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HOME NEWS

As a result of a conference in Chur between the chief of the Federal Veterinary Office and local representatives of agricultural interests, the Grisons districts, which are suffering from the continued foot-and-mouth disease, are to be succoured at once; both healthy and affected cattle are to be purchased from the farmers concerned.

The Savoy Free Zones dispute has been the subject of a conference between the Federal Council and a delegation from Geneva, with the object of determining the terms of the memorandum to be lodged with the International Tribunal at The Hague.

Only 12 of the 198 members of the National Council are declining nomination for the general election which takes place on Saturday and Sunday, October 24th and 25th. No less than 101 lists, containing altogether 708 candidates, have been lodged. In some of the cantons the election fever is running very high, Basel-Land, for instance, has 28 candidates, though entitled to four seats only. In Zurich 163 aspire to the distinction, with 27 mandates, whilst the proportion in Berne is 121 to 34.

The Conseil Général of Neuchâtel has adopted a motion demanding the construction of an aerodrome near that town.

The accounts for 1924 of the Canton of Uri close with a deficit of Frs. 113,169, thus increasing the cantonal debt to over five million francs.

The municipal accounts of Winterthur show a surplus of Frs. 930,737 for the twelve months ending December, 1924.

Eduard Blumer, the "grand old man" of Glaris, died suddenly on October 7th in Schwanden at the age of 77. For no less than 38 years in succession he had occupied the office of Landammann of his canton, which he also represented in the National Council uninterruptedly for 25 years. Though in politics he did not subscribe to any particular party, he enjoyed, thanks to his rare qualities, an unavailable reputation and position in Government circles. He rendered the Confederation unique services in the conclusion of commercial treaties with France, Germany, Austria and Italy.

The Swiss wine harvest is stated to produce this season 550,000 hectolitres, against 375,000 hectolitres last year. At a conference in Schaffhausen of wine merchants in the eastern part of Switzerland doubts were expressed as to the possibility of disposing of this large harvest, in view of the heavy prices demanded by the growers and the large stocks still left over from previous years.

The Swiss Esperanto Society held their annual meeting last Sunday in Biel. It is stated that Esperanto is now being taught in the official continuation classes in St. Gall and Le Locle, and that the staff of the postal and telegraph administration is receiving similar instruction in Berne and Geneva, partly at the expense of the Confederation. Several of the official publications of the Swiss Federal Railways and the Swiss Touring Office are now issued in Esperanto.

The Dornier works in Friedrichshafen are reported to be contemplating the purchase of a large tract of land on St. Gall territory for the purpose of erecting an aeroplane factory capable of employing about 600 hands.

The hundredth anniversary of Conrad Ferlin nad Meyer's birth was celebrated last Sunday by a brilliant manifestation in the Tonhalle at Zurich.

Monsignor Georgius Schmid, Bishop of Chur, is the recipient of a personal letter from Pope Pius XI. on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination. In recognition of his assiduous ministrations, the apostolic benediction is conferred upon the venerable dignitary and his diocese.

The late Mr. Georg Scherb, a dentist who recently died at Berne at the age of 80, left the

whole of his fortune of about Frs. 700,000 to the Insel Hospital in Berne, subject to minor legacies to the Salvation Army and institutions looking after the blind.

Neuchâtel hospitals benefit to the amount of Frs. 76,000 under the will of Madame A. Jean-Henry, the widow of a former cantonal councillor.

In Chuderacker, near Neukirch (Bischofszell), a farmstead, occupied by the two families Ebnöter and Eichenberger, was destroyed by fire; carelessness on the part of a small boy is said to be the cause.

A tourist, Mr. Otto Uhlmann, from Berne, who for four days previously had been reported missing, was found alive by a search party on Wednesday (Oct. 7th) on the Dündenhorn above Kandergrund; both thighs were broken.

After a long search fraught with considerable danger the body of the 20-year-old tourist, Adolf Grob, from Rapperswil, has been discovered in a mutilated condition in a couloir of the Mürtschenstock.

Three Lausannois, members of the Diablerets section of the Swiss Alpine Club, met their death in one of the couloirs of the Rochers de Naye through one of them slipping at a dangerous passage and dragging the other two along, all being roped together. Their names are: Max Thilo-Privat, engineer; Aug. Lerch-Weber, architect; and M. Kousming-Poponanoff.

During a tour of inspection one of the sub-managers of the power-works in Vernayaz (Valais), Friedrich Hoser, of Rothrist (Aargau), fell into the river-bed near the Pisseevache cataract, fracturing his skull; his body is to be transported to Winterthur for burial.

