Notes and gleanings

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HOME NEWS

FEDERAL.

THE AEROPLANE IN THE SERVICE OF MOUNTAINEERING.

Thanks to a permission from the Federal Department for Military Aviation an interesting experiment has successfully been carried out with the aid of military pilots. The aim was to discover four members of a ski-ing expedition which were " lost " somewhere in the regions of the Churfirsten. Half an hour after leaving Dübendorf the aeroplane, having on board a pilot and an observer, discovered the four men and rendered first-aid services by dropping parcels of food, rugs, etc.

Afterwards the aeroplane signalled to a group of ski-ing members of the Alpine Club stationed at Unterwasser, giving them the exact position of the " lost " men, and a ski-ing team arrived at the indicated spot within a short time.

This first experiment in discovering lost alpinists with the aid of aeroplanes has left the conviction in the minds of all the participants that it has more than proved its efficiency in this instance and might usefully be employed in even more difficult cases. Similar expeditions will enable our military aviators to fulfil in times of peace a most useful aim which will find sympathy in all quarters.

Further experiments are proposed in other parts of the mountains and under more difficult conditions and it is hoped that the results will lead to the formation of a definite organisation for the specific purpose of establishing a service for the discovery of lost mountaineers. *J.G.*

LOCAL.

BERNE.

The Executive Council has decided to move the Grauholz monument from its present emplacement by about four hundred meters in a north-westerly direction. At its present place the monument is partly hidden from view by the buildings of the cavalry remounts depot. *N.Z.Z.*

* * *

A closed car containing five people skidded and toppled over on the railway line at Delsberg just before the Basle Express was due. Fortunately the falling over burst open the saloon's roof, so that the pasengers could just crawl out before the train reduced the car to pulp. *N.*

LUCERNE.

Builder Odoni at Hochdorf was disturbed in the middle of the night by a noise in his garden. The nocturnal visitor was a wild boar gorging itself with cabbages. With the help of some neighbours the 180 lbs. of free meat were secured. *St. G.T.*

BASLE.

A new daily paper has been founded at Basle under the name " *Neue Basler Zeitung.*" Its policy will be to safeguard the interests of the conservative party and of matters affecting national welfare. A board of eight was elected, with Dr. jur. Hans Kramer as chairman.

* * *

A serious outbreak of fire occurred in the firm Gansser, furriers, at the Freiestrasse. The valuable stocks were completely burned. Smoke poured through the house, and it was only after great trouble that the proprietor Gansser, who was confied to bed in his third-storey flat, was saved from death by suffocation. *N.Z.Z.*

* * *

Dr. Uhlmann, of Riehen, and his family travelled by car from Waldenburg to Langenbruck. Near the Klus, just before Langenbruck, the car skidded on the frozen road and fell into the Frenke ravine. After several somersaults, the car landed at the bottom on its wheels. Dr. Uhlmann's father-in-law succumbed after a few moments, while Dr. Uhlmann, his wife and her mother were slightly injured. The children in the car escaped damage.

* * *

Farmer Gottfried Wenger, a former Councillor, of Langgarben near Diegten has died as the result of a most curious case of injury. A bundle of straw fell on to him and brushed his face. Some weeks later, great pain racked his head and, after two operations, it was found that a piece of straw had penetrated the brain through the ear. *N.*

ST. GALL.

A heavy landslide occurred at Quinten between the hamlets Au and Schilt. Great damage was caused, particularly in the surrounding woods. Part of the very costly re-afforestation carried out during the last few years was destroyed. This is the third landslide within the last two years, and experts are thereby confirmed in their opinion that the planned road along the right hand border of the Walensee is not a sound proposition. *N.Z.Z.*

* * *

The Grand Council, in its last sitting before the elections, has sent a request to the Executive Council to study ways and means of succouring the inhabitants of the Pfäffers community, which includes the whole of the Tamina valley, as part of the scheme to relieve necessitous inhabitants of the mountain valleys. It was also decided by a majority to prolong the office term of the Grand Council, the Executive Council and the Communal Councils from three to four years, to start from 1930. *N.*

GRAUBUENDEN.

The election of a Federal State Councillor in place of the late Dr. Brügger will take place on March 2nd. The names of National Councillor Dr. Bossi, of the former Grand Councillor Dr. Willi, of Council President J. Huonder, and of the former National Councillor Dr Dedual are before the Conservative Party with a view to selecting a candidate. *St. G.T.*

VAUD.

The delegates' meeting of the liberal-democratic party have proposed the two liberal members Bujard and Dufour for re-election to the States Council on March 2nd. They have further given full power to the committee to come to an arrangement with the radical-democratic party.

