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FEDERAL.

SWISS TIBETAN EXPEDITION.

News has reached Switzerland that the Swiss expedition to Tibet arrived towards the end of November at Tatsienlu, in Szechwan, on their way back to Europe. The leader of the expedition is Professor Arnold Heim, son of the well-known geologist, and his assistant is M. Imhoff, a Zurich engineer.

From mid-July until the end of November the party surveyed the mountain region of Eastern Tibet. Atmospheric conditions were unfavourable, and the Swiss scientists had to camp for several weeks at a height of 9,000ft. to 15,000ft., either under their tents, in damp caves, or under the shelter of fallen boulders. They were unable to climb high peaks, but made a rough topographical and geological map of a wide area of little-known land.

The expedition surveyed the environs of the Minya Gugkar, the highest summit of the region, which, according to measurements made by M. Imhoff, is nearly 7,500 metres, or 24,600 ft., high. Professor Arnold Heim says that the mountain resembles something like three Matterhorns in a line, and is surrounded by a sea of huge glaciers. Many geological samples were collected, and valuable observations made on the glaciations.

NEW MINISTER AT BERNE.

The King has approved the appointment of Sir Howard William Kennard, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Berne. Sir Howard fills the vacancy at Berne created by the departure of Sir Claud Frederick William Russell to Portugal as British Ambassador. Sir Howard, who was born at Brighton, is fifty-three years of age, and he has been in the Diplomatic Service for over thirty years, his first appointment being at Rome. He has also served at Teheran, Washington, Havana and Tangier, and is a distinguished Persian and Arabic scholar.

SWISS BANK REPORTS.

A. G. LEU & Co.

The Zurich bank A. G. Leu & Co. is celebrating the 175th anniversary of its existence, and the 25th anniversary of its existence as a commercial bank. Its net profits for 1930 amounted to 5,100,000f., against 5,170,000f. for 1929. The balance sheet total increased from 378,430,000f. in 1929 to 416,140,000f. in 1930.

COMPTOIR D'ESCOMpte DE GENÈVE.

The net profits of the Comptoir d'Escompte de Genève declined from 4,670,000f. in 1929 to 4,130,000f. in 1930. Its dividend has been reduced from 7 per cent. to 6 per cent.

SCHWEIZERISCHE VOLKSBANK.

The net profits of the Schweizerische Volksbank amounted to 10,635,000f. for 1930, against 12,008,000f. for 1929. The dividend is 5 per cent. against 6.19 per cent. in 1929.

SWITZERLAND'S GIANT LOCOMOTIVES.

New electric locomotives which Switzerland is building for the Federal Railways will be the most powerful in the world. They will have a length of 34 metres and weigh 245 tons each, with a capacity of 7,000 h.p. They will be able to draw express trains of 600 tons and goods trains of 750 tons at the rate of about 40 miles an hour up the steepest inclines of the international Gotthard line. At present Switzerland has 300 electric locomotives for express trains and 200 other locomotives and electric tractors on her railways. About 85 per cent. of the total railway traffic in the country is now propelled by electricity.

LOCAL.

BERNE.

The Federal Council has confirmed the appointments for a further term of office of Mr. Alfred Sarasin, and State Councillor Messmer, as President and Vice-President of the Bank Council of the National Bank.

N.Z.

SCHWYZ

For having drunk by mistake a glass of spirit of ammonia instead of Kirsch, a fifty year old woman lost her life at Altendorf. J.S.

BASLE.

Last Saturday, about 7 o'clock two young men entered a grocer's shop at the Bruderholzallee 22. The taller of the two suddenly brandished a revolver at the proprietress, Mrs. Stalder, shouting, "keep quiet or you will be shot down." The other intruder, in the meantime, went behind the counter, and emptied the till containing about 900f., as well as some deeds and titles; after having helped themselves they took to their heels. The police have opened an investigation, and it is hoped that the fugitives will be brought to book before long for their audacious crime, as their description has been sent to all police stations. N.Z.

The death is reported of M. Jakob Tschoff-Müller, a noted architect and member of the Grand Council. N.Z.

Basle will hold a second Mozart festival this year, from May 9 to 17, in view of last year's success. The general musical direction will again be in the hands of Dr. Felix Weingartner, who will conduct two symphony concerts and two operatic productions. Three operas will be given—"Così fan Tutti," "Figaro," and "Don Giovanni," and in addition a concert performance of "Idomeneo." The Basle Choral Society (Gesangverein) will sing the "Requiem" in Basle Cathedral, and this year the Busch Quartet will again give one of three afternoon recitals of chamber music. An exhibition of Mozart literature will be open during the festival.

GENEVA.

Mme. Lachenal, widow of M. Adrien Lachenal, former Federal Councillor and President of the Swiss Confederation, died at Geneva at the age of 75. T.G.

APPENZELL A. RH.

