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HOME NEWS

In the elections for the municipal council of the canton of Solothurn last Sunday, the Liberals considerably strengthened their representation by capturing altogether eight seats, that is to say, seven from the Socialists and one from the People's (Catholic) party.

At the annual meeting of the Swiss corn merchants, held last week in Lausanne, a resolution was passed which, in order to reduce the cost of living generally, calls upon the Swiss Federal administrations to temporarily reduce by 30 per cent. the postage rates, railway freights and telegraph and telephone taxes, such reduction to remain in force for one year as an experiment.

A regrettable frontier incident is reported to have taken place on the Alp Bolla, where a few Italian Fascist guards crossed the frontier in order to strip a young Swiss of a red shirt which he was wearing. (See "Extracts.")

A spectacular fire destroyed early last Sunday morning the chocolate factory "Rudin-Gabriel" in Basle; the total damage, including the building, is said to be about a quarter of a million francs, and arson is suspected to be the cause.

The first motor accident in the canton of Grisons took place last week on the road from Tamins to Flims. After a private car had passed, a cart-horse which a farmer led by the halter shied, and dragging the vehicle along with it, fell into the torrent; the 70-year-old farmer Johann Burgener was unable to jump off in time and lost his life in the fall.

The death is announced of the well-known Swiss Himalaya explorer, Dr. Jacot-Guillarmod, which took place on board a steamer in the Red Sea on June 6th; he was buried at Aden the following day. The deceased was an honorary member of the Alpine Club in London and the Club Alpin Français. (See "Extracts.")

EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

L'explorateur Jacot-Guillarmod. — Le docteur Jacot-Guillarmod était universellement connu comme explorateur et alpiniste. Docteur de la Faculté de Lausanne, il pratiqua la médecine tout d'abord à Corsier (Genève) de 1897 à 1902, puis à Lignières (Neuchâtel). Entre temps, alpiniste passionné et explorateur, il avait fait, en 1902 et 1903 dans l'Himalaya occidentale, en 1905 dans l'Himalaya orientale, de sensationnels voyages. Il consigna le récit de ses voyages dans une série d'articles donnés à la "Gazette de Lausanne" et le résultat de ses explorations dans un volume intitulé "Six mois dans l'Himalaya, le Kara-Korum et l'Hindoukouch. Voyages et explorations aux plus hautes montagnes du monde" (1905).

La catastrophe de Kanchenjunga, dont son expédition fut victime, le 1er septembre 1905, et qui coûta la vie au lieutenant A. Pache, fut exploitée par un Anglais, Crowley, qui en dénatura les causes dans une série d'articles tendancieux; il rendait responsables Jacot-Guillarmod et A. Reymond. L'explorateur neuchâtelois remit les choses au point.

Jacot-Guillarmod avait étudié pendant plusieurs années la possibilité d'atteindre le sommet des plus hautes cimes de l'Himalaya; il avait accepté, en 1902, de faire partie d'une caravane dont l'objectif était le Dapsang ou Godwinausten, situé dans le Karakorum, haut de 8040 mètres (le Gaurisankar en a 8840). L'expédition comprenait trois Anglais (Crowley, Knowles et Eckenstein), deux Autrichiens (Pfanni et Wessely) et un Suisse (Jules Jacot-Guillarmod). Une seconde expédition, partie de Marseille le 5 juillet 1905, comprenait un Anglais, Crowley, deux Vaudois, Alexis Pache et Adolphe Reymond, et un Neuchâtelois, Jacot-Guillarmod; elle se proposait de dépasser l'altitude de 7320 mètres atteinte par Graham. Jacot-Guillarmod détiint pendant un temps le record de l'altitude (7000 mètres) des ascensions dans l'Himalaya, au cours d'une expédition avec le duc des Abruzzes.

Membre du Club alpin suisse depuis 1890, il

s'est élevé avec force contre les chemins de fer de la Jungfrau, du Cervin, des Diablerets. Dans sa réunion annuelle de Zermatt, en 1922, le Club alpin suisse l'avait nommé membre d'honneur. On lui doit un album des cabanes alpêtres suisses (Berne 1898).

Jacot-Guillarmod fut un membre très actif de la Société vaudoise des sciences naturelles et des Sociétés suisses de géographie. Il avait été désigné, au mois de mars 1919, par la Croix-Rouge internationale, pour aller rechercher, en Sibirie, 500,000 prisonniers autrichiens, envoyés là-bas par le gouvernement russe et dont on avait perdu toute trace.

