

# Home news

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## URI.

The "Landrat" of Uri has elected Alois Püntener as its president for the session of 1934-1935. The deficit for the year 1933 amounts to 39,000 francs.

## SCHWYZ.

M. Theiler, member of the cantonal government, has been elected "Landammann" and M. Betschart "Landesstatthalter."

## GLARUS.

M. J. Schlittler, State Prosecutor of the canton of Glarus, died in Glarus at the age of 63. M. Schlittler was a member of the "Landrat" for 26 years.

## BASLE.

The late States Councillor, Dr. Paul Scherrer, has celebrated on the 2nd of this month the 50th anniversary as an advocate. Dr. Scherrer entered in 1884 the office of Dr. E. Brenner, and when the latter became Federal Councillor he carried on his practice.

The "Flugplatzgenossenschaft" in Basle has celebrated last Sunday the tenth anniversary of its foundation, on which occasion a great display took place, which was witnessed by over 12,000 spectators.

M. Hermann Bächtold, Professor of History at the University of Basle and an eminent scholar, has died in Basle. His numerous works on historical subjects were known to thousands of our younger generation.

## BASLE COUNTY.

The accounts for 1933 of the canton of Basle County show a deficit of 317,534 francs.

## GENEVA.

According to an act which has been passed by the cantonal executive, children under sixteen years of age are not allowed to visit boxing matches.

M. Philippe Briquet has been nominated manager of the "Caisse hypothécaire" at Geneva.

## NIDWALDEN.

M. C. Flühler, president of the "Obergericht" and for many years president of the community of Stans, has died at the age of 82.

## GRISONS.

A large fire which broke out in the Val Cuz near Disentis destroyed three houses; the damage is estimated to exceed 60,000 francs.

## VAUD.

Mme. Alice Cossy de la Harpe, who recently died, has left an amount of 28,000 francs for charitable purposes. Mme. Cossy was the widow of the late M. Robert Cossy, States Councillor.

## THE HISTORICAL RELATIONS OF ENGLAND AND SWITZERLAND.

(Translation from a Pamphlet which appeared in the N.Z.Z. in March, 1919, and published in Oechsli's "History of Switzerland." — Cambridge University Press.)

(Continued from Previous Number.)

Switzerland was thus to exchange the sure pledge which she possessed in the captives for the vague assertions of the doubtful friend on the Seine, that he thought he could contribute to the happy solution of the question. Stämpfli the President of the Confederation, refused this offer courteously but firmly; on the other hand, the Federal Executive was ready to propose to the Federal Assembly an amnesty, provided that, at the same time, a solution of the main question could be regarded as assured in the sense of the complete independence of Neuchâtel. Stämpfli could give no other answer to the Russian and Austrian envoys, who also demanded the immediate and unconditional release of the captives.

England alone declined to require from Switzerland this unconditional release of the captives. Instead, she took much trouble to prepare the ground for the clearing away of all doubts in a manner which should be honourable for both parties. On October 4th Clarendon telegraphed to Lord Bloomfield that in his opinion a compromise on the basis of the complete independence of Neuchâtel was the only method of obtaining the release of the captives. After at first resisting, Manteuffel declared on October 13th to the British envoy "in the strictest confidence, and without authorising him to inform the Swiss of this declaration," that the King was ready to renounce his rights, with three reservations, (1) continuance of the use of the title of "Prince," (2) retention of his private property in Neuchâtel, and (3) a guarantee for certain religious and charitable institutions. Without troubling himself much as to the confidential character of this communication, Clarendon through Gordon put (October 25th) the question to Stämpfli whether the Federal Executive would bring about the release of the

M. Jean Zehnder-Cornu, from Prilly, was killed by lightning when ascending the Cornettes de Bise. M. Zehnder leaves a widow and three children.

## TIR FEDERAL 1934.

## EIDGENÖSSISCHES SCHÜTZENFEST 1934.

Every five years the riflemen throughout Switzerland are summoned to a great display in order, in the first instance, to give proof of their efficiency in what is considered our premier national sport — rifle shooting. It is also a patriotic manifestation of men hailing from all and every part of Switzerland, ready to defend the sacred heritage so heroically acquired and sustained by our ancestors.

The committee of the "Tir Fédéral" has extended a hearty invitation to the Swiss residing abroad, who will be specially entertained during the festivities at Fribourg. A small band of riflemen have grouped themselves together, and will represent the London Colony at this great exhibition of national unity.

It is an old custom in our country to collect prizes and donations in order to reward the riflemen for their efforts and personal sacrifice. For this purpose in every canton local committees have been constituted, where gifts in kind and money may be deposited. As the London Colony will wish to contribute to the success of this festival by adequately furnishing the "Gabentempel," we are appealing to the generosity and patriotism of our readers. M. C. R. Paravicini, the Swiss Minister, has kindly identified himself with this appeal, which, we are sure, will find a hearty response. Any donations — even the smallest — will be considered as a token of loyalty to our country — may be sent to the Swiss Legation, 18, Montagu Place, W.1., or the "Swiss Observer," 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2, and will be acknowledged in our columns.

