

Notes and gleanings

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HOME NEWS

The accord arrived at between Germany and Switzerland, with reference to the liabilities of German life assurance companies in our country, has been declared null and void by the Reparations Commission, on the ground that, while Germany was unable to fulfil her obligations under the Treaty of Versailles, she could not undertake fresh financial commitments towards another foreign State.

The Federal Council has, for the present, given a negative answer to the application made by a London business firm (see S.O., 10th Feb., 1923) for flying the Swiss flag on the high seas. It is stated that this principle has not yet been provided for by legislation; the matter is referred to the Political Department for closer study.

With reference to the Savoy Zones, the French Government has replied to the Swiss note, stating that it cannot recognise the reasons for which the Federal Council refuses to ratify the convention. According to the French contention, the confirmation of this convention should not have been subjected to a referendum, and the unfavourable result of the latter in no way invalidates its application. Needless to say, the Swiss press has been unanimous in expressing surprise at this strange attitude.

As the outcome of official steps, undertaken by the Federal Council, it has been arranged that Swiss buyers should apply to the French authorities for export licences in order to obtain delivery of orders, placed with German manufacturers situated in the occupied Rhine districts.

The States Council of Neuchâtel proposes to close forty classes in various elementary schools. The canton and the 18 parishes affected will thereby economise more than Frs. 180,000. The continually decreasing birthrate in this canton has also been a deciding factor for this measure.

The Liberal party of the canton Ticino is arranging for an initiative which aims at dividing the canton into four judiciary districts—there are eight at present—thus securing a considerable saving in the administration of the law.

A special amortisation tax, to come into force on 1st January, 1924, is to be imposed in St. Gall for the purpose of steadying the State finances and gradually wiping out the accumulated deficits.

Having severed their connection with the party, the three Communist representatives (W. Kopp, K. Wyss and W. Wirth) have resigned their membership of the Zurich Grosse Rat.

The budget for 1923 of Basel-Stadt anticipates a deficit of over nine million francs.

Prof. Albert Einstein has sent from Zurich a letter to the secretariat of the League of Nations, resigning his membership of one of the sub-commissions. In the letter the learned professor states that in his opinion the League of Nations possesses neither the strength nor the good will to accomplish its high task, and that as a convinced pacifist he did not feel inclined to have any further relations with the League.

Owing to a pointsman's error, a goods train ran into a factory siding near Willisau, the locomotive falling over the embankment. The following passenger coach was thrown on the engine, but the twenty passengers were able to escape through the windows; two are grievously injured, whilst the guard, Zulliger, was killed instantly.

An incident on the Rhine bridge in Worms forms the subject of an official enquiry. A Frau A. Starck, from Tanne (Wädenswil) declares that she was stopped by French soldiers, to whom she was forced to surrender the whole of her ready money. On subsequently reporting the matter to the local military authorities, no notice was taken of her complaint.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KYBURG."

More about the Spahlinger Treatment.

During the last few weeks we have tried to keep our readers informed of the increasing interest which is being taken in the United Kingdom of the fight against Tuberculosis, waged by our compatriot, Mr. Henri Spahlinger. We feel sure that many of our lay readers would like to hear more about this treatment of a disease which is reputed to kill 1,000 persons per week in Great Britain alone, and we, therefore, quote the following from a splendid article by Leonard Williams in the *March Empire Review*:—

"Ordinary bacilli, say, those of tetanus or diphtheria, have no subtleties. If you cultivate them outside the body, you can gather their toxins from the medium on which they are cultivated. Their toxins may, in fact, be said to consist of their excreta. With the bacillus of tubercle this is not so. If you cultivate him outside the body, he lives a peaceful, impeccable, pastoral life, and steadily refuses to produce his toxins. Now, in all microbial diseases, it is not the microbes themselves which matter; it is their toxins. If, therefore, the disease was to be studied in the laboratory, it was essential that these pastoral bacilli should be made to yield their poisons. Spahlinger had the scientific insight and imagination to devise a plan which proved successful. He argued that, as the cuttlefish did not give up its ink until it was pursued—a defensive measure of which there are several other examples in Nature—it was possible that the tubercle bacilli would decline to give up their toxins until they were attacked. When they get into the human body, they are immediately attacked, and as immediately produce their toxins. The event proved this theory to be correct. Spahlinger induces the bacilli to yield up their toxins by attacking them. This he does by various physical and chemical methods. It takes a long time, but it succeeds.

