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sul to the Swiss Confederation, was stricken with the fever, and for many days his life was despaired of. Dr. J. R. Preston and his son, Doctor Ian Preston, were summoned to the hotel where Mr. Schumacher was staying, and strove night and day to combat the fever. After twelve days the doctors were successful in their efforts, which necessitated visiting Mr. Schumacher at all hours of the day and night.

How such a fever attacked Mr. Schumacher is unknown. He told me this morning that he had been travelling up and down the country visiting various fishing ports, and had journeyed by a midnight train from London to Fleetwood. He came by way of Manchester, and as the sleeping-car arrived there in the early hours of the morning the passengers were allowed to remain in their berths until 7 a.m. The carriage was detached from the engine, however, and the heating apparatus consequently ceased to function. Mr. Schumacher thinks he caught a chill in his sleep in the railway siding, and within 24 hours of arriving at Fleetwood he was at death's door.

Mr. Schumacher remarked: "I never thought I would get better, and I must pay tribute to the two doctors; in fact, I am going to-day to thank them personally for their great kindness to me. Blackwater fever is an ailment which requires a lot of attention, and although I was a total stranger to the town I was treated like one of the family. My own people could not have done more for me."

The recovery of Mr. Schumacher is all the more remarkable when it is borne in mind that it is extremely rare that doctors are called upon to treat a case of black-water fever, as it is almost unknown outside tropical countries."

#### French Foreign Legion.

Now and again efforts are made by our authorities to prevent the enlistment of Swiss into the Foreign Legion; but, apart from the customary exchange of compliments, nothing is changed. The *Manchester Guardian* (Jan. 15th) comments on similar steps which were taken a few weeks ago:—

"Representations have been made by the Swiss Government to the French Ambassador at Berne upon the subject of recruiting for the Foreign Legion in Switzerland. Certain abuses have been brought to his attention. A friendly request has been added that henceforward the French military authorities should give up recruiting Swiss citizens for service in the Foreign Legion.

Naturally such diplomatic action by the Swiss authorities cannot be ignored. It is hardly likely, however, that the French authorities will agree to give up recruiting Swiss nationals. All that will be done will be to give Switzerland the assurance that henceforward such recruiting will be strictly confined to French territory. Such an assurance was, it will be remembered, only recently given to the British Government.

Interviewed by the "Paris-Soir," the chief recruiting officer at the Ministry of War here argued that it was not practicable to refuse to enlist recruits of any given nationality. The Legion took anybody that offered, provided he was healthy and between the ages of twenty and forty. No questions were asked and no papers demanded. Very often would-be recruits gave a false nationality.

"A few weeks ago we had the same difficulty," he said, "about the British subjects. What did we do? The Government simply decided that British enlistments should not be accepted save from men who presented themselves at our recruiting offices in France or in French possessions. We shall no doubt do the same for Switzerland. We can do no more, for any individual has the right to dispose of his person as he pleases."

After announcing this disputable doctrine, the War Ministry official made a remark significant of the French attitude towards the Legion: "Besides, are not many of these recruits men who in civil life are utterly undesirable in their own country? We ought rather to be thanked than blamed for taking them."

Finally, the official admitted that the great majority of recruits for the Foreign Legion were Germans. By the Treaty of Versailles France possesses the unique privilege of recruiting German subjects for the Legion. As the interviewer left he observed some fifty would-be recruits of various nationalities lined up outside the Legion's enlisting office."

#### The Great "International."

This is the official title of the Annual International Six Days' Trial for motor cycles which takes place at the end of August, running through the Klausen Pass and finishing at Geneva. Preliminary outlines of the daily routes are published in *The Motor Cycle* (Jan. 17th):—

"Some preliminary details are now available regarding the route and regulations of this year's International Six Days Trial, to be held on the Continent from August 26th to 31st. These details have been drawn up by a sub-committee consisting of Herr Wettstadt (representing Germany in the F.I.C.M.), M. Jules Neher (Switzerland), and Mr. A. V. Ebblewhite (A.C.U.).

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It appears that the 1929 trial will be an exceedingly strenuous one, since the greater part of the course lies through mountainous districts, but competitors—and English competitors especially—will be amply repaid by the glorious scenery which will be spread out before them on every day of the trial.

