

10

YUGOSLAV DAY



July 29, 1934 ~ Lagoon Theatre

A CENTURY OF PROGRESS
INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION CHICAGO

YUGOSLAV
DAY



*A Century of Progress
International Exposition*



LAGOON THEATRE



CHICAGO

SUNDAY, JULY 29, 1934



PREFACE

The Yugoslav Worlds Fair Committee was organized under the direction of Col. J. V. Houghtaling, Supervisor of Nationalities Events at A Century of Progress, who mailed over 200 invitations to Yugoslav clubs, fraternal societies and cultural organizations. The first meeting was held on April 27, 1934 in the Administration Building at the Century of Progress, when more than forty-two persons responded to this call.

It was the concensus of opinion at this meeting that only a temporary Yugoslav World's Fair Committee be organized with full power to act, until a permanent committee should be formed on May 17th, 1934. Those selected to serve as a temporary committee were: Chairman, Edward P. Skubic; Secretary, Richard J. Zavertnik; Walter Susa, Dusan Popovich, Joseph A. Cuci, Vlaho S. Vlahovich, Marko Mrdjenovich.

With only two Sundays to choose from the temporary committee selected July 29th, 1934 as the Yugoslav Day at a Century of Progress. This date is of historic value because it is exactly 20 years since the Austrian Army bombarded Belgrade.

Over three hundred invitations were mailed by the Temporary Committee for the meeting of May 17th, 1934 to select a permanent Committee. At this meeting more than eighty persons were present representing lodges, societies, clubs and business and professional men. The following Committee was elected as the permanent Committee: Chairman Edward P. Skubic, Secretary Richard J. Zavertnik, Treasurer John Kapov, Vice Chairmen J. Cuci, A. Kamenjarin, Wm. F. Kompare, M. Matas, M. Mrdjenovich, Stephen Rasul, Miss N. Lazarov, Mrs. H. Kushar.

Meetings were held every Monday evening at the Liberty Hall Auditorium, 3018 S. Wells St., and several special meetings were called. These sessions were harmonious and well attended, the attendance often exceeding the hundred mark.

The Committee thanks, Col. J. V. Houghtaling, Supervisor of the Nationalities Events, of A Century of Progress, for his earnest co-operation and valuable assistance and guidance which he gave to the Yugoslav World's Fair Committee.

The Committee also extends thanks to all individuals and organizations which have co-operated to make this Yugoslav Day a success, we regret that the space does not permit to thank each one separately.

EDW. P. SKUBIC
Chairman Yugoslav World's Fair Committee

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"Jugoslovenska žena" bila je ustanovljena 1931 v mesecu oktober u narodno dobrotvorne svrhe i svaka zavedna Jugoslovenka morala bi biti članica ove prekoristne organizacije, koja je jedino jugoslovenska ženska organizacija u Americi.

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Standing left to right: Mrs. H. Jakska, Miss K. Triller, Mrs. M. Kovacic, Mrs. R. Ziherle, Mrs. Zuklic, Miss M. Span.

Seating: Mrs. D. Visnevac, Mrs. M. Stanich, Mrs. F. Kesic, Treas., Mrs. D. Simich, Pres., Mrs. H. Kushar, Secy., Mrs. M. Cherne, Mrs. J. Cuci.

Yugoslav Participation in the Columbian Exposition of 1893

By PROF. JOHN A. ZVETINA

Times have changed considerably since the last World's Fair. An examination of the newspaper accounts in 1893 indicate that the various national groups of that period were quite active in demonstrating their artistic and cultural achievements. The fact remains, however, that there are more national groups participating in the present Century of Progress than in the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893.

In view of Yugoslav Day at the present Century of Progress, which is set for Sunday, July 29, 1934, it is interesting to note that the racial groups represented under the heading of "Yugoslav" were not assigned any particular day in the World's Fair of 1893. Of course, every student of history will recall to mind that the racial groups now comprising the Yugoslav state were a part of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire. Except for, Serbia, the Croats and Slovenians were under Austrian and Hungarian dominion in 1893.

August 18, 1893 was assigned as Austrian day. It was a coincidence that this day was the birthday of His Imperial and Royal and Apostolic Majesty, Franz Josef. Little did the great empire of Austria, which had weathered so many political storms during the course of the century, appreciate that at the time of the Century of Progress in Chicago in 1933-34 the Austro-Hungarian monarchy would be a thing of the past, and Austria would be but a shadow of its former size.

There is no doubt that on the day set aside for Austria on August 18, 1893, a number of Croats and Slovenians, who were then residents of Chicago, took part in the celebration. In fact, The Chicago Daily Tribune of August 19, 1893 gives an interesting account of the manner in which Austrian Day was celebrated at the Music Hall in the Fair. On either side of the stage were placed men and women dressed in native costumes of the peasants of Austria and Hungary. Today with increased knowledge and the fact that, since the World War, more people in this country are aware that Austria was a ramshackled empire made up of many races, all earnestly desiring self-determination and individual freedom, it is obvious that among these men and women dressed in native costumes were those who were former residents of various Slavic provinces, such as Croatia, Slavonia, Dalmatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bukovina, Istria, Czechoslovakia, Galicia and Vladimirla. The newspaper reporter of that day goes on to say that at the right there stood twenty young women wearing the picturesque garb of the Austrian Alps. No doubt some of these were Slovenians. It is rather unfortunate that the names of the participants in this particular celebration were not preserved.

The Inter Ocean and Chicago Herald of August 19, 1893 reported the celebration of Austrian Day in some detail. Dr. S. D. Sowards of New York acted as chairman and made the introductory speech. Honorable Anton Von Palitschek-Palenfurst was the Imperial Royal Commissioner General to the Exposition. He proposed a toast to the health of the Emperor Franz Joseph, after which the Austrian band struck up the Austrian anthem. What great changes have taken place in the course of forty-one years! Dr. Sowards, in the course of his speech, asserted that the Austrian (and it is to be assumed that a good many of these were of Slav ancestry) were a desirable class, for they came to work and to seek prosperity and to treat the country in which they lived as their own. He went on to say that they understood the rights and privileges of this free country, and that it never could be said that Austria-Hungary sent its criminal classes to the shores of the new world. He concluded with a glowing tribute to the Emperor, who has since passed to the great beyond; in fact, emperors are no longer in fashion in Austria.

It is interesting to note, also, that Austria was represented by a Village which was called "Old Vienna". A medieval ponticullis gave access to the Village, which was to be found in the Midway Plaisance. Visitors to "Old Vienna" were presented with a picture of peasants who strolled about the streets of old Austria, and who were dressed as peasants of the Tyrol, many of whom originally came from Slovenia. Visitors were also entertained with Gypsy songs by the sons of Hungary as they appeared upon their native plains, and among them were to be found a large group of Croats.

Austria is no longer in the enviable position which it occupied in 1893, so to enable companies interested in reproducing bits of "Old Vienna" to undertake today the expense of building a village similar to that of 1893. Neither is Yugoslavia, one of the succession states of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire, able at this time to donate enough capital to interest persons to build for this World's Fair a miniature city which would be indicative of the type of early cultural progress of the racial groups that at one time were a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

In place of this handicap, however, the Croats, Slovenians and Serbs, now constituting the Yugoslav State, and especially those who are citizens of this country, are working to display their progress in art and culture and particularly the contributions which they have made to the growth and development of this country. At this Fair on July 29, 1934, they will appear in native costumes

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to sing and dance in accordance with the ancient folk lore for which Southern Europe is noted. The celebration will take place in the afternoon on the site of the Lagoon Theatre, and large groups will come from different parts of the country to participate in the celebration.

