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Lauterbrunnen, and from this pass she took her name. For nine successive years she used to go annually to the Alps with her master.

In course of time this dog acquired a marvellous instinct for guessing where a hidden crevasse lay, and also for finding the best way across an open one. After some years she grew so experienced in snow conditions that she could tell by merely looking at a snow bridge whether it were safe to cross or not, and when she drew back from a certain spot the guides knew at once that it would be a mere waste of time to take that way. On one occasion she actually showed a local guide the way down some difficult rocks.

Unlike the cat climber, she was sometimes put on the rope, usually only when ice-slopes had to be ascended or descended. Tschingel became so famous a mountaineer that she was called "an honorary member of the Alpine Club," comparatively few of whose members, indeed, have made anything like as many ascents as she did—53 heavy ascents, 11 of them virgin summits, and some hundreds of less important peaks or partial ascents.

There was another famous dog Alpinist, Diana, who has a statue to her memory; while Tschingel had her obituary published in the *Alpine Journal* and an appropriate tombstone erected at Dorking.

Keep off the Grass.

An interesting sidelight is thrown on the mentality of the respective countries by the following three versions of a simple order; the cutting is taken from the *Evening News* (August 28th):—

"Round Lake Constance, which lies between Germany, Switzerland and Austria, you may easily visit all three countries in the course of a day, and the trip gives an insight into the psychology of the three countries. The lakeside is adorned with public parks, and it is worth noting how the three national authorities warn people to 'keep off the grass.'"

The Germans are curt and "forbidding": "Notice! Walking on the grass is prohibited on penalty of a fine. By Order. The Burgomaster."

In Switzerland the same offence is punished by a fine and informers receive half the penalty imposed in case of a conviction, so that in the course of an afternoon the watchful may earn a good few francs.

The Austrian, however, eschews threats. The Austrian notice reads:

"Oh ye who here may hap to pass,
Walk on the path and not the grass,
So that one easily may know
You are not just a grazing cow!"

And this notice proves by far the most effective of the three."

The Song of Switzerland.

A correspondent to the *Manchester Guardian* (August 28rd) wonders who is the author of the following chant; so do we; we are afraid the author has not earned any laurels for his art.

"I wonder who was the original author of that rousing chant 'The Song of Switzerland,' which has been enjoying such a vogue—as the fashion writers say—in the Alps this summer. It may be sung only at altitudes of 5,000 ft. and upwards; a fine of 10 francs must be paid to anyone detecting a recital at lower altitudes. It must not even be written down, to appease the insatiable curiosity of charming young ladies in the lounge after dinner, at hotels below 5,000 ft. It is sheer impudence on my part to give it away a mere three feet above sea-level on a Sussex tidal estuary, but I want to know who started it, so here goes:—

The Swiss they are a hardy race,
Melodious in their shoutings.
They climb up to the mountain tops,
And slide down, on their outings.
And then they fortify themselves
Against the winter's cold
By masticating cheese that is
A dozen decaydes olde.

(Here all the assembled company joins in a long, sprightly yodel.)

A dozen decaydes olde—
Long cheese, strong cheese,
A dozen decaydes olde.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

In view especially of the great efforts which the English railways are making to recover the losses which they have sustained on account of the competition of road transport undertakings, readers on this side may find some interest in the parallel experiences of the Swiss Federal Railways. In the first place, the Swiss Railways have tried to meet road competition by improving and accelerating goods services but they have not stopped there. An auxiliary motor transport service, organised as a limited company under the name of Suisse Express S.A. has been started and has operated successfully since the end of 1926. The company has concluded arrangements with some five hundred business concerns in all parts of Switzerland for the transport of their goods. It is difficult to arrive at an exact figure in judging the value of such an auxiliary service to the Federal Railways, but it is estimated that in 1927 the latter recovered some 350,000 tons of goods, and a sum of about 5 million francs.

The municipal authorities of Berne are shortly to issue a loan of 12 million francs to provide for the conversion or redemption of the 5% loan of 1918 which falls due for repayment on the 1st of November. Full details regarding the new issue are not yet known, but in any case it is expected that the issue price will be 99% and the rate of interest carried 4½%.

