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FEDERAL.

NEW NATIONAL BANK DIRECTORS.

The Federal Council has nominated M. Picot, Member of the Geneva Government, and M. Köchlin-Vischer, President of the Chamber of Commerce in Basle, Directors of the National Bank. M. Picot will replace M. Morandi, who has resigned from the Board and M. Köchlin is the successor of Mr. Stauffacher, who recently died.

COMMERCIAL VISITORS FROM SWITZERLAND.

A party of about 100 representatives of commercial and industrial Switzerland, including the Vice-President and many members of the Swiss National Chamber of Commerce, and the Vice-President and about 23 members of the Swiss International Rotary Association, passed through Folkestone on Thursday on their way to the British Industries fair at Olympia, and a tour through England.

The party made the crossing from Boulogne to Folkestone on the s.s. "Biarritz," arriving in this port at one o'clock, and leaving by the 1.35 boat train to Victoria. They were received at the Harbour by the Mayor of Folkestone (Alderman J. W. Stainer), who was accompanied by the Town Sergeant (Mr. E. J. Chadwick).

The object of the tour, which is to include visits to the British Industries Fair, the White City, and Birmingham, is to give the heads of the commercial interests of Switzerland an opportunity of seeing what Great Britain offers in preference to other countries. It is anticipated that a number of trading negotiations will be entered into during the visit, and that it will pave the way to a very important increase in the commercial relations between Great Britain and Switzerland.

TELEPHONE LOAN.

The Federal Council has granted a special loan of 31,000,000 fr. for improvements to the telephone; 15,000,000 fr. will be devoted to renewals and additions of cables, and 16,000,000 fr. to the construction of new telephone exchanges on the semi-automatic system.

LEAGUE BROADCASTING STATION.

The League of Nations radio transmitting station, which is intended to be used in times of crisis, was opened at midnight on February 16th-17th by Sir Eric Drummond, Secretary-General of the League, who spoke to the American Continent.

SWISS ELECTRIFICATION.

The work of electrification having been completed, electric trains are now running over the whole length of the Bodensee-Toggenburg railway between Romanshorn, St. Gall, and Neslau.

SWISS CHOCOLATE FIRM IN ENGLAND.

The Suchard Chocolate Works have made arrangements with an important English firm for the making of their chocolates.

LOCAL.

BERNE.

The well-known "Heustrich Bad" at the foot of the Niesen has been completely destroyed by fire. The cause of the fire is at present a mystery, but arson is suspected.

* * *

The General Assembly of shareholders of the Dr. A. Wander, A.G., took place last Friday in Berne. A dividend of 10% will be paid. (1930—10%).

LUCERNE.

M. Josef Widmer, a well-known criminal judge has died at Lucerne after a long illness.

BASEL.

The election of three new "Strafgerichts-Präsidenten" took place last Sunday; the following three candidates (out of four) have been

elected: Dr. Oettinger (4403); Dr. Wille (3939); Dr. Miville (3534). Dr. Knittel received 2319 votes, and is not elected.

GENEVA.

Two Geneva scientists, MM. Jayet and Amondruz, have discovered at a distance of about 30 miles west of Geneva, in the Usses valley, a cave containing remains of the reindeer epoch, at the end of the paleolithic age.

The discovery is an important one, as it shows the way followed some 10,000 years ago by the first man who settled in this region. The presence of Magdalenian men had hitherto been traced as far as the Ain and Isère rivers, but it was not known that they had reached the banks of the Lake of Geneva. The discovery of the Usses cave shows that they followed the Rhône and penetrated in the side valleys, whence they passed the hills and arrived at the Lake of Geneva. Some prehistoric settlements in the crags of the Salève mountain, five miles south of Geneva, seem to belong to the same period.

The Usses cave contained some Roman remains, mainly broken pottery, and a number of relics of the neolithic and paleolithic periods. At the reindeer epoch, the huge glaciers which covered Switzerland and the greater part of the Continent had already retreated, some alpine districts were free of ice, and forests began to grow on the moraines. The inhabitants of the Usses cave settled there at that time, and the two scientists found in the cave, at a depth of about 3ft., some 2,000 flint implements, the longest being 6½ in. These, as well as fragments of spear and arrow heads, made of reindeer antlers, bear some coarse decoration consisting of small parallel lines. Bones of reindeer, wild horse, ibex, marmot, were also unearthed, but no human remains.

