Zeitschrift:	The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber:	Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band:	- (1926)
Heft:	255

Rubrik: Home news

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. <u>Mehr erfahren</u>

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. <u>En savoir plus</u>

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. <u>Find out more</u>

Download PDF: 06.07.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, https://www.e-periodica.ch

Che Swiss Observer

Telephone : CLERKENWELL 9595 Published every Friday at 23, LEONARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams : FREPRINCO, LONDON.

PRICE 3d.-

Vol. 6-No. 255

LONDON, JUNE 19, 1926.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Swiss subscriptions may be paid into Postscheck-Konto: Basle V 5718). HOME NEWS

In the course of a debate in the National Council, when the recent incidents along the Tici-nese frontier were being dealt with, Federal Coun-cillor Motta stated that the diplomatic relations between Switzerland and Italy had never, been so good as they were at present.

* * * A hurricane of exceptional violence visited the whole of the Jura region as far east as Appenzell last Saturday afternoon, the centre of precipitations being the district round La Chaux-de-Fonds. The being the district round La Chaux-de-Fonds. The cyclone lasted a few minutes only, but the devasta-tion exceeds the damage reported in any similar Swiss catastrophe within living memory. Apart from the demolition of forests and whole tracts of cultivated land, about 25 farmsteads on the outskirts of La Chaux-de-Fonds have been literally razed to the ground, rendering a large number of people homeless. Though it is feared that many excursionists may have been caught in the woods, the casualties so far notified amount to woods, the casualties so far notified amount to 16 only and are not of a fatal nature; one boy (F. Gerber), however, who was knocked down by a tree, has since died in hospital. (We refer to the report of our Geneva correspondent in another column.)

The whole of the organising committee of the Zurich carpenters' strike was arrested yesterday week by the cantonal police. Acts of intimidation and coercion are said to be the cause of this measure, as well as a strong suspicion that the present wave of incendiarism is to be traced to some of the strike leaders. The strike, which has lasted for about four months, is expected to collapse.

The anniversary of the murder of the Italian The anniversary of the murder of the Italian Socialist Matteotii was the occasion of some tumultuous scenes in Geneva. The local Socialists, sasisted by foreign Communists and Anarchists, had arranged a meeting, when the Italian Fascists in Geneva promptly called for a counter-demonstration. A free fight with sticks and chairs followed the firing of a revolver by one of the Communists. Ten arrests were made. It is stated that several officials (both Fascist and anti-Fascist) of the League of Nations secretariat are involved. — A similar demonstration in Basle took a more peaceful course, though the Communists left the meeting hall, as they refused to submit to the dictation of the Socialists.

During experimental work an explosion occurred in the Federal munition factory at Altdorf (Schwyz) when two workmen were killed and two others seriously wounded. A few days later two further casualties were reported from a similar cause.

Considerable excitement prevailed on the road from Bieberbrücke to Rothenturm (Schwyz) when the timely intervention of the police saved two Italian motorists from rough handling by the local population. The motorists endeavoured to overtake population. The motorists endeavoured to overtake another car, and as the latter did not make room but accelerated, they coolly fired a few revolver shots which penetrated the petrol tank, bringing the front car to a standstill. In trying to escape and back the car, the latter remained fast on the muddy grass track, when the two impetuous motorists were apprehended.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS. By "KYBURG."

No Halfway House between Peace and War.

Daily Herald (9th June) :-"Suppress private war, or retain it. Surrender "the right to be judge in your own cause, or "retain it. There is really no half-way house "between these two positions."

That is the theme on which Mr. Arnold-Forster has written his admirable little book, " The Vic-tory of Reason," on the pacific settlement of international disputes. He believes that there is no half-way house between two policies that are radically opposed; he believes that in our day and generation the right of private war is both

dangerous and wrong; he believes that the right to be judge in your own cause is illogical and out of date; and he believes, above all, that, in the modern struggle for the rule of law, instead of force, the British Government should lead the way.

