

Switzerland's economic situation

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là pour le lui permettre. Grâce encore une fois à l'appui moral de milieux officiels et privés du pays, nous avons pu faire, de l'Echo, une véritable revue digne de figurer à côté des autres publications suisses du même ordre et que certaines organisations étrangères, sœurs de la nôtre, ne laissent pas de nous envier. En 1927, parut notre premier livre des Suisses à l'Etranger, "Ta Patrie," dont l'édition allemande est totalement épuisée et dont l'édition française ne va pas tarder à l'être également. Ce fut le succès de ce livre qui amonça le présent ouvrage. Tandis que le premier était destiné à parler de la patrie absente aux Suisses exilés, le second se propose notamment de parler de nos compatriotes du dehors à ceux qui sont restés au pays, de leur faire connaître quelques-unes de nos colonies et de leurs hommes de mérite. Ce livre doit être de plus, pour les Suisses à l'Etranger eux-mêmes, une sorte de miroir où ils verront se refléter la vie de leurs colonies et la physionomie de ceux des leurs qui se sont illustrés. Leur exemple servira aux Suisses à l'Etranger de leçon et leur révélera du même coup leur propre valeur. "Honneur et fidélité" fut la devise des vieux Suisses qui s'en allaient au loin au service étranger. Nous ne saurions trouver, à l'usage des Suisses qui vivent aujourd'hui au delà de nos frontières, de plus beau mot d'ordre. Qui reste fidèle à soi-même ne peut être infidèle à la patrie, même s'il en a choisi et adopté une autre. Celui qui, tel un Hoepfl, un Theiler, un Ammann, a donné le meilleur de lui-même à sa nouvelle patrie, en honorant du même coup celle qu'il a quittée, est en fait un "Doppelbürger," le citoyen de deux Etats, ou, mieux encore, un "Weltbürger," une gloire du monde civilisé et de l'humanité tout entière.

The End.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

The International Congress of Local Authorities was opened yesterday at the Central Hall, Westminster.

We hear that Switzerland is represented by the following delegates:

Dr. G. v. Schulthess, Zurich, President of the "Schweiz. Städteverband;" M. M. Chappuis, St. Imier, Secretary of the above institution.

Zurich is represented by Dr. Klöti, Maire of the town, Councillor Kruck, (Direktor der Industriellen Betriebe), and Police Inspector Dr. Wiesendanger.

Berne has sent M. Steiger (Gemeinderat); Baden (Aargau): Councillor Denschle, and St. Moritz: Messrs. C. Nater (Gemeinde-President) and M. H. Badrutt (Gemeinderat).

LES SUISSES EN EGYPTE.

(CONTINUED).

par E. COMBE, Directeur de la Bibliothèque d'Alexandrie. (Le Bulletin Suisse d'Egypte).

Au sujet de Burckhardt, sur lequel Mr. Combe prépare un grand ouvrage, il veut bien nous communiquer la lettre suivante:

BURCKHARDT A SOUAKIN.

L'illustre voyageur bâlois Jean-Louis Burckhardt, dont j'ai souvent parlé, était arrivé de Syrie en Egypte en septembre 1812. Depuis le début de l'année 1813, il se promenait le long du Nil, en Haute-Egypte et en Nubie. En 1814, il atteignit le Sennar, puis se joignit à un caravane qui se dirigeait vers la mer Rouge. La traversée des déserts avait été excessivement dure pour lui et il arriva épuisé dans le poste frontière de Souakîn. La lettre suivante (dont je donne la traduction), nous montre comment il y fut reçu, les difficultés qu'il dut surmonter et avec quelle habileté il sut se tirer d'affaire:

Caire, le 3 janvier 1816.

J'ai passé le jour de l'An tout seul ici. L'an dernier, à pareille date, j'étais presque mort de la dysenterie à la Mekke, et je n'avais que peu d'espoir de retourner en Egypte. Mais maintenant je suis joyeux et bien portant, et l'espoir ne m'abandonnera plus d'échapper au danger et à la maladie.

J'ai loué une petite maison, où j'habite avec deux serviteurs. Mes occupations augmentent chaque jour, car je voudrais rédiger aussi complètement que possible mes journaux de voyages pour pouvoir de toute façon les envoyer (à Londres) comme fruits de mes expéditions, si je ne puis moi-même y retourner.

