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HOME NEWS

The arbitrary decision of the Geneva treasury to enforce payment of taxes from Swiss nationals in the employment of the League of Nations secretariat and the International Labour Office has led to an interesting dispute between the Federal Council and the General Secretary of the League of Nations. According to Article 7 of the League Pact the delegates of, and those engaged at, the League of Nations enjoy immunity from Swiss taxation; in the case of Swiss employees, the latter are exempted from income tax. As the canton of Geneva can ill afford to forfeit potential sources of revenue, its treasury, disregarding the particular covenant, has assessed the Swiss nationals for income tax—a procedure which has brought an official protest to Berne from the League secretary. Correspondence and negotiations led to no practical result, and the League secretary gave notice of his intention of submitting the dispute to the International Court at The Hague, in response to which the Federal Council has agreed to prevail upon the Geneva authorities to fall in with the views of the League secretary.

No less than 1,020 candidates have been nominated for the 220 seats on the Zurich cantonal council, which is to be re-elected over the next week-end; at present the parties of the Left hold the majority.

The Zurich police were badly handled last week when endeavouring to stop carpenters, who have been on strike for some considerable time, from preventing others to work on a building contract; one policeman had his revolver and sabre wrenched away. The affair is to be made the subject of a special meeting of the Town Council called for this week by the Socialists and Communists, who demand the dismissal of the police officials on account of supposed undue interference.

It is stated that the number of visitors staying at present in the hotels of Locarno constitutes a record, the same exceeding 2,400.

To perpetuate the memory of the late Mr. Hans Stünzi, a prominent silk manufacturer of Horgen, who died last summer, his family has given a million francs to a special welfare fund to benefit the employees of the firm, which has branches in France and America. A further amount of Frs. 50,000 is bequeathed to the local tubercular institution at Horgen.

Giving other automobilists warning of a police control is a punishable offence in Switzerland. The Federal Tribunal has just confirmed a judgment by which a solicitor of Brugg was fined Frs. 40 for doing so. He had been caught in a "police trap" for exceeding the speed limit, and after some time returned over the same route, fixing up a couple of notices informing approaching motorists of the control.

National Councillor Surbeck has been fined Frs. 600 and costs by the Arlesheim courts (Basel-Land) for libelling in the course of a newspaper article his political opponent, Regierungsrat Frei, of Binningen.

The chocolate concern Suchard S.A. is celebrating the centenary of its foundation by distributing a quarter of a million francs amongst its employees at home and abroad according to their length of service.

Through coming into contact with the high-tension circuit, Mr. Ad. Rysler, a young engineer on the Jungfraubahn, was killed on the spot.

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UN MOT DE CHEZ NOUS.

Pâques fleuries et leur souriant cortège ont égayé les villes et les champs; partout ce fut le beau soleil et la campagne vivifiée les rues désertées et le sourire sur toutes les lèvres. C'était l'éternel renouveau, la même histoire que vous connaissez et dont le récit vous serait banal, la même histoire que vous aimez pourtant tout autant que moi et qui tant que les hommes seront, restera la joie de ceux qui viennent et le sourire attendri de ceux qui ont été...

...C'est le clocher au détour du chemin qu'un jet de lierre naissant attaque gaillardement; la grande route n'est pas encore soupoudrée de poussière, et tout le long du fil gris se sont les groupes qui suivent le caprice du paysage; toute la ville est à la campagne tandis que les paysans sont descendus vers les ponts de la cité voisine! et cette constatation n'est pas sans vous inciter à la philosophie!...

...Bébé qui ne connaissait ni les chemins ombragés, ni le printemps que pour la première fois il aura comme compagnon, — puisque les neiges l'ont vu naître; — bébé se penche de toutes ses forces naissantes hors de la poussette pour tenter de comprendre le plafond bleuté et moutonneux qu'il n'avait jamais vu auparavant. Ahuri, curieux, mais pas inquiet il s'abandonne déjà à cette force inconsciente de vie renaissante...

...Le vieillard qui n'a pas pu quitter son logement, a pris quelque coussins et tant bien que mal s'est fait un fauteuil dans l'encadrement de la fenêtre. Son regard amusé et distrait poursuit ceux qui désertent leur demeure, et les souvenirs d'antan affluent à sa mémoire... il avait vingt ans... vingt ans!... les passants défilent longtemps et le vieillard ne se lassera de ressusciter les souvenirs en voyant par ci par là une image qui lui en rappelle vaguement une autre... puis ce sera la visite des petits enfants et la main tremblante caressera les chevelures blondes.