* * *

Fifty-eight different makes of cars will be displayed at the annual Swiss Motor Exhibition to be held in Geneva from March 11th to 20th next. America will be in the lead with 17 makes, followed by France with 15, Germany 8, Great Britain 6, Italy 4, Austria and Belgium 3 each, and Spain and Switzerland one each.

GRISONS.

After a violent quarrel with his wife, a former chef named Wehrenfels, attacked his wife with a wooden chair, injuring her seriously, so that she had to be taken to the hospital, the husband afterwards committed suicide by hanging himself.

NEUCHATEL.

Mme. Auguste Mayor, the oldest inhabitant of Neuchâtel has died at the age of 98. Mme. Mayor was a relation of the celebrated naturalist Agassiz.

ST. GALLEN.

M. Eduard Sturzenegger, who recently died in St. Gallen, has left an amount of nearly two million francs to various charitable institutions.

FOOTBALL.

A number of matches were played on Sunday, 28th February:—

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Basel	.....	3	St. Gallen	.....	2
Lugano	.....	1	Nordstern (in Bern)	.....	2
Biel	.....	0	Servette	.....	2
Aarau	.....	2	Carouge	.....	1

The two Basel teams in Groupe 1 continue to play well and F. C. Basel has worked the miracle of getting away from the relegation danger zone by gaining 3 points advantage over Bern and St. Gallen. Servette also put another two points in the locker against redoubtable Biel. That is the spirit which will overcome all the difficulties that threatened to swamp them. Aarau too, is on the upgrade and are displacing Old Boys in the table.

FIRST LEAGUE.

Racing	.....	3	Lausanne-Sports	.....	2
Solothurn	.....	5	Monthey	.....	0
Fribourg	.....	1	Stade Lausanne	.....	3
Concordia	.....	5	Winterthur	.....	1
Luzern	.....	2	Oerlikon	.....	1

The unexpected has happened: Lausanne-Sports have lost their first League match of the season and what makes the pill all the more bitter, the deciding goal was scored by their own full back! Stade Lausanne are making valiant efforts to get away from the last 3 places. Have they left it too late? Solothurn is equally anxious

to keep their place in the First League but Fribourg is now also in danger.

Concordia go on without faltering and Luzern advance from 7th to 5th place by virtue of their victory over Oerlikon who drop to 7th, a rather uncomfortable exchange.

SWISS CUP.

In the replay in Zurich between Young Fellows and Urania, the Geneva team won decisively 6 : 2, and so pass at the second attempt into the semi-final. They are drawn against Lausanne-Sports, on neutral ground in Berne on 13th March. This should prove a very interesting encounter.

I wonder whether Lausanne-Sports lapse last Sunday has sufficiently disturbed their equanimity to constitute a danger to their chance in the Cup? An unexpected defeat sometimes brings quite inexplicable reverses in its train. Anyhow my tip for the Final is Lausanne-Sports v Grasshoppers and the last named for the Cup. But then, the "Sauterelles" too have an unexpected reverse in their portmanteau!

M.G.

ICE HOCKEY.

England 3, Switzerland 6.

England were defeated by Switzerland in an ice hockey match at the Birmingham rink on Saturday. Switzerland were more decisive in attack and their forwards gave a masterly exhibition, and Elvins, who kept goal for England, made many fine saves. England opened the scoring, Ramus putting in a swift shot after clever individual play. Penchi later scored the equalising goal, and before the end of the first period Morris gave Switzerland the lead. In the second period play was mainly in favour of Switzerland, and they added three goals through Meerkamper and Torriani (two). In the third period Clif and Davey scored for England, but before the close Morris added a further goal for Switzerland.

SPITTELER IN ENGLISH.

W. G. LOCKETT.

CONTINUED.

Whether or not the world will ever find Carl Spitteler (as Weingartner thought it must), and place him by the side of Homer, Virgil, Dante, and Milton, must, so far as I am concerned, remain "dahingestellt." Hitherto he has to his account such distinctions as the Nobel Prize, the recognition of the French Academy, the honour of many authors, especially in France and Germany, but almost no sale, and even in his own country a slight estrangement since his death.

