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 $\begin{array}{c} \textbf{UNITED KINGDOM} \\ \textbf{AND COLONIES} \end{array} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} 3 \\ 6 \\ 12 \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} 3 \\ (26) \\ (26$ SWITZERLAND

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HOME NEWS

As from April 1st no further subsidies will be granted by the Confederation for the provision of relief work for the unemployed; it is stated that their continuation is incompatible with the finan-cial position of the State, and retards the return of normal conditions in the economic life of the country. * * *

During the last ten years the indebtedness of the Confederation, Cantons and Communes has in-creased about fourfold, and amounts now to some 6.5 milliard francs, or Frs. 1/666 per head of the population. The interest charge absorbs about 325 million francs, or 83 francs per inhabitant ***

*** Last year about half-a-million francs were granted to young emigrants in order to facilitate their start in foreign countries; for this year the Federal Council has withdrawn this valuable encouragement.

In reply to a motion, drawing attention to the fact that in certain frontier districts, especially Basle and Geneva, foreign letters and printed matter are posted outside Switzerland, the Federal Council states that it is unable to stop this un-patriotic practice which is depriving the Swiss Post Office of considerable sums.

The accounts for 1923 of the Canton Glaris close with a surplus of Frs. 119,471, against an anticipated deficit of over Frs. 400,000.

Amongst the penalties, enacted by a divisional court sitting at Solothurn, is one of ten days' imprisonment against an infantryman for wearing army trousers unlawfully.

The proposed ratification of the Opium Convention is meeting with some opposition from the cantons of Basle, Zurich and Neuchâtel on various grounds, constitutional and legal.

Towards the reconstruction of the Furka road, which has recently been damaged by avalanches, the Confederation will contribute 50,000 francs.

*** Surprised by a heavy snowdrift, several mem-bers of a ski-ing party were buried on the Rauti-alp (Glaris), one of them, Mr. Albert Jenny, of Ennenda (Zurich), being unable to extricate him-self. A search party subsequently recovered his body. body * * *

Three months' detention and a fine is the penalty incurred by a Bernese business man, Mr. A. Orn-stein, for having, some months ago, run over and killed through careless driving a local dentist, Mr. Huber.

For defamation of character, Mr. Georges Oltra-mare has been sentenced to a fine of 200 francs. Mr. Oltramare --commonly called Geo.---is a satirical Mr. Oltramare.-commonly called Geo.—is a satirical writer and editor of a weekly publication, entitled "Pilori," in which he exposes and criticises the shortcomings of public institutions and politicians, especially when the latter belong to the Jewish faith. The plaintif in the case was National Coun-cillor Dicker, a Genevese advocate and leader of the local Social Democrats; born in Russia and naturalized a few years ago, he will be best remem-bered as representing the civil party in the Conradi trial.

PASSPORTS AND IDENTITY BOOKS.

The election manifesto of Mr. J. Scott-Duckers, the Liberal candidate for the Abbey Division of Westminster, contains the following reference which may raise the hopes—not too highly, we suggest— of the many globe-trotters who justly resent the present restrictions and formalities:—

"As a believer in liberty and freedom, I am totally opposed to the vexatious restrictions upon shopkeepers and caterers which are a legacy of the war. I will give my fullest support to their entire abolition, as well as to the *removal* of other war-time vexations, such as *Passports* and *Identity Books* in the case of all persons of known respectability and good character."

EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

Artillerie ancienne. — Grâce aux démarches faites par M. Bujard, chef du département militaire, la Confédération a cédé à l'Etat de Vaud les deux grandes pièces d'artillerie qui étaient placées au sommet des forts de Dailly et qui viennent d'être décomarches désaffectées.

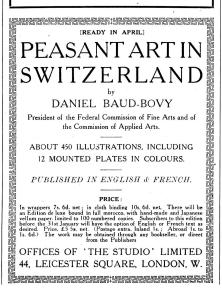
désaffectées. Ces deux canons, qui sont les plus longues pièces à feu de l'artillerie suisse, sortent des usines Krupp et mesurent 3 m. 66 de longueur et 10,5 cm. de diamètre. Elles datent de 1881 et sont de con-struction identique à celle des canons de 12 cm. Elles furent d'abord placées à l'arsenal de Lucerne, puis amenées en 1896 à Dailly où elles ont été en service jusqu'à l'an dernier. Construites pour la poudre noire, elles ont cependant donné d'excellents résultats avec la poudre blanche. Avec les obus elles portaient au delà de 10 kilomètres et avec les shrapnels au delà de 8 kilomètres. Chaque pièce a tiré jusqu'à maintenant 3000 coups. Le

les shrapnels au delà de 8 kilomètres. Chaque pièce a tiré jusqu'à maintenant 3000 coups. Le poids du projectile était de 16 kg. Ces deux grandes pièces à affut sur roues seront placées devant le château de Morges à côté de deux canons de bronze du XVIIIe siècle, avec lesquels elles formeront les plus beaux ornements de notre Musée militaire. (La Revue.)

