La politique

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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

OUR "DEMOCRATIC" PRESIDENT

On the occasion of the return journey from a holiday stay at one of the seaside resorts of the Bretagne, the French government put a first class train compartment at the disposal of M. Motta, President of the Swiss Confederation. It so happened, that the train was packed and many passengers had to stand in the corridor. M. Motta invited some of the passengers to share his compartment, an offer which was greatly appreciated, although they were unaware of the indentity of their fellow passenger.

VICTOR, M. REY †

M. Victor, M. Rey, General Manager, of the world famous Hotel Ritz in Paris, has died in Paris at the age of 76.

M. Rey who was born at Sion in 1871 entered the Ritz Hotel in 1899 as head of the reception office; on the death of César Ritz, the founder of the many Ritz concerns, he was appointed in 1925 General Manager.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE FOR THE LATE QUEEN ASTRID

On Sunday last, on the occasion of the second anniversary of the death of the late Queen Astrid a commemoration service was held at the chapel near Küssnacht.

Mass was celebrated in the presence of the Belgian Minister, Count d'Ursel, and the Belgian Consul in Lucerne. Dr. Zimmerli, Mayor of Lucerne attended, as well as a large number of people of the district. A delegation from the Belgian "Association Nationale des Invalides de Guerre" took part in the service.

FOREIGN OFFICERS AT SWISS MANOEUVRES

A large number of distinguished Foreign officers are attending the manoeuvres of the 1st division, which are taking place from the 4th—8th September.

France has delegated Marshal Pétain, General Schweisgnth, Assistant chief of the General Staff, Colonel Vauthier, chief of staff to Marshal Pétain, Lieutenant-colonel De La Forest-Divonne, military attaché in Berne.

Colonel of division Borel, commander of the 1st division, will be in charge of the Foreign military missions, which number about 30 officers.

M. ARNOLD DOLMETSCH HONOURED

Shortly after the English government had honoured our countryman, Arnold Dolmetsch, by granting him a pension for his work for old English instrumental music, the French Government has just nominated him a Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur. M. Dolmetsch, to whom we extend heartiest congratulations, lives at Haslemere. (Surrey).

SWISS KILLED IN SHANGHAI

M. Alfred, Ulrich Brunner, aged 30, married, representative since 1935 of the Chemical works Sandoz Basle in Shanghai was killed during an air raid. M. Brunner was a citizen from Zurich.

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS DELEGATE FOR SHANGHAI

Colonel Charles de Wattenwyl of Berne, has left by aeroplane for Shanghai, where he will act as delegate of the International Red Cross.

TICKET 1,000,000

The Trubsee Cable Railway which takes tourists up the Titlis mountain at Engelberg, has just carried its millionth passenger. The ticket was issued to one of a party of English tourists, Mr. Young, of Redhill, organised by Sir Henry Lunn Ltd.

THE ELECTRIFICATION OF THE RIGI RAILWAY

It is now sixty-six years ago since the first rack railway in Europe, the Rigi railway, between Vitznau on the Lake of Lucerne and the top of the Rigi, was opened. It will be electrified in the autumn of the present year and will be brought into line with the latest modern requirements. The new motor-coaches will be light and comfortable, and the increase in speed will shorten the trip considerably. Fewer employees will be required as the preliminary work done in starting up the steam locomotives will be done away with and because it is easier to supervise electric vehicles. One-man control also suffices in the motor-coaches. When peak track conditions occur some of the existing steam locomotives can be used, and these are kept as a useful stand-by. The electric equipment of the motor-coaches will be built by Brown, Boveri and Co., Ltd., Baden, while the mechanical part and coachwork will be constructed by the Swiss Locomotive Works at Winterthur. Direct current will be used at a pressure of 1,500 volts and the average running speed will be about nine miles per hour. On the up-grade, the highest running speed is about eleven miles an hour and on the down-grade about seven miles an hour. The difference in altitude between the Vitznau and Rigi Kulm stations is about 4,300 feet, and the steepest gradient is 25 per cent. In the *Brown Boveri Review* of March, diagrams of the new coaches are shown. The braking devices comprise electric resistance braking as service brake on the down-grade and two hand brakes independent of one another and actuated by spindle from either driver cab. When the brake is applied on the up-grade it prevents the coach running backwards should the current fail. There is also an overspeed brake which operates on a brake drum on the motor and only acts on down-grade running. In emergencies it is put into action by a safety device.

