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HOME NEWS

Several matters of vital interest to Swiss living abroad were raised and peremptorily disposed of in the National Council on Tuesday and Wednesday (June 16th and 17th). Councillor Meyer (Zurich, Liberal) protested against the disregard of international treaties displayed by the belligerent Powers in refusing to indemnify Swiss war sufferers. Councillor Billieux (Berne, Liberal) insisted that the Confederation had been too parsimonious in granting relief, and especially referred to the Swiss in Alsace-Lorraine, who even now remained deprived of the most necessary tools and implements in order to recommence their former vocations. In reply, Federal Councillor Motta stated that none of the Powers concerned had admitted the right to a claim for compensation and that, inasmuch as the Swiss Chambers had voted general bounties under certain conditions, it was inadmissible to administer the funds so placed at their disposal for the special benefit of a particular group. — Councillor Vigizzi (Ticino, Liberal) warmly advocated a previous proposal which aimed at affording Swiss residing abroad the opportunity of recording their votes on matters Federal, the more so as several cantons accorded this right to their burghes as far as cantonal affairs were concerned. Federal Councillor Motta promised to study this "postulate" and report as to whether the suggestion could be carried out without modifications in the Constitution. However, the further consideration of this proposed measure, which would have maintained and developed an interest in home politics, was cut short by a negative vote subsequently recorded by the Chamber on these two questions.

The National Council voted on Friday (June 19), the necessary credit of 16.5 million francs for introducing the much-discussed light machine-gun into the Swiss army. Considerable opposition was offered by the Socialists, who, later on that day, had organised outside the Houses of Parliament a demonstration, at which National Councillor Schneider (Basle) vehemently protested against the introduction of this new weapon.

A memorandum, raising 14 points, mostly of an economic character and couched in dignified terms, has been addressed to the Federal Council by the Conseil d'Etat of Geneva. *Inter alia* it is pointed out that the only article in the Versailles Treaty of interest to Switzerland has brought about a catastrophic transfiguration of the former economic conditions, thus forcing the canton into public bankruptcy.

Thanks to an intensive propaganda, the popular vote taken last Sunday throughout the canton of Grisons showed a small majority in favour of partially opening the cantonal roads to motor traffic. Thus the canton of Grisons, after an electioneering battle of over 20 years, falls into line with the remainder of Switzerland, though as recently as January 18th the people recorded an adverse vote on this question.

The oldest inhabitant of Solothurn, a former watchmaker named Jakob Gunzinger, died last Monday; a few weeks ago he celebrated his hundredth birthday.

EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

L'industrie de la broderie en Suisse. — La commission de gestion du Conseil national s'est occupée de la situation dans l'industrie de la broderie et a approuvé un postulat demandant qu'on examine la question dans tous ses détails et qu'on vienne en aide à la population victime de la crise, soit en transformant les entreprises existantes actuellement, soit en introduisant dans cette région de nouvelles industries ou en prenant toutes mesures susceptibles d'améliorer la situation. La société fiduciaire pour l'industrie de la broderie a fait tous ses efforts en vue d'améliorer les conditions du marché de la broderie, ainsi que les salaires. Elle a essayé d'atténuer autant que possible les effets de la crise et de permettre aux entreprises menacées de "tenir"

jusqu'au moment où la situation serait de nouveau meilleure. Dans ce domaine, ses efforts ont été couronnés de succès, et sans intervention, la situation eût certainement été bien pire encore. Mais la cause profonde de la crise réside malheureusement dans l'absence de débouchés, et là il est bien difficile pour ne pas dire impossible, d'agir. Une enquête faite au cours de l'été dernier sur les conditions de travail et les salaires dans l'industrie de la broderie, a fait voir que la situation est loin d'être brillante, mais que d'autre part, vu l'état actuel des choses, une élévation de salaires n'est guère possible, et que d'autre part une augmentation des prix rencontrerait de grandes difficultés par suite de la concurrence étrangère.