Eine Vergesslichkeits-Statistik. - Die Wach- und Eine Vergesslichkeits-Statistik. — Die Wach- und Schliessgesellschaft veröffentlicht eine kleine Sta-tistik bei deren Lektüre man sich kopfschüttelnd fragt, wie so nicht noch mehr Diebstähle vor-kommen. Offenbar gibt es eben doch noch mehr ehrliche Leute als man aus dem Gejammer der Moralisten annehmen könnte. Die Wächter der Gesellschaft fanden in einem Jahr in der Schweiz auf ihren nächtlichen Runden: 18,409 Haustüren, 1,492 Kellertüren, 8,561 Gärten, 1,551 Stalltürent, 3,391 Geschäftstüren, 3,764 Magazintüren, 3,208

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL SWISS SAMPLES FAIR WILL BE HELD AT BASLE 17th to 27th May, 1924. For information apply to: The Commercial Division of the Swiss Legation, 32, Queen Anne Street, W. 1, or to: The Swiss Bank Corporation, 43, Lothbury, E.C. 2 and at Basle. A special conducted party will be arranged by the Swiss Observer to leave London on Saturday, May 17th.

Other travelling facilities may be obtained from the *Swiss Federal Railways*, 11b, Regent Street, S.W. 1.



div. innere Türen, 847 Verandas, 5,637 Fenster, 2,605 Roll-Läden und 81 Kassenschränke geöffnet. Ausserdem 3,310 steckengebliebene Schlüssel und 612 im Freien gebliebene Sachen. Wenn man dann weiter liest, dass die Securitas-wächter 333 gefundene Sachen abgaben und 18,578 brennende Lichter löschten, 303 offene Wasserhähne und 116. Gerbähnen schlörenen missten so kommt

und 116 Gashähne schliessen mussten, so kommt man zum Schluss, dass Zerstreutheit und Vergess-lichkeit längst nicht mehr das Vorrecht von Ge-lehrten und Professoren ist. (*Basler National-Zig.*)

NOTES AND GLEANINGS. By "KIBURG.

Broadcasting on the Alps

Broadcasting on the Alps. The Star (5th March):— The Star (5th March):— The Swiss Alpine Club has been enlisting the aid of "broadcasting" in its life-saving work on the mountains. Small receiving stations have been established in the club chalets and the Alpinist centres, for the purpose of receiving calls for help from those in trouble in the wild. Tiny portable receiving and dispatch sets are being used by tourists. As the distances to be covered are never great when measured in an air line, weak currents are satisfactory. Observations on Mart Plane

Observatories on Mont Blanc.

The Times (4th March):-

The Times (4th March):— I am pretty certain that the following article will greatly interest a number of our Swiss readers. Mont Blanc is a tragic mountain, for no fewer than 80 fatal accidents, largely due to avalanches and storms, have occurred to climbers, guides, scientists and others in its ascent or descent, and of the four observatories which have been buried in snow or destroyed. The fact of its supreme height in Europe, 15,782 ft., has proved very tempting to scientists for the carrying out observations in the higher reaches of the atmosphere, and it is satisfactory that one of these observatories, that of M. Joseph Vallot on the Rocher des Bosses, 14,312 ft. Joseph Vallot on the Rocher des Bosses, 14,312 ft. Joseph Vallot on the Rocher des Bosses, 14,312 ft. Joseph Vallot on the Rocher des Bosses, 14,312 ft. Joseph Vallot on the Rocher des Bosses, 14,312 ft. Joseph Vallot on the Rocher des Bosses, on the writer's ascent of the mountain lovers and climbers is presence was little short of sacrliege, and it is a satisfaction to know that the pure white dome of snow, only large enough to accommodate two or three ropes' of climbers, is now unsulled and free. — On the writer's ascent of the mountain hast August he was much interested, out while M. Vallot has so generously erected adjoining his observatory, to see lying on ine of Dr. Jansen's summit observatory. The debris of the famous observatory, and that it had such in the unfathomable snow of the summit, worked the doris of the famous observatory, and that it had sink in the unfathomable snow of the summit, worked the doris of the famous observatory was the considering his great age, and also to M. Paul Cupelin, the chief Guide of the Chamonix community of guides, the true story is briefly related in this artic. — Are more romanic spries were current, it ap-tic record of the true facts, and, thanks to the most indicate of making scientific experiments. M. Vallot, house the assistance of 110 guides, constructed his