

# Lieutenant Pillichody

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hausethd by its war activity, appeals for help. The war is over, but dangers remain. The struggle against epidemic diseases also absorbs the funds of the Red Cross. Many Swiss, we are sure, will respond to that appeal and prove that they entertain towards the Red Cross the same affection they are accustomed to show for the 'white one.'

P. L.

### Lieutenant PILLICHODY.

We beg to draw the attention of our readers to the Lecture on "Flying Above the Swiss Alps," which is arranged to take place on Wednesday, March 9th, at King George's Hall. (See special announcement on front page.)

A few biographical notes on the lecturer will serve as advance acquaintance with the personality of one of our foremost native airmen, with whom we shall shortly have the pleasure of "spending a few hours in the air" to witness a unique and magnificent survey of some of the most beautiful parts of our country.

Lieut. Henri Pillichody, born in 1893 at Yverdon, studied at the University of Lausanne, then, after gaining practical experience in the building of steam-turbines, joined the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule. During mobilisation in 1914 he entered the Flying Corps, received the Pilot certificate while under the tutelage of his redoubtable comrade Bider. In 1917 Pillichody was promoted Lieutenant of the Flying Corps, acting as Aerial Instructor with Bider.

His prowess and proficiency in the air have earned for him appreciation and recognition as an airman far beyond the borders of Switzerland. Lieut. Pillichody was the first pilot to cross the Alps by flying boat which he piloted from Varese (Italy) to Zurich, and he was again the first to pilot a hydroplane, carrying passengers, over the Mont Blanc. Quite recently he conveyed passengers the same day from Geneva to Zurich and back, in record time.

Lieut. Pillichody has attained the rank of an expert air pilot and technologist, which attainments are most favourably reflected by the ease and ability with which he handles lectures on Aeronautics.

### NOTES & GLEANINGS.

#### TESTING SWISS CONCEPTION OF NEUTRALITY?

Seeing that more direct routes are available for the troop contingents of Britain, Belgium and Spain, destined for Lithuania, than a passage through Switzerland could offer, one may reasonably ask the question whether the ultimate object of the French Ambassador's Note was not for the purpose of putting to a practical test the interpretation of Switzerland's obligations under the League of Nations covenants by the Federal Council.

It is obvious that the conception of neutrality as practised hitherto by the Swiss will have to undergo fundamental changes, if collisions with the League of Nations Council have to be averted.

The position created is certainly a difficult one, the more so, as opinion on the subject at home is also divided; it may, however, be safely left to our Government to deal with the problem at issue in a just and correct manner.

What especially concerns us Swiss abroad and at home, however, is the danger that lies in those reports appearing in the English Press from Special Correspondents, which do not deal with the question from an unbiased point of view, but rather with the purpose of furthering and serving

the movement which is still active, to deprive Geneva of its honour to be the seat of the League of Nations.

Under the circumstances it is gratifying to find, even though it be only in isolated cases, that some writers are doing justice to the attitude adopted by our Federal Council in this particular issue, as will be gathered from the following articles:—

*Glasgow Herald* (Feb. 14): "Some of the more ardent spirits who rushed to the defence of the League of Nations against the Swiss Federal Council—which, of course, does not represent a Great Allied Power—must be repenting of having elevated 'teacup storm into a European tempest.' The announcement that Switzerland had refused to permit the passage of Allied troops to superintend the Lithuanian plebiscite, caused a storm of indignation and a threat in certain very anti-League quarters that the Council in due season would refuse to meet at Geneva, but would hold its next session in Paris. That the Council ever seriously entertained so thoroughly inept an idea is, one hopes, completely unfounded, but the ascription of such an idea to it is very significant of those people who would permit the Great Powers to violate every provision of the Covenant, but would go any lengths, legal or otherwise, to avenge a fancied slight from an unfortunate minor State. In addition, these earnest champions did not trouble to read the report of M. Motta's declaration to the Swiss Federal Council, an elementary precaution which would have saved them from being ridiculous. The Swiss Government received on December 23 a Note from the French Government stating that it had been authorised to arrange for the despatch of troops to Vilna, and that it had laid down for the Belgian, British and Spanish troops a route via Switzerland and Czecho-Slovakia. It may occur to one at once on a glance at the map that this for the British and Belgians at least was a remarkably circuitous route, and one may wonder why it was ever suggested. The object of such a passage of troops was, of course, obviously pacific, but at the time of M. Motta's statement, which amounted to a refusal of an eventual demand, Lithuania had not accepted the policing of the plebiscite by League troops, and therefore to have permitted such a passage would have been virtually a breach, to the disfavour of Lithuania, of that neutrality to which Switzerland has invariably clung with almost fanatic tenacity. That was M. Motta's position, and it was as eminently sound as it was far from being final. Lithuania has now accepted the presence of League police-troops, and the whole question from the Swiss standpoint has radically changed. Consequently, whenever formal demand is made, the Swiss Government will approach the question from a new angle, and will decide, as we have no reason to doubt, as a loyal member of the League of Nations."

*Daily News* (Feb. 12): "The expected decision to hold the forthcoming meeting of the Council of the League of Nations at Paris instead of Geneva is now definitely announced. The suggestion that this is due to the refusal of the Swiss Federal Council to grant the contingents of the League Plebiscite Force (for Vilna) passage through Switzerland is entirely groundless. In point of fact, the change of venue to Paris was provisionally decided on ten days or more before the Swiss Government sent its communication to the League. The reason for the change is the inability of M. Léon Bourgeois, for reasons of health, to attend the Council if it is held at Geneva. In view of the importance of the subjects to be discussed, notably disarmaments and mandates, it was considered by