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# Che Swiss Observer <br> Telephone: City 4603. <br> Published every Friday at 21, Garlick Hill, London, E.C. 4. <br> Telegrams: Freprinco, London. 

## No. 78



The propaganda for and against the proposed capital levy is being carried on in a somewhat acrimonious and agressive spirit, and every Swiss
patriot will be pleased when this controversial patriot will be pleased when this controversial question is finally settled, so that a more sober and
dignified atmosphere may prevail again. A good dignified atmosphere may prevail again. A good
many statements have been published which cannot be substantiated, and even threats have been made that if the voting on December 3rd should reject the capital levy, a general strike all over Switzerissue, a lightning strike has already taken place in the printing trade, and has chiefly affected Lausamne, Basle and Berne, in which towns the daily papers have suspended individual publication and are issuing a common news sheet. The points at workers and the master printers, reiterating the willingness to discuss the new tariff of wages and hours, the old one coming to an end on December 31st. Owing to the refusal of the printers in some newspaper offices to perform certain routine duties of the paper, events have been precipitated, and naturally the Socialist element is seeking to make capital out of the trend of circumstances, in fur-
therance of their own propaganda in favour of the capital levy.

The latest reports, however, show that the strike is gradually " petering out," the papers and printing offices concerned having overcome the initial dififculties, and a small number of workmen are offering to take up work again unconditionally.
Some other centres, like Winterthur and Solothurn, have also been affected, whilst Zurich, where there seems to be a fair amount of free labour, s suffering very little. ***

The Canton of Grisons, which up till now resoutely refused to permit motor traffic on its roads, is gradually coming into line. At the invitation of the Federal Council the Cantonal authorities are prepared to open the roads leading over the
Julier and the Splügen to motor traffic.

The Grand Council of Basle last sweek ratified the naturalization of 82 foreigners.

The guides of Grindelwald and the surrounding districts unanimously agreed at the recent general
meeting to build a shelter on the Mittellegi for meeting to build a shelter on the Mittellegi for climbers of the eastern slope of the Eiger. The and will be transported by the guides from the and will be transported by the guides from the glacier to the site for the building. To effect this about 250 metres of rope will be laid on the east ide of the Eiger. It will be recollected that Mr. Maki, the Japanese climber, contributed $10,000 \mathrm{fr}$. memento of his first excursion up this peak.

Signor Mussolini, on his
Signor Mussolini, on his return from the LauPresident, expressing his sincere appreciation of President, expressing his sincere appreciation of the reception accorded him during his stay on
Helvetian soil. His telegram was, of course, acknowledged in a suitable manner by the Federal nowledged in a suitable manner by the Federal
authorities. The head of the Fascisti and the popular hero of Italy was, if we remember aright, popular hero of Italy was, if we remember aright,
on rather less ceremonious terms with the Confedeon rather less ceremonious terms with the Confede-
ration authorities after his previous stay in Switzerration
land.

Throughout the north of Switzerland snow has already fallen abundantly, and the meteorological station at Zurich registered on November 27 th a fall of 8 inches, a record for the time of year. This is a little early even for the devotees of
winter sports, who scan the meteorological reports winter sports, who scan the meteorological reports
from Switzerland so eagerly at this season of the ear. ${ }^{*} * *$

It will be learnt with pleasure that Mr. P. Carmine, the distinguished member of the Swiss Colony in London, is now considered out of danger, and his complete recovery may be looked forwarations, which have given Mr. Carmine a new lease of life, have been performed at the Sanatorium Victoria, Bern, by the eminent surgeon, Professor F. de Quervain, the successor of Professor Kocher, and it is thanks to the great surgical science of restored to health.

