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We again wish our Readers the best of Christmas Cheer and all Happiness and Prosperity in the coming year.

HOME NEWS

The present session of the Swiss Parliament came to a close last Thursday; the two Houses will meet again on March 23rd.

In the elections last week during the united session of the two Federal Houses, Dr. Giuseppe Motta, the present Vice-President, obtained 155 out of 207 possible votes; the missing 52 votes express, presumably, a protest from those (Socialists) who object to his pronounced sympathies for Fascism. This is Federal Councillor Motta's third term of office, he having been President of the Confederation in 1915 and 1920. Federal Councillor Edmund Schulthess (Brugg) received 173 votes as new Vice-President of the Confederation; the exceptionally large number of votes testify to the confidence and appreciation enjoyed by him in spite of the popular rejection of the Corn Monopoly, of which Bill he was the originator. Rumours were current, after the recent plebiscite, that Federal Councillor Schulthess was contemplating retirement from political life.

During the Budget discussion in the National Council the Socialists proposed that the amount of 80 million francs allotted to the Military Department should be struck out, as experience had shown that for a small country an army was useless against powerful neighbours; the Socialist Schneider (Basle) mentioned as an example the case of Belgium which in the last war had lost the flower of her manhood to no purpose!

In the States Council a motion to advance the age limit from 12 to 15 years for the issue of children's tickets on the Swiss Federal Railways was rejected, although the National Council had previously expressed its approval.

In spite of heated opposition from the Socialists, the National Council has voted a credit of Frs. 350,000 for the purpose of holding special instruction courses for officers in connection with the new light machine gun.

The National Council has passed a resolution requesting the Federal Council to prepare an emergency measure for the provisional maintenance of the present State monopoly in the cereal trade.

The Council of the association "Pro Ticino," which met in Berne last week, passed a resolution urging the Federal Council and the Ticinese authorities to appoint forthwith a commission of enquiry to study the desirability of establishing a university in the canton Ticino.

The assizes court at Aarau has sentenced the hotelkeeper Ernst Tschopp to two years and eight months' hard labour for having last June set fire to the Hotel Krone in Aarburg; the establishment was insured for Frs. 180,000.

The Basle schoolmasters at a recent meeting have made the discovery that the use of capital letters in writing common nouns in the German language is not justified and places German at a disadvantage as compared with the other modern languages. They have passed a resolution to this effect, and it is confidently hoped that the scholastic authorities of the other cantons concerned will follow suit in due course, and that, when once a united demand is presented, Germany will also fall into line.

A new bridge is to be built across the Aar in Berne at a cost of nearly four million francs, and the work is to be taken in hand next winter.

A geological experts' commission established the fact that the Monte Arbino in the Ticino has during 1925, moved forward by 1.04 metres in the direction of the Val d'Arbedo.

EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

L'héroïsme des Soleurois.—Les Soleurois viennent de refuser 6 millions qu'un riche Américain leur offrait pour un tableau de leur Musée, un Holbein de 1522, et authentique probablement.

Vous avez bien lu, six millions, pour une toile peinte! Et les Soleurois ont refusé le marché, ce dont on les loue vivement. C'est un noble geste évidemment, je me demande si nous aurions le courage d'en faire autant, cas échéant? Je n'en suis pas certain, et dans la purée de nos budgets, une recette de 6 millions ferait rudement bien notre affaire.

Hélas! nous n'avons pas de Holbein à vendre. Mais on pourrait peut-être prier l'amateur américain de venir faire un tour chez nous. Il y a dans nos musées bien des kilomètres de peintures. Pour 6 millions, ma foi, on en pourrait céder un bon paquet, avec les cadres par-dessus et même une boîte pour les mettre, un de nos musées au choix, par exemple.

Ça serait une toute riche opération, notre dette serait du coup amortie d'un sérieux bout, et nous ne serions plus réduit au régime des économies de bouts de chandelles, et des recettes ramassées à la peignette.

