

Home news

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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

SWISS CONVERSION LOAN.

The Swiss Government is raising a 150 million francs (£6,930,000) loan, carrying interest at 3½ per cent., at par, and running for 15 years. The proceeds are to be applied for the partial repayment or conversion of the Frs.140 million (£6,500,000) Five per Cent. Federal Loan, 1925, and Frs.75 million (£3,460,000) Four per Cent. Federal Railways Loan, 1900.

ARMS SMUGGLING ARRESTS IN SWITZERLAND.

In connexion with the recent discovery at Geneva of an arms smuggling organization the Swiss Federal Police have arrested six men — two Swiss, two Spanish, and two French — and seized in various towns stocks of arms and ammunition to the value of over £40,000. These stocks, it is alleged were to be smuggled into France and thence to the Spanish Government.

SWISS "NO" TO 40-HOUR WEEK.

The uncompromising opposition of the Swiss Government to the principle of the 40-hour week was declared to the International Labour Conference by M. Schulthess, Government delegate of Switzerland, and ex-member of the Swiss Federal Council.

"The 40-hour week," said M. Schulthess, "is a 'wooden horse' which we do not propose to allow within the walls of our city." It would not reduce but increase unemployment in Switzerland, he said.

HELP FOR SWISS FROM SPAIN.

According to figures just published, the Confederation has up till now paid an amount of 195,000 frs. for the Swiss who had to leave Spain. In addition the cantons have paid altogether 48,000 frs., a further amount of 78,000 frs. was paid by the Special Committee formed to help our compatriots.

(The collection made through the Swiss Observer, reaching the amount of Frs. 11,032.40 (£513 9s. 10d.) compares very well with the above figures. — Ed.)

LESS UNEMPLOYED IN SWITZERLAND.

At the end of May, there were 44,250 unemployed registered in Switzerland or 22,031 less than twelve months ago.

WILLY MILLER †.

In Vevey died at the age of 48 the "Solothurner" Journalist Willy Miller, the deceased was born in Biberist. He studied law and for some time he occupied the post of Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce in Lucerne, later on he became a Journalist. Willy Miller was an expert on the manifold railway problems in Switzerland.

GORDON BENNETT BALLOON RACE.

The Gordon Bennett Balloon Race will take place on June the 20th, the following countries will be represented: Poland, Belgium, Switzerland, France and Germany.

SNOW MELTING FAST ON THE ALPS.

The heat is melting the snow so fast on the mountains that all the rivers and lakes are full and overflowing their banks in many places. In Canton Valais the Rhone has reached the rare level of 6.1 metres. The Lake of Geneva is now one foot above high water mark, and at its outlet from the lake the Rhone reaches the 2.40 metres level, which has not been recorded at this time of the year since 1849.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Mme. Karolina Schwarzenbach, the oldest inhabitant of the town of Zurich, has died at the age of 96.

M. Heinrich Peter, architect, has been appointed "Kantonsbaumeister;" M. Peter made his studies at the Federal Technical University in Zurich. For the last few years he was a partner in the architect firm Kessler and Peter in Zurich.

BERNE.

M. Otto Kellerhans, at present a departmental chief of the Federal Alcohol Administration, has been appointed Director in succession to Dr. Tanner who is shortly relinquishing his post. M. Kellerhans is 36 years old and is the son of the Director of the prison in Witzwil. Messrs. Maret and Dr. Vegezzi will act as Vice-Directors.

The members of the Guilds in Berne entertained a number of members of the "City Livery Club" London at the Burgerratsaal in Berne, amongst the guests were M. Motta, President of the Swiss Confederation, Federal-Councillor Baumann and the British Minister, Sir George Warner.

Two motor-cars collided near Almenningen. The driver of one car, a Mr. Valentin, butcher from Berne, was killed outright, whilst his wife was seriously injured. The driver of the other car, a Mrs. Buchi also received serious injuries.

M. Fritz Gygax, Secretary of the two Federal Chambers, has celebrated his 25th service Jubilee.

The National Council has defeated with 107 against 2 votes a motion, tabled by National Councillors Tobler and Duttweiler, to prohibit Free-Masons Lodges in Switzerland.

Monsieur Antoniadé, the Rumanian Minister in Berne, and a former Rumanian delegate to the League of Nations Council, has been recalled by his government.

LUCERNE.

M. Beat Wieland, the well-known Alpine painter, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary at Kriens.

The population of the town of Lucerne, at the end of May, numbered 53,772.

SCHAFFHAUSEN.

At the age of 100 years and six months, died at Schaffhausen Mme. Ursula Käbler, the oldest inhabitant of the canton of Schaffhausen. She deceased was for the last eight years totally blind.

BASLE-COUNTRY.

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the "Schweizerischen Rhein-Salinen," the management has made a donation amounting to 150,000 Frs. to the Pension Fund of their employees; in addition each employee received the sum of 100 Frs. and a commemorative medal. The unemployed of the cantons of Basle-Country and Aargau have received an amount of 5,000 Frs. each.

