



UKRAINIAN WEEKLY



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READ THEM

In these days when interest in Ukraine is running high, it is the duty of every young Ukrainian-American not to allow it to subside but to heighten it at every opportunity. To do this, however, one must have in his head, or within easy reach of it, a fundamental knowledge of Ukraine, particularly of those factors and events that constitute the centuries-old movement for her freedom and independence.

Previously, such knowledge though plentiful in the Ukrainian language was very scarce in English. Consequently, there was some excuse if our American born and raised youth knew so very little about this vital subject. Today, however, the situation is different. There is enough material in English now to satisfy the elementary needs in this respect of anyone.

First on the list of such publications, of course, is the *Ukrainian Weekly*, which for those who have saved all its copies has become a mine of information concerning Ukraine, not to mention its other material, accumulated on its pages for the past five and one-half years. Once more we want to impress upon its readers the necessity of saving all its copies.

Turning our attention to books and booklets, we find several timely ones among those most recently published.

Ukraine and American Democracy, by Dr. Luke Myshuha (32 p. price—15 cents. 1939) is an especially timely booklet. It was American Democracy that some twenty years ago conceived the principle of national self-determination; yet it was American Democracy, too, that was partly responsible for the defeat of the strivings of the Ukrainian nation to take advantage of this principle. What then is the present status and future possibilities of Ukraine's struggle for national self-determination in relation to American Democracy? This booklet will help to clear up the question.

Equally timely is the *Ukrainian National Movement* by Stephen Shumeyko (46 p. 25 cents. 1939). Here is a bird's eye view of the entire panorama of Ukrainian history from ancient times to the present day. This view makes it clear that the movement for Ukrainian independence is no recent manifestation, but that it is over a thousand years old, and that several times it has been crowned with success, of short duration—to be sure, yet lasting enough to give greater strength and impetus to the movement. At the present time when its enemies, as well as those who do not know any better, spread lies and nonsense about it and the Ukrainian people, it is very necessary to fight back with at least the facts that this brochure and the preceding one provide.

Another very recent publication, but, unlike the preceding two cultural in nature, is that of Ivan Franko's famous poem *Moses*, translated by Waldimir Semenyna, with a short biography of Franko by Stephen Shumeyko (93 p. 50 cents. 1938). Besides being a literary masterpiece, the poem is a thinly disguised portrayal of Franko's own bitter struggle to lead his people to freedom and progress. Ivan Franko is one of the leading Ukrainians of all times, one whom the greatest nation would be proud to have as her own son; his life and works, therefore, should be better known here in America.

Furthermore, at this time when observances are being held in honor of the 125th anniversary of the birth of Taras Shevchenko, the "outstanding incarnation of the national genius" of the Ukrainian people, Prof. Dmytro Doroshenko's brochure *Taras Shevchenko—Bard of Ukraine*, with a preface by Prof. Clarence A. Manning, (50 p. 35 cents. 1936) is very much worth reading.

Other books and booklets which are just as timely today as they were when published, and which have often been mentioned on these pages, are: *Spirit of Ukraine—Ukrainian Contributions to World Culture*, by D. Snowyd (152 p. \$1. 1935); *Ukrainians in the United States*, by Wasyly Halich (174 p. Illustrated. \$2.50. 1937); *A Voice From Ukraina*, by Percival Cundy, being a biographical sketch and translations of the works of Ivan Franko (74

EYE-WITNESS DESCRIBES UKRAINE UNDER SOVIETS

Kiev and the surrounding countryside under Soviet rule are vividly described by Virginia Cowles, a correspondent of the *Times* of London, in a dispatch to the *New York Times* on March 19. At night, she says, when the lights of the capital city of Ukraine flash from high bluffs above the River Dnieper like jewels in a coronet, it is an enchanting sight. But with daylight the beauty passes like a strange dream, and one finds an atmosphere of desolation accentuated by the bleakness of the Winter sky.

The paint is chipping off the buildings, she says, the shop windows are cracked and dirty, and every few blocks there are queue lines. Especially striking, she says, is the contrast in appearance between the Red Army soldiers with their high boots and long, thick-belted coats, and the shabby civilians.

Although the Soviet Ukraine is almost as large as Germany, the writer further brings out, yet it has become almost a terra incognita, for with the exception of the Polish Consulate at Kiev, foreign consulates have been closed, and during the last year few tourists have traveled through the region.

It is interesting to observe that although the *Times* writer states that "rumors abroad of a 'separatist movement' in the Ukraine appear to be completely unfounded," yet by inference she makes it clear that of necessity such a movement could not be an open one, visible to the tourist eye, for, as she says, "the country is honey-combed with militiamen and secret police agents." Sabotage, the weapon of a dissatisfied populace, is rife throughout the countryside. Elaborate precautions are taken to guard against it. At night many of the factories and public buildings are brilliantly lighted and guarded by armed watchmen.

Another interesting observation she made was that for the most part the managers of the country stores "were not Ukrainians, but officials from Moscow."

"One of them," she continues, "opened the conversation by declaring that conditions in Russia were far better than those in America; he catalogued the benefits of the revolution while our eyes wandered over the supplies in the shop. The only food on the shelves was bread, but there were perfume, buttons, artificial flowers and four pairs of canvas shoes for children."

APPEAL FOR HELP FOR CAR- PATHO-UKRAINIAN VICTIMS

A cabled appeal for help for the Ukrainian prisoners and wounded who took part in the valiant defense of Carpatho-Ukraine against Hungary, was received by the "Ob-yednanye" last Tuesday from the Ukrainian members of the Polish Parliament.

