

Aron Baron in Samarovo 1911

The repression of Aron Baron by the state began under the tsarist regime when he was sentenced to a term of exile in a remote Siberian village. The internal police document below was recently published by the Yeltsin Presidential Library in Saint-Petersburg (<http://prlib.ru/item/462519>). The original document is held by the State Archive of Tiumen Oblast: F. I-239, Op. 1, D. 128, I_239-1-128 028296.

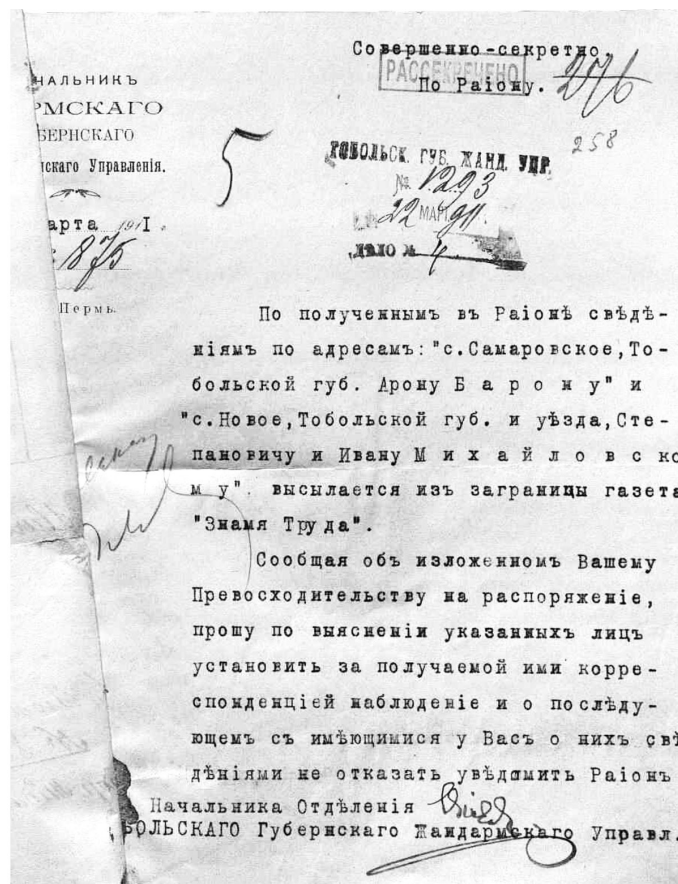
TOP SECRET

To the Chief of the Tobolsk Provincial Police Administration

According to information reported to us, the newspaper "Znamya Truda" is being sent from abroad to "Aron Baron, village of Samarovo, Tobolsk Province," and to "Ivan Stepanovich Mikhailovsky, village of Novoye, Tobolsk Province."

In reporting this information to Your Excellency, I would ask you to monitor these individuals by placing their correspondence under surveillance and to share any findings about them.

[Signed]
Chief of the Perm Provincial Police Administration
March 17 1911
№1875
City of Perm



Translator's notes:

"Znamya Truda" [The Banner of Labour] was the main organ of the Russian Socialist-Revolutionary Party, published in Paris. Although the newspaper was illegal in Russia, it circulated through the postal system and seems to have been used by the police to identify dangerous revolutionaries. Aron escaped abroad the following year, to begin a very different life in the USA.

Translated and annotated by Malcolm Archibald



Samarovo in 1909 – the residents are showing off their new wooden sidewalk (photo by A. I. Galkin).