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HOME NEWS

The annual compensation of Frs. 150,000 to which Liechtenstein is entitled under the Customs arrangement with Switzerland has been increased to Frs. 250,000, as the Customs receipts have proved to be very much higher than was originally anticipated. ***

In pursuance of an interpellation in the Grosse Rat at Lucerne, representations are to be made at Berne for some modification in the recent Act which abolishes gambling in the hotels and casinos throughout Switzerland. It is stated that since the removal of the gaming tables in Lucerne, tourists have reduced their usual stay, which, apart from the loss to the casino and hotels, resolves itself into a serious economic question for the town. The closing of the Kursaal, as far as the gaming tables are concerned, has also deprived many local philanthropic institutions of handsome donations made regularly out of the receipts from the gaming tables. ***

In the elections last Sunday for the two Grisons representatives in the Federal States Council the Conservative candidate (Brügger) alone secured the necessary majority, whilst his former Liberal colleague (Laely) will have to submit himself to the electors again in competition with a new candidate (Michei—Democr.) and with little hope of success. ***

The whole of the former members of the Conseil d'Etat of the canton of Vaud were re-elected last Sunday (5 Radicals and 2 Liberals), barely a quarter of those entitled to vote appearing at the polls. ***

The Appenzell A.Rh. Government has decreed that during the holding of the Landsgemeinde all the neighbouring inns and refreshment places should remain closed, as a good many of the worthy elders were in the habit of adjourning for relief before the official termination of the deliberations. ***

On account of the decrease in the number of school children, the services of no less than 37 school teachers have had to be dispensed with in the town of Zurich alone during the past year. The amount of 21½ million francs spent on State education in the whole canton shows a diminution of 300,000 francs. ***

A school strike has been declared by the upper classes of the college in La Chaux-de-Fonds as a protest against the appointment as headmaster of

Dr. Cérésolo, whose extreme views as an ardent anti-militarist do not seem to find favour with the rising generation of the "watch" centre. Dr. Cérésolo will be remembered as the organiser of the voluntary working parties for the relief of the sufferers from the Somoce disaster. ***

A new steamer, "Helvétie," built by Messrs. Sulzer, of Winterthur, and capable of carrying 1,600 passengers, was launched on Thursday (4th March) on the Lake of Geneva. ***

Charged with having abstracted stums estimated to amount to 80,000 francs, the president of the commune of Tuggen, near Lachen (Schwyz), Mr. Gregor Pfister, has been placed under arrest; he held several other offices of trust. A sum of 50,000 francs, appropriated from the local orphans fund, has already been made good by his relatives. ***

In memory of the late Mr. August Abegg, of Zurich, his relatives have made a donation of Frs. 100,000 in favour of the pharmaceutical section of the Federal Polytechnic. ***

An avalanche has swept away a cabane belonging to the Davos Ski Club, known as the Dorf-talihütte, at the foot of the Schiahorn; a search party discovered a few days later the ruins of the hut, under which were found the bodies of the keeper, Jäggi, his sister and a porter. ***

Missing the curve at a dangerous point on the road from Bannwil to Niederbipp, Mr. R. Krattiger, a chiropodist from Basle, turned a somersault with his car and died from his injuries soon after being extricated from underneath the chassis. ***

State Councillor Joseph Wippli died in Aldorf at the age of 43 after a relapse following an operation. ***

Councillor Guillaume Pictet, a prominent financial authority, died in Geneva at the age of 66 after a lengthy illness, which a prolonged stay at the Riviera was unable to cure. He was a leading figure on the boards of the Swiss National Bank and other financial and industrial undertakings; in autumn, 1924, he was prevailed upon to accept a seat on the Geneva Conseil d'état in order to reorganise the somewhat confused state of the cantonal treasury. It is stated that his heavy task, which subjected him to pungent criticism from political opponents, was mainly responsible for the breakdown of his health. ***

AUGUST CORRODI.

