

THE GEORGIAN MESSENGER

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The 26-th of May, 1918—
May 26, 1919.

A year ago, after the united Transcaucasus had fallen apart into its component parts, the Georgian National Council proclaimed the independence of Georgia.

This decision it made under difficult, unendingly difficult circumstances.

From five sides Turkish forces were marching on Tiflis, razing and destroying everything on their path. Over Georgia was lowering the threat of a Turkish ultimatum, which turned the whole country into a Turkish subordinate province. Within the country were still smouldering the embers of bolshevism, scattered through the Transcaucasus by the Russian army when it left the front.

And in the hearts of the Georgian democracy as well there was no place for joy on that day when its representatives summoned the people to establish their own state.

A year has passed. The 26-th of May has already become a nation's holiday—a holiday for the whole of the Georgian democracy. With the anniversary of the proclamation of independence there are inextricably fused in the conception of the minds of the Georgian democracy those ideals of freedom and justice which were brought into being in the great Russian Revolution in February 1917.

Over this matter, over this relation of the people to the 26-th of May every observer of life here in Georgia, every one who is interested in the fate of the country, must needs reflect.

It was not hatred to Russia, not enmity to their neighbors which impelled the Georgian re-

presentatives to declare their independence, but the fateful force of circumstances. The whole political situation surrounding the Georgian people took on such a form that there remained no road to salvation, save to establish their own state. Waves of Asiatic barbarism, anarchy and reaction dashed against the Georgian borders. All the forces of the people were forced to unite to withstand these hostile onslaughts, and union could be only found within the frame of an organized state.

What has the first year of independence given to the Georgian people?

The year has been a hard one. Georgia has been subjected to the assaults of the bolsheviks and the reactionaries, of the Armenians and the Turco-Tartar band. On countless fronts was shed the blood of the soldiers and of the National Guard of Georgia. And within the country as well there was not peace and quiet, for there cannot be peace and quiet in a little state which is ringed round by a food blockade, and hedged in by unquiet neighbors.

But little power of observation is needed to discover the seamy side of the present position of Georgia.

Yet none the less the 26-th of May has become a Georgian national holiday: the democracy has declared this day to be the day of its triumph. For her it is clear, that her fate would have been complete ruin and destruction, had it not been it not for the political independence, which gave her the possibility of collecting her forces to save her people. For the Georgian democracy it is clear that it was only political independence which gave her the possibility of avoiding the civil war which is devastating the North Caucasus, and the national quarrels which have drenched

with blood the eastern and southern districts of the Transcaucasus. For the Georgian democracy it is clear that it was political independence alone which enabled her to maintain the productive forces of the country unimpaired, and to keep its liberty: to pass the land-reform law, and to invest the workmen's movement in a European guise; to give the people a school in their native tongue.

If the blockade and the incursions of our enemies are the result of the independence of Georgia, the Georgian democracy takes up their challenge.

We will endure hardships, we will defend with our breasts the boundaries of our free and independent republic against all its enemies—our independence we will never give up!

At the present time as political conditions are, to give up our independence would mean a capitulation to the chaos of barbarism which surrounds, to national fanaticism, to bolshevik anarchy, to Denikin's counter-revolution. It would mean the death of the nation.

And the people who make the 26-th of May a national holiday, in spite of all their trials, are looking ahead with confidence. It knows that the time is not long when peoples near and far, great and small will comprehend its aims for freedom and peace: they will understand that its policy has been directed towards realizing the highest ideals, and will extend to it the brotherly hand of help.

The Peace Conference.

The chief event of late at the Peace Conference has been the delivery of the treaty of peace to the German de-

legation (the peace terms are printed in today's number).

The delivery of the peace terms took place with great pomp in that very same palace at Versailles, where in 1871 the treaty of peace was concluded between the at that time conquered France and victorious Germany.

In the hall before the German delegates arrived there gathered the representatives of all the countries who were at war with Germany. When the German delegates arrived, the representatives of the powers of the entente and the allied powers and peoples rose to their feet. In the name of the

German delegation Count Brockdorff-Ratzau made a speech, in which he protested against the attitude toward Germany as the sole person to blame for the war and as a „criminal“, and declared that Germany was ready to recognize all the points in Wilson's program. After this speech, Clemenceau handed to the German delegates the text of the treaty of peace.

News has been received that Count Brockdorff-Ratzau has handed into the Allied representatives a note protesting against the terms submitted to Germany, and proposing a reconsideration of some of them. Clemenceau answered in the name of all the Allies that the conditions of peace cannot be lessened. None the less the German delegation is working out its own terms, which it will submit to the Peace Conference.

