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HOME NEWS

The latest Swiss note in the Savoy Free Zone controversy was published on Wednesday (Oct. 31 controversy was published on Wednesday (Oct. 31) and contains two explicit questions, a reply to which the Federal Council considers as a *sine qua non* to the continuation of further negotiations. In the first instance M. Poincaré will have to declare whether he is prepared to resume *pourparlers* on the basis of the proposals of the Geneva Chamber of Commerce—which, in principle, maintain the free zones—and secondly the French Premier will have to undertake to with them; the docume abeliable of the proposals of the general principles and secondly the French Premier will have to undertake to with them. have to undertake to withdraw the decree abolishing the free zones, previous to a resumption of negotiations. In the case of a negative reply the Swiss Government will insist on the matter being referred to the League of Nations for settlement.

to the League of Nations for settlement.

The comments of the French press do not encourage the expectation of a favourable reply; amongst the strange arguments, elaborated by the Temps, is the statement that the Free Zones were created after the Battle of Waterloo, when Switzerland, being on the side of the victors, "demanded her due," and an allegation that the Swiss General Staff, during the last war, exhibited a pro-German policy.

The proceedings against M. A. Conradi, who, it will be remembered, is accused of the murder of the Russian unofficial delegate, Vorovski, at the recent Peace Conference in Lausanne, opened last Monday, before the Lausanne tribunal, in the large hall of the Montbenon Casino. Conradi is defended by National Councillor Sidney Schopfer (Lausanne), whilst Vorovski's widow is represented by Dr. Franz Welti (Basle); an array of other well-known legal experts is also engaged in looking after the interests of third parties. The case, which is likely to last from 10 to 14 days, is being watched by over 80 journalists, mostly on behalf of foreign papers; a similar number of witnesses is being interrogated, and amongst the latter are such well-known names as Prof. Klutschnikoff (Berlin), Sidney Grefson (major in the American army), Henri Bar-The proceedings against M. A. Conradi, who, Grefson (major in the American army), Henri Barbusse (author of the war novel "Le Feu"), Lodygenski (chief of the Russian Red Cross in Geneva), Princess Tatiana Kurakin, etc. At the opening, the defending counsel opposet the admissibility of a civil claim, as Madame and Mademoiselle Vorovski had not established their legal status by producing formal evidence of marriage and parentage respec-tively; the court, however, ruled that there were sufficient and convincing reasons to presume their identity. Another unsuccessful objection was di-rected against one of the prosecuting counsel, who, before accepting his brief, had demanded an under-taking that, whilst the trial lasted, no reprisals against Swiss residents in Russia should take place. The evidence of the witnesses so far examined The evidence of the witnesses so far examined deals chiefly with generalities, such as the meaning and objects of Communism and Bolshevism (Charles Rappaport, editor of L'Humanité), the sacking of the Swiss Legation in Petrograd (M. de Murat, a Montreux lawyer), the destruction and wanton cruelties committed by the present Russian régime (Charles Smith, an American engineer from Siberia), etc.

Higher credits for military aviation figure in the Budget for 1924; the *personnel* is to be increased from 161 to 191, and the installations at the flying stations at Dübendorf and Lausanne are to be inversed. to be improved.

Lucerne being invaded by increasing numbers of dancing masters, the latter are to be put under Government control. The hours of their lessons are to be regulated, and a register will be established, giving particulars of origin, domicile, age, and former profession.

Neuchâtel electors have rejected the proposed new law, imposing duties on direct successions.

Two wolfhounds, belonging to shopkeepers in Aesch (Baselland), attacked a nine-year-old boy, Othmarli Machler, who was collecting firewood just outside the village; the boy was frightfully torn and mangled before being rescued, in a dying condition, by a passer-by.

A regular skirmish preceded the capture of two A regular skirmish preceded the capture of two lads of foreign extraction, who are responsible for housebreaking and a number of thefts near Steckborn (Thurgau). Their hoard having been discovered in a hut, the neighbouring forest was searched and surrounded by police, assisted by armed civilians. Seeing their retreat cut off, the two culprits commenced firing, but without hitting any of their pursuers, who finally succeeded in making them prisoners. making them prisoners.

EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

Industrial Switzerland.—At the end of 1922 there were 8,055 works in Switzerland subject to the Federal factory acts, employing 304,339 operatives. As compared with 1921, this is a decrease by 282 works, a fact which is explained by the general economic crisis. The number of hands, too, which was 360,506 in 1916 and in 1918, the time of the boom, has dropped considerably. But this is the case in every country.

The distribution of operatives amongst the various industries in 1922 is best seen by the following the content of t

ous industries in 1922 is best seen by the following

table:—			
Trade.		Staff	Employees.
Cotton		32,265	,
Silk		27,500	
Wool		6,999	
Linen		1,607	
Embroidery		14,282	
Other Textile Industries		5,595	
Clothing and Outfitting		31,391	
	, ,-		119,639
Machinery and Apparatus		49,918	
Watchmaking and Jewelry		27,596	
Metal Industry		23,314	
	_		100,728
Food and Drinks		21,401	
Wood Industry		15,244	
Chemical Industry		11,432	
Graphic Arts		10,964	
Earth and Stone		10,566	
Paper, Leather, Rubber		10,039	
Electricity, Gas and Water		4,326	
	-		83,972
	Total		304,339

It will be seen by the above returns that the

It will be seen by the above returns that the first place is taken (120,000 operatives) by the clothing and textile industries, which give employment to nearly 40% of the working population.

The second rank is occupied by the metal, machinery and watchmaking industries, which give employment to exactly one-third of the working population. All the other industries occupy about one fourth. one-fourth.

one-tourth.

In conclusion, a few details concerning the Swiss cotton trade. At the end of 1921 the number of spindles in the spinning mills amounted to 1,524,487 and in twisting mills to 134,566. The number of looms was 25,931, and has changed very little as compared with the previous year.

The principal branches of the textile industry are:—

The silk industry, which, judging by its export figures, takes the first rank in the Swiss export trade (fabrics: 183,000,000 frs., ribbons: 70,000,000 frs.)

The embroidery industry, which has its seats in the cantons of St. Gall and Appenzell, and the products of which were exported in 1922 for 143,000,000 frs.

The cotton industry, which has taken up its quarters in the cantons of Zurich, Glarus and St. Gall, and exported fabrics for 127 and yarns for 46 million francs.

The hosiery and knitted goods industry, the sports of which amounted in 1922 to 41 million rancs.

(Swiss Exporter.)

L'Histoire de Guillaume Tell racontée par un écolier fribourgeois. —La Société Dramatique de Romont devant donner assez prochainement la représentation devant donner assez prochainement la représentation d'un drame dans lequel domine la grande figure du héros de Bürglen, nous pensons intéresser les lecteurs du "Courrier," en leur mettant sous les yeux la composition textuelle d'un élève de nos écoles fribourgeoises. Cette composition publié par le "Faisceau mutualiste" offre un singulier mélange de souvenirs se rapportant les uns à Tell, les autres à Guillaume II:

à Guillaume II:
Guillaume Tell était empreur de Lallemagne.
Alors il voulait faire la guerre à Lautriche. On
envoya contre lui le général Kessler qui fit planter
sur la place un grand potéau. Au bout du poteau,
il avait attaché une ficèle et au bout de la ficèle il
avait mis un chapeau avec de belles plumes d'autruche.

Guillaume Tell passa devant le poteau. Alors les soldats lui disent: Salue donc le chapeau.

Guillaume répond: Je m'en f... de votre chapeau.

Alors les soldats l'ont pris par le colet en Pont mené chez le général Kessler.

Le général lui dit: Pourquoi tu n'a pas salué?
Guillaume répond: Sa, c'est mon affaire.

Le général redit: Ah! c'est comme ça; eh ben, tu vas tiré sur une pomme et si tu la rates je te

tu vas tiré sur une pomme et si tu la rates je te fais fusiller.

Alors on alla prendre le petit garçon de Guillaume Tell qui s'appelait le kronprince, on l'apuya contre un arbre, on lui mit une belle pomme à beignet sur la tête et on lui dit: Ne bouge plus.

Alors le père leva son fusil pour tirer mais il avait la tremblette et voyait tout trouble.

Kessler lui dit: Dépêche-toi ou l'on te tue et ton gasse avec.

ton gosse avec.

