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and was seized with open arms by the French delegation. Sir Austin Chamberlain immediately rushed to the German delegation and seized Herr Stresemann's right hand between both of his. Herr Stresemann and M. Briand almost embraced as the latter left the Assembly. The Germans were then surrounded by crowds of excited delegates, while the English interpreter of M. Briand's speech vainly tried to make himself heard. The President wisely adjourned the Assembly, and the enthusiasm was carried into the streets, where the chief delegates were surrounded by photographers and excited crowds, while the German delegation were almost "mobbed" or the way to their hotel.

Whatever happens in the Seventh Assembly during the next few weeks nothing can overshadow the historic fact of the entry of Germany. She is once more in her rightful place among the nations of the world, with ancient foes as friends, and a wealth of goodwill at her command. Geneva has at last realised the dream of six years ago.

To make the picture complete, I think a short résumé of the two great orations should find room in this column; it is taken from the *Daily Express* (September 11th):—

Dr. Stresemann said:

The catastrophe of the terrible war has recalled the conscience of mankind to the consideration of the tasks which confront the nations. In many countries we are witnesses of the ruin of whole classes who are intellectually and economically indispensable to the life of the nation.

The old economic situation of the world had no statutes and had no programmes to guide its co-operation. This co-operation was based on the unwritten law of the traditional exchange of goods between continents. The restoration of that exchange must be our task.

If we really desire the undisturbed economic development of the world, that end will not be attained by erecting barriers between countries, but rather by bridging over the gulfs which have hitherto separated the different national economic systems.

But there is something which far transcends in importance all material considerations, and that is the soul of nations themselves. There is just now a mighty stirring of ideas among the nations of the world.

We see some that adhere to the principle of self-contained national unity, and who reject international understanding because they do not wish to see all that has been developed on the basis of nationality superseded by a more general conception of humanity.

I hold that no country which belongs to the League thereby surrenders in any way her national individuality. The Divine Architect of the world has not created mankind as a homogeneous whole. He has made nations of different races, but it cannot be the purpose of the Divine world order that men should direct their supreme national energies against one another, thus ever thrusting back the general progress of civilization.

M. Briand said:

Let us finish with wars and the horrors of wars.

Only a few years have elapsed since the most frightful war which has ever upset the world and the battlefields are still saturated with blood. Yet those same nations which violently opposed each other then, are meeting here and expressing their common desire to collaborate in the work of universal peace.

Locarno and Geneva are not far distant, but the path has not been the easiest. Had we discontinued our efforts which led to Locarno this would have been the end.

If you, Dr. Stresemann, were here as a German and only as a German, and I only as a Frenchman, agreements would not be easy, but if we are citizens participating in a universality, all will go well.

This day will go down in history as one on which something concrete has been done for the peace of the world and the peoples of the world. They have every right to cherish great hopes for the future of peace and brotherhood.

**The Ideal.**

This pretty parable terminates a long article in the *Colne and Nelson Times* (September 11th):—

An apt illustration of the purpose of the League is provided by the Lake of Geneva itself. The Rhone when it enters the Lake is a muddy and turbulent stream, but the sediment which it brings down from the mountains is deposited in the lake, and the river when it reaches Geneva is clear and deep blue in colour. Similarly we sometimes speak of the League as an "international clearing-house," into which flow the various streams of European policy, tainted by their origin in the old selfish and secret diplomacy of the past, and from which, leaving their sediment of ill-will, they finally emerge purified. That at any rate, is the ideal. It will not be realised all at once, but at least it is something worth striving for.

**League of Spiders invades Geneva.**

The lighter side finds expression in a burlesque, entitled League of Spiders invades Geneva,

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and is reproduced from the *Daily Chronicle* (September 16th); the matter was first broached in some French dailies, though one does not generally associate spiders' webs with a beehive.

They hang down from the ceiling!

They drop on people's heads;

They start the housemaids squealing;

Who find them in the beds.

They insinuate themselves between the folds of linen placed in the wardrobes.

They spin webs on or in the hats of the delegates of 48 nations.

Spiders even found their way (adds Reuter) into a solemn sitting of the League.

Signor Scialoja (Italy) broached the subject of the unwelcome invasion to M. Motta (Switzerland), the President.

Sir Austin (Britain) backed up Rome's request. M. Vandervelde (Belgium) did his best; He point'd to a mark upon his cheek—

A spider's bite which he'd received that week.

M. Briand (France) promptly replied with a French proverb, "Araignée du soir, espoir," optimistically ignoring the other half of the proverb, which runs "Araignée du matin, chagrin." Of

which a fair translation is:—

A spider at night  
Means Hope beaming bright,  
A spider at dawn—  
All hope is withdrawn!

M. Motta called together the principal hotel keepers, and war was declared by the League on the invaders.

Then 50 maids with 50 mops,  
Attacked the walls and floors;  
Brushed spiders off the bureau tops,  
And swept them out of doors.

