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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

M. HENRI CORREVEYON †.

M. Henri Correyon, the Geneva botanist, has died at the age of 84, at Herisau, where he was undergoing an operation. He was the *doyen* of cultivators of mountain plants and a prolific writer on horticultural subjects.

Correyon was keenly interested in the flora of the alps of Western Europe, which he knew intimately, and published his first book on the subject in 1884. Before that he had written articles for the *Gardeners' Chronicle*. Correyon had the love of flowers in his blood, for his maternal grandfather established a nursery garden at Yverdon (Vaud) in 1828, and while still a lad he began the cultivation of alpine plants there, and issued a small trade catalogue. A move to a larger place at Plainpalais, Geneva, followed soon after the old Vaud nursery garden had been destroyed by a terrific hailstorm in 1887, and there Correyon acquired the old horticultural establishment of Paris Frères. He remained there till the spread of the town compelled a move to more suitable quarters, which he found at Chêne-Bourg, where in 1902 he established the garden that has since become famous as *Floraire*.

Almost from his boyhood Correyon had toyed with the idea of making a garden in the mountains for the growing of plants among their natural surroundings, and in 1885 he and his sons made a small rock garden near the Weisshorn Hotel, in the Val d'Anniviers, at an elevation of about 6,000ft. Four years afterwards, with the help of Sir John Lubbock, afterwards the first Lord Avebury, Professor G. J. Romanes, and other English friends, and the active co-operation of the association at Geneva for the protection of wild flowers, Correyon and his friend Dr. Goudet acquired a hill above the hamlet of Bourg-Saint-Pierre, on the road to the Great St. Bernard Pass, where, in spite of opposition from botanists and the local peasantry, he established a garden for the cultivation of plants from the mountains of the world. This garden, which he named *Linnaea* in compliment to the Linnaean Society, was carried on successfully till the outbreak of the War compelled its transference to the University of Geneva, the authorities of which use it as a summer laboratory for botanical students. The success of this garden led to the establishment of others, like La Rambertia, which commemorates Eugène Rambert, the poet botanist, and is on the top of the Rochers-de-Naye above Montreux, and several more in Switzerland, as well as in Austria, Germany, and France, on the Italian alps, and at Disko, in Greenland.

In founding these mountain gardens Correyon had the spread of interest in alpine flowers at heart and the protection of the rarer species. Protection was needed against despoilers of the native flowers who systematically uprooted them for subsequent sale, and in an endeavour to control the traffic in plants Correyon and Goudet long ago formed a committee of the Swiss Alpine Club. Gradually this developed into an international association for the suppression of the traffic in wild mountain plants, and over 30 years ago the association gave place to the organization known as *Naturschutz*. Correyon realized that the spoliation of the Swiss alpine flora might also be checked by the wholesale propagation of the plants for distribution among nurserymen, and he made this a prominent part of the business that he carried on at *Floraire*.

To anyone interested in mountain plants Correyon, with the experience of a lifetime behind him, made a delightful companion, and a day's clamber with him among the flowers he knew so well was an exhilarating and memorable experience. He specialized in mountain plants and had

many hints about the cultivation of such things for his friends, among whom were most of the keen amateurs of the last generation in this country. Numerous British visitors were his guests at his alpine garden of *Floraire* at Geneva and of *La Cheverrie* on the Jura, where, among others, Sir Austen Chamberlain used to go every year and make a choice of alpine plants for his rock garden. Correyon was also a well-known alpinist and was one of the founders of the association of British members of the Swiss Alpine Club. He was always an ardent admirer of Great Britain and zealously supported its policy and ideals in Switzerland.

PICCARD PLANS DEEPEST DIVE.

The Swiss professor, Auguste Piccard, of stratosphere fame, is planning to break all records for deep-sea diving.

Recently, in Brussels, he told of his plan to go down to a possible depth of five miles to study life at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean. He may use, he said, a spherical gondola made of glass.

The professor has been carrying out tests in his laboratory throughout the winter.

