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HOME NEWS

The two chambers of the Swiss Parliament at their united sitting last Thursday (Dec. 13th) re-elected the whole of the Federal Council with the exception of Federal Councillor Chuard, who resigned and retires on January 15th. There was a separate poll for each candidate, and the following are the majorities obtained: Motta 177, Schulthess 184, Haab 183, Scheurer 151, Häberlin 160, Musy 152, and Pilet-Golaz (the new "Home Secretary") 141. The total number of councillors present at the election varied from between 227 to 234 and though the Socialist executive had given orders to its members to refrain from voting it is evident that this instruction has been disregarded. A small number of votes—in the last poll as many as 66—were recorded in favour of the Genevese professor Logoz, who had previously refused to be nominated. As Federal President for 1929 Dr. Robert Haab received 178 votes and as Vice-President Mr. Karl Scheurer 159. This is Dr. Haab's second term; he is at the head of the post and railway department, the successful re-organisation of which is mainly due to his wise policy; in former years he was for a short time Swiss Minister at Berlin.

For the two seats at the Federal Tribunal five candidates were officially submitted: Dr. Hablützel (Farmers' Party), Dr. Blocher (Socialist), Dr. Imhof (Liberal-Conservative), Dr. Nägeli (Liberal), and Dr. von Arx. In the first poll Dr. Hablützel (Zurich) obtained 125 votes, none of the other four candidates securing the required majority of 113. After another fruitless poll Dr. Eug. Blocher (Basle) gained 117 votes against the 101 of his unsuccessful opponent Dr. Imhof.

Montreux is to have a new post office, for which purpose a credit of 1.6 million francs is being sought by the Federal Council.

It is stated that Dr. Eckener, of Graf Zeppelin fame, is contemplating the acquisition of a large plot of land near Basle for the purpose of erecting an airship station for trans-Atlantic traffic.

Towards the construction of a local concert hall Frs. 41,000 have been secured at two concerts given by the famous pianist Paderewski in the cathedral at Lausanne.

A young Zurich aviator, Alfred Elsässer, age 24, crashed to death when making a trial flight in order to be photographed; through some unknown defect the aeroplane, which was an invention and construction of his own, commenced to drop practically perpendicularly without the pilot being able to gain control.

Appel pour la Commémoration de la Bataille de Giornico (1478-1928)

Cette année aura lieu le 450^{me} anniversaire de la bataille de Giornico. Cet événement historique, assez célèbre pour être retenu le berceau de l'hélicoptère de notre canton, sera fêté à Giornico par une importante cérémonie commémorative. En souvenir de cette commémoration et comme témoignage de notre reconnaissance envers nos pères et de notre attachement à la patrie suisse, la Municipalité de Giornico fera placer, dans le village historique, un monument dont l'inauguration aura lieu pendant les journées commémoratives.

L'amour de la patrie et la gratitude envers les ancêtres qui nous ont laissé une terre libre et glorieuse sont profondément enracinés dans le cœur de chaque citoyen suisse.

Nous nous adressons donc à chaque Suisse en patrie et à l'étranger, et à toutes les institutions helvétiques, afin que grâce à leur généreux appui financier, cette célébration soit vraiment solennelle.

Nous en graverons le souvenir dans le granit des monts lépontiens près des autres monuments du passé.

Nous sollicitons donc votre fraternelle coopération.

Vive la Suisse, Vive le Tessin!

Pour la Municipalité de Giornico,
Le Maire,
Le Secrétaire.

EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

Eidg. Schützenverein.—Unter dem Vorsitz von Oberst Schweighauser (Bern) fand am 1. und 2. Dez. in Balstal die gemeinsame Sitzung des Zentralkomitees mit den Abgeordneten der kantonalen Schützenvereine statt. Als Hauptgeschäft stand die Beratung des Entwurfes für die Statutenrevision auf der Traktandenliste. Die Vorlage des Zentralkomitees wurde ohne wesentliche Änderungen gutgeheissen. Die endgültige Erledigung des Geschäftes wird durch die ordentliche Delegiertenversammlung im Frühjahr 1929 erfolgen. Die Revision der Vorschriften betr. die Kantonal-, Ehr- und Freischüssen wird dem neu zu bildenden "Schützenrat" übertragen. Der Entwurf des Schiessplanes für das Eidg. Schützenfest 1929 in Bellinzona ist vom Zentralkomitee genehmigt worden. Der Bericht des Festortes über den Stand der Vorarbeiten zeugt dafür, dass Bellinzona die übernommene Aufgabe in befriedigender Weise lösen wird.

