

THE GEORGIAN MAIL

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GEORGIAN PRESS AND BATUM QUESTION.

"DEMOCRACY'S STRUGGLE"

"Borba" in its leading article deals with the Batoum question:

"The question of Batoum is solved temporarily until the Russian question be solved. But this temporary formula underlines only the capital contradiction, capital abnormality of the resolution of the Allies—the question of Batoum is solved without its masters. Really, what connection exists between the question of Batoum and the Russian one? Is it possible to speak of the including of this region in Russia? Is it not clear that Batoum can have importance for Russia only if the independent Trans-Caucasian Republics recognised by Europe be abolished?"

The article says further that this seems only to be a reason for delay. But who wants this delay? It is ruinous both from the point of view of the Georgian and Trans-Caucasian interests and from the point of view of the Allies.

"As long as Batoum is separated from Georgia it is the arena of activity for international ravishers robbing not only Trans-Caucasia but also at the same time Europe, which would like to avail itself of the natural riches of the Caucasus and establish immediate economical connections with it. As long as Batoum is not joined to Georgia it will still be an arena of intrigues of all kinds directed against order and peace in the whole of Trans-Caucasia giving the possibility to Young Turks, Bolsheviks and others to catch fish in the turbid waters of anarchy but at the same time ruining the normal activity of European forces in Trans-Caucasia. This resolution is received by Georgia as a painful blow. Her conscience, her honour, her vital interests, her sacred cultural-national traditions cannot acknowledge this.

"The Georgian democracy appeals to the world's democracy. And in its appeal it does not take up the pose of a poor relative asking for a favour. It appeals to the world's democracy because the Batoum question has passed the limits of a Georgian and Trans-Caucasian question.

The democratic principles are to be thus realised in Trans-Caucasia. The struggle of Georgia for Batoum is a struggle for the principle of self-definition of nations against the imperial-

istic principle of ignoring the will of the people. The struggle for Batoum is a struggle for democratic order in the region against leaders and creators of anarchy, a struggle for the interests of the world's democracy within the limits of Trans-Caucasia.

"We are sure that the world's democracy will support us. We believe, we know, that the world's democracy will understand this struggle as its own, and will value it as its own affair!"

"PROPERTY WITHOUT A MASTER"

(From "Vozrojdenie").

Referring to the demonstration of Tiflis professional unions in connection with the Batoum question the writer approves of it affirming that generally all the "high decrees" arriving from the far European states, which aspire to govern despotically the Eastern nations, were always met by hot criticism.

The question of Batoum had to be settled on the spot by way of negotiations with the Georgian government and in agreement with public opinion.

And the Allied partial decree simply complicates further the already embroiled conditions of Batoum. "If now, under the English dominion, Batoum is but a property without a master, a free arena for propaganda, intrigues and plots, a home of the worst speculation, what will it become when the representatives of French and Italian authority also begin to manage it?"

The writer then depicts a horrible picture of anarchy and disorders which may result from this, remarking that generally there is nothing sadder than the fate of one placed under the control of several states simultaneously, so that Batoum itself will be frightened and will ask for a sole near authority. But the Allied decision which instead of closing the question of Batoum opens it, cannot remain long in force as it is in contradiction to the normal vital demands, to the natural political and economical development of the population of the whole of Trans-Caucasia.

These "multi-authorities", these "Powers' controls" have never yet led to any boon. And the present dark atmosphere of Batoum is but more sabbled by the latest Allied decision.

"LIFE OR DEATH?"

"Ertoba", in a leading article, writes: "Among the states founded in the Near East we boldly say that Georgia has the most vital force and has the greatest right for existence.

"We do not think that our neighbours will be offended if we state that Georgia has always been the political tone-giver to the Trans-Caucasus after her actual separation from Russia.

"And it is evident and clear to everybody how Georgia gave tone to the policy of the Trans-Caucasus. That was the tone of orientation of aspiring towards Europe and of having intimate ties with Europe.

"Today, when History is, once more, putting strongly before us the question of centuries—'Europe or Asia?': when in the East a terrible Bolshevik-Pan-Islamist Union is trying to organise against Europe; when the possibility of this union is already terrifying the leaders of Great Britain: at such a moment the head of the Georgian Government in his solemn speech decisively declared to the world the resolute word of the Georgian Government, that is—'We prefer European Imperialism to Asiatic fanaticism'.