La peste semble ne pas devoir nous visiter cet hiver, ce qui m'enchant, car elle m'aurait grandement troublé. Mais, en échange, une incommodité fâcheuse est survenue, dont presque chacun se plaint, une sorte d'exanthème, que l'on attribue ici, comme tout ce qui est bon ou mauvais, à l'eau du Nil.

La campagne charmante qui environne Bâle

NEWS FROM THE COLONY.

THE SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL CONCERT.

The Annual Concert of our Choral Society, held on May 11th at the Conway Hall, was truly a great treat. The audience, though quite numerous, was not as big as one might wish, both in view of the pleasure so many of our compatriots missed and for the society's own sake. Unfortunately the Court held at Buckingham Palace also prevented our Minister, Monsieur Paravicini, and his collaborators from attending at the concert, but many other "notables" were present. They will not forget this delightful entertainment.

The Choral Society had the very good sense lavishly to enrich and vary its programme by inviting Madame Sophie Wyss, one of the finest soprano singers in London, Miss Hildegard Arnold, a charming and accomplished "cello" player, and our popular M. F. Conrad to collaborate. This wise discretion enabled the Choir to bestow all the concentration and care necessary for amateur singers on a few well chosen songs to give a pleasing artistic rendering. Under the competent direction of Mr. Eric A. Seymour I think they have done excellently well and fully deserved the unstinting applause of a friendly audience. "Im Mai" after Friedrich Silcher, "Sonntag ist's" by Simon Breu and "Am Brünnelein" by Heinrich Bungart were particularly pleasing in their simple joyous mood. The more dramatic "Sturmbeschwörung" by Dürrner was executed in a dignified way. A great success was "Come boys, drink and merry be," a lively and cheerful English tune, but "The long day closes" by A. Sullivan seemed to be too mournful and monotonous to find many friends in the audience.

Madame Sophie Wyss opened her programme with that most lovely poem by Donne "Have you seen but a white lily grow," sung after an arrangement by Dolmetsch, and a pleasing "Pastoral" by Carey. Madame Wyss intensely feels and lives her songs, and thereby penetrates right to the heart of her hearers. That concluding phrase of Donne's love lyric "o so white, o so soft, o so sweet is she!" as rendered by our compatriot, will be remembered by many of us as the loveliest experience of the newly awakened spring. Three songs by our great Swiss composer Othmar Schoeck also gave me infinite pleasure, particularly "Das bescheidene Wünschlein." There followed two songs by J. Daleroze and two others by G. Fauré, as well as two delightful extras, all sung most beautifully and richly applauded.

Miss Hildegard Arnold introduced herself as a fine cellist with Bach's "Arioso" which she played in a restrained manner with depth and subtlety. Massenet's "Elégie" she rendered equally well and two lighter compositions, executed with a pleasing vivacity, "brought the

est maintenant couverte d'une épaisse couche de neige, et l'on patine sous le pont du Rhin. Tandis qu'ici, lorsque les eaux de la crue se sont retirées, le printemps se montre partout et les champs verdissent. A cette époque de l'année, le climat est d'une beauté et d'une douceur inexprimables; cela dure jusqu'en mars, où les vents brûlants du désert commencent à souffler.

Je dois encore te raconter une petite histoire qui s'est passée pendant mon voyage de Nubie:

Le 26 juin 1914, j'arrivai à Souakîn, petit port sur la Mer Rouge, au nord de l'Abysinie. Après un voyage de 40 jours au travers des montagnes et des déserts de Nubie, nous atteignons enfin la mer, absolument épuisés de fatigue et exténués par la faim, à l'époque la plus chaude de l'année. Le commandant de Souakîn était un arabe de Djedda, qui percevait les droits d'importation et d'exportation de la douane sur l'ordre de Méhémet-Aly, qui se trouvait alors en Arabie. Il fut aussitôt avisé qu'un homme blanc était arrivé avec une caravane, et il m'envoya l'ordre de me rendre auprès de lui. Il avait appris que je ne possédais pas de richesses; un jeune esclave et un chameau étaient tout ce que j'avais; mais c'était plus qu'il n'en fallait pour exciter sa convoitise. Lorsque je me présentai devant lui, il me salua par un affront et de la manière grossière suivante: "Tu es un Mamlook de Dongola, et tu veux fuir en Arabie pour te concerter avec les Wahhabites. Mais je t'assure que Méhémet-Ali te fera pendre auparavant."

