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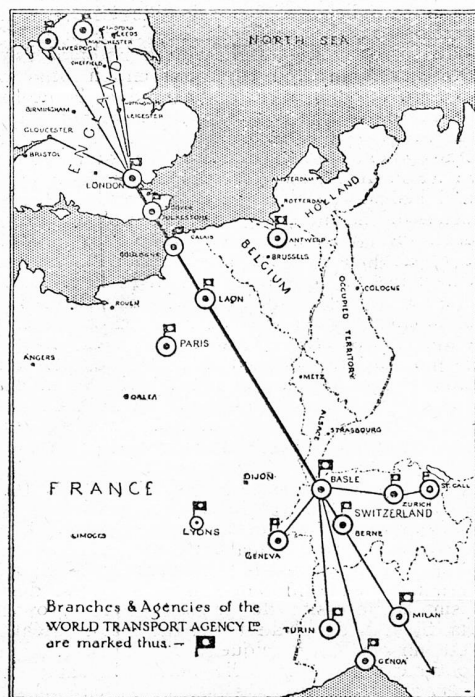
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Allemagne, à Milan, et par des pittoresques tableaux, il fit saillir la diversité des situations et des mentalités, les cas de dédoublement et de "bi-patriotisme." Ces fines analyses psychologiques montrent la difficulté de la tâche: des règlements uniformes ne suffisent pas; il faut prendre les Suisses de l'Etranger comme ils sont, avec leur âme complexe et parfois contradictoire. — La discussion qui suivit permit à M. Dobler, président de la Chambre suisse de commerce de Paris, et à M. Hieronymus, rédacteur du *Korrespondenzblatt* de Berlin, de nous apporter des échos directs de cette diversité.

Les deux banquets contribuèrent à rendre particulièrement chaleureuse et intime l'atmosphère de la journée; au dîner, agrémenté de chœurs de jeunes filles, le conseiller d'Etat Hauser apporta les saluts du gouvernement bâlois, et M. Nabholz les souhaits de la Nouvelle Société Helvétique. Le soir au Casino, dans la salle décorée aux couleurs fédérales et cantonales, sous la présidence de l'infatigable M. Stucki, productions musicales et discours alternèrent avec les services. M. le Ministre Dunant, au nom du corps diplomatique, M. H. Micheli, au nom de la presse suisse, M. Sutter, au nom des Colonies suisses à l'Etranger, célébrèrent les bienfaits de cette réunion. La musique de nos compositeurs bâlois, Huber et Suter, les chants patriotiques et populaires de la Liedertafel, les productions des jodleurs et des tambours, donnèrent à toute la soirée un caractère profondément national.

Cette journée a rapproché les cœurs et les esprits. Puissent ses résultats pratiques répondre à l'ampleur des efforts que tentent nos autorités, la Nouvelle Société Helvétique et notre peuple tout entier.

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NOTES & GLEANINGS.

All our readers will have noted with satisfaction the rectifying statements which have appeared recently in the leading English papers from the pen of Mr. Henri Martin, Counsellor of Legation. They refer to the damaging report that German capital is absorbing many important Swiss industrial concerns, including the well-known firm of Sulzer Brothers in Winterthur. This sweeping general assertion is entirely incorrect, and as regards the firm referred to, the capital is in Swiss hands, and Swiss money is invested in its many foreign branches. Another somewhat amusing canard that Swiss watch manufacturers had transformed their machinery and were now manufacturing locomotives (see "S.O." 18th March) seems to have taken its rise in La Chaux-de-Fonds, where a firm has started to turn out mechanical toys. To a third statement that German capitalists have acquired the control of the entire Swiss cotton industry, Mr. Martin replies that "eighty-five per cent. of the spinning spindles operating in our country 'belong to Swiss capital, and that the percentage is even 'larger as far as the weaving is concerned'; the additional statement that Germany bought up in Switzerland, during the war, all the cotton she could obtain, is contradicted by the fact that the export of cotton was strictly prohibited during that time. As regards the latter, the *Daily News* (April 25th) retorts that the information was quoted from the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*. The prompt steps undertaken by our Commercial Attaché will be as much appreciated as the readiness and fairness of the English press in publishing a correction of erroneous notices.

