

THE GEORGIAN MESSENGER

ქართული
ზოგადი მომხმარებელი

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The coming conference of the Caucasian Republics.

The Government of the Georgian Republic has taken upon itself the initiative in calling together a conference of the Caucasian Republics, which is to take up and to decide by common consent a series of questions which imperatively demand an immediate solution, and which touch in equal measure the vital interests of all the Caucasian states. The regrettable fact must be recognized that an estrangement has hitherto prevailed between the young Caucasian states, which has had a hampering effect both locally and throughout the whole Caucasus in general. A whole series of political, financial and economic questions must be decided here in the Caucasus by the united efforts of all four states, by means of a mutual agreement. We shall leave on one side for the time being political questions, in connection with which the interests of all the Caucasian states demand a united action, carefully thought over and agreed upon beforehand. We will merely point out some problems of a financial and economic character which have to do with the whole Caucasus, and can be solved only by the united and coordinated efforts of all the states which make up the country.

Such a matter, first of all, is the question of finances. Even before the declaration of independence of the different republics, in view of the cessation of the supply of currency from Russia, the Transcaucasus was forced to issue its own monetary tokens, the Transcaucasian „bonds“. The newly formed republics inherited from the united Transcaucasus these bank-notes, and continued

to make use of them, regulating the printing and the distribution of the same by mutual agreement. This fact, that the currency was the same in all the states, favored on the one hand the maintenance of more or less normal commercial relations between them, and helped on the other to keep up a more or less steady rate of exchange. Of late, however, the Aderbeijan Government has avoided taking part in the general issue of monetary tokens, and has adopted a financial policy of isolation. This same fact could not fail but to have an unfavorable effect, not only on the financial situation of the whole Caucasus, but in particular upon the financial condition of Aderbeijan.

Along with the decline in the rate of exchange of Caucasian bonds as against foreign money, we see that Aderbeijan bonds have declined in relation to Caucasian notes in their turn. It is of course quite natural that this circumstance should have a deleterious effect on financial and economic conditions in the whole Caucasus, and hinders the development of normal commercial conditions between the republics. The regulation, therefore, of questions of financial policy and the reaching of an agreement on the same is a matter that must be attended to without any delay.

Of no less importance for the Transcaucasian Republics is the question of customs policy. The customs tariffs, which stand like a wall between the different states, put great hindrances in the way of proper exchange of products. Moreover, at the present time, when almost no foreign goods are coming into the market, it is highly important to establish as normal as possible an exchange of goods between our republics. It is necessary to re-

mark that the arbitrary tariff rates hinder foreign capital from developing its activities here, in our country.

We have pointed out but two of the questions whose solution, according to mutual agreement, is demanded by the best interests of the Caucasian Republics. There is, however, a whole series of others, both of a political and of an economic character, which sternly impose upon our young republics the necessity of coming round to mutual agreement and more intimate relations.

The Government of Georgia, which has clearly realized all these things, some six months back brought forward the idea of a general Caucasian Conference. The scheme at the time did not receive the support of all the republics, and the failure to hold the conference brought in its train very grievous consequences. Now the Georgian Republic has again made the proposal to the neighboring republics, and all the four have declared their willingness to do so. We have not the least doubt that the conference, which is planned for this month, will give a strong impulse to the development of our Caucasian states and will open a new era in their history.

The Assistance of the Allies in the approvisionnement of Georgia.

The serious condition of the food question in our republic has already been touched upon in the pages of our paper. The storms of the war and the revolution which swept over Russia, of which our republic formed a part before its resurrection to a new national existence, the world-wide food-crisis, the sundering of economic ties with Europe, the continual machina-

tions of the foes of the republic around her borders all these factors have brought the food question in our country into a very bad condition of affairs indeed.

Our government and our people have made heroic efforts to contend with the food crisis, which we felt all the more acutely because the towns in Georgia previously subsisted on imported grain, and this source of supply has stopped for the time being almost completely.

In the midst of those efforts which the population of our country has been making in the fight against famine, amid those hardships which it has been forced to undergo, it will greet with a feeling of profoundest satisfaction the news that the Allies have come forward to help.

