La politique : les nouveaux crédits militaires

Autor(en): **Sacary, Léon**

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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

BROADCAST ADDRESS OF DR. PH. ETTER, PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION, TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

On the occasion of the international exhibition which is to open shortly in New York, M. Etter, President of the Swiss Confederation, has sent the following broadcast message to the American people:

I am very happy to have this opportunity of greeting in this way on behalf of Switzerland H. E. the President and the people of the United States of America, and in particular the People of New York and the authorities of the world's Fair.

The relations between your country and ours have always been characterized by sincere and most cordial friendship. Not even for a moment has there ever been the slightest misunderstanding. Let me therefore thank the people of the U.S. for the faithful friendship they have always shown to my country.

Numerous Swiss have long been living in the U.S. They have kept up at the bottom of their hearts their faith in the old country, love and loyalty.

But equally ardent has been their love of the great land which so generously welcomed them, and to which in return, they are devoted in truly Swiss fidelity and loyalty.

My special greetings, therefore to you, my dear countrymen in the U.S. You are the promoters and guardians of that friendship.

To cultivate it, to make it still closer, and ever more cordial, the Swiss Confederation has gladly accepted America's invitation to participate in the New York World's Fair of 1939. Switzerland is a small country, but within her small territory there lives a nation, filled with an indomitable spirit of independence, a nation with a very active intellectual and economic life, and with a very old culture and civilization. A civilization based on reverence for the dignity and liberty of the individual. They are the same ideals — I know — which animate and inspire also the people of the U.S., to whom therefore, once more, I send most cordial messages and the best of wishes of Switzerland, begging them to preserve us their proved friendship and sympathy.

SWISS CIVIL DEFENCE.

The organization of the civil population for defence is being systematically pursued in Switzerland. An appeal by the Chief Medical Officer of the Army and the President of the Red Cross has been addressed to the women and girls of Switzerland urging as many of them as possible to give their names without delay to the military authorities for duty in the medical services of the Army.

Throughout Switzerland official posters may be seen asking the people to provide themselves immediately with gas masks. Similar appeals have already been made, but the authorities have found it necessary to renew them and to emphasize that the acquisition of gas masks must in no case be postponed until the hour of danger.

SWISS LEGATION IN PRAGUE ABOLISHED.

The Federal Council has decided to abolish the Swiss Legation in Prague, a Consulate will take its place in the near future.

SWISS FRONTIER INCIDENT.

Details became known of an incident which occurred at Basle on Sunday evening in the course of an aviation display near the German frontier.

Three German Customs officials were about to arrest a young Swiss soldier in uniform, who was alleged by them to have crossed the frontier into Germany, when people in the crowd attacked the Customs officials, released the soldier and brought him back into Swiss territory.

During the scuffle one of the German officials fired a revolver, but no one was injured.

The Swiss authorities have opened an inquiry.

STORM DAMAGE ON THE GREAT ST. BERNARD.

A storm in the Alps during the night blew off part of the roof of the famous Hospice on the Great St. Bernard. In the morning parts of the interior of the Hospice were found to be 3ft. deep in snow.

SWISS AND LEAGUE RUMOURS.

Questioned regarding the rumour published abroad that in the event of European war Switzerland might ask the League of Nations to vacate her territory, a leading official of the Foreign Affairs Department of the Swiss Government in Berne, said: "In no case, not even in the event of a European war, would Switzerland ask the League to leave. She has always considered it an honour to shelter great international institutions, and her point of view has undergone no change."

SWISS WINE PRODUCTION.

Though official figures are not yet available regarding last year's production of wine in Switzerland, it is estimated that the total harvest was approximately 339,000 hectolitres.

Of this total, some 227,000 hectolitres were red, and the remainder white wine.

In some parts of the country the harvest was almost wiped out by the spring frosts.

Eastern Switzerland was fortunate in escaping the havoc caused by last year's cold spells in the spring.

In that area the harvest showed a satisfactory yield. This explains the relatively large proportion of red wines to the total harvested in the country.

NEW SHORT-WAVE WIRELESS STATION.

Switzerland has opened a short-wave wireless station which gives her direct communication with the United States. Hitherto the service had been dependent on relaying facilities in England.

JUBILEES IN THE SWISS CIVIL SERVICE.

Dr. Alois Muri, from Sursee (Lucerne) chief of the "Telegraphen und Telephon Abteilung," has celebrated his 40th service Jubilee.

M. Ernst Käser from Windisch, "Kreistelegraphendirektor," has also celebrated his 40th service Jubilee.

Both have rendered great services to our country.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The town of Zurich registers at present 361 millionaires, (Swiss Francs) and 499 "half" millionaires.

BERNE.

The newly erected barracks in Thun, were inaugurated last Saturday, in the presence of M. Minger, head of the Federal Military Dept., and representatives of the cantonal government.

In a speech, Federal Councillor Minger said that the country can have full confidence in the army.

