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HOME NEWS

By a majority of one the National Council has revoked its previous decision to disallow the *chasse* on Sundays; the measure is, therefore, left to the jurisdiction of the cantons.

Contrary to the proposal of the Federal Council, free postage is to be retained between official bodies and for citizens on military duties.

Though violently contested by the Communist and Socialist members, the National Council has reduced, by a majority of two to one, its daily dole—the amount paid out for each attendance—from Frs. 35.—to Frs. 30.—.

The Federal Post Office has granted a concession to a Geneva poster firm under which the latter will utilize vacant spaces in Swiss post offices for advertising purposes.

In the States Council a credit of Frs. 400,000 has been voted for alterations in the Basle post-office and the installation of an automatic telephone exchange.

Over Frs. 100,000 will be handed over to the different Swiss institutions for the Blind as a result of the special postcards and badges sold on the 1st of August.

In Zurich-Wipkingen a new Catholic Church was dedicated last Sunday by the Bishop of Chur under the name of "Guter Hirte Kirche"; this is the sixth Catholic Church in the town of Zurich.

Hugo Stinnes, the German magnate, seems to have made a few investments in Switzerland, but they are not of the nature which some of the English dailies wish us to believe; one of the latter stated that he had bought the "Oerlikon Works—the largest machinery and tool factory in Switzerland." What is known as the "Oerlikon Co." is a purely Swiss concern and has never been further from changing hands than it is to-day. The statement refers to a small local factory, trading as the "Schweiz. Werkzeugmaschinenfabrik Oerlikon" (Swiss Machine Tool Works), the control of which is reported to have been recently acquired by a Magdeburg engineering firm.

Mr. Othmar Kruser, hotel proprietor at Saas-Fee, died last Sunday at the age of 65. Prominent in the political life of the canton of Valais, he was keenly interested in the development of the Swiss hotel industry, to which he rendered valuable services.

It is stated that the former National Councillor Platten (Communist) has decided to settle down in Russia, and that his aged parents have sold their property in Dietikon to join him there.

EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

Tristes drôleries. — Il se passe ici et là dans notre pays des choses qu'il faudrait pouvoir cacher si le silence en ces matières pouvait servir de remède à la bêtise de certains concitoyens. Mais en se faisant, on laisse croire à ceux-ci qu'ils agissent bien; c'est pourquoi des journaux ont la crânerie de dévoiler ce qui cloche chez nous. Et si nous résumons ce qu'ils disent, ce n'est point pour peindre en noir l'image de notre chère patrie, mais plutôt à titre de renseignement et dans l'espérance que nos lecteurs et lectrices useront de leur pouvoir et de leurs relations pour éclairer chez nous ceux qui s'égarent.

Les "Feuilles républicaines" signalent qu'en un temps très court 430 citoyens suisses habitant la seule ville de Zurich ont quitté le pays; ils ont été remplacés par 491 Allemands et 194 ressortissants d'autres pays.

Le Secrétariat de la "Semaine Suisse" remarque qu'alors que nous comptons environ 25,000 chômeurs, 20,000 ouvriers étrangers des industries saisonsnières et d'autres professions sont venus en Suisse et y ont trouvé de l'ouvrage.

Des centaines de jeunes gens et de jeunes filles voudraient faire un apprentissage; mais les patrons refusent de les accueillir en disant: "Ce n'est pas la peine d'instruire des apprentis et d'en faire de bons ouvriers si l'on peut se procurer de la main-

d'œuvre étrangère à des prix dérisoires." Que deviendra notre jeunesse? Que feront l'industrie et les arts et métiers si de nouveaux conflits internationaux éclatent et si ces ouvriers étrangers doivent en toute hâte nous quitter? N'y a-t-il pas un grave danger dans l'accroissement de ces forces étrangères?

A Schaffhouse, on se propose d'agrandir le cimetière dans la forêt; on a pris comme expert un professeur municiquois qui demanda et reçut, pour sa journée, 3000 marks-or. Et le jardinier de la ville eût été capable de résoudre le problème.

