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HOME NEWS

Mr. Emil Montag, from Winterthur, who some months ago was appointed honorary Swiss Consul at Liverpool, has now taken up his official duties.

In the elections for the 100 members of the Genevese Grand Conseil the Socialists slightly increased their mandates and the parties of the left now control 54 seats against 52 in the previous Council; barely 60% of the electors recorded their votes.

Having been refused by the Basle authorities the necessary licence for constructing and opening a cinema opposite the municipal theatre, the Company concerned has appealed to the Federal Tribunal in Lausanne, which has now decided against the Basle authorities.

It is stated that during the ten days preceding Nov. 1st, when the new increased tariff came into force, about 2,000 motor cars were imported into Switzerland.

Sundry amounts totalling Frs. 107,000 have been bequeathed by the late Mrs. Schmidheny, of Heerbrugg (St. Gall) to local institutions, notably the Rheintal home for sufferers from tubercular diseases.

It is officially reported that in the wreck of the Principessa Mafalda four Swiss lost their lives; their names are: Frau Mimi Bucherer-Heeb from Altstetten, Edouard Grandjean from Buttles, Jacques Bille from Wavre, and Robert Meyerhofer from Zurich. Amongst the passengers saved is Mr. Ernst Roost from Zurich.

Through the bursting of a tyre one of the four occupants travelling in a car between Yverdon and Baulmes (Vaud) which turned a somersault, M. Collet, a 60-year-old retired schoolmaster from the latter place, succumbed to the injuries received.

Through his horse shying on approaching a reversing car, Gottfried Roos, a farmer from Emmen (Lucerne), fell from his dicky and died subsequently from a broken neck.

Edmond Delacoste, a well-known political personality in the canton Valais, died in Monthey at the age of 73.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

Anti-Militarism.

Somewhat alarming statements are contained in the following report which the *Times* published on Nov. 3rd from its correspondent in Switzerland. We can forgive anybody for uttering his own opinion, however ridiculous and ill-informed it may be, but for a great contemporary like the *Times* to broadcast this piffle to its large circle of readers seems to be "infra dig." There has never been in our time any militarism in Switzerland and consequently no anti-militarism, and to state that "Socialists and Communists are organising armed workers' guards in the Swiss army" is a fantastic invention. The writer is evidently unable to differentiate between Socialists and Communists, and is blind to the events which occur in these two camps not only in Switzerland but all over the world.

"The Swiss Army, by its special character, is more a citizen force than any other army in Europe. It is a national militia, in which all citizens physically suitable must serve; it is not a standing army, for the *personnel* only undergoes annual periods of training ranging from 11 to 21 days—after recruit training, which varies between 65 and 90 days. Its only function would be that of defending Swiss territory in the event of a violation of Swiss neutrality, and, if necessary, of maintaining order in the country itself. The Swiss Army is the object of a strong anti-militarist campaign on the part of the Socialists and Communists, who are now organising armed "workers' guards," and of certain feminist-facit organisations which are practically under foreign control. This campaign is now being intensified; it no longer attempts only to produce "conscientious objectors" and to stimulate indi-

vidual resistance, but—what is far more serious—it is now fostering collective and organised resistance to military as well as to Government orders, and rousing in the public mind contempt and hatred for the Swiss citizen-soldiers, who have not taken part in a war since 1847, whom they describe as "sanguinary Helvetic brutes."

Recent events show that this movement is helped by the inaction of some Cantonal Governments and by the apathy of the *bourgeois* political parties. The Zurich Grand Council recently passed a Socialist proposal to stop, during their annual periods of training, the salaries of teachers in the State schools who are also officers in the Army. The object of this measure is to deter teachers from taking commissions, and thereby deprive the Army of some of its best officers. At Geneva the Socialist Chief of the Education Department has maintained at his post a teacher sentenced to imprisonment by a Military Court and deprived of his civic rights for a period of five years for having deserted his regiment during the annual manoeuvres.

Two secret circulars issued by a new anti-militarist organisation which calls itself the *Révolution Pacifique* have recently come to light. The leaders of this organisation aim at persuading Swiss citizens to refuse military service, to disobey military orders, and to refuse payment of the military tax levied on those who, being physically unfit, cannot serve. This organisation seeks to "enlist" all the would-be rebels and bring about mutiny. According to the circulars, this "direct action" against the Army is only to be started when a sufficient number of men have joined the movement and have pledged themselves openly to rebel without regard for the punishment that may be inflicted on them.

