

NEEDED: UNITY AND POLITICAL MATURITY

The coming Congress of American Ukrainians, whose platform appeared here last week, should be the most representative, and perhaps best attended, national gathering of Ukrainian-Americans to date. Not only has it the support of the four fraternal orders, headed by the Ukrainian National Association, but it has also received the unqualified endorsement of all other central (national) organizations, fifteen in all. In addition, in every Ukrainian-American community throughout the country, delegates are now being elected to the Congress, which will be held at Washington, Friday, May 24.

Perhaps even more indicative of the popular support the coming Congress already has, is the approval given last Saturday by representatives of the fifteen central organizations to the arrangement made by the four fraternal orders ("Big Four") whereby the latter have reserved for their Congress Committee in the Congress Council the deciding voice in all matters pertaining to the Congress.

Under ordinary circumstances, of course, it is most unlikely that this arrangement would have been approved by the fifteen central organizations. However, the vital need for Ukrainian-American unity now when the fate of Ukraine is in the balance, plus the fact that this arrangement was the only one upon which the "Big Four" finally agreed as a basis for their cooperation with the others, prompted "The Fifteen" to subordinate their role here to an auxiliary capacity. In doing this, they have placed the general welfare of the Ukrainian national cause above their own private interests, for which they should be heartily commended.

Such is the spirit of self-abnegation which is most needed in Ukrainian-American life today. Without it there can be no unity. And without unity Ukrainian-American support of Ukraine's struggle for freedom and democracy, will be negligible, if not actually harmful. The truth of this statement is becoming increasingly clear. Just this week we received a letter from a reliable source in London, wherein the following significant observation appears:

"... the inability of Ukrainians in Canada and the United States to overcome petty differences and stand united is an open secret here [England], exploited accordingly by our enemies. I do not wish to suggest that the fate of Ukraine is dependent upon what our people in America do or fail to do, but I do believe that the political immaturity now being exhibited by American Ukrainians has a most unwholesome effect here in Europe."

That is the view of one who is in close touch with public opinion over there, and it should be regarded as such. The letter, incidentally, was written before news was received over there concerning the union of all the Ukrainian-American organizations in support of the Congress—whose aim, as already set forth on these pages, will be to manifest Ukraine's right to freedom and to initiate united Ukrainian-American action in support of that right.

Ukrainian-American unity alone, however, is not all that the coming Congress must demonstrate, if it is to be successful. Ukrainian-American political maturity, in form of some real action in behalf of Ukraine, should be clearly demonstrated there as well. That is the great and very difficult responsibility the leaders of the coming Congress have undertaken. It should be borne in mind, however, that their ability to discharge it satisfactorily is dependent not only upon themselves, but also upon the cooperation they receive from the Ukrainian-American organizations and masses.

U.N.A. BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL SEASON OPENED

Now is the time to organize that U.N.A. baseball or softball team in your town.

Only U.N.A. members who hold a U.N.A. policy and have paid at least one month's dues, will be eligible to play on U.N.A. teams.

Members of several U. N. A. branches may combine to form a team. In order to obtain financial assistance for the team, a set of registrations must be submitted to

the U.N.A. Athletic Director. The blanks are being mailed to all last year's teams. New teams may obtain them by writing to the Athletic Director.

Teams are again warned that registrations must be filed not later than May 31st in order to obtain financial help from the U. N. A.

For information write to the U. N. A. Athletic Director, Gregory Herman, 261 Madison St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

WESTERN UKRAINE STARVES AS RUSSIA TAKES HER FOOD

Because of a grave shortage of food in Russia, Soviet Western Ukraine is reported to have been almost completely despoiled of its reserves, a dispatch from Bucharest to The New York Times last Monday reported.

Ukrainians, Poles and White Ruthenians are said to be starving.

Refugees escaping into Rumania and Hungary, the dispatch declares, report that most of the 13,000,000 population of former Eastern Poland is suffering. The ground is frozen and no crops will be forthcoming for some months.

Many Sent to Inner Russia

The dispatch further states that the Soviet authorities are transporting a large part of the population of Western Ukraine into inner Russia. In general they are concentrating on the frontier districts, but the larger towns are not exempt.

The exiles get only fifteen minutes to leave their homes. Those who show signs of unwillingness are packed into barred cattle trucks. Even seriously ill persons are forced into the unheated emigration trains.

Ukrainians and Poles are included in these transports. Sometimes a whole village is removed, the Times dispatch says. If a member of the family is absent the rest are removed. It is reported the whole village of Dublany will be transported.

These mass arrests are carried out by soldiers cooperating with the secret police at night or at dawn. They seem to be clearing the frontier region of Ukrainians and Poles who might help refugees to cross into Rumania or Hungary. Peasants who are unwilling to give up food are also removed.

Small riots in Tarnopol and Pere-myshlany were reported in the Times dispatch.

Many Suffer Arrest in Lwiw

In Lwiw, historic capital of Western Ukraine, the secret police conduct frequent arrests at night. The prisoners, most of them officers, soldiers and students, are shot or sent to prison. Those in prison receive a glass of hot water a day and a piece of bread every two or three days.

Most of the members of the Communist Literary Association, formed by a number of poets and writers who welcomed bolshevism, have been arrested. The reason was not revealed, states the Times correspondent at Bucharest.

Ukrainians and Poles are urged to emigrate to the Don Basin in Russia, but a few who have returned report that it is impossible to live there because the daily wage of 4 to 5 rubles does not buy a

meal for one person. Those arriving in the Don Basin are forced to dress in sacking to show the local population how poverty-stricken the Western Ukrainians and Poles are.