"By such a political route was Georgia led by her leaders from the very beginning. On the same political line the whole of the Trans-Caucasus, through the Georgian influence, was standing.

"Up to the present time, among European Powers, Great Britain has the nearest relations with Georgia. Our Republic is looking with hope to that mighty state. The Georgian government may rightly be called 'The Government of friendship with England'.

"But at present such a moment is coming when this resolute and distinct political line may be exposed to danger, and when the steady sympathies of the people may be wavering. And should this misfortune happen—the only cause of it will be Batoum. For only those who can return to our people Batoum—the necessary condition of its life—will be blamed and those who are delaying this realisation.

"Batoum or without Batoum? This question is the equivalent of 'Life or death'.

"The returning of Batoum means life to our Republic but non-returning means death to her. These are not

only pretty words, but a firm fact which all should count on. And the Power on which depends the settlement of the Batoum question must definitely answer the Georgian People whether it wishes life or death for Georgia".

MARCH 19.

Georgian Proletariat's Appeal.

"To the population of Tiflis".

"Today the proletariat of the Georgian capital goes out in the street, presents its question to the government and the Constituent Assembly of the country.

"As at the time of the Great French Revolution the proletariat of the outskirts of Paris presented its question at the gate of the Convent, today our proletariat presents its question at the walls of the Constituent Assembly.

"But not discontent of proletarian masses with the policy of their government is stated in this 'question': pain and chagrin of the workmen army of Tiflis with regard to the 'temporary' solution of the fate of Batoum is in it: pain and chagrin of the whole country, for which the actual solution of this question is a blow to its sacred hopes, its vital interests.

"The proletariat of the Georgian capital goes out today in the street under a standard common for all. It demonstrates the pain of the whole of Georgia to struggle for the just final solution of the question of Batoum.

"Let the voice of the Tiflis population join the voice of the proletariat.

"Let the initiative of proletarian masses meet a warm and unanimous support of all those who value the interests both of the country and democracy, who cannot acknowledge the resolution of the Supreme Council.

"This day must be the day of a general demonstration, the day of the expression of the general will, the day of unanimous defence of the people's claims.

"Today Tiflis must be united by one idea and one will, as the whole of Georgia is united by this.

"All into the street! All to the Constituent Assembly!"

EDITORIAL.

Batoum.

The question of Batoum occupies the chief place in the Georgian newspapers. In the Georgian Parliament and in Georgian political circles Batoum is the chief subject of discussion. Georgia considers that the decision of the Supreme Council regarding making Batoum a *porto franco* is a violation of her rights and already several demonstrations have been made by way of protest. On March 19 the Tiflis workmen organised a great procession. Meetings were held in several parts of the town and resolutions were passed setting forth the reasons why Batoum should be joined to Georgia. It is not for us to argue against the findings of the Supreme Council. We publish, however, extracts from the Tiflis newspapers from which one can learn the feelings of Georgia on the matter. Further, we would point out specially the word "temporarily" in Mr. Wardrop's note to the Foreign Minister. "The town of Batoum", says Mr. Wardrop, "will be temporarily occupied by British, French and Italian troops". So that the future status of Batoum is not yet fixed. Georgia need have no fears: her case will be carefully considered by the Great Powers. Finally, we might add that in these days of disquiet, with the Bolsheviks coming perilously near to Trans-Caucasia, it is not a little comforting to know that Allied forces are in Batoum and that there are Allied battle-ships in the Black Sea.

Disquietening Rumours.

We are by no means pessimistic, but we confess that the rumours that are circulating at present are just a little disturbing. The horizon is a little clouded. The present moment is a difficult one. The Volunteer Army seems to have ceased to exist. Novorossisk has fallen: so has Vladikavkaz. We read of Green Armies and Rose Armies.... The future of the North Caucasus is uncertain. Georgia need not be unnecessarily alarmed. There is only one thing for her to do—Georgia must remain true to herself.

Arrests of Communists.

