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HOME NEWS

The "Zachringen" bridge at Fribourg, which is replacing the famous suspension bridge erected in 1832-34, was officially opened to traffic last Sunday in the presence of Federal President Chuard. The new bridge, which is supported by seven pillars at a height of 48.5 metres above the level of the Sarine, was constructed by the Zurich firm of Züblin & Co. at a cost of two million francs.

The next Tir Fédéral (Eidg. Schützenfest) will probably be held in Lugano or Bellinzona.

The two Federal Chambers—the States Council and the National Council—will assemble for their winter session on December 1st, when they will elect a new President of the Confederation: the reconstitution of the Federal Tribunal will also come under consideration.

A history of the town of Arau in the Middle Ages, written by Dr. Walter Merz, is to be published by the municipality and distributed free of charge to all the citizens.

The well-known Lucerne lawyer and political agitator, Dr. Kramis, has been sentenced to four months' imprisonment for spreading false rumours and libelling high officials of the local courts.

Jakob Vogt, an elderly farmer of Rügenach (Aargau), was shot dead and robbed on Tuesday morning (Nov. 11th) when going to the market at Brugg. The murderer, a youth of 20, by trade a saddler, was arrested at Lucerne a few days later; he has confessed to another similar crime committed recently in Summiswald.

EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

Augmentation du coût de la vie.—Après la famine, puis les pâtes alimentaires, tout renchérit et le chiffre index qui était de 171,8 au début d'octobre a passé à 174,7 au début de novembre. Et nous ne sommes qu'à début de l'hiver. Les salariés modestes ont des budgets de plus en plus serrés. Les achats d'automne indispensables ne peuvent être faits. On achète au détail combustible et pommes de terre alors que l'achat en gros est impossible parce que les fonds manquent—permettrait quelques économies. Le coût de la vie augmente, les salaires sont stationnaires ou diminuent. Seuls les banquiers ont la partie belle et peuvent augmenter sans cesse leurs revenus par des placements avantageux.

Sait-on que l'emprunt allemand — tranche suisse — vient d'être couvert 108 fois par les souscripteurs? — Mais il s'agissait d'une affaire rapportant du 8%.

(*La Travail*)

Une nouvelle cabane.—L'Hôtel Weismies, bien connu des alpinistes qui ont excursionné dans la vallée de Saas, de propriété particulière qu'il était, passe en mains du Club alpin suisse. Racheté par la section d'Olten, ce petit hôtel sera transformé en une cabane pouvant contenir une quarantaine de clubistes. Il sera fort apprécié. (*La Suisse*)

Les fêtes.—On a compté qu'il y a eu, en Suisse, cette année, 230 fêtes de grande envergure, (47 de gymnastique, 32 de tir, 25 de lutte, 21 de chant, 20 de musique, 29 courses et concours hippiques, etc.), et cinq cents fêtes de moindre importance. (*La Patrie Suisse*)

Das Fräulein Pfarrer in der Kirche Bözberg.—Am Sonntag, den 19. Oktober, war in der Kirche Bözberg etwas Seltsames zu sehen, was jung und alt aus der Kirchengemeinde zusammenführte. Nämlich: ein Fräulein auf der Kanzel. Fräulein Mathilde Merz, Tochter des verstorbenen Herrn Merz, Turnlehrer in Bern, welche diesen Herbst das theologische Staatsexamen bestanden hat, hielt in dertöter Kirche eine Predigt. Ergreifend war diese mit grosser Begeisterung vorgebrachte Predigt, welcher allgemeines Lob gespendet wurde. Die Musikgesellschaft Bözberg brachte am Nachmittag den Fräulein Pfarrer zu Ehren ein flottes Ständchen. (St. Galler Stadt-Ztg.)

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KYBURG."

The General Election.

It is, perhaps, somewhat late in the day to refer to the Parliamentary Elections this country has just emerged from. Nevertheless, there are one or two reflections which I should like to put before my readers.

