

Swiss Rifle Team at the Federal Shooting Festival in Chur

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national institutions with their headquarters in Berne, would welcome it. But it has always been rejected by the canton, lest the creation of a precedent should ultimately foster counter-claims, both in the canton and elsewhere, besides tending towards segregation. In Switzerland the official language is not that of the individual citizen but of the area in which he lives.

Having considered and accepted the report of the committee of twenty-five, the cantonal council handed over the juridical and constitutional problems involved to its jurists, and the economic and social recommendations to the relative departments of state, with instructions to prepare the necessary texts and amendments, in good time for legislative discussion and a plebiscite in 1950. Though the concessions were a good deal below what the Jurassians had hoped for, the Comité de Montier accepted the transaction as at least something gained.

In the French-speaking cantons, where the controversy was very closely watched, the general reaction was of sympathy for the Jurassians. To judge from their Press they found it impossible not to side with the Jura in its claim for special treatment. They realised at the same time that policy, and especially internal policy, is the art of the possible, and they understood without insisting too much. There is in fact in the Swiss Confederation a fundamental incompatibility as well as a fundamental cohesion; they saw in this dispute between a French-speaking minority and a German-speaking majority a reflection of the Federal position in which, in matters of internal government the German-speaking majority is always a little inclined to dominate the others. The whole machinery of federation is designed to take the strains and stresses thus (often unconsciously) set up. Even the separatists, who would add a twenty-third canton to the Confederation, received a good deal of sympathetic consideration in the Swiss-Romande Press, not because anybody believes for a moment that they would have the faintest chance of success, but because the bare fact of their existence may afford a slight guarantee that the compromise will be observed.

SWISS RIFLE TEAM AT THE FEDERAL SHOOTING FESTIVAL IN CHUR.

As mentioned in our last issue, the Swiss Rifle Team, London, was represented at the above-mentioned competition by a team of nine men.

We are delighted to report that our 'sharpshooters' have done exceedingly well, considering that, for well over ten years, they were unable to have any practice, and we extend to them our heartiest congratulations.

The team has returned with a silver laurel wreath and a *plaque* depicting the coat of arms of the canton of Grisons, a really fine piece of work.

In addition three members of the competing team were awarded medals (these, we understand, are given in lieu of wreaths), namely: Alfred Schmid, W. Fischer and J. Muller.

We are informed that the "Auslandschweizer" teams consisting of the following sections: Société Suisse de Tir, Paris, Société Suisse de Tir, Bruxelles, Section Suisse de Tir de la Société Helvétique, Alger, Swiss Rifle Association of Hudson, N.Y. inc. New York, Section Suisse de Tir, Le Caire, Società Svizzera Tiratori, Milano, Tiratori Svizzeri, Luino, Swiss Rifle Team, London, Section Suisse de Tir d'Alexandrie, Carabiniers, Reims, and Societat Tiro Suizo de Buenos Aires, were accorded a most hearty reception.

Not only were they met with great acclamation wherever they went, but a special excursion by Postal coaches to the Lenzerheide was arranged in their honour, followed by a Banquet held at the Hotel Schweizerhof, during which they were addressed by Dr. R. von Planta, President of the Government of the canton of Grisons and Dr. Ernst Schürch, late President of the "Auslandschweizer Kommission" of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique.

A bevy of pretty "Ehrendamen" in national costume accompanied our compatriots from abroad, a fact, we understand, which was highly appreciated by at least some members of the Swiss Rifle Team.

To make our mouth water, we have been shown the Menu consisting of Bouchées à la Reine, carottes et petits pois au beurre, Tournedos grillé aux haricots verts, pommes duchesse, salade, Eugénie Kirsch, accompanied by some of our finest vintage wines.

We can imagine how some of our friends from austerity countries attacked these — for them — luxuries.

During the whole festival, Professor W. Nussbaum, was in charge of the "Auslandschweizer," and the care he bestowed on them was highly commented upon, and as a token of appreciation for his courtesies he received a memento from our Swiss abroad.

It might interest our readers to hear, that altogether 2,030 sections with 50,200 marksmen took part in the competition on the 300 m. target, and 400 sections, numbering 5,700, participated in pistol shooting. A total of 3,420,000 cartridges were fired.

Robert Burchler (Standeschützengesellschaft, Neumünster, Zurich) has been declared "Schützenkönig" of the Federal Shooting Festival in Chur on 300 m. target, and Fritz Peterhans, Fislibach, "Schützenkönig" on target 50 m. for pistols.



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