So far the following amounts and prizes have been received:—

Unione Ticinese	100 Frs.
City Swiss Club	£5 5 0
Swiss Mercantile Society, Ltd.	5 5 0
Nouvelle Société Helvétique...	2 2 0
Société de Secours Mutuels des Suisses à Londres	2 2 0
Collection of Swiss Consulate at Glasgow	5 0 0
Swiss Mercantile Society College	2 0 0
Swiss Gymnastic Society	2 2 0
P. F. Boehringer	1 1 0
F. St.	5 0
Union Helvetia	Silver Cup
Swiss Culinary Society	Silver Cup

captives in return for the confidential assurance of Prussia to England that she would be satisfied to renounce her rights, with the three reservations just mentioned. The Federal Executive on October 29th declared that it was ready to accept this proposal, with two reservations: (1) that domain-lands and sources of income which the King possessed in Neuchâtel as the lord of the land should not be held to fall under the head of "private property"; and (2) that a guarantee for the charitable and religious institutions could only be undertaken by the Confederation. Clarendon thought that the Federal Executive had thus given a proof of its peaceful spirit, and invited France, together with England, to make the conditions of Switzerland known in Berlin.

But Napoleon declined this joint action; for meanwhile he had, at the renewed request of Frederick William IV., begun his second intervention in Switzerland by his letter (October 24th) to Dufour. In this he engaged, in the event of the unconditional release of the captives, to solve the Neuchâtel question in a sense that should be advantageous for Switzerland; otherwise he would not prevent the march of Prussian troops into the Grand Duchy of Baden. The Federal Executive did not wish to offend the powerful Emperor, and determined to send a confidential envoy (Dufour) to Paris. It knew now from England that Frederick William IV. was ready to renounce Neuchâtel, but it knew also that he wished to attach to this renunciation certain conditions, as to which it was necessary to be prudent. Dufour was instructed to agree to no reservations which would in any way include the dependence of Neuchâtel on a foreign Power, or involve any limit of its rights to internal legislation and administration. As a matter of fact, the King had added for Napoleon to his three conditions (which were to be kept secret from Switzerland) a fourth — the restoration of the four "Bourgeoisies" of Neuchâtel, Valangin, Landern and Bondry — a condition which could not be accepted by Switzerland, as it involved an interference in the internal business of the Canton, and would have kept open for Prussia a pretext for revoking the promise,

## YODELLING IS CULTIVATED.

The Swiss Yodelers Association was founded in 1912. Its immediate object was to promote characteristic Swiss pastimes and customs, such as yodeling, alphorn-playing, singing of folk-songs and flag-swinging. At this time the association has about 1,200 members, belonging to all the different cantons.

Yodeling dates back to the earliest days when the people of the mountains made up their own melodies and songs. Thus high up in his solitary pastoral realm the dairyman sang of his love and longing and of the joys of his vast, free domain. But the ever-present, overwhelming majesty of the mountains affects singers and listeners alike in these Alpine domains, and Alpine music features therefore a certain consecration by Nature herself.

In the beginning yodeling was strictly confined to its original home, the mountains. Later, however, the Swiss who went on military expeditions into foreign lands began to yodel on their weary marches — and many a tough warrior began to long for home. Early in the 19th century some observing Swiss began to take notes of the words and melodies of different yodel songs. Many of the best native yodelers are direct descendants of mountain dwellers, and that curious gift within their throats is a true heritage handed down through generations.

The Swiss yodels are not uniform in their cadences. In the beginning all yodels contained long-drawn, far-sounding tones which echoed in the mountains. According to his individual gifts a mountain dweller would know how to form and vary the tones. Especially in the Bernese and Lucerne mountain regions yodel melodies came into being which contained a wider range and demanded more skill. But on the whole the Swiss yodel is rather uniform and has nothing in common with the yodel of the Tyrol. The cultivation of the uniform characteristics in the yodel of the different cantons is one of the main objects of the Swiss Yodelers' Association.

Alphorn playing dates back to the 9th century. This ancient 9 to 10-foot long wooden instrument is a typically Swiss product. It can only produce the natural tones, and belongs therefore out-of-doors. Up in the lofty pastoral realms it affords the dairymen a means to commune with a far-off neighbour after the day's work is done. It is said that Louis XIV. forbade the Swiss in his regiments to play the alphorn, for fear that resulting homesickness would prompt them to desert the army.

given to Napoleon, to renounce his claims on Neuchâtel. Dufour was charged also to require that the renunciation by the King should be officially announced at the same time as the amnesty, or else that "guarantees of equal value" should be secured to Switzerland. By that expression the Federal Executive understood that England as well as France would engage to work for the renunciation by Prussia.

Dufour and the permanent Swiss Minister in Paris, Barmann, sought to attain this agreement between the two Powers. But it was a moment when profound ill-humour existed between France and England by reason of their different policies towards Russia and Turkey. England had no intention of simply following the French lead. On November 25th Clarendon caused it to be known in Bern that, if France refused to support the steps taken by England in Berlin, the British Government would not give way, because the principle of the proposed compromise seemed to rest on a knowledge of the intentions of the King of Prussia which it did not possess. If the prisoners were released, he was indeed willing to endeavour, in conjunction with France, to induce Prussia to agree to the wishes of the Swiss, but he could not guarantee that the concession would attain its object.

That was a warning to Switzerland to think twice before she gave up her pledge. On November 26th Fénélon delivered a written note in which no mention was made of the co-operation of England. Napoleon promised to use "all his efforts," if the captives were released, to induce the King to consent to a renunciation, but he would give no guarantee that this renunciation would be made, or that the King's conditions would be acceptable. The Federal Executive could now do nothing else but persist in its refusal, for a definitive agreement might fail all too easily because of the conditions placed on his renunciation by the King; it was not possible to put greater confidence in the intentions of Prussia unless the Emperor should be acquainted with, and explain, the conditions which the King intended to lay down, and would declare that these conditions were not in contradiction with

(To be continued).