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HOME NEWS

The new building of the Federal Tribunal on Monrepos in Lausanne was inaugurated and taken possession of last Monday.

The new civil code regulating the terms of employment of municipal employees in Zurich provides for the payment of bounties to those who are able to make suggestions which result in the improvement of the administrative services or municipal enterprises.

A strong movement in the canton Aargau seeks to bring about legislation prohibiting the circulation of automobiles and motor cycles during night-time.

At the meeting of cantonal school inspectors at Herisau it was decided to recommend the issue of a new school atlas; the cost is estimated at about 300,000, of which the Confederation is expected to bear two-thirds.

A sudden landslip on the Via Mala (Grisons) carried away one of the road repairers, Kaspar Dönz from Thusis, and it is feared that he has perished in one of the Rhine gorges.

An automobilist in Winterthur who had run into and killed a local farmer, Robert Hintermeister, age 27, from Haldenhof-Elgg, was saved from being badly handled by infuriated witnesses of the accident by the prompt intervention of the police.

Quite a number of deaths have recently been reported through the consumption of poisonous mushrooms, the latest victim being Mr. Ernst Burgdorfer, aged 33, of Lüscherz (Berne).

Through suddenly applying the brakes in order to avoid a collision with a farm cart on the road between Merstetten and Weinfelden (Thurgau), the car of Dr. Ernst Himmel, of Rafz, turned a somersault, burying him and his wife underneath. The lady escaped with minor injuries, while the husband succumbed a short time afterwards to a broken spine.

Col. Franz Bünzli, local commandant of Solothurn, died suddenly, following a stroke of apoplexy, at the age of 57.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

The Game of Boules.

As there are quite a number of skittle enthusiasts in our Colony whose reputation for "Kränz" and "Babelis" is unique, they will be interested to gather from the *Observer* (Sept. 4th) that an International Federation has been formed for the purpose of holding championship meetings.

If you have ever watched a game of boules being played in a country inn of the South of France, or Switzerland, or North Italy, you will be interested to know that the boulistes of these three countries are about to form an international federation, and to hold a championship meeting. Those of us who know the game as practised in the noisy wooden skittle alleys of country inns on Sunday nights, may be inclined to suggest that the championship shall include a medal for the stranger who manages to sleep soundly in his bedroom during a closely-contested match carried far into the night; but, as a matter of fact, the real game is not played in a wooden alley, but in the open village square, with the villagers sitting around in the summer evenings with their white wine and hot sausages. It is nearer to bowls than to skittles, and on the Place Bellecour at Lyons—for the game is Lyonnais in its origin—there are already half-championship competitions, which, without being international, attract large and enthusiastic crowds.

Survival of the "Unfit."

The World Population Conference at Geneva is productive of many instructive papers, though we need not subscribe to everything which the theorists have prepared for us as to the future outlook; the following is culled from the *Daily News* (Sept. 3rd):

The most interesting paper at the World

Population Conference to-day was read by Mr. E. J. Lidbetter, who had some severe things to say regarding the activities of philanthropists in their efforts to improve the standard of living of a "socially inadequate community."

Mr. Lidbetter spoke specially in regard to conditions in the East End of London, of which he claims to have special knowledge.

The problems of population, he said, could no longer be regarded as essentially economic; they were in the main biological, and economists should modify their teachings accordingly.

Mr. Lidbetter said he had found that inbreeding among feeble-minded, tuberculous and socially deficient groups is common—in fact, more prevalent than in normal groups of population. This habit he regarded as a good thing for the community in general, holding that if defectives must reproduce, it was better they should do so together than that good stocks be vitiated by inbreeding.

Improvement in the standard of living of a "socially inadequate community" appeared to have no effect on a community other than an improvement in survival. Protection through sanitation and hygiene increased the fertility, but in no way raised the quality of the new generation produced.

Mr. Lidbetter showed that reproduction in the socially defective groups much exceeds that of other sections of the community. This phenomenon, he thinks, is not due to a naturally higher fertility ratio, but rather because defectives have neither personal, parental nor social responsibility.

