

Arms of Unterwalden

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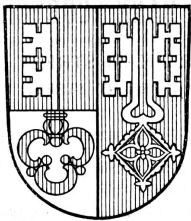
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ARMS OF UNTERWALDEN.



Parted per pale; first, per fess gules and argent, a key in pale wards upwards and to the dexter counterchanged, for Obwalden; second, gules, a double-warded key in pale wards in chief argent, for Nidwalden.

The arms of Unterwalden, a combination of both the arms of Obwalden and Nidwalden, originate from its ancient banner, a white key in pale on a red field.

The key, emblem of St. Peter, is related to the Church of Stans which is consecrated to this apostle, the patron saint of Unterwalden.

In 1150, Unterwalden was divided into the half-cantons of Obwalden and Nidwalden, each state bearing its particular arms. Obwalden having precedence kept the single key on a red and white field, the cantonal colours. Nidwalden introduced as brisure (a variation of the original arms) a double-key on a red field. To represent Unterwalden as a whole, the double-key of Nidwalden was placed on the red and white field of Obwalden, and there has also been instances of two keys in saltire being used.

The actual arms of Unterwalden, with the coats of both half-cantons impaled on one shield, are perfect in the heraldic sense. They date from 1816.

P.S.

PROJETS SOCIALISTES ET PARTIS NATIONAUX.

Les élections fédérales se préparent.

Du côté socialiste, on a dessein de jouer un jeu serré. Déjà, les tacticiens ont établi leurs batteries. Ils se proposent d'attirer le plus de monde possible à leur camp, en se plaçant sur le terrain qui leur paraît le plus favorable, dans les conditions actuelles: lutte pour la démocratie et contre le "fascisme", d'une part, lutte contre la déflation, d'autre part. On sait de reste que le parti socialiste suisse a abandonné, depuis un certain temps déjà, l'absolutisme doctrinaire dont il se réclamait au temps où la "dictature du prolétariat" était le fin du fin du réformisme. Il ne s'agit plus maintenant d'imiter les commissaires du peuple régnant à Moscou; il s'agit de préserver la Suisse d'un régime autoritaire copié sur ceux du "Duce" ou du "Führer." M. Pilet-Golaz a pu rappeler l'autre jour, au Conseil national, que cette conversion à la démocratie était bien récente encore. Elle n'en produit pas moins ses effets: déjà la campagne pour l'initiative de crise a prouvé aux socialistes qu'ils avaient l'appui de certains groupements, attirés vers eux comme le fer par l'aimant, soit que l'on y nourrissait des craintes au sujet d'une possible évolution de notre pays vers la droite, soit plutôt que, préoccupé essentiellement d'intérêts matériels, on y considère le socialisme comme apte à assurer le bonheur de tout le monde, aux frais d'une Confédération métamorphosée en inépuisable mine d'or.

A Zurich comme à Bâle, les socialistes font donc risette à tous ceux qui paraissent enclins à leur prêter main forte et à constituer avec eux un Front commun: Ligue de l'économie franche, où l'utopie est reine et maîtresse; jeunes paysans, chez lesquels souffle un vent de démagogie redoutable: communistes, cela va de soi, et le rapprochement n'est point pour étonner. A Bâle, les radicaux mêmes seront invités à entrer en danse, l'enjeu étant pour eux la sauvegarde de leur siège au Conseil des Etats.

La démolition profonde dont souffre notre peuple, qui demeure, nous le croyons, attaché à ses institutions et même à une politique nationale, mais qui pâtit de la crise et qui a l'impression de n'être pas gouverné avec toute l'énergie et la vigilance qu'il faudrait, crée une atmosphère très favorable — inutile de se le dissimuler — aux entreprises de l'extrême-gauche, qui aura, au cours de la prochaine campagne, de forts atouts en main. En situant le débat sur le champ économique, en promettant le maintien des salaires et l'aide de l'Etat (grâce à quelles ressources, on ne le dit pas), en laissant dans l'ombre les revendications proprement révolutionnaires, on peut séduire nombre de citoyens rebelles à certaines formules marxistes, mais enclins à tout espérer d'un renforcement de l'étatisme.