Discussing the elections with a Tory friend of mine recently, I told him of the very high prestige Mr. Ramsay MacDonald had in Switzerland, chiefly owing to his attitude towards Universal Peace. My friend retorted, "m'yès, of course; he did make a fine speech at Geneva, but that was about all, and it's deeds, not words, that count."

Personally, I am of totally different opinion. To my mind, words are the great force which has at all times moved Civilisation onwards, and *deeds*, for the most part, have been the brakes which have hindered that onward movement, even while anxious to further it. Think of Christ, Mohamed, and the other religious leaders, think of J. J. Rousseau, Robespierre, Marx, Lenin, think of President Wilson! Were not those who did the deeds, after the words had been spoken by others, less important? And so, I think, we ought to be grateful to the British Labour Party, and especially to their leader, Ramsay MacDonald, for the words he has given to the world, and which have at least shown the goal towards which Europe and the whole world will have to travel if Peace is to be brought about. And, as for the *deeds* of the late Labour Government, I can think of no finer epitaph than the old Latin tag we had to learn at school: "Ut desint vires, tamen est laudanda voluntas!" which means, "Although the strength may fail, let us praise the will!"

Death of a Famous Priest-Scientist.

Catholic Herald (8th Nov.):—

The death has taken place of Fr. Gabriel Micei, O.S.B., the librarian of the celebrated Library of Einsiedeln Abbey, Switzerland.—R.I.P.

Deceased, who was aged 80, was ordained in 1870 and began his sacerdotal career as a parish priest. In 1878 Abbot Basil Oberholzer offered him the post of librarian of the vast Abbey Library, and he held this appointment for forty years.

As the fruits of his labour he published many books on science. He also compiled "The Catalogue of the Manuscripts and Codices of the Library of the Monastery of Einsiedeln," in addition to books on St. Benedict, St. Bernard, and other writers of the Middle Ages. The editors of various encyclopedias also owed much to his collaboration.

The late Prof. Dr. J. Fr. Schär's "Co-operative Confession of Faith."

The *Millgate Monthly* (November issue) publishes a translation of an article by Ulrich Meyer on "The Grand Old Man of the Swiss Co-operative Movement," and I think the following passage will interest many readers:—

... His co-operative confession of faith, to which he gave expression in 1916, when the Union of Swiss Consumers' Societies celebrated the jubilee of its twenty-five years' existence, faithfully reflects his conviction; and we cannot think of a better close to this short sketch than his own words: "It is a great happiness when one as an older man, in the evening of his life, still has faith in the victorious power of his ideal, and can foresee the realisation of that on which he has built his life and his strength. I believe the triumphant power of the organisation of consumers is greater than all the capitalistic concentration in trusts, rings, and syndicates. I believe in the great mission which, by self-help and through the organisation of their strength as consumers, the great mass of the people has to fulfil. The production of wealth is the economic, and the right distribution of it the social, problem; the solution of both problems is the task of the organisation of consumers in free co-operative societies."

Since then this utterance has been translated into Italian, and is now perpetuated in the Palace of the "Unione Cooperativa" in Milan

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(The Co-operative Society of Milan) in letters of gold on a marble tablet. It is indeed a worthy motto for the whole Co-operative Movement. And it certainly embraces a programme the realisation of which all of us must make it our aim.

German Tourists in Switzerland.

Various newspapers have published the news that German tourists presented Switzerland with some £2,000,000 during the past season. I can believe that to be quite true. At Lugano, in September, certainly 90 per cent. of all visitors were German. Now, according to the papers, the Committee for the Assistance of Poor Children has decided to suspend its aid so far as Germany is concerned, as a protest against the luxury displayed by German tourists in Switzerland. It is a mad world, my masters! I should have thought that our people in Switzerland might have devoted some of the £2,000,000 left by the Germans to extend the aid given to German children and others. I know, of course, that those two millions went into the pockets of the hotel-keepers. But surely, Switzerland is richer by the greater part of two million pounds all the same, owing to the display of luxury by the German tourists, and therefore it seems madness to me to punish the little children who, I should think, have not been guilty of displaying luxury. Why not put a heavy tax on German tourists, or make them contribute towards the keep and the aid of the German children? That would be more sensible than make the little ones suffer for something they are not connected with at all. And how complacently people read such "protests" and self-righteously think to themselves, "Serve them right, that will show them!" Oh, what true Christians we are, and how the Lord, who called the little children to Him, must be pleased when He notices that "protest"!

