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In a message to the Chambers for the renewal of authority to contract fresh loans, the Federal Council states that the total indebtedness of Swit-zerland has increased during the last two years by about 200 million francs; i.e., the figure at the end of 1920 was 1,9 milliard, against 2,1 milliards at the end of 1922.

A demand for the reduction of the military budget has recently been addressed to the Federal Council, and it is now stated that a reduction of expenditure is impossible without deviating from the established basis. In this connection a lecture was delivered on December 4th by Generalstabschef Sonderegger, and the following exposé from the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* will prove of interest:—

bis established basis. In this connection a lecture was delivered on December 4th by Generalstabschef Sonderegger, and the following expose from the Neue Zürcher Zeitung will prove of interest:—
Der wate Gedanke, den Krieg umnöglich zu machen, and verschiedenem Wege sucht der Völkerbundt des soldtarische Vorgehen aller Völkerbundt, established automaken von Die Anwendung militärischer Gewalt zu diesem Zweck ist aber nicht oblighen allgemeine Abrüstung einzuleiten, man ist aber in dieser Hinsicht noch nicht weit gekommen. Die mehr ausgeben als im letzten Budget vorgesehen Verpflichteten, für das Militär nicht mehr ausgeben ist, ist die Schweiz in ihren den Kugleder in dieser Hinsicht noch nicht weit gekommen. Die mehr ausgeben als im letzten Budget vorgesehen Verpflichteten, für das Militär nicht mehr ausgeben ist, ist die Schweiz in ihren Verpflichteten, für das Militär nicht mehr ausgeben zu staten mitmachen in achdem dies nun die Staten durch die Abrüstung an ationaler Strengel vollig frei. Ein Abrüstung an ationaler Strengel vollig frei. Ein Abrüstung an ationaler Strengel vollig frei. Ein Abrüstung an ationaler Strenge der Staten durch die Abrüstung an ationaler Strenge der Staten durch die Abrüstung an ationaler Strenge in verden. Dieses Projekt wurde im Schlauss, dass bei der gegenwärtigen Weltlage eine allgemeine Abrüstung umöglich set, und die Verhäusst des Staten durch die Abrüstung an ationaler Strenge der Verneidung von Kriegen, sei es durch militärische oder wirtschaftlich set, und die Verhäusst dass bei der gegenwärtigen Veltlage von Kriegen verden. Dieses Projekt wurde im Kinz des Geskrieges zum Ziele setzt. State atterizer von Westmen die Verläusst des Konteres zon Vashington des Völkerbundes behandten, unser Land könne die Kristenge der Volkerbund verden. Schweiz von Kristendstichen der Kristendstichen der Kinz der Völkerbund verden. Dieses Projekt wurde im Militär der Beckläussten der Völkerbund verden schweizen von der diriten ständigen Könneten verden der Kristen stöhen der Kristen

The Grand Council has, by a substantial ma-jority, ratified the proposal of the Graubünden Government to acquire Bad Rotenbrunnen for fr. 100,000 for the erection of a cantonal home for the aged. This will replace the present accommo-dation allotted to the old folks in part of the Realta Almshouse.

The strike in the printing trade, which has continued unabated for over three weeks, seems to be nearing its natural end. A preliminary arrangement, arrived at under the auspices of the Federal Labour Office, had at first been rejected

by the officials of "Typographia" (the printers' union), who subsequently made efforts to interest other trades, so as to force the employers to agree to the impossible demands insisted upon. Accord-ing to latest information, the principles of these preliminary arrangements have now been accepted and it would appear that the alleged right of the workers to refuse to print editorial matter likely to prejudice their own particular political aims (which was the ostensible reason for declaring the strike) has been negatived.

which was been negatived. *** That the Swiss possessed of means wish volun-tarily to assist their fellow-countrymen less blessed with this world's goods was apparent immediately after the announcement of the defeat of the Capi-tal Levy Initiative. A letter sent the same day to the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* by a family of Zurich, who desire to remain unnamed, offered fr. 100,000 to the society "Für das Alter," adding that, "though the Swiss have shown they are opposed to forcible seizure of property, it is now for the well-to-do to prove their interest in the welfare of the necessitous, especially the aged and infirm, who are in a sad plight until the old-age insurance comes into force." As this insurance would have benefited by the levy, the writers hope that a large sum may be raised for them as a thankoffering, and they trust that many large and small donations will follow their gift to "Für das Alter."

