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HOME NEWS

Federal Councillor Motta has been received by the British Prime Minister at his villa in Genoa.

During conversation Mr. Lloyd George did not conceal the fact that he attaches great importance to obtaining the agreement of neutral countries, particularly that of Switzerland, with regard to his Russian plans.

* * *

The French Government has remitted £50,000 to the League of Nations as the contribution of France for combating typhus in Poland.

* * *

Following the example of the Bernese Government, the cantonal Governments of Vaud and Glarus have also prohibited automobile traffic on Sundays between the hours of 1 and 6.30 p.m.

* * *

The Catholic clergy of Uri, several members of which have been scholars at Milan of the present Pope Pius XI, have presented to His Holiness an elaborate writing table-set made of St. Gothard marble.

* * *

Thirty aviation meetings were held in Switzerland in the course of 1921. Pilots of privately owned aeroplanes carried out 4,900 journeys, conveying 6,600 passengers to their destination, without a single accident or mishap having to be registered.

It is the intention of the Ad Astra Company at Zurich to establish a regular air service Nuremberg-Zurich-Geneva for passengers, mails and parcels, which line it is hoped to extend later from Geneva to Lyons, Marseilles, Toulouse and Rabat, and from Nuremberg to Berlin and Riga. The Federal Air Office and the Federal Posts would be willing to subsidise the enterprise to the extent of some 50,000 frs. if the promoters succeed in establishing the projected service.

* * *

For the murder of Mrs. Baenziger, from Obereggen (Appenzell), her husband and a young woman named Bertha Bischoff were sentenced to imprisonment for life in December, 1912.

After having served nearly ten years of the sentences passed upon them, the woman now confesses that she committed the murder without the husband having been an accessory to the crime.

The latter has constantly asserted his innocence, and a new trial of the case has now been ordered by the Court.

* * *

After having been entombed for nearly two days and two nights in a subterranean gallery in course of construction at Klosters, for the Grisons Hydraulic Power Company, seven men out of a working party of ten were successfully brought out to daylight again. The other three unhappy victims were crushed on the spot by the masses of rock and earth which had suddenly given way without the slightest warning.

Forty-three hours of frantic and difficult mining work were needed to pierce the 5 metres of rock which imprisoned the seven survivors; fortunately for them, a small pipe running from the gallery to the surface remained intact, and thus afforded means for communicating, during the many hours of suspense, to the imperilled men the encouraging news that efforts for their liberation were progressing, while at the same time also serving for the passing of nourishment for the men underground.

Although greatly exhausted from lack of sleep and numbed by the cold water which slowly but incessantly accumulated in the cavity, the rescued men were otherwise uninjured when at last they were extricated from the death trap one by one.

* * *

The meat supply for consumption in Switzerland during 1921 absorbed nearly one million animals, viz., 174,000 bulls and cows, 305,000 calves, 116,000 sheep and goats, 327,000 pigs, etc.; in addition, 15 million kilos of meat and 3 million kilos of fish, poultry and game were imported from abroad.

* * *

To the Swiss imports, which totalled 2,296 million francs for the year 1921, Europe contributed 1,838, America 512, Africa 73, Asia 57, and Australia 16 million francs.

Of the European countries exporting to Switzerland, Germany heads the list with 440 million francs, then follow France, with 321, Italy with 200, Great Britain with 156, and Spain with 64 millions.

Swiss exports for the same year amounted to 2,140 million francs; of these Europe took for 1,249 millions, America for 703, Asia for 136, Africa for 34, and Australia for 18 millions.

Switzerland's best customer proved to be Great Britain, who imported Swiss goods to the tune of 349 million francs, France following with 239, Germany with 195, Austria with 88, Italy with 74, and Spain with 61 millions.

The number of applications for import permission addressed to the Swiss authorities totalled 164,000, about 51,000 of which were refused; the fees taken for import licenses which were granted amounted to 1,752,105 frs.