Without attempting to make any bold assertions, because of meager sources, it might, however, be safely said that the Columbian Exposition of 1893 heard for the first time a Tamburica Orchestra. The members of this orchestra appeared in full costume and consisted of John Hofer, his two attractive daughters and Math Badinovic. The lyric music of the Southern Slav, played to the accompaniment of the soft tuned tamburica instruments created a sensation on the Midway Plaisance. Large crowds poured into the Vienna Village to view the sights of that historic city and to hear the little group of tamburica players and singers, using instruments made by John Hofer. These finely carved instruments were the meticulous handwork of this pioneer tamburica manufacturer and player in America. The Minnesingers of Medieval Germany could not have created a greater sensation.

On the day arranged for Austria a large group of Croatians and Slovenians, dressed in their colorful and picturesque regalia, gathered early on the morning of the 19th of August in 1893, at the National Hall, 18th & Racine Ave., located in one of the oldest Yugoslav settlements in Chicago. With the courage and light-hearted spirit, which is so characteristic of these people, they set forth on foot, singing in a playful mood, to the site of the World's Columbian Exposition, situated many miles from the point of their departure. The long and arduous march in no way dampened their ardor nor dulled their spirits. They participated in the activities of the day with a freshness and an enthusiasm that contributed much toward the success of Austrian day.

After a lapse of forty-one years Mr. S. N. Mitrovich, a Yugoslav and one of the early Fresno pioneers will return to the scene of his former triumphs to again exhibit his figs at the Century of Progress, International Exposition of 1934. It is said that he pioneered fig culture in the San Joaquin Valley and secured for his California exhibit the AA premium Gold Medal in the world competition at the Columbian International Exposition of 1893. In the same spirit of the Yugoslav participation on Austrian day at the 1893 Exposition, this hardy and courageous pioneer is planning to exhibit the new method of packing figs which he has recently devised. Figs have always been packed in the half-moon shape. The new method which Mr. Mitrovich has discovered from his broad experience and observation obviates many of the objections found in the old method. By the new method the figs are squared and packed individually so that the danger of their coalescing and becoming one large unified mass is removed. The superiority of this new method, together with the superiority of the fruit, will, no doubt, win new laurels for this son of Yugoslavia at the present World's Fair.



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The American Yugoslavs

By IVAN MLADINEO

New York

The Slavonic family embraces the **Eastern Slavs** (Russians and Ukrainians), the **Northern Slavs** (Poles, Czechs and Slovaks), and the **Southern Slavs** (Slovenes, Croats, Serbs and Bulgarians). The last group is commonly called "JUGOSLAV" (from the word "jug" meaning south) with the exception of the Bulgarians, who are presently not included in this appellation. All Slavs today are found in five independent national states, namely, Russia, Poland, Czecho-Slovakia, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, with the exception of some 600,000 compactly settled Yugoslavs in Italy, and about 100,000 in Austria.

It is necessary to stress the above facts because of the too frequent confusion in the minds of the average people between Yugoslavia and Czecho-Slovakia.

The Yugoslav group, however, often appears in the public press under the names of its subdivisions, as the Slovenes, the Croats, and the Serbs. Due to their close kinship and their interwoven interests in the United States, they are a single group with variations in the characteristics peculiar to each individual subdivision.

Yugoslavs are found in every State of the Union in numbers sufficiently large to enable them to have organized groups in some 800 towns and cities in 38 States of the Union and in Alaska. Over 5,000 of such local organizations are scattered from Boston to Los Angeles, and from Duluth to New Orleans. Although they are well organized, their first national organizations were formed only forty years ago. This fact may denote that they belong to the so-called "newer immigration". This is true to the extent that the bulk of these people came to the American shores since 1890, as did most of the other foreign races. Many had come to America, however, long before the railroads were built and even long before our independent national government was formed.

Early Immigration

It was often claimed, and historical deductions advanced in support thereof, that among the Columbus' crew were sailors from the Dalmatian coast (Dalmatia is a Province of Yugoslavia, situated along the eastern shore of the Adriatic Sea.) However it is difficult to prove the claim for want of facts in regard to the racial composition of the men who discovered America.

This year the American history is celebrating the 350th anniversary of the discovery of Roanoke Island recalling the establishment of the first English settlement in the New World. North Carolina is building a shrine to this first colony within the present confines of the State. The colony was, in fact, twice settled a full score of years before Jamestown and thus takes the Anglo-American history back into the sixteenth century.

Sir Walter Raleigh's second colony (the first being established on July 29, 1585) under John White, arrived on July 22, 1586, intending certainly to be a permanent one, for it consisted of ninety five men, seventeen women and nine children. In August the "first white child" was born in British Colonial America and named Virginia. Nine days later the child's grandfather, Governor White, sailed away to England, and from that day to this there is no certain word of what happened to the company he left behind him, or which the infant was the youngest member.

Not until the spring of 1590 was White able to return to Roanoke. "At the place where they were left in sundry houses (White writes) we found the houses taken down and the place very strongly enclosed with a high palisade of great trees, with curtains and flankers, very fort-like; and one of the chief trees or posts at the entrance had the bark taken off, and five feet from the ground, in fair capital letters, was graven CROATAN, without any cross or sign of distress."

This is the first recorded history connecting America with the Yugoslavs or, rather, with their Croatian branch. It is believed that a Croatian ship, stopping at this first permanent settlement in America, left its imprint on the bigtree, and, consequently, gave its name to one of the islands of North Carolina—"Croatan".

The first known mass movement of the Yugoslavs to America dates back to the early eighteenth century. After the unsuccessful and bloody uprisings of the peasants in Croatia and Slovenia against their feudal lords in 1573, and of the Reformation movement, ruthlessly crushed by the edict of the Archduke Ferdinand in 1598, many Yugoslavs found refuge in Prussia, having gone there upon the invitation of King Frederick William, who favored the Protestants. A century later their descendants decided to find a haven in the New World. During the first half of the eighteenth century they set their sails toward America. One group, composed of 1200 persons, went to Georgia. There they settled on the right bank of the Savannah River at the confluence of a small creek, which they named "Ebenezer". Pastors Gronau and Bolcius led this group. These early immigrants introduced the cultivation of the silk worm in Georgia, an industry engaged in by many in their original native land before they moved to Prussia. Soon after the Civil War the settlement was abandoned and only the cemetery remains as a monument to a once thriving colony of the first Yugoslav settlers in America.

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formation.

Dalmatian sailors were world renowned for their seamanship, courage and love of adventure. Long before the discovery of America their ships navigated all the known sea routes. Only a few years ago a seamen's guild in Dalmatia celebrated its thousandth anniversary. It is recorded that a Dalmatian ship sailed to America by way of India at the beginning of the eighteenth century; they were old-timers in California when the first Yankee got there.

A port of call for most of the Yugoslavs sailing to the New World was New Orleans. Until the middle of the nineteenth century this was the chief settlement of the Yugoslavs in America. There many a sailor married and made it his home. Aside from shipping, they were engaged in the oyster industry, controlling it for many a decade. From there they wandered throughout the length and breadth of the country. When gold was discovered in California they also joined the famous "Gold Rush". Most of the Yugoslav "Fortyniners" set out from New Orleans. They advised their relatives and friends in the Old Country of the fortunes made in the "shiny metal" with the result that several ships sailed from their native shores carrying new prospectors to the Golden Gate. California has always had a special attraction for the Dalmatian immigrants, and naturally so. Climatically and topographically it reminds them strongly of their own lovely Adriatic coastland. Upon the shores of the Pacific they were unusually successful.

