

... It all began as in a classical Oriental fairy tale ...



OIL BARONS

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OIL BARONS ERA OF NOBELS

Format — TV series

Developing company — BUTA films

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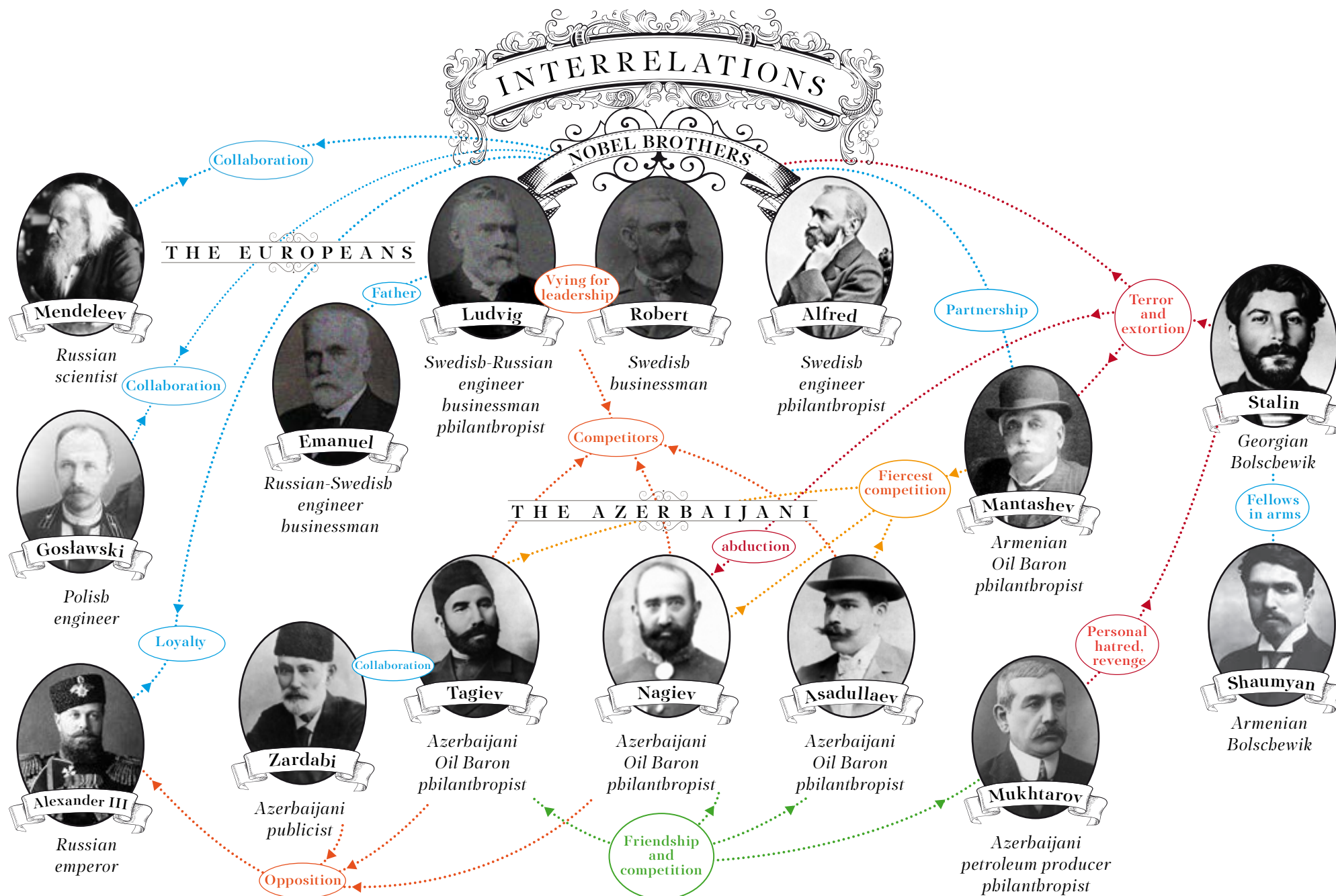
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Only in Baku could this have happened;
a vast still, in which the most diverse of traditions, religions, customs and passions
were fermented and distilled to form History writ Big, the history of the Russian Empire and Europe,
the First World War and the first triumphant revolution, the history of great
technological discoveries and incredible financial breakthroughs.



It is people who make Big History, although rarely great people and usually the most commonplace individuals. A brilliant inventor and a corrupt policeman, a French billionaire and an illiterate camel driver, a professional revolutionary and a young Turkish woman from a harem. Russians, Azerbaijanis, Swedes, Germans, Georgians, Persians, and Poles, all of them have made



their contribution to what is now known as the Golden Era of Baku. Their destinies, great and small, were tightly intertwined into a single thread that determined the fate of not only the entire city but also the entire country, and even that of the continent, for the next one hundred years.



... It all began as in a classical Oriental fairy tale, completely by chance. A Swedish entrepreneur, in search of quality walnut for the rifle butts produced by his arms factory, came to a sparsely populated province of the Caucasus. The local walnut proved to be unsuitable as the country's soil could not produce quality timber. It had been predestined for



something else, for God had endowed this area with inexhaustible reserves of oil. His family's celebrated flair for business did not desert him, and he realised at once that this land would make his fortune and that of his brothers. All that was needed was to make the effort to extract that the existence of which others were not yet aware.

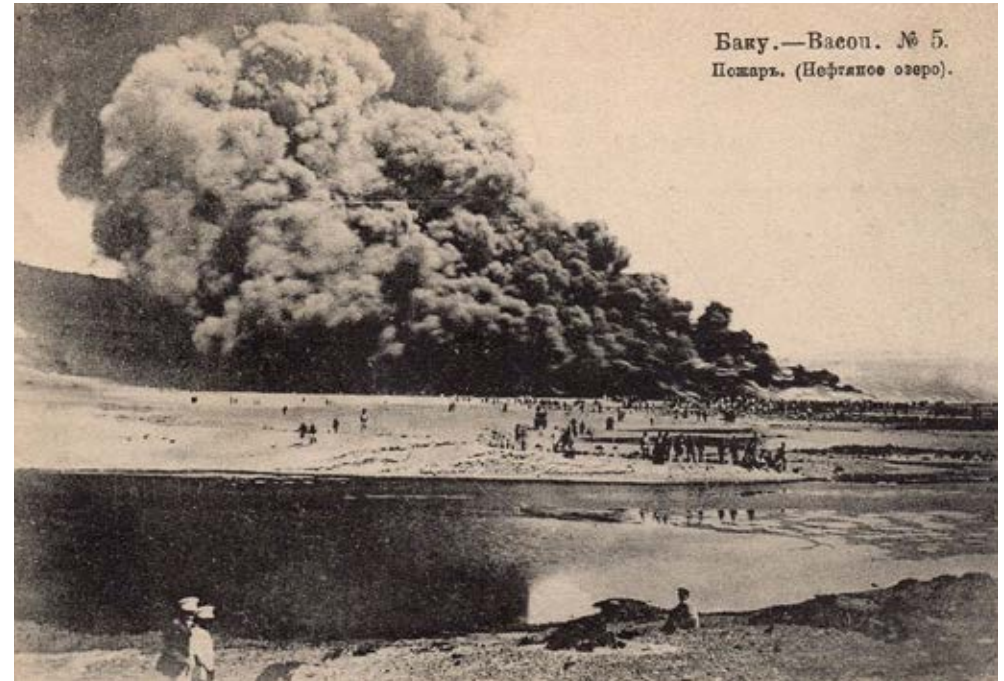


However, Robert Nobel (for this businessman was in fact the oldest of the Nobel brothers) was not entirely correct in his assumption, and he soon understood why, for very many others had realized the same thing. The heavy smell of oil in Baku had drawn to it the most sagacious and prudent businessmen from around the world, although, it was, of course, the French Rothschilds who ruled the roost. The tentacles of their powerful financial empire encompassed the whole of Europe and stretched as far as the Caspian Sea. They had no intention of allowing Nobel to encroach on their domain and were prepared

to do anything to survive the arrival there of these audacious Swedes with their clever drawings and new-fangled machines. However, the most dangerous competitors for the Nobels were not, in fact, these court intriguers, who ruled the oil business from afar, but local natives who had trampled the entire coast with their bare feet, all former dock workers, Samanchi tribesmen and manual labourers, whose Oriental cunning and guile were truly diabolical. There was also a very tall handsome man with a black moustache, Haji Tagiyev, who was idolised by the entire local population, an enemy, but one worthy of respect.



This individual had not even learned to read but had managed not only to build his own business empire, but also to subjugate the entire city and even penetrate the upper echelons of government. He had dared to educate and enlighten the people despite both official policy and local traditions. He was not merely a cruel and calculating business competitor but a leader, and one does not quarrel with leaders. With them, one can only negotiate and endeavour to get along. What about Nagiyev then? It



was said that he was stingy and dull-witted, but this was not the case. Certainly, he was no fool, and his avarice was not due to any lack of intelligence, as he was a born financier and an investment genius, although in terms of education he did not differ much from Tagiyev, and his school was the harbour, where for eleven years he had lugged heavy sacks. The Nobels relied on systems and technologies, in contrast to the charisma and the drive of their local competitors.



Years passed, and the Nobels did what they did best: they worked, and they now owned the “Black City” almost unchallenged, where every other well was theirs. Their oil fields were now a vast system of modern enterprises, each of which was a miracle of engineering, while on the Caspian Sea their oil was transported in tankers, the brainchild of Ludwig Nobel.

Meanwhile, the city grew and transformed itself from an outlying backwater into the oil capital of the Russian



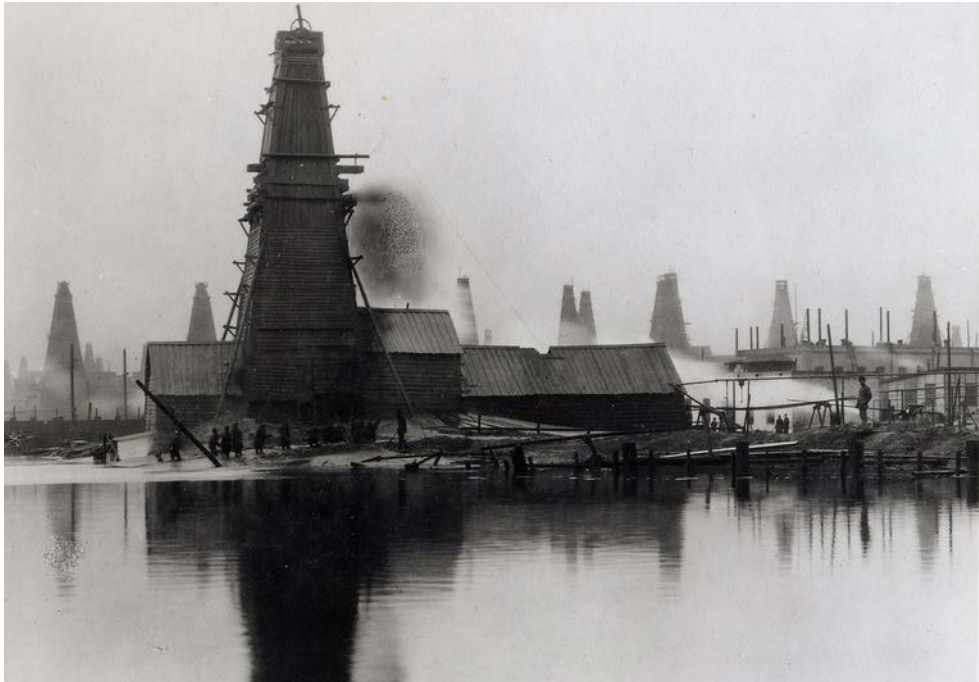
Empire. The smell of easy money was carried on the breeze, attracting not only entrepreneurs but also all manner of speculators. In the span of twenty years, the population of Baku changed beyond recognition. Most of the visitors were now from all parts of the Empire, and even the world. Baku harbour was filled with a multilingual babble of thousands of voices speaking Russian, German, Swedish, Polish, Persian, and Georgian. Handicrafts flourished alongside industry and the streets were crammed with small shops and big stores. No city in Russia ever



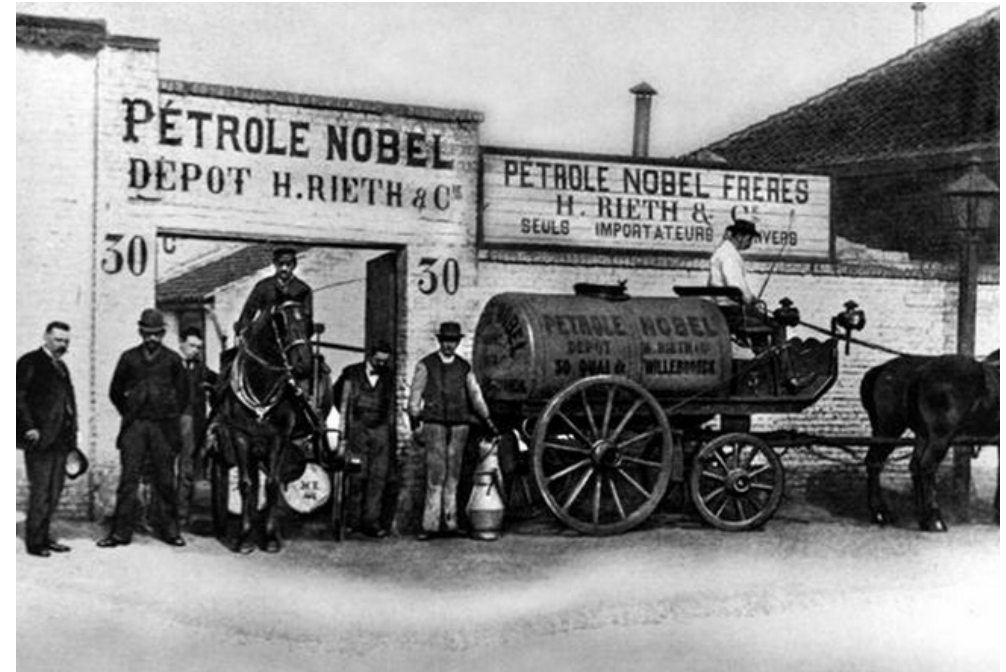
experienced such a building boom: embankments, wide avenues, and European-built paved streets on which stylish carriages ran day and night. In the new eastern capital the oil barons ran the show. Here, everything belonged to them, including the local police. Corruption flourished with an unusual fecundity that even surprised all the visitors from Moscow and St. Petersburg who were accustomed to everything. Crime escalated to incredible proportions, and the police had neither the manpower nor the desire to fight it. The oil business suffered



daily attacks by criminals in the form of innumerable robberies, extortion attempts and murders. Racketeering became the norm. Oilmen had to protect their property themselves as best they could. Locals hired armed guards from the ranks of the same bandits who preyed on them. Europeans sent for Cossacks from Russia and sought the assistance of the military. However, they did not yet know what awaited them and that they faced a new unknown evil: revolutionaries, for whom even money was not an end in itself.