The general refusal among the populace of Western Ukraine to work in factories on Sundays has caused the Soviet authorities to reinstate the Sunday holiday.

Economical Conditions Very Bad

Refugees from Soviet Western Ukraine reported to Eugen Kovacs, Bucharest correspondent of The New York Times, that the following economic conditions exist there:

Those who were employed by the Russian regime received a wage that enabled them to purchase no more than two loaves of bread a day. There was little meat and no butter. Bread and potatoes are reported to be lacking too.

Since the Germans have allowed the American Red Cross to function in Warsaw, it is generally hoped that all governments will press the Soviet authorities to allow the Red Cross to enter Western Ukraine, formerly under Poland, or at least permit bread trains to be sent in from Rumania.

Savings are Worthless

Last December Polish currency was declared invalid, the Times correspondent says. Those who possessed reserves of money were unable to spend it. Many attempted to cross into Western Poland, but most were turned back.

Wages of 5 rubles a day are paid railway men and postmen in towns. Postmen in the country get 3½ rubles a day. Doctors and surgeons get 10 rubles a day. Laborers and mechanics get 4 to 8 rubles a day.

Necessaries are priced as follows, according to the Times dispatch:

Butter	30 rubles a pound
Meat	20 rubles a pound
Bread	2 to 5 rubles a pound
Goose	120 rubles
Chicken	35 to 50 rubles
2 pints of milk	4 rubles
Egg	2 rubles

About 600 rubles are obtainable for \$1 on the "black exchange."

Since February, says the Times, only bread and a little sugar and salt were obtainable in the city of Lwiw. In some districts meat has not been seen for weeks. To buy some commodities a purchaser must be a member of the Cooperative Society, in which membership costs 25 rubles.

UYL-NA RALLY IN NEW YORK

The Ukrainian Youth's League of North America will sponsor a regional youth rally in New York City, Saturday, June 8th.

SELECT UKRAINIAN STORIES

Read and Save Them

"Batkivschesna," a long short story by Ivan Franko, translated by Stephen Shumeyko, begins today as the fifth in the series of Select Ukrainian Stories which appear every Saturday in the Svoboda overflow section of the Ukrainian Weekly. Like its predecessors, "Batkivschesna" is interesting and worth reading. Be sure to cut out each instalment after reading it. In this manner you will have a complete set of Select Ukrainian Stories in the English language, which will serve you until these stories appear in book form.

Meaning of "Batkivschesna"

"Batkivschesna" (the "a" in the word is broad, as in art) is derived from "batko"—father. It denotes that property, especially real estate, which has been inherited from one's father. The word closest to it in English is patrimony, which is "an inheritance from an ancestor, especially one's father." Unlike the latter, however, "batkivschesna" has a certain personal and sentimental connotation attached to it.

Property inherited from one's mother is "materizna," from one's grandfather—"didischesna" or "didizna," from one's uncle—"stryshesna."

THE GREAT WEEK

The Great Week among Ukrainians is the week just before Easter, which this year they will celebrate on April 27, for their religious calendar is based on the old Julian Calendar. Each day of that week has a special significance to them as well as certain ceremonials. We do not know how these ceremonials, including those of Easter itself, will be observed this year in Ukraine, on account of Soviet misrule and atheism, the threat of war, and the hunger and starvation in many sections of the country. Still it is worth adding to our storehouse of knowledge about Ukraine, some idea how these holidays were celebrated in better and more peaceful times, and how they will be celebrated when Ukraine regains her national freedom. Who knows, perhaps in some sections the Great Week and Easter itself is still celebrated as follows:

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday in Ukraine ushers in the Great Week, a week of most intensive preparation for Easter. Instead of the usual palms, however, pussy-willows are blessed and distributed in Ukrainian churches, in memory of Christ's entrance into Jerusalem. Upon arriving from church, the Ukrainian strikes each member of the house lightly over the shoulder, exclaiming at the same time: "Tis not I but the willow that strikes; in one week Easter will be here." The willow is then placed over a holy picture and kept there until next year, when it is burned. Only once before that time is it taken down, and that is on the "warm" St. George Day, when it is used to drive the cattle out into the pasture for the first time.

Monday

Monday of the Great Week is usually devoted to thorough house-cleaning. Everything is made spic span. Inside the peasant home the walls and ceiling are whitewashed, while the clay floor receives a fresh layer of clay, beaten down hard. Outside, the walls are whitewashed too, while the abutment running around the wall is plastered usually with yellow clay. When all that is done the home presents a most picturesque sight: all white and gleaming, its roof thatched with straw, set within a green lawn amidst budding trees and bright spring flowers.

Black Wednesday

Wednesday is commonly known as "Black Wednesday" among Ukrainians. It is thought to derive its name from the custom among Ukrainian highlanders, the Boykos, of cleaning out the soot that has

accumulated from the oven. No planting or sowing is done during this day, for fear that the seeds will turn black. Care is also taken not to cut any trees or shrubbery on this day, for it is said that they will immediately wither and die. Pruning, however, is allowed. Another branch of Ukrainian highlanders, the Hutsuls, bake small loaves of rye bread on Wednesday, known as "kukutsi." These loaves are given to children who come around for them in groups, from house to house. The Hutsuls attach considerable importance to this custom, in the belief that if the children stop coming around for the "kukutsi," and the young men after the Easter eggs, and the Christmas carollers stop going around with carols, then—the world will surely come to an immediate end.

