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HOME NEWS

FEDERAL.

RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION.

The Swiss National Council has ratified the International Conventions relating to prisoners of war and wounded adready ratified by the State Council.

THE NEW SWISS PRESIDENT.

THE NEW SWISS PRESIDENT. The two Chambers of the Swiss Parliament met on the 11th of this month in Federal Assem-bly and elected Federal Councillor Heinrich Haeberlin as President, and Federal Councillor G. Motta as Vice-President, and Federal Councillor for 1933. M. Haeberlin was President also in 1926. He is a jurist and was for seven years chief of the Federal Department of Justice and Police.

THE ZONE DISPUTE.

THE ZONE DISPUTE. M. E. Judet, the eminent French Journalist, has had an interview with M. Musy, President of the Swiss Confederation. It is hoped that this interview will greatly help to being about a more conciliatory attitude towards the Swiss demands on the occasion of the forthcoming discussions.

SWISS MILITARY BUDGET ESTIMATES.

The National Council adopted, last week, the military Budget estimates for 1931, which, includ-ing credits for the purchase of war material, amount to 91,000,000 frames. M. Minger, Federal Conneillor, said that Switzerland's task was to obtain guarantees of security. The army was the first guarantee, and the Swiss forces were purely defensive in character.

TWO NEW FEDERAL JUDGES.

Dr. Adrian yon Arx and Dr. Hans Affolter, both citizens of the canton of Solothurn, have been elected as Federal Judges.

SWISS LOCOMOTIVES FOR MANCHURIA.

Successful trials of a new Diesel electric engine built by the brm of Sulzer Brothers for the South Manchuria Railway have been made on the Winterthur-Frauenfeld-Bomanshorn line of the Syiss Federal Bailway.

LOCAL.

BERNESE OBERLAND.

There has been heavy snowfall all over the Bernese Oberland and Winter Sports have began on the Little Scheidegg.

LUCERNE.

The population of the Canton of Lucerne is returned as 188,659 inhabitants of which the town of Lucerne accounts for 46,871.

GLABUS.

The position at the Kilchestock is unchanged, The position at the Kilchestock is infinance, the mountain shows a movement of between 8.9 mm, a day. Guards are on duty day and night in order to give warning to the population should only danger develop. J.S.P.order to gave maximo any danger develop. GENEYA.

N. Moriaud was last Sunday elected a mem-M. Moriaud was at the head of the former can-tonal government but suffered defeat at the last total government out sintered dereat at the fast elections. Owing to the resignation of M. Naine (Socialist) a seat was vacated, which has now gone to M. Moriaud. M. Oltramare who con-tested the seat received 9,100 votes. T.G.

AARGAU.

The Cantonal Government has asked the Grand Conneil for a credit of approximately 380,000 frs. for a new bridge to be built between Koblenz and Waldshut. A similar amount will be provided by the German authorities. N.Z.

ST. GALL.

ST. GALL. An inhabitant of the town of St. Gallen, lately deceased, left in his will an amount of 10,000 frs. to be divided amongst the mourners at his funeral. The news of this bequest must have leaked out somehow, as on the day of his burial a large number attended, so that the amount available for each mourner present, in-cluding the undertakers and comptony officials cluding the undertakers and cemetery officials, worked out at 180 frs. per person. $\stackrel{\text{respective}}{=}$ N.Z.Z.

LONDON, DECEMBER 20, 1930. THURGAU.

The election of M. Haeberlin, as President of the Swiss Confederation for 1931 was made known to the population by firing a salute of twent two guns. N.Z. twenty two guns

SCHAFFHAUSEN.

SCHAFFHAUSEN. The Council of the Communist party has unanimously decided to expel National Councillor Bringolf from the party, they have furthermore requested him to send in his resignation as mem-ber of the National Council. M. Bringolf, how-ever, informed the officials of the party that he has no intention of laying down his office as a member of Parliament. N.Z.Z. member of Parliament. N.Z.Z.

VALAIS.

The Banque de Montagne S.A. Montana, has acquired the Banque Communale de Sierre.

LAUSANNE.

The population of Lausanne per 1st Decem-ber amounts of 77,720 inhabitants.

TRADIZIONI BELLINZONESI SAN NICOLAO.

