

Home news

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HOME NEWS

For the six months to June last the Federal Post Office registers a loss of 2.1 million francs, as against 7 million francs during the same period of last year; the telegraph and telephone service records a deficit of Frs. 176,831 (Frs. 503,089 in 1922). The Federal Railways show a surplus of 4.4 millions for the month of June, bringing up the total for the first half of this year to 39.3 million francs.

The Federal Tribunal confirmed the judgments of the local courts, according to which some members of the Old Catholic party were condemned to pay damages for having published, in 1921, a defamatory electioneering address against State Councillor Dr. Dietschi, the Stadtmann of Olten.

Statistics compiled by the *Berner Schulblatt* show that the amounts devoted to public education in the different cantons varies tremendously, some cantons spending six to seven times more than others. Calculated per head of population, Basel-Stadt shows 43.40 francs, Geneva 37.20, Zurich 35.20, whilst the quota of the inner-cantons Schwyz and Uri is as low as 6.40 and 6.10 respectively.

An eagle, the second within a fortnight, has been shot down in the canton of Glarus, where these birds are said to be causing considerable damage to game. Only nine weeks old, the wings of the eagle measured 180 centimetres from tip to tip.

Monsignor Jos. Stammer, Bishop of Basle and Lugano, celebrated on the 19th inst. the 60th anniversary of his having taken holy orders.

Henri Moser, of Schaffhausen, a well-known traveller and collector, died at Vevey at the age of 79. Born in Petrograd, he as a young man joined the Russian army, and during the latter's expeditions and pillages in Asia developed a keen sense as a connoisseur of art and rarities; this passion guided him through the whole of life. In 1914 he presented to the Berne Museum an ethnographic collection of Eastern *objets d'art*, containing about five thousand pieces and said to be worth ten million francs.

EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

La population de la Suisse en 1921. — Le dernier fascicule des publications du Bureau fédéral de statistique donne des détails intéressants sur le mouvement de la population en Suisse pendant l'année 1921. Nous en extrayons quelques chiffres.

Le nombre des mariages avait atteint en 1920 un véritable record, avec le chiffre de 84,075. En 1921 il a subi une baisse sensible et n'est plus que de 82,624. C'est sans doute une conséquence de la crise économique. La diminution est particulièrement forte dans les cantons de Neuchâtel (—16.1%), Glaris (—15.1%) et St-Gall (—12.3%), cantons qui ont été fortement atteints en 1921 par la dépression de l'industrie.

Les divorces, qui s'étaient beaucoup multipliés après la fin de la guerre, ont diminué eux aussi. Ils sont cependant encore 1979, contre 2241 en 1920.

Malgré le nombre élevé des mariages en 1920, le chiffre des naissances n'est pas en proportions. Il a en effet légèrement baissé et n'est, en 1921, que de 83,173, contre 83,623 l'année précédente. C'est là un phénomène nouveau. Précédemment le nombre des naissances augmentait régulièrement avec celui des mariages.

La légère diminution des naissances est plus que compensée par la forte réduction des décès. Ils ne sont plus que 49,518 contre 55,992 en 1920. Chose curieuse, ils ont beaucoup plus diminué chez les femmes (—13.1%) que chez les hommes (—10%). La réduction se fait sentir à la campagne et dans la population suisse beaucoup plus que dans les villes et dans la population étrangère. On meurt moins à la campagne que dans les villes.

Les étrangers, qui présentèrent un excédent de naissances de 8938 en 1913, n'ont plus qu'un excédent de 1189 en 1921. Par suite des naturalisations (9088 cas en 1921) la population étrangère a diminué de 2%.

En 1921 la population totale de la Suisse se montait à 3,884,200 habitants (moyenne de l'année). (*Journal de Genève.*)

Deux Suisses font le tour du monde à bicyclette. — Deux Suisses, M. et Mme. Leuret, en route pour faire, dans la mesure du possible, le tour du monde à bicyclette, sont arrivés sains et saufs à Nantes. Ils en sont repartis, se dirigeant vers Brest, d'où ils gagneront Cherbourg, où ils s'embarqueront pour les Etats-Unis.

Partis le 12 octobre 1921 de Suisse, M. et Mme. Leuret ont déjà parcouru l'Autriche, la Tchéco-slovaquie, la Hongrie, la Roumanie, la Turquie, l'Anatolie, la Syrie, la Palestine, l'Egypte, la Tunisie, l'Algérie, le Maroc et la Provence, soit plus de 20,000 km. Hormis les traversées maritimes impossibles à éviter, ils utilisent seulement la marche et la bicyclette.

Les deux "globe-trotter" concourent, avec les groupes Hartmann (Suisse) et Van Deuvel (Belgique), pour le prix de 200,000 francs institué par le stade Helvétia, de Genève. Le classement se fera suivant le temps employé à parcourir l'itinéraire qui n'est pas le même pour les trois groupes. Le raid est contrôlé officiellement à toutes les étapes.

Le voyage de M. et Mme. Leuret va se continuer par la visite des Etats-Unis, du Japon, de la Sibérie, de la Russie et de la Pologne. Il doit être terminé le 12 octobre 1926 au plus tard.

