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Where are you going to-day? To Herne Hill, for the Swiss Sports, of course!

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HOME NEWS

According to figures published by the Swiss Federal Railways, the sale of tourist tickets has shown a notable increase during the twelve months ending December 31st, 1924. The foreign agencies have all done well, and London easily heads the list with a ticket value of 4.9 million francs, an increase of more than 20 per cent. over the 1923 returns.

The gross receipts of the Swiss Federal Railways show for the last few months a diminution as compared with the figures for the previous year. This is due to reduced goods traffic for the home trade and to the fact that the transit trade between Western and Eastern Europe is gradually returning to the shorter German route.

A lengthy discussion developed in the Grosse Rat of Berne on the measures to be taken in order to counteract the admitted emigration of industrial concerns and factories; the question is to be seriously considered by the authorities. High taxation is said to be the cause of the flight of capital and industry.

Though the Bernese finances are in anything but a flourishing state, the municipality is spending Frs. 27,500 for the erection of a ladies' sun-bathing establishment. A motion to study the introduction of compulsory health insurance was negatived on the ground of economy.

Leave of absence has been granted to Mr. Häusermann, General Inspector of Swiss Customs, who has been asked by the Government of Columbia to attend as an expert the reorganisation of that country's Customs system. Mr. Häusermann has already left for Bogota, where he will probably stay till the end of the year.

States Councillor Zumbühl, from Wiesenbergs (Stans), who was recently elected by the Landsgemeinde to represent his canton at the Federal States Council, has been the victim of an act of political revenge; the windows, furniture and dairy appliances of his farmhouse were partly destroyed by political opponents.

At a numerously attended delegates' meeting of the Schweiz. Schützenverein, held at Aarau last Sunday, Col. Schweighauser, of Berne, was elected Central President; the next Tir Fédéral (Schweiz. Schützenfest) has been fixed to take place in 1929.

The hospice on the Great St. Bernhard is to be turned into a hotel. It is stated that the charitable disposition of the well-known monks is being abused by the many cyclists and motorists crossing the pass; the proverbial hospitality is now to be placed on a more equitable basis.

During the aviation meeting at Basle, which took place last week-end, a farm hand, who was somewhat belated in cutting the grass on one of the adjoining fields, was caught by the propeller of an aeroplane and literally smashed. This is the first accident which has happened since the opening of this aerodrome.

During a joint excursion on the Brümelstock (Wäggital), arranged by the Alpine Club of Baden and the Ladies' Alpine Club of Zurich, a large rock suddenly became detached when Hans Remond, from Lachen, was assisting a colleague to climb across; both rolled down the slope, Remond succumbing to a fractured skull, whilst his friend, Fischer, from Baden, escaped death, though seriously injured.

A Zurich motorist who, when driving at an excessive speed, lost control of his car at a road turning, thereby causing the death of one of the

occupants and seriously injuring two others, was condemned by the Winterthur courts to two months imprisonment.

A serious accident happened on the road near Brugg. A private car collided with the rear of a dray carrying timber, and one of the occupants, Mrs. Fischer-Bohrer, from Basle, had her chest smashed by one of the logs, causing instantaneous death.

EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

Les déboirs des communistes suisses en Soviétique. — Nous avons parlé, il y a quelque temps, en citant une nouvelle partie dans un journal zuricgeois, du triste sort des colons suisses partis en 1923 pour la Russie sous la conduite du camarade Platten. Les "Communications périodiques des Suisses de Russie" publient dans leur dernier numéro le récit de deux réscapés revenus au pays dans un état de complet dénuement; ils fournissent des détails intéressants sur l'expédition manquée.

Le premier convoi arriva à destination en octobre 1923, mais ce n'est qu'au début de 1924 que les fondateurs de la colonie coopérative *Nova Lava* purent entrer dans les maisons qu'on avait mises à leur disposition et où tout était à refaire. Bien qu'ayant à leur tête un comité administratif et même un président qui, dès le départ de Suisse, les avait soumis à une stricte discipline, ils durent s'apercevoir bientôt que rien n'avait été préparé: les maisons étaient inhabitables et les terres qu'on finit par leur céder de seconde qualité.