Le Conseil d'administration de la société fiduciaire pour l'industrie de la broderie s'est aussi occupé de la question des subventions fédérales, employées dans ce but. On avait réservé un demi-La subvention de 6 millions accordée en 1922 a permis d'accorder des prêts et d'assainir nombre d'entreprises dans le marasme; 4½ millions ont été mis pour la question des salaires. Mais actuellement cette somme a été employée également, de sorte que le crédit est épousé. Aussi le Conseil d'administration, considérant que la situation va plutôt s'aggraver dans l'industrie de la broderie, a décidé d'adresser une nouvelle requête au Conseil fédéral pour lui demander l'octroi d'une nouvelle subvention de 3 millions, qui sera employée tout pour la diminution des entreprises.

(*Courrier de Genève.*)

La retraite de M. Chuard. — Une information, lancée assurément sans malice, est en train de faire le tour de la presse, où elle trouve grand crédit. Elle apprend aux peuples consternés que M. le conseiller fédéral Chuard aurait décidé de ne pas poser à nouveau sa candidature en décembre prochain, et que toutes les instances de ses collègues seraient demeurées vaines.

Quand on sait — ce que tout le monde sait dans le monde où l'on est renseigné — que M. Chuard, lequel n'est, rappelons-le, entré au Conseil fédéral qu'à son corps défendant, désire rentrer à Lausanne dès que les circonstances de lui permettront, on est assez surpris d'apprendre comme grande nouvelle ce qui est un vieux secret de Politichine. M. Chuard nous avait à nous-même, il y a bien des mois de cela, affirmé que son plus vif désir était de se retirer à la fin de son mandat triennal et il n'a nullement changé d'avis. C'est ce qu'il nous a confirmé hier. "Je continue, nous a-t-il dit avec sa finesse habituelle, à désirer très fermement de me retirer à la fin de l'année."

Cela, évidemment, ne signifie pas que cet excellent citoyen, qui s'est donné tout entier à la chose publique et lui a sacrifié tous ses goûts et ses préférences, ne lui fasse pas, si le faut, un sacrifice de plus. Il fera faire, si l'intérêt de la patrie et celui de son canton l'exigent, ses répugnances personnelles à conserver un poste qui, seul de tous ses collègues, il n'a point cherché et dont il ne voulait point. Pour traduire cet horoscope en langage vulgaire, M. Chuard quittera son poste aussitôt qu'il estimera pouvoir le faire sans trahir les intérêts qui lui ont été confiés et qui sont pour lui sacrés.

C'est à la porte de son cabinet que l'on pourrait inscrire la devise qui s'étale au fronton du Palais: *Salus patriae suprema lex esto.*

(*Feuille d'Iris.*)

Das grosse Fischsterben im Genfersee. — Wie die Waadtänder und Genfer Blätter melden, dauert das grosse Fischsterben im Genfersee immer noch an. Zu Hunderttausenden treiben die toten, aufgequollenen Fische auf dem Wasser, und aus den Reichen der Wasserwerkanlagen müssen täglich viele hundert Kilo toter Fische entfernt werden. Trotz chemischer und bakteriologischer Untersuchungen ist es bisher noch nicht gelungen, die Ursache dieser Erscheinung festzustellen. Seltsamerweise scheint indessen die Forelle dem Verderben zu entgehen, während sonst fast alle Fischarten davon betroffen werden, am stärksten die Barsche. Eine Erklärung für diese folgenschwere Erscheinung lesen wir im "Courrier de la Côte" von Nyon: Unterwasserströmungen, die von den Südwinden hervorgerufen wurden, haben die Temperatur des Wassers vermindert gerade in der Laichzeit der Barsche. Da bei mussten die Fische zugrunde gehen. Aehnliche Verhältnisse sind seit 1920 nie mehr eingetreten, und gerade die ungestörte Laichzeit hat das Überhandnehmen der Barsche im Genfersee herbeigeführt. Seit länger Zeit beklagen sich denn auch die Fischer, dass die Lachse und andere Edelfische von den Barschen verdrängt würden. So wäre also das Fischsterben eine von der Natur selber herbeigeführte Korrektur des gesetzten Gleichgewichtes.