The first day's route will run through the southern portion of Germany. The exact course is not settled, but probably it will start from Munich, or from Lindau, on the edge of Lake Constance. The day's route will take competitors over the Bavarian Alps, and its length will be about 156 miles, finishing at Mittenwald, on the Austro-German frontier.

The second day's route will lie in Austria and over the Austrian Alps. The biggest climbs will be over the Fern and Flexen Passes, and the probable distance will be 166 miles (night stop, Vaduz).

On the third day the itinerary will take competitors into Switzerland, crossing from west to south. The principal passes encountered will be the Kerenzerburg, Klausen, and St. Gothard. The distance is about 188 miles.

Starting at Pallanza (Italy), the fourth day's run will approach the French frontier. It is hoped to be able to obtain permission to use some of the special roads made during the War by the Italian Army for the purpose of transporting guns up the mountains. The end of the day's run will lead into the Savoie district of France, by way of the Petit St. Bernard Pass, and the night stop will be at Moutiers (191 miles).

The fifth day's route lies in the Savoie district. This will be a strenuous section as regards mountain climbing; the principal passes are the Col des Aravis (4,913ft.), Col. des Leschaux (3,046ft.), Col. de Prés, Col. de Marozac, and Col. de Lamié. The finish will probably be at Chamonix (186 miles).

Starting from Chamonix, the sixth and last day's run will be over a distance of 185½ miles to Geneva, crossing the passes of Forclaz, Montets and Bex. It is proposed to finish at Geneva at about 2 or 3 p.m., after which there will be a 100-km. speed test on the Geneva course which was used for the Swiss Grand Prix.

It is true that the route seems a formidable one, but the organisers intend to make things as simple as possible for the competitors by not imposing any penalties for failures on the hills. There will only be set average speeds for different sections; that is to say, the various passes will have to be climbed at a fair average speed, and penalties will be made for unpunctual arrival at a check at the conclusion of each climb. This will give competitors a chance to make up time after any stops or failures.

The average speed on ordinary roads will be as nearly as possible 40 km.p.h., (about 25 m.p.h.). The suggested time-table proposes a start at 7 a.m. each day, and a finish at 5 p.m., with a mid-day rest of 2 hours. The actual running time will thus be 8 hours each day.

Spare wheels will be permitted, even on solo machines, provided that they are carried throughout the trial. As regards the speed test, competitors will be required to average a set speed, but any excess over this speed will only be taken into account to decide a possible tie.

A very large number of entries is expected from the European countries, and it is probable that the entry list for each country will have to be very much curtailed; it is therefore imperative that entries should be sent in at the earliest possible moment after entry forms have been prepared. Information on this point will be given by the organisers in due course."

#### The Real Little People.

A pretty sketch dealing with life and people seldom in the limelight is published in the *Daily Sketch* (Jan. 18th):—

"It has taken a year of life in this tiny sun-soaked Alpine village to reveal to my London-

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born mind the reason for the true countryman's hatred of change and apparent resistance to "progress"—the kind of "progress" with which the city dweller in his well-meant ignorance seeks to spoil his life.

The genuine country lover is like a connoisseur of old wine; he knows that, to taste Life's savour, he must take it at his leisure, in sips; not in huge gulps, with a figurative taxi at the door, ticking up twopences with the relentless that is so destructive of mental peace and harmony. The canvas of city life is too crowded to admit of a proper mental perspective; the cardinal emotions atrophy through sheer want of indulgence for more than a fleeting moment.

Here, where the landscape is like a Whistler picture, where the keen, sweet air of the sunlit noon is alive with the merry cries of the lugging children, and the everlasting friendship of the snow-clad Alps is breathed across the Rhône glacier, fostering the spirit of constant aspiration: where the little pack mules with their tinkling bells toil patiently up and down the mountain paths, and their bigger brothers, the horses, toss their red-plumed heads proudly—for the Swiss peasant is fond of decorating the friend of man—here are all the essentials to the fullest life for those who have eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to understand.

The twins—aged five—suddenly developed a habit of slipping away mysteriously every afternoon, and neither threats nor persuasion could induce them to say whither they went.