Yugoslav immigrants are recognized today as the pioneers in apple, grape and fishing industries of California and along the whole Pacific coast. It is recorded that one "Mark Rabasa, apple dealer", a native of Dalmatia in Yugoslavia, was the first man engaged in apple business in Watsonville, Pajaro Valley, in the late 70's. This date marks the beginning of this universally known industry.

Jack London (in his novel "The Valley of the Moon") describes at length and with great admiration the result of the "tenderness and love", which transformed the 12,000 acres of the Pajaro Valley into "one of the most wonderful demonstrations in the United States". He calls it "New Dalmatia" and credits "those first ragged Adriatic Slavs" for making it "Apple Paradise".

Others began to cultivate grapes, and fishing. Large fleet of fishing boats in San Pedro, in Monterey, and on the Columbia River are manned and owned by Yugoslav fishermen. A fleet of two hundred modern fishing boats on the Columbia River alone represent an investment of several millions of dollars and are the property of the Yugoslav immigrants. The largest sardine, tuna and mackerel cannery in California belongs to the Yugoslavs. Most famous restaurants in San Francisco, until recently were owned and operated by them.

Though New Orleans is the oldest existing Yugoslav settlement in the United States, their first organization, however, was formed in San Francisco in 1857, as "The Slavonian Mutual and Benevolent Society". Its purpose was social and beneficial, helping its members in times of illness and distress. The official languages were "English and Slavonian". These early settlers called their mother tongue by its general name—"Slavonian" (meaning, Slavonic) and even today the Yugoslavs along the Pacific Coast and around the Gulf of Mexico are designated as "Slavonians". Only in 1874 the New Orleans Yugoslavs organized themselves in the "United Slavonian Benevolent Association of New Orleans". The father of the writer of these lines was one of its founders. This organization is this year celebrating its sixtieth anniversary.

The first organization on the Atlantic Coast was founded in New York in 1880, and is now known as "The First Croatian Benefit Society". Two years later the Slovenes organized their first association, "The Independent Society of St. Joseph," in Calumet, Mich. Thus the first four organizations were established on the four extreme points of the United States. These pioneer associations, which still exist, can proudly point to five thousand of their offsprings in all sections of the Country.

Civilization of the new continent.

Other nations of the World have contributed men of courage and zeal to the process of conquest of this vast continent. Yugoslavs, though one of the smaller nationalities, can also pride themselves with the contributions their co-nationals have rendered to the same goal.

Among the earliest known Yugoslav arrivals into this part of the World was Baron Ivan Rataj, a Croatian Jesuit, who died in 1640 while a missionary among the New Mexico Indians. He was followed by many others of his countrymen. Most noted among them was Ferdinand Konščak, better known under the Spanish adaptation of his name, Gonzales, who came to Mexico in 1730. During many years of his pioneering work he made the first known map of Lower California. Another prominent Croatian missionary was Joseph Kundek, who arrived in 1838. He established several towns in the Middle West, among them Ferdinand and Jasper in the State of Indiana.

In connection with this missionary work it is notable that it was financed by contribution of the people in Croatia. According to the existing records in the archives of the Archbishopric of Zagreb in Croatia, 57,000 florins were sent from Croatia between 1830 and 1840 for the maintenance of churches and schools in America.

The Slovene missionaries concentrated their efforts to the North-West. Frederick Baraga, the first among them, arrived in 1830. He devoted his whole life to the missionary work among the Indians in northern Michigan and Wisconsin, and in eastern Minnesota. In 1853 he was consecrated a Bishop of the newly established Marquette Diocese. State of Minnesota honored him by naming one of its counties in his memory. Baraga was also a man of letters. He wrote and published a Grammar and a Dictionary of the Chippewa language. He translated the Bible into this language for his Chippewa flock. He also published a prayer-book in the language of the Ottawa Indians.

Baraga was followed by several countrymen of his. In 1845 Ignatius Mrak arrived, becoming a Bishop 24 years later. Then came Ivan Vertin in

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Ed. Note: Mr. Dilic is a prominent Yugoslav in Chicago, and one who always financially and morally supports every Yugoslav movement.

1863, being consecrated in 1879. These two occupied the See established by their predecessor at Marquette, Mich. The fourth bishop, Jacob Trobec of St. Cloud, Minn., was consecrated in 1897, and came to America in 1864. The last bishop in this remarkable list was Ivan Stariha, who arrived in 1867, becoming a bishop at Lead, So. Dakota in 1902. All the bishops died here in active service, while Stariha died in his native country. One of the most noted missionaries of that period was Francis S. Pirc, who came to America in 1835 and remained in service among the Indians of the North-West until 1873. There were many others, some of them even now being engaged in this work.

To the present generation this is ancient history. It is important to recall, however, these facts if for no other reason than to reassert a well known but too often overlooked fact, that America of today—comfortable, secure, great and powerful—is the result of sacrifices of men of every race of which it is composed. In this arduous work the Slavs in general, and the Yugoslavs in particular have undeniably contributed their full share.

Later immigration.

Yugoslav immigration in larger numbers began after 1890. It was chiefly caused by the spread throughout Europe of wonderful tales of easy riches in America. It affected people of all nations of Europe, especially those who were indebted and otherwise in material difficulties. Improvements in the means of transportation facilitated the satisfaction of the urge to financial independence.

This immigration differed from the earlier one in the fact that it came from the soil, while the earlier immigrants were seafaring people accustomed through generations to face new conditions and dealt in acclimatizing themselves to them. The later immigrants came, generally, with the intention of remaining here a few years until they achieve their object then to return to their old homes. At first they were hired by various industrial concerns and brought over. Later they came to a relative, a friend, or to someone from their village who came earlier to America. Their destinations were mostly the industrial centers of the East and of the Middle West.

Unskilled, except in farming which required initial capital and a long period of time before able to realize upon their labor, they preferred hard manual work as laborers in mines, steel and iron works, in quarries, on railroad tracks, as longshoremen, masons and similar. Seeing that the expected fabulous riches did not come their way, they prolonged their stay in America, with it their hopes of success diminished. Anxious to improve their lot they joined labor unions and in some of them they formed a majority in their respective locals. Since the World War many have changed their occupations fitting themselves for different trades—in automotive and other kind of factories, some of them even going to farming. But the majority still cling to their original industrial pursuits.

With the increase of population the group life intensified. Churches, fraternal and cultural societies sprung up. Each subdivision of the Yugoslav immigrants grouped itself separately. This was caused, primarily, for three reasons: (1) by intense group consciousness developed at the turn of the century; (2) by language differences between the Slovenian on one hand and the Serbo-Croatian on the other; and (3) by the difference in religious—the Croats and Slovenes belonging to the Roman Catholic and the Serbs to the Eastern Orthodox church. Catholics were under the jurisdiction of the respective Catholic bishops. The Serbian Orthodox Church, until after the world war, was under the jurisdiction of Russian bishops in America. Since then it is organized as a separate diocese with its own bishop for the United States and Canada, residing in Chicago and appointed by the Serbian Orthodox Patriarch of Belgrade, Yugoslavia. The first Yugoslav church was established in Brockway, Minn. by the Slovenian farmers in 1871. Today there are some 70 Roman Catholic and 30 Serbian Orthodox parishes and churches in the United States maintained by the Yugoslavs.