Par ma foi, après tout, pourquoi. Bien des pauvres bougres doivent à l'occasion se défaire d'objets bien plus utiles qu'un tableau. Et je me résignerais sans trop de douleur à bazarder dans ces prix-là les trois quarts des chefs-d'œuvre de nos musées, et la totalité de nos monuments, y compris le monument de la République, le Daniel en chocolat du collège de la Promenade à Neuchâtel, et le pavillon de musique du chef-lieu.

Seulement voilà, l'Américain de Soleure ne viendra pas chez nous, et la tentation nous sera épargnée. Heureusement, car j'ai idée que nous n'aurions pas l'héroïsme des Soleurois, surtout après la bagarre du budget au Grand Conseil, où personne n'a rien voulu lâcher à la caisse de l'Etat.

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NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

The Spahlinger Treatment.

Long articles in the provincial papers testify to the interest which has been aroused as a result of the latest report from Geneva; whether the lay Press will be able to speed up matters in this country and overcome the prejudice existing in the medical profession, remains to be seen. Practitioners in Lancashire are pressing for the remedy to be placed in their hands. The following historic resumé from the *Manchester Guardian* (Dec. 14th) recalls the early experiments:—

The story of Mr. Spahlinger's latest experiments goes back to 1916. In that year he administered a six months' course of complete vaccines to twenty cows which had previously returned an entirely negative reaction to the tuberculin test. After six months' rest these cows were inoculated with massive doses of virulent bovine tubercle. Rabbits and guinea-pigs, employed as "controls," died of the disease. At the end of one year two of the vaccinated cows were autopsied, but not the slightest trace of tuberculosis was found in them. From that time up to the present one or more of the cows has been killed each year, and every one has been found completely free from the disease.

But that was by no means the most remarkable feature of the experiments. Another of the cows of the 1916 vaccination (Nora), infected with potent tuberculosis in 1917 like the rest, was re-infected in 1921 with astonishing results. The administered dose of virus was so strong that Nora's local defences could not at once cope with it, and an abscess formed at the site of the inoculation. Pus from this abscess, when injected into three guinea-pigs, killed them within eight weeks. The abscess healed. The cow gave a negative reaction to tuberculin in November, 1924, and when she was killed in December, 1925, it was impossible to trace tuberculosis in her at all!

The foregoing results, as has been indicated, were obtained with complete vaccines. It remained for Mr. Spahlinger to improve upon them by employing, during a period when the complete vaccines were no longer available, a series of partial remedies, which he named for convenience vaccines 1, 2, 3 and 4. Three cows vaccinated in 1922 with these partials remained totally unresponsive to inoculation of the virulent bacilli. Thereupon Mr. Spahlinger set to work on the difficult problem of the practical simplification of these new vaccines, in order to secure an easier and cheaper method of production. In

the end it was proved that vaccines No. 1 and No. 2 in combination were sufficient to immunise, whereas No. 1 alone was insufficient. At once a series of independent tests were made, some of them under the control of the Geneva Government. These tests have demonstrated beyond all question the power of the new simplified vaccines to protect cattle against a subsequent inoculation of virulent virus. Vaccines 1 and 2 together will give protection under normal conditions; vaccines 1, 2 and 3 will protect against heavy intravenous inoculation of hyper-virulent virus. The next step, says Mr. Spahlinger, is to determine the minimum dosage to protect against infection under normal conditions—such, for example, as arise when uninfected cattle are herded together with tubercular animals.

Water Power in Switzerland.

Here is another instructive survey from the *Electrical Times* (Dec. 9th):—

An extremely interesting power-station in Switzerland is that of the Jogne, situated in the Gruyère country, not far from the village of Broc, of Swiss chocolate fame. It uses the waters of the Jogne, which have been dammed in an artificial lake called the Lake of Montsalvens, two kilometres upstream, which reservoir contains 12,000,000 cu. m., ten millions of which are put into use. The water is dammed back from the very narrow gorge of la Rousille by a barrage fifty-two metres high.

