

# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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## UKRAINIAN YOUTH SAILS ON SOUTH SEA EXPEDITION

Walter M. Drozdiak, Ukrainian, Bucknell University, '39 (B.S.), recently accepted a position as chief radio operator on a 137-foot schooner which has already set sail on a two-year scientific voyage to the South Seas and Tahiti, according to a report in "The Bucknellian."

The young Ukrainian-American, whose home is in Shamokin, Pa., joined the expedition at Panama several weeks ago, and has already assumed his duties, the report states. For the past five months, he had taught six subjects at St. Basil's Prep School, Stamford, Connecticut.

Throughout the two-year journey, Drozdiak will have complete charge of all the radio equipment and radio work. He has practiced amateur radio sending and receiving techniques since his grammar school days, and as a result easily qualified for his present post.

The 40,000 mile trip upon which Drozdiak and his three companions have sailed, is being sponsored by the American Museum of Natural History. President Roosevelt and Mayor LaGuardia have expressed their hope for the expedition's success.

## BRITSKY APPOINTED ART INSTRUCTOR

Nicholas Britsky, young Ukrainian-American artist about whom an account appeared on these pages last year, was recently appointed art instructor at the University of Illinois. He is the youngest member of the University's faculty.

Some of his paintings are now on exhibit at the Findlay Galleries in Chicago. One of the most popular pictures there is his "Fertility," which at Yale won him a year's fellowship for travel abroad. He also has there a head study of a peasant girl and a water color painted in Greece.

## KOSHETZ-LED CONGRESS CHORUS FORMED

A male chorus of about 30 picked voices which will sing at the concert concluding the Ukrainian Congress at Washington under the direction of Prof. Alexander Koshetz, has been already formed and had its first rehearsal last Monday evening in New York City. Composed of a number of professional singers and selected non-professionals who sing in various choruses in the New York area, the Koshetz-conducted male group is expected to give a very fine account of itself at the concert, which will be held Friday evening, May 24, at Hotel Washington, upon the conclusion of the congress, on that day. The present male group will constitute part of the mixed chorus being formed now for the concert. Altogether the mixed chorus will number approximately 55 singers.

## TROUBLES OF A CENSUS TAKER

Among the number of young Ukrainian-Americans who are helped to take the current census, is Walter Bacad of New York City. He was the first enumerator in the city to complete an assignment, according to the "New York Sun." The assignment was to cover a 16-floor apartment building in the Seventeenth Congressional District, and it took him about 1½ days to do it. He visited 107 apartments and enumerated 163 persons, for which he received \$9.83.

His hardest time, the "Sun" quotes him as saying, was interviewing an elderly German refugee. She was co-operative but couldn't speak English very well and was almost deaf. When he finished shouting questions at her, practically every else on the floor was peeking out of doors.

## UKRAINIAN CONGRESS PLATFORM

(Text of Declaration by the Four Fraternal Orders)

"The war in Europe imposes upon American-Ukrainians the obligation of raising their voice before the world in defence of the right of the Ukrainian people to their own state. We alone have the opportunity to proclaim that the Ukrainian people are subjugated and that they demand the same right to self-determination which is recognized with respect to other peoples.

"We realize that the Ukrainian people can win their rightful claim to mastery over their own land only through their own efforts. But we also realize that it shall be easier to attain this right with the victory of democratic liberties and principles in Europe. The victory of democracy in the present European war must actualize the cause of self-determination for subjugated peoples, including the Ukrainians. The victory of dictatorial ideas of bolshevism, fascism and nazism will bring for our people greater national subjugation and colonial exploitation.

"The right of Ukraine to a free state development has at this moment irreconcilable enemies in the imperialism of Russia, Poland and Germany.

"Russian imperialism in the new garment of Bolshevism and Polish aristocracy in the garment of Polish nationalism have displayed only too clearly their hostility toward the Ukrainian movement for separate existence for the Ukrainians to have any doubts about the dangers which threaten Ukraine from those quarters. Bolshevism dictatorship brought Eastern Ukraine ruthless economic exploitation which in two instances led millions of Ukrainian peasants and workers to catastrophic starvation. The new Muscovite centralization policies on Ukrainian lands are characterized by numberless victims shot by Soviet political police, exiled to Siberia and the Solovetsky Islands, or tortured in concentration camps. In Western Ukraine reborn Polish imperialism through a period of twenty years mercilessly ravaged the Ukrainian people and resources by pacifications, confiscated Ukrainian land for colonization by Polish settlers, and denationalized the Ukrainian population by various methods of economic and political terror and of religious persecution. The orgy of pillage and forcible confiscation of Ukrainian churches in Kholm and Pidliashche shall disgrace forever the record of the recent Polish regime in Western Ukraine.

"No less menacing a danger on the road to Ukrainian statehood has appeared in German Nazism. We affirm that whenever German Nazism in the last years directed its attention toward the Ukrainian problem, it exhibited nothing else but pretensions to the natural resources of the Ukrainian soil. As a people the Ukrainians are to German Nazism as inferior as all other Slavonic nations. Ukraine interests Nazi Germany only as an object of economic exploitation and colonization for the ruling German race or as an object of barter with other states.

