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HOME NEWS

A national census of cattle—the thirteenth—is being taken throughout Switzerland on the 21st of April this year. * * *

The Geneva Grand Conseil is to be asked for a credit of Frs. 45,000 in order to subsidise aviation routes via the town. * * *

A heated discussion took place in the Basle Grosse Rat on the second reading of a new Bill regulating working hours on the basis of the 48-hour week. The Socialists insisted, with but little success, on its general application without exception, but the majority of the Rat refused to shackle local industries as long as the adjoining districts and cantons did not fall into line. In the baking and hairdressing trades, however, the present working hours were reduced to 48 and 51 respectively. * * *

The Federal Tribunal in Lausanne has, on appeal, confirmed the sentence of 15 days' imprisonment pronounced by the local police courts against Ed. Cuènod, the official meat inspector of Chavannes, for negligence in the performance of his duties. * * *

On the cantonal conciliation office in Zurich endeavouring to negotiate in a dispute between contractors and carpenters, the workmen flatly refused to acknowledge the competence of the conciliation office. * * *

The accounts with reference to the sales of badges and postcards during last year's 1st of August celebrations show a net surplus of Frs. 310,000, which is being distributed among institutions looking after the deaf and dumb. * * *

The different women's societies have presented a joint protest against certain clauses in the proposed new law regulating civil service in Switzerland. Objection is taken to discrimination between the sexes when applications for vacancies are considered, and to the retention of the right of dismissing a female clerk on her marriage. * * *

Owners of property in the canton of Bern, if residing abroad, are to be taxed on the gross value, no deduction for charges of mortgages being allowed; this amendment has just been confirmed by the Federal Tribunal in Lausanne. * * *

Peace has returned again to the College of La Chaux-de-Fonds: the influence of the parents and a few hours of arrest have tranquilised the minds of the striking students. * * *

The trial of the two Flugli, man and wife, who are charged with having caused the conflagration of Sùs, will commence next Monday before the cantonal courts at Chur. * * *

A bank robbery of short-lived success was perpetrated on the cashier of the Romont branch (Vaud) of the Banque Populaire, who, at the point of the revolver, was forced to give up the ready cash. The robbers got away with Frs. 3,000 in a motor-car, but, chased by the police and other automobilists, were finally overtaken at Lucens. * * *

The brush factory of Messrs. Lüscher & Co. in Amriswil, together with a large stock of finished

LEGAL NOTICE.

Re JOHANNA EUGENIA AUBERT, from Netstal, born the 26th Nov. 1875, daughter of Eugénia Aubert, divorcée Leuzinger, last known address: 22, Highbury Quadrant, London, N.

Whereas since August, 1908, nothing has been heard from the said Johanna Eugénia Aubert, NOTICE is hereby given that, unless within twelve months from February 27th, 1926, news as to her life or her whereabouts is received by the undersigned, the death of the aforesaid Johanna Eugénia Aubert will be presumed, and thereafter any claims against her or to property to which she may have been entitled will become null and void.

IN THE NAME OF THE CIVIL COURT:

Dr. F. SCHINDLER, *President.*

Dr. L. AEBLI, *Clerk to the Court.*

Glarus, 20th February, 1926.

goods, has been destroyed by a fire which is supposed to have arisen in the drying room. * * *

A large conflagration, fanned by a violent gale, has consumed a considerable forest district on the Monte Bré, just above Locarno. Thanks to the efforts of the fire brigades from Locarno, Monti and Orselina, aided by volunteers, the many villas about the mountain slope were saved from damage. * * *

During the absence of the farmer, Ernest Minder, a fire broke out on his homestead in Steinbühl (Aargau), which, along with the outhouses, became a prey to the flames, his children being saved in the nick of time. * * *

Four young ski excursionists lost their lives near the Lötschenlücke, where they are believed to have lost their bearings in a snow storm. All four are from Kippel, and their names are: Max Rieder, and the three brothers Johann, Claudius and Fidelis Ebener. * * *

Dr. Paul Seippel, Professor of French literature at the Federal Polytechnic in Zurich, died in Geneva at the age of 68. Lausannois by birth and Genevois by conviction, he first came to the front as an independent journalist, bold and at times aggressive, but always unflinching and true to his opinions; he had already intended to resign his chair at the Polytechnic in order to concentrate on his literary career.