Joseph Hüsl, the proprietor of the Hotel Gütsch in Lucerne, died there after a short illness at the age of 60.

Stadtrat Konrad Leu died last Saturday in Schaffhausen at the age of 59; a public teacher by profession, he took a keen interest in the movement combatting alcoholism.

Through running in the darkness on Sunday night into a manure heap near Dörflingen (Schaffhausen) the passenger of a combination motorcycle was flung out of his seat and picked up dead; his name is Ernest Sigg, of Dörflingen. The driver himself escaped injury.

M. Eugène Mussard, a former director of the Swiss National Bank in Geneva, has met with a serious accident, his car colliding with a tram standard on the Lausanne-Pully road; he was conveyed to hospital suffering from external and internal injuries.

EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

Ce n'était pas le bon ! — Un habitant de la commune de V., alcoolique invétéré et quelque peu aliéné, par surcroit, devait être interné, par mesure administrative, dans un asile de la contrée. Ce fut le syndic lui-même qui, en "Wageli," se chargea de conduire le patient vers sa nouvelle demeure; pour le maintenir de bonne humeur et éviter tout incident, il paya, en cours de route, force "demis" qu'il partagea avec son protégé, si bien que, avant d'arriver à l'asile, le brave syndic, sous l'effet des libations répétées, s'était endormi, laissant les rênes à son camarade. Celui-ci, beaucoup plus aguerri, n'avait qu'un léger "coup de soleil." Sous la conduite experte, la voiture atteignit sans encombre la maison hospitalière.

— J'amène le malade qui vous a été annoncé!... déclara alors froidement notre poivrot, en montrant le syndic assailli sur son siège et ronflant harmonieusement.

— Ça ne traîna pas. En deux temps, trois mouvements, les infirmiers avaient descendu le nouveau pensionnaire et l'avaient fourré en cellule, toujours endormi. L'autre, cependant, s'était empressé de gagner le large avec la voiture du syndic qu'il alla vendre, avec le cheval, dans une localité voisine. Inutile de dire à quoi passa le plus grande partie de l'argent.

Le syndic, cependant, les fumées de l'ivresse dissipées, fut stupéfait de se réveiller dans une bonne petite cellule matelassée. Au gardien, accouru à ses hurlements, il expliqua qu'il était le syndic de V., venu amener un fou à l'asile, etc. Il devait s'agir d'une méprise!...

— Oui, oui, on la connaît... se contenta de répondre le gardien, à qui on ne la faisait pas.

Il crut cependant devoir aller prévenir le directeur. Celui-ci, absent au moment de l'arrivée du syndic et de son protégé, se rendit dans la cellule et le petit malentendu s'expliqua. Mais le malheureux syndic, durant huit jours, n'osa pas reparaire au village où, aujourd'hui encore, il est l'objet de gorges chaudes de tous ses administrés. Il a jure, en tout cas, de ne plus jamais se charger de pareilles commissions!

(Feuille d'Avis.)

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KYBURG."

How it works.

According to *The People* (4th Oct.)—

A famous firm of silk manufacturers has acquired the Castle Blair (Dunfermline) linen factory for conversion into a Swiss silk-weaving factory, and a big hostel is being installed to accommodate the Swiss girls who are coming over to teach Highland lassies the art of silk-weaving.

It is anticipated that the Swiss maids will endeavour to teach Sandie and Jock the art of yodelling across the Scotch banks and braes!

There you are now, dear friends! England adopts Silk Duties, and the result is that a part of our Swiss industry, with Swiss workmen and girls, are transported to England or Scotland, as the case may be. Does anybody think this is for the good of Switzerland? It may be for the good of England, but if all countries do the same, the result is simply that a tremendous amount of economic force is being wasted by shifting established industry and personnel from one place to another. Costs of production are thereby increased and, taken all round, the result must logically be bad. One could not wish for a clearer example of how Tariff Reform works and how it inevitably must hit the human family, because it produces conditions which are uneconomical. Dixi!

Opening up of the Port of Basle.

The Journal of Commerce (Liverpool) (1st October):—

At the Nautical Institute, Rotterdam, a paper has been read by Mr. C. C. J. de l'Espinasse, Eng., a member of the Bureau of the Central Rhine Navigation Commission at Strasbourg, on 'Navigation on the Upper Reaches of the Rhine,' the part from Bingen to Basle. Near Bingen a natural obstruction in the river is met in the Bingen Loch, where scattered rocks in a bend of the river originally made navigation impossible, leaving only a narrow passage of about 30 feet width and 5 feet depth.

