

Direct Echoes

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The Problem of Baltic Security

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But the role of the Baltic is not merely one of an economic character; it is a cultural role as well, for they are all riverains of the Baltic, and its fortunes are theirs also. One cannot wander through any Baltic seaport (save Leningrad) from Abo or Helsinki through Narva, Tallinn, Pernau, Riga, Libau, Memel or Danzig, without noting the fact that there is a legacy of common culture in all of them. For centuries the Baltic was a Hanseatic stronghold; later it became a Swedish lake, and the impress of Scandinavian and Teutonic culture was so deep upon it that centuries of Russification have failed to efface it. The significance of seapower in the Baltic is not lost upon the new states. They were all once a part of the confederacy of commerce with its own sea-code and sea-law in the days of Hansa League; sea-power in the hands of Sweden made them all fiefdoms of the Swedish crown; when power changed and Russia seized the trident, it meant equal subjugation for all of them. Even the heyday of German power, enjoyed but a single hour upon the Baltic as history goes, is not forgotten; its perpetuation would have been the death-knell to Baltic liberty. Men still recall with emotion the night of December 24, 1918, when a British squadron crunching through the ice, steamed into Tallinn harbor two hours ahead of a Bolshevik flotilla. Seldom in history has there been a more striking illustration of the far-reaching significance of sea-power.

But today the Russian Baltic Fleet is but a memory, and the Great German Fleet, which ruled the Baltic during the World War, has joined the Danish Fleet and the Invincible Armada, the Roman galleys and the ships of Tyre. Today there is no "dominion" in the Baltic, concentrated in a single hand; rather has sea-power been put in commission; it is shared by the various riverains, and not even Britain seeks mastery in the Northern Sea. It is this significant and far-reaching factor of stabilized sea-power that is building once more, as in Hanseatic days, a new confederacy of commerce, a new cultural community divorced from all connnotations of empire. The key position to mastery of the Baltic is in Finnish hands, but the fortresses of the Aaland Islands are dismantled and destroyed, and guarantees shared by the riverain states and France and England have ledged their permanent demilitarizations. Even upon the Gulf of Finland, by common agreement, Russia and Finland and Estonia have cut their defences to the bone.

The Balticum as a Cooperative Community

All this is, however, only half the picture; there is the other aspect of considerable achievement in free coopera-

tion among the border states, born of common conference and close cultural collaboration. In the very hour of liberation, the Baltic States and even the Ukrainian People's Republic were brought together. A common policy toward the enemy, a common peace, if possible, were planned. When this proved practically unattainable in the purely military sphere, due to circumstances beyond their individual control, a basis pattern of behavior was culminated to which there was, subsequently, broad conformity. Once peace was made in 1920, conference followed conference among the Baltic States, developing the different legal, political, cultural and economic ties that were essential to binding the various communities closer together. Given initial momentum, under the guiding spirit of Zigfrid Meierovics, Baltic cooperation spread, despite fundamental political obstacles to ever widening circles. Its cultural value cannot be underestimated:

"It is hardly necessary even to mention the whole problem of Polish-Lithuanian relations to indicate one of the major difficulties in furthering concerted action by all the Baltic States. With memories of the seizure of Vilnius and of the violation of the Agreement of Suvalkai ever before her, it was impossible for Lithuania to participate effectively, after 1922, in common conferences of all five states. This is not to say that Lithuania has not cooperated; on the contrary, within the limits of regional cooperation with the other Baltic States save Poland, her action has been commendably gratifying, and politically constructive."

The Quest for Political Security

A basic aspect of the Baltic problem has been the quest for political security. Independence, commerce, cultural cooperation are not enough to establish a basis of peaceful coexistence with powerful neighbor states to the east and west, but particularly on the frontiers of the capitalist world and in the face of the greatest experience yet witnessed in the direction of a collectivistic economy. Not that the bases of a permanent settlement do not exist; the treaties of 1920 were and remain fundamental, but it has taxed political ingenuity and statesmanship to find the adequate formulas by which an effective superstructure could be built on these foundations. That is why the greater part of the decade from 1919 to 1929 was required to effect an understanding which would be both stable and supple, and which would reinforce the frail edifice of peace on the border of the soviet world.

The states in the Balticum

first sought to effect it by agreements among themselves, by building on the concept or regional understandings a comprehensive defensive alliance directed against potential aggressors. Such was the substance of the famous Warsaw Agreement of March 17, 1922, between Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Poland. Though not specifically directed against anyone, it was obvious that it could be manipulated against Russia. Finland reflecting on the infinite possibilities of a venture which such an agreement, if signed in common with Poland, opened to her, rejected the work of her statesmen and the idea of security through alliance passed from the scene.

Security Through Disarmaments or Neutrality

There followed, at the end of 1922, the effort of Russia to bring all her western neighbors into conference at Moscow with a view to immediate and drastic disarmament—the phrase is not, therefore, new to Mr. Litvinov. Agreement was almost reached, but on the insistence of the various states on compulsory arbitration, Russia refused, deeming that the application of the norms of ordinary law to litigations between communist and capitalist states was impossible because of the chasmic divergence of their social orders and their legal systems. The technique of peaceful settlement had not proceeded sufficiently to bridge these antithetical conceptions. Moreover, the time was hardly propitious, and Moscow had no scruples as we now know from Mr. Beesdowsky's revelations — about fomenting revolution in the Reich during the sordid days of the Ruhr occupation in 1923. The trail or this intrigue was far flung, and Baltic diplomats were exceptionally wary. Moscow attempted to use the dual formula of unconditional neutrality and uninterrupted transit as the mask for her plans for the sovietization of Germany, but found the Mallic Foreign Offices stone cold. Security through blanket promises of passive accompliceship in revolution was rightly rejected.