"The fate of Carpatho-Ukraine last year and the present fate of Western Ukraine is striking proof of this.

"Besides the threat that Ukraine could in whole or in part become the object of colonial exploitation by Nazi Germany, German Nazism carries with it another danger for the development and progress of the Ukrainian people, namely, the dissemination of fascist ideas of dictatorship, totalitarianism, authoritarianism, and monarchy, which are foreign to our people.

"Conclusively and without reservation we repugn those ideas upon which are founded not only bolshevism but also fascism and nazism, as they are un-Ukrainian, unagreeable with the finest Ukrainian traditions, harmful to the progress of the Ukrainian people, and inimical to freedom of thought and conscience.

"The Ukrainian people have lived and developed throughout their entire history by means of the democratic process and established an example of democratic state order in their Kievan State, in their Cossackdom and in their Zaporozhian Republic. Their democratic ideals were revived in the re-born Ukrainian state on the eastern and western territories of Ukraine after the World War. And similarly today only the organized forces of the Ukrainian

## GEN. SIKORSKI SPEAKS TO UKRAINIANS

During the course of his radio broadcast on March 1st from Paris "to the people of Poland," General Sikorski addressed himself several times to the Ukrainians, reports the latest issue of the London-published weekly, "Free Europe."

The head of the Polish government in exile is reported to have declared that the "citizens of Eastern Poland," are "as dear to the Polish Government as the Western territories."

"We will deliver them from the Russian yoke and they will return to the mother country," he said,—apparently ignoring the fact that the mother country of the Ukrainians is not Poland, as he would make it appear, but Ukraine.

"You must therefore reject idle rumors and gossip on this subject," he continued. "The future constitution of Poland will be decided by the people, through free and democratic elections"—which is precisely the same promise the Poles made to the Ukrainians, but never kept, when they took over East Galicia and other portions of Western Ukraine at the close of the first World War.

"Bolshevik institutions are boycotted by you because they are out of harmony with our spirit and the spirit of the nationalities inhabiting Polish lands," he said further.

Referring to the terror and misery under Soviet occupation, General Sikorski pointed out that, "The peasants of all nationalities are being despoiled of their land, manifestations on national sentiment are suppressed and all institutions, whether Polish or Ukrainian, are closed down."

"The Polish Government," he claimed, "is well aware of the martyrdom of the Poles, the Ukrainians and the White Ruthenians, and their suffering will not be in vain."—Such words would have been even more comforting and convincing had they been uttered by some representative of the Polish government when it was actually in power and when it grossly abused that power by its heavy-handed oppression of the Ukrainians.

"I appeal to all of you to endure," he said finally, "with inflexible faith in the final victory of justice. Let the Ukrainians remember that, like ourselves, they too are threatened by both the Germans and Russians. Their claims on Poland, whether justified or not, frequently obscured the picture. Neither Stalin nor Imperialist Russia, but the Poles and the Ukrainians themselves must regulate their mutual relations and existence."

## CONGRESS COUNCIL DELEGATES ELECTED BY UYL-NA

Acting upon the invitation of the Ukrainian Congress Committee, the executive board of the Ukrainian Youth's League of North America elected at a meeting held a week ago last night two delegates to represent it in the Ukrainian Congress Council, which will meet for the first time this afternoon in Philadelphia. The delegates are Michael Piznak, president of the league, and Stephen Shumeyko, league advisor and former president.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee is the steering committee of the congress. It is composed of the representatives of the four fraternal orders. The Ukrainian Congress Council is a broader committee, having as its nucleus the steering committee and including also the delegates of all other central organizations who will take part in the congress.

# THE PROBLEM OF UKRAINE

By CLARENCE A. MANNING

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IN the disturbances which are raging in Europe today, the most complicated problems are those which concern the various Slavonic races; and of these, the problem of Ukraine is the most involved. To a Ukrainian patriot this may seem a startling statement, for to him this problem means only the creation of an independent Ukrainian state embodying all the Ukrainian lands and he hopes that this will at once and of necessity promote peace in Eastern Europe and at the same time satisfy the just aspirations of the Ukrainian people.

What does this involve? The setting up of a state of some forty million people which will extend along the entire northern shore of the Black Sea, which will include a large part of southern and eastern Poland, a goodly slice of Rumania and which will then cut across the Carpathian mountains and extend down at least to the edge of the Danubian plain in Hungary. In other words, it will completely change the territorial boundaries of Russia—U.S.S.R., Poland, Rumania and Hungary, and the Ukrainians can count on the unwillingness of any of these countries to accept the new state.

If we think of this only in terms of geography, Ukraine will cut the Russians off from the Black Sea, it will drive a wedge between a restored Poland and Rumania, and it will control the upper reaches of the rivers that flow from the north through Hungary into the Danube. The state will be the most powerful in the area of the Black Sea and then it will extend west in a narrowing apex across the Carpathians and it will lie across all the routes east of the Danube between northern Europe and the Balkans.

It will inevitably possess extensive minorities. There will be groups of Russians, of Poles, of Rumanians and of Hungarians, even though it may be possible to hold that many of these are of Ukrainian origin who have been denationalized at some period during the last centuries.