M. Marcel Pilet-Golaz—conseiller fédéral.—Fils d'un président des tribunaux du IV^e ressort, bourgeois de Château-d'Oex, M. Marcel Edouard Ernest Pilet est né le 31 décembre 1889, à Cossonay.

Il a fait ses études à la faculté de droit de Lausanne entre 1907 et 1911 puis à Leipzig, à Paris en 1912.

Ayant obtenu le 10 décembre 1912, après une dissertation sur le droit de superficie, son doctorat et sa licence en droit, puis le brevet d'avocat, il s'installa comme avocat à Lausanne dès le 10 mai 1915, en association avec M. Ernest Vallon.

Député au Grand Conseil dès le 6 mars 1921, il s'était spécialisé dans les questions financières, fiscales et juridiques et a rapporté sur plusieurs importants projets de lois; il s'est fait la réputation d'un orateur brillant et disert.

Il a été élu au Conseil national aux élections générales de 1925.

De plus il est professeur de droit usuel à l'Ecole cantonale d'agriculture de Marcellin.

Recruté en juillet 1928 dans l'infanterie, incorporé au bataillon 8, il est major et commande le bataillon d'infanterie 1 depuis le 24 juin 1924.

Pendant ses études, il a fait partie de Belles-Lettres de Lausanne qu'il a présidée en 1909 et 1910, dont il est honoraire et dont il fut l'un des plus brillants acteurs. Il est resté un amateur passionné de théâtre, suivant régulièrement les représentations de la troupe de Lausanne.

M. Pilet a épousé la fille de Donat Golaz, qui fut député et conseiller d'Etat de 1885 à 1893.

—Journal de Genève.

Erfolge eines Auslandsschweizers. Der kühne Operateur, der die Amerikafahrt des neuen Zeppelin-schiffes mitgemacht, Hans Rudolf Meyer, ein seit sieben Jahren in Berlin lebender Auslandsschweizer, der Sohn von alt Konditor Meyer in Zürich, gehört zu jenen erfolgreichen Kameraleuten, die schnell die Aufmerksamkeit der Berliner Ufa-Filmgesellschaft gefunden haben. Nachdem Meyer in Zürich die Kunst der Photographie erlernt hatte, zog er nach München an die Versuchsanstalt für Photographie und siedelte hierauf nach Berlin über, wo er sich privat der schwierigen Mikro-Kinematographie widmete. Seine guten Leistungen verschafften ihm das Engagement bei der Kulturfilm-Abteilung der Ufa, für welche er zahlreiche Lehrfilme erstellt hat. Darunter befindet sich auch einer "Von der Schulbank zum Verkehrsflieger," wo er als Schüler der deutschen Reichsfliegerschule auch die Regie führte. Im aktiven Flugdienst ist Meyer unlängst mit einem Junkers Sportflugzeug ins Wasser gestürzt; derzeit sind spezielle Luftaufnahmen mit Kunstflieger Stoehr geplant. An der Kulturfilm-Abteilung der Berliner Ufa ist noch ein weiterer Zürcher, Dr. Rickli, der Mikrophotographie betreibt, tätig.

—Tagesanzeiger, Zürich.

Neue Passverordnung.—Der Bundesrat hat, wie gemeldet, eine neue eidgenössische Passverordnung erlassen, durch die der Bundesratsbeschluss vom November 1915, der seinerzeit erstmalig bundesrechtliche Bestimmungen im Passwesen brachte, ersetzt wird und gestützt auf die seit 1915 gemachten Erfahrungen einer in verschiedenen Punkten den heutigen Verhältnissen angepassten Neuregelung Platz macht. Festgehalten ist von der bisherigen Regelung vor allem der wichtigste Punkt, dass nämlich die einst kantonalen Pässe durch einen einheitlichen schweizerischen Pass, ausgestellt von den Kantonen, ersetzt sind; ebenso bleibt die Vorschrift bestehen, dass die Ausstellung des Passes in jedem Kanton nur noch durch eine einzige Stelle zu erfolgen hat. Die Schweiz fordert bekanntlich laut Verordnung vom Jahr 1921 für das Betreten unseres Staatsgebietes die Vorweisung eines Passes; für schweizerische Staatsangehörige muss dieser

Grenzausweis gemäss den soeben genannten Vorschriften ausgestellt sein. Die neue Passverordnung bezeichnet im übrigen den Pass als Ausweis gegenüber ausländischen Behörden. Der Ausweis gegenüber den Behörden des Inlandes selbst soll in strenger Unterscheidung vom Grenz- und Auslandsverkehr der Heimatschein bleiben.

