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In the nitric acid works at Bodio, steel coils carrying nitrogen tetroxide had become leaky, so that the tetroxide mixed with the cooling agent, benzene. The mixture would have been discharged into the river Tessin, but the water level in the river was very low at the time. It was hence decided to separate the tetroxide from the benzene by distillation below 70 degrees C. Half of a total of six tons of mixture had been distilled, when the cold mixture in a tank was noticed to heat spontaneously. External cooling by means of water was attempted, when the explosion took place. Subsequent experiments proved that the distillation as such is safe; but the great heat of that summer seems to have been responsible both for the corrosion by the tetroxide of the steel tubes and for some slow reactions causing the spontaneous heating.

#### Soviet and Switzerland—Some timely and necessary Corrections.

The Lausanne correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph* (29th June) writes:—

It is important that certain statements which were published yesterday morning should be at once corrected. There is no truth in the story that the Swiss Government are retaining any Bolshevik funds deposited in Swiss banks. It is also entirely untrue that at the time of his death Vorovsky had large or any Soviet funds deposited in his name in Switzerland. The story about the detention of Soviet funds in Swiss banks requires, in fairness to this Government, to be contradicted at once, and I do so on the authority of the head of the police. To anyone who had made a study of the position it would, indeed, be obvious that Chicherin's omission of any such cause of complaint in his diatribes against the Swiss Government is proof enough that no such additional excuse for irritation existed. The other story—that concerning the possession by Vorovsky of funds for Soviet propaganda in Switzerland—needs, as precise a contradiction also. It was, unfortunately, telegraphed to certain journals published in Paris shortly after the murder. As the rumour seemed devoid of any foundation, it did not appear in *'The Daily Telegraph'*, and when an immediate official denial appeared it seemed to me unnecessary to make any reference to it.

#### Respectability run mad.

*Daily Dispatch* (25th June):—

The latest form of Prussianism appears to have been invented in Switzerland, where, according to a report just received, the Swiss police are attempting to act as watchdogs on the morals of their visitors, and have taken to requiring all couples staying in hotels to produce their marriage certificates or equally satisfactory evidence of marriage—otherwise they must quit the country.

Imagine the position in Blackpool, Llandudno, or any other large holiday resort during the summer season if a similar craze were to seize the local police on representations from a "social purity league"!

Apart from the improbability of any married couple actually having in their possession at the time such "evidence of respectability," many married men would be hard put to it to discover where their marriage certificates were unless their wives were to come to the rescue.

Most married women hide them away in some "safe" corner—so safe and secret that, as often as not, they themselves have great difficulty in naming its precise location.

Similar paragraphs have been published in many British newspapers lately. In cases like this, where such great harm can so easily be done to the Hotel Industry of Switzerland, it would surely be the duty of our Legation to get the newspapers to publish corrections. Of course, "Kyburg" writes this because he really cannot believe that the whole thing is true as stated in the above cutting.

#### Death of Dr. Kunding.

*Co-operative News* (30th June):—

British co-operators have more than a passing interest in the loss the Swiss co-operative movement has sustained through the death of Dr. Rudolf Kunding, inasmuch as he played no small part in the reception amenities at the Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance at Basle in 1921, and was one of the principal orators at the model co-operative village of Freidorf.

Dr. Kunding was the president of the Supervisory Council of the Swiss Union of Consumers' Societies, the president of the administrative council of the Swiss Popular Provident Society, and the president of the administrative council of the Swiss Co-operative Market Gardening Society, and a member of the commission for the development of colonisation co-operatives.

A co-operator not by circumstance, but by conviction, he entered into the movement because he felt it to be his profound social, or rather religious, duty to do so in order to help to solve the social question. A follower of Vansittart Neale, Ludlow, and Charles Kingsley, he worked with tongue and pen for the cause he held so dear. His lamented death has cut short a study of a great Swiss pioneer, Prof. Schär, which he was preparing for the "Millgate Monthly."

