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# The Swiss Observer

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## NOTIFICATION.

LA LEGATION DE SUISSE a l'honneur de rappeler à tout citoyen suisse établi dans le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande l'obligation de se faire inscrire au registre d'immatriculation ou de renouveler cette inscription pour l'année courante auprès du représentant suisse de l'arrondissement dans lequel il a son domicile, à savoir:—

**1.—Arrondissement de LONDRES, géré par la Légation de Suisse,  
(32, Queen Anne Street, W. 1.)**

Comtés de Bedford, Berks, Buckingham, Cambridge, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Essex, Hants, Hertford, Huntingdon, Kent, London, Middlesex, Norfolk, Northampton, Oxford, Somerset, Suffolk, Surrey, Sussex, Wilts, ainsi que les îles de Wight et de la Manche.

**2.—Arrondissement de LIVERPOOL, M. A. J. Fontannaz, Consul.  
(9, Rumford Street.)**

Liverpool et les districts maritimes du Cheshire et Lancashire, ainsi que les Comtés de Cumberland, Gloucester, Monmouth, Shropshire, Westmoreland, principauté de Galles (Wales), l'Irlande et l'Île de Man.

**3.—Arrondissement de HULL, M. W. Thévenaz, Consul.  
(Lloyd's Bank Chambers, Market Place.)**

Hull et les Comtés de Durham, Lincoln, Northumberland, Rutland et de York, à l'exception des villes de Bradford, Dewsbury, Halifax, Huddersfield et Leeds.

**4.—Arrondissement de MANCHESTER, M. A. Guggenheim, Consul.  
(11, Albert Square, P.O.B. 502.)**

Manchester et les parties du Cheshire et du Lancashire non comprises dans le district du Consulat de Liverpool, ainsi que les Comtés de Derby, Hereford, et les villes de Bradford, Dewsbury, Halifax, Huddersfield, Leicester, Nottingham, Stafford, Warwick et Worcester, field et Leeds du Comté de York.

**5.—Arrondissement de GLASGOW, M. A. Oswald, Consul.  
(58, Renfield Street.)**

Toute l'Ecosse.

L'immatriculation pourra se faire par lettre et contre remise des papiers suisses d'identité, livret de service militaire, et l'émolument prévu (la première inscription frs. 10.—, la ré-inscription annuelle frs. 5.—; l'épouse et les enfants mineurs d'un citoyen suisse sont dispensés du paiement de l'émolument; les personnes nécessiteuses pourront également en être dispensées, soit en totalité, soit en partie).

Les émoluments perçus pour l'immatriculation reviennent entièrement à la Confédération et sont affectés à la protection des Suisses à l'étranger. Les Autorités fédérales comptent, par conséquent, que tout Suisse établi à l'étranger mettra son point d'honneur à se faire immatriculer.

Les citoyens suisses sont également invités à vouloir bien notifier tout changement de leur état-civil ou de celui de leurs familles, et de leur domicile.

LEGATION DE SUISSE,

32, Queen Anne Street,

Canvish Square, Londres, W.1.

Janvier, 1921.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO—

THE EDITOR, *THE SWISS OBSERVER*,

21, GARLICK HILL, E.C. 4.

## RANDOM JOTTINGS IN SWITZERLAND.

The *affair of Vilna* has very curiously developed. One remembers the refusal of the Federal Council to have our territory passed by troops, detailed to act as an international police-corps in Vilna, for the purpose of preserving order during the taking of the plebiscite on the question whether this town should become Polish or Lithuanian. One remembers equally a strange communiqué of the Secretariat of the League of Nations, and a not too benevolent Havas dispatch, and finally a thunderstorm of animated newspaper articles which burst over Switzerland, representing all shades of opinion, from that which wished the Federal Council to declare once and for all that Switzerland would never allow any foreign soldier to cross her borders, to that which pressed it to reconsider the question—the sooner the better. A meeting of the Council of the League has since taken place, when Minister Dunant and Prof. Max Huber explained the point of view of the Federal Council. M. Bourgeois answered in the name of the Council and regretted deeply the great moral blow Switzerland had struck at the League by her refusal. He assured them that the League would never have considered the expedition to Vilna had it not felt convinced that both parties concerned would agree with its measures. He deeply deplored that confidence in the policy of the League seemed to be lacking to a certain extent in the minds of the members of the Federal Council and declared that, had a more intimate contact existed between the Federal Council and the organs of the League, the incident would have been impossible. It seemed, after that speech, indeed, as if the Federal Council had acted in a somewhat too abrupt and narrow manner. It looked like that but for a short time, however! A few days afterwards, on March 2nd, a dispatch from Paris mentioned that the plebiscite is *not* going to be taken in Vilna, because the parties concerned do *not* agree about the proceedings. New negotiations must be looked for. The whole question is adjourned. As matters stand now, we are bound to confess that the Federal Council was perfectly right in not allowing the principle of our neutrality to be infringed at the first opportunity. The Vilna affair and its handling is neither creditable to the Secretariat nor to the Council of the League. On the other hand, no blame whatsoever can be attached to the Federal Council.