The dam is of the arc type, and its construction has afforded opportunities for capital experiments as to resistance, influence of temperature on cement, etc., six sets of five thermometers or less, being inserted in the barrage (at present there are twenty-eight in use). The right wing of the dam is supported by a large abutment which, necessitated by the very slight incline on this side, also shortens the upper arches, and admits of the placing of a weir in the lengthening of the barrage. The opposite side is built into solid rock. The depth of the dam towards the valley reaches a figure of twenty metres; the thickness diminishes with the height, and is only two metres at the top, for beyond a certain depth the action of the wall becomes predominant and the foot of the barrage, therefore, increases in width. The ridge of the dam, 138 metres long, is surmounted by a series of arches with a foot-bridge above them. Both sides of the construction are almost entirely faced with cement ash-lars closely juxtaposed so as to avoid any infiltration, and the side up-stream has been covered with a special preparation of tar to guarantee its perfect impermeability.

The tunnel, 1,680 metres long, ends in the water tower with its well thirty-four metres by four-and-a-half, terminating in a reinforced concrete chamber twelve metres by eleven-and-a-half metres, to ensure safety during the abrupt suppression, or maximum supply of the water, calculated at 20 cu. m. per second. A lateral gallery forty metres long is joined to the base of the water tower, and, thanks to its volume of water, it acts as an equalising chamber. The twin high pressure pipes, 403 metres long and 1.80 metres in diameter, are connected at their upper end with a sluice-chamber in the solid rock containing two automatic butterfly sluice-gates, set in motion immediately and closing the force-pipes, in case of accident.

The power-house is equipped with four Francis turbines with an average each of 6,000 h.p. running at 500 revolutions per minute under a fall varying between 95 and 118 metres, and under the latter their maximum force is 7,320 h.p.; the normal fall is 105 metres. Each of these turbines is fitted with an automatic safety regulator which comes into play when its speed exceeds a certain fixed limit (20 per cent. perhaps), when the oil-pressure gives out, or when any part of the regulator becomes disorganised. A fifth turbine will be added as occasion demands.

This power-station of the Jogne has been constructed by the Entreprises Electricques Fri-bourgeoises, and, in consequence, the canton of Fribourg has a vastly improved source of electricity, while both Swiss and Foreign visitors have now one more delightful pic-nic site, Lake Montsalvens, in its picturesque Alpine setting.

We have already referred to this paper which Professor F. Bacon read in South Wales last month, as chairman of the South Wales branch of the I.M.E. It is interesting to make further extracts from Professor Bacon's address. He remarks that, now that electricity is laid on to over 95 per cent. of all the houses, the steam

engine, both stationary and locomotive, is becoming almost extinct; the saturation point of home consumption cannot be far distant. Hydro-electric development, however, will not be arrested. The export of power to Italy, France and Germany is already taking place on a considerable scale. Within another decade it is quite conceivable that Switzerland will be playing the part of power station to Central Europe to the extent of 10,000,000 kilowatt hours per annum. If sold in bulk at only 1s. 10d. per unit, the Swiss revenue would thereby benefit to the extent of about £4,000,000, or, say, £1 per head per annum. Thus, *per capita*, it would be an asset to Switzerland comparable with what our export coal trade meant to us prior to the war.

Switzerland is now completely coupled up to a network of high-tension lines fed by some 300 power stations, about 50 of which have installed capacity of from 10,000 to 100,000 horse power. Between them the total generating plant capacity amounts to nearly 2,000,000 horse power, and an annual output of no less than 1,000 kilowatt hours per head of population. This is five or six times as much electrical energy per person as we at present enjoy; but is about the same figure as Sir John Snell predicts we shall arrive at in twenty years' time. Thus in the Switzerland of to-day we may expect to observe some of the factors which we shall reproduce by other means in time for the coming generation, if not for ourselves. We can also observe a country in which the electrification of the main lines is already an almost fully accomplished fact.

