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**Actions Speak!**

If the popular but somewhat thin proof can be advanced that "50,000 Frenchmen cannot be wrong" then we could propose that a similar argument could be formed in regard to the Slovenes and their life in America. But such a proof as really thin and will not stand pressure of demonstration.

A much more ample and satisfying axiom or saying from the classical writers may be quoted; *Facere non dicere*, which in the broadest sense means, Actions rather than words bespeak the man. It is something which by long demonstration has assumed the character of having been found to hold true.

Trials and more results must be the end of the activity in which the Slovene youth is now engaged. While there is not much evident demonstration or rather glaring demonstration about the things that Slovene pioneers have created in America the interest is present, nevertheless. That the present activity is not more noticeable among the youth is because the complexity of regular work-a-day world will not give it a chance for extraordinary prominence. Activity is present, and very prominently if anyone is willing to look for it.

One could list a great number of things which would serve as good demonstration that Slovene Youth is interested in Slovene affairs and is lending its fresh viewpoint to make the problem and the situation clearer and brighter. It will be sufficient that only one be mentioned here.

During the last few years a new and lasting lease has been taken on the life of fraternal organizations, which have been doomed to die when the older generation has gone to its grave. English speaking lodges (which in reality are lodges conducted in English) have been organized in practically every large organization and are doing marvellously well in putting new vigor into the old organizations. The idea is comparatively new. The oldest English conducted lodge is not even five years old and from the beginning to now the idea has spread among the young people and has been carried on principally by the force of their initiative with some encouragement from the older heads of the fraternal organizations. The youth has sold the proposition to itself and has carried it on until now if all of the members of the various fraternal organizations were collected into one institution they would make a rather large force by themselves. It is action that speaks well for the Slovene youth and once it has seen the opportunities than it has seized them and made a "doubtful" experiment an unqualified success.

Members of the various lodges within one parent institution are holding competitions among themselves in membership drives competing for honors in that line. Friendly but rivalry institutions have taken place among the lodges of the various parent institutions in sports and even in dramatics and social gatherings which keep alive the traditions which have been set. Competition is the soul of vigor and a self measure. What healthier sign of real life and real activity could be asked for those which when the surface is scratched become plainly evident.

Actions speak louder than words and the actions of the Slovene youth in fraternal work alone not taking into consideration the many other things they are considering and actually doing speaks well for the future of the Slovenes in America.

**A NIGHT MARE ON COFFEE**

By the Twins, Pristov and Sodnikar

Now that everyone, except 120 million people, believes that prohibition, as an amendment, is a total success, and all the hard hooch on this side of the Atlantic has been drained (not down sewers, but down throats), the high-minded and revered reformers are seeking new fields to conquer. For a long time they have been so occupied supplanting the old fashioned, free lunch saloon with clean decent speak-easies and dives, and seeing to it that tanks paid a quarter of a dollar for a five cent throat warmer, that they did not heed other jeopardies that began crouching upon this nation.

But, today, with their toil-some thankful work completed, they will be able to turn their attention to the other voices of the U.S.A. (of North America, Western Hemisphere, pink colored on geography maps.) There are many things that require correction and rectification, but after due deliberation, in joint counsel, the W.C.T.U. (a union of charity women) decided that the greatest weakness is—coffee. Do not be surprised. Our arduous and well-thinking brethren have determined that java was injurious to our health and welfare. And so be it.

With fine and deep cogitation you will also see many things in coffee that are strictly baneful. Just ask any housewife what is wrong with coffee. She will tell you immediately. Did you ever consider that coffee spilled on a table cloth leaves an unremovable spot (Carbon Tetrachloride will not help). In problem of soiled table cloths and napkins is becoming more terrible, graver and more menacing each succeeding day. Hoover elected on a platform which promised to bring relief to this, failed. What has happened! Even his platform has become so soiled that some fool dandipratts have inquired for the job of cleaning it. If coffee could be done away with there would be only clean linen on the tables. This alone suggests such a good reason for eliminating coffee from the menu, that people will at once acquiesce for it, just like they did for abolishing the white mule (kegs and all).

Do you know that coffee is

the cause of almost all inequity? Most crimes are pulled off between midnight and dawn; and, by whom? gentle, sweet and kind readers. By people who drink coffee before winding the cat, putting out the clock, and going to bed. Then, they cannot sleep. These sufferers of insomnia, then, go out and pilfer their abstinent neighbor's goods. Why the policemen who watch these homes at night do not stay awake by drinking coffee, likewise will remain a mystery because Mr. Matowitz, our honest and beloved chief of police, has promised to solve it.

Insomnia too, is the cause of added unemployment. When one drinks coffee he stays awake and actually does some work, thus causing overproduction. "Exile coffee and you will have plenty of work" cry the reformers.

Another clique which are enemies of coffee are the cellar-smellers. They have done much for reformation, in fact, they have reformed themselves out of work. People have taken up the Volstead Act so enthusiastically and obeyed it so frankly that the government needed no one to smell bottles. So to create a job for themselves they now seek to put their hooks into coffee percolators (that is, they will go on their own hooks.)