## LONDON, DECEMBER 2, 1922.

## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

## The Winter Season

If advertising offers any indication at all, the great publicity given in the English press should the pre-war scale. In fact, everything seems favour able, and with the all-round drop in hotel charges, a small reduction in railway fares, and a more attractive exchange, the English visitor will econoattractive exchange, the English visitor will econse
mise something like 20 per-cent. of his expenses as compared with last year. It is reported that hundreds of visitors have already booked accomsin dailies the Morming Post (Nov 14, 15, 18 and 21) dailies the Morning Post (Nov. 14, 15, 18 and 21 ) has published a series of articles dealing with winter sports and containing most valuable advice to those tourists who, from a sporting point of Referring to the question of expense, the writer says:-

There exist many who may desire either to try a new place or to effect a more economical holiday There has during the past twelve seasons arisen a considerable competition between Alpine resorts in pro
viding sports and amusements. This state of affair has unquestionably resulted in some rise of prices Thus any particular resort situated on a steep slope must find it expensive to construct and maintain, for instance, a large rink or a toboggan run. It is being spent. The maintenance of a large ball-room, combined with an orchestra, available three times a day and ready to perform until 3 or 4 a.m., together
with an adequate staff of waiters and attendants to with an adequate staff of waiters and attendants to
the wants of the guests, is bound to add to expense Then what of the refreshments that are consumed during a night's dancing in a bone-dry atmosphere , 000 feet above sea level ?
If a reduced
If a reduced expenditure is desired, some sacrifice must be made. In the old days this sort of nigh amusement. was largely limited to impromptu dancing:
one piano sufficed; the entertainment ceased at $11 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. The next day's sport on the snow was considered long before the evening's cotillon. To the true sportsman this was a better period: it was certainly cheaper.
Some hotels fortunately still cater for visitors of simpler tastes: they can charge less.
There will be found at, or near, the very best Swiss winter resorts a number of hotels where com fortable 'pension' prices of less than ten shillings per
dav could be obtained. Many of these establishments are very simple, yet eminently suited for families and young people. But besides thinking of the usual young people. But besides thinking of the usual
centres, ambitious holiday makers with young families might well consider stopping short of the Alps and patronising the Swiss Jura, where the accommodation
is good. Sport should be adequate and snow sufficient is good. Sport should be adequate and snow sufficient
The saving on the cost of tickets alone is appreciable

A similar though shorter article in Truth (Nov 15 th) is intended mainly for novices. It entirely disregards the social factor, for "if you are going " to the Alps to dance, and to cultivate the aristocracy, you should spend a quiet hour at the British Museum studying the back numbers of the " Tatler and the Sketch." If you are in doubt as to your personal outfit, you should turn to the Daily, Mail (Nov. 15th), where the merits of "Men's Wear " are considered in all their aspects, whilst the Daily Graphic (Nov. 23rd) retails some of the costumes recently shown at Reville's, where "tweed-clad women and several sporting parsons "were watching a knickerbocker mannequin pa" rade" which would have "charmed a polar bear " if he had lived in Switzerland instead of sulking " at the North Pole." In the interest of domestic harmony and economy we refrain from giving a full description of some of these fascinating cont The Sphere, The Queen, The Gentlewoman, The Graphic and Ladies' Field all publish engaging articles superbly illustrated, depicting the latest fashion designs, along with typical Swiss winter scenes.

## Lausanne.

The fact of the Near East Conference being held in Lausanne-or near tausanne, to be quite correct-is responsible for the appearance in the English press of highly interesting references to its literary and political associations. The Westminster Gazette (Nov. 20th) calls Lausanne a "beautiful city of earnest lotus-eaters and thinks
it a most difficult place før the Conference to work in (it has no golf-course !), but the Morning Post (Nov. 16th) considers it an ideal place for this purpose. It traces the memories of Byron, Gibbon, Voltaire and Rousseau, and generally describes Lausanne as a quiet, restful place, " living as much in the past as in the present "
"It boasts, the wise have calculated, some 2,000 annual hours of sunshine, which is quite as much as you want-one likes to see a little rain sometimes.
If you are ill, it has the best doctors in Europe: they have out your appendix in six minutes-some say four-and no doubt they can kill you in even less.
If you are not ill, but what is called so-so, you can
climb up to En Marin and play golf for the benefit of your health. I may be prejudiced, but I do no suppose anyone in his senses ever played golf for any
other reason. And if you are merely well, Lausanne offers you the prospect of a reasonable, civilised exist ence-a thing somewhat uncommon these days and in foreign parts. It is still, as in the time of Gibbon the home of an amiable and polished society-perhaps of the wil Cercle Littéraire, that century-old club of which our own Kemble was one of the founders. Above all there is comfort in its hotels-comfort, and a certain 'aurea mediocritas,' or moderation in the matter of the traveller.