Swiss public opinion is by no means militarist, but it is firmly attached to the principles of law and order. It has been greatly impressed by the discovery of this anti-militarist campaign, and the general hope is that the Government will lose no time in taking the necessary measures to put an end to the activity of those organisations whose only aim is to create unrest in Switzerland with the help and direct patronage of foreign agents."

Honegger's "King David."

Those who have been able—and determined enough—to listen through the recent broadcast of Honegger's "King David" will be interested in the following appreciation from the *Morning Post* (Nov. 2nd):—

"First, let me express my admiration of the Choir for tackling so exacting a work, instead of remaining content with the more familiar stalking horses favoured by the average Choral Society. The neglect of "King David" in England by our most important choirs strikes me as something of a scandal. This work has been acclaimed by musicians and public alike in France, Switzerland and Italy as the most interesting choral adventure of recent years.

It was left to the B.B.C. to introduce it to London at one of their mammoth concerts in the Albert Hall last season, when, speaking generally, the public loved and the critics damned it. But now it makes its first appearance in what may be called the ordinary repertory. *Quod faustum felixque sit.*

At any rate the Civil Service Choir deserve the encouragement of every progressive music-lover, and, if later I am forced to find fault with the performance, they will realise, I hope, that criticism, however severe, is not incompatible with goodwill.

Honegger was born in 1892 at Le Havre, of Swiss parents, and the fact has something of more than academic interest for it explains many of the characteristics of his music. By accident, as well as by choice, a Frenchman as regards nearly the whole of his musical education and the whole of the musical environment of his adolescence, there is in him a Teutonic strain that will not be denied. I doubt if an out-and-out Frenchman could have written "King David" any more than could an out-and-out German.

That useful country, Switzerland, with three native languages and at least two cultures, provided just the blend to make such a product possible. It is an achievement which, from the

ANNIVERSARIES OF SWISS EVENTS.

Nov. 14th, 1832.—Establishment of the Sarnerbund. Rising of the Conservative Cantons against the new order, especially of Schwyz and Baselstadt, against representatives being sent from Outer-Schwyz and Baselland. These two Cantons armed themselves to defend their rights; they were, however, subdued by the Confederate troops who occupied their territory. Outer and Inner Schwyz reconciled their differences, while Baselstadt refused equal rights to Baselland. The National Assembly of 1833, therefore, gave its sanction to the formation of two half cantons.

Nov. 15th, 1315.—Battle at Morgarten, on the lake of Aegeri, crushing victory obtained over Leopold of Austria and his knights.

Nov. 19th, 1343.—Alliance of Berne and Fribourg.

Nov. 20th 1815.—Recognition of Swiss neutrality.

musical point of view, she might with advantage attempted more often.

Doubtless, too, the Swiss part of him must bear some responsibility for Honegger's break with the most advanced school of young French composers, formerly known collectively as "Les Six," but now, following the familiar example of the little nigger boys of our childhood, progressively diminished in numbers.

Still the influence of that school remains strong in him. The reader need only think of "Pastorale d'été," almost Baudelairean in its "order and beauty," or even of the famous "Pacific 231" which could not possibly be anything but a French steam engine.

"King David," however, represents essentially the Swiss Honegger. The careful listener can trace here two, *not* three, distinct styles. For instance, the Psalm "All Praise to Him" might almost be by Bach or Handel, the last chorus of Angels (and David's song before it) might have been conceived by a French Humperdinck, while all the Witch of Endor music and many other portions of the score that I have no space to indicate remain the absolute property of the Honegger who wrote the incidental music to "The Tempest."

The work is christened by the composer a "Symphonic Psalm," but to the English musician it will inevitably fall into the category of an oratorio on the theme of Saul and David. This is justifiable enough if such a one be not misled by terminology. "King David" has almost as little in common with the English oratorio of Handel, Mendelssohn, or Elgar as it has with the French oratorio of Gounod or Massenet.

Essentially the music is a lyrical or realistic comment on the drama unfolded by the narrator, who incidentally makes use of the spoken, not the sung word. I fear so greatly to be misunderstood that I hesitate to write that the music should be approached as music to a cinema play. Yet, divorced from that derogatory sense, which has so wantonly and stupidly become associated with the term "cinema music," I still think that this describes the general character of it better than any other.

I feel fairly confident that if the reader approaches "King David" with unprejudiced ears and a determination to let the music speak for itself without reference to previous conventions, he will find much pleasure in this very interesting work.