Maundy Thursday

"Zhyzhny" (Maundy) Thursday commemorates the Last Supper of Christ with his disciples, also the washing of the disciples' feet by Christ, which custom is still practiced in Ukraine. This is the day when the wife begins cooking for Easter, with most of it being held over to Saturday, for no work is done on Friday. This is also the day when the people begin to gather all the eggs they can and paint and decorate them. In the Voronizh section of Ukraine it is the custom to bathe in the river that day, or at least have well-water poured over oneself. In the evening the people go to church for the special "strasti" (Passion) services, and there burn candles, which act is supposed to endow the candles with healing powers. In some remote mountain sections, among the Boykos, for example, people used

to take butter churns with them to church, and when the bell would ring during the reading of the Evangelium they would churn in order that throughout the entire year they would have good butter. In the Dniester sections, it is said, when the service is over and the people have left, spirits of the departed enter the church and have their own service.

Good Friday

On Good Friday the people fast until sundown. Many fast on Saturday too. In the evening they begin to prepare to bake "paska," the large loaf of white, sweetened, and decorated bread, without which, in the eyes of a Ukrainian, there would be no Easter celebration.

Saturday

Saturday is the day when most of the cooking and baking takes place. Then the "paska" is baked too. The housewife watches over it most carefully, for it is matter of greatest importance that the "Paska" come out well. If a hole appears in it, that portends death in the family during the year. If it splits and a piece breaks off, that means that the family will undoubtedly suffer some heavy blow of misfortune.

The cooking and other work usually extends late into the evening. When time to go to bed has come, however, all is ready: the house is spic and span, the table laden with "paska," decorated eggs, hams, sausages, cheese, butter, horseradish, and other most appetizing foods. Their combined aromas are enough to drive the young people near distraction, yet no one is allowed even to touch a particle of food, not until Sunday morning, when it has been blessed. The mother packs the little ones off to bed, father follows immediately after, and finally the mother, weary from the day's hard work, and making sure that all has been done, retires to bed herself. Only the candle is left flickering by the holy picture, just as in church the flickering candles and the immovable sentries stand in silent watch over "Bozhiy Hrib,"—Christ's Grave.

Easter

Early Easter morning, when but a faint glow appears in the east, the family arises. The house is still cold from the night air, but no one pays any attention to that.

All wash themselves in a basin of cold water, into which mother has placed a coin and an Easter egg for good luck, and then dress in their holiday very best. From all parts of the village, fathers, mothers, and children wend their way to church in the early dawn. The church is soon filled, and late comers have to stand outside. With the sound of the wooden clapper, for no bells are rung as yet, the Resurrection service begins, soft and sad at first,—and then comes the soul-stirring call: "Christ Is Risen!" A feeling of intense emotion sweeps over the massed people, of happiness, and then of sorrow for the departed ones, as the song "Christ Is Risen" grows stronger and stronger in volume, and all join in the singing to the accompaniment of the joyful pealing of church bells. The rising sun casts its golden rays through the stained glass windows, lending an air of holiness and enchantment to the scene.

The Resurrection service is in many localities followed immediately by High Mass. The people then gather baskets laden with food, to have it blessed. All then go home for breakfast. In other localities the blessing of food takes place immediately after Resurrection, then the people go home for breakfast, after which they return for High Mass.

"Hahilke"

In the afternoon the entire village turns out into the village green surrounding the church. It is an unforgettable sight: the lovely Easter afternoon in a picturesque Ukrainian village; the grass so green; the trees and flowers budding; the boys and girls gathering; the graceful, swiftly-moving "hahilke" dances they perform with clasped hands, singing their happy, lilting "hahilke" songs; the swirl of beautifully embroidered costumes of the girls as they swing around in the intricate evolutions of the mass dances; the older folks, dressed in their very best, standing or sitting around, chatting, singing, watching the dancers and perhaps even venturing a step or two themselves; the little mischievousurchins playing pranks upon the more sedate oldsters, and perhaps getting their best clothes soiled in the act,—all of this forming a beautiful panorama of bright, shifting colors, laughter and singing.

UKRAINE: HER RIVERS

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The rivers of Ukraine are almost all centered in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov; only an inconsiderable portion of the country's surface lies within the basin of the Baltic Sea, namely Pidlakhia, Kholmshchina, and the Lemko country. Whereas these regions were peopled by Ukrainians since the very dawn of their history, there is in the easternmost section of the Ukrainian ethnographic territory a region, colonized by Ukrainians in most recent times, which lies within the basin of the Caspian Sea. The two latter sections dwindle in comparison with the extent of the country that lies within the basin of the Black Sea. Thus the Ukrainian people, though conveniently connected with the north and the south of the globe, seem to be turned by very nature toward the Black Sea.

Due to the uniformity of the surface of Ukraine, the Ukrainian rivers lack the variety of the West European or Central European rivers and are more typical of Eastern Europe, though they do not attain the degree of uniformity peculiar to Russia proper.

The main European divide is nowhere so easy to cross as in Ukraine. The passages from the rivers of the Baltic basin to the rivers of the Black Sea basin are easy. Since ancient times portages have existed there; through them canals have been built connecting the two basins. The widely branched water system of the Dnieper affords an easy passage to the White Russia and Great Russian territory.

