevailed in Europe on several occasions, of which the Memel-Klaipėda dispute, the Dantzig affair, and the Sudeten episode in Czechoslovakia are only a few. It brought about Munich and prompted Hitler to attack Europe and the world. And nowadays the world is really too small a place for peace and liberty to be divisible!

If I took the liberty to present you with these facts, I remain convinced that my feeling coincide with both your sentiments and your allegiance as loyal citizens of the United States. They are in agreement with the ideals of America, who is fighting once more for the freedom of men; in agreement also with the Atlantic Charter which recognizes nations as a constructive element of human progress. May I conclude with the words of your President on Copernicus Day, May 25:

"Not only must great nations be allowed to attain freedom. Liberty must be made progressively available to small states, to communities, and to the individual himself if humanity is to

march forward into light and life" read President Roosevelt's statement.

Let us hope that this message has been heard by the peoples of your homeland as well as mine, despite the barriers erected by the occupation censorship.

These peoples will not perish.

Valio nepriklausoma Lietuva!

ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION OF THE BALTIC STATES BY THE GERMANS

1. Efforts of Rationalization

At a conference of the Economic Chamber, Lithuania, held in the early Spring 1943 in the presence of representatives of the Chief Economic Chamber, Ostland, a working section for increased industrial production for the General District Lithuania, was established. Dr. Pense, the Head of the Economic Chamber of Lithuania, stressed in his opening speech that war economy demanded increased production by all possible means. In the interest of price policy and the labour effort (Arbeitseinsatzlage), increased thrift in material and internal expenditure and the utmost exploitation of human labour were imperative.

Therefore he thought it necessary that within the new „Arbeitskreis" a constant and intensive exchange of experiences by all those responsible, for increased production. Systematic care for increased production was also in the interest of the individual enterprises themselves.

Dipl. Ing. Bremhorst, the Head of the working community for increased industrial production (Arbeitsgemeinschaft gewerbliche Leistungssteigerung), attached to the Chief Economic Chamber Ostland, outlined the numerous tasks of the Arbeitskreis by giving practical examples. The Arbeitskreis is to be a self-critical economic organisation, responsible for the utilisation of experiences with a view to improving the methods for increased production and to work out the necessary principles and directives for this purpose, as well as to support the authorised offices (Stellen) in every way. Furthermore, it was the duty of the Arbeitskreis to prepare those circles of the population by means of instructions and education. The Arbeitskreis must support all large fields of tasks in this connection. One comprises immediate measures, the other consists of tasks the effects of which will only be noticed at a later time.

As the foremost task must be regarded the training of the leading persons in factories and the revision of the programme of finished products. In order to achieve the required capacity for the armament industry only the most essential goods should be produced and workers allocated according to this policy. Before, however, increased production can be thought of, all obstructions may be found in the field of wages, in piece-rates and in premiums, or in the absenteeism for reasons of supplies or unwillingness to work. These obstructions may also be due to measures being wrongly interpreted or applied by the Labour authorities (Arbeitseinsatzbehörden). Investigations must be carried out in order to ascertain

whether the workers are supplied with the necessary food or not, whether there is an essential shortage of clothes and whether the families of the worker are provided with sufficient food supplies by the local trades.

The fault may also be with the transport to the work-shops, shortage of public transport facilities or bad organisation of public transport. As far as internal obstructions in the workshops are concerned, the factory manager must be prevailed upon; if they are of external character, the relevant and responsible authorities would have to be informed of the conditions to be redressed.

Simultaneously with these immediate measures it was also the task of the Arbeitskreis to give the greatest attention to the training of young workers (Nachwuchsausbildung). For this purpose a "Prüfungsamt" has been established with the Economic Chamber Lithuania, which will have to regulate and uniformly direct the training of all young workers. All circles interested in the training of young workers and other authorities and workshops are asked to cooperate in this important task.

Dr. Klingspor, the chief manager (Hauptgeschäftsführer) of the Economic Chamber Lithuania, summarised Bremhorst's speech and indicated in which way the various tasks would have to be tackled...