The text of the cable reads as follows:

"We appeal to you to immediately start a relief drive to help the wounded and prisoners of Carpatho-Ukraine. They are in desperate straits in Hungary, Rumania and Slovakia. We cannot send any aid to them from here, for the Government [Polish] refuses to allow it. Appeal for help to the American Red Cross at Washington, and the International Red Cross at Geneva. —(Signed) Ukrainian Parliamentary Representation; Dr. Paul Ly-sak."

UKRAINIAN BUREAU OPENED IN WASHINGTON

A Ukrainian Bureau was opened in Washington on March 24th, 1939. Its purpose is to inform the American public about the struggle of the Ukrainian people to establish a free, independent and democratic Ukrainian State. The bureau is governed by the Ukrainian Bureau Committee. Its director is Eugene Skotsko.

PERSECUTION OF UKRAINIAN CHURCHES

"L'Union des Eglises et le Persecutions Polonaises en Ukraine," edited by the Federation of Ukrainian Emigrés in Europe, is a survey of the position of the Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox Churches in Poland. It deals with the historical developments which led up to the present situation, includes valuable material on the so-called revindication of Ukrainian churches in Poland, the text of speeches by Ukrainian delegates in the Sejm, of official protests by the Ukrainian religious authorities, and contains a number of photographs showing the demolition of Ukrainian churches.

Visitors who attempt to investigate conditions, are not welcome, as the experience of Virginia Cowles illustrates. When she wanted to make a trip into the countryside, the Soviet authorities were reluctant to permit it. So she drove out herself together with a friend. When she reached the country roads she saw two police cars following her. And on her return to the city, the two cars trailed her again, each containing three secret-police agents.

p. 50 cents. 1932); *The Kobzar of the Ukraine—select poems of Taras Shevchenko, done into English with biographical fragments by Alexander Jardine Hunter* (144 p. Illustrated. \$1. 1922); *English section of the U.N.A. Jubilee Book*, edited by Dr. Luke Myshuha (752 p. Illustrated. \$2.00. 1936); and *The Ukrainian Question*, by Lancelot Lawton (36 p. 50 cents. 1935).

We urge everyone of our young Ukrainian-Americans to obtain all or as many as possible of these publications in English dealing with Ukraine, her people, their history and culture, and their national aspirations. Organizations of a local and national character should buy them in lots and distribute them among their members, just as the United Ukrainian Organizations of Philadelphia, and the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (Soyuz Ukrainok), did recently by taking several hundred copies each.

All of them are on sale at the *Svoboda Bookstore*, 81-83 Grand Grand Street, Jersey City, N. J.

Early Immigrant Life

(1)

(To give our young people a better understanding of the type of life encountered by their immigrant parents upon their arrival here in America, is the purpose of this and subsequent similar articles. The story below, translated from Ukrainian, is that of Dmytro Kapitula, an old Ukrainian immigrant who now resides in McAdoo, Pennsylvania and who is the chairman of the Board of Controllers of the U. N. A. It appears in its original form in the U. N. A. Jubilee Book.)

I arrived in America in October, 1888, when I was fifteen years of age. I had a thirty-year-old cousin living in Honey Brook, Pennsylvania, where for the past three years he had been working in the mines.

When I disembarked at New York City, I had with me not only my passport but also a train ticket to Audenried, Pennsylvania.

From our ship "Vera" (North German Lloyd line) we were taken off by a smaller vessel and ferried over to Castle Garden, the immigrant depot then. There I was asked where I was going and how much money I had. There also I changed my Austrian money for American money—seven dollars.

When they got through examining us, we were taken outside where a two-wheel wagon stood hitched to a horse. Nine of us were herded into this wagon, a rope wound around us, and we moved off. Soon we arrived in front of a house. We were told to get off and go down into the cellar. Here they gave us some sausage and bread to eat, for which we had to pay a dollar apiece. We were then taken to the river and ferried across to the Pennsylvania R. R. Station in Jersey City.

We took our train at about six in the evening. Somewhere near eleven we arrived at Hazleton. Three of us got off there: another Ukrainian, a Lithuanian girl, and myself. When the train had left, the station-master put out the gas light, pushed us out of the station, locked it up and left. We stood there in the snow, undecided what to do.

About a half-hour later a stranger appeared and inquired whether we could speak Slovak. We replied that we could. "Are you from the old country? Where are you headed?" he asked us. "I am going to Audenried," I replied. "Well, that's just where I'm going, too," he said, "and I know the road. So if you want to, come with me." To this invitation I replied that I had a railroad ticket and would rather go by train than by foot. "If you do, you will have to wait till nine tomorrow morning before you get your train," the stranger said. I decided therefore to go with him, and my two companions agreed to do likewise.

The road led through the mountains. It was very cold. The Lithuanian girl lost the heel to her shoe and had to hobble along. Each of us carried a valise.

In about an hour's time we covered three miles. At this point we perceived a house standing in a clearing by the road. The Slovak turned to us and said: "I'm going further. You wait here till morning, so that someone will show you the way, or if you want to, go and knock at the door of that house and ask them to put you up for the night. They are Slovaks and will let you stay over, and tomorrow you can go searching for your countrymen."