As befits modern music it is highly coloured and there is much dissonance, as, indeed, was the effect of Wagner's music on our fathers and Monteverdi's (I suppose) on our ancestors. The score is, I think, undeniably unequal, but, taken as a whole, it is, I am sure, the product of a very imaginative and musical mind."

Aerial Highways.

If the anticipations of the United British Press correspondent as reproduced in the *Referee* (Oct. 30th) prove correct, Switzerland is in a fair way to become the central junction for Continental air traffic; this is what he says:—

"Switzerland is steadily becoming the Grand Central Station for all the aerial highways of Europe.

Under the programme of aerial routes established for 1928, virtually every important passenger, mail and goods carrying line will enter, terminate in, or pass through Switzerland. The schedule of routes available for tourists in the coming year is as follows:

Please reserve FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25th,
for the BANQUET and BALL of the
CITY SWISS CLUB.

1. Geneva-Zurich-Basle-Munich-Vienna and Budapest, with connections at Budapest for Prague and Breslau.

2. Geneva-Zurich-Stuttgart-Erfurt-Halle-Leipzig-Berlin, with connections at Stuttgart for Frankfurt, Cologne, Hanover, Hamburg and Scandinavia, and also with Nuremberg-Saxe and a night line to Berlin and Moscow.

3. Zurich-Berlin, express without stop in five hours, with connection at Berlin for Scandinavia.

4. Zurich-Stuttgart-Frankfurt-Cologne.
5. Basle-Fribourg-Stuttgart-Berlin.

6. Geneva-Basle-Mannheim-Frankfurt-Hanover-Hamburg-Copenhagen.

7. Zurich-Basle-Brussels-Rotterdam-Amsterdam-Antwerp-London.

8. Zurich-Basle-Paris-London.

9. Geneva-Paris-London.

10. Geneva-Marseilles-Barcelona-Madrid.

One British company, two Swiss, one German, one Austrian, one Dutch, one Belgian and one French will be allied in operating this network of aerial highways.

The Pragel Pass.

Particulars are given in the *Motor* (Nov. 1st) of the proposed new road over the Pragel Pass; it is remarkable that the development of this vital route should have been delayed so long.

"The building of a new road anywhere in England is in most cases a matter of utility and convenience, an extra route being required either to relieve the congestion of existing roads or to provide a shorter line between two points. In Alpine regions, on the other hand, a new road scheme embodies the factors of utility and picturesque quality alike. High mountain areas cannot be intersected by roads in every direction as readily as a lowland area, and there are many quarters in which long detours have to be made accordingly; hence any additional highway is, *ipso facto*, bound to be a convenience by affording a direct route across a tract of territory that has hitherto been inaccessible to the motoring tourist and at the same time will open up new scenes of Alpine beauty.

It is earnestly to be hoped, therefore, that a project that has been set afoot in Switzerland will be carried into effect—namely, the construction of a new road over the Pragel Pass. This lies between the towns of Schyzz and Glaris, and to drive from one to the other under present conditions one must either go northwards and work round by the main road to Zurich, or else follow the St. Gothard route to Altdorf and then cross the Klausen Pass.

There is already an approach road along the valley on the Schwyz side through the Muota-Tal, and on the other side a road runs from Glaris to Richisau, but the Pragel Pass itself has only a path across its summit. This is over 1,300 ft. lower than the alternative Klausen Pass, and a new road would offer not only an easier but a shorter journey, and would be particularly convenient for anyone travelling from Lucerne to Tirol, the Dolomites, or the Grisons.

The Pragel Pass, it may be added, was once the scene of one of the most famous marches in history. In 1799 the Russian general Suvaroff, only second in ability and daring to Napoleon himself, had fought his way over the St. Gothard and reached the end of the Lake of Lucerne, only to find that he could get no farther as the French had seized all the boats and there was no road either to Lucerne or Zurich, where his second army was in occupation. Hence he had to retreat under immense difficulties to Muota and over the Pragel Pass, after which he crossed the Panixer Pass to Ilanz. With wireless or aeroplane communication he could have been in touch with the other army on the north, but as it was he could neither direct the operations of the latter nor be himself forewarned as to the impossibility of joining forces by the St. Gothard route. There is a cross hewn in the rock to his memory near the well-known Devil's bridge, while a bronze tablet is also to be seen at the summit of the Pragel Pass.

New Radio Station at Geneva.

