Notes and gleanings

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LONDON, OCTOBER 3, 1925.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES UNITED KINGDOM $\begin{cases} 3 \text{ Months (13 issues, post free)} \\ \frac{6}{12} & \frac{126}{152} & \frac{12$ $\begin{cases} 6 \text{ Months } (26 \text{ issues, post free}) - \text{Frs. 750} \\ 12 & (52 &) - 14 - \end{cases}$ SWITZERLAND (Swiss subscriptions may be paid into Postscheck-Konto: Basle V 5718).



A Federal subsidy of about Frs. 100,000 is to be allotted to the canton Appenzell A.Rh. in order to succour the embroidery industry, which is pass-ing through a grainer minim ing through a serious crisis.

Locarno is to be the venue of the Allied con-ference on the "Security Pact," though some of the French papers stated that this place possesses "one telephone line and no telegraph." Several other towns were under consideration, such as Lucerne. Sittings are to commence next Monday.

The military tribunal in St. Gall has sentenced to three months imprisonment four Swiss residing abroad who refused to return when called upon to fulfil their military service.

Heavy rain and cloudbursts have during the last week done considerable damage in several districts of the canton Ticino, notably in Lugano and Bellinzona; near the latter place the Ticino has overflowed its banks, causing a temporary interruption of the railway service.

A remarkable mishap, which took place as long ago as May 30th, 1923, has just been disposed of by the local courts in Locarno. During army manœuvres the driver of a military automobile ran into an electric train of the Locarno-Bignasco line. The engine, which became uncoupled from the eight accompanying cattle trucks, ran along the line for another 40 metres, when it left the track and fell into the Maggia. The four elec-tricians who were in charge of the engine and who, owing to heavy rain, had taken shelter away from their allotted stand near the brake mechanism, lost their lives in the swollen torrent. The mili-tary chauffeur has now been sentenced to one month tary chauffeur has now been sentenced to one month imprisonment, the fact having been established that he omitted to sound the hooter when approaching the crossing.

EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

Un Suisse qui se distingue à la légion. — Dans les rmes les plus élogieux et les plus flatteurs, en Un Suisse qui se distingue à la légion. — Dans les termes les plus élogieux et les plus flatteurs, en vantant l'énergie et la bravoure dont il a fait preuve en plusieurs circonstances, le général Xaulin, com-mandant supérieur des troupes françaises du Maroc, vient de citer à l'ordre des troupes du Maroc Georges-Luc Roulin, sergent au 2e bataillon au 3e étranger. Cette citation comporte la croix de guerre avec palmes. G.-L. Roulin, est un jeune écrivain suisse, originaire d'Estavayer, qui a débuté vers 18 ans par un volume de vers: "PEnvol." Epris de vie héroïque, il s'est engagé dans la légion étrangère il y a quatre ans. *(fournal de Genève.)*

étrangère il y a quatre ans. *(Journal de Genève.) (Journal de Genève.)* **Un festival suisse à Paris.** — La colonie suisse de Paris a offert, samedi soir, au Grand Palais, à l'occasion de l'Exposition des arts décoratifs, un festival des plus brillants, sous la présidence d'hon-neur de M. Dunant, ministre de Suisse à Paris, entouré des membres du comité d'organisation, MM. Charles Courvoisier, Mouvert, Paul Léon, de l'In-stitut, directeur des beaux-arts; ainsi que de nom-breuses personnalités de la colonie suisse. Plus de 700 exécutants costunés appartenant aux 22 sociétés suisses de Paris prétaient leur concours à cette manifestation à laquelle assistiat un nom-

22 sociétés suisses de Paris prétaient leur concours à cette manifestation à laquelle assistait un nom-breux public. Au lever du rideau, après le pittoresque défilé à travers les salles illuminées du Palais des tam-bours de Bâle, des volleurs d'Appenzell, des chan-teurs du Tessin et des guides du Valais, des artistes des théâtres subventionnés français réclièrent des poèmes exaltant les héros des légendes suisses. Après quoi ce fut, dans une suite de tableaux colorés l'histoire même de l'Helvétie qui défila sous les veux du public, depuis 1291 jusqu'à 1815: le serment du Grutli, Guillaume Teil, les vendan-ges, les cantons, enfin l'apothéose qui fut saluée a'manimes applaudissements. Ajoutons qu'une semblable manifestation aura lieu dimanche.'