With these words he left. When he had disappeared in the darkness, we wondered what we should do next. Since my companion and the girl looked upon me as their leader, I decided to take the Slovak's advice. Hardly had we taken a few steps towards the house, when the sound of our footsteps grating on the scattered slate caused a dog to start furiously barking. Remembering how quick to bite were the dogs in the old country, we dared not approach the house any closer, for none of us had even a stick handy, and be-

sides this we wore new clothes which had cost us a lot of money and which we intended to wear for a long time yet. So we retired to the slate bank, with the intention of remaining there till morning. In a half-hour's time, however, our feet got so cold that I decided to rather fight the dog than remain there any longer.

Slowly I drew close to the house. When the dog began approach me threateningly, I spoke soft words to turn away his wrath. Soon he had quieted down and I was able to get to the door. I knocked. After a while the door opened a little and someone asked: "Who's that?"

"It's me," I replied. "From the old country."

"Which old country?" the voice demanded. "How did you get here? Who brought you here? And who else is with you?"

When I had explained everything, the door opened more and a man appeared in it. Seeing that I was just a lad, with a valise in my hand, and that everything appeared just as I had told him, he inquired of me what sort of a fellow was my companion. I told him he was about the same size as I. So the man told me to call him over and the girl also.

Our host led us inside and lit a lamp. By its feeble light I saw a table, made of boards, a similarly-constructed bench alongside of it, and a stove in the corner. In another corner there was a cupboard. "Sit down on that bench," we were told, "or if you don't want to then remain standing until morning."

I took a stool and sat down on it by the stove. The girl sat down in one corner, while my companion in another. Our host put out the light and went into another room. We were left alone in the darkness.

Around six in the morning the house awakened. Someone lit a lamp and we saw a number of men getting ready to go to work, washing, dressing, drinking the coffee that had just been made, and filling their dinner pails with it and food. The three of us huddled into a corner in order not to be in the way. No one spoke to us.

When all had left for work, our host said to his wife. "Give them some coffee, and when daylight comes show them the way to the coal breaker, where they will look for their countrymen."

She did as she was told, giving us in addition a piece of bread.

"Now you can go to the breaker," she said.

"But what is a breaker?" I asked her.

"Just go over there where you see smoke curling up."

The three of us left. After some time we arrived at the breaker. A worker approached us and began to say something to us, but I could not understand him, so I pulled out a paper with an address written on it and showed it to him. He looked at it and then waved his arm in the direction of another breaker.

When we came to it, I again showed someone the slip of paper, and was directed towards some shanties. They proved to be inhabited by an Italian colony. The women could not understand us and motioned us to go to another such cluster of huts. There I again showed the address to someone, who took me to a nearby breaker and introduced me to one who evidently was some sort of a boss. The latter called over one of the workers, who asked me in Ukrainian where did I want to go. "To Ivan Koban," I replied. "I know him," he said. He lives in Honey Brook. To get there, go in this direction until you reach a group of shanties. Then follow the road to the spot where water comes out of a pipe. There you will find women taking it for their use. Tell them you want to see Honchak,

and Honchak will direct you to Koban."

I followed his directions and thus encountered Mrs. Honchak. She took us to her home, the three of us, and gave us coffee to drink—it was already three in the afternoon. The Lithuanian girl decided to remain with Mrs. Honchak for a short while, for some people whom she met there promised to take her to her own kind, while my friend and I went to Ivan Koban, who lived about eight houses away, and whose home became my home too.

This took place Wednesday. Thursday was St. Demetrius Day. I stayed home that day. Friday I went looking for work.

My cousin took me that morning to the breaker, spoke to the boss about me, and I got a job picking slate out of the coal. The boss told me to go to a nearby breaker, where I was to work. I started on my way, walking on a trestle which ran up hill. Suddenly I heard someone shouting to me:

"Hey, where are you going?"

"To the breaker. I'm to work there."

"That's not the way to get up there. You'll get killed."

"Which way, then?"

"Go around that way. There's steps leading up."

I followed his directions and reached the breaker. The boss was not around yet. A group of "English" boys saw me and yelled to me:

"Hey, John, work? Fine! Come here!"

They took me in their care, showed me how to sit on the bench over the chute through which coal and slate was sliding down, and how to pick out the coal. I began to do what they had showed me, while they seemed to be greatly amused by what I was doing.

At length the boss appeared. "What are you doing here?" he demanded, and told me to get up and wait. Soon the "big boss" came around and told the other to give me a job. The latter directed me to take my place at the chute and get to work. After awhile he came up to me and told me I was not doing the job properly. Pointing with his switch, he showed me which was slate and which was coal, and told me to pick out the former and not the latter.

I did as instructed. Later when I attempted to get up I felt heavy weights in both my pockets. It was coal that the boys around me had stuck into them.

My hours were from 7 in the morning till 6 at night, with one hour off for lunch. For these 10 hours of labor I received 60 cents in pay. Six months later I received 70 cents per day. Later it was raised to 80 cents. This was the highest pay for this type of work.

An Accident in the Mines

After a year's work in the breaker, I was assigned to duties outside. At first I was a "hitcher," which meant that I hitched the trucks carrying coal and slate to the cable pulling them. My pay then was \$1.20 for a 10-hour day. This work necessitated my working late into the night. One night my foot got caught between two rails and despite all my efforts I could not pull it out. A truck thundered down upon me from above, knocked me down and ran over me. Another worker signalled the boss, who was some one hundred feet underground, what had happened to me. The boss came up and with the aid of several workers carried me into the engine house. An empty truck was found and I was placed into it and carted about a quarter of a mile to the breaker. Here they found a ladder (in those days there were no stretchers in the mines to carry the injured), put me on it, and with four men carrying it and the fifth one watching that I should

NEWS MIRRORED IN OLD COUNTRY PRESS

POLISH UKRAINE

New Pacification

The Ukrainian Press is not allowed to report news of the "pacification" now being enacted in Polish Ukraine. Information can, however, be gathered from interpellations raised by deputies in the Polish Sejm.