The terms of the treaty of peace delivered to the German delegation by the allies at Versailles.

Germany must recognize the complete annulment of the Brest-Litovsk Treaty and of all treaties or agreements concluded by her from November 1917 on with all governments or political parties on the territory of the former Russian Empire. The allies reserve for the compensation and the alleviation of damages suffered, which are to be receiv-

ed from Germany on the basis of the present treaty. Germany cedes to the Allies her transoceanic possessions, and likewise gives up all the rights and privileges received by her according to the Algeiras and Franco-German agreements concluded with the Sheriff of Morocco. Germany recognizes the British protectorate over Egypt and throws over all treaties concluded with Egypt, both that of August 4, 1914 and all others. Germany further pledges herself not to interfere in any negotiations in this connection which Great Britain may carry on with other powers. Germany gives her consent that the rights which she received, from the Turkish sultan, which give her free of passage through the Suez Canal, are to be handed over to England.

Anglo-Egyptian goods imported into Germany will have the same privileges in Kiau-Chow, the railroads, mines and cables received by her from China by the treaty of March 6, 1908, and by other agreements regarding Sh-n-fung. All rights over the railroad from Tsing-Fu, including the working of the mines and their exploitation are likewise handed over to Japan. All government property is to be handed over at once to Japan. The military conditions presume the demobilization of the German army in the course of 2 months after the treaty is signed, as the first step towards a general disarmament. All camps and military institutions on German territory are to be razed, and volunteer recruiting is to become the legal form. The total number of the German army is fixed at 100,000 men, not more than 4,000 officers. The German troops are to keep order among the peoples and to guard the frontiers. The chief commanding officers must occupy themselves with administrative work. Germany is not to be allowed to have a General Staff. The civil personnel of the War Ministry is to be reduced to one-tenth of the number which existed in 1913. The manufacture of munitions of war, cannon and other materials is to be reduced to that amount which is considered to be necessary for the quantity of troops mentioned. All armament in excess of this is to be handed over to the Allies. There is to be no more manufacture or import of poison gas, inflammatory liquids, tanks, and armored automobiles. The Germans are obliged to submit to the Allies at the latter's request the names and location of such factories, as well as the price of their equipment. Germany is forbidden to manufacture and to sell to other states munitions of war. Germany is not to build or to maintain any fortifications on territory less than 50 kilometers east of the Rhine, and temporary or regular troops are not to be maintained in this district. Fortresses should be dismantled within three months. According to the naval conditions within the space of two months, the German naval forces are not to exceed 6 ships of the type of the „Deutschland“ or the „Lotharingen“,

6 light cruisers, 12 destroyers and torpedo boats; in this quantity are included those which are being constructed to replace those which have been lost. Submarines are not to be constructed, and all other ships of war are to be placed in reserve or put to other uses. At the end of 3 months, the total number of sailors, including officers, shall not exceed 15,500. All German warships, interned in allied or in neutral ports, must be surrendered. In the course of 2 months the fixed number of ships of war, enumerated in the treaty and standing at present in German ports, are to be likewise conducted to Allied ports. The German Government is to take upon itself the destruction of all ships of war which are at present in process of construction. Auxiliary cruisers are to be disarmed and to be turned into commercial vessels. In the course of a month all German submarines, salvage vessels and docks for submarines, which are able to sail under steam or to be towed, are to be brought to Allied ports. Those which remain and are under construction, must be destroyed by Germany in the course of 3 months.

(To be continued).

The French and English press on the peace terms.

„The Pall Mall Gazette“ says that the chief advantage which has been attained by the treaty is that all Europe is now freed from the threat of the mailed fist, which has been so long oppressing all. In the course of two generations international politics have been dependent upon the insolent, cynical and cruel might located in Berlin. These clouds are scattered, thanks to the reduction of Germany's military strength to such an extent as to make a new attack on her part impossible. If the conditions of the treaty will be observed by all the states, and if they shall strive to realize the idea of the league of peoples, this danger will pass by. Until this project reaches a certain stage of development, which will bring about more confidence in the alliance which England, France and America are planning to put through, they give a guarantee that any resurrection of Teutonic barbarism will meet with a threatening and unshakable repulse.

„Le Petit Journal“ writes: „In a word, if the peace treaty does not assure all the compensations to those who are interested, none the less they have the right to consider that it is a printed compromise, and should therefore be thankfully accepted“.