Although, naturally, conditions are utterly different in Switzerland, the country resembles ours in that it has to live by exchange of fabricated articles for food. Switzerland's natural handicap is, in fact, far greater than ours, in as much as she has to export sufficient manufactured articles not only to buy food, but to pay for the raw materials, coal, iron, copper, oil, etc., and likewise semi-finished products such as plates, forgings, etc., needed for her manufactures.

Switzerland is up against the storage of energy problem in a much more acute way than any other country in the world. Wherever power is derived from the combustion of fuel, man can regulate the combustion more or less to suit the demand for power. But Switzerland wants to live entirely on her native power from falling water. Nature decides when this shall occur, and her moods bear no relation to the habits of man. The Rhine refuses to flow full bore from 8 a.m. till noon, and then knock off for lunch. The glaciers refuse to melt in the winter, which is the season of heaviest demand for light and heating. The hour to hour variation of load throughout the day, and the discordant month to month variation throughout the year of both supply and demand, call for power storage on a colossal scale. The Waeggital works, of which too little has been heard, is the latest and boldest attempt to solve the storage problem. The town of Zurich and the North Eastern Power Co., of Switzerland, have combined in an expenditure of over £3,000,000 to store about 50,000,000 kilowatt hours by huge impounding works for creating a lake storing 140,000,000 tons of water at an elevation of about 1,500 ft. above the fall race of the lower power station.

Romantsch.

With reference to the efforts for preserving and reviving this ancient language, *The Times* (Dec. 15th) has the following report:—

The "Lia Romantscha," or League for the protection of the Romantsch language, recently held its annual meeting at Chur (Grisons), and discussed certain measures likely to foster the use of Romantsch and to protect it against German and Italian encroachments.

Romantsch is a very ancient language spoken in some parts of the Swiss Canton Grisons—the Engadine, Oberhalbstein and Grisons Oberlands districts, which form a zone separating the lands of the German language, on the north, from those of the Italian, on the south. Romantsch, or more exactly, the Rhaeto-Roman dialects, are not of Celtic origin; the Romans regarded them as degenerated Etruscan languages, and some experts believe them to be parents of the Ligurian. After the Roman Conquest, the language of the Rhaetians was much influenced and modified by Latin, and it became the Rhaeto-Roman or Romantsch, which is a language in itself, very different from Italian, though there are some points of resemblance between the two languages.

Romantsch has a literature of its own: popular songs, poems, prose, and numerous religious works. These literary works began to be printed after 1552, and the most prominent authors were Biffirin, Travers, Campell, Caderas, Mathis and Gabriel. One of the most prominent modern Romantsch poets is M. Peider Lansel, who lives in Geneva and who is responsible for the present development of modern Romantsch literature, towards the publication of which he generously contributes.

During the last two centuries numerous German and Italian speaking settlers from other districts of the Grisons or of Switzerland came

to reside in the Romantsch territories, with the result that the use of the local language was neglected. The Cantonal Government being at Chur, where German is spoken, made no efforts to protect the local language; it even devoted all its energy to diffuse German. The consequence was that, at one time, Romantsch was seriously menaced by the intrusion of German and Italian. Some Romantsch patriots then started the "Lia Romantscha" to defend Romantsch by all means. This league is collecting and publishing ancient and modern documents and literary works; it is editing several newspapers, grammars and school books; it is strenuously defending Romantsch against any encroachment, and strongly opposes the efforts made for Germanizing or Italianizing the Romantsch districts. These efforts have been successful—the Rhaetian railways now put up the names of stations both in German and Romantsch; the Government subsidizes the teaching of that language as well as the publications of the "Lia Romantscha" and of the local writers.