— "Grand-père, raconte moi un conte de Pâques, dis moi une belle histoire d'autrefois!"

— "Une histoire de Pâques, mon petit?"

— "Oui, grand-père, dis moi y a-t-il toujours eu des lapins et des oeufs de couleur pour les petits enfants bien sages?"

— "Il y en a toujours eu, mon chéri!"

— "Dis grand-père, étais-tu sage, autrefois et est ce que tes parents te donnaient aussi des oeufs de couleur et des lapins en chocolat?"

... furtivement c'est une larme qui perle et que l'on essuie sans hâte parcequ'elle n'est pas toute de tristesse...

— "Dis grand-père donne moi aussi un petit lapin en chocolat!"

... Et l'aieul auquel cette demande fait plaisir conduit son petit fils vers un plantureux goûter...

... Dans toute la campagne se sont les oiseaux qui chantent à nouveau, il semble que ces mélodies n'ont jamais été aussi belles, qu'elles ne vous ont jamais autant ému, et pourtant, et pourtant!

... Le long des sentiers ce sont les premières fleurettes, l'air est embaumé d'un parfum timide et subtil, d'un parfum qui semble vous griser comme jamais; et pourtant, et pourtant!

... A l'orée des bois se sont les couples qui vont le sentier de la vie suivant la capricieuse Destinée, les mains se serrent, les coeurs chantent une joie commune, c'est le grand, le seul amour; et pourtant, et pourtant!

... la petite branche qui pousse et dont le bourgeois vert perce audacieusement, lance son cri d'allégresse à la vie. Jamais pousse ne fut plus vivace, jamais bourgeon ne fut aussi beau! et pourtant, et pourtant!

... Dans toute la Nature c'est le même cri de Vie, de Joie et de Renouveau. Les êtres et les choses, expriment leur droit à l'existence et ce cri toujours plus aigu laisse derrière lui les expériences passées, pour affirmer une marche toujours plus altière vers les cimes nouvelles...

Comme me voilà loin d'une chronique! Qu'importe après tout si c'est un peu de l'atmosphère de chez nous que j'ai tenté de vous décrire et s'il vous a paru respirer l'air parfumé de nos coteaux au début de cet Avril souriant.

Ces lignes éveilleront peut être pour vous aussi les Souvenirs d'autan, ce sera le retour au pays pour la pensée d'un moment et ensemble nous parcourerons les chemins que vous aimiez et qui ont gardé dans leurs précieuses reliques des désirs d'autrefois... Lecteur inconnu, compatriote que j'aime, viens avec moi dans le jardin qui, à la nuit tombante s'estompe dans ton souvenir, et cueillons-y les fleurs abandonnées, qui te sont restées chères!...

"UN SUISSE QUELCONQUE."

RIMEMBRANZE.

...Gesù è risorto!

Pasqua, come il sole di primavera, si rinnova e ci sorride ancora... e questo sole di primavera, che con blanda luce mi rallegra oggi, come mi rallegrava ieri, come rallegerà domani ogni cosa creata, mi fa pensare ad altre Pasque, ad altre primavere, che, come oggi, portavano luce e calore, "pace nei cieli, e pace sulla terra agli uomini di buona volontà..."

Ancora turbata dalla profonda impressione riportata da Mendrisio, ove ero andata ad assistere alle celebrazioni annuali dei misteri della "Via Crucis," salutavo con gioia l'arrivo del Sabato Santo!

Già alle dieci di mattina, uno scampanio solenne e sacro annunziava ai fedeli "L'Alleluja, Gesù è risorto!" e faceva a gara a rallegrare l'aere col più bel sole, che indorava quasi, l'azzurro perfetto del cielo...

Nel giardino, intrepida aspettavo la brigata dei ragazzi che, correndo, portava di porta in porta l'acqua benedetta, colla quale bagnarsi gli occhi e proteggerli da malanni, e il "fuoco benedetto" col quale scongiurare gli incendi... era una festa dovunque, in cielo, in terra ed in noi stessi...