Anlässlich des hundertsten Geburtstages des Mundartdichters August Corrodi veröffentlicht die N.Z.Z. eine Uebersetzung in den Züricher Dialekt von zwei typischen Liedern von Robert Burns.

Ich lege dieselbe bei, da die urchige, anheimelnde Sprache Corrodi's viele Ihrer Leser interessieren dürfte, namentlich diejenigen Winterthurer, welche, wie der Unterzeichnete, das Glück hatten,

ZWEI LIEDER VON ROBERT BURNS.

The Joyful Widower.

I married with a scolding wife
The fourteenth of November;
She made me weary of my life
By one unruly member.
Long did I bear the heavy yoke,
And many griefs attended;
But, to my comfort be it spoke,
Now, now her life is ended.
We liv'd full one-and-twenty years,
A man and wife together;
At length from me her course she steer'd,
And gone I know not whither:
Would I could guess, I do profess,
I speak, and do not flatter,
Of all the women in the world
I never could come at her.

Guidwife count the Lawin.

Gane is the day, and mirk's the night,
But we'll ne'er stray for fau't o'light,
For ale and brandy's star and moon,
And blude-red wine's the rising sun.
Then guidwife count the lawin,
The lawin, the lawin,
Then guidwife count the lawin,
And bring a coggie mair!
There's wealth and ease for gentlemen,
And simple-folk manen fecht and fen';
But here we're a' in ae accord,
For ilka man that's drunk's a lord.
My coggie is a haly pool,
That heals the wounds o'care and dool,
And pleasure is a wanton trout,
An ye drink but deep ye'll find him out.
Then guidwife count the lawin,
And bring a coggie mair!

am Winterthurer Gymnasium unter ihm Unterricht im Zeichnen zu geniessen.

Vielleicht ist die Betrachtung erlaubt, dass es wohl ein weiter Weg war vom schottischen Robert Burns zu dem Winterthurer August Corrodi, aber dass der Letztergenannte diesen Weg mit Verständnis und glücklicher Anpassung meisterlich betreten hat.

J. J. EBERLI.

De nuefer Wittig.

Ha mit eme cholder hochsig gha
So um Martini numme,
Es hätmer d'freud am lebe gnah,
Glaub's gern bi sonnere trumme.
Vil bitters hani abegschluckt,
Mängs umues abegworjet;
Do ischi endtlich doch etnuckt,
Und hani sie versorget.
Starch drümal bösi sibe jahr
Sind sid dem böse hochsig;
Jez ischi g'reist, weiss nid wohi —
Ach, 's istimer nid gar grochsig;
Nu wüssit doch gern wo sie ist,
I will grad d'warret säge,
Von alle wiberen i der wält
Chäm sie mer z'mindist gläge.

Frau Wirthin, mached d'Uerte.

's ist ämig au e dunkli nacht —
Nu mira, wen sie z'stürchle macht;
Bier ist de mo, schnaps sterneschii,
Und d'sunn ist neue rothe wii.
Frau Wirthin, machedis d'ürte,
D'ürte, d'ürte, d'ürte,
Frau Wirthin, machedis d'ürte,
Und bringed dann na e mass!
De riich cha brösele guet und fuul,
Der arm lebt vu der hand i's muul;
Nu, 's wirthshuus machtis alti gliich,
Dänn wer en tips hät, dä ist riich.
Mis glesli ist en tüffe see,
I wirfe dri mis ach und web;
D'freud ist e lustigi forell —
Trink nu tüif gnuet, dänn häschli schnell.
Frau Wirthin, machedis d'ürte,
Und bringed dann na e mass!

UN MOT DE CHEZ NOUS.

Il n'y a pas a dire, le roi de notre époque, l'homme indiscuté et indiscutable, l'homme indispensable aux foules comme à l'élite, c'est le journaliste.