With the establishment of the churches, schools were organized. Some 38 full time schools with some 12,000 pupils exist today. Half of them belong to the Croatian and half to the Slovenian groups.

Yugoslav national fraternal and insurance organizations are certainly an achievement considering the fact that they were instituted and administered by men with no education above the fourth grammar grade. The rosters of these organizations list today some 270,000 members, of whom 80,000 are in the Junior Branch, composed chiefly of the American-born boys and girls. The assets of these organizations amount to over \$20,000,000 and the total insurance in force to more than \$170,000,000. The members or their beneficiaries receive annually about \$5,000,000 in various benefits. Aside from these there are several hundred local benefit societies not connected with the national federations.

Singing, dramatic and physical culture (Sokol) societies came into being in every appreciable settlement. Libraries and even literary circles were formed. Many volumes, some of literary value, were published. Several hundred National Homes were established which serve as community centers for all their activities. As the family life grew, Building and Loan Associations were formed.

The press, naturally, was the instrument of encouragement and the recorder of activities and life in every section of the Country. The first Yugoslav publication in America appeared in San Francisco, in 1884, named "Slavenska Sloga" (The Slavonic Unity), followed by "Napredak" (The Progress) in Hoboken, N. J., in 1891, and "Amerikanski Slovenec" in Chicago, Ill. the same year. Of these only the latter exists. Within the last half century some 200 publications appeared, their life ranging from a single issue to 43 years of existence. Today there are 44 established Yugoslav publications in the United States, varying in circulation from a thousand to 60,000 copies. Of these eight are dailies and most of the rest are weeklies.

In later years many of the newspapers and magazines introduced English sections and pages devoted primarily to their American born readers. Three publications appear in English only, one of them as the organ of the University students of Yugoslav extraction.



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Political Activities.

Yugoslavs are politically inclined. Their centuries long struggle for national existence, with the races who dominated them, made them keenly political. They brought with them to America, as did other races and peoples, the differences of opinion on many political questions affecting their countrymen in Europe. This was especially accentuated during the World War, when they were called upon to acquaint the World with the political aspirations of their people in the Old Country, who were unable to express themselves.

Though greatly occupied with European problems, they have not neglected to interest themselves in the political life of their new Country. Their vote was decisive even nationally. It happened in 1916. The Yugoslav press unanimously supported Woodrow Wilson for reelection. The Yugoslav National Committee, headed by the late Dr. Anthony Biankini of Chicago, utilized all its contacts, prestige and organization for the promotion of the chances of the Democratic Party. Yugoslavs in California were traditionally Republican. The vigorous campaign of this Committee and of the racial press, lead by the daily "Hrvatska Zastava" of Chicago (then edited by the writer of this article), converted these standpat Republicans of California to the Democratic Party. The vote of California decided the elections. The Yugoslavs justly claim that their ballots elected Woodrow Wilson in 1916. Wilson's plurality in California was only 3,806.

Many a Yugoslav occupies a place of honor and trust in his community in various municipal positions. Several of them are members of State Legislatures and some sit as judges in several States. So far the National Administration has failed to recognize the support received from this group.

Diversified field of endeavor.

As industrial workers the Yugoslavs of America have contributed their full share in the development of this modern giant called the United States of America. There is not the slightest doubt that they have given far more in sweat of brow, in severed limbs, in undermined health and happiness, than they have received in return. Thousands of lives sacrificed at the altar of our industrial progress can not be appraised in material values, as there are no equivalents to human life.

But if they gave to the United States nothing more than the world renowned wizard, **Nikola Tesla**, their contribution to the scientific progress of this Country and of the World would be more than adequate. Neither the space nor the occasion permit us to list his numerous inventions and discoveries which caused a revolution in our mode of living. It will suffice to state that no man has enriched our knowledge in the field of electricity and of its practical possibilities, nor caused the advancement of the world in the electro-technical field, more than Nikola Tesla.

He was first to announce cosmic rays, in the '90s. He is the father of radio. He has invented great motor and alternating power transmission systems said to represent investments of tens of billions of dollars. He is called the greatest electrical genius of all times, a prolific benefactor of humanity.

Another great scientist is **M. I. Pupin**, professor emeritus of the Columbia University. He is noted as an educator, author and inventor in the field of electro-mechanics. He made possible our long distance telephoning.

One of the foremost educators of this Country was the late **Henry Suzzallo**, president of the Carnegie Foundation, president and member of faculties of many of our leading universities. Among others in the educational field are: Prof. P. R. Radosavljević of the N. Y. University, an authority on experimental pedagogy; Prof. Francis Jager of the University of Minnesota, on bee culture; Prof. Francis Preveden of the Chicago University, on philology; Prof. Zivković of the Northwestern University; Prof. Milutin Krunić of the University of California; Prof. Tomić, Dr. I. Altarac, and several others.

In literature they are proud of Louis Adamic, the author of "Dynamite", "Laughing in the Jungle" and of his many magazine articles. His latest book, "The Native's Return", has achieved a tremendous popularity and is one of the best sellers. The book deals with Yugoslavia, whom the writer discovered after nineteen years of absence. It is the most complete portrayal of Yugoslavia and her people ever written in the English language. In poetry they point to Ivan Zorman and Vinko Ujčić (Georges); as historian: Prof. M. S. Stanojević, Rev. John Zaplotnik and Rev. Režek. In native tongue they number three outstanding dramatists, Srgjan Hučić, Etbin Kristan and Adela Milčinović. Writers of the American scene are Jože Zavertnik, Ivan Molek, Andrew Kopal, and a juvenile writer, Katka Zupancić. As compilers of dictionaries, Francis A. Bogadek and Dr. F. J. Kern. In lecturing Mr. John Subat of Hazelhurst, Miss. is the most active.

In art, painters, Harvey Gregory Prushek, Tanasko Milovich, Vuk Vučinić; sculptors, Alexander Sambugnac, B. Salamunić. The World famous Yugoslav sculptor, Ivan Meštrović, made a tremendous impression in art loving circles of America during his several exhibitions here. The entrance to the Chicago Grant Park is adorned by his monumental Indian statues.

Yugoslavs are represented in every branch of music. In composition Alexander Savine; conducting, Arthur Rodzinski of the Cleveland Symphony; violinists, Z. Baloković, Drago Jovanović, Vlado Kolić, Ivan Kuharec, M. Stojanović. Then there was the late Louis Svecenski, original member of the famous Kneisel Quartet, the pioneer organization in the presentation of chamber music in America. In singing they are naturally proficient being the descendants of a "singing nation". The famous Diva of the Metropolitan Opera, Milka Ternina, was famed at the beginning of the century. She was followed by J. Naval-Porra, Tino Patiera, J. Marion-Vlahović, M. Nikolić, the latter three of the Chicago Opera, Mato Čulić-Dragon of the San Francisco Opera, Emil Blažević, Nikola Zan, Anton Subelj, Dora Schubert, Catharine Brayak, L. Koenig, etc. Then there is the younger generation with great talent for song.

In the art of dancing, there is Tashamira (Vera Milčinović). In the modern art of cinema they have a director, Vorkapich, and several outstanding members of the actor's guild, like Laura La Plante (Laura Turk), John Miljan and scores of others.