According to the agreement which has been made between the Georgian Government and the commander of the allied forces, there will be issued to the Georgian Republic flour to the amount of 20,000 puds (720,000 lbs.) per week. The first instalment has already been received.

This manifestation of kindly feeling on the part of the Allied countries towards Georgia will be a cause of the deepest satisfaction for the broad masses of the population of the city. The peoples of all countries value the relations of others towards them no upon the basis of declarations of friendship, but in accordance with the actual material benefit which one country is in a position to give another, and the actual help, which can be mutually be given and received.

Of course our people will appreciate that the Allies came forward to help them at a critical moment with that which at the moment was dearest of all their daily bread. This daily bread, this assistance in the way of provisions will in its turn fix even faster the sympathies of our folk towards the leading democracies of Europe, to whom our little new-born republic has united its destiny.

TIFLIS*).

The two best clubs have summer quarters in Mikhailovskaya Street, by the waterside—the Kruzhek (near the Vera Bridge) and the Georgian Club (near the Government Palace); both have concert-rooms and gardens attached to them, and the famous dance called Lesginka may be seen there with its accompaniment of hand-clapping. The costumes worn by both sexes are picturesque and rich, and one meets people of all nationalities. All arms must be left at the entrance. Georgian music is very unlike our own, and at first it strikes the European as loud, wild, discordant, positively unpleasant, but when one is accustomed to it, it is very agreeable. Before I had heard many of the national melodies, I was very much astonished when an accomplished lady told me that her reason for preferring the Georgian Club to the Kruzhek was, that at the former Asiatic music was performed; but I can now understand her liking for the music of her country.

Mushtaid, the town garden, owes nearly all its charms to nature, the walks and open spaces are neatly kept, but nearly the whole area is a forest—in the recesses of which we may lie undisturbed for hours, looking down on the turbid waters of Kura and listening to the rustling of the leaves above and around. Every evening its avenues are crowded with carriages and horsemen; beautiful faces, tasteful toilettes, gay uniforms—all combine to form a charming picture. Fancy fairs are occasionally held, at which the visitor may mingle with all the social celebrities, lose his money in raffles, buy things he doesn't want—in short enjoy himself just as if he were at home. But I doubt whether many frequenters of bazaars in England have seen such an acrobatic feat as was performed in Mushtaid last summer; an individual in tight breeches hung himself by the neck on the upper end of an inclined wire, stretched over the heads of spectators, and slid down it at lightning speed, firing half a dozen pistol-shots as he went. No week passes without a popular fete of some kind, for the Georgians are as fond of gaiety as any nation in the world.

From the above brief sketch the reader will see that Tiflis is a city where one can live for a long time without suffering from ennui. Although the immediate neighbourhood looks bare and uninviting, there are, within a few miles, many beautiful spots well worth a visit. The climate has been much abused by some writers, and it must be admitted that during the months of July and August the heat is very trying, but in my opinion Tiflis is a healthy place; since the great plague of one hundred and twenty years ago it has been pretty free from epidemics, and although fever and dys-

sentery kill a good many people every year, the victims are nearly all residents of low-lying parts of the city, where no European would live if he could help it. During the warm weather there are often storms, characterized by all the grandeur that might be expected in a region of great mountains so near the tropics; after one of these the steep streets become foaming torrents. The sheltered position of the city protects it from the terrible gusts of wind which make the plain to the eastward almost uninhabitable, and the storms seldom cause any more serious damage than broken windows and flooded houses.

The Peace Conference.

In view of the complicated character of the work and the enormous number of problems which are awaiting solution at the hands of the Conference, a „council of four“ has been formed out of its midst. Into the make-up of this council have entered the representatives of the great nations, to whom have been given the fullest powers. The members of the council are Lloyd George, Clemenceau, Wilson and Orlando.