Helping Swiss Immigrants to settle in Canada.

The Times (6th Nov.):—

An organization, embracing nearly 100 representative Canadians, has been completed, with the object of promoting the successful establishment of Swiss settlers in Canada.

During 1923, 1,400 Swiss came to the Dominion. They were assisted by the Swiss Government, with which the Canadian Department of Colonization heartily co-operated. Most of these settlers were persuaded to work for a year on Canadian farms, and many are now ready to take up homesteads themselves.

The new organization draws its support from payments for services rendered to the owners' land on which settlers are established, from fees of members, and voluntary contributions.

Swiss-German Trade Protocol.

Financial News (11th Nov.):—

As a result of German-Swiss trade negotiations, a protocol has been agreed upon, whereby Switzerland withdraws import restrictions before next October, while Germany promises to cancel import port prohibition.

Winter Sports.

Readers will remember that we published a great number of articles last year, all dealing with various aspects of Winter Sport in Switzerland. The experience then gained made us pass a solemn resolution that this season we would do nothing of the sort. The strain on our nerves is far too great. Sitting in foggy old London, unable to pronounce most consonants owing to perpetual cold in the head, hard put to it to find the money for buying more and more handkerchiefs for drying our fog-irritated eyes, initial, and, after a full day's work in town, facing the prospect of sitting for hours in a fog-bound train, with the carriage unheated—these considerations make it impossible for us to read, much less to comment upon, articles dealing with the glories of winter sport. We hope, our readers will understand. Of course, we intend to keep them *au fait* should anything especially exciting happen. For the moment we refer them to the special winter sports number of "The Bystander." The *Sunday Times* (Nov. 9th) commented upon that number as follows:

To anyone who has visited Switzerland during the winter the special winter sports number of the "Bystander," just published, will come as a pleasant surprise. Pleasant—because of the beauty of its production in colour and black-and-white. As a surprise—because of the novel and very exhaustive way in which the subject has been approached.

Our lively contemporary has always presented everything from a new angle, a system that must have been many times rather difficult to adhere to. In this issue especially the subject of winter

sports has been dealt with in a light and amusing way, coupled with obvious knowledge of each branch of the many winter activities of the different centres.

To those fortunate ones who have experienced the delights of a winter holiday amid the snow and sunshine of the Alps it will be at once obvious that every drawing has been made, and every article written, actually on the spot—as, indeed, they have been.

EIN BESUCH IN SOMEO.

Ein wundervoller Herbsttag, am Morgen frisch, tagsüber fast sommerlich warm, lud so recht zu einem Besuch des am 24. September so schwer heimgesuchten Dorfes Someo ein. Bereits in Locarno zeigte eine nicht gewöhnliche Frequenz des Maggia- und Centovallitzuges an, dass auch andere Leute als nur Ihr Berichterstatter Someo als Ziel gewählt hatten. Bis Ponte Brolla elektrische Traktion. Die Komposition des Maggialitzuges wird abgehängt und erhält von hier an Dampfbetrieb bis nach Bigmasco.

Längs der Bahlinie lassen sich die Spuren der Schreckenstage heute noch erkennen. Wohl fließt der Maggiafluss ruhig dem "Verban" zu, doch zeigen mancherorts rote Striche an den Felsufern die Höhe des Hochwasserstandes vom 24. September an. Bei der Einmündung des Kanals für das Elektrizitätswerk in Ponte Brolla, das neben der Licht- und Kraftversorgung der Stadt Locarno und der umliegenden Gemeinden auch die Energie für die elektrische Traktion der Maggia- und Centovallitbahnen liefert, ist man im Flusbett mit der Erstellung einer provisorischen Staumauer beschäftigt, um den Einlauf des Wassers in den Kanal zu begünstigen. Oberhalb von Avegno wird ein fortgeschwemmter Holzsteg, von welchem noch einige Holzstücke aus dem Wasser ragen, durch einen neuen ersetzt, um eine Verbindung der beiden Ufer für Fußgänger zu ermöglichen. Trotzdem das fast ebene Flussbett der Maggia stellenweise so breit ist, wie der Rhein bei Basel, so weisen versandete Felder darauf hin, dass selbst diese Flussbreiten die Wasser nicht zu fassen vermochten, die im Verlauf von wenigen Tagen von den kahlen Berghängen herriederauschten. Nach circa fünftausendstündiger Fahrt nähern wir uns Someo.