"Dilo," Lwiv, March 10, writes: "During the Session (March 8th) the Marshal (Speaker) of the Sejm accepted three new interpellations by Ukrainian deputies. M. Lysiak, M. P. put a question to the Minister of Internal Affairs concerning the flogging and bodily maltreatment of Ukrainians in the village of Kruszelnysia, district Stry, on February 16th, by members of a detachment of military, based on personal information received... Villagers had been attacked, and many severely beaten. M. Navrotsky, M. P., put a question concerning the beating-up of 17 peasants in the village of Czolhyn, district Yavoriv, by a detachment of military police under the command of Ludwik Seredynski, on February 28th. The treatment was of so brutal a nature that many of the villagers are afraid to come out of hiding in the surrounding woods."

Madame Blazhkevych Arrested

We reported some months ago the beating-up of Madame Ivanna Blazhkevych, a well-known Ukrainian Cooperative worker, who was gravely injured, and had to be taken to hospital. Madame Blazhkevych left the hospital a short while ago. Now "Dilo," Lwiv, March 10th reports as follows:

"On March 4th the police arrested Madame Ivanna Blazhkevych at Tarnopol, where she was placed in jail. The reason given for her arrest is that, during an election meeting of the Municipal Council in Denisiv, she was alleged to have urged that all voters should favor the Ukrainian list of candidates."

Religious Revival Follows Persecution

"Dilo," March 10th, writes: "Events of the last year concerning the Orthodox Church in Volhynia have had amazing sequel. There has been an unprecedented uprush of religious enthusiasm. Churches on Sundays and holidays are filled to capacity. The Orthodox cathedral at Luck, a capacious building, can hardly provide space for one third of the worshippers. Those inside can remain for only a part of the services, they then must make way for those who are waiting outside... Very often one sees in the churches persons who had been 're-converted' to the Roman Rite."

Ukrainian Bureau, London.

not roll off, I was taken home and left there. No doctor was called.

It was six weeks before I was able to get on my feet again. As for any compensation for my injuries, no one said even a word.

When I was well enough to go back to work, the boss refused to take me back, saying that my accident had made it very evident that I was too clumsy to work. Finally he relented and "kindly" gave me a job.

(Here Mr. Kapitula tells of the various types of mining work he did after that, how he quit the mines and went to work in a grocery, and then went into business on his own. Next week his description of the life and customs of early Ukrainian immigrants will be featured on this page.)

(To be concluded)

SHEVCHENKO CONCERT IN N. Y.

I

On Sunday, March 26, 1939 twelve hundred Ukrainians of New York City and vicinity celebrated the 125th anniversary of Taras Shevchenko's birth with a special program presented at the Julia Richman High School.

Mr. Michael Piznak, chairman of the Central Committee of United Ukrainian Societies of New York City, under whose auspices the program was held, gave a short introductory speech and then announced the various parts of the program.

The first was a half-hour symbolic dramatization of the works of Taras Shevchenko, presented by the following players: Andrew Kist, Eva Bilyk, Eugenia Ploschansky, Vasile Rykchynsky, John Kuchmak, and Michael Piznak. Mr. Kuchmak directed the sketch, and also prepared the colored pictures of Shevchenko's life whose projection on the screen was part of the offering. Roman Kupchynsky assisted in its technical arrangements. On the whole the dramatic sketch was indeed a pleasant novelty, and the audience enjoyed it thoroughly.

It was followed by the Ukrainian Youth Chorus of New York and New Jersey under the direction of Stephen Marusevich. It sang three numbers: "Zapovit" (Stetsenko), "Cherevichki" (Kolesa) and "Chuyish Brate Miy" (Lepky-Marusevich).

The first speaker on the program was Stephen Shumeyko, editor of the "Ukrainian Weekly." Mr. Shumeyko, who spoke in English, gave a thorough and interesting account of the life and works of Shevchenko.

John Moroz then played two violin solos, being capably supported at the piano by Vera Stetkewicz. His playing of "Zigeunerweisen," by De Sarasate, won him an encore.

Mr. Emil Revyuk, editor of "Svoboda," the next speaker, spoke in Ukrainian, and expounded those ideals for which Shevchenko fought throughout his life, i. e., the abolishment of serfdom and the political emancipation of the Ukrainian people. Though brief, the speech was impressive.

The Ukrainian Youth Chorus once more appeared, and sang: "Ne Zhurimosha" (Hayvoronsky), "Oy, Choho Ti Pochornilo" (Revutsky) and "Shevchenkovi Cantata" (Stetsenko).

Solo bits in the choral numbers were sung by Tilly Paraschuk, Elaine Yurczak, Mary Andreyko, Mae Milan, Nicholas Piznak, and Stephen Shumeyko. A recitation accompanying "Choho Ti Pochornilo" was given by Evelyn Kalakura.

The singing of "Sche Ne Vmerla Ukraina" brought to a close this fine commemorative program.

OLGA H. LACHOWITCH.

