

# Notes & gleanings

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For the financial years 1914, 1915 and 1916, the first three to fall within the period of the Great War, the deficits were: 22,533,117 frs., 21,551,507 frs. and 16,645,455 francs respectively, then in 1917 the excess of expenditure over revenue mounted to treble that of 1916, increasing alarmingly year by year ever since, viz.:—

1917 deficit	...	...	50 747,865 frs.
1918	„	...	61,894,687 „
1919	„	...	95,655,686 „
1920	„	...	99,536,730 „
1921	„	...	127,571,870 „

\* \* \*

A landscape by Ferdinand Hodler fetched 25,000 frs. at a recent sale of paintings at Geneva.

In 1880 the same picture was bought for 300 frs. and resold in 1918 for 19,000 frs.

\* \* \*

Twenty-one countries are represented at the International Technical Conference on the Teaching of Esperanto in Schools, which has been opened in Geneva under the auspices of the League of Nations.

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As arbiter in the dispute between Columbia and Venezuela in regard to frontiers, which was referred to it in 1916, the Swiss Federal Council has decided in favour of Columbia on the principal point of discussion, and recognized the rights of Columbia in the disputed territories.

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During the first quarter of the present year Swiss Customs yielded a total revenue of 36,808,931 frs. against 22,661,960 frs. for the corresponding period of 1921.

## CONCOURS INTERNATIONAL DE REGLAGE DE CHRONOMETRES.

Le Conseil d'Etat de la République et Canton de Neuchâtel, considérant que le monde horloger s'apprête à célébrer le centenaire d'Abram-Louis Breguet, horloger neuchâtelois, membre de l'Institut de France et du Bureau des longitudes, né à Neuchâtel (Suisse), le 10 janvier 1747, mort à Paris, le 17 septembre 1823; considérant que la patrie de Breguet ne saurait s'associer mieux à cette manifestation que par l'institution, à l'Observatoire de Neuchâtel, d'un concours international de réglage de chronomètres; vu le préavis de la Commission de l'Observatoire; sur la proposition des conseillers d'Etat, chefs des départements de l'Instruction publique et de l'Industrie,

Arrête:

Art. 1.—Il est institué, à l'Observatoire de Neuchâtel (Suisse), à l'occasion du centenaire d'Abram-Louis Breguet, un concours international de réglage de chronomètres, qui aura lieu en 1923.

Art. 2.—Un règlement spécial fixera les formalités et les conditions du concours; ce règlement sera remis gratuitement à tout intéressé qui en fera la demande à la Chancellerie d'Etat ou à la Direction de l'Observatoire de Neuchâtel.

Art. 3.—Les départements de l'Instruction publique et de l'Industrie sont chargés de veiller à l'exécution du présent arrêté.

Neuchâtel, 14 février 1922.

Au nom du Conseil d'Etat:

Le président, E. BEGUIN.

Le chancelier, STUDER-JEANRENAUD.

## NOTES & GLEANINGS.

The not very unbiassed arguments in the English press as to whether English cases of consumption have better prospects of a cure by a stay at one of the Swiss health stations than by British sanatorium treatment, are now relieved by a discussion on the sun cure of tuberculosis. On April 10th, the medical members of the House of Commons were addressed by some English specialists on the method so successfully practised by Dr. Rollier at Leysin, and a medical correspondent in one of the papers describes the English treatment of tuberculosis as a "tragic farce."

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The "Freedom of the Rhine" continues to be extensively referred to, as, for example, in the *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* (April 11th) and *The Observer* (April 9th).

\* \* \*

What promises to be an instructive visit—and one that will help to further cement the relations between the Swiss and English dye industries—has just been arranged, for according to the *Yorkshire Observer* (April 10th)—

"The three principal Swiss firms—the Society of Chemical Industry, the Sandoz Chemical Company, and J. R. Geigy, all of Basle—have now sent an invitation to the West Riding section of the Society of Dyers and Colourists to visit their works in Switzerland.