If it were to do so, the British Government If it were to do so, the British Government would only be continuing the work of the British statesmen who were the pioneers of international arbitration, as Mr. Arnold-Forster shows in his brilliant chapter on the growth of the Arbitral principle. But, alas! instead of leading, Great Britain to-day is far behind most other civilised countries in readiness to give up the right of war and account computery arbitration; behind, for and accept compulsory arbitration; behind, for example, France, Belgium, Poland, and Czecho-Slovakia, whom so often we denounce as militarist disturbers.

Sir Austen Chamberlain, indeed, has brought us to the ludricous position of urging arbitration on other nations, while we refuse it for ourselves. And, as Mr. Arnold-Forster tells us, we refuse it not only when it is offered to us in a great general treaty like the Geneva Protocol, but even general treaty like the Geneva Protocol, but even when it is offered in a simple treaty with a single other nation—for example, with the in-offensive Swiss. For what dread quarrel with the Government of Berne are we to keep our hands free of entangling engagement which might oblige us to accept the impartial verdict of the law 2 the law?

the law? No one who believes that a radical transforma-tion is required in the foreign policy of Britain can afford to be without this book. There may be some small inaccuracies in its pages, invit-able when so great an argument is compressed into so small a space. But they are trifles compared with its great merits. It is full of valuable information.

It produces, for example, an "all-in" arbitra-tion treaty, ratified in 1919, between Great Britain and Uruguay—a precedent, indeed, if only Sir Austen wanted one. It shows how even the U.S.A. have accepted the jurisdiction of the Permanent Court of International Justice in Con-ventions about ligner production with Corventions about liquor-smuggling made with Ger-many, Italy, and the Scandinavian countries. It shows that no international dispute among the many hundreds that have gone to arbitration has ever ended in the catastrophe of war.

ever ended in the catastrophe of war. There is nothing better about this book than its restraint. Mr. Arnold-Forster exaggerates in nothing. He gives a moderate and, for that reason, an impressive account of the great feel-ing there is throughout the world for further progress towards general and compulsory arbi-tration. And in doing so he emphasizes the important point that, as a result of this feeling, the real issue is not merely technical; "an im-mense moral and psychological problem is in-volved."

Arbitration is not merely a lawyers' term. "It represents a victory of reason which we have got to win." If Mr. Arnold-Forster has the readers he deserves, the day of victory will be nearer than it seems.

I earnestly recommend this pamphlet (Hogarth Press, 2s.) to my readers, and would ask them to circulate it among their friends. It will open their eyes in many ways and give them fresh food for thought and a clean orientation for ideas which may awake ideals.

Perhaps it is meet that I should add the follow ing article from the *Manchester Guardian* (June 9), because it is a further example of the desirability of Aribtration:-

Swiss Anxiety on Free Zones.

There is growing impatience on the part of the Swiss nation on the continued dilatory methods of France concerning the ratification of includes of France concerning the ratification of the Free Zones Arbitration Treaty. Last night, immediately after the opening of the summer session of the Swiss Parliament, M. Rochaix, in the name of all Geneva members of Parlia-ment, without distinction of political parties, addressed an interpellation to the Swiss Govern-ment inquiring what is now the exact situation. He added that Geneva desired the early ratifica-tion of this treaty by France, not only in her own special interests, but also in the interest of League of Nations ideals regarding arbitration, of which France itself was a champion at Geneva. The Swiss Foreign Minister, M., Motta, in

The Swiss Foreign Minister, M. Motta, in M. Hennessy, had been twice to Paris with a view of hastening ratification. M. Briand had promised to press for the discussion of the arbi-

tration treaty in the French Chamber this month. Switzerland could take further steps, and must hope that this promise would be fulfilled. As to the construction of French Custom-houses on the Swiss frontier, which had created much un-easiness at Geneva, the Swiss Government had and representations against this premature atti-tude of France. The French Government gave pledges that French Custom-houses would be re-moved if the Court of International Justice should decide that the free zones still existed and if no voluntary agreement between France and Switzerland on the abolition of the free zones should afterwards be concluded.