The activities of philanthropists, he said, have to a large extent lifted the burden of responsibility from the shoulders of many of these people, so that the worst class of the community has often a better chance to survive than the best. In many cases adaptation to slum conditions and endowment from various public sources has probably reduced a community that could not otherwise have survived.

SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

Au moment où je vous écris, la huitième Assemblée de la S.D.N. vient de terminer l'examen du rapport présenté par le secrétaire.

C'est là une phrase qui semble banale, ennuyeuse à lire, vide de sens. Ce sont pourtant les moments les plus intéressants que l'on puisse vivre lors de l'Assemblée de septembre. En voyez-vous la cause? Elle est simple. Sous prétexte de discuter l'œuvre accomplie, les délégués des différents pays, petits aussi bien que grands, ont la possibilité de dire franchement ce qu'ils pensent, de regimber contre une emprise sans cesse grandissante de ce qu'il est convenu d'appeler "grandes puissances" et de manifester de la mauvaise humeur qui ne fait point mal vue en de tels lieux.

Cette session qui devait passer "inaperçue," ou presque se révèle comme un des plus palpitantes que nous ayons suivies. Les tensions secrètes ont perçé au plein jour, avec beaucoup de politesse, les délégués se sont dit des choses fort désagréables, et lorsque, par surcroit, hollandais et polonais prétendent repandre les vieux textes enterrés, on en forger de nouveaux qui auraient mis pour de bon la guerre hors la loi, ce fut une levée de boucliers, de protestations et de récriminations comme on avait encore peu vu à Genève.

Les voix des grandes puissances ont grondé; elles n'étaient pas d'accord. Elles n'en ont pas moins "fait poids" pour écraser les généraux.

On a dit que le projet polonais, par exemple, sous sa forme première comprenait près de 40 pages. A la suite de l'examen minutieux et de la censure remarquable que lui firent subir juridiques anglais et allemands, MM. Hurst et Gaus, il fut réduit à 40 mots!

Vous conviendrez avec moi que tout le monde, n'apprécie pas de la même manière l'œuvre du rouleau compresseur!

Le grand artiste et le remarquable diplomate qu'est Monsieur Briand grisa ses collègues en se grisant lui-même, des plus belles paroles de paix. A l'ombre de son monocle, impassible et froid, un ministre que vous connaissez bien, tint lui, un langage bien différent. On a reproché à Sir Austen Chamberlain qu'il ne savait pas lui-même où le conduisait sa politique. Peu importe, mais, il y va quand même...et carrément!

Inutile de dire que la lourde menace, la tension, et la mauvaise humeur qui se manifestèrent durant cette première semaine eurent leur répercussion, non seulement dans les couloirs et au sein des délégations, mais aussi dans la presse tout entière. Dès que la scène politique s'obscurcit,

ANNIVERSARIES OF SWISS EVENTS.

Sept. 19th, 1470.—Agreement with France against Charles the Bold.

Sept. 20th, 1522.—Cardinal Schinner dies at Rome. He was by far the most distinguished Prince of the Church in Switzerland immediately before the Reformation, and in 1521, after the death of Leo X, he missed election to the papacy by no more than one or two votes. In his figure is most strikingly displayed the secularisation of the Church. Schinner had nothing of the ecclesiastic about him except the dress. Just as his master Julius II had mounted town walls by scaling-ladders in person, so Schinner, clad in his red cardinal's robes, led the Swiss army into battle.—*Oechslü*.

Sept. 22nd, 1499.—Peace of Basel. In the treaty of peace the independence of Switzerland was not expressly recognised. The Confederates, however, would no longer permit themselves to be described as "members of the Empire"; and the king was forced to promise the remission and abolition without exception of all feuds, all expressions of disfavour, all bans, all legal proceedings and complaints, undertaken against the Confederates, their allies, and their dependents, before or during the war. In those matters which were not expressly touched upon in the peace, both parties were to remain as they had been before the war. Before the war, however, the Confederates had rendered no military service to the Empire, nor paid any taxes to it, had obeyed neither the resolutions of the Reichstag, nor the commands of the King, nor the judgments of the Imperial Court of Chancery. Since this state of affairs was recognised on the German side as having a legal right to existence, the peace of Basel did establish the practical separation of Switzerland from the Empire, even though the official terminology avoided any open expression of this fact.—*Oechslü*.