The twentieth century arrived in Baku together with gangs of anarchists, the underground members of the Russian Social Democratic Workers' Party, and the militants of the "Red Brigades". They did not wait for a compromise; they desired only one thing: that the bourgeoisie cease to exist as a class. The state suddenly woke up, but it was too late. Revolutionary contagion had swept across the country and found a comfortable niche in cos-



mopolitan Baku, where it was so easy to lose oneself in the crowds. The city was home to the ruthless, intelligent, insightful revolutionary Koba, who possessed an uncanny ability to manipulate people, and had become the number one enemy of the wealthy businessmen. He preferred to make contact with potential victims personally, and these encounters they would remember for the rest of their days. The Nobels mistakenly believed that they could resolve all problems within the law, under the protection of



the state and the police, but they did not know Koba, with whom one could not play by the rules. Consequently, they soon learned what it meant to lose the people they had persuaded to come to work right across the world, and on whom they had pinned great business hopes.

A world war, disaster, devastation, and the suffering of millions paradoxically became the salvation of Baku's oilmen. Those who managed to win military contracts from the government were once more back on top, the others were swept away by a wave of destruction. War-time Baku was an illustration of "A Feast in the Time of



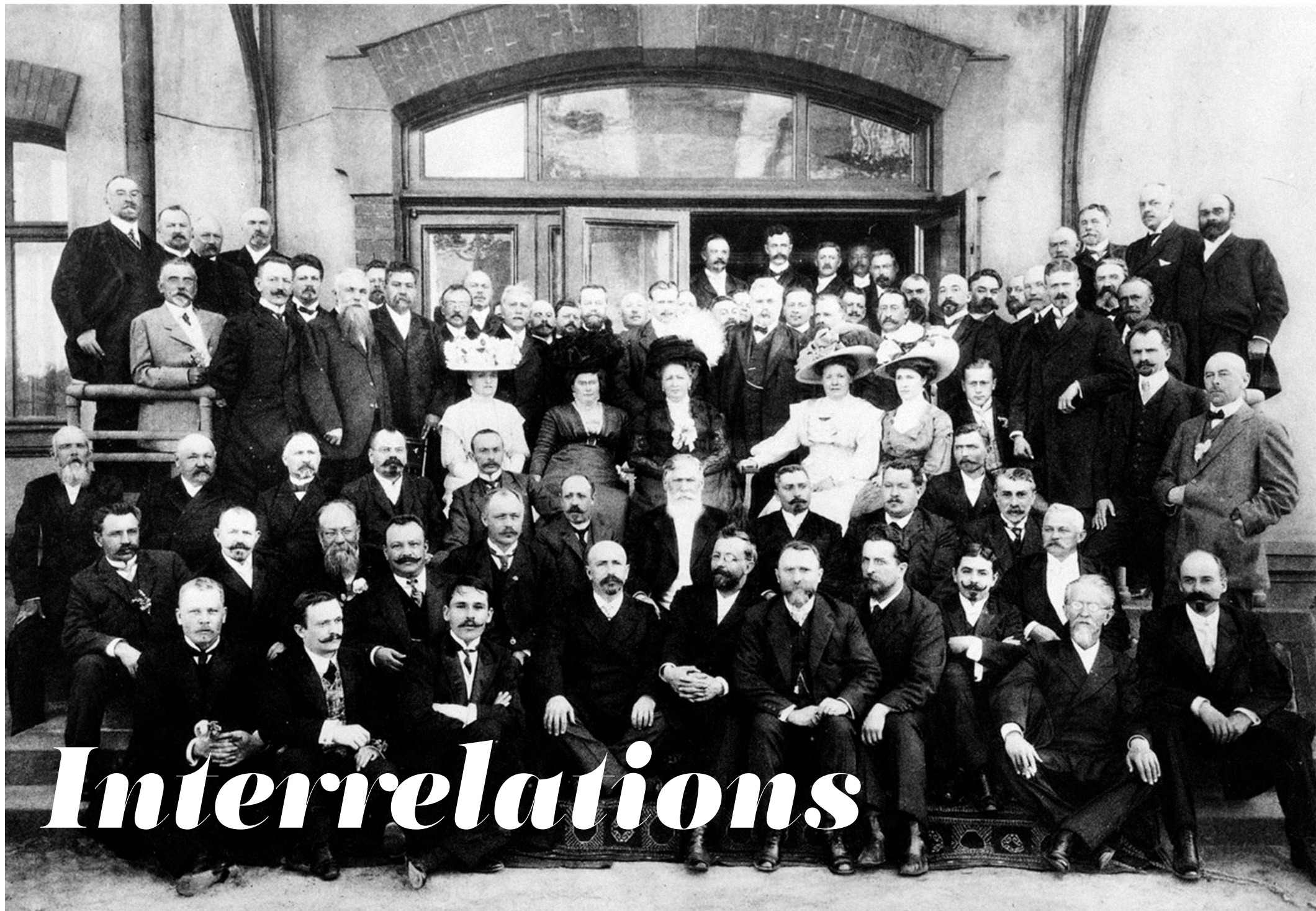
the Plague". Once again, construction flourished, and the prima donnas from the great capitals toured Baku once more, while the long-forgotten scent of money filled the air. As if in anticipation of an impending disaster, oil barons in the autumn of their lives now gave themselves over to dissipation. In those terrible days, Baku gossips often discussed blatant cases of adultery among the local elite rather than military failures on the fronts.



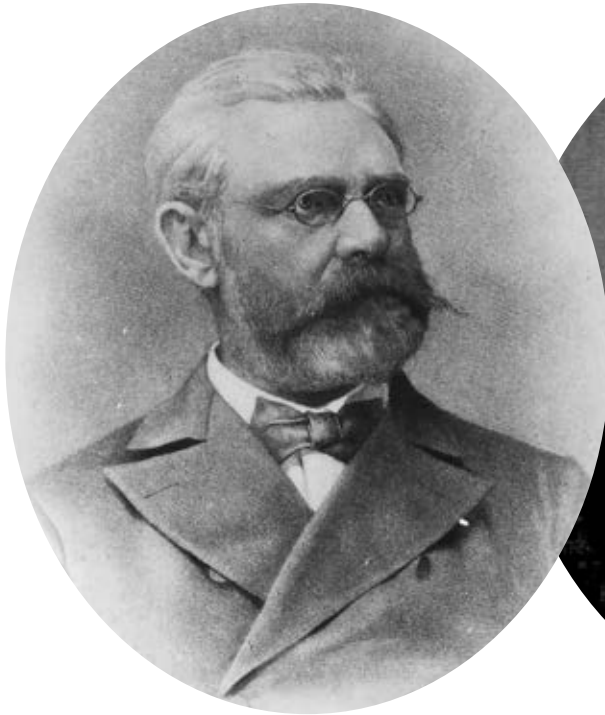
The most insightful already knew that here there was nothing that could be put right; the Russian Empire was doomed, and with it those who made their millions from Baku's generous soil. An implacable disaster was about to befall the country, and only those who managed to leave the sinking ship in time would be saved — as were the Nobels. On the eve of the 1917 revolution, they sold their empire to the American Rockefellers, who had tried in vain to gain a foothold in Baku for the past forty years. The descendants of the brothers, adventurers, dreamers,



and inventors left Russia forever. Turkish millionaires ran away, some to Istanbul and others to Tehran. Few remained. They were destroyed by their love for their native soil, which had been so generous to them, and would receive them, bereft of everything, in simple calico Muslim shrouds. For in death all are equal, and nothing can be taken into the afterlife: not money, nor power, nor glory. Thus ended the Golden Era of Baku, the like of which there has never been, nor ever will be.



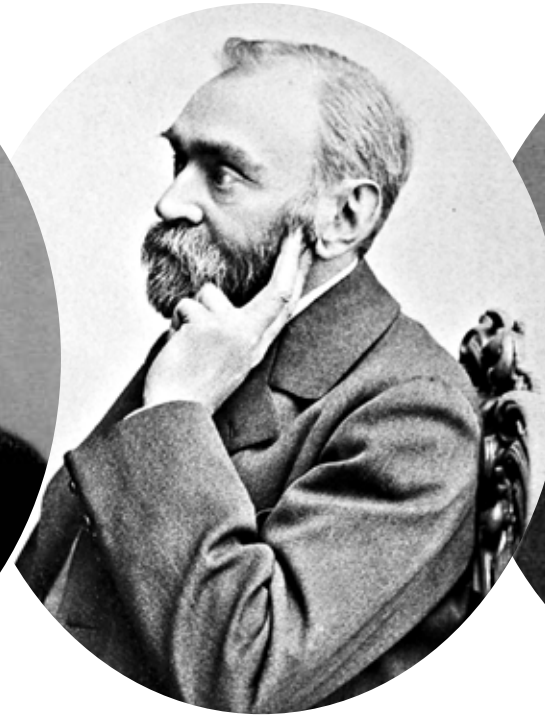
Nobels



Robert



Ludwig



Alfred



Emmanuel

Nobels

Robert — Ludwig *Throughline*

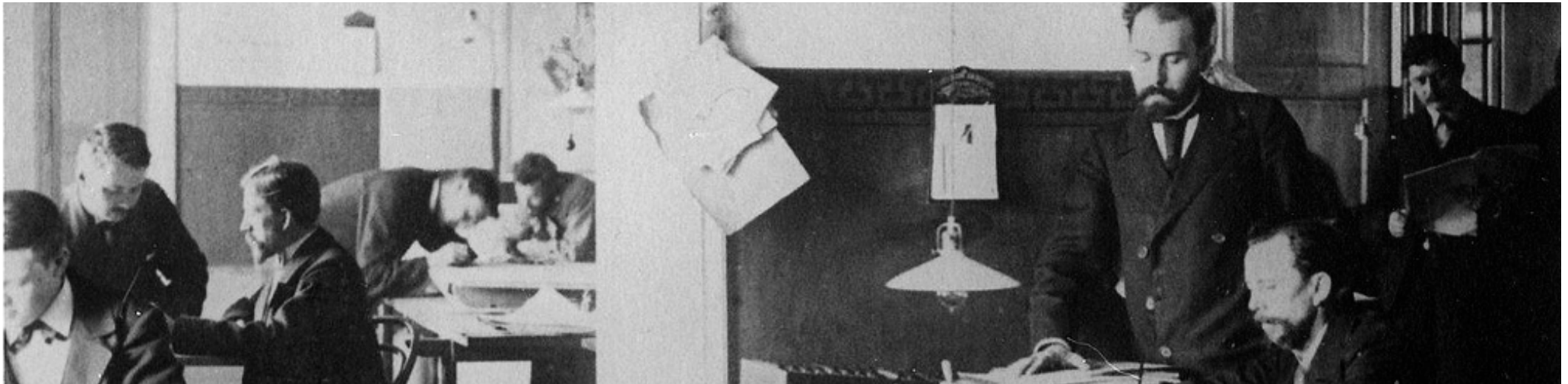
Brothers. Doing business together. Amicable, but often quarrel over business. **Ludwig** — intelligent and prudent, well versed in the technical aspects. **Robert** — reckless and risky, the king of speculation and dubious intrigues. Vying for leadership. **Ludwig** invariably triumphs. Throughline.

Robert — Ludwig — Alfred *Throughline*

Brothers. Doing business together. **Alfred** stands somewhat apart — he is more of a scientist than a businessman. He has a difficult temperament and poor health, so he does not venture far from home and does all his business in Sweden. He often reins in the brothers when it comes to financial transactions — it seems to him that they are too prone to take risks. Always helpful with advice and, in critical situations, with money. Invested a large sum in the Branobel company, but has never been to the oilfields..

Robert — Emmanuel *Story: The arrival of Tsar Alexander III*

Emmanuel — **Robert's** nephew.. After the death of **Ludwig**, there is a struggle for control of the company. **Emmanuel**, being the more intelligent, wins. .



**Alfred Törnkvist (engineer),
Karl Wilhelm Hagelin (Director of the Branobel company) — The Nobel brothers.**
*Story: Transport / Mendeleev's American reconnaissance / The Pipeline – a stumbling block/
The Nobel Garden, Villa Petrolea, worker settlements / Cholera*

Swedes – working for the Branobel company in Baku, close associates of the Nobels.

**Gustav Ternudd
(head manager of the Nobel brothers' company)**
Throughline

A Swede. Former railway worker, designer. Arrived in Baku at the invitation of the Nobels. Keeps witty diaries where he describes amusing, unusual incidents from life in Baku, chronicler of the Nobel office.

The Nobel brothers — Haji Zeinalablin Tagiyev

*Story: Robert Nobel's first auction / The Pipeline – a stumbling block /
The arrival of Tsar Alexander III / Gochi / The Armenian-Azerbaijani massacre of 1905*

Competitors.

They maintain the semblance of diplomatic relations but desperately intrigue against one another.

Tagiyev – with true oriental treachery.

The Nobels – with European proficiency in sticking to the letter of the law.

The Nobel brothers — Dmitri Mendeleev

Story: Mendeleev's American reconnaissance

Collaboration and mutual respect

The Nobel brothers — the Rothschild clan

Story: Transport / The Pipeline – a stumbling block / Red Hundred / Koba / Throughline

The fiercest competition, intrigues, and industrial espionage



Tagiev



Nagiev



Asadullaev

Haji Zeinalabdin Tagiyev — Musa Nagiyev

Throughline

Friendship and competition at the same time. Naghiyev respects Tagiyeva and endeavours to imitate him in all things, but is envious as Tagiyev outshines him in every field. He is tall, handsome, clever, charming, a great speaker, a philanthropist and is considered the father of the city. Naghiyev is short, homely, ugly, cunning but not excessively so, is disliked and thought a miser.

Haji Zeinalabdin Tagiyev — Shamsi Asadullayev

Story: Construction of the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral / Forcible charity / Gochi / The Armenian- Azerbaijani massacre of 1905

Friendship and kinship links (their children married one another). Strive to unite and jointly oppose “aliens”.

Musa Nagiyev — Shamsi Asadullayev

Story: The Treacherous Jewess / The Swan Princess / The Armenian- Azerbaijani massacre of 1905

Friendship and kinship links (their children married one another), subsequently ruined by Asadullayev's son

Haji Zeinalabdin Tagiyev — Murtuza Mukhtarov

Story: The Turkish Nugget / Gochi / Polish Baku

Competition, under the veil of friendship and instruction on the part of Tagiyev

Haji Zeinalabdin Tagiyev – Józef Gosławski

Story: Polish Baku

Collaboration, tragedy

Haji Zeinalabdin Tagiyev – Hasan bey Zardabi, Ganifa Zardabi

Story: The Tagieva Moslem Women's School

Collaboration, opposition to the government



Mantashev

**Musa Nagiyev, Shamsi Asadullayev
and Haji Zeinalabdin Tagiyev —
Alexander Mantashev**

*Story: Red Hundred / The Armenian-Azerbaijani massacre
of 1905 / Koba / Throughline*

The fiercest competition, hostility on ethnic and religious grounds,
intrigues, provocations and crimes

Mantashev — Stepan Shaumyan — Stalin
Story: Koba

Opposition to the government, competition, provocation



Stalin

**Haji Zeinalabdin Tagiyev, Musa Nagiyev,
the Nobel brothers — Stalin**

Story: Koba

Terror and extortion “for the needs of the revolution”. Nagiev’s abduction, robbery of the Nobels’ factory and the murder of their managers.