LUCERNE.

The population of the town of Lucerne at the end of March numbered 54,306 inhabitants.

ZUG.

Dr. Alois Meier, a veterinary surgeon, was killed in Baar, when a motor-cyclist ran into a group of pedestrians, his daughter and another pedestrian were seriously injured. The motor-cyclist himself was badly hurt, and is at present in hospital.

BASEL.

Dr. Paul Wernle, from 1897-1930 Professor of church history at the University of Basle, has died at the age of 67.

GRISONS.

The death is reported from Malans of M. Joss Andrea, from 1920-1936 Director of the "Landwirtschaftlichen Schule Plantahof" in Landquart, at the age of 59. The deceased enjoyed a great reputation as an expert on cattle breeding.

AARGAU.

Mrs. Elisabeth Siegrist-Müller, in Aarau, has celebrated her 104th birthday; in her honour the bells on the cathedral were rung.

VAUD.

Colonel Paul Pfund, for forty years a member of the Federal Instruction Corps, has died in Lausanne at the age of 89. He retired from the army in 1910.

* * *

The Grand Council of the canton of Vaud celebrated the 136th anniversary of its existence. Amongst the many guests who assembled at the large Hall of the Comptoir Suisse, were M. Etter, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Army-Corps commander Guisan. M. Vallotton, President of the National Council presided.

GENEVA.

The town of Geneva numbered 124,934 inhabitants at the end of March, 1939.

LA POLITIQUE.

Les nouveaux crédits militaires.

Au mois de décembre, le Conseil fédéral a adressé aux Chambres un rapport sur l'état et le renforcement de la défense nationale. Il y résumait ce qui a été fait au cours des dernières années et exposait ce qui reste à faire. Pour la réalisation de ce programme, trois cent cinquante millions sont, disait-il, nécessaires; il se proposait de demander, le moment venu, les crédits correspondants.

Un court message, récemment paru, accompagne la première de ces demandes de crédits, pour un montant de cent quatre-vingt-dix millions. Les sommes en question seront réparties sous sept rubriques. Il s'agit d'abord d'augmenter le nombre des mitrailleuses pour l'infanterie territoriale, d'armer de fusils-mitrailleurs les compagnies de subsistances, en vue de la défense contre avions, d'accroître la portée des obusiers de 12 cm., de remplacer une partie des anciens obusiers et des canons, de faire des essais avec un nouveau lance-mines lourd. Il y en aura là pour dix-sept millions environ.

A ce renforcement de l'armement s'ajoute le développement de l'aviation et de la défense contre avions. L'achat d'appareils de guerre et d'avions d'école et de transition s'impose; on voudrait se procurer au moins la moitié du parc prévu. Il va de soi que ce développement entraîne l'obligation de procéder à des constructions et à des aménagements. Un service de surveillance aérienne plus perfectionné, par le moyen d'une escadrille spéciale, paraît indispensable. Les essais d'appareils radiotélégraphiques pour avions étant terminés, il faut maintenant passer les commandes. La Confédération doit en outre soutenir les efforts des villes et des industries pour la défense "antiaérienne." Le tout représentera soixante-quinze millions.

Par ailleurs, les crédits prévus pour les fortifications vont être épuisés; cinquante-trois millions seront affectés à combler certaines lacunes qui subsistent encore et à établir, derrière la ceinture des fortifications, une seconde ligne.

Le message expose aussi qu'il importe d'accroître les réserves de munitions, car il faut du temps pour passer de la fabrication en temps de paix à celle du temps de guerre. Ce complément représenterait dix millions. Celui du matériel de corps et la constitution de réserves suffisantes exigeraient un peu plus de dix-sept millions. Les mesures de protection et d'adaptation pour les chemins de fer et les lignes téléphoniques figurent pour 1 million 600,000 francs. Enfin la construction de bâtiments et installations nécessaires à l'armée émargera pour quinze millions et demi. Il s'agit de cavernes pour la protection des troupes en haute montagne, de la réfection de plusieurs tronçons de routes, de

FINE EXAMPLE OF SWISS ART



"PARC NATIONAL" MARQUETRY BY HENRI PERROUD, CLARENS.

There is a good deal of truth in the saying that the Swiss are born wood-workers. Just look at our picture — not a water-colour but the reproduction of a coloured landscape entirely made of wood. It is a sound and wholesome example of the revival of modern arts and crafts in Switzerland where, indeed, there has never been any lack of talent. From this reproduction, the reader will see what is meant by no lack of talent.

The execution of a work of art can be brought about either by coyping nature accurately and conscientiously, or by creating something new altogether. The first way is the right one for average talent, the second is for the genius. There is a profusion of creative power, a bold, manly conception in this work which is deserving of admiration.

At a time when everything must be charmingly commercial and charmingly cheap, and when the strict honesty of craftsmanship is swallowed up by the industrialism of jerry workers, it is gratifying to meet an artist inspired by independence and honestly conscious of his art.