The apathy which English official circles have displayed in the Rhine problem is at last making room for a sympathetic consideration. The *Engineer* (April 21st) deals at great length with the costs and prospects of the lateral canal, a proposal which France insists upon primarily to generate cheap (?) electric current for Alsatian factory owners. The *Pall Mall* (April 27th) follows the same argument in a leader, but the most ardent appeal is published in the April number of the *Review of Reviews* by no less an authority than Sir Joseph G. Broodbank. The writer introduces his subject by mentioning far-reaching events in commercial history, the full significance of which had not been apprehended at the moment of their happening, and the transactions which are now quietly proceeding with reference to the Rhine may, if a wrong step is taken, have eventually a disastrous effect on English industries and multitudes of workers. After referring to the absorbing political history of this river, which for centuries has been the scene of events which have moulded the destinies of Europe, Sir Joseph says:—

"The right to make this canal is derived from Clause 358 of the Versailles Treaty. The object of the French is to obtain water from the Rhine to be used for the production of electric power at several power stations along the route of the canal. As it was evident that the diversion of water from the river into the canal would leave the river (already shallow in many places) with insufficient depth for navigation, it is stipulated in the Treaty that the canal shall be navigable for traffic—that the facilities to vessels shall be equal to those now enjoyed on the river, and that there shall be no increase of existing tolls. These provisions no doubt commended themselves to our diplomatists as sufficient safeguards for the present users of the Rhine Channel. There is, however, an enormous difference between a clear passage on an open river and the navigation of a canal where transport is a secondary consideration, where there are numerous locks to detain the traffic, where ice may block the fairway in winter, and where the administrative influences are not likely unduly to favour the traffic of their British and Swiss

competitors. It is probable that our diplomatists did not think of British traders. They would not otherwise have been content with clauses in general terms, the utility of which depends entirely upon the spirit in which they are interpreted. However this may be, the fact remains that the Treaty, as drafted, exposes British traders to the risk of incurring weighty handicaps in the transports of their products to Central European markets."

The efforts made in this country by an influential committee of British traders, the suggestions put forward, and the present position are fully reviewed. It is to be sincerely hoped that the line of thought as expressed in the following concluding paragraphs will find an echo in official quarters:

"The Rhine is one of the few navigable rivers which are without locks, and it seems an absolutely retrograde step to compel its traffic to waste time and money in the slow and costly process of proceeding through lock after lock instead of steaming up and down an open river. To every one of the European states the right of free transit on a naturally navigable route to the sea is recognised. The Vistula is open to Poland, the Elbe to the Czecho-Slovaks, and the Danube to the Austrians and Hungarians. Yet Switzerland—a most honourable neutral in the war and helpful to all combatants—is to be deprived of an access which she has enjoyed ever since she was a nation, and no other outlet to the sea has been accorded to her."

On paper, the Versailles Treaty should have protected us. There is a provision in it stipulating that the exercise of the right of the French to take water from the Rhine for the power canal shall not interfere with the navigability or reduce the facilities in the bed of the Rhine. The weakness of the provision is that the body which has to be satisfied that proper safeguards are adopted for the protection of existing interests is the Central Rhine Commission, and unfortunately it has so far acted as not to raise any hope that traffic will have the consideration that this clause intended it to have. Prof. Eugène Borel, in his able article on 'Freedom of Navigation on the Rhine,' which appeared in the British Year Book of International Law for 1921, enunciates the doctrine that from the juridical point of view 'the treaty of Versailles has neither been able nor has it wished to impair rights which have already been acquired' and 'sanctioned' in the matter of navigation on the Rhine. The Allied and Associated Powers did not for a moment dream of violating the rights of the riparian States which are not parties to the Treaty of Versailles. And the terms of the Treaty itself prove that they were far from wishing 'to take such a step.'

This high legal opinion should commend itself to anyone who interprets the Treaty by its spirit. Unhappily, however, the makers of the Treaty have charged a mixed Commission with the duty of interpretation, and it would appear that the Commission, believing that there is insufficient water for both the power canal and the navigable river, have given the preference to the canal. The clear duty of our Government is to ask for a revision of the terms of the Treaty, or, failing that, to insist upon the League of Nations being invited to settle the question before irretrievable steps are taken to close the Upper Rhine for ever."