Murtuza Mukhtarov – Stalin

Story: Koba

Personal hatred, extortion, revenge

The Nobel Brothers — anarchists

Story: Red Hundred

Terror, extortion, murder



Robert Nobel

Paulina Lenngren

Ludwig Nobel

1) Mina

died in 1869, mother of Ludwig Jr

2) Edla Konstaninovich Kollin

teacher from St Petersburg

Children: fourteen in total, by his two wives,
four of whom died in infancy.

Alfred Nobel

1) Sarah Bernard

famous actress

2) Berta Kinski

secretary

3) Sofia Hess

florist

Emmanuel Nobel son of Ludwig

Not married

Haji Zeinalabdin Tagiyev**1) Zeinab Khanum**

his cousin

2) Sona Arablinskaya**Musa Nagiyev****1) Rugiya Seid Kyzy**

Children: a son Ismail and a daughter Ummul Banu. Ummul Banu married the son of Mirza Asadullayev, and she died in childbirth, (a daughter was born, who was named after the mother of Ummul Banu; later she became the famous French writer Banin). Ismail died of tuberculosis at age 27; no children. Nagiyev raised his newborn nephew Faraj, the youngest son of his brother Ali Agha. The older children of Ali Agha were dissatisfied that their brother would become the heir to a millionaire and conspired to kill him. Nagiyev hid Faraj for a whole year.

2) Elizaveta Grigorevna Dzhankurova

Shamsi Asadullayev

1) Meiransa Khanum

Children: sons Ali, Mirza, and daughters Saria, Khadija, and Agabadzhi. Ali was married to the daughter of Tagiyeva Leyla and Mirza to the daughter of Nagiyeva Ummul-Banu.

2) Maria Pavlovna Lebedeva

the daughter of a senator close to the Tsar's court.

Murtuza Mukhtarov

Liza Tugnanova

There were no children. They adopted the children of Murtuza's brother, Bal Akhmada; a boy died, and a girl Umiya they raised as their own child. The Mukhtarovs also adopted Katja, a beggar who sang on the streets, and she later became a famous singer.

Alexander Mantashev

Maria Tamamshan

Children: four daughters, four sons. The only one known to posterity is Levon – a gambler, playboy and womaniser, fond of horses. His father feared that the son would squander his fortune, but in his position as the manager of his father's oil company, he doubled it. His favourite saying was: "We, Mantashevs, love horses and women more than anything else in this life. His favourite pastime was acting like a swaggering, conceited and foolhardy cavalry officer.



Love lines

**Haji Zeinalabdin Tagiyev — Zeinab Tagiyeva — Lisa Arablinskaya —
Ismail Tagiyev — Nurdzhahan Arablinskaya**
Story: The General's Daughter

A love triangle, family drama

Musa Nagiyev — Rugiya Nagieva — Elizabeth Dzhankurova — Mirza Asadullayev
Story: The Treacherous Jewess

A double love triangle, family drama, betrayal, robbery

Murtuza Mukhtarov — Lisa Tuganova — Khamsi Tuganov
Story: A Palace for Lisa

A story of love and resistance, a tragedy

**Shamsi Asadullayev — his first wife (unknown) — Maria Lebedeva —
Mirza Asadullayev - Musa Nagiyev**
Story: The Swan Princess

A love triangle, family drama, betrayal, friendly assistance

Emmanuel Nobel — Nobel March — Gregory Olejnikov
Story: The Unwanted Russian

Family drama, forgiveness, collaboration

Alfred Nobel — Sarah Bernhardt, Bertha Kinsky, Sofia Alfred Hess
Story: The Bachelor

The loves of Alfred. Romantic drama, betrayal, extortion

The Mailov Brothers — Haji Zeinalabdin Tagiev — Antonina Nezhdanova

Story: The Mailov Brothers' Opera House

A love story, strange incident, quarrel

Stalin — Sona Mehmandarova — Sayyid Mir Baba

Story: Beauty Queen

A love triangle, family drama

Stalin — Kato Svanidze, Stephanie Peter, Sona Mehmandarova

Story: Koba / Beauty Queen

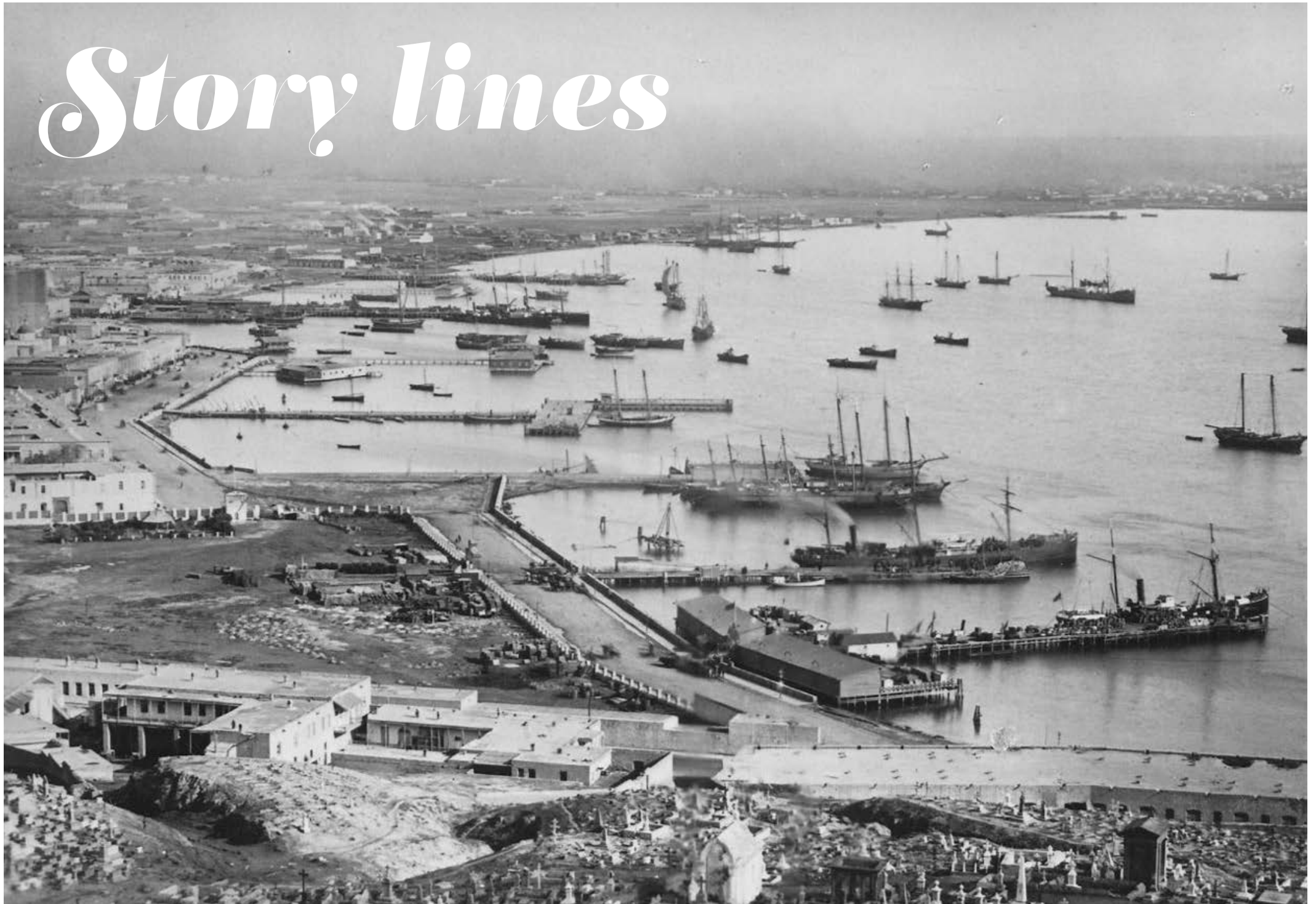
Loveline

Stalin — Abram Nusimbaum, Berta Slutskaya

Story: The Orientalist

Love triangle

Story lines



1 — 1870s to 1880s

The acquisition of oil-bearing plots and the related struggle

Plots

- Auction struggles
- Unexpected strokes of good luck and fabulous stories of making a fortune
- The ruination of the beys, undertaken with the assistance of corrupt officials. According to the law of the Russian Empire, only someone who could prove his title to land could be considered a landowner. Local Turks did not keep records, and for them land tenure did not require proof but was confirmed by oral tradition: “Father Kerim Bey owned the land, and grandfather Kerim Bey, and great-grandfather before him; from time

immemorial it was so!” This was exploited by those wishing to purchase land at bargain prices. Those plots for which no documents were extant were confiscated by the state and through bribery passed into the hands of the future oil barons.

- Cheating the peasants. Taking advantage of the ignorance and illiteracy of those who could not know that there was oil beneath their plots and who granted fifty-year leases for a pittance. Contracts were drawn up in such a manner that not a penny from the sale of the oil extracted on these plots went to the actual landowners.

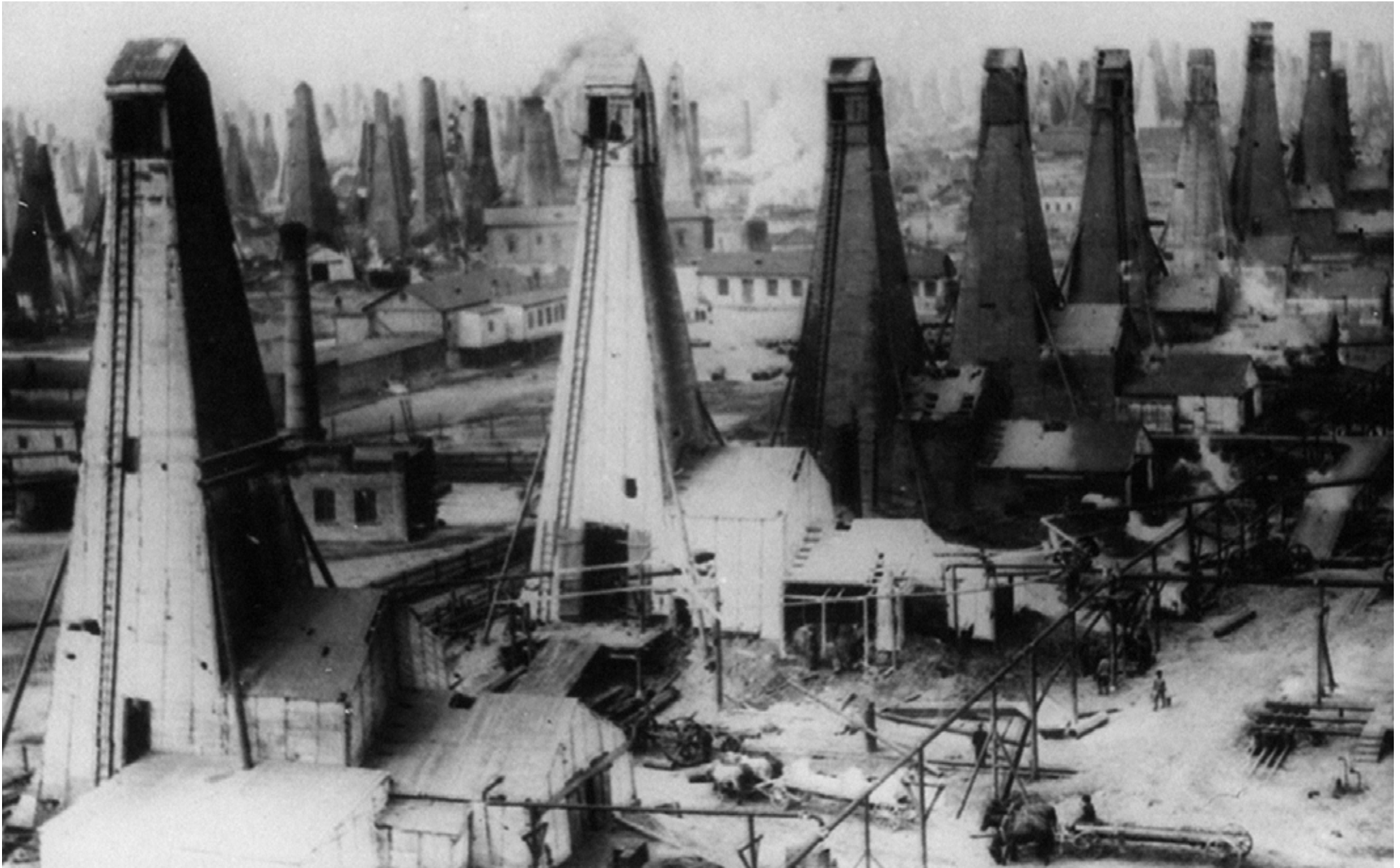
#1 Sub-plots (stories)

#1.0 *Prehistory of the walnut grove*

Robert Nobel was commissioned by his older brother to go to the Caucasus in search of walnut wood for rifle butt manufacture at the Nobels' arms factory. The local walnut wood proved unsuitable, but Robert had then seen with his own eyes the oil-bearing soil of the Absheron peninsula. He returned home with the firm conviction that the Nobels' future lay with Baku oil.

#1.1 *Dockworker*

Musa Nagiyev, a former dockworker from Balazhar settlement, dreamed of becoming a "flower king". With his meagre savings he bought land where he intended to grow flowers for sale. However, the plot was too dry for anything to grow. Musa decided to dig a well right in the middle of the flower beds, to avoid spending money on having water delivered. He started to dig, and suddenly oil gushed forth from the ground.



#1.2 Robert Nobel's first auction

Participating in an auction for the first time, Robert was very anxious that the plots that had caught his eye would be snapped up by a more quick-witted local buyer. The bidding started at 600 roubles and had climbed to 1,300 roubles, when somebody in the room shouted that there had been a gusher there, which made the bidding soar to 3,000 roubles in thirty seconds. Suddenly, when the auctioneer had already raised his gavel for the final time to close the sale, Robert said quietly in Swedish: "Fem tusen". Everyone fell silent. His interpreter stood up and loudly proclaimed: "Mr. Nobel offers five thousand." The owner of the land did not believe this foreigner and asked to see the five thousand.

