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THE PROTECTION OF SWISS CLOCKMAKERS.

The Swiss Federal Council has adopted a decree to protect the Swiss clockmaking industry which will remain in force until the end of 1935. The decree forbids the opening of new clock-making factories, the extension or transference or transformation of existing factories, and the export of certain parts of clocks as well as their sale with a view to export. The latter ban does not apply to deliveries permitted by the Swiss Chamber of Clockmakers.

HIGH-LEVEL SKIING SEASON.

Snow has again fallen in abundance on the mountains down to the 3,000ft. level, and, though temperature is not very low, conditions are again good for skiing. In spite of the abundance of powdery snow, the low-level skiing season is nearing its end, and the high-level season is beginning. Skiers have now taken to going higher up the mountains when spring snow becomes too soft in the lower regions, and go skiing on the glaciers and in the higher Alps. The high-level skiing season begins in March and lasts until the end of May.

SWISS RAIL SUBSIDY.

The Swiss Government has decided to grant a subsidy of Swiss Frs. 1,000,000 (£40,000 at par) to the railway company. This amount is to be used for further reduction of railway fares for foreign visitors during the coming season.

The Federal Railways have entered into an agreement with the hotel proprietors whereby the railway company will issue a ticket that includes the railway fare and the cost of a seven days' stay at any resort in Switzerland. This new regulation will be introduced on 1st April next.

VALAIS.

"Tante" Marie Binner, who was for nearly fifty years the barber at Zermatt, has died at the age of 74; she not only shaved the villagers, but many famous men in the tourist world came "under her knife."

Professor Paul Ostertag has resigned from his post as Director of the "Technikum" in Winterthur; his successor will be Professor Hans Krapf.

VAUD.

M. Georges Addor, Chancellor of the Canton of Vaud, has asked to be relieved of his post, on reaching the age limit.

NEUCHÂTEL.

Dr. Favot, Directeur de l'Ecole cantonale for the last ten years, and one of the oldest members of the teaching staff of that institution, has died at the age of 65.

ZURICH.

M. A. F. Geiser, the senior of Swiss mathematicians, died at Küssnacht (Zurich), at the age of 81. The deceased was for fifty years a teacher at the "Polytechnikum" in Zurich.

The "Kantonsrat" has decided to reduce the membership of the Council from 220 to 180 members.

ST. GALLEN.

The accounts of the town of St. Gallen for the year 1933 close with a surplus of 50,000 francs, instead of a loss of 200,000 francs, as estimated.

LA SITUATION A GENEVE.

Tel est — on le sait — le sujet de brûlante actualité qu'a traité M. le conseiller d'Etat Albert Picot jeudi dernier, à la Salle Centrale, devant un auditoire considérable.

Le chef du parti démocratique a d'abord relevé le regrettable changement d'attitude qui s'est marqué entre les débuts du nouveau gouvernement socialiste et certains de ses derniers actes — ou plutôt l'absence de certains actes que doit imposer à n'importe quel gouvernement le souci de l'ordre public. Il est vrai. Nous devons cependant à la vérité objective de reconnaître que si le gouvernement s'est laissé aller à certaines manifestations de parti qui l'ont fait savoir refréner en soi lorsque, de l'opposition on passe à la direction des affaires publiques, le Grand Conseil, en sa majorité bourgeoise, ne s'est non plus prononcé avec toute l'équité désirable sur le projet du Conseil d'Etat, qui introduisait très raisonnablement la notion de la progressivité dans les centimes additionnels. A chacun le sien!

Il nous apparaît, en outre, excessif de reprocher à M. Léon Nicole son attitude dans la question des zones. Nous estimons que les pires procès en politique sont ceux où l'on prétend se faire juge des intentions. Que les socialistes aient eu dessein d'exploiter en leur faveur le mécontentement de la campagne genevoise dans le règlement de cette affaire, c'est possible; le fait ne demeure pas moins incontestable que l'agitation ultra nationaliste, qui nous a valu le gain de notre cause devant la cour de La Haye, nous vaut aussi la très médiocre sentence arbitrale rendue à Territet; un arrangement amiable, tel que l'avaient d'ailleurs conçu puis réalisé naguère les prédécesseurs de M. Picot à la direction du parti démocratique. Gustave Ador et Albert Manno ont été bien préférable à la satisfaction purement morale que nous avons obtenue, et qui ne nourrit

en nous que la survivance d'une hargne contre la France napoléonienne d'avant 1844. En disant son désappointement, et en marquant l'intention de revenir à un accord amiable, le chef du gouvernement genevois a exprimé une opinion qui est certainement celle de la majorité de notre population — preuve en soit au surplus le vote de l'arrete qu'il soumettait au Grand Conseil et qui approuvait son attitude.

Il ne demeure pas moins que le gouvernement socialiste s'est laissé aller à suivre, en quelques circonstances, une politique qui autorisait même ceux qui ne lui font pas une opposition systématique, à douter qu'il eût le sens exact des responsabilités qu'enraille l'exercice du pouvoir. Et cela devait être rappelé.

En présence de cette situation, quels doivent être les devoirs de l'opposition bourgeoise au Grand Conseil — ou cette opposition est d'ailleurs en majorité — ce qui rend sa conduite particulièrement délicate, car, majorité, elle même à faire échec à la majorité gouvernementale renversée par rapport à elle, et, de fait, elle doit se souvenir que le vote massif (et non plus fragmentaire, comme c'est le cas avec la R. P.) du 26 novembre, a indiqué, avec une netteté sur laquelle il serait mesquin d'ergoter, la volonté du peuple genevois de faire une politique, sinon socialiste, du moins accentuée à gauche.