Je tentai de me défendre, l'assurant que j'étais un pauvre marchand égyptien, mais en vain. "Apportez les chaînes, cria-t-il à ses soldats, et liez cette canaille; nous allons l'envoyer à Djedda; vous pouvez vendre au marché son esclave et son chameau." Je le laissai se mettre hors de lui, je l'excitai encore par quelques réponses appropriées, jusqu'à ce que je vis qu'il en viendrait aux actes, car les soldats faisaient mine de m'emmener. Je sortis alors de ma poche un firman ou passeport que j'avais obtenu de Méhémet-Ali au Caire, avec son grand sceau, qui me recommandait de la manière la plus expresse à tous ses fonctionnaires, sans qu'il y

house down." I was glad to make this acquaintance of yet another good artist of our Colony. Mr. F. Conrad fully lived up to his reputation as a warm interpreter of songs for which he is endowed with a good rich tenor voice. His "Minnelied" by Brahms and "Wanderlied" by Schumann were very successful, the "Gebet" by Hiller perhaps less so because its declamatory style does not quite suit Mr. Conrad. Compliments are due to the accompanists Miss Ivemy and Miss Phillips.

Dr. E.

SWISS CLUB BIRMINGHAM.

We hear that the Swiss Club Birmingham is arranging a Swiss Rally and outing to Whipsnade, on Sunday, July 3rd, they expect that the various Swiss Societies of the Metropolis will join them in this outing. Further particulars will appear in the Swiss Observer later on.

SWITZERLAND'S ECONOMIC SITUATION.

Switzerland's efforts to keep her national finances on the right side have met with exemplary success. The accounts for the financial year 1931 show, in fact, a surplus of Frs. 2,200,000 instead of the anticipated deficit of Frs. 7,700,000 on a total expenditure of Frs. 426,000,000. This improvement of nearly ten millions is, in the circumstances and especially in such a time of general depression, a notable achievement. Moreover, the public debt has been reduced by Frs. 34,800,000, while Frs. 12,000,000 has been placed to special reserve to balance the loss of revenue during the current year through a falling-off in imports. The effective Customs' receipts for the year just closed amounted to Frs. 294,000,000. The Swiss postal administration was able to show a profit of Frs. 8,200,000 in the profit and loss account, after making deductions for debt interest and payments to the repayment, insurance and reserve funds; the profits of the telephone and telegraphs department amounted to Frs. 500,000.

Encouraged doubtless by the drop in Bank rate, loan issues in Switzerland in 1931 rose to Frs. 1,706,000,000, representing a marked advance on immediately preceding years. The credit which this country enjoys was evinced by the last 3½ per cent. Confederation loan of Frs. 150,000,000, which amount was covered by the conversion demands alone, so that the State renounced the share reserved for the placing of its special funds. The home market remains firm, but export industries are still very depressed. The excess of imports over exports during the first quarter of the present year amounted to Frs. 240,000,000, or nine millions more than the total value of all exports. This result is a striking illustration of the unsatisfactory state of Switzerland's foreign trade. For the corresponding quarter last year the adverse balance was only Frs. 185,000,000 and even that was considered extremely serious.

(Continued on back page).

fût spécifié cependant que j'étais un européen.

Le commandant orgueilleux fut comme frappé d'un coup lorsqu'il le lut, et il commença à rosser les soldats qui avaient porté la main sur moi. Il me pria avec les expressions du plus humble regret de lui pardonner son erreur.

Je lui dis que j'avais eu l'intention de voir jusqu'où le conduirait son injustice, et que le Pacha se serait sans aucun doute réjoui d'apprendre comment la justice était appliquée à Souakîn. L'homme se tenait devant moi comme un pauvre pêcheur, me suppliant de ne rien dire au Pacha à mon arrivée en Arabie; et il me combla de marques d'amitié de tout genre. Il m'offrit différents cadeaux que je refusai avec mépris; mais pendant mon arrêt à Suakîn, qui fut de 10 à 12 jours, je l'obligeai à m'offrir chaque jour un bon déjeuner; je me regalai de tout ce que la ville avait de mieux à fournir, je pus donc ainsi me remettre des fatigues du désert. A mon départ, il me fournit des provisions pour la traversée, le voyage sans frais sur un bateau pour Djedda, et il me pria encore d'oublier son faux pas.