The hall became agitated, and there were shouts of: "Who is this stranger? Baku is our city, let him clear out of here and take his promises with him! "Robert quietly lit a cigar, then took out his cheque book and signed a cheque for 5000 roubles: "On behalf of P. and L. Nobel - Robert Nobel". This was how the first oil-bearing plot of the Nobel empire was acquired. Local owners of oil fields expressed themselves in this manner: "Rothschild or Nobel, it is all the same to me They are all bastards, but to annoy that Swede Nobel, I would even lick the arse of that Jew-boy baron." (Nagiyev) and "Nobel must not think that he can swallow me. Soon I will be the one to laugh when Rothschild swallows him." (Mantashev)

#1.3 *The Armenian method*

Alexander Mantashev sent his assistant on a reconnaissance mission. He walked through the villages and asked the peasants whether the soil gave a poor yield, smelled bad, or gave way under their feet. He would then buy up such plots for little more than the price of a bowl of pilaf. Oil was often to be found in such places, which accounted for the poor vegetation.

#1.4 *Karabek, having taught the bear a lesson.*

Turkish lawyer Karabek won the case of the peasant Haji Yusuf, nicknamed the “Orphan”, against the Governor General of the Emperor in the Caucasus, Vorontsov-Dashkov. Haji Yusuf’s plot caught the eye of

this official, and he simply added it to his own holdings. The farmer had no documents pertaining to this land and could not oppose this powerful count. He appealed to Karabek for help, who went to St. Petersburg and returned to Baku with a Senate committee, and together with its members he travelled around the entire Balakhan district of Baku, asking every one he met who owned which plot. He then brought the committee to the mosque in the middle of prayers and asked everyone who knew about the ownership of disputed plots to swear on the Qu’uran and sign their name (or append their fingerprint) in a special register. The following day he did the same thing in Sabunchi. The case was won. Vorontsov-Dashkov was forced to move his fence back and return grandfather Haji-Yusif’s property. Karabek was nicknamed “having taught the bear a lesson”, which alludes to the omnipotent master of the Caucasus, whom he had successfully disgraced.

#1.5 Stubborn Tagiyev

Haji Tagiyev was looking for oil together with his Armenian partners but without success. Having spent all his savings on buying plots in Absheron, the businessmen still did not find any oil. The Armenians accused Tagiyeva of inveigling them in a hopeless enterprise and ruining them. They made threats and forced him to buy back their shares in this enterprise. He did so and continued his prospecting alone. Two years later, he found a plot where he struck it rich.

#1.6 Oil wedding

The famous Baku singer Seid Mir-Babayev was performing at a very lavish wedding. His singing so pleased the guests that they showered him with banknotes and called him a nightingale. Suddenly the groom's uncle said, "If you sing even better than you did earlier, I will give you my well "Bala shoranlyg"! This Mir-Babayev Baba sang like a god. After the wedding, the guests reminded the groom's uncle of his promise, and he was forced to keep his word and give the singer the well. A year later, it became a gusher.

#2 — 1880s to 1890s

Development of production and competition

Plots

- Scientific research. For the first time, oil is perceived as an object of scientific interest, there are the beginnings of a primitive exploration, the properties of oil are studied, e.g., the idea of secondary processing, there is drilling, etc. There is a struggle between progressive views and barbaric antiquated methods.
- Inventions and the flourishing of engineering; the construction of the first large-scale industrial plants; the emergence of industrial espionage.
- Solving the problems of oil transportation. The construction of oil and kerosene pipelines, the production of oil tanks for railways. The invention and commissioning of an oil tanker fleet.
- Recognition of the oil industry as one of the priority areas of the economy of the Russian Empire. Baku oilmen become millionaires.

#2 Sub-plots (stories)

#2.1 *Transport*

Because of the high cost and low speed of the oil and oil products transport, Russia could not compete on this market with the Americans. Imported oil proved cheaper than the domestic product. The Nobels understood this perfectly with regard to their own finances. Ultra-modern ships were needed that would meet all the requirements of the modern age, were safe and would not lose speed. Ludwig began to experiment with barges, the first of which were wooden, and in 1878, together with the engineer Sven Almqvist, he developed the design of a steel oil tanker, the world's first tanker. It was named "Zoroaster" in honour of the deity of the ancient Persian fire worshipers, whose cult was of great

interest to the Nobel brothers (a picture of Zarathustra even hung in their office). Its success was obvious, for which reason the brothers immediately ordered two such steamers, "Buddha" and "Nordenskjöld". Two years later, they already had an entire fleet, comprising "Moses," "Mohammed", "Brahma", "Socrates", "Spinoza" "Darwin", "Tatar", "Koran", "Talmud" and "Kalmyk". In 1881 there was an accident aboard the "Nordenskjöld". Because of the strong wind, the pipeline came loose, and kerosene was spilled that caught fire from the sparks of a kerosene lamp, as the mechanics were working in the hold, which was lit by such lamps. "Nordenskjöld" exploded, thereby killing half the crew. The glow of the fire could be seen on



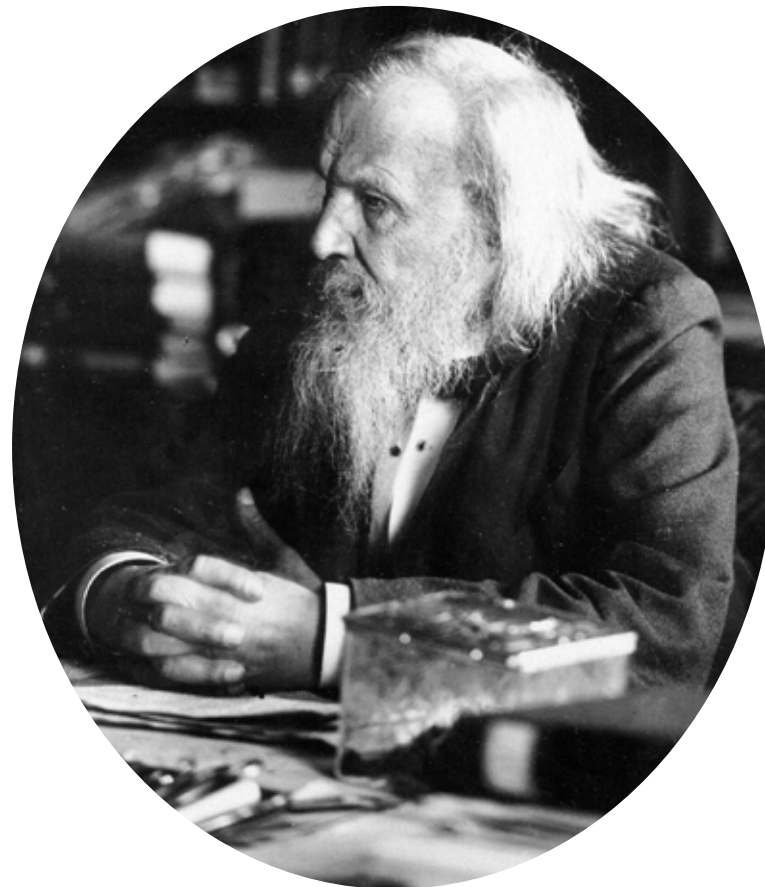
#2.1 *Transport (part II)*

the other side of town. This tragedy was exploited by the Rothschilds, to accelerate the process of purchasing oil tanks for railways. Their “Caspian-Black Sea Oil Company of Industry and Trade” desperately competed with the Branobel company. The scheme employed by the Rothschilds was simple and ingenious. Through a bank that they owned, the Tsarist Russian government took a loan in France. In fact, it was a loan from the Rothschilds to themselves, as the entire French economy was in their hands. In exchange for this loan, they had requested for themselves special conditions for the Transcaucasian railway that was under construction. In fact, the railroad, although it was State-owned, belonged solely to them. In addition, the scandalous accident onboard the tanker with the resulting loss of life was a reason to proclaim, to

all high-level officials, how dangerous and unprofitable sea transport was, and that a railway was the only salvation for this developing industry. In this manner the Rothschilds were thus granted *carte blanche*. In addition, they purchased at their own expense around three thousand tank cars (the government, of course, could not afford to do so). Thus, the Baku-Batum railway continuously enlarged the Rothschilds’ fortune. The Nobels had no access to this mode of transport, and the road to the south for their oil was closed. Sea transport of oil was allowed only in the Nordic countries. In addition, they suffered a failure with Alfred’s dynamite after the assassination of Tsar Alexander II by a bomber, part of whose bomb consisted of this explosive, and consequently, they were forbidden to sell it in Russia.

#2.2 Mendeleev's American reconnaissance

The famous Russian chemist Dmitri Mendeleev travelled to the USA in 1876 on the orders of the Tsar to visit the US Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia (officially known as the International Exhibition of Arts, Manufactures and Products of the Soil and Mine) in order to study the best practices of American oilmen. Robert Nobel also went there incognito. On his return Mendeleev wrote in the Baku newspaper that Russian production was ten years behind that in the USA. Ludwig Nobel met with Mendeleev in St. Petersburg and then several times in Baku. Following these meetings, the Nobels became more firmly convinced that it would be necessary to build an oil pipeline, with Mendeleev acting as their advisor.



Mendeleev

#2.3 *The pipeline — a stumbling block*

The decision to build the pipeline did not meet with approval. Local oil barons flatly refused to invest in this venture. The Nobels were perplexed, as surely it would be to everyone's benefit. They wrote letters to the authorities, all the way up to the Governor General, but all to no avail. Officials made promises of support, but the city authorities did nothing to promote its construction. The Rotschids also lobbied in favour of the idea of a pipeline, but a joint venture with them was, of course, impossible, as they were bitter rivals and enemies. Ludwig tried to enlist the support of Haji Tagiyev as the most enlightened, intelligent and distinguished person among the native inhabitants of Baku

in the oil business. He met with Tagiyev alone, trying to convince him to lend his support. However, he opened Ludwig's eyes to what was happening. A pipeline would upset the delicate social balance in the city. Thousands would be left without work: bullock cart drivers, donkey drivers, coopers and others, all manual labourers, for whom transporting oil was their only source of income. This would lead to a revolt that would be unstoppable. Tagiyev implored him to drop this idea, which, in actual fact, faded away as time passed. Ludwig fell seriously ill and went abroad for treatment, which, however, did not help, and he died. As a mark of honour, the next Nobel oil tanker bore his name.

#2.4 *The arrival of Tsar Alexander III*

On the way to Tbilisi Tsar Alexander III stopped over in Baku, where the police were in full combat readiness. The whole city was flooded with agents, and security was enhanced to the maximum. During a tour of the city, Tagiyev was presented to the Tsar as an authority among local Muslims. At the sight of the Emperor Tagiyev did not remove his hat. Someone remarked “Forgive him, sire, he is a representative of a savage people.” Tagiyev replied: “My people are not savages. We have been the masters of this land for a thousand years, and we will behave here as we have done for a thousand years.” After this utterance Tagiyev left the meeting. Everyone was in a state of shock.

The Tsar was taken to the Nobels’ production facility, the only “clean” oilfield, as all the others were too dirty and terrifying in appearance, and were thus unsuitable for inspection by the ruler. Seizing the moment, Emmanuel publicly asked the Tsar to influence the local authorities to allow construction, and the latter gave orders that it should commence. In the evening, as Emmanuel Nobel returned home from work, he was attacked by unknown assailants who tried to stab him with a knife. He was saved by a random passer-by, who introduced himself as “Gochi.”

The royal train, in which the court delegation was returning from Baku, was attacked by bandits. The guards were able to repel the attack and protect the Tsar, but twenty people were killed in an exchange of fire.



Alexander III, s Emperor of Russia, King of Poland and Grand Prince of Finland with bis family

#2.4 *The Turkish nugget*

Everyone in the business had an unexpected surprise when another strong competitor appeared, one Murtuza Mukhtarov: a former dredger, who was climbing to the top by leaps and bounds. He possessed a rare engineering talent, even though he had never studied anywhere. Nugget invented drilling rigs, opened a private drilling office, and very soon the “top dogs” in the oil business began to feel uneasy. Mukhtarova’s office worked with much more modern methods than the outfits belonging

to Tagiyev, Nagiyev and the others, which were still almost medieval. Tagiyev quickly realized what was what. He tried to get close to his brash competitor, who fell for Haji’s charm and prestige and willingly shared with him his technological secrets. These innovations help Tagiyev’s company weather the crisis and climb once again to unreachable heights. Nagiyev sensed a dirty trick, but had nothing with which to oppose Tagiyev who side-stepped him at every turn.

#3 — late 1890s to mid-1900s

Baku — the city of millionaires

#3 *Plots*

- Construction of Baku. “White City”. An Oriental capital becomes European.
- Epidemic of charity.” Earned capital already allowed the oilmen spend to this not only on their own needs but also those of the inhabitants. On occasions, charity became a “voluntary-compulsory” affair. The local authorities exploited the abundance of wealthy people and the dependence of their businesses on the state. Businessmen were coerced into contributing to projects for which there was no money in the treasury. A considerable share of such “donations” remained in the pockets of officials, who, as a result, grew richer by the day. Corruption had become all-encompassing.
- The rapid development of manufacturing and construction in Baku attracted a huge number of migrants who went there to try their luck from all over the Russian Empire. The ethnic makeup of the city altered in the course of literally two to three years. Whereas previously the majority had comprised Turks and Armenians, what nationality did not reside there now? Russians, Persians, Georgians, Germans, Swedes, Poles and Jews, while no fewer than 69% of the inhabitants were “aliens.” A crime epidemic ensued, as not everyone wanted to ruin their health toiling for a pittance in the oilfields. The easy money in Baku attracted criminals of all types and kinds, from street robbers to sophisticated fraudsters. The police were run off their feet, but in any case,

#3 *Plots*

in Baku they only existed to keep up appearances. Locals preferred to solve their problems on their own, without involving the state. Lynching, murder and revenge proliferated. Organised crime made its appearance in the form of gangs of extortionists, arsonists and racketeers. In most cases, these were “visitors” from Georgia who had been joined by Armenians. The Muslims were still law-abiding and afraid of the Sharia courts so there were few criminals among them.

- Flourishing crime and official inaction made self-defense a necessity, and the wealthy began to hire guards. It was not only production plants that were guarded, but also every millionaire personally. Homegrown protection groups called themselves “Gochi” and were semi-criminal gangs of local Turks who carried weapons and were afraid of nothing, ever ready to kill their employers’ enemies for money. The impoverished descendants of the beys (Turkish aristocrats) frequently became “Gochi”; they had no livelihood, nor a trade, as they belonged to the hereditary aristocracy, and this was their only chance of survival. Many well-known such people in the city bore typical aristocratic surnames.