The assembly has unanimously proposed the acceptance of the alcohol Bill. *J.G.*

* * *

A fire has destroyed part of the large farm " En Freymond " in Moudon. About 30 pigs perished in the flames and the damage is estimated at more than Frs. 40,000.

* * *

Mr. Arsène Durec, who was in charge of the Fête des Vignerons in 1927 at Vevey, has died in Paris at the early age of 55. *T.G.*

TICINO.

The " *Libera Stampa*" (Socialistic paper) reports that two Ticinesi have been arrested at Mendrisio. They were found to be in possession of compromising papers, among which is a list of Ticinesi who were to be handed over to the fascist police, in whose services the arrested men are supposed to be. Other arrests are expected and police enquiries are continuing. *J.G.*

The Lugano police have further arrested a cab driver named Poretti who, after cross examination, pleaded guilty to having provided Imperiali (one of the men arrested at Mendrisio) with names of Italians and Ticinesi who were denounced by him as being anti-fascists.

Imperiali in his turn confessed to having sent the lists of names received in this way to someone in Italy.

Amazing details are given in some papers of the discovery of a considerable spying organisation all over Switzerland, which has been responsible for the various frontier incidents troubling Swiss-Italian relations.

Rather amusing is the account that Poretti is supposed to have been paid one franc for each name supplied and that in some instances he has given names of persons who have long been dead.

QUAINT ENGLISH.

A friend who has just returned from a six months' holiday in Switzerland gave me two quaint examples of English as she is written in out-of-the-way mountain chalets. One notice, taken from a small hotel frequented by rock-climbers, runs as follows :—

"It is defended to circulate in the corridors in boots of ascention before seven hours of the morning."

The other is a warning to travellers not to appear at dinner in evening dress. It says :—

" Strange gentlemen are requested not to dress for dinner, as their costume flatters the souls of the maid folk, and no work is resulted."

Which implies that Swiss girls are more susceptible than is generally imagined ! *D.C.*

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

Leonard Adolf Frenken (1885-1930)

A sudden attack of *Angina* put an untimely sudden end to one of the most lovable friends Kyburg has had the good fortune of knowing. Leo-Adolf Frenken is dead and I feel sure that the grievous news will be a great shock to all those who have met him at one time or another. A man in the prime of his life, a sportsman in the true sense of the word if ever there was such a one, a passionate lover of his native country Switzerland,Frenken leaves a great and terrible void behind him. Kyburg has lost in him his best Swiss friend in our Colony, a chum of long gone-bye school days and mere words are utterly futile to describe the feeling of blank loneliness and gloom which were almost overpowering when we laid the earthly remains of our friend to rest on Friday, 14th inst. at South Norwood Cemetery, high up near the Church on the Hill, in a spot overshadowed by an old elm-tree, a beautiful site and one which Leo would have chosen himself surely, if he had known. Frenken came to England in 1907 and leaves a widow and two children. He was well-known especially in Tennis and later in Golfing circles, his handicap at Golf being as low as 3. Farewell, old friend, gone from us much too soon.

Greetings from Swiss to English Scholars:

Schoolmaster, 30th Jan.

Professor Albisser of Lucerne writes that a Message of Good Will from English scholars addressed to the scholars of the world was published in the Swiss Teachers' Journal and also in the Cantonal Press for Lucerne. He sends to THE SCHOOLMASTER AND WOMAN TEACHER'S CHRONICLE three letters from pupils in his college reciprocating those good wishes. He suggests that one or more of them should be published and copies of the issue containing them sent to Lucerne.

A MESSAGE OF GOOD-WILL, 1929.

" My dear young English people.

" Here, in our schoolroom on Thursday, September 24, 1929, we have received your message sending Good Luck and Affectionate Regards. We know you either from radio, from illustrations, from books or from school instruction, although we are separated from your beloved Fatherland by many lands and by an arm of the sea. We know that the Army of your esteemed people in the World War performed great deeds in the fearfully destructive battlefields of the earth. It is for us a great joy to have in our midst the League of Nations which has already taken good action in regard to danger threatening conflicts. Freedom shall find entrance to the people of all Nations of the Earth, in spite of the fact that in every State, large or small, large sums of money are wasted on the disgrace of War. Is it not possible to create a feeling of peace amongst all people? But perhaps most unhappily many years may pass before that distrust between nations, which, like a dreadful wild beast, holds us in thraldom, shall have vanished from the cold-blooded hearts of men. We have heard also about your unconquerable mighty Navy which is a great triumph for modern English technical craftsmanship. But is it not a shame to spend so much money on such an object? But we believe that this squandering of money cannot be stopped until all nations are fully impressed with the need to trust one another. This seems to us essential when all the nations of Europe feel that they must protect themselves against a threatening real danger. So we join with you in your cheery message : ' Peace shall reign amongst all the mighty nations of the Earth,' and we greet you in the name of the peace-loving youth of Lucerne." HUGO BREITSCHMID