The clear result of this courageous campaign is that Romantsch has now gained in consideration, and is no longer a disappearing but a living language, and the Grisons inhabitants speaking this language, after decreasing from 38,705 in 1880 to 38,651 in 1900, rose to 40,234 in 1910 and to 42,940 in 1925.

In spite of the progress made by Romantsch during the past twenty years, the stamp of German conquest will be maintained by fashion and habit in certain names of localities. If Silvaplana, Celerina, Cresta, Pontresina are only

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known by their Romantisch names, it seems difficult to call St. Moritz "San Murezzan" or Thusis "Tusaun" or the river Inn the "En."

Morals in Switzerland.

There is a lot of truth in this little cutting from the *Leeds Mercury* (Dec. 10th); since then the canton Uri has gone one better with a proposal to tax "Eton crops":—

Being the seat of official peacemaking seems to have had a curious effect upon Switzerland. While the League of Nations carries on steadily at Geneva, the various Swiss cantons have gone into a perfect fever of moral warfare, and have evolved some of the most entertaining laws on record. There was one not long ago about the length of skirts and the thickness of blouses. There was the perambulator law.

Now the Canton of Ticino has invented a law which makes dancing illegal except during the first three months of the year. If dancing is an evil surely the population ought not to be officially allowed to go to perdition even for three months.

to which I will add another choice bit from the *Motor* (Dec. 1st) about the trials and tribulations of the nursemaids in Basle:—

Basle is notoriously one of the most dangerous cities in Europe to drive through, owing to the way in which tramlines are laid through narrow streets unsuitable for the purpose. One-way traffic was recently introduced accordingly and pedestrians were ordered to stick to the pavements. There, however, they found themselves obstructed by perambulators innumerable, and an old law of 1897 was resuscitated accordingly, requiring the "prams" to keep to the roadway. On the first day that this rule was put into operation nearly 400 summonses were issued against offending nursemaids!

QUOTATIONS from the SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES.

BONDS.	Dec. 14		Dec. 21	
	%	Fr.	%	Fr.
Confederation 3% 1903 ...	79.00	79.75	79.00	79.75
5% 1917, VII. Mob. Ln	100.82	100.87	100.82	100.87
Federal Railways 3 1/2% A-K	82.12	83.40	82.12	83.40
" " 1924 TV Elect. Ln.	100.82	100.77	100.82	100.77

SHARES.	Dec. 14		Dec. 21	
	Nom	Fr.	Nom	Fr.
Swiss Bank Corporation ...	500	782	500	783
Crédit Suisse ...	500	802	500	807
Union de Banques Suisses ...	500	670	500	674
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	2555	1000	2550
Fabrique Chimique ex-der. Sandoz	1000	3950	1000	3975
Soc. Ind. pour la Schappe ...	1000	2742	1000	2755
S.A. Brown Boveri ...	350	500	350	504
C. F. Bally ...	1000	1215	1000	1222
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	200	545	200	568
Entreprises Suisses S.A. ...	1000	965	1000	1001
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman	500	550	500	545
Linoleum A.G. Giubiasco ...	100	94	100	87
Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon ...	500	867	500	868

EIDGENÖSSISCHE GLOSSEN.

Pestalozzeigent.

