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Pestalozzi villages, throughout the world, be villages after Pestalozzi's own heart.

Pierre Bovet,

March 1948.

Honorary Professor, University of Geneva.

SUNDRY NEWS.

IMPORTANT SPEECH BY FEDERAL COUNCILLOR VON STEIGER.

On the occasion of an assembly that took place in Berne in celebration of the jubilee of the Constitution, Federal Councillor von Steiger, head of the Federal Department of Justice and Police, delivered an important address the significance of which was undoubtedly prompted by the events that recently took place in many countries of Eastern Europe. He referred to the important part played by the Canton of Berne during the foundation of the modern Confederation in 1848, and said that the Federal Constitution of the new Confederation is a masterpiece, the principal features of which are still in force today. He then continued - "Only in liberty can a people be educated to freedom. Liberty is a precious gift that should not be squandered. We shall defend it to the last, but we do not permit it to be used against freedom itself and against the security, honour and independence of our country. It is precisely on account of our having been educated in freedom that we are in a position to judge where in a true and orderly democracy the limits between right and misuse lie. Personal freedom must never mean the furtherance of one's own selfish interests, whilst other groups of the community are threatened in their economic existence or even when they are in need. In a democracy, blind obedience is replaced by a sense of responsibility. For those who are working against the liberty of our country, the freedom of opinion and expression only serves to further interests other than the true interests of their country. It usually begins with pilgrimages, manifestations of sympathy, telegrams and proclamations in favour of strange ideologies and how does it end in many countries? The right of free expression of opinion does not constitute a right for propaganda in favour of foreign ideologies and foreign states. It ends there where the activity is directed against one's own country; therefore, for the protection of the constitutional order, such propaganda as tends in an unlawful manner to bring about a change in the constitutional order of the Confederation and the Cantons, must be prohibited. Our way of life, our economic and social conditions, must be such that no one will find it attractive to follow the false prophets on their misguided path. Even though Switzerland co-operates wherever co-operation is required in the service of humanity and a reasonable economy, her policy of neutrality and independence must never be put in jeopardy. The necessity to be united in war and peace determines also the scope of the Cantonal sovereignty. Without independence of the Confederation there cannot be independent Cantons; without a free Switzerland there cannot be any freedom for the individual.

MILITARY AEROPLANES CRASH.

The military aeroplane that was engaged in observing the exercises of a regiment for the protection of the frontier, crashed near Obereggen. The observer, Lt. Emanuel Bruehlmann, born 1923, of St. Gallen, and the pilot, Cpl. Hans Giger, born 1926, of Zürich, were killed. A few days later our Air Force once more suffered a heavy loss through an emergency landing exercise near the aerodrome of Locarno, Maj. Pista Hitz, born 1910, instructing officer of the Air Force, and his pupil, Cpl. Willy Kiene, born 1926, of Vernier (Geneva) were killed. The cause of this tragic accident has not yet been determined. Maj. Hitz who had been in the service of the Air Force from 1937 was one of our best pilots; he played a prominent part in the rescue of the Americans who crashed on the Gauli Glacier last year.

A verfährtli Spekulative.

Es G'flüster ist omegange, ond alli händs g'lobt,
de Gusti ond s'Grittli seget heimlech verlobt,
die ältere Lüüt sind überzügt,
das get es Ehepaar, wenn nöd alles trügt,
die meiste hettet dref g'wettet,
dass die beide bald Hochziit hettet,
so äs stramms Päärli, ond beidi vom Land,
ond alli Sonntag gönds' uus metenand,
s'Grittli hät aber z'mol die Idee,
sie sei vo Natur uus no z'wenig schön,
es sött alles Tip Top sii vo Chopf bis zo de Füess,
ond dass mer doh ä chlil nohheffe müess,
s'hät d'Fingernegel aag'streche
ond d'lippe g'mohlet,
doh hät sie's aber met em Gusti verstrohlet,
er seit's ehre grad use, denn ond dei,
er göng nöd uus met einere, wo d'Muul- ond
Chlauesüüchi hei.