(*Neues Winterthurer Tagblatt.*)

Le vote obligatoire à Lausanne. — La municipalité de Lausanne donne sur la fréquentation du scrutin lors de la votation sur l'initiative Rothenberger les renseignements que voici.

Sur 17,107 électeurs inscrits, il a été retrouvé 13,606 bulletins. Le nombre des abstentions est donc de 3501. De ce nombre 706 électeurs ont quitté la ville depuis moins de trois mois et 235, âgés de plus de 65 ans, ne sont pas soumis au vote obligatoire. La liste des défaillants remise à la préfecture contient donc 2560 noms. De ce nombre, 685 sont malades, au service militaire ou excusés.

Les 1875 restants paraissent passables de la contribution de deux francs, imposée par la loi.

(*La Suisse.*)

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KYBURG."

The Situation.

Sitting down, week after week, to pen these Notes, one gathers a number of varied impressions. One has to go through a lot of newspaper cuttings dealing with all sorts of news, of events, some gay, some sad, some interesting, some not, hopeful ones and gloomy ones, and it is sometimes really quite difficult to choose a few which might interest the majority of the readers of *The Swiss Observer*.

Just now I find in nearly all the papers wonderfully alluring pictures of Swiss scenery, lakes and mountains, valleys and snow-clad peaks, and focusing my mind for a few minutes on these pictures, most of them representing places which have memories of happy days, I feel as if I had not got a care in the wide world, as if holidays amid the Alps of my homeland were at hand, as if life once again had become an idyllic, easy, wonderful roaming through beautiful scenery.

Next to these alluring pictures I come across sterner stuff. News relating to politics, rumours of impending war in the Far East, rumours of the awakening of serious trouble in the industrial life of Great Britain, rumours of trade and industries going from bad to worse.

And, above all, the appalling spectacle of the Big Powers of Europe rushing towards Military Facts, reviving the diplomacy which led to 1914, preparing fresh agonies, fresh graves for the coming generations.

Gone is the beautiful *élan* which ex-President Wilson's wonderful message produced towards the end of the Great War. Gone is that feeling, then evident in all classes, that wars are stupid, that wars must cease, that wars lead to destruction only, and that Humanity must find other means of settling its periodically occurring differences.

Instead of that spirit of Brotherhood, we see to-day open incitements to new wars, or at least preparations for such, and—such is the power of the Press—we are already now in grave danger of succumbing to pre-war fatalistic helplessness of spirit, which makes us accept all these preparations for our Doom meekly and as something absolutely inevitable.

I was discussing the outlook for business with a friend of mine to-day. My friend is managing a big industrial concern. I was horrified to hear him state, as calmly as if he were referring to the weather forecast, that only a nice fresh new war would probably get business going again and bring people to their senses.

If that is so—and Heaven forbid that it should!—we are nearer moral and intellectual bankruptcy than I thought. We are nearer the end of the Christian Civilisation than those think who spend their energy in fighting dogmata with which they disagree, and forget, while so fighting, that the enemy of Christendom is at the door. "*Hannibal ante portas!*" once gave Rome a shock and brought its people to their senses. We twentieth century Christians are rather like Nero: we fiddle while the fires slowly but surely consume the outer ramparts of our civilisation.

I am not a believer in the wisdom of seeing decadence in all new dances, or amusements, as little as I believe that a glass of wine is bad for one's health. On the other hand, I firmly believe that Christianity is doomed, and rightly so, if our civilisation cannot produce Governments to steer clear of new wars.

The Spaniards have their Dictator, the Italians have their "Duce." Christendom ought to have a Super-Mussolini, a Dictator who would teach it the proper ways, who would force it to peace and to work and who would kill all those who engineer armed conflicts.

How un-democratic! Yes, but how necessary! Democracy is surely not the last word in human affairs, and rather than wreck and ruin our civilisation, I would try a last remedy. "Aux grands maux, les grands remèdes" still holds good, and another favourite saying of mine is also not without justification in this connection: "Rather an end with terror, than a terror without an end!"