Durch die schweizerische Lehrerwelt geht ein revolutionärer Zug. Man kann es nicht anders nennen. Zuerst kommen die Ostschweizer und proklamieren das Uebergewicht der Kulturgeschichte über die Kriegsgeschichte. Und nun kommen die Basler Lehrer und proklamieren gleich zwei Dinge auf einmal: Orthographiereform und Gartenarbeit! Solche Geschehnisse sind wahrhaftig die schönsten Beiträge zum Pestalozzi-Jubiläum. Eine bescheidene Tat wiegt mehr als der rhetorische Wohlklang von zwanzig Reden. Und dabei ist gerade die entschiedene Resolution für eine Vereinfachung der Orthographie gar keine kleine Tat. Im freien Dänemark hat es vor ein paar Jahren die grösste Geschichte gegeben, als man die grossen Buchstaben abschaffen wollte. (Das Dänische ist die einzige skandinavische Sprache, die ohne grosse Buchstaben nicht leserlich zu sein glaubt.) Es wird bei uns wahrscheinlich auch noch etliche Geschichten geben, ehe man den überflüssigen grossen Buchstaben entschieden an den Kragen geht. Es ist mit den grossen Buchstaben wie mit den National- und Kantonsräten; wenn sie schon einmal auf ihren Sesseln sitzen, so lässt man sie sitzen. Und wer weiss, ob bei uns die grossen Buchstaben nicht auch mit Politik und Religion verknüpft werden. Wir haben ja ein besonderes Talent, alle Sachlichkeit handkehrum parteiisch und konfessionell zu färben und damit der rein sachlichen Diskussion zu entziehen. Vielleicht kriegen wir eine Partei der Grossen Buchstaben, die Kleinen Buchstaben werden als kommunistisch verschrien und dann ist es um die Orthographiereform geschehen, bevor sie recht besprochen worden ist.

Doch das ist Zukunftsmusik, vielleicht sogar unberechtigte, heute wollen wir uns darüber freuen, dass die Schulmeister gar nicht so schulmeisterlich sind, wie sie sein könnten, sondern als die massgebenden Männer und Frauen öffentlich und mit allem Nachdruck erklären, dass sich mit einer einfacheren Orthographie unser Leben einfacher einrichten liesse, ohne dass darum schlechter geschrieben werden müsste, dem Inhalte nach, obwohl es leichter würde, der Orthographie nach. Und sie sollen unsere aufrichtige Gratulation haben dafür, dass sie für die Gartenarbeit eintreten und also gescheiter sind als der Rektor der Universität in

Paris, der wunder weiss was davon erwartet, wenn man in den französischen Schulen die von grossen Schriftstellern geschilderten Freuden des Landlebens und Segnungen bäuerischer Arbeit lese. Das Kind soll diese Freuden und Segnungen zuerst erfahren—dann ist uns geholfen. Wenn Schüler und Lehrer als Gärtner nebeneinanderstehen, dann braucht uns um die Schule nicht mehr bange zu sein.

Tessiner Lichtblick.

Auch im Tessin geschehen seltsame Dinge. Vielleicht interpretiert man sie aus der Ferne nicht richtig, jedenfalls aber bleibt die Tatsache bestehen, dass diese Tessiner, die sonst alle eidgenössischen Verordnungen nicht lieben (man braucht nur an die Butter- u. Brotkarten zu denken, die jenseits des Gotthards als eine sehr überflüssige Angelegenheit betrachtet wurden), sich mit grosser Mehrheit (3:2) für das Getreidemonopol eingesetzt haben, obwohl die beiden mächtigen Parteien die Verwerfungspare ausgegeben hatten. Als Befürworter blieben nur ganz schwache Pressestimmen—und dennoch dieses Resultat als ein Erwachen des wirtschaftlichen Sinnes deuten, als ein Erwachen der Ueberzeugung, dass das Heil des Tessins nicht von der Lösung politischer Fragen abhängt. Doch wer weiss, vielleicht hat dieser Optimismus recht und die Tessiner beginnen wirklich, sich auf ihre Wirklichkeit zu besinnen—trotzdem Donini leider tot ist—und wir erleben demnächst das, was ein Tessiner Politiker "ein Bad im Brunnen der Wirklichkeit" nennt. Das wäre die schönste Lösung der Tessiner Frage, angedeutet durch die Tatsache, dass die beiden historischen Parteien "ihre Truppen nicht mehr fest in der Hand haben..."

Steuer als Zoll.

