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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT

VITALIS BUKŠNAITIS

Until some one turns up with enough intestinal fortitude to call the bluff of the Mad Dog of Europe, the question "Who's going to stop Hitler?" will have to be included in the same category as the nursery classic "Who killed Cock Robin?" And, because recent news reports indicate that the bigger European nations are either indisposed or are just suffering from a long, wide yellow streak, it begins to appear that the bluff-calling job will have to be tackled by one of the smaller countries.

The larger European nations may be, in a general way, classified into three groups: the Democracies, the Nazi-Fascist States, and the Communist States. All of them are wolves, eagerly intent upon keeping their colonial possessions, and equally eager to refrain from any activities which might endanger their territorial possessions. The smaller nations are the sheep, including the boastful Poland, which when all is said and done, is only a sheep in wolf's clothing.

The situation up to date has been as follows: Proud Britannia, having trouble in protecting the "flag upon which the sun never sets" in its far-flung empire, prevailed upon L'République Française, whose colonial possessions had been threatened by Hitler's pal, Mussolini, to throw Czecho-Slovakia to the Mad Dog of Europe as a gesture of "appeasement". Meanwhile, the "democratic" USSR, has been yelling at the top of its lungs, "Let's you and him fight!"

Later, the Nazi propaganda machine was set in motion in Klaipėda, Lithuania's historic seaport. In 1925, when the total population of the Klaipėda region was 141,960, the language used was 50.6 per cent German and 47.8 per cent Lithuanian, (this, in spite of the fact that Klaipėda, or Memel, as the Germans called it, was under the rule of Germany for 671 years!). When Berlin finally demanded the "return" of this area to the Greater Reich, what happened?

England and France merely reported to its populace that Hitler was asking for the "return" to Germany of territory which had been taken from her in the treaty of Versailles, carefully neglecting to mention the fact that the territory originally belonged to Lithuania; that the native population of the area was predominantly Lithuanian. Russia, meanwhile, went into its usual song and dance of "Let's you and him fight!"

Let's look at the matter in hand coldly, practically. There was another Feuhrer not so long ago, whose nemesis was the little country of Belgium. Feuhrer Hohenzollern tried a short cut through Belgium into France and ended up in his Dutch sanctuary of Doorn. Who knows? It is possible that Hitler, who has been emulating his royal predecessor, may try to make of Lithuania the Belgium of the next World War. What can we do? Let's forget our factional differences and help Lithuania as one man, in every way that we can!

LITHUANIA

(Yra Salis Kur Upės Teka)
By PRANAS VAJCAITIS

There is a land where rivers ripple
Amidst the forests wide and dark;
Where in the fields delights the people
Lighthearted warbling of a lark.
There sweatdrenched toilers, men and women,
Are bent to have their field work done;
There homespun rugged snowy linen
Clothes limbs and loins of everyone.
And there a visitor is greeted
With utmost zeal and upmost zest:
Much liked, well wished, most kindly treated
To food and vintage of the best.
And fair are that shore's blue-eyed misses—
May long they blossom, love and smile!
They win your heart, though save the kisses—
And, I remained there but a while.
Yet I recall how twilight starry
Escorts the bed bound blushing sun;
How lads and lassies, gay, though weary,
Sing, daily doings having done.
How then young maidens bend bright faces
Towards much cherished deep green rues,
Asinging songs—with sweet embraces.
Pet blossoms of varying hues.
Well I recall how wingless shadows
Relieve the day, bright, warm and long;
How silent hills and dewy meadows
Against your will set you to song.
Though gravely be the church bell droaning,
Proclaiming night's serene repose;
Though all the nature long be dreaming,
Yet human eyes still would not close.
Like endless clouds the thoughts keep fleeting,
Ideas find no bound or cost;
It seems the nature sings, repeating:
"This land is fair, the fairestmost!"
Lithuania, our fathers' glory!
Too soon I had to leave your land—
No verse may tell the homefelt story,
That heart alone may understand.

Translated by Nadas Rasteris.

THE STORY OF KLAIPEDA (MEMEL)

Strange as it may seem, few of the American (and with few exceptions, Lithuanian) newspapers bothered to check up on the history of the Klaipėda territory before offering to their readers an explanation of proceedings in that area.

For this reason, the following information, clipped from the Detroit News by Miss Ona Aksomaite, forwarded to us and easily verified by glancing through any reputable encyclopedia dealing with the subject, may be of interest to our readers:

Originally, as the historians say, the city and district of Memel belonged to the Lithuanians; who called the city *Klaipėda*. The Teutonic Knights, who set out in the Thirteenth Century to conquer and Christianize the Baltic Coast, seized it in 1252, and later it was definitely ceded to them. Thus Klaipėda, or Memel, as the Germans called it, was made a part of East Prussia.

