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HOME NEWS

During the month of June, 1,031 Swiss emigrated into overseas countries, an increase of 584 as compared with the same period last year; for the six months to June this year the figure amounts to 3,434, as against 2,436 for the first half of 1922.

A new military aviation hangar was officially inaugurated last Sunday at Thoune by Federal President Scheurer; this new building, which contains also a wireless station, will house as many as thirty machines.

The Federal Tribunal has decided that according to the Zurich laws the canton cannot be held responsible in cases where the police have wrongfully confiscated goods and disposed of same.

Violent thunderstorms, in some instances accompanied by hail, have caused damage all over Switzerland; near Kandersteg roads have been swept by heavy torrents, depositing large quantities of debris.

The steady forward movement of the Grindelwald glacier at the foot of the Wetterhorn towards inhabited regions is sufficiently pronounced for people to watch its progress day by day; the foot-path and the neighbouring forest is gradually disappearing under the masses of ice. The glacier is advancing about 50 metres per annum.

Carmela Motta, the sister of Federal Councillor Motta, and Superior of the Menzigen Sisters (Order of the Holy Cross) has died suddenly at Menzigen (Zug) at the age of 54.

Hans Schatzmann, a former Chancellor of the Confederation, died in Bern after a long illness at the age of 74. Born in Windisch (Aargau), he studied law and practised for some time in Brugg and Lenzburg; appointed Secretary to the Federal Chancellery in 1879, he was nominated Vice-Chancellor two years later, which office he occupied till 1909, when he was elected Chancellor in place of the late Mr. Ringier. He distinguished himself by his thorough knowledge of official regulations and procedure. Mr. Schatzmann retired into private life in 1918.

The judicial enquiry into the Lausanne crime has resulted in the committal of Conradi for wilful murder; he will appear before a Vaudois jury—probably in September—together with the secretary of the former Russian Red Cross, Polouine, who is accused of complicity. The latter was aware of Conradi's intention and had actually encouraged him. Like the principal actor in this crime, Polouine's mind was obsessed by the persecutions and cynical tortures to which he and his friends had been subjected by the Bolsheviks. The following biographical notes are reprinted from the *Journal de Genève*:

Polouine est né à Novorossisk (chef-lieu du gouvernement de la mer Noire, au Caucase), en 1889. Il est d'origine tout à fait démocratique. Son grand-père était serf et appartenait à la secte orthodoxe des "vieux croyants," ce qui lui a valu d'être exilé au Caucase. A. Polouine a conservé la religion de son grand-père. Pendant sa première enfance, il vécut un certain temps à Genève, puis il fit ses études de droit à l'Université de St-Petersbourg. Il se préparait à une carrière scientifique quand la guerre éclata. Il s'engagea comme volontaire et prit vaillamment part à plusieurs batailles en Prusse orientale. Il suivit ensuite les cours de l'école d'artillerie à St-Petersbourg. Promu au grade d'officier, il partit pour la Perse, où il fit le reste de la campagne jusqu'à l'année 1917. Homme d'un courage exceptionnel, il reçut de nombreuses décorations pour ses exploits.

Dès l'avènement du bolchevisme, Polouine s'enrôla, un des premiers, dans les troupes qui allèrent le combattre. Depuis, il lutta inlassablement contre les ennemis de sa patrie. Sa bravoure et son énergie lui valurent plusieurs missions importantes et extrêmement dangereuses. Au cours de ces missions, il fut arrêté sept fois par la Tcheka, maltraité et deux fois condamné à mort. Il réussit à s'échapper grâce à son grand sang-froid et à une volonté de fer. Lors de sa dernière arrestation, il dut assister impuissant à la torture de deux infirmières auxquelles les bourreaux luxaient lesorteils et brûlaient les chairs avec un fer chauffé à blanc. En s'évadant, la nuit, Polouine et un de ses camarades libèrent les infirmières et les em-

portèrent sur leurs dos. Polouine assista également impuissant au pillage et à l'incendie de sa maison, ainsi qu'au traitement odieux que subirent à cette occasion, de la part des bolcheviks, sa femme et sa fille âgée de quatre ans.

