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HOME NEWS

The elections for the re-constitution of the Swiss National Council will take place on Sunday, October 29th next.

* * *

The fiscal accounts of the Canton of Thurgau for 1921 show a pleasing improvement, as the revenue of 11,027,591 frs. exceeds the expenditure by 112,538 frs.

At the end of 1921 the Thurgovian State property was valued at 15,416,942 frs.

* * *

Swiss Co-operative Societies have paid 1,416,942 frs. in taxes and licences during 1921.

The 493 societies which constitute the Swiss Co-operative Union are running 1914 shops and depots all over the country, thus each business contributes annually 740 francs towards taxation and other fiscal dues.

* * *

A terrific storm, accompanied by heavy lightning and hail, in the region of Bellinzona has, unfortunately, caused tremendous damage to crops and property, particularly in Lumina and Gnosca and the adjacent valley of Misox.

* * *

The third "Liebesgabenzug," provisioned by the Swiss people for the benefit of starving Russian children, left Moscow for Zarizyn on August 10th.

The train was composed of 30 waggons of wheat and one waggon of oatmeal, representing a value of 100,000 francs, and will enable the Swiss kitchens in Sarepta, Krasnovarmeisa and Tschorny-Yar to add to each daily ration of 20,000 children about 100 grammes of bread.

This is the third train despatched from Switzerland in aid of the Russian children, making in all 100 trucks of food, clothing and other necessities, which will put the 70 Swiss kitchens in Russia in a position to carry on their benevolent work until the end of November.

To celebrate the Swiss National Fête in Russia, the executive committee of the Swiss Relief Fund had arranged on the First of August to supply double rations to the Russian children.

* * *

The feudal Castle of Gruyères, which has been closed to the public for some years, has been thrown open again to visitors daily from 2 to 5 p.m., by the courtesy of its proprietress, Madame Balland, to whom application for inspection should be addressed.

The Cantonal Tribunal of Neuchâtel has given a verdict for 21,500 frs. damages against the Community of Colombier.

A scholar, aged 12, broke his arm whilst doing gymnastic exercises during school hours, and the accident has left him with a permanently stiff and useless right arm.

The tribunal was of opinion that the particular exercise was too dangerous for scholars of that age, and that the gymnastic instructor committed a grave error of judgment in imposing the drill.

The Community, being insured against risks of this nature with the "Zürich," has not appealed against the verdict.

* * *

After Geneva follows Zürich with Aerial Displays. Great efforts and preparations are in progress to assure the success of the International Aviation Meeting which will take place in Zürich-Dübendorf from September 3rd to 10th inclusive.

The first International "Alpenrundflug" is receiving predominant attention; the first prize consists of the "Chavez-Bider" challenge trophy and 10,000 frs., the second prize 3,000 frs., and the third prize 1,000 frs.

For military aviators the Federal Council is offering cash prizes amounting to 5,000 frs., in addition to a bronze statue for the winner by the sculptor Hermann Haller.

For civil sporting aviation there are offered handsome prizes to the value of nearly 5,000 frs., accompanied by a gold challenge trophy, the work of Swiss craftsmen.

The Section Romande of the S.Ae.C. is offering a trophy and 3,000 frs. for the International Acrobatic Competitions in the air, while the Federal Council is giving a further cash prize of 1,500 frs. for the International "Bombing" Competitions.

Inducements to attract "aces" of the international flying world are therefore not lacking, and it is hoped that the meeting will prove another success for Swiss organisation.

* * *

The grand pyrotechnic display which was intended for the First of August Celebrations at the Tonhalle, Zürich, had to be postponed from day to day, owing to inclement weather. On Thursday evening, the 10th instant, it was thought that the opportune moment had arrived, and thousands had gathered to witness the fireworks. Luckily, the Clerk of the Weather delayed re-opening the sluice gates and quenching the brilliance of the immense fire-wheels until the crowds did get a few moments' delight from the grand sight. Let us hope this capricious official will be of a friendlier turn of mind during the aviation week.

* * *

An unusual "residence" of vagabonds has been discovered by the Municipal Police of Berne.

Each of the pillars of the stately Kirchenfeldbrücke on the left bank of the Aare has an empty chamber of