Sept. 24th, 1799.—2,500 Russians, under Suvarow, pass the St. Gotthard.

c'est pour mes collègues comme pour moi une course échevelée et qui s'oppose quelque peu aux paisibles vacances d'août.

Ne me demandez pas quel est le résultat auquel on a abouti? Vous savez, comme moi, que l'on cause beaucoup à ces assemblées de Genève, que l'on propose pas mal, que l'on accepte ces propositions, mais que l'on ne décide jamais rien du tout.

Comme le disait si justement certain délégué, la S.D.N. n'est pas un super-Etat, elle ne peut rien décider. Cette déclaration a soulevé pas mal d'opposition, elle n'en est pas moins l'exacte vérité.

Car, au fond, le seul but—je parle ici au point de vue purement politique, excluant tous les biensfaits déjà accomplis par la S.D.N. dans les domaines hygiénique, intellectuel, sanitaire et social—des assemblées de Genève c'est d'éveiller l'opinion publique du monde entier à l'importance des problèmes internationaux, de lui montrer ce qui menace la paix et de lui laisser voir bien franchement la politique des différentes nations.

Cette huitième Assemblée est, à ce point de vue, des plus caractéristiques.

Demandez, va commencer le travail des commissions mises, l'opposition irréductible entre la conception pacifique des grandes et des petites puissances n'y sera point résolue. Les problèmes esquissés dès 1923, et repris cette année, ne pourront se dérouler qu'au cours des sessions à venir. La distance à franchir est trop grande pour qu'elle soit parcourue en cette fin de mois.

Cet intérêt soutenu est une chose à laquelle nous ne nous attendions pas. Il valait la peine que je vous en dise deux mots.

L'observateur.

EIDGENÖSSISCHE GLOSSEN.

Wahrzeichen aller Art.

Der schief Turm von St. Moritz soll dennoch gerettet werden. Die Gemeindeversammlung war nicht der gleichen Meinung wie der Gemeindevorstand. Der schief Turm sei das "Wahrzeichen des Dorfes." Wäre es nicht wesentlicher, 70,000 Fr. für eine neue Schöpfung auszugeben, in diesem St. Moritz, das auf dem Gebiete der Versorgung mit elektrischem Strom (nicht nur auf dem Gebiete der Hotellerie) pioniermäßig vorangegangen ist. Ein schiefer Turm ist nicht das rechte Wahrzeichen einer hochalpinen stadtähnlichen Siedlung, sondern das Wahrzeichen einer sentimentalität, die vor der Wirklichkeit die Augen schließt.

Trachten.

Unsere Trachtenfeste sind nicht besser. Sie mögen so hübsch, so unterhaltend und so festlich sein, wie sie wollen. Wir können nicht zum Alten zurück, wir können nur vorwärts, denn die gleichen Trachtenbauern werden zuhause den Motor installieren, werden ein Subventionsbegehren unterschreiben, werden sich nach der heutigen Welt einrichten müssen, wenn sie leben wollen. Die Trachten von ehemals haben so wenig mit echter Schweizerart zu tun wie die Trachten von heute. Gottseidank ist der Geist nicht vom Kleide abhängig. Je aufrichtiger wir der Wirklichkeit ins Auge schauen, umso besser für unsere Bauernschaft. Dass wir daneben unserem Hang zum Theaterspielen auch einige Tage gönnen, schadet uns nichts—wenn wir dabei nicht vergessen, dass wir Theater spielen...