BALTIC SEA RIVERS

The Baltic-sea rivers of Ukraine all empty their waters into the Vistula. Several large Carpathian tributaries of it rise in Ukrainian territory: the rapid Poprad, the tributary of the Dunayets; the Visloka, of the Lemko country; and the navigable San, the largest Carpathian tributary of the Vistula. The San is fed by the Vislok, on the left side, and by the

Vihor, Vishnya, Sklo, Lubachivka, Tanva, on the right side. These rivers, swift in their rocky beds, in the mountains, become slow in their current and unsteady in their beds in the sub-Carpathian country. Owing to the destruction of forests they all have terrible floods in spring, when the snows melt in the mountains, while in summer droughts they dwindle to insignificance.

From the Rostoché flows the Vihor, through a broad valley directly into the Vistula. It is navigable from Krasnostav. The northern declivity of the Podolya sends to the Vistula its largest river, the Buh, navigable from Sokal. Podlyakhia is drained by the Mukhavets, Lisna, Nurets and Narva.

THE BLACK SEA RIVERS

The Pontian sea basin of Ukraine is drained by six rivers: the Danube, Dniester, Boh, Dnieper, Don, and Kuban. Only a portion of the great Danube basin lies within the Ukrainian ethnographic territory, namely, the rivers of Svidovets and Chornohora, which united form the Tissa (Theiss), as well as the sources of the Seret and Prut. These rivers of the Ukrainian mountain country force their ways through deep, picturesque passes, through forest-covered mountain chains, from which the rapid waters carry the trunks of gigantic mountain trees into the treeless plains of Hungary. To the Danube basin belong also the Prut and Seret rivers. The Prut rises at Hoverla, forms under it a beautiful waterfall, another near Yaremche, and leaves the mountains, uniting with the turbulent Cheremosh, which also rises in Chornohora and passes through the Hutsul country. Under the Carpathians, the Prut meanders through wide and flat valley, with countless twists and branches and beds, and reaches the Danube amidst lakes and bogs, not far from the Danubian delta.

The Dniester

The Dniester river possesses the greatest variety of all Ukrainian rivers. Originating in

the High Beskid it has to traverse 707 miles to reach the sea. Starting as a wild mountain creek, it soon changes into a lowland stream. It forms great swamps, converting, in high water time, the Dniester Plain into large river lakes. Farther the Dniester flows in great bends. Near Nizhniv the banks approach each other very closely and the Dniester enters a "yar" (canyon), which it leaves only at Tiraspol. Here the Dniester is a typical plateau river, with its waters generally taking up the entire bottom of the "yar," leaving but little space for the abode of man. The incline of the river is not uniform, rapid currents alternate with quiet depths. Near Yampil, where a layer of granite stretches across the river, the Dniester forms regular rapids. For this reason, the Dniester, though navigable for almost 500 miles, has not become an important waterway: 800 years ago boats from the Black Sea reached the city of Halich, now they hardly go beyond Khotin. Approaching the sea, the river forms a delta, which empties into a "liman," out of which it breaks in two narrow outlets ("hirlo") through the bar into the Black Sea.

In its upper course, the Dniester receives the muddy Vereshitsya, which forms many ponds, and Hnila Lipa; then Strvyazh, on the left side, and the Bistritya, the Strey with the Opir, and the Svicha; the Limnitsya, and the two Bistrityas, on the right; and the typical Podolian rivers: the Zolota Lipa, Stripa, Seret, Zbruch, Smotrich, Ushitsya, Murakhva, Yahorlik on the left side.

The Boh

The Boh (improperly the Southern Bug) is another real plateau river. At first a typical Podolian mud streamlet, it passes farther through a "yar," over innumerable rapids. From Voznesensk, for almost a hundred miles, it is navigable; from Mikolayew it could be entered by smaller sea vessels. It finally widens into a "liman," which unites with the great "liman" of the Dnieper.

(To be continued)

UKRAINE'S CASE FOR INDEPENDENCE

By ALEXANDER A. GRANOVSKY

(From "World Affairs," March, 1940)

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EUROPE is again in the throes of a bitter struggle. The two wars now being waged are pregnant with unpredictable potentialities. The outcome of the present strife will depend, in large measure, upon the sequence of events and the unsuspected turn of circumstances, which may unfold as the result of underlying conditions, nurtured by unsolved problems that have long existed, awaiting their proper solution. Among such unsolved problems the Ukrainian question is the key problem. It is one of tremendous magnitude, the adequate solution of which may automatically eliminate a long chain of smaller problems, which now appear to defy solution. Neglected, however, it may continuously disturb normal economic relationships between the nations of the world and will certainly endanger tranquillity between peoples with resultant repercussions and attendant persecutions. This alone will jeopardize peace in Europe.

I

The Balance of Power

The importance of the Ukrainian question is fully appreciated by informed observers and students of the East European situation. Its magnitude, however, has inspired the evident fear that the present political balance of European Powers, unstable as it is, may be further upset. It is undoubtedly true that the fate of Europe and its future course of friendly diplomatic relations between the powers hinges on the just solution of the Ukrainian problem, for it holds the secret of a more equitable adjustment in normal relations among the nations of Europe and the world. Its solution holds promise of removing long existing dangers that have recurrently provoked trouble in the past.

In approaching this Gordian knot of Eastern Europe with an objective analysis, one may well compare the possible solution of the Ukrainian question, which is certain to require attendant political surgery, with that of any other living organism, whose general health may be restored and its vitality improved by medical surgery. And if Europe and the world is to profit by such an operation it will be well justified for the benefit of lasting peace, liberty and human rights of millions of people, even if this political surgery should be painful to the states that hold Ukrainian ethnic territory by aggression and against the will of the governed.