I print the above because it contains that very wonderful and true sentiment, " Is it not possible to create a feeling of peace amongst all people?" Let us hammer it in, all the time, everywhere! Let's talk *Peace* and *Peace* only and slowly, perhaps, but surely, the world will get used to *Peace*.

Dr. Adolf Keller's Visit :

British Weekly, 6th Feb.

I think it right that the following article should be brought to the notice of our readers, because Dr. A. Keller has done and continues doing a very great deal of really first-class work on behalf of religion.

Dr. Adolf Keller, who is visiting Edinburgh this week, expects to return in a few days to Geneva. He has had a strenuous time in London, for besides addressing the Christian Social Council last week, he has carried out a great deal of private business on behalf of the Continental churches. He has recenly made a long tour in Eastern and Central Europe, and has found that many of the Protestant churches are still in great need of help from America and Britain. Assistance, in his opinion, can best be organised under three forms. In the first place, there will still be need for private gifts as hitherto to relieve the deep poverty of our brethren in rural districts. Next, they can be taught to help themselves by the introduction of that free-will offering system which has had so astonishing a success in Britain. Thirdly, Dr. Keller is planning the organisation of a credit system on business lines. He has lately been in touch with four or five Christian bankers in Switzerland, who have taken up his plans eagerly and who believe that the scheme can be organised on a practical basis. One of the objects of his present visit has been to meet bankers in England and Scotland. He is hopeful that before the present year ends financial credits may be made possible for some of the struggling communities.

We should like to mention also the very interesting new book, "Auf der Schwelle," which has just been published by Dr. Keller under the pen-name of Xenos. It contains a number of articles he contributed lately to the *Bund*, one of the chief secular papers of Switzerland. He had noticed that the American Press allows more scope for articles of a semi-religious kind than that of the Continent, and he has been gratified to find that his own "weltliche Andachten" received an enthusiastic welcome in their original form. The book, which is published in German by the Wanderer-Verlag, Zürich, is being translated into French and Swedish. It recalls to us, curiously enough, that once popular book of the early 17th century, the "Meditations" of the Rev. William Struther, of Edinburgh. There is the same skill in the choice of titles, semi-secular outlook, and felicity of phrasing.

Professor Keller has in view, however, not the devout multitude of churchgoers, which constituted the main public in William Struther's day, but modern readers who have been largely alienated from the life of the churches, while they have by no means abandoned religion.

DINER DU CITY SWISS CLUB
en l'honneur de
Monsieur le CONSEILLER FEDERAL, GIUSEPPE MOTTA.

Ainsi que le '*Swiss Observer*' l'a annoncé dans son dernier numéro, le 'CITY SWISS CLUB,' fidèle à sa tradition, avait organisé un dîner jeudi 13 février en l'honneur de notre éminent magistrat et homme d'état, Monsieur le Conseiller Fédéral GIUSEPPE MOTTA.

Tenu dans les somptueux salons du 'May Fair Hotel,' Berkeley Street, W., sous la présidence de notre Ministre, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Président Honoraire du 'City Swiss Club,' on y remarquait, outre Monsieur Motta, l'hôte distingué de la soirée, Monsieur E. Werner, Président du 'City Swiss Club,' Monsieur Th. de Sonnenberg, Conseiller de Légation, Monsieur W. de Bourg, Monsieur L. Micheli, Monsieur C. Rezzonico, Secrétaires de Légation, Monsieur P. Hilfiker, Chancelier de Légation, Monsieur A. Duruz, Directeur de l'agence des C.F.F., puis parmi les personnalités de la 'City' et du monde des affaires en général, Monsieur M. Golay, Directeur de la Swiss Bank Corporation, Monsieur A. Schupbach, Directeur du Crédit Lyonnais, Monsieur Perrochet, Directeur de la Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co., Monsieur G. Wuthrich, Directeur de la Oerlikon Co., Ltd., Monsieur le Dr. Pettavel, Monsieur Th. Schaerer, architecte, Monsieur P. A. Carmine, puis Monsieur C. Campart, Président de la Société Suisse de Secours Mutuels, Monsieur W. Notari, Président de l'Unione Ticinese, Monsieur M. Paschoud, Président de la Swiss Mercantile Society, Monsieur A. F. Suter, Président de la Nouvelle Société Helvétique, Monsieur A. Schmid, Président de la Swiss Rifle Association, Monsieur W. Pellet, Président de la Swiss Institute Orchestral Society.