The Situation: Well, I have given you a few thoughts—sketchy, perhaps, not well put together, not well thought out even, but rambling *Thoughts* which have one single purpose: to make you think!

Quite appropriately following my above remarks comes news of—

Another *Monna Lisa*.

The Star (13th June):—

The Marquis Robert d'Oyley has informed the "Matin" that he has discovered at Montreux, in Switzerland, a picture which, he contends, casts doubt upon the authenticity of the famous "Monna Lisa" in the Louvre, Paris.

He discovered the painting in the house of Mme. Cuenod, the wife of the English Consul at Montreux-Territet.

She told him that her great-grandfather, an Irishman named Monroe, who spent his fortune on works of art, bought the picture as the original "Monna Lisa," by Leonardo da Vinci, in 1817 in Edinburgh for 3,000 guineas.

The picture is that of a beautiful young woman, much younger and handsomer than the portrait in the Louvre, but with the same enigmatic expression.

Professor Bode, a German expert, who restored the picture, declares that the Montreux portrait is either by Da Vinci or Luini, his best pupil.

The Louvre authorities declare that there can be no doubt that they possess the original "Monna Lisa," of which some hundreds of copies exist.

Appropriate, because whoever remembers the enigmatical smile of "Monna Lisa" might think that she smiles because, Cassandra-like, she sees how we are rushing to utter destruction.

Spahlinger Treatment.

Daily Herald (16th June):—

A party of medical M.P.s, including Drs. Salter, Shiels, and Williams, three Labour representatives, are to visit Switzerland to investigate the Spahlinger method of treating tuberculosis.

No "Soldiers' Councils" in the Swiss Army.

Morning Post (13th June):—

The National Council, continuing its discussion of the new military penal code, adopted to-day by a large majority an article directed against the formation of societies in the Army, such as "soldiers' councils" and the like, "which are calculated to undermine the spirit of discipline."

And, recognising that "Discipline is essential to the true exercise of Freedom," Kyburg says "Hear, hear!" to the above, and proceeds.

Seeing Switzerland in a Light Car.

There must be a number of my readers who own a small car and who have asked themselves the question as to whether it would be worth while using it for a holiday in Switzerland. I myself, I confess, came to a negative conclusion, but the following article may help others to solve the problem.

Light Car and Cycle Car (12th June):—

Potent and innumerable are the inducements that Switzerland has to offer to the holiday-maker if he is a railway traveller. Everywhere he may find hotels in which he is well catered for and his own language is understood, while he can even ascend high mountains by means of rack-and-pinion railways or *funiculaires*.

The motorist, however, must needs consider, on the one hand, whether he is at any disadvantage by reason of his adoption of a different method of progression, and, on the other, whether in any way he can actually score over the train traveller in the way of access to regions unprovided with rails.

As to the first question, it may be pointed out that there are many view-points in Switzerland that are attainable only by rail or on foot. Lucerne, for example, has a galaxy of such in Pilatus, the Rigi, the Staufenhorn, the Burgenstock, etc., none of which eminences is provided with a road.

None the less, anyone who travels by motor-car in Switzerland can obtain access to picturesque regions that the non-motorist could pass through until recently only by means of tedious journeys in horsed vehicles. These, it is true, have now been displaced by Federal "auto-buses" that, if the rail traveller has the sense to employ them, will give him a new idea of the attractions of the country. And, of course, the private car owner can travel over these desirable routes at his own sweet will instead of by time-table. He still suffers one disadvantage, however, in being debarred to some extent from a full realization of his desires. He has never been allowed to reach Zermatt by road, and the whole canton of the Grisons, which includes the beautiful Engadine, is now again closed to private cars.

Having duly noted, therefore, the districts to

which he cannot go, the motorist must next consider which of the well-known places is worth visiting and what is desirable to compress in the way of less-known but attractive regions.