VOTES FOR WOMEN

With the Assembly of the League of Nations this month, Swiss women are launching a new drive at Geneva for the vote, and a member of prominent British Suffragists are going over to lend a hand. Indeed, the International Woman Suffrage Alliance is to open a temporary office in Geneva. It will be in the middle of a brilliant shopping arcade.

SWISS OFFICERS AT FOREIGN MANOEUVRES

Army-Corps commander Labhart, chief of the Swiss General Staff, and Lieutenant-colonel Dubois are attending the manoeuvres of the Czecho-Slovakian Army.

CAMPBELL BREAKS THE WATERSPEED RECORD

Sir Malcolm Campbell has broken the World's water-speed record. He travelled at 129.50 m.p.h. on Lake Maggiore in his 2,350 h.p. speed-boat Bluebird.

The previous record of 124.91 m.p.h. was set up by Commodore Gar Wood in Miss America X at Algonac (Michigan) on September 20th 1932.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

At the venerable age of 89 died in Zurich Professor, Dr. Albert Heim. The deceased was born in Zurich in 1849, and for over 40 years he was a lecturer of Geology at the two Universities in Zurich. He retired from his posts as a lecturer in 1911, but has since written a work in three parts of the "Geologie der Schweiz" which is considered both at home and abroad as a standard work. Professor Heim was a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Oxford and the holder of the Marcel-Benoist Price.

* * *

The death is reported from Winterthur of M. J. Müller, who held the post of District Engineer for 35 years. The deceased was for many years a member of the "Kantonsrat" and President of the "Sekundarschulpflege."

* * *

National-Councillor Dr. Ernst Wetter has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary; he entered Parliament in 1929 after having for many years occupied the post of General Secretary of the "Eidg. Volkswirtschafts Dept." in Berne.

* * *

Dr. Hermann Escher, late Director of the "Zentralbibliothek" in Zurich has reached the age of 80. Dr. Escher has rendered for many years eminent services to this institution, he has also been an active collaborator of the "Landesbibliothek."

BERNE.

M. U. W. Zürcher, the well-known painter and author has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary in Sigriswil.

* * *

The Swiss Press Association has held their General Meeting in Berne; at a Banquet which was held at the Bellevue Palace, Federal Councillor Dr. Etter and members of the cantonal government were present.

LUCERNE.

Mrs. James Roosevelt, the mother of President Roosevelt has left Lucerne after a prolonged stay in this town. On her departure she was presented with a bouquet of flowers by the Municipal authorities by two children dressed in National costume.

URI.

The Swiss Alpine Club hut, erected in 1899 on the Hüfi glacier at a height of 2,340 m. has been closed; a new hut will be built shortly in the immediate neighbourhood.

* * *

The Bishop of Basle and Lugano, Dr. Franz von Streng has paid an official visit to the government of the canton of Zug. He was received by "Landammann" Karl Staub who expressed his satisfaction on the cordial relations which exist between the church and the government authorities in the canton of Zug.

FRIBOURG.

M. Léon Monney from Misery, will succeed to the seat in the National-Council, which became vacant through the death of M. Benninger.

ST. GALL.

The late Doctor J. Mäder-Schubiger has left an amount of 30,000 frs. for various charitable institutions in the canton of St. Gall.

* * *

Dr. Gottlieb Baumgartner has celebrated his 25th aniversary as a member of the cantonal government.

* * *

The death is reported from St. Gall, of M. Adolf Bürke, French Vice-Consul, at the age of 66. The deceased was for many years interested in the Embroidery trade, and later on took up Insurance work, he was an ardent supporter of the League of Nations Union in St. Gall.

VALAIS.

M. André Germanier, since 1928 a member of the National-Council has resigned his seat; M. Germanier, who is a member of the Catholic-Conservative Party is 41 years of age.

NEUCHATEL.