Ajoutons qu'une semblable manifestation aura lieu dimanche.' (*fournal de Genève.*) La maison su'sse de Paris. — Samedi après-midi (19 Sept.) a eu lieu à Zurich une séance du comité suisse pour la fondation de la Maison suisse de la Cité universitaire de Paris, comprenant des repré-sentants des différentes parties du pays. Le rap-port du président, Pr. R. Fueter, Zurich, sur les

travaux du comité restreint, a été approuvé et diverses décisions' ont été prises sur l'organisation et la mise au point d'une collecte. Les travaux du comité tendent à la construction d'une maison offrant à nos étudiants faisant leurs études à Paris un foyer véritable. Un appel du comité sera pro-chainement lancé au public. (*Le Genevois.*) Les finances de augues communes suisses — Les

chainement lancé au public. (Le Generous.) Les finances de quelques communes suisses. — Les "Basler Nachrichten " publient un article concer-nant les comptes annuels des 56 communes les plus importantes de la Suisse, d'où il appert qu'en 1919. Il seulement d'entre elles ont bouclé leurs comptes par un excédent de recettes, toutes les autres ayant du enregistrer un déficit. En 1924, changement comptet: les combentes déficitaires ne

autres ayant du enregistrer un déficit. En 1924, changement complet: les comptes déficitaires ne concernent plus que 15 communes, partout ailleurs on a réussi à rétablir l'équilibre. On voit, la situation s'est améliorée de fañon incontestable au cours de ces cinq années. En effet, après la guerre, la plupart des communes se sont mises courageusement à l'ocuvre pour assainir leurs finages qui se trouvaient à ce moment-là dans sont mises courageusement à l'ocuvre pour assainir leurs finances qui se trouvaient à ce moment-là dans une situation très précaire. Néanmoins les ombres ne manquent pas au tableau: c'est presque pariout en augmentant les recettes qu'on est parvenu à équilibrer le budget. Les dépenses n'ont diminué la plupart du temps que dans une proportion très faible. Aussi les impôts pèsent-ils actuellement très lourdemena sur les contribuables, si lourde-ment que cette situation présenterait de graves inconvénients si elle devait durer trop longtemps. Un certain nombre de communes out, il est vrai, Un certain nombre de communes ont, il est vrai, obtenu un supplément de communes ont, il est vrai, obtenu un supplément de recettes appréciables au moyen de leurs services publics (gaz, électricité, etc.), mais il n'en est pas moins vrai que la charge retombe presque entière sur le contribuable. Ét l'on se demande maintenant comment les choses vont aller, et quand les communes pourront entre-prendre de nouveau les travaux d'une certaine en-vergure qu'on a dû ajourner jusqu'ici. *(Journal du Jura.)*

vergure qu'on a dù ajourner jusqu'ici. (Journal du Jura.) Der Bananenhandel rentiert. — An der Ausstel-lungsstrasse in Zürich 5 erstellt die Westindische Bananenzentrale in Kürze einen Neubau im Kosten-betrage von rund 1 Million Franken. Der auf dem von der Stadt Zürich erworbenen Banareal zu erstellende Bau, geleitet von Architekt J. Geiger, wird dem Quartier zur Zierde gereichen. Es dürfte interessieren, dass dies der erste derartige Bau in ganz Europa sein wird, der speziell zum Aus-reifen und Lagern grosser Mengen von westindi-schen Bananen errichtet wird. Das Gebäude wird die neuzeitlichsten Anlagen für Erwärnung und Befeuchtung der zum Ausreifen der grün ein-treffenden Bananenbüschel bestimmten Räumlich-keiten, sowie Garagen für etwa 20 Autos aufweisen. Welchen Aufschwung der Handel mit Bananen ge-nommen hat, erhellt daraus, dass die Firma vor 3½- Jahren mit dem Import von einigen Waggons pro Monat begonnen hat, während heute allwöchent-lich vier bis fünf Eisenbahnwagen eintreffen, und zwar erfolgt der Versandt in speziellen, elektrisch geheizten Transportwagen. (Neue Zürcher Ztg.)

NOTES AND GLEANINGS. By "Kyburg.'