Il quitta la Russie lors de l'évacuation de la Crimée par le général Wrangel et fut interné à Gallipoli. Puis il revint à Genève. Dès le mois de mars 1921, il n'a pas quitté cette ville et a voué tous ses efforts à l'organisation des secours à ses compatriotes victimes des soviets. Son travail dans ce domaine humanitaire fut fort apprécié.

Tous ceux qui ont eu l'occasion de rencontrer Polouine et de le connaître de près s'entendent à le caractériser comme un patriote fervent, bon, généreux, possédant une rare instruction et extrêmement laborieux.

EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

Des sauveteurs récompensés. — La commission administrative de la fondation Carnegie pour les sauveteurs a tenu récemment séance à Bern, sous la présidence de M. le conseiller fédéral Chuard. Elle a examiné les dossiers de quatre-vingt-dix-huit sauveteurs qui lui ont été signalés au cours des six derniers mois. Elle a alloué, outre des diplômes d'honneur, trente-huit médailles de bronze, trois médailles d'argent, vingt-six montres, des allocations uniques d'un montant total de 2730 francs à neuf sauveteurs et des allocations renouvelables (rentes) aux familles de deux sauveteurs décédés à la suite de leur dévouement. Le service de ces rentes a été assuré par la constitution d'un capital de couverture de 21,552 francs prélevé sur les revenus de la fondation.

La commission administrative a écarté les cas de dix-huit sauveteurs, qui ne furent pas exposés à un danger sérieux en accomplissant leurs sauvetages. (La Suisse.)

Jubilé du chemin de fer du Gornergrat. — On fêtera ces jours prochains le 25ème anniversaire de l'inauguration du chemin de fer du Gornergrat, le plus haut de tous les chemins de fer de montagne qui aient été construits en Europe, exception faite de celui de la Jungfrau. On commença la construction de la ligne en 1896; et grâce à l'activité de la direction le délai prévu, qui était de 2 ans, ne fut pas dépassé. L'inauguration eut donc lieu en 1898. De Zermatt on atteint en une heure et demie le Gornergrat, situé à 3186 mètres. Le trajet offre une parfaite sécurité et la vue est splendide durant tout le parcours. On traverse tout d'abord des forêts d'arolles centenaires jusqu'à Ryffelalp, situé au milieu d'immenses champs de rhododendrons et autres fleurs de montagne. La ligne s'élève ensuite sur les rochers en dérivant de grandes courbes pour atteindre Ryffelberg. L'horizon se dégage alors et d'innombrables sommets apparaissent. On est tellement saisi d'admiration qu'on ne songe guère à la somme de difficultés que comporte une pareille entreprise. En effet, 2400 ouvriers furent employés à la construction de la ligne, et leur travail fut souvent entravé par la pluie ou les chutes de neige, sans compter qu'à une altitude semblable, l'air raréfié enlève à l'homme un tiers de sa capacité de travail. Lorsque les ouvriers étaient acclimatés, on les envoyait travailler plus haut et c'est ainsi qu'en juillet 1897 on atteignit le dernier tronçon, de Rothenboden (2700 m.) au Gornergrat. On triompha de difficultés de toutes sortes et en 1898 la ligne, — vraie oeuvre d'art, — fut ouverte à l'exploitation.

Le Gornergrat est l'un des points de vue les plus remarquables qui existent en Suisse, et celui qui a eu l'occasion de contempler le panorama grandiose qui se déroule sous ses yeux en garde un souvenir inoubliable. (L'Éffort.)

La récolte des fruits en Valais. — La récolte des abricots en Valais s'annonce fort brillante cette année, soit au point de vue de la qualité, soit au point de vue de la quantité. D'autre part, vu les prix en perspective, la consommation suisse pourra être ravitaillée à des conditions très favorables par la production du pays, vraisemblablement sans qu'il soit nécessaire de recourir à l'importation étrangère. (La Revue.)

Un beau vieillard. — A la fête de l'Abbaye des fusiliers de Bretonnières, qui a eu lieu les 2 et 3 juin écoulés, l'un des sociétaires, M. François Fouvy a logé ses 5 coups réglementaires et consécutifs en cible.