But one thing is certain: Spitteler was a man of quite extraordinary, indeed unique, make and material. His mind had an irresistible urge towards the creation of myths and epics, so that, as Gottfried Keller said of him, it seemed as if a poet of the primitive world, of the age when religions and myths of the gods grew into being, had suddenly come to light in our own day and begun to sing his mysterious and magnificent songs.

First came that extraordinary poem in prose, "Prometheus und Epimetheus," which Dr. Muirhead has now translated, and which will be published shortly in London. (Has now been published. Ed.) The original was welcomed with a quarter of a century of silence. It was scarcely as much as mentioned by any literary journal.

Spitteler was not then a man who could afford to write books that nobody would read. As a young fellow he wanted to be a painter or a musician, but could not have his way. Then he studied for the Church, but the theologians turned him down for want of faith and for alleged want of knowledge. Off he went to Russia for eight years as tutor. Back in Switzerland, he was a teacher in small schools, and a journalist. In 1892 he became financially independent, and could devote himself to writing as many unreadable books as he liked.

Although he published little until he became independent, he had written incessantly. Spitteler's published works are indeed but a part of

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what he wrote, and what he wrote was but a small part of what he invented and planned. Three-quarters even of his printed books are what he called "Lernwerke" — written to find out what he could do and do best — they were a feeling about for the epic form he wanted — "Formgymnastik," he called his ballads. Some things he seems to have written because the sheer difficulty of them provoked a tussle. Had he published all he wrote, it would be seen that he tried every kind of literature imaginable. Prose wonderfully good and also some wonderfully strange prose — he wrote; but prose he called "the enemy": it was in verse that he most of all sought after his own excellence.

A volume, in unrhymed verse, of seven myths of creation called "Extramundana" (1883), was but a selection from sixty myths of the creation and destruction of the world. In 1889 came his first book of lyrics, entitled "Butterflies," which he wrote in order to learn to rhyme, the first of the poems being written with the aid of a Dictionary of Rhymes! This little book of verses was followed by "Literary Parables" (1892), "Ballads" (1896), and "Bell Songs" (1906). In the meantime his "Hauptwerk," "The Olympian Spring" (1900-1910), had begun to appear; and at the end of his life, in 1924, appeared the verse rendering of his first and last love, "Prometheus the Longsuffering." Six of these books of poetry have been drawn upon for the "Select Poems of Carl Spitteler," translated by Ethel Colburn Mayne and James F. Muirhead, published by Putnams in 1928.

Of the seventy-three poems and parts of poems that make up this book, forty-three bear the initials E. C. M., and twenty-eight are signed J. F. M., while two have both initials to them. The lioness's share belongs to Miss Mayne even more than this arithmetical presentation indicates; for she translated the two long pieces from the "Olympian Spring" that bring up the rear. But Mr. Muirhead gains weight by virtue of contributing the Introduction. In several instances each translator has given a version of a poem, and the original is printed as well.

I had known Spitteler's work for fifteen years in the original when I first read this translation. I took it up with misgiving — with a kind of dread. Homer was the only big poet I had ever read in translation, and that because I unfortunately must. I hated the very idea of verse translation. I made up my mind for disappointment — and was delighted!

By the time I laid the book down, after reading it nearly at a sitting, I almost wished I had known nothing of Spitteler. I felt I should like to know how this poetry would have appealed to me if it could have been taken as an original English creation. Should I have felt that it was not original — that the poets had got it from somewhere second-hand? I think not. Even knowing the originals, I was captured by the freshness and apparent spontaneity of this English poetry. It did not read like cut flowers, but like flowers with roots in the earth beneath them.

I am afraid I must not begin on any detail. Elbow-room fails. But it would be a joy to talk for whole pages about these poems. To show how the translators have overcome difficulties, have transmuted meaning and music, have turned Spitteler's great heavy omnibus words, often so poetical, into ripples of English monosyllables; how artfully they have reflected his effects and peculiarities; to linger over lines that I stopped to repeat several times before going on with the reading. That bitter-sweet, wry-smiling "Schalkhaftigkeit" that bubbles out in Spitteler is often Englished with a fascinating felicity. His occasional idyllic sweetness and emotion, too. Many of the lyrics are little masterpieces, not merely of translation, but also of English versification and of universal poetry.