II

Ukrainian youth has again triumphed. Many of us are no longer surprised at anything it may do.

Or March 26 they presented a splendid program in Julia Richman High School in New York City honoring our greatest personality, Taras Shevchenko, the immortal inspiration of the Ukrainian nation.

One of the things that impressed me most was the dramatization of the poet's works. It is a pity that after a brilliant opening, it was permitted to lag somewhat. It must be remembered that even Broadway productions have to maintain a certain tempo in order to hold the audience's attention. It redeemed itself at the end, however. Both authors and actors deserve highest praise for their splendid work. It was both original and truly artistic, and certainly conveyed the impression that was intended.

The Young Ukrainian Chorus of New York and New Jersey gave an exceptionally fine performance. (They always do!) Mr. Marusevich is to be complimented on this group. In about two years he has

THE WEEKLY FORUM

EDUCATING THE UKRAINIAN CHILD

ENDLESS editorials are written and beautiful speeches eloquently uttered lamenting the lack of interest and appreciation shown by the Ukrainian child and youth for our beautiful and wonderful customs, music and culture.

I don't deny that these editorials, speeches and lectures are sincere and even true—but does anybody ever do anything about it except talk about it or find a culprit or scapegoat to blame if all on (just as they do about the economic and world crises today)?

The older generation of Ukrainians blame American education for taking away their children's interest in Ukrainian culture, that is while they are still very young. When they grow older it's their "neglect" that they have failed to learn what is beautiful to the parents.

Some members of the younger generation (16-30) think the youth needs "pep talks" (up and at 'em boys and girls; it's patriotic to learn Ukrainian). No one at all seems to understand the child, the youth (product of childhood) and the truth of the whole situation. Perhaps they don't want to understand it?

The Polish Schools

What's wrong with our Ukrainian schools in America? Plenty! In the first place those very parents who rave about the cleverness of the Polish child in learning his own language and commend him for his interest in Polish affairs, when comparing him to their own children and their lack of interest and neglect, fail to note the most significant difference between the Polish and the Ukrainian schools.

In most instances in my city and in a good many other cities that I know of personally, the Polish and German children go to a day school, maintained by the parish, where they learn right from earliest babyhood both their own language and English. Here during the daytime and within their normal school hours they absorb both English and Polish (or German) literature and learning. Along with the Star Spangled Banner they learn their national anthems. Their prayers are said in the language of their parents. They learn about the beauty of the poems of their father's homeland and the beauty of their musical compositions along with the required courses in English. While the children are with them in those first eight grades the nuns and teachers of these parochial schools take full advantage of the opportunity to instill a deep and lasting love for their own by every means at their disposal, mostly of course through teaching them to appreciate what is theirs, because it belongs to them, it is their heritage; and its full beauty is impressed on them every day for a long time until the language, customs, music and culture become second nature to them to carry through their lives and enrich their purely American culture and education.

Drawbacks of Ukrainian Schools

How do the Ukrainian schools compare with this? Not at all favorably, we all know this. To the average child (which we know is in the majority) the amount of concentration required during the school day is very tiring. When he gets out he wants to romp and hop and skip and play. It is his earned recreation just as it is our earned recreation to amuse ourselves with various interests after work. The Ukrainian child is no less normal than most. It's not

trained them to a degree where they can compete and favorably too, with any other Ukrainian amateur chorus under the guidance or perhaps an older and more experienced man.

KATHERINE BELOUS.

uncommon that the Ukrainian child is not present even half the time at Ukrainian school when he is sent there after his regular schools hours. He either feels he is a martyr or is being discriminated against and deprived of his normal time for play. Therefore the greatest drawback that a Ukrainian schooling has is that Ukrainians can't afford to maintain daytime or parochial schools for their children so they could learn from earliest childhood the habit of being Ukrainian children, knowing how to speak their language, learning the true beauty of our wonderful culture and the commendable ideals of our ancestors.

Lack of Capable Teachers

Another drawback from which Ukrainian schools have suffered in the past was a lack of teachers. The choir-master taught the bored, play-anxious children from some set of old school books, which probably had stereotyped rules for teaching somewhere in back. Or perhaps he merely recalled how he had been taught in childhood, and so Ukrainians school went its dull routine way throughout the year. Some of these teachers were thoroughly unwilling and probably equally if not more bored than the pupils. They weren't real teachers nor interested primarily in teaching as a profession. They were singers, had good memories for retaining the various church arias. How could and can one expect such individuals to teach a child how to read properly, or rather how to retain that which he was being taught, and to appreciate the infinite beauty and rhythm of our Ukrainian language? How could such teachers instill into the child love of his Ukrainian background and customs when for the most part they had no admirable cultural background themselves, their own education consisting of barely knowing how to read and write. Some had definitely bad habits. Considering these defects the Ukrainian children are to be commended for their loyalty and tolerance to their little schools in attending them as they did and still do. Some of this attendance of course is due to parental insistence, but there is another reason, pleasanter and more to the credit of the children and the choir-master teachers. The "professors" really enjoy teaching music to the children who take equal pleasure in being taught Ukrainian songs and in taking part in Ukrainian plays. That really holds our Ukrainian schools from falling apart altogether.

