

DR. MASARYK.

Eyewitnesses of the impressive parade of Czech, Slovak, Jugoslav, Polish, and Russian societies which passed in review on Saturday night before the balcony where stood THOMAS G. MASARYK, head of the Provisional Government of the Czechoslovak revolution, might have perceived that the distinguished statesman and scholar who is now visiting the men and women of his race in this country was something more than the leader of a single nationality. Those who from the galleries of Carnegie Hall shouted "Long live our first President!" expressed what is rather more than a probability, if the defeat of the Central Powers is as sweeping as is hoped; but in the demonstrations of half a dozen Slav races for the leader of one it was possible to recognize MASARYK as the emblem of the new Slavic spirit.

The old Pan Slavism, which, despite the collaboration of many honorable and sincere men of liberal tendencies, served in effect little but the interests of the Romanoff dynasty and imperialistic Russia, died with the passing of that dynasty and the collapse of that Russia. Yet these times which see Russia fallen from her high estate have seen also the coming together of the westernmost Slav nations, the Czechoslovaks, the Jugoslavs, and the Poles, who have found a basis for alliance not only in kindred blood and kindred culture, but in their identical demands for national unity and freedom from Hapsburg and Hohenzollern. The western Slav nations, those who have been most affected by Latin culture, who have had to maintain their national individuality by hard struggle against heavy odds, have based their democracy in education and in the cultivation of an intelligent patriotism. So while Russia, endowed suddenly with a complete liberty for which her people were unprepared, stumbles and falls in the clutch of the German, the western Slavs are only the more determined,

the more bitterly opposed to alien domination, the more firmly resolved to end German rule by complete victory in this war. And Russia, trying hard to be democratic, is looking to the westward to get new inspiration from the spirit of the Slav races who are fighting for freedom and who know what to do with it.

It is this sort of Slavic consciousness, a Pan Slavism, if it be that, which has no imperialistic ambitions, no desire to interfere with other nations, that is represented by MASARYK; for Bohemia has led the other nations in the fight against the Germans, and MASARYK is the leader of Bohemia. Dr. NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER compared him, not without reason, to MAZZINI and VENIZELOS; and the message which he gave to New York might have been spoken by either of them. "Democracy is political truth"—this is the utterance of a man whose faith is democracy and who is seeing it work out in practice among his people. His demand for liberty was not for the Czechoslovaks alone, but for all the multitude of peoples in Eastern Europe who have been given over to the Germans by Russia's downfall.

In the face of this position of the westernmost and most cultured Slav nations, now taking the lead of their race from fallen Russia, what becomes of the Slav peril which was such a terror to the Germans at the beginning of the war? The only peril left, from the German point of view, is this—that the Slavs may win the right to rule themselves instead of being ruled by Germans.