The part from Strasbourg to Basle is, however, still often cut off entirely for months at a time, and some miles below Basle a serious hindrance to navigation is met in the Isteiner Schwelle, a chalk rock, causing a serious disturbance in the water, and running practically dry at low water. The Swiss Government, whose efforts for a number of years have been directed towards making the port of Basle accessible to Rhine shipping throughout the year, prepared plans for the construction of a canal at the side of the Isteiner Schwelle, and for improvements to the river from this spot to Strasbourg; these plans, which were completed in 1922, having been approved by the Central Rhine Navigation Commission in April, 1925.

At the same time the French Government, in accordance with the stipulations of Article 358 of the Treaty of Versailles, applied to the Central Commission for leave to construct a canal from the Kember to Strasbourg, and these plans have also been approved by the Commission.

In approving both plans, which in due course should make Basle accessible to Rhine shipping throughout the whole year, the Commission have considered that the Swiss plan can be carried out in considerably shorter time than will be necessary to construct the canal applied for by the French Government, and that it had no power to obstruct the Swiss authorities in their efforts to improve the shipping ways to Basle within the shortest time possible.

The above refers to an effort, on behalf of the interested countries, to nullify in some measure the effect of customs duties by making transport

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cheaper. Once the whole of Europe is united in some sort of Federation or at least Customs Union, the benefit of such cheap transport will, of course, be more evident. So let us rejoice that something some time is being done in the right direction.

The Lighter Side of the League of Nations' Meetings at Geneva.

Evening Standard (30th Sept.):—

The serious business connected with the meetings of the League of Nations does not prevent the delegates from indulging in a little mild frivolity in their leisure hours, and their presence in Geneva is being made the excuse for a good deal of very pleasant entertaining.

Among the most prominent hostesses are the Comtesse de Noailles and the Duchesse de Vendôme, whose salons are regularly attended by the League representatives.

Mrs. Wilson, widow of President Wilson, is staying at the splendid Villa Bartholomé, built by Collet in 1825 to the order of M. Bartholomé, a rich descendant of Florentine refugees.

Both the gardens and the villa are extremely ornate in character, and the latter contains a good deal of sculpture, including some of the works of Canova. From the grounds on the lake front one gets a magnificent view of the mountains.

A Continental paper tells an amusing story about a smart and pretty American credited with wealth and originality.

While boating on the lake at Geneva, a valuable brooch fell overboard. Without the smallest hesitation and in all seriousness she asked for the lake to be drained at her expense.

The authorities, who seem to possess a sense of humour, sent an official reply regretting their inability to comply with the request, for two reasons: Firstly, for fear of possible complications between France and Switzerland, who share the lake. Secondly, because, owing to a regrettable shortage of bottles, there were not sufficient of them in which to store the water drained.

I particularly liked the above story, which *si non è vero, etc.*

The Capital of the World.

More and more Switzerland tends to become the Capital of the World. The latest international "Bureau" or "Secretariat" to be transferred to our homeland is the Secretariat of the L.S.I., according to the following paragraph from the *Daily Herald* (1st Oct.):—

The Executive of the Labour and Socialist International decided in Marseilles to transfer the Secretariat of the L.S.I. from London to Switzerland. This decision was reported to and approved by the International Congress.

As the Swiss authorities have now granted permission for the entry and residence of the secretary of the L.S.I., Friedrich Adler, the removal of the Secretariat has been fixed for December 1st. The seat of the Secretariat will be in Zurich.

By and by, when the League of Nations has developed into the real thing and embraces all the nations of the world, when arbitration and round-table meetings between different members of the human family become the rule rather than the exception, Switzerland will, no doubt, develop into a regular Headquarters of the new World State. The influence on our population will be twofold, i.e., good and bad, but by the time these things come to pass, ideas will have progressed a good deal, and we can hope that the good influence will be in the ascendant. Apart from geographical advantages, Switzerland is trusted by the other nations because it has no foreign policy worth speaking of and certainly none to arouse jealousy in any quarter. May it ever be so!

The Swiss Radio Industry.

