

## INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

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310 Riverside Drive, New York, Dec. 21, 1933.

Dear Professor Roerich,

For some time, to my very great regret, circumstances have made it impossible for me to attend the meetings of the Trustees - due to the press of many matters which my employment downtown requires me to handle and to which I am obliged to give much of my time and thought, both at the office and at home.

However, I should like to assure you that I have tried to give as much as possible of my humble efforts toward the furtherance of the great work. It is, to my mind, a coveted privilege to be permitted to do this, and I expect now to be present at the weekly Meetings.

I attended the Trustee's meeting last Sunday, and it is with regret and reluctance that I feel impelled to report to you that I was shocked and alarmed to note the unpleasant spirit which prevailed.

It appeared to me that Miss Grant and Mrs. Lichtman, particularly the former, displayed an attitude of marked hostility toward Mr. & Mrs. Horch. This was manifested indirectly in the repartee incident to the general discussion of matters at the meeting, and also directly.

For example, Mr. Horch called attention to the necessity for the strictest economy to help tide us over the next few months, which, pending final settlement of the reorganization, will be most difficult, - perhaps the low point of the financial abyss out of which we hope to climb to eventual victory.

In this connection Mr. Horch enumerated a few current obligations which had to be met, and which we must continue to be prepared to meet in order to avoid serious embarassment. Among these was an amount paid for electric current, regarding which Miss Grant demanded information as to the manner in which the current consumed by the various departments was determined. Mrs. Horch replied that a number of individual meters were provided for that purpose, and stated that she had recently made an exhaustive inquiry into the charges made by the electric company and that substantial savings were anticipated as a result of her efforts.

Upon further questioning by Miss Grant, Mrs. Horch tried several times to furnish further details, but she was deliberately prevented from so doing by Miss Grant's repeated and insistent demands that the electric bills be given to her for her personal examination, thus indicating that she lacked faith in Mrs. Horch's handling of the matter. Miss Grant's tone and manner were most unfriendly, and certainly uncalled for.

It would seem that the general welfare would be best served if one Trustee would concede to the others the right of freedoms of speech. This Miss Grant denied to Mrs. Horch who was doing her best to make reply to Miss Grant's own questions.

Further, in the course of discussion of possible economies during the emergency, Miss Grant demanded of Mr. Horch that, since he was most familiar with the financial status, he should submit in writing concrete recommendations as to how the necessary savings should be effected. Certainly, the heads of the various departments are in the best position to suggest how, if possible, they can save a little here and there, and it is not very cooperative to counter the Treasurer's report of the financial status and his plea for rigid economy, by

demanding that he state, in writing, just how this should be done.

The foregoing is merely a slight and perhaps inadequate example of the spirit displayed by Miss Grant, and there were many subtle ways in which her hostility and distrust were clearly apparent.

Mrs. Lichtman's part was confined to perhaps tactful, but nevertheless obvious support of Miss Grant, whenever the opportunity presented itself, and there was no doubt of the hostility of her attitude toward Mr. & Mrs. Horch.

I have always had the greatest respect and love for Miss Grant and Mrs. Lichtman whose great work for and devotion to the institutions cannot in any way be denied, and this is not a complaint against them, nor is it a defense of Mr. & Mrs. Horch. I would not presume to constitute my self a critic, and simply feel that it is important that you be made aware of the existence of a spirit which, I fear, might eventually prove harmful to the work. I have absolutely no doubt of the fundamental sincerety of all toward the ultimate goal, but feel that fullest strength cannot be attained in an atmosphere of distrust and hostility, whatever the underlying reason for it may be.

For a long time I have seen and felt many evidences of this undesirable spirit, but have hesitated to mention it. Now, however, that I have had strong and direct indications of it, I feel, in utmost humility, that I would be remiss in my duty as a Trustee and in a broad spiritual sense, if I did not conflide to you, our beloved Leader, the fears which I feel for the welfare of the work.

I am very confident that you will accept my remarks in the spirit of love and cooperation which prompts me to make them, and that you will realize that I would not dream of writing you this if the circumstances referred to were not distinctly apparent and if I did not sincerely feel that it was for the general welfare and certainly not a personal matter.

I know that you, in your wisdom, will find the way to bring about the disappearance of distrust and unfriendliness and the restoration of that harmony and unity which is so essential for rapid progress in the right direction.

I have just received your Holiday greetings and also those of Sviatoslaw and Mr. Shibayeff, all of which I deeply appreciate and heartily reciprocate. I trust you and Madame Roerich, the boys and all the co-workers are in good health, and Jessie joins me in wishing you all continued happiness.

With assurances of my deepest devotion, I am,

Very sincerely, Albubergu