Aussitôt après leur arrivée, les vivres furent rationnés: 800 grammes de pain, des pois, des lentilles, du thé: point de lait. Au lieu de la journée de huit heures que Platten avait fait entrevoir, c'est 12 à 14 heures de travail qu'on imposa aux membres de la "coopérative." Dans celle-ci, d'ailleurs, seulement les personnes qui au départ avaient versé une forte cotisation avaient voix au chapitre. Leur incomptérence en matière agricole acheva la ruine de l'entreprise.

Les fonds étant épuisés, il fallut recourir à des emprunts. C'est ainsi que Platten emprunta 15,000 francs à l'Office ouvrier international (on ignore les conditions de cette opération). Plus tard, les soviets accordèrent 5000 roubles-or au taux de 12%. Cet argent suffit à peine pour les travaux de reconstruction les plus nécessaires; pour obtenir des vivres, il fallut engager le matériel.

La mauvaise récolte de 1924 mit le comble au mécontentement des colons, victimes de leur crédulité. Il y eut dans les réunions des scènes orgueuses, voire même des coups. Platten — inspirateur de l'entreprise — n'y fit d'ailleurs que de rares apparitions: la plupart du temps, il se trouve absent — en voyage d'affaires.

Plusieurs colons ont quitté *Nova Lava* pour la Sibérie, où, loin du centre communiste, ils espèrent trouver des conditions plus propices à la colonisation. D'autres, plus découragés encore qu'eux, ont, comme les auteurs du récit des "Communications périodiques," vendu tout ce qui leur restait pour entrer en Suisse. (*Journal de Genève*)

Hundertjährig. — Der älteste Bürger der Stadt Solothurn, alt Uhrmacher und Uhrenhändler Jakob Gunzinger, feierte am 9. d. Mts. in körperlicher und geistiger Frische seinen 100. Geburtstag. Die Regierung und der Gemeinderat von Solothurn ließen ihm ein Glückwunscheschreiben und Blumensträuße überreichen. (Bund.)

Die Hallwil-Stiftung. — Der Bundesrat hat einer von der Gräfin Wilhelmine von Hallwil in Stockholm mit einem Kapitalvermögen von 75,000 Fr. errichteten Stiftung die Genehmigung erteilt. Bestimmt ist die Stiftung in erster Linie zur Pflege der dem Landesmuseum durch einen früheren Schenkungsvertrag überwiesenen Hallwil-Sammlung. Soweit die Erträge der allmählich auf mindestens 100,000 Franken zu aufnehmenden Stiftung es gestatten, soll die Stiftung ferner zur Förderung schweizerischer historischer Bestrebungen dienen. An die Stiftung ist die Bedingung geknüpft, dass die Hallwil-Sammlung dauernd in einem bestimmten Saal des Landesmuseums zu belassen sei und stets für gehörige Pflege und Überwachung der Sammlung gesorgt werde.

(*Neues Winterthurer Tagblatt*).

Vom Hohentwiel. — Am 2. Mai waren es 125 Jahre, dass die Festung Hohentwiel von den Franzosen zerstört wurde. Sie kamen in der Stärke von 11,000 Mann unter General Lecourbe über den Rhein bei Schaffhausen und Stein. Die Besatzung des Twils betrug nur 87 Mann. Der Kommandant, General von Biffinger, war 69 Jahre alt, die Festungswerke in sehr verwahrlostem Zustand. Durch Ueberredung gelang der Abschluss der Kapitulation, und trotz ehrenwürdiger Versicherung, dass die Festung im gleichen Zustande gelassen werde, ordnete Napoleon aus höheren Rücksichten die Schleifung an. Die Hegaubauern waren befriedigt, dass einmal diesem Raubnest ein Ende bereitet werde. Sie halfen mit abbrechen und fuhren monatelang täglich mit beladenen Wagen von Holz, Tür- und Fenstergesimsen nach Hause. Gusseiserne schöne Oeven stehen heute noch in mehreren Wirtshäusern, so z. B. in Hilzingen u. Krone, in Weiterdingen in der "Krone" und "Adler," ebenso in Duthlingen.