Wenn die neue Verordnung in diesen wesentlichen Punkten den heutigen rechtlichen Zustand neu bestätigt, so bringt sie andererseits verschiedene begrüssenswerte Erleichterungen für das Publikum. Dieselben betreffen speziell die Ausstellungs- und maximale Geltungsdauer des Passes. Die Konferenz der kantonalen Polizeidirektoren hatte sich vor kurzem in dieser Hinsicht übereinstimmend mit dem Vertreter des Justiz- und Polizeidepartementes für entgegenkommende Haltung ausgesprochen. Gemäss Regelung von 1915 konnte kein Pass über das fünfte Jahr seit dem Datum seiner Ausstellung hinaus verlängert werden; die neue Verordnung macht Verlängerungen bis zum 10. Jahr seit dem Datum der Ausstellung möglich. Die Ausstellung durch die zuständigen Amtsstellen wird wie bisher nur für einen Teil der möglichen Geltungsdauer erfolgen. Statt bloss auf zwei Jahre kann aber fortan die erstmalige Ausstellung auf 3-5 Jahre geschehen. Die gleichen Vorschriften, wie sie hiemit für die Kantone gelten, sind auch anzuwenden von den schweizerischen Vertretungen im Ausland, die für Staatsangehörige Pässe ausstellen. Der Bundesrat hat in der neuen Verordnung weitere Punkte, z. B. die Gebührenfrage, die in den verschiedenen Kantonen gelegentlich immer noch ungenügend abweichend behandelt wird, nicht berührt. Als ein Schritt zur Erleichterung des Grenzverkehrs kann aber die vorliegende neue Verordnung bestimmt begrüssend werden.

—Winterthur Tagblatt.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

Lugano.

There is a large number of descriptive articles relating to sundry winter sports topics in this week's cuttings. The *Star* (Dec. 14th) publishes a "rhapsodic appreciation" of the attractions of the Maloja Hotel, one of the largest establishments in the Engadine and situate about one hour's journey by postal coach from St. Moritz. The December issue of *Blackwood's Magazine* gives a detailed description (22 pages) of a newly discovered route for ascending Mont Blanc which, according to the author, can be followed without guides.

The Council meeting of the League of Nations at Lugano has naturally focussed attention on this old-world town. We reproduce a sketch from *The Scotsman* (Dec. 10th):—

"Lugano—there is both music and magic in the name! I heard a lady visitor breathe it with a voice full of wistfulness and longing, as she turned for a last look at its horseshoe bay of dazzling blue, with a guardian mountain at either end. The pictures that rise in one's mind when one looks back on Lugano are a colourful series.

The delegates, on arriving, will doubtless be wafted speedily away in cars to their hotels at Paradiso. But it would be wiser, if daylight still lingers, to proceed thither on foot. From the station itself we obtained the first of our pictures, a view of Monte Bré, dotted all over its sides with little yellow and pink villas, climbing higher and higher in their zest for the best of all possible views over the lake. Descending by funicular, with masses of rosepink oleanders pressed close up to the railway track, we alighted to find ourselves in an open-air bazaar that had more than a suggestion of the Orient about it. Great bales of cloth and all manner of articles of clothing were there spread out, with a great scarlet umbrella giving a definite and defiant colour note.

Leaving behind us the narrow, porticoed shopping streets, we made our way, by the lakeside, to the hotel suburb of Paradiso, so well deserving of its name. The sub-tropical garden that borders that lake of sunshine is fascinating by reason of the variety of its shrubs, its palm trees and its banana trees, its oleanders, white and pink, its feathery acacias, and its sweet-smelling mimosas, and the mingling of their exotic perfumes.

On this garden, as on Paradiso, which lies nearer its base, San Salvatore, the other guardian of the bay, is gazing all the time. San Salvatore, unlike Monte Bré, does not court the attention of the ambitious coloured villas. Its sides, up which one is permitted to climb by funicular, are contrastingly bare. A little church has, how-

evf; scilted the summit for a vantage point, and from its flat roof one gazes over a wide-spread panorama that includes Monte Rosa and Monte Generoso, as well as further-distant snow-clad peaks of the Alps.