\* \* \*

If the war has taught us one thing more than another, it is that the different parts of Switzerland did not know each other sufficiently, and for this very reason often failed

to understand one another. Our national life suffered badly from the want of mutual understanding. Now, if it is utopian to ask that every German-speaking Swiss should pass part of his life in a French-speaking canton to get acquainted with his confederates of the other idiom, such an effort can at least be claimed from the so-called future leaders of the people. A certain pressure has since been put on the intellectual youth in that respect, and it is now a fact that far more students of Zurich, Berne and Basle spend one or two terms in Geneva or Lausanne than was done before the war. The happy result is that the intellectuals of the different parts of our country get acquainted with each other's aspirations and so are better equipped to comprehend each other's different mentality, which cannot but tend to the good of the country. Swiss universities of both languages are now getting pretty well aware of the solidarity. This is shown clearly by the fact that this year for the first time a *Swiss University Almanack* (Schweizerisches Hochschul-Jahrbuch 1920/21; Verlag Ernst Bircher, Bern) has been published. It contains articles from the pens of a number of highly qualified gentlemen from all the Swiss universities. An essay on the Swiss Students' Movement is also included, proving that the editor, Dr. von Waldkirch, is conscious of the fact that the younger academic generation has its own will and its own ideals and should have a chance in the working out of university life reforms.

\* \* \*

If Swiss people had to beware of certain foreign influences in the past—mainly because they were too overwhelming and too disproportionate—they are now aware of great opportunities, hitherto missed through sheer lack of initiative. There are a thousand things we could learn from America, for instance—a country, the institutions of which are so similar to our own. The *Swiss Economic Missions to North America* were a wonderful opportunity to get into closer touch with that people. Many happy suggestions and many fine impressions have been received by those five hundred pioneers who participated in one of the expeditions. This year's spring festival of the well-known Zurich literary society "Lesezirkel Hottingen" has been a kind of revival of those interesting trips. The festival took place in the Tonhalle, decorated as a big ocean-steamer. It had the character of a rendez-vous of all friends of America, wherever they might dwell in Switzerland. It has surely not failed to bring together once more Americans living in Switzerland and their hosts of the dear old European republic which in so many respects is relying on the transatlantic sister nation.

\* \* \*

If we turn our eyes *westwards*, anxious to know what rôle America will play in the world's evolution, wondering when the States will enter the League of Nations and by so doing make it definitely a living thing, we are bound also to face the possibilities emerging from the policy of the great power of the *East*—Russia. If *we* don't, other people do, Swiss like ourselves. Many people of the possessing classes in Switzerland too often forget the pledges of November, 1918, and, enjoying the actual dissensions among the Socialists, believe capitalism, or as they like to style it, "the country," safe once more. That the Socialists are talking now and then about 'tactics' proves, even if those discussions disunite the party temporarily, rather that they are fully alive than dying out. No capitalist should think it superfluous to consider again

and again the possibilities of industrial peace; nor should he rely merely on Mr. Laur's dragoons. Is not the real situation such that if revolution is to be avoided—though nobody could fix a date for that revolution—Swiss people of every party must prove their good will lest the extremists of both sides drive them where they do not want to go. The *Swiss United Communist Party* is not yet definitely constituted. But it is going to be. A congress of all Communists, those belonging actually to the Swiss Communist Party—very small hitherto—as well as the representatives of the Left Wing of the Swiss Social-democratic Party, took place in Zurich on March 6th. No dispatch regarding its decisions has yet reached us, but there can be little doubt that a good many of the 8,700 Social-democrats who voted against the 21 conditions of the Executive will enter the new party. It may not be a very large number, but it will be quite sufficient to prepare technically a revolution with the aid of the Third Internationale, if goodwill should fail to animate the relations between employers and employees henceforth. Instead of magnanimous financial reforms we understand, unfortunately, that an Act similar to the English Emergency Act has been prepared by the Government. Whether we shall have violent troubles in our country or not depends, of course, ultimately to a large extent upon international developments. However, it should not depend on these exclusively. Swiss people should endeavour to solve their social problems even if other folk fail to do so. That we are but a small country is with respect to the question of industrial peace an advantage rather than a difficulty. Whether or not our people will take it to heart, lies yet on the knees of the gods.

P. L.

## NOTES & GLEANINGS.

The discussions in the English Press and the suggestions in some quarters of removing the LEAGUE CAPITAL to a less "neutral" venue have subsided after the Council Meeting of February 26th in Paris. *The Daily Telegraph* (Feb. 28th) reports as follows:—

"It was to be expected that the action of Switzerland in refusing passage through that country of the international troops on their way to Vilna to maintain order during the plebiscite would be discussed by the Council of the League of Nations. The matter came before the Council yesterday, and M. Leon Bourgeois spoke very plainly, emphasising the surprise felt by the Council over the action of the Swiss Government. M. Dunant, Swiss Minister in Paris, explained the Swiss point of view. When Switzerland joined the League, he said, she let it be known that the principle of neutrality must remain the basis of her foreign policy. While Switzerland would be disposed to allow troops to pass through the country to act as police when a definite agreement had been reached between the States interested, she considered that this condition had not been fulfilled in the case of Poland and Lithuania, and therefore there was a danger of complications in the near future. Moreover, the Soviets were hostile to the intervention of the League, and it might be difficult to withdraw the troops if that were deemed necessary. M. Dunant argued that as it appeared probable that the Bolsheviks would begin a military offensive in the next few months, combined with revolutionary movements in European countries, and that as reinforcements might have to be sent to protect the League troops, the Swiss Federal Government had to consider the possibility of its neutrality being called in