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

On May 6th, the gold reserves of the Swiss National Bank amounted to 2,472 million Swiss francs; discounts and advances on securities reached 214.8 millions. The notes in circulation (1,747 millions) and the other liabilities at sight (1,236 millions) were covered by 82.8%.

SWISS EXPEDITION TO HIMALAYAS.

Under the patronage and with the financial help of the Swiss Alpine Club a Swiss Himalayan Expedition has been organized, and has now left Zürich for India.

The expedition includes M. André Roch, of Geneva, as leader; M. Ernest Huber, a Zürich engineer, who will do the mapping; and two well-known Swiss guides, M. David Zogg, of Arosa, and M. Fritz Steuri, jun., of Grindelwald. M. Roch was a member of the Dyrenfurth Himalayan expedition and has made several visits to the Rocky Mountains. The expedition will proceed to the Garhwal Himalaya (on the north border of the United Provinces), and when on the spot will select the mountains to be explored and possibly climbed.

EXTENSION OF MILITARY TRAINING.

As no referendum had been asked for by the electorate, the Federal law providing for the extension of the period of military training came into force in Switzerland on the 15th of this month. Recruits called up after June will remain an extra month under training, making a total of four months.

SWISS INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL.

Lucerne.

Preparations for the International Festival weeks are proceeding apace. The following dates are settled: August 3, Toscanini concert; 4, Gigli recital; 5, Paderewski recital; 7, symphony concert, Sir Adrian Boult and Casals; 9, chamber music, Busch Quartet and Reginald Kell (clarinet); 11, symphony concert, Ansermet and Rachmaninov; 12, concert by the Strasburg Cathedral chorus, with J. Bonnet (organ); 14, Kipnis recital; 16 and 17, Verdi's 'Requiem,' conducted by Toscanini; 21, symphony concert, Bruno Walter; 23, song recital by Ria Ginster and Hermann Sehey, with Othmar Schoeck at the piano; 25, symphony concert, Fritz Busch; 27 and 28, concerts by the Sistine Chapel choir, conducted by Lorenzo Perosi; 29, symphony concert, Toscanini and Horowitz.

There will be religious plays at Einsiedeln from July 1st to August 30, and Tell plays at

Aldorf from July 9 to September 10. All information from the Secretary of the International Music Festival, Official Verkehrsbureau, Lucerne.

Geneva.

The international competition for performers, which will take place at the Conservatoire from June 26th to July 8th, is open to pianists, singers, violinists, flutists, oboists, clarinetists and bassoonists of both sexes, aged not less than fifteen and not more than thirty by June 30th. An orchestral concert will be given on July 8th to introduce the prize-winners; this will be broadcast by the Société Suisse de Diffusion and the New York National Broadcasting Company. The honorary committee is presided over by Ph. Etter, the President of the Swiss Confederation, and Paderewski.

This committee of patronage consists of Ansermet, S. Band-Bovy, Madame Cheridjian-Charrey, André Marescotti, Frank Martin and Alexandre Mottu, with Henri Gagnebin, the Director of the Conservatoire, as president.

SWISS STUDY RHONE PLAN.

A plan has been placed before both the Swiss and French Governments for opening the Rhone River to navigation as far as Geneva.

The cost of the work is estimated at about £5,000,000 and it is claimed that harnessing the Rhone for trade would be of considerable benefit to both countries.

At present all Switzerland's water-imported goods come by the Rhine, via Rotterdam and Germany. Much of this commerce comes from the Mediterranean, and to route it through Marseilles to Switzerland would obviously be a great saving in cost and time.

From Switzerland's point of view the greatest advantage of widening the Rhone would be to ensure what is called "economic neutrality." That is, Switzerland would have two routes to the sea and so would not be dependent on any one country.

The importance of this consideration lies in the fact that 30 per cent. of all Switzerland's imports are water-borne, including a larger proportion of grain imports.

The prospect of the Rhone as a trade river is particularly important to many Swiss eyes just now on account of the tense international situations. For Switzerland remembers all too well the days during the World War when the Rhine was closed in defiance of treaty obligations and for a while it looked as if the country might starve.

