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HOME NEWS

Considerable surprise has been caused in Berne and Genève by the French decree which abolishes the free Savoy zones on November 10th, on which date the customs barrier will become identical with the political frontier. Later official utterances of the French Government seem to indicate, however, that the decree is not to be taken so very seriously and is meant to be a reminder, addressed to our Federal authorities, to give this unsolved question its immediate attention by submitting fresh proposals. The Federal Council despatched last Tuesday a note to our Minister in Paris for presentation to the Quai d'Orsay, of which the following is an extract officially issued to the press:-

"Le Conseil fédéral commence par revenir sur l'art. 435, base de tout le différend. Il conteste que la Suisse cherche à se soustraire aux engagements contractés; mais aussi il établi que l'art. 435 n'a force de loi que dans la mesure où elle l'a accepté. Il montre que tant que l'accord ne sera pas fait sur sa portée, les conversations ne sauraient aboutir à un résultat satisfaisant. Cet article est le nœud gordien de toute l'affaire; c'est pourquoi le Conseil fédéral ne peut pas accepter de négocier dans les circonstances créées par le gouvernement français.

"La note réfute ensuite l'accusation portée contre le Conseil fédéral d'avoir, par son attitude dilatoire, rendues vaines les négociations. Elle rappelle que les conversations n'ont pas cessé depuis le mois d'avril, et qu'à plusieurs reprises le Département politique a tenu à constater qu'elles étaient bien en cours. Celui-ci a prévenu la France que la Chambre de commerce de Genève procéda à de nouvelles études, et qu'un projet serait envoyé à Paris au début d'octobre. La note fait en outre mention du projet français du 27 juillet, et montre qu'il était inacceptable, parce qu'il considérait comme réglée la question de droit, et basait ses quatre conventions techniques sur le transfert du cordon douanier à la frontière politique, solution rejetée par le peuple suisse le 18 février.

"En terminant, le Conseil fédéral propose de soumettre le litige à la Cour internationale de la Haye, ou à tout autre instance arbitra le qui conviendrait au gouvernement français. Il adresse à celui-ci un pressant appel pour qu'il accepte ce moyen de conciliation si conforme à l'amitié traditionnelle qui a toujours uni les deux pays."

The strike of carpenters and woodworkers, which for nearly five months seriously hampered the Basle building trade, has now been settled; no victory is claimed by either side.

At a general meeting of the Welch sections of the Swiss Communist party, held in Montreux last Saturday and Sunday, it was decided to publish a fortnightly review, which will appear for the first time at the beginning of next month under the title of *Le Drapeau Rouge*.

Accused of fraud and defalcations in connection with the sale of the Austrian crown jewels, Baron Bruno Steiner, who was acting for the ex-Emperor Charles, and his wife have been extradited from France and are awaiting trial by the Bernese courts.

The late Professor A. Tobler bequeathed Frs. 150,000 to the Widows and Orphans Fund of the teachers at the Federal Polytechnic in Zurich.

The painter and writer, Paul Robert, died in Orvin at the age of 73; he is chiefly known as the painter of the mural decorations along the grand staircases of the Federal Court in Lausanne, the Museum in Neuchâtel, and other public buildings.

EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

The Summer Season in Switzerland.—The summer season of 1923 has been good, very good even in a large number of Swiss stations and towns. Foreigners have flocked in from all parts of the world. The traffic at certain frontier railway stations, that of Basle, for instance, has surpassed the best years before the war. Usually at this time of the year

the number of travellers, leaving Switzerland is greater than that of incoming tourists. This year, for the first time at the same period, the reverse has been the case.

The number of foreign tourists shows a great increase on that of last year. The majority are English, Americans, and Dutch; next, though in far smaller numbers, come the French, the Belgians, the Italians, and the Spaniards, etc.; the latter suffer at the present moment, unfortunately, from the rate of exchange.

