

NEW ERA SUPPLEMENT

Edited by Anthony L. Garbas.



Current Thought.

READERS OF NEW ERA SUPPLEMENT

It is the immemorial usage for an editor who imposes a new paper upon a group of people to question them as to their opinion of his composition. Few people among the ranks of the youth of our organization have thus far contributed either favorable or adverse criticism. From this we must draw the conclusion that either there is total abstinence from our newspaper, meaning insensibility to the movement of our organization or here may exist the attitude of unconcern after it is read.

This particular column itself has received little response whether it was utilized to rebuke the membership or to compliment them. No doubt some may find objections to reading "Current Thought" because it requires them "to think," and this is invariably spoken of as a great hardship, if not a positive fraud on the part of the editor. Individuals who would make such a complaint have apparently not been in the habit of reading or talking at all except for amusement, and any demand on their reflective powers is regarded as a species of extortion. Although the purpose of our organization is serious, many would prefer "light stories," "pleasing anecdotes," and would like to have all the serious matter with reference to the welfare of the organization disposed of in at most half a column. Many no doubt feel all upset when the "Phunology" is at a half column in length.

The glimpse we get of the feelings of this class on this subject gives one a tolerably fair idea of the influence the "New Era" has upon them, and, far as can be judged, it seems to be very trifling. It is no difficulty to infer that the majority of the members never read the editorial articles, or at most only the first four or five lines, to get a faint idea of what the editor is driving at. I suppose it will be necessary to develop the art of "paragraphing" in which the weightiest questions of our organization are settled in from three to five lines.

How many belong to this class of "lazy readers" it is impossible to say. From the absence of any come-back on the part of the members through argumentative subjects written expressly to arouse some interest, it appears as though all Slovene youth in our organization may be placed in this category. This is an accurate statement, it would puzzle one to make how an organization of young people can get along where thinking is so carefully avoided by so a large a proportion of them that it is painful.

The sooner that the present "laziness in thinking" is done away with, the sooner will the youth of the J. S. K. J. meet their terms. It is almost an impossibility, almost a contradiction in terms, for an organization of our size to be without an official organ. Every member is supplied with a paper each week which is the only means of interchanging thought and concerted action. Let's take this article with much significance and submit articles to prove that we are as active as the youth of any other organization.

EXCHANGES

Pittsburgh, Pa.
The members of the Junior League, No. 99 of the J. S. K. J. are inviting everyone who desires a wonderful time at a reasonable rate to their dance to be given Saturday, April 13th at the Moon Run Hall. Entertainment music has been provided for the occasion and refreshments have been arranged that the thirsty and hungry may renew their energies when exhausted from participating enthusiastically in the dance. The admission price for ladies is 35 cents, for men 75 cents, while couples will be charged but \$1.00. If you are in search of an inextinguishable good time remember to appear at this event.
Frances E. Macek.

Cleveland, O.
Members of the Betsy Ross Chapter No. 186 SSCU are hereby notified that our next regular meeting will be held April 17th at 7:30 P. M. sharp, in the Slovenian Workingmen's Home at Waterloo Rd. Business of the meeting will be organizing a baseball team, also other important business is to be transacted. After the meeting we will have dancing and refreshments will be served.
E. Svetina,
Recording Secretary.

JUGOSLAV ROTARY CLUB
The Rotary Club with Mr. Marjan Stokic as president, has been organized at Zagreb, Yugoslavia. A Rotary Club exists in practically every section of the United States, centering in the large cities of all nations.

Sport Sense

BASEBALL IS A CHILD IN OUR ORGANIZATION

To-date only two of our lodges have definitely decided to maintain baseball teams. The Pittsburghers from present favorable indications are geared to go very "hot." From Waukegan we are constantly receiving news of reinforcements for their team and the forecasting of a formidable baseball club. Not many more days will wing their way into the past before the race for the culmination of these dreams and prophecies will be on. Each of these teams will be competing with other nines for honors in the greatest American diversion. It being the first season for these lodges, the members as fans should give their most curious attention, in this manner assisting the team to a triumphant finish. Present proper nursing of our embryo teams will develop them into strong and competent teams. Baseball in our organization will be the initial sport to be to a large extent supported by the Sport Fund which was established at the last convention. Therefore let us all be imbued with the belief that something really excellent can develop from careful nursing of our child—baseball. Let's give it sufficient nourishment, support, interest and it is bound to mature as a healthy and successful part of our organization's sport program.

JUGOSLAV AIR SERVICE

At a recent meeting of the Yugoslav Air Transport Company, which maintains the Belgrade to Zagreb service it was stated that negotiations are in progress for the opening of services between Belgrade and Skoplje and between Zagreb and Maribor. In this connection negotiations are also taking place in Vienna and Athens with a view to establishing an air service to link Vienna-Maribor-Belgrade-Skoplje and Saloniki.

