

# Notes & gleanings

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histoire nationale que de rester indifférents en face des souffrances matérielles et du bel effort moral de nos voisins; mais il serait imprudent de trop vouloir hâter le dénouement inévitable. Soyons au moins aussi patients que les Vorarlbergeois eux-mêmes!

Les extraits suivants de journaux suisses compléteront cette courte revue de la situation:—

Dans le Journal de Genève M. J. Martin fait un parallèle entre le développement de la Suisse au cours des siècles et le rapide essor de la Société des Nations. Il rappelle très justement que les anciens 'pays alliés' (zugewandte Orte) des Confédérés ont dû attendre de longues années, pour être admis dans le lien fédéral, 'exemple de persévérance et de ténacité qui ne sera pas perdu pour le Vorarlberg.' Ce petit pays montre qu'il a aussi une volonté et une confiance en ses destinées. La ténacité le conduira au but.

Le 'Bund' du 29 novembre: 'La déclaration du président de la Confédération à Genève est le minimum de ce que l'on était en droit d'attendre après l'attitude officielle prise par le Conseil fédéral le 21 novembre 1919', et le 3 décembre, 'le Conseil fédéral est resté du printemps à l'automne 1919 dans une grande illusion concernant les vrais sentiments du peuple suisse et a été seulement réveillé par la motion de 101 membres du parlement, motion unique en son genre dans les annales parlementaires suisses, qui demandait le 20 novembre 1919 au Conseil fédéral de fixer clairement son attitude vis-à-vis de la question. A la tête des signataires figure le nom du Conseiller aux Etats Usteri.'

'Basler Nachrichten' 26 novembre: 'Dans l'élégant monde de la société internationale réunie à Genève, l'on remarque un groupe de trois hommes simples ressemblant à une députation venue d'un chef-lieu d'un petit canton suisse. Ce sont les représentants du Vorarlberg, le doyen Fink, vice-Landammann et ses confrères Neubner et Wachter. Ils sont venus afin de demander à la Société des Nations la reconnaissance de leur droit de libre disposition.'

'Luzerner Neueste Nachrichten' 25 novembre: 'Le Vorarlberg a, dans tous les cas, choisi une politique très juste et a de suite remarqué que dans la question de son droit de libre disposition tout serait enterré si l'Autriche était agréée à Genève sans que le Vorarlberg ait pu défendre ses droits à temps. Cette question doit être absolument résolue en même temps que celle de l'Autriche, mais ne pourrait en aucune façon être reprise une fois celle-ci acceptée dans la Société des Nations.'

'Ostschweiz' 27 novembre: 'L'attitude du Conseil fédéral est conforme aux sentiments de la grande majorité du peuple suisse sinon celle de son unanimité,' et plus loin: 'Nous pensons que le Vorarlberg peut aussi se déclarer satisfait, d'autant plus que l'on sait chez nos chers voisins que la Suisse les recevra à bras ouverts quand le moment sera venu qu'entrevoit M. Motta en faisant sa déclaration de Genève.'

Remarquons enfin que le 'Memorial' du Conseil d'état du Vorarlberg vient d'être traduit en anglais et qu'il sera prochainement distribué à tous ceux qu'il s'agit d'intéresser à la question.

A. L.

### "SWISS OBSERVER."

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## NOTES & GLEANINGS.

*The Blockade weapon of the League of Nations and Swiss Neutrality:* One of the main arguments used by the adversaries of the League during the campaign preceding the Referendum of 16th May, 1920, was that of the difficulties which must arise for Switzerland if one of her neighbours should be blockaded by the League. The Geneva Meeting discussed the question, but postponed the decision to next year's Assembly. According to *The Statist* (18-12), who quotes from a speech of Monsieur Motta, "in the meantime it is free for every State to judge circumstances in special cases in which the blockade was used until the principles worked out by the Blockade Commission should have been accepted by the Assembly at a later meeting. Naturally, even during the provisional period, every State must be guided by the principles of justice as they are laid down in Article 16 of the Treaty. A second very important point for Switzerland arises out of Article 16, the wording of which contains certain things that are not clear, and even impossible. The Article says that from the moment the economic weapon is used relations with the State which has broken the Treaty must be broken off by the other States. This breaking off of relations affects all citizens of the respective countries. To carry this into effect in a country which has such a large percentage of foreigners as Switzerland, or, for example, Roumania, seems impossible, and would mean carrying the war into one's own country. This must in no case be allowed to happen, and therefore the Swiss delegates are glad to be able to establish that the meaning of the expression 'citizen' (Staatsangehörigen, nationaux) as used to-day is synonymous with 'inhabitant' (Bewohner, habitant). The proposed provisional blockade measures are, therefore, only applicable as regards the relations between country and country, and not inside the territory of any one State."

*Wireless Telephony—London and Geneva.* (From *The Morning Post*, 13-12):

"An interesting demonstration of wireless telephony was given this morning before a group of journalists at the Halle de la Reformation. The Marconi Wireless Company constructed an entirely new station on the outskirts of Geneva for the despatch of Press messages to England during the Assembly of the League of Nations. This station has been of great service during the past month, for Government and official messages take precedence over telegrams for newspapers, and on busy days it would have been impossible with only Post Office telegraphs working to have the report of the day's proceedings in next morning's newspapers. The Marconi Company hopes that this experimental station will prove to be the first of a network of stations throughout Europe for the exclusive use of the Press, whose messages will then be free from all delays.

