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profess any opinion he wishes on neutrality. In other circumstances he is free to expose it, by word or pen. But, charged with the task of pronouncing an allocation which, of necessity, had to be slightly coloured with officialdom, at a celebration which could have echos reaching abroad, he ran the risk of making people believe an opinion to be general, which is held by an extremely small minority. The Executive Authorities of our country, supported by the immense majority of the Swiss people, remain resolutely faithful to the idea of Swiss neutrality. To spread an impression which is contrary to this, has nothing in common with liberty of expression.

ALL ABOUT THE SOVEREIGN.

The Swiss Federal Court has refused to extradite to Italy two men accused of producing gold sovereigns there. The Court has ruled, that sovereigns are no longer legal tender. (*news item, Aug. 22nd.*)

COIN OF THE REALM?

The Treasury discloses
 Most serious concern,
 The Bank outright opposes
 The bench and bar of Berne.
 Our coin is counterfeited,
 According to report,
 And the forgers are acquitted
 By Switzerland's High Court,

A Treasury official
 Expresses shocked surprise—
 This judgment prejudicial
 Makes coin mere merchandise.
 The viewpoint is rejected
 As biased and unsound—
 The sovereign is protected
 Though we may not save the pound

In British courts and foreign
 The judges would come down
 On gangs that faked a florin,
 A shilling, or half-crown,
 And this more grave infraction
 The law should not dismiss—
 It is indeed an action
 Unworthy of the Swiss.

The sovereign may have vanished,
 And none dispute the fact,
 But it was never banished
 By a Parliamentary Act.
 A proclamation regal
 Must current coin withdraw—
 So passing gold is legal,
 While just outside the law.

The Briton should surrender
 His coins of minted gold—
 For other sterling tender
 Commodities are sold.
 But, not in circulation
 In the counting-house or till,
 The Bank makes declaration
 They are legal tender still.

MERCUTIO.
 (*Manchester Guardian*)
 23. 8. '52.

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