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EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

Die Russlandschweizer und das Berliner Protokoll.
—Zwischen dem russischen Botschafter Krestinsky in Berlin und dem schweizerischen Gesandten Rüfenach in Berlin ist eine für beide Regierungen bindende Erklärung über die Beilegung des zwischen den beiden Ländern bestehenden Konfliktes unterschrieben worden, mit der Begründung, dass über die Gesamtheit der zwischen den beiden Ländern noch zu erledigenden Fragen Verhandlungen eingeleitet werden.

Dieser Schritt der Eidgenossenschaft veranlasst mich, Sie zu bitten, in Ihrem werthen Blatte darauf hinzuweisen, dass wir Russlandschweizer als unschuldige Opfer der russischen Sowjetbehörden, welche uns Russlandschweizer durch ihre Gesetzgebung ausgeraubt und gebrandschatzt haben, nicht ruhig zusehen werden noch können, wenn über unsere Köpfe hinweg über unser geraubtes Vermögen disponiert wird, ohne dass wir die Gewähr haben, einen Teil unseres Vermögens zurückzuerhalten.

Viele von uns Russlandschweizern sind durch die Massnahmen der Sowjetbehörden verarmt und obdachlos geworden; die meisten sehen dem Gespenst des Hungerns und der Not für ihre alten Tage entgegen. Wir haben daher nicht allein das Recht, sondern auch die Pflicht, zu verlangen, dass bei den in Aussicht gestellten Verhandlungen unserem Verlangen nach Vergeltung des an uns vorgenommenen Unrechtes voll und ganz entsprochen wird. Es kommen für uns in Betracht:

1. Die Lebensversicherungspolice. Diejenigen Schweizerbürger, welche an russische Lebensversicherungsgesellschaften ihre mühsam erbrügten Spargroschen abgeführt haben, sollen diese Gelder von den Sowjetbehörden zurückerhalten; um so mehr, da diese Gelder in festen Werten (meistenteils in Häusern) angelegt wurden und von den Sowjetbehörden beschlagnahmt sind.

2. Die Beraubung der schweizerischen Gesandtschaft in Petersburg mit den daraus entstandenen Schäden an Schecks, Wertgegenständen, Bargeldern usw. soll von den Sowjetbehörden bezahlt werden.

3. Die enteigneten Häuser, Landgüter, Fabriken usw. der Schweizerbürger sollen bewertet und verrechnet werden.

4. Die von den Sowjetbehörden beschlagnahmten Bankguthaben der Schweizerbürger müssen uns im vollen Werte mit Zins und Zinseszins voll vergütet werden.

6. Unsere in Russland beschlagnahmten Wohnungseinrichtungen und Familienstücke sollten uns von den Sowjetbehörden—wenn möglich—zurückerstattet werden, andernfalls ist deren voller Wert auszu zahlen; um so mehr, als die Sowjetbehörden unsere Wohnungen beschlagnahmten und in unsere Wohnungen Parteigenossen hineinsetzten welche sich mit unseren Möbeln und Kleidern bereichert haben.

7. Banksafes und deren Inhalt, seien es Familienpapiere, Brillanten usw. oder deren Werte sollen an uns retourniert werden.

Sollte die Eidgenossenschaft lediglich aus merkantilen Interessen über unsere Köpfe hinweg über unser Vermögen verhandeln, ohne dabei eine Entschädigung für uns arme, obdachlose Russlandschweizer in Betracht zu ziehen, so müssten wir *coram publico* gegen dieses eventuelle Verfahren protestieren.

Reinhold Strecheisen in den Basler Nach.

Un jubilé consulaire à Marseille.— Samedi, le mai 14, la colonie suisse de Marseille a fêté le 10e anniversaire de l'arrivée dans cette ville du consul Paul Leuba. Elle a inauguré un buste de ce dernier dans cette maison suisses qu'il fut le premier à fonder.

M. Angst, président de la Chambre de commerce suisse à Marseille remercia en termes chaleureux le jubilaire de l'activité qu'il déploie. Il releva qu'en 1920, M. Paul Leuba n'avait pas hésité à vouer toute son activité au service de la patrie en devenant consul de carrière. M. Angst poursuivit en ces termes:

«Vous avez trouvé le temps de poursuivre vos études, vous avez brillamment soutenu votre thèse de doctorat en droit, votre ouvrage sur le régime successoriel en droit suisse et en droit français, est justement apprécié.»

Mme. Leuba, qui se dépense sans compter pour la colonie, ne fut pas oublié au cours de cette soirée. L'orateur lui adressa l'expression de la respectueuse reconnaissance des Suisses de Marseille. Les jubilaires reçurent des mains de M. Angst le buste du consul, oeuvre en marbre blanc, due au ciseau d'un Suisse, M. Foretay. M. Leuba prit la parole et en termes châtés, exprima sa gratitude à ses compatriotes. Il réitéra l'expression de son dévouement à la patrie.

Il offrit à la colonie un étendard sur lequel sont inscrits en lettres d'or ces mot: «Colonie suisse de Marseille. Un pour tous, tous pour un.» L'orateur voit dans ce drapeau l'emblème et l'image de sa patrie. Il est tout amour et toute fraternité, toute vaillance et énergie. Je le remets ce soir à la colonie et c'est à vous tous que je confie le soin de le tenir très haut.»

Gazette de Lausanne.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

The Economic Conference at Geneva.