#3 *Plots*

- The men's easy money attracted female adventurers to Baku. For the first time in a strict Muslim society, it became possible to have a public affair with a non-Muslim woman, who wore a décolletage, smoked papierosy (Russian-style cigarettes with a cardboard mouthpiece) and had no qualms about flirting with other men. A class of "professional beauties" made its appearance, kept women and ladies of the demi-monde.
- For the first time a Turkish intelligentsia emerged, a class founded on the remnants of bey families. The most intelligent and thrifty among them who had deduced thirty years earlier that state policy would lead to the impoverishment of the aristocratic landowners, invested in their children's education. Their offspring had now grown up, having returned to Baku from various metropolises or from Europe, with a brilliant education and progressive Western ideas.
- Because of the crowded and highly polluted atmosphere, every now and then epidemics of serious diseases would break out, which the entire population of the city would fight against.

#3 Sub-plots (stories)

#3.1 *Construction of the temple of Alexander Nevsky; “forced charity”*

In 1897, Haji Tagiyev suddenly sold his oil business to the British oil company “Oleum”. This act shocked society, and especially the top oilmen, who once more sensed some kind of dirty trick. Tagiyev was at the peak of financial success, so what had made him sell the goose that laid the golden eggs? Tagiyev remained silent and retained his seat on the board of directors of “Oleum”, but expended all his strength on different objectives. Consequently, in Baku active construction of buildings began with his money. A former bricklayer, he personally supervises all the construction work. A young Polish architect, Józef Gosławski turned up in Baku. He held the position of assistant to the chief ar-

chitect of the project to construct the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral. This edifice was founded in honour of the visit of Tsar Alexander III and was built at public expense. However, as the latter was deceased and the money stolen, construction was delayed for many years. The only hope lay with the oil barons. There were hardly any Orthodox believers among them, and nobody was prepared to voluntarily contribute money to a common fund, and it was impossible to extort a contribution from the Europeans. The mayor gathered all of the top players in the oil business and hinted that he desperately needed the money for this project. Industrialists who had no links to Orthodoxy were not eager to accept. However, the



Temple of Alexander Nevsky

mayor made it clear that there was no point in their refusing, as they valued their businesses and the safety of their oil and naturally did not want any fires. Who knew what else could happen? The businessmen grew angry and left. Everyone understood that no good would come of this conflict; the two sides would not agree to concessions, and in the city there were so many armed protection groups. Only Haji Tagiyev remained behind in the mayor's office and he offered that official a deal. He would obtain the agreement of the oil barons to their provision of the full sum for the construction works. In return, Tagiyev would be granted permission to cultivate cotton in the region bordering Persia (where the business had been banned for political reasons) as well as to open

a textile factory near Baku. The official tries to deter him, justifying it by the fact that such a petition would not be signed in the capital, because it was there, in the Moscow region, that the entire textile industry was concentrated and nobody wanted to share the market with an upstart from the fringes of the Empire. Tagiyev then proposed to write to Moscow that religious tradition requires local Muslims to bury their dead in a white shroud and there was a shortage of white calico in Baku. The more it cost, the greater the irritation that this caused, and a revolt was close to breaking out there. The mayor was forced to agree, and soon the city treasury received the necessary funds to build the Cathedral, which was under the personal control of the Tsar.

#3.2 Polish Baku

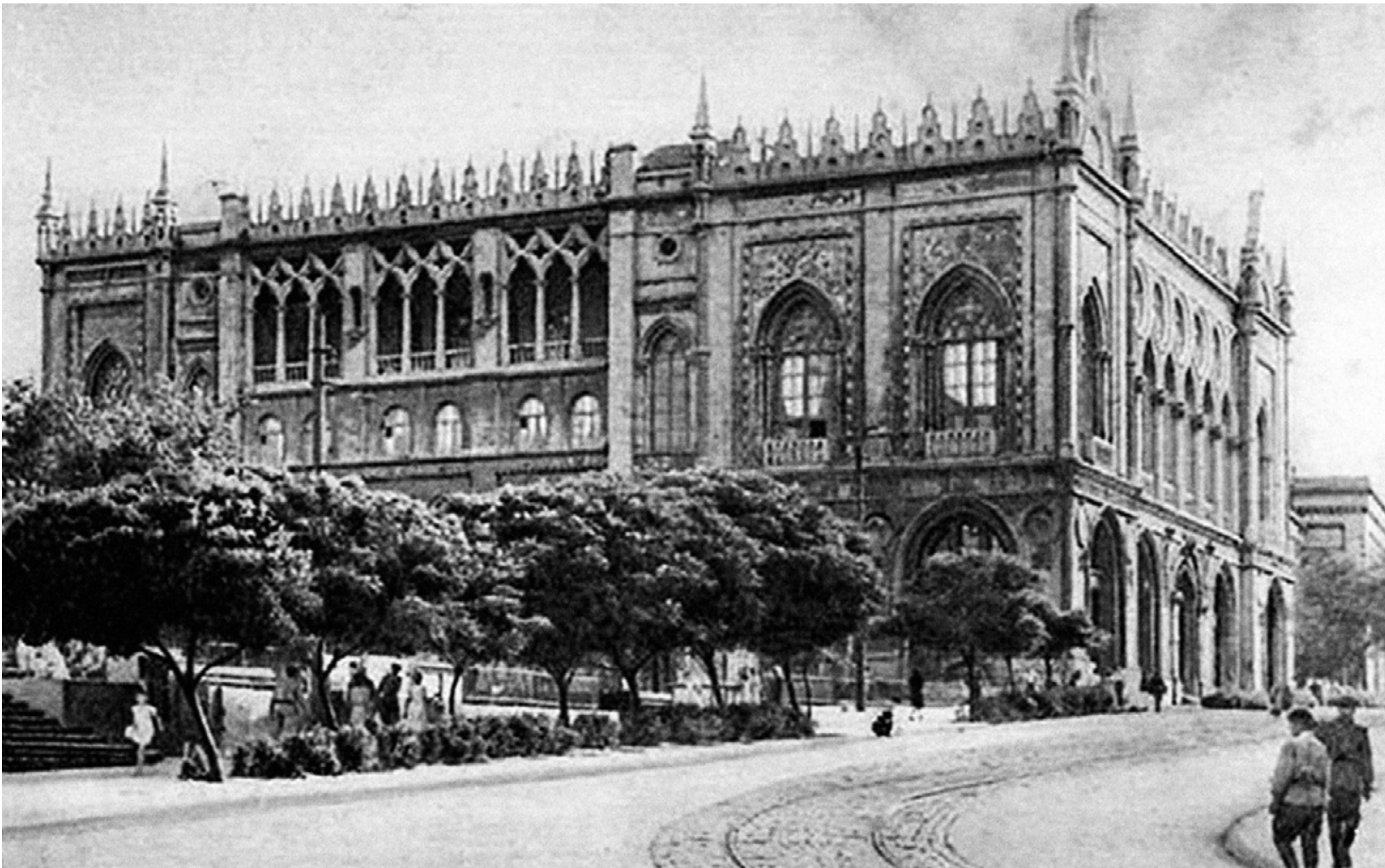
Tagiyev often visited the construction site and watched Goslavsky. He liked this Pole for his meticulousness, persistence and transparent estimates, which accounted for every penny. When the project was finished, Tagiyev offered to have Goslavsky erect some buildings for himself, after which the architect became a fashionable society figure. The rich bought up land for dachas in Mardakan and schemed to outbid one another to hire Goslavsky to work on the construction of their

estates. The most stylish dacha belonged to Mukhtarov. In the centre of its garden there was even an underground palace with a swimming pool, for receptions, where it was cool even in the infernal heat. Goslavsky became the principal architect of the city, but, sadly, the polluted air of Baku had done its work. He had suffered from tuberculosis from his youth, and in the local climate and polluted environment the disease progressed rapidly, and at the age of thirty-nine he was dying.

#3.3 Musa Nagiyev's hundred houses

At some point Musa's father had told him: "If you build a hundred houses, you will live a hundred years." Having grown rich, Naghiyev decided to build these hundred houses in Baku. With his money, he built not only his private apartments but also the city hospital, the post office, the winter club, the hotels "Astoria" and "New Europe", and apartment houses. After the death from tuberculosis of his twenty-seven-year-old son, Ismail, he built the "Ismailia" palace to his memory. However, not all the houses that belonged to Nagiyev were built by him. In fact, he had devised a cunning but treacherous means of "relatively honest appropriation of property from the population." He often attended gambling establishments together with his economist and a notary public. People whispered that the pious Muslim Nagiyev was secretly indulging in a vice, forbidden by the Koran. However, he did not go there to gamble but sat and watched those who did. When one of these fast

liver losers had no money to pay his gambling debt, he would run up to the millionaire and beg him for a loan on the security of his house. Naghiyev would agree and ask the notary to immediately close the deal. He gave the necessary amount to the gambler and, as a rule, it was much less than the value of his house. If the hapless homeowner lost, the house remained Nagiyev's property. Imploring him was useless since the deal had been concluded in full accordance with the law. If the debtor was lucky and had won, he asked the millionaire to return his security in exchange for his winnings. Nagiyev would say: "I do not need your money. If you want it back, then I will sell it for five times the price at which you sold it to me. If you want it, buy it at this price. If you do not, do not buy it." In this way, Nagiyev managed to acquire several more houses. Try as hard as he could though, he did not succeed in building a hundred.



The Ismailiyya Palace was constructed for the Muslim Charity Society at the expense of the Musa Nagiyev

#3.3 The Mailov Brothers' Opera House

The famous opera singer Antonina Nezhdanova came to Baku on a tour. The city had no opera house, so she performed in the Exchange building, a winter club, and in a circus building. The concerts were attended by the “kings of the caviar business”, the Mailov brothers, of whom Daniel, the eldest, fell in love with her at first sight. After the concert, he asked her for an audience, presented her with a magnificent bouquet and asked when the diva would next visit Baku. The singer replied that it was unlikely that she would ever return even, because there was no opera house in the city, and that it is not fitting for the prima donna to have to perform in circuses like some music hall artiste. Mailov then vowed, that in ten months' time, there would be an opera

house in Baku. He told Tagiyev of his decision to build one, who jeered at him, stating that ten months was not long enough to build an opera house. The businessmen quarrelled and Mailov said: “If the building is not finished in exactly ten months, I will give you the building, when it is completed. If I win this argument, the theater will be mine, and you shall refund my construction costs.” Construction began on the day after the meeting. Exactly ten months later, the opera house was ready. On February 28, 1911, the Baku Theatre House and Ballet. Mailov invited Nezhdanova to its opening. She came, and she sang the part of Marina Mnishek in the opera “Boris Godunov”. Tagiyev lost the argument and returned to Mailov the entire amount that he spent on its construction.

#3.4 The Garden of the Nobels — Villa Petrolea. Worker settlements

The Nobels were very depressed that there were so few green areas in Baku. Trees did not take root in the local soil and the flowers died. They thus decided to bring in fertile soil and seedlings from abroad and this is how it was done: a tanker loaded with oil was dispatched to Europe and returned laden with black soil and plants for transplanting, which saved money on delivery at the same time. The same method was employed to bring fresh water from the Volga river for irrigation. In the center of the park, a residential area for high-ranking employees at the Nobel businesses was located that possessed all the amenities, such as water and even an air cooling system, which operated with the help of large quantities of ice. This was situated close to the Black City. It owed its construction to the fact that the administrators and engineers from Europe would not consent at any price to go to Baku and to live un-

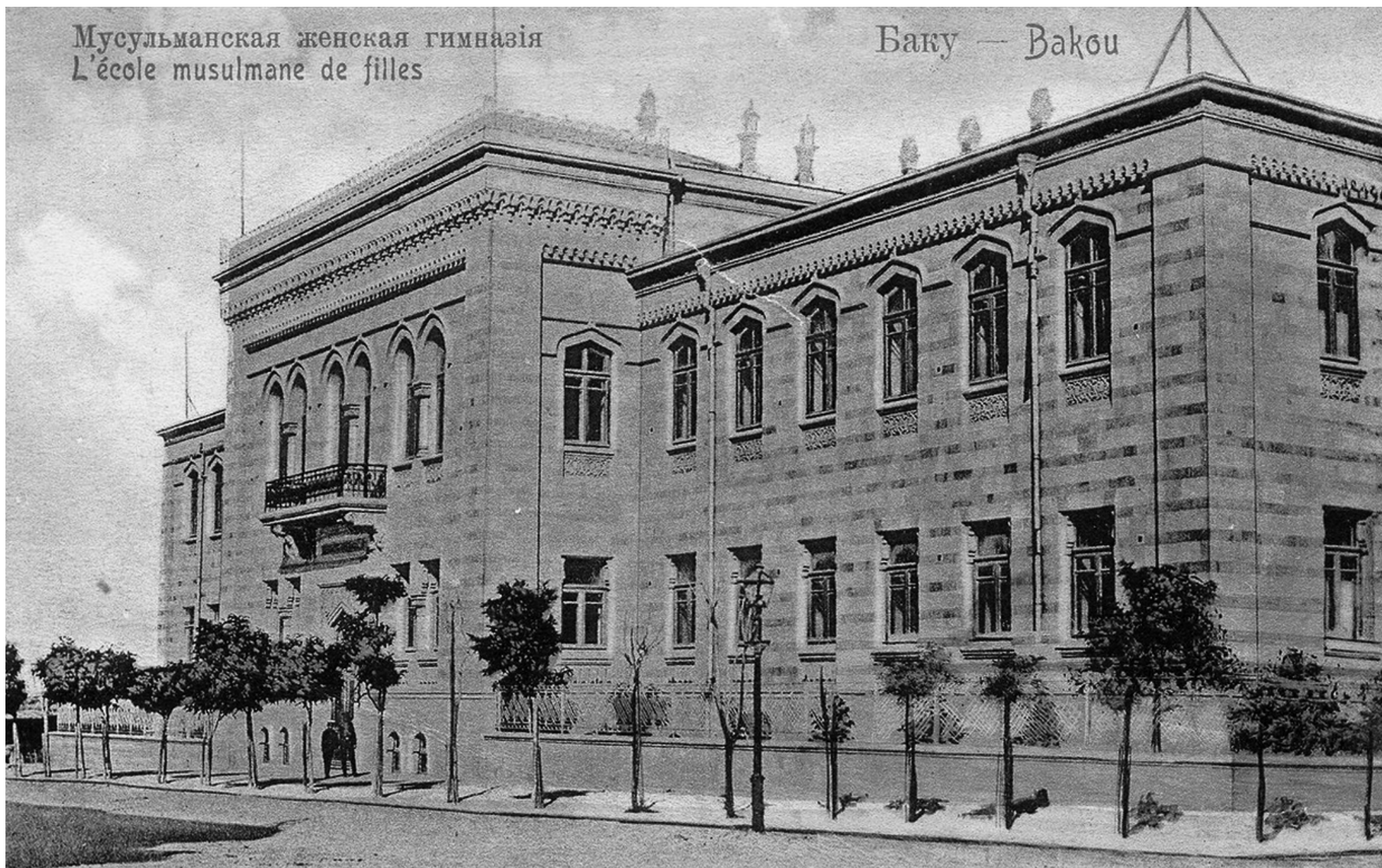
der the conditions that were the lot of the workers: heat, air pollution, and smoke from frequent fires, etc. Nobel distrusted Russians and, especially, the locals, and he treated them with both condescension and caution, for which reasons he did not allow them to hold any better positions, which in the company could thus be filled only by Europeans. The construction of this settlement was essential in order to be able to offer these new arrivals a decent standard of living. However, despite the comfortable living conditions, Europeans working for the Nobels still spent much time in the factory areas breathing the same polluted air. As a result, a career with the Nobels often ended with their contracting tuberculosis. At the same time, a large residential area for workers was being constructed in the Black City, which was the first decent housing in the oilfields; previously, workers and their families huddled together in enormous shacks.