In the medical world Dr. Victor G. Vecki of San Francisco is noted for his expert contribution to the science of medicine, also the late Dr. Anthony Biankini of Chicago. As a pathologist and criminologist of note is Dr. S. S. Miloslavić.

In civil engineering: John Jager, Eugene Lazarovich-Hrebellanovich and several others. The father of the oil industry in Texas was Captain Anthony F. Lucas, a Yugoslav by birth, who was the first to strike oil in that State.

Yugoslavs are especially fond of sports. Many are serious contenders for the crown in wrestling and in boxing. The younger generation goes in for baseball, for football and for all other generally considered American sports. They are represented in the major leagues and in the college teams.

Last but not the least, the thousands of Yugoslav young men, who gave their lives in the late war, deserve mention. Many of them served their new Country with distinction in our Army and the Navy. Two Congressional Medals of Honor decorate the breast of Captain Louis Cukela, U. S. M. C. Only four other men can pride themselves in possessing two such decorations for extraordinary bravery, but Captain Cukela is the only man, who received them for his acts during a single war. Two other Yugoslavs distinguished themselves, and were decorated by the Congressional Medal of Honor, namely, Alex Mandušić and Jacob Meštrović. The latter died in action in France.

All in all, Yugoslavs of the United States, being relatively one of the small racial groups composing our Nation, are proud of their achievements and of their contributions to the welfare of our common Country. Herein, briefly sketched, the life of this group may serve to indicate that the Yugoslav immigrant belongs to a young and vigorous race. He is a hard, industrious and loyal worker and a law abiding citizen. To his success in industrial and business endeavors may be added his worthy contribution to the intellectual and technical advancement of the United States during the Century of Progress. He should be welcome as a valuable addition toward the creation of our individual American national entity and civilization.

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Brief History of American-Yugoslav Legion

Among the many organizations formed by Yugoslav-Americans in this country, none has a more colorful inception than the American-Yugoslav Legion. It was incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois in 1933. With becoming modestly a small nucleus of war veterans has so enlarged itself that today the American-Yugoslav Legion proudly boasts several posts in strategic locations in the United States.

The formation of this organization was due to the inspiration of Sergeant Thomas Blazina, who has very ably served as its Quartermaster and Adjutant ever since it was organized. It was in the month of August, 1931, that Sergeant Blazina made valuable contacts, both in the civic and military ranks of the city, leading to its successful formation. Among those contacted was Captain Louis Cukela, awarded the Congressional Medal of honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity when he captured practically single handed a machine gun nest. His approval of the idea of a Legion was evident by the enthusiastic manner in which he responded and offered his assistance. Later Sergeant Jake Alex Mandusic, the hero of Chippilly Ridge, also awarded the Congressional Medal of honor for conspicuous bravery for having fought single handed a large group of the enemy with his bayonet and having captured fifteen prisoners, volunteered his services in the new enterprise. With the help of S. Trklja and Lieut. Edw. P. Skubic, this little band led by Sergeant Thomas Blazina, who had done most of the pioneering work, finally set forth on its peace time career. It would hardly be fair to overlook the work and sacrifices of Alex Kordin, who carried on heroically with Sergeant Blazina until March 17, 1933, when the first meeting of this heroic little band with the valuable assistance of about twenty-five other men, all veterans of the past war met in the basement of Sergeant Blazina. Jake Mandusic, up to date of the first meeting acted as temporary commander and Serg. Blazina as its adjutant.

On the veterans historical date Lieut. Edward P. Skubic was elected national commander; John Relic, national vice-commander; Peter Sotich, national treasurer; Thomas Blazina, national quartermaster; Steve Warnich, national historian; Jake A. Mandusic, national sergeant at arms and Richard J. Zavertnik, national judge advocate. The idea of the Yugoslav-American Legion spread like wild fire. Post No. 1 is in Chicago. Post No. 2 was formed in Calumet, Mich. Vadrans Post No. 3 in Cleveland, O., under the leadership of N. K. Bobich and Twin City Post No. 4 at East Chicago, Ind. through the efforts of Messrs. Y. Deanovich and N. Suzjevich.

The records of the Legion are illuminating and flattering. An enthusiastic response has come from all parts of the United States. The roster of the Legion contains many distinguished names, among them many heroes cited for bravery in the world war and recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor. There are many more who have won the distinguished Service

Cross from the United States of America. A recitation of their names would reflect honor on any organization.

The statement of aims of the American-Yugoslav Legion is indicative of the calibre of men who have organized the Legion and who, today, boast of membership. Among its objectives are the following:

"To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to foster and perpetuate Americanism; to foster unity and comradeship between the United States and Yugoslavia; to preserve the historic traditions and culture of Yugoslavia, the country of our fore-fathers; to preserve the memories and incidents of our Association in the wars of the United States and of Yugoslavia; to foster and perpetuate peace, goodwill and friendship on earth; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness; to better the intellectual, moral and social standards of the American-Yugoslavs; to sponsor and preserve unification of Yugoslavs by extraction and birth."

Posts are organized or in process of organization in Chicago, Cleveland, O., Calumet, Mich., Indiana Harbor, Ind., Aliquippa, Pa., San Francisco, Calif., Sacramento, Calif., Denver, Colo., Detroit, Mich and New York City.

The American-Yugoslav Legion has one feature that makes it the most unique military organization in the world. It invites to membership all Yugoslav world war veterans whether they took part in the war on the side of the Entente or in the Allied forces. The reason for this, however, is due to the fact that many Yugoslavs at the outset of the war were forced into service by the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It presents an interesting spectacle to see the soldiers of the World War who fought on opposite sides, gathered together in a meeting of the Legion, fraternizing and exchanging war experiences in a very peaceful and friendly manner. Such are the vicissitudes of war and peace.

CITATIONS OF CAPT. LOUIS CUKELA U. S. Marine Corps

Two Congressional Medals of Honor awarded to Capt. Louis Cukela. Born in Split, Dalmatia, Yugoslavia, formerly part of Austria. Was Sergeant 66th Company 5th Regiment U. S. Marine Corps when awarded the medal for deed near Villers-Cotterets, France, July 18th, 1918.

Army Citation

G. O. No. 34 W. D. 1919

Congressional Medal of Honor. — "When his company, advancing through a wood, met with strong resistance from an enemy strong point, Sergeant Cukela crawled out from the flank and made his way toward the German lines in the face of heavy fire, disregarding the warnings of his comrades. He succeeded in getting behind the enemy position and rushed a machine-gun emplacement, killing or driving off the crew with his bayonet. With German hand grenades he then bombed out the remaining portion of the strong point, capturing four men and two damaged machine guns."

Navy Citation

Congressional Medal of Honor. —

"For extraordinary heroism in action in the Forest de Retz, near Viller Cotterets, France, July 18, 1918. Sergeant Cukela advanced alone against an enemy's strong point that was holding up his line, worked his way to its rear, and by the use of German hand grenades attacked and captured two machine-guns and four men."

JAKE ALLEX MANDUSIC CITATION

Congressional Medal of Honor awarded to Jake Allex, (Andjelko Mandusic), No. 1387815, for deed at Chippilly Ridge, France, August 9, 1918. Born in Sharaplanina, Yugoslavia, formerly Servia, G. O. No. 44, W. W. 1919. Served as Corporal, Company H, 131st, Infantry 33rd Division when cited for bravery. At a critical point in the action, when all the officers with his platoon had become casualties, Corporal Allex (Mandusic) took command of the platoon and led it forward until the advance was stopped by fire from a machine gun nest. He then advanced alone for about thirty yards in the face of intense fire and attacked the nest. With his bayonet he killed five of the enemy, when it was broken, used the butt of his rifle, capturing fifteen prisoners.