„Le Temps“ says: „Clemenceau, who never lost hope that victory would be on our side, was sufficiently clever enough to find a way out of all the difficulties which arose after the victory, and to insist on those very

conditions which were necessary to assure the peace of France, and to bring them into being, which is deserving of the highest praise. Pichon, who came to his aid with without the slightest thought of self-interest, was appointed president *pro tem* of the Executive Council of the League of Nations at the first session which took place in Paris for the organization of the League. André helped out the cause of peace with his customary penetration, will-power and capacity for work. France will not forget their services“.

The long list of peace terms almost filled the pages of the papers on Thursday morning, but nevertheless many journals published a commentary, expressing full satisfaction at them. Some of the papers exhibited reserve in dealing with one point or another, but all were of the opinion that the peace treaty was entirely satisfactory, and that by it there has been laid the foundation of the rights which have been trampled in the dust. Even the „ECHO de Paris“, which has always adopted a critical attitude towards the Peace Conference, ends its editorial as follows: „We must not undervalue the treaty, though we should have preferred that its value should have been even greater. We must work loyally with our English and American friends“.

IN EUROPE.

GERMANY.

Internal affairs in Germany have been signalized by a new series of disorder. A revolt broke out in Düsseldorf, and the general strikes in Hamburg and Bremen have not ceased.

As has now become known, when Munich was taken by the government troops, both parties displayed the most extreme ferocity. The Spartacists shot all the hostages which had been taken among the propertied and the intelligent classes. The Government troops slaughtered without a trial all communists who fell into their hands when they captured the city. The Spartacist meeting on the borders of the city which was surrounded by Government troops met their end in this manner.

The German press and German public opinion are exceedingly agitated by the peace terms. All the papers have come out violently against them. The majority of the organs of the press declare that the German delegation should not sign them.

BELGIUM.

Belgian public opinion has been exercised over the question of the reimbursement of the losses suffered

by Germany during the war and over the readjust of the Belgian-Dutch frontier. The last question has become so acute, that certain circles in Belgium demanded that Belgium should refuse to sign the treaty of peace.

At the present time it has become known that the Peace Conference has decided to satisfy the Belgian claims first of all. The first payments made on the contribution which Germany is to be forced to pay will be turned over to Belgium. It is considered that these payments will amount to two billion francs. Further the frontier districts of the latter which passed over to Holland in 1831 will be handed over to Belgium.

At a special session of both chambers of the Belgian Parliament both of the above decisions of the Allies were announced to the representatives of the Belgian people by the prime minister.

At the present time there has left Belgium for Paris a specially empowered delegation to sign the peace treaty, which was present when the latter was delivered to the German delegates.

SPAIN.

The autonomist movement in Catalonia has ended with the victory of the autonomists. From now on, Catalonia will have its own parliament. The power of the king of Spain over Catalonia is not recognized. The Catalan Parliament recognizes merely the Spanish Cortes (Parliament) as the supreme power, but those decisions of the Cortes which touch Catalonian interests must be submitted to the Catalonian Parliament for confirmation.

RUSSIA.

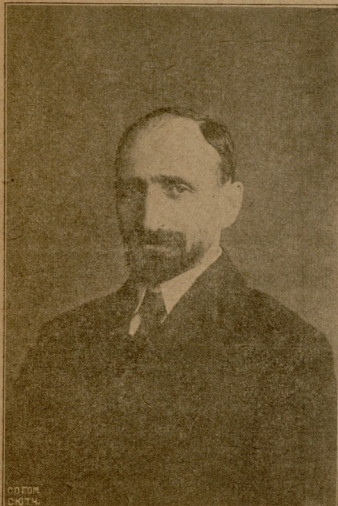
During the last few days the situation in Russia has changed but slightly. The bolshevik forces have pressed back Kolchak's forces near Samara, and beaten off the first onset of the Finnish troops on the Government of Olonets. None the less the bolshevik forces are in a difficult position. Kolchak's army has taken Orenburg, and has joined hands with the Uralsk and Orenburg Cossacks, thus cutting off the Turkestan bolshevik army from their forces in Central Russia. In the Murman district the united Kolchak-English forces have inflicted a heavy defeat on their opponents. Iudienich's army has not stopped its advance on Petrograd. In the Ukraine the united Polish-Ukraine-Rumanian forces are operating with vigor and success.

Governing circles in soviet Russia are displaying great anxiety. The difficult situation of the bolshevik armies is emphasized in their proclamations.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GEORGIAN REPUBLIC.