Des intellectuels autrichiens — pour lesquels on a fait une collecte il n'y a pas longtemps chez nous — s'accordent un voyage en Suisse et on leur consent une réduction de 50% sur les chemins de fer fédéraux.

Le Sanatorium thurgovien-schaffhousois de Davos a nommé comme administrateur le Saxon Hoefer.

Tandis que la direction bernoise de l'intérieur autorisait les fils d'un immigré du nom de Rosenbaum à s'emparer du vieux nom bernois de Ramseyer, le demi-canton d'Appenzel Rhodes extérieures vient de permettre à un naturalisé allemand du nom de Fraenkel de s'approprier le vieux nom romand de Tissot. Et en 1919, le gouvernement bernois, refuse à un de ses ressortissants de la partie allemande du canton établi dans un pays de l'Entente de laisser franciser son nom.

On a bien ri au Grand Conseil thurgovien à la lecture du rapport sur 14 naturalisations. Un Wurtembergois, médiocrement connu à Lippoltswiler, offrait de payer tout ce qu'on voudrait pour devenir bourgeois de cette commune. Trois citoyens seulement, y compris le maire, étaient présents à l'assemblée communale devant s'occuper de cette affaire, et ces trois notables étaient eux-mêmes des Allemands naturalisés!

Ces faits constituent heureusement des exceptions; il ne faut pas généraliser ni dramatiser, mais regretter que parfois on manque de clairvoyance (Echo Suisse.)

Die Beerdigung in Saanen. — Am 30. September fand unter starker Beteiligung der Bevölkerung die Beerdigung der verunglückten Luftschiffer von Grünigen und Wehnen statt. Das eidgenössische Militärdepartement hatte dazu den Chef der Verkehrstruppen, Oberst Hilfiker, und den Chef der Luftschiffertruppen, Oberstleutnant Messner, abgeordnet. Anwesend waren ferner der Geniechef der ersten Division, Oberst Schmid, Oberstleutnant Ott und die Majore Blattner und W. Gerber. Nach der Abdankungsrede von Pfarrer Fuchs aus Abländschen sprachen in der sinnreich geschmückten Kirche, in der die Särge aufgebahrt waren, Oberstleutnant Messner namens des Chefs des Militärdepartements, des Offizierskorps der Luftschiffertruppen, des Schweizerischen Aeroklubs und der Sektion Mittschweiz des Schweizerischen Aeroklubs, Stationsvorstand Zumbrunnen als Vertreter der Bevölkerung des Saanenlandes, Oberstleutnant Ansermier im Namen des Club Suisse d'Aviation. Freunde der Verstorbenen trugen die Särge nach dem Friedhof. Am Grabe ergriffen sodann noch Hauptmann Frischknecht, Kommandant der Ballonkompagnie 3, Dr. Farmer als Vertreter des Schweiz. Aeroklubs, Ingenieur Gsell vom eidgenössischen Luftamt, und Herr A. Mex aus Territet das Wort. Während der Feier in der Kirche kreuzten die Fliegeroffiziere Cartier, Mosei und Wuhrmann mit ihren Flugzeugen über der Ortschaft. (Appenzeller Zeitung.)

La Vénus voilée. — A l'occasion de l'exposition d'horticulture de Lucerne, une Vénus du sculpteur Hugo Siegwart a été placée au milieu d'un parterre de fleurs. La direction cantonale de l'instruction publique a décidé de faire voiler cette statue lorsque des classes scolaires visiteront l'exposition. (La Revue.)

A MONTH IN SWITZERLAND.

"Lasst uns sein ein Licht auf Erden
Und ein Beispiel steter Treu
Frei, wie wir sind, andre werden
Und zerbrech die Tyrannen!
Schafft, dass alle friedlich wohnen
Wo der Freiheit Pforte schliesst,
Bis aus allen Nationen
EINE nur geworden ist!" —LAVATER.

Reflecting on these lines, written more than 100 years ago, it came home to me how little of it had been realised, and, moreover, whether we ourselves had accomplished anything towards realisation of the part assigned to us.