* * *

In the course of an article on "The British Dyestuffs Industry" in the *Yorkshire Observer* (April 27th), written by the President of the Bradford Dyers' Guild, a tribute is paid to the Swiss colour manufacturers, "who are prepared in good faith to assist in our development"—but the meaning of the following sentence seems to be somewhat obscure:—"The unfortunate thing is the German will associate himself with the Swiss."

* * *

The *Railway Gazette* (April 28th), in referring to the considerable loss incurred by the Swiss Federal Railways, deals with some of the difficulties which are responsible for the adverse traffic and revenue returns. The *Electrical Review* (April 21st) has a technical article on "Outdoor Switchgear," which has been adopted in Switzerland for the transmission of high voltages. — *The Graphic* (April 29) publishes some impressive photographs of the postal service in the Alpine passes, whilst *The Sphere* (April 29th) illustrates the wild-flower paradise of the Blumenthal, near Mürren.

The highly interesting series of articles in *The Times* on the Harley-Street crisis has probably confirmed many of us in the established conviction that it is more economical—if nothing else—to undertake a journey to Switzerland to be advised and treated there. It is gratifying to record that a few correspondents have contrasted the medical treatment in Switzerland, where the charges of the hospital system do not press unduly upon people of limited or moderate means.

* * *

With reference to the forthcoming festival of international plays at Zurich the *Daily News* (April 27th), while acknowledging the great honour conferred upon the Everyman Theatre Company, expresses the view that the latter does not represent the acting possibilities of London, and has probably been selected for the reason that it is the only English company with a changing repertoire. Two plays will be given, "You never can tell," by Bernard Shaw, and "The Pigeon," by John Galsworthy.

* * *

Nature (April 22nd) contains a long obituary notice of Prof. Philippe Auguste Guye, who died at Geneva on March 27th. Little known outside the world of science, his name is associated with the extraordinary development of electrochemical synthesis in Switzerland. Vaudois by birth (1862), he studied at the universities of Geneva and Paris, and—

"in 1892 was recalled to Geneva to occupy the chair of theoretical and applied chemistry in the university of that city, to which he remained attached for thirty years. During this period Guye, by his energy and personal influence, his organising power, and the catholicity of his scientific aims, made an indelible impression on the academic life and activities of the university. He surrounded himself with a body of earnest and enthusiastic workers, attracted from all parts of the world, to whom he gave freely from a wealth of ideas which ranged over every department of chemical and physical science. It is estimated that upwards of 600 communications emanated from the Geneva laboratory while under his direction, some 200 of which bore his own name alone, many others being joint contributions by himself and his pupils. His own work was characterised by a rigorous sense of accuracy, by caution and a recognition of possible sources of error, amounting almost to intuition, combined with a capacity for generalisation and a 'flair' for fruitful hypothesis which seemed, at times, like divination."

Guye exercised great influence in scientific circles in Geneva, and took a leading part in the organisation of Swiss science. He presided over the Swiss Physical and Natural History Society, was a member of the central committee of the Helvetic Society of Natural Sciences, and president of the Swiss Chemical Society and of the Council of Swiss Chemistry. In 1903 he established the 'Journal de Chimie physique,' in which the greater number of the communications from his laboratory after that year were published, and he was mainly instrumental in placing 'Helvetica Chimica Acta'—now the leading chemical journal in Switzerland—upon a sound and permanent foundation.

Guye's merits as a man of science were widely recognised. He was a member of the Scientific Academies of Petrograd, Madrid, and Bucharest, an honorary member of the Chemical Societies of France and England, a corresponding member of the French Institute, and a foreign associate of the Reale Accademia dei Lincei, and he shares with his countryman Marignac the honour of being a Davy medallist of the Royal Society. To the great regret of his many friends in England, the illness which ended in his death prevented him from coming to London to receive the medal in person.

He has another association with the memory of Davy, who died at Geneva, which British chemists will not forget. They are grateful to Guye for his pious care of the tomb which holds the remains of the great chemist."

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