JAMES I. MESTROVICH CITATION

Congressional Medal of Honor awarded James I. Mestrovitch, (1243675), deceased, for deed at Fismette, France, Aug. 10, 1918. Born in Montenegro, Yugoslavia. Served as Sergeant, Company C, 11th Infantry, 28th division, when deed was performed.

Seeing his company commander lying wounded thirty yards in front of the line after his company had withdrawn to a sheltered position behind a stone wall, Sergeant Mestrovitch voluntarily

left cover and crawled through heavy machine gun and skill fire to where the officer lay. He took the officer upon his back and crawled back to a place of safety where he administered first aid treatment, his exceptional heroism saving the officers life.

Posthumously awarded Medal to Mother, Mrs. Mary I. Mestrovitch.

His officers sent remains of this hero to Yugoslavia for interment.

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In appreciation of the support given to the Yugoslav Day Celebration the Yugoslav World's Fair Committee recommends the following publications to the Yugoslav readers:

AMERISKA DOMOVINA, published daily, 6119 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, O.

AMERIKANSKI SLOVNEC, oldest Yugoslav daily in United States, 1849 W. Cermak Road, Chicago, Ill.

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ENAKOPRAVNOST, published daily, 6418 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, O.

GLAS NARODA, published daily, 216 W. 18th St., New York, N. Y.

GLASILO K. S. K. J., published weekly, 6117 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.

JUGOSLAVEN, published semi-monthly, 5238 Russel St., Detroit, Mich.

JUGOSLAVENSKI GLASNIK, (Yugoslav Herald), published weekly, 1345 W. 18th St., Chicago, Ill.

NOVA DOBA, published weekly, 6117 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.

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Yugoslav Day Program

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SUNDAY, JULY 29th, 1934 — 3 P. M.

1. SOLO, "Star Spangled Banner"..... Mrs. K. Brajak
2. SOLO, "Yugoslav National Anthem"..... Mrs. L. Koenig
Accompanied by Mrs. Olga Dominis
3. ADDRESS OF WELCOME..... Edw. P. Skubic
National Commander American-Yugoslav Legion
Chairman Yugoslav World's Fair Committee
4. ADDRESS, President A Century of Progress..... Rufus M. Dawes
5. CIRCLE DANCE (Igre Kolo)..... Serbian Juniors
(Srpsko Jedinstvo Podmladek)
6. ADDRESS..... A. Kamenjarin
Vice Chairman Yugoslav World's Fair Committee
7. SPECIALTY NUMBER..... George Marchan
Director Yugoslav Radio Hour
8. TABLEAU..... Croatian Group
Presentation of Count Zrinski and Count Frankopan
10. MUSIC..... St. Stephen's Slovene School Band
Director O. C. Parker
A. Hi Slovenci..... Arr. by O. C. Parker
B. Gypsy Overture..... Al Hayes
- 10A ADDRESS..... Congressman Adolph J. Sabath
11. INTRODUCTION..... Yugoslav Soccer Football Team Sloboda—Champions
12. PRESENTATION OF AMERICAN FLAG to American-Yugoslav Legion
Mrs. N. Schissler
13. MEMORIAL TABLEAU..... Yugoslavenska Zena (Women)
Assisted by American-Yugoslav Legion
Bugler Sam Mataica
14. CHAMPAGNE BUBBLE DANCE..... Desha (Podgorsek)
15. DANCE INTERPRETATION of "Chopin's Nocturne" and "The Gavotte"
Desha-Podgorsek and Myrio
16. ADDRESS..... Rev. A. Popovich
17. TABLEAU, Presentation of Bishop F. Baraga..... Dramatic Club Ilirija
18. MUSIC..... Napredak Tamburitz Orchestra
19. CIRCLE DANCE (Kolo)..... Croatian and Serbian Women
20. INTRODUCTION..... Capt. Louis Cukela, U. S. M. C.
Marine awarded Army and Navy Congressional Medals
21. INTRODUCTION..... Jake A. Mandusic
Congressional Medal of Honor Man
- 21A ADDRESS..... Anton Grdina, Cleveland, Ohio
22. TABLEAU, Representing Kosovska-Devojka and Narodni Guslar
So. Chicago Circle of Serbian Sisters
23. ADDRESS..... Dr. Geo. Kolombatovich
Consul General of Yugoslavia
24. SINGING..... Croatian Singing Society Zora
Conductor George Benetzky
A. Sitna Kisa udarala..... R. Matz
B. Bvenka..... K. Odak
C. Doma Knas..... W. Novak
25. FOLK DANCING AND MOCK WEDDING..... Slovene Dramatic Club Ilirija
26. TABLEAU, Presenting Young Generation..... Jugoslavenska Zena (Women)
27. SOLO "America"..... L. J. Skala

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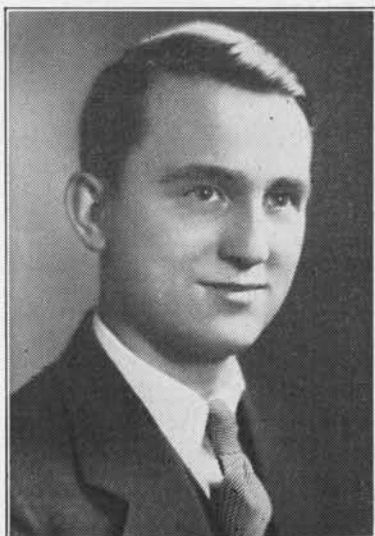
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Yugoslavia's Growing Importance

By STEPHEN STEPANCHEV.

When, in 1900, Serbia was given political importance wholly out of proportion to its size and power due to the rivalries of the Franco-Russian and the Germano-Austrian imperialist groups, America began to realize that such a thing as the Yugoslav race existed. And when in 1914 the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand occurred, Serbia and the aspiration of the Yugoslav people under the Dual Monarchy began to receive more and more attention—an attention that the Yugoslavs have continued to receive for the last twenty years.

Yugoslavia is no longer a submerged, insignificant country; now it figures in all European affairs, and every discussion of European politics must include it. Nothing that Mussolini or Hitler may attempt can fail to raise the question, "And what will Yugoslavia and the Little Entente do?" Culturally too, Yugoslavia is drawing attention; its great Ivan Mestrovic is acclaimed all over the world.

So important, in fact, has Yugoslavia become, that since 1920 at least forty outstanding books have appeared on the country, and as distinguished a historian as Ferdinand Schevill has carefully traced the history of the Yugoslav people from the earliest beginnings to now. The literature, art, music, and history of Yugoslavia are being studied continually in America, and, what is equally important, popularized. The fact that hundreds of thousands of Americans are interested in Yugoslavia is well illustrated by the spectacular success of Louis Adamic's "The Native's Return", a book that has been an American best-seller for several months, although the book has many vital points, however, it should have given better justice to the Yugoslav people.