2. Total Mobilization of Transport in the Baltic

Following Svenska Dagbladet, of April 20, a private informant reports: The total mobilization of the resources of the Baltic countries is assuming ever stricter forms. Recently all motorised and horsedrawn vehicles, etc., have been ordered to be placed at the disposal of the occupying authorities. The Tallinn press announces that all motor boats will be totally mobilized too; and this adversely affects all Estonian fishermen. It appears to be a measure to prevent prominent personalities from fleeing with motor boats, as many Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians attempted to escape after the Soviet occupation. The informant adds that it would thus appear that the Baltic peoples' feelings towards the present occupants are no more favourable than toward their predecessors.

The occupying authorities in the Baltic countries have now introduced the prohibition of general traveling. In order to obtain railway tickets all persons must submit official documents, authorising them to travel, and permission is only granted in exceptional circumstances to private persons. It is pointed out that a travelling permit does not entitle a person to take the journey but only to buy a railway ticket provided traffic conditions permit. Military requirements must be given every priority.

3. Timber in Lithuania

From the news dated June 1943, we are learning that the forest and timber economy represent the most important part of the economy of the Kreis Vilna-land with its 22 forester's districts, 30 saw mills and other timber factories. Owing to the importance of this branch of economy the

Oberforstmeister Schlabitz of the Reich Commissionership in Riga, and Stoelzner of the Commissionership General in Kaunas arrived in Vilna to discuss with Gebietskommissar Wulf timber questions, and particularly the programme for 1943-44.

Despite enormous war difficulties, all establishments have maintained their output and in some cases increased production in order to cover the needs of the front and of the establishments important for the war. Canteens in factories have been opened in almost all establishments in order to increase the efficiency of the workers. Measures are also being taken to carry out technical improvements and to utilise materials more rationally. In order to relieve the rural population of having to transport timber, new forest railways have been constructed and rolling stock provided. During the last three months the railways have transported about 9,000 Festmeter of timber for the Vilna saw mills. Moreover, long timber and firewood are being transported to Vilna territory by rafts on the river Wilja and its tributaries.

4. Lack of collaboration in Baltic

Swedish newspaper Aftontidningen, 6. 8. 43. "Voluntary" recruiting in the Baltic countries for labour and war services continues to yield unsatisfactory results, despite threats of punishment and of draconic measures. Absconders in many cases have to be fetched by the militia, and forcibly removed to the places of work. Air raid shelters are generally defective and workers of both sexes are reluctant to do night shift jobs.

FORCED MOBILIZATION OF LITHUANIAN MANPOWER BY THE GERMANS

1. Lithuanian manpower for the German army

30. 7. 43. The fifth Lithuanian Bauabteilung, which has been incorporated in the German Wehrmacht, was recently given a sendoff at Ponevesch.

Editor's note. "Bauabteilung" means a construction battalion whose task, most probably, consists mainly in building field fortifications, communications etc.

2. Vilna men called up for labour and armed forces

The District Commissioner of Vilna announces in August 1943: All men resident in Vilna of the annual classes 1919 to 1924 are earmarked for the war effort in the Reich or the Wehrmacht, irrespective of their present employment, and must report to the police stations between August 17th and 19th. Call-ups are to begin in 800 towns and punctual attendance is essential. Labour documents, mobilisation summonses, clothing (winter and working clothes), underwear, food bowls and cutlery must be brought.

3. Conscription in Vilna for the RAD

30. 7. 43. An appeal is being published ordering a muster on August 12th of all men in a town in the district of Vilna, born in 1925 for service in the RAD, threatening recalcitrants with arrest.

Editor's note. RAD means Reich's Labour Service.

GERMANS TRYING TO PERSUADE LITHUANIANS

In a public speech on July 25th, the second anniversary of the German civil administration in Lithuania, Reichs-Commissioner von Renteln said, inter alia:

My comrades, today for the last time I address to all concerned an earnest word. He who does not protect the homeland is a traitor. Whoever is not willing to forge a weapon against Bolshevism forges it for Bolshevism. Do you think there is a single decent man in Lithuania who is willing to deliver his countrymen to Bolshevism through lack of arms, simply because some young Herr Antanas believes that, by changing his address, he can secure a more comfortable life without working in Germany? Do you think young Lithuanian men laid down their lives beside the Germans, in order that some young Herr Juozas might save his precious skin in a remote farmstead on the edge of the forests?