Being followed, they were traced to a tiny chalet called "Les Pierrottes," hidden so cosily behind a chalet of ordinary size that it escaped observation, unless specially sought.

The scene that met my entranced eyes was exactly like a Hans Andersen fairy tale come to life, or, coming to more modern times, a tableau from Balieff's "Chauve Souris."

All the furniture in what was in reality only a large-sized doll's house, was made of polished pine, which winked and shone in the red glow from the tiny stove from much loving care on the part of the owners.

The miniature table, chairs and stools were ornamented by exquisite specimens of the embroidery for which the Swiss are justly famous, and, as a child, I once had a toy bed as big as the daintily dressed one that occupied a curtained alcove near the eplant-filled window.

The twins were sitting on two of the wee stools, elbows on knees, clear grave eyes fixed, with the rapture known only to childhood, upon two dwarf women no bigger than themselves—real Little People, such as they had heard about in the fairy tales which they are just beginning to love.

The Little People were perfectly fashioned, with nothing odd about them except their stunted growth. They had long, lovely, flaxen hair wound in plaits around their heads, and over the plaits a bright red handkerchief was worn.

Tiny black velvet staves were laced over yellow chemises, and full, black, bunched little skirts to the ankles completed the charming picture that they made.

It would have been quite in keeping had they been telling the twins a fairy tale, but, instead, to my great surprise, they were reading in English the "Mercy Speech" from "The Merchant of Venice," stopping now and then to explain what it meant to the listening infants. Feeling that they would hate nothing so much as to be disturbed, I crept away, unobserved, leaving the twins their secret chalet.

"Oh, yes, they are sisters, forty years old, and come from Veyges, the Village of Dwarfs, five miles away, where the people do not grow because the sun does not shine for them until late in the afternoon; they built their village on the wrong side of the mountain," I was told, in explanation of the Little People.

"But their knowledge of English, of Shakespeare?" I said, with the city dweller's absurd notion that culture and the country must of necessity be inconsistent.

"Oh, they speak Italian, and read Dante; German, and know all the poetry of that country. Here in Switzerland we give ourselves time to read and to live. In England you hurry too much," was the mild criticism of the nation that I represented."

**The Man Who Stayed At Home.**

From the *Daily Chronicle* (Jan. 22nd) :—

I have no wild desire to skate  
In biting blasts—that joy can wait!  
Nor do I ache to share the fun  
Provided by the Cresta run.  
The lure of the uncertain ski  
Has never yet appealed to me—  
There seem to be too many alps  
At hand to skin beginners' scalps!  
When winter comes my one desire  
Is an easy chair before a fire,  
Where I can study the reports  
Of snow at distant Swiss resorts.

**FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.**

The Swiss customs receipts for the month of December, 1928, are now available and it is therefore possible to get an idea of the general development of the imports and exports during the course of last year. It appears from the figures as they are at present available that the total imports amounted to Frs. 2,744 million, which was an increase of about Frs. 181 million as compared with the corresponding figures of 1927. Exports, on the other hand, showed a total value of Frs. 2,134 million, and were thus Frs. 111 million higher than those of 1927. The increase in imports amounts to about 7.4% and in exports to about 5.4%. This proportional increase in the imports has the result of increasing the country's adverse trade balance for the year to Frs. 610 million, as compared with Frs. 540 million a year before.

The report of the Banque Commerciale de Berne is the first of the more important Swiss banking returns to be published this year, and shows the net profit, inclusive of the carry-forward, at Frs. 480,100 as compared with Frs. 478,434 for 1927. The dividend is maintained at 7%. The report pays an eloquent tribute to the memory of the Bank's late President, Mr. Usteri-Pestalozzi, who died on the 12th November last, after having been a member of the Board since 1911 and President since 1912.

A general meeting of the Société Suisse pour Valeurs des Métaux was held in Basle on the 14th inst., at which it was resolved to increase the share capital from Frs. 20 million to Frs. 25 million by the issue of 10,000 new shares of Frs. 500 each. These new shares will rank for dividend as from the 1st February, 1929, and are to be offered to shareholders in the proportion of one new for four old shares at Frs. 6.50 per share. The meeting further proceeded to the election of new directors and Dr. Max Staehelin, the new Chairman of the Swiss Bank Corporation, was elected to take the place of the late Mr. Leopold Dubois, while Mr. Franz Koenigs, of the firm of Delbrück, Schickler & Co., of Berlin, was elected in place of the late Dr. Gustav Ratjen.