In order to provide increased working capital for the Crédit Foncier Vaudois, the cantonal authorities are negotiating for the arrangement of a loan of 20 million francs. The proceeds of the issue will go in the first place to payment in full of the shares of the Crédit Foncier, which is, of course, the cantonal mortgage institution, to redeem or convert the 5½% loan of 1924, outstanding to the extent of 14 million francs, and to cover other immediate financial requirements.

The existence of the Swiss-Argentine Mortgage Bank in Zurich as a prosperous going concern always comes as a reminder of the close relations existing between Switzerland and the Argentine Republic, by virtue of the numerous colony of Swiss who have migrated there. For the year ended 30th of June, 1928 the bank shows a net profit of Frs. 1,958,769, as compared with a slightly smaller figure for 1926/27. It is proposed to devote a sum of 500,000 frs. to reserves, to pay 10% in dividend and to carry forward 121,606 frs.

QUOTATIONS from the SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES.

	BONDS.		
	Aug. 24	Sept. 4	%
Confederation 3% 1903	82.00	81.00	
5% 1917, VIII Mob. Ln.	101.75	101.75	
Federal Railways 3½% A-K	86.55	86.50	
" " 1924 IV Elect. Ln.	101.55	101.25	
SHARES.			
	Nom.	Aug. 24	Sept. 4
Swiss Bank Corporation	Fr. 500	Fr. 826	Fr. 835
Crédit Suisse	500	952	950
Union de Banques Suisses	500	725	732
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	3197	3370
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	5237	5350
Soc. Ind. pour la Schappe	1000	4175	4195
S.A. Brown Boveri	350	582	582
C. F. Bally	1000	1515	1517
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	200	884	922
Entreprises Suisses S.A.	1000	1188	1200
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman	500	540	540
Linoleum A.G. Giubiasco	100	333	340
Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon	500	905	910

Ce que j'ai vu à la Première Séance de la IXème Assemblée des Nations.

Il y avait peut-être cette année plus de monde que de coutume à la première séance de l'Assemblée de la Société des Nations.

Dès l'ouverture, ce fut la foule aussi bien à l'intérieur qu'au dehors. Les plus belles autos que l'on puisse rêver stationnaient encombrées les unes contre les autres le long du quai et de la rue du Rhône. D'énormes Rolls-Royce, de rapides "Hispano," deux ou trois Sunbeam étaient entourées de modestes Citroën, de Renault, tandis que des taxis ne cessaient d'apporter et de déverser diplomates, invités de marque et journalites. Les galeries pleines à craquer, les places de la presse surencombrées et la vaste salle où pas une place n'est libre servirent de décor au ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Finlande, lorsque, peu après 10h.50, ce très ponctuel délégué ouvrit la neuvième Assemblée de la Société des Nations en tant que président en l'exercice du Conseil.

Il est long, mince, noir, élégant. Il parle français avec un accent très spécial, roulant les "r" selon une mode chère à d'autres latitudes. Son discours ne contenait en somme pas grand chose car la Société des Nations, depuis une année n'avait pas accompli des prouesses. C'est tout au moins que son travail encore inachevé, concernant les possibilités économiques du monde, les études entreprises sur le désarmement ne prétaient pas à de longs développements.

M. Procope a cependant été longuement applaudi lorsqu'il a parlé du Pacte de la paix et qu'il a cité les noms de MM. Briand et Kellogg. Le premier nommé a vaillamment supporté une pluie d'applaudissements et d'un air modeste s'est enfoncé dans son fauteuil.

On a revu avec plaisir la figure de M. Quinonès de Leon, le distingué représentant de l'Espagne qu'une absence trop longue avait fait regretter, non seulement dans les commissions, mais au secrétariat lui-même où sa présence est toujours la bienvenue.

Dans notre délégation suisse on remarquait tout spécialement M. Motta et le professeur Rappard, dont le visage bruni semblait faire présumer un long et agréable séjour à la montagne.

Lord Cushendun avait à sa droite Mrs. Lyttelton, tout de bleu vêtue et qui semblait prendre un grand plaisir à suivre la procédure intrinsèque à cette première séance.