After the World War, and the recreation of Lithuania as an independent state, the city of Memel, an important seaport on the Baltic, and 933 square miles of surrounding territory, were detached from East Prussia and administered by France under the League of Nations. This did not please the people of Memel, who wished it to be made a free city, and neither did it please the Lithuanians, who wished it to be incorporated in their country.

Angered by the Allied Powers' acquiescence in Poland's seizure of Vilna, their ancient capital, the Lithuanians sought revenge by invading Memel in 1923. The powers subsequently awarded Memel to Lithuania, with certain rights and privileges reserved for the benefit of neighboring countries and their trade. The handling of the Memel question not only irritated the Germans and Lithuanians, but also caused pro-

longed friction between Poland and Lithuania.

The population of Memel-land is about evenly divided between Lithuanians and Germans.

WORLD'S FAIR WOMEN'S COMMITTEE PLANS DANCE

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—Dr. Aldona Šliupaitė, chairman of the Women's Section of the Official World's Fair Committee announced last week that a dance, the proceeds of which will be turned over to the Official Central Lithuanian Day Committee, will be presented at Arcadia Hall on Sunday, April 23rd. Johnny Nevins and his Night Owl's Orchestra have been retained for the occasion.

Might Have Been "Washington, D. C."

NEW YORK.—Flushing, the semi-rural community adjoining the site of the New York World's Fair 1939 on the East, was once under consideration as the Capital of the United States.

CHEERS, JEERS AND REFLECTIONS

(Excerpts from letters received by the editor)

LITHUANIA NEEDS SUPPORT

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Lithuania needs our support in her day of tribulation. Let us demonstrate throughout this country at some given time our solidarity in defense of her freedom and sovereignty. Lithuania must not be made a puppet of the Nazis or the Communists, but must stand united to the last man against any foreign invasion.

May I urge you to do what you can in this vital matter.

B'klyn Liths. Protest Hitlers Klaipėda Grab

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—Lithuanian-Americans jammed Mc Caddin Hall to capacity at a meeting protesting Germany's seizure of the Klaipėda (Memel) territory. The meeting was held Sunday afternoon, March 26th, under the auspices of the Lithuanian American League.

The program was opened by appropriate ceremonies in which the Darius-Girėnas Post No. 1 of the Lithuanian Legion and the Queen of Angels Parish band participated. The Lithuanian National Hymn was sung at the conclusion of the ceremonies.

Chairman J. Laučka acted as master of ceremonies. The chairman of the assemblage introduced the Latvian speaker,

Harry Leinors, who spoke in English, and editor J. Stilson of Naujoji Gadyne, editor S. E. Vitaitis of VIENYBĖ, former VIENYBĖ's editor J. Tysliava and the rev. Fr. J. Balkunas. All pointed out the fact that this and similar protest meetings were the occasion not for grieving and weeping, but for the definite expression of a will to protect Lithuania's independence.

During an intermission between speeches \$234.21 was collected for Lithuania's defense fund. At the conclusion of the program attorney V. Dragūnas read several resolutions which were unanimously adopted by the assemblage. The resolutions will appear in an early issue of VIENYBĖ.

Chicago Protests Seizure of Lith. Territory

CHICAGO, Ill.—Germany's acquisition of Klaipėda (Memel) by threat of attack by land, sea and air moved Chicago's colony of Lithuanian Americans to formulate the following protests:

His Excellency Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

Lithuanian National League of America, representing the Democratic element of Lithuania in USA appeals to you to request your government to take such action as it shall deem fit and proper to save Klaipėda (Memel), from the occupation and retention by Hitler's aggression against weaker neighbors of Germany.

It should be stopped definitely and for all time.

Lithuanian Nat'l League of America, *Matas Bieksha*, Sec'y.

Hon. Sumner Welles, Acting Sec'y of State Washington, D. C.

The Lithuanian Chamber of Commerce of Illinois hopes that our government will be as emphatic in its protest against aggressors who are contemplating the seizure of Lithuanian territory as it was in its protests against the invasion of other small nations.

John W. Kaledinskas, Pres. Lithuanian Chamber of Commerce of Illinois. J. P. Rakstis, Chairman, Foreign Relations Comm.

Plan Big Party for Younger Lithuanian Visitors to Fair

Nat'l Youth League Hopes to Dispel Notion That New Yorkers Lack Hospitality

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—The younger Lithuanian and Lithuanian American visitors to New York during the World's Fair will find that New Yorkers are not all as cold, hard-boiled and self-centered as they have been pictured, according to plans formulated by the Lithuanian American Nat'l Youth League. Present plans include the establishment of an information bureau at Alliance Hall in Brooklyn for the duration of the Fair, and the presentation of a huge party featuring entertainment and dancing. The party will be staged a few days before Lithuanian Day, September 10th, and all out of town visitors registered with the Youth League will be admitted free as guests of honor.

