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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 allocation which, of necessity, had to be slightly coloured with officialdom, at a celebration which could have echos 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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