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HOME NEWS

His Majesty King George V. has sent the following reply to the wireless telegram addressed to him by the President of the Swiss Confederation anent the opening of the Marconi Wireless Service at Berne last week:—

“To the President of the Swiss Confederation.

“I desire to thank Monsieur le Président for your “cordial telegram first sent by new wireless service “linking our two Countries, and to assure you that I “heartily reciprocate the friendly sentiments and wishes “to which it gives expression.—George R.I.”

* * *

It is noted with satisfaction at home that members of the Swiss delegation to Genoa have been called upon to serve on various sub-commissions; thus, M. Motta on the Political, M. Schulthess on the Economical, M. Dubois (President of the Swiss Bank Corporation) on the Finance, and M. Niquille on the Transport Commission.

* * *

150,000 francs were disbursed by the Federal Treasury in the past year for supporting necessitous Swiss living abroad, of whom 1,207 are domiciled in Germany, 526 in France, 80 in Austria, 34 in Poland, 20 in Hungary, 13 in Italy, and 7 in Great Britain.

The Canton of Berne is represented by the greatest number of necessitous natives with 647, while the Canton of Basle with 22 and the Canton of Geneva with 11 have the fewest.

* * *

During 1921 Switzerland addressed 141 requests for extradition to various foreign countries, amongst which 69 to France, 37 to Germany, 13 to Italy, and 11 to Austria. In 93 cases the request was complied with.

On the other hand, Germany made 44 requests for extradition, France 17, Italy 15, and Austria 11. Of these, 61 were granted.

* * *

According to the Federal Labour Office, the number of unemployed decreased during March from 146,302 to 120,414.

* * *

The Swiss Consul General in Shanghai having reported that it is out of the question for Swiss artisans and labourers, who are not in possession of engagement contracts before leaving for China, to find employment in that

country, the Federal Emigration Office issues a warning against emigrating to China, whence a number of Swiss have recently had to be repatriated, having failed to secure work of any description.

* * *

Swiss papers report that the demand for a referendum against the “lex Häberlin,” the new penal code which was passed by the Federal Assembly during the first session of this year, is likely to prove successful, as already over 100,000 signatures have been obtained in favour of the referendum.

* * *

The 5% Loan of the Canton of Geneva for 30 million francs has been over-subscribed nearly 30 times, the subscriptions totalling 880 million francs.

* * *

The Swiss authorities having impeded the import of French cheese into Switzerland by increase of duty and import restrictions, the French authorities promptly retaliated by raising the import duty for Gruyère and Emmenthaler cheese from 12 frs. to 42 frs. per 100 kilos.

* * *

J. Hartmann, a provision dealer from Thal (St. Gall), has been severely dealt with by the Court of Feldkirch (Austria). He was caught trying to smuggle 493 eggs and 12 kilos of butter from Austrian to Swiss territory, provisions which to-day represent a value of 50,000 Austrian kronen. The goods were confiscated, and sentence of ten weeks' imprisonment passed on Hartmann, and a fine of 200,000 kronen also inflicted. Should he fail to pay the fine, Hartmann will be imprisoned for a further 3 months.

* * *

The Federal accounts for 1921 contain the following details respecting revenue and expenditure connected with the most important State departments:—

	Revenue Frs.	Expenditure Frs.
National Council	914,187
States Council	101,885
Federal Council	184,500
Federal Chancellery ...	101,266	1,295,402
Federal Court of Justice ...	153,415	893,643
Political Department ...	2,161,131	6,465,356
Dept. of the Interior ...	1,042,284	27,256,789
Dept. of Justice & Police ...	2,902,692	7,128,316
Dept. of Military ...	2,186,654	75,314,010
Dept. of Finance & Customs	142,764,061	23,401,904
Dept. of Public Economy ...	2,105,253	32,211,213
Federal Posts and Railways	190,826,767	212,507,191
Various ...	6,899,382	4,095,150

The total expenditure for the year under review amounts to 508,431,226 frs., while the revenue totals 380,859,356 francs, leaving a deficit of 127,571,870 frs.