Geleiserreste zeigen uns, wo die frühere Station stand. Sie verlieren sich in Schutt- und Steinmassen. Um den Betrieb der Bahn baldmöglichst wieder aufzunehmen zu können, hat man ein neues Geleise mit einer kleinen Kurve erstellt. Kurz vor dem provisorischen Stationsgebäude, einer Holzbaracke, ist eine hölzerne Notbrücke über das mit Schutt meterhoch aufgefüllte Bachbett erstellt worden.

Treppenstieg ist der Aufstieg von der Station ins Dorf Someo. Ueberall, wohin man blickt, Felsen und Schuttmassen. Selbst heute noch, nach bald zwei Monaten, ist der Anblick dieser Schuttmassen ein überwältigender. Beim Bahnhofrestaurant hat man mit der Erstellung einer soliden Schutzmauer begonnen. Grosse Steinblöcke werden hiezu gesprengt und zerkleinert. Gegen die Strasse, die das Dorf durchschneidet, begegnet man Gruppen von Freiwilligen, die stramm und wacker mit grossem Eifer arbeiten. Bärtige Männer mit jungen Leuten Schulter an Schulter, ein Symbol der Opferfreudigkeit. Von der Kirche am Dorfeingang bis gegen das Stationsgebäude ist ein Rollbahngleise gelegt. In eisernen Kippwagen wird das aufgeladene Material an die bestimmten Abladeplätze gestossen.

Beim beschädigten Gemeindeinhaus ist die Küche für die Freiwilligen installiert. Wir haben ihr einen Besuch abgestattet und dabei zu unserer Freude konstatiert, dass das Personal mit Umsicht und Geschick seinen Obliegenheiten genügt. Das nahezu fertig bereite Nachtessen duftete herrlich und einladend. Es ist keine kleine Aufgabe, die Verpflegung der Mannschaft — es sind heute genau 100 Mann — in den etwas beschränkten Räumlichkeiten herzustellen, muss doch noch ein Teil der Küche für die Besucher reserviert bleiben, die hier Ansichtskarten kaufen können und nebenbei noch Gelegenheit haben, durch diskretes Einlegen eines Obolus an die Verpflegungskosten der Mannschaft etwas beizutragen.

Neben dem "Ricovero" steht das geräumige Haus des in Californien weilenden Tognazzini Germano. Obschon hauptsächlich der bergwärts liegende Teil des Hauses stark beschädigt ist, gelangt man mit Leichtigkeit direkt in das erste Stockwerk, so hoch liegt der Schutt zwischen dem Haus und dem Ricovero. Vor dem Haus ist man emsig mit der Wegräumung des meterhohen Schutt beschäftigt. Noch hängen Tüllvorhänge hinter den offenen Fenstern; ihr unterer Teil ist von den Erdmassen allerdings sehr beschmutzt.

In diesem Hause Tognazzini befinden sich die Unterkunftsräumlichkeiten der Freiwilligen. Im Korridor sind die Tagesbefehle aufgehängt. Eine statistische Darstellung gibt genaue Auskunft über den Mannschaftsbestand, der, wie bereits erwähnt, heute 100 Mann beträgt. In den Zimmern sind zwei Lagen Stroh, dazu für jeden Mann eine genügende Anzahl Wolldecken. Noch heute vormittag war der Schreiner mit der Instandstellung von Türen und Fenstern beschäftigt; als gegen Mittag durch die Sprengung grossen Felsblöcke vor dem

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Längs der Strasse findet sich keine Spur von den einstigen Gärten mehr. Schöne schmale leise Geländer sind total zerissen und verbogen. Ein Stück eines solchen Geländers ist rund um den Stamm einer Tanne geschnitten, als ob es Massarbeit des Schlossers gewesen wäre. Ueberall, wo mit der Wegräumung des Schutt-Holz, sei es von Bäumen, oder Überreste von Mobiliar, gefunden wird, wird es zu Haufen aufgeschichtet. Ansehnliche Haufen bestehen jetzt schon, und immer wird neues Material zugeführt.