Market day is the day of days in Lugano. Early in the morning the country people come trooping into the town, conspicuous among them being old women with faces wrinkled and yellow, carrying on their backs those curious wide-mouthed, sharp-bottomed baskets which are peculiar to the villages of the Italian Lakes. In these *gerlas* they convey to market the produce of their gardens and of their poultry yards. More extensive than usual is the display of goods in the narrow streets around the Piazza; fruits in great abundance, cheese that scents the air rather overpoweringly, the farinacious foods, polenta, vermicelli, and the rest beloved of the Italians, strings of sausages, as well as silks and satins, the bright-coloured handkerchiefs that so effectively drape the heads of dark-eyed beauties, the red and yellow sunshades for which we in our more doleful climate have little use, all meet and mingle there in the streets of Lugano. Stalls, too, are laid out profusely under the trees where the morning market takes place; in the midst of them you will probably find a huge waggon, drawn by two yellow-coloured oxen, such a yoke as was familiar in Virgil's day, adding a quaint, primitive touch to a scene already sufficiently picturesque.

Up behind the principal streets, whose porticoes succeed in keeping them cool, there are other narrow streets and alleys, less frequented by the tourist; these lie around the cathedral. Every now and then even there one comes upon a house that is brightened by festooning greenery. In the morning you will find their bedclothes hanging out at these windows in air.

All around the lakeside there are dotted little villages, with names that are equally musical, each of which imprints its own individualistic picture on the mind. Of these Gandria is the most picturesque, its old-world houses rising straight out of the water, mellow with age and squalid, but bearing the remains of beautiful frescoes on their walls. By numerous steps and steep and narrow alleys one climbs the hillside to the church, with its characteristic campanile and its tiny burying-ground, passing cottage doors, where cobblers sit at their work under the overhanging trellis-work of soft greenery, and occasionally meeting one of these old women with her *gerla* filled with faggots. Further along the lakeside, at the Grotto, where the gay-painted tea tables overhang the edge of the water, there lives a picturesquely-attired lady who, as the delegates will doubtless be reminded by the hotel porter, will sing to them "in four languages!"

Morcote gave us another steep climb, under purple scented acacias, to its church, also loftily situated. Beside the lake the women were engaged in doing the family washing, kneeling on low boards close to the water, and rubbing and soaping their clothes on flat boards held in front of them. The clothes were subsequently carried home in the curiously-shaped baskets. Castagnola, Cassarate, Tesserete—to all of them one comes through a vine-clad country, where figs and walnuts ripen in the open, and little grey-coloured lizards dart hither and thither in the old stone walls.

Blue skies, blue lake, dazzling sunshine, colour everywhere—such is Lugano!

We do not wish to disturb the feeling of complete harmony created after perusing the above but the following leader headed *Messieurs, faites vos jeux* from the *Daily Dispatch* (Dec. 11th) written on the eve of the meeting seems to be opportune:—

"Life plays some queer tricks at times with the puppets called men. Yesterday the League of Nations Council opened its quarterly session—in a gambling room at Lugano! It may, or may not, be an appropriate setting. It was most certainly an appropriate moment. We are told that millions of American citizens are urging the ratification of the Kellogg Treaty; also that President Coolidge has asked Congress to authorise the expenditure of an additional £270,000 on each of the two giant submarines now being built for the United States Navy. Two days before the delegates assembled in this charming Swiss resort to "make their play" the Swiss Parliament increased its military Budget for the coming year by £60,000. On the same day Signor Mussolini drew attention to the fact that while all are in favour of peace the whole world is arming. "We do not want to disturb European equilibrium," he added, "but we must be ready."

That is what they all say. That is what they said in pre-war days. It is an attitude of which the average schoolboy would be ashamed; yet the highest-placed diplomats all over the civilised (save the mark!) world cannot rise above it. We cannot wonder at South American Republics snarling at one another, and recalling their representatives when the Great Powers set such a poor example. What we can do is to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest the portents as they

appear in Bolivia and Paraguay. "It is feared," cable the correspondents, "that hostilities may spread to other South American Republics." That is always the way. The fire among the chaff and war among the nations are one and the same. They begin easily, they spread rapidly, they consume everything, they leave a blackened waste when they are over.

The delegates at Lugano have great opportunities awaiting them. At present the world's diplomats are gambling on war. Let the delegates, and particularly Sir Austen Chamberlain, M. Briand, and Dr. Stresemann gamble on peace. Disarmament is the royal road to peace. It is blocked by fear and mistrust. It is the duty of the delegates to clear the road. *Messieurs, faites vos jeux!*"

Swiss Military Expenses.

