



HOTEL ESPLANADE
BERLIN

BERLIN W 9, DEN 192
BELLEVUESTRASSE
KURFÜRST 6761

Moscow, Monday AM

Dearest Bimshine:

Well here I am all safe +
sound and ~~very~~ ~~enjoying~~ nothing - i.e. some-
what restless at not speaking Russian and not
yet having seen Dr Semastke nor had any
breakfast though it is now 10³⁰

The trip here was rather long. You
see I left Berlin Friday night, woke up in Königs-
berg and Sat evening had gotten into Riga
after dawdling and dragging through Lithuania
and Latvia all day. left Riga again at
11⁴⁵ ^{Sat night} and woke up in Estonia (I think) and got
across the border about 10 AM. Almost no formalities
Then all the rest of Sunday and till 9 Monday in Russia.

and I rather cursed myself for being too careful and sending the report back. However time will tell on that matter: I don't want to offend these people and it is certainly up to them to ~~see~~ show what they want to.

Well it's a great experience and all that I expected except that people are cheerier and better nourished than I'd expected. The peasants certainly have the prize for cow barn faces and when you add felt over shoes about 8 times too big, and mending garments of one sort or another the effect is of a bundled up apple woman on a street corner in the middle of winter.

The crowds look warmly dressed but

The clothes are coarse grungy and greasy and the effect is not chic - to put it mildly. The buildings look run down and near the time when repairs will be in order, but there was a surprising amount of building going on outside Moscow as we came in.

Of course it's wintry here - deepish snow everything on sleighs and consequently rather quiet. The country was just exactly like the Bayard Taylor (?) stories of Russian wolves droshkies etc. and was really quite beautiful. The train was comfortable though not very quick and I soon knew I had so much German - but I can almost get along with it.

The Savoy was full - till tomorrow I am at another where no one speaks anything but Russian but ~~the~~ room is good and I'll get along. Gosh what a strange place

it is! Some of the churches are fantastic
even if they do look run down.

Things seem to move very slowly - if
Semashko doesn't arrange a good deal for
to be seen I shall see very little - but
more of that later.

A week ago was I in Croissy?
It seems two weeks at least if not
three! Oh darling cheerid and I'll
be your Bobby Shafto before very long.

Your loving Alan.