By "KBURG." By "KBURG." It is quite nice to be away from the usual wised says, the farther one is away from a given by the same, I enjoyed reading the various remarks afford to smile serenely, knowing that much water by the second the serenely is the series of the series of the second to smile serenely, knowing that much water by the second to smile serenely, knowing that much water by the second to smile serenely, knowing that much water by the second to smile serenely, knowing that much water by the second to smile serenely, knowing that much water by the second to serenely, the series of the series of the second to reach the series of the series of the second to varie conditions as the second to world conditions as the series of the second to warde conditions as the series of the second to warde is pure heres." There is published in England as the series of the spora, as it were, were not only pioneers help in the base in the series of the colony, the the introduction of Tarill Reform by Great britten would be a blessing for witzerland. Hence

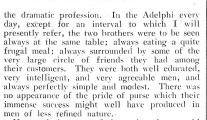
it follows that 'Kyburg,' writing in a published organ for the Swiss Colony of England, and not *pro domo*, has no choice but to defend Free Trade. By the way, Free Trade is so obviously the better way towards World Peace, that one can hardly argue about it, except where special interests are drawn into consideration. 'Kyburg's' effusions would soon become ex-tremely tiresome to all readers were he to eschew all controversial matter. On the other hand, 'Kyburg' very frankly admits that very many of his paragraphs would be much better unwritten; because he has not given them sufficient considera-tion; because—and that is *the* chief reason—he knows from experience that, unless he makes some-body wild, there is not the slightest expressed oppo-sition to anything he may write. And that is not good for a newspaper writer and is, incidentally, the everlasting complaint of 'Kyburg', as the Editor knows. If only one more of our readers, especially one from among our French or Italian-speaking compatriots, would be energetic and pub-lic-spirited enough to share 'Kyburg's' labour for the S.O., we would then begin to have "Notes and Gleanings" worth reading, because the diffe-rent points of view and the friendly rivalry would produce argumentations which all thinking readers could enjoy. Cela dit, passons à l'ordre du jour! could enjoy.

Cela dit, passons à l'ordre du jour! The Late Mrs. Gatti.

Most Swiss have at one time or another been to Gatti's in the Strand, but it is surprising how few have been acquainted with the "Romance of London Trade," as the Rt. Hon. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., calls it in the following article in the Daily Telegraph (Sept. 19th), which went to make Gatti's. Gatti'

The name of Gatti figures in the early memo-ries of every old Londoner like myself. My first recollection of it is when, still without a job and with little money in my pocket, I took a meal in what is now known as the Adelaide Gallery, and was shocked and intimidated when I found that it would cost me half a crown, about helf of whet would be the charge in these days I found that it would cost me half a crown, about half of what would be the charge in these days of big prices. But the contrast between the well upholstered and bright room and the dingy coffice-house in Drury-lane, where I often had breakfast for twopence—a penny for the coffee and another penny for two slices of unbuttered bread—was some compensation. In time I found myself in another 'Gatti establishment—that which was, and is, in Villiers-street—and the presiding genius and founder of the family and the business was to be seen there almost nightly. I don't suppose that he took any special interest the business was to be seen there almost nightly. I don't suppose that he took any special interest in the personality of his guests, but if he had doné so he might have seen there a number of the young Irishmen who were creating the great Parneil Party: among others the obsec, thander-voiced old Irishman, Major O'Gorman, who used to amuse and to outrage the House of Commons of the seried with here of with new and then Tailed Faily, among ones in the measure of the period with bursts of wit now and then, dangerously approaching his Rabelaisian model. This Gatti remained and was proud to remain what he was at the start. He took the keenest interest in his restaurant; he was capable, now and then, of taking his turn at watching the steak or the mutton chop on the big grill—off which he was one of the pioneers—as he sat gossiping with his cronies. He was very corpulent, and probably found his armchair, in the midst of his work and in sight of his growing wealth, the best form of relaxation. It is not accurate to place him in the business of his relatives; he left his property to two daughters. The Gattis were the forerunners of a movement of the Italian waiter that gradually became general, from the Italian canton of Switzerland —Ticino—and from the neighbourhood about the Gattis of our time in business, though he was an uncle of two of them, and though the brothers Agostino and Stephano probably left their home in Ticino to help their prosperous relative, and started for themselves as far back as 1863. Their first place was that Adelaide Gallery where I took my choice meal in 1870. They were booth very thorough men of business, always deeply interested in their concerns, and always very