This is what the *Manchester Guardian* (Dec. 10th) says about the recent increase in our military budget:—

"The Swiss Parliament yesterday concluded two days' debates on the military Budget for 1929, which amounts to 86,500,000 Swiss francs (£3,460,000); notwithstanding the Parliamentary resolution of 1925, in which the Government was invited to limit military expenses to 85,000,000 francs (£3,400,000). This new increase of 1,500,000 francs (£60,000) was not only met with sharp opposition from the Socialists and Communists, but some Radical and Catholic members expressed deep disappointment that the Swiss Government did not deplore this increase of the military Budget of pacifist Switzerland both for national and international reasons. Even these members of the Governmental parties expressed regret that M. Motta's international policy at Geneva is contradicted by the policy of the military department at Berne.

The Swiss Minister of Defence defended the Budget by reference to new expenses amounting to half a million francs (£20,000) caused by the new law increasing military salaries, and pointed out that 1,000,000 francs were necessitated by the repetition of militia exercises, which had not been held for ten years and now seemed inevitable.

The Socialists then proposed the rejection of the credits for these repetition exercises, which, however, were approved by 100 votes to 69. The minority were composed of about 50 Socialists and Communists and 20 Catholics and Radicals.

The vote shows a growing opposition even among the Government parties against the expenditure of money for military needs. It is remarkable that all Catholic and Radical Geneva members, as well as the Radical M. Rusca, of Locarno, voted against the new expenses, thus showing their confidence in the spirit associated with Geneva and Locarno. During the discussions the Socialists sharply reproached the Communists on the ground that they have discredited the Labour movement in the public opinion of the world. The Communist policy of world revolution, it is held, gives the Governments new arguments for opposing disarmament."

Mlle. de Watteville.

The *Daily Mail* (Dec. 12th) has the following notice; the heroine is of course a near relative of the other distinguished lady so beloved in our Colony and universally admired in the wide circle of her activity.

"Mlle. Vivienne De Watteville, the young Swiss girl, whose reputation as a big game hunter recently led to her being presented to the Prince of Wales at Nairobi, has been elected a member of honour of the Berne Natural History Society.

Four years ago she was on an expedition in the African bush with her father, when he was killed by a lion. Instead of returning home, as many people in her position would have done, she pushed forward until she had achieved her father's ambition, which was to procure a white rhinoceros for the Berne Museum.

The Prince of Wales, it appears, was particularly interested in a film, supposed to be the first of its kind, which Mlle. de Watteville managed to get of a fight to the death between two bull elephants.

To obtain this she waded waist deep with her camera into a river infested with crocodiles and, disregarding the entreaties of the askari appointed to look after her, calmly turned the handle until one of the beasts fell mortally wounded."

Sausage Party.

In reproducing the following from the *Daily Record* (Dec. 7th) we descend from the sublime to the ridiculous, but our readers will not expect our Minister to emulate the feat of other members of his family in hunting down the white rhinoceros; he must of necessity be satisfied with lesser fry.

"The ex-King of Greece, the Swiss Minister, "Jix," and a host of titled and distinguished folk attended a "sausage party" held the other night by Mrs. Rosita Forbes, the explorer. Sausages in various guises formed the complete menu; sausage balloons and paintings of sausages formed

the scheme of decoration. The poetic art was even conscripted to hymn the praises of sausage on the menu cards. The guests, "Jix" included, enjoyed themselves immensely."

It looks as if we were on the eve of a sausage boom in this country; if any of our readers still have cash to spare, our advertising column will recommend a sound investment.

QUOTATIONS from the SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES

	BONDS.		SHARES.	
	Dec. 11	Dec. 18	Nov.	Dec. 11
Confederation 3% 1908	82.50	82.50		
5% 1917, VIII Mob. Ln	101.80	102.35		
Federal Railways 3 1/2% A-K	87.05	87.05		
" " 1924 IV Elect. Ln.	101.85	102.00		
Swiss Bank Corporation	500	855	500	852
Crédit Suisse	500	980	500	987
Union de Banques Suisses	500	770	500	767
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	3477	1000	3468
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	5337	1000	5275
Soc. Ind. pour la Schappe	1000	4330	1000	4315
S.A. Brown Boveri	350	588	350	593
C. F. Bally	1000	1500	1000	1520
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	200	930	200	929
Entreprises Suiz. S.A.	1000	1210	1000	1240
Comp. de Navig. sur le Lac Léman	500	320	500	320
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Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon	500	805	500	805

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