Der Benzinzoll, dessen Höhe bei seiner Einführung durch die Notwendigkeit vermehrter Strassen-Subventionen begründet wurde, gibt nun Ständerat Dr. Keller, dem Präsidenten des Verwaltungsrates der S.B.B., plötzlich Gelegenheit, den Bund zu bezichtigen, dass er mit diesen Summen für die Verbesserung des Strassenunterhaltes seine eigene Unternehmung, die S.B.B. schädige. Es zeigt sich also wieder einmal, dass man Steuer und Zoll nicht unter einen Hut stecken sollte. Der Benzinzoll hat die Nebenbedeutung einer Steuer, andere Länder, die nicht so kompliziert arbeiten wie wir, beispielsweise Schweden, haben das Recht, eine solche Steuer direkt zu erheben. Bei uns muss man sie Zoll nennen, um nicht gegen die Verfassung und die Feinde einer Bundessteuer zu verstossen. Im Grunde wäre eine Besteuerung des Benzinverbrauches, verbunden mit einer Besteuerung des Gummiverbrauchs, eine bessere Grundlage für die Automobilsteuer als die gegenwärtige Art der Berechnung, wo der Luxuswagen unter Umständen weniger Steuern bezahlt als der einfache Gebrauchswagen, der eine unglückliche Steuerformel besitzt. Man sollte den Wagen besteuern im Verhältnis zu seiner Inanspruchnahme der Strassen. Das Benzin gibt ungefähr die Anzahl der Kilometer an. Wenn man also den Benzinverbrauch besteuert, trifft man den Grad der Strassenabnutzung besser als mit der heutigen Steuerformel (die die Fabriken einlädt, die Motoren so zu bauen, dass sie möglichst wenig bezahlen müssen). Leider ist das Prinzip noch nicht durchgedrungen, auch im neuen Automobilgesetzentwurf nicht. Und so haben wir also verläufig einen Zoll, der z. T. eine Bundessteuer ist, wenn auch unter schützender Maske, und die schematisch aufgebauten kantonalen Steuern dazu. Jedenfalls hat man also kein Recht, von einem "durch den Bund erleichterten Automobilverkehr" zu sprechen, wie dies Ständerat Keller getan hat. Das Strassengeld stammt redlich und recht aus den Taschen der benzinverbrauchenden Automobilisten, und der Bund wäre wortbrüchig, wenn er es nicht seinem richtigen Zwecke endlich zuführte. *Felix Moeschlin in "N.Z."*

L'ARBITRAGE DES ZONES.

Les journaux français ont annoncé que le Sénat ne tardera pas à s'occuper du projet de loi approuvant le traité d'arbitrage des zones franches. Mais ils donnent à entendre que ce ne sera pas encore pour cette année. Lors des dernières sessions parlementaires, la France avait trop d'affaires sur les bras pour s'occuper de la ratification de cette convention. Elle avait des difficultés en Syrie, elle avait des difficultés au Maroc, elle avait d'autres questions internationales à résoudre. Sa situation politique et économique intérieure lui causait de graves soucis et le relèvement de son franc tenait la première place dans ses préoccupations.

Il est vrai que, dans une situation qui n'était guère moins compliquée, elle avait trouvé le temps de s'occuper de l'affaire des zones franches de la Haute-Savoie et du Pays de Gex, en appliquant à notre frontière des mesures administratives contrairement aux traités portant sa signature et aux engagements solennels qu'elle avait pris lors de l'annexion de la Haute-Savoie. Il est non moins vrai qu'elle a dépensé des millions pour construire à notre frontière des bâtiments administratifs qui n'ont rien de provisoire et pour procéder à des opérations douanières qui continuent à se faire chaque jour en violation du droit des gens.

