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FEDERAL.

TELEPHONE LESSONS IN SWISS SCHOOLS.

Following the example of the Telephone Development Association in this country, the Education Authorities in Switzerland are to provide telephone installations for use in Swiss schools.

In the schools at Lucerne special instruction is already being given, and it is intended to provide telephone lessons for every grade of pupil in state schools in the near future.

This "telephone course" will include instruction in the elementary principles of telephonic communication, hints on the correct use of the directory and on the proper method of making calls. Particular attention is to be given to impressing upon the children the necessity for clear speaking.

RELIGIOUS CENSUS IN SWITZERLAND.

According to the general census taken on December 1, 1930, and recently published, there were on that date in Switzerland 2,320,764 Protestants, 1,670,764 Roman Catholics, 18,478 Jews, while 72,718 persons belonged to other religions or had no religion. Compared with the results of the 1920 census, the above figures show an increase of 90,167 in the number of Protestants, of 85,240 in that of Roman Catholics, a decrease of 2,501 in the number of Jews, and a rise of 29,285 among those belonging to other religions or having no stated religion.

Protestants form a clear majority in 12 Cantons out of 22, while in six others the majority is formed of Roman Catholics; the four remaining Cantons are called "Mixed Cantons," as the two religions have about the same number of worshippers. Protestants and Roman Catholics are generally on friendly terms, particularly in the eastern Cantons, where there is no definite religious majority. In some Cantons they even share the same churches; for instance, at Glarus a curtain is drawn in front of the Roman Catholics' altar while the Protestant service is celebrated.

THE ECONOMIC POSITION.

At the recent meeting of the Union de Banques Suisses, the Chairman, Dr. R. Ernst, gave an instructive review of the economic situation. He did not support the view that the catastrophic fall in the world prices could be explained solely by reference to an enhanced value of money due to the limited supply of gold. The fall had been greatest in raw materials, less severe in finished and partially finished goods, and least noticeable in retail prices, rents, etc., which most influence the cost of living, and this was one of the main reasons standing in the way of a reduction in wages in Switzerland such as had taken place in other countries. In his view, the downward movement of prices represented a reaction after the high prices which ruled after the war, those prices having stimulated production beyond consuming power, while territories such as Russia, China and India were temporarily lost as centres of absorption. The evil itself, the price decline, had in itself the corrective remedy, if certain signs were not misleading that here and there the bottom had been reached from which an improvement could be expected to start.

SWISS RAILWAY LOAN OVER SUBSCRIBED.

The Four per Cent. Federal Railway Loan of 200,000,000 Swiss francs, of which 150,000,000 francs were offered for public subscription, has been oversubscribed. The applications for conversion reached 133,000,000f. and the subscriptions in cash amounted to 424,000,000.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The collection to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of the great Reformer U. Zwingli has brought in 130,000f. in the canton of Zurich alone. The funds will be used for a home for young people in Gwatt on the lake of Thun.

N.Z.

LONDON, APRIL 4, 1931.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

RADIO SUISSE ROMANDE:

Switzerland is on the Radio-Map Again!

On my set Berne Radio comes through at a dial reading of 65 but, for a considerable time, the homely and to me beautiful voice of the Berne Lady Announcer has been swamped by the signals of a much more powerful Polish wireless station, so that I get to hear Berne very occasionally only and then only by taking minute care with tuning in.

We always, or nearly always have wireless music at breakfast and at dinner and Mrs. Kyburg also turns it on when she is at home for luncheon. I often tell her that in many respects she is far better off than was Queen Elizabeth who, if she wanted sweet music, had to turn on her house orchestra. Now that band musicians used to sit high up in the Minstrel Gallery, I am informed and, if one is to judge by the examples of mediaeval music which we hear from time to time, the music was very thin indeed. We, of the 20th century, listen to music of the most varied kind, from Beethoven to Jazz, from Laendler to Tango, from a solo on a flute to the thundering of a full military band, or even massed bands and our musicians do not sit high up in a minstrel gallery, but they perform before our ears, just as if we were sitting at a Concert. Aye, and in a short time they will perform before our eyes too!

Well, last night, while waiting for dinner, I, as is my wont, occupied the time by switching on the wireless, and, again as is my wont, tried my luck with Berne, because I love to hear indifferent music from Berne rather than good music from anywhere out of Switzerland. Not that music from Berne is indifferent, but you know what I mean. And at that time of the evening, when one's vitality is low, when one feels hungry and somewhat bruised from the struggle to earn one's living, a few sounds from our native country always act as a powerful vitaliser, don't they? Well, I did not get Berne, because a rather powerful station chimed in with Mexican airs and songs. I listened and then heard somebody talk in French. A sort of Belgian French it seemed to my ears and I was curious to know what station that could be. I had heard of Russian stations broadcasting in various languages occasionally and, although I can get through to Leningrad quite easily on my set, I know that there are many other Russian stations operating. By and by that Belgian-French voice was heard again, telling me what a pity it was that there are so few Mexican Gramophone-Records to be had in Europe and then, to my delighted surprise, that voice mentioned Lausanne Radio Station. Soon afterwards a lady's voice, speaking French with a much better accent—as it seemed to my ears—told me that Radio Suisse Romande was speaking and broadcasting. Then came a Laendler, then a Yodel, then a Mazurka with concertina effects and there I stood, transfixed with pleasure, a happy man, a man who was privileged to hear voices from his native land, voices that meant a lot to him, music that was familiar to him, that evoked happy memories, that vibrated within him.