Yugoslavia has had an interesting and heroic history, the touching history of a people suppressed for centuries and kept together, for all that, by their national songs. In no other country has poetry played as great a part. In the darkest periods of Serbian, Croatian and Slovene history, when the Yugoslavs were not only crushed by foreign invaders but were hopelessly divided internally THRU the dissensions of their leaders, the songs of wandering bards kept alive among the common people their love of country and hope for eventual unity. But when one learns that the ballads dealt mostly with the gloomy Kosovo tragedy of June 28, 1389, when the Turks overwhelmed the Serb empire, one is tempted to ask how it is that these melancholy songs were instrumental in delivering the Yugoslav people from foreign domination. One does not usually associate gloom with desire for liberty. The reason is that, to use the simile of Maurice Baring, the burden of the ballads is like a funeral march—sad, melancholy, but triumphant in its sadness. Then, too, the Yugoslavs listening to the ballads were expected to fight to dispel the gloom which enveloped their country—they, the listeners, were to bring in light. It is due to the influence of the Kosovo tragedy that Gavriilo Princip was moved to shoot Archduke Ferdinand on June 28, 1914, exactly 525 years after the battle on the plain of Kosovo.

Yugoslav history, however, does not deal exclusively with bloodshed and suppression. In medieval times, when a Serbo-Croatian-Slovene state was spread from the Black Sea to the Adriatic, the people of Yugoslavia were among the most civilized in Europe. They had a code of laws, compiled by Tsar Dushan, which was far in advance of the times. The monasteries and churches were skillfully, simply, and beautifully constructed. In painting, the artists anticipated many of the discoveries of Giotto and other Renaissance painters. On the Adriatic the beautiful city Dubrovnik developed a culture which called forth the boast that it was the Yugoslav Athens. As early as 1490 printing was known in Rijeka, and in Croatia and Slovenia many important works were written which form the basis for modern Yugoslav literature.

In subsequent centuries very little was achieved because of the continual political unrest. It was not until the nineteenth century that the Yugoslavs again began to create notice otherwise than as warriors. Under the vigorous leadership of Vuk Karadzich a uniform literary language was established, and the Matica Hrvatska organization began carefully to collect the immortal ballads. These ballads, translated into German, received such wide acclaim that Goethe, then in his seventies, took it upon himself to learn Serbo-Croatian in order to translate the Yugoslav masterpieces in his own masterly way.

So, quietly and in spite of discouragement, the literary men and artists continued their work, and in the first two decades of the twentieth century the achievements of the Yugoslavs were again cast into shadow, in the third and fourth we again have a promising flowering of artists, writers, and scholars. Of these men, Ivan Mestrovic, creator of the equestrian Indians in Grant Park and of an enormous temple to be erected on Kosovo plain as a symbol of Yugoslav strength and unity, is well known in America. There are other fine artists in Yugoslavia, other writers and scholars. In mathematics, medicine, and engineering Yugoslavia is steadily progressing. Americans are giving greater attention to its contributions, and there is no doubt that in a few more decades, if the present much-needed peace continues, Yugoslavia's contributions to art and science will be ready for harvesting by the whole world.

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The Role of the Balkans in the Post-War Europe

By MIRKO P. De DOMINIS.

There are many parts of the European continent which have played important roles in shaping the political history of Europe, but none, at least none in the recent history have played a role of such importance as the Balkans.

As we know, the Balkan peninsula includes the states of Yugoslavia, Roumania, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania and a part of the Republic of Turkey. The politico geographical position of these states is now as it was always of such great importance that the solution of almost every European international problem requires direct or indirect consent of and collaboration with the Balkan countries.

After the world was as at various times in the pre-war history of Europe, the situation and the position of the Balkan people has changed in accordance with the great political changes which have taken place in the course of political developments of other European powers. The most far reaching of these changes took place in three momentous historical events of Europe, namely: in the Napoleonic era, the Franco-Prussian war of 1871 and the great world war.

The countries most seriously interested in the Balkans before the world war were Germany and Austria-Hungary. Their political and economic ambitions were continuously directed towards wedging an unobstructed passage to the Near East thru the Balkans and in these efforts they adopted the well known slogan "Drang nach Oesten" (Drive toward the East) which developed during the world war into the famous Berlin-Bagdad project. The Central European powers never considered the Balkans as a formation of different nationalities with different national aspirations, but took them as a unit without ethnical differences in order to subjugate them to their imperialistic interests and conquests.

It took the complete collapse and dismemberment of the Central Powers, especially Austria-Hungary to give to the Balkans their political and economic self affirmation and independence. This post-war transformation of the Balkans, while approved and effected by the various peace treaties, was mainly effected and established by the will and determination of its peoples based chiefly on their age-old national and political aspirations, and it can be said that this transformation was the greatest ethnical and political victory in the history of their existence.

Now, let us see, what is the most important role of the Balkans in the post-war Europe: It is the "Balkans to the Balkan people", the old slogan which expresses the fundamental spirit of this role. It consists in the mutual collaboration and co-operation of old and newly formed Balkan states to prevent their subjugation to still existent and active imperialistic aspirations of certain post-war European big powers and thereby to prevent a conflict of similar nature in which originated the world war.

The endeavors of the Balkan countries to accentuate their political and economic independence and to promote their peaceful development, while of great importance to themselves, are at the same time of equally great importance to the entire European continent, because these are endeavors for peace and security without which there can be no progress in the international relations of European nations, nor in the building of their material prosperity.

Perhaps the biggest step towards retaining the security of peace, and consequently towards retaining their independence was the so-called "Balkan Pact", signed in Athens, February 9th of this year by Yugoslavia, Roumania, Greece and Turkey. The subsequent mutual visits of the Balkan statesmen as well as the pact just mentioned, is an indication of knowledge on the part of the Balkan peoples that they are convinced of the damaging results of their former misunderstandings and are ready to assert their Balkanic policy in a normal and practical way. There is no doubt that there exist today in the Balkans a feeling which aspires to create a more active movement for confederation of the Balkan countries. There is also no doubt that this is the only solution of the Balkan problem, ever so important and vital in European politics.

Such a confederation will not only solve the political phase of this problem, but the economic as well. And it is the latter which is considered today as paramount in the life and social system of European nations.

The geographical situation of the Balkan Peninsula is of such significance to the success or pseudo-success of aggressive imperialistic policies of certain European big powers that they are doing their best to prevent this admirable rapprochement of the Balkan countries which would eventually result in their mutual politico-economic confederation. Which are these big European powers, intriguing in the Balkans in favor of one country against the interests of another, and which are these powers that took upon themselves the former slogan "Drive towards the East" from the pre-war and war-time imperialist Germany and Austria-Hungary? Obviously, Fascist Italy of today is the power which has replaced the intriguing role in the Balkans of the pre-war Central powers. She is endeavoring to effect the Balkans with the same policy of dominance and political subjugation with which she has already affected the Republic of Austria and the Regency of Hungary. However, Italy is not the only power trying to succeed in her imperialistic political ambitions. There is also Nazi Germany which is trying to accomplish the same ends with slightly different political methods.

The similarity of the political ambitions of these two powers has already created a certain antagonism between them which is more and more evident as their political lines progress. While Italy is trying to retain her power over

Central Europe and the Balkans catering to and promoting revisionistic plans of Hungary to the detriment of the Balkan states, Nazi Germany is trying to gain this power to the evident detriment of Italy by absorbing Austria thru the so-called "anschluss" plan. Here we have two big powers whose imperialistic ambitions endanger the peaceful development of this part of the European continent, creating at the same time between themselves an atmosphere which could easily bring them face to face with a serious and acute political position.

It is natural that the political interests of a small country should be allied with one or another of the big powers in order to have more assured political and economic protection, but to misuse and abuse of such alliance in the interest of aggressive imperialistic ambitions and tendencies of conquest means to create the seed of useless and costly antagonism which can never accomplish the objects of international peace, so sadly needed in this world of strife and maladjustment.