Guillaume Tell pensa en lui-même: Tanpis il

ton gosse avec.
Guillaume Tell pensa en lui-même: Tanpis il faut que je tire, mais gare à lui si je rate.
Alors il lache son coup, la pomme tombe par terre. Quelle chance! Le petit kronprince faisait des cabrioles de joie, et les gens qui était la sur le place criaient: hip, hip, houra!
Mais Kessler était noir de colère, it dit à Guillaume Tell: Vaurien, tu as triché, tu as caché des cartouches dans ta blouse.
Les soldats viennent l'empoigné, ils prennent une chaînette et lui attachent les mains sur le doss. Ils le mênent ensuite sur un bâteau pour aller le flanquer en prison au fond d'un château.
Quand ils arrivèrent au milieu du lac, le lac s'est dérangé et l'eau giclait par dessus le bâteau et tout le monde risquait de se noyé.
Le général Kessler était tout blanc de peur. Il dit à Guillaume Tell: Toi, tu es un solide gaillard, tu sais mieux ramer que les autres.

gaillard, tu sais mieux ramer que les autres.
Guillaume Tell répond: Moi j'ai pas peur, le lac ça me connait. Il prend les rames et se cram-

FACTS:



- One out of ten persons is accidentally injured every year.
- On the average 50% of all accidents happen outside of one's profession. For men whose duties confine them largely to the office, this ratio rises to over 80%.
- 3. One-fourth of all accidents happen where men consider themselves safest—at home.
- Up to 1923 the "ZURICH" has paid, under Personal Accident Policies:

1,571 Death cases.

6,300 cases of Permanent Disability. 224,150 cases of Temporary Disability.

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ponne tant qu'il peut, le bâteau va juste où il voulait. Il alla vers une pierre plate; alors tout d'un coup il lache les rames et saute sur la pierre en donnant un bon coup de pied au bâteau et dit: Maintenant, zut, je me fiche de vous.

Alors il regarda le bâteau qui dansait sur l'eau et il se tordait les côtes de rire. Mais le bâteau nalla pas au fond du lac, il alla au bord. Guillaume Tell se dit: On va voir, faut que je l'aie. Il court se caché dérière un sapin pour voir passé Kessler, quand il le voit venir il ne peut pas tenir, la rage le prend, il lève son fusil et lui envoie un pruneau dans le coeur.

dans le coeur.

Après cela il a filé en Hollande pour pas être pris parè les gendarmes. Là sa femme est morte, mais il s'est tout de suite remarié avec une autre plus jeune.

(Courrier de la Glâne.)

Un volontaire étranger. - Sous ce titre "La Bulorgane paraissant à Sofia publie l'amusant et suivant:

entrefilet suivant:

Dans les premiers jours de la révolte, un voya-Dans les premiers jours de la revolte, un voya-geur susse, de passage dans le pays, se voyait su-bitement forcé à descendre du train sur la route Constantinople-Sofia. Il y avait déraillement, oc-casionné par les communistes ameutés. Il faisait nuit noire: des balles sifflaient d'ici de là sur les wagons. Les voyageurs prirent vite la fuite. Hans Hulmann, le voyageur étranger, fit comme les autres et put arriver days la plus proche ville. À Tchir-

et put arriver dans la plus proche ville, à Tchir-pan, où la patrouille militaire aux aguets l'arrêta, puis constatent son identité, le laissa libre. Très ennuyé, furieux de sa mésaventure, le voya-geur suisse demanda à se venger des communistes. Il offrit aux autorités militaires de s'enrôler comme volontaire dans les rangs des miliciens bulgares. On refusa ses services.

Vous êtes étranger, lui réponditon. Si l'on vous tuait dans le combat, c'est le gouvernement bulgare qui serait responsable de votre mort devant.

le gouvernement suisse.
— Qu'à cela ne tienne! répliqua Hans Hulmann. Et il donna une déclaration érrite certifiant que c'est sur sa demande expresse qu'il fut autorisé à aller combattre les communistes. On l'agréa, enfin; atter comoatre les communistes. On l'agrea, emit; et il se battit avec les autres, en uniforme de soldat bulgare. Quand sa compagnie fut de retour à Tchirpan, il trouva un accueil enthousiaste de la part de la population qui lui ménagea plus tard un départ solennel. Hans Hulmann a été proposé, en

départ solennel. Hans Hulmann a été proposé, en outre, pour la médaille militaire qui, nous l'espérons bien, lui sera accordée.