We are familiar with the course of historic events which occurred during the last few centuries, and take them for granted as the just and rightful course, without taking into consideration the possibility of different routes which would have been of greater benefit to Europe and the World, if they had actually taken place. Suppose that Charles XII of Sweden, with the aid of the Ukrainian forces, under the leadership of Hetman John Mazepa in the pivotal battle at Poltava in 1709, had been victorious against the forces of Peter the Great? What a different course European history would have taken! Doubtless there would be, since that date, a recreated strong Ukrainian state in confederation or

alliance with Sweden and other western states. Such an alliance would certainly have prevented the unprecedented growth of Russian imperialism, with all of the attendant consequences of Russian wars, some of which are still with in the memories of students of East European affairs.

Suppose that Napoleon might have realized his latent dream to create his Napoleonic empire out of the Ukrainian ethnic territories as a barrier against the growing Muscovite danger? What a different course European events would have shaped for themselves!

If Allies Had Helped Ukraine

Suppose that in 1919 the Allies had been better informed about the existence of the dynamic independence movement of the Ukrainians and would not have listened to the secret whisperings of the deposed Russian aristocracy or their gullible friends abroad, and would not have fallen for the dreams of the greedy Polish statesmen, imbued with the idea of the imperialistic missionism and ambitions of creating a Polish empire on foreign lands from the Baltic to the Black Sea, and had given moral support and material aid, to the Ukrainian National Republic, instead of giving it to various "White Russian" monarchistic partisans and the Polish military aggressors? What a different situation would prevail in Europe today! There would probably be no general European war at present. There would exist today a strong homogeneous Ukrainian state which, in confederation with neighboring peoples, would be able to balance two existing dangers, the Russian and German imperialistic aspirations that now threaten the world by aggression.

So, at this time, fear of upsetting the present, admittedly unsatisfactory, European balance should not be the guiding motive in dealing either with the current or the post-war problems, that will, doubtless, need to be dealt with at the end of the present conflicts. No patch work can improve the general health of the European continent. It will require courageous political surgery. If lasting peace and economic stabilization are indeed desired with the elimination of the national, cultural and religious persecutions of unfortunate peoples, the new political boundaries of Europe should certainly correspond to the ethnic boundaries of nationally conscious people. This will lead to the rise of the Ukrainian sovereign state extending from the High Tatra Mountains in Carpathians to the Terek River in the Caucasus and to the Caspian Sea, covering nearly 900,000 square kilometers of territory densely populated by homogeneous Ukrainian nationals. Such a state in confederation with the neighboring states, an independent Poland on its strictly ethnic territories, Czech, Slovak, White Ruthenian and Rumanian national states in the west, and the Caucasian federation, the Don and Ural Cossacks, as well as Turkestan, a mighty Moslem state, in the east, would effectively balance, politically and strategically the east European continent. Ukraine, in such a constellation or even alone, would prevent Muscovite aggression directed either westward to the warm sea through Scandinavia or southward into the Near East or Asia. Ukraine would also render impotent the German aggressive aspirations of military penetration either eastward or westward by effective national and political balance between the East and West. At the same time Europe would do away with the perpetual nightmare of the bag of tricks periodically performed by the "Bear that walks like a man."

Economic problems, interstate trade and cultural relations can be

adjusted later to the best mutual interests and understanding between the various sovereign national states of the world.

II

The Versailles Peace Treaty left many problems unsolved to the disappointment of people throughout the world, who had awaited, from the Versailles Peace Conference, the long hoped for relief from the horrors and afflictions produced by war. However, it soon became apparent that its mission was not to be fulfilled. Instead of producing the long-awaited peace for war torn Europe, the Treaty of Versailles created many new problems, especially in Eastern and Central Europe. Under the burden of the old and the weight of the newly created problems the Peace Treaty of Versailles soon began to crumble, and only a few years later this famous treaty was abrogated and peace was compromised. Now we have another war. The world of today is in an unsettled condition, politically, nationally, socially and economically. The tranquillity of Europe and that of the world will be endangered, and some even go as far as to predict the end of western civilization, if the disturbing causes are permitted to exist. One naturally wonders what really will be done at the end of this war toward the solution of real problems that have threatened Europe during the past twenty years and will, doubtless, threaten in the future until these real problems receive due consideration.

The Strongest Bulwark Against Communism

Western diplomacy, being unwilling to be informed on the true conditions in Eastern Europe at the end of the World War, did not give heed to the events that were taking place on Ukrainian ethnic territory even at the time the peace conference was in session. The venerable peace makers, in their desire to create a barrier between Communistic Russia and Western Europe, overlooked the fact that the most potential factor able to stem the westward advance of the Bolshevik legions and ideas was the Ukrainian force, which was desperately struggling at the time against innumerable hordes of the Red army pouring southward from Red Muscovy. Instead of giving adequate aid to these struggling Ukrainian forces, the western Allies weakened them by giving aid supplies to Poland and to the Russian monarchistic aspirants who attacked the poorly clad and inadequately equipped Ukrainian forces in the rear. Thus the very idea of creating a "Cordon Sanitaire" became indeed paradoxical. Instead of taking cognizance of the existence of the Ukrainian National Republic and of its struggle for freedom on contiguous ethnic territory, populated then by forty-five million of homogeneous Ukrainian population, the Allies created a series of small conglomerate artificial mosaic states, and each of these nationalities with its own historic, territorial and cultural traditions and claims, often on a higher plane than their governing masters. Such artificial states were doomed to unrest and eventual disintegration from the very start, and in the twenty years since the Versailles Treaty, two of these conglomerate states have already fallen apart and other states, aggrandized by ethnic minorities, are, sooner or later, bound to meet a similar fate. It is inevitable.