The highest meteorological station in Europe has been constructed recently on the Jungfraujoch, at an altitude of over 11,000 feet. The station has now been connected with the existing system of telegraphic service, and the Jungfrau Funicular Railway Company has placed a permanent observer at the new station.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

The Winter Season.

"All ready for Swiss Winter Sports" is the "All ready for Swiss Winter Sports" is the keynote of a great variety of articles appearing in the English press, which point out that winter sports are no longer the preserve of a few, as a good many have discovered how cheaply a holi-day can be spent in Switzerland. The Jura range of mountains is now being extensively advertised, and this district, not yet being fashionable, should, on account of the very molerate charge appeal and this district, not yet being fashionable, should, on account of the very moderate charges, appeal to those who are willing to forego the distractions of dancing and drawing rooms. The old-estab-lished places are organising their season with a thoroughness and lavishness which will shake the attractions of the fashionable West-end hotels. Famous novelists and writers have been engaged to give lectures; exhibition dancers have become a necessary appendage; St. Moritz has secured the services of a well-known London couple to introduce the latest never-ending variations of the

The services of a well-known London couple to introduce the latest, never-ending variations of the fox-trot. But, says the *Pall Mall* (Nov. 30th) in a long article, "the real joy of Switzerland is not "either the social life or the sport, but the extra-"ordinary sense of well-being that the clear cold "air gives." The well-known alpinist, Prof. F. F. Roget, has written a special booklet for Messrs. Burberry, entitled "Hints on Alpine Sports," which is being given away to their prospective clients. Like influenza, love and many other ills that flesh is heir to, the lure of the Alps is catching, for according to the *Daily Mirror* (Dec. 6th) it is intended to "transfer all the pupils" of a highly select school to one of the Swiss "resorts for the whole of the Lent term, so as to "enable the children to enjoy healthy air during "the worst three months in the English year and "to share in the winter sports." After this, we shall not be astonished to read that an ingenious American has devised ways: and means of shifting the whole of the City community, lock, stock and barrel, for the winter season to St. Moritz! A word of warning is uttered in the *Daily Express* (Dec. 8th) to the would-be ski-enthusiast, for "a "careful statistical study has shown that three-"quarters of the time of $99\frac{1}{2}$ % of those who ski "is spent on the back, with a very visible means "of support in the shape of five feet of snow and "a facial expression denoting a mixture of sur-prise, anger and exasperation." There are always "of support in the shape of five feet of snow and "a facial expression denoting a mixture of sur-"prise, anger and exasperation." There are always some people who, acting under the influence of a grudge or an imaginary tort, give vent to their feelings in the correspondence columns of the press. Mr. A. Duruz, the manager of the London Agency of the Swiss Federal Railways, is ever at pains to correct these erroneous statements (see for instance *Bath Herald* of Nov. 23rd). Talking about travelling, we should like to

Talking about travelling, we should like to record the delicate manner in which Mr. McNeill,

the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, expressed himself in the House of Commons on Nov. 29th, when, with reference to the mutual abolition of the visa on passports now in force with some countries, he is reported as having said, "the "Swiss Government had so far concluded no reci-"procal arrangement with his Majesty's Govern-"ment."