Poi sorgeva l'alba del dì di Pasqua... era un giorno doppiamente solenne per noi ragazze... solenne, per il senso mistico, religioso, per il bisogno di sentirsi buoni in quei giorni Santi... solenne, per l'abbellimento della terra di fresco rivestita dai bagliori della primavera... e come la terra, anche noi ci rivestivamo dei nostri nuovi indumenti di stagione! si riponevano gli abiti invernali, i mantelli pesanti; e per la Santa Messa Pasquale sfoggiavamo le toilettes nuove...

Verso le undici, la musica municipale veniva, indossando la bella divisa, a prendere ed accompagnare il Lod. Governo, "in corpore" al suono di una bella marcia trionfale, alla nostra stupenda Collegiata, per assistere alla funzione speciale del dì di Pasqua.

La vastità della Chiesa capiva appena la folla di quel giorno... tutti vi convenivano almeno per questa volta all'anno; la Fede intima del cuore, trionfava anche sulle apparenti eresie...

E tutte quelle teste giovani o canute, si confondevano e si abbassavano riverenti e commosse sotto la Croce, colla quale dall'alto del Pulpito il Missionario Agostiniano, benediva la folla...

"Benedico voi qui genuflessi davanti alla Croce, benedico gli attenti, benedico il Governo e le sue istituzioni, benedico il ricco ed il povero; benedico i buoni ed i cattivi, benedico gli eretici e gli infedeli!..."

Oh quanta suggestione, come penetrava in noi quella voce, come divina, scesa dall'alto... come commoveva l'animo nostro, fino al pianto... si scollava nei nostri cuori per mai più dimenticarla!... e allora, come oggi, mi sembra ancora sentire; "trionfa, o mia Fede; trionfa come il sole che monta per gli ardui sentieri del cielo; trionfa! Gesù è risorto!..."

Da secoli, Gesù è risorto... da secoli gli uomini si contendono diritti e poteri... cercano la luce fra le tenebre... un oasi in mezzo a deserti sterminati... a vulcani in eruzione... cercano d'affranchare i popoli, ingenti irli con la Croce!

Ed ancora una volta, attraverso le solitudini dei secoli, dovrebbe apparire la figura Santa del pio eremita Nicolao della Fiave, che, come già alla Dieta di Stanz, colle sue parole, scuoti i cuori de' popoli in dissidio, li commova e li unisca in una sola idea, in un ideale comune... Pace universale!

T. LUNGI-REZZONICO.

Londra, Aprile 1926.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

The tenth Swiss Industries Fair, which is to open in Basle on the 17th of the present month and last until the 27th, promises to be a commercial event of the greatest importance. The exhibition can now for the first time be housed in the newly rebuilt concrete permanent buildings, which should offer even greater facilities to buyers than were experienced in previous years. The more settled political and economic conditions in most parts of Europe should contribute to the popularity of the fair, since many foreign buyers, who have in recent years been practically debarred from purchasing in the Swiss markets, will now find that the products of Swiss industry are again within the reach of their purses. The objects and the scope of the Swiss Industries Fair are well known to all readers of our columns and need no detailed recapitulation.

Later in the year Basle is to be the home of another exhibition—the International Exhibition for Inland Navigation and the Utilisation of Hydraulic Power—which will be opened on the 1st of July. In the matter of the utilisation of her abundant natural resources of water power Switzerland has long been one of the leading countries of the world, while additional interest is lent to the inland navigation section by the fact that the formal opening of the new Rhine harbour is planned to take place during the course of the Exhibition.

The report of the Neuhausen Aluminium Company for the year 1925 shows an increase of about half-a-million francs in the gross earnings for the period and a net profit of 8,620,000 frs., as compared with 8,520,000 a year before. Considerable expenditure has been necessary to increase the company's plant at Chippis, so as to be able to make full and economic use of the increased power rendered available by the Illsee power station during the year. These new works, however, only came into action in the last few months of the year, and accrued profits from this source had not commenced to make themselves felt before the end of the business year.

Satisfactory contracts for the supply of electrical machinery should accrue to Swiss engineering firms as a result of the acceptance by the municipal authorities of Belgrade of a loan of Frs. 5,500,000 offered by a syndicate of Swiss banks for the purpose of financing the construction of an electric power station in the Jugo-Slavian capital.

QUOTATIONS from the SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES.