The enemy at the gate may be bad, but the more dangerous enemy is he is in one's own house. Only a day or two ago the Military Revolutionary Committee of the Communist party was arrested in Tiflis. The leader of this committee, an officer nam-

ed Mkrtychiantz, was among the arrested men. The news is still scanty, but we are informed that a series of important documents was found. From Baku we hear that on March 19 many arrests were made by the Azerbaidjan police. At ten o'clock in the evening the police surrounded the Workers' Central Club where they arrested forty members before closing the premises. The police also closed the Council of Professional Unions, the Railwaymen's Union and the Workers' Club. They were determined to deal very sternly with the enemy within the gates.

Bairam.

We have written that the presence of Allied forces in Batoum is comforting in these days. A spectacle that we witnessed in Baku was also very pleasing. On Sunday, March 21, on the Muslim festival of Bairam, a great parade of Azerbaidjan troops took place in Baku. The parade was inspected by President Unsubekov who was accompanied by General Mekhmandarov, the War Minister, and many other members of the Cabinet and members of Parliament. Sincerely, the parade was a revelation as to what can be done in a very short time. The Azerbaidjan army has got into shape, and a remarkably good shape, too. The men were all well disciplined: they all marched or rode in excellent order; and they were all very keen. The enthusiasm of the great crowds of people who assembled to watch the parade increased one's optimism as to the future.

The Volunteer Army.

The Volunteer Army, say the reports, has ceased to exist. With its final passing a new stage is marked on the road that Russia is travelling painfully today. It is as yet a little early to write an epitaph on the Volunteers. One does not know the whole truth as yet. It is for history to pronounce its judgment on what was either an expedition of great heroism—or a colossal blunder. Denikin was no great general: his faults are only too well known. But he had the saving grace of patriotism—and, for this alone, he was a better man than most of the Russian officers who fled from their own country in her hour of peril.

S. L.

MR. GEGETCHKORI'S NOTE.

Mr. Gegetchkori has sent the following note to the British High Commissioner, and to the representatives of Italy and France in Tiflis:

"Tiflis, March 18. Your Excellency. In your letter of February 29 you advised me that by the decision of the Supreme Council, the town of Batoum is temporarily occupied by the British, French and Italian troops. The Italian representative writes in his letter of March 9 that the London Conference has decided to make Batoum a *porto franco*, with a small territorial zone under the protection of the League of Nations, and that France, England and Italy will each send there, as guarantee, an infantry battalion. The representative of the French Mission informs me that, following the decision of the Supreme Council, the port of Batoum is proclaimed a free port, and the town and its small zone will form a small state under the protection of the League of Nations and will be occupied by an international detachment consisting of three battalions, British, French and Italian.

"In spite of the contradictions of these three communications, it is clear that by that decision Batoum must be separated from Georgia. We have several times had occasion to explain to Your Excellency the meaning of Batoum for Georgia. There is no doubt that Batoum is wholly a Georgian town, that it cannot exist without Georgia, and that its separation from Georgia will be contrary to the will of the Georgian nation and the inhabitants of the town of Batoum, who, in numerous meetings held at different times, have expressed their fidelity to Georgia. Inasmuch as the carrying into effect of the above decision of the Supreme Council will destroy the vital interests of Georgia, I wish to voice an energetic protest on the occasion of such a settlement of Batoum's fate and have the honour to declare that neither the Georgian nation nor the inhabitants of the town of Batoum will accept the separation of Batoum from Georgia".

Colonel Gabba's Reply.

On March 19 Mr. Gegetchkori received the following note from the Italian representative:

"I have just received your note (No. 2222) dated March 18, and will today telegraph its contents to the Italian Government. Yesterday, on my return from Batoum, I sent by wireless to my government a report of the sentiment of the Georgian nation on the decision of the Supreme Council, and in

conclusion I pointed out the urgent necessity for publication in full of the decision regarding the fate not only of Batoum but also of the whole Batoum province. I take this occasion once more to state to you my personal opinion, well known to my government, that the whole of Batoum must be handed over to Georgia with a guarantee for a corresponding time of special administration for use of the port by all nations interested in this, and above all by the three Transcaucasian nations. I deem it my duty to add that the present decision must be considered very advantageous even for Georgia, in view of the special situation of the ports of Poti and Batoum, and the Bolshevik occupation of the Northern borders of the Black Sea, an occupation which will probably soon extend also to Novorossisk and Tuapse.