Jamais vous n'auriez eu une aussi saisissante preuve de ce fait qu'il y a quelques jours sur le quai de la gare Badoise à Bâle, au moment où le train spécial allemand s'arrêta. En descendant de son wagon, Monsieur Stresemann s'adressant au public qui l'attendait, s'exprima ainsi: "Messieurs les journalistes." Il savait, l'intelligent ministre, que ceux qui l'entouraient, étaient de cette espèce aujourd'hui courante et fort répandue. Le ministre du Reich, eut d'ailleurs un autre mot drôle. S'adressant aux journalistes allemands qui avaient voyagé dans le même train, il leur annonça la chute du ministère français qu'ils ignoraient encore, mais dont lui, avait été informé en route. Ce fut chez tous nos confrères d'outre Rhin une gaité folle, ils trouvaient la "plaisanterie ministérielle" excellente, et Monsieur Stresemann comme nous autres, eurent beaucoup de peine à la leur faire avaler comme une vérité vraie.

Depuis leur arrivée à Genève les délégués allemands sont les hommes de la situation. Ils sont les hommes du jour. Obtenir un interview est une chose quasi impossible. Leurs listes de réception sont archi-combles. Ces Messieurs jouissent intensément de leurs privilèges, ils se rendent très bien compte que la situation est exceptionnelle et qu'il faut en jouer le mieux et le plus longtemps possible.

Rien n'a été négligé pour faire forte impression même sur les foules. La délégation très germanique a jugé bon de procéder à un véritable démanègement. Il n'y a pas fallu moins de deux gros fourgons pour transporter le matériel de ces Messieurs. Car outre leur honorable personne ils ont amené les propres machines à écrire de la Wilhelm-Strasse, et les tables sur lesquelles les poser. Ne croyez pas que j'exagère, tout le matériel de bureau nécessaire est arrivé au même titre que les délégués.

Au point de vue politique la situation actuelle semble des plus embrouillée; la chute de Monsieur Briand peut avoir pour l'avenir de la Ligue une importance presque capitale. Il est évident que son absence affaiblit beaucoup la délégation française et que la Pologne subit de ce fait un dommage que l'on ne peut pas encore évaluer. On peut penser ce que l'on veut de la demande polonaise, il n'en résulte pas moins que si ce pays n'obtient pas dans l'organisme de Genève, une sécurité suffisante contre la position renforcée de l'Allemagne par son entrée à la Ligue et au Conseil, il se désintéressera de la Société des Nations et même, comme l'indique une partie de l'opinion publique de Varsovie, cherchera vers les Soviets, l'appui nécessaire à ses frontières actuelles. Or il faut se rappeler que ses frontières lui ont été garanties par les traités de Paix que toutes les puissances alliées ont signés. Il y a donc quelque chose d'injuste à ne pas accorder à la Pologne ce qu'on accorde à l'Allemagne au moment où l'on sait pertinemment que les premières prétentions germaniques seront dirigées contre sa voisine de l'est. L'esprit de Genève dont on a tant parlé et qui n'est pas une chimère, est fait de conciliation internationale. Pour le mettre en pratique il faut la présence de son initiateur, Monsieur Briand et cette semaine plus que jamais. Aussi la situation est-elle des plus confuses en ce début de session. Les Alliés semblent hésiter et ne plus savoir exactement où ils veulent en venir. Vous pouvez penser si une semblable attitude fait l'affaire de nos nouveaux venus et nos Germaines en hommes et diplomates habiles ont déjà tiré le maximum de rendement de cette trouble hésitation.