S'il apprend un jour qui je suis, il regrettera davantage ses déjeuners que son iniquité. Pendant ce voyage de Nubie, je n'ai couru qu'une seule fois un danger réel: nous avons été attaqués par des brigands; mais j'ai vécu constamment dans l'inquiétude à cause de la perfidie de mes compagnons de route. En Arabie, en allant de la Mekke à Médine, j'ai manqué être complètement dépourvu par des Bédouins, car je m'étais éloigné de la caravane; mais là, les pillards sont beaucoup plus humains qu'en Nubie, car ils ne tuent jamais, s'ils n'y sont pas poussés par leurs adversaires."

L'histoire ne nous dit pas qui était ce commandant de Souakîn; il semble aussi que Burckhardt se garda bien de mentionner cet incident, lorsqu'il fut en Arabie. Il y avait d'ailleurs d'autres personnes qui le suspectaient dans l'entourage du Vice-Roi d'Egypte, et se plaignirent d'être de très mauvaise politique à un moment où il avait au contraire besoin d'appui, et surtout où il devait passer si possible inaperçu.

THE END.

A MASTER OF MOUNTAINEERING.

In the little cemetery of Fex, near Sils Maria, in the Engadine, lies one of the greatest Alpine guides of all time, Christian Klucker, "Mein Unfehlbarer," as he was affectionately known by one of his most famous employers and valued friends.

Many guides have become known not only by their deeds, but by the recording of those deeds by their employers, in contemporary Alpine literature. It has been given to few guides to reverse the order of things, and turn from ice-axe to pen to write of their experiences and of their employers; but Klucker was one, and his memoirs have now been translated from the German by Erwin and Pleasaunce von Gaisberg, and edited by Mr. H. E. G. Tyndale, who has contributed additional chapters.

As a record of mountaineering between 1874 and 1928, describing no fewer than forty-four ascents eighty-eight new routes, this book is of particular value, but as a human document, describing Klucker's private life and his relationship with some of the leading mountaineers of their generation, lies its greatest interest.

His private life was by no means an easy one. As the intelligent child of a peasant family, his education was neglected, and he was saddled with responsibilities which allowed no outlet for a de-vouring ambition to raise himself from the ruck of his class. This thwarting of an artistic and imaginative temperament saddened his life; had his ambitions been realised, Switzerland might have gained a useful servant and the Alps lost an incomparable guide.

Like other masters of mountaineering, Klucker had many sides to his character. On a mountain he could be contemptuous of weakness and inefficiency, icily calm or tempestuously dashing when occasion demanded, a tower of strength in storm or difficulty, possessing always that reserve of energy which raises the best guide so far above the best amateur; and in the valley a kindly and considerate father, a friend to all children, and a lover of animals.

As these pages show, to gain the friendship of such a man is a precious thing, and the casual tourist, who is "lugged" up the Matterhorn by a couple of sturdy peasants interested only in the depth of his pocket, cannot imagine how perfect a companionship can exist between a man of Klucker's stamp and his employers. Among those employers were Edward Whymper, Norman Neruda, Sir Edward Davidson, Paul Güssfeldt, Theodor Curtius, and Captain Farrar. With them Klucker climbed in Alpine districts extending from the Dauphiné to the Dolomites, and he accompanied Whymper to the Canadian Rockies.

Slovenliness, exaggeration or inaccuracy in the subsequent recording of climbs were only less abhorrent to Klucker than carelessness or the missing of opportunities in mountaineering, and some of his employers come in for sharp criticism. The proposal that one summit should be named after his companion, the Russian Rydzewski, met with obvious disapproval; he was annoyed at Neruda's inaccuracies of description, and at Whymper's missing of opportunities in the Rockies.

With Captain Farrar he enjoyed some of the happiest climbing of his life, for these two men made an ideal climbing combination, and their mutual esteem is evidenced in the "Unfehlbarer's" letters to his "Honoured Bergfreund."

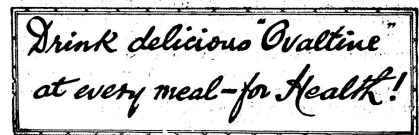
Klucker's greatest climbs, such as the first ascent of the Pétécet Ridge of Mont Blanc, the descent of the terrible ice slopes of the Güssfeldt Sattel on the Scersen, the traverse of the Cima del Largo, and many ascents calling for equal skill and strength proved him to be not only a superb cragsman, but an iceman fitted to rank with Josef Pollinger and Franz Lochmatter. He made his last great climb at the age of seventy-four, the year previous to his death.