"I have read again the statement of M. de Nonancourt and find that there is nothing in it which contradicts my communications of March 9. In the text of Mr. Wardrop's communication I notice the word 'temporary' which shows, in my opinion, that the decision is provisional. Regarding that point I shall interrogate my Government".

(We regret that lack of space prevents the publication of Gegetchkori's speech regarding Batoum in this number. It will appear in full next week. Ed.)

POLISH MISSION TO GEORGIA.

Note to Gegetchkori.

Tiflis, March 24. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Gegetchkori, received the following note from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Poland:

"Sir, I have the honour to communicate to you that the Polish government is ready to recognise the Georgian government as an independent organisation *de facto* until the Peace Conference acknowledges a *statute* for Georgia according to the will of nations. The Polish government steadily hopes that both the common interests of these two countries and the mutual sympathies will establish in the immediate future friendly agreement between Georgia and Poland.

"With this object the Polish government would gladly receive in Warsaw the Georgian representative. Wishing to prove their sympathy, the Polish government have just appointed a special mission, with Minister Titi Filipovitch at the head, which will shortly leave for Tiflis in order to form friendly connections.

"I request you to receive kindly the above mission.

"The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Patek."

THE GEORGIAN PROLETARIAT.

Address to the international bureau of professional unions.

The Executive Committee of the Georgian professional unions addressed to the international bureau of professional unions the following calling up notice:

*Comrades! Representatives of the workmen of all countries.

*The Georgian detachment of the workmen International addresses you calling you up to support it in its struggle against the violences done by the governments of the Great Powers regarding the young democratic Georgian Republic.

"The Key of Georgia".

*After the Turkish troops were banished from Trans-Caucasia the British military authorities occupied the Georgian Batoum region, including the town and port, and owing to them it remains up to now under conditions of military occupation. The population of this region which consists nearly exclusively of Georgian Mussulmans has unanimously and decidedly declared to all the Powers of the Entente through its elected representatives that the joining to the democratic Georgian Republic alone can secure for it the possibility of free development and peaceful life. At the recent elections in the municipality of the town of Batoum the great majority of the population steadily voted in favour of the including of Batoum in our Republic in spite of the fact that the local administration, hostile to Georgia, strove in every way to oppress and alter the free expression of the will of the people. The governments of the Entente proclaiming verbally the right of the people for self-definition do not wish to hear the claims of the population of Batoum and the unanimous will of the Georgian people. At the London Conference on February 24 the resolution was adopted to create from the small town of Batoum and its outskirts a separate alleged independent state and to continue the occupation both of town and region by Allied troops. It is easy to understand that this toy-state is created with the sole object of holding in their power the best Georgian port and through it to dominate practically our Republic. Because the person who is the master of Batoum possesses the key of Georgia. Without Batoum connecting Georgia with the foremost nations in the West our country cannot develop freely. Batoum is one of the most prosperous cities in Georgia: Batoum is the source of culture and the lever of its economic development; Batoum is the cradle of our workmen's movement. In Batoum the Georgian proletariat has been born. In Batoum the first slogan of Georgian workmen resounded against the autocracy of the Tsar: in Batoum the blood of the Georgian workmen has been shed for

the first time in an open struggle against the Tsar's oppressors. Batoum was the van-guard of the revolutionary proletarian Georgia. And this is not a hazard: because the voice of the struggling proletariat resounds louder where swarms actual life, economic and cultural, where the most vital interests of the country are concentrated. Batoum is connected with the Georgian people by a live nerve of economic, cultural and national ties and most glorious traditions of revolutionary struggle and the Allied governments have decided to cut this live nerve.

"Debauchery of Speculation".

*Remaining in the hands of the occupational authorities, Batoum is already transformed into a free arena for international speculation causing both a dreadful expensiveness of living within the limits of our Republic and a sharp crisis regarding victuals. In the inner Batoum the debauchery of speculation has created such an intolerable position that last January the population, giving itself up to despair, started to break the shops and public institutions.

