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question. Under these circumstances Switzerland had, at the outset, to give a negative reply to the League, rather than be compelled later on to withdraw permission under more difficult conditions.

"In reply to the Swiss Minister, M. Leon Bourgeois spoke of the great moral damage the League had sustained by the decision of the Swiss Federal Council. This decision was all the more regrettable because it was taken before the conditions under which the passage of the troops might be required were ascertained from the League. He held that if there had been an exchange of views, the incident would not have arisen. It was only as a precaution that Marshal Foch had to take in advance in order to study the technical conditions of the problem that Switzerland had been asked to allow the passage of the troops. It was not an announcement of the departure of the troops. M. Bourgeois concluded with the hope that the misunderstanding that had arisen was only temporary, and would be surmounted by frank explanations."

*The Daily News and Leader* dispatch of the same date adds that M. Bourgeois asked M. Dunant to say to his Government at Berne: "We have seen at Paris men deeply moved by the injury done to the League of Nations, but who are at the same time resolved to forget this injury . . . in order that there may be complete harmony in striving after a common end."

*The Pall Mall Gazette and Globe* (Feb. 28th) gives the following comment and strikes a note which we need hardly state we have not come across in any other paper:—

"The refusal of Switzerland to allow international troops on their way to Vilna to pass through her territory was severely criticised at last week's meeting of the League of Nations Council. The plea of scruples over neutrality will not convey much impression of sincerity. Switzerland has not made up her mind yet whether the League or Germany is going to be the more formidable authority, and in any case she thinks the former is the safer to offend."

The announcement that INSURANCE COMPANIES in Switzerland have decided to raise the tariff for sickness policies for women clients has generated a good deal of merriment in those papers which took notice of it. Extra rates are to be levied, according to the lowness of the neck or the brevity of the skirt. One local paper, presuming that the company directors are mostly men of over sixty, suggests that the time of these directors could hardly be better employed than in taking the respective measurements previous to fixing the rates in each individual case. The following are some answers to enquiries made by *The Daily Express* (Feb. 25th):—

"As far as medical testimony goes there is no evidence of chest complaints caused by young women wearing low-necked dresses," said a high medical authority last night to a 'Daily Express' representative.

"I should have thought the wearing of low-cut dresses a healthy custom, provided a scarf is thrown round the neck in a cold atmosphere."

Sir Thomas Dewey, late chairman of the Prudential Assurance Company, was amused when informed by a 'Daily Express' representative of the report from Switzerland. "Insurance companies in England," he said, "are not likely to inflict any penalty on young women wearing their dresses low cut. I always thought it was a healthy custom and to be recommended in reason."

The STRIKE FEVER has penetrated even the reporters' gallery of the Conseil National; however, no great harm seems to have been done. The dispute is referred to in *The Observer* (Feb. 27th) as follows:—

"That even in the Swiss Parliament it is possible to have too much tri-lingual eloquence (in French, German and Italian) is proved by an incident which took place the other day in the Lower House in Berne. As a rule the Conseil National meets at 8 a.m. and talks till 12.30, when it adjourns for its 'Mittagessen'; but sometimes it assembles again at 4.30, adjourning generally at 6.30 or 7. Of late, however, there have been so many Demosthenes that a strict limit has had to be placed on their eloquence. So much have they had to say, indeed, on all sorts of questions that extra sittings have had to be held, and the Press representatives, as a rule forty to fifty in number, have had to be all day long in their gallery, and half the night, telephoning or telegraphing to their newspapers."

"When, therefore, it was proposed to hold a sitting late on Wednesday, the journalists were all up in arms, and sent in a written petition to the President. This was read aloud by the President, whereupon who should get up to oppose it but the reddest of red Socialists, and the most ardent advocate of an eight hours' working day, who scolded the journalists like a schoolmaster?"

"It was accordingly decided that the extra sitting should be held, but the journalists decided that they would not attend it. Consequently, when the time came the Press gallery was empty. Some members, it is true, tried to telephone or telegraph their speeches to the papers most sympathetic to them, but no record of their eloquence has appeared, and it is to be feared it is lost to the world."

Several papers give short obituary notices of Col. L. von Stürler, director of the Swiss Federal Arms Factory in Berne, and Eugène Burnand, the great religious artist.

## ONT ETE HOTES DU GOUVERNEMENT BRITANNIQUE.

M. Gustave Ador, ancien Président de la Confédération et Président du Comité International de la Croix-Rouge, est arrivé à Londres le 24 février pour présider les séances plénières du 'Provisional Mixed Committee' composé de sous-commissions économiques et financières, comité qui a été chargé par la Société des Nations de procéder à des travaux d'études préliminaires en vue de la création d'un organe économique permanent. M. Ador est retourné le 1er mars.

Le Gouvernement britannique a invité officiellement les personnes suivantes à venir visiter la "British Industries Fair" à Londres, Birmingham et Glasgow:

1. Colonel Dietrich Schindler, de Zurich, Directeur des Ateliers de construction d'Oerlikon et Vice-Président de l'Union Suisse du Commerce et de l'Industrie.
2. M. J. H. Hermann Bühler, de Winterthur, Président de l'Association Suisse des Maîtres Filateurs, Doubleurs et Tisserands de coton.
3. Dr. Robert Forrer, de St. Gall, Conseiller National.
4. M. Henri Grobet, de Vallorbe, Conseiller National et ancien Directeur général de la Société Suisse de Surveillance économique.