Children Suffer

Don't think the children don't suffer from this very inadequate Ukrainian school system, because they do. They feel embarrassed because they cannot speak and read Ukrainian fluently. Also they feel genuinely ashamed when they are reproached for it. They are receptive, eager, glad to learn their own language and about their own culture and history. But their minds are fatigued at the end of the school day and when the Ukrainian teacher is disinterested and carries on his class in a dull routine fashion they are soon bored, and thus their minds become closed to what is being taught them and they learn very little or not at all. There are no classes for adult students in small Ukrainian communities and so the youth grows up ignorant of its language and of its fine culture and beautiful music outside of the few songs taught him at home or at school in earliest years. Not having established a love for their own, moreover, not being at all familiar with what is beautiful in their Ukrainian heritage, except by hearsay, and by what their parents and zealous lecturers din into their ears, they cannot appreciate it. The time for awakening a love for their own has passed. The horizon of its world is growing ever larger and youth finds

little time to devote to study in improvement of its knowledge of Ukrainian. That is why classes are so important. The habit of going to school is easier to establish than the habit of studying alone at home in competition with interesting radio programs and friends dropping in to take one along to a movie or elsewhere for amusement.

Advantages of Day Schools

That it has long been the fault of the type of schools Ukrainian children had to attend is easily proven by comparing the knowledge of Ukrainian and familiarity with Ukrainian culture possessed by the groups coming from small Ukrainian communities and the larger ones, such as for instance Philadelphia, where day or parochial Ukrainian schools were established for the children or where there were adequate teachers and teaching facilities. An outstanding Ukrainian youth center today is located in Philadelphia where the children were well taught to love their own and to stick with their own. Now these young people are taking the place of the older teachers and are carrying on educational programs for still the younger generation and so on. We could have many such youth centers with so much interest displayed in Ukrainian affairs and such fervent patriotism if Ukrainian youth were generally familiar with the full value and beauty of their own culture.

Within the Philadelphia youth center and other youth centers there must be young teachers who are qualified to teach. Some of these perhaps have no jobs. Here is their opportunity to revolutionize the entire system of Ukrainian schools in America. Ukrainian communities can neither afford fancy quarters nor pay much for teachers. Usually the same salary has to suffice the local "diak" also for his teaching duties.

Recommendations

In the new system of schooling I am proposing a choir-master would sing for two parishes instead of one (when they are close together). In his place would come a young trained teacher to several parishes, at least two, to teach the children in a manner that would awaken their interest and refresh their tired little minds. To the rescue of the teacher should come a publisher of new Ukrainian school books more in keeping with modern education, illustrating the A B C's, etc., with amusing cartoons (somewhat in the manner of Munroe Leaf) to keep up a lively interest in Ukrainian subjects. Illustrated maps would arouse curiosity. Ukrainian school should be attended until the child is 16 in order that it may learn to appreciate what it means to be a Ukrainian, and to have inherited the wealth of a Ukrainian cultural background. After that there should be adult classes in appreciation of Ukrainian music, literature, art, to further maintain his interest, and a library from which to draw books for further self-education. Then no one will need to lament that our Ukrainian child and Ukrainian youth can't speak and read Ukrainian and has no interest in anything Ukrainian. How can he when he's ignorant of it all? Give him a chance to acquire it slowly over a period of years and then he'll show you!

One of our erstwhile columnists, Ray Damer, once wrote that the way to get a job in these days is to sell yourself and your ideas. I've given one to the young Ukrainian unemployed teachers. The opportunities are vast and wide open. They're knocking on your door this minute. The old "diaks" are dying out. Children and parents are eager for new teachers who can keep up the children's interest in Ukrainian school. How about it? Give the kids a break! Make Ukrainian school interesting, amusing and you'll get their fullest cooperation and attendance! If you're a young unemployed teacher, you'll give yourself a break too!

THEODOSIA BORESKY.

DIGEST OF AMERICAN PERIODICAL COMMENTS ON UKRAINE, 1915-1939

(11)

UP to this point, our "Digest" has concerned itself chiefly with reviewing articles appearing in periodicals. Now we wish to comment upon several books, of recent publication, in which Ukrainian affairs are dealt with, to a greater or lesser degree.

The first is "Thunder Over Europe" by E. Alexander Powell, published in 1931, by the Ives Washburn Co. The author of this book was a world traveller, correspondent, and author of about thirty books as well as numberless magazine articles.

In his foreword he bitterly condemns "the policies of certain governments and of certain political factions because I believe that these policies are dangerous and, if persisted in, will eventually bring on another war". Further on in his foreword he says:

"I applauded the reconstitution of Poland as one of the few really fine achievements of the Peace Conference, but I have no sympathy with a belligerent Poland which dreams of expanding its present frontiers at the expense of its neighbors."

Chapter VII of this book is entitled "Eastern Galicia," which, in his opinion, is one of the truly dangerous spots of Europe. He opens as follows.

"Like the Russia of the tsars, Poland is an imperialist state whose conquests have not been made overseas but by the expansion of her own boundaries at the expense of the neighboring nations."

Speaking of the Ukrainian "alien colony" there, he goes on to say to the reader:—

"But perhaps you were unaware that there were any Ukrainians in Poland. That is not at all surprising, for they have never met with much success in their attempts to gain public attention and sympathy and the Poles are careful not to let the limelight of publicity fall upon them. But there they are, just the same, . . . and the Poles are at their wits' end to know what to do with them. In the case of the Ukrainians in Poland, to put it vulgarly, has bitten off more than she can assimilate."