Pour être même tout à fait franc, l'atmosphère de Genève a déjà et comme subitement changé. Dans le grand hall du Secrétariat où à chaque session on retrouvait les mêmes figures, les mêmes personnalités, les mêmes journalistes, où l'anglais était "LA" langue, vous ne voyez aujourd'hui que des inconnus et vous n'entendez parler que la langue de Goethe. C'est la prise de possession pacifique si vous le voulez, mais dans toute son énormité et—nous le verrons bientôt—dans toutes ses conséquences. Toute la presse allemande est représentée. Je dis bien toute, et ce mot est voulu. D'après les premières statistiques on peut estimer à plus de 150 le nombre des journalistes teutons, alors que l'ensemble des journalistes de tous les autres pays du monde n'atteint pas 200! Je vous laisse tirer les conséquences de cette avalanche pacifique, et ce que vous voyez là se répétera d'ici quelques mois au Secrétariat et au Bureau International du Travail. J'ai retrouvé pas mal

de journalistes anglais qui jusqu'à présent avait réclamé à grand cris la collaboration du Reich. Aujourd'hui ils ne soufflent plus mot et le jour n'est pas loin où il se rendront compte que l'influence anglo-saxonne a fait un marché de dupe en feu l'an de grâce 1926! L'avenir nous dira dans quelle mesure! Mais notons dès maintenant que l'Allemagne gagne superbement la première manche et que tout laisse prévoir qu'il en sera de même des suivantes. "UN SWISSE QUELCONQUE."

RIMEMBRANZE.

Risposta ad un invito....

Dunque Lei desidera ch'io parli della "donna ticinese"?... fortuna non m'ha chiesto di scrivere sul "giovin signore" ticinese... chè, Le avrei subito risposto: "Mè precettor d'amabil rito ascolta"... Lei che ha dimorato a lungo là in quella terra benedetta, che ora percorre la bionda Albione, è ancora, prima di tutto... un celibe penitente! il Ministro delle finanze dovrebbe tassare pesantemente tutti i celibi, invece di colpire noi povere donne, come ora, nelle nostre irresistibili seterie e gingilli... poi Lei non balla il "tango" nè il "charleston"... non si inebbia di "cocktails" come ne è l'ultima moda, dando agli occhi quella lucentezza speciale da far dir loro ciò che il labbro non osa....

Lei, nei vari cinque minuti che, cortese, mi concedè, non lo vidi mai a mandar in fumo nesuna... "Virginia"... Lei sorte di sera (come quel giovedì) e rientra in casa quando il mondo elegante e alla moda, ne sorte, a trascinare il resto della tediosa notte nei "cabarets" e "dancing clubs"... tutti peccati imperdonabili al giorno d'oggi... però io Le perdono perchè fu tanto gentile e adulante con me e perchè spero che lo "spirito di Locarno" ce io ritornerà ripremato e forte e perchè a Lei "altro concessu Cupido benigno...."

Parlare della "donna ticinese"... ah ora apre una porticina del mio Santuario... ideale gelosamente custodito... ineffabili ricordi... dirò di "Lei" come io la rammento bella e calma nell'aureola dei capelli bianchi....

La missione della "donna ticinese" si compendia in una frase... "la mia casa, i miei figli!"... donna intelligente e colta, accudendo ai lavori casalinghi... donna modesta e semplice, adetta a qualunque lavoro agricolo... buona ed attiva sempre... gioiva e soffriva per i suoi cari, sempre pronta allo sprone coi consigli e con l'esempio... sempre pronta al sacrificio di sé stessa... era il vero angelo della famiglia... l'ideale puro e semplice per cui Dio l'aveva creata e data compagna all'uomo... l'ideale che non "Tombe en poudre au toucher du réel" ma forza, conforto, luce della vita; e la vita le sembrava bella perchè agli inni del trionfo delle combattute battaglie si alternava la soddisfazione delle lagrime rasciugate e del dovere compiuto!

Allevata alle virtù che sole hanno il segreto della felicità delle anime, sapeva compatire e perdonare e per lei "divorzio" era parola priva di senso e non si abbassava alla pubblicità delle "rotture di promesse" ma restava la violetta nascosta, emanando solo a lei dintorno, il profumo divino della sua pazienza e rassegnazione.

Vedo, come in un sogno, passarmi davanti quelle amate teste canute, dall'era Vittoriana, che popolarono la mia infanzia... ricordo persino la buona Marta, vecchia novantenne, entrata giovinetta al servizio in una di queste antiche case patriarcali, dalla quale appendevo dal labbro, come incantata ed estatica, quando mi raccontava "gli esempi" filando la rocca....