#3.5 The Tagiyev Muslim girls' school

In 1895 in Mardakan, Tagiyev opened a school for gardeners and florists, followed in 1901 by the first Muslim school for girls. The newspapers quoted him as saying: “I, as a native of these parts, have an excellent knowledge of Muslim family life and all its flaws, and to gradually remove the Muslim woman from this secluded, narrow life, in which she now finds herself, a single solution presents itself: school and only school. “ The idea of a school had developed in Tagiyev’s mind a long time before, but there was no demand for it; Muslims opposed it and did not want their daughters to attend such a school. Therefore, while the school was under construction, Tagiyev did not lose any time and was intensively shaping

public opinion. He sent his “agents” to all towns and villages inhabited by religious figures revered by Muslims (Medina, Mecca etc). The “agents” met with the venerable imams, spoke to them about Islam, and by chance asked the question, as to what the Koran prescribes in relation to the attitude to female education. They were asked to write their answer on a sheet of paper and append their signature. The agents then returned to Baku with these sheets, handed them over to progressively minded mullahs in the mosque, who read them aloud during the sermon, letting their flock understand that female education was a positive action, supported by all the religious authorities of the Orient.



Muslim girls' school

Ganifa Zardabi, wife of the famous Baku intellectual, Hasan bek Zardabi, who founded the first newspaper in the Turkish language, became the first director of the Muslim girls' school. Ganifa was a very atypical Turkish woman. She was educated in Russia, spoke several languages, and she did not wear the chador (veil.) She dreamed of teaching girls, but she was not granted permission for educational activities by the authorities. She then organized an illegal school in which she taught in secret. Together with her husband, she was under secret police surveillance and was even briefly banished from Baku. The relationship between Hasan Bey and Ganify Aliyeva was also unusual. Zardabi, who returned after graduating from university in Moscow, was thinking about marriage. However, to marry

a girl whose face he would not see before the wedding, and who was uneducated, frightened, and ready to submit was not what he wanted. In Russia, he was familiar with the female students and teachers, who were a very different type of woman whom he did not find boring. That was the kind of wife that he wanted. Realizing that finding such a woman in Baku would be a very hard undertaking, he placed an advertisement in his newspaper that read "I am looking for a young woman to work in my office. Education and knowledge of Russian and other languages are required. Contact the Editor". Only one female candidate for the position came to the interview. This was Ganifa Aliyeva and Zardabi immediately realized that this was his destiny.

#3.6 Gochi

Crime had become almost uncontrollable. The police intervened from time to time but were in no position to cope with so many criminal elements in the city. Prisons were packed to bursting point. Increasingly, banishment from the city and from the Transcaucasian region was used as a punishment. Everyone was expelled indiscriminately: criminals, “politicals”, and the politically unreliable. By default, all foreigners were considered to belong to these categories and were subjected to close supervision. Before important events (for example, a visit by the Governor General to Baku) entire steamers were made ready and loaded with suspicious elements. They were taken across the Caspian Sea to the Volga, and came under the supervision of the local police. There, of

course, they were not very happy about this state of affairs. The millionaires realised that it was useless to rely on the state, so they solved their own problems by themselves. Each one acquired a personal team of bodyguard and well-paid “protection” for their businesses. Despite this, fires raged in the oilfields every day. For example, a fire in the Nobels’ fields could not be extinguished for as long as thirty-two days. It was only Murtuza Mukhtarov who did not have any hired guards. He moved freely around the city alone and was afraid of nothing. One day a known city criminal appeared and demanded payment for “protection.” Mukhtar beat him to a pulp and people started to fear. He began to fear him and gave him a wide berth.

#3.7 Cholera

In June 1892 in Baku, a terrible cholera epidemic broke out. It was brought by immigrants from Central Asia. Heat, unsanitary conditions, and poorly organized health care provided a breeding ground where cholera swiftly flourished. In the early days of the epidemic, cholera patients and corpses were transported in conventional urban carriages, which after use did not undergo to any form of disinfection. Infectious patients were put into general hospital huts, because there were no isolation cubicles. Local medical assistantss had no idea how to treat such patients, and simply refused to respond to cholera callouts. Accordingly, the infection spread at lightning speed through the city and the situation soon became catastrophic. People fled the city, and in two weeks nearly 100,000 people left Baku. They fled as best they could - on ships across the sea, by rail and by carriage. Among the refugees there were many infection vectors (carriers) and thus cholera spread not only to other parts of the Transcaucasian region, but also to all the provinces of Russia. The City officials sounded the alarm. The police

were brought in and officers were required to report every case of cholera in their assigned areas, make daily inspections of their territory, and assist in removing bodies. At the railway stations, all incoming and outgoing passengers were treated with steam and streets were washed with crude oil. The Branobel company was particularly active in fighting cholera. A sanitary unit headed by Karl Wilhelm Hagelin, which besides him consisted of two doctors, a specialist in cholera, the Russian doctor Shubenko and the American Blackstein. In the oilfield a cholera hut had been set up, as well as a tent for the medical personnel, equipped with a disinfector. For days on end, the squad went around the oilfields, checking the health of workers, and making sure that nobody drank unboiled water or ate raw fruit and vegetables. Altogether, the Nobels' company suffered 157 cases of cholera, of which forty were fatal. By September, the epidemic began to decline. In honour of the victory over this disease, Emmanuel organized a sumptuous banquet at Villa Petrolea.



Disinfection

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 Од этом домошу Вашему Високоподородио.
 Писмоводит. А. Садукчиному.

Report of a case of cholera

#3.8 Love story 1 — A Palace for Lisa

Murtuza Mukhtarov, a forty-year-old bachelor, went on a business trip to Vladikavkaz. There, he became acquainted with the Tuganov family, descendants of the first Russian army general, who was an Ossetian (a Caucasian ethnic group who speak an Iranian language). Their daughter, Khamisi Tuganova Lisa, took his fancy, and he fell in love with her at first sight. However, the general's son was unwilling to give his daughter's hand in marriage to a man of the common people, even if he was a millionaire. Mukhtarov founded a mosque in Vladikavkaz in honour of the Tuganov family in order to prove the sincerity of his intentions, and the stern father gave his consent to their marriage. Mukhtar took Lisa back to Baku with him. He adored her and spoiled her, buying her clothes and expensive jewellery. At receptions, she would, on the same occasion, wear 700 grams of

diamonds and emeralds. On their honeymoon in Venice, Lisa was enraptured by the Doge's Palace, and Mukhtar decided to build a magnificent palace in the Italian style in Baku, merely to satisfy his beloved's whim. Construction began, and the contract went to the well-known firm belonging to the brothers Kasuimov. While inspecting operations, one of the brothers, Imran, stumbled and fell from a great height. Lisa was beside herself with grief; she was well acquainted with Imran, and this fatal accident shocked her deeply. Moreover, Imran's wife, Rubaba Khanum, took her own life out of grief. Lisa blamed herself for this tragedy, as had it not been for a fleeting whim of hers, none of this would have happened. After the palace was completed, she refused to live there for a number of years — although, she would go and admire this work of art in secrecy.

#3.8 Love story 2 — *The General's Daughter*

Haji Zeynalabdin Tagiyev was married to his cousin Zaynab. Their parents had betrothed them to each other as was the custom then. Zeinab bore him three children: two sons, Ishmael and Sadig, and a daughter, Khanum. As an adult, Ismail was to marry the daughter of General Arablinsky Nurdzhahan. Haji went off to acquaint himself with his future daughter-in-law's father. In the General's house he also met his youngest daughter, Sona (1881-1932), who was still almost a child, at the age of fifteen. Tagiyev was forty-five years her senior, but from that day on, he knew no peace.

This young beauty had captured his imagination, and he decided to take a second wife into his home. Ismail was totally opposed to this decision, but Tagiyev was adamant. Ismail then broke with his father and broke off his engagement to his fiancée Nurdzhahan Arablinska. Sona Arablinska became the First Lady of Baku. Not only was she beautiful but she was also intelligent, and she very quickly became her husband's trusted helpmate. She gave birth to five children: the daughters Leila (Tagiyev gave her in marriage to the son of Shamsi Asadullayev), Sarah, Suraya, and the sons Mamed and Ilyas.

#3.8 Love story 3 — *The Treacherous Jewess*

The millionaire Musa Nagiyev, like all men of the common people, married at an early age. Rugiya Seid Khanum was from a wealthy family and her parents thought that they had done Nagiyev, a simple contractor as he then was, a great favour by giving him their daughter's hand. Rugiya was a typical Turkish woman who ran the household, bore him children (a son Ismail and a daughter Ummul Banu), and did not interfere with any of her husband's business dealings. Naghiyev also had a weakness for the female sex. When the city was flooded with non-Muslim beauties, he literally slipped off his leash. He had many mistresses: Georgians, Russian, and Poles. Rugiya knew about all this but she tolerated his behaviour. However, when he brought home a woman whom he called his second wife, her patience snapped. She was a very beautiful young Georgian Jewess, Elizaveta G. Dzhankurova, who was thirty years younger than Nagiyev. The millionaire sent her diamonds, dressed her in furs, and took her out and about, where she sparkled, for in no area did he wish to be outdone by his main competitor Tagiyev, who appeared everywhere with the

beautiful Sona Arablinska by his side. Dzhankurova knew no Turkish, but Nagiyev did not need her for her conversation. She submitted herself fully to his will and all thorny issues were swiftly resolved in bed. Rugiya hated Dzhankurova, and Elizabeth felt the same about her. She did not give Nagiyev any children, and he was not prepared to marry her officially, so for twenty years she was just a kept woman. Their official wedding took place only seven years before Nagiyev died. An ageing husband was of no interest to Elizabeth who only desired his money. He was already approaching the age of seventy, when she embarked on a secret affair with his son-in-law, Mirza Asadullayev (son of Shamsi), who had just become a widower, as his wife, the daughter of Ummul Nagiev Banu, had died in childbirth. The lovers reached an agreement and decided to rob old man Nagiyev. At night, Dzhankurova would steal the key to his safe from under his pillow, and they would remove money and valuables and run away. However, Mirza ran away by himself, as he did not want to be burdened with a capricious woman who was not in the first flush of youth and whom he did not really love.

#3.8 Love story 4 — *The Swan Princess*

Like everyone, Shamsi Asadullayev was married twice. His first wife was a Muslim. In Moscow, he became acquainted with his second wife, who was a Russian girl, the daughter of a senator with close ties to the court of the Tsar. Their wedding took place in 1907. However, he did not divorce his first wife. She was outraged by her spouse's behaviour and regularly caused scenes. Because of this, he tried to stay in Baku less often and spent more and more time in Moscow, and this habit was to play a nasty trick on him. His son Mirza was completely against his father's second marriage. Having come to an agreement with his mother, he bribed some post office workers. Mirza intercepted an important telegram addressed to Shamsi, which was an appendix to a contract for supplying oil to one of the bases in the Volga, which stipulated delivery dates. Not having received the telegram, Asadullayev was in the dark, and thus the barge with

its cargo of oil did not leave the harbour on the appointed date. Before Shamsi received information that he had let his partners down, more than a week had passed. For non-delivery on the due date, the contract prescribed huge penalties for each overdue day. As a result, a week later Asadullayev owed a large amount because of these penalties. Furthermore, that week, oil prices had plummeted. Shamsi was bankrupt, and when he learned that this was his son's doing, he cursed him and decided to commit suicide. He was saved from suicide by Musa Nagiyev, who had heard rumours about the whole business. He came to Shamsi's home and lent him not only what he needed to meet his debts, but also enough to start all over again. After this affair, Asadullayev divorced his wife and disinherited his son. With Maria Lebedeva he did not have any children, but he lived happily with her until the end of his days.

#3.8 Love story 5 — *The Beauty Queen*

In 1910, Sona Mehmandarov arrived in Baku. She was the daughter of the mayor of Lankaran, and her beauty enthralled the entire city. Many suitors came to woo her, but her father rejected them all, as he believed that such a precious jewel deserved a better setting. One of the horsemen hopelessly in love with Sona was so humiliated by his rejection that he made plans to kill the mayor. He hired a local thug to help him, and they broke into the mayor's home at night and stabbed him with a knife and threw his body into the sea. This horrible crime plunged Sona into a state of shock. She could not remain in Lankaran any longer and went to Baku, to her mother's relatives. For some time she managed to stay out of sight. However, nature will out: she had to shine and captivate men. Once again, Sona stepped out into the light, and the city fell at her feet. Crowds of fans and admirers flocked around her. However, her father was no longer by her side to guard his blossom from the insatiable eyes of men. Artistic, colorful, and unpredictable, Sona attracted the attention of the former singer and

now millionaire Said Mir-Babayev, and the whole town was whispering about their romance. It was his idea to hold the first ever beauty pageant in Baku. Devout Muslims were outraged, but the secular public thronged to the event en masse. Naturally, the beauty queen's crown was awarded to Sonia Mehmandarov. Soon Tiflis was organising the "Miss Caucasus" competition and, of course, Sona went there to participate. Mir Baba was there incognito, but somebody recognised him. Upon his return to Baku, Mir Baba learned that his oilfield had been subjected to sabotage and arson. Generally speaking, this was no surprise as it was already the way things were. However, on the eve of his secret departure, he had an audience with the leader of one of the most ruthless gangs in Baku, the Georgian Koba (an alias used by Stalin). They agreed on the size of his payoff, and Koba promised to place his oilfield under his secret protection. But could he be trusted? Sona had long been familiar with Koba. He had a bad reputation, but he was the only man she respected. He never looked at her with that horribly lecherous look that she

saw on all other men's faces. He listened to her as she spoke and did not interrupt. He trusted her so much that he gave her banned books in German to read. It was a pity that he was a thug. Him, she would have married, though he was not a millionaire like Said. It was nice, of course, that Said had dreamed up this competition on her behalf and had even purchased the emerald crown for the winner. She was now going to St Petersburg for the All-Russian beauty pageant. However, he had too much money and it made him mad. There was nothing wrong with Koba and his men relieving him of some of it for their important political needs.