Regarding the question of the German-bourgeois disagreement, have arisen between the representatives of France, America and Great Britain. France insisted on the cession of Dantisc and the temporary occupation of the Saar district by French troops until Germany pays all the expenses of the war. The representatives of England and America objected to this. Concerning the question of the payment by Germany of the damages inflicted by her forces, an agreement has been reached at the Conference. So, too, the size of the German army, which has been fixed at 100,000 men and 4,000 officers in place of the former 250,000. For the time being, in accordance with the proposal of France, the supplying of Germany with provisions had been held up.

In connection with the question of the conflict with the bolsheviks the French point of view has won out for the time being. To General Margiu, who is leaving for the anti-bolshevik fronts, there has been given the full power of uniting all the anti-bolshevik forces under his command. The „council of four“ has been discussing the question of measures against the Russian and Hungarian bolsheviks.

The Labor Commission has concluded its work.

The Commission on the League of Peoples has been discussing the amendments to Wilson's scheme. The most important of these are those regarding the extent of the powers of the council of the League, the imperativeness of its decisions for all the peoples who form part of it, regarding racial equality and the Monroe Doctrine.

Germany has agreed to the condition of handing over to the allies her

commercial fleet. The Commission in charge of this matter will consist of French, English and Italians. In French hands there will be a fleet with 75,000 tons displacement, the English will receive 100,000 tons.

GEORGIA*).

In the rural districts the people only know Russia as a foreign power that sends them tax-collectors, justices of the peace and other civil servants who perform obnoxious functions in a manner not calculated to conciliate the ratepayers. It is notorious that the „chinovnik“ has an unpleasant reputation even among his fellow-countrymen and these who consent to a temporary exile in Transcaucasia are not precisely the flower of the profession although their behaviour to European guests leaves little to be desired.

The justices of the peace are directly appointed by the minister of justice, all the evidence has to be translated into the official language and this accentuates the natural feeling of the litigants that they are being tried by foreign laws arbitrarily imposed from without.

The practical character of the judges is in many cases not such as to inspire respect for the law; the arrogant, bullying tone of these personages is intolerable at any time but especially when aggravated by alcoholism. I shall never forget one scene in particular at which I was present: a fine tall mountaineer came humbly to present a petition to a puny, besotted judge, who was a guest at the house where I was staying; the representative of law and order was drunk, hopelessly drunk and treated the suppliant in such a manner that I blushed to be in his company; I feared that the petitioner would take summary revenge for the insult, but he restrained his wrath: as he turned away there was on his face a look of hatred, of hellish hatred, and I do not think that he will trouble the court as long as he has a sharp kinalj of his own wherewith to settle disputes...

The character of the Georgians is too frank and open for the hatching of plots, however strong their feeling may be they know how to wait until an opportunity arrives for the satisfaction of those feelings; the perfect unanimity in the aims of the people renders an elaborate organization unnecessary.

It is interesting to notice that the political ideals of the country are borrowed from Western Europe. Excepting in Japan, perhaps, there is no such instance of a

people passing directly from feudalism to liberalism. The grandsons of absolute monarchs, the men who little more than half a century ago were large slaveholders are now ardent champions of the democratic ideal and they proclaim the freedom, the equality, the brotherhood of prince and peasant, master and man.

This is not the only case in which Georgia has turned her back on Asia and opened her arms to Europe—Parisian fashions, German rationalism, English sport and other products of our civilization are beginning to have an influence. It is a consolation to remember that the women as in every country, the more conservative and at the same time more patriotic, half of the community may be counted upon to restrain their husbands and sons from a too hasty advance in the slipping paths of modern progress.

It must be remembered that the military aid is the only benefit Georgia has ever received from Russia. It is true that roads have been made, but their construction was only undertaken in order to facilitate the movement of troops and they are practically worthless for the purposes of trade. The industrial and commercial development of the country has been wholly neglected and in one case at the instigation of the late editor of „Moscow news“, the transit of foreign merchandise was prohibited.

Should Russia ever become involved in a great war, Georgia would undoubtedly declare her independence and endeavour to seize the Darial Road; the Armenians and Lesghians would also revolt each in their own way. It is idle to speculate as to the result of such a movement but it may interest the reader to know that it took an army of more than a quarter of a million men to conquer the Lesghians alone, in the time of Shamil. It is superfluous to add that the Georgian troops are the flower of the Russian army, every school-boy can ride and shoot like a trained man, their officers are especially good and there are at present many generals who are worthy successors of Andronikoff, Bagration and Chavchavadze...