M. Fouvy, qui entrera dans sa 90ème année le 2 juillet prochain, a fait partie de l'élite de la 3e comp. du bat. 45 des mousquetaires. Il jouit encore de toutes ses facultés. On le voit scier et couper du bois avec aisance et ses conseils sont toujours appréciés. Honneur à lui! (Petite Revue.)

Une méprise comique. — Le chanteur d'une paroisse des environs de Romont, se trouvant malade, pria



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un jour un de ses amis, ancien chantré, actuellement employé au chemin de fer, de bien vouloir le remplacer un dimanche à l'église.

L'ami accepte, et le voilà installé au lutrin. Mais, pendant le sermon, il s'endort, et, au bruit des chaises qui se fait ordinairement à la fin du culte, il s'écrie d'une voix forte:

— Les voyageurs pour Oron, Palézieux, Lausanne, en voiture!

Que l'on juge de la stupéfaction de l'assemblée. (Eveil.)

Zu viel Chemiker. — Wie in vorangehenden Jahren, so scheint auch heuer ganz besonders für das Chemiestudium an den Hochschulen auf das Wintersemester hin ein grosser Andrang bevorzustehen. Die Maturanden, die für die Entscheidung noch freie Wahl vor sich haben, seien speziell aufmerksam gemacht, dass gerade an jungen Chemikern ein gewaltiges Ueberangebot herrscht, das auf Jahre hinaus hinreicht. Der Abfluss nach dem Auslande ist ebenfalls sehr erschwert. Wenn ein weit verbreiteter Glaube leider noch vorherrscht, dass der Weg zum Reichtum durch chemische Erfindungen der bequemste sei, so kann man einen so irrigen Wahn nur bedauern. Im übrigen sollte auch gehörig berücksichtigt werden, dass der chemische Beruf vor allem robuste Naturen erfordert. (Schweiz, Chemikerverband.)

Die fliegende Kommission. — Am Mittwoch vormittag (11. Juli) landeten auf dem Flugplatz La Blecherette in Lausanne zwei Flugzeuggeschwader, bestehend aus 17 Fahrzeugen unter der Führung der Hauptleute Primault und Glaser. Die Passagiere waren Bundespräsident Scheurer, Chef des Militärdepartements, Oberst Immenhauser, Chef des eidg. Luftamtes, und Mitglieder der nationalrätlichen und ständerätlichen Kommission, die über das Kreditbegehren für die Errichtung von Flughallen in Dübendorf, Thun und Lausanne Bericht und Antrag zu stellen haben, nämlich elf Nationalräte und zehn Ständeräte. Die beiden Kommissionen besichtigten den Flugplatz. Die Parlamentarier kehrten auf dem Luftwege nach Thun zurück. Am Dienstag hatten sie die Einrichtungen des Flugplatzes bei Dübendorf in Augenschein genommen. (Luzerner Tagblatt.)

Händel unter Auswanderern. — Der Satz im ausgezeichneten Leitartikel von E. Sch. in Nr. 283 des "Bund," wonach der Leiter des Auswanderungsamtes behauptete, dass unsere Auswanderer, wenn sie nahe beieinander wohnen, gewöhnlich Streit bekommen, hat mir ein Begebnis ins Gedächtnis zurückgerufen, das ins Jahr 1892 zurückreicht, als ich im Auftrag einer grossen Zeitung Australien bereiste. Wir waren nach dem Bullpass unterwegs, und ich sass neben dem Pferdlenker, dem ich, um ihn Gesprächig zu machen, mitteilte, dass ich aus der Schweiz komme. "Oh, das ist schön," sagte der Kutscher, "wir werden gleich zwei Ihrer Landsleute antreffen, die als Wegwarte aneinanderstossende Strecken der Landstrasse in Ordnung halten müssen. Das Merkwürdigste ist jedoch, dass sie nie miteinander sprechen. Das war nicht immer