(To be continued)

'TWAS A SNAPPY WHIRL

Those who attended the K R Winter Whirl on Saturday the Seventh certainly spend a very enjoyable evening.

The cozy ballroom at the Chicago Women's Club lent a very social atmosphere and Luke's Parisian musicians added to the snappiness and pep of the gay Whirl.

Of course the tasty fruit punch supplied even more zest and the goodie-good home-made nice big cookies helped us all to drink more and dance more and have a better time.

No one went home until after the last dance, methinks, which further proves that there's a mighty grand attraction at the K R affairs.

If you unfortunately missed this gala event, by all means don't miss the next.

A Was-There.

A SPRING VOYAGE

Led by the well-known Mr. Buksnaitis, several hundred persons are planning to make an excursion to Lithuania, leaving Boston on May 28 or New York on May 27 in the Cunarder Lancastria.

Kuomet Teisejai Ima Palitikauti

Kreivieji keliai SLA.

Reikia tiesiog stebėtis kai kurių žmonių apetitais. Chicago, mūsų pačių miesto, keletas advokatų ir jų tarpe išimtiškes "didžiausio lietuvių dienrašcio" redaktorius su pora adjutantų nusitarė išsluot "iš pat pamatų" senąją S. L. A. tvarką.

Daugelis SLA. narių gal ir šandie dar tiki, jog ginčiai eina vien tik dėl Devenio paskolos. Jeigu taip būtų, tai visą dalyką galėtumėm greitai išristi pasinaudojant, kad ir šios organizacijos konstitucija. Iš savo pusės mes nenorim nieko slėpti arba bile ką užtarti. Jeigu kiltų klausimas apie tikrųjų kaltininkų nubaudymą, nors jie būtų ir pačioj Pildomoj Taryboj, mes nesviruodami tam pritartumėm.

Bet tie, kurie šandie kelia daugiausia triukšmo, budami ar tai pastoviose komisijose ar laikraščio redakcijoj, turi omeny ne pačią bylą išspręsti, išaiškinti, bet politiniai pasiūlymai. O kuomet politika įsimašo į juridinius dalykus — sudiev teisingumas!

Paimkim, kad ir tokį dalyką. Beveik visi esam pastebėję, jog sąryšis su Devenio byla daugiausia atakuojami p. Gegužis ir p. Vitaitis. Kodel? Todel, kad jie užima tokias vietas, į kurias vėliau kandidatuos kelias dabartinių "kritikų". S. L. A. Prezidentas yra svarbi ir jo patekus to vieta yra svarbi ir jo patekus vienam kitam advokatai amerikoniškoj politikoj šypsos skaisti atėitis. O tam tikros sriovės žmonėms, kuriuos atstovauja "didžiausias lietuvių dienrašcis" norėtusi pastatyti "Tėvynės" redaktorių, tokį asmenį, kurį jie galėtų kontroliuoti.

Nesuprantamu budu sudarytoji koalicija iš aukščiau minėtų elementų nukreipė visus savo šūvius į tas dvi ypates, nežiurint, kad p. Vitaitis nieko bendro neturi su Devenio byla, o tik gina SLA. gerą vardą.

P-lė Jurgeliutė, kuri, kaip dalyką tyrinėjusios komisijos ir pats p. Gegužis atvirai pareiškė, įdavė Deveniui čekį, nelaukdamą dokumentų, kaž kodel paliekama nuošaliai ir "kritikai" jos beveik neprisiėmena.

Šita paslaptį galime išaiškinti sekančiu budu: politiniai p-lė Jurgeliutė nestovė ant kelio, nė kitiems advokatai nė tam lietuvių dienrašciui. Advokatai nenori sekretoriaus vietos, nes alga permaža, o darbo daug. Ypač pastarojo jie bijos. Dienrašciui gi nepridera užmiršti, jog p-lės sekretorės didelis gynėjas ir užtartytojas yra žymus So. Bostono socialistų veikėjas.

Mūsų išvadas, kad naujam koalicijai, sudarytai iš labai margos medžiagos daugiau

Several interesting points will be touched before the excursionists disembark at Memel, Klaipėda. Games and parties are being arranged for entertainment during the trip.

The conductor, Pius Buksnaitis of the Cunard New York staff, is well known among the Lithuanians in the United States. If any one is interested in joining these excursionists, we suggest you communicate with Mr. Buksnaitis at once.

sų idejinius darbuotojus, nežiurint kokiai sriovei jie priklausytų — yra retenybė. Taip kalba žmonės, kurie SLA. dar nesušilo kojų. Jie susidėjo turtus iš lietuvių, kuriuos idejos darbuotojai ragino eiti pas juos su biznio reikalais.

Gal priešingoji pusė vėl prives mums, jog stengiamės "nubaltinti" SLA. Pildomą Tarybą. Ne apie "baltinimą" arba "juodinimą" eina kalbos, bet apie žemos rūšies politikavimą, kurį mūsų kritikai taip pamėgo, jog maišo jį ten kur visai nereikėtų.

—M. V.

Dirbk, Kol Jaunas

Dirbki broli kol dar jaunas, kol dar daug jėgų turi. Kol dar aukštus idealus Tu karštai mylėt gali. Kol jaunoj tavo krutinėj Dega šventoji ugnis; Kol saldžiais akordais meilės Gaudžia nekalta širdis. Kol mėnulis ir žvaigdelės, Verčia dar svajot—svajot. Kol harmonija pasiūlio Nor dainužę uždainuot. Tad skubėk brolau darbuotis Neleisk veltui valandos. Greit prabėgs tau aukso dienos Ir negrįž jau niekados.

—Pr. Miliauskas.

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