It is especially upon England that their hopes are fixed, for they are well aware of the fact that the existence of a strong, independent state between the Black Sea and the Caspian would be an enormous advantage to our country.

The possibility of Georgians, Armenians and Lesghians consenting to combine into one homogeneous state is not to be thought of; but there is no reason why the descendants of the three sons of Tar-

* See №№ 3, 4, 5 and 6.

* See № 6.

gamos, great-great-grand son of Noah should not, if they were free, form a defensive alliance for the protection of common interests: the Lesghians have in past times done good service against both Persians and Turks. In any case Georgia has a frontier which she is quite able to defend and she could always count upon the assistance of the mountaineers on the northern side of the Caucasus.

It is sincerely to be hoped that the present good feeling between the Georgian and Russian peoples may continue, if they were kindly treated and trusted with some measure of local government. I am sure that the Christian peoples of the Caucasus would never cause the Czar's ministers any trouble, but if an attempt be made to crush the national spirit, the descendants of the men who fought under Irakli will at least show despots how men can die.

London.

Oliver Wardrop.

An interrupted tale *).

By *Domenica Eristavi*.

The story of the birth of the sun-flower is as old, o daughter of the Khan, as the sorrow of love, as undying as the sighs of the enamoured, and as burning as Cleopatra's kisses. It is a sad tale, but it is as fair as Leila's grave, as mysterious as our glance at our beloved. Shall I tell it to you?"

"Recount it to me, Ali",—said a young girl softly from the long chair where she was reclining among the trees of the garden, and prepared herself to listen.

The negro slave thus began:

"In a high tower on the shore of the sea was imprisoned a lovely maiden, as fair as the sun. The sea-monster who kept her a prisoner forbade her to gaze upon the rays of the sun, or at the children of men or even to speak at all.

The beautiful made carried a heart heavy with sorrow and distress as she wandered through the gorgeously ornamented rooms. She felt that she was losing the power of speech, but there seemed to be no hope of deliverance. An army of slaves kept the young beauty prisoner; heavy chains surrounded the tower.

The maiden knew that there existed another country and another sky, but she had never been held their beauty. Only now and then in the dark of the night did the sea-monster take her down to the little garden, but in the daytime her sky was the dark vault of the tower. And so the years passed on.

* A well-known poetess, who writes under the pseudonym of Gamedgili (hermit).

IN EUROPE.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Of the news which has come in of late from Great Britain, that regarding the National Conference of Railway Employees is of particular interest. There were present at it representatives from 600,000 organized workmen of England. The Conference was presided over by Sir E. Cecil.

It was presumed that it would last for several weeks, but in actuality it lasted just four and a half hours, during which time an agreement was reached between the employers and the employees on most of the questions at issue. The chief points discussed by the conference were: the eight-hour working day and the 48-hour working week; war-increases are maintained as regular pay; for night work pay is 1½ times the day rate; 12 hour rest before returning to work; equalizing of conditions of work on all railroads; one free day at full pay once in two weeks; equal representation of the

One morning as she was working, a wonderful thing struck the girl's eye. Through the window-pane inserted in the wall high overhead the sun was glimmering, and through the broken piece of glass, no bigger than the kernel of a hazel-nut, she cried out to the sun. It was her first greeting to the sun's splendor, and likewise her first hymn of love.

The eunuch who was guarding the tower heard her heavenly voice, went cautiously up to the tower, and with a palpitating heart opened the door of the room where the beautiful prisoner was, then stood stunned with surprise, for flooded with inspiration the girl was singing the hymn of love.

The fearful suffering of the young eunuch showed itself in his face. He cried out from the pain: then moans of despair burst from his heart, and, livid with despair, he fell to the ground. The lovely maid sped to his side like a deer, cast her arms around him, and in a divine murmur whispered to him love's eternal song, but it was too late: the poor slave's soul had departed.