RIMEMBRANZE.

"Quadretto Ticinese."

"...O di natura incanto,
Tutto ancor sento il tuo poter!..."

Il rigido inverno moriva... la primavera nasceva e inondava di gioia la terra colle sue promesse...
Laggiù nel prato, ai piedi di un larice secolare, al cui tronco s'arrampica l'edera dal verde cupo, io coglievo le prime violette, che, gelosamente nascoste sotto le foglie secche cadute nell'autunno, erigevano le gentili corolle sul tenue stelo... e quando i bottoncini si belli non erano del tutto sbocciati, li ricoprivo con geloso affetto, chè, sola, ne conoscevo l'esistenza!...

Chi non ha provata la gioia intessa che dà, la scoperta di una prima violetta mammola, dal delizioso profumo, di quelle modeste avanguardie di più lussureggiante fioricoltura?...

Chi non ricorda la commozione prodotta dallo splendore di quelle mattine lunghe e placide, quando non solo si ama Dio e gli uomini, ma la terra, le piante e i fiori e tutte le cose create?...

E colle giornate lunghe e tiepide venivano le passeggiate in campagna, fra campi seminati appena e vigneti estesi... si visitavano i "grotti"! Un giorno era la sagra di "San Paolo" e si andava lassù, alla Chiesetta dapprima, a pregare e ricordare la prodezza di Piero Colin, di suo figlio e di tant'altri che si sacrificarono per la patria; poi si finiva ai "grotti" d'Arbedo...

Un altro giorno era la "Madonna delle galline" e la popolazione cittadina si versava in massa, là, a Monte Carasso e Sementina... i "grotti" erano affollati... il nostranello rizzente e sincero era servito in boccali e lo si beveva da scodellini... l'allegria regnava suprema, là, fuori all'aperto, seduti su panche di legno, colla merenda servita su tavoli di sasso... coi piedi affondati nell'erba fresca ed asciutta...

Ricordo un giorno che andai con mio Papà al romantico "Monte Tabor" passando dal "Torcetti"; posti quasi nascosti, ai piedi dei monti di Ravecchia (Nizza bellinzonese)... mio Papà aveva in compagnia un signore Confederato, appena arrivato per coprire una carica nell'Amministrazione federale.

Sul davanti del grotto, si stende un bel piazzale alberato di annosi castani e noci, i cui rami intrecciati danno una bell'ombra e l'aria è fresca perchè i raggi del sole non possono far capolino...

Quando arrivammo, il grotto era gremito di gente... presimo i soli posti vacanti ad uno dei tanti tavoli... ricordo la profonda impressione prodotta su quel signore, lo splendore di quella natura primaverile, di quello squarcio di vita caratteristica ticinese... ricordo il suo stupore quando, studiando i commensali, si trovò seduto fra un Consigliere del Governo... (anzi era il Presidente stesso) e umili operai... in famigliare conversazione, venuti là dopo il lavoro, a godersi un pò di svago in quell'ora del tramonto... a godere la medesima scena, il medesimo vino, la medesima pace nella migliore concordia... ma fu una rivelazione per lui, quando, dopo un mese di vita fra noi, conobbe meglio le nostre istituzioni prettamente democratiche e senza nessuna distinzione di classe...

E questi ricordi producono sul mio animo l'effetto di quelle splendide giornate d'aprile e

maggio, in cui la festa della natura, la festa delle erbe, dei fiori e dei prati, delle piante e delle selve, della terra e del cielo, si riproduce entro di noi togliendoci ai dolorosi pensieri, e costringendoci a rallegrarci della universale allegria.