During target bombing practice of a section of the Swiss Flying Corps, a bomb fell accidently on the village of Forel, causing considerable damage. Fortunately nobody was hurt.

GENEVA.

M. Edouard Bonny, for over 40 years a teacher at the academy of music in Geneva, and organist at the church of St. Gervais was killed on a climbing expedition on the Salève; he was 61 years old.

LA POLITIQUE

Vers un enterrement

Comme on le sait, la conférence des chefs des départements cantonaux des finances s'est réunie à Berne mercredi. Elle avait plusieurs objets à son ordre du jour, notamment le problème de l'alcool. Cependant, l'attention était surtout attirée par l'attitude qu'elle adopterait à l'égard du fameux projet d'impôt fédéral sur l'augmentation de la fortune.

Certes, la conférence a un rôle purement consultatif: ses décisions ne lient, bien entendu, ni le Conseil fédéral ni les Chambres. Mais il n'en est pas moins évident que l'opinion qu'elle exprime, surtout si ses membres sont unanimes ou presque, est d'un grand poids, et qu'il serait très difficile au département fédéral de soutenir et de faire triompher devant le parlement une mesure rejetée par ces représentants des gouvernements cantonaux. Ces derniers exercent, au Conseil des Etats, une influence notable, dont l'on est bien forcé de tenir compte en haut lieu. Il est certain que l'impôt sur l'augmentation de fortune ne trouvera pas grâce devant le Sénat, s'il n'est pas retiré d'ici la prochaine session. D'ailleurs, son sort au National n'est guère plus rassurant pour ses auteurs. L'impopularité de la nouvelle taille est manifeste, dans tout le pays.

Les cantons de Bâle-Ville, de Zurich et de Glaris ont, nos lecteurs s'en souviennent, adressé au Conseil fédéral des protestations officielles. D'autres gouvernements, sans avoir publié de texte, se sont également préoccupés des répercussions fâcheuses que pouvait avoir, sur leurs propres ressources, l'offensive fiscale imaginée au Bernerhof. Ils ont entrevu aussi le danger, pour l'avenir, de cet impôt fédéral direct, redoutable précédent que l'on ne manquerait pas d'invoquer plus tard afin de justifier de futurs tours de vis de l'insatiable pressoir. Le Conseil d'Etat genevois n'a pas manqué d'examiner la question : à l'unanimité, il s'est prononcé contre le projet et a confié à M. Picot le soin de défendre son point de vue.

Le bon M. Meyer a dû constater avec mélancolie que l'œuvre de ses bureaux rencontrait bien peu d'approbation. Son échec ne pouvait guère être plus complet, puisque seul le délégué socialiste de Soleure a voté oui. Les mesures étatistes n'ont pas de plus fidèles et zélés champions que les politiciens d'extrême-gauche. Sans compter qu'en l'occurrence, il s'agit, comme on dit, " de faire payer les riches,"—formule simpliste, chère aux démagogues, mais dont la réalité dément souvent les promesses fallacieuses.

Ce qu'il y a de déplaisant, précisément, dans cette affaire, c'est qu'on a spéculé sur de mauvais sentiments d'envie et de haines de classes pour tenter de justifier une contribution injuste et absurde, dont nous avons relevé naguère les multiples inconvénients. On a cru que le peuple verrait de bon œil une mesure de spoliation qui n'atteindrait que les gens possédant au moins cinquante mille francs. Ainsi raisonnaient déjà les protagonistes du prélèvement, il y a quinze ans ; mais le peuple, plus judicieux et plus équitable que beaucoup de ceux qui prétendent le conduire, a répondu comme il se devait à cette invite grossière "à prendre où il y a."

En vain, pour jeter du lest, le département fédéral a édulcoré, à la dernière heure, ses propositions, en envisageant la possibilité de reporter de 1936 à 1934 la période servant de base de calcul. Les argentiers des cantons n'ont pas donné dans ce panneau, pas plus qu'ils ne se sont laissé séduire par la perspective d'une ristourne. Ils ont bien saisi que c'est le principe même de l'impôt nouveau qui est faux.