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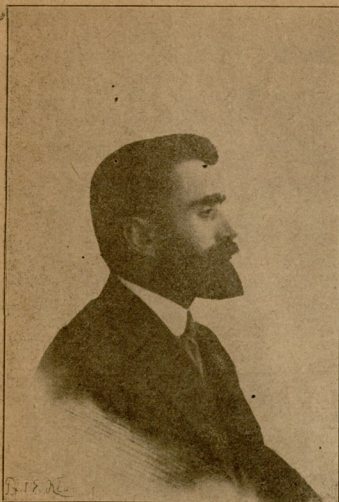
Noah Ramishvili,
Minister of War, Internal Affairs and of
Public education.



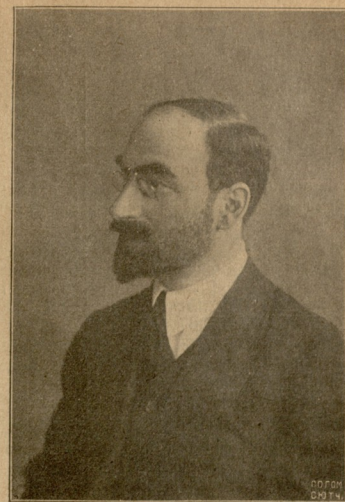
Eugene Gegetchkori,
Minister of Foreign Affairs and of Justice.



Noah Zhordania,
Minister President and Chief Representative
of the Republic.



Noah Khomeriki,
Minister of Agriculture, Labor and ways of
Communication.



Con. Kandelaki,
Minister of Finance, Commerce and Industry.

GEORGIA.

The arrival of the Italians in Georgia

More than anything else Georgian public opinion has been occupied with the coming of the Italians representatives to our country. Regarding this circumstance the Georgian Government was informed in the following manner.

On Saturday May 10, the Minister President received a letter from General Thomson to the effect that the troops of Great Britain were quitting the Caucasus and were to be replaced by Italian forces. Further General Thomson stated that he was going on leave to England, and that his place would be taken by General Corcy.

Later on there arrived in Tiflis the Italian Mission headed by Col. Gabba and accompanied by officers of the Italian army. With the mission came the young Prince of Savoy. The mission was met at the station by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, E. P. Gegechkori, the vice-minister, K. G. Sabakhtarashvili, the vice-minister of War, Gen. Gedevanov, and the Mayor of Tiflis, V. G. Chkhikvishvili. Representatives of the British Mission likewise met them. The Polish diplomatic representatives and the members of the Italian colony were also present. On the platform was drawn up a guard of honor with a band. Col. Gabba and the Prince of Savoy reviewed the guard.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, E. P. Gegechkori, greeted the mission, for which he was thanked by Col. Gabba.

Immediately after their arrival the members of the mission called upon the first vice-speaker of the Constitutional Assembly A. S. Lomtadize, in conversation with whom they declared their intention of visiting one of the coming sessions of the Assembly.

On the 16-th of May a rout was given in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to which were invited the representatives of all the foreign missions at present in Tiflis. 85 covers were laid. The first address was made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, E. P. Gegechkori, who made the following speech in French: „Gentlemen, allow me in the name of our little Georgia to greet the representatives of all the states and peoples who have gathered together here. I express the profound hope that according to the legal principle that each people has a right to manage its own affairs, that the strivings of the peoples of the Caucasus each to found its own independent state, will find the true sympathy of all the European nations. Yes, I hope as well that we shall be able to realize our sacred ideal, thanks to the united efforts of the peoples of the Caucasus,—that is to have as close a union as possible with Europe and to partake of her culture and advanced civilization. Long live the great nations, whose representatives are our honor-

ed guests here. Further speeches were made by the head of the Italian Mission Col. Gabba, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs for Armenia S. Tigranian, and for Aderbeijan M. J. U. Jafarov, by the member of the Constitutional Assembly Kedia and others. The banquet was a very lively one and broke up at 3 A. M.

On the 18-th of May at 11 A. M. the members of the Italian colony in Tiflis were invited to come and meet Col. Gabba at the latter's request. In the flat of Count Valleri on the Korganovskaya almost 100 men met. After mutual greetings, Gen. Gabba in a short speech with satisfaction and thanks noted the good and kindly feelings entertained by the Georgians toward the resident Italians. He contributed 6000 rubles to the Italian Charitable Society, and further stated that he had ordered a suitable house to be looked up for the establishment of a free clinic to treat and to give free medicines to those who were in need of them.