The Transport Companies, especially the Mountain Railways and certain Navigation Companies (on the lakes of Geneva, Lucerne, Thun, and in other districts which were generally little frequented) say the rolling stock and boats were at times insufficient to cope with the rush of tourists. In one single day more than 62,000 travellers took the train at the railway station at Lucerne.

The Engadine, and the other stations in the Canton of Grisons, Central Switzerland, Lucerne, especially the Bernese Oberland, the Vaudois Alps, the Canton of Valais and the Jura, have had on many occasions their hotels quite full, and in certain places the hotels have been obliged to refuse tourists.

There is a new and very important element in the large circulation of tourists in Switzerland: it is that of the motor-car—postal motor-cars of the Confederation and private motor-cars. The Postal Administration uses the Saurer motor-cars, and they have given every satisfaction. Up till now no accident, not even a break-down has caused an interruption in the irreproachable regularity of the services; great success has resulted from this means of agreeable and commodious travelling. It carries tourists into regions and districts which were generally little frequented up till now, on account of the great distance from the railways. To-day, one can easily arrive at, and cross, in a very short time, the mountain passes, such as the Great St. Bernard (8,000 ft.) or the Furka Pass (7,880 ft.) comfortably seated in powerful motor-cars.

In September the shooting season opened, and chamois stalking begins at Arosa, Celerina, Interlaken, Pontresina, Wengen, and Zinal, etc.

(*Bulletin officiel du Bis.*)

Le drapeau du "Genève".—Le Conseil d'Etat a pris possession du drapeau du "Genève" qui lui a été confié, ainsi que nous l'avons déjà dit, par le Club suisse d'aviation, section de Genève de l'Aéro-Club suisse.

Le glorieux emblème, portant les marques de la foudre, a été doublé de soie blanche par des mains pieuses.

Le Conseil d'Etat a décidé d'adresser une lettre à M. le conseiller administratif Stoessel, délégué aux musées et collections, pour lui demander s'il serait d'accord de placer cette relique valeureuse au Musée d'art et d'histoire. En attendant qu'une décision soit prise, le drapeau du "Genève" a été remis à M. le chancelier d'Etat Bret.

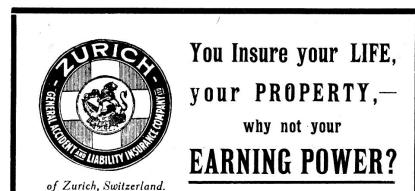
(*La Suisse.*)

Ein Kampf zwischen Adlern und Gemsen.—Im Alpsteingebirge horsten bekanntlich an vier oder fünf Orten Steinadler. Dieser Tage beobachteten einige Männer ein Rudel Gemsen von ungefähr 20 Stück, darunter einige diesjährige Zicklein. Ueber der Gruppe kreiste in geringer Höhe ein stolzes Adlerpaar, das unermüdlich mit Flügelschlägen die alten Tiere auseinander zu treiben suchte, um sich sodann auf die junge Beute zu stürzen. Doch jene umstellten instinktiv und kampfbereit ihre Jungen, sodass diese immer geschützt hart an der Felswand standen, von wo ihnen keine Gefahr drohen konnte. Obwohl die Adler über 20 Angriffsversuche machten, gelang es ihnen nicht, die Phalanx zu durchbrechen und an die Jungen heranzukommen, und sie mussten den Kampf unverrichteter Dinge aufgeben. (*Grenzpost.*)

Nach Russland.—In Winterthur fand letzter Tage eine Versammlung von Leuten statt, die beabsichtigten, nach Soviet-Russland auszuwandern und dort als kommunistische Bauern ein "sorgenfreies" Bolschewikdasein zu führen. Bekanntlich hatte seinerzeit der inzwischen wieder ins Ausland verschwundene Fritz Platten die Mission übernommen, Lenin solche Schweizerarbeiter zuzuführen und sie in Russland anzusiedeln. Wie man nun hört, haben sich 38 Familien aus den Kantonen Schaffhausen, Thurgau und Zürich für die Sache interessiert.