If the speeches delivered and the proposals made at the International Economic Conference in Geneva could be taken seriously and at their face value we should be entitled to conclude that we are on the threshold of the Millennium. Unfortunately these theorists and economic experts do not commit in any way their respective governments; they are merely debating "very debatable" questions. They are practically unanimous in advocating free trade, denouncing tariff barriers and the obstacles which at present hinder the free flow of trade and commerce and incidentally jeopardise the peace of the world. It is, however, to most of us a mystery how these worthy objects can be realised as long as budgetary requirements and safeguarding of particular industries remain vital domestic considerations of the individual states. A case in point is the new French Tariffs Bill, the publication of which coincided with the opening of the Geneva Conference, and which in some measure is France's answer to certain import duties recently imposed by England. It all goes to show that any concerted scheme recommended by the Geneva conference can only secure sympathetic consideration by the respective governments if no sacrifice is thereby imposed on the latter. It will be hopelessly difficult for even the experts to agree on any common plan with the following fantastic proposals tabled by the Russian delegation:—

Annulment of all war debts and payments connected with the war; increased industrial wages; eight-hour day, with six for miners; restoration of complete liberty to strike; improved unemployment insurance; combating of increases in prices by cartels; free distribution of all superfluous populations in the different countries; abolition of protectorates and mandates; withdrawal of all Colonial troops; "recognition of the political and economic rights of self-determination of all countries"; ending of military intervention in China; ending of all forms of the economic and political boycott against Soviet Russia; restoration of relations "with recognition of the inevitable co-existence of both economic systems; granting of credits to Soviet Russia in return for "concessions"; ending of any attacks on the Socialist system, especially the State monopoly of foreign trade; complete disarmament and disestablishment of standing armies by land and sea.

Those who have been clamouring for the presence of the Russians at Geneva, without whose contribution no international conference could succeed, will be bewildered at this ingenious medley of programme and subtle propaganda.

The cantonal authorities have gone to considerable expense in securing the Russian delegation against any unwelcome interference, but this is evidently not appreciated to judge from the following report from the *Star* (May 5th):—

A protest against the "excessive" police protection which the Swiss police have provided for the Russian delegation to the World Economic Conference in Geneva has been lodged by M. Osinski, chief of the delegation, says the *British United Press*.

The presence of so many police at the hotel and even at the conference debates, guarding the delegation day and night is described by M. Osinski as "ridiculous and annoying."

The police have taken these extraordinary precautions because they feel nervous about rumours that there are Tsarist agents in Geneva who might attempt to repeat the crime of a few years ago when M. Vorovski, a Soviet envoy, was murdered.

But the following from the *Daily Mail* (May 6th) betrays a considerable nervousness on their part:—

The strict police supervision organised by the chief of the Geneva police irritates the Soviet Delegation to the Economic Conference, who ask if they are to be considered in Geneva as delegates or prisoners. Even the telephone is being controlled.

This morning the head of the Soviet Delegation, Osinsky, met Sir Eric Drummond, the general secretary of the League, to explain an urgent letter which he sent overnight protesting against what he called "invisible police supervision."

The Marquis Polucci, the new Italian Under-Secretary of the League, offered to obtain from the police a relaxation of the strict measures.

Meanwhile the Soviet Delegation is in reality very anxious to be protected.

An amazing scene developed later last night when a parcel arrived at the Hotel Angleterre addressed to the Soviet Delegation. The delegates refused to open it, fearing bombs or an infernal machine.

A Swiss police agent offered to open the parcel if he was expressly authorised by the Russians. The parcel contained an enormous bunch of innocuous red flowers offered by an anonymous admirer.

Another Swiss Conductor.

We have had quite a number of Swiss composers and conductors appearing before the London public; Mr. Rudolph Ganz is the latest arrival and it is quite refreshing to gather that in spite of a novel element in his performance the critics have taken kindly to him. But then, he has come to us via America! Here is what the *Times* (May 7th) says:—

Mr. Rudolph Ganz, who comes to us from America, reveals his Swiss origin and German training in what he does and the way he does it. He is a conductor and pianist with some compositions to his credit, and he showed at Queen's Hall last night that he is a sound musician and efficient executant. Next week he is to give a piano recital.

Last night he conducted the London Symphony Orchestra, and for a part of the concert appeared in the dual rôle of conductor and soloist in Liszt's E flat piano concerto. This was made possible by the use of a Duo-Art pianola, on which his own interpretation was recorded. The achievement is a refinement on the traditional all-round competence of the German musical training, and his programme was framed to reveal his thorough understanding of 19th century German music. In Beethoven's Eighth Symphony he showed very much the same kind of qualities as Beethoven displays in this symphony—there was vigour and contrast and animation, but not much subtlety. In the *Meistersinger* Overture he deliberately varied the speed a good deal, but the touch of self-consciousness never became hectic; it was sane and satisfying. His playing of Strauss's *Tod und Verklärung*, however, was something more—there was exceptional clarity and penetration, so that the emphasis was thrown on the poetical more than on the morbid side of the "programme."

To choose Liszt's "infernal triangle" concerto for performance on the Duo-Art pianola was to understate the surprising powers of that instrument, for even when played by two hands the effect is that of a musical-box. On the other hand, to be spared the crashing *fortissimo*, which is the chief noticeable difference between the touch of fingers of bone and muscle and humano-electric contacts, is a mercy in which the machine showed itself more humane than most pianists. That is, at any rate, one way of securing unity of view in concerto playing, and the experiment was distinctly interesting.

The Pope and the Swiss Guard.

From the *Daily Mail* (May 7th):—

There was a picturesque ceremony in the Vatican on May 6th, when the Swiss Guard celebrated the fourth centenary of the sack of Rome, when the guard especially distinguished itself for valour and faithfulness.

The Pope celebrated Mass for the Swiss Guard in the Consistorial Hall, afterwards giving each man communion with his own hands.

The Pontiff was loudly cheered when he left the Consistorial Hall. The Swiss Guard later met in Clementine Hall, where the Pope distributed decorations.

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