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»Čez noč je postal Gassner Anglež, Glanzmann pa švicarski Italijan.«¹

Sekvestracija Bombažne predilnice in tkalnice v Tržiču leta 1919

IZVLEČEK

V članku so predstavljene razmere, v katerih sta se leta 1919 znašla lastnika Bombažne predilnice in tkalnice v Tržiču Edmund Glanzmann in Andre Gassner ml. Ministrstvo za trgovino in industrijo je namreč 30. aprila 1919 izdalo naredbo, po kateri so vsa podjetja, ki so pripadala državljanom »neprijateljskih držav«, postavili pod poseben nadzor in sekvester. Glanzmann in Gassner sta morala dokazati, da nista državljana sovražnih držav, in sta v ta namen sprožila obsežno akcijo, v kateri sta se obrnila na poslaništvi svojih držav Švice in Velike Britanije, za posredovanje pa sta prosila tudi najuglednejšega slovenskega politika tiste dobe, dr. Antona Korošca.

KLJUČNE BESEDE

Tržič, Glanzmann, Gassner, Bombažna predilnica in tkalnica Tržič, Kraljevina SHS, sekvestracija

ABSTRACT

“OVERNIGHT GASSNER BECAME AN ENGLISHMAN AND GLANZMANN A SWISS ITALIAN.”
SEQUESTRATION OF THE COTTON SPINNING AND WEAVING MILL OF TRŽIČ IN 1919

The article presents the conditions that in 1919 faced the owners of the Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mill of Tržič Edmund Glanzmann and Andre Gassner, Jr. On 30 April 1919, the Ministry of Trade and Industry issued a decree stipulating that all companies owned by subjects of “unfriendly states” should be placed under special supervision and sequestration. In order to demonstrate that they were not citizens of hostile states, Glanzmann and Gassner started a comprehensive campaign, turning to the embassies of their respective home countries Switzerland and Great Britain, and they also asked the preeminent Slovenian politician of that time, Anton Korošec, to intercede on their behalf.

KEY WORDS

Tržič, Glanzmann, Gassner, Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mill of Tržič, Kingdom of SHS, sequestration

¹ Jugoslavija, 5. 1. 1919, str. 2, »Iz Tržiča«.



 S U M M A R Y

“Overnight Gassner became an Englishman and Glanzmann a Swiss Italian.” Sequestration of the Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mill of Tržič in 1919

The article discusses the difficulties faced by the owners of the Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mill (Bombažna predilnica in tkalnica – BPT) of Tržič Edmund Glanzmann, Andre Gassner, Sr., and Andre Gassner, Jr., after the end of the First World War. Identifying Glanzmann and Gassner, Sr., as citizens of hostile states, the Kingdom of SHS sequestered BPT, placing its owners' endeavours to end the sequestration in a time when Slovenia was trying to obscure the memory of Austria-Hungary and its society was increasingly intolerant of the German-speaking community. In 1919, the owners of BPT thus had to use all their diplomatic skills and connections. Andre Gassner, Jr., a BPT partner that succeeded his father Andre Gassner, Sr., after the war, travelled three times to Belgrade, calling on the authorities to terminate the sequestration of the company and trying to demonstrate that he himself and Glanzmann were not citizens of states hostile to

the Kingdom of SHS. He even requested assistance from the most distinguished Slovenian politician of that time, Anton Korošec. In numerous letters addressed at the authorities, Glanzmann and Gassner, Jr., pointed to large quantities of finished products sitting in Tržič, prevented under the given circumstances from being transported abroad. Apart from the looming cancellation of orders that this entailed, the owners of BPT also had to cope with the shortage of cotton.

Nonetheless, despite finding themselves in a postwar atmosphere unfavourable to – especially German-speaking – aliens, Glanzmann and Gassner, Jr., resolved their problem relatively quickly with the help of numerous acquaintances as well as their strong reputation as successful businessmen. Their episode sheds light on the developments that took place at the end of the First World War, when most Slovenes enthused over the creation of the new state – the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes on the one hand and tried to leave the period of Austria-Hungary behind as quickly as possible on the other. Although German-speaking aliens, such as Glanzmann and Gassner, Jr., met with little public sympathy amid such an atmosphere, they nevertheless terminated the sequestration of the Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mill of Tržič successfully by applying their diplomatic skills.