It was decided at a Board Meeting held on the 20th December, 1928, to increase the issued capital of the Union Bank of Switzerland, Zurich, by the issue of Frs. 600 of new shares of the Bank to the amount of Frs. 20 million. The new shares were issued in the early weeks of the year to existing shareholders, and will rank for dividend as from the 1st January, 1929. The effect of this operation is to increase the issued and paid-up share capital to Frs. 100 million.

The preliminary returns of the results of 1928 which have now been published by Leu & Co.'s Bank in Zurich show that, inclusive of the carry forward from the preceding year, a net profit of Frs. 4,748,190 was obtained. This compares with a corresponding figure of Frs. 4,178,855 for 1927. It is proposed to pay a dividend of 8 per cent. on the share capital of Frs. 45,000,000, as compared with 8% on the preference and 5% on the ordinary capital in 1927.

The Banque Coopérative shows a net profit (including carry-forward) of Frs. 709,769 for the year 1928, as compared with Frs. 583,421 in 1927. The dividend is again to be at the rate of 5½%. Frs. 90,000 are to go to reserves as compared with Frs. 72,000 in 1927.

**QUOTATIONS from the SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES**

BONDS.	Jan. 15			Jan. 22		
		Frs.	Fr.		Frs.	Fr.
Confederation 3% 1903	...	83.00	83.25			
5% 1917, VIII Mob. Ln.	...	102.12	102.30			
Federal Railways 3½% A—K	...	87.75	88.10			
" 1924 IV Elect. Ln.	...	102.25	102.55			
SHARES.						
	Nom.	Jan. 15	Jan. 22			
Swiss Bank Corporation	500	865	863			
Crédit Suisse	500	991	989			
Union de Banques Suisses	500	780	754			
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	3510	3548			
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	5375	4739			
Soc. Ind. pour la Schappe	1000	4435	4388			
S.A. Brown Boveri	350	608	605			
C. F. Bally	1000	1555	1555			
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	200	931	927			
Entreprises Suizer S.A.	1000	1280	1283			
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman	500	520	520			
Linoleum A.G. Giubiasco	100	342	335			
Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon	500	808	830			

**EIDGENÖSSISCHE GLOSSEN.**

*Zentralisation des Radios.*

An der Versammlung der Basler Radiofreunde, die sich in erfreulicher Weise für eine Reorganisation des Radios im Sinne einer Zentralisation ausgesprochen hat, ist von Dr. A. Degen darauf hingewiesen worden, dass wir unsern Auslandschweizern einen starken Sender schuldig seien. Zur Bestätigung dieser Forderung zitiere ich aus dem Briefe eines auswärtigen Freundes: "Seit vier Wochen haben wir einen Radioapparat mit sieben Lampen. Wir haben ihn hauptsächlich angeschafft, um in direkten Kontakt mit der Schweiz treten zu können, sind aber bitter enttäuscht worden. Jede der fünf Schweizer Hauptstädte hat einen so kleinen Sender, dass die in grösserer Entfernung wohnenden Schweizer gar nichts davon haben. Was nützt es mir, wenn ich bei einem Vortrage in Zürich oder Bern nur hie und da einen Satz verstehe? Bei der Musik dito. Somit geht einem alles Schöne, das die Schweiz zu bieten hätte, verloren und man bleibt auf die fremden Länder angewiesen, von denen wenigstens jedes einen guten Sender hat. Aber so was bringt scheint die Schweiz nicht fertig, dank der Kantönliegebrödelei."

Dabei handelt es sich in diesem Falle um eine Entfernung von 300 Kilometern, während wir doch zweitausend beherrschen müssten. Ich fragte diesen Sommer in Schweden oben einen begeisterten Radiohörer, ob er auch schon einmal etwas von der Schweiz aufgefangen hätte... Jawohl, sagte er, Bruchstücke eines—Handharmonikakonzertes.