Having now obtained these coveted toxins, Spahlinger set to work to differentiate between them. This was a very difficult and laborious undertaking. How difficult and laborious, may be gauged by the fact that he ultimately succeeded in isolating over twenty distinct and separate kinds; another example of his insight and imagination which constitutes genius. Spahlinger was not content to think. He followed John Hunter's advice—he tried. And, fortunately for everyone, he found.

In order to prepare his serum, he takes each of these twenty odd toxins separately and injects it by graduated doses into a horse. Each horse receives one kind of toxin only. To prepare a serum, it therefore requires twenty odd horses. When an individual horse receives his dose of toxin, he immediately begins to form an anti-body, or antidote, in order to neutralise it. As the dosing with the toxin proceeds, the horse produces an increasing amount of anti-body, so that at the end of a certain period the horse's blood is full of this anti-body. The horse is full of foresight. He not only manufactures enough antidote to neutralise the poison; he manufactures more than enough. He likes a good balance at his physiological bank, and sees to it being there. The twenty odd horses, having now manufactured their respective anti-bodies against the twenty odd different kinds of toxin, they are all bled painlessly, 'secundum artem.' The resulting partial sera are all brought together, and Spahlinger's 'complete serum' (Serum Global) is the result. This is then put up into ampoules, and is issued, with the necessary instructions for use.

Now, if this complete or 'global' serum, full of the antibodies, manufactured by the various horses, is injected into the body of a human being suffering from tuberculosis, the horse's anti-bodies will immediately set to work to neutralise the toxins with which the bacilli are killing the human being. It is only a question of time and reinforcements. The mixed infections are treated on precisely similar lines. The streptococci, pneumococci, and others, are relatively simple organisms, and are less difficult to 'anti-body' when their chief ally, the tubercle bacillus, has been denuded of his sting.

In this connection Spahlinger stumbled upon a fact which is of considerable interest. It is that the type of horse which is the best anti-body manufacturer is a well-bred horse of dark colour, or the Irish hunter type. Greys and chestnuts are less useful. Cart-horses are comparatively useless.

So much, then, for the principles on which the serum is made. This product of hard thinking and brilliant scientific application is suitable to cases which are being overwhelmed by the disease; cases where fever, emaciation, night-sweats and other salient symptoms proclaim that the natural defences have broken down, and the enemy toxins are marching to victory. The horse's anti-bodies gradually neutralise the toxins, and the patient's condition at once improves. With perseverance and attention to the ordinary canons of hygienic life, victory is practically assured. This happens in the vast majority of cases, and has now happened so often that enlightened scepticism is silent.

We make no apologies for returning to the above. It seems to us that the promise of success in such a case—a promise, moreover, which eminent authorities declare to be justified—merits especial attention. Here is a compatriot of ours, not bent on devising means by which to wage war on fellow human beings, but to fight enemies of the human family. To our mind an incomparably greater hero than any of the warriors whom our misguided school teachers taught us to revere! If prayers are of help, we feel confident that Mr. H. Spahlinger will succeed.

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Matterhorn Riddle—July 14th, 1865.

Canon Purcell, of Fowey, Cornwall, has the following letter in the *Daily Express*:—

"Sir.—I was staying at the Monte Rosa Hotel, Zermatt, when the above-named tragedy took place, and met Mr. Edward Whymper, with the two Peter Taugwalders (father and son), as they entered the village the next morning. I write this brief note to you in answer to the question proposed in the heading, 'Matterhorn Riddle. Was the rope cut or did it break?'

Mr. Whymper allowed me to see the rope as it was brought into the hotel, and I was most surely convinced that it broke; that there was no indication of it having been cut. Evidently Mr. Whymper was of this opinion. In his book, 'Scrambles Amongst the Alps' (page 394), he writes: 'In regard to this infamous charge, I say that he could not do it at the moment of the slip, and that the end of the rope in my possession shows that he did not do so beforehand.'—H. N. Parcell."

