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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS



### FEDERAL.

#### ZURICH CONVERSION LOAN.

The City of Zurich intends to issue a 4 per cent. Loan of 25,000,000 Frs. at 9½ per cent., for the conversion of the 5 per cent. Loan of a similar amount, falling due in May. The City of Winterthur will issue a 4 per cent. Conversion Loan of 5,000,000 Frs. at 9½ per cent.

#### LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Next year's contribution towards the "cost" of the League of Nations has been increased by 52,000 Frs. and is now 518,000 Frs.

#### SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAYS.

Satisfactory traffic returns for the first nine months of the present year are published. Altogether, 54 million passengers were carried—an increase of 840,000 against the same period last year. On the other hand the goods traffic with 14.1 million tons shows a slight falling-off. The total receipts show an increase of about seven million francs which, however, is more than compensated by an increase in the working expenses of 9.4 million francs.

#### BANQUE GENERALE POUR L'INDUSTRIE ELECTRIQUE.

The net profits of the Banque Generale pour l'Industrie Electrique amounted to 2,280,000 Frs. for the business year ended June 30, 1930, against 1,980,000 Frs. for the previous business year. The dividend remains at 5 per cent.

#### X-RAYS AND OUR RECRUITS.

Following a proposal by the military department, Röntgen apparatuses are to be installed at the more important recruiting centres; this additional examination is expected to detect unhealthy recruits who are likely to become inmates of military hospitals.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT.

The unemployment figures for September compare unfavourably with those for August, and still worse with those of September, 1929. Unskilled labour, however, seems to be in demand in most of the trades, especially agriculture; there is also a lack of workers in the tailoring and show manufacturing industries. The hands employed in the building and textile trades (embroidery), show a further decline; the watch industry seems to have righted itself, but unemployment amongst the musicians is on the increase on account of the "talkies."

### LOCAL.

#### LUCERNE.

Three office apprentices, aged 19, 16 and 17 years, a few days ago disappeared without a trace. Two of them managed, in some way or other, to cross the frontier without any papers, whilst the older one had a passport. All three went to Hamburg, from where they sent word to their parents that they intended crossing the ocean to America. In the next few days these young adventurers will, however, be brought back to familiar surroundings again. N.Z.Z.

#### AARAU.

The Conference of Cantonal Directors of Education from all over Switzerland meeting in Aarau had before them a proposition of the Swiss General Shorthandwriters Society, backed by the Swiss Shorthand Teachers Association and the Committee of Examiners for Shorthand Teachers, that the teaching of shorthand be made compulsory. This proposition is in regard of all schools. The 7th and 8th school years should be the time for starting it. A period of one year at the rate of two hours per week should be devoted to the subject. The Congress, though viewing the proposal favourably, could not see its way clear to accept the suggestion for compulsion, but recommended its acceptance on a voluntary footing. St.G.T.

#### APPENZELL.

In Walzenhausen about 200 unemployed from Appenzell have met to take measures towards meeting the critical situation in which they are placed. A resolution was passed in which it was stated that the Regierungsrat and the Communal

Authority were too slow in commencing relief work, and that the help they so kindly received from the Appenzeller Vorderland and from private sources was, however, sufficient to relieve only a small part of the great suffering. In view of the steadily increasing unemployment and the approaching winter, the Regierungsrat is requested to call the Grand Council for a joint meeting, so that the cantonal relief works could be started at the latest by the middle of November, and also that the private unemployment insurances which have already done more than they ought to have done, should be supported by the communes. N.Z.Z.

#### BADEN.

The Badener Arts and Craft School, which is attended by 2,000 students (owing to the large industry in that town), is being reorganised. Up to now 43 teachers have taught as part time work, mostly in the evenings. On the proposition of the Federal Inspectors four principals have been elected so that the school will now be a regular day school. N.Z.Z.

#### LIVIGNO.

An interesting occurrence is reported on the Swiss-Italian frontier. For several days past a large eagle could be observed flying from his nest, which he has on the Swiss side of the frontier, over on to Italian territory, there to fetch his prey in the form of sheep. In the space of a few days he fetched five sheep from the Livina valley and brought them over the border, there to devour them in peace. The farmers who were so victimized have not yet been able to shoot the eagle, as he invariably returns to the sanctuary of the Swiss territory immediately after having secured his prey. V.

#### RIEDEN.

A 62-year-old farmer in Rieden wanted to greet a newly married couple on returning from their honeymoon, by firing some shots. He took a cartridge and lit it, thinking it would take a long time to burn, held it in his hand. Suddenly the cartridge exploded and tore his right hand clean away. N.Z.Z.

Last Tuesday, Walter Fuchs, a 20-year-old railway worker, who, in the course of his work had to cross the lines in the station of Aarau, was caught by a train coming from Wettingen and was knocked down. Both his legs were cut off and he also suffered such severe head wounds that death, a short time after, came as a relief. N.Z.Z.

