

CELEBRATE KOSOVO AS A DAY OF HONOR

President Wilson Pays Tribute to the Slavs' Fight for Liberty.

RESTORATION HOPED FOR

Serbian Minister Predicts War Will Be Ended, Not on Battlefield, but in Austria.

The celebration of Kossovo Day, the national anniversary of the Serbians and other Southern Slavs, commemorating the great battle 520 years ago, in which the mediaeval Serbian Empire fell before the Turks, but halted for more than half a century the Turkish attack on Central Europe, was concluded last night with a reunion of the Jugoslavs, Czechoslovak, Poles, and other Slav nationalities and their American sympathizers at the Waldorf-Astoria. Kossovo Day is being celebrated this year, as Dr. Ljubomir Michaelovitch, the Serbian Minister, said in his speech last night, "not as a day of mourning and defeat, but as a day of honor and victory; for it is the anniversary of the battle in which the nation lost its liberty, but saved its honor."

All the speeches last night were full of the hope that Serbia, now suffering a misfortune worse than Kossovo at the hands of the Germans, Austro-Hungarians, and Bulgars, would speedily be restored and united with the other branches of the Yugoslav race. A message from President Wilson expressing his sympathy with the aspirations of the Slav peoples was read by Dr. Stockton Axson, National Secretary of the American Red Cross. It was as follows:

The White House, June 13, 1918.

My Dear Mr. Secretary:

Will you not be kind enough to convey to those who will assemble on Monday next in celebration of the Serbian anniversary of Kossovo Day a message of very cordial greeting from me, and will you not express to them my very sincere appreciation of the meaning of this significant anniversary?

The struggle of the Serbian people for liberty and for right and the aspiration of all the great Slavic peoples for a recognition of their national identity and their right to determine their own allegiance and their own political action, hold now more than ever the attention of the world, and must engage the sympathy of every one who sees, what is now being every day more clearly made manifest to statesmen everywhere, that the future peace of the world depends upon the acquiescence of its several peoples in every settlement which affects their fortunes and their happiness.

Cordially and sincerely yours,

WOODROW WILSON.

Dr. Stockton Axson,
National Secretary American Red
Cross.

The meeting brought out a picturesque assortment of color—the khaki uniforms, with coat thrown over the shoulders, so as to display the scarlet shirt, the feathered caps of the men and women of the Yugoslav Sokol societies; scores of women in the Czechoslovak or Yugoslav national costume, and officers in the uniform of the Serbian, French, British, American, and Italian Armies. A Czechoslovak chorus of men and women sang "The Star-Spangled Banner," the Serbian and Czechoslovak national anthems, and the Yugoslav war song, "U Boj," and the Russian Balaika orchestra furnished music before the program began.

After Julia Arthur had read Amelia Josephine Burr's poem, "Serbia," the meeting was opened by Dr. Michaelovitch.

"This celebration," he said, "is a token of the fact that truth is slow but far-reaching, and that he who follows it will reach a merited reward. We have won recognition of the service rendered by Serbia on the field of Kossovo; we believe that we shall win recognition of what our people are doing today, for their sacrifices today are as great as they were five centuries ago and their aim is the same now as then—liberty.

"At Kossovo the Turks were stopped for a time, but Serbia lost everything. The fight was carried on after that by the people of our race in Hungary and Austria. The direct consequence of the defeat to our people was that we lost our independence, some to Turkey, others to our new enemies, Austria and Hungary.

"A great French historian has said that the Jugoslavs made a bulwark of their breasts to protect civilization against the barbarian. From this long struggle came our great love for liberty, for which after centuries of bondage

we were ready to rise up and fight again. The battle of Kossovo, celebrated among our people ever since, has taught us the value of liberty and honor above anything else. We did not celebrate the national catastrophe, but the sacrifice of the nation's all in the name of liberty and religion against barbarism and brute force.

"Today we are facing the same trials. The German, the Magyar, the Bulgar have the same aim as the Turk. Our people have again sacrificed all that a nation can sacrifice, but have saved their honor. The liberty and union of the Polish, Czechoslovak, and Yugoslav nations is the surest guarantee of world peace and check to Pan Germanism. The war will not be ended on the battlefield, but in Austria-Hungary.

"If Austria-Hungary remains as a State the war will be lost for us, but if we, the Jugoslavs, the Czechoslavs, the Poles, are liberated and united, a lasting peace will be secured. One of the great men of this country, Daniel Webster, said: 'While I live let me have a country, or at least a hope of a country, and that a free country.' The hope of a free country is the hope for which our people are dying today, confident more than ever of final victory."

Dr. Axson promised that the Red Cross was going to institute a much more extensive campaign for Serbian relief and that if possible to do so by diplomatic arrangement would attempt to undertake relief of the starving Serbian population even within the Austro-Hungarian lines.

"Serbia," he said, "is a symbol of the spirit of liberty; the Red Cross is the symbol of the spirit of humanity. And these two forces will in time wear down and wear out all the might of German autocracy and German prostitution of brute force. These great silent principles are behind all our preparation and prosecution of the war. Guns may be temporarily stopped, armies may be temporarily broken, but this spirit brings up fresh guns, rallies new armies, and goes on. When we shall be victorious we do not know, but one thing we do know, that we shall be victorious."

Other speakers were James M. Beck, Major Bajich of the Serbian military mission, who spoke in Serbian, and Pierre de Lanux of the French High Commission, whose mention of the names of the Prince Regent Alexander of Serbia and the Yugoslav leaders, Dr. Trumbitch and Father Koroshetz, evoked great applause. Telegrams of sympathetic approval were read from Dr. Thomas G. Masaryk, head of the Czechoslovak National Committee, who is now in Cleveland, and from a group of Bostonians active in the movement for Slavic liberty. Benediction by the Very Rev. J. Krajnovitch of the Serbian Church of Johnstown, Penn., closed the meeting. Proceeds from the sale of tickets went to the Serbian Red Cross through the Serbian National Defense League.