BONDS.	Mar. 29		Apr. 6	
	Fr.	£	Fr.	£
Confederation 3% 1903	79.90	79.87	79.90	79.87
" 5% 1917, VIII Mob. Ln	101.75	101.75	101.75	101.75
Federal Railways 3½% A—K	83.67	83.10	83.67	83.10
" 1924 IV Elect. Ln.	102.37	102.25	102.37	102.25

SHARES.	Nom.		Mar. 29		Apr. 6	
	Fr.	£	Fr.	£	Fr.	£
Swiss Bank Corporation	500	702	702	711	702	711
Crédit Suisse	500	780	780	780	780	780
Union de Banques Suisses	500	615	615	630	615	630
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	2049	2049	2049	2049	2049
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	3415	3415	3440	3415	3440
Soc. Ind. pour la Schappe	1000	3337	3275	3275	3337	3275
S. A. Brown Boveri	350	445	445	454	445	454
C. F. Bally	1000	1290	1292	1292	1290	1292
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	200	343	343	349	343	349
Entreprises Sulzer	1000	396	1007	1007	396	1007
Comp. de Navigation le Lac Léman	500	570	573	573	570	573
Linoleum A.G. Giubiasco	100	87	87	87	87	87
Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon	500	725	725	750	725	750

THE INDUSTRIAL MISSION OF SWITZERLAND.

By Dr. WILLIAM MARTIN.

One needs to have only a slight acquaintance with the history of the European Continent and with its present situation to realise that Switzerland, an insignificant country judged by its area and the number of its inhabitants, has played in the past, and is still playing to-day, a rôle which is altogether disproportionate to its material importance. What is this rôle? and what is the reason for it? Such are the questions which we propose to answer briefly in what follows.

The Swiss Confederation was founded at the end of the thirteenth century round the nucleus of the St. Gothard Pass, at the point, decisive for the history of humanity, where the southern races came into conflict with those of the north. These races might have antagonised, fought, and subjugated one another. A great State might have come into existence, or insoluble problems might have arisen. Instead of this, the different races co-operated with each other. It was from this co-operation that Switzerland was born. From the beginning she conceived her rôle to be essentially a mission of union and of co-operation. She wished to promote the traffic between the north and the south, a traffic which has not been purely economic but has also served for the exchange of ideas.

As a result of the Reformation, which was accepted in certain parts of the country in the sixteenth century, though met by resistance elsewhere, Switzerland, a mixed country from the linguistic point of view, became mixed also from the point of view of religion. After long wars, in which neither side succeeded in gaining the ascendancy, both parties, through the force of circumstances and thanks to a certain practical sense, took to co-operation. Hence the Confederation found a second mission of unification in the domain of religion.

Material union in the form of transit and communications; moral union between the peoples who respectively spoke German, French and Italian; religious union between the Catholics and the Protestants—such from the beginning and up to the present day are the great tasks which have been assigned by Providence to the Swiss Confederation and which it has not ceased to carry out to the best of its power.

This mission of unification has found a double expression in Swiss politics: internal federalism and external neutrality.

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Federalism in Switzerland is not a system which has had its birth in the heads of theorists. It sprang from facts themselves and from the necessities of history. The majority of the great European countries have been formed round a central cell by means of conquest or of absorption. Switzerland was formed in a completely different manner as a result of the voluntary combination of cells which were all sovereign and all equal. Not one of these cells was compelled to forgo the smallest part of its authority on joining the Confederation. Switzerland was born as a League of Nations, which, instead of being formed in a day, would grow slowly throughout centuries of history.

The necessities of modern life have assailed the principle of the absolute sovereignty of the cells; from the pure Confederation of States of the *ancien régime* it was necessary to pass to the Federated State. While in the United States this evolution took place during the twelve years between 1775 and 1787, the completion of this development was reached in Switzerland only in the course of centuries. It was not till 1847 that Switzerland became a really Federative State, and she borrowed a number of her institutions as well as her constitution from the United States.

Federalism, if it is to maintain itself, presupposes two conditions which are contradictory in appearance only. The first is that of diversity and the second that of unity. Federalism is futile in a country which is not composed of different elements. It may be justified by reasons which are more or less material in a country as vast, for example, as that of the United States. But it is not indispensable, and does not constitute an integral part of the life of the nation. In Switzerland, on the contrary, where one finds three languages and two religions, where each valley differs from its neighbour, where each commune has its own history, where each house differs a little from the one standing next to it, federalism is a real necessity of national life. What is more, in this small country one federalism is not enough. There still exist—or at least there existed up to a short time ago—cantons which were themselves

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