Lorsqu'il s'agit de procéder à l'élection du président de cette session, cinquante bulletins furent tour à tour déposés dans l'urne fatidique. C'est sous l'oeil sévère de deux anciens présidents, MM. Hymans et Guani, que le très sympathique deuxième délégué du Danemark, Monsieur le ministre Zahle, fut appelé par quarante-quatre bulletins, à venir prendre place à l'imposant fauteuil présidentiel dont le dossier verdâtre n'est pourtant guère séduisant. Lorsqu'il quitta son banc, son chef hiérarchique, Son Excellence M. Moltesen, ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Danemark, lui serra cordialement la main.

La figure du nouveau président est une des plus intéressantes que l'on puisse voir. Elle porte à la fois les preuves d'une haute intelligence d'une perspicacité sans pareille, les caractéristiques d'une vieille souche aristocratique comme celles d'une bonnie du reste proverbiale. C'est en français qu'il a prononcé son discours de remerciement, comme son prédécesseur d'ailleurs. Quoique moins familiarisé avec notre langue, il sera cependant le président idéal puisqu'il a obligé ses collègues à reprendre séance non seulement à quatre heures de l'après-midi, mais déjà à midi pour arriver le plus vite possible au travail effectif. Ceux-ci se sont d'ailleurs soumis de très bonne grâce, heureux d'être sous la houlette d'un chef si connu et si sympathique.

Parmi les groupes qui se sont formés au cours de cette première séance on a remarqué une conversation assez animée entre Mgr. Seipel, premier délégué de l'Autriche, au crâne luisant comme une boule d'ivoire qu'agrémentent un nez de véritable Bourbon et une paire de lunettes d'or, et le comte Apponyi, premier délégué hongrois. Ce dernier dont la figure est légendaire dans les milieux de la Société des Nations, aux yeux pétillants de malice, à longue barbe blanche, surplombait de deux têtes au moins son flegmatique interlocuteur.

Malgré les postes considérables qu'ils occupent, M. Hermann Muller, chancelier du Reich et Lord Cushendun, secrétaire d'Etat des Affaires Etrangères par interim de Royaume d'Angleterre, n'étaient pas les plus entourés. C'est là un signe caractéristique des milieux de la Société des Nations. Il leur faudra en effet un certain temps pour être considéré sur le même pied que les autres membres de cette grande famille diplomatique quels que soient leurs mérites, leur amabilité et leurs titres.

Par contre, des personnalités telles que MM. Bénés, Hymans, Adatci, ont été immédiatement saluées par un grand nombre d'amis et d'admirateurs.

Cette neuvième session s'ouvre sous les meilleurs auspices et il ne paraît pas qu'elle doive accomplir un travail considérable. Elle sera plutôt une période d'attente qui permettra à la suivante d'arriver à des résultats plus tangibles. Erik.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

As it was already announced in last week's issue of the *Swiss Observer*, the City Swiss Club was privileged, at its last monthly meeting of Tuesday, the 4th September, in entertaining a distinguished guest in the person of Monsieur Henri Vallotton-Warnery, Avocat et Député des Chambres Fédérales, who is de passage in London at the present moment.

Some 42 Members and Friends had gathered to meet him, and, at the close of the dinner, the President, Mr. M. Gerig, proposed the toasts to the King and "La Patrie."

In the name of the Club, he then extended a hearty welcome to Monsieur Vallotton-Warnery, thanking him for having so kindly accepted the invitation to be with us for a few hours, and made himself the interpreter of all in stating the pleasure the City Swiss Club always has in receiving such visitors from "Home."

Monsieur Vallotton-Warnery, in his reply, made in a graceful and easy-flowing manner, gave us a forecast of how greatly interesting the lecture he had consented to give on Friday next should be to all who are able to attend it. We were also delighted to hear that, if the "Chambres" were not at present in session and he could therefore not speak or plead officially, we could count on having found in him a new champion for the cause of the "Quatrième Suisse."

Mr. Gerig had another pleasant duty to discharge in welcoming two Friends (we hope we may call them such) from our Legation, who had also kindly given us their evening, Mr. J. Borsinger, Chargé d'Affaires, and Mr. C. Rezzonico, Secrétaire de Légation, thus giving a blend of

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friendly official support to our informal gathering. Three other guests, Messrs. P. Liechti, G. Vautier and E. L. Baker, were included in the President's speech to "Our Guests" and the toast given in their honour.

