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HOME NEWS

The propaganda for and against the proposed ital levy is being carried on in a somewhat The propagation for and against the proposed capital levy is being carried on in a somewhat acrimonious and agressive spirit, and every Swiss patriot will be pleased when this controversial question is finally settled, so that a more sober and dignified atmosphere may prevail again. A good many statements have been published which cannot be substantiated, and even threats have been made that if the voting on December 3rd should reject the capital levy, a general strike all over Switzer-land would be the outcome. As stated in our last issue, a lightning strike has already² taken place in the printing trade, and has chiefly affected Lau-same, Basle and Berne, in which towns the daily papers have suspended individual publication and are issuing a common news sheet. The points at issue are somewhat obscure, both¹⁶ parties, the workers and the master printers, reiterating their willingness to discuss the new tariff of wages and hours, the old one coming to an end on December 31st. Owing to the refusal of the printers in some newspaper offices to perform certain routine duties of the paper, events have been precipitated, and naturally the Sociatist element is seeking to make capital of the paper, events have been precipitated, and naturally the Socialist element is seeking to make capital out of the trend of circumstances, in furtherance of their own propaganda in favour of the capital levy.

The latest reports, however, show that the strike is gradually "petering out," the papers and printing offices concerned having overcome the initial diffi-culties, and a small number of workmen are offer-ing to take up work again unconditionally. Some other centres, like Winterthur and Solo-thurn, have also been affected, whilst Zurich, where there seems to be a fair amount of free labour, is conformer upon little.

is suffering very little.

The Canton of Grisons, which up till now resolutely refused to permit motor traffic on its roads, is gradually coming into line. At the invitation of the Federal Council the Cantonal authorities are prepared to open the roads leading over the Julier and the Splügen to motor traffic.

The Grand Council of Basle last week ratified the naturalization of 82 foreigners.

* * * The guides of Grindelwald and the surrounding The guides of Grindelwald and the surrounding districts unanimously agreed at the recent general meeting to build a shelter on the Mittellegi for climbers of the eastern slope of the Eiger. The hut will be built early next summer in the valley and will be transported by the guides from the glacier to the site for the building. To effect this about 250 metres of rope will be laid on the east side of the Eiger. It will be recollected that Mr. Maki, the Japanese climber, contributed 10,000 fr. towards the cost of erecting the shelter as a memento of his first excursion up this peak.

Signor Mussolini, on his return from the Lau-ne Conference, sent a telegram to the Federal same Conference, sent a telegram to the Federal President, expressing his sincere appreciation of the reception accorded him during his stay on Helvetian soil. His telegram was, of course, ac-knowledged in a suitable manner by the Federal authorities. The head of the Fascisti and the popular hero of Italy was, if we remember aright, on rathfer less ceremonious terms with the Confede-ration authorities after his previous stay in Switzer-land. land.

Throughout the north of Switzerland snow has already fallen abundantly, and the meteorological Throughout the north of Switzerland snow has already fallen abundantly, and the meteorological station at Zurich registered on November 27th a fall of 8 inches, a record for the time of year. This is a little early even for the devotees of winter sports, who scan the meteorological reports from Switzerland so eagerly at this season of the year.

It will be learnt with pleasure that Mr. P. Carmine, the distinguished member of the Swiss Carmine, the distinguished member of the Swiss Colony in London, is now considered out of danger, and his complete recovery may be looked forward to with confidence. The series of successful opera-tions, which have given Mr. Carmine a new lease of life, have been performed at the Sanatorium Victoria, Bern, by the eminent surgeon, Professor F. de Quervain, the successor of Professor Kocher, and it is thanks to the great surgical science of Professor de Quervain that Mr. Carmine has been restored to health. restored to health.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

The Winter Season.

