

The Jugoslavs of Cleveland

With a Brief Sketch of their Historical
and Political Backgrounds

By

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A. C. S.

Foreword

THE dissolution of the ancient realm of the Hapsburgs is giving to the American people a bit of long neglected instruction in European nationalism. With the breaking of the bonds of dynastic rule there have arisen several nations rich in historical traditions and full of significant influence in the formation of a new Europe. The Czecho-Slovaks were the first to arrest our attention; the Jugoslavs have become equally famed. Both groups are very largely represented in the foreign born population of the United States, but few of us distinguished them from the other races of Eastern Europe. The surprising lack of knowledge among Americans of the peoples who have sought homes in this country may be the chief reason why assimilation has been so long delayed. When sympathy and understanding were not to be found among Americans the newcomers sought it among their own kind. Hence, "foreign colonies" and the widely heralded failure of the melting pot.

The Cleveland Americanization Committee deems the dissemination among the native born of accurate information concerning the foreign groups one of the first steps in Americanization. In working out the process of making a new nation out of many diverse groups the intelligent sympathy of Americans is needed first of all. Before we can teach we must understand. To the end that this understanding may be based upon accurate and accessible information the Americanization Committee has undertaken the preparation of a number of studies of the national groups residing in Cleveland. The first of these dealt with the Slovaks; the one presented herein with the Jugoslavs. The cordial reception accorded the first of them justifies a belief that this series may be a real contribution in the interpretation of the foreign born to Americans.

RAYMOND MOLEY,
Chairman.