Mr. J. Borsinger, in his reply to the toast was a credit to his diplomacy, since, just as Monsieur Vallotton-Warnery, he managed in his official capacity to mention the "taxes militaires" without, however, giving us an inkling of his own personal thoughts on the matter. And we could hardly press him for more enlightenment, either.

At the close of this thoroughly enjoyed meeting (the purely administrative part is recorded in the minute book), Mr. M. Golay gave, to the delight of everyone, a selection of gramophone records from last year's "Fête des Vignerons" at Vevey; and what more natural than that he should afterwards make us join in some community singing. If a good many had recourse to the book of words we noticed particularly that our distinguished guest, Monsieur Vallotton-Warnery, was leading at his table, but without the aid of the *chansonnier*.

It is some time already since we had indulged in such a happy, care-free, sing-song evening, and it no doubt did us good to brush up our memory of some of those songs.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

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

Miss M. Rosenstock, Zurich: "Friendship."
Miss Ellen Meyer, Zurich: "Embarrassment." Miss Margrit Tuffer, Lucerne: "Travelling." Mr. A. Forstmoser, Zurich: "Venice." Mr. J. Suppiger, Lucerne: "Techn. Science." Mr. Adolf Heierle, Zurich: "J. Rockefeller." Mr. M. A. Held, Burgdorf: "Holiday in Brittany." Miss Jeanne Cand, Montreux: "Shorthand." Mr. A. Schmied, Langenthal: "Mountaineering." Mr. P. Häuselmann, Berne: "Eastertime on the Skis." Mr. R. Renaud, Bienne: "Bienne." Mr. Gust. Maag, Zurich: "Whale-fishing." Mr. R. Lafont, Degersheim (St. Gall): "Toggenburg" Mr. Chr. Senn, Chur: "Wishes."

The debating classes dealt with the following subject:—

"Are you in favour of Socialism? Proposer, Mr. Kappeler; Opposer, Mr. Eggstein.
"Could Switzerland maintain her independence without her Hotellerie?"

Friday: A Lecture by the Headmaster on "The Kellogg Pact." The Headmaster also gave a speech on "True Liberty versus License."

Saturday: The Students visited the Houses of Commons and Lords.

Monday: There was a Dance at the First Avenue Hotel, attendance being about 250.

Thursday: The Students went to Margate on the *Royal Sovereign* from London Bridge.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The friendly competition arranged with the Hendon Gun Club took place last Saturday afternoon under favourable weather conditions. Two rounds of 10 shots each (200 points) had to be shot off on the 100 yds. automatic target in addition to 20 clay birds released from the ground trap. The following are the results:—

HENDON GUN CLUB.

	100 yards	Pigeons	Total
Grosvenor ...	88 87	19	194
Grierson ...	58 55	20	133
O'Leary ...	81 90	20	191
Pocock ...	90 85	20	195
Spence ...	77 90	17	184
Elliott ...	79 87	18	184

SWISS RIFLE ASSOC.

Burger ...	84 84	7	175
Arn. Schmid ...	87 91	10	188
Krucker ...	88 92	5	185
Hirt ...	89 83	8	180
Wetter ...	93 92	7	192
Devicenti ...	86 76	9	171

In points the Swiss Rifle Association has won the competition, but the mode of reckoning the two totally different events together does not appear to us to be quite equitable, and we wish to express here our appreciation of the sporting way in which our English friends gave in to the point of view—not well-considered, we believe—put forward by the members of the Swiss team.

As regards the shooting, the Swiss team exhibited some nervousness, none of them coming anywhere near his usual form on the 100 yds. target; even Wetter, who only a fortnight ago shot

14 consecutive bulls, could not get beyond 93. The birds had a good time, only 46 out of 120 being killed; our members took far too long an aim and allowed the birds to get away out of reach. Arn. Schmid managed to shoot down just half of his birds with Devicenti, who at the last moment had taken Lampert's place, a good second. Our English friends scored three possibles (Grierson, O'Leary and Pocock) and the highest combined points were secured by Pocock with 195 and Grosvenor with 194, followed on the Swiss side by Wetter with 192.

PUBLICATIONS

of the "Verein für Verbreitung Guter Schriften" and "Lectures Populaires."

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Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen, etc. erbeten an den
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