Keine passende Ergänzung zu den Trachtenfesten als die ersten Berichte der Kommission zum Studium der Entvölkerung der Hochgebirgstäler. Man sollte am nächsten Feste nicht nur die Augenfreude aufmarschieren lassen (zur Lust der Städter), sondern auch Veranschaulichungen des alpinen Wohnens (zehn Personen in einem Raum, verglaste Fenster usw.), des alpinen Kretinismus, des alpinen Alkoholismus. Dann ist das Bild wenigstens vollständiger, wenn auch nicht so begeisternd. Warum überhaupt die "gute alte Zeit" (wo die Kinder starben wie die Fliegen, wo man bisweilen auch verhungerte) nur von der Seite der Tracht her zeigen? Jene, die schmächtig entflohenen nachtrauern, brauchen ja nur Pestalozzi oder Jeremias Gotthelf zu lesen, um darüber beigeleht zu werden, dass das "wahre" Schweizertum von anno dazumal recht unschöne Flecken hatte—allen Volkstrachten zum Trotz.

Steuern.

Die Summation des Kleinen: Wenn heute jemand ein Dreidezilliterglas Bier trinkt, denkt er gewöhnlich nicht daran, dass in diesem Preis ein Sechstels-Rappen Steuer steckt (in Form von Zollgebühren für Malz und Gerste). Und doch ergeben diese unscheinbaren Bruchteile von Rappen zusammen eine Million Franken. Nun soll die Belastung auf 0,73 Rappen pro Glas gesteigert werden, um dementsprechend zugunsten unseres Staatshaushaltes mehr als eine Millionen einzubringen. Ob diese Steigerung der Steuer von einem Sechstel auf dreiviertel Rappen pro Glas Bier ohne Revolution des "freien Schweizers" ablaufen wird?

Birnen.

Die Birnen reifen an den Bäumen. Dementsprechend fängt auch das Jammern an. Der alte Most im Keller ist noch nicht verkauft. Niemand will ihn. "Man trinkt jetzt Bier," sagen die Bauern. (Diese auf keine statistischen Unterlagen gestützte Meinung stimmt mit der Hoffnung der Brauereiindustrie, demnächst wieder auf der Friedenszahl von 3 Mill. Hektolitern anzugelangen, ganz hübsch überein.) Wenn nun schon getrunken sein soll, so wäre es natürlich einfacher, unsere eigenen Birnen zu trinken, als Malz und Gerste aus dem Ausland einzuführen. Doch der Volkswille geschehe. Der Bauer verwandelt also seinen alten Most in Schnaps und macht neuen Most, den er wahrscheinlich nächstes Jahr wieder in Schnaps verwandeln wird. Glücklicherweise werden jeden Winter Mostbäume niedergemäht, glücklicherweise mehrt sich der Zwang zur Anpfanzung von Tafelobst, glücklicherweise steigt die Fabrikation von Süssmost. Doch vorläufig noch werden Birnen—den Kühen gefüttert!

Emmentaler Käse.

Die *Schweizerische Bauernzeitung* meldet, dass ein amerikanischer Professor, der in seiner Heimat gewohnt war, täglich echten Emmentaler-Käse zu essen, auf seiner Schweizerreise, also in den schweizerischen Hotels, während drei Wochen nie Emmentaler Käse bekommen habe,

dass Australien die Erhöhung der Zollansätze auf Käse prüfe,

dass laut *Wiener Landwirtschaftlicher Zeitung* eine schweizerische Finanzgruppe mit den interessierten slowakischen Kreisen Verhandlungen über eine grosszügige Aktion zur Rationalisierung der slowakischen Käseerzeugung eingeleitet habe.

Ich bin dafür, dass auch solche Geschehnisse an einem der nächsten Trachtenfesten durch entsprechend kostümierte Gruppen bildlich dargestellt werden.

Felix Moeschlin in "N.Z."

QUOTATIONS from the SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES.