GENEVA.

The canton of Geneva has, with 13,580 against 8,935 votes, prohibited all communist organisation in the canton.

ESPOSIZIONE SVIZZERA A LONDRA.

Per cura delle ferrovie federali svizzere si inaugurò la prima esposizione d'arte svizzera in Londra il 22 aprile scorso.

Venne aperta in occasione delle feste per l'incoronazione dei reali inglesi e venne inaugurata dal Ministro svizzero a Londra, Signor Paravicini.

E' una mostra in miniatura, ma riesce molto interessante a tutti gli amici ed entusiasti della Svizzera non solo, ma rende orgogliosi noi pure, suoi figli qui residenti; "orgogliosi" di poter dimostrare, nel suo piccolo, quanto la nostra cara patria può fare e può dare ... lavori d'arte d'ogni genere, lavori pratici che dimostrano che la Svizzera non è soltanto "il campo di giuoco d'Europa."

Gli appassionati viaggiatori inglesi furono i primi, sembra, a scoprire, ammirare e far conoscere la bellezza delle nostre alpi; e di questi furono l'ispirazione a poeti, pittori e scrittori che ne esaltarono la splendore, la grandezza dei suoi paesaggi.

Vi sono esposti vari lavori di artisti svizzeri; dipinti ad olio, acquarelli, ritratti si possono ammirare in questa piccola raccolta; lavori di intaglio in legno, pizzi, ricami ... arnesi famigliari per uso domestico e per gli alpiani; vari, ricchi costumi nazionali dei diversi Cantoni indossati da fantocci di ciera.

In un canto roccioso della mostra troviamo un saggio soltanto della nostra magnifica flora alpina; fiori veri, sempre freschi e rinnovati, trasportati qui in poche ore per la spiccia, meravigliosa via fattasi dal "Swissair."

Ma una tela di grande importanza è in vista al pubblico in questa semplice sala, senza ricercatezza alcuna; un piccolo pino selvatico ai suoi lati ... una corda attraverso la tela per sola sicurezza ... E' un Segantini, di pittura moderna; chi osserva questo capolavoro dimentica e la cornice e l'ambiente in estatica ammirazione per le qualità di luce e di spazio espresse nella tecnica dell'arte che Segantini creò e fece sua.

La grande tela è intitolata "Pastura di primavera;" rappresenta un'alpe all'ora del tramonto; un pastore pensoso col suo gregge ... ombre in basso e luce di neve in alto ...

E' lavoro unico del genere, come solo lo storico Segantini poteva riprodurre isolato lassù nelle alpi dell'Engadina che tanto amava, a vivere la vita del pastore, la vita semplice della natura.

Non fosse che per conoscere ed ammirare il lavoro di questo Maestro della Svizzera italiana, l'esposizione è degna di essere visitata.

Un ringraziamento riconoscente agli organizzatori che l'hanno creata.

T.L.R.

LA CONSTITUTION.

Par Tell Perrin, La Chaux-de-Fonds.

(Mon Pays.)

Confédérations et Cantons.

Le droit constitutionnel de la Suisse est extraordinairement étendu, parce qu'il comprend, à côté de la Charte fédérale, les constitutions des vingt-cinq Etats formant les 19 cantons et les 6 demi-cantons (Unterwald le Haut et le Bas, Appenzell Rhodes intérieures et extérieures, Bâle Ville et Campagne).

La Suisse est un Etat fédératif et non une confédération unie par les liens d'une simple alliance, bien que par traditionalisme le nom de Confédération ait été maintenu.

Cette situation complexe existe depuis 1848, époque à laquelle les cantons abandonnèrent une partie de leur de leur souveraineté au profit de l'ensemble, pour créer un Etat fédératif plus compact et par conséquent plus fort que l'ancienne Confédération.

La première caractéristique de la Suisse est ainsi d'être un groupement d'Etats — Cantons, fusionnés en un Etat central unique.

Cette composition entraîne de nombreuses complications. Comment concilier les prérogatives de la Confédération avec celles des Cantons, qui eux aussi sont des Etats? La formule suivante a été adoptée:

Les cantons sont compétents dans tous les domaines où la constitution n'attribue pas expressément, par une disposition explicite, la compétence à la Confédération.

Ainsi, toutes les fois qu'il paraît opportun de doter la Confédération d'une nouvelle compétence, il faut reviser la constitution fédérale pour y introduire un nouvel article. C'est là ce qui explique les fréquentes révisions constitutionnelles qui caractérisent la vie politique suisse, alors que, dans les autres pays, la loi fondamentale n'est pour ainsi dire jamais modifiée, si ce n'est en cas de changement de régime.

La situation des cantons.

Les cantons sont des Etats, vivant d'une existence propre, libres d'agir selon la volonté de leur peuple, pourvu qu'ils n'empiètent pas sur les domaines attribués à la Confédération.

C'est ainsi que chaque canton a sa constitution, adoptée par la majorité de ses électeurs, ses lois (sauf pour les matières unifiées), ses