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HOME NEWS

The official report on the murder of Vorowski formed the subject of a discussion and interpellation by the Communists in the National Council. Mr. Motta explained and justified the attitude of the Federal Council, whose policy towards the Soviet Government was subsequently endorsed by the House by 93 votes to 5.

An economic boycott is reported to have been decreed by the Soviet Government against Swiss trade in general and our few compatriots still staying in Russia in particular.

According to statements made by National Councillor Gelpke, no less than 100,000 Swiss have left their home country in the five years from 1918 to 1922, resulting in a yearly loss of 18,000 army conscripts; he draws attention to the serious consequences of this high emigration figure, especially in view of the increasing number of foreigners who find employment in Switzerland.

Col. div. Heinrich Roost has been appointed Chief of Staff of the Swiss Army, in place of Col. Sonderegger, who resigned a few weeks ago. Born in 1872 in Beringen (Schaffhausen), Oberstdivisionär Roost was for a number of years instructor to the infantry; during the last years of the war he acted as Chief of Staff of the Sixth Division, and in 1920 advanced to the post of *chef d'armes* of infantry (Waffenchef). He has always taken a great interest in physical training, strongly advocating the adoption of English methods in sports and athletics.

Dr. Robert Forrer (St. Gall) has been appointed a representative at the League of Nations, in place of Dr. Usteri, who resigned some time ago. The Swiss delegation now consists, therefore, of Federal Councillor Motta, as leader, Mr. G. Ador, and Dr. Forrer.

By a moderate majority the voters in the canton of Grisons have ratified the new law, opening temporarily a few roads to motor traffic.

At a congress held in Berne of delegates of the organised railway workers, spirited protests were lodged against the proposed increase in working hours and reduction of holidays; the Federation will refuse to enter into negotiations with the management of the Swiss Federal Railways on this intended return to pre-war conditions.

The fourth centenary of the union of Riehen (situate on the German side of the Rhine) and Basle was celebrated last Sunday; the festivities included a historic play, specially written by Red. Albert Oeri, with music by Dr. Hermann Suter.

The recent elections for the Basle Grosse Rat have formed the subject of an enquiry by the criminal court, which has established the fact that, influenced by personal antagonism, the name of one particular candidate was at two polling stations erased after the voting slips had been deposited; one of the officials concerned was condemned to two months' imprisonment, but appealed against the sentence.

The late Mr. Burckhardt-Burckhardt, of Basle, has bequeathed to the Society of Public Utility an amount of Frs. 200,000, the income from which is to be used for the benefit of orphan and destitute children.

EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

Ein lustiges Stücklein spielte sich jüngst in einem bernerischen Dorfe ab. Der Ortspolizist ging mit der Schelle in der Hand durchs Dorf und rief aus: "Die Leute, die dieses Jahr Kinder haben wollen, wollen sich beim Ortsvorsteher melden, der besorgt das." Der Hüter des Gesetzes meinte allerdings "Stadtkinder," die aufs Land zur Erholung kommen sollen. ("Neue Aargauer Zeitung.")

Ein neumodiger Kantonsrat ist im neuen Zürcher Parlament aufgetaucht, ein Jüngelchen, das seine Jugendlichkeit noch extra mit einem mächtigen Schilkerkragen hervorzuheben für gut findet. Heute ver-

nimmt man über dieses Bürschchen folgendes Nähere: Die Ehre, diesen Kommunisten in den Kantonsrat zu senden, fällt der Gemeinde Wädenswil zu. Er nennt sich Reichert und ist natürlich ein Deutscher. Als er 18 Jahre alt war, im Anfang des Krieges, sollte er nach Deutschland in den Krieg einrücken, zog es aber vor, um das Bürgerrecht in Wädenswil einzukommen. Er ist von Beruf gelernter Spengler, arbeitete zuletzt in der Metallwarenfabrik Deco in Küssnacht, ist aber seit zwei Jahren arbeitslos und bezog die Arbeitslosenunterstützung. Er arbeitete auch im Strassenreinigungs-wesen, was sich aber für ihn als zu streng erwiesen habe. ("Nidwaldner Volksblatt.")

Eine interessante Rechtsfrage.—Der Bundesrat hatte sich mit einer Einbürgerungsfrage zu befassen, die nicht ohne Interesse ist. Der Tatbestand ist folgender: Eine Graubündnerin hatte der Rache nach drei Männer geheiratet und war drei Mal Witwe geworden. Sie wurde dadurch nacheinander Aargauerin, Zürcherin und Reichsdeutsche. Als ihr letzter Mann gestorben war, suchte sie um die Wiedererwerbungsfrage in der Schweiz nach. Welches Kantonsbürgerrecht sollte sie nun erwerben? Die Graubündner Regierung wehrte sich gegen die Verleihung des Bürgerrechtes mit der Begründung, die Frau habe das aargauische und das zürcherische Bürgerrecht erworben. Der Bundesrat hat aber entschieden, dass die Petentin ihr ursprüngliches Bürgerrecht, d. h. dasjenige Graubündens, wieder erwerben könne. ("Freie Räter.")

L'Assemblée de la Croix-Rouge.—La Croix-Rouge suisse, qui groupe 57 sections, avec un total de 77,248 membres, a eu, samedi et dimanche, le 16 et 17 crt., à Lausanne, Chillon et Vevey, sous la présidence du colonel Bohny, de Bâle, sa vingt-huitième assemblée annuelle de délégués.