Sona, now "Miss Russia", returned to Baku, but at the station she was met not by Said's luxurious carriage, nor even by a modest cab, sent by Koba. The city police chief himself was waiting for her in a carriage with curtained windows. He told the disheartened beauty what a women's prison was like and how cold it was in Siberia. After all, she did

not want to swap her luxurious clothes and jewellery for state prison overalls? To prevent that from happening, she would only have to give the police a little help: tell them whenever Koba came to see her, what books he brought her, and what they talked about. This was not betrayal; it was her duty to the Sovereign Tsar and all the inhabitants of Baku, who were tired of this violent Georgian's gang. She would do so because more than anything else in the world she longed to see Paris, where she was expected at the "Miss World" contest, and least of all did she want to wear prison rags and see the Siberian landscape outside her window.

In 1912, she was crowned "Miss World" in Paris and never returned to Baku. She married the first Dagestan merchant she came across and disappeared for many long years to come. Quite likely, she often thought of Koba and his cunning eyes, which sometimes turned cold and terrifying.

#3.8 Love story 6 — *The Unwanted Russian*

The daughter of Ludwig Nobel, Marta, was a true modern emancipated woman, and since childhood she had dreamed of a career in medicine. Emmanuel, who had taken the place of her father, who had died early (she was seven years old when he passed away, favourably her idea to go to St Petersburg to study at the Faculty of Medicine. However, he never imagined that his little sister would return not only with a diploma testifying to her brilliant studies, but also with a ring on her finger. Without consulting with her powerful family, young Marta had got engaged to Doctor Gregori Oleynikov, to whom she had been introduced by a Swedish girlfriend. He was a man of the Orthodox faith and of the common people, and he was also much older than her and of a sort that these proud Swedes could not forgive. Marta should not

have behaved like this! Their Nordic blood must be kept in its pristine purity, with regard to the Nobel family. However, she did not heed them and was married to Oleynikov in St Petersburg in 1905. A year later, he was arrested on suspicion of involvement with the revolutionary underground. Marta had to turn to her all-powerful brother for help, and Emmanuel, who lately had not wanted to hear about this Russian, petitioned for his release. Taking a close look at his brother-in-law, he relented. The doctor was a good person, and, most importantly, a man of action, a high-class professional, something that Emmanuel appreciated in people most of all. Oleynikov not only became a member of the family, he helped the company to organise health care and sanitary control at its enterprises.

#3.8 Love story 7 — *The Bachelor*

Alfred Nobel never married, but in his life there were three women, each of whom broke his heart. In his youth, Alfred encountered the famous actress Sarah Bernhardt. He fell madly in love with her, and she reciprocated his feelings. The young people dreamed of getting married. As a devoted son, Alfred wanted his mother Anrietta's blessing, but she disapproved of the bride. "My son, artistes have no soul", she wrote to him in a letter, and he dared not disobey her and soon after broke with Sarah. Many years later, he fell in love with his secretary, Bertha Kinsky. She came to the Nobel household in response to advertisements that Alfred had placed in a newspaper: "A middle-aged and very well set up gentleman seeks a business assistant". Their business relationship quickly turned into a romance, but the naive Alfred did not realize that he was dealing with a common gold-digger, whose plan was to gain the millionaire's confidence of the millionaire, make him fall in love with her and marry him.

Bertha had no feelings for Alfred, and when she realized that the Nobel money was protected by legal documents and invested in numerous companies, she just ran away. Alfred heard rumors that Bertha had married the Austrian Baron von Suttner. Alfred corresponded with her until he died. In 1905, Bertha won the Nobel Prize for her novel "Lay Down Your Arms". The delight of Alfred's last years was Sofia Hess, a florist, whose shop Alfred walked past daily on his way to work. This strange romantic relationship lasted five years, with Sofia pulling the wool over his eyes. In the end, she left him, saying that she was pregnant by a captain of the dragoons called von Capivara. She did not forget to ask Alfred not to cancel her allowance, which he paid her until his death. Afterwards she received an annual bequest of 500,000 Swedish crowns. Later on, Hess threatened to sell her personal correspondence with Alfred at auction, and Nobel's heirs fought a long battle until they bought these documents off her for a huge sum.

#3.8 Love story 8 — *The Orientalist*

Abram Nusimbaum, a rich Jew and an oilman, becomes a witness to this scene: a beautiful young woman, handcuffed, marched off to the city jail. The girl has made her mark on his soul. The next day he learns who she is by bribing the police: it is Berta Slutskaya, a member of the revolutionary underground. Nusimbaum ransoms her out of prison for a huge amount of money and wants to add her to his harem. He already has other wives; by

Baku standards this was acceptable. But Berta refuses such a set-up. She wants to be the only one, or he should let her go free — especially as there is someone else waiting for her: her lover and fellow party member Koba. Nusimbaum, madly in love with Berta, agrees. In 1905, a son, Leo, who would later become the author of the famous novel “Ali and Nino”, was born to Nusimbaum.

#4 — 1914

The First World War

Plot

- The protracted overproduction crisis in the oil industry threatened the oilmen's holdings. Small businesses were being ruined, major ones were staying afloat through diversification. On the eve of the war, many people were considering turning their backs on oil extraction.
- The outbreak of the war changed everything, and it became clear that the war would be won by the side that possessed oil in the form of fuel, lubricants and other products. Production revived, and once again the oilmen became unbelievably rich.

Sub-plot

German intelligence attempted to recruit Emmanuel Nobel, but he refused, as he had been linked to the Russian Empire, which he had served, his entire life. Then the blackmail began. A large amount of German money (from the "Diskont Gesellschaft Bank") was invested in his company, and the Germans were preparing to

withdraw their capital and thus ruin the company. However, Emmanuel managed to take a risky loan in time and save the company finances. Subsequently, he repaid this loan thanks to the fabulous amounts that the company made on military orders placed by the Russian government.



#5 — 1905-1917

“Red expropriators” and the revolutionary movement in Baku

Plot

- Anarchist groups appeared in Baku, and these engaged in looting and extortion for political purposes. Their credo was: “The destruction of any state authority is the goal of an anarchist, and it is necessary to facilitate this at all costs.” The “struggle” was constantly in need of money, which the anarchists extorted by criminal means, as they considered robbing the rich a righteous act. They were greatly feared as they had no inhibitions and would spare no one for the sake of their goals. They were responsible not only for robberies, but also for acts of terrorism, and for numerous murders, primarily of government officials and police officers.

- The Armenian radical party (Dashnaktsyutyun) and provocation and incitement by its members led to a large-scale Armenian-Azerbaijani massacre in 1905-1906. Rivers of blood were shed, and the Interior Minister Stolypin came to pacify the outraged inhabitants of Baku.
- The birth of the revolutionary underground. In Baku, where it was easy to stay out of sight, the local police were not vigilant as was the case in Tiflis. The city was full of foreigners and all kinds of rabble, and there was already a cell of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party (RSDLP) but it was small and weak. Everything changed when Koba (Joseph Dzhugashvili, aka Stalin), who was being hunted by the entire Georgian police force, settled permanently in the city.

#5 Sub-plots (stories)

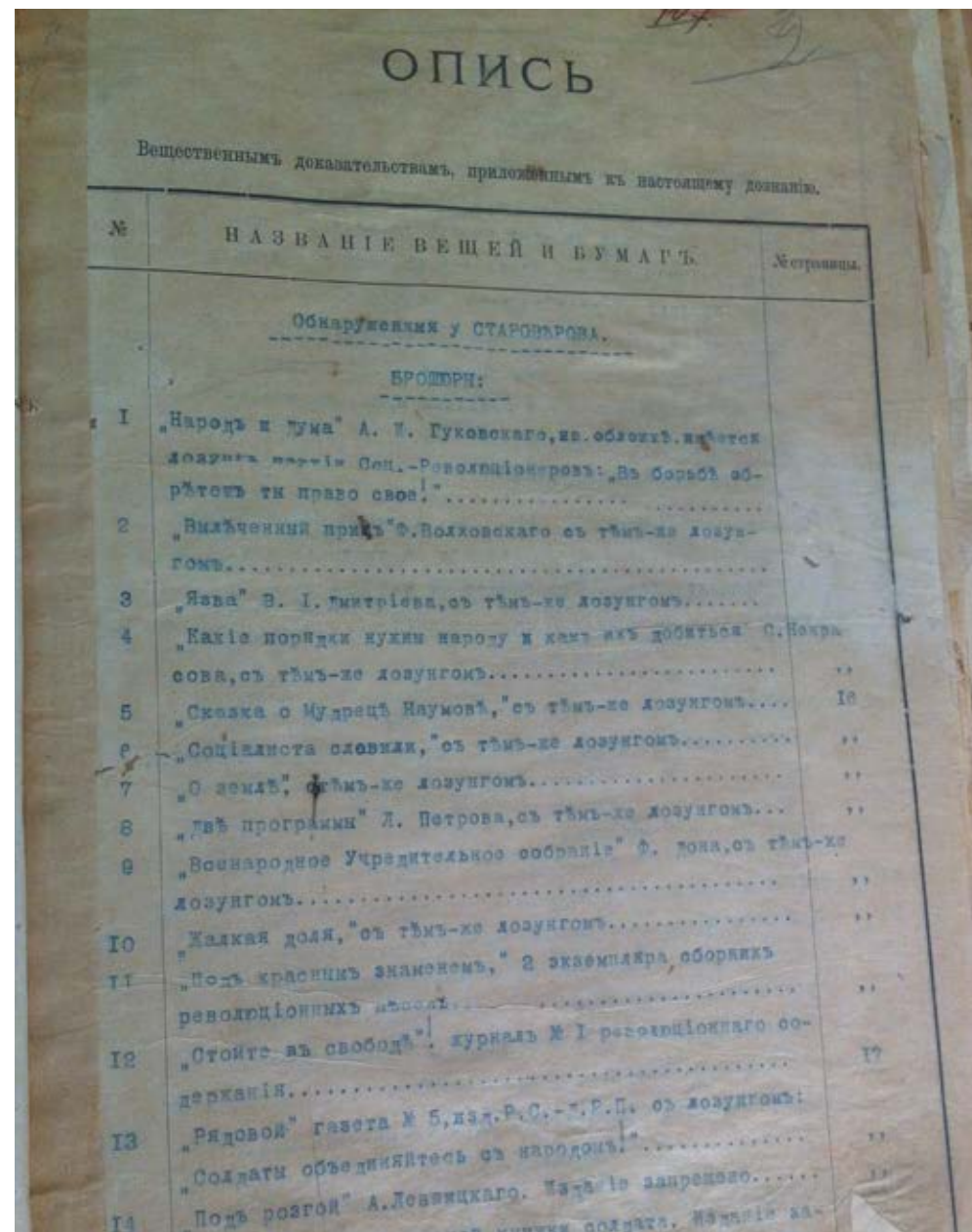
#5.1 *Red Hundred*

The first anarchists appeared in Baku back in 1904, and their numbers rapidly multiplied. At first, there were small groups who had been recruiting members from among the labourers in the oil fields; the most oppressed and disadvantaged groups among the population of Baku. The groups grew and branched off. In 1905, according to police estimates, there were about one and a half thousand anarchists actively operating in the city. The RSDLP cell tried to fight the rampant anarchist terror, but in vain. The most famous group was called “Red Hundred” and was headed by two Jews, Zeynts and Stern (workers at the Rothschilds’ oilfield), but were composed mainly of Russians, Georgians and numbers of Armenians. “Red hundred” accused the anarchists in Baku of not employing sufficiently harsh methods of political struggle. They were cruel and hasty “practical revolutionaries”, responsible for a daring robbery aboard the mail steamer

“Tsesarevich”, the murder of assistant police chief Zhgenti, district police guards Zavgorodniy and Kudryashov, secret police agents Dolzhnikov and Levin, bailiff Prokopovich, prison warden Prokopenko, police officer Richter, police officer Pestov, and detective Raczkowski. “Red Hundred” killed Branobel manager Eklund and engineer Tuasson for refusing to pay “revolutionary tribute” and opposition to strikes in the oilfields. The police were initially passive and inactive. The rare arrests of anarchists usually ended with their release. However, after a series of terrorist attacks by the “Red Hundred” group, the public and law enforcement officials reconsidered their attitude to such groups. The period 1908-1909 saw the start of mass roundups, blanket arrests, and expulsions from the city and from the Caucasus. In 1908, the entire membership of “Red Hundred” were arrested and they were all convicted and sentenced to hard labour in Siberia.



Workers on Branobel Company



The identification of a revolutionary Sviatopolk from Red Hundreds

List of banned literature founded during the search

#5.2 *The Armenian-Azerbaijani massacre in 1905*

February 6, 1905, a crime unprecedented in its audacity was committed. On a crowded street in broad daylight, an Armenian killed a rich Turkish merchant. By evening, dozens of armed Muslims gathered in the city centre, dashed into the crowd, and mercilessly murdered the first Armenians that they could lay their hands on. Dasnaks, i.e., members of the Armenian radical party, rushed to help their fellow believers, and by nightfall, Baku resembled an overturned anthill. The situation had become unmanageable. Brutalized, armed men ran around the city, and gunfire and screams for mercy could be heard everywhere; neither women nor children were spared. By morning, the whole city was awash with blood, and troops were sent to assist the police. A telegram arrived from St Petersburg that the Interior Minister Stolypin had left immediately to view the scene of these events. The riots continued for several days, and hundreds of Turks and Armenians lost their lives. It was only with great difficulty that the situation could be stabilised. However, less than six months had elapsed when the confrontation escalated. Riots erupted again on August

20, and on August 22, oil derricks were set on fire. The Baku newspapers reported as follows: "The following were completely destroyed by fire including the offices: the Caspian Company, Runo, Tumaev, Armaluys Mantashev (the entire plant at Zabrat), Pitoev, Mirzoyev Krasil'nikov, Melikov, Aramazd Adam Ter-Akopova, the Vatra plant Vatan, Shirvan, The Caucasian Company, Caucasus, Souchastniki, Raduga, Petrol, The Balahansk Company, Prince Gagarin, Halperin and many other smaller firms. Two thirds of the Nobel Brothers' property was undamaged, and half in the case of the Caspian-Black Sea Company, while the Moscow-Caucasian Company suffered minor losses as only four drilling rigs burnt down, and the remainder were undamaged. Bekendorf was not affected, while Vorontsov-Dashkov lost 6-7 rigs to fire. The companies of Musa Nagiyev and Asadullayev had not been affected." It looked odd when viewed against the background of the general devastation that the companies of the principal Baku oil producers among the Muslims had remained completely intact. The police began an investigation, and very soon it led them to the home of Haji Zeynalabdin Tagiyev.