Ainsi, voilà la République helvétique mèlée à la répression anticommuniste dans notre pays, d'une façon indirecte, par la faute d'un voyageur suisse. Elle fut sans le savoir notre alliée de quelques jours. En dévoilant ce fait, demeuré ignoré de la recrea region pour craignos fort de susciter pay. presse voisine, nous craignons fort de susciter par là un incident diplomatique. Nous craignons de susciter à la République des difficultés de la part des commissaires de Moscou qui, en leur qualité de protecteurs des communistes en général, peuvent lui demander des explications sur le cas'et recourir même à des représailles. (Gazette de Lausanne.)

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KYBURG

The World Crisis, 1915 (Winston S. Churchill, p. 18)

he World Crisis, 1915 (Winston S. Churchill, p. 18).

"To the convulsions of the struggle must succeed the impotent turmoil of the aftermath. Noble hopes, high comradeship and glorious daring were in every nation to lead only to disappointment, disillusion and prostration. The sufferings and impoverishment of peoples might arrest their warfare, the collapse of the defeated might still the cannonade, but their hatreds continue unappeased, and their quarrels are still unsettled. The most complete victory ever gained in arins has failed to solve the European problem or remove the dangers which produced the war." or remove the dangers which produced the war.

or remove the dangers which produced the war."

I could hardly have found a better paragraph with which to start this week's Notes and Gleanings. Beautiful in style, and, as it seems to me, overwhelmingly sinister in effect on any thinking European mind, the famous author, although that probably was not uppermost in his mind when he penned the above lines; comes out as a most important "crown-witness" for the League of Nations. How well I also remember Viscount Grey's famous speech on the occasion of the opening meeting of the League of Nations Union at the Albert Hall some years ago, when he stated, as he has done several times since, that the dark forces, which are for ever fishing in the troubled waters of secret diplomacy, are at work again, busily plotting new wars!

waters of secret diplomacy, are at work again; busily plotting new wars!

Meanwhile it becomes daily more and more evident that Europe's and with it the world's salvation can only come through the League of Nations. It becomes more and more evident, too, that the League and Christianity must stand or fall together. It is, indeed, unthinkable that Christianity would survive another war of the magnitude of the last one. It is also unthinkable that the League of Nations could become a vital' international force without the ardent help of all true Christians, by which I do not only mean those who go regularly to Church or Chapel, but all those, be they labelled Christians, Buddhists, or anything else, who believe Christians, Buddhists, or anything else, who believe that the future of the human race can only be assured by the application in practice of the

brotherly love taught by Christ and other great

Leaders.

Love will have to rule the world, and mere materialistic creeds, à la Mr. H. G. Wells, who, like the Kaiser, Trotsky, and the present Ruler of France, believes in Force alone, will have to disappear. Political faits accomplis, as the one which has been sprung upon our country by its physically great neighbour, should and must have no existence in future dealings between peoples. I still hope that a solution, agreeable to both countries, may be found, without its being necessary for Switzerland to invoke the aid of the League. I am glad, however, to find that our Government is evidently not weakening, and is prepared to go to the League, if France persists in her present mode of procedure. if France persists in her present mode of procedure. I quote from the *Manchester Guardian* (Oct. 27):—

I quote from the Manchester Guardian (Oct. 27):—

Great surprise is expressed that M. Poincarés answer to Switzerland on the "free zones" dispute contains no reference to Switzerland's proposal to submit the juridical question to the Court of International Justice. Some people in Switzerland are inclined to regard this French silence as a sign that M. Poincaré besitates to give a definite refusal, but well-informed quarters do not share this optimism. M. Poincaré, who previously received the Swiss Minister, categorically refused any idea of arbitration. Therefore, well-informed quarters believe M. Poincaré only remains silent on this point because he is afraid to raise too much opposition amongst the French themselves should he openly refuse to submit the dispute to the Hague Court.