Well, well, Lausanne! And mind you, the signals were strong. I went up into our bathroom, which, I must tell you, is on the first floor and even there I could hear that Yodel quite distinctly. In future, before having a bath, I shall tune in Lausanne and then have musical accompaniment to my ablutions!

Now this morning, I received the week's Press-Cuttings and the very first one I saw was about

Broadcasting: Strong Signals from New Swiss Stations.

During the past few weeks listeners in this country have picked up test signals from the new Swiss station which has been erected by a British company at Sottens, near Lausanne. It is now announced that this station will commence the task of programme distribution within the next few weeks, using a wavelength of 403.8 metres. The power of this station is about 35 kilowatts, and the efficiency of the transmitter may be gathered from the fact that the test signals received in the Midlands were as strong as those received from the local regional station.

A second high-power station for Switzerland has just been completed at Beromünster, and the test signals may be expected at any

A large fire broke out at the works of the firm A. Rebsamen and Co., in Richterswil. Although the fire brigade rendered prompt assistance, the whole of the works was burnt down to the ground. The damage sustained is estimated at about 800,000f. The whole of the staff, consisting of 60 men, has been thrown out of work.

N.Z.

The death is reported of National Councillor Dr. Theodor Oringa in Küsnacht at the age of 65. His successor will be Mr. Pfleghard of Zurich.

* * *

The staff of the tailoring firm, Burger-Kehl and Co. in Zurich, has gone on strike.

The Zurich Zoo was visited in 1930 by 371,448 persons or 145,000 more than in the previous year. The accounts close with a credit balance of 119,441f. The net result of the lottery amounted to 320,000f. The sum of 124,487f. was spent for completion and extension. The erection of a restaurant is planned.

BERNE.

Last Sunday afternoon, shortly after 2.30 p.m. a small motor launch occupied by five young people left Spiez for an excursion to Merligen. About half way through the course of the boat, which coincided with the changing of the tide, decided to return to the shore. On turning the boat, which coincided with the changing of places, the boat began to sink and four members of the party were drowned. The only survivor, was the 22 year old son of the proprietor of the boat Thomann, who clung on to the boat and was rescued by a party which set out to render assistance. The names of the victims are:

Werner Durtschi, Faulensee; Willi Bähler, Faulensee; Fritz Haenni, Spiez; and R. Maurer, Faulensee.

* * *

A landslide has occurred on the northeast side of the Mont Vully near Murten; in consequence of which the water supply for the prison of Bellechasse was interrupted.

N.Z.

GLARUS.

A big fire broke out at the works of the Baumwolldruckerei Holenstein A.G. in Glarus, destroying over 10 tons of cotton goods. The damage done both to stocks and buildings is considerable.

N.Z.

BASLE.

Prof. Dr. Laur, wellknown farming expert, has celebrated his 60th birthday Anniversary, on which occasion numerous congratulatory messages have reached him. M. Laur has, on several occasions been delegated by the Federal Council to international conferences.

SOLOTHURN.

Major Gaston von Sury-Bussy died in Solothurn at the age of 79. The deceased was at one time Editor of the "Solothurn Anzeiger," and from 1896—1917 member of the Grand Council.

N.Z.

CHAUX-DE-FONDS.

A railway accident occurred on the line Tavannes—Tramelan, where a locomotive collided with a heavy loaded goods train. Several people had to be taken to hospital suffering with concussions.

N.Z.

FOOTBALL.

The international football match between Italy and Switzerland, which was played last Sunday at the Wankdorf Stadion in Berne, ended with a draw (1—1). The attendance of 20,000 was a record for Berne. The Swiss team consisted of: Pache, Minelli, Ramseyer, Loichot, Kuenzi, Gilardoni, Kramer, Abegglen II, Buchi, Abegglen III, Stalder. Abegglen III scored for Switzerland from a penalty.

F. C. Servette, Geneva, were beaten at Torino by the F. C. Torino by 3—1 goals.

ICE HOCKEY.

AROSA TEAM WINS TWO MATCHES.

The Arosa team played on Thursday, March 19th, against a Southern England team at the Golders Green Ice Rink and won by 4—1 goals. On Friday, March the 20th, they played at the Hammersmith Ice Rink against a mixed English team and won by 2—1 goals.

We wish to inform our readers that the Grosvenor House Canadians will play the Davos Ice Hockey team on Saturday evening, April 18th at 9 p.m., at Grosvenor House Ice Rink, Park Lane W.1.

N.Z.