A. Moosberger.

Invasion im Tessin

Einer aus führenden Köpfen der Völkerkunde
zusammengesetzten Expedition gelang eine aufsehen-
erregende Entdeckung: Sie fand nach zähem Forschen
in Ascona einen... Tessiner !

Riskiert

Ein Coiffeur ist zum Tode verurteilt. Vor der
Hinrichtung fragt man ihn nach seinem letzten Wunsch.
Da meint er: "Ich möchte nur noch einmal den Herrn
Staatsanwalt rasieren."

Ein Gast bestellte ein Dreiminuten-Ei. Vor-
sichtshalber wurde die Küchenfee noch dahingehend
instruiert, dass das Ei während dreier Minuten in
kochendes Wasser zu legen sei. Auf die Frage, ob
sie bei dieser Manipulation auf die Uhr geschaut
habe, antwortete sie gehässig: "Es hätt' jo doch
rüt gnützt, d'Uhr goht jo feuf Minute vor!"

SUNDRY NEWS.

TRAITOR FRANZ BURRI FOUND GUILTY.

The Federal Penal Tribunal has condemned Franz Burri to twenty years
penitentiary and fifteen years of expulsion from Swiss territory. It
has furthermore confirmed his loss of citizenship. During the war Burri
was the leader of the so-called National Socialist Swiss Federation in
Germany.

THE NEW CANTONAL CONSTITUTION REJECTED BY THE PEOPLE OF OBWALDEN.

On the 9th of May, the people of Obwalden rejected the new Constitution with
1711 accepting against 2255 rejecting votes and the law for the Retirement
Insurance was accepted by 2049 against 1813 votes.

THE WADENSWIL TRAIN SMASH.

The investigation into the Wädenswil train smash in which twentytwo people met their death and twentytwo others suffered serious injuries, has shown that the locomotive was actually pulling the train whereas the brakes were applied to the carriages. Due to the fact that the train was going down hill, the pull of the locomotive was all the more effective. By a mistake, the engine-driver had omitted to throw the switch into its braking position.

BRITISH PUPILS MAY AGAIN GO TO SWITZERLAND.

According to a communiqué from the Bank of England, British pupils may again go to Switzerland for educational purposes. In addition to the customary allocation of foreign exchange, each person will be granted the equivalent of £stg.200 in Swiss francs (approximately Sfr.3400).

SWISS PROFESSOR HONOURED IN NEW YORK.

The Neurological Society of New York has bestowed an honorary membership upon Professor Robert Bing of the University of Basel, in view of his meritorious achievements in the study of nervous disorders.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

AUCKLAND CELEBRATION.

A gathering of the Swiss community of Auckland and surrounding districts will be held this year at the Commodore Rooms, Customs St. West, (opposite Point Chevalier tram stop) on Saturday, August 7th at 7.30 p.m. Owing to the position of Lighting Restrictions, we ask patrons to roll up early. As we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Neuchatel, and also the Constitution, we should like to see our patrons turn up in Good Numbers.

TARANAKI CELEBRATIONS.

Rumours have been circulating that a Swiss Dance will be held on July 16th.

INFORMATION REQUIRED.

Would any person knowing the present whereabouts of:

EMIL BUCHLI, Born 1882 in Muttén (St. Graub.)

kindly communicate with the Consulate of Switzerland P.O. Box 386, Wellington, C.I.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

The following Calendars for 1949, in colour, can be ordered through the Consulate of Switzerland:

- "Berge und Taler der Heimat" 9/-
- "Die malerische Schweiz" 7/-
- "Alpenblumen Kalender" 6/-

When sending in your order please forward at the same time the Subscription Fee.

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Our Secretary has left Auckland for a trip to Switzerland and the Committee appointed Mr. A. Moosberger, as Acting-Secretary until the end of our financial year. Please forward your Subscriptions or Correspondence to:

Mr. A. Moosberger,
129 Crummer Road,
AUCKLAND. W.2.