Leur préavis, si net et si tranchant, n'aura pas été inutile. D'ores et déjà, le projet de M. Meyer semble sérieusement compromis. Il y a de grandes chances qu'il ne trouve pas grâce devant les Conseils législatifs. Décidément, il faudra trouver autre chose. Et quoi donc ? Eh bien, sans doute, un autre impôt !.....

Léon Savary.
(Tribune de Genève)

DR. SCHEDLER—A DYSTUFFS GENIUS FROM SCHWYZ

A chemist and Doctor of Science, who has contributed very largely to the extension of the dyestuffs industry in this country—that is Dr. A. Schedler, Swiss Consul in Manchester, who has his suite of offices in Danlee Buildings, Spring Gardens.

He came to Manchester at a time when our textile manufacturers were almost entirely dependent on foreign supplies of dyestuffs; his genius operated not merely to build a Manchester firm into a world-renowned manufactory but helped also to give English scientists the confidence and technique which have enabled them to shoot ahead in the dyestuffs industry.

Other brilliant, continental scientists helped in this minor industrial "revolution" including Dr. Weizmann, at present in the world's eye as leader of the Zionist movement, but Dr. Schedler is the one who has made his home among us.

In his bright and airy offices, the work of the Consulate is carried out on behalf of the Swiss Nationals in Manchester and in a remarkly extended area which includes the North of England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. There are, as a matter of fact, only two Swiss Consulates in the Kingdom. Manchester has one; the other is at Liverpool, and is the elder of the two, looking after the west coast and the maritime interests centred on Merseyside.

There is, of course, a Swiss Legation in London, which looks after southern interests.

Dr. Schedler is a native of Schwyz, in the Canton of that name, and there he received his early education, passing on to the University of Basle. Chemistry was his favourite study, and he achieved a Doctorship of Science and other distinctions.

Forty years ago or thereabouts he went into the Swiss Chemical Industries, of which for twenty-one years he was manager. He remained with the Society until the outbreak of war, and came to England, and to Manchester, to the Clayton Aniline Company, Ltd., dyestuffs manufacturers, as technical manager.

He became managing director in 1928, and a member of the board, and in April of the present year resigned his post as technical director.

Dr. Schedler was appointed Swiss Consul in Manchester in 1924 and is actually one of the oldest in consular service in the city. A senior to him is Dr. Frank da Cunha, vice-consul for Portugal.

The Swiss Consul told the "City News" that he had spent the latter half of his life in the dyestuff industry in this country.

There is not a large Swiss community in Manchester, and the members do not take any prominent part in its social or public life. They have, however, a club, with the Grand Hotel as headquarters, they have also a Swiss Relief Society to help their needy nationals.

The Consul is a member of the Manchester and National Chemical Societies;is chairman of the Manchester section of the Society of the Chemical Industry; and a member of the committee of the recently founded Chemical Club in Manchester. He has paid tribute to the literary and scientific pursuits in Manchester by membership of the Literary and Philosophical Society, and he is a past member of its council.

Living in West Didsbury he has two married sons who are also chemists with Clayton company—Dr. Schedler finds time now and then to play a little golf on the Withington links, but does not boast of his prowess. He is perhaps more interested in the collections of Swiss antiques, of which he declares there are quite a lot in this country.

He declares that he likes Manchester, a fact evidenced by his continued residence here so that "I have not yet returned to the lovely country, Switzerland," he said to the "City News."

Like most Continentals, he is something of a linguist, speaking German as well as English and knowing French also.

(Manchester City News)

DIE REICHEN KANTONE UND DIE ARMEN.

Es gibt in der Schweiz nicht nur reiche und arme Leute, sondern es gibt auch reiche und arme Kantone. Immerhin ist Reichtum und Armut eben ein sehr relativer Begriff. Verglichen mit, sagen wir einmal, der Tschechoslowakei oder Russland oder auch Oesterreich ist bei uns der ärmste Kanton noch reich.