Ruhr Effects felt in Switzerland.

The Zurich correspondent of the *Mining Journal* (March 10th) says:—

"Although the supplies of coal for Switzerland have suffered but little, the absence of German coal, being made up for by increased imports from other countries, the machine manufacturing industry of the country is in a bad way owing to the lack of German half-manufactured iron and steel. About 6,000 tons of these goods are lying ready for transport in the Ruhr district, among them being large quantities of material for the water-power stations now being erected in Switzerland. As a consequence of the prevalent disorganisation in the Ruhr district and the contradictory orders given by France and Germany, all efforts to obtain the goods ordered have hitherto been unsuccessful, to the great discontent of the Swiss machinery industry. The Czecho-Slovak iron trade hopes to profit by this state of affairs, and is doing its best to get orders from Switzerland."

In other quarters it is estimated that up to March 20th Switzerland suffered some 10 million Swiss francs damage, arising out of this wonderful French enterprise of getting Reparations. Some people still wonder why the majority of Swiss business people are not over-keen on France just now. To those who really try to get an impartial view of this matter, we would recommend a study of the letters which appeared in the *Observer* from the pens of MM. Seignobos, of Paris, E. Cammaerts, of Belgium, and C. H. Herford, of Manchester University.

On Old Jibe.

Really, we should have thought that Mr. Arthur Waugh would be the last person to stumble so naively, as he certainly has done, by repeating, in an article in the *Daily Telegraph* (March 13th), where he criticises Father Ronald Knox's book, "Memories of the Future," the old libel that "Switzerland had proved that the surest way to 'preserve peace was to become a nation of hotel-keepers and to live upon travellers of alien 'nationality.' Mr. Waugh will, perhaps, or rather perforce, allow us to quote the beginning of his article, because nothing could express our feelings towards his feeble and antiquated jest better:—

"Ridicule," said Shaftesbury, "is the test of truth," and it is through the distorting glass of satire that we are most quickly made aware of our own absurdities. But satire is no easy weapon; if it is to become the instrument of common-sense, it must be wielded with the dexterity of the rapier. Humour is the essence

of its conduct—humour and a critical taste that stops short of personal invective. The true satirist never loses his temper, nor seeks to disturb the temper of his victim. His aim is to arouse a sense of amusement or of genial disgust at what is absurd, foppish, and indecorous. He points a moral without preaching a homily. And the more impersonal his survey, the more effectual and searching is its judgment."

* * *

Professor Einstein and Switzerland.

To most of our readers it will most likely be a surprise to hear that this famous professor acquired Swiss nationality in 1901, according to the *Evening News* (March 23rd), or that Switzerland is his native country, according to the *Morning Post* (March 23rd). Well, it may be so, or not. The eminent professor would be an addition to the Mathematical Faculty of any University in any country. But, he seems to be getting mixed up politically, if we are to believe the *Evening News* (March 23rd), which has the following:—

"The Swiss Government Political Department has requested the Swiss Legation in Madrid to furnish precise details of the recent visit to Spain of the famous Professor Albert Einstein, who has been a Swiss citizen since 1901.

Einstein, says an Exchange message from Geneva, is alleged to have visited Spain under the patronage of the German authorities and to have been received officially by the German Ambassador at Madrid.

Nevertheless, when he left Spain, he applied at the Swiss Legation for a passport. It is considered in Swiss official circles that, if Einstein really considers himself a Swiss subject, he has acted in contravention of the restrictions imposed on those leaving the Confederation."

The *Morning Post* reports, with zest, no doubt, the "snub" which it thinks Prof. Einstein has administered to the League of Nations by tendering his resignation as a member of the Commission of Intellectual Co-operation. We are firm believers in the ultimate triumph of the present or a subsequent League of Nations or Federation of European States, but we can very well understand the motives, even if we have doubt as to the wisdom of the action inspired by them, which underline Prof. Einstein's resignation at this moment. And, without agreeing with his action, we cannot honestly say that in his place—mind, gentle reader, who art on the look-out lest we should give ourselves superior airs, we do not for a moment wish to convey an idea that we might possibly or conceivably ever occupy so eminent a place as the professor—we should have done otherwise. We remember the war and how we felt then, when our blood was up! And we bow our heads, and, although we preach the gospel of international understanding in season and out of season, we yet understand those who have not reached our conclusions yet.