What gave me most pause was the epic specimens at the end. Before I read them! How could Spitteler's great rolling waves of rhythm and rhyme, tumbling in like breakers when the tide is rising, with beaded words so long that three or even two sometimes fill a twelve-syllable line — how could that be put into our sweet, finely-minced, monosyllabic language, and in five-foot rhymed iambics — an inch too short for the measure. But when I read Muirhead's beginning of the "Dulder" and Miss Mayne's two pieces of the "Olympian Spring," it is a positive fact that I could not go down to dinner until long after the bell had rung. I had to finish first! If it can be translated like that, these plucky and clever people should in due course give us the whole thing.

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NEW HOPES.

Sassalbo, the name of a huge mountain in southern Grison is almost unknown even to the most ardent student of Swiss geography, but let it not astonish you if one day you find it competing for fame with that of Carrara.

Sassalbo is the most fascinating group in the valley of Poschiavo, and although its highest peak does not exceed the 10,000ft. limit, its towering masses are imposing. The massive wall-like formation of the mountain, makes an impassable barrier, which safeguards, at least from that angle, the town which lies at its feet from any foe. In Sassalbo you have the German "Kolossal" coupled with the "wunder-schön" resulting in a perfect picture of Alpine splendour and majesty — What grander sight can you wish for than looking up at Sassalbo, when the sun is gradually sinking behind a yet higher range, and throwing its last glorious rays upon it, bathing the whole group in a golden glory of beauty.

But man, who is forever seeking to improve his own conditions, desires to utilise this mass, and hopes to make from it a new industry, a money-making concern. Perhaps in these difficult times, he is welcome, for we encourage anything that is going to improve the present state, and add to the glory of our Homeland. Last year many samples were taken of Sassalbo's marble, and it stood the various tests remarkably well. Quite recently a huge block was quarried and sent to a well-known workshop, where under the chisels of expert sculptors, it will pass its final test. Should this result be satisfactory, we might hope to see Poschiavo a centre of considerable activity: for roads and a funicular railway of some description would have to be built, in order to convey the live rosy coloured marble to the Bernina railway station for further exportation. Workmen and clerical staff for the offices would be needed and we have no doubt that preference would be given to local or national unemployed.

Yes perhaps yet in that old southern town may we hear the humdrum of a Swiss Carrara.

Young Anglo-Swiss.

A FABLE.

Once upon a time, in a far-off country, there was a poet who was so fine a poet that, when he spoke, pearls of wisdom fell from his lips. When he spoke in sadness, his hearers would be sad also, but when his words were glad, the hearts of his hearers would fill with joy. You will perceive that this poet was also a fine actor, and he was much honoured in his country.

Now it befell that he travelled abroad to a country where some people of his tribe were living in exile, to speak to them in the ways of a poet and to gladden their hearts. All these people of his tribe were invited to hear him speak at an appointed place. Some said "Yes, I will come, perhaps" and some said "No, I cannot come to hear him," and others there were who said "Who is the poet that I should give him my evening?" There is always the Cinema."

Only a few were there at his feet to listen to his message and when he spoke with gladness their hearts were full with joy, but when his words were sad their hearts were heavy and they wept with him. The few said that he was a very great poet and they begged of him to come again.

But in this land of exile the natives heard that there was a strange poet in the country and they gathered round him in numbers and begged of him to speak to them in the ways of a poet. Then which he did; and the natives, who were not used to his manner of speaking, yet perceived the meaning of his message and they knew that he was a very great poet.

The name of the fabulist is not La Fontaine, but the name of the poet is — Monsieur Jean Bard.

SWISS MURAL POETRY.

(Vom Jahre 1808).

Drey Brüder Bertschi bauen hier zusammen
Johannes, Peter, Abraham, mit Namen,
Zwei Jakob und zwei Niklaus Pieren
Den Bau mit allen Fleiss ausführen,
Auch Cristen Egger Helfer wahr
Im tausend acht hundert und acht Jahren.

(An einem Haus bei Adelboden. 1900).

Die Segens Hände breite,
Herr, über dieses Haus;
Und leite und begleite
Du selbst uns' ein und aus
Wir wissen, an dem Segen
Aus deiner lieben Hand
Ist's ganz allein gelegen
In jedem Amt und Stand.

(An einer Sennhütte in der Nähe des Diemtigtales).
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