(*Allgemeiner Anzeiger.*)

Le Palais du B.I.T.—La cérémonie de la pose de la première pierre du nouveau palais du B.I.T. dans la campagne Bloch à Sécheron, a été fixée à 4 heures de l'après-midi, le dimanche 21 octobre. Seront présents MM. Scheurer, président, Chuard, vice-président de la Confédération, le Conseil d'Etat



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et le Conseil administratif de la Ville, au complet, ainsi que tous les délégués à la conférence internationale du travail qui sera ouverte le lendemain au Casino municipal. Plusieurs discours seront prononcés, puis l'on entendra l'Harmonie nautique, sous la direction de M. Gabelles, et le Cercle chorale, dirigé par M. Otto Wend, qui seront installés sur le kiosque ambulant, prêté par la Ville. La chorale municipale chantera notamment un "Hymne au travail."

Un dîner sera offert le soir par le président de la Confédération, dans l'hôtel des Bergues. (*La Suisse.*)

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KYBURG."

The Swiss Observer is so neat and compact that very few of its readers can have an idea of the worry and trouble expended upon its production. If they had, I feel sure they would tumble over each other to thank the Editor and his faithful assistants—including, of course, "Kyburg"—for the wonderful fare they provide for them week by week. Just think what it must mean to write all the various articles in one's leisure time, when the Editor has got a fearful cold and when some of his assistants, as has happened just now to "Kyburg," went week-ending for three days, instead of sitting down to do their weekly column. Then the telephone starts in earnest, and somebody wants to know when that — copy will be coming along! In such times it is of real comfort to find that the British Press has nobly done its share of the work by publishing quite a number of interesting paragraphs referring to Switzerland, and I, at least, find my work considerably lightened thereby.

Typewriter Magic: Machine operated by Voice.

Daily News (5th Oct.):—

Are the days of the shorthand-typist numbered? It would seem so if one may believe the claims made for a machine concerning which a patent has recently been applied for at Berne. This is nothing less than a phonetic typewriter, which writes direct from dictation.

The inventor is Mr. Martin Bandli, of Davos, who describes the machine as "a typewriter enabling a person to write by the use of the voice only." Until applications for patents have been entered in all countries, Mr. Bandli is maintaining a certain reserve, which one can well understand, but he informs me that a person may talk at a speed of 90 to 100 words a minute, and that as many copies can be obtained as with an ordinary typewriter.

The question which at once occurs to the mind is: How does he get over the difficulty of spelling? I can only quote his own statement. He says:—

"The two principal difficulties to be overcome were those of correct orthography and the writing of figures. The first, for a long time, proved an almost insurmountable obstacle, because, especially in the English language, there are in some cases half a dozen different letter combinations for one single sound.

"Finally, I found out a device by means of which the short intervals of silence (one-tenth to one-fifth second), which in every case take place between two words or distinct syllables, are used automatically in finding the correct letter combinations.

"The second 'hard nut'—how to write numbers otherwise than in the form of words, while allowing the machine to write them as words if desired—was eventually solved by considerably lowering the voice

when figures are wanted, so that only the sound waves created by the vowels impress the microphone, while those created by the consonants are lost."

The machine is not large. Mr. Bandli describes it as a cube of about 16 in., weighing about 60 lbs. It stands on a small table, such as is used for an ordinary phonograph or typewriter, and in the upper part of the table is a small 1-16th h.p. electro-motor and a battery.

The person using the machine starts the current by turning the interrupter, waits a few seconds until the wheels have obtained the necessary speed, and begins talking in a distinct, but not a loud voice, into a specially built microphone arrangement in which every sound wave creates corresponding alternating currents. These are amplified and pass through a series of apparatus, called distributors, which, in combination with a series of synchronised devices, produce the typewriting on the paper to be written upon.

This paper is rolled on a cylinder similar to that of an ordinary typewriter, but placed vertically.