* * *

A Movement to Combine the Middle Classes.

We read in the *Daily Telegraph* (March 13):—"An International Middle-Class Congress is to be held in Berne on Sept. 18 and 19 next, when papers will be read and discussed on the various middle-class callings, and suggestions in this connection are invited by the Secretariat of the Congress at the Bürgerhaus, Berne. The draft statutes of the proposed International Middle-Class Union, which is to be founded at the Congress, will shortly be completed, and copies will then be sent to the various associations of artisans and small manufacturers, traders and brain-workers of the different countries to be represented."

Knowing the middle classes and their ideas of collaboration in the field of politics or economics, which, after all, comes to the same thing, we are not sanguine that the Congress mentioned will achieve anything worth having. If the middle classes were inherently capable of joint action, there would be no middle classes! Just think! Therefore, and as there are busybodies also in this wonderful London of ours who call forth the middle class man to join them in order to fight the other classes, the "Haves" and the "Have-Nots," we say to our readers: Beware! Every penny given to such a foolish cause, foolish because intrinsically nonsensical and unsound, is pure waste and much better invested in buying a few flowers for the wife or sweetheart! Dixit!

* * *

Swiss-Canadians.

As all Swiss know, there is already a strong Swiss Colony in Canada, mostly farmers. The writer has even a school friend of his, who, during the pre-war land boom on the Saskatchewan, round about Saskatoon (Mr. Editor, please verify the spelling of these places before letting the M.S. go to the printer [*Done*—Ed.]) netted some £40,000 and kept it! We now read in the *Daily Telegraph* (March 14th):—

"The Swiss Government are, says the 'Liverpool Echo,' evidently bent upon a resort to emigration as, at any rate, one solution of their problem of unemployment, with the consequent huge cost in the way of doles. It is computed that since the war Switzerland has paid out about 800,000,000 frs. in doles. Evidently they have had nearly enough of it. Hence the choice of emigration as a means of ridding themselves of it—at any rate, to some extent. This is the interpretation to be placed upon the scheme of the Swiss Government for the settling of large numbers of Swiss folks on the land of Canada. Mr. Fritz Beck, representative of the Swiss Colonist Association, has arrived in Liverpool from New York on the White Star-Dominion liner Regina, armed with the authority of the Swiss Government to arrange for the carrying out of the scheme. He said they expected to send out to Canada, via the Canadian Pacific Line, the White Star-Dominion Line, the Cunard Line, and the Canadian National Railways, by the end of March, about 200 men."

Société Commerciale des Missions, Bâle.

According to *West Africa*, which on March 17th printed a letter from our compatriot, Mr. A. Palliser, concerning the above Missionary Society's confiscated properties in India and on the Gold Coast, etc.,—

"The question had just been raised in the Federal Parliament, and the Swiss Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Motta, in his reply, after stating the position of the matter, concluded by expressing his conviction that British sense of justice and equity would, no doubt, result in a solution satisfactory to both parties."

We cannot help a feeling that the British authorities may be not altogether wrong. We must say that we cannot feel any sympathy with any "Missionary Trading Society" for any "confiscatory evils" which may have befallen them.

* * *

Swiss public opinion warmly resents new French move.

It used to be said of the Prussians that they could never understand the mentality of foreign nations. We are painfully surprised that France should exhibit, as will be seen from the extract from the *Daily Telegraph* (March 26th) below, an entire misunderstanding of the constitutional rights of the Swiss people and of the principles which form the basis of our Democracy. Truly, M. Poincaré is following up the advantages which Might gives him, but he, too, will have to learn that Right is stronger than Might. At least, we hope so, in the interest of the future of the human family.