#### AMSTEG.

On Sunday night between 10 o'clock and midnight passers by found, almost in the middle of the village of Silenen on the St. Gotthard road, the body of the stonemason Corti. On Monday a cyclist went to the police in Altdorf declaring that at that time he was riding at a slow pace and with a light on through Silenen and knocked against a man, he himself being hurt by the fall. He got up but could not see anyone and so rode on. He was now coming forward as, perhaps, the dead man might be the one he ran into. The doctor is now examining the matter. Corti leaves a family of nine young children. N.Z.Z.

### FROM THE TICINO.

#### REDUCTION OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL.

The amendment to the Federal Constitution, approved provisionally by the Federal Assembly, whereby the number of members of the National Council is reduced from 198 to 190, is adversely criticised by several of the newspapers. They point out that Latin Switzerland will have to sacrifice 4 members, viz: one each for the cantons of Geneva, Vaud, Neuchâtel and Ticino, whereas among the German speaking cantons, which have already such an overwhelming majority in the National Council, only three, viz: Berne, Zurich and St. Gall will suffer a reduction. THE BASSANESI AFFAIR.

This question continues to be the major item of discussion, both in the press and among the people. Severe criticism is levelled against the Federal Council for the way in which the whole matter has been handled and for the clear desire they have shown to trample Swiss traditions and principles underfoot, for the sake of pleasing the existing Italian régime. The trial, fixed to begin on the 17th of November, promises to be the star turn of the year and the stage is set, through the excessive zeal with which the Federal Council endeavoured to favour Fascism, not for the trial of Bassanesi and his accomplices but for the impeachment of the existing Italian régime. (Continued on back page)

## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

When our witty collaborator "ck" mentioned the other week that he should like to have more of Kyburg and less of his Gleanings, he made me blush! Not with vanity, but with a sense of well-merited reproach!

Those of my readers who take the trouble to read all the Gleanings from the British Press I set before them, must often think why some of them fail to stimulate my locquacity and why I so often seem to be content to string these articles loosely together and hardly write a word myself.

I wonder myself over my self-control! It is not sheer laziness, I assure you, it is perhaps just a slight weariness sometimes. When you find, as I so often do, that you write the most outrageously provocative things in your article, only to find that your readers either do not read the stuff, or then think it not worth while to protest vehemently, well, then the fun goes out of the business and you cannot keep on hitting an imaginary foe, as it were, all the time! If my readers would only strike back, hit hard and not take everything I write lying down and with hardly even a murmur, things would be much more lively, because then I could hit back, hard and strong—and what, after all, is more amusing than a real good fight with ink and paper as weapons and with pointed arrows of so-called wit (but no malice), being banded about freely. Well then, as I have written and admonished so often, come on, fight back, let me have it and don't all of you take it lying down, as if you had not an atom of intellect left in your bemused brain! But mind you, no malice! Vituperation, if you will, abuse if you must, leg-pull, yes, but . . . all in good fun and no malice! Now then, come on!

Naturally enough I did not get my present fighting vim by going to the office day after day and working hard. No, my hearties, yours truly has had another wonderful week of sight-seeing in beautiful Cornwall and Devon, not to speak of the journey to and fro, along the King's excellent high roads. At this time of the year, when the autumn tints clothe the landscape in gold, orange, brown and dark green, when the views from the hill-tops are clearer than during the summer, when the air is scented with that tangy scent of decaying leaves and when at eventide you welcome the grey smoke-curls that rise up from the cottage chimneys, and when the scent of the wood-fires is strong in the air as you pass through a village, everything in that part of England makes you feel lovely, makes you see fresh wonders of beautiful Nature everywhere, in short, a holiday at the beginning of autumn in Cornwall is a wonderful tonic and gives you plenty of stamina to face the coming winter fogs of dear, dirty old London.

The catering is excellent. At least, we were very fortunate in finding a tiny little fishing cove, miles away from anywhere, where we found cosy shelter, excellent cooking and dear people, and where the expenses did not run away with us. I rather flatter myself on knowing Southern England pretty well by now, having explored most of it fairly thoroughly, but I have never yet found a spot where one's inner man was looked after in such a wonderfully Lucullan fashion as down there, some thirteen miles south-east of Truro, among a small community of fishermen and their families and in wonderful scenic surroundings. And, if any reader wishes to know details, I shall be glad to furnish them to him. I draw no commission!

Besides walking all day, from rocky cove to sandy beach, over hills and down steep lanes, paddling for hours on end on beautiful sand and in glorious sunshine, we also spent a couple of days motoring and sight-seeing further afield, and one glorious morning we stood on that last stone at Lands End and the guide who had undertaken to pilot us among the rocky fastnesses of that lonely spot and to show us the cave, underneath the rock, where the waters of the St. George's and the English Channel run up against each other, said his little piece:

"You are now the first and the last gentleman (or lady, as the case may be) in England, but not the least and you, of all people in England, are the one nearest to New York."

Those of my readers who have been there too, may remember that little set remark, quoted above and which has been said to countless thousands of visitors.

From there to St. Ives for lunch, followed