Swiss Capital Levy.
The emphasis with which our people have rejected the proposed Capital Levy has been abundantly commented upon in the English press. The Daily Telegraph (Dec. 5th) calls it "a most notable "object-lesson in the working of a highly-organised "democracy... the quality of Swiss citizenship "has been proved to admiration." The Westminster Gasette considers the result of the ballot as deeply instructive: "When 86 per cent. of the voters are "drawn to the poll we may feel sure that the cause "is one which touches matters of vital interest to "the many. When of this heavy poll the votes are "in the proportion of almost seven to one for or "against a measure, we can have no further doubt "as to its popularity. The rejection of the capital "levy by such a majority proves beyond any doubt "how deeply the Swiss people object to the pro"posed levy. This, in itself, is a remarkable fact. "But it is seen to be of immense significance when twe remember that Switzerland is one of the most "democratic countries in the 'world, and the rich "pople, whom it was proposed to relieve of some "of their wealth," form but a small fraction of "the people." The Morning Post calls it "an in-"stance of a highly-organised democracy totally "rejecting Bolshevism," and adds that "it is pos-"sible to rob a man of the capital in virtue of which he is able to obtain credit for trading "purposes: it is impossible, however, to transfer "his credit to the rejection is largely the result "of an intensive and not over-scrupulous propa-"ganda by Swiss business interests."
A New Type of Locomotive. Swiss Capital Levy. The emphasis with which our people have re-

A New Type of Locomotive.

A New Type of Locomotive. Particulars are being published in the technical press of a combination locomotive, designed and built by Messrs. Sulzer Bros. of Winterthur, suc-cessful trial runs of which have recently been made on the Zurich-Romanshorn line. The Man-chester Guardian Commercial (Dec. 7th) supplies the following description:—

Constructor Commercial (Dec. 7th) supplies the following description:—

 "The motive part comprises a 250-h.p. internal-to the vehicle a speed of up to 44 miles per hour. The passenger compartment has third-class seating accommodation for 70. One or two ordinary passenger cars (according to gradients) may be coupled to the vehicle, thus forming short trains.
 "The main advantage over a steam engine service which has the considerable weight of 65 tons, is said to consume only four gallons of fuel on the line winterthur-Frauenfeld (about 20 miles), the cost of which is about equivalent to the price of one third-class ticket for the same distance. The new system is said to be readily adaptable also for locomotives, so that a far-reaching revolution may be expected in locomotive construction.
 "The total running expenses in the case of this system are likewise said to be considerably lower than those of both steam and electric operation, being about one-half less."

Pro Juventute.

Pro Juventute. The new series of stamps was put into circula-tion on Dec. 1st, and philatelists will find a most instructive article in the *Daily Telegraph* (Dec. 7), which deals with the objects of this admirable institution and the artistic designs of the stamps since its inception. Up to last year the use of these stamps for international mail was limited, but the recent postal congress at Madrid sanctioned their validity for postage to any of the countries belonging to the International Postal Union, "so "that may of the letters coming to this country that many of the letters coming to this country from Switzerland will, no doubt, bear these at-tractive heraldic stamps, which come as phila-telic heralds of Christmas and symbolise the seasonable spirit of charity, peace, and goodwill."

The Late Mr. Gaston Carlin

The former Swiss Minister in London, who died intestate on June 13th in Berlin, left estate in the United Kingdom of the value of £21,319.

IAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND. FINANCIAL

In putting before Parliament a proposal to grant renewed powers to the Federal authorities for rais-ing loans, the Federal Council state that in the last two years the national debt, including funded loans and floating charges, has grown by 200 million francs. At the end of 1920 the total was 1,900

millions, and it has now risen to 2,100 millions. They recall the fact that in December, 1920, the Federal Council expressed the hope that no new loans would be necessary for some years, but this proved to be impossible. The position now is that between 1923 and 1925 seven loans will be falling due for repayment, amounting in all to 5972 million francs. The State and the Railways atting the rest of the second second