so. Vor Jahren waren sie gute Freunde, hatten dann einen Wortwechsel, worüber weiss ich nicht, seither treffen sie sich jeden Tag, sehen aber einander nie an. Dort ist der eine." Ich liess anhalten, sprach ein paar Worte mit meinem Landsmann, einem Berner, dem ich mich als Baslerbeppi vorstellte und den es zu freuen schien, zu hören, dass ich mein Baslerdösch noch nicht vergessen hatte. Auch mit meinem zweiten Landsmann, einem Graubündner, sprach ich später kurze Zeit. Auf die Frage des Kutschers, was wohl die zwei Landsleute entzweit hatte, erwiderte ich: "Die Schweiz ist zwar ein kleines Land, hat aber 22 Kantone, die vor Zeiten beinahe souveräne Länder waren. Es hat vier Sprachen, zwei Hauptreligionen und mehrere Sekten und zwei Dutzend Regierungen. Es gibt in der Schweiz hohe Berge, tiefe Seen und reisende Flüsse. Das alles begünstigt die Entwicklung der Eigenart des Einzelwesens und führt schliesslich zur Unerträglichkeit und Zanksucht. Wober die beiden im australischen Busch sich gezankt haben, ist nicht von Belang."

Im Verlauf des halben Jahrhunderts, das ich im Ausland zugebracht, sind mir noch andere Beispiele von Schweizer Streitsucht zu Ohren gekommen. Die richtige Erklärung für diesen seltsamen Zug findet man in Oechsli's Schweizergeschichte.

(C. C. S., Bournemouth, im "Bund.")

Basler Ferienkolonie in England.—Wie früher in den Jahren 1909-10 und 1913-16, Schüler der Kant. Handelsschule Basel (Ob-Realschule), unter der Führung von Herrn Jos. Meyer, verliessen am 16. Juli Basel, um einen schon lange geplanten Ferienaufenthalt in England anzutreten. Der Continental-Express Dover-London brachte die Partie am folgenden Tage nach der Victoria-Station. Während des zehntägigen Aufenthalts in der Weltstadt wird Gelegenheit geboten zur Besichtigung der wichtigsten Sehenswürdigkeiten. Es seien davon erwähnt: die königliche Münze, die Docks, Bank von England, Tower Bridge, das Windsor Schloss, ein Warenhaus, der Zoologische Garten, sowie verschiedene Museen und Kirchen.

Während die Schüler in London in der Zentrale des C.V.J.M. wohnen werden, steht für die letzten 14 Tage, die sie in Hastings am Meere zubringen werden, eine öffentliche Schule mit Küche zu ihrer Verfügung. Am Meeresstrande können sie sich von den Londoner Strapazen ausruhen und das Baderleben geniessen. Am 10. August werden sie dann Hastings verlassen müssen und am 11. August alle wohlbehalten und körperlich und geistig neugestärkt in ihre liebe Vaterstadt zurückkehren.

(National Zeitung.)

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NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KYBURG."

Young Swiss—England.

A very well-informed and, what is perhaps more, a very well-intentioned member of the Swiss Colony told me the other day, when we were discussing my recent paragraphs in the *S.O.* on this subject: "You know, the majority of our compatriots in London are much too apathetic. Once they have got a billet they do not care what happens to others and you cannot expect them to take any trouble in such matters." Now, I know it is hot. I know that to take trouble on behalf of others is an ungrateful task, unless you value the feeling of having done something unselfish for once in a while, but I really do hope that my friend was unduly pessimistic. Now then, Swiss, do get a move on, somehow, somewhere! Don't let that very important question go to sleep again! Agitate! It is extremely important for the future of commercial Switzerland that young Swiss should be allowed to come over to England and stay here for a couple of years. Restrictions must be abolished! If the matter is properly explained by the Swiss to the British Government, I am quite sure that the latter will make the necessary concession. John Bull has never refused to help when help was possible and especially when it could be proved to him that it would be beneficial also to his own interests: Now then, *Agitate!*

Switzerland and German Films.

Cinema (5th July):—The Swiss themselves are at last up in arms against the persistent efforts of the German producers to misrepresent the history of other countries on the screen. What has roused the wrath of the little republic is a film of "William Tell," made in Germany, the producer not even taking the trouble to cross the Swiss frontier in order to secure the correct historical backgrounds for his scenes.

The "Revue Suisse de Cinema" says it is high time to make a firm stand against such methods. If France and England have allowed Germany to give untrue representations of their respective histories in several films, there is no reason, says our irascible contemporary, why Switzerland should put up with a similar indignity.