Georgian public opinion has been much pleased by the statements made by Captain Trafarei of the Italian Mission to the representatives of the Baku press. Incidentally he said: „The mission feels the heartiest sympathy towards the desire of the Transcaucasus for independence. How could the Italian people do otherwise, who have given to the country such a patriot as Giribaldi and his defender the philosopher Mazzini, which in ancient times had given to the world the fundamental principles of law, and which was the first some twenty years back to abolish capital punishment“.

Report of the staff of the Akhaltsikh Detachment.

The Turcoman population of the Ardagan district has sent a request to the commander of the Georgian forces asking for defence and expressing their loyalty.

It is interesting to note that in this document, which is likely to be historic, the population itself points out that hitherto nobody has troubled themselves about them, and that only now is there a chance open to them to raise their level of culture through connection with Georgia. In spite of the ceaseless agitation of Turkish agents, they have remained faithful to Georgia, and were attacked for this by the Potskhovians under the leadership of Akhmed-beg Daguri. As a result of this they suffered serious losses. The Mahometans did all in their power to bring them over on their side by force and by flattery, but the Turcomans maintained their Georgian orientation unshakably, and when necessary, gave the enemy an armed repulse. They declare that they are tired of the disorder of their life: „Our motto is „Labor is sacred“: we want to live peacefully and quietly: we have borne too much, and

are tired of suffering. Come, protect and defend the Turcoman population, which has remained faithful to Georgia“.

TO MY COUNTRY.

By Westmore Wilcox Jr.

„Before the eyes of all the world
My loyalty I proudly swear.
Where shields are pierced and lances
hurled,
I take my place with you to dare,
Though banners flaunt or low are furled
Your fate I share.

A fealty too high for fear,
That gathers honor being known,
Amid the press I draw me near,
Proclaim thy title for my own,
And though your claim be not proved
clear—
Your feet my throne.

So trusting, I may make them trust,
So worshipping, may make them
pause,
So drawing where their swords long rust,
Compel a people to your laws.
Until I am but dust of dust,
Your cause my cause“.

(From V. C. Sviimonishvili's „Scrap-Book“).

THE GEORGIAN HUMOUR.

The Caliph of Bagdad and the Arab*.

A certain caliph of Bagdad knew a great deal about horses, and paid high prices for good beasts. This fact was well known. Once an Arab came to him with a horse, for which he asked two thousand marchilis. The caliph immediately ordered the money to be given to him. The Arab said: „Wrap it up in a cloth, so that I can carry it away“. When they had wrapped it up and given it to him, the Arab swiftly threw the silver on the horse's

*) From the Georgian „Book of Wisdom and Lies“ by Sulikhan Orbeliani (1655—1725). translation by Oliver Wardrop.

back, mounted and galloped away. All the caliph's army pursued him on excellent horses, but they could find no trace of him, and returned sorrowful. On the third day the Arab rode up on the same horse. They asked him: „Why dost thou behave in that way?“ He answered: „I travel far from here, I had no beast of burden with me, the silver was too heavy for me to carry, so I rode away with it, and now I bring you back the horse“. Then they said: „Who could overtake thee? Who would have known thee? Why dost thou brought back the horse?“ He smiled at the idea of not keeping his word, and said: „If I had thus rewarded a good action, what would God have done to me?“.

The pot of oil.

A poor man was walking along the road when he found a pot full of oil. He picked it up, put his stick through the handle, slung it over his shoulder, and went on, saying in his heart: „The Lord has been pleased to enrich me! I shall go into town and sell this oil for half a marchili. With the money I shall buy a dozen chickens, take them home, feed them, and, when they are fat, sell them for an abazi apiece. With the proceeds I shall buy little pigs, bring them up, and sell them, as ungelded boars, for two marchilis apiece. Then I shall buy calves, they will grow to be bullocks; I shall plough, and sow, and become rich. He fancied that all this had taken place, and that he was taking firewood in his cart, to sell in the town. When he came to the bridge, he thought: „The bullock cannot cross this bridge, I will stop him“. He cried out for this purpose, and brandished his stick; the pot of oil fell on the bridge, and was broken to pieces. His imagined wealth was gone in a moment.

„Thou too, in thine imagination, speakest much and gainest great wealth, but thou hast planned a thing which God grant thou mayest never fulfil, and may it bring thee to ruin!“

ENGLISH RESTAURANT IN VAKAY

(You go by Tzketnet street, in the direction of the English hospital).

On **Saturday**, May 24-th the orchestra will play from 6 O'C. p. m., and on **Sunday**, May 25-th from 3 o'e. p. m. will play the orchestra and military band as well.

English Restaurant.

3-1

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