National Councillor Dr. A. Hofstetter, from Gais, has tendered his resignation for reasons of health. M. Hofstetter has been a Member of Parliament since 1921. N.Z.Z.

ST. GALL.

An explosion took place at the Drogerie Vollenweider in Gossau, followed by a serious fire, considerable damage was done to the building and the whole stock was destroyed. N.Z.

SCHAFFHAUSEN.

M. Hermann Uehlinger, who died at Neunkirch at the age of 70 has left 210,000f. to be divided amongst various charitable institutions. J.S.

* * *

As successor to the late M. Waldvogel, M. Lieb, member of the Peasant Party has been elected a member of the State Council. J.S.

* * *

The municipal authorities of Schaffhausen and the North Switzerland Power Co. have jointly applied to the Swiss Government for a concession to establish a new hydro-electric station on the Rhine, near Diessenhofen.

GRISONS.

News has been received from Bavaria of the death of Count Maximilian de Bassus, Chamberlain and Councillor of the Bavarian Crown and Major of Cavalry.

He was only 62 years old, he leaves a wife, Countess Milena, née Hrzic-Topska, and a son, now Count Thomas De Bassus.

The De Bassus family originates from Poschiavo, and is one of the oldest patrician families of that borough. The late Count De Bassus had been to Poschiavo during the war, as the guest of the Albrici family, now in occupation of his ancestral residence. It had been a great pleasure for him to visit his place of origin, and he intended to have returned shortly. He died in Munich on the 26th of January, and was buried there.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST
for the

LAST DINNER AND DANCE
of the Season at the
MAY FAIR HOTEL, Berkeley Square, W.1.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi

During my earlier school-days—I am somewhat ashamed to confess that I have forgotten the exact year—we took part in the Pestalozzi Celebration, and well do I remember how bravely we sang appropriate chorals and how eagerly we all read "Lienhard & Gertrud." Years passed and I found myself at Yverdon, there to finish my school education and there to spend one of the happiest years of my youth. Well do I remember the Pestalozzi monument there. Another such monument stands at Zurich, just off the Bahnhofstrasse and testifies there to the loving esteem and reverence the founder of our schools is held by our compatriots.

And, as an article on Pestalozzi, written by Carey Bonner in *The New Chronicle of Christian Education* on January 8th, 1931, has evoked a flood of memories in my mind, I hope it may do likewise in yours, dear Readers, and if it does not, the reading of what Pestalozzi did and what he stood and stands for will not do you any harm.

The Man.

A visitor to the Country Fairs and Open Markets in the Swiss Canton of Aargau about the year 1775 might have seen a man in the prime of life offering goods for sale to the people round about him. He was of striking appearance, and unlike a professional pedlar. Tall, spare, and shabbily clothed, with the face of a dreamer, on which sadness and kindness were strangely mingled, he soon attracted the attention of the curious peasants. His wares were chiefly cotton handkerchiefs, prints and threads. These he quickly sold because they were cheap and of a good quality.

He was Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi, Philanthropist and Educator, a contemporary of Raikes. Leaving his native town of Zurich, he had settled in the country near Bremgarten, building there a place called Neuhof—the new Farm. Here he hoped to devote the profits of farming to educating some poor children. His farm, however, proved a failure. But refusing to be turned from his purpose, he used the building as a home for neglected children of the lowest type of humanity. For these he gave his all, so that they might drink milk he was content with cold water.

In the hours unoccupied by elementary teaching, or for instruction in morals and religion, he set his young pupils to various forms of manual labour, such as Gardening, Cheese and Butter making, and Spinning of Cotton. Hence his going as salesman in the country markets. Handwork, however, was used not merely for money-making, but as an essential part of the young people's education.

We get one other glimpse of this man, illustrating Lord Brougham's well-known saying: "The schoolmaster is abroad, and I trust to him, armed with his primer, against the soldier in full military array."

The celebrated statesman thus pitted against each other two great world-forces, material and spiritual, destructive and constructive. Test his statement by the following incident:

The scene is Paris, the year 1802. A Swiss schoolmaster eagerly seeks to interview the French Emperor in order to interest him in the national education of children. He is rebuffed. Bonaparte scornfully refuses to see him, saying, "I have something better to do than consider questions of A B C."

To-day, what is the relative position of the two men in the eyes of thinking people.

The one is dethroned, Napoleon, mad with the lust of ambition, is looked upon merely as an incarnation of ruthless brute force. The other is crowned. He was Pestalozzi, now acknowledged to be the father of modern education. One of the great educators of to-day says, "No single feature of popular education has failed to receive stimulus and profit from his work."

For the portraiture of the man and his life-work I know nothing finer than the inscription endured the pangs of poverty. Sympathy was born of suffering. He sought to learn what were the essentials of manhood: what was common to all, apart from the difference in outward position, between monarch and peasant. upon the monument raised to his memory by