" Please remember

"Please remember The 5th of November..." Al mondo piccino londinese sembrerà impossibile che un tale giorno per loro così importante, si che necessita commemorarlo con tanto di colpi... pirotecnici e con tanto di fuochi... di paglia, sia completamente ignorato dal mondo piccino nostrano, ticinese. Questo non sa proprio chi sia stato Guy Fawkes e non si preoccupa neanche di volerlo conoscere, han ben altro in testa i bimbi ticinesi, specialmente i bellizonesi... Loro devono pensare a quel bravo santo che ogni anno assume, o meglio riassume, spoglie umane, e viene, accompagnato dal suo santo che ogni anno assume, o meglio riassume, spoglie umane, e viene, accompagnato dal suo docile ciucherello, a trovarli : San Nicolao che, annualmente, lemme lemme, con la sua brava barbona bianca che gli arriva sino a metà del petto, con quel suo mantello d'un bel rosso fiammante, appoggiato a un nodoso bastone, chè non può cavalcare il ciucherello essendo già stracarico di doni pei bimbi, scende in su la sera del 5 dicembre dalla romita chiesa della Madonna della Neve, situata nel "mezzo del cammin" che della Neve, situata nel "mezzo del cammin" che comodamente conduce al castello più alto bellinzonese: quello di Untervalden, e su di un poggio accanto a quel grotto ben noto quanto il castello, e forse più di questo frequentato: il famoso "Torcett," dove, nelle sere belle estive e autunnali, mentre i raggi solari giuocano allegramente, in distanza, sul lago di Locarno che dal grotto si può scorgere, il rosato nostra-nello scorre nei caratteristici boccali la bionda formagella invita a uno spuntino... ma... intanto io mi sono allontanata dal bravo S. Nicolao che è giunto così nella vicinanza del Dragonato (perchè tale nome poi? o che forse un tempo in quel letto di torrente, quasi sempre asciutto, ci fosse un drago?... proverò chiederlo a S. Nicolao, lui lo saprà di certo dato che sa tutto: e quali sono i bimbi buoni a cui portare un gluocatolo, un dolce; e cosa quel tal bimbo speciale preferisce... ma... anche questa volta devo fare una corsettina... continuo a lasciarni sfuggire avanti questo benedetto Santo?). Davanti alle scuole Sud una numerosa schiera di frugolini lo attende ansiosamente, lui, bonac-cione, sorride, li saluta con ampie gesta della mano, e prosegue placido per la città, segnito da quella schiera che fa un baccano straordinario e con campanelle, e con latte vecchie, persino con pentole... e il corteo entra, passa per le vie principali, ovunque salutato dal popolo che si raduna ai lati d'ogni strada per acclamare. Ora un tamburo marcia trionfalmente innanzi a S. Nicolao e al ciucherello.... el suo rullio annuncia ai lontani ancora che S. Nicolao sta per arrivare. E gira così, mai stanco, sempre sorridendo, percorte tutta quanta la Turrita, sino a che è bioi completo, sino a che que umidore che emana la terra incomincia a penetrare nelle ossa... allora S. Nicolao prende la via del ritorno... ritorna nel mistero, da dove è venuto... nessuno sa dire bene quale è la sua dimora... lo sa solo il ciucherello, ma questo fedelmente mantiene il segreto... però domani, il 6 dicembre, i bimbi troveranno della Neve, situata nel "mezzo del cammin " che comodamente conduce al castello più alto bellinzonese: quello di Unterwalden, e su di un mente. Bellinzona,

Dicembre, 1930

ELENA LUNGHI.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION. ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL.

Telegrams : FREPRINCO, LONDON.

PRICE 3d.

The frequency of the festive gatherings in has, in some quarters, given rise to our Colony the wish of co-ordination or even curtailment though it can hardly be disputed that such celebrations are one of our national characteristics, nowhere exhibited with greater insistence than in our Homeland. It is, therefore, a matter for congratulation that the committee of the Swiss congratulation that the committee of the SWiss Rife Association succeeded in mustering about 130 members and friends for their seventh Annual Banquet and Ball, which took place last Friday, December 12th, at the First Avenue Hotel under the chairmanship of Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, the Swiss Minister. This creditable achievement is enhanced in view of the admittedly adverse economic conditions and of the fact that the mem-

economic conditions and of the fact that the mem-bers of our Colony have during the last six weeks nobly—and we venture to say with con-siderable personal sacrifice—supported four other banquets held by sister societies. The company sat down to dinner at 8 p.m. the preceding hour having agreeably been spent in the reception hall where the multitude and originality of the prizes reserved for our friendly suppers evoked everybody's admiration. The two loyal toasts having been proposed by the Chair-man during the dinner, Mr. Henry Senn, the president of the S.R.A., rose at its termination and addressed the gathering as follows : —Monsieur la Ministre Ladies & Gentlemen ·___

whilst to every President of the Swiss Rifle Association, although it's tenor may not have the same significance, it is nevertheless a sound that gladdens his heart for he only then realises the relief of the stand at ease from his responsibility.

The knowledge that the shooting season terminated without a casualty makes him very grateful to his loyal supporters. He only wonders now whether the cross fire of comment

grateful to his loyal supporters. He only wonders now whether the cross fire of comment has found him an easy target or whether he has offered no chance of a palpable hit. The battleground of the Swiss Rifle As-sociation this year has been at Hendon. With the exception of our yearly visit to Bisley where two teams of four went into action with very commendable results, we have not left its precincts. We were delighted to arrange, as in past years, shooting contests open to all mem-bers of the Swiss Colony in London for the Swiss Sports and for the 1st of August cele-bration and are gratified that these competi-tions were keenly contested. The beautiful array of prizes to be presented presently is perhaps the most convincing proof of the excel-lent "esprit de corps" which has prevailed amongst our members in the inter-members competitions during the past shooting season. I would like to take this opportunity of thank-ing all donors most heartily for their generous support of our to-night's prize table. The Swiss Rifle Association is still in its

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all donors most heartily for their generous support of our to-night's prize table.
The Swiss Rifle Association is still in its youth but it has successfully weathered the storms of the 7 years it has been in existence. We are at present experiencing great anxiety in the world of commerce and it is only to be expected that universal depression in trade will leave its mark on sports and, whilst I have no wish to appear pessimistic, I do feel that never in the history of this Association has it been more necessary for our members to realise the great need of working together with good hearts and mutual goodwill in order to ensure the continued prosperity and success of the Swiss Rifle Association. Differences of opinion and difficulties there will always be but no matter how black the clouds may appear, every cloud has a silver lining and if the will to succeed is there, success will follow.
Shooting is one of the greatest of our National sports and I earnestly appeal to all members to focus their attention on that fact and to determine to uphold such an honourable tradition of our dear Homeland.
To-night we are gathered here to celebrate the 7th Anniversary and on behalf of the Swiss Rifle Association and myself to Monsieur

Ing round to look upon all familiar faces. I am specially grateful both for the Swiss Rifle Association and myself to Monsieur Paravicini, our honorary President, for having accepted the Chair. I wish to thank you Sir,