M. Albert Picot recommande d'abord la fin des oppositions sournoises entre les partis bourgeois. L'intention est louable, la réalisation reste chimérique. D'ici que radicaux d'une part, chrétiens sociaux et adhérents à l'union nationale d'autre part, puissent se réconcilier autrement que dans un baiser Lamourette, l'âne, le roi, ou moi nous mourrons. . . Passons.

M. Picot voit les choses de façon plus réaliste en recommandant aux purs Genevois de prendre garde que l'afflux des Confédérés à Genève est un fait dont il faut chercher à s'accommoder au lieu de le déplorer en vain, et de récriminer sans cesse sur l'évolution fâcheuse de la politique authentiquement genevoise qui en résulterait. En d'autres termes, il faut vivre avec son temps. Cette recommandation ne nous apparaît pas inutile. L'exaltation du nationalisme ne fera, par choc en retour, qu'apporter de l'eau au moulin socialiste.

M. Picot attend enfin de l'opposition qu'elle agisse de manière intelligente, loyale, dans le cadre strict de la légalité; qu'elle soit cependant absolument catégorique sur certains points non susceptibles de transaction, et qu'elle sache remplir vis-à-vis du pays une tâche positive et constructive.

Tribune de Genève.

"WILLIAM TELL" IS AGAIN PERFORMED AT ALTDORF.

Altdorf, the lovely little town near Flüelen, on the Lake of Lucerne, will, after an intermission of four years, be giving William Tell performances every Sunday from July to September. The presentations of Schiller's stirring drama in which William Tell, Altdorf's gallant archer, plays the stellar rôle, take place in a beautiful playhouse especially erected for this purpose. Many decades ago the people of Altdorf essayed some outdoor Tell performances, and the success of these proved an incentive for the erection of the first playhouse in 1899. Since then performances have been given at regular intervals during the summer months, and the latest Tell theatre, which was erected in 1925, features all modern improvements in stagecraft.

There are about 200 native actors, and each and every one is proud to give his talents — which in many instances are truly remarkable — and his time to a cause which is so intensely patriotic. Altdorf at any time is worthy of a visit, but when "William Tell" is being portrayed within its ancient walls, foreign visitors from everywhere deem it a privilege to attend one of the performances.

Altdorf, the tiny capital of the canton of Uri, lies in a fertile, fruit-growing valley. Mountains rise all around, but its special landmark is the Bannwald, the sacred forest which, since times immemorial, has stood guard against any onslaught of avalanches. In this historic woodland the woodman's axe is forbidden, and a stern legend warns that the hand of any trespasser will in due time grow out of his grave.

It was in the market place of Altdorf where Gessler, the heartless Austrian bailiff, erected his hat, to which every passer-by was required to do homage under severe penalties, and it was in this public square that the famous apple shooting scene subsequently took place. Two octagonally shaped fountains, beautifully adorned with flowers, mark the spots occupied by father and son respectively, and as we survey the distance between them our admiration for this heroic archer knows no bounds. Near the second fountain stands the magnificent Tell memorial, designed by Richard Kissling. The words which Rudolph, Gessler's lieutenant, spoke, according to Schiller's drama, are inscribed in German, and are quoted herewith in their translation:—

"And while these mountains rest upon their base, So long will the story of Tell be told."

A l'Approche de Pâque

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Altdorf has been visited three times by conflagrations, and each time the Föhn, that treacherous, yet also beneficial south wind, has been the culprit. However, in spite of these fires, a wealth of interesting sights still remains to delight the visitor. There are many fine patrician residences with French roofs and handsome wrought-iron entrance gates, through which one catches glimpses of gardens which are most fascinating with their rich southern vegetation. Although north of the St. Gothard, they are thriving under the warm breath of the Föhn.

The old Town Hall and the cantonal Historical Museum deserve a visit, and among the several churches, St. Martin's, with its frescoes by Van Dyck and Deschwanden, is quite noteworthy.

Excursions from Altdorf are so numerous and always so enjoyable that many a tourist who originally came to this spot just for a William Tell performance, or a short sightseeing trip, has returned and stayed for a number of days. Post-automobiles start out from here over the scenic Klausen Pass to Linthal, in the canton of Glarus, and ten minutes later their first stop is made at Bürglen, the birthplace of Switzerland's national hero, which consists of a group of friendly peasant dwellings, a sawmill, a venerable church, a school and a tiny Tell's Chapel.

Tradition relates that Tell was born in a chalet which stood on this site. A semi-circular opening in the front of the shrine, covered with an iron grating, affords a survey of its interior, which could barely accommodate half-a-dozen people. The frescoed walls depict the principal episodes in Tell's life, and a beautiful Bible reposes on a rather elaborate altar. Flowers and shrubs all around form a befitting setting for this memorial. It is said that Tell at the age of seventy-five lost his life in the turbulent waters of the nearby Schächenbach, when, as a last splendid deed, he saved a little child from drowning.

The courage and bravery of William Tell have for ever been a personal inspiration to the people of Altdorf and environs, and when they impersonate the gallant, liberty-loving characters depicted in the Tell drama, they re-live each episode themselves, and present it to the outside world in impressive and unforgettable manner. Schiller's William Tell at Altdorf is an intellectual and visual treat, to which a mere description can never do full justice. It must be seen.

WILHELM WYDLER.

The funeral service for Wilhelm Wydler, *huissier* at the Swiss Legation, who so tragically lost his life, took place at the Golders Green Crematory on Monday last. Pastor C. Th. Hahn conducted the service.

Amongst the congregation was Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, accompanied by Madame Paravicini, Mademoiselle Livia Paravicini and Monsieur Vincent Paravicini, Monsieur Ch. de Jenner, Monsieur W. Rüfenacht, Madame W. de Bourg, Monsieur P. Hilfiker, as well as a large number of the Staff of the Legation.