had to new issues. The accounts of the Basle Malting Company (Gesellschaft für Malzfabrikation) for the year ended 31st of August, 1922, show satisfactory re-sults. There is a gross manufacturing profit of 1,668,000 frs., as compared with 1,922,000 frs. last year, while expenses have been reduced by 200,000 frs. The total available net profit of 694,284 frs. compares favourably with 737,200 frs. last year, and the directors process payment of a 694,284 frs. compares favourably with 737,200 frs. last year, and the directors propose payment of a dividend of 10 per cent. Last year 8 per cent. was paid on the same capital, viz., 2 million francs: The report states that, while the company's works in Czecho-Slovakia had to work on short time owing to local agreements restricting production, the works in France and Germany were fully occu-pied. In fact, difficulty was experienced in supply-ing all the needs of the Swiss consumers, and it was even necessary to contract out some of the malting to meet the demand from this source. The quality of the barley harvested in Europe this year was excellent, and ample supplies were obtainable. The Zurich firm of Orell Füssli is to be con-

The Zurich firm of Orell Füssli is to be con-The Zurich firm of Orell Füssli is to be con-gratulated on obtaining a contract from the Hun-garian Government to supply them with the neces-sary machines for printing their bank notes. The work is to be done in Budapest, and a special company is to be formed for this purpose. The Hungarian Government are ready to furnish the premises for erection of the printing presses.

The financial results of the Swiss Postal Motor Services for the 1922 season make a fairly satis-factory showing, for though they show a loss of 22,000 frs., it must be taken into account that the expenditure includes a sum of 300,000 frs. written off the general costs of the fleet and garages, etc., and devoted to interest on the capital this represents. Further, it allows for payment of ex-penses incurred for extra staff, inspectors, etc. This is all important to notice in comparing the results with those achieved by the old horse "diligences." In 1913 there was a loss of 180,000 frs. on this service, and this without allowing anything for general expenses of management, which amounted to a considerable sum. The summer of 1922 was a bad season for all road transport enterprise, and the loss incurred should easily be converted into a profit in subsequent years with a moderately The financial results of the Swiss Postal Motor into a profit in subsequent years with a moderately fine season. In 1921 there was a profit of 15,000 francs. TOCK EXCULANCE DDICES

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.				
BONDS.	Dec	. 4	Dec. 11	
Swiss Confederation 3% 1903	79.2		79.15%	
Swiss Confed. 9th Mob. Loan 5%			01.35%	
Federal Railways A-K 31/2%	85.8		83.65%	
Canton Basle-Stadt 5 ¹ / ₂ % 1921	105.1		04.75%	
Canton Fribourg 3% 1892			76.50%	
Zurich (Stadt) 4% 1909	100.1	0% 1	00.00%	
SHARBS.	Nom.		Dec. 11	
	Frs.	Frs.	Frs.	
Swiss Bank Corporation	500	665	655	
Crédit Suisse	500	685	670	
Union de Banques Suisses	500		570	
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz		1610	1575	
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	1197	1182	
C. F. Bally S.A	1000	972	940	
Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon	500	575	560	
Entreprises Sulzer	1000	710	690	
S.A. Brown Boveri (new)	500	348	325	
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	400	178	180	
Choc. Suisses Peter-Cailler-Kohler	100	104	103	
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman	500	445	460	

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor is not coressed by his responsible for the op Correspondents

MATRICULATION FEE AND MILITARY TAX. To the Editor "The Swiss Observer."

MATRICULATION FEE AND MILITARY TAX. To the Editor " The Swiss Observer." Sir,—I have read with much interest the comment by Mr. Emile Stutz on my recent letter. As to the Matriculation Fee, Mr. Stutz does in no way interfere with what I said about it. However, he contradicts my explanations as to our rights as citizens, that such rights are absolute rights and therefore controlling even official. "ordonnances" issued by executive officers of that, if such "ordonnances" are strict law, they will apply in any case. However, as a fact, they do not. If we carefully study Art. 56, it must be clear that a case of urgent necessity, or where irreparable injury is threatened to the citizen, these "ordonnances" do not apply at all. This seems to make it plain that our rights control these "ordonnances" and not these "ordonnances" our rights. It is true, the legal ques-tion has not yet been put before any court of law. If it were, we would be in a position to judge as to what our absolute rights as citizens residing abroad really are. But if it is plain from these "ordonnances" happenent in cases of urgent necessity, or where irrepar-able injury is threatened to the citizen if such protec-tion is refused, it must be clear that there is something higher than these "ordonnances," namely, our absolute rights. On the other hand, even if the Consulate officer has the duty or the right to go into the question of the payment of the Military Tax; this must be done in a manner consistent with our citizenship, and when-ever irreparable injury is threatened, such officer ought