Another reason that has made Congress determined to pass the coffee bill, is the contest being staged presently between the nations which will decide which country has the greatest number of useless and unkept laws. Thus far, America is leading the race by some odd two million, but one such law will not hurt the congressmen.

However, do not think that this battle on coffee will be won without opposition. There is a strong and large army preparing to come to the aid of coffee. However, these are only doing from a selfish standpoint. Coffee has brought them much, and they do not want to lose this considerable income. The unselfish reformers tell us that these are the doctors, burial case manufacturers, and the undertakers. It is a known fact that coffee brings about failing health and an early death. It is this reason that has called these respective individuals to the aid of coffee, but if we all do our bit towards the good work, it will not be long before coffee will be as scarce in this country as gin.

**IVAN CANKAR PLAY**

(Continued from Page 1)

in which they do this he steps into the cemetery and with a whip that he carries lashes one of the children. Sanda a young gypsy sees this and picks up a stone and throws it at the young man gashing his forehead. Sanda was sorry that she had committed so serious an injury and was worried. In that state of mind she crept to the room of the young aristocrat and while seemingly asleep kissed him. From that time on Jonel did not see Sanda until he returned as a man from the University in Germany.

**An Aged Lover**

After an interim of several years in which the promising beauty of Sanda really develops so much that Notara a 50 year old attorney decides that he must win her hand. This thought was especially prominent in his mind after Sanda went away to school. With education and beauty Notara was perfectly satisfied to take her for his wife and be proud of his prize. But life is not so easy. Notara had a competitor for her hand in Cuk the state attorney who unfortunately was a hunchback but in spite of this Sanda did not decline his suit.

**Dream Lover**

In the heart of Sanda lived Jonel whom she had kissed so very long ago and lived in a paradise of perfect dreams with him and him alone. But she was destined to marry Notara so that precluded all other thoughts. But... as she is about to get married her aged father tells her some past history of the family and the strange circumstances of her mother's death.

Tense moments, mystery, love and the passions all play an important part in the drama of a gypsy girl and her many lovers. It will be worth an evening that will undoubtedly be well spent with the Ivan Cankar players on Sunday evening, January 25th at the Slovene Nat'l Home on St. Clair avenue.

Yom Kippur — They have no piano, no summer home, no fur coats, no victrola, no washing machine, no automobiles, no radio.

Kabitzer — Gee, they must have money.

**ART LECTURE BY JAKAC**

(Continued from Page 1)

comes with especial welcome to those who have been wondering about the history of the Art which is represented by Mr. B. Jakac's work. As an expert in the art and with his educational background aside from his artistic work will make the lecture one of the outstanding events in the community in lecture work. During his studies Mr. Bozidar Jakac has traveled thru all the countries of Europe and has even worked in North Africa.

During the week of the lecture the library plans to have a collection of his paintings and his artwork exhibited in the library so that those who have not been able to see his work before will have an opportunity of seeing it now.

Mr. Jakac's lecture will be introduced by a talk in English by Mr. Ivan Zorman.

**Music Program**

As a concluding feature for the evening of February 4th the St. Clair library has arranged a musicale by Miss Jeanette Perdan who will appear in a vocal

You are cordially invited to attend a

**Dance given by Christ the King**

no. 226 K. S. K. J. ON JAN. 25th IN KNAUS' HALL

Everybody is invited especially the members of K SKJ and those taking part in the passion play. A good time is promised. Come! Committee

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program accompanied by Miss Irma Kalan. Because of the special interest that is bound to be attached to the lecture and the whole program in general it will be well that they who would like to hear the lecture deserve the evening for the occasion since it is the first formal lecture on art and may be the last. Everyone is welcome and the admission is free. Children will not be admitted.

**"The Battle of Music"**  
A DANCE WITH TWO ORCHESTRAS  
CONTINUOUS DANCING  
Presented by COMRADES  
February 12th, 1931  
SLOV. NATIONAL HOME  
—Music by—  
"SOVEREIGNS" and "VIRGINIA NITE HAWKS"

**Got a COLD?**  
At the first sign of a cold or sore throat, gargle with full strength Listerine. These ailments are caused by germs, and Listerine kills germs in 15 seconds.  
**LISTERINE**  
KILLS GERMS IN 15 SECONDS

**Short History of Slovene Literature**  
By F. T. SUHADOLNIK

**Realistic novelists**

With the champion of realism in fiction in the person of Josip Jurcic Slovene novels and Slovene narrative work learned more and more toward realism. The object of the realistic school in Slovenija was to hold a mirror to the hard and real struggle for existence which the Slovene was forced to live. After the example set by the models created by Jurcic they wished to imitate it and perfect it. While Jurcic wrote mostly and most characteristically of the Slovene peasant he was not successful in depicting the life of the townspeople nor of the educated. This later type of writing was the specialty of Kersnik, Mencinger and Detela. They showed what Jurcic did not in the life of Slovene outside of the peasant class, nevertheless, his influence is seen in their work. Formally they were also educated in the Stritar's school.