## What A Free Ukraine Will Contain

It will contain in Great (East) Ukraine a population which has been predominantly Orthodox and the culture of which has been largely developed under the Orthodox Church and Russian law. In Western Ukraine, it will contain predominantly the Greek Catholics who have lived for a century and a half under the system of laws of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In Carpatho-Ukraine, it will contain people who have been part of the lands of the Crown of St. Stephen and who have seen a large part of their better educated population go down to Budapest and become Hungarianized.

Thus the unity will exist as a result of the language and of the imponderable elements of culture. Perhaps the differences will not be as great as they have been in Yugoslavia as it was constructed after the first World War, but they will be great enough to furnish the new states with many serious problems in the post-war era.

Of course today Western Ukraine has been united with Great (Eastern) Ukraine in the Ukrainian Soviet Republic but the superposition of atheistic communism on the free aspirations of the Ukrainian population with its long Cossack tradition has not destroyed the desire for liberty and has not satisfied the population. The difficulties which the Soviet Union has had in Ukraine during the past years shows well that the new ideas have not universally taken root and the evidence is clear that the Ukrainian Soviet Republic is a device for Russianizing as well as sovietizing the population.

However, if Germany and the Soviet Union are able to achieve either a victory or a draw in this conflict, we may well believe that it will be decades before they consult the Ukrainian as to their wishes in any matter. Their present union will stand and the deportations and executions will continue unabated. In such a case the hope that Germany and Soviet Union would struggle with each other and give Ukraine a chance for independence is probably wishful thinking. If the war is at all prolonged, there will more likely be an interchange of leaders toward the building up of a great land empire in Eurasia and the transfer of populations will proceed to a point where death and demoralization will render opposition ineffective.

The sacrifice of Carpatho-Ukraine to Hungary is a slight token of the cooperation that has existed between the two powers. It gave Germany a good opportunity of smoothing over the most violent of her attacks on the Soviet Union; it satisfied some of the Hungarian aspirations; and it facilitated the deal that was made in the Western Ukraine.

## Victory of Democracies Important To Ukraine

It will therefore be a matter of prime importance to Ukraine that the democratic powers win the war; and the sooner they can do it, the better for all concerned. Any consideration of a reorganization of Europe depends upon this so far as all but the governing groups of the totalitarian powers must continue to live and flourish.

There is of course the possibility that the Soviet Union might remain non-belligerent and in case of a collapse of Germany might even disgorge the territories conquered during the war and revert to her old boundaries. This is hardly likely but if it took place, it would only mean the renewed separation of Western Ukraine and the stifling of all hopes of a united Ukrainian people. Such a solution might easily bring back the rough geographic boundaries of 1920 and this might involve a restoration of the same political and economic conditions.

On the other hand, if there came a revolution in the Soviet Union and the Communist Party were annihilated, a new set of problems would beset Ukraine. The revival of a Russian nationalism would be brought about and the old claims of the Russians to Eastern Ukraine might be again accepted, if only from war-weariness.

There is no need to continue to list all the possible outcomes of the war, for we can be sure that long before its ending some hitherto unrecognized factor will assume the dominating role and will determine the final outcome. At the end of seven months we can only say that so far there is no indication that any solution will facilitate the establishment of a free and independent Ukraine. We can be sure that the triumph of the totalitarian principle and the powers which represent it will not be of use. A stalemate will not accomplish it and it is not yet clear that without a broadening of the field of combat an Allied victory will be of use.

The golden moment was of course at the ending of the first World War when Russia was in a state of chaos. It is often forgotten that at that time the Congress of Versailles declined to consider definitely the fate of the border states of the Russian Empire. The United States declined during the presidency of Woodrow Wilson to recognize the *de jure* independence of the Baltic states, and it is amazing to think that amid the mass of treaties that followed the World War there was not a single clause which touched the boundaries of Russia or set up a new frontier. All of these were drawn in local treaties after the War, largely based on continuing battles. In the case of Ukraine as in the case of the Causasian states to the east nothing was done definitely, and nothing meant disaster to the hopes for independence.

It is now fortunate that the signal for the second World War was not given, as was expected in many quarters, by a revolt in the Western Ukraine. Had that taken place, it is hard to see what course could have been followed by the allies of Poland. It did not and so that is one possibility that can be omitted.

The task for the Ukrainians abroad as for so many other peoples of Europe is extremely complicated. There is today no part of Ukrainian soil where the beginning of an armed movement of liberation or civil government can be erected. Communications between the groups abroad and the groups at home must be extremely difficult and can transmit only information and encouragement.

There must be a general effort to form an organization which can speak for all the representative groups from both Ukraines, which will secure the respect and confidence of the Allied governments and will gradually develop into a representative committee as done by President Masaryk during the first World War. At the same time, all will remember the difficulties that arose later as a result of the misunderstanding between the Czechs and Slovaks as to the real significance of such documents as the Pittsburgh Agreement and others of the same sort. For that reason it will be necessary to use great care in forming such an organization, so that it can speak clearly and definitely for all por-

tions of the Ukrainian lands and may not be labelled with some justice by its enemies as only a partial body formed from emigrés from one special district or area.