All I wish to say is that I do hope this wonderful inventor will show up to better advantage than our "late boxing champion"!

Notable Swiss Pictures.

Daily Telegraph (3rd Oct.):—

As Turner proved, it is not necessary for a painter to be of Swiss or Italian nationality in order to do justice to the colour glories of Alpine lakes and valleys. On the other hand, a painter who is a native of a land of majesty and beauty of outlook and who grows to love the compelling scenes around him has the advantage of being both a national and natural interpreter. Most people come back from Switzerland with vivid impressions of the grandeur of the mountains and glaciers gilded with that "heavenly alchemy" of which Shakespeare wrote. To those and others the drawings and pictures by the Swiss artist Professor Hans Beat Wieland, now being shown in the Gleyes Gallery, should bring back exhilarating memories. It is obvious that the painter has developed a power sufficient to grasp the mightiness of his themes, and that the study of them is a continuous and unflagging fascination. He has the gift of suggesting real sunlight, and in this respect such works as "The Garden of the Presbytery at Grindelwald" and the vivid drawings of old maple trees casting their shadows on the snowy surfaces is especially fine. A moonlight picture, "The Bishop in Wallis," is another noteworthy composition showing affinity of mountainous scenery to the billowy sea, and the decorative effect of tree shapes is evinced in a spring-time glimpse of Lake Lucerne. Even the tourist who did not envisage the wealth of colour and beauty that lay before him will be (or should be) stirred by this Swiss painter's glowing interpretations.

Writing of "Alpine Lakes and Valleys" reminds me of a funny paragraph which I found in the *Morning Post* (6th Oct.):—

Why go to St. Moritz to enjoy the delicious trepidations of falling into a crevasse when you can have all that sort of thing in Victoria-street? The yawning chasm cut by our road breakers down the side of the thoroughfare would give splendid practice with ropes and ice axes. As for tobogganing, the bus makes an excellent substitute. In the Alpine storm of Wednesday one daring seventy-sixer put the Cresta Run into the shade. Loaded with daring tobogganers, as it was, it skidded off the narrow track and landed with wonderful skill upon a narrow ice bridge. The planks bent, but stood the strain, and, true to his principle of "Safety First," the driver decided to go no further. He received no congratulations for his daring exploit, or his splendid recovery, but was merely cursed for holding up the traffic.

As I have lately been to Switzerland and in my native town of Winterthur, this paragraph appealed to me, because at home I found, for the second time, the principal street "up" and going home, late at night, it was a favourite sport to try and manage the "peaks" along the Marktgasse. I won't say more!

Antent my paragraph some time back, *re* "Opium Traffic," I am glad to print the following from the *Yorkshire Post* (6th Oct.):—

Dr. Carl Huebscher, Swiss Consul-General in Canada, announces that he has been authorised to state that the Swiss Federal Council unanimously agrees to immediate ratification by Switzerland of the International Opium Convention, and will strictly enforce the law suppressing the drug traffic.

And this, in turn, brings me to a highly interesting article in the *Manchester Guardian* (8th Oct.) on:—

The League's Influence.

Discussion on the League of Nations and the Fourth Assembly took place in Berne on October 5th in the Swiss Senate. Owing to the extreme slowness of Swiss Parliamentary machinery, the Governmental report on the Third Assembly was formally the matter of discussion, but in fact the debates principally dealt with the Fourth Assembly.

It is rather surprising that the last Assembly, which generally had not a very good press, nevertheless obtained a rather warm reception from the Swiss Senate. Even the former adversaries of Switzerland's adhesion to the League were considerably less sharp than their colleagues in the Second Chamber some months ago. Those in Switzerland who strive for withdrawal from the League were much disappointed by the categorical statement of the previous leader of the Senate opposition to Switzerland's adhesion, the Conservative Col. Bruegger, who declared he could not assume responsibility for any action in favour of withdrawal.

Radical Senator Bölli, who was one of the Swiss delegates to the Fourth Assembly, stated that he had always been sceptical as to the League, but now recognised that it opens the way towards improvement in international relations. Those who believed in the possibility of the development of the League of Nations idea among peoples must co-operate with League efforts, although knowing that progress could only be slow. The Catholic Senator Rauber criticised those who undermine the League by their negative attacks. Humanity, he said, had need of hope for a better future.

The Swiss Foreign Minister, M. Motta, declared he had arrived at Geneva with great inner disquietude. He returned, however, with a lightened heart. The League had rendered invaluable service to the cause of peace, and had furnished proof of its moral effi-

cacy. He himself had been a witness at Geneva that the moral influence of the League during the Italo-Greek conflict calmed the minds of the two opposed parties. The September experience at Geneva justified hope of the evolution of the League of Nations.

The same speakers discussed the draft treaty of mutual assistance. The inclusion of Articles 6 to 8, concerning complementary defensive alliances between certain Powers, was strongly criticised, and Colonel Bruegger regretted that the Swiss Delegation did not vote against the draft treaty instead of merely abstaining. The Foreign Minister explained that the abstention was not at all a sign of sympathy with the treaty. Swiss permanent neutrality, he affirmed, would remain totally unchanged, and would prevent Switzerland's adhesion to any treaty guarantee. M. Motta observed that it was very doubtful whether the treaty will ever come into force.

To my mind, Ständer Rauber is entirely right in criticising those who try to undermine the League by merely negative attacks. It will generally be found that those critics are among the people who have never yet endeavoured to help the League along, who really are against it in principle, or rather, because they refuse to envisage a world which would not be based any longer on "civilisation" organisation, now commonly called "civilisation"! How any Swiss, with the history of Switzerland to go by, can be against the League of Nations, is a complete mystery to me. Should we be less Swiss, if we were members of the United States of Europe, than now? Is a Bernese less Bernese now than he was when Berne stood alone? What about the difference happily existing between our Eastern and Western compatriots? Is it not just that difference which, paradoxical as it may sound, welds us into one homogeneous whole?

Internationalism in Infancy.

The Christian World, (4th Oct.):—

The paper from which I cull the following interesting article ought to disarm critics who, in reading the title, might have jumped to a wrong conclusion and accused me of nefarious designs on their political beliefs!

A month ago I fell into Elysium. I am still wondering how such a person ever managed to get there, and why they did not turn me out as an undesirable alien. But no alien is undesirable to them: they have such faith and hope in human nature.

Motó—that is the Sanskrit for "Mother"; they all call her that—met me on a wayside station between Lausanne and Geneva. She was bareheaded, and had brought a small handcart (a sort of miniature hay-wagon) for my luggage. We packed it in, and trundled off along three kilometres of dusty by-road to the lakeside; and on the way she told me a little about the people I was to meet under her roof—roofs, I should say, or patch of sky, for we lived mostly out of doors. In the first place, there were the children staying over the holidays, for Elysium is a school where boys and girls of many nations work and learn and play together. Motó is the foundress and headmistress. About a dozen of them were there at the time—Swiss, Austrian, Italian, German, British, and American negro (the latest addition to the family—a delightful little youth). Then quite a crowd of guests were staying at the schoolhouse, in the annexe on the shore, and various chalets and cottages close by. These summer visitors ranged from the warden of a city settlement to a five-year-old elf of Italian-Brazilian parentage, who mostly appeared in a diminutive tangerine bathing garment. Most of the party I met in the lake, for my hostess suggested a dip by way of refreshment after my night journey, and it was the hour of the second morning bathe. At the end of the landing-stage, a burly Swiss received me hospitably. His somersault dives were the subject of much admiration and envy. He proved to be the gardener. I swam out in almost tepid blue water, gazing between strokes at the hazy, tumbled peaks of Savoy on the other side. Life seemed very good, if a trifle queer.

You soon became one of the large family. It is so easy, really, if conventions of class, creed and nation are wiped right out—and they soon are in a community where everyone shares in the daily work. The only professional help we had was that of cook and gardener. The former was the mother of a pupil, who, having come to visit her daughter, begged to join the staff in any capacity. She was certainly an adept at egg, cheese and vegetable cookery—the staple foods in that vegetarian "ménage," for Motó is nothing if not thorough, and, as a pacifist, she holds sacred the life of Brother Ox and Brother Sheep, as well as all human life.

So the establishment yielded no bones for Médor, the dog.

Now, the school is run on modern free principles—that is, the theories of Montessori are applied to children of all ages, who decide for themselves what lessons they will do, if any. Then why not let the dog decide whether or not he wished to be deprived of animal food? Certain of the guests scented the chance of "getting at" Motó beautifully, so we arranged a mock trial of her for wilful misfeeding of the dog, Médor. Wigs and gowns were produced from the charade cupboard; various rôles allotted; the hall arranged to represent a court; witnesses unblushingly coached in their evidence: twelve just "men" and true appointed as jury, some of rather tender age, under a foreman of avowed partiality for the canine plaintiff. Counsel for the prosecution spoke in English. He maintained that Médor, an animal of uncertain pedigree, faintly resembling a stocky spaniel, with lemon replacing the usual liver colour, was really a St. Bernard, stunted by unnatural diet. Counsel for the defence, a Swiss lady of international reputation, pleaded, in eloquent French with correct legal tags interwoven, that the dog's birth and puppyhood in a German prison camp accounted for any defects, and that he was healthy and well nourished. Telling evidence was given by the cook as to the serious effects of vegetable diet on her own figure, once slim (so she averred), and similarly on Médor's. The accused preferred cheese to the plaintiff to prove his preference for such food, but this cogent piece of evidence was contradicted by his appearing five minutes later with an enormous bone in his mouth, which he proceeded to enjoy very audibly beneath the judge's seat. At this point the accused burst into tears to try to move the jury, and I saw two grey eyes raised wonderingly, and a little hand gently stroking Motó's foot, for one small person thought the tears were real.

Saturday evenings were always festive in some way, for everybody loved dressing up and "pretending." Then Sunday was a day of the utmost peace. Directly after breakfast came prayers, as usual, beginning with a piano solo, followed by hymns and reading, or the telling of a story, or possibly an address. Then people scattered to church or Friends' meeting in Geneva, or to local churches, or perhaps to the quiet of the lakeside with a book. The week-days slipped by all too fast. A party would go off with sandwiches up into the forest-clad Jura mountains to the north to enjoy the marvellous panorama of the Alps, or we might row across to the French side of the lake, keeping a weather eye open for the sudden wind which, almost without warning, lashes the water into great waves. And an hour away by train or steamer was Geneva—that bright, trim, virtuous-looking city of many bridges and many languages, with its memories of Jean Jacques Rousseau and Calvin, and its modern international touch. It is a little disappointing to find that the Palais des Nations, the headquarters of the League of Nations, is merely a converted hotel, but once inside, you cannot but be struck by the efficient organisation of this huge office. The reference library deserves whole-hearted admiration, and the careful distribution of posts, from highest to lowest, among representatives of many nations and both sexes. I had hoped to be present at one of the meetings of the Assembly, which take place in the large hall of the Hôtel Métropole, but was greeted that morning (Sept. 6th), in the motor launch crossing the Rhône, by one who announced that the sitting was cancelled, presumably on account of the Italo-Greek crisis. It was a great disappointment, for I was leaving for Paris that night. A very dejected person went and fed the swans behind Rousseau's statue till the sunshine and the deep blue of the lake and the gleam of Mont Blanc's snow dispelled the gloom. Then back to Elysium to take farewell.

It was afternoon when I got home. I had a last plunge in the lake with the boys, who then went off to work at their wireless installation, while I dallied in the sun and kept gazing over at Mont Blanc and pondering over things. Why did I love this place so much? What was there in the spirit of it, which made one so strangely content? How was it that I could live happily at close quarters with people whom a month ago I should have judged impossible cranks? That I could find washing up and peeling potatoes amusing? That I felt no surprise when the washer-woman took her place at table with the rest of us? I can see her still as she came into the 'salon' at the end of her day's work, received her money, and then kissed Motó warmly on both cheeks, beamed affectionately at her, and said: "It is that I like so well to work here for you."

I think perhaps it is all due to Motó and Mont Blanc. She, in her simple, direct goodness and love of all, creates an atmosphere of sincerity and good-fellowship. Mont Blanc, in his serene whiteness, stands for purity of ideal and the striving after the highest.

Such was my Elysium. Is it really one of the small beginnings of that new world which we hoped to see rise from the smouldering ashes of the Great War? Who can tell what may be achieved by the faith which removes mountains?

After the above, it will perhaps do us good to come down to more materialistic matters, and I will close up this week's survey by the following, from *The Times* (6th Oct.):—

Swiss Railway Electrification.

The Swiss Parliament has accepted a proposal to electrify the programme of electrification of the Federal Railways, which will be completed in 1925, instead of 1930.

The electrification of the Swiss Federal Railways is making good progress, and, so far, 257 miles, out of a total of 1,800, have been electrified. Electrically driven trains are now running on the Isella-Brig-Sion line (Simplon), Berne-Thun, Chiasso-Lucerne (St. Gotthard), Arth-Goldau-Zoug-Immensee-Rothkreuz, and Lucerne-Zurich lines. Work is steadily progressing on the Sion-Lausanne line, which will be ready at the end of this year; on the Lucerne-Basel, Thalwil-Richterswil and Lausanne-Yverdon sections, which will be ready in the course of 1924; next year work is to begin on the Zurich-Berne and Geneva-Remens lines, which will be electrified in 1925, so that, at that time, nearly 503 miles will be equipped with electricity. Contracts for the construction of 104 electric engines will be placed next year, and at the end of 1924 the Federal Railways will be in possession of 174 electric and 983 steam engines, against 124 and 1,063 respectively in 1923. The Railways Board has decided also to purchase a certain number of oil-driven or Diesel engines in order to make trials on the secondary lines.

The electric engines, which are being constructed in the Brown and Boveri (Baden) and Secheron (Geneva) works, have so far given excellent results. The recent trials made on the St. Gotthard lines show that the fastest train covers the distance from Zurich to Chiasso (151 miles) in 4 hrs. 37 min., compared with 5 hrs. 19 min. when steam engines were used.

Up to the end of 1922 Switzerland had expended £8,800,000 on electrification, of which £3,560,000 was for rolling stock; in 1923 expenditure will amount to £2,600,000, including £760,000 for rolling stock; and £2,800,000 (£1,000,000 on rolling stock) will be expended before the end of 1925, a total of £17,760,000.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

Not exceeding 3 lines.—Per insertion, 2/6; three insertions, 5/- Postage extra on replies addressed to *Swiss Observer*.

BOARD-RESIDENCE.—Single and Double Rooms, overlooking large gardens; use of drawing-room; every convenience; good cooking; very central; Swiss proprietor; terms from 2½ gns.—41, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.

SWISS FAMILY offers comfortable HOME to Swiss lady or gentleman; terms moderate.—Reply, "W.S." c/o. "Swiss Observer," 21, Garlick Hill, E.C.4.

HOME FOR GENTLEMAN: close Crouch End Station; tariff terms; references exchanged. — 28, Avenue Road, Highgate.

TO LET, Charming Bed-Sittingroom, newly dec. and furn., with breakfast, eventually full board, with Swiss family; half an hour from City; all conveniences; family life.—Write, "W.N." c/o. "Swiss Observer," 21, Garlick Hill, E.C.4.