C'était un coeur bon, franc, loyal, sincère, enthousiaste, courageux au moral comme physiquement, simple et modeste, d'un commerce très agréable. (Journal de Genève.)

Eine solenne Prügelei. — Anlässlich des Schutzpatronfestes Peter und Paul auf der sogenannten Alpe della Bolla sopra Cadro (in der Nähe von Tesserete-Lugano) ereignete sich letzten Sonntag ein Zwischenfall zwischen italienischen Fascisten und der schweizerischen Bevölkerung, die an dem Festchen teilnahm. Drei Fascisten aus Porlezza kamen, in Schwarzhemden und mit Waffen versehen, zirka 300 Meter auf Schweizergebiet, um, wie es den Anschein hat, alte Streitigkeiten mit Burschen der schweizerischen Grenzldörfer zu regeln. Bei dieser Gelegenheit drohte ein Fascist mit einem Revolver, worauf die anwesenden schweizerischen Festbesucher gegen die Fascisten offensiv vorgingen, sodass letztere es für gut fanden, sich auf italienisches Gebiet zu flüchten. Bei dieser Flucht, die zweien der Fascisten gelang, wurden von einem Schweizer den Fliehenden vier Revolverschüsse nachgesandt, die aber ihr Ziel verfehlten. Der dritte Fascist konnte von den Schweiz. Verfolgern eingeholt werden und wurde jämmerlich verprügelt, sodass Blutspuren bis zur schweizerisch-italienischen Grenze den Weg des Rückzuges kennzeichneten. Wie es öfters bei Streitigkeiten vorkommt, soll gerade das Opfer der unschuldigeren Teil gewesen sein, der nun den misslungenen Streich seiner Kameraden zu büssen hatte.

Es scheint, dass die Angelegenheit keinerlei diplomatische Nachspiele haben wird. Es wird höchstens nächstes Jahr bei Begehung dieses Festes zu einer scharfen Grenzbeachtung, schweizerischerseits wie auch seitens Italiens, kommen, damit sich solche unangenehme Zwischenfälle nicht mehr wiederholen können. (Nat.-Ztg.)

260.000 Schweizer nach Amerika ausgewandert. — In den letzten hundert Jahren bis 1920 sind nach amerikanischer Quelle 260,492 Schweizer nach den Vereinigten Staaten ausgewandert. Zwar stimmt diese Ziffer nicht mit der schweizerischen Auswanderungsstatistik überein, zeigt aber doch den starken Zug nach Uebersee. Bis um die Mitte des letzten Jahrhunderts war die Auswanderung noch gering, umfasste sie doch nur 12,700 Personen. Im Zeitraum von 1851 bis 1880 waren es pro Jahrzehnt schon 23,000, dann aber ging die Ziffer unter dem Drucke der grossen Krise der 80er Jahre für die Jahre 1881 bis 1890 auf nahezu 82,000 ausgewanderte Schweizer. Auch die folgenden Jahrzehnte brachten 31,000 respektive 35,000 Auswanderer nach den Vereinigten Staaten; für das Jahrzehnt 1911 bis 1920 gibt die amerikanische Statistik total 23,691 Schweizer an. Dies macht seit 1850 ungefähr 240,000 Auswanderer aus. (Nat.-Ztg.)

La répartition des sexes. — La répartition des sexes dans le canton de Berne a subi quelques modifications ces dernières années. Tandis que lors des recensements de 1880 et 1888, le sexe féminin prédominait, le contraire s'est produit en 1900 et en 1910. En revanche, le recensement de 1920 a permis de constater le retour à l'ancien état de choses.

Actuellement, les régions où le sexe masculin prédomine sont les districts agricoles de Cerlier,

NOTICE.

On and after July 18th, the

Swiss Observer

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de Laupen, de Fraubrunnen, de Seftigen, de Schwarzenbourg, du Haut-Simmmenthal et des Franches-Montagnes. Dans les grandes villes, au contraire, c'est le sexe féminin qui est le plus fortement représenté (5,4%). L'élément féminin domine notamment à Porrentruy, Courtelary, Oberhasli, Aarwangen, Moëtier, Interlaken, Thoune et Delémont.

De façon générale, on peut dire qu'il y a excédent de femmes dans les grandes villes et dans les régions industrielles.

(Feuille d'Avis.)

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KYBURG."

Berne—a Capital Toy.