Um den Verkehr mit dem unversehrt gebliebenen Teil des Dorfes herzustellen, ist eine solide hölzerne Brücke erstellt worden. Rechts davon ist eine Feldschmiede in Tätigkeit, um die Werkzeuge wieder in Stand zu stellen.

Sofern das Wetter noch längere Zeit günstig bleibt, so ist damit zu rechnen, dass bis zum Einbruch des Winters die Aufräumungsarbeiten derartige Fortschritte machen werden, dass im Frühjahr an den Wiederaufbau von Someo gedacht werden kann. (Nat-Ztg.)

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

Another of the old-established small Swiss Banks disappears through the absorption of the Leihkasse Meilen-Herrliberg by the Banque Populaire Suisse. The Leihkasse was founded in 1866 and had a capital of Frs. 400,000. The finances of this bank were in an entirely sound condition, and the Banque Populaire had for many years stood in friendly business relations with the Meilen concern.

An interesting new establishment has been created in Geneva under the style "Société Financière Suisse et Scandinave," with a share capital of Frs. 1,000,000. The directors include Mr. Henri Schreiber, who was formerly Swiss Minister in Stockholm, Colonel de Marval, and Mr. Carl Frick, of Stockholm. At the same time a corresponding company is being formed in Stockholm, of which Mr. Frick is one of the directors. The object of these two companies, which will work in close conjunction, is to interest Swiss circles in Swedish business, and especially to introduce Swiss securities on the Swedish Stock Exchanges.

The Federal Customs receipts for the month of October amounted to a total of Frs. 18,829,000, an increase of some Frs. 350,000 as compared with the figures for the corresponding month last year. For the present year up to date, that is, up to the end of October, the total revenue coming in from this source was Frs. 155,290,000, an improvement of six millions on the corresponding 1923 figures.

The financial requirements of the Swiss Federal Railways for electrification work, to be carried out during 1925, are estimated at Frs. 193,000,000, and it is proposed to provide this sum, in the first place, by the issue of three-months Treasury Bills, to be discounted by the National Bank. In the Spring of next year it is expected that a large railway loan will be issued, the proceeds of which will be applied to the redemption of the floating debt.

Subscriptions to the 5½% loan recently issued by the Mortgage Bank of the Canton of Berne, to which reference was made in these columns on the 8th instant, have come in so freely that it is now understood, allotments will only be possible on a 4 per cent. basis. The excellence of the security offered and the favourable terms were sufficient to ensure a speedy over-subscription.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

BONDS.	Nom.	Nov. 11	Nov. 18
	Frs.	Frs.	Frs.
Swiss Confederation 3% 1903	...	73.50%	74.75%
Swiss Confederation 5% 1923	...	98.80%	99.00%
Federal Railways A—K 3½%	...	77.80%	78.57%
Canton Basle-Stadt 5½% 1921	...	100.65%	100.50%
Canton Fribourg 3½% 1892...	...	69.50%	70.25%
SHARES.	Nom.	Nov. 11	Nov. 18
	Frs.	Frs.	Frs.
Swiss Bank Corporation	500	661	661
Crédit Suisse	500	690	701
Union de Banques Suisses	500	555	551
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	3080	3090
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	1935	1907
C. F. Bally S.A.	1000	1160	1165
Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon...	500	606	608
Entreprises Sulzer ...	1000	640	667
S.A. Brown Bovier (new) ...	500	290	288
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond.Mk. Co.	200	197	200
Choc. Suisses Peter-Cailler-Kohler	100	145	157
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman	500	500	500

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