*The occupational authorities are not capable of organising the administration owing to their having no connection with the town population and not knowing its needs. They have established the power of old officials of the Tsar, hated by the population which is hated by them. This administration has directed its whole energy for the purpose of shuffling fraudulently the opinion of the population by threats and repressions to compel it to turn away from Georgia and to prevent at any cost the joining to it of its inseparable part. The agents of Turkish imperialists who support the decision of the London Conference to create an independent state around Batoum are working side by side with Russian reactionary officials. They understand very well that if the Batoum region will not be joined to Georgia, Turkish imperialism actually accumulating its forces will have the possibility at a favourable moment to take hold of this Georgian province. The troops of the Young Turk imperialists have gathered already at the frontier of the Batoum region and await only a favourable moment in order to enter it. The population of the region suffering from all these intrigues, deprived of victuals, oppressed by a hated administration, addressed through its representatives the Georgian Republic a request to occupy the Batoum region and stop its sufferings. But the work of Russian reactionaries and Turkish adventurers hostile to the Georgian Republic is carried on in the Batoum region to the knowledge and provided with the blessing of the occupational authorities.

"Democratic State Order".

*Comrades! The Democratic Georgian Republic is created by the blood

and struggle of the working class of Georgia. The story of its existence for two years is the story of the struggle of the workmen and peasants' democracy for freedom and the arrangement of their state based on a full ruling of the people. During this period, in conditions of continual armed struggle, we were clever enough to create a state-order, the most democratic in the world; we carried out an agrarian reform, re-established a wide workmen's legislation, created decentralised democratic organs of administration. We are applying on a wide scale the principle of state interference in the economic life. We organise state, communal and cooperative enterprises. In this way we are in our country clearing the way for the great ideal of the working class—socialism. But all our efforts will prove to be vain if the natural way to Europe be closed for us and if we be cut off from our port—Batoum.

*The domination of Turkish imperialism in Batoum will destine us to slavery. The creation of Batoum into a 'toy independent state', the masters of which will be practically the Great Powers, will make us the slaves of foreign speculation, lead to a gradual economical suffocation of our land, extract out of it all vital juice and destine the Georgian democracy to gradual degeneration.

"Our Red Batoum".

*Comrades! We will never reconcile ourselves to the separation from us of the Red Workmen's Batoum, the cradle of the workmen's movement in Georgia. We will carry on a decisive struggle for the joining of Batoum and its region to our Republic. And we believe firmly, comrades, that in this struggle we will find decisive support on your part. We believe, comrades, that the workmen of Great Britain, France and Italy will participate in our defence. We believe that the whole of the workmen's 'International' will raise its voice in favour of our lawful demand and will not allow the imperialistic governments to suffocate the small democracy at the frontier of Europe and Asia, building its life conforming to the will of the international proletariat.

*You will demand with us that our pride, our red Batoum, should not be taken away from us in order to please the international speculation.

*The assistant of the president of the Executive Committee of the workmen of professional unions of Georgia, Kheladze.

Secretary Abdushelishvili".

Clemenceau to Visit Athens.

An Athens message says that M. Clemenceau will go to Athens on his return voyage from Egypt and that an enthusiastic reception is being prepared for him.

GEORGIA AND KUBAN

The Establishment of Economical Connections.

According to the communication of Drobishev, the representative of the Kuban to the Trans-Caucasian governments, an agreement has been concluded between the Kuban government and the economic representative of Georgia, Vatcheishvili. The Kuban government will deliver to Georgia 2,000,000 poods of wheat in exchange for Georgian goods. Drobishev says that the stores of corn in Kuban are immense. In spite of the hard conditions at the front the Kuban government will take all measures to load the corn on ships. The first amount will soon arrive in Poti.

Paying off the U. S.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Chancellor of the Exchequer, stated in the House of Commons that the Government has no intention of borrowing outside the United Kingdom any portion of the £50,000,000 required for the British share of the loan from America, which has to be paid off. "We shall employ resources already available in the United States and as far as these are not sufficient we shall ship goods. We have begun by buying Anglo-French bonds in the United States at a considerable discount below par".

Ex-Kaiser's Cousin Arrested.

Prince Joachim, cousin of the ex-Kaiser, and Captain Von Platen are under arrest as a result of the attack on members of the French Commission in the Hotel Adlon, who refused to stand up to the playing of *Deutschland Uber Alles*. It was said by witnesses that the crowd was led by the two officers under arrest. The waiters interfered to try to save the Frenchmen and later refused to wait on the Prince, threatening to strike instead.