## Building Up A Government Abroad

If such a group can be formed and can command the confidence of the Allies, it may then be possible to take the next step and to organize a symbolic army that will be able to fight under its own flag along with the Allies. This will be an even more difficult situation in view of the obligations that are already existing in the case of Poland. It would be greatly facilitated if either the Soviet Union or Hungary should openly on the battlefield range itself with Germany. In such there a case there would always be the opportunity for taking a decisive action at an early date.

This steady attempt to build up a government abroad will be of value and undoubtedly there are similar movements within the country but these last are of course menaced at every instant by the armed powers and agents of the masters of the territory today. It is impracticable at the present time to speculate on the possible connections among the groups and to indicate any course of action, and therefore the leaders abroad must be able to adapt their policy to the fleeting changes of conditions.

This brings to our attention another and a vital point. At the ending of the first World War, the principle of self-determination based on language was the chief criterion of division. It may sound rash to say that to a Ukrainian, but subject to some strong reservations, it was the announced aim of the Allied Powers. The result was the creation of a number of states which were afterwards torn by internal friction on the ground that language had been in conflict with economic facts and tendencies and with cultural developments.

We do not know yet whether the new Europe will be organized on the same lines or not. There are many plans for union or confederation drifting around the Allied countries and we do not know how far these will pass from academic and intellectual speculation to real politics. The Ukrainian leaders must be prepared to defend themselves and their cause in these fields as well, and they cannot sit idly by and dream and work for an independent Ukraine without taking count of these other principles.

## Tragedy of Ukraine

It was the tragedy of Ukraine that the Tatar invasions destroyed the original unity among the various sections of the country. We must remember that these took place only fifty years after the transfer of the centre of the eastern plains from Kiev to Suzdal and Moscow. A large part of Ukraine soon after passed under Lithuanian-Polish rule and a wedge was driven deep within the state. Up to the time of the Union of Lublin the balance within the Lithuanian-Polish state was very different and we hear less of Ukrainian dissatisfaction than we do afterwards when the unifying tendencies of that country began to weigh more heavily upon the Cossacks. At that time there was a sort of a government which extended from the Baltic to the Black Seas and in the cheerful manner of the Middle Ages, language and nationality were not so strikingly identified as they are today. The element of feudalism also played its part in holding together in one state peoples of very different stock and traditions without an excessive amount of friction. Will there be any attempts at such a federation now? In actual fact all the states concerned have gone to a temporary ruin and if the fortune of war changes, it is possible that they will rise together. This will be extremely difficult, for nothing survives like the enmities of past centuries, particularly when there has been recent aggravation. At the same time there may be external pressure exerted to bring about such results.

So far there have been no substantial indications of a desire on the part of any influential leaders to effectuate any working agreement whether in the form of union or federation. Meanwhile the process of mass deportation is continuing and the ultimate effects of this no one can foresee. The situation seems to be what it has always been and what it was at the conclusion of the first World War—namely the putting forward of maximum claims by all interested parties and a complete mutual distrust. If this attitude is to last into the peace that follows, it is hard to see how any thing can develop except an endless series of wars and struggles until the entire area is definitely reduced to a desolate wilderness.

This does not mean that any group should thoughtlessly or foolishly give up the advantages of its position or definitely announce in advance that it was going to abandon any of

## THE SOVIETS "EDIT" SHEVCHENKO

(Concluded)

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### The Soviet Interpretation of Shevchenko

As we see, everything is done in order to make Shevchenko appear as an "an immortal revolutionary" in the Soviet sense. Thus it seems that Soviet Ukraine has a native leader and liberator, who has nothing in common with Ukrainian "fascist tramps," religion, priests, bourgeoisie, etc. That is probably why such an old Bolshevik as Mykola Skrypnyk<sup>3</sup> said at the laying of the cornerstone of a Shevchenko memorial (in 1930):

"Under the flag of Shevchenko, the Ukrainian working classes finally arose. Under this flag they entered the struggle with Tsarism and under the same flag they achieved victory."

But this attempt by a Ukrainian Bolshevik leader to make Shevchenko a leader of Soviet Ukraine backfired. Moscow protested immediately on the grounds that Ukrainian "nationalist scum" were using the same argument: that such writers as Dr. Dmytro Dontsov and Rychytsky were saying that Shevchenko's slogans were identical with those of the Ukrainian working classes and that Shevchenko was "fighting for the freedom of the Ukrainian masses."

This was a terrible crime and counter-revolutionary because Shevchenko, according to the Soviets, was nothing but a "bourgeois democrat." They write:

"Even during the period of the highest political recrudescence Shevchenko did not see the true path of the victorious struggle for the final social and national liberation of the working masses."

Therefore, the Soviets say, the Ukrainian people should be thankful not to Shevchenko but to the "party of Lenin and Stalin" which enabled "30,000,000 Ukrainians to achieve their own fatherland in the brotherly family of the peoples of the Soviet Union."

Furthermore, Shevchenko wanted to see Ukraine become an independent state, based on the principles of the American Constitution, and, as he said, of George Washington. The Soviets ridicule this. They explain that Shevchenko, as a "bourgeois democrat," naturally was in favor of the government of the American bourgeoisie.