	BONDS.	Sept. 7	Sept. 14
Confederation 3% 1903	80.75	79.75	
5% 1917, VIII Mob. Ln.	101.40	101.50	
Federal Railways 3½% A—K	84.37	84.12	
" 1924 IV Elect. Ln.	101.10	100.95	
SHARES.	Nom.	Sept. 7	Sept. 14
Swiss Bank Corporation	500	783	808
Crédit Suisse	500	865	875
Union de Banques Suisses	500	731	737
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	2645	2647
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	4275	4225
Soc. Ind. pour la Schappe	1000	2712	2805
S.A. Brown Bovery	350	564	570
C. F. Bally	1000	1250	1237
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mf. Co.	200	757	772
Entreprises Suizer S.A.	1000	1077	1090
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman	500	557	558
Linoleum A.G. Giubiasco	100	140	140
Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon	500	754	762

**THE INTERNATIONAL FLYING MEETING
AT ZURICH, AUGUST 12th to 21st.**

With all the newspapers billing and boozing Transatlantic flights nothing has found its way into the English daily Press about the important aviation meeting which took place at Zurich last month, and it is really a pleasure to learn from such a well-known lady owner-pilot as Mrs. Sophie C. Elliott-Lynn that Switzerland is doing very useful work in this modern field of enterprise. The following extracts are taken from an unusually interesting report, which the lady supplied to *Flight* (Sept. 1st):

The Zurich International Flying Meeting has been organised on more ambitious scale than probably any other individual meeting. Over a thousand machines have come from all corners of Europe to compete in the numerous events on the programme.

The greatest interest centres round the "Aerobatics" Competition, the circular mountain races for light and heavy machines coming a good second. It is surprising that, with the machines and the pilots we have in England, these competitions should have been almost entirely neglected by Great Britain, the only competing machine being an Avro "Avian," in the light plane class.

Amongst the competitors Fronval, on a Morane-Saulnier 130 h.p. Clerget appealed to her as the favourite, his machine looking extraordinarily like bird-cage from a side view.

"He specialises in non-stop rolling and stunting, having on a similar machine, some years ago, looped 962 times in succession. His colour scheme is particularly noteworthy. The machine is a deep sky-blue, with the under surface of wings and fusilage centred in silver, the upper portion of both wings and fusilage being centred with vivid orange. This gives an extraordinarily vivid splash of colour in the sky in any weather."

The feats of another aviator named Fiesler, who in his "Schwalbe" used a 110 h.p. Siemens engine which appeared as controllable on its back as right way up, she describes as follows:—

"On Wednesday morning, August 17th, Fiesler put up a new officially observed world's record by flying upside down for 10 minutes 56 4/5 secs. He flew mostly in wide turns, gaining height all the time. On turning back to normal position, he lost sight for a time, and almost lost consciousness. He landed with great difficulty, and in a semi-fainting condition. He was, however, up again later in the afternoon, doing half rolls, loops and Immelmans off his back.

One of his most effective stunts, I am told, is a double loop or 8, beginning with the inverted loop, into which he goes very much as do our Service "Moth" people in the "Double Bunt," but out of a very much steeper stall. He pulls the nose up till the machine is on the verge of a tail-slide before dropping down and under."

In the class of events confined to Swiss service pilots, "The National Championship in aerobatics was won by Oblt. Herzog on a Hanriot, whose performance was of a very finished character.

An interesting inter-squadron relay race followed, in which the first man off had to make a circuit and drop a message, which was picked up by the next pilot, who had to run to his machine. The last pilot had to land and run with the message to the judge. It was won by "Adieu Mimi" team. Teams consisted of machines of one type, all fast and all slow machines being segregated.

The most interesting competition of the day, however, was the obstacle landing race. Owing to the great number of high power cables and wires all over the lower portions of the country (water power is always used), forced landing becomes difficult. Pilots in this mountainous country are always taught to fly over the impossible landing grounds of the Alps and their foothills at such an altitude that low ground can be reached by a glide in case of trouble. Owing to the steep nature of the hills this is always possible; but the network of wires in the valleys presents a natural obstacle to the pilot.