The invitation is extended to representative users of colour in the West Riding, and already sixty names have been sent in. Ladies are to take part in the visit, and the three companies concerned are making arrangements for social events in addition to the works visits. The visit is to be made from June 3 to June 10, and is likely to prove both useful and enjoyable to those who are interested."

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The *Saturday Review*, in which from the pen of a Geneva correspondent two articles appeared under the heading "A Paradise of Socialism," criticising in a superficial and deprecating manner Swiss administrative methods, has now published (April 8th) an excellent reply from Dr. Paul Lang, which, it is to be hoped, will correct the erroneous impressions created by the original missiles. The following is an extract:—

"It is hard to hear that we have no native art in Switzerland and that we are content with mediocrity, that consequently we can have 'no poets, statesmen, dramatists and painters or any of the more supreme achievements in intellect, beauty or wit.' It is the curse of Switzerland, being a tri-lingual nation, that as soon as a Swiss has attained any kind of fame, the big nation, speaking the same language as the part of Switzerland to which he belongs, embraces him as one of its sons. It is perhaps as well to state that 12 per cent. of all the receivers of the different Nobel prizes were of Swiss nationality, including one winner of the literary Nobel Prize. It is grotesque to have to reply to an article pretending that there is no native art in Switzerland. England rightly boasts of Hans Holbein, the younger, who won his great fame in London. Yet he, although born in the neighbouring part of Germany, was educated in Basle, a citizen of Basle and the husband of a lady of that town. His nationality may be disputed; it cannot, however be denied that Fuseli, Calame, Stauffer, Welti, Böcklin, Burnand and Hodler were Swiss. It may be as well to remind your correspondent, who thinks us a nation without poets, that not only Gottfried Keller, Conrad Ferdinand Meyer and Carl Spitteler are Swiss, but that the 'Times Literary Supplement' only last year declared that there is no lack of poets in Switzerland today, that 'there is, in fact, a high degree of original inspiration in the most important of the younger Swiss poets'; that Nietzsche declared Spitteler the finest of German æsthetic writers; that Professor Robertson, when giving an extensive account of Spitteler's works in the 'Fortnightly Review,' wrote: 'Not a few well-balanced minds in Germany and France have, since the passing of Nietzsche, regarded Spitteler as a kind of sleeping Barbarossa who would some day wake to assume the long unclaimed sceptre in German poetry'; that Rousseau was

a citizen of Geneva; that Swiss, too, were Madame de Staël, Benjamin Constant and Henri Frédéric Amiel. Anyone who has but a slight idea of German literature knows that during part of the eighteenth century this literature was renewed from Zurich, and that Bodmer and Breitinger were the men who gave it a new aim and a new standard; that Zurich at this time was the literary centre of all German-speaking countries. No one has yet disputed that Switzerland has produced great educationists. Besides Rousseau, Pestalozzi and Fellenberg were Swiss citizens. And Jacques Dalcroze, the musician-pedagogue, is one, too.

No Swiss will claim that his country has produced a larger proportion of great men than other nations have done, but surely not all the energies of his country are concentrated upon the material side of life. If one considers that Switzerland, with a population of not 4,000,000, keeps up seven universities, and that nearly every Swiss town possesses a municipal theatre, the sneers of your correspondent seem rather curious. I admit that Swiss politics all deal with home affairs, that, as we have no power and no say in world-wide schemes, we are bound to use our wits on our own institutions, to try to ameliorate them and make our lives more and more worth living. We have in Switzerland no opportunity either to exploit other peoples or to Christianize them. But if Swiss politicians concentrate their energy on home politics, must it follow that only the dust-bins and the canalization schemes benefit? If at Swiss universities one pays a half-yearly fee of 5s. per course, and in English universities a fee of a guinea a term, is that not an indication of the beneficial effects a well-developed educational system can have for the people? If higher education is more accessible in Switzerland to the penniless than in most parts of the world, and if educational credits in Parliament are never threatened by any kind of Geddes axe, is there really any reason for describing such a country as one that has decided 'to live by bread alone'?

I think the answer to this question can be safely left to the unbiassed reader."

## SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

### EDUCATIONAL FUND.

The Swiss Mercantile Society is addressing the following appeal to members of the Swiss Colony and other patrons:—

Dear Sir(s),

Quietly and unobtrusively the Swiss Mercantile Society has for more than 30 years carried on its work of assisting young compatriots of ours arriving, and taking up business pursuits, in this country.

From small beginnings the Society has now reached high-water mark records in point of membership, activities and results of its Education Department, Employment Department, Sports Section, etc.

The War has in every phase of life wrought tremendous changes, and one of the features—to which the keen observer cannot close his eyes—is that the nationals of any given country have to-day far more reason and cause to group together for mutual support than has ever been the case heretofore.

Recognising that the Swiss Mercantile Society fulfils in this great metropolis a mission which cannot fail to be of utmost practical value, not only to the individual whom it is primarily intended to benefit, but also from a broader—even a national—point of view, the undersigned Members have, as a Special Commission, agreed to support the Society in its laudable efforts to create for the furtherance of its aims and ideals a wider and more satisfactory basis than has existed up till now.

When it is considered that the Society holds nowadays, in the course of a year, about 40 classes for the tuition of English, French, Spanish, Italian, Russian, Business Knowledge, etc., with over 200 students attending, and that the

accommodation to carry on this work consists of hopelessly inadequate quarters scattered over London, it will be duly realised that these shortcomings *must hamper* the Society's usefulness very considerably, and both students and officers of the Society alike are carrying on under conditions which are far from congenial, and very apt to discourage.

The Society has ever made it a point to offer to our young compatriots the educational facilities referred to *at a minimum of cost*, so as to throw the portals wide open to everyone. Well over £5,000 have since its inception been devoted by the London Section to its Education Department, of which the Society is justly proud. The Swiss Authorities, being cognisant of the worthy aims pursued by the Society, have for years past contributed towards the expenses borne by the Society, but the Government grant is not, and can no longer remain, in keeping with the greatly increased expenditure that must necessarily be incurred by giving the Society such expansion in point of accommodation as is essential, if the Education Department shall henceforth be able to offer its maximum advantages and benefits, in the best interests of our young compatriots coming to England.

The Commission, after thoroughly examining all facts and features pertaining to the Society's Education Department, have submitted certain suggestions, which the Active Members in General Meeting have duly approved of, namely:—

With a view to showing the Swiss Colony that the Active Members of the Society are willing to contribute their proper share towards the realisation of the important object in view, the Society has already put aside from its own funds £100 for installation expenses and cost of furniture, and it has been agreed that henceforth all subscriptions and donations receivable from Contributing Members (an amount of approximately £150 p.a.) shall be entirely devoted to the interests of the Education Department. In order to balance the deficit which the earmarking of these contributions and donations will involve for the Society's Treasury, the Resolution has been passed to increase the Active Members' subscription by 50% p.a., namely, from 12s. to 18s. p.a. as from the 1st of May, 1922. Moreover, it was decided to fix the membership fee for Contributing (Passive) Members at a minimum of £1 1s. p.a.

A slight increase in the subscription payable by the Students has also been decided upon, the basic fee per 12 lessons of 2 hours being raised from 7/6 to 10/- for an average class of 6 students. The fact will be appreciated that at such nominal fees a considerable proportion of the expenditure will have to be found, yet it is felt that in order to offer these valuable educational facilities to the largest possible number of our young Swiss of both sexes, it is necessary to fix their own contributions on a strictly moderate basis.

It is the Society's aim to seek for its Education Department suitable accommodation, be it in the City or in the Holborn district, but a careful study of the financial aspect has established the fact that *a yearly deficit of quite £250 will result if the new scheme is to be carried into effect.*

It is felt that if the worthy and high ideals of the Society are lucidly brought home to the individual members of the Colony and the mercantile community in general, the proper financial support will not be lacking to enable the Society to carry on its useful and beneficial work.

In order that all those consenting to become patrons of the scheme may be satisfied in their mind that any monetary support they feel disposed to give will be strictly