Who, therefore, is the real leader of the Ukrainian people? Moscow answers: Lenin and Stalin are the real leaders and liberators of Ukraine, and as for Shevchenko, he was a good man, even rebellious

and revolutionary, but only a—bourgeois democrat!

Thus does the Soviet Institute of Taras Shevchenko preach today in the poet's "fatherland," in fact in Kiev itself, the capital of the state that Moscow has named the "Ukrainian Socialist Soviet Republic."

Regarding the Tsarist prohibition of all celebrations in commemoration of Shevchenko, the following quotation from Lenin appears in the preface to the Soviet Kobzar:

"The interdiction against Shevchenko celebrations was so wonderful (chudovy), magnificent, appropriate and successful a measure, from the standpoint of agitation against the government, that we could not have thought up a better one ourselves."

So we might add that there is no better agitation against the Soviets than their own writings on Shevchenko. There is no better agitation against Moscow than the Bolshevik attempts to link him to Russia. It was this same Shevchenko, who wrote:

"There is no other Ukraine in the world,

There is no other Dnieper."

One might ask: To whom have the Ukrainian steppes of Shevchenko been sold? Was it not to the Russians? Whose sons, about whom Shevchenko weeps, are in foreign bondage? Is it not the

sons of Ukraine who have been dragged into the service of Moscow? And those "writers" in the so-called Ukrainian Academy of Science who seek to cast Shevchenko into a Soviet mould—are not they the renegades, depicted by Shevchenko, who grow up to help the Russians "steal even the patched shirt from their mother"? Have they not been spawned by the spirit of those Russian nihilists, atheists and anarchists, against whom even Shevchenko was warned?

Shevchenko's spirit has nothing in common either with them or with Russian barbarism and its concomitant, Red destruction. His spirit is the spirit of the Ukrainian people. It is the spirit of revolutionary Ukraine which long ago revolted against Russian Tsarism and is now revolting against Russian Stalinism. And all those of Ukrainian blood will continue to struggle against Russia until these words of Shevchenko's "Testament" are fulfilled:

... Arise  
And shatter your chains,  
And drench your freedom  
With the blood of your enemy."  
DR. LUKE MYSHUHA,  
(From the "Trident")

<sup>3</sup> Vice President of the Council of People's Commissars of Soviet Ukraine, who committed suicide in 1933 after he was denounced as a nationalist.

## UKRAINE: HER PLATEAUS

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The Ukrainian plateau group is hemmed in on both sides by two plain regions, accompanying it from the north and from the south, uniting finally on the left bank of the Don and below the Caucasus.

The northern plain district of Ukraine joins directly on to the lowlands of Poland, and indirectly to the North German lowland.

The most westerly section of it is called Pidlasye, which is the land on the Polish border. Its surface is very even, its river valleys broad and flat. Only great forests, the well-known Bilovezha forest for instance, and the water-courses bring variety into the monotonous country. Its main stream, the Buh, is a typical lowland river: flowing through the over-great valleys in great turns, it divides into many arms, and forms innumerable old river beds. Southern Pidlasye abounds in lakes and swamps and moors, the sites of former lakes. The whole section abounds in traces of the great glacial periods of Northern Europe.

Polisyie (Woodland) is one of the most remarkable lands of Eastern Europe. Only a low and very flat divide, which is crossed by the Dnieper-Buh ship canal, separates it from Pidlasye. The region forms an immense flat trough, the vertical axis of which constitutes the Pripet River and the bottom of which, very flat, lies at the height of 394—502 feet. The substratum, composed of chalk marl with numerous holes made by springs (the so called viknos, windows), is seen rarely, all the rest of the region being covered with diluvial sands and great swamps. The sands take in all the elevated places and form wandering or wood-covered dunes. The remaining land is marshy forest, bog and moor. The rivers flow slowly, depositing mud brought from the surrounding plateaus. Their beds are steadily rising. In high waters the rivers overflow their banks and flood wide stretches of land. In the spring, when the snows melt, or after long rains, the entire region is transformed into an immense lake, with only forests and settled sandy hills sticking out above the

waters. During these seasonal floods, which last from two to three months, the waters flow off very slowly, all the traffic on highways and railroads is blocked and many places can be reached only by water. After each flood moves rivers flow in new beds, while their old beds transform into pools and lakes.

Two types of marshes can be distinguished in Polisyie: peat moors, with pine woods, in the west and north; and treeless marsh meadows, the so-called halas, in the south and east. The natives speak of their marshes as being bottomless, but exact measurements have shown them not to be deep. Canals have been dug by governments, and considerable areas were reclaimed for cultivation.

The landscape of Polisyie is dreary; dark forests in deep-bottomed swamps alternate with the open marsh-meadow covered with pools, both traversed by many-armed, slowly gliding rivers. On yellow-white sand-dunes stand clusters of log-houses, amid wretched fields and poor meadows.

The Polisyie Plain extends to the left bank of the Dnieper, passing imperceptibly over into the Dnieper plain. On the Desna river the landscape is quite Polisyian in character; it disappears gradually toward the southeast; black earth takes place of the sandy soil, the forests become thinner, and the flat, undulating steppe-plain, with its innumerable barrows and plate-shaped depressions of ground, in which lakes glisten in springtime, increases rapidly. In the east, the Dnieper Plain passes imperceptibly into the Central Russian Plateau, and in the south, below the picturesque rocks of the Dnieper rapids, in the so-called Zaporozhe, into the Pontian Steppe-Plain.