After the war there was a grandiose plan for linking the Rhine and the Rhone and making it possible for ships to cross Europe from Marseilles to Rotterdam and Antwerp. The plan has been put forward again and again in the past 20 years but has so far made little progress owing to the immense cost.

Opening up the Rhone to navigation as far as Geneva is, however, a much simpler proposition. There are, it is claimed, very few engineering difficulties.

At present the Rhone is navigable as far as Seyssel, France, for boats of shallow draft. Seyssel is 25 miles from Geneva. Between the two towns there is only one serious obstacle to be overcome, the gorge known as the "Perte du Rhone." Here the river is completely blocked at periods of low water by huge boulders.

Engineers declare that it would not take overmuch ingenuity to take the boulders away and widen the gorge. Then by the construction of a series of locks between Lyon and Geneva, canal boats would be able to sail into the south of Switzerland.

SWISS LOAN TO GERMANY REFUSED.

After the return of Dr. Funk, Minister of Economic Affairs and President of the Reichsbank, from Berne, the negotiations about German-Swiss trade were resumed in Berlin on Monday.

The Federal Government, it is stated, have given new instructions to the Swiss delegation, headed by Herr Hötz, of the Federal Department of Public Economy. The instructions will probably deal with the question of German tourists and imports. In 1938 Swiss imports from Germany dropped by about £1,200,000, and on the other

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Le Comité.

hand the number of German tourists allowed to come to Switzerland was small. The Swiss delegation will therefore ask that the amount of money the German tourists are entitled to take into Switzerland be increased, and in exchange will offer to buy more German goods.

The German attempt to obtain a loan from the Swiss banks has been fruitless.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The death is reported from Zürich, at the age of 74, of M. Emil Huber Stockar, a well-known engineer who was until 1911 the head of the Oerlikon Machine Works. He was then appointed Chief Engineer of the Swiss Federal Railways, the electrification of which was his work. He was a colonel in the Army and published several books on scientific questions and Alpinism.

Dr. H. Stodola, for nearly forty years Professor at the Federal Technical University, in Zurich, has celebrated his 80th birthday.

He retired from his post in 1929.

Dr. Oskar Halter, a member of the Board of the Engineering Works J. J. Rieter & Cie, in Winterthur, has died in Winterthur.

Dr. Halter was for over twenty years technical manager of the concern. In 1938 he received the degree of *doctor honoris causa* of the Federal Technical University in Zurich.

LUCERNE.

The elections for a further term of four years of the members of the cantonal government have brought no change, the following members have been re-elected: Frey (Liberal) 32,828 votes; Wismer (liberal) 32,446 votes; Felber (Conservative) 30,976 votes; Dr. Egli (Conservative) 30,562 votes; Renggli (Conservative) 30,405 votes; Schnieper (Conservative) 30,267 votes; and Dr. Winiker (Conservative) 29,817 votes.

The elections for the Grand Council show the following strengths of the various parties: Liberals 56; Cath. Cons. 81; Socialists 13; Democrats 1.

The death has occurred in Lucerne of Dr. Paul Styger from Schwyz at the age of 52. The deceased was an authority on Archeology. For twelve years he held the Chair of Archeology at the University of Warsaw. During the war he held an important post at the Vatican.

BASLE.

Dr. Carl Ludwig Schmidt, Professor of Theology at Basle University, has been deprived of his German nationality by the Nazi Government. Professor Schmidt was born in 1891 in Frankfurt and was severely wounded while fighting in the German Army on the Western Front. His contribution to the theological dictionary to be published soon in Germany has been suspended.

ST. GALL.

The Commercial University in St. Gall has celebrated its 40th Anniversary.

VAUD.

Colonel Robert Chavannes, a member of the Federal Instruction Corps from 1899-1920, has celebrated his 75th birthday. Colonel Chavannes was a close collaborator of the late Colonel Schaeck.

FOOTBALL.

14th May, 1939.

BELGIUM1 SWITZERLAND2

Hurrah, they have done it again! And mind you, in eleven encounters this is only the second time Switzerland has defeated Belgium, in April 1937 in Brussels by 2 goals to 1 and now in Liège by the identical score. Three games in Switzerland ended in draws; never yet have we been successful at home.