Vergesse man doch nicht, dass es sich nicht nur um unsere Auslandschweizer, sondern um die europäischen Hörer überhaupt handelt. Je stärker und bedeutungsvoller wir uns bei ihnen Gehör verschaffen, um so besser für das Ansehen der Schweiz. Dabei kann man sich ja eine billigere und bequemere Weise, Kulturpropaganda zu treiben, gar nicht denken.

*Alte Siege und neue Denkmäler.*

Auf den Antrag der Militärdirektion ist von unserem Regierungsrat dem Gemeinderat von Giornico an die Kosten der von ihm geplanten Errichtung eines Denkmals zur Erinnerung an die Schlacht von Giornico im Jahre 1478 ein Staatsbeitrag bewilligt worden.

Zur Erinnerung, auf Antrag der Militärdirektion... Und man sucht sich zu erinnern. Um seiner Sache sicher zu sein, liest man bei Gagliardi nach. Jawohl, es stimmt, es hat sich 1478 um eine militärische Grosstakt gehandelt. 175 Zürcher, Urner, Schwyzer und Luzerner ("zuchtlose Knechte") und 3—400 Leventiner haben vor ungefähr 450 Jahren 12,000 Mann, das zwanzigfach überlegene mailändische Heer in die Flucht geschlagen, 1400 getötet, reiche Beute gemacht etc. Der militärische Erfolg durfte zwar von den Urnern nicht ausgenutzt werden...

Und nun besinnt man sich auf ein Denkmal. Aus Wohlwollen gegenüber dem Kanton Tessin, so denke ich mir, nicht aus militärischen Gründen (wenn auch auf Antrag der Militärdirektion), leistet auch Basel 450 Jahre danach einen Staatsbeitrag.

Wenn man doch endlich einsehe, dass wir Wichtigeres zu tun haben, als Denkmäler zu errichten. Dem Kanton Tessin kann heute der Sieg von Giornico nicht mehr helfen. Er braucht dringend einige Siege von 1929! (Und wenn schon ein Denkmal, warum nicht einen tüchtigen Granitblock? Es hat ja deren mehr als genug im Tessin. Eine gute Inschrift: auch an Tessiner Dichtern fehlt es ja nicht. Wüchtig eingemesselt: und das Denkmal ist so würdig wie nur ein Denkmal sein kann). Wichtiger aber: eine Strasse zu einem verlassenem Dorf hinauf, eine Brücke, ein Kraftwerk... zur Erinnerung an den Sieg von Giornico.

Die Leventiner von damals taten, was zeitgemäss war. Ehren wir sie dadurch, dass auch wir das tun, was den Anforderungen der Gegenwart entspricht, damit man, falls man auch nach den nächsten 450 Jahren die Denkmalsucht nicht los geworden sein sollte, im Jahre 2379 ernsthaft erwägen muss, uns Schweizern von 1929 im allgemeinen und den Tessinern im besonderen ein Denkmal zu errichten.

*Die feuergefährdete Freiheit.*

Wir sind stolz auf unsere Freiheit, stolz auf die Bundesbriefe, die sie verbürgen. Bis jetzt war man dieser Freiheit so sicher wie der in Schwyz aufbewahrten Bundesbriefe selber. Nun erfährt man auf einmal aus den Zeitungen, dass die Aufbewahrungsart unserer Freiheit, nein, unserer Bundesbriefe, nicht feuersicher sei. Und überdies sei der Kanton Schwyz nicht instande, aus eigenen Mitteln für eine hinlänglich sichere Aufbewahrung dieser Papiere zu sorgen. Dem Kanton Schwyz sind die Bundesbriefe augenscheinlich nicht soviel wert, dass er selber ein Opfer zu bringen gewillt wäre.

Also her mit einer Bundesubvention, damit der Kanton Schwyz ein entsprechendes Gebäude erstellen kann mit einem entsprechenden feuersicheren Kassenschrank. Darin wollen wir dann unsere Bundesbriefe, die Grundlage unserer Freiheit, so gut vergraben, dass ihnen nie und nimmer etwas Schlimmes zustossen kann. (Wer will, darf dann diese glücklich erreichte Feuersicherheit auch symbolisch nehmen.) Wie es im Ubrigen um