The Swiss Federal Council will determine the definite text of the answer to France, but Berne reports

Court.

The Swiss Federal Council will determine the definite text of the answer to France, but Berne reports are unanimous that the Government will remain firm and repeat its refusal to enter into negotiations, unless M. Poincaré will suspend the execution of the one-sided decision to suppress the "free zones" until negotiations are concluded. Most probably, too, the Federal Council will insist again on submission of the juridical dispute to the Court of International Justice, and demand a definite "Yes" or "No" from France.

If France refuses, the Swiss Government will probably convoke an extraordinary session of Parliament and demand its approva! to submit the dispute to the League Council. Such a decision might be of immense importance in regard to the relations between the League and Switzerland. If the Council should refuse to deal with the dispute—as France possibly will propose—it is almost certain that the Swiss opponents of the League will initiate a movement to withdraw, and the result of such initiative might be disastrous.

A valued reader is kind enough to send me an

A valued reader is kind enough to send me an article from La Croix de lu Hante Savoie on the question of whether Switzerland was against the "hospitalisation des blessés Français en Savoie." The writer of the article has a truly funny notion of the duties and rights of a Neutral Stato in war time, and my reader friend will surely agree with the state of the state of the state of the savoie. me that it would be too much honour for the paper in question if "Kyburg" replied seriously and at length. I can only say that, assuming the writer length. I can only say that, assuming the writer is correct in stating that Switzerland stipulated that French wounded, sent to hospitals in Savoie, should be treated as if they were interned in Swiss hospitals, the Swiss authorities were so obviously in their right and doing their duty as a Neutral State that any comment seems superfluous. People who will not understand such duties are beyond the cartle negative services of the property of the second of the cartle negative services of the second of the services of the second of gentle persuasive force of mere argument! Thanks all the same, Father O. I hope you will agree with my view of the matter.

with my view of the matter.

It always gives me a sweet pleasure to read something about the natural beauties, often overlooked, of our Alpine flora. What could be more wonderful, really, than the wealth of tiny, multicoloured flowers, wonderfully scented very often, maintaining a precarious existence quite close to some mighty glacier? On the Eiger-Gletscher, some years ago, I had one foot on the ice, and the other on a soft carpet made by a multitude of such beautiful plants. I find the following in the Leyton Express (Oct. 27th):—

Flowers and Vegetation in Switzerland.

Flowers and Vegetation in Switzerland.

The mountainous country of the Grisons in Switzerland is overspread with a carpet of vegetation of unsual richness and variety. This is particularly so around Klosters, a charming centre from which a splendid view of the Silvretta glacier is obtainable. Owing to the wide difference in altitude, growth, not unnaturally, is shapely defined according to height above ser level, and may, in fact, be divided into four distinct classes—the cultural, the forest, the alpine and that of the snow regions.

While in the xalleys the chestnut, the beech and the pine flourish luxuriantly amidst anemones and the polden flowers of the broom, in the Pratigau one may ochold the Alpine forest in its wild native state and at its maximum development. Here smooth-trunked giant spruce of the unexampled height of 200 feet grow to the number of 350 to the acre. The stone bine, a Siberian mountain tree, and the larch approach nearest to the snow line. Their summits are battered and torn by wind and snow pressure, frost and lightning, and they stretch out their skeleton branches plaintively to the heavens.

Amid the floral splendour of the Alpine region are to be found the crocus, the golden-haired anemone with its reddish bells, deep blue gentianellas, long-spurred pansies and numerous other blooms with fernike foliage. Aromatic clover scents the air, and campanulas thrive in profusion—a truly wonderful wealth of flowers.

Beyond the snow-line no less than 224 species of plants have been enumerated. Nine of them occur around the following the read the following the region are the plants and the plants and the around the plants and campanulas thrive in profusion—a truly wonderful wealth of flowers.

Our Geneva compatriots will be pleased, political arguments notwithstanding to read the following

Our Geneva compatriots will be pleased, political arguments notwithstanding, to read the following (Daily Express, 30th Oct.):—

Hindu Millionaire's Observatory on a Mountain.

An observatory, which will be the largest in the world, is' to be constructed on Mont Salève, a peak 4,430 feet high, above Geneva.