After describing the Ukrainians, (and incidentally falling into the error of underestimating them in numbers, for there really is about 45,000,000 of them) he continued:—

"Though the Poles attempt to deny the existence of a Ukrainian nation, the fact remains that the Ukrainians occupy a well defined, compactly-inhabited national territory, and have a highly developed national consciousness, a language, a literature and a church of their own. Not only that, but as a race they actually outnumber the Poles. But, while the claims of the Poles to autonomy were universally recognized and lavishly rewarded, those of their Ukrainian neighbors were ignored or forgotten."

He then goes on to review the post-war history of the Ukrainians and to compare them with the Irish. But, as he says:—"not even in the Emerald Isle [Ireland] does one find more formidable fighting qualities or a more passionate national sentiment" than in Ukraine.

"The Ukrainians have great constructive ability and their own unique civilization. They have developed a cooperative system which is one of the most successful of its kind. They have their own savings banks, libraries and schools; their own agricultural laboratory in Lemberg (or Lwow, as it is now called); their own art and literature and folk songs; a language of their own. Generally speaking, the house of the Ukrainian peasant, poor as it may be, is better built and cleaner than that of his Polish neighbor; his little farm is usually better run."

Then follows a description of the Polonization methods and cen-

UKRAINIAN CLUB AT UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Quite recently the Ukrainian students and instructors at the University of Minnesota organized "The Ukrainian Club of the University of Minnesota." Many of us received a surprise when twenty Ukrainians attended the first meeting. Most of us realized that there were a few Ukrainians at this institution but did not know that there were as many as there are. We know of a few who were absent and we hope that as the club progresses we will increase our membership to about thirty.

There is one part of our recently written and adopted constitution that will be of special interest to the readers: namely, the purposes. They are—1. A better acquaintance among the Ukrainian students at this University. 2. Learn more about our cultural and historical heritage. 3. Provide a scholarship and loan fund for deserving Ukrainian students. 4. Be an informative group to Americans interested in Ukrainian affairs. 5. Create in the minds of Americans that Ukraine is a nation deserving of independence, and also deserving of aid in times of distress.

Our constitution has been approved by the University. With these pointed purposes and a great deal of enthusiasm we feel that we will accomplish much that will be of value to Ukrainians.

We expect to write another article soon telling of the opportunities there are here for Ukrainian students to obtain a University education. In the meantime all those interested in our club or the University of Minnesota please write to either William Spasyk, P. O. 11985 or Edward Kiriluk, P. O. 8426, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

ship of the Ukrainian press. Referring to the pacification charges that were made against the Poles, the author says:—

"The Poles assert that these charges are without foundation. That is difficult to believe. There are too many of them and the evidence is too convincing. But if only ten per cent of them are true the government at Warsaw should hang its head in shame."

In conclusion, he states:

"The unhappy plight of the Ukrainians is primarily due to bad faith on the part of the Allies and the weakness of the League of Nations."

Another book mentioning Ukrainians appeared in 1932, entitled "Contemporary Roumania and Her Problems," being a "study in modern Nationalism," written by Joseph S. Ronak. The subject of Ukrainians in Roumania is touched upon lightly under a chapter entitled "The Problem of Minorities."

In the matter of the number of Ukrainians under Roumania, the author gives two sets of figures. The first are the official ones as given out by the Roumanian government in 1920, and therefore, as could be expected, incorrect. According to them there were 792,000 Ukrainians in Roumania in 1920. The author, however, is fair enough to cite another opinion on this matter, that of the well-known authority Th. Ruyssen, who estimates that there are 1,100,000 Ukrainians and 793,800 Ruthenians in Roumania. Why he distinguishes between the two, which are one the same, is beyond me. Altogether, according to his estimate, which incidentally appeared in Encyclopaedia Britannica (13th ed.—II-913-33) there are 1,893,800 Ukrainians living under Roumania.

CONNECTICUT YOUTH

Let's all meet at the U. Y. O. C. SEMI-FORMAL DANCE APRIL 21, 1939, Penna's Wonder Bar (Berlin Turnpike, Route 5). Assessment \$1.50 per couple. Dancing from 9 till 1.) It's been a long time since we've all been together enjoying ourselves so don't forget to come. We'll be waiting for there is a good time in store for all.

THE U. N. A. SPOTLIGHT

Berwick Defeats New York

In a game played at the Stuyvesant High School in New York on March 26th, Berwick, winners of the Western Pennsylvania Division Championship title, defeated New York, winners of Metropolitan Division title. The victory entitles the Berwick boys to participate in the Slav Tourney next week; if they defeat New York in a return game they will be recognized as the 1939 Ukrainian National Association Basketball Champions.

According to reports submitted by Max Kalanick and Michael Husar, the Berwick and New York managers, the game was fast and furious with both sides playing to do or die. The score by quarters:

New York:	8	4	4	6	—22
Berwick:	9	7	11	8	—35

The Slav Tourney

Emil Husar has submitted pertinent information concerning the Slav Tourney, which the U. N. A. has entered for the first time this year. Inasmuch as little is known about this annual tourney, we believe it would be advantageous to publicize it as much as possible. The tourney is held for the purpose of discovering the best basketball team among the Slavs. The printed report submitted by Mr. Husar is as follows:

"The Second Annual Slav Basketball Tourney will take place in New York City over the week-end of April 1st and 2nd, 1939. Teams from six Slav fraternal societies will participate.