If advertising offers any indication at all, the great publicity given in the English press should ensure a Swiss winter season quite on a par with the pre-war scale. In fact, everything seems favour-able, and with the all-round drop in hotel charges, a small reduction in railway fares, and a more a small reduction in railway fares, and a more attractive exchange, the English visitor will econo-mise something like 20 per cent. of his expenses as compared with last year. It is reported that hundreds of visitors have already booked accommo-dation in the better-known resorts. Of the English dailies the *Morning Post* (Nov. 14, 15, 18 and 21) has published a series of articles dealing with winter sports and containing most valuable advice to those tourists who, from a sporting point of view, wish to make the best of their holiday. Referring to the question of expense, the writer says:

* * *

A similar though shorter article in *Truth* (Nov. 15th) is intended mainly for novices. It entirely disregards the social factor, for "if you are going "to the Alps to dance, and to cultivate the aristo-"cracy, you should spend a quiet hour at the "British Museum studying the back numbers of the "British Museum studying the back numbers of the "Tatler and the Sketch." If you are in doubt as to your personal outfit, you should turn to the *Daily Mail* (Nov. 15th), where the merits of "Men's Wear" are considered in all their aspects, whils the *Daily Graphic* (Nov. 23rd) retails some of the costumes recently shown at Reville's, where "tweed-clad women and several sporting parsons "were watching a knickerbocker mannequin pa-"rade" which would have "charmed a polar bear "if he had lived in Switzerland instead of sulking "at the North Pole." In the interest of domestic harmony and economy we refrain from giving a full description of some of these fascinating costumes, although "pour ètre belle, if faut souffrir." *The Sphere, The Queen, The Gentlewoman, The Gra-phic and Ladizs' Field* all publish engaging articles superbly illustrated, depicting the latest fashion designs, along with typical Swiss winter scenes. **** A similar though shorter article in Truth (Nov.

The fact of the Near East Conference being held in Lausanne—or near Eausanne, to be quite correct—is responsible for the appearance in the correct—is responsible for the appearance in the English press of highly interesting references to its literary and political associations. The West-minster Gazette (Nov. 20th) calls Lausanne a "beautiful city of earnest lotus-eaters" and thinks it a most difficult place for the Conference to work in (it has no golf-course!), but the Morning Post (Nov. 16th) considers it an ideal place for this purpose. It traces the memories of Byron, Gibbon, Voltaire and Rousseau, and generally de-scribes Lausanne as a quiet, restful place, "living "as much in the past as in the present".— "It boasts, the wise have calculated some 2.000

"It boasts, the wise have calculated, some 2,000 annual hours of sunshine, which is quite as much as you want—one likes to see a little rain sometimes. If you are ill, it has the best doctors in Europe: they have out your appendix in six minutes—some say four—and no doubt they can kill you in even less. If you are not ill, but what is called so-so, you can

The Sheffield Daily Telegraph (Nov. 20th) is of the same opinion, for the "mental atmosphere "of Lausanne is tranquil, but not sleepy; it has a "history and at the same time is very modern." A few further extracts may prove of interest:—

The Birmingham Daily Mail (Nov. 21st) deals chiefly with the literary associations; the writer gives short pen-pictures of Voltaire and Rousseau, somewhat realistic and slightly repugnant to admirers, but we publish what he says about Gibbon:

Swiss Capital Levy

Swiss Capital Levy. With the parliamentary elections over, this much-discussed proposal has now been given a rest in the English press, only casual short reports appearing to the effect that the plebiscite on Dec. Srd will reject the Capital Levy. This, of course, reflects general opinion in Switzerland, but in face of recent developments this confident optimism seems to be dangerous. The printers' strike now on clearly testifies that the foreign influence among Swiss Socialists is stronger than some people would like to believe. On the whole the English press has treated this vital question in a haphazard fashion; the forthcoming voting is termed a refe-rendum, which is profession of the strengt and the strengt of the strengt and the stre rendum, which is for course, a totally different thing from the initiative, and no paper has taken the trouble to point out to its readers the essential the trouble to point out to its readers the essential difference. It strikes us as peculiar when *The Times* (Nov. 24th) publishes a letter from a baronet who invokes the powerful advocacy of that paper for the introduction, of the Swiss referendum in the English system of Government, and thus pre-vent the utter subserviency of a House of Commons to the autocratic will of a Prime Minister. "We "have," he further erroneously states, "an object "lesv, but for the referendum, would be imposed levy, but for the referendum, would be imposed "on the people."

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

The development in the money market in the In development in the money market in the last few weeks has been strikingly different from that usually expected at this time of year. In ordinary times the period from Michaelmas up to the middle of December is characterised by very easy conditions; but to-day the available resources of the market have become so reduced that dis-counts can no longer be effected so cheaply as during recent months, and there is an average increase of about one per cent. all round in the rates