The enraged monster cast into the sea the lifeless body of the eunuch and with it the beautiful maid as well with such force that the waves parted and a little island appeared. On this island there sprang from the ground a round-faced flower with a broken heart—a heart full of darkness, but as golden as the sun itself, a flower in love with the sun—the sun-flower. The waves surrounded the lovely plant; they shook off some of its petals, and strewn them broadcast over the world as a deathless symbol of the longing of love.

The sun-flower soon blossomed everywhere all over the earth. It adorned

union in the administrative board of the line; abolition of piece work; payment by mileage; 120 miles of passenger traffic and 90 miles of freight traffic equals one working day; pension after 35 years service to extent of ½ of pay; nationalization of the railroads.

An interesting speech was made in the House of Commons by Lord Churchill on the question of the army. He pointed out the necessity of bringing out a new type of officer who would be up in all the fields of military knowledge. He also emphasized the importance of special preparation for the common soldier as well. For this purpose young soldiers will be recruited, and after a careful training will be sent to relieve the soldiers of the army of occupation.

Armies of this type must be maintained in the Rhine provinces of Germany, in Northern and Eastern Russia, until the fate of the latter territories are decided by the Peace Conference. Lord Churchill also touched on the part of the Indian Army in the general scheme of national defence.

every rich garden, and coupled with its name were those of the two innocent victims—that of the young eunuch and that of the imprisoned maiden. One upon an autumn evening the sun-flower bent its head as usual, curled up its petals and went peacefully to sleep. The perfidious moon all of a sudden sent forth such brilliant rays of light that the flower woke, thinking it was the sun, and, poor thing, opened its heart for very joy. The next day the glowing sun saw its heart already open, while the moon, like a thief, vanished into space.

Full of shame, the flower would not look at her beloved giver of life: it withered, wizened and fell, and the gardener cast it forth. For a long time nowhere in the world was the sun-flower to be seen. Only on the little island it blossomed as the immortal monument of undying truth. Once a powerful wave swept up to the flower, bending it so low that it touched the water. A mermaid swam towards it and buried her face in its heart, and as soon as it felt the presence of a living being, such a heavenly melody burst forth from the flower's heart that the foam-covered sea stood still to listen to it—the sun-flower was singing the hymn of love, and the mermaid learnt from it her enchanting songs.

The mountain fairy heard that voice and could not remain at peace. Changing into a butterfly, she flew to the sea-shore. The sun-flower was singing, and the siren, daughter of the waves, united her voice to its song. The fairy, hitherto always playful and always gay, felt for the first time the vanity of her past days. Like a burning arrow dragged forth from a wound, the solitary soul was freed from

GERMANY.

News received from Germany during the past week was both scanty and fragmentary. As far as the communications permit us to judge, the Spartacist movement is not increasing. New disturbances have broken out in Essen. The third revolt in Berlin was put down with extreme severity, but the government communiqués admit that full quiet has not yet been attained in the capital. Disturbances have taken place among the sailors of the commercial fleet. The central government is hastily working out a law for the socialization of coal-mines, gas-factories, electricity water-power and the largest commercial enterprises. They hope in this manner to put a stop to the growth of bolshevism.

An agreement has not yet been reached between the German Central Government and the bolsheviks in Bavaria.

Among questions of foreign policy, German public opinion has been chiefly exercised over the question of the Polish-German boundary. When rumors were being spread about the

its pain at the sound of these melodies. The mountain fairy could not endure the beauty of that song, and, melting into tears, she threw herself on the sand and sank into an eternal sleep.

The sea glided up to her like a serpent, caressed her golden hair as it lay strewn over the sand, gathered up the fay's tears, which were like unto diamonds, pressed her to its breast and surrounded her with a wall which no foe might conquer. Her tears were the first tears of the soul's loneliness and received the name of the solitary pearl. Men sought those treasures in the sea, but could cast no treasures so fair into it. The tears of lovers are no longer so frequent, and the sea is gradually losing its pearls. Today they are hard to find, o daughter of the Khan! Who knows if the pearl pin at your breast is not a heart in pain?"—said the young slave respectfully as he ceased his story.