Liverpool Daily Post and Mercury (25th June):

If Berne, like Bootle, were for sale, I am sure that on the dot there would be keen competition among the wealthy Americans who abound on the Continent at this time of the year. They would like it because it would be highly expensive (and Americans love to go over Europe footing heavy bills), and because it certainly is something very cute in the way of capital cities, this Ville Fédérale Suisse. Cities are as old as they feel, and Berne, though well on in years, is like a child amongst chief towns: rather delightfully playing at being king of the castle. It is like a nursery edition of London or Paris, of capitals which are mightily swollen with their own importance. But because it is more like a plaything than a real capital, it has what seems to me to be a charming advantage over its so much grown-up sister capitals. It is all small scale, and though it owns a large view, yet even the Alps from Berne look only very pretty and not at all terrifying. What is called "doing" London and Paris has become hard labour. "Doing" Berne is a pleasant stroll.

Happy little capital! It has just the faintest suspicion of a traffic problem. My advice to anyone who wishes to engage in profound meditation in Paris is to take a taxi and make for the Opéra. This gives plenty of time for thought during traffic blocks. Imprisoned in a block between Place Vendôme and the Opéra the other day, I was plunged into what the French call far reflections on this traffic problem in the great cities, and my conclusion was that the problem can now only be solved by the disappearance of the state of civilisation out of which it has grown. A striking thought; but I did not write to the authorities about it, because I think it would be cruel to tell them. But at Berne, where, as it seems, they had so innocently strayed into being a capital city, there are just about six 'bus and tram routes which rush into each other's way at critical points. Very well-dressed police with side-arms agreeably control the but slightly menacing situation. I found that the chief of police in Berne has to think of other ways of using up his traffic men. He put one on the Kornhausbrücke who spoke to me kindly but severely because, having strolled across the bridge on the left footwalk, I neglected on returning to walk on the right side. There you are. Be free and easy in the provinces, but there is an etiquette in capitals. They have so nicely tried to do the right thing in this nursery capital, learning of their big sisters. A capital must have a Parliament building. It is the thing. So they put one up in Berne which is so much the most imposing new piece of this capital toy that you have almost to crane your neck to look up and read, in proud gold lettering, "Curia Confederationis Helveticae." It looks quite grand, but I am almost convinced that it is make-believe, that Parliament building.

Didn't Mr. Max Beerbohm, in an early essay, throw grave doubts on the real existence of any such person as a President of the Swiss Republic, asking if ever he had been actually seen in the flesh? I, too, can hardly think that the well-behaved people who live in the beautiful arcaded streets of old Berne, and who come to take the air on the palm tree terrace of that Parliament House, are really governed by anything but their own well regulated lives. Only, of course, they had to have that building. It looks the thing, and gave cause for a terrace where they can sit to see their Alps appearing marvellously incandescent with sunlight.

A pleasant people, those of Berne, not grown too wise for all their status, as I found when I taught myself how to use one of the street

automatic stamp machines. You put a coin in, turn a handle, wait, and then you see that you have, so to speak, posted yourself a stamp. The English, who are sometimes kill-joys, give you no handle to turn an automatic stamp machine. Engrossed in this adventure, I only gradually became aware that a Bernese crowd had gathered round to watch. I cannot think that I was the first man to use the machine, but I suppose that on the whole the people of Berne can lead quiet lives and keep themselves largely unspotted from the outside world even by post. I am strengthened in this belief by the fact that when I once went to the pictures (there are at least five cinemas: a capital city must cater for the mundane taste) the film I saw had been made no further away than Zurich. I had the pleasure of seeing the good Bernese taking their evening joy with a rocking movement. But judged by the hypercritical taste of bloated capital cities, the film was a simple thing. One of the peaks of merriment came when a baby who was being temporarily held in the arms of a comedian did a natural thing, and the denouement of a reel, after which the lights went up on rows of happy faces, was something so simple as the collapse of a pair of trousers. The good Bernese, who have not yet grown so untimely wise that they want to tamper with those entrancing streets of arcades. Bless their innocence.

Even those films mentioned in the above charming article seem too much, and according to the *Catholic Herald* (June 20th) the authorities mean to protect the public against filth in the cinema:—

Switzerland to ban Immoral Films.

As is the case in Ireland, the question of unsavoury films is causing much concern on the Continent. So grave has the evil become in Switzerland that one of the members of the Federal Council has urged that body to compel the cinema to recognise those laws which already exist for the moral well-being of the public.

The Federal Council has undertaken to introduce a form of censorship, and to recommend the encouragement of moral films.

Quite right, too!

Alpine Flowers.