"A very curious diplomatic situation has arisen between France and Switzerland, and a Note received from M. Poincaré by the Federal Government is reported to have aroused considerable feeling in Berne. In August, 1921, the French and Swiss Governments concluded a convention, modifying the régime in the so-called 'free zones' in the neighbourhood of Geneva and elsewhere on the Franco-Swiss frontier. This convention was ratified a few months ago by the French Parliament, but was subsequently thrown out in Switzerland as the result of a referendum. The French Government, it now appears, is declaring that, notwithstanding the popular Swiss vote, the convention should be executed, inasmuch as it had been ratified by the Federal authorities before the system of referendum had been introduced. The Federal Council, on the other hand, insists upon its formal obligation towards the Swiss constitution, and is believed to have informed the French Government of this view. It appears to have been suggested that The Hague Court of Arbitration should be called upon to give a judgment, but it is by no means certain that the French Government would be ready to accept this procedure."

EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

Waadt.—Im Waadtländer Amtsblatt findet sich eine Ediktalladung an einen gewissen Tell Wilhelm, unbekanntes Aufenthalts, der vor dem Polizeirichter erscheinen soll wegen Widerhandlung gegen die Vorschriften über den Kleinverkauf geistiger Getränke. — Wenn man solch berühmten Namen trägt, sollte man entschieden nicht mit der Polizei in Konflikt kommen! (*Berner Jura.*)

* * *

Das Bürgergeschlechter-Stammbuch.—Der Urner Landrat hat, entgegen einem Antrag der Regierung, beschlossen, das Stammbuch der Urner Bürgergeschlechter weiterzuführen. Dieses Stammbuch, das einen Umfang von nahezu hundert Grossfoliobänden hat, führt die Stammbäume der Urner Familien nach, die aus allen alten Kirchenregistern mit Bienenfleiss einst zu Anfang des letzten Jahrhunderts von einem geistlichen Genealogen zusammengestellt worden sind. Man kann darin einzelne Familien lückenlos bis ins 13. Jahrhundert in allen Zweigen zurück verfolgen. Unterwalden und Glarus führen ähnliche Stammbücher. Der gegenwärtige Urner Stammbuchführer arbeitet an dem Werke schon 60 Jahre und ist daran noch unermüdetlich tätig. (*Neue Berner Zeitung.*)

* * *

Von den Zigeunern.—Im Geschäftsbericht des eidgen. Justiz- und Polizeidepartements wird über die Behandlung von Zigeunern ausgeführt: "Es handelt sich hier meistens um Leute, die unsern Behörden schon bekannt waren, und nicht erst identifiziert werden mussten. Eine weitere Abnahme dieser Eindringlinge gegenüber dem Vorjahre ist zu konstatieren. Auf Grund des mit der Leitung der Heilsarmee im Jahre 1914 getroffenen Uebereinkommens werden in ihrem Zufluchtsstause in Zürich und ihrem Kinderheim Sunnemätteli bei Bäretswil immer noch eine Anzahl Zigeunerkinder, die von ihren Eltern verlassen und ohne Schriften sind, verpflegt. Von diesen Kindern wurden während des Berichtsjahres einzelne von ihrem Vormund in geeignete Erziehungsanstalten oder in Lehrstellen versetzt. Wir kamen wiederholt in die Lage, Behörden gegenüber für die aus der Duldung dieser schriftenlosen Kinder entstehenden Kosten Gesprache zu leisten. Die Versorgung der jugendlichen Zigeuner geschieht sowohl aus Gründen der öffentlichen Ordnung, als auch um diese an eine geregelte Lebensweise zu gewöhnen und sie zu brauchbaren Gliedern der menschlichen Gesellschaft zu machen." (*Aargauer Tagblatt.*)

* * *

Le 1er avril-Pâques.—Le 1er avril, cette année, coïncidant avec le dimanche de Pâques, les amateurs de "poissons d'avril" remplaceront-ils la farce traditionnelle par des cloches et des oeufs en chocolat?

C'est la première fois, en notre siècle, que ces deux dates se rencontrent, et cela se reproduira en 1934, 1945 et 1956.