took my choice meal in 1870. They were both very thorough men of business, always deeply interested in their concerns, and always very proud of them. They had vicisitudes of for-tune in their steadily upward course, but that did not in the least abate their interest. One of their habits became known to all that big section of the population of London which surges around Fleet-street and the Strand—the London of journalists and of the members of



immense success might well have produced in men of less refined nature. Now and then one of them, Agostino, would be absent for a while, and when he returned to his usual seat at the same table he revealed to you another side of his character. He was a member of the National Council of his native Switzerland—the popular Chamber of the sturdy little republic. He was a man of strong con-victions; very Catholic, very Conservative, and probably he found it necessary to be regular in his attendance, because in the National Council the Radicals have usually the majority, and with their policy Agostino, both on religious and political grounds, had no patience. Doubtless he fought his battles quietly, but I am sure he fought them very resolutely and very tenaciously. he fought his battles quictly, but I am sure he fought them very resolutely and very tenaciously. As everybody knows, the firm gradually went into theatre enterprises, and for a number of years were in control of the Adelphi and the Vaudeville theatres, where they had many success-ful productions; their reign was one of clean pieces and dignified management. They are both pow dead; and the chief responsibilities of the precess and diginized management. They are bound now dead; and the chief responsibilities of the great firm have fallen mainly on the shoulders of John M. Gatti and his brother, Rocco, the sons John M. Gatti and his brother, Rocco, the sons of Agostino Gatti. John M. Gatti, born in Lon-don and a lifelong Cockney, threw himself into the life of London to a degree that would have been impossible in his father or his uncle. He is one of the pioneers of the modern electrical industry in London—especially in Westminster— with which he has always had a very close association. He was at one time Mayor of West-minster, and seemed inclined to take an interest in the larger political life of the country in the House of Commons. But primarily a business In the larger political life of the country in the House of Commons. But primarily a business man and of too tranquil, perhaps of too shy, a nature to court public life, he has been content to remain one of the most active and prosperous business men of his native city. He has found besides full scope for his activities in the Lon-don County Council, where he fills the respons-ible position of chairman of the Finance Committee.

mittee. A transformation in the social life of London has been created by members of this family, for until the Gatti restaurants came, there was scar-cely any provision for the large class whose means are between extreme poverty and great wealth. The only place at which to get a cup of tea or of coffee in London was in those frowsy coffee-houses — sadly declined from the coffee-house which was in the days of Swift and other circhteenth centure tioners the respect of the aristooffee-houses—sailly declined from the coffee-house which was in the days of Swift and other eighteenth-century figures the resort of the aristo-erats and the wits of that splendid age. It was the Gattis also who, besides producing finely ornamented and airy restaurants, introduced music at a meal—au unheard-of novelty at the period when they began. These restaurants, in their well-chosen position, have been for two genera-tions very popular, especially in the literary and artistic circles, and the family must be regarded as one of the pioneers of the brighter, more comfortable London we have to-day, a transfor-mation which can be appreciated by those only. like myself, who had to find their frugal meals either in the coffee-shop or the tap-room of a humble public-house. Mrs. Gatti, the widow of Agostino and mother of John M. and Rocco Gatti, who died late on Thursday night (Sept. 17th), was a striking and winning figure, which perhaps may have accounted for the name "Madame" by which she was popularly known and was addressed when she appeared in one of her children's restaurants. As the remaining female head of a large family —for she was a great grandmother—she might have been appropriately called 'The Matriarch' of the Gattis. She has some months of illness in her house in Carlton-hill, W., and she was in her 79th year at the time of her death. I never saw her, but I have heard a great deal of her. She inherited all the best qualities of her race: she was pious: a combination of strength and genteness—the genteness predominating over the

she was pious; a combination of strength and gentleness—the gentleness predominating over the strength-and her benevolence to those in trouble need was inexhaustible.

And now they are building at Gatti's, as my readers know, and the Red Room has already dis-appeared, never to gladden our ladies' hearts again, I am told. A pity, because there are not many public rooms, at once so cosy and friendly and as get-at-able as that Red Room was. Alas!