En présence de l'offensive qui se dessine, les partis nationaux devraient réagir vigoureusement et trouver, eux aussi, un terrain d'entente, avec une sorte de "programme minimum." Ils

en paraissent bien éloignés, pour l'instant du moins, et les rivalités de chapelle ne s'apaisent guère dans leur camp. L'heure est venue de trouver des hommes capables d'inspirer confiance et d'agir. Or de quoi se soucie-t-on? D'attribuer à tel district la représentation à laquelle il prétend avoir droit. Il n'est pas certain qu'on offrira un siège à M. Musy; mais il est hors de doute que Tartempion et Calino seront candidats. Même au cours de la présente session des Chambres, on voit combien restent vivaces les antagonismes de partis. La proportionnelle rend d'ailleurs difficile une concentration des forces bourgeoises.

Et pourtant, de la compétition qui s'ouvrira d'ici un mois, dépend l'orientation de notre politique générale, autant dire le sort du pays. Une victoire socialiste en automne, c'est incontestablement une participation socialiste au gouvernement fédéral, avec toutes les conséquences logiques qu'elle comporterait.

Ceux qui ne la souhaitent pas feraient peut-être sagement de s'aviser de la chose.

Léon Savary.
(Tribune de Genève).

LANGUAGE PROBLEMS IN EUROPE.

A very interesting article about "Language Problems in Europe" has appeared in the last issue of the "Fortnightly Review" from the pen of Dr. R. Hercol.

Referring to Switzerland he wrote:—

"In Switzerland this question has never given rise to discord; her 2,700,000 German-speaking people, 780,000 French-speaking, 150,000 Italian-speaking, and 43,000 who speak the Romansch dialect, live together in perfect harmony. This, it must be acknowledged, is due to the tolerant attitude of the German majority, which has never sought to abuse its supremacy. Even when the region which is now the canton of Vaud, exclusively French-speaking, was subject by right of conquest, from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century, to the canton of Berne, the victors never attempted to impose their language. Further, the fact that Switzerland is a confederation of states diminishes the possibilities of conflict. Of the twenty-two Swiss cantons only four are not linguistically homogeneous — Berne, Fribourg, Valais, with a population partly German, and partly French, and Grisons, where three languages — German, Italian, and the Romansch dialect — are commonly employed.

In the Federal Parliament members as well as Ministers speak German, French or, more rarely, Italian, whichever they prefer, and their speeches are not translated. Every Swiss subject has the right to address the authorities in his own language and to receive a reply in the same. In the army the units are separated as far as possible from the linguistic point of view: French-speaking troops are commanded by officers of the same language, and so on.

Of course the machine cannot always be said to run upon oiled wheels; now and then a protest will appear in a French-Swiss paper against the high-handed behaviour of the German-Swiss, or German Switzerland will complain that the "Welches," as they call them, are not sufficiently conscious of their inferior numbers. But these are storms in a tea-cup which soon blow over. It is true that the language frontiers in Switzerland are not rigidly immutable; under the influence of economic circumstances, such as the construction of a railway line, they may be modified slightly, but no attempt is ever made to impose a movement in one direction or another."

THE CHATEAU DE TREVANO IN LUGANO.

The news of the death of Louis Lombard has certainly awakened in the breast of many travelled Americans agreeable souvenirs of the man and his fairy castle near the shores of Lake Lugano in Switzerland.

The Château de Trévano was originally built by a Russian general in those days when all Russians in foreign countries were financial colossi. No expense was spared in erecting the roomy building and its two wings, nor in the laying out of the park and gardens. But, long before the war, the original owner died and the castle was left to fall into decay, standing there lonely and neglected for many years until Louis Lombard, the Franco-American, the musician-financier, having amassed a fortune in Wall Street, bought it for about \$30,000 and, at the expenditure of several times this amount, repaired and made it habitable once more. Lombard put all of his artists' soul into the task of giving back to Trévano its old dignity, and the result was a noble residence to which he and Mrs. Lombard invited everybody of note who visited Switzerland, and many hundred other Americans, less noted perhaps, but none the less welcomed by this hospitable pair and their twelve children.

Trévano lies in the midst of a vast and beautiful park. The driveway is bordered with flourishing hydrangeas, effectively backed by rare

and lovely trees. An ancient joke of the Russian General's is perpetuated in the garden, and it was Mr. Lombard's delight to lead his guests through a tunnel-like rockery where, on pressing a hidden spring, they were sprinkled by a spray of icy water!