"At the appointed time this morning we heard Viscount Burnham (Editor of "The Daily Telegraph") speaking in London, and although owing to various disturbances we could not catch all he said, his final words, 'Good luck to you all,' were almost startlingly clear and distinct. Although the wires connecting this building with the wireless station some miles away, and Chelmsford, which is the receiving station with London, were not properly adapted for to-day's experiment, we all realised the truth of Lord Burnham's remark that 'this looks like a revolution in journalistic work.'"

*The Westminster Gazette* (23-12) recording the death of *Henri Fazy* reminds its readers that as "doyen d'âge du Conseil National" he was the first Swiss statesman publicly to protest against the violation of Belgian neutrality.

A Special Geneva Correspondent of *The Observer* (19-12) compares the *Swiss Winter Season of 1920-21* with pre-war conditions:

"Never since Switzerland began to have a winter sports season as well as a summer season has there been so much anxiety as this year about its prospects. Even during the winters of 1918-19 and 1919-20 there was, owing to passport and other post-war difficulties, no winter season in Switzerland worth mentioning, so that the 'tourist and hotel industries,' as they are called, have now had lean years.

"In 1912 the hotel-keeping industry was the second in importance in Switzerland, the machinery industry being the first. The hotels, boarding-houses and inns were 9,055 in number, employing altogether well on for 4,000 persons, who earned more than frs. 23,000,000 in wages and salaries alone, their tips being roughly calculated at about another frs. 40,000,000. Of these hotel workers 9 per cent. were foreigners. On an average, in the years immediately preceding the war, about 4,000,000 tourists visited Switzerland each year, taking the summer and the winter seasons into account. Her population is now only 4,000,000. Supposing each tourist to have spent £20 on an average in the country, which is not an excessive estimate, this would give £80,000,000."

English farmers are certainly not numerous among the visitors to Switzerland just now. One of them, A.C. Young, in *The Field* (18-12) publishes a long and instructive comparison of *Swiss and British methods of farming*, from which we extract the following passages:

"The vast majority of dairy farmers are small men. They feed their cows the greater part of the year indoors, and it is wonderful the numbers they maintain in this way on their small farms. . . . I am convinced that Swiss farmers keep more stock on this system than could possibly be done by grazing. . . .

"When one has been accustomed to making more hay in a few days in England than those families in a whole district do in a season, and has been accustomed and obliged to farm in the old-fashioned way for profit, he cannot help asking the question: 'Does the work of these Swiss families bring in a sufficient return—in fact, does it pay?' If the labour was paid on the English scale as now fixed, it would not pay, in my opinion. It would be wise for those who, no doubt from the best of motives, advocate the putting of men, wholesale and with a very short training, if any at all, on English land, to think seriously what the future must mean to those men. It must mean hard work, long hours, Sunday work, and uncertain returns. They will live in the fresh air, but will they and their families be able to stand the outdoor work in winter, and will they like it if they can do so? They will be their own masters—a proud and enviable position to some, provided always that they can keep and maintain something to be master of; but the inexperienced—the less hardy, industrious, and thrifty of small settlers starting now, with the present high cost of equipment and of live and dead stock—are not likely to do this, and may soon find themselves left with little more

than a bad temper—not a very valuable asset. I cannot but think that many must fail, and would be better advised to stay their hand and transfer their own and their family's labour to more remunerative concerns."

*Swiss to Hit Back?—Result of French Prohibition of Imports.* Under this title *The Star* of 24-12 says:

"In consequence of the measures taken by the French authorities against the importation of Swiss goods—particularly embroidery, on which the customs duty has been considerably increased—it is now a question whether the Swiss Government will prohibit the export to France of condensed milk and electric power.

"It is also quite possible that the conditions of repayment by France of the 140 million francs due to Switzerland will be modified."

*The English Herald Abroad*, Montreux, 25-12, gives a short account of an interesting ceremony which took place last week at Vevey, when *Major De La Harpe* (who has many friends among the Swiss in London) was presented with a silver cup on behalf of the British Government. Major De La Harpe has been Chief Officer in Command of the British Interned in Switzerland:

"The solid silver cup, which is richly ornamented, bears the following inscription under an engraving of the Royal Arms:

"Presented to Major De La Harpe by His Britannic Majesty's Government in token of their gratitude for his untiring and invaluable efforts for the welfare and comfort of the British Prisoners of War interned in Switzerland during the Great War of 1914-1918."

In this connection "The Herald" mentions the fact: "That, in the Zurich Museum, cups are to be seen which were presented to their friends by the English Protestant Bishops who were hospitably received in Zurich in Queen Mary's time during the Persecutions, and a precedent for the presentation of a cup by a British Sovereign to a Swiss citizen is also to be found, as Queen Elizabeth sent such a cup to the Mayor of Zurich in recognition of that city's hospitality to the persecuted Protestant Bishops during the reign of her predecessor."

In their preface to the "*History of the Swiss Confederation*" (published 1889) Adams and Cunningham inform us that on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee, 1887, these cups were used by the British Colony in Zurich and their Swiss guests to drink the health of Queen Victoria.

*Monsieur Paravicini's holiday:* The Swiss Minister has left London for Berne for two months. During his absence Monsieur J. L. Isler, First Secretary to the Legation, will act as chargé d'affaires. *The Daily Mirror* (28-12), enlarging on this news, pretends that:

"There have been vague rumours about the health of Monsieur Paravicini, the Swiss Minister in London, going the round of town lately. These have become accentuated by the departure of the Minister to his native country for a couple of months. I understand, however, that his trip to Switzerland is merely a business holiday."

Of course, these rumours are unfounded. It rather looks as if somebody wanted to start them going through "The Daily Mirror." Monsieur Paravicini's health is perfect.