Although there is a League of Nations and its Pact on the basis of which there should be a peaceful solution for every problem that arises among various nations, there exists constantly, especially among the European nations, fear and lack of confidence which foster the creation of political alliances of the pre-war character; and as long as there are in Europe big powers with evident imperialistic leanings and aspiration, this fear and lack of confidence shall not disappear from the European political scene.

The sad fact about this is that the victims in the midst of these alliances were always, and are today, the small states and nations which have as much right to exist and work independently as the biggest of powers. Yet, they are hardly given any chance for such existence. These facts relate to all small countries in Europe, and perhaps in the world, but especially so to the Balkan countries, inasmuch as they are situated on the most strategic crossroads of the world. In view of all that, the solution of the Balkan problem in a manner satisfactory to the Balkan people it is of utmost importance to the world in general, particularly to Europe. And the only satisfactory solution for all concerned would seem to be the attainment of a confederation of the Balkan nations. Let us hope that the day of this attainment is not far away, as it is obviously for the interest of European and world peace.

The political differences of certain Balkan states, naturally under the influence of the previously mentioned big powers are accentuated especially between the group forming the Central European political block of the Little Entente and the other groups of the Balkan states allied with Italy. The differences between them seem to be more clear, yet it is hardly possible to eliminate them as long as Bulgaria and Albania, the latter in fact a vassal of Italy, give free access to the recent military "coup d'etat" in Bulgaria, it appears to be of purely internal political character and as such it will not affect the international relations with her neighbors. Rather, the purpose of this sudden change of Bulgarian regime seem to have for its object the elimination of political partisanship which has of recent years greatly affected the economic and political life in that country. This unexpected bloodless revolt completely changed to a fascist ideology the political and constitutional structure of the state. But, inasmuch as we know that Fascist Italy exercises in Bulgaria considerable political influence, it is possible that she was a factor playing an important role behind the scene of this "coup d'etat" in order to strengthen her own political influence in the Balkans.

The recent visit of the Yugoslav minister of Foreign affairs, Jevtich, to Sofia, Bulgaria, was most probably made with the object of attaining a closer and more complete political and economic co-operation between these two South Slav countries upon which depends mainly the much desired solution of the Balkan problem. However, it is certain that his mission was not an easy one in the face of a strong reaction originating in the political circles dominated by the Italian Fascist policies. But in spite of these obstructions which keep these two countries apart, it is justly hoped that the differences preventing their closer alliance shall be eliminated in the general interest of the entire Balkan Peninsula.

Besides all the aforesaid political aspects of the role played by the Balkans in post-war Europe, the economic aspect of this role is of equally vast importance to the entire European continent. The solution of this second aspect of the Balkan problem is undoubtedly dependent on the solution of the first aspect, that is the political one. But in endeavoring to solve this problem, we find not only that the international aspects of the political problem in the Balkans prevent the speedy solution of economic problem, but there also exist internal political situations in various countries which are creating considerable difficulties in the attempt to solve vital economic questions, as for instance the before mentioned case of the sudden and unexpected military coupe in Bulgaria.

Among the various attempts to solve the economic questions of the Balkans and other Danubian countries, there exists a French plan, known as the "Tardieu plan," which is mainly based on the mutual interchange of agricultural products on which the general welfare of these countries depends. Another similar attempt was made quite recently by Italy and Central European countries. This Italian effort could eventually bring better results in view of the fact that Central European and Balkan countries depend considerably on Italy for consumption of their agricultural surpluses. But no matter how favorable become the results of such efforts, they will never solve these questions in the way they would be solved if the Danubian and Balkan countries agree to take their economic destiny into their own hands and settle these questions to their mutual advantage without interference from any of the big powers.

Accordingly, only homogeneous political and economic actions undertaken in the so-called Balkan spirit will bring the Balkan nations to a higher political and cultural level, assure their economic welfare and make the role of the Balkans in the future an important factor for peace and prosperity in Europe.

ED. NOTE: Radio talk delivered by Mirko P. de Dominis, a Yugoslav newspaper correspondent over the Columbia Broadcasting System on a nation-wide coast-to-coast network, station WABC on May 24th, 1934, at 3:30 P. M. Eastern Standard Daylight Savings Time. This talk was sponsored by the National Student Federation of the U. S. A. in New York City.

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Fifteen Year-Old Yugoslavia

By ZORA D. UNKOVICH.

Jugoslavia with its present political formation is the result of centuries of efforts, and became a fact in 1918 by virtue of the Peace Treaty of Versailles. On December 1, 1918, with the proclamation of Alexander I., before the delegates of all the Yugoslav provinces, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, was formally founded. This union included the Kingdom of Serbia, the Kingdom of Montenegro, and a group of provinces formerly under the Austrian Monarchy—Croatia, Slavonia, Slovenia, Dalmatia, Bosnia Hercegovina and Vojvodina.

Although the people were of one race, they were a people of three names, the Serbs, the Croats and the Slovenes, the distinctions going back to the 6th and 7th centuries A. D. when this particular group of Slavs left their common country for the Balkan lands in separate groups and at different times. Gradually the groups changed and developed independently into three peoples who retained their individual identities even with their union in 1918, but always retained and tended to be united spiritually and politically, which was finally effected by the royal decree on October 3, 1929, when the name was changed from the "Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes" to the "Kingdom of Yugoslavia".

Just as the matter of the formation of the kingdom in 1918 was not a thing of a moment, neither was the royal decree of October, 1929, preceded by eleven peaceful years. The parliament (for the state was a parliamentary monarchy) did not function smoothly. Political friction grew and the provinces continued to operate under the laws which had been in force before the union. This continued until the 20th of June, 1928.

When the parliament had shown itself merely a detriment to the unity of the country, therefore on January 6, 1929 King Alexander I., issued a Manifesto which suspended the constitution, dismissed the parliament, and placed all power in his hands until such time when he considered conditions warranted the establishment of a true parliament.

In September of 1931, King Alexander considered circumstances favorable to a return to the constitutional form of government by reestablishing parliament or "Skupstina".

Reports indicate that the present form of government is functioning to the satisfaction of the Yugoslav people.

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Desha is a Yugoslavian, coming to this country from Ljubljana as a child to achieve her sensational success as a model and dancer. She has been dancing since 14 years of age and first attracted attention when she introduced her own version of the Balloon dancers. Now that the town is full of balloon dancers, it is interesting to note that Desha originated the dance in 1920 while a child dance pupil in New York. The dance was featured by D. W. Griffith in the photoplay "Isn't Life Wonderful"; in the Ziegfeld Follies; the Paramount picture "Glorifying the American Girl" and later in "Music in the Air" at which time Sally Rand was in the chorus. Inspired by the beauty of the dance, Sally consulted Desha who consented to assist her in arranging a routine for her current huge Balloon dance which she is presenting at A Century of Progress.

Desha has been the inspiration of many artists and has posed for more than three hundred works of art, the most famous among them are the "Bubble Dance" done by Harriet W. Frishmuth, eminent sculptress, and "The Yugoslavian Dancer" painted by W. Russell Flint which is exhibited at the Royal Academy in London.

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Editor's Note: Dr. L. Saskor is one of the oldest and most prominent Yugoslav dentist in America. Our Doctor is a loyal patriot and always assists a Yugoslav cause.