Samedi, une soirée a eu lieu au casino de Montbenon, à Lausanne, au cours de laquelle M. le Dr. André Guisan, président de la section vaudoise, souhaita la bienvenue aux participants. Dimanche, le vapeur "Lausanne" a transporté les délégués à Chillon où a eu lieu l'assemblée. A l'unanimité, ont été approuvés le rapport et la gestion du comité central, les comptes et le budget qui prévoient un déficit de 41,790 francs. L'assemblée à élu membre de la direction, à la place du Dr. Gottlieb Schenker (Aarau), décédé, M. le conseiller national von Matt, de Stans. "La source," école évangélique de garde-malades devient "Ecole romande de garde-malades" de la Croix-Rouge. Les "Blätter für Krankenpflege" deviennent bilingues. La "Croix-Rouge" et la "Rote Kreuz" fusionnent en un organe bilingue mensuel. Un troisième organe bilingue "La Samaritain" (Der Samaritaner) sera créé pour les samaritains. Olten a été choisie comme lieu de la vingt-neuvième assemblée.

Un déjeuner a été servi dans la grande salle du casino du Rivage, à Vevey, à l'issue duquel des discours ont été prononcés par M. le Dr. Guisan, au nom de la Croix-Rouge vaudoise; par M. Bohny, au nom de la Croix-Rouge suisse; et M. Dimchev, du Département politique, ainsi que par des orateurs locaux.

Puis le "Lausanne" a ramené les participants à Chillon. ("La Suisse.")

Pour être porte-drapeau.—Un fait peu banal s'est produit dernièrement à Bramosio. La fanfare du village, la "Laurentia" avait à pourvoir le poste de porte-drapeau devenu vacant. Or, ce titre est si recherché que la société de musique décida de conférer cette dignité au candidat qui offrirait la plus forte somme. Le nouveau titulaire a obtenu la charge pour le prix de 290 frs. Et cela pour deux ans seulement! C'est bien le cas de dire que nous vivons au temps des inventions et des surprises! ("Journal et Feuille d'Avis.")

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KYBURG."

Swiss Agricultural Revival.

The Times (19th June):—After leaving agriculture for trade and industry, the Swiss population is steadily returning to the land.

This is clearly shown by the statistics published by the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung." In the central Cantons of Switzerland, for instance, the number of agricultural undertakings has in ten years increased from 51,186 to 59,173; an increase is registered in all of these Cantons, except in Canton Glarus. The number of inhabitants living on agriculture has at the same time increased from 127,131 to 137,677 in these Cantons.

Between 1910 and 1920 the number of agricultural undertakings in the whole of Switzerland increased by 3,985, and there was an increase of 1,877 in trade and transport firms. During the same period the number of industrial undertakings decreased by 21,868, a decrease which was mainly caused by the economic crisis. This return to the land is a consequence of the high prices obtained for land products in Switzerland during the last twelve years.

By Air to the Alps.

Daily Express (15th June):—The Handley Page Company's air service between Manchester, London and Zurich will begin on July 1st. Three flights a week will be made both ways from July to September, and during the following seven months there will be one journey a week.

Londoners, after making an early breakfast, will be able to visit the Alps and return for late dinner the same day, without the trouble of Custom-house formalities.

The world is getting smaller and smaller. I wonder what will happen once atomic energy can be used? I suppose travelling will then lose its present-day meaning, because distances will be



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covered so quickly as to make a journey from, say, London to Bombay of no more importance than now attaches to a trip from Cheapside to Charing Cross! It's difficult to imagine, but it will come all the same, provided this old planet of ours defers its disintegration until mankind has solved some more of the riddles set before it. There will be, when that time has been reached, no more "Colonies" like the Swiss Colony in London.

Meanwhile the world struggles on, and we have still to grapple with all kinds of problems which, by application of atomic energy, would obviously disappear at once. Such a problem is the levelling up of Labour to a standard of living which, subject to proper adaptation to various climates and stages of civilisation, will eliminate by and by unwholesome and unfair competition. This question is one of vital importance for the well-being of mankind and for the elimination, in the first instance, of friction among Nations. The Labour Office at Geneva is dealing with this problem, and, in spite of the rather weak and ill-conceived articles in *The Evening News* and other papers of the same brand, the Labour Office really does an enormous amount of work which cannot but benefit the human family. I was pleased, therefore, to read in *The Times* (June 20th):—

The deed conveying to the League of Nations a site of nearly nine acres for the erection of the new building of the International Labour Office was signed in Geneva yesterday. The site, which lies on the shore of the Lake of Geneva not very far from the League Secretariat building, has been presented to the League by the Swiss Confederation. The International Labour Office will have to provide only for the expenses of the building itself.

Vive le Canton de Vaud si beau!

I read in the *Dundee Evening Telegraph and Post* of June 15th:—

In the Canton of Vaud, Switzerland, over 48,000 school children are insured under a health insurance scheme approved and aided by the Government. The scheme is worked by a Cantonal Children's Health Insurance Society under a State Act. The scheme is compulsory, and the children contribute 6 francs a year; subsidies are granted by the Corporation and by the Canton, and subscriptions are accepted by the Society. All medical expenses, including medicines and hospital treatment, are defrayed by the Society. Medical attendance covers visits at the home of the insured child, operations, surgical treatment, and dressings. The number of children who were in receipt of benefit last year was 29,000, or 46 per cent of the number insured, this percentage compared with 49 per cent for the previous year. The average expenditure for the insured child decreased from 18½ francs in 1920-21 to 14½ frs. last year. The benefits from compulsory insurance are stated to be considerable. The number of children who would not have received proper medical attention has been greatly diminished. Treatment of apparently mild cases is ensured.

"Nuisance of Passports."

The Daily Chronicle (June 20th):—

An agreement for the abolition of passport visas has just been concluded between this country and France, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. This agreement, in our view, does not go far enough. It is high time that a beginning was made with the abolition of the obnoxious passport itself, at least as far as Allied countries are concerned. We believe that both France and Belgium would be only too willing to come to an immediate arrangement with us on these lines. Already they have mutually