One of the most powerful stations on the Continent is in course of construction at Geneva, and the *Times* (Nov. 1st) published some preliminary particulars:—

"The League of Nations, desiring to possess increased means of communication, the board of directors of the Swiss Marconi Company has decided to instal a new high-power 50-kilowatt wireless transmitter. The new installation will have a radius of 2,000 miles, and will be able to communicate with any point in Europe as well as in Northern Africa and part of Asia. The present transmission apparatus will also be reinforced, so that the League of Nations and the Swiss commercial world will have, from next summer onwards, four powerful wireless transmission installations. The receiving station in each town will have four new high-speed receivers, which will enable it to take messages simultaneously from 12 foreign stations. At the same time as the new emission and receiving apparatus is installed the Marconi Company will

instal at Geneva a special office from which Geneva news will be sent direct.

A credit of 650,000 francs has been placed at the disposal of the Marconi Company to carry out these new installations, which will bring the amount invested in the installation to more than 3,000,000 francs."

Olympic Games Dispute.

Disputes on theories and the interpretation of abstruse notions seems to be in the air and the latest has arisen in the Council of the Olympic Games, as will be seen from the following taken from the *Daily Express* (Nov. 2nd):—

"Great Britain's entries for the Olympic Games at Amsterdam next year may be withdrawn following a decision by the games executive committee made at Lausanne, Switzerland, yesterday. This was on the subject of payment to athletes who lose money through absenting themselves from their work to play in the games.

The executive committee considered British protests against "semi-amateur" participation in the Olympic Games, but upheld arrangements made with the International Football Federation by which payment for "broken time" and "time compensation money" will be allowed. The British attitude on this matter has been that an amateur loses amateur status when he accepts payment of this kind, and it is believed in Lausanne that British football teams, at any rate, will withdraw.

The council of the International Amateur Athletic Federation state that any person who accepts payment for broken time in any sport cannot take part in sporting events under their wing.

It is possible, therefore, although yesterday's decision only referred to football players, that competitors in other events from Great Britain will not be allowed to participate.

British football teams took no part in the games of 1924 because the International Football Federation sanctioned payment to amateurs.

A meeting of the British Olympic Association will be held as soon as the governing bodies of the different sports can be called together, when a final decision will be taken."

LA PATRIA TUA.

"Conosci te stesso?" Non solo. Ma conosci la patria tua. Allora soltanto si potrà rispettare, servire con patrio amore vero, la terra dei nostri avi. La terra per la quale sentiamo così profonda la nostalgia quando siamo obbligati a lasciarla, per vicende di forze e di cose, e vivere in suolo straniero. La terra alla quale sempre vogliamo ritornare, appena ci è dato; la quale ricordiamo, vantiamo parlando allo straniero.

Eppure, per quanto noi crediamo di conoscere questa patria nostra, quante volte invece restiamo imbarazzati di fronte alle domande che uno straniero curioso ci porge! Quante volte dobbiamo arrivare alla triste conclusione che in fondo in fondo noi la patria nostra non la conosciamo come dovremmo. O che la si conosce troppo vagamente, quasi per caso...

La sua storia, la sua geografia, studiata così pappagallescamente sui banchi di scuola, in "ille tempora", noi, inconsciamente l'abbiamo (e lo voglio ben sperare!) l'abbiamo messa nel dimenticatoio! Quando ci troviamo in patria, quando sempre, ogni giorno, respiriamo aria elvetica, calpestiamo suolo elvetico, non ci curiamo, o ben poco, della posizione etnografica della Svizzera. L'accettiamo come un fatto compiuto e ci basta. Se poi, uno straniero, per caso, ci chiede delle spiegazioni intorno alla nostra repubblica, noi lo guardiamo, cerchiamo fare uno sforzo per ricordare quanto un giorno imparammo, e poi... siamo costretti a dare una risposta che molto chiaramente dimostra la nostra ignoranza! Nicolao della Flue? Arnoldo di Winkelried?...i personaggi storici, uno viveva in un eremo, l'altro si sacrificò per far vincere ai confederati una battaglia...In che epoca? Uhm!—A quale scopo? Un altro Uhm!—La guerra dei contadini? sì! una guerra confederata, ma per cosa poi questi contadini si misero a combattere rimane mistero seppellito nel libro di storia che riposa da anni, dimenticato, in qualche angolo della casa! —Autentico il caso capitato a un professore svizzero-tedesco, che mandato da una Commissione di Studi, nel Ticino allo scopo di rivedere la carta geografica di questo cantone, domandò a un ticinese il nome di un villaggio, che scorgevano dal punto ove si trovavano al momento. Il ticinese rispose nel suo dialetto: "Su mia." (Non so) e il professore che solo conosceva il buon italiano, prese quello per il nome del villaggio e così sulla carta geografica fece la comparsa il villaggio nuovo, di "Sumia"...—Sappiamo sì, qualche cosa, ma tutto così incerto, e forse sarebbe meglio ignorare completamente.