We fielded an unchanged eleven, except that Amado went to centre-forward and P. Aebi to inside-right. 20,000 spectators witnessed an interesting game. Seven minutes from the start, Trello shot hard for goal and somehow the keeper let the ball slip through his hands; Switzerland led somewhat unexpectedly. The Belgian halves played very well, covering our forwards cleverly. More than once an equalising score seemed imminent, but our defence held tight and half time arrived without either keeper being beaten again.

Belgium restarted the game with a series of corner-kicks and in the tenth minute booked the well deserved equaliser through Voorhoof, playing at inside-right. This reverse stimulated the Swiss eleven to pull out that little extra which had so far been lacking. A hot shot of Trello's came back from some body or other to Amado who lost no time in placing the ball into the net. The

Diabes Rouges fought back with vigour but the Swiss held the fort to the end, pressing in turn and securing four corners in succession without improving on any of them. And the final whistle ended a ding-dong battle with Switzerland just about worthy winners.

At the same time, our B team played in Lucerne against a national eleven of Luxembourg and deserve special mention for a smashing win by no less than 9 goals to 1, thus avenging their last defeat very handsomely. In these encounters we have now won 3, lost 2 and drawn 2. Some of our youngsters seem to know how to shoot.

M.G.

LETTER FROM SWITZERLAND.

The economic situation during the first quarter of 1939.

During the first three months of the year, the international political situation has steadily been getting more critical. Yet, in spite of this state of affairs, Swiss trade has fairly successfully held its grounds. The decline in Imports has been comparatively slight, amounting to 398.4 million Swiss francs in comparison to 399.9 million Swiss francs during the same period of 1938. As regards Exports, they have risen from 306.3 million francs to 329.9 million francs, showing an increase of 23.6 million francs. Thanks to this, the deficit of the commercial balance has been reduced from 93.6 million Swiss francs for the first quarter of 1938 to 68.5 million francs in 1939. It is interesting to note that amongst those imports which show the most marked increase, are raw iron and steel, iron used for building, and coal; on the other hand, there has been a certain decrease in raw cotton and copper, raw materials for brewery, wheat, fodder and oxen. As regards exports, the textile industry shows an increase of 6.6 million Swiss francs, cotton fabrics alone having gained more than 3 million francs. Foodstuffs have gone up by one million, materials appertaining to chemical and pharmaceutical industries have increased by 14½ million francs. The metallurgical trade, however, shows a decrease of about 4 million francs, due to the state of the watch trade, where sales have declined from 51.7 million francs to 40.1 million. This loss can be largely attributed to the political situation which hardly favours the export of luxury articles. On the other hand, all other branches of the metallurgical trade show a distinct progress (machinery: an increase of 4 million, tools and apparatus: 2 million, raw aluminium: 1.5 million, etc.).

The index of the cost of living and that of wholesale prices has maintained the same level, the former showing even a slight tendency to decrease. Unemployment is on the decline: during the month of March, the application for work dropped by 1,000 as compared to 1938, and by 20,000 as compared to January 1939.

In spite of the troubled political situation, it is evident that Swiss trade is slowly but surely on the uprise. One should not forget the tremendous effort put forward by Switzerland to reinforce her National Defence. In April, the Federal Parliament voted a credit of 415 million francs, one half of which will go for the upkeep of the army, and the other half to procure work for the unemployed. However, this still was not deemed sufficient and the government forsee a further credit of 190 million francs, which will be devoted exclusively to National Defence.

PERSONAL.

We extend heartiest congratulations to Mr. A. C. Stahelin, who, on the occasion of the Annual Delegates Meeting of the "Schweizerische Kaufmännische Verein" which was held in Zurich last week, was nominated an honorary Member of the S.K.V. as an acknowledgement for the great services which he had rendered in connection with the Educational side of the Society.

Mr. Stahelin, who was President of the Swiss Mercantile Society from 1925-28, is also an Honorary Member of the London section and a Member of the Council. This well deserved distinction not only honours our friend, but also the Swiss Mercantile Society, London, which is a section of the S.K.V.

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