The general nature of the land in the region of the southern spur of the Central Russian Plateau is analogous to that of the neighboring Dnieper Plain, except that the river valleys are more deeply cut. The right valley-side descends to the river in a steep slope, furrowed by water rifts; the left bank rises very gently, to decline suddenly to the neighboring river. The only variety is afforded occasionally by the rain water-rift, the so-called balka, provalka, yaruha.

The formation of these water-rifts is favored by the heavy mantle of black soil, loess and loam, on the one hand, and the heavy destruction of forests on the other. In the loose soil, no longer held together by the forests, the water-rifts grow and spread after every heavy rain, with terrible speed, washing off often wide stretches of fertile land, and leaving only a maze of deep, dry ravines. Thus a problem is placed before the Ukrainian not unlike the American problem of counteracting "soil-erosion."

### THE SOUTHERN UKRAINIAN PLAINS

The southern plain district, which extends along the northern banks of the Black Sea, from the delta of the Danube into the Kuban region, has since ancient times borne the name of the PONTAIN STEPPE-PLAIN, in Ukrainian simply niz, lowland, or dlke pole, wild field.

It extends from the spurs of the Bessarabian, Podolian, Dnieper and Donets Plateaus in the north, to the sea and the country at the foot of the Yaila Mountains, in the Crimea in the south. Its surface is exceptionally flat, slightly undulating only at the northern border. The characteristic features of its landscape are innumerable barrows (mohilas) and the flat plate-shaped depressions of the ground, with small temporary lakes, the swampy flat valleys and small salt marshes. The numerous balkas, which run across the steppe, do not affect the appearance of grand uniformity; they are visible to the traveler only when he comes directly upon them. The mantle of the black earth which covers the steppe-plain becomes constantly thinner toward the south, the typical chornozem giving way, south of the parallel of Kherson, to the brown steppe soil, also very fertile, which is accompanied in long stretches by the saline earth. Along the large streams of the steppes stretch the so-called plavni (singular: plaven), interminable thickets of sedge and sedges, marsh forests and meadows alternating with river arms, old river beds, small lakes; they constitute a fresh, verdant cover of river valleys, resplendent with blossoms in the spring and turning yellow and dark-brown in the summer.

(To be continued)

its members. It does mean that efforts should be made to secure at least an understanding among all groups of freedom-loving peoples to the end that a common program can be worked out. At the same time far less emphasis should be placed on the abuses of the last years and far more on the positive accomplishments of each group. The world has seen too much of prapaganda designed to attack some one and too little of a desire to understand and evaluate and stress one's own virtues and advantages. We again cannot predict what form events will take but we can see that something must be done along these lines and it is very possible that human ingenuity can find some plan which will in general satisfy the needs and rights of all parties.

The groups that are to represent the Ukrainians must be prepared to take their part in

such a reorganization of Europe and they must not allow themselves to be blinded by the hatreds and injustices of the past. They must do their share in working out such a compromise if one seems necessary and they must be able at the same time to hold the confidence of their followers.

### A Free, United And Independent Ukraine

In a word, the situation today is still so utterly confused that we cannot tell what solution is to be finally chosen. On the one hand this group that will represent the free opinion of the Ukrainians abroad in harmony with the desires of the oppressed people at home, must take all possible steps to bring about a union of the Ukrainian lands as an independent state. At the same time they must establish relations with all groups that represent and stand for

similar ideals and strive also to work out a compromise that will bring peace and prosperity to that part of the world. It may seem as if the tasks were mutually contradictory and to a certain extent they are. Yet the dominant factor in the present world crisis is the confused nature of every known fact and struggle. The world is torn between a myriad of conflicting theories and conflicting interests. These must be straightened out and in the process there will be many strange and unexpected turns of fortune. The group that is to represent the Ukrainians must be prepared to follow this winding path of fate and of events to the end that there may be at the ending of the war a free and independent Ukraine which will fit into the governing order of a free Europe with the maximum of liberty, prosperity and peace.

**YOUTH and THE U.N.A.**

**New Branch in Millville, N. J.**

On April 1st, Basil Zahayevich, an organizer for the Ukrainian National Association, delivered a lecture concerning the fraternal order before a group of people at the Ukrainian National Home in Millville, N. J. As a result of this lecture and previous U.N.A. activity in that locality, about fifty young people assembled themselves into a new youth branch, number 457. The branch has been named the Taras Shevchenko Society, in honor of the immortal Ukrainian poet and patriot.

On April 4th, the new group elected the following officers: Andrew Sacharnoski, president; John Mikytiuk, first vice president; Andrew Stelmach, second vice president; John Klucker, financial secretary; Frank Panczyzyn, recording secretary; Olga Matolicz, treasurer; Peter Radowsky, James Romanik, John Romanichion, Joseph Kohansky, Stephen Mudry, auditors. The branch will have its meetings every third Sunday of the month, at 2 P. M., at the Ukrainian National Home, Carmel Rd., Millville, N. J. All interested persons are asked to attend.