By evening not a spider was to be seen.  
But when the time came to retire to rest it was found that all the arachnids seemed to have taken refuge in the beds.

**A Swiss "L.G."**

The following reference has appeared in a number of provincial papers, and I have been wondering who this outstanding Swiss personality might be; perhaps some of my readers can satisfy my curiosity.

Visitors to the League of Nations meetings in Geneva are now back in London. One well-known champion of the cause of peace was describing to me to-day the incidents relative to the admission of Germany as he saw them.

I admit I was more interested in his recital of a conversation with a distinguished Swiss on the subject of the strong men in public life in Switzerland. The outstanding personality of Swiss politics is not unlike Mr. Lloyd George, but the Swiss gentleman said he thought his countryman was "rather less opportunist."

As the Englishman who took part in the conversation is a whole-hearted adherent of Lord Oxford, his reply can be imagined. It startled almost as much as it amused the Swiss.

**Working Hours in Switzerland.**

The following extract from the report of the Federal Inspectors of Factories, published by the "Times" (Sept. 11th) fully justifies the desirability of adapting working hours to the fluctuating requirements of particular industries. The rigid application of the 48-hour week would have crippled several export industries with consequent disastrous results to the workers.

In the reports of the Federal Inspectors of Factories, which have just appeared, it is stated that the week of 48 hours has become the custom, but the proprietors and workers recognise that advantage may be taken to a large extent of the permission given by the law to prolong the working period to 52 hours when special reasons justify this course. These circumstances certainly exist to-day, when the struggle in the export markets with competing industries of countries having depreciated exchanges has become unequal.

In Switzerland there is some difficulty in establishing uniform conditions of work, because the application of the law is a matter for the Cantons, and there is a considerable difference in the interpretations which the various authorities give. The adoption of the 52-hour week, provided by Article 41 of the Law, was almost equal in the

two years 1924-1925, but applications for permits were more numerous in 1924 than in 1925. The improvement in business was partly responsible, and it is unquestionable that the permission given by Article 41 was a very great advantage to industry during the period, when, owing to the sudden fall in prices, it was necessary to adjust values to the world level, to take account of the variations in exchange, and to effect quick deliveries. These conditions could not have been realized without an increase in working hours.

Permits have often been asked for a short period with the object of effecting quick delivery. The initial permit is only granted for 20 days at a time; for each renewal a charge must be paid, together with a supplementary wage of 25 per cent. to the workpeople. One fact which deserves notice is the opposition which certain manufacturers or groups of manufacturers are making to the return of a fixed 48-hour week. In the whole of Switzerland there were 2,783 extensions of working hours in 1922; 3,668 in 1923; 4,352 in 1924; and 4,150 in 1925. The silk, secondary textile, clothing, machinery, and watch industries were among those which in 1925 extended their working hours compared with 1924.

**Swiss Water Power.**

The subjoined figures given in the *Electrical Review* (September 19th), show to what extent Switzerland has been able to free herself from the clutches of "King Coal." Perhaps if the coal strike lasts long enough this country will begin to realize the enormous advantages to be gained by harnessing the dormant water power.

According to information furnished by the Swiss Federal Water Power Board, the water power being utilised on June 1st, 1926, represented a total of 560,000 h.p., while a further 73,000 h.p. is being brought into use. On the basis of general investigations, the total water power resources of Switzerland are estimated at 2,500,000 h.p., constant all the year round, so that at present only one-fourth of the potential power is being developed. Private industrial undertakings control 42.1 per cent. of the total output, while the balance is in the hands of communal or State concerns or companies mainly financed by the State.

**Alpine Motoring.**

A correspondent in the *Autocar* (September 19th) voices a general complaint that I have heard from friends spending their holiday touring in Switzerland. Quite apart from local restrictions the controls and demands for car identity papers each time you cross into another canton seem to be exasperating. Motoring is a pleasure by itself, and in spite of the attraction of beautiful scenery, the foreign motorist will avoid those countries where he is exposed to vexatious regulations and to the whims of officious road guardians.

On a recent tour I crossed the Stelvio Pass from Trafor, and as I was driving a car sixteen feet long I was surprised to find I could round all the hairpins without reversing. Mr. Freeson and others have emphasised the acuteness of the corners but it would seem that any difficulty in taking them "in one" must be due to absurdly inadequate lock, and it would be a pity if anyone were afraid to attempt the pass because of the supposed difficulty of the corners.

After the Stelvio, instead of descending to Bormio, we passed into Switzerland by entering the newly opened Grisons Canton. Frankly, it is not an experiment to be recommended except to those with plenty of nerve, time and money. Narrow roads, oppressive police control, absurd speed limits in a multiplicity of dirty villages, combined with high prices, hay-carts and hostile villagers, made us very glad to escape from the Canton at Oberalp.

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