"It must never be forgotten," the "Revue" adds, "that a film goes from one continent to another, bearing with it in its travels its living images, which penetrate the mind of all who see them, and leave lasting impressions behind them. Never let us forget, in fact, that such films are weapons."

The Germans have always used the films for propaganda and have been more clever than others in that direction. At the beginning of the war films were shown in Swiss cinema theatres, and "Our Soldiers on the March" showed *German Field Greys!* And our "pacifically penetrated" compatriots shouted Hurray! It is certainly necessary to keep a sharp watch against such mal-practices. I think that the N.S.H. keeps, or used to keep, its weather eye lifting for such manoeuvres.

Switzerland and her Future.

Daily News (9th July):—"The Other Voice," by H. Wilson Harris—The following merits being reprinted in full, I think, and I am sure many of my readers will be thankful for being able to read this really charming and wital very informative article. I should like to emphasize one happy sentence which so clearly shows us our duty as *Swiss*:—

The main function of the German Swiss, the French Swiss and the relatively small Italian Swiss elements is to work together (with, of course, numerous cross-divisions) on internal affairs, instead of pulling apart over external.

Most Englishmen know quite a lot about Switzerland. Many of us, for example, know it has the distinction of containing Mont Blanc—which it has not. Many more know it is separated from Italy by the crest of the Alps—which it is not. An eminent diplomat, speaking at the opening ceremony of the Lausanne Conference, knew it had never been invaded—which it has.

To knowledge so comprehensive it may perhaps be legitimate to add a few coping-stones of more immediate information. There is, after all, some advantage in writing about a country from inside it, and as I happen to be inside Switzerland at the moment, a word on it may not be out of place. It is worth while, I think, in any case. We ought to know more of Switzerland than we do, for there is at root a real affinity between the Swiss nation and our own. Word-words—

Two voices are there, one is of the sea,
One of the mountains, each a mighty voice,
linked together two great crusades for liberty, each as resolute as the other. And though it is Switzerland's misfortune that, being essentially pacific, she occupies nothing of that place in the public eye reserved for nations who win battles or lose them, her national period, so to put it, well deserves a little quiet study.

In reality the astonishing thing about Switzerland is that it should possess a national personality at all. Trilingualism illustrates what I mean. When you are menacingly assured that—

E pericoloso di sporgersi—
C'est dangereux de se pencher en dehors—
Nicht hinauszuhehnen—

that represents no triplicated passion for Safety First, but simply an official regulation whereby the three languages of the country must all stand on the same level in public notices. So that Switzerland is not merely a confederation of 22 different cantons, but an agglomeration of at least three different peoples. And out of that national personality has unmistakably been fused.

The differences, no doubt, matter less than they might in view of the fact that owing to her unique

neutrality and inviolability Switzerland has little of a foreign policy to consider. That does not mean that she has no interest in international affairs. The effect of the Ruhr occupation—an effect uniformly adverse—on public opinion has been striking. But it remains true none the less that the main function of the German-Swiss, the French-Swiss and the relatively small Italian-Swiss elements is to work together (with, of course, numerous cross-divisions) on internal affairs instead of pulling apart over external.

It is curious that in spite of that the public question on which feelings are most stirred to-day is one of foreign relations. It would be too long a business to explain here the affair of the "zones." It is enough to say that on certain Western frontiers of Switzerland France has, under various old agreements, kept her Customs houses some distance within her political frontier, the French territory between this Customs-line and the political frontier becoming thus a free-trade area for Switzerland. During the war everything, of course, was tightened up, and the French pushed their douanes on to the Swiss border. There they now claim the right to keep them, and an agreement with the Swiss Government to that effect was concluded. But here the public raised its voice, which under a constitution that includes both initiative and referendum it can do very effectively. Angered by the Ruhr occupation, which affected Switzerland directly, the Swiss people rejected the zone agreement by a referendum vote of five to one, and deadlock on the question now prevails.

In point of fact Switzerland, despite its large Franco-Swiss population, is at present definitely anti-French. The German part of the population has, of course, expressed itself freely regarding the Ruhr, and the French-Swiss Catholics are, as the result of the Pope's letter, disposed to take much the same line.