We enjoyed the company of an elderly couple from Yorkshire, coming to Switzerland evidently not for the first time, for they were conversant with the "Licht auf Erden," and, bright as they acknowl-



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ledged it to be, they thought a *snuffing* now and then would keep it burning all the brighter!

So we reached Basle, where we had breakfast and parted. A liberal exercise of our broadest Schwyzerdütsch brought a smile to our host's face. A 'Gott gruezz' made us feel at home.

The first impression on entering the city of Basle, as of any other Swiss city, is its cleanliness, made doubly so by brilliant sunshine. It looked as if it had just been dusted. I am told Basle is seething under the iron rule of the "Stäublumpen," which the Basle ladies handle with supreme dexterity and sometimes elegance (not to say eloquence, when they argue its necessity) to the great admiration of their menfolk. But "Cleanliness is next to Godliness," and clean and bright towns must be well administered to keep so, and the basis of in and outdoor cleanliness rests in the "hand that wields the duster"!

I do not think that the ladies of Zürich are many points behind those of Basle in the elementary administration of that quality which makes for the beauty of Swiss cities. Zürich was once described by Lord Northcliffe as a *German* city. It is pre-eminently a *Swiss* city. Zürich, though busy, bright, clean and orderly, has kept its character of a Swiss town, notwithstanding many thousands of Germans who still remain there, but who are now much less obtrusive than formerly!

But we cannot ignore facts: Zürich, in its literary tendencies, its architectural attempts and other fields of activity, is tainted with German colour. In the later architecture of Zürich there are many leanings towards Germanism, which expresses itself mostly in ponderous outlines. The new wings of the Politechnikum, or Swiss Technical High School, is an example. When you look at the heavy columns without base or defined capital, sided by fleshy flanks of yellow stone, unrelieved by border, fillet or panel, or when you follow the long vertical lines of what is meant as a substitute for a column without the relief of a fluting, but covered with streaks run up perpendicularly to mitigate their ponderousness, you become aware of the home of this sort of architecture—probably not acknowledged, but none the less evident!

A dignified super-structure would have mitigated the heaviness of the new building, but the attempt at a tower seems to have been carried out in a half-hearted manner; the appearance is "squat," the roof is depressed and fails to rise with the proper dignity of a cupola which it is meant to replace. The effect is *céruse*; it reminds me of one of my Heimberger tobacco jars.

It stands in a most favoured position against the Züriberg; the opportunity of making it the crowning attraction of a magnificent panorama has been sadly missed!

Nevertheless, Zürich remains, in the poet's sense, "Ein Licht auf Erden," like a spectrum of various hues, bright throughout its history, and withal thoroughly Swiss.

Many other matters were and are debated in Zürich of local and general interest, but a month is not long enough to get at all the lights that shine!

So I went further afield and found myself with

a crowd going to the "Musikfest" at Zug. I had a proof of the security of oneself and one's property on the S.B.B., as they are initially called. Traveling 3rd class, which is the best way to see the Swiss people unadorned, my carriage was detached at Zug from the train, and I had to transfer into the carriage in front. As the train and platforms were crowded, the transfer was not effected with the necessary speed, and having deposited some of the lighter articles on seat to secure the same, I went for the rest of my luggage. The train went away without me! My companion, who manifested some misgivings about the safety of the small luggage—gone before, but not lost—was assured it would be all right!

On arriving at Lucerne we claimed our articles, which were indeed waiting for us and which were handed to us without formalities of any kind whatsoever. Anybody might have walked away with them. Which country on the European Continent could show similar mutual trust between authorities and public? This scores for—

"ein Licht auf Erden
Und ein Beispiel steter Treu!"