The Czechoslovakian conglomerate state crumbled without a single shot fired in its self defense. On the other hand, the homogeneous Ukrainian nationally conscious minority, given an opportunity for autonomous existence had, in less than six months, so built up its state, that without any aid from any foreign state, assisted only by the meager help of the American and Canadian Ukrainians, heroically resisted, for nearly two months, the Hungarian invasion of Carpatho-Ukraine in March, 1939. Six hundred thousand people, without any army or arms, resisted a state of about ten million people and a well-equipped army of

five hundred thousand! This fact should be kept in mind in considering the Ukrainian problem. If the most backward and most neglected Ukrainian territory could perform such an heroic feat, one can well imagine how the Ukrainian population will act in Western and Eastern Ukraine if given the proper opportunity.

Nature of the Polish State

The recent downfall of Poland a mystery to many students of East European affairs and many explanations are given. Regardless of what these may be, one is deeply impressed by the fact that Poland, a state of about thirty-five million people, with a large standing army, completely crumbled in less than three weeks! Some may be prone to give too much credit to the efficiency of the German war machine, disregarding the internal conditions of Poland. It must be kept in mind that the strictly Polish population, within the Polish state, was only slightly over sixty per cent, while the balance consisted of various so-called minorities, such as Ukrainians, White Ruthenians, Lithuanians, Germans, Slovaks, Jews and others some of which were, in reality, majorities on their ethnic territories ruled by Poland. There were about eight million Ukrainians in Poland, densely populating about one-third of the Polish state territory, with the Polish nationals constituting a very small minority on this Ukrainian territory. The Ukrainians alone, comprised about 23 per cent of the population of modern Poland. The political importance of the Ukrainian population in Poland becomes of greater importance by the fact that the Polish Ukraine was contiguous to the extensive Ukrainian territory under the rule of Soviet Russia, with the fringes of Ukrainian ethnic territory in Rumania and Carpatho-Ukraine, recently occupied by Hungarian military aggression. The Ukrainians on all of these territories are strongly conscious of their national identity. Finally, it must not be forgotten that Poland acquired her Ukrainian territory by armed force against the will of the native population and forcibly incorporated it, by ruthless measures, in order to extend the Polish boundaries eastward. For the past two decades Poland had failed to satisfy the national, cultural, economic, social and political obligations in regard to her Ukrainian and other minorities. She had even deprived them of all essential human rights in disregard of her treaty obligations and gave, to these wretched people, no opportunity to defend themselves against unbelievable persecutions and continuous sanguinary pacifications.

Why Poland Collapsed

The Polish army, naturally, on the basis of the population, consisted of about one half Polish, one fourth Ukrainian lads, and the balance of the other minority nationalities. The distribution of the Polish army and military supplies must also be taken into consideration. Being cognizant of the national aspirations of her minorities, Poland placed, in the Polish Corridor, Poznan and Silesia, the regiments recruited in Eastern Poland, mainly of Ukrainians, White Ruthenians and Lithuanians, while the regiments recruited in Western Poland, mainly of Poles and Germans, were placed in the Western Ukrainian, Wilno district and White Ruthenian territory under Poland. Taking all of these facts into proper consideration it is not difficult to understand why Poland collapsed so prematurely.

One may readily draw the conclusion that the conglomerate states, by their internal dissension, weakened their economic, political and social structure, further endangering their own already hazardous politico-geographic positions. In addition, instead of being an asset to their political god-parents, they have become a decided liability, as the recent struggle has well demonstrated. Neither Czechoslovakia nor Poland was able to serve as the strong buffer state for which it had been created.

(To be continued)

YOUTH and THE U.N.A.

36,000-Mark Passed

The month of March ended with the U.N.A. showing a total membership of over 36,000. This is a result of the wide-spread membership campaign started by the organization some time ago. Let us look at some figures. At the end of 1933 (which, incidentally, marked the birth of the Ukrainian Weekly), the U.N.A. had a total of 30,314 members, and total assets of less than \$3,500,000.00. This means that, since 1933, the U.N.A. has gained almost 6,000 members, at the same time increasing its assets by more than \$2,000,000.00! It is encouraging to know that the U.N.A. will continue to progress and grow in the years to come, inasmuch as the younger generation has taken an interest in the organization, as evidenced by the fact that they have organized about fifty branches of their own in recent years.

An unprecedented event will take place early in 1941, when the U. N. A. convention will be held. Never before in its forty-six years of service to the Ukrainian people, will the U.N.A. have such a large representation of youth as at this 1941 convention. It is definitely a new chapter in U.N.A. history, one that will mark the beginning of the younger generation's earnest and sincere entry into active U. N. A. work. The founders of the U.N.A., the pioneering Ukrainian immigrants, have devoted many years of work to bring this about, for they realize that when they are gone, someone must be left behind to carry on their ideals. That "someone" is, of course, the Ukrainian youth. The coming convention will demonstrate how well-prepared the Ukrainian youth is to "carry on" when the time comes for him to shoulder the responsibilities borne for so many years by his hard-working parents.

Williamstown Has Meeting

Joseph Arkatyn writes that on April 7th an organizational meeting was held at the St. Peter and Paul Church in Williamstown, N.J., the purpose of which was to interest non-members in the Ukrainian National Association.