La France se rendit compte que son acte de force ne résolvait pas la question de droit. Elle signa la convention d'arbitrage, mais plutôt que de la ratifier pour que cette affaire des zones puisse enfin être jugée par un tribunal impartial, elle continue à protester de ses sentiments de bienveillance et d'amitié à l'égard de la Suisse. Ses premières déclarations nous avaient tranquilisés et la population suisse, en particulier la population genevoise, a patienté avec le Conseil fédéral, convaincue qu'à Paris on se rendrait compte que la situation actuelle est intolérable, à la longue, pour la Suisse. Mais l'évidence est là: au lieu de ratifier, on semble se complaire dans l'idée que de nouvelles négociations directes seront engagées avant que la question fondamentale, la question de droit, que la France a tranchée unilatéralement à son profit, il y a plus de trois ans, ait été jugée.

S'il n'est pas ainsi, que signifient cette lenteur déconcertante, cette indifférence à l'égard des demandes justifiées de la Suisse? Les déclarations et protestations d'amitié, émanant de ministres qui veulent du bien à notre pays, nous font certainement plaisir; mais les ministères changent et ces déclarations ne sauraient, à la longue, remplacer des actes nécessaires témoignant qu'on ne nous traite pas en quantité négligeable. Bis.

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.

Some thirty Passive and Active Members accepted the invitation of the Committee to the "Gemütliche Abend" which was held on the 11th December, at the Swiss Club.

At supper each one of the Members was set the "task" of consuming a "lovely St. Galler Schueblig" and plenty of "Rösti," followed by real Gruyère. Whoever prepared the "Schueblige"—and the writer fancies that they were supplied by a well-known Swiss firm, established not far away from the Club—deserves full praise. Chianti of the best quality was supplied at cost price by the President, Mr. J. Manzoni.

After supper the Choir rendered a good many songs. Between the songs Members made new friendships and renewed old ones, and when the hour of departing came everyone left the gathering with the satisfaction of having spent a most enjoyable evening. There was only one regret, and that was that the time had passed far too quickly. Bo.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

In connection with the scholastic programme the following lectures were given by the students during last week:—

Miss Ella Dübendorfer, Dübendorf: "Serbia, and its Political, Industrial and Social Life." Miss M. Emilie Hungerbühler, Zürich: "Woman as an Inspiring Force to Man." Mr. Max Jung, Langenthal: "Economic Liberalism." Mr. Arthur Brunner, Frauenfeld: "Swiss Commercial Education." Mr. Robert Kunz, Wetzikon: "Gambling in Switzerland." Miss Cilly Sutter, St. Gallen: "The Swiss National Park." Mr. Chas. Tétaz, Eclépens: "Misery and Social Life." Mr. Theo Bögéholz, Chur: "Sports in Life and Self-Education." Mr. Paul H. Börsig, Zürich: "American and English Industry and the Prospects of the World Trade." Miss Dora Gautschi, Reinach: "A Journey." Mr. August Trüb, Aarau: "Andalusia, the South of Spain." Mr. Hans Schmid, Suhr (Aargau): "An Expedition to the Indian Tribes by W. M. MacGovern, of Brazil." Mr. Hans Locher, Speicher (App): "Schweizerwoche and Swiss Goods." Mr. Jacques Berger, Niederurnen (Glarus): "Travels in Belgium (Antwerp and Bruges)." Mr. Emil Lutz, Rheinach: "The Smallest Constitutional Monarchy in the World." Mr. Georges Gerwer, Berne: "A Few Words about National Dress and Old Customs in Switzerland."

The debating classes dealt with the following subjects:—

"Where would you prefer to spend your life, in London or in Paris?" London, Mr. Ernest Braegger, Berne; Paris, Mr. Jos. Bühlmann, Lucerne.

"Should bachelors, over 30 years of age and having sufficient income to get married, be taxed?" Proposer, Mr. Arthur Holliger, Boniswil; Opposer, Mr. Adolfe Maetzner, Meiringen.

"Is the Nationalisation of the railways in a country beneficial to the people?" Proposer, Mr. Jean Jordi, Brugg; Opposer, Mr. Auguste Trüb, Aarau.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

CINDERELLA DANCE

at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, on

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15th, at 6.30.

Tickets at 10/6 (incl. Supper) may be obtained from Members of the Committee