Do you believe that so many Lithuanians are fighting shoulder to shoulder with the Germans in order that an individual, forgetful of his duty, and fearing unpleasantnesses, may support the deserters who shun their work, thus ensuring that Lithuanian warriors will one day be without arms? Or do you think that such a number of Lithuanian workmen go to work in Germany, or work behind the front lines, in order that certain parasites may walk in the forests at leisure? Or that the overwhelming majority of Lithuanians are performing duties for the protection of their homeland so that a number of immature fellows, who by their desertion are supporting Bolshevism, may jeer at them?

All those who loiter about in other people's country houses, or in the forests in order to evade duties towards the homeland and the orders of the Lithuanian self-Government, are suspect as bandits (*bandenverdachtig*) and partisans of Bolshevism, and all will therefore henceforth be treated as war criminals and hostile elements. I warn everyone against supporting these elements, either indirectly or directly, for the shame and punishment befalling these traitors will also be meted out to those citizens in whose proximity the traitors are found. I call, therefore, upon every man and woman in Lithuania to realise the gravity of the moment, and to perform his or her duty loyally even if it does not happen to be a pleasant one.

Editor's note. The above given appeal of Von Renteln speaks for itself. It reflects the Lithuanian resistance and reluctance of the population to join in with the Germans.

Mr. "Antanas" and Mr. "Juozas" are current Lithuanian names.

According to the latest information received from abroad, the Germans resorted to the use of so called "punitive detachments", composed mainly of Russian prisoners of war, to collect various levies imposed upon the reluctant Lithuanian population. This police force is known as an especially cruel and ruthless one.

BIBLIOGRAPHY ON THE BALTIC STATES AND FINLAND.

As suggested by "Friends Post-War Service Committee", Friends House, Euston Road, London, N. W. I.

1. The best general review, historical, political and economic, is **The Baltic States** by the Information Department of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (180 pp.); it is quite authoritative and unbiased. A more controversial, but still impartial, treatment of the complex issues involved is to be found in W. F. Reddaway's **Problems of the Baltic** (Cambridge University Press, Current Problems series, 120 pp.) and J. Hampden Jackson's **The Baltic** (Oxford pamphlet on World Affairs, No. 27). Chapters VI-XII of M. W. Graham's scholarly American work **New Governments of Eastern Europe** contain useful select documents.

2. For the further study of particular countries, the number of accessible books will probably be found very limited, but it should be possible to get hold of one or two of the following. J. Hampden Jackson's **Estonia** (1941) or A. Pullerits' **Estonia**, a sober record of the impressive facts which will delight anyone who finds tables and statistics fascinating, would be the first to try for on that country.

3. Hampden Jackson has also written about **Finland** (1938), largely on its history, and gives a good bibliography. Other books on Finland are A. Rothery's **Finland—The New Nation**, F. Fox's **Finland To-day** (1926), A. Reade's **Finland and the Finns** (1915, preindependence), and T. Odhe's **Finland, A Nation of Co-operators**, the last strictly on the pioneer co-operative movement.

4. On Latvia there is **Lettonie, vingt annees d'indépendance** (published by Pagalms, Riga), which is a large book of exquisite photographs giving a good idea of the nature and surroundings of all three Baltic countries. Two historical books treat more remote aspects of Latvian history giving an interesting background for study. They are **The Teutonic Knights in Latvia** by P. Z. Olins, and the **Agrarian History of Latvia** by A. Schwabe (sometimes spelt Svabe).

5. Lithuania is covered by two books: Jusaitis' **History of the Lithuanian Nation and its present National Aspirations** (1919) published by the "Lithuanian Catholic Truth Society," and **The Economic Reconstruction of Lithuania after 1918** by A. Simutis, an American book with a bibliography.

6. Travel books and popular descriptions are more easy of access in public libraries: **Finland** by T. W. Atchley, **The New Baltic States** by O. Rutter, and **Latvia, Country and People**, a copiously illustrated book by R. O. G. Urch, Correspondent of **The Times**.

7. In considering geographic and economic problems it may be asked whether it is possible for these tiny countries, sandwiched between Germany and Russia, to establish themselves permanently as independent sovereign states. The books in the first suggestion may be consulted together with the **Britain and the Baltic** (Chapters I-V) by E. W. Polson Newman, or **The New Eastern Europe** by Ralph Butler.