"In the first tourney last year we found the Farrell, Pa., American Russian Sokols defeating the Lakewood, Ohio, Jednotars for the Slav title. This same Farrell team is playing for the A.R.S. title and is favored to repeat its victory of last year. Cleveland St. Francis Jednotars are the Jednota representatives. Bethlehem Slovak Catholic Sokols, winners of that society's championship for the 5th straight year, will represent that organization. The Slovak Evangelical Union play their finals this week-end at Lakewood, Ohio, with teams from Lansford, Pa., Duquesne, Pa., Akron, Ohio, and Detroit, Mich. The winner will play in the New York tourney. The Ukrainian National Association has three teams left in its tourney, namely, Philadelphia, New York, and Berwick, playing off for the honor of representing it, [Berwick has won the playoffs and will represent the U.N.A.] Thus the tourney will go on with five teams entered."

The schedule for the tournament is as follows:

Sat., Apr. 1, at 2:30 P. M. — American Russ. Sokols vs Slovak Evangelical Union. Sat., Apr. 1, at 8:30 P. M. — First Slovak Cath. Union (Jednota) vs. Slovak Cath. Sokols. Sat., Apr. 1, at 9:30 P. M. Berwick of Ukrainian Nat'l Ass'n vs. winner of A.R.S.—S.E.U. These games will be played at St. John's, 406 E. 67th St., New York.

Sun., Apr. 2, at 1:30 P. M. — Losers of semi-finals to play for 3rd place. Sun., Apr. 2, at 2:30 P. M. — Loser of A.R.S.—S.E.U. game vs. D. A. Sokols of New York. Sunday Apr. 2, at 4 P. M. — Winners of semi-finals to play for title.

The Berwick U.N.A. team is expected to make an impressive showing, and all sports enthusiasts are asked to attend the tourney games and encourage the boys to victory.

Mid-West U.N.A. News

The Akron U.N.A. team won the second game from Y.U.N. No. 8 of Cleveland by a 35-26 score. This entitles Akron to play Hamtramck for the Mid-West Championship of the U.N.A. Basketball League. Two games out of three will decide the winner. Hamtramck is the winner in the Detroit Division, while Akron outplayed Cleveland, Rankin, and Ambridge in the Ohio-Western Pennsylvania Division.

TRIDENT MAGAZINE OUT

The Trident, English-language magazine published by the Organization for the Rebirth of Ukraine, appeared again this week featuring "Mecca to Carpatho-Ukraine," by Eugene Skotzko, director of the Ukrainian Bureau in Washington, and "The Polish 'Pacification' of Western Ukraine," by Walter P. Blondyn.

Both writers tell what they saw — Skotzko describes Carpatho-Ukraine before the collapse of Czechoslovakia; Blondyn relates details of Polish brutality, beatings, shootings, riots and the massacre of Berezhany.

Other articles are "The Struggle in East Europe," by V. S. Dushnyck "Documents on the Polish 'Pacification,'" "Ukraine under the Soviets" and Soviet Foreign Policy," by Roman Lacyk.

The March issue, which was printed by the Ukrainian Press and Book Company, is in red and white and has a hand-painted picture of Hutuzols in action on the cover. Photographs of Chust, the Carpathian Mountains, Lviv and the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Cathedral of St. George in Lviv are inside.

Mailing address is P. O. Box 13, Sta. D., New York City; Subscription—\$1.50.

BROADCAST BY UKRAINIAN VIOLINIST

Bohdan Hubicky, the young Ukrainian violinist, is again to broadcast for the B.E.C. to the Empire, on April 2nd, at 11:50 p. m. His program will include works by Kreisler, Rowsley-Woof, and Sarasati.

UKRAINIANS ON ALL-STAR TEAMS

Ukrainians again won top honors on the "all-star" basketball teams selected annually by the "Philadelphia Bulletin" from among the many scholastic and collegiate teams dotting the Philadelphia Metropolitan District.

Mike Bellak, of the Bridgeport, Pa. H. S. team, was named the outstanding forward in scholastic circles! Bellak scored 313 points in 19 games, and he, according to selector Jack Ryan, "possesses an unusual amount of all-around ability." Ninth on the list of center selections was another Ukrainian, Ed Oleinik, of the championship Simon Gratz H. S. team.

On the All-College fives, Mike Lazorchak of Villanova was rated third among the forwards, while Ed Krupa of La Salle was named third best among the college centers. George Duzminsky, Villanova's scoring ace of last year, could not be placed again because of too few games played as a result of an early-season knee injury.

Here then, is how the line-up would read if these five boys were put on a "Ukrainian Collegiate-Scholastic All-Star Basketball Team" of Greater Philadelphia: Lazorchak, Villanova, F.; Bellak, Bridgeport H. S., F.; Krupa, La Salle College, C.; Duzminsky, Villanova, G.; Oleinik, Simon Gratz H. S. G. AL YAREMKO.

Baseball Team formed in Jersey City

A U.N.A. baseball team was recently organized in Jersey City, and consists of several players who have shown marked playing ability. John Koblan is the manager of the team, and he is now busy getting the boys into shape for the forthcoming U. N. A. Baseball League games. George and Michael Stelmack have been selected for mound duty, and the team will book games after a few more weeks of practice. As positions are still open, all fellows in Jersey City that would like to make the team are asked to report at the Ukrainian Center, 183 Fleet Street, Sunday, April 2nd, at 10:30 A. M. Weather permitting, the boys will go in for practice; otherwise a meeting will be held. For further information communicate with Theodore Lutwintak, P. O. Box 88, Jersey City, N. J.