

in Armenian high schools in Tehran, and apparently his students loved him. According to Shahen Petrossian, one of his students at Davtian High School, there were no Armenian chemistry or physics textbooks at that time (and I doubt there were any at all in the Diaspora). Shahen wrote that Dr. Minassian, a young and charismatic teacher, brought German and Czech textbooks to class, translated lessons on the spot and dictated in fluent Armenian.¹³ V. Gurgen, a student at the co-ed Haykazian High School in the 1933/34 school year, remembered the exhilaration at having a new teacher who was knowledgeable and strict in the classroom and a pleasant and helpful friend outside.¹⁴

When Reza Shah ordered the Armenian schools closed in 1936, my father was immediately employed by the Ministry of Education and sent to Tabriz—with all his moving expenses paid by the government—to teach chemistry in the senior class of Ferdowsi High School. Here too his services were highly valued, as attested to by the certificates of praise and appreciation I found in his papers, including a letter dated 1/10/1317 (December 22, 1938) from the principal of Ferdowsi High School to the office of the Ministry of Education in Azerbaijan, copied to Dr. Baghdassar Minassian.

Those were difficult years for Atrpatakan Armenians and Baghdik dedicated his time and energy to serving his people, shouldering responsibilities and assuming

13 Shahen Petrossian, «Անմոռանալի դէմքերից մէկը» (One of the unforgettable people), in the special commemorative issue of *Alik*, August 21, 1976.

14 V. Gurgen, «Յիշողութիւններ» (Memories), in *ibid*.