Electrical Review (2nd Oct.):—

Steadily increasing interest is being shown in radio-telephony and broadcasting in Switzerland. So far the bulk of the receiving sets in use have been imported, but a home wireless industry is gradually being built up. One of the principal Swiss manufacturers is the Société Televox, of Neuchâtel, which, in addition to two-, three- and four-valve sets, is producing transformers and variable condensers. Apparatus under Marconi licences is also being turned out by Favarger & Co., of Neuchâtel. The Fabrique Suisse d'Isolants, of Bretonbac, manufactures all classes of enamelled and barbe wire and various insulating materials. The Société des Câbleries et Treflieries, at its works at Cossonay, turns out wires and cables from the smallest to the largest size, while the Société Leclanché, of Yverdon, is specialising on primary batteries for dull-emitters, h.p. batteries and condensers, the last being a class of goods which the company has supplied for many years to the Swiss telephone and telegraph authorities. Finally, it may be mentioned that the H. Weidmann Co., of Rapperswil, has a speciality in "Cormite" moulded insulation for valve sockets, etc.

Well do I remember the thrill I felt when, some two years ago, I listened-in, one Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock, to Lausanne and heard somebody

talking about the Société des Carabiniers Suisses. Since then various broadcasting stations have opened in Switzerland, and, in spite of the rather heavy cost of "sets," a large number of good sets are in use. Most wireless fans in Switzerland go in for high-class sets, so as to be able to get London and other European stations.

These last few days have brought us drizzle, morning mists, fog even in some favoured parts, and with the passing of summer-time the evenings have, all of a sudden, become very long. Now and again conversation, especially in places where children are about, drifts to Christmas. In the garden the bulbs are planted, or ought to be, the rose order is made out and the beds prepared for planting in a few weeks' time. The easy-chairs are drawn up to the fire in the evening, and a cosy room is much appreciated again. Outdoor sports, except golf and football, have lost much of their "ci-devant" charm. In other words, and not to put too fine a point on it, although I hesitate saying it outright, *Winter* is coming. Now you know. What confirms me in the belief that the cold season is close upon us is the fact that a number of British papers are beginning to refer to Winter Sports in Switzerland. Here and there pictures of Davos, etc., have already appeared, and we are told in the *Evening Standard* of 3rd Oct.:

Swiss Winter Sports.

The prospects for the Swiss sports winter season, I am told, are good, as snow on the mountains has fallen much earlier than usual. In some places there was frost at the very beginning of September.

Indeed the early winter has broken up the summer season at several places, and visitors have left for more sunny climes.

While *The Sphere* of the same day prints a picture of snow-clad Davos, taken a few days previously!

I keep telling myself that my little holiday of a few weeks ago was merely for the sake of my nerves and not meant as a real holiday during which one enjoys oneself properly, and that, therefore, a few weeks' Winter Sports would do me a world of good. Strangely enough, Mrs. 'Kyburg' shares this opinion. Oh, is it not beautiful to get two minds to have one single idea, to agree so completely, to be convinced that each is absolutely right! Well, I really think that such precious unity of mind, such touching agreement with each other's thoughts merits a special mention and a special holiday. And—turning towards the Editor—think what wonderful inspiration 'Kyburg' would, no doubt, get from the contemplation of our snow-clad, sublime, sunny Alps! ('Kyburg' evidently thinks of the glories of ruby-like Valtellina, which tastes nowhere better than somewhere up, high up, in the Grisons, after a good day's tobogganing or skiing.—*Ed.*) Anyhow, I hope that such a holiday will come our way this season, and it will then be much nicer to write about Winter Sports. Why, oh why, don't our readers club together in order to send a mission to the Alps to find out whether Winter Sports are really as nice as they are made out to be, and to settle that vexed question once and for all. 'Kyburg' would be quite willing to persuade Mrs. 'Kyburg' to join him as a missionary of that sort. And each reader helping the mission will receive an autographed picture post-card from Switzerland from 'Kyburg,' and that is more anyhow than they would get for sending old stockings, etc., to our heathen brethren in Africa.

QUOTATIONS from the SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES

	BONDS.	Oct. 6	Oct. 13
	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.
Confederation 3% 1903 ...	78.90	79.00	
5% 1917, VIII Mob.Ln	100.60	102.00	
Federal Railways 3½% A—K ...	81.50	82.50	
Canton of Basle (City) 4% 1910 ...	100.30	100.35	
SHARES.	Nom.	Oct. 6	Oct. 13
	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.
Swiss Bank Corporation ...	500	695	696
Crédit Suisse ...	500	750	760
Union de Banques Suisses ...	500	595	595
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	1758	1742
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	3087	3073
Soc. Ind. pour la Schappe ...	1000	3385	3302
S.A. Brown Bovery ...	350	359	362
C. F. Bally ...	1000	1115	1127
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	200	237	249
Entreprises Suizex S.A. ...	1000	893	899
Comp. de Navign sur le Lac Léman	500	565	565

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