The Khan's daughter was sobbing...

In the silence of the night the mezzin's voice pealed forth like a bell. It was summoning all true Moslems to the morning *wamaz*. On the court of the mosque the aged Khan and his courtiers were devoutly praying, but the negro slave Ali was nowhere to be seen. At this very same moment he was singing the hymn of love to the Khan's daughter, and that hymn was the most beautiful psalm spoken by the lips of Allah; it was the mysterious prayer of the gods: it was the divine greeting to the rising sun.

Elisabeth Orbeliani.

intention of the Allies to hand Dantisc over to Poland, a whole series of manifestations took place in various German cities against this. The German Government refused to allow the Polish army of General Gallor, which has been fighting with the Allies on the western front, and is now on its way home to fight against the bolsheviks, free transit through Dantisc. This decision has caused dissatisfaction in allied circles: the result of the conflict is not yet known.

AUSTRO-HUNGARY.

The communist government is continuing its activities precisely on the order of the Russian bolsheviks. Throughout the whole country the power has been handed over to the councils. In the villages the councils of peasant deputies have confiscated the castles of the magnates and the houses of the rich landholders. Their personal property has likewise been confiscated. All large commercial and industrial enterprises have been nationalized. The shops in Budapest have been ordered to term themselves, just as in Moscow, soviet shops. A decree has been passed that all articles of gold and silver over 2,000 crowns in value are to be handed over to the popular commissariats (ministry) which has to deal with questions of socialization. Payment in return for this is not made. A law has been passed concerning the socialization of houses and apartments. Each adult person cannot have more than one room. Already many thousands of workmen have been quartered in aristocratic apartments.

The hopes of the Hungarian communists that help would come from Vienna have not so far been fulfilled.

RUSSIA.

The communist council in Moscow has ended. The governing party of bolshevik Russia recognized the guiding principles of its leaders as "being the correct ones."

It must be noted, however, that the congress declared that it was necessary to come to an agreement with the peasantry and to take over into their service specialists from intelligent circles. News has been received of disturbances in Petrograd. The bolsheviks report an attempt to blow up the water-station and other buildings in that city which are of public importance.

On the bolshevik fronts stubborn fighting is going on. The advance of the bolsheviks has been checked at Rostov by the Kuban and Don Cosacks. Their advance continues in Galicia, where they have occupied Cherson, Nikolaevo, and dispersed detachments of Petlura's troops near the Galician frontier. In white Russia the German

Volunteer Army has defeated the bolsheviks near Minsk, which has been captured by them. During the last few days bolsheviks have been driven back near Windau by the combined forces of the Germans, Letts and Lithuanians. The most important successes against the bolsheviks have been gained by the armies of Admiral Kolchak, who have captured Ufa, cleared the entire Ural of bolsheviks, and are marching on Samara, thus coming in the rear of the bolshevik army operating near Orenburg. The advance of these armies has caused much alarm in bolshevik circles. A special council of war was summoned in Moscow. The bolsheviks intend to throw their main forces against Kolchak. Lenin has been entrusted by the bolshevik government with extreme powers.

In the districts which have been occupied by the Volunteer Army disorders have not ceased. News has been received regarding disturbances in Siberia. On the coast of the Black Sea the young peasants have formed partisan detachments which are operating against Denikin's forces. In the northern Caucasus serious fighting is going on between the Volunteer Army and the mountaineers. According to the last reports which have come in from the government of the Mountain Republics, the Volunteer Army has suffered two severe defeats in Daghestan and near Grozny.

GEORGIA.

The conference of the Caucasian Republics.

On the 21-st of February 1919 the Georgian Government dispatched a note to the Governments of the Republics of Aderbeijan, Armenia and the Alliance of Mountain Peoples, in which it proposed to the above-mentioned governments to send their representatives to a conference to discuss questions of general import, which demand a common decision.

The Georgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated no long since that an agreement had been reached between the different states regarding the summoning of a conference in Tiflis. The date for opening the same has been fixed on the 25-th of April. The meetings are to take place in the offices of the Ministry of Foreign affairs.