Henri Perroud, a carpenter by trade, is equalling in marquetry the richest triumph of the art once produced in France and Italy, where workers in wood found great delight in skilful elaboration of intricate designs.

It was about twenty years ago, when effecting repairs to pieces of inlaid furniture in a museum, that he saw the possibilities of this branch of art. From that day he made inlaid pictures in his own way, striving to equal the excellent craftsmanship of the past, in keeping with the spirit of his own age. For this he uses all kinds of wood — ⅛ inch thick — mahogany, rose-wood, walnut, African oak, maple, and other coloured woods blazing with harmonious tints, or gleaming with the sober reticence of ebony to the purest white of American sycamore.

His choice of subject and his method of design and execution impart to his productions a quality that is truly Swiss in precision. His works are generally characterised by excellent composition, good knowledge of perspective, strength in the outlines, and propriety of expression.

The following, chosen among over forty of his pictures, may be cited as best examples of his art.

Several views of "Fribourg," his native town, full of depth and power, are earnest interpretations of nature. "Ligne du Gothard," rich in abundance of finely executed details; "Broc et le Moléson," "Château de Chillon," "Viviers," all original in conception, and carried out with the most careful elaboration, "Caporal Schneider," of the French Foreign Legion, full of expression, easy and natural in its attitude, is an excellent specimen of his skill in portraiture.

Above all, Henri Perroud possesses a thorough knowledge of his craft to gratify tastes in which astonishing skill, patience, and love of art are not unequally intermingled. He has been honest in his effort, and has certainly earned the right to encouragement and a place in the ranks of our national artists.

Pierre Savoie.

(*Continued from Page One.*)

nouveaux garages pour les autos de l'armée, de magasins d'approvisionnements, d'explosifs, de matières premières, etc., d'arsenaux et de magasins de munitions, de l'agrandissement de la caserne de Bière, devenue insuffisante, d'un nouveau pavillon avec infirmerie à la Luziensteig, de bâtiments à Thoune, d'installations spéciales pour l'emmagasinage d'appareils délicats, de la défense antiaérienne des nouveaux établissements militaires.

Assurément, la note à payer semblera lourde, d'autant plus, on le sait bien, que ce ne sera pas la dernière. Mais qui veut la fin veut les moyens. L'expérience montre que pour jouir d'une relative sécurité et pour être en mesure de sauvegarder notre indépendance, nous devons rendre le plus difficile possible toute entreprise de violence dirigée contre nous. A une époque où la parole donnée ne vaut plus rien, où les traités sont méprisés et où le brigandage exercé contre un petit pays inoffensif est devenu un principe de droit, toutes nos forces doivent tendre vers la défense nationale. Au reste, cette vérité n'est plus contestée par personne.

Quant à la couverture des dépenses mentionnées ci-dessus, le Conseil fédéral fera à ce sujet des propositions, en liaison avec le projet de réorganisation des finances. Le message indique nettement que le "sacrifice en faveur de la défense nationale," dont il a déjà été question précédemment, mais dont la formule prête encore à discussion, retient l'attention des autorités comme la solution la plus pratique. Nous aurons l'occasion d'y revenir.

Léon Savary.
(Tribune de Genève.)

DIE FRAGE DES EWIGEN.

In dieser Nacht hatte ich folgendes Gesicht: Der Ewige sass auf dem Richterstuhl und liess die Grossen der Menschheit an sich vorüberschreiten.

Zu Moses sagte der Richter: "Was hast du deinem Volk gegeben?" — "Das Gesetz." — "Was hat es daraus gemacht?" — "Die Sünde."

Dann fragte der Richter Karl den Grossen: "Was hast du deinem Volk gegeben? — "Den Altar." — "Was hat es daraus gemacht?" — "Den Scheiterhaufen."

Dann fragte er Napoleon: "Was hast du deinem Volk gegeben?" — "Den Ruhm." — "Was hat es daraus gemacht?" — "Die Schmach."

So fragte der Richter viele, und jeder führte Klage darüber, dass seine Gabe entwürdigt worden sei.

Endlich fragte der Ewige auch seinen Eingeborenen: "Mein lieber Sohn, was hast du den Menschen gebracht?" — "Den Frieden" — "Was haben sie daraus gemacht?" Christus antwortete nicht. Mit durchstochenen Händen verbarg er sein Gesicht — und weinte.

Peter Rosegger.

TO OUR READERS.

The Editor of the Swiss Observer would be greatly obliged if readers would supply him with addresses of likely subscribers, so that specimen copies could be posted to them.

If such addresses supplied should be already included on our mailing list, no extra copies would be sent.

OPPORTUNITY

For the third time a Holiday Course in English of four weeks' duration will be held this summer at the

S.M.S. COLLEGE

The course begins on July 17th and the programme includes many lectures of topical interest and several excursions. The Secretary will be pleased to send a prospectus to any of your Swiss friends who might be interested.

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