The most important person of the school of Josip Jurcic was Janko Kersnik. He was born on September 4, 1852 at Brd. His father was legal attorney and his mother Bertha came from the famous family of Hoffner. In 1862 he entered the gymnasium at Ljubljana which he completed in 1870. He was then enrolled in the law school of Vienna but left to attend the course given in the college at Gradec. In 1877 he finished his courses and actually practiced law. In 1880 he passed the examinations as Notary Public for a position in Brd where his mother was a large landowner. In 1895 while hunting Kersnik caught a severe

cold which developed into consumption of the throat which he did not give serious attention. As a result he died on July 28 1897 while he was on his way to his Ljubljana home from Gleichenburg.

Fran Levec may be given the credit for influencing the young Kersnik to take interest in Slovene literature. Levec found Kersnik writing German poetry and saw the talent. He advised the young author to devote himself to Slovene rather than German which the pupil did. In 1866 his first poem appeared in the "Glasnik". This was followed by a rather long series which were published in The "Glasnik" and in the "Zvon" in Vienna.

After Kersnik completed his University studies he devoted himself almost exclusively to prose. At first he wrote letters and then some political papers through the medium of which he became interested in the novel. His first novel "Na Zerinjah" (At Zerinjah) Jurcic's influence is plainly evident. But the influence is not so great in the realistic depicting of peasant character as it was evident in the development of the love theme. Artists, journalists, nobility play their roles as in the older novels even in the "Lutinski ljudje" which was published in 1882.

As the Notary Public in Brd, Kersnik became more and more acquainted with the Slovene peasant as he really was as well as the more educated upper class. He was a close observer of all that went around him and soon discovered that the Slovene had many good qualities as well as many bad. As a result of the close contact and observation there is evident a change in viewpoint and as the novels and the man himself developed there is soon an evidence that realistic life with which he was surrounded became more and more a part of him.

Even in his first novel it is seen that the circle with which Kersnik is concerned is the educated class in a more easy fashion than Jurcic did. The state of mind was altogether different from Jurcic and what

was impossible for Jurcic was entirely for Kersnik belonged to the circle about which he wrote as surely as Jurcic belonged to his own. Kersnik was born in an aristocratic family in which his grandfather was the teacher at the University of Ljubljana and Preseren's own instructor. He himself belonged to a family which was considered as one of the old families with a tradition and then the constant contact with merchants and townspeople made him as a novelist a teller of tales about the circle which he knew best. While Jurcic had a nodding acquaintance with the upper people Kersnik was on talking terms which explains why Jurcic did not dare to write things about people he knew only slightly.

In the Novel "Ciklamen", Published in 1883 and again in "Agitator" he gives us a real picture of the dweller of the castle and his contacts with the commonplace people. The central theme is woven around the noble in his home life, in the hotel, in the library and uncovers his mental life by having him express his opinions of the national and political feeling as the real man expressed them in the time when national libraries began to flourish and the Slovene plain man became aware of his nationality and his Slav nature. In the novel "Roslin in Vrjanko" modeled very closely after "Lepa Vida" the motive for the national poem, Kersnik pictures contemporary educated people among the peasant class. In the same manner is written "Gospod Jenez" (Mr. John), now running serially in the Enakopravnost. Ed. note). Very different is "Jara gospoda" in which Kersnik writes, in the manner of Turgenev, the sick condition of the upper class because of its indolence and disinterestedness in the real problem which the ordinary men met.

When Kersnik promised Jurcic that he would complete the "Rokovnjaci" which Jurcic had no opportunity of finishing he faced for the first time the problem of writing scenes and outlining types from the realm of peasantry. This influence was so strong that

in the following year Kersnik began a series of realistic tales under the title "Kmetске slike". In the beginning he wrote simple tales as he saw them in the community in which he lived. In some of them, traces can be found that he experienced them at the time he became a public official. Thus in "Otroški doktor" (Children's Physician) and some others later simple pictures adopted a tone much deeper and symbolic of the peasant types.

Kersnik in his novels did not look upon peasant with the same eye as Jurcic did. Jurcic believed that farming was the only thing that the Slovene should do and sympathetic to his own viewpoint he was hostile to anything that would change that situation. In consequence he had nothing to do with officials who in the main were alienated. Kersnik looked objectively on the peasant and saw with all of his strong points and all the shortcomings in character among the principle one of which avidity after goods and land. Avidity is the basis of several of his most important peasant novels. He blinds the rich Topolovsca that he disregards the will and testament thereby keeping the estate of a poor nursemaid. Avidity is also the reason why in "Ocotov greh" (Father's sin) perjures himself and denies the recognition of his illegitimate daughter.

Kersnik's realistic artistry is characteristic in faithful depicting of real description of localities. In most of his stories the locale is always placed in the vicinity of Brd. Characteristic also is the important role the nurse maid plays in all the novels of this type.

Kersnik also wrote many humorous pictures among them "Nova zeleznica" (New Railroad), "Kobila jeva snubitev" (Kolesar's Wooing) and many popular tales for the Mohorjeva Druzba. The most beautiful among them is "Znojilcevega Marka bozja pot" (Znojilcevega Pilgrimage).