A la fin de l'excellent repas, Monsieur Paravicini porta le toast à Sa Majesté le Roi; puis, en proposant le toast au Président de la Confédération et aux autres membres du Conseil Fédéral, il dit l'émotion profonde dont le remplissait la présence de Monsieur le Conseiller Fédéral Giuseppe Motta en ce moment.

'Les membres du Conseil Fédéral ne voyagent pas officiellement à l'étranger; la Constitution le leur interdit'—observa notre Ministre, en ajoutant que ses amis Anglais lui demandent parfois comment il se fait que les membres du gouvernement du pays du tourisme par excellence ne voyagent pas. Puis il continua: 'Il est vrai que le travail formidable dont les membres du Conseil Fédéral sont chargés ne leur permet pas de quitter le Pays; s'ils le font de temps en temps, c'est pour élargir leurs connaissances, comme le fait actuellement Monsieur le Conseiller fédéral Giuseppe Motta, et je vous assure que quand ils vont à l'étranger, ils profitent de chaque minute, de chaque instant de leur voyage.' A ce propos, Monsieur Paravicini ne manqua pas de rendre hommage au sens artistique élevé de Monsieur Motta, attiré ici surtout par l'exposition d'art italien.

Puis il signala une 'erreur' figurant sur la carte du menu, contrairement à laquelle il n'allait pas faire un discours, 'un changement plutôt rare de la coutume des réunions de la Colonie, mais bien digne de l'occasion' s'empressa-t-il d'ajouter en souriant.

Il termina en ces termes: 'Je dois, dès lors, me contenter d'exprimer ma joie et mon appréciation du privilège que j'ai eu d'accompagner Monsieur Motta et en vous invitant à lever vos verres à la prospérité de notre Patrie, je vous prie de saluer la venue à Londres du Conseiller Fédéral, Monsieur Giuseppe Motta.'

Après le toast au Roi et au Conseil Fédéral, l'assemblée écouta debout le 'God Save the King' et le 'Cantique Suisse,' chantés par notre compatriote, Madame Sophie Wyss, soprano.

La série des discours fut ouverte par Monsieur E. Werner, Président du 'City Swiss Club,' qui, au nom de la Société souhaita à Monsieur Motta une très cordiale bienvenue:

Monsieur le Conseiller Fédéral, Monsieur le Ministre, Messieurs,

Un devoir tout particulièrement agréable m'incombe ce soir. C'est celui de souhaiter, au nom du 'City Swiss Club,' une très cordiale bienvenue à notre invité d'honneur, Monsieur le Conseiller Fédéral Giuseppe Motta, de lui au sein de notre Club et de le remercier d'avoir dire toute la joie que nous éprouvons de le voir bien voulu accepter notre invitation.

Monsieur Motta n'est pas étranger au 'City Swiss Club.' N'a-t-il pas eu l'amabilité, en sa qualité de Président de la Confédération, de nous adresser, par télégramme, des salutations patriotiques lors de la seule et unique réunion officielle que notre Club ait jamais organisée sur notre sol natal et ça à l'occasion de la Fête des Vignerons en 1927? Ce télégramme se trouve aux archives de notre Club avec nos souvenirs les plus précieux.

Permettez-moi de revendiquer l'honneur de tenter de dire combien nous apprécions les grands mérites de Monsieur Motta. Je n'essayerai pas de retracer la carrière de notre cher invité, l'une des carrières les plus remarquables et les plus fécondes dont puisse s'illustrer notre histoire parlementaire. Je me bornerai à vous rappeler quelques faits saillants.

Monsieur Motta a assumé la lourde charge de Conseiller Fédéral il y a bientôt 20 ans; en effet, comptant par années de service, il est le Doyen du Conseil Fédéral. Il a donc occupé les plus hautes fonctions auxquelles un Suisse puisse être appelé pendant toute la durée de la grande guerre, cette période de difficultés qui semblaient insurmontables et qui exigeaient des efforts presque surhumains de la part des hommes qui dirigeaient les destinées de notre pays; cette période pleine de difficultés qui, hélas, brisa les carrières de tant d'hommes d'état dans le monde entier.

Monsieur Motta resta à son poste et nous pouvons nous en féliciter. Sa grande expérience et son dévouement inlassable restèrent acquis

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