The Sheffield Daily Telegraph (Nov. 20th) is of the same opinion, for the "mental atmosphere "of Lausanne is tranquil, but not sleepy; it has a "history and at the same time is very modern." A few further extracts may prove of interest:-

- Those who know not Lausanne may have an impression that the place consists entirely of girls schools
and that the maidens of England are a large elemen in its population. They constitute, truly, one of the place's charms, but not the only one.
Probably the most distinguished native was Ben-
jamin Constant, but the place had sojourners even jamin Constant, but the place had sojourners even
more distinguished. Voltaire was there for two or more distinguished. Voltaire was there for two or
three years before he settled down at Ferney, near Geneva. It is recorded that the Bernese Governo of Lausanne addressed him thus on his arrival:-
Monsieur de Voltaire, I hear that you have insulted Monsieur de Voltaire, I hear that you have insulted
God; that is bad, but He will forgive you. I also God; that is bad, but He will forgive you. I also but He will forgive you. But do not insult Leurs
Excellences Les Messieurs de Berne, for they will Excellences Les Messieurs de
never forgive you.'.

The Birmingham Daily Mail (Nov. 21st) deals chiefly with the literary associations; the writer gives short pen-pictures of Voltaire and Rousseau somewhat realistic and slightly repugnant to ad mirers, but we publish what he says about Gibbon: to "be uasanne and Gibbon are names destined for ever to be united. lived for 15 years, while he completed his stupendous task. Stupendous, indeed! It is one of those books, as Mr. Birrell remarked, about which one is permitted to say with Mr. Silas Wegg: 'I haven't been, not to
sav right slap through him very lately, having been
otherwise employed Mr Boffin otherwise employed, Mr. Boffin.' As a youth Gibbon,
expelled from Oxford for expelled from Oxtord for having declared himself a with a Calvinist pastor at Lausanne, where he learned Greek, met Voltaire, and fell in love with the charming
young French mademoiselle, who afterwards married the famous Necker and became the mother of the the famous Necker and became the mother of the
famous Madame de Stael. Bidden by his father to
renounce her, he acquiesced. and uittered the immortal renounce her, he acquiesced, and uttered the immortal phrase: 'I sighed as a lover, I obeyed as a son.'
Later, preparing materials for his great book, he stayed a year in Lausanne. Still later, after politics and
Parliament, free to realise his ambition, he settled Pariament, free to realise his ambition, he
down there to compose his stately periods

## Swiss Capital Levy

With the parliamentary elections over, this much-discussed proposal has now been given a rest in the English press, only casual short reports appearing to the effect that the plebiscite on Dec. 3rd will reject the Capital Levy. This, of course, reflects general opinion in Switzerland, but in face of recent developments this confident optimism seems to be dangerous. The printer's' strike now on clearly testifies that the foreign influence among Swiss Socialists is stronger than some people would like to believe. On the whole the English press has treated this vital question in a haphazard rendum, wherthcoming voing is totly different rendum, which is ${ }^{\Gamma \rho}$ of course, a totally different thing from the initiative, and no paper has taken the trouble to point out to its readers the essential difference. It strikes us as peculiar when The Times (Nov. 24th) publishes a letter from a baronet who invokes the powerful advocacy of that paper for the introduction of the Swiss referendum in the English system of Government, and thus prevent the utter subserviency of a House of Commons
to the autocratic will of a Prime Minister. "We " have," he further erroneously states, " an object lesson at present in Swiizerland, where the capital levy, but for the referendum, would be imposed on the people.

FINANCİAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.
The development in the money market in the last few weeks has been strikingly different from that usually expectec at this time of year. In ordinary times the period from Michaelmas up to
the middle of December is characterised by very the middle of December is characterised by very
easy conditions; but to-day the available resources easy conditions; but to-day the available resources
of the market have become so reduced that discounts can no longer be effected so cheaply as during recent months, and there is an average increase of about one per cent: all round in the rates