Alpine Flora

The Times (18th Sept.):-

Authorities and associations in Switzerland and Autorities and associations in Switzerhand and Tirol are making great efforts to protect the Alpine flora. Travellers can help them by refus-ing to buy flowers (edelweiss, rhododendron, or-chids, etc.). State your reason each time, so as

to educate the natives. They will then discover of wildflowers is really the predatory instinct turned into a thoughtless habit. As a legitimate trophy a single specimen is better than a hun-dred. For colour effects in rooms our garden flowers are far more suitable. To which, I am sure, my readers will all say,

"Hear, hear! Swiss National Council Protest Against U.S.A. Action. The Nottingham Guardian (23rd Sept.):

The Nottingham Guardian (23rd Sept.):— The Federal Council assembled on Monday afternoon (Sept. 21st) for their usual autumn session, which will be the last before the general election on October 25th. The Council of States began a debate on the arbitration treaties with France, Japan, Belgium and Poland, and approved the treaty with Japan. In the National Council, during a debate on the administrative report of the Federal Council, the reporter made a protest against the introduc-

the reporter made a protest against the introduc-tion by the United States of a control over Swiss production, and claimed that Switzerland might with as much right establish a control of the American motor industry through her consular officials.

I have previously referred to the matter, and an glad a protest has been made in the matter, and am glad a protest has been made in the National Council. The action complained of is, of course, merely an example of Tariff Reform and its quite logical interpretation.

"I miss my Swiss," a tongue-twister in English, is likely, according to the *Daily Mail* (24th Sept.), to be one of the hits of the programme which "The Chauve Souris" present at the Strand on October 2nd:— I miss my Swiss, My Swiss, My

- I miss my Souss, see me: I miss the bliss that Swiss kiss gives to me. I hear her yodelling sweet melodies, Like the birds and the bees from the Switzer trees.
- trees. Her dear papa makes watches that are Swiss, That's why he watches me like this; I lost her in the mountains— In the mountains she must be; I miss my Swiss,

My Swiss miss misses me.

My Swiss miss misses me. Well, well—pretty, pretty—but rather feeble all the same, and hardly up to "Chauve Souris" excellence. By the way, I have always considered the Chauve Souris *the* one purely and sublimely artistic show London gave us last year, and I hope that this year's season of the talented Russians will be as good. Good luck to them ! Economic Conditions of Europe.

Conference A Central European Economic Conference which has been sitting at Vienna for two days was concluded on Sept. 9th. The Conference, which was attended by representatives from 12 European States, including Great Britain, France, Italy and Switzerland, was useful and successful in that it afforded the opportunity of the free expression of the economic grievances which exist in Europe today.

in Europe to day. A resolution proposed by Dr. Elemer Hantos (Hungary) was unanimously adopted. It was to the effect that the present situation in Central Europe was largely the outcome of tendencies on the part of small nations to isolate themselves when the net is a former their will use on their on the part of small nations to isolate themselves and to try to enforce their will upon their neighbours. As a remedy, it suggested the con-clusion of a series of non-political agreements, embracing transport and currency. Preferential Customs tariffs were also advocated, together with an identical gold basis for the currencies of all States. States.

The constitution of a permanent Central Euro-pean Economic Organization for the study of these questions and the drafting of agreements is to be the first step in the policy recommended by the resolution.

If "preferential Customs Tariffs" have any If "preferential Customs Tarifs" have any meaning at all, I should say that they are meant to remedy to some extent the mischief done by "tariffs pure and simple." Which reflection I commend to my tariff reform friends for study during a quiet hour of leisure. There is not much else to glean from the British Press this week. Mention is made by *The Times* (17th Sept.) of "Calderon's Miracle Play—Open-Air Performance at Einsiedeln," and the article is worth reading. The *Calholic Herald*

(19th Sept.) has a long article on "How Switzer-land Celebrated the New Saint," viz., St. Peter Canisus, at Fribourg.

Canisius, at Fribourg. The bar has passed away: summer time will be a thing of the past when these "Notes and Gleanings" are read by my readers on Sunday morning, and autumn and winter will gain awaken our appreciation of deep, comfortable easy-chairs, snugly drawn up to the fire. May the weather clerk be lenient this season and give us plenty of nice, sunny days, so that we do not forget altogether how it feels to be in the open air when the sun is shining, and there is a nice, keen tang in the air, which makes us feel strong and alert and years and years younger. And so say all of us, including "Kyburg."



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