BATTLE OF SEXES

The battle of sexes is on in the camp of the George Washington lodge, and everyone is interested in prophesying the winning sex. An agreement has been made for the loser to arrange a party in honor of the sex that brings in the most members. It is said that, although the fellows exceed the girls in number, the girls are far more powerful as far as initiative is concerned. We hope, however, that the boys will not be on the tail-end position of the contest.

NO ONE IS SAFE

If the puddles are big, the mud will fly far. Everyone in Cleveland is minding his P's and Q's these days. It is a sad commentary on the public's suspicious state of mind that certain officials known to have perfectly clear records are moving about uneasily for fear that something they have done may be misinterpreted, to their everlasting discredit. The public, believing itself duped, is out for blood. Just recently some have attempted to get something on Manager Hopkins, with no good results.

Bare Facts.

Origin of News. Popular etymology derives news from the initial letters of the name of the four cardinal points of the compass: North, East, West and South. It is said that before the time of newspapers it was customary to post events of general interest in public places under four columns headed N. E. W. S., the happening from the North being recorded under N., those from the East under E, and so on. Hence the word news. The theory is without foundation. News is merely the plural of the word new, and originally meant new things. If any proof were needed to show the absurdity of the popular derivation, it is supplied in the fact that in the 14th and 15th centuries the word was variously written newes, newis, and newys.

Mermaids. Mermaids are mythical beings of the sea supposed to have the form of a woman above the waist and that of a fish below. According to mythology, mermaids have great personal charm with which they lure amorous men to destruction in the deep. There is a slight physical basis for the myth. Certain marine animals resemble human beings when seen at a distance in certain attitudes. In some northern countries seals have a way of lifting heads from the water with a human, intelligent look in their faces, and they hug their young to their bosoms much like a human mother. When Henry Hudson was on a voyage between Spitzbergen Nova Zembla in 1608, he reported that one morning in June two of his sailors saw a mermaid who came close to the side of the vessel and gazed at them intently. Her face and breasts were those of a woman, but below she was a fish as big as a halibut and colored like a speckled mackerel. If the two sailors were not telling a yarn it is probable that they saw a seal, an animal then little known to Europeans. A few years later Captain Richard Whitbourne reported seeing a mermaid in St. John's harbor on the coast of Newfoundland. Whitbourne, like Hudson's sailors, was no doubt the victim of careless observation. Walrusen seen dimly at a distance often appear like mermaids. Dugongs or sea cows, as well as manatees, create a similar effect as they stand up in weedy shallows along the coast. The mother holds her young to her breast with one of her flippers, suggesting a mother and her baby. Many of the stories about Mermaids were probably invented by sailors to amuse their families. It is not uncommon to find credulous people even today who believe in the actual existence of mermaids and fake mermaids are frequently exhibited at circuses and other shows.

Origin of O. K. These letters have long puzzled etymologists. The first known use of O. K. signifying approval appears in the court records of Sumner County, Tennessee, October 6th, 1790. On that date Andrew Jackson, Esq., "proved a bill of sale from Hugh McGary to Gasper Mancker, for a Negro man, which was O. K." James Parton, in his biography of Jackson, suggests that what appeared to be O. K. in the record may really be a poorly penned O. R., which was the abbreviation used for Ordered Recorded. Apparently O. K. came into general use after Jackson was elected President in 1828. Old Hickory's alleged illiteracy was one of the chief butts of his opponents during the campaign. Seba Smith, in a series of letters written to a Maine paper, under the name of Major Downing, seems to have originated the story that Jackson indorsed his papers O. K. under the impression that it was the abbreviation of All Correct, which he, according to the story, always spelled Oll Korrekt. Later the same story was told of John Jacob Astor, William Henry Harrison and others. The Standard Dictionary accepts Parton's explanation as the probable origin of O. K., while Webster's New International dictionary says it is probably from the Choctaw okeh, which is pronounced o-kay. According to Byington, in his Grammar of the Choctaw Language, o-keh means "it is so and in no other way." This theory was accepted by Woodrow Wilson who as President used okeh in approving state papers. It also appears on a series of popular phonograph records. There is not, however, a particle of evidence to support the okeh theory. Another theory derives O. K. from Aux Cayes (pronounced okay) a town in San Domingo, from which the best tobacco and rum were imported in Colonial times. Clerks, it is said, in billing the goods to retailers would use the phonetic letters O. K. for the sake of brevity. Hence anything of good quality came to be called O. K. Here again evidence is lacking. Still another theory derives the slang expression from the circumstances that during the Civil War the War Department purchased large quantities of crackers from the Orrins-Kendall Cracker Company, of Chicago, who marked the boxes with the initials of the company. Since these crackers were of exceptionally good quality, the letters O. K., it is said, gradually came to be a synonym for all right. This theory is proved erroneous by the simple fact that O. K. was in use long before the Civil War.