His memoirs are free from all literary affectation, and are written in a charming and direct style which has lost little of its essential simplicity in translation. His letters, published at the end of the volume, show that beneath a rugged and even uncompromising exterior was an ingrained sentiment, and yearning for love and affection in the loneliness of his declining years, which ended peacefully in the shadow of the peaks he loved so well.

"Adventures of an Alpine Guide." By Christian Klucker. With additional chapters by H. E. G. Tyndale. (Murray 40s. 6d. net.).

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SWITZERLAND'S ECONOMIC SITUATION (Continued).

This year, for the first time since the war, the Swiss index number of wholesale prices dropped below the pre-war level adopted for purposes of comparison. At the beginning of March the figure was 99.6 (January 1914 = 100). The general index number of the cost of living dropped one point during February and 0.3 per cent. during March, so that at the beginning of April it had fallen to 127.5, or 11.7 points lower than a year ago. Unemployment in Switzerland continues to grow; out of a total of 424,000 insured persons, there are now 44,600 persons wholly unemployed, and this number is below the real total since so many of the workless are not insured and are therefore not included in the returns.

An interesting feature of Swiss economy is the continued advance in the consumption of electricity, which last year amounted to a total of 3,780,000,000 kilowatt-hours, representing an increase of over 100,000,000 kilowatt-hours on the total for 1930. This figure does not include the production of the hydro-electric stations of the railways, which rose to 1,270,000,000 kilowatt-hours in 1931. At the present moment 85 per cent. of the total traffic on the railways is dealt with by electric power. Exports of electricity also show an appreciable increase. Another noteworthy feature is the rapid progress in the use of electricity for domestic purposes. Last year, 119,000 new electric heating plants were installed, thus beating all previous records and bringing the total of heating plants now in use in Switzerland to over 1,700,000.

Statist.

FOOTBALL.

May 15/16th, 1932.

FIRST LEAGUE.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, May 18th, at 7.45 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting followed by a causerie by M. Röthlisberger, Esq. on "A Swiss Health Resort," at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Saturday, May 28th, at 2.30 p.m. — Swiss Sports — at Herne Hill Athletic Grounds.

Wednesday, June 1st, at 7.30 p.m. — Société de Secours Mutuels — Monthly Meeting at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Tuesday, June 7th at 7 o'clock — City Swiss Club — Dinner and Dance at Brent Bridge Hotel, Hendon. (Dinner 7/6).

Wednesday, June 8th, at 7 p.m. — Société de Secours Mutuels — Committee Meeting, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Wednesday, June 15th, at 8.30 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. — Monthly Meeting at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.

Thursday, June 23rd, from 6 to 10.30 p.m. — Fête Suisse — at Central Hall, Westminster.

Sunday, July 3rd — Swiss Rally and outing to Whipnade — arranged by the Swiss Club Birmingham, together with the Swiss Colony London.

for the Swiss Championship. Well, I congratulate Concordia on being the more consistent team; I am sure they will do well in the higher circle. Brühl will have to try, try again, but how could you fail this year?—

I wonder more and more who that patron saint of the Bâlois is. Nobody appears to know, yet Gallus seems perfectly powerless against him. F.C. Basel comes twice to St. Gall, beats the "Stodtler" 4:2 and knocks Brühl 4:1 out of the cup. Concordia does likewise to F.C. St. Gall and now defeats Brühl 2:1 in that last match. "Who, who, who, — who is your patron saint?"

A number of *Friendly Matches* were played, and we give the following results:—

Luzern	2	Phoenix Ludwigshafen	4
Cantonal	0	Borussia Halle	5
Grasshoppers	3	Zwailuwen	3
Zurich	0	Milan	4
Stadt Bern	1	Vienna	1

M.G.

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8h — Répétition du Choeur.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux instructions religieuses, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6. (Téléphone: Archway 1798). — Heure de réception à l'église: Mercredi de 10.30 — 12 h.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

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 (near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 22. Mai 1932, Trinitatis.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst und Sonntagsschule.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

CONFIRMATION.

Am Pfingstsonntag wurden confirmiert:
 Anna Marie Gysi von Buchs (Canton Aargau)
 u. Helen Elisabeth Siegrist von Basel (Stadt).

TRAUUNG.

Am 14. Mai wurden getraut:
 Hugo Schwander verw., von Heimiswyl (Bern) und Anna Marie Martha verw. Schwander, geb. Jüttner von Heimiswyl und Berlin.

Anfragen wegen Religions- bzw. Confirmandenunterricht und Amtshandlungen sind erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde. C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4 (Tel: Chiswick 4156).