The ground plan of the castle is shaped like a capital E without the middle bar. The west wing contains the well-equipped theatre and the east wing the concert hall and organ. Both theatre and hall were in frequent use during the tenancy of Mr. Lombard, for in the theatre he produced his opera "Erisinola" and other works, and in his concert hall he directed his orchestra composed of members of the Scala orchestra, who prepared and played a program of choice music every evening after dinner, whether the hall was full of local music lovers, or whether there was only a group of dinner guests in the boxes.

The salons of the main building are approached through a beautiful atrium containing a crouching Venus, the work of a sculptor of note. The salons, the music room, the billiard room, etc., all look out into the glorious beauty of Lake Lugano, deep blue under the azure sky of the Tessin, lying tranquil and mysterious between the lazy mauve and violet shadows of Monte Bré and Mont San Salvatore.

For some years now, in fact since the war, the Château de Trévano has again been in the market, advertised for sale in all the principal papers of the Continent under the slogan "Three Kings Wanted to Buy Trévano, But Couldn't" — But the fourth King, or his equivalent, failed to turn up when the exquisite piece of property was finally offered to the public, and at Lombard's death he was still the owner of lovely Trévano.

E.H.C.

PAGINE DI STORIA TICINESE.

By E. EUSEBIO.

(Continued).

LA COSTITUZIONE TICINESE DEL 1830.

La costituzione del 1815 non riuscì mai gradita al popolo ticinese, desideroso di maggiori libertà. Verso il 1830, essendo ormai maturi i tempi per una riforma, alcuni uomini eminenti intrapresero in questo senso una viva propaganda: tra essi tenevano il primo posto Stefano Franscini, Pietro Peri e Carlo Lurati. Il primo, col suo opuscolo "Della Riforma della Costituzione Ticinese," fece una profonda impressione su l'animo del popolo; gli altri due scrivevano, insieme col Franscini, l'"Osservatore del Ceresio," propugnatore ardente delle idee di libertà e di progresso. Malgrado la viva opposizione del landammanno Quadri, la riforma — dettata dalla mente lucida dell'abate Vincenzo d'Alberti di Olivone, che aveva abbracciato con calore la causa della revisione costituzionale — fu votata dal Gran Consiglio il 23 giugno 1830, ed approvata poi dal popolo.

RIVOLUZIONE E CONTRO-RIVOLUZIONE (1839 e 1841).

Pochi anni dopo tale fausto avvenimento il paese si divideva in due partiti opposti, liberali e conservatori. Alcune misure prese dal Governo, tra cui l'espulsione dal cantone del deputato Ciani, lo scioglimento della Società dei Carabinieri e la limitazione della libertà di stampa, irritarono talmente i liberali che questi presero le armi: mossero da Lugano il 6 dicembre 1839, sotto il comando del col. Giacomo Lavini e marciarono prima su Bellinzona, dove occuparono l'arsenale, poi su Locarno che era allora la sede governativa. Senza colpo ferire, il giorno 7 s'impadronirono del palazzo del governo, lasciato libero dai Consiglieri di Stato, rifugiatisi, meno Franscini e Fogliardi, nella vicina Canobbio da dove mandarono le proprie dimissioni. Il giorno 8 dicembre venne proclamato un Governo provvisorio, il quale ordinò per il 15 le nuove elezioni al Gran Consiglio che risucirono in una maggioranza liberale. Fu quindi costituito un nuovo Consiglio di Stato, alla cui presidenza fu chiamato Stefano Franscini. Il Direttorio di Zurigo riconobbe il fatto compiuto.

Nel 1841, il partito conservatore tentò di riprendere il potere con la forza. Bande armate, organizzate nelle valli di Blenio, Leventina, Verzasca e Maggia, si diressero sopra Locarno, però giunti nelle vicinanze di Biasca si perdettero d'animo e ritornarono alle loro case, ed i Valmaggesi furono respinti a Ponte Brolla. Uno dei capi, l'avv. Giuseppe Nessi, rifugiatosi nella Verzasca, fu tradito dai suoi, condotto davanti ad un tribunale straordinario e condannato alla fucilazione.

LA GUERRA DEL SONDERBUND.

Forse il più importante avvenimento nella storia della Confederazione durante il secolo scorso fu la guerra del Sonderbund, un ultimo sussulto della dannosa intolleranza confessionale.

Misure estreme prese nel Cantone di Argovia per rompere la resistenza della minoranza cattolica che si opponeva tenacemente alla revisione costituzionale, indussero i Cantoni cattolici di