(*Schaffhauser Tagblatt*).

Ein eigenartiger Unfall. — Als ein Bauer in Aletschwil bei Regenwetter mit seinem Graswagen dicht an der Transformatorenstation vorbeiführte, sank plötzlich eines seiner beiden Pferde wiehernd und zitternd nieder und verendete nach wenigen Minuten. Auch der andere Gaul fing zu zittern an. Er konnte aber durch schnelle Ausspannen gerettet werden. Der durchnässte Boden war mit Elektrizität geladen und wäre auch dem Fuhrmann bald zum Verhängnis geworden. Ein Defekt im Dorfleitungsnetz soll die Ursache der Erscheinung gewesen sein. (*Aargauer Tagblatt*).

Gegen das Auswerfen von Zuckerzeug bei Hochzeitsfahrten. — hat der Gemeinderat von Rheineck ein Verbot erlassen. Derselbe begründet diese Verfügung folgendermassen: "Es handelt sich darum, Stellung zu nehmen gegen die eingerissene üble Gewohnheit anlässlich von Hochzeitsfahrten, an welchen die Teilnehmer den Kindern Zuckerzeug und etwa auch Kleingeld auszuwerfen pflegen. Der dadurch entstehende Auflauf unter den ganz kleinen und aber auch schulpflichtigen Kindern gefährdet den herrschenden Verkehr, die Sicherheit der Kinder, wie auch die etwa in entgegengesetzter Richtung fahrenden Autos ungemein, sodass es geradezu ein Wunder ist, dass noch keine ernstlichen Unfälle sich ereignet haben."

"Daneben wirkt das bettelhafte Nachspringen der Kinder höchst ärgerlich und ist jedenfalls auch vom erzieherischen Standpunkte verwerflich. Der Fehler liegt hierbei am wenigsten an der Jugend selbst, weshalb sich der Gemeinderat veranlasst sieht, an dieser Stelle das Publikum auf die gefährliche Seite dieser Unsitte aufmerksam zu machen und zu erklären, dass er bei allfällige sich ereignenden Unfällen die volle Verantwortlichkeit auf die Urheber solcher Unfälle wälzen wird."

(*Thurgauer Arbeiter-Ztg.*)

Luft- und Irrfahrt eines Hundes. — Ein Hundeliebhaber in Basel erstand sich dieser Tage in England ein prachtvolles seltenes Tier zum Preise von mehreren hundert Franken. Um dem Schützling die weite Reise über den Kanal zu ersparen, liess man ihn auf dem Luftweg nach Basel kommen. Nachdem das Flugzeug auf dem Sternenfeld niedergegangen war, erhielt der Eigentümer sein wertvolles Frachtstück. Kaum hatte er aber den Zwingen geöffnet als der Hund auch schoß mit Riesensprüngen über das Feld der Hardwaldung zu, wo er sich zwei Tage herumtrieb. Die hohe Belohnung, die der Hundefreund für die Widerbringung seines Tieres ausgesetzt hat, hat eine Anzahl junger Leute veranlasst, nach dem Tier Jagd zu machen. Der glückliche Hundefänger war aber ein Bauernmann von Birsfelden, der am Sonntag das schöne Hundechiv einfing, als es nach langer Irrfahrt in der Hard wieder nach dem Flugplatz zurückkehrte. (Baser Nachr.)

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

Spring—Printemps—Frühling—Primavera!

78 in the shade!

Ah! Now it is worth while to be alive!
A full week's motoring through Essex—Cambridge—Derbyshire up through the Peak District to Sheffield, thence to Liverpool, and home via Stratford-on-Avon and the Thames Valley has again

convinced me that Springtime in England is one of the most wonderful experiences one can enjoy and has again filled me with deep wonder as to why Britshers rush abroad in the Spring when they have such a beautiful country at home, a country, moreover, most of them never take the trouble to explore properly. The Alps, of course, are a thing apart, beyond comparison, *hors concours*, as it were, but otherwise I have yet to see a country in Europe which would compare favourably with the English countryside in the glorious month of May, always provided that the weather is as wonderful as it has been lately. Everything looked simply glorious, and even the Pottery District and the Black Country, north of Birmingham, looked nice, clean and full of colour. And where else could one find those glories of English rural settings, the trees and the hedgerows? And is there a place which could compare with Marlow-on-Thames for the enjoyment of a cup of tea on the lawn opposite the church, with the river carrying its gaily dressed burden slowly and lazily before your eyes?