The Government has issued a proclamation, signed by the President, condemning the attacks on Entente missions and declaring that the greatest rigour will be exercised in punishing those guilty.

Members of the Allied Military Commission at Breslau were attacked by a mob but were saved from injury by the intervention of the police.

Journalists on the Russian Inquiry Mission.

In the Supreme Council's deliberations on sending a mission of inquiry to Soviet Russia, Mr. Lloyd George strongly insisted that the mission should be accompanied by journalists, and it appears that in spite of contrary views this project was decided upon.

THE SOVIET EXPERIMENT.

Lord R. Cecil Says: "Hold Off and Watch".

The French paper *Opinion* publishes a statement by Lord Robert Cecil on the Russian question. He holds that it is necessary to leave the Bolsheviks alone and watch what they will do. There is no reason to fear Bolshevik propaganda in the west. Neither the British nor French peoples will allow themselves to be duped by impracticable systems.

Lord Robert Cecil concluded by expressing his confidence in the League of Nations. He says it must exist and must be a reality. It is unfortunately weakened by the absence from it at present of the U.S., but in spite of that it constitutes the surest guarantee of peace which can exist. It is the task of the nations to say what will be the result of the experiment. If it fails, then European civilisation will perish and we shall have committed suicide.

Poland's Opinion.

The Polish Press comments as follows on the lifting of the blockade of Soviet Russia. "The Bolsheviks consider the lifting of the blockade as a great victory. To get the goods they want they will have to make exchanges, but Russian industry does not exist any longer. The workers are lazy and greedy, and waste time on politics, and the country has become unproductive. After two years of experiment the Bolsheviks are suppressing the workmen's councils in the factories, pretending that they are useless. But this is not putting industry on its feet again".

Another paper thinks that it is an illusion to believe that the opening of the Russian market will provide raw materials and diminish the cost of living in Europe. It believes that on the contrary that cost will be increased by the Russian market absorbing European stocks.

Bolshevik Leader's View.

A Polish paper gives an interview with M. Radek, one of the Bolshevik leaders in Russia. He said: "Bolshevik Russia sincerely desires peace and it is certain that they will conclude peace on all fronts. In Poland they will engage to cease all propagandist activity, even secret. As to territorial conditions they will accept anything that Poland proposes and they merely wish to have full power on Russian territory to show to the world the happy consequences of the Bolshevik policy." M. Radek believes that all peoples will then within thirty years follow the example of Russia. He invites Poland to send representatives to Russia to examine the conditions there.

The Polish Outlook.

General Pilsuzki, in an interview granted to a representative of the *Petit Parisien* said with regard to Poland's peace negotiations with the Bolsheviks: "I may state that Poland is anxious for peace. She has always been a pacific nation. She gave a proof of her pacific disposition when she did not refuse to discuss the peace proposed to her. On principle she will not refuse to enter into negotiations, but we shall never consent to discuss terms under the pressure of any menace."

"We are perfectly aware that Russia cannot supply Europe with the wheat she is supposed to be able to deliver. People who have wheat at their disposal do not die of hunger as people are doing in most parts of the Soviet Government. The infantile death rate has so greatly increased that a whole generation, victims of Lenin's and Trotsky's social experiment, is disappearing. Russia may go on with the experiment if she chooses, but Poland will never consent to bring about her own death in joining in it. Now that we are free we hold life too dear to risk it in vain attempts".

Trade With Finland.

Those contemplating doing business with Finland should bear in mind that since that country is now independent of Russia, communications, catalogues, etc., should not be sent in the Russian language. Even before the war Finland felt a certain amount of prejudice against being considered a part of Russia, and in many districts the Russian language was unknown, Finnish and Swedish being the two languages spoken in Finland. But with the arousing of the national spirit, Finnish patriots are inclined to resent being addressed in Swedish, English is fairly well known in business circles, and correspondence, catalogues, etc., should be preferably in that language where, as in most cases, it is not possible to send them in the Finnish language. In any case it is like holding a red rag to a bull to suggest in any form that Finland is a part of Russia.

Turkey's Army and Navy.

Ships to be Broken up: Army to be Made Harmless.

Regarding the question as to what is to be done with the Turkish Navy or its remains, the Exchange agency understands that it will probably be broken up.