E come un raggio di sole guizza, come lampo, così il mio pensiero corre ad Esse che sono Lassù... ad Esse che vegliano stessera sullo spirito che si raccoglie e sorrideranno domani al suo risveglio operoso.... T. LUNGH-REZZONICO.

Londra, Marzo, 1926.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

Leu & Co. in Zurich closed the year 1925 with a net profit of Frs. 2,749,481, inclusive of the carry-over from the preceding year, as compared with Frs. 2,438,931, and it has been possible for the first time to pay the full dividend of 8 per cent. on the preference shares, created under the reorganisation scheme some years ago. Last year these shares received only 7 per cent.

The Berner Handelsbank, which works in close connection with Leu & Co., closed its year with a profit of 336,753 frs., after writing off 215,373 frs. against bad and doubtful debts, and is able to pay a dividend of 6 per cent. Last year, with a profit of 227,250 frs., only 5 per cent. was paid on the shares.

The results of the Union de Banques Suisses show a net profit of 6,145,016 frs., as compared with 5,942,663 frs. in the previous year. The dividend of 7 per cent. has again been paid, and 50,000 frs. has been allocated to reserves. 665,016 francs are carried forward, as against 452,663 francs a year before.

The annual report of the directors of the Swiss National Bank may always be relied on to provide most instructive and enlightening information on the exchange question and on the mon-

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tary policy of Switzerland. This year's report proves no exception to the rule. Referring to the franc and to the exchange policy of the National Bank, the report states:—

"The Swiss franc had attained gold parity towards the end of autumn, 1924, and subsequently on occasions even rose above parity. The Bank, therefore, had to modify its monetary tactics accordingly; it was compelled suddenly to intervene to prevent a fresh rise of the franc, where previously it had had to exercise its influence to sustain its rate. It is true that during the first quarter of the year the dollar showed a new tendency to appreciate, but after April it again moved near to the lower gold-point. It was then that Switzerland experienced the difficulties of regulating the rate of a rising currency. In the knowledge that the franc at a premium would be as disadvantageous to Switzerland as a rate below par, the National Bank purchased large amounts of foreign exchange, so as not to allow the franc to exceed the level of the gold-point. The task of acquiring this foreign exchange was rendered easier owing to the fact that Switzerland required important amounts in dollars to pay for her purchases in America, or to assure the service of interest and sinking fund on the loans contracted in America, and further because she had decided to repay the \$20,000,000 loan falling due in 1926. Thus by September the exchange had settled down again to a steady level. Then, however, it again moved down to dollar parity, but no further intervention proved necessary, and the Bank was eventually able to liquidate a part of its holding of foreign currency, which had become further increased by the return from sales of gold and which had reached a somewhat high level."

The Swiss Bank Corporation have now published their "Financial and Commercial Review 1925," and copies of this publication can be obtained by any of our readers who may be interested upon application to the bank.

QUOTATIONS from the SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES.

BONDS.	Mar. 2	Mar. 9
Confederation 3% 1903	81.25	80.90
5% 1917, VIII Mob. Ln	101.82	101.75
Federal Railways 3½% A—K	83.55	83.37
" " 1924 IV Elect. Ln.	101.90	101.95

SHARES.	Nom.	Mar. 2	Mar. 9
Swiss Bank Corporation	500	Fr. 691	Fr. 691
Crédit Suisse	500	760	765
Union de Banques Suisses	500	625	596
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	2040	2038
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	3422	3400
Soc. Ind. pour la Schappe	1000	3342	3237
S.A. Brown Boveri	350	414	415
C. F. Bally	1000	1260	1275
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	200	325	346
Entreprises Sulzer S.A.	1000	982	984
Comp. de Navig. n sur le Lac Léman	500	562	565
Lindem. A.G. Grubissee	100	88	87
Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon	500	695	693

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