One of the greatest joys for a nature lover is the wealth of Alpine Flowers one meets on the slopes of our Alps. Small wonder that this attracts the attention of tourists from England, the country which spends probably more money and labour on flowers than any other. In the *Baptist Times* (25th June) I find the following:—

Thanking Mr. Hamlin for his fascinating article on "Alpine Flowers," I feel constrained to add a little postscript in praise of another flower, not mentioned by him, now blooming in its millions on the slopes of the mountains at "Les Avants" (where forty years ago my honeymoon was spent) and for miles around and above Montreux.

Recently I have been in the midst of the glory and wonder of the most prolific of Switzerland's blooms, the white pheasant-eye narcissus.

Day by day hundreds of visitors, men, women and children, come up from the valleys, from Vevey, Lausanne, and even from Geneva, by train, on foot or in motors, for the purpose of gathering this wonderful and lovely flower, gathering bunches as big as they can carry, filling their motors so full that the occupants are almost hidden. Without exaggeration, thousands of such bunches every day, especially on Saturdays and Sundays, were carried away: besides, hundreds of boxes at every shop and hotel were filled with buds to send off by post to friends in England and other places. They revive and open in water, and bloom for at least a week or ten days in their loveliness. On our table at this moment such a bunch is fragrant with perfume.

The strange thing is that, though so many are taken, no diminution can be seen in quantity, and the hills are still as white with them as if none had been picked. An enterprising tourist advertiser says: "At Montreux the mountain sides scintillate with the loveliness of the narcissus, and the atmosphere is estatic with its perfume."

The great annual Fête des Narcisses was held at Montreux, attracting visitors from all the neighbourhood round. The flowers are still spreading, and look like hoar frost over the beautiful slopes. In some places masses of forget-me-nots, called by some of the Swiss "Les yeux de la sainte Vierge," spring up amongst the narcissus flowers, so that with one swoop of the hand a bouquet can be gathered fit for any royal princess.

Also the blossoms of the cherry-trees, which abound on the sides of the mountains, are in their beauty now, and nothing more exquisite can be imagined than to sit under one of these trees, and look up and see the wonderful blue of the sky through their branches and rosy blossoms. It is more like heaven than earth, and one cannot imagine anything more divinely fair.

But on returning to England our little island was not to be outdone, for all the way between Dover and London field after field was brilliant

in the afternoon sunshine, with the glorious yellow of buttercups, making a truly magnificent display. Indeed, I have never seen them in such masses and in such glory, making a brilliant and golden end to a never-to-be-forgotten holiday.

English the Language of Diplomacy?

Sunday Chronicle (28th June):—

There is taking place in Berlin a little event which ought to make us feel very proud.

French is the language of diplomacy, and the French have fought hard to keep it so. M. Cambon, who was Ambassador over here for 22 years, not only refused to speak English, but used to pretend he could not understand it.

But now in Berlin the French Ambassador and the German Foreign Secretary negotiate in English, so English has begun to be the language of diplomacy. All over Central and Eastern Europe it has long been the language of Royalty.

After the war, when Switzerland was filled with German and Austrian Royalities who had run away from their own country, I heard them talking among themselves at every hotel in English, without being aware how incongruous it sounded.

We know, of course, that Diplomacy is a necessary evil, that it is held to be impossible to avert war without numerous diplomats helping the various nations to understand each other's points of view by informing them, in a perfectly straightforward manner and in such a clear way as no ordinary mortal could ever hope to be able to do, of the various reasons underlying each nation's particular and general actions, aspirations and hopes. We know, of course, that the language of the diplomats must be clear, to the point and incapable of being interpreted in more than one way. We remember being told, when first trying to become familiar with the intricacies of the conjugation of irregular French verbs, that French was the diplomatic language *par excellence* by reason of its unequalled clearness. We know, having learnt it at school, that no sentence spoken in French can be accused of meaning something else than what it purports to mean, and we marvel how Diplomacy has been able to carry on so far, using French as a medium for its communications. We marvel, not that Diplomacy has produced wars—after all, slight accidents will happen, and a hasty expression of good-will spoken by one diplomat may be overheard by another diplomat and lead to regrettable exchanges of "views," etc.—but we marvel, as I said, that Diplomacy has not produced more wars. Well, Diplomacy is coming into its own. English is going to be the new diplomatic medium, and as English is notoriously the language for saying one thing and meaning another, it should not be so frightfully difficult in future for one nation to provoke a diplomatic blunder or "incident." Why people go on keeping diplomats as tame pets, while all the while they are dangerous intriguers, not by their own personal fault, but in the nature of the thing, baffles small minds like 'Kyburg's.' Mr. Lloyd George said the other day that the nations have not learnt anything from the Great War. They certainly don't seem to have learnt that secret diplomacy is bound to lead to a heating of the political atmosphere sooner or later, i.e., when it suits one of the Governments, and they have not the courage, even if they have learnt something, to enforce its application.