#### Wireless Telegraphy.

*Economist* (30th June):—

The Marconi Radio Station—a Swiss joint-stock company established at Berne, and directly connected with the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company, Ltd., of London—has just published its first annual report, covering the period from the opening (April 12) to December 31, 1922. The equipment has been largely furnished by the London company, and the instruction of the operators has been carried on in London. Direct communication has been established successively with London, Spain, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Russia. The last-named service was organised provisionally during the Lausanne Conference, and continues to ensure regular communication with Moscow. In the first nine months of its existence the Swiss Marconi Company has sent 95,669 telegrams. Though the development of the traffic has not fully met the expectation of the management—the reason being the too frequent lack in other countries of stations provided with the most recent improvements—the accounts of the working close with a surplus of receipts over expenditure amounting to 55,512.39 frs., which has been credited to the renewal fund.

#### ROUND AND ABOUT.

News has just come through that Madame Charlotte Dimier, the eldest sister of Mr. Georges Dimier, has died in Geneva, after a serious operation. Mr. Dimier, accompanied by his son-in-law, Mr. R. de Cintra, left for Switzerland last Monday night on receipt of an urgent telegraphic message and, I believe, just arrived in time to see his sister alive. Mr. Dimier was very much attached to his sister, and his numerous friends in the London Colony will sincerely sympathise with him in his bereavement.

\* \* \*

The meeting of the City Swiss Club at Kingston last Tuesday was marred by the inclemency of the weather. A good many people were kept away as a consequence of the fatigue resulting from loss of sleep during the previous night's unusual thunderstorm, and the reappearance of this phenomenon just when it was time to start for Kingston frightened most, except those stalwart supporters of the club who can always be depended upon whether it rains dogs or cats! With the holiday season in full swing, the decision of the few members present to cancel the August gathering was only too obvious. In September there is to be the last of the river meetings, which is to have an exclusively social character.

\* \* \*

The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Mercantile Society took place last Thursday, and the president is to be complimented for having secured a gathering of over 50 members. The large enclosed hall of the Union Helvétique is not exactly an ideal place for debating when the temperature is in the neighbourhood of 90 in the shade, and I think the keen interest which those present displayed was very remarkable under the trying conditions. The admirable report of the Educational Department did not call for much comment, but the balance sheet and the proposed revision of the rules gave rise to some animated discussion. The members were not at all prepared to silently accept all the proposals from the Chair, but in the end the president generally succeeded in carrying his point. One member tried hard to elucidate the reason why a report of the club's activity had not been read, and after some verbal fencing received the official answer that such a report was not ready yet. The meeting lasted till midnight, when it became necessary to adjourn the discussion. Matters left over will be dealt with at a future meeting, to be held in September.—Mr. De Brunner was re-appointed president, and some new blood was introduced into the Committee by electing Mr. O. Jaeggi first vice-president and Mr. Cornu second vice-president.

\* \* \*

Once again Switzerland has not been able to secure any honours at the Henley Regatta. Dr. R. Bossard, of the Grasshoppers Club in Zurich, after being successful in the first eliminating heat, had an excellent chance of winning the subsequent heat against the Canadian sculler, Hilton Belyea: our compatriot was leading by about three lengths when a sunstroke paralysed his further efforts. Fate seems to be somewhat unkind, especially when it is remembered that last year the Swiss team suffered from similar mishaps. All the same, Dr. Bossard has been delighted by the expressions of sympathy displayed on the course; he is not discouraged, and the Grasshoppers may be expected to turn up again at Henley next year with, it is to be hoped, better luck.

#### STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

	BONDS.	July 3	July 10
	Nom.	Frs.	Frs.
Swiss Confederation 3% 1903	77.75%	73.00%	
Swiss Confed. 9th Mob. Loan 5%	101.00%	101.50%	
Federal Railways A—K 3%	79.90%	78.75%	
Canton Basle-Stadt 5% 1921	102.50%	102.65%	
Canton Fribourg 3% 1892...	71.25%	69.50%	
SHARES.	Nom.	July 3	July 10
Swiss Bank Corporation	500	648	645
Credit Suisse...	500	672	672
Union de Banques Suisses...	500	522	527
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	3195	3125
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	2135	2085
C. F. Bally S.A. ....	1000	1035	1030
Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon...	500	670	670
Enterprises Sulzer ...	1000	666	645
S.A. Brown Boveri (new) ...	500	335	325
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. M. Co.	200	180	177
Choc. Suisses Peter-Cailler-Kohler	100	109	109
Comp. de Navign' sur le Lac Léman	500	490	492

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