That is the more natural in that the effects of the Ruhr occupation have come as the climax of a series of economic strains under which Switzerland is labouring. She is, as everyone knows, largely dependent on her tourist industry. Since the war practically the whole of her Austrian, her Russian and her German clientèle has vanished. In addition, the fact that her exchange stood till a few months ago above par, and till two years or so ago very much above par, automatically kept British and other foreigners away and would have done so even without the further fact that the low exchanges in Italy and France were attracting tourists to resorts in those countries rather than in Switzerland.

On top of that came the export of capital due to alarm as proposed Socialist measures, notably the attempted capital levy of last year. As a result of one factor and another the Swiss franc, which not so long ago stood at 21 to the £, is to-day nearer 27 than 26 and falling steadily, while unemployment has reached a level for which there are few precedents. Politically the result is to cement a coalition of all other parties (which fall broadly into the two categories of Catholics and Radicals) against the Socialists, whose stock, after their devastating capital levy defeat, stands temporarily at any rate very much at a discount.

But, speaking generally, there is no reason why Switzerland's position should trouble her patriots unduly. Her staple industries, the machinery of Winterthur and Zurich, the embroideries of St. Gall, the chocolate of Vevey and elsewhere, the watchmaking of Geneva and Neuchâtel, the milk and the wine of every rural district, the wines of Vaud and Valais—all these are sound enough, and if Europe as a whole should ever regain peace and stability, Switzerland, all fear of attack absent, and markets and sources of raw material open, should acquire again the prosperity she has for a brief period lost.

I do not remember having ever heard our *National Task* expressed with such felicity in so few words before, and I could wish that the sentence quoted could be printed in large letters, framed and hung in a prominent position in the Council room of each Cantonal Council, as well as of the National Council and the States Council for the ever-present benefit of all our Councillors!

A Veteran Alpine Guide.

Some little while ago I printed some matter connected with the Matterhorn tragedy of 1865. The following article will be of interest to many of my elder readers. The *Observer* (8th July):—

There recently passed away, in the mountain village of Zermatt, canton Valais, Switzerland, a notable figure, Peter Taugwalder the younger, the last survivor of the never-to-be-forgotten first ascent of that grand rock pyramid, the Matterhorn, on July 14, 1865. Born in the well-known village 6,000 feet up by the banks of the Visp, "Peter," a familiar figure to so many climbers, lived and died in the village of his birth, and with his "passing" is turned the last page in the book of that tragic adventure which ended the most daring enterprise in the history of Alpine climbing.

"For some time previous to 1865," writes the Rev. C. A. Wilberforce Robins, in "Chambers's Journal," "various attempts had been made to find a way up the Matterhorn. This noble peak was always considered by the natives to be inaccessible, and no human being had ever set foot on its summit. At last the day arrived when, nearly sixty years ago, the intrepid Englishman, Edward Whymper, who probably had to his credit more first ascents than any other climber of his day, succeeded in reaching the summit, accompanied by Charles Hudson, Hadow, Lord Francis Douglas, and guides Michel Croz and Peter Taugwalder, father and son. The ascent was accomplished by the Eastern face; and when the party stood on the top and unfurled their little flag of victory, they saw the Italian party, which had left Breuil to climb the mountain on the south-west side, coming up, some 1000 ft. below them. The Italian party, on seeing what they knew were the victors on the top, fled quickly down the mountain, only to return some days later and complete the ascent on the south-west side."

Whymper's party left the summit for the descent in the following order: Michel Croz, the famous Chamonix guide, led the way, followed by poor Hadow, Hudson, and Douglas, Taugwalder senior, Taugwalder junior, and Whymper at the end of the rope. On reaching the "shoulder," not far from the top, probably the most dangerous spot, Michel Croz turned completely round towards Hadow to give him assistance, and to place his feet on the safest ground. I am describing it as best I can from my knowledge of the mountain and Whymper's own narrative to me when he spoke of his dread that day of any undue strain on what he feared was a weak rope, though his own portion of it would have stood any strain put on it. Whilst turning round to continue his way, Croz was