If it is true that the human family cannot live together unless it applies the Ten Commandments, then it is equally true that our civilisation, i.e., our living together, is doomed. What is the use of the individual trying to apply and to live up to the Ten Commandments, when he allows himself to be a party to break them one by one, as soon as he assembles in numbers and forms a corporation, town or state? And *vice versa*, what use is it to hope for a nation to live up to the Ten Commandments, when its component individual members refuse to do it? *Thou shalt not covet!* Only take one of the Ten Commandments and reflect, dear reader, how this one is being kept in family, corporation and State! And then tell me where salvation of our civilisation is to come from!

Lawn Tennis and Golf during Swiss Holidays.

To some of my readers who love the above two games, the following table, which appeared in the *Morning Post* of June 25th, may be of interest. They can perhaps fit in their annual pilgrimage to Switzerland with one of the dates and do a bit of "cup-hunting." Good luck to them!

Lawn Tennis.—More than fifty clubs are affiliated to the Swiss L.T. Federation, and there are hundreds of first-class courts spread all over the country. These are hard courts, true and quick-drying. The Swiss Championships will be played at Champéry (week beginning July 27), that picturesque spot above the Rhone Valley, well known to British visitors. The following is a list of the tournaments to be played during the high season:—

July 20—Klosters, Morgins, Vulpera.

July 27—Champéry (Swiss Open Championships), Arosa, Davos, Maloja.

August 3—Gstaad, Adelboden (Nevada L.T.C.), St. Moritz (Suvretta L.T.C.), Villars.

August 10—Adelboden, Les Avants, Château-d'Oex, Gurnigel, Murren, Schinznach, St. Moritz, Thonne.

August 17—Caux, Engelberg, Flims, St. Cergue, St. Moritz (Palace L.T.C.), Wengen, Zermatt.

August 24—Champéry, Geneva, Grindelwald, Interlaken, Lucerne.

A point worth remembering is that in the higher resorts the pace and flight of the ball are noticeably affected by the lighter atmospheric pressure, the ball coming much faster and its weight feeling less. Players who contemplate entering for tournaments at these resorts should arrive in time to allow themselves a couple of days' practice whenever this is possible.

Golf.—Every year sees an addition to the number of golf courses in Switzerland, and there are now sixteen clubs affiliated to the Swiss Golf Association. The Swiss Amateur Championships will be played for on the attractive course of the Lucerne G.C. (week beginning Aug. 11) at the Dietschberg, reached in a few minutes by funicular from Lucerne. Lucerne is too well known for it to be necessary to emphasise its charms, but it is also the centre of dozens of excursions by boat, rail, and motor-car. To mention only a few, there are the Rigi, Pilatus, Bürgenstock, which is also most suited to a stay of some weeks, and the Stanserhorn, all of which command some of the finest scenery in this beautiful country.

The following is a list of the Golf Clubs registered with the Swiss Golf Association, which has its headquarters at the Montreux Club, Territet:

Axenfels (9 holes), Engadine G.C., Samaden (18), Engelberg (9), Geneva (9), Lausanne (9), Les Rasses (9), Lucerne (18), Lugano (9), Maloja (9), Montana (9), Montreux (9), Ragaz (9), Thun (9), Villars (9), Zurich (9).

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

BONDS.		June 29	July 7
Swiss Confederation 3% 1903	...	76.75%	76.75%
Swiss Confederation 5% 1923	...	99.15%	99.30%
Federal Railways A—K 3½%	...	80.25%	80.60%
Canton Basle-Stadt 5½% 1921	...	101.25%	101.25%
Canton Fribourg 3% 1892	...	73.00%	72.75%
SHARES.		June 29	July 7
		Fr.	Fr.
Swiss Bank Corporation	...	500	663
Credit Suisse	...	500	706
Union de Banques Suisses	...	500	574
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	3275	3275
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	1689	1683
C. F. Bally S.A.	...	1000	1227
Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon	...	500	635
Entreprises Sulzer	...	1000	860
S.A. Brown Boveri (new)	...	350	351
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Milk Co.	200	209	215
Choc. Suisses Peter-Cailler-Kohler	100	200	200
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman	500	583	583

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