I am afraid we shall not get much further than that with our friend Lavater! But I have made a good attempt to show that we have made a step or two on the road traced or dreamt by our friend,

The atmosphere of Lucerne and the Lake of the Waldstaedten has a soothing effect. The mountains, looked at every morning in the blazing sunlight; the quiet gliding of the white steamers on the turquoise-green lake; the deep green colour of the wooded shores; the lovely nooks, holding our hiding country houses, hotels or chalets; and the absence of almost all industry—give the lake and its shores almost a dreamy aspect. It leaves an entirely different impression behind from that of Zürich and its lake, and reminds one of Gottfried Keller's "Die Waldstaedte":—

"Es sind vier Länder gelegen
An einem urtiefen See."

Wer hebt mir die vier Länder
Wohl aus dem Schlamm und Sand,
Wer setzt sie als Edelsteine
In die Krone dem Vaterland?"

Perhaps Keller, if he lived to-day, would consider their "light" less dimmed than appeared to him 50 or 60 years ago!

Over the Brünig—I walked it forty years ago, to-day I take the railway—you see less and you see more—less detail, more of the general configuration of the landscape.

The Berner Oberland opens a new aspect. Everything is on a bigger scale: the grandeur of the scenery, its open and sunny heights, its homely style of buildings, its fine stock of sturdy people are undeniable. Many of the farmhouses and chalets are still adorned by frescoes and inscriptions and I noticed some very appropriate ones about Interlaken and the villages by the Lake of Thonue:

"Wend dir im Hause Frieden hast,
Wird dir die Hütte zum Palast."

The reverse is also true.

If the Oberland is incomparably grand, the Middleland is rich in broad valleys, beautifully-wooded heights, proud houses and deep slopes, mostly fringed with a pearlwhite range of snowy peaks, second to none in Europe; they are "ein Licht auf Erden" by themselves.

Berne, set in the *après* of this panorama, occupies as proud a position as any capital in Europe, with its broad hills, deep slopes and incomparable situation! There is a character that stamps it as the capital of a free country. Its architecture is not compromised by Teutonic interference—it is Swiss to the backbone. I am told that unfortunately there are many partisans of German influence; this produces a feeling of unrest amongst many of a different way of thinking. Prejudice aside and sympathies one way or other allowed for, there is only one way of looking at things, and that is the Swiss way—not the German-Swiss way, but the purely Swiss, the *Helvetic* way. In these days of large agglomerations of nationalities all around us it has become more necessary than ever, as many of them deny us the attribute of Nationality!

The month is over. Switzerland has had a splendid summer season. The strangers that were most conspicuous were the Dutch; they saved the situation. Trainloads arrived at Basle every night for weeks. They travel not singly as tourists, but in family groups, with their wives, children, cousins, sisters and aunts; they are homely and well-behaved people and drink Lager beer. Switzerland is taking her old form! Her industries are coming on to the winning side again. We may hope the best for the future!

My Swiss holiday finished at Basle, with many enjoyable outings in pleasant company. I satisfied myself that Switzerland is in the front rank of Europe and fit to be "ein Licht auf Erden," and I met with many "ein Beispiel steter Treu" from many an old friend and new.

Hats off to Switzerland! J. R. G.

REPORT ON SWISS TRADE AND INDUSTRY, 1922.

The Annual Report on Trade and Industry in Switzerland, published by the Swiss Union of Trade

and Industry (Vorort), for the year 1922 has just been published. Compiled with its usual care, it gives a complete review of the economic situation of Switzerland for that year.

The report opens with the statistical portion, which, in a tabular form, arranged with great clearness, contains all the figures needed to a clear appreciation of Swiss economic conditions. On the whole, foreign trade figures show a reduction of nearly 20 per cent. as compared with 1921—a fact which must, of course, be considered in the light of the great disparity in prices ruling during these two periods. The total exchange of goods with Great Britain has been slightly increased from 505 million to 521 million francs, the latter country being now the third in importance in respect of the volume of trade, first and second places being held by Germany with 559 million and France with 542 million. The two last-named countries also take the honours as regards imports, with 365 and 302 millions respectively, relegating Great Britain to fifth place with 173.9 million. In the value of goods exported from Switzerland, Great Britain is an easy first, the 348 millions representing nearly 20 per cent. of our total exports; in 1921 the United States took the lion's share with 585.7 million (27.4 per cent.), and although this figure has dropped to 215 million (12.2 per cent.) America is still our third-best customer. The turnover with India has risen from 32.8 to 74 million, chiefly due to an increase in export figures of 37 millions; in the same way, Australia has more than doubled the value of her purchases in Switzerland.