Ajoutons, que les intrépides voyageurs n'ont d'autres ressources que la vente de cartes postales. (*La Sentinelle.*)

Une bonne tuile. — La gagnante du lot de 25,000 francs de la loterie pour les églises valaisannes est Mlle. Ida Bessero, de Sion, âgée de 19 ans et demi, employée de bureau, à Sion.

Mlle. Bessero a remporté à Lausanne, en 1921, le premier diplôme de sténographie Aimé-Paris par 150 mots à la minute, au concours organisé par le Comité central suisse de l'Union sténographique Aimé-Paris. Elle obtint peu après le premier prix de dactylographie à Vevey.

(*Le Travail Genève.*)

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KYBURG."

Young Swiss—England.

My readers will be pleased to learn that this question is receiving the serious attention of our Minister, Mr. Paravicini, who, although not able at the moment to move diplomatically, owing to the attitude of the British Home Office, is, I learn, taking the welcome step of convening a meeting of the Swiss Economic Commission in London with a view of having the whole matter thoroughly discussed by the representative body of Swiss Commerce and Industry in London. We take it that this body will, after debate, pass a resolution embodying its findings and *desiderata*, and it will then perhaps be possible to place the matter before our authorities at Berne, with a view of discussing the problem with our British friends.

As I have explained before, the matter is extraordinarily important for the future of Swiss Commerce, because, if young Swiss are prevented from absorbing British ways of business and the wide British commercial outlook, this want of experience must make itself severely felt in years to come. Besides, the exclusion of young Swiss from Great Britain must drive most of them towards Teutonic or other quarters, none of them to the advantage of Anglo-Swiss Relations.

Thanks to the move now contemplated by our Minister, who can always be relied upon to do everything he can in furtherance of Swiss interests, the matter seems now to be coming to a head. But do not run away with the idea that further discussion and agitation, whenever opportunity presents itself, is now unnecessary!

I might point to the fact that the British Minister at Berne writes a long letter to the *Anglo-Swiss Commercial Gazette* in support of British Firms established in Switzerland engaging British ex-Officers! As one of my readers, who kindly sends me the paper, remarks: "If the British Minister in Berne 'agitates,' I do not see why the Swiss Societies in London should not also agitate!" (Hear, hear!)

Bundespräsident Scheurer and Near East Peace.

Evening News (24th July):— Historic scenes marked the signing of the Treaty, which was announced by crashing peals of bells from the churches, while the flags of the contracting nations fluttered in the breeze.

The ceremony took place at the University. When the delegates met, the president of the



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Conference. Herr Scheurer, who is President of Switzerland, delivered an impressive address, in which he said:—

"From the bottom of our hearts we hope that the people's participating in the conclusion of peace will find in the future confirmation of this lesson! Conflict of arms inflicts the worst suffering on mankind. Conflict of ideas reveals the light.

"History teaches what a debt of gratitude we owe to the people of the Near East for the immense part they have played in the development of civilisation.

"To-day, after long years of heroic struggle, they lay down their arms.

"We hope that as soon as they have staunched their wounds and returned to their pacific activity, we shall be able to enjoy anew all the benefits which in the past they have so liberally conferred on humanity."

Bravo, Mr. President! May the peoples concerned and all others take to heart your lofty, noble, statesmanlike words!

The Spahlinger Treatment.

Manchester Guardian (19th July):—

The paper mentioned, as well as many others, gives prominence to the proposal of the Lancashire Insurance Committee, which, if adopted, as there is good reason to believe it will be, would give a great help to Mr. Spahlinger's efforts to rid the world of one of the worst perils now rampant:

The decision of the Lancashire Insurance Committee to take a lead in saving the Spahlinger research into the treatment of tuberculosis from ceasing for lack of funds by a contribution of £100,000 is a notable step. The public health bodies in this country have so far done almost nothing to aid in a work which, though highly complex, expensive and slow, yet affords a reasonable hope of a cure—it is too soon yet to speak more positively—for many victims of the most-dread scourge of mankind. The British Red Cross has given £30,000. The Ministry of Health, on the other hand, preserves a benevolently watchful attitude, but will take no financial risk. Yet it is apparently proved beyond cavil that in 80 per cent. of the four hundred cases on which it has been tried the Spahlinger serum has had notably good results. Its possibilities are not as yet by any means proved. There is not enough of it available to prove them, and its discoverer, who could, it is said, sell his formula at once for a large sum, is anxious to make good his claims by much more extensive and successful treatment of tuberculous cases before he releases for general use the synthesis of some twenty-two different serums with which he is experimenting. There is an element of risk in backing such a project, but it is as nothing compared with the chance of a permanent and vast benefit to mankind. If this grant is permitted by the Ministry of Health, and we do not doubt that on the representations of the strong Lancashire deputation now in London it will be, an institution will be established at Eastbourne for the Spahlinger treatment of Lancashire patients, and M. Spahlinger will be secure for a year at least to continue and to extend his work. It is fortunate that the Lancashire Committee should have sufficient funds in hand to take a lead in this matter, and that they should have the imagination to do so.

Mr. Spahlinger, by the way, is in London and visited Sir Alfred Mond at the House of Commons, according to the *Manchester Evening News*, which states that last year the number of deaths attributable to Tuberculosis was 42,777 for England and Wales alone!

Swiss Engineering Skill.

Hampstead Advertiser (12th July):—

Holiday-makers in the mountainous parts of Switzerland who feel disposed to infuse a little serious