The observatory is the long-prepared work of a Hindu millionaire, engineer and scientist. Mr. Assan Dina, and his American wife, formerly Miss Mary Wallace-Shillito, of Cincinnati, and it will be their gift to the French nation. The building, the instruments and installations will cost £1,250,000.

The Salève has been chosen as the future site of the observatory because it is an isolated peak with an extremely clear and pure atmosphere, permitting observations of the sky during the greater part of the year. The Mont Blane range on the east and the Jura Alps on the west attract the clouds and air currents from the North Pole, leaving the Salève "untouched." Further, the Salève is comparatively central, being eleven hours from Paris, four from Lyons, and one hour from Annecy or Geneva by railway. A new funicular line is planned to shorten these distances, while a road from Annecy and Cruseille to the summit is now under construction to permit access to the observatory all the year round.

If this road is under snow, a caterpillar motor-car will be employed, while an aeroplane will assure the daily service of information. A powerful wireless station will be erected, which will be in constant touch with similar stations throughout the world, to report atmospheric conditions and changes.

The most important installation, however, will be the enormous telescope, which has a diameter of 105 inches—five inches more than that of Mount Wilson, U.S.A.—and several smaller telescopes of from twenty to sixty inches in diameter.

Mr. Dina, who is personally supervising every detail of the work, hopes to complete this grandiose scheme within five years, or even less. Mr. and Mrs. Dina, who are great travellers and have made tours of the world several times, live in a beautiful château at Cruseille.

And I would add, the whole civilised world will be in crateful to this Indian greatleman and his

And I would add, the whole civilised world will be grateful to this Indian gentleman and his American wife for the wonderful imagination which led them to conceive of such a gift to France. We know far too little of the Universe, and any help given to the study of the heavenly bodies is more than welcome. I always think that, if we shought a little bit more of the tremendous Universe and thereby remembered our own insignificance a little more, too, we would be more amenable to sweet reason, we would be more inclined to love each other, instead of mistrusting and hating each other! We would feel more than we do that our life on Earth must necessarily only be a wee tiny stage in the evolution of the spirit or soul towards And I would add, the whole civilised v stage in the evolution of the spirit or soul towards an end which we cannot conceive, but which must an end which we cannot conceive, but which must be in accordance with the wonderfully well regulated scheme by which the whole Universe seems to proceed towards its appointed goal. I do not believe for a moment that the veil will be lifted to any great extent by human, i.e., earthly beings, but I also am convinced that it is our duty to probe, to try, to study and to seek the Truth, even if its attainment finally means Death, which, I believe, is equivalent with "waking up." Therefore, congratulations' for the splendid gift, not to France alone, but to all mankind!

And now let us come down to very "earthly considerations again, and read in the Westminster Gazette (27th Oct.):—

Training for Domestic Life.

Training for Domestic Life.

Training for Domestic Life.

A Bill has been drafted in Switzerland to make domestic training compulsory amongst all classes of girlhood under twenty years of age. It is a bold suggestion that each girl, no matter what her station in life, should have to complete a year's domestic training before she reaches womanhood.

The Swiss authorities believe that this Bill will solve the domestic inefficiency problem, and fit girls to be good wives and mothers, and if they should remain unmarried, they will be more useful members of society.

to be good wives and momers, and it was a memain unmarried, they will be more useful members of society.

This compulsory training will not begin until the girl has completed her elementary education, and then she must go regularly to a public housewifery school, has a daily pupil if her parents can afford to keep her at home, and if they are too poor to do this, she must live in the school and as far as possible pay for her board and lodging by helping, out of school hours, with the domestic work of the institution.

Housewifery in all its many branches will be taught by experts. Old methods are to be scrapped, and the way to manage homes efficiently, economically and with artistic pride is the aim of the promoters of the proposed Bill. No branch of successful home-making is neglected.

Apart from the elementary side of home management there will be lessons in how to buy domestic necessities economically and according to their food values, how to make the best use of berries and herbs, in preserves and jams, and how to catter for the tiniest needs of every class of individual, from the merest babe to the strongest navy.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

Not exceeding 3 lines:—Per insertion, 2/6: three insertions, 5/Postage extra on replies addressed cly Swiss Observer.

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