Note of the Armenian Government regarding the recognition of the independence of Georgia.

Not long since the Georgian Government sent a note to the Armenian Government, in which the latter was recognized as an independent state. In answer to this same the Ministry of Foreign Affairs received a note from

the Government of Armenia of the following purport:

"The diplomatic representative of our Government with the Georgian Government has forwarded me a note numbered 1664 from the 8-th of March inst., in which you, Mr. Minister, by the order of your Government bring to the attention of the Armenian Government that the former recognizes the republic of Armenia as an independent state.

The Armenian Government wholly shares the considerations, as a result of which the Georgian Government deemed it necessary to inform it regarding the recognition of Armenia as a free and independent state.

The Republic of Armenia, which is deeply with the consciousness of the unity of the interests and the identity of the tasks which await the republics which have been formed on the territory of the Transcaucasus in connection with a whole series of questions, which are essential for the unbroken continuance of their existence and for the security of their well-being, is happy to observe and to note in this act of the Georgian Government a proof of its solidarity with them and a recognition of the existence of mutual interests between them.

On its part the Armenian Government feels it its duty to confirm to your Government that it has considered and considers the Georgian Republic to be a free and independent state.

Signed: Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia S. Tigranian.

THE GEORGIAN HUMOUR.

The camel and the ass*).

A camel and an ass with chared backs became friends, and ran away from their master without his knowledge. They went away far from the haunts of men, found pasture on hill and dale, and grew very sleek. They forgot their leanness and their sore backs. The ass said: "Brother, I want to sing a song, thou must accompany me nicely". The camel refused, saying: "Nay, brother, dost thou not remember the sad state in which we were? If any men were in the neighbourhood and heard us roaring, they might come, take us away, and treat us worse than before". The ass would not hearken to him, and began to roar at the top of his voice. Alas! his song was too loud. It happened that near them were travellers whose camels and mules

* From the Georgian "Book of Wisdom and Lies" by Sulkhan Orbelliani (1655—1725). translation by Oliver Wardrop.

could go no further on account of fatigue; when they heard the roaring, they were glad, and said: "Let us go and see, there must be a village or a caravan; let us go and see". When they came up to the sea, a camel and an ass, both of them, any owner, they took them away, and the heavy loads on them. After travelling a long way, the ass was so tired that he could go no farther. The man took the ass and his burden and laid them on the camel. They went on, and came to a narrow road by the side of a great rocky precipice. The camel said to the ass: "I want to dance, and skip, and hop". The ass replied: "This is no place for round dances!" The camel retorted: "Dancing here will be something like your singing yonder", and thereupon he angrily stood on his hind legs, threw the ass into the rocky abyss, and killed him.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Trans-Atlantic Flight.

Vice-admiral Taylor reports that the American Naval Department has decided to organize in the immediate future a flight across the Atlantic. The British Admiralty has the same thing in hand. Europe will thus shortly be the witness of a contest between British and American airmen over the waves of the ocean which separates the two countries.

A New Airship.

In England a new gigantic airship has just been constructed. The new aerial giant will have comfortable cabins, a dining room, reading room, cabinets and a concert hall. It will be able to keep up in the air with 50 passengers for eight days.

The Tunnel under the British Channel.

As has become known, the Peace Conference has declared it essential that the three straits—the British Channel, the Bosphorus and the straits of Gibraltar should be tunnelled. Work is to be begun the first of these projects in the immediate future. In this connection negotiations are going on between England and France. Bonar Law declared in the House of Commons that in the course of 24 hours 30,000 men and 30,000 tons of baggage can be sent through it. The expense of construction is estimated at 500,000,000 dollars. After the boring of the tunnel all the world express trains will start from London, including the London-Constantinople express, and a London-Baghdad express in place of the former Hamburg-Baghdad one.

AMUSEMENTS.

OPERA HOUSE:

Monday, 7-th April—„EUGENE ONEGIN“

Tuesday, 8-th April—„TRAVIATA“

Wednesday, 9-th April—„BOCIACCO“

Thursday, 10-th April—„ABESSALOM and ETHERI“