Where else could you get that atmosphere of quietude, combined with deeply emotional thought-producing wonder, than at the Backs of Cambridge? What a wonderful thing to attend Evensong at King's, that jewel of Cambridge! And have you ever stood in Anne Hathaway's cottage at Stratford-on-Avon on a May morning? Then you know what an old-world English cottage garden can be, and your own efforts at gardening seem puny, although the experience may urge you on to further efforts.

Or have you ever looked down from Owler Bar into valleys around Sheffield on a May evening, when the sun is shining brightly on the moors and when thunderstorms are raging far down below, making a most majestic picture and making you half afraid to drive down into the seemingly boiling and tearing battle of the elements?

And what of Chatsworth Hall, what of the seat of the Marlboroughs at Blenheim? 2,668 acres the latter, with 138 acres of charming lake, with one of the most exquisite bridges you could see across it? And what of the partridges, the pheasants, the deer, all so tame, all so beautiful, all so stately, and lending just that bit of English country touch to the picture? Ah, yes, my friends, you could do much worse than explore this wonderfully charming, beautiful land which gives you such liberal hospitality. Try it, and thank 'Kyburg' for having given you the tip! It's worth a real effort, believe me.

The Swiss Champion Cow.
of whose prowess in combat I remember writing in these "Notes" last spring, has added to her laurels, witness the *Daily Mail* (5th May):—

For the fourth year in succession a small, mild-looking cow named Violet was proclaimed "Queen of the Queens" at the cow-fighting tournament held at Sion, in the Rhone Valley, recently.

Violet is from Martigny, where she holds sway over all the local "queens."

The best animals that Sion could produce were collected to do battle against her.

In ten minutes her fights were over. Deliberately picking out her opponent, Violet bore down upon her with head lowered and nostrils dilated. Horns clashed and bells clanged as the two came together with a terrific impact.

Few of the rivals, however, could stand more than two seconds against Violet's hurricane charges, and after assuring herself that none was left to challenge her supremacy, she quietly trotted up to eat a piece of bread from the hand of her proud owner.

Snail Harvest in Switzerland.

Daily Express (11th May):—
The harvest of the succulent snail of the cultivated species for European consumption has begun in Switzerland and France, and thousands of men and women will be busy throughout the summer in this curious industry. The annual production in both countries is about 3 million pounds, but as the demand is far greater than the supply, the devices of the adulterator supplement nature, and pieces of meat, generally veal, are introduced into the empty shells.

The valleys on both sides of the Jura Alps on the Swiss-French frontier mark the centre of the industry, but the epicure prefers the snails of Burgundy, which have long been famed for their exquisite flavour and delicacy. The Burgundy district, however, contributes only a small proportion of the European output, owing principally to the treatment of the vines with phosphates against phylloxera.

The large fields which are prepared for the propagation of the snail generally lie at the edge of a wood or forest, sheltered from the sun. The soil of the farm is well sanded and limed, and round it is built a wall two to three feet high, thoroughly washed with vitriol to prevent the stock escaping into other pastures.

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verse rows on the tongue, and as there are as many as one hundred and five in each row, it follows that an average snail possesses over 14,000 teeth.

The price of snails in restaurants varies according to the season and the "crop," but the average tariff is 1s. to 1s. 6d. a dozen, and generally light wine is taken with the dish.

Switzerland and Foreign Investment.