It is also understood that nothing definite has been done regarding the Turkish Army except that the Conference has decided that it must be reduced to inoffensive dimensions. The figures are not yet fixed.

Allies' Economic Manifesto.

Easy Exchange of Essentials Recommended.

The Supreme Council has issued its manifesto in regard to the economic situation of Europe. It recommends:

The funding of short term loans by means of funds secured from the savings of the peoples and by immediate limitation and gradual curtailment of the note circulation:

That the Powers represented recognize the necessity for co-operation between the Allies and the cutting down of obstacles to the easy interchange of essential commodities:

That with regard to the devastated regions of northern France the capital sums required for their restoration may properly be raised by market loans in anticipation of the reparation payments provided by the Versailles Treaty, and that the restrictions which the Conference desires to see placed on new borrowing do not apply to loans and credits raised for the purpose of meeting this abnormal capital expenditure:

That it is desirable, in the interest alike of Germany and of her creditors, that the total to be paid by her for reparation should be fixed at an early date. The Conference observes that under the protocol to the Treaty a period of four months from the signature of the Treaty was provided, during which Germany should have the right to make proposals of the kind referred to, and they are agreed that, in the circumstances as they exist today, the period should not be extended. The importance of the Supreme Council's economic manifesto is recognized everywhere in the Press.

The *Times* says: "The declaration, as it is now stated, seems on the whole clear, sensible and well-balanced. It is quite fair to Germany and not more than fair to France. The right road is to reverse the road we have been travelling. It is the road of peace, work, economy and international trade. There is no other way and there are no short cuts".

The *Daily News* says: "The real importance of the declaration is that it constitutes an international recognition of plain facts. Its proposals are sound. Everything depends on the zeal and honesty with which they are applied. The Supreme Council cannot preach to Governments until it has set them an example, and when individual nations have shouldered their responsibilities, their citizens too will face theirs. The Supreme Economic Council does well to warn the worker to produce and his wife to save".

Roumania to Get Bessarabia.

The Roumanian Premier has been informed that the Supreme Council has decided to recognise the union of Bessarabia to Roumania.

The Polish-Russian Peace Conference.

A Warsaw telegram says that on March 5 under the Presidency of the Polish Foreign Minister, a conference was held with the Finnish delegation which has arrived there in connection with the peace negotiations with the Bolsheviks. The Roumanian envoy has provisionally received the mandate to represent Roumania at the Warsaw peace conference. The Lettish delegation will shortly leave Riga for Warsaw.

Bolshevik Peace Offers.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Bonar Law stated that the Russian Soviet Government had recently made peace offers to the Governments of Japan, Roumania and the United States. The British Government had not been consulted.

GEORGIAN UNIVERSITY.

Vacant Professor-Ships.

The Administration of the Tiflis National University, on the decision of the Council of Professors, announces that the following Chairs of the Medical Faculty are free to be occupied:

- 1) Histology and Embryology.
- 2) Physiological Chemistry.
- 3) Pharmacology and Pharmacology.
- 4) General Pathology.
- 5) Particular Pathology.
- 6) Pathological Analysis.
- 7) Clinical Therapeutics.
- 8) Clinical Mid-wifery and Gynecology.
- 9) Clinical Surgery.
- 10) Clinical Neurology and Psychiatry.
- 11) Clinic for Cutaneous and Venereal Diseases.
- 12) Ophthalmology.
- 13) Legal Medicine.
- 14) Hygiene.

Those who have the necessary qualifications and are willing to occupy one of the above-mentioned Chairs are invited to present their applications and a *curriculum vitae* to the Medical Faculty of the Tiflis National University, accompanied by copies of their scientific works, not later than June 15, 1920.

Persons of all nationalities can submit their applications, provided that they possess the necessary qualifications, but priority will be given to those who know the Georgian language.

Foreign professors will be invited for a period of three years, during which they will have to study the Georgian language and learn it sufficiently to enable them to continue their lectures in Georgian.

A knowledge of the Georgian language is compulsory for the assistants of these foreign professors.

In extraordinary cases, the Medical Faculty is authorised by the Council of Professors to choose the necessary candidates independently of the course.

Faculty of Medicine, National University,

Tiflis.