A discussion on the subject was conducted by Basil Zahayevich, a regional organizer, who also spoke about the U.N.A. athletic activity subsidized by the fraternal order. Mr. Zahayevich, who had previously lectured on the same topic in Millville, N. J., where he was successful in forming a new youth branch, pointed out the advantages of U.N.A. membership, comparing U.N.A. rates, benefits, and loans with those of commercial companies. Seventy non-members showed considerable interest in the organizer's statements.

News from Philadelphia

The Philadelphia St. Mary's Church Choir will sing to a new arrangement with the coming of Ukrainian Easter, reports William Juzwiak. This will be the teaching of Steven Marusevich, who will conduct the church choir at Easter-tide. In the few weeks that he has been rehearsing with the choir, the new arrangements of the present church music has been well absorbed by the group.

A member of Branch 423 of the U.N.A., Marusevich is a graduate of New York University with a B.S.-M.A. degree.

NEW YORK CITY:

You can still register for Michael Herman's new class in Ukrainian folk dancing for beginners, this Wednesday, April 24, 1940 at the International Institute, 341 E. 17th St., New York City at 8:30 P. M. If you are interested, but can't come Wednesday, write to Michael Herman, P. O. Box 201, Flushing Station, Flushing, L. I., N. Y., for detailed information.

NEW STARS!

Singing Sisters STELLA and MARY BODNAR. Pupils of famous vocal teacher Madama Xenia Vassenko, Moscow Opera House Primadonna. Appointment by telephone only. ENdicott 2-9711, 250 W. 75th St., New York City.

CANADIAN AND AMERICAN UKRAINIANS

UKRAINIAN emigration to Canada began in the early nineties and reached its peak before the outbreak of the World War. It was resumed after 1920 and continued for several years until the Canadian Government introduced immigration restrictions. The emigration to the United States was much the same except that very few Ukrainians went there after the Great War.

Most of them came from the Ukrainian provinces in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy—from Eastern Galicia, Bukovina and Carpathian Ukraine. The emigrants from Galicia were divided almost evenly between Canada and the United States, whilst most of those from Carpathian Ukraine settled in the United States and those from Bukovina in Canada.

It is almost impossible to establish the exact number of Ukrainians in North America. Immigration authorities were only concerned with the formal allegiance of a newcomer and did not trouble about his nationality. The Ukrainians were therefore usually registered as Austrians or Russians. Lately, however, the Ukrainians have carried out a kind of unofficial census of their nationals through their churches and other organizations, from which it would appear that there are about 1,200,000 in the United States and 400,000 in Canada.

Land hunger was an important, if not the sole, reason for the Ukrainian exodus. It explains why most of the Ukrainians in Canada are farmers, and good farmers at that. But in the United States most of the land had been in private hands before the arrival of the Ukrainians. A high percentage of them therefore went into mining and industry, usually as unskilled laborers.

The change of environment is reflected in the mentality and the social position of the Ukrainians in the New World. Those who settled on the land have retained much of their peasant culture and even passed it on to their children. The personal and economic freedom prevailing in Canada allowed them to retain their innate individualism and they show as much self-reliance as any Anglo-Saxon. They have not presented their adopted country with difficult social problems and have proved to be most enterprising pioneers.

This has not always been true of those who went into the big cities and industrial towns. Poor and lacking in education, without any knowledge of the language and the ways of the adopted land, they lived in clannish isolation. Before the World War they were content to provide themselves with the bare necessities, always hoping that one day they would have saved enough money to return to their native country and to buy a plot of land.

The peace settlement brought disappointment to the Ukrainians and most of them decided therefore to remain in the New World and to build their homes away from home. This period marked the rapid growth of Ukrainian organizations in the New World.

To give the younger generation an opportunity to appreciate and maintain contact with Ukrainian culture, four Ukrainian student

hostels in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba were established. In these hostels supported by farmers who send their sons and daughters to high schools and universities, the young Ukrainians received in their spare time a good training in the Ukrainian language and history and in Ukrainian music. In the industrial towns such training is given by various societies working in conjunction with the Ukrainian churches.

Education has made rapid strides among Ukrainians in the United States and Canada. Whereas only thirty years ago the parish priests and the editors of one or two Ukrainian weekly papers were the sole representatives of the educated class, today there is a fair proportion of business and professional men and women among them. Although most of them used to work in their youth on their fathers' farms, they have quickly taken to the life of the city and compete successfully with representatives of races more accustomed to urban conditions.

Apart from Canadian and American politics, the Ukrainians are chiefly preoccupied with the conditions in the land of their ancestors. This will be easily understood if we bear in mind that after the last war Ukraine went through some hectic experiences and the Ukrainians were the only large nation who did not succeed in obtaining political independence. Furthermore most Ukrainians who emigrated to Canada after the War had fought in the Ukrainian war: some of them had been at the front continuously from 1914 to 1920.

Their programme includes the gaining of complete political independence. To this end they have contributed in the form of financial assistance and propaganda, for the Ukrainians know that even the justest of causes has little chance of success if not backed by organization.

The various opinions among Ukrainian Americans and Canadians are to some extent determined by the fact that the Ukraine was partitioned among four Powers:

The U.S.S.R., Poland, Rumania and Czechoslovakia. Thus for instance before 1918, when the Soviet Ukraine retained some semblance of autonomy, there was a small, though a vociferous, group of Ukrainians in Canada with Communist sympathies. Today this group has virtually disappeared.