Many Visitors Expected

Many choral, social and athletic groups, as well as individuals, have already registered with the National Youth League, and all others are urged to do likewise at once in order that accommodations of sufficient size might be reserved for the party. Every effort is being made to make this affair a memorable one. And why not? For the first time in Lithuanian American history younger Lithuanians from both sides of the Atlantic, from north, south, east and west, will get together for the express purpose of enjoying themselves.

How To Register

If you wish to register either yourself or your group, please write and indicate how many there will be in your group, the approximate date on which you propose to arrive in New York, and the length of time you expect to stay. All communications should be addressed to Peter Jukyns, Secretary, Lithuanian American National Youth League, 193 Grand St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Student Club Holds March Meeting

NEW YORK, N. Y.—The March meeting of the Lithuanian Alumni and Students Club was held recently at the home of Miss Alberta Strimaitis of Woodhaven.

A drive for new membership was discussed. Students and graduates of colleges or universities are invited to attend the next meeting.

Two scholarships were granted for a course in Lithuanian Culture and History at Columbia University. The course is given by Dr. Joseph Raymond, a member of the faculty of Marianapolis and also a member of the Alumni and Students Club.

Mrs. Olga Mikolainis and Miss Alberta Strimaitis, representatives of the Club to the Women's Committee of Lithuanian Day at the World's Fair, reported developments in plans for Lithuanian Day in September.

Mr. Leopold Grigonis gave an interesting talk on the founding and purpose of the Lithuanian Import and Export Company.

The next meeting will be held on April 16th at the home of Mrs. Frances Chase of Jamaica.

Art Theatre Stages Swell Party

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—The Lithuanian Art Theatre (Lietuvių Meno Teatras) presented its monthly "family" party at Alliance Hall on Sunday, March 26th. A record attendance for this type of entertainment attended.

The Art Theatre, most of whose members are Lithuanian Americans who have spent several years in Lithuania, arranged a pleasant program which included beverages such as coffee and beer, as well as sandwiches during the intermissions between dances.

A feature of the evenings proceedings was a singing contest in which all the guests participated. Victor Raudonaitis, president of the Lithuanian Art Theatre introduced Vitalis Bukšnaitis, president of the Lithuanian American National Youth League, who acted as master of ceremonies.

During the festivities it was announced that the Lithuanian Art Theatre will present at Alliance Hall, for the first time in Brooklyn, the Comedy "Piginigėliai" with an all star cast on Sunday, April 30th.

Diorama of New York City

NEW YORK.—"New York, the City of Light", a diorama nearly a city block in length and taller than a three-story building, is to be one of the dramatic exhibits at the New York World's Fair 1939. It is to present the entire City of New York both above and below ground. The model of the Empire State Building is shown 22 feet high.

L. I. GIRLS PRESENT SPRING DANCE

LONG ISLAND CITY, N. Y.—The Long Island "Birute" Girls' Club will present its annual spring dance at Alliance Hall on Sunday, May 7th, 1939, Grand Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Many novelties are being prepared for the occasion, and Johnny Nevins and his Night Owl's Orchestra will provide the terpsichorean incentive.

\$10,000,000 Underfoot

NEW YORK.—Ten million dollars worth of invisible work has been completed at the New York World's Fair 1939. This underground expense has provided 30 miles of sewers, 45 miles each of electrical ducts and water mains and 13 miles of gas pipes.

The Oldest Metal of Commerce

NEW YORK.—In the copper and brass exhibit at the New York World's Fair 1939, primitive man, with his family, is to be shown in an animated diorama working on the first use of copper, that of fashioning spearheads for use in combat and hunting.

Aiding Motorists to The Fair

NEW YORK.—Thousands of directional markers of standard size, displaying the Perisphere and Trylon, theme structures of the New York World's Fair 1939, are to be erected throughout New York City to guide "out-of-town" motorists and others the most direct routes to the entrances to the Exposition.

Postpone March Guild MUSICALE

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—The Guild concert for March 24th did not take place. Instead there will be two concerts on the following dates: April 28th and May 26th, in Alliance Hall.

We are sure that this postponement will not inconvenience our patrons to any great extent. The program committee will take this opportunity to catch its breath and after this short period of relaxation will start preparing for the April 28th concert, which promises to be the outstanding concert of the season.

We take great pleasure in announcing that Mr. Longin Buisis, Jr., of Cambridge, Mass., has been enrolled as member of the Guild in the violin department. Mr. Buisis will be heard in the April 28 concert.

Announcements concerning this affair will appear as soon as final negotiations have been completed with other artists. It can be definitely stated, however, that Miss Milda Zudzius, pianist will also be soloist on April 28th. It is extremely pleasant for us to accede to popular demand and present her again. R. K.

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