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profess any opinion he wishes on neutrality. In other circumstances he is free to expose it, by word or pen. But, charged with the task of pronouncing an allocution which, of necessity, had to be slightly coloured with officialdom, at a celebration which could have echoes reaching abroad, he ran the risk of making people believe an opinion to be general, which is held by an extremely small minority. The Executive Authorities of our country, supported by the immense majority of the Swiss people, remain resolutely faithful to the idea of Swiss neutrality. To spread an impression which is contrary to this, has nothing in common with liberty of expression.

ALL ABOUT THE SOVEREIGN.

The Swiss Federal Court has refused to extradite to Italy two men accused of producing gold sovereigns there. The Court has ruled, that sovereigns are no longer legal tender. (*news item, Aug. 22nd.*)

COIN OF THE REALM?

The Treasury discloses
Most serious concern,
The Bank outright opposes
The bench and bar of Berne.
Our coin is counterfeited,
According to report,
And the forgers are acquitted
By Switzerland's High Court,

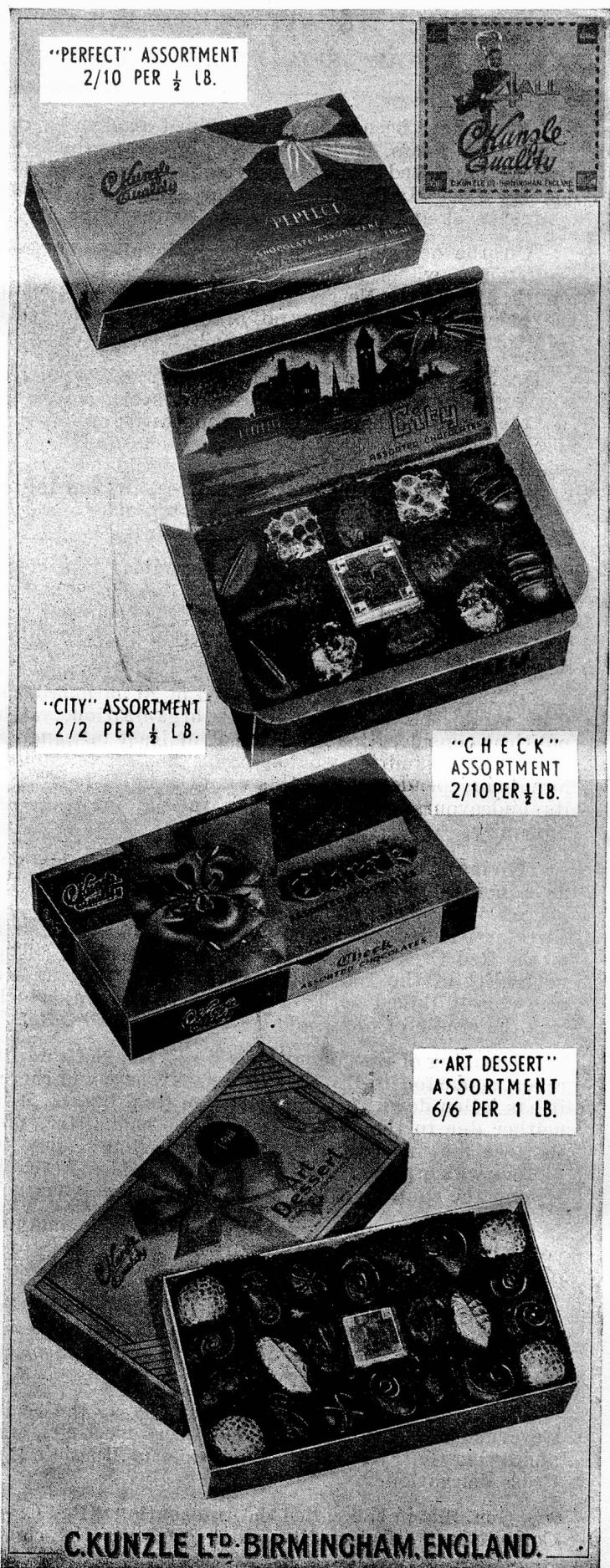
A Treasury official
Expresses shocked surprise—
This judgment prejudicial
Makes coin mere merchandise.
The viewpoint is rejected
As biased and unsound—
The sovereign is protected
Though we may not save the pound

In British courts and foreign
The judges would come down
On gangs that faked a florin,
A shilling, or half-crown,
And this more grave infraction
The law should not dismiss—
It is indeed an action
Unworthy of the Swiss.

The sovereign may have vanished,
And none dispute the fact,
But it was never banished
By a Parliamentary Act.
A proclamation regal
Must current coin withdraw—
So passing gold is legal,
While just outside the law.

The Briton should surrender
His coins of minted gold—
For other sterling tender
Commodities are sold.
But, not in circulation
In the counting-house or till,
The Bank makes declaration
They are legal tender still.

MERCUTIO.
(*Manchester Guardian*)
23. 8. '52.



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