Phunology
BORROWED, STOLEN AND ORIGINAL JOKES
At a certain church in a southern town it is the invariable custom of the pastor to kiss the bride after the ceremony. Now one young woman who was about to be married in his church did not relish the prospect and instructed her prospective husband to advise the minister that she did not wish him to kiss her. The bridegroom obeyed the instructions given. When the young man returned she asked:
"Henry, did you tell the minister that I did not wish him to kiss me?"
"I did, Florence."
"What did he say?"
"He said that in that case he would charge only half the usual fee."
Safer
"Why do you say you would prefer to have a lot of money on you if you were held up by bandits?"
"Because bandits get mighty peevish these days when they discover they have wasted their time and are pretty apt to furnish either the undertaker or hospital."

GEORGE KOZJAK

Slovenian Janissary,
Fifteenth Century Story Of The Slovenian Home-Life.

By JOSEPH JURČIČ

English Version By John Movern

(Continued)

No man who does not love his neighbor nor a person of his own blood, could have so profound a love for his country that he would take sword in hand for her defense.

So Ludevik Kozjak, Peter's relative, took Peter's place as the commander of the Kozjak's servants and those of the Zaticzna's monastery.

The men in the cloister were busy repairing the damaged walls, hauling provision from the field into the cloister, and making all other arrangements necessary, so that they might successfully defend themselves against the Turks till the coming winter; because the Turks usually came into the Slovene provinces as a hailstorm, and after they had plundered and robbed enough and satiated their lust with the Christian blood, they again left the country. In this general excitement no one gave a thought to the gypsy in the prison. The servants who did not depart with Ludevik for the battlefield had a great deal of other work to do without watching the criminal. Consequently one morning the bird was in his nest no more. How he made good his escape no one seemed to know.

George Sherk and his small army, about 2000 men, met the front guards of the main Turkish army. Thinking this to be the entire Turkish forces, the Slovene soldiers dashed bravely upon the Turks and before the sunset of the very same day over two hundred unscrupulous enemies were lying dead upon the battlefield. Those who escaped being killed took to their heels. Great joy prevailed among the men in Sherk's army, as they were all under the impression that they had defeated the enemy and for the time being saved the country. The very same night Governor Sherk sent his serf throughout the country to announce to the people the happy news. Sherk thought that the following morning he would drive the enemy from the country beyond the boundary line.

The happy news that the Slovenes had defeated the Turks also reached the Zaticzna's monastery. As soon as Abbot Uirik had learned about it, he issued an order that a procession be formed in the cloister and thence proceed to the church of the Holy Mary in the village of Muljava about four miles away from the cloister. He invited all the people of common birth in the neighborhood and the aristocrats from the castles to participate in this gathering and to thank the Almighty God for having bestowed the victory upon the righteous Christian arms and for having averted from the country the terrible catastrophe which had threatened it.

While the Slovene people in the cloister were preparing themselves for the procession, the Slovene army had met with a terrible disaster. As soon as Ahmed Pasha had learned that a company of his front guards had been completely exterminated by the Christians, he became so enraged over the news that he at once issued an order to his five times larger army to surround and attack the Christian heroes. So that at the approach of dawn the following morning, the Slovenes found themselves surrounded by a ten times larger army than they had met the previous day. Unprepared for battle and fear-stricken they again had to reach for their swords and defend themselves and their country. A bloody hand to hand battle was now raging of the most ferocious character; every soldier was a hero and no one gave his life in vain.

But nevertheless, the Slovene small army, tired and exhausted by the fierce battle of the previous day, was at last completely defeated. Among the captives whom the Turks did not want to kill, because they expected to obtain a large ransom for their return, were Governor Sherk of Corinthia, the Carniolian nobleman Ludevik Kozjak, and many other aristocrats. The Christian soldiers who escaped capture retreated hastily to the woods. Throughout the country no one knew yet about this horrible catastrophe. The Turks well knew that there was no army in the Slovene provinces strong enough to check their advance, they now went rushing forward into Carniola, and thence rapidly conducted their campaign toward the central part of the province.

The sun was shining gloriously and casting its golden rays upon the fields and plains belonging to the Zaticzna's monastery. The procession, so formed that two and two persons walked together on line, now began slowly moving forward out of the cloister, following the man who was carrying the Holy crucifix. In the first line in the procession walked the monks. These were followed by these noblemen: the humpbacked Peter Kozjak, John Mačerol of the castle Mačerol, knight Ravbar from the castle Kravjak; and many other aristocrats. In the rear lines following the noblemen a multitude of pious people, men and women, were slowly moving forward.

It is related in a story that the people from seven parishes, with their priests and their ensigns, congregated at the end of the large plain where stood the church of Holy Mary, which at one time was the out-parish of the Zaticzna's monastery, and that they danced there an old folkdance permitted by the ecclesiastic authorities. It seems that old men called this dance "overtnica," the remnants of which dance are still permitted to be danced on the occasions of the Slovene pilgrimages. Upon the plain there was a great multitude of people. They were all resting in peace or were absorbed in their devotion.

(To be continued)