The club, which aims to become one of the leading U.N.A. youth branches where membership is concerned, will have an installation of officers during the Summer. It intends to aid in the erection of a monument dedicated to Taras Shevchenko in Millville's Shevchenko Street; the town has a Ukrainian farm colony. The branch will cooperate with South Jersey's U.N.A. Central Committee in celebrating U.N.A. Day, and will also participate in the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the first farmers' colony in America to be built and developed by Ukrainian immigrants. The youth club also has intentions of organizing baseball and basketball teams, and to enter these in the U.N.A. league.

**THE U. N. A. SPOTLIGHT**

**New York Beats Newark and Wins 1st Div. Title**

"One of the hardest fought basketball games of the season took place in the Elizabeth Ukrainian Home, where the New York U. N. A. Team met and defeated Newark on April 7th," reports Michael Husar. The score was 53-45, and the win gives New York the leadership in District No. 1 of the Ukrainian National Association Basketball League.

In the first few minutes of play Newark took the lead, but New York brought the game to a 10-10 tie at the end of the quarter. Both teams threw caution to the winds and made desperate tries to attack. All players defended their goals with equal effectiveness, yet throughout 3 quarters of hard fighting each team matched the other goal for goal and foul shot for foul shot. New York led at the half 24-23, and maintained a 38-36 lead at the end of the 3rd quarter.

With half of the last period over, the outcome of the game seemed doubtful as both teams continued to match each other on points. At this stage of the contest, New York's Czarnécky brothers went on a rampage and accounted for most of the points scored in the final quarter.

Stephen and Michael Czarnécky scored 18 and 13 points respectively for the winners. Working as co-captains, Michael Czarnécky and Ted Dusanenko showed the effectiveness of their combination with their steady supply of point-making passes to Stephen. Despite his injured wrist, Jim Nykyforchyn made several spectacular left-handed shots that amazed the witnesses. Nestor Stadnyk played a good game.

Although T. Harzula was high scorer for Newark with 13 points, Newark's main threat was a 3-man combination that seemed to put the

**CONGRESS PLATFORM**

(Concluded from page 1)

people can secure a firm basis for the Independence, Union and Democracy of Ukraine.

"At the present critical moment in Europe the right of the Ukrainian people to a free state development again seeks its realization. But the lips of our people on their native land are sealed. So much the louder must we, American-Ukrainians, speak for them.

"The undersigned representatives of the four central Ukrainian fraternal organizations in America are taking upon themselves at this historic moment the initiative in the campaign to support the movement of the Ukrainian people for a free state existence and are calling for this purpose on May 24th of this year in Washington

**THE CONGRESS OF AMERICAN UKRAINIANS.**

"The purpose of the Congress is to manifest before the entire world the right of the Ukrainian people to a free state development, on equal terms with other peoples of Europe, and to coordinate the future action of Ukrainian organizations here in support of the movement toward an Independent, United and Democratic Ukraine.

"The Ukrainian Congress Committee of the four fraternal organizations will invite for purposes of closer cooperation in the organization of the Congress other central Ukrainian organizations which accept this platform and the political aims of the Congress, the latter to be sent to them separately. From the Ukrainian Congress Committee and from representatives of the central organizations—two from each—will be formed the Ukrainian Congress Council. The Council will gather in the nearest future [First meeting today in Philadelphia.—Editor] at a meeting regarding further Congress action."

**FOR THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION:**

Nicholas Muraszko, Gregory Herman, Mary Malevich, Dmytro Halychyn, Roman Slobodian, Dr. Luke Myshuha.

**FOR THE UKRAINIAN WORKINGMEN'S ASSOCIATION:**

Miroslav Sichinsky, Vladimir Levitsky, Stephen Korpan, Theodore Mynyk, Peter Duchak, Yaroslav Chyz.

**FOR THE PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATION:**

Rev. Volodimir Lotowytch, Antin Curkowsky, Theodore Chemeryz, John Boresevich, Volodimir Lototsky.

**FOR THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL AID ASSOCIATION:**

Michael Markiw, John Soroka, Wasyl Shabatara, Matthew Chandoha, Peter Kudla.

**A GOOD DANCER AND UKRAINIAN**

Miss Olga Berezovytch was indeed a happy girl when I recently came to see her at the ritzy Arcadia Restaurant in Philadelphia, where she is dancing with Ortez in a set of South American numbers.

Her bubbling enthusiasm was explained by her that it was the first time in three months that she had the opportunity to meet someone who could converse with her in her native Ukrainian.

For Olga is a professional dancer, and her travels detached her from her Ukrainian friends. But Olga is a good Ukrainian. She has arranged to have the "Svoboda" and "Ukraine" follow her to keep tabs on Ukrainian news.

Olga is likewise an intelligent girl. She graduated from a "gymnasium" in Lwiw, Western Ukraine, from where she came two years ago. Olga has already learned to speak English grammatically well.

Olga is young and beautiful! Her golden hair is braided in the distinctive Ukrainian fashion. Her present yearning is to be able to soon dance Ukrainian numbers in a Ukrainian costume! For that is where her spirit lies—all things that are Ukrainian, so we were convinced. Olga, who may adopt her second name as "Ukrainka," dreams of being in motion pictures.