The competition was a direct outcome of part of the Service training. Two wires, lightly marked with streamers, were stretched 30 metres apart, and both the same distance above the ground (10 metres). The pilot had to land under the first wire and over the second on a mark. The competition was won by Oblt. Bonnet on the popular Hanriot."

Mrs. Elliott-Lynn was the only British representative, and here is her account of her experiences:—

"On Monday evening the reception of the light aeroplanes took place. The Avro "Avian" arrived half an hour before "closing time" with Mrs. Lynn and Mr. Boyes on board. This machine, which is Mrs. Lynn's property, was taken over three weeks before, and had done over 120

hrs. when it reached Zurich, including the "Round the Aerodromes flight," a trip to Ireland, to Wales and Glasgow, as well as a journey to Poland last week. The machine had received no particular attention before coming to Switzerland, as it was merely intended to act there as a demonstration machine and carry a pair of interested spectators.

It had come out via Ostend and Cologne, and travelled down the Rhine. Numerous adventures had befallen it *en route*, including an enforced stay of 24 hours in Ostend while its triptyque was filled up, having been sent back to Croydon (intending private owners flying to the Continent please note)—a semi-forced landing for petrol on the side of a hill near Wiesbaden, and a very-much-suspected landing in French-occupied territory near Mentz.

On the arrival of the "Avian," Mrs. Lynn reported to the Secretary that the "Alpha-Avian" which had been entered for the competition for her to fly, could not come, but that she had brought a similar machine with a "Cirrus II" engine. The Committee immediately informed her that as she had entered the "Alpha-Avian," the change of engine did not matter, and G-EBRIS could compete.

It was found that the machine was slightly too heavy, so with the help of Mr. Boyes—who worked like a nigger—and Imperial Airways' Mr. Parsons, the dual control, front seat, instruments, windscreens and every removable nut and bolt were taken out, and the weight brought down to the necessary 400 kilos."

Mrs. Lynn is full of praise for the thorough arrangements made by the promoters of the meeting:—

"One cannot speak too highly of the marvellous organisation of the whole meeting, on which the air staff and the civil authorities have been working for the *past year*. Every tiny detail and contretemps was provided for, and on every side every competitor was met with the most perfect courtesy and consideration. Unlike the organisers of certain other light aeroplane competitions, the ambition of the officials was to keep every machine in to the end and to do all in their power to help every competitor—without any favouring—into first place.

One had the delightful feeling throughout the whole contest that there was no need to worry about anything. One's petrol and oil, helping mechanics, weather reports, maps, photographs of the aerodrome to be visited, and even transport came along when wanted *without being asked for...*

A banquet given by the F.A.I., which is meeting this week in Zurich, and to which most of the competitors were invited, closed the day. It was a happy inspiration on the part of the Swiss organisation to make these two great occasions on this year's aviation coincide.

As good weather was promised, it was decided to hold the speed contest the following day, and consequently a car was sent to the hotel of each competitor at 4.30, with an official who saw to it that pilots and mechanics were fed at the railway station if the hotel could not come up to scratch—another little example of the thoughtfulness and care of the organising committee.

On arrival at the aerodrome one found all the machines lined up to start, with tanks filled from one's own supplies of fuel and sealed. Weather reports from all stations *en route* and photographs of all landing places, with markings, were also given to each competitor. In spite of a week's constant bad weather, low cloud and rain, Wednesday morning was the most perfect one could imagine, and every peak of the snow-clad Alps on the horizon stood out clearly.

Herr Lusser was first away on the Daimler-Klemm, but returned in few minutes with oil trouble. The Mobil oil he had in the Mercedes engine was giving trouble. We were fortunate in being able to lend him a supply of our Castrol R. on which he continued his flight after draining out the other.

The flight to St. Gallen, the first aerodrome was over some very lovely mountain country not above 2,500 ft., and occupied 21.27 minutes (50 kms.). The aerodrome is a new one, and lies south-west of the town. At both this and the other landing-places the finishing line was extraordinarily easy to find, as a group of officials and police were in all cases at either end, and not alone was the line of linen about 2ft. wide,

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