In the first instance I should cross France to Geneva, which is on all accounts the best place by which to enter the country. From there the "route de Suisse" should be followed to Lausanne; it is the widest and best-maintained road in Switzerland, and unless the weather is cloudy, it offers superb views of Mont Blanc and the Savoy Alps. Arrived at Lausanne, one enjoys the first opportunity of breaking away to conspicuous advantage from the beaten track by striking northwards into the very interesting but little-known canton of Fribourg. There are two roughly parallel routes to Berne, and having traversed them both many times, I may state that it is best to take neither to the entire exclusion of the other, but to combine the two.

The road to Moudon should be followed in the first instance, and six kilometres farther on, at Lucens—recognizable by the fine château—one should turn right for the picturesquely posted old Roman town of Romont. Then one proceeds straight on to Fribourg, well worth a visit. Now, however, if one continued directly on to Berne, one would miss another Roman town—namely, Morat, or Murten. Without any material loss of distance, therefore, the tourist should hark back to the original road, for he will find Morat and its lake very charming, then on to Berne.

Continuing north-westwards, one reaches Lucerne by the best interior road in Switzerland, and may continue to Zurich for the sake of visiting another unconventional region—that of St. Gallen. The Lake of Zurich should be followed on the north bank to Rapperswill, and then a truly enjoyable run through Lichtensteig and Herisau brings one to St. Gallen, where English people are much appreciated.

Next, one may turn southwards for Sargans, where it is worth while to proceed to Ragatz if hotel accommodation is required for luncheon or for the night. The next objectives should be Walenstadt and Mollis, reached by fine roads, after which one heads for Glarus and the Klausen Pass. It is a modern mountain road, completed in 1900, and has curves of good radius. As a race to the summit is held annually, the climb obviously offers no difficulty to a touring car.

After crossing the pass to Altdorf, the visitor who has never seen the past part of the Lake of Lucerne may reasonably run out to Brunnen and back along the Axenstrasse. Then Andermatt should be reached, but instead of ascending the St. Gotthard Pass, which is uninteresting, the tourist may look forward to enjoying a most impressive run over the Furka and Grimsel Passes in turn.

The Furka road brings one to the very edge of the famous Rhône glacier, while the descent of the Grimsel is strikingly picturesque and full of variety throughout. It is unquestionably the best spot in Switzerland from the road traveler's point of view. In passing I may mention that a very nice place to choose for the night's halt is the little hotel at Handegg, adjoining the beautiful waterfall of that name.

There is good running by the Lake of Brienz to Interlaken, whence Grindelwald and Lauterbrunnen may be visited, and then Thun should certainly be seen, and by all means a walk should be taken up to the château, whence a glorious evening glow on the Jungfrau and Blumisalp, etc., may be viewed to exceptionally favourable advantage if the weather conditions are of the right kind.

Yet another journey over a Pass should be taken—namely, by the Col du Pillon to Aigle. It is quite easy, and the route is not so well known as it deserves. Finally, the Lac Léman may be surveyed along nearly its whole length to Nyon, where a good road over the Col de St. Cergues brings one to the frontier at La Cure.

The route I have briefly outlined has been chosen in the light of a long experience, and includes not only the majority of the conventional show-places, but brings in others that are little known but essentially attractive.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

BONDS.	Nom.	June 16	June 22
Swiss Confederation 3% 1903	...	76.00%	76.50%
Swiss Confederation 5% 1923	...	99.12%	99.20%
Federal Railways A-K 33%	...	80.35%	80.20%
Canton Basle-Stadt 5½% 1921	...	101.37%	101.37%
Canton Fribourg 3% 1892...	...	72.50%	72.37%

SHARES.	Nom.	June 16	June 22
	Frs.	Frs.	Frs.
Swiss Bank Corporation	500	660	660
Credit Suisse...	500	705	706
Union de Banques Suisses	500	574	573
Fabrique Chimique cr-derv. Sandoz	1000	3200	3182
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	1730	1700
C. F. Bally S.A.	1000	1217	1220
Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon	500	702	695
Entreprises Sulzer...	1000	845	870
S.A. Brown Boyer (new)	350	340	352
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	200	218	204
Choc. Suisses Peter-Cailler-Kohler	100	198	197
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Leman	500	590	585

EIDGENÖSSISCHE GLOSSEN.