New Swiss Railway

The Times (3rd June) :-Surveys are now well advanced in connection with the proposed building of a narrow-gauge railway under the San Bernardino Pass, linking the Swiss cantons Grisons and Ticino, or Southern Bavaria, the Vorarlberg, and Eastern Switzerland with the St. Gothard line and Northern Italy. This is to connect Bellinzona (Ticino) with Thusis, (Grisons), but as it already exists between Bellin-zona and Mesocco, the scheme only involves the boring of a tunnel three and one-sixth miles long under the San Bernardino Pass and the construc-tion of a 38-mile section from Mesocco to Thusis.

It is now estimated that the total cost of that construction will be \$1,360,000, of which \$280,000will be given by the Cantonal Governments and Communes interested, as well as by the Federal Communes interested, as well as by the Federal Railways, while the company which would under-take that construction would contribute another $\pounds 480,000$; as for the remainder, it is presumed that it will be contributed by private capital. The receipts of the new line are estimated at $\pounds 67,200$ and the expenses at $\pounds 39,040$ a year, thus leaving a surplus of $\pounds 28,160$, which would be sufficient to pay the interest on the capital in-vested. The San Bernardino line is not intended to compete with the Italian scheme of the Stelvio. to compete with the Italian scheme of the Stelvio, but to accelerate and facilitate the communica-tions between the Grisons and Northern Italy.

The Brig-Furka-Andermatt-Oberalp railway line The Brig-Furka-Andermati-Oberalp railway line —which is connecting Cantons Grisons and Valais. —will be finished in the course of June. The construction of that most interesting line was begun just before the war, but it was never completed owing to lack of funds, and the Brig-Gletsch section only was open to traffic. The line. was lact ware bought by the View Zawrett Pail was last year bought by the Visp-Zermatt Rail-way, and work was at once started in order to way, and work was at once started in order to complete the other sections, the ballast of which was in some places ready. The Gleisch-Ander-matt section will be opened on June 26th. It passes under the Furka Pass (7,990 ft.) in a tunnel 2,138 yards long, and its total length is $13\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The Andermatt-Oberalp-Disentis line, which is $13\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, will be opened on June 15th, and as from July 1st four trains will run in each direction. This line will be a most convenient and picturesque means for going from Canton Valais to the Grisons and to the Engadine.

LA TORNADE DE LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS.

Ce qui s'est passé samedi soir entre 5 et 6 heures autour de La Chaux-de-Fonds dépasse en horreur le autour de La Chaux-de-Ponds depasse en horreur le souvenir des ouragans les plus terribles qui de tous temps se sont abattus sur la Suisse. Un ami, pro-priétaire d'un garage qui arrive de là-bas pour le Salon de l'Automobile—dont je me proposais de vous entretenir—m'a fait le récit suivant:

"Il pleuvait avec rage lorsque soudain le vent "Il pleuvait avec rage lorsque soudain le vent "s'éleva, augmentant progressivement de vitesse et "de puissance, pour tourner bientôt à la tempête. "Le ciel avit l'air de vouloir tomber sur la terre "tant nous avions l'impression que les nuées s'abat-"taient sur nos campagnes. La pluie était si serrée "qu'on aurait dit des masses d'eaux. Soudain le "ciel s'assombrit jusqu'à devenir d'un noir opaque "nous privant presqu'entièrement de lumière. Il "grèla. Mais les grèlons moyens étaient de la "grosseur d'une noix ou même d'un oeuf. Cette "coloume massige de matière poussée nou la vant est colonne massive de matière poussée par le vent en trombe, s'avançait en tourbillonnant brisant tout sur son passage, sacageant, détruisant. Il faisait un bruit d'enfer. A vingt mètres des cloches qui sonnaient à toutes volées on entendait rien. Nous vécûmes des minutes terribles, jamais de mémoire

"d'homme, nous n'arions dans nos régions, entendu "d'homme, nous n'arions dans nos régions, entendu "et vu un phénomène semblable.... "Lorsqu'un calme relatif fit enfin place à la "tourmente, à la terreur succéda le désespoir. Tout "autour de nous ce n'était que destruction et ané-"antissement. Les cheminées et les tuiles des mai-"sons etaient arrachées; toutes les fleurs, toutes les