Side by side with general information and basic statistics, the reader will note tables of considerable interest on the state of the labour market. This statistical portion (largely increased since the last issue) is followed by the actual report on the commercial and industrial position of Switzerland during 1922. This report—containing 38 chapters—reviews, in the first place, the various branches of industry and commerce, banking, assurance, the organisation for affording economic information and finally the various institutions dealing with commercial and professional education. Those chapters relating to the industrial and commercial branches contain also a *résumé* of the trade statistics, together with the more important figures of Swiss imports and exports to and from foreign countries, while full details of the chief economic features of the year are given and in particular a very clear *exposé* of the difficulties due to the prolonged commercial crisis and the attempts made to combat it.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

The accounts of the Bank A.G. Guyerzeller in Zurich for the first six months of 1923 show a net profit of Frs. 331,714 which compares favourably with Frs. 308,913 last year. An amount of Frs. 100,000 was written off for account of bad debts before this net profit was arrived at. A large amount of the shares of the concern are now held by the public, and the Directors have, therefore, applied for an official quotation of the shares in the Zurich Stock Exchange.

The 10th report of the Schweizerische Handels- und Industriegesellschaft für Brasilien, which comprises the accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1923, has just been issued. In the case of the Brazilian branches the accounts are for the calendar year 1922. The eventual results show a loss of Frs. 2,066,646. Imports into Brazil have been very severely affected by the decline of the Brazilian exchange, and the balance sheet of the Brazilian branches of the concern shows a falling off in the value of stocks from 8,130,080 milreis to 4,627,850 milreis. A further reduction has been made since the end of 1922, as the entire stocks of chemicals in the hands of the company were taken over by the firm of J. R. Geigy, A.G., in Basle. The chemical department of the concern in Brazil thus ceases to exist. This will enable the company further to reduce expenses and salaries.

The Schweizerische Wagenfabrik in Schlieren closed the business year 1922-23 with a net profit of Frs. 637,240, which is an improvement of about Frs. 80,000 on last year's figure. A dividend of 8 per cent. is again to be paid.

The well-known chocolate manufacturing firm of "Suchard" in Neuchâtel, which, as is generally known already, has factories in Germany and Austria and also in Paris and San Sebastian in Spain, has now formed a limited company in Roumania under the style of S.A. Roumaine pour la Fabrication du Chocolat Suchard. This concern has a capital of Lei 20,000,000, of which Lei 18,000,000 is to be offered to the Roumanian public for subscription, while Lei 2,000,000 will be reserved for Swiss investors.

The returns of unemployment in Switzerland show that in August the downward movement had virtually ceased. The number of persons totally unemployed was 22,554, as compared with 22,722 the previous month. In January, 1923, the number had been 56,275.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

	BONDS.	Oct. 2	Oct. 9
Swiss Confederation 3% 1903	... 76.00%	76.12%	
Swiss Confed. 9th M. Loan 5%	100.65%	100.30%	
Federal Railways A—K 34%	... 79.75%	80.00%	
Canton Basle-Stadt 51% 1921	... 103.25%	103.35%	
Canton Fribourg 3% 1892...	... 71.37%	71.30%	
SHARES.	Nom.	Oct. 2	Oct. 9
Swiss Bank Corporation	500 Frs.	644	643
Crédit Suisse	500	675	674
Union de Banques Suisses	500	532	532
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	3075	3095
C. F. Bally S.A.	1000	1087	1087
Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon...	500	665	670
Entreprises Sulzer ...	1000	630	630
S. A. Brown Boveri (new) ...	500	291	284
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond.—Mk. Co.	200	173	171
Choc. Suisses Peter-Cailler-Kohler	100	111	109
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman	500	481	485

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