ALEXANDER YAREMKO.

ball through the hoop from any distance on the court. The trio were Didylowski, Klappy, and J. Karmazyn, who scored 10, 8, and 9 points respectively. They made some of the longest shots of the game.

The score by quarters:

New York:	10	14	14	15—53
Newark:	10	13	13	9—45

(Concluded in "Svoboda")

**TO LOVELACE FROM PRISON**

"Stone walls do not a prison make,  
Nor iron bars a cage;  
So Lovelace said," I said to him,  
But he grew black with rage.

"I've been in here for thirty days,  
So damn that lying bard;  
Don't be misled by his sweet words  
For they are foul canard.

"If e'er he peered 'twixt iron bars,  
Or languished 'tween stone walls,  
A different tune would have rung  
out  
To echo down Fame's halls.

"But since that lying scribe should  
thus  
Misrepresent my lot,  
I heartily commend his soul  
To regions where it's hot."

**ANSWERS TO FIT EVERY OCCASION**

Do you lisp?  
ANS. Thome people thay I do.  
Did you hit your head on the door jamb?  
ANS. \*\*\*!!!!\$\$S??/?//\*\*!!!  
Gosh, sweetheart, you look beautiful.  
ANS. I know it.

I want some kidleys.  
You mean kidneys, don't you?  
That's what I said, didle I?

**NOT IN WEBSTER'S**

EXECUTIVE: A man who can make quick decisions and is sometimes right.

GLUTTON: A poor man who eats too much, as distinguished from a gourmand who is a rich man who "lives well."

MANKIND: 1. A nomadic savage that has wandered over the face of the earth from East to West in order to reach the East so it could go West again. It has left many traces of its life—bar-rooms, brothels, jails, gallows, slums, insane asylums, poison gas, bombing planes, etc. 2. In the animal kingdom, a surreptitious and supposititious supererogation. 3. Among the Simians, a place

**SHEVCHENKO CONCERT IN WASHINGTON**

For the first time in history the nation's capital was the scene of "Svyato Shevchenka." The concert, honoring Ukraine's greatest son was held on March 31 under the auspices of the American-Ukrainian Society of Washington.

The cream and gold Barker Hall of the YWCA was filled to capacity with old stock and new Americans. As the rose velvet curtains were drawn apart for the opening number, the warm rays of the evening sun slipped through the auditorium and touched the portrait of the poet, framed in beautiful cross-stitch scarfing, and decorated with an American and a Ukrainian flag.

A moment of silence—it was as if some heavenly message hung in the air, bidding the poet welcome, and whispering that his life's work had not been in vain. Then a burst of applause as the attentive audience moved its gaze to the chorus of eighteen young boys and girls in native Ukrainian costumes.

The chorus under the direction of Marusia Kissel, in private life Mrs. Eugene Skotzko, wife of the Director of the Ukrainian Bureau in Washington, sang for its first two numbers "At Twilight" by Taras Shevchenko, and Kirichenko's "Carpathian Mountain Army March."

There was a brief introductory address by Julia Carpin, a reading of an English translation of Shevchenko's 13th Psalm by Anna Kudlak, and an address read by Mr. Eugene Skotzko.

Mary Mandrich, formerly Miss Mary Skoropad of Trenton, N. J., whose beautiful soprano voice has thrilled many audiences in Trenton, Philadelphia, and other large cities in the East, sang Lysenko's "The Kerchief" and Zarembo's "Joyful Evening." Helen Hudiak accompanied.

Following a brief intermission, Mary Mandrich and Marusia Kissel joined in a duet to sing Yaroslavenko's "Return of the Heroes" and "Dear Girl." Thomas Chromchak accompanied. Egor Shlopak, Washington's own accomplished young pianist, played Zientarsky's "Shumka" and Prysovsky's "Dumka."

The program was concluded with the singing by the chorus of Hayvoronsky's "Return of the Soldier" and Lysenko's "Trailing Periwinkle" and the American and Ukrainian national anthems.

ANN TYMCHYN,

**NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA**

A fine musical treat is in store for those who will attend the **MATINEE MUSICALE**, to be sponsored by the Ukrainian Youth Chorus of New York and New Jersey tomorrow (SUNDAY, APRIL 14th) at the International Institute, 341 East 17th Street (between 1st and 2nd Avenues) New York City, at 3 o'clock. Admission 50c. Refreshments will be served.

**NEW STARS!**

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

**NEW YORK CITY**

**PAINLESS EDUCATION!** Have fun and learn about Ukraine at the **Fourth Ukrainian Information Please Program**, sponsored by the Educational Department of the Ukrainian Youth's League, this **Friday, April 19, 1940** at the International Institute, 341 E. 17th St., New York City at 8:30 P. M. **Free admission.** After the regular quiz by the interrogator, an opportunity will be given to the audience to ask the experts (?) questions. If you stump them, you get a **prize!** Since we have to pay for each hour the room is used, we must ask all to come promptly at 8:30 P. M., and not come straggling in at 9:30 and 10:00 P. M. Community singing before and after the program.

equivalent to our hell. "Oh, you go to Mankind," is quite frequently heard in the African jungle, even in the best society.

ETAION SHRDLU.