Ukrainian opinion in Canada and the United States has always regarded Russia as enemy Number One, and Poland as enemy Number Two. Now that the Polish Ukrainian differences no longer exist, the problem of Russia has become all-absorbing. This is a nationalist Ukrainian view in the sense that it is the view of people who desire to see their nation freed from foreign rule.

At the same time the Ukrainians are loyal British and American subjects who appreciate the freedom and opportunities which they enjoy in the New World. Since the beginning of this war Ukrainian papers in Canada have urged Ukrainian Canadians to respond wholeheartedly to the call of the Empire and the appeal has met with ready response.

STEPAN DAVIDOVICH

("Free Europe," London)

29 VICTORIES FOR NEW YORK TEAM

The New York Ukrainians in their first year of organization have just concluded a most successful basketball campaign. Engaging in an arduous schedule of 41 games this past season, the New Yorkers were victorious in 29 games while being set back but 11 times, and winding up with one tie game.

During this long campaign, the New York Ukrainians did very keen competition by playing many of the top-notch Ukrainian teams in this section of the country—from Rhode Island to Pennsylvania—as well as meeting many outstanding church, YMCA, semi-pro, and various nationality teams of the New York Metropolitan Area, and have emerged

with a point scoring average of better than 40 points per game. The team started its basketball season by winning its first eleven games and is one of the few teams to win over the powerful Ukrainian team from Chester, Pa. (present champs of the UYL-NA League).

The players of the New York Ukrainians whose exceptional playing ability yielded such a successful basketball season are: Michael Czarnecky, Steve Charuk, William Demchuk (player coach), Al "Lefty" Galetsky, George Lawor, Joe Nesteruk, Hank Nowosacki, Michael J. Prylucki (Mgr.), William Siftsky, John Stanekowitz,

M. J. P.

THE U. N. A. SPOTLIGHT

MAHANAY CITY ELIMINATES NEW YORK IN CHAMPIONSHIP RACE

In the race for the Ukrainian National Association Basketball Championship in the East, Mahanoy City, which finished in 1st place in District No. 3, eliminated New York, which finished on top in District No. 1.

The details of this game will appear in next week's Spotlight. Mahanoy City is ready for its final game with the leader of District No. 2, which may be Berwick, McAdoo, or Olyphant.

AMBRIDGE TAKES DISTRICT No. 4 TITLE

In District No. 4, Ambridge took top honors by defeating Cleveland for the title, and will play District No. 5's Hamtramck for the U.N.A. Mid-West championship. The details of the game, which was played on April 13th, will appear in a later Spotlight.

In a delayed report, Metro Zatchey writes that Ambridge defeated Cleveland in a game played at Cleveland on March 3rd (not to be confused with the game mentioned in the preceding paragraph), the score being 48—44. Cleveland took a 16—13 lead in the opening period, increasing it to 26—18 at the half. The 3rd quarter saw Cleveland still in front, 32—25. In the 4th period Ambridge staged a rally that bordered on the spectacular, scoring 17 points to Cleveland's 10, thus bringing the game to a 42—42 deadlock and making an extra period necessary. Scoring 6 points to the opposition's 2 in the overtime session, Ambridge won what can be called one of the toughest games of the season. M. Markvan tallied 13 points for the winners, while J. Hodowancki and P. Belyk accounted for 12 each for the losers. The game by periods:

Ambridge:	13	5	7	17	6—48
Cleveland:	16	10	6	10	2—44

On March 30th, Ambridge played Akron at Conway Jr. High School, winning by a 35—24 score. Akron had an 8—7 advantage over Ambridge in the initial frame, but the latter wiped this out with a 2nd quarter 10-point barrage that decided the game. M. Markvan and W. Homziak starred for Ambridge with 10 points each, while J. Pulk was Akron's high man with 11. The game by quarters:

Ambridge:	7	10	8	10—35
Akron:	8	6	6	4—24

DUBYK JOINS PHILLY NINE

From William Juzwiak comes a report that John Dubyk, who was voted one of the best players in the Philadelphia League, having chalked up a season batting average of .352 while playing with the 19th Ward, will play 2nd base position for the 1940 Philadelphia U.N.A. Team. Dubyk withdrew from the 19th Ward to play for the U.N.A. team, and will fill a position that has been a problem to the U.N.A. boys for the past couple of seasons.

Dubyk also enjoys playing basketball, but could not participate in the U.N.A. Basketball League this season due to the fact that he worked at night.

GIRLS' BOWLING NEWS

At a return bowling match held Sat., April 13th, at the Hampton Alleys, the Wilkes-Barre U.N.A. Girls' Bowling Team took all 3 games from the Olyphant girls. The Olyphant girls had taken 2 out of 3 from Wilkes-Barre in a previous encounter.

Anna Melnyk was high scorer for Wilkes-Barre, and Anna Marko starred for Olyphant, reports M.M.M.

PLAN YOUTH FROLIC IN PITTSBURGH

The Associated Ukrainian Clubs of Western Pennsylvania, will hold their third annual frolic Saturday night May 4, in the English Room of the Fort Pitt Hotel, Pittsburgh. Baron Elliot's Orchestra will provide the music for the dance from 9 p. m. to 1 a. m.

The committee is composed of the following: John O. Mykytiuk, Chairman, Anthony Wasyluk, Jean Monasterski, and Willis Wytias.

Guests are expected from such distant points as Ohio, New York, Philadelphia, Detroit, Wilkes-Barre, and most of the outlying towns of Pennsylvania. Plans are now being made to entertain guests from out of town Sunday afternoon at McKees Rocks Hall.