Dans le courant du siècle dernier, en 1804, 1866, 1877 et 1888, le dimanche de Pâques était également un 1er avril. En 1907, et en 1918, le lundi de Pâques tombait le 1er avril et les fêtes étaient par conséquent, à cheval sur deux mois différents. Ceci s'est produit quatre fois le siècle dernier; en 1839, 1850, 1861 et 1872.

D'après le Concile de Nicée, le premier jour de Pâques doit être célébré le premier dimanche qui suit la première lune du printemps.

La date la moins tardive à laquelle puisse tomber Pâques est le 22 mars, fait excessivement rare, et qui ne s'est pas produit depuis 1818.

Et pour voir célébrer des Pâques aussi précoces, il nous faudrait vivre jusqu'en 2285!

En 1913, les fidèles ont fait leurs Pâques le 23 mars, ce qui ne s'était pas produit depuis 1845 et 1856, et n'arrivera plus qu'en l'an 2008!

La date la plus lointaine pour la célébration des fêtes de Pâques est le 25 avril. Cette coïncidence s'est produite en 1886, et se reproduira en 1943.

A moins que la réforme du calendrier, dont on a tant parlé, ne soit appliquée d'ici là?

(Express, Biel.)

* * *

Le banquet du Club alpin suisse.—Omis sur son programme des "courses," bien qu'on enregistre toujours en de pareilles occasions la plus forte participation de la saison, le banquet annuel de la section genevoise réunissait le 17 fév., dans la spacieuse salle du Faubourg, plus de deux cent cinquante clubistes, heureux de fraterniser pour une fois dans un même et bel esprit, autre part que sur les sommets et dans les rochers.

Et si le dîner ne fut pas tiré des sacs, il n'en fut que plus gai.

Au dessert, M. Joerimann, président de la section, souhaila la bienvenue au président du comité central, M. le Dr. Leuch, de Berne, aux délégués de sept sections sœurs, à ceux de la Fédération montagnarde genevoise, de l'Association cantonale genevoise de gymnastique, de Pro Helvetia et de la Société des sous-officiers.

Très applaudi, M. le Dr. Leuch apporta le salut du comité central et de la section bernoise, tandis que M. le Dr. Amann parla au nom de la section des Diablerets (Lausanne). Deux discours encore: ceux de M. Brunet, président de la F. M. G., et de M. le professeur Balavoine, doyen d'âge de la section. M. le professeur Lauber et M. Charrot, firent précéder de leurs productions une spirituelle revue "clubistique," oeuvre de M. Dourouze, interprétée brillamment par les membres du club.

La section de chant du C. A. S. prêtait également son cours. Et ce n'est que fort tard, sans doute moins fatigués qu'après une longue traversée où une rude ascension, que les clubistes genevois se séparèrent. (*La Suisse.*)

A BANKING APPOINTMENT.

We learn that Mr. Xavier Castelli, London manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation, has been appointed one of the Bank's managing directors. After a wide experience of international banking, gained in India, Egypt, and elsewhere, Mr. Castelli entered the London office of the Swiss Bank eighteen years ago, and under his direction the bank's business in Great Britain has been developed with marked success.

(Times, March 28th.)

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

	BONDS.		SHARES.	
	Nom.	Mar. 20	Nom.	Mar. 20
Swiss Confederation 3% 1903	79.40%	78.90%	500	627
Swiss Confed. 9th Mob. Loan 5%	102.60%	102.75%	500	657
Federal Railways A—K 3½%	84.40%	83.70%	500	519
Canton Basle-Stadt 5½% 1921	105.25%	105.15%	1000	2085
Canton Fribourg 3% 1892	76.30%	75.35%	1000	1585
Zurich (Stadt) 4% 1909	100.50%	100.70%	1000	980
			500	629
Swiss Bank Corporation			1000	610
Crédit Suisse			500	322
Union de Banques Suisses			200	184
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz			100	111
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique			500	465
C. F. Bally S.A.			500	629
Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon			1000	610
Entreprises Sulzer			500	322
S.A. Brown Boveri (new)			200	184
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.			100	111
Choc. Suisses Peter-Cailler-Kohler			500	465
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