

# News in brief

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NEWS IN BRIEF :

To go and see the National Exhibition Francesco Bernasconi of Lugano harnessed his donkey Piti to his little fourwheeler. With a crack of his whip he happily started on his journey to Zurich to see the Great Fair, causing a lot of merriment throughout his trip. The first day took him as far as Cresciano and the next to Faido where he was forced to remain a few days on account of wet weather. Over the St. Gotthard down the wild gorges of Uri to Fluelen and Zug to his destination Zurich, proudly promenading the busy streets of this big city to the great amusement of the populace.

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On his return from a visit to Switzerland and the National Exhibition in Zurich, Sir Frank Bowater, Lord Mayor of London, expressed himself to some press representatives in very complimentary terms regarding our country. He said that the reception accorded to him surpassed all his expectations. "Our trip to Switzerland has convinced me the Swiss have very much in common with the English people. Like us, they love their country and their liberty, so hard fought for in years gone by. The spontaneous applause and the wonderful hospitality was combined with the expressions on a grand scale of a wish to show the world how strongly they were attached to their democratic principles." "Personally," he continued, "this visit has charmed the Lady Mayoress and myself very much; in fact it carried us back to the time many years ago, when we had our second honeymoon there. We, therefore, intend to call this visit our third honeymoon."

The Bernese presented the Lord Mayor, on his departure, with a full sized Emmenthaler Cheese. Very good propaganda!!

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M. Ignace Moscicki, late President of Poland, has obtained for himself and his wife from the Swiss Federal Council, permission to reside in Switzerland.

M. Moscