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SWITZERLAND

LONDON, OCTOBER 20, 1923.

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 Bel-gians, the Italians, and the Spaniards, etc.; the latter suffer at the present moment, unfortunately, from the rate of exchange. The Transport Companies, especially the Moun-tain Railways and certain Navigation Companies (on the lakes of Geneva, Lucerne, Thun, and in other districts which were generally little fre-quented) say the rolling stock and boats were at times insufficient to cope with the rush of tou-rists. 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 Conton of Geneva Courted Suitardand 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 cer-tain places the hotels have been obliged to refuse toruster. tourists.

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 gene-rally little frequented up till now, on account of tourists into regions and districts which were gene-rally 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 (7,980 ft.) comfort-ably seated in powerful motor-cars. In. September the shooting season opened, and chamois stalking begins at Arosa, Celerina, Inter-laken, 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 foudre, a été doublé de soie blanche par des mains pieuses. Le Conseil d'Etat a décidé d'adresser une lettre

M. le conseiller administratif Stoessel, délégué a M. le conserver administrati Stoessel, delegue 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.)

(La Suisse.) Ein Kampf zwischen Adlern und Gemsen. — Im Alpsteingebiet 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 Adler-paar, das unermüdlich mit Flügelschlagen die alten Tiere auseinander zu treiben suchte, um sich so-dann 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 mach-ten, gelang es thnen nicht, die Phalanx zu durch-brechen und an die Jungen heranzukommen, und sie mussten den Kampf unverrichteter Dinge auff-geben. (Grenzpost.) geben. (Grenzpost.)

Nach Russland. — In Winterthur fand letzter Tage eine Versammlung von Leuten statt, die beabsich-tigen, nach Soviet-Russland auszuwandern und dort als kommunistische Bauern ein "sorgenfreies" Bolschewikdasein zu führen. Bekanntlich hatte seinerzeit der inzwischen wieder ins Ausland ver-schwundene Fritz Platten die Mission übernommen, Lowin schlen Schweigenznbeiter gustführen und sie schwindene Fritz Flatten die Alfsston überhöhmleh, 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 Sècheron, a été fixée à 4 heures de l'après-midi, le dimanche 21 octobre. Seront présents MM. Scheurer, président, Chuad, vice-président de la Confédération, le Conseil d'État



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et le Conseil administratif de la Ville, au complet, ainsi que tous les délégués à la conférence inter-nationale du traveil qui sera ouverte le lendemain au Casino municipal. Plusieurs discours seront pro-noncés, puis l'on entendra l'Harmonie nautique, sous la direction de M. Gabelles, et le Cercle choral, dirigé par M. Otto Wend, qui seront in-stallés sur le kiosque ambulant, prêté par la Ville. La Chorale municipale chantera notamment un "Hymne au travail." Un diper sera offert le soir par le président de

Un diner 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 variables in one's layure time when the Editor has 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 to Switzerland, and I, at least, find my work con-siderably, lightened thereby. Twowriter Magic: Machine onerated by Voice

Typewriter Magic: Machine operated by Voice. Daily News (5th' Oct.):

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 dic-tation. The inventor is Mr. Martín 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 coun-tries, 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 insurmount-able obstacle, because, especially in the English lan-guage, there are in some cases half a dozen different teter combinations for one single sound. "Finally, I found out a device by means of which he 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

de négocier dans les circonstances créées par le gouvernement français. "La note réfuté 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 diepuis le mois d'avril, et qu'à plusieurs reprises le Département politique a tenu à constater qu'el-les étaient bien en cours. Celui-ci a prévenu la france que la Chambre de commerce de Genève procédait 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 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 olitique, solution rejetée par le peuple suisse le

politique, solution rejetee par le peuple sueve -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 con-viendrait au gouvernement français. Il adresse à celui-ci nu pressant appel pour qu'il accepte ce moyen de conciliation si conforme à l'amitié tra-ditionnelle 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 Polytechnicum 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. Fo-The region 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

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HOME NEWS

Considerable surprise has been caused in Berne and Geneva 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 pro-posals. The Federal Council despatched last Tues-day a note to our Minister in Paris for presentation

day 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

"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 engage-ments contractés; mais aussi il établi que l'art. 435 n'a force de loi que dans la mesuro où elle l'a accepté. Il montre que tant que l'accord ne scara pas fait sur sa portée, les conversations ne sauraient aboutir à un résultat satisfaisant. Cet article est le nœud gardien de toute l'affaire; c'est pourquoi le Conseil fédéral ne peut pas accepter de négocier dans les circonstances créées par le gouvernement francais.

Considerable surprise has been caused in Berne

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 urning 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 wonder-

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

Notable Swiss Pictures,

Daily Telegraph (3rd Oct.):-

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 tove the compelling scenes around him has the advan-tage 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 glided with that "heavenly alchemy" of which Shakespeare wrote. To those and others the drawings and pictures by the Swiss arist Professor Hans Beat Wieland, now being shown in the Gieves 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 Pres-bytery at Grindelwald." and the vivid drawing 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 Lucrene. 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 Świss 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.):—

Morning Post (6th Oct.):--Why go to St. Moritz to enjoy the delicious trepi-dations 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-siver put the Cresta Run into the shade. Loaded with daring tobogganers. as it was, it skidded off the narrow track and landed with wonder-ful skill upon a narrow tree bridge. The planks bent, but stood the strain, and, true to bis 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.

noting 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 ! say more !

say more! Anent 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 imme-diate 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 inter-esting article in the *Manchester Guardian* (8th Oct.) on:

The League's Influence.

nn:-- **The League's Influence.** The League's Influence of Nations and the Fourth Assembly took place in Berne on October 5th in the System Senate. Owing to the extreme slowness of Swiss Parliamentary machinery, the Governmental report on the Third Assembly was formally the matter of dis-cussion, but in fact the debates principally dealt with the Fourth Assembly. The irather surprising that the last Assembly, which frained 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 opposi-tion to Switzerland's adhesion, the Conservative Coll Bruegger, who declared he could not assume respon-sibility for any action in favour of withdrawal from the Fourth Assembly, stated that he had always been sceptical as to the League, but now recog-mised that it opens the way towards improvement in international relations. Those who believed in the possibility of the development of the League of Nations ident at dongens must co-operate with League efforts, although knowing that progress could only be show. The Catholic Senator Raeber criticised those who undermine the League of Mota, declared her that arived at Geneva with great inner disquietude. He areturned, however, with a lightened heart. The League had rendered invaluable service to the cause of peace, and had furnished proof of its moral effi-

ciency. 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 op-posed 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 ab-staining. 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, Ständerat Raeber is entirely right To my mind, Ständerat Raeber is entirely right

To my mind, Standerat Raeber 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 "Raub-tier" organisation, now commonly called "civili-sation"! 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 Switzeriand 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 homogenous 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!

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 won-dering 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. Mótó-chati si the Sanskrit for "Mother "; they all call her that—met me on a wayside station between brought a small handcart (a sort of miniature hay-waggon) for my luggage. We packed it in, and trandled off along three kilometres of dusty by-road to the people was to meet under her roaf-roofs. I should say, or patch of sky, for we lived me a little about the people was to meet under her roaf-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. Mótó is the foundress and head-mistress. 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 in various chilets and cottages close by. These summer visitors ranged from the warden of a city settlement to a five-year-old elf of Italian-Brizilian perine bathing garment. Most of the party I met in he lake, for my hostess suggested a di 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 somersult dives were the subject of much danira-tion and envy. He proved to be the gardener. I swan 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 trile queer. You soon became one of the large family. It is or easy, really, if conventi

So the establishment yielded no bones for Médor,

of Brother Ox and Brother Sheep, as well as all human life. So the establishment yielded no bones for Mćdor, 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 charace of "getting at" Môtô heautifully, so we ar-ranged a mock trial of heg for wilful misfeeding of the dog, Médor. Wigs and gowns were produced from the charade cupboard; various rôles allotted: the hall arranged a mock trial of heg for wilful misfeeding of the dog. Médor. Wigs and gowns were produced from the charade cupboard; various rôles allotted: the hall arranged a 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 predigne, faintly resembling a stocky spaniel, with lemon replacing the usual liver colour, was really at St. Bern-ard, stunted by unnatural diet. Counsel for the defence, a Swiss lady of international reputation, plea-ded, in eloquent French with correct legal tags inter-woven, 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 evi-dence 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 prof-fered 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 motuh, 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 Môtô's foot, for one

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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 accelerate the programme of electrification of the Federal Railways, which will be completed in 1925, instead of

accelerate 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. Gothard), 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-Renes 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 1,068 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. Gothard 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 \$2,800,000 (£1,000,000 on rolling stock; will amount to \$2,800,000, (£

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