Woran kann man den Grad der Wohlhabenheit eines Kantons ermessen? Gerade sind zwei neue Publikationen erschienen, die uns solche Gradmesser an die Hand geben. Die eine ist die schweizerische Bankstatistik 1936, die das Statistsche Bureau der Nationalbank herausgibt, die andere der Bericht über das Versicherungswesen der Schweiz, den das eidgenössische Versicherungsamt veröffentlicht—und zwar just zum 50. mal.

Die Bankstatistik sagt uns, wie viel durchschnittlich pro Kanton die Bevölkerung " auf der Seite hat" in Form von Spareinlagen, Depositen, Kassenscheine usw. Wer in dieser Beziehung am besten dran ist, ist aus folgender Aufstellung zu ersehen :

Es trifft auf einen Einwohner an solchen Einlagen im Kanton :

Kantone	*Franken*	*Kantone*	*Franken*
Baselstadt ...	4149	Schwyz	2217
Thurgau	3551	Appenzell a. Rh.	2095
Zurich	3443	Appenzell i. Rh.	2020
St. Gallen	3328	Luzern	2015
Aargau	3129	Obwalden	2002
Solothurn	2874	Neuenburg	1981
Nidwalden	2835	Waadt	1855
Schaffhausen ...	2757	Graubünden ...	1846
Bern	2674	Freiburg	1731
Baselland	2659	Uri	1414
Zug	2401	Wallis	1080
Glarus	2336	Tessin	1007
Genf	2226	Schweiz	2613

Natürlich, so ganz genau stimmt die Sache nicht, weil es eben Luzerner gibt, die ihr Geld auf der schwyzerischen Kantonal-Bank haben und vielleicht St. Galler, die meinen, es sei besser, wenn es in Appenzell liege usw. Aber im Grossen Ganzen stimmt es doch, was die Zahlen sagen. Dass die Thurgauer so weit voran sind, stellt ihnen ein Ehrenzeugnis aus; denn im Thurgau ist alter gesunder Spargeist noch im privaten, wie im öffentlichen Leben zu Hause. Und es ist erstaunlich, dass der Kanton St. Gallen, der doch Jahrzehnte eines grossen Niederganges durchgemacht hat, so günstig dasteht hinsichtlich der Bankeinlagen im Verhältnis zu andern. Die landwirtschaftlichen Kantone stehen im Hintertreffen. Bei ihnen geht has Geld weniger leicht ein.

Ein etwas anderes Bild erhält man durch eine Uebersicht über den Stand des Versicherungswesens auf Grund der Prämienleistungen nach Kantonen pro Kopf der Bevölkerung. (Wir haben auch hier den Bevölkerungsstand 1930 angenommen, wie bei der Bankstatistik.)

Versicherungprämien pro Kopf und Jahr :

Kantone	*Franken*	*Kantone*	*Franken*
Baselstadt ...	172.40	Baselland	73.65
Zurich	152.05	Waadt	72.85
Genf	143.70	Tessin	67.35
Schaffhausen ..	105.40	Graubünden ...	66.80
Thurgau	94.15	Appenzell a. Rh.	58.60
Zug	92.85	Nidwalden ...	54.65
Luzern	91.95	Schwyz	50.65
Solothurn ...	88.90	Obwalden	49.25
Neuenburg ...	87.20	Uri	46.70
St. Gallen ...	84.30	Freiburg	46.70
Glarus	81.30	Appenzell i. Rh.	37.70
Bern	79.10	Wallis	33.50
Aargau	79.50	Schweiz	93.40

Auch hier sind die landwirtschaftlichen Kantone wieder am Schlusse, Basel ist wieder voran. Unter den landwirtschaftlichen Kantonen steht aber Waadt doch weiter vorn, als bei den Bankeinlagen. Es scheint, dass das Versicherungswesen in den katholischen Kantonen noch am wenigsten verbreitet ist.

Wären Armut und Reichtum an Geld gleichbedeutend mit Glück, so müsste man sagen, es gebe glückliche und weniger glückliche Kantone. Jene sind am besten dran, in welchen der Arme ohne Neid seine Last trägt und der Reiche bereit ist, Armut aufzusuchen, um zu helfen, ohne es an die grosse Glocke zu hängen. Doch darüber gibts keine Statistik-und doch wird gerade darüber Buch geführt.

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