Da qui la necessità di metterci di bel nuovo a la conoscenza con i libri di storia, di geografia svizzeri. Da qui la necessità di leggere qualche cosa che ci parli della patria nostra.

E nelle pagine del libro "La Patria tua" appena uscito nella sua versione italiana, pubblicato dalla Nuova Società Elvetica, troveremo tutto quanto ci basterà per farci conoscere meglio la patria nostra.

Un libro questo che sa unire l'utile al dilettevole. Giuseppe Motta così lo definì nella sua introduzione: "Un libro chiaro e istruttivo come questo, nel quale sono raccolti dati e nozioni dispersi in parecchi che non sono di facile accesso, costituisce molto più di un filo; esso ha nome e sostanza di vital nutrimento."

Dalla prima pagina sino all'ultima, tutto esalta, tiene vivo l'interesse nostro. Non si stanca di leggerlo, perché, sebbene di carattere essenzialmente istruttivo, tutto ci viene messo lì in forma così piana, così graziosa, che piace e sodista. Ci accompagna, in breve tempo, attraverso l'etnografia della patria nostra. Ce la presenta, non in scorcio, ma completamente, dal primo suo giorno d'esistere, sino all'epoca nostra.

Lavoro ottimo che merita tutta la riconoscenza dei lettori. Libro che dovrebbe, particolarmente, trovare all'estero un'accoglienza tutta speciale. Che dovrebbe essere cercato, letto dagli svizzeri che lontani dalla patria loro, facilmente, loro nonostante, la dimenticano nei suoi dettagli.

"La Patria tua" è il vero libro per i figli degli svizzeri che nati e cresciuti in terra straniera, non possono che vagamente conoscere il carattere della Svizzera. Quando lo avranno letto e gustato avranno imparato a conoscere la patria lontana, come dovrebbe conoscerla un vero svizzero.

Tutto in esso interessa: dalla parte dedicata alla storia, alla geografia, a quella letteraria; dalla pagine che parlano delle costituzioni svizzere, a quelle che racchiudono poesie di Alfredo Pioda, di Francesco Chiesa, di Giuseppe Zoppi, di Eligio Pometta.

Libro elegante, che si presenta bene. Ricco di vignette interessanti. Di tavole a colore: riproduzioni di ben noti quadri, tra i quali "Madre e bimbo" di Pietro Chiesa. D'una carta della Svizzera accurata e chiara.

Libro che merita di essere segnalato e di essere accolto in ogni casa di svizzero, specialmente di svizzero all'estero.

E: "Anche lo straniero, che volesse formarsi un concetto adeguato o almeno sufficiente della Svizzera, troverebbe in questo volume, che io raccomandando anche a lui, gli elementi di un giudizio pacato e sicuro." Così conclude Giuseppe Motta la sua prefazione e così conclude anche la sottoscritta, augurando a "La Patria tua" l'accoglienza e fortuna che gli spetta, agli svizzeri e agli stranieri di leggerlo e gustarlo.

Londra, novembre 1927.

—Elena Lunghi.

QUOTATIONS from the SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES.

BONDS.		Nov. 1		Nov. 8	
		Nov. 1	Nov. 8	Nov. 1	Nov. 8
Confederation 3% 1903	...	79.25	79.82		
5% 1917, VIII Mob. Ln	...	101.00	101.00		
Federal Railways 3 1/2% A-K	...	84.10	84.12		
" " 1924 IV Elect. Ln.	...	101.07	100.75		
SHARES.		Nov. 1		Nov. 8	
		Nom	Nov. 1	Nom	Nov. 8
Swiss Bank Corporation	...	500	801	797	
Credit Suisse	...	500	867	855	
Union de Banques Suisses	...	500	725	730	
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	...	1000	2645	2590	
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	...	1000	4217	4237	
Soc. Ind. pour la Schappe	...	1000	2810	2807	
S.A. Brown Boveri	...	350	559	555	
C. F. Bally	...	1000	1282	1270	
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	...	200	739	775	
Entreprises Sulzer S.A.	...	1000	1140	1122	
Comp. de Nav. sur le Lac Léman	...	500	540	535	
Linoleum A.G. Giubiasco	...	100	170	155	
Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon	...	500	730	718	

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