Ordenssucht.

Kürzlich hat man im Nationalrat die Ordenssucht bedauert. Man hat auch versichert, dass der Ordenssegen dem Bundesrat missfalle. Mehr ist nicht geschehen. Wie weit wir es auf diesem Gebiete schon gebracht haben, zeigt der Fall des generischen Alt-Stadttrates Boveyron, der lieber Mitglied der Ehrenlegion ist, als Mitglied des Kreiseisenbahnrates des Schweizerischen Bundesbahnen. Wie soll man dieser Erkrankung der Demokratie entgegentreten? Es gibt zwei Wege. Erstens einmal könnten wir den Artikel 12 der Bundesverfassung ändern. Seine jetzige Form ist seltsam kompliziert und umständlich. Man teilt die Schweizer in zwei Kategorien ein: in solche, die annehmen, und in solche, die nicht annehmen dürfen. Man sagt am Schluss, das Annehmen von Orden sei allen Offizieren, Unteroffizieren und Soldaten untersagt. Rechtlich dürften also gewissermassen bloss die sogenannten Staatskrippen einen Orden annehmen. Man könnte beim Anblick eines Ordensgeschmückten demnach ohne weiteres die Behauptung aufstellen: Er darf einen Orden tragen, weil er nicht zur Armee gehört! Es klingt wie ein schlechter Witz und ist doch nicht zu umgehen. Warum sind wir nicht konsequent? Schreiben wir doch einfach: Dem Schweizer ist die Annahme von Orden untersagt! Dann hätten wir in einem Satze gesagt, was jetzt in fünf Abschnitten gesagt werden muss. Und diese Änderung der Bundesverfassung müsste naturgemäß ergänzt werden durch eine offizielle Mitteilung an die fremden Regierungen, sie möchten uns mit Orden verschonen und für den Ausdruck der Dankbarkeit oder Ehrung einen anderen Weg wählen.

Eine Änderung der Bundesverfassung tritt nicht von heute auf morgen ein. Wir könnten uns derweil auch noch auf eine andere Weise helfen. Mit Volksjustiz gewissermassen: Man dulde bei keiner öffentlichen Veranstaltung das Tragen von Orden. Ein Bundesrat weigere sich, an einem Feste teilzunehmen, wo die Schweizer mit Ordenszeichen im Knopfloch auftreten. Man mache es den Leuten deutlich, dass wir es nicht als eine Ehre betrachten, sondern als eine Schande, mit Orden gross zu tun. Wie wäre es, wenn einmal bei einer Tagung jene, derein Knopfloch leer ist, aufstünden und sagten: Wir verlangen die Entfernung der Ordenszeichen, sonst verlassen wir den Saal? Wahrscheinlich würde dadurch noch deutlicher als durch Bundesverfassungs-Paragrafen dokumentiert, dass wir der Meinung sind, europäische Arbeit sei ganz im Sinne unseres Wesens — nicht aber die Entgegennahme von Dank in der Form eines Ordens!

Zweifelsucht.

Bei Anlass des Geschäftsberichtes hat es Nationalrat Abt für nötig gefunden, uns vor einer Überhöhung der Schiedsverträge zu warnen. So tönt immer noch das alte Lied. Es ist immer noch wie in jener "goldenen Zeit," da man auch in der Schweiz davor warnte, die Garantie der belgischen Neutralität ernst zu nehmen. Es gebe zwar Verträge, aber man solle doch rüsten, denn Verträge würden ja doch nicht gehalten. Unsere Ansicht war nicht besser als jene, die die Neutralität brach. Wenn wir heute wieder mit der gleichen Fahne den Völkern voranmarschierten, so wird wieder ganz Europa den Schaden davon haben. Wenn wir in den Ungläubigkeit vorangehen, darf man nicht ver-

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