#5.3.1 *Koba. Childhood*

Joseph (Soso), the son of a prosperous shoemaker Visarion (Beso) and Catherine (Keke) Dzhugashvili. They lived well and always had plenty of food, and Soso was better dressed than the other boys on the street. However, prosperity abandoned their home when Beso took to drinking. He drank a lot, and he was a frightening sight as he could not restrain himself but turned into a brute when he was drunk, and he beat his wife, smashed things, and grabbed the ax. A terrified Soso hid from him in a storeroom. Keke felt sorry for her son, but she did not leave Beso, as he was the only breadwinner. What would they do if she and the boy were alone? Her dream was for Joseph to become a priest. In order for him to be able to study she was prepared to tolerate the abuse of her drunken husband. In 1888, the boy entered Gori's Church School. He did not really like studying there, and his imagination was far too lively for him to be able to sit still for hours, studying the scriptures and praying on schedule. However, he loved and felt sorry for his mother and he did not want to upset her.

After studying at the school for year, Soso was admitted to hospital for a long stay on account of serious injuries. The boy was singing in the church choir at an Orthodox street festival. Suddenly, an out-of-control carriage whose horses had bolted, crashed into the crowd. The women gave a terrified scream as the young choir boy, ten-year-old Joseph Dzhugashvili, was lying still on the ground, in a pool of blood, with both legs and one arm broken. He was to remain lame, and at school he was given the nickname "Geza" (on account of his distinctive gait) and his left arm no longer bent at the elbow. His entire life, he had dreams in which the carriage came hurtling towards him at break-neck speed.

Two years later, Soso became acquainted at college with the brothers Lado and Vano Ketskhoveli, whose older brother Nicholas was expelled from the Tiflis Theological Seminary for his membership of a "Narodnik" (Populist) group. From the Ketskhoveli brother Soso learned about the revolutionary movement, and he was to associate with them for many years, as it was they who got him to read Marx and recommended that he join the RSDLP.



#5.3.2 *Koba. 1894*

At the insistence of his mother, Soso entered the Tiflis Theological Seminary. He arrived there a quiet, shy teenager, but a mere two months later, his fellow students followed him, and he only had to open his mouth, for them to be ready to obey any orders he gave. His studies were like torture to Joseph. A life that followed a schedule, endless prayers, and prohibitions that applied to literally everything made him moody and depressed. More than anything, he wanted to close the seminary door behind himself and never return. However, his mother would not have forgiven him so he suffered. The only consolation for him lay in poetry, which he devoted all his spare time to writing. After finishing the first year at the seminary, he sent the editor of the newspaper “Iberia” the crumpled sheets on which he had written his compositions by hand. The Editor in Chief, Ilia Chavchavadze, reviewed his verses and stated that they showed talent and that they deserved to be printed in his publication. His poems appeared in five issues of “Iberia”, and the boy dreamed of becoming a professional writer.

#5.3.3 *Koba. 1895*

Soso was already fifteen and his roommate Seid Davdori-ani revealed a secret to him: within the walls of the seminary there was an illegal student circle where politics and books forbidden in school were discussed. Soso immediately joined this circle, and his academic performance rapidly went downhill. Only yesterday he had been one of the best students in the class, now his marks were only twos and threes, and soon he was a regular visitor to the isolation cell. His reputation among the teachers at the seminary was crumbling before his eyes, but this no longer bothered him. In Tiflis the first Marxists had appeared and Soso made their acquaintance. He read forbidden books and led his fellow students astray.

#5.3.4 Koba. 1898

During the vacations Soso went home to Gori and met his old friends, the Ketskhoveli brothers. During this time they had already become masters of “politics” and were now under police surveillance. Back in Tbilisi, Soso joined the RSDLP and was soon expelled from the seminary.

#5.3.5 Koba. 1900

Joseph lived with friends and did odd jobs for a living. On January 1 in Tiflis, there is a tramway strike, and six months later the workers of the Transcaucasian railway stop working. Joseph writes the proclamation as he has a good literary style. The police suspect him of organizing a strike, but did not succeed in proving this and he was released. After the strike many of its active participants were fired. They leave to try their luck in Baku, and thus the “revolutionary spark” within had been lit.

#5.3.6 Koba. 1901

Joseph went underground. The police had long had him under surveillance and it was too dangerous for him to remain in the city. He went to Batumi where there was already a RSDLP cell whose members were primarily Rothschild workers. Joseph actively recruited Mantashev’s workers, and soon lengthy strikes begin at his works. Dzhugasvili is arrested and his involvement with this activity is proved. He spends almost a year in prison and is then due to be banished to Siberia.

#5.3.7 *Koba. 1904*

Dzhugashvili escapes from exile. However, in Tiflis they are not pleased to see him, as there was a struggle for the leadership of the RSDLP, and his long absence had borne fruit. He decided to go to Baku. Once Dzhugashvili appeared there, the workers began to be agitated. In Baku, he became acquainted with Stepan Shaumyan. An educated young man, and a favourite of Alexander Mantashev ; he studied with this magnate's son and helped to tutor him. Mantashev even proposed that Shaumyan marry his daughter, but he gave a jocular refusal. In December, a strike began at the Balakhany oil fields.

The movement spread to the Nobels' fields, and then to Mantashev's , and soon it became an all-out strike.

After Bloody Sunday, the police feared provocations and preemptively arrested all known members of the Baku Committee of the RSDLP, including Dzhugashvili. He thus became known to the Baku police. In February, Armenian-Azerbaijani clashes began, and Dzhugashvili tried to stop the madness by touring the oilfields and persuading the workers, and by trying to campaign for peace in the street, but his words fell on deaf ears. He did not know that the provocation had been organized and paid for by Mantashev, the patron saint of the active cell member Stepan Shaumyan. He left Baku for a year, and in the Georgian village of Chiatura he had a taste of terror and developed a liking for it. Under his leadership, "fighting detachments" were created by the RSDLP.



Koba. Baku 1908



Kamo. Baku 1908

#5.3.8 *Koba. 1905*

Dzhugashvili now used the party nickname “Koba”. He returned to Baku, where everything was seething. Armenian-Azerbaijani clashes were becoming fiercer, the differences between workers and industrialists ever more irreconcilable. In early October, the city is in the grip of a general strike. Police and provincial authorities in despair reported to St Petersburg that the situation had got out of control. The Tsar is forced to make concessions. He signed the manifesto, which promises to grant the State Duma legislative rights and also proclaims freedom of conscience, assembly, association, and the genuine inviolability of the person, but this could not stop the riots. On October 18 and 19 in Tbilisi and Baku, there were demonstrations that ended in attempts to storm the security police department and release prisoners. Blood was shed in Baku.

#5.3.9 *Koba. 1906*

Koba travelled to a Party Congress in Stockholm. As soon as he returned, he was arrested and the police tried to

recruit him. After that, he was suddenly released, but his story that he was transferred to a prison in Metekhi is a lie, for which there are witnesses. His comrades suspected that Koba had taken an illegal printing press to Avlabari. In the summer of 1906, Koba married Kato Svanidze. They were married in secret by a seminary classmate of Koba, China Thinvaleli, at midnight, in an empty church, in an atmosphere of strict secrecy, for Koba lived illegally, on a false passport. Kato was a seamstress, sewing dresses for the capital's beau monde; all the high society ladies knew her. Therefore, in the apartment Kato arranged a warehouse of illegal literature, under the noses of the police. When Koba was away, Kato was raided by gendarmes (an anonymous denunciation), who seized a bag of literature, and she was put under arrest, despite her pregnancy. Kato showed them her passport, which did not have any record of a marriage to Dzhugashvili, but to no avail. A client of hers, the wife of gendarme Colonel Rechitskii, insisted that Kato be transferred from prison to their apartment, where she spent one and a half months in custody. On March 18, 1907, a son, Jacob, was born to Koba and Kato.

#5.3.10 *Koba. 1907*


1907 June 13, in broad daylight, in the center of Tbilisi, a daring attack was made on a mail coach and 250,000 roubles were stolen. The arranger and principal protagonist of this raid was S.M. Ter-Petrosian (Kamo). Dzhughashvili also took part in it, throwing a bomb from the roof of Prince Sumbatov's house. This action caused outrage in the RSDLP. After all, the congress had only just condemned such practices. The Mensheviks demanded Koba's exclusion from the party. Having quarreled with his friends, he, along with his wife and son, moved to Baku again. Shortly thereafter, he began to publish the illegal newspapers "Baku Worker" and "The Siren", in which he wrote. At meetings of the cell, Koba promoted the idea of arming fighting squads with guns and ammunition that could be obtained from the Baku police.

The only thing needed was money, and Koba had already established the necessary connections. Thus, Captain Zaitsev, a senior police officer, who for huge bribes sold weapons to the fighters, proved to be involved with a criminal organization. Money was often delivered by Shaumyan as Mantashev was no miser. Simultaneously, there was a daring raid on Baku's arsenal with the help of sailors, with whom Koba had established longstanding connections. Shortly before the raid, Kato, Koba's wife, died from a serious illness, and his personal grief intensified his rage, and several people were murdered in the raid. In truth, after the mail coach raid in Tbilisi, he never took up arms; he planned and prepared everything and left the killing to his comrades. As well as the robberies, Koba's armed detachment had no qualms about direct extortion. For example,

the kidnapping of the millionaire Musa Nagiyev was undertaken twice. The first time, the tycoon refused to pay the amount demanded and offered ten times less. In response to death threats he said: “Kill me, and you will not get even that.” The fighters were forced to release Nagiyev and be content with what they got. This episode motivated a second abduction, which happened in broad daylight, in full view of the city’s inhabitants. Nagiyev was kept in the basement for three days, until he agreed to send a note to Tagiyev, who brought the ransom money. Sitting in captivity, Nagiyev got to know Koba personally, and, oddly enough, they liked each other.

The raid was the last straw that exhausted the patience of the Baku secret police, and an investigation began. Despite countermeasures by Zaitsev, Dzhugashvili’s involvement in the crime quickly became apparent. This time, not even his links with the gendarmerie helped, and he was arrested and put in jail in Bailov. He had lived in Baku illegally, using someone else’s passport. Therefore, in the files of the secret police he appeared under the name of “Kogan Besovich Nijeradze.” In November 1908, he was to be sent in stages to Siberia. In exile, Koba became acquainted with Stefania Leandrovna Peterovska, who escaped to Baku together with him.

Бакинское Губернское Жандармское



Возраст по изв. виду 30-32 года. Рост и в.с. 189 см. Глаз. карие. Волос. темные. Нос. прямой. Губы. тонкие. Уши. средние. Зубы. хорошие. Печать. [illegible]

ОПИСАНИЕ ПРИНЕМЫ

1) Волосы: темные, длинные, волнистые. 2) Борода: нет. 3) Глаза: карие, средние. 4) Нос: прямой, средний. 5) Губы: тонкие, средние. 6) Уши: средние, средние. 7) Зубы: хорошие, средние. 8) Печать: [illegible]

Уши: 10) Борз: Нач. С. Верх. Куп. 11) Противокос. 12) [illegible] 13) [illegible] 14) Губы: тонкие, средние. 15) Подбородок: тонкий, средний.

СЛОБОДЯН

ფოტოსურათი ამაზნავ სტალინის სარეგისტრაციო ბარათისა, 1908 წლის მარტი (ბაქოს ეანდარმთა საგუბერნიო სამმართველოს 1910 წლის საქმიდან) (ფოტოგრაფი ინახება მარტს-ენგელს-ლენინის ინსტიტუტის თბილისის ფილიალში)

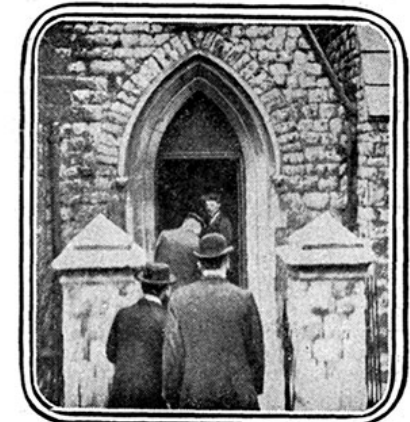
RUSSIAN REVOLUTIONISTS MEET SECRETLY IN A CHURCH HALL.



Day after day Russian Labour delegates meet in a hall attached to the Brotherhood Church, Southgate-road, N., in order to plot against the Russian Government. The large photograph shows three of them entering the hall, and the inset the Brotherhood Church, where the meetings take place.—(Daily Mirror photograph.)



Harmless pedestrians who pass the delegates in the streets have no idea of their proximity to revolutionists who are plotting against a throne.—(Daily Mirror photograph.)



The entrance to the hall, showing three delegates going in to a meeting and a watchman at the door.—(Daily Mirror photograph.)

#5.3.11 Koba. 1908-10

Koba lived and was active in Baku. He has a bad reputation in the RSDLP: firstly, he was considered a bandit, and secondly, a traitor. Once, one of the party comrades witnessed a scene, where a man in police uniform came up to Dzhugashvili in the street and handed him a piece of paper and said: “This is a list of those who are about to be arrested,” and disappeared. Those in the party cell thought Koba was working for the secret police. In actual fact, it was the secret police who worked for him. Captain Zaitsev was still there, and new connections had been made. The gendarmerie was riddled with corruption; for money, half the staff were prepared to help revolutionaries, God, or even the Devil. The same happened in business circles. For the sake of financial benefit, businessmen were ready to participate in provocations and finance revolutionaries, just to mislead their competitors. Everyone was on Koba’s payroll: Mantashev, the Rotschilts (through their manager Franz Giun), Shibaev, members of the Board of Directors of Union Oil Producers, high ranking officials of the city etc. They paid, and in order to pay them off, the revolutionaries promised to stop strikes and to reassure workers in exchange for funding.

Murtuza Mukhtarov was the only local tycoon not to pay. He had a personal score to settle with Koba; he hated his criminal ways and refused to play by his rules. He called on Mukhtar personally, after having not received a tribute from one of the richest oil industrialists of Baku, hoping to persuade or intimidate this businessman. He did not succeed, however. Mukhtarov was a tough nut to crack. He shoved the revolutionary in the neck, and promised that he would kill the man personally if he ever saw him again. Initially, the Nobels too refused to pay and tried to involve the police, but Koba had everything under control in that respect. The fighting detachment punished the Nobels by killing two senior employees, and the company’s funds were relieved of 50,000 roubles.

#5.3.11 Koba. 1911

Koba became a “roving” agent of the RSDLP and left Baku. However, the city would long remember the “furious Georgian”, until the revolutionary wave took him to the very top . . .



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(2013- , Andrew Davies, ITV Studios)



«Marco Polo»

(2014 - , John Fusco, Netflix)



BUTA FILMS

film developing company

butafilms.com

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Buta Films was founded in 2012. The company's portfolio has over 80 documentaries and docudramas, including projects for BBC Two, Channel One, Russia and the Fifth Channel, St. Petersburg. Most well known for documentaries, the company also produces projects in other genres. And with the benefit of this experience, the founders of Buta Films have now completed their first feature film.

The short feature, SONUNCU (The Last One), gave widespread international acclaim to Buta Films, providing the opportunity for successful cooperation between Azerbaijan and Russia at the 67th Cannes Festival.

The film Sonuncu was officially selected for 34 international film festivals and was awarded at San Paolo International Short Film Festival.

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