
Russian-American Feels Hand of U.S. Tsardom

Unsigned report in the *Milwaukee Leader*, v. 6, no. 132 (May 11, 1917), pg. 5.

NEW YORK.— Boris Reinstein, an American citizen of Russian birth, felt the heavy hand of tsarized America when a group of secret service men surrounded him in the post office, took him to the office of the United States Department of Justice across the street, and, after subjecting him to a searching cross-examination, took away his passport, just as well as several other papers which he had in his possession.

All of the papers were returned with the exception of the passport, which was retained, and Reinstein, as a consequence, is deprived of the privilege of revisiting the land of his birth and looking after an inheritance from his father.

Fled From Tyranny.

This is not the first time that Reinstein has suffered through the secret police, but never before in the United States. Here, at least, he thought he was safe from such an institution. He was a revolutionist in Russia 30 years ago, and fought and suffered to bring about the revolution which finally triumphed but 2 short months ago.

Escaping from the tyranny of the Russian tsardom, with its myriads of spies and informers, he came to this country many years ago and has been a citizen since 1897. He is an educator and writer of national reputation, a member of the Socialist Labor Party. His

home is in Buffalo.



Wanted to Return Home.

Reinstein, moved by the triumph of the Russian democracy, determined to revisit his native land and see new Russia — the Russia for whose freedom he had given the best years of his life. He applied to the State Department for a passport, and, until he was picked up by the secret police of the government, had no reason to suppose that he would encounter any opposition to his desire to revisit the land of his birth.

He went to the general delivery in the post office to get his mail, as is his custom when in New York.

Secret Police Called.

Under a pretense of getting a letter for him he was held there some minutes. This time was evidently taken up in summoning the secret police from the building opposite, they evidently having made this arrangement to get hold of Reinstein.

After a few minutes conversation in which he was asked for his passport, he was “invited” across the street to their office, where he was relieved of other papers and asked many questions.

The burdens of all of this cross-examination was as to whether he intended to do anything to help bring about a separate peace between Russia and Germany, and as to what his ideas were as to Root’s acting as a member of the commission going from this country.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2007. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.