Oh ricordi delle primavere tipiche ticinesi, giocondi anni passati, come spesso ritorno a voi col pensiero, come vagheggio ancora le vostre ore soavi e folleggianti!...

"O temps, suspends ton vol! et vous, heures propices,

Suspendez votre cours!

Laissez nous savourer les rapides delices
Des plus beaux de nos jours!"

T. LUNGH-REZZONICO.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

The Federal Department of Finance have now presented the Federal Accounts for 1925, which show a deficit of Frs. 9,160,197. This compares with a deficit of Frs. 21,600,000 in 1924, and can thus be regarded as satisfactory. It must, however, be borne in mind that the revenue from the tobacco duties, which last year exceeded Frs. 20,000,000, are included in the accounts for 1925. From the 1st of January, 1926, onwards these funds are ear-marked for the Federal scheme of social insurance, and there arises the new problem of finding some compensating source of revenue, unless the budget is to be in danger of showing a renewed deficit. The budget for 1925 foresaw a deficit of 17 million francs, while that for 1926 has reduced the expected deficit to Frs. 1,600,000.

The Basler Handelsbank shows a net profit of Frs. 4,310,000 for the year 1925, against Frs. 3,760,000 for the preceding year. A dividend of 7 per cent. is proposed, as against 6 per cent. previously.

Few, if any, of the great Swiss industrial concerns can boast of so world-wide a connection as the Nestlé Company, and the announcement that the company have successfully "emerged from the wood" will be greeted by their friends in all parts of the world with unmixed satisfaction. The accounts for 1925, which, in their preliminary form, have now been published, show that a net profit of 18,866,310 frs. was realised, so that, with the amount carried forward from the previous year, a total amount of over 21 million francs is available for distribution. Out of this the Board propose to allocate a million francs to the ordinary reserve fund and to pay a dividend of 8% on the preference shares, which will clear off the arrears of interest up to the end of 1925. On June the 1st a statutory dividend of 5 per cent. will be paid on the ordinary shares, and 400,000 will be allocated to the pension fund, while 6,500,000 is to be set aside against depreciation of participations. The directors are then to receive 146,315 frs., and a further 1 per cent. will be paid on the ordinary shares—which thus receive 6 per cent. in all and so justify their present market quotation. Out of the remaining balance of more than four million francs funds will be set aside to meet the payment of the preference dividend at the 1st of July next and at the 1st of January, 1927.

The report of the company should make very interesting reading, since the recovery recorded since the difficult post-war period would seem amply to have justified the most optimistic opinions of those who were confident in the concern's powers of recuperation.

The accounts of Peter-Cailler-Köhler in Vevey make very satisfactory reading and closed with a net profit of Frs. 4,877,296, as compared with Frs. 4,055,009 in 1924. A dividend of 8 per cent. is recommended, while Frs. 861,000 go to depreciations, and 750,000 is placed to reserves.

QUOTATIONS from the SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES.

BONDS.	Mar. 9		
	Mar. 9	Mar. 16	Mar. 16
Confederation 3% 1903	89.90	89.30	
" " 5% 1917, VIII. Tob. Ln.	101.75	101.67	
Federal Railways 3% A-K	83.37	83.50	
" " 1924 IV. Elect. Ln.	101.95	102.00	
SHARES.			
	Nom.	Mar. 9	Mar. 16
Swiss Bank Corporation	Fr. 500	Fr. 691	Fr. 693
Crédit Suisse	500	765	764
Union de Banques Suisses	500	596	604
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	2038	2042
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	3400	3447
Soc. Ind. pour la Schappe	1000	3237	3285
S.A. Brown Boveri	350	415	433
C. F. Bally	1000	1275	1270
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	200	346	360
Entreprises Sulzer S.A.	1000	984	981
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman	500	565	565
Linoleum A.G. Giubiasco	100	87	87
Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon	500	693	703