DECEMBER 16, 1922.

to judge according to his own discretion and invariably in favour of the petitioner asking for his legitimation papers. Of course, such officers ought to know what the law really is and what the term "urgent necessity" means. Art. 56 does not expressly state that where-ever irreparable injury is threatened to the rights or property of a citizen, protection is to be given by Legation or Consulate officers without regard to pay-ment of Military Tax or Mariculation Fee, etc. I would like to hear from Mr. Stutz about this question. Of course, there have always been different ideas as to our rights and duties, and I duly appreciate any attempts to put things right. Yours truly, "Dec. 13th, 1922." "CRITIC." Dec. 13th, 1922. " CRITIC.

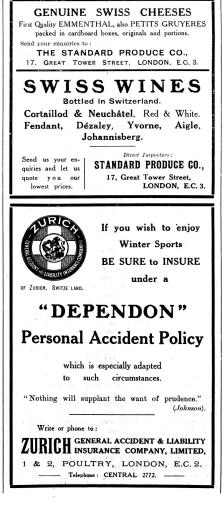
Swiss Travel Almanac-Winter 1922/23.

Swiss Travel Aimanac—winter 1522(20). The Swiss Tourist Office have just issued their Annual Winter Almanac (for 1922-23), and this forms, as usual, a most attractive guide for the coming winter season, as it is both well printed and artistically illustrated with many photographs and a few fine coloured plates. The information it contains is most complete. The novice will it contains is most complete. The movie will find all essential details of each resort, from its altitude and its hours of sunshine to the number of huts on the mountains round about or beds in the hotels, while the *old hand* can compare the lists of the different sporting events, competitions, festivals, exhibitions, etc., at the various centres.

The almanac also contains some 70 pages of entertaining reading on matters of interest to the devotee of winter sports. Such authorities as Arnold Lunn, Humphry H. Cobb and H. C. H. Marriott contribute delightful and practical chapters Marriott contribute delightful and practical chapters on ski-ing and skating. An interesting chapter on "Anglo-Swiss and American-Swiss Friendship" is given by Dr. A. Latt, containing much up-to-date information on this vital subject. The account of the Passion Play at Selznach will come as a sur-prise to many, and the poetic description of "Springtime in Switzerland" is a charming fea-ture in the literary portion of the almanac. The last chapter is devoted to the beautiful Henri Moser Collection, a magnificent gift of Oriental treasures made to Switzerland by the patriotic owner, to lodge which a new wing has been added to the Berne Museum.

At the Hippodrome.

At the Tripportonne. Mr. Maeder, a well-kňown member of the Union Helvetia and an instructor of the Swiss Gymnastic Society, is appearing in "Round in 50" this week at the Hippodrome in a novel and artistic acrobatic dance with Miss Marise, whom he supports (literally) with easy strength. This original turn, which is well re-ceived, will be seen in London for the last time on Saturday evening, as this successful production with its present cast leaves next week for a tour of the provinces. its presen provinces.





AS GOVERNESS.—Young Swiss lady, perfect knowledge of French and German, first-class refer-ences, wishes post in English family; disengaged. —Reply to T. M., c/o. *Swiss Observer*, 21, Garlick Hill, E.C. 4.

SHORTHAND STOLZE - SCHREY. – Addj-tional Teacher required to conduct one or two classes for the French or English adaptation of above system; possibly also for a German speed course.—Apply to the Secretary, Education Depart-ment Committee, Swiss Mercantile Society, 24, Queen Victoria Street, E.C. 4.