The Times (8th May):—

Switzerland produced in 1924 a total of 43,646 tons of wheat, nearly 50 per cent. less than during the previous year, whereas the wheat consumption of the country amounts to nearly 420,000 tons a year. Switzerland imported 377,000 tons, mostly from Canada (202,000 tons), from the United States (128,000 tons), from Argentina (12,300 tons), and from Hungary (12,900 tons), also 8,605 tons were imported from Russia by means of intermediaries. The greater part of these imports were shipped to Antwerp and Rotterdam (191,000 tons), Marsailles (86,000 tons), Genoa (83,000 tons), and nearly 65,000 tons were transhipped and transported to Basel by the Swiss Rhine barges.

Switzerland's Wheat Requirements.

Daily Telegraph (30th April):—

Trade as a whole in Switzerland last year, bank deposits, Clearing House returns, and the proceeds of the stamp duty and coupon taxes increased, according to a report by the British Minister at Berne. Unemployment diminished so rapidly that unemployment relief was suspended in June. Bankruptcies were again fewer than in the previous year. The growth of confidence was also apparent in the higher quotations of securities and the rise in the exchange, a rise which is not accounted for by the figures of foreign trade alone. The best available statistics and estimates of the national wealth of Switzerland place it at 48½ milliard francs, or 12,100 fr. per head, which is higher than the published corresponding figure for the United States. Judging by the income-tax returns, this wealth is very uniformly distributed, extreme poverty and large fortunes being exceptional. Switzerland, it is pointed out, is a steady exporter of capital, which seeks the high rate of interest to be obtained abroad, there being a lack of local investment facilities. This is a continuation of the pre-war practice, when Swiss investments abroad amounted to 7,467 million francs, as compared with foreign investments in Switzerland of about 1,840 million francs.

During the war these figures fell to about 2,750 and 1,600 millions respectively, and Switzerland no longer offers sufficient inducement to lock up capital in home investments. The export of capital does not affect the economic stability of the country, and, moreover, brings in remunerative returns in interest: it appears to have no very great influence on Swiss interest rates, which, on the whole, do not nearly approach foreign rates. Normally, Switzerland's trade balance, owing to invisible exports, yields a surplus capital of 100—200 million francs per annum, which can be exported. Owing to war losses, however, future investments abroad are unlikely to be affected unless sufficient guarantee is forthcoming.

Submerged Village Reappears.

Daily Chronicle (6th May):—

According to the Swiss papers, a village, which has been submerged for nearly 300 years, has reappeared in the upper valley of the Saas, owing to the low level of the waters of Lake Antrona.

The original catastrophe was caused by a landslip from the Monte Pozzoli, which destroyed 42 houses of the village of Antrona Piana, together with the inhabitants and their cattle.

As a result of the landslip a lake was then formed, but owing to the waters now receding the roofs of the old dwellings are again visible.

A Double Translation.

Journal of Education (April):—

Pestalozzians will remember that an English translation of the "Letters on Early Education" was published in 1827, the year of Pestalozzi's death. Those letters were originally addressed to J. P. Greaves, who had taught English at Yverdon from 1817 to 1822, and on his return to England to spread the gospel of the new educa-

tion, had brought them home with him. No German text was ever printed, and the original manuscript has long been lost. The gap thus existing in German editions of the collected works has at last been filled by the publication of a new German text, translated from the English, under the title of "Mutter und Kind." The book is warmly welcomed by the "Pädagogische Zeitschrift" as containing "the unmistakably genuine thought of Pestalozzi, however the expression may have suffered in the double process of translation."

The same number of the "Zeitschrift" makes merry with specimens from the High Schools of translation into German from Latin. Parents demand Latin, it seems, as the only sure way to good German. And the proof of the goodness (comments the writer) is this hybrid stuff!

Your American Uncle?

I should think from the following (*The Times*, 8th May) that nearly everyone of us might still hope for an uncle from America turning up one day and, by his munificence, solving all our financial worries. If this should meet the eye of 'Kyburg's' uncle, and he should not know my present whereabouts, will he please communicate with the Editor, who will direct him, and to whom I will pay a small commission on the net result.

American statistics show that during the last 100 years 260,492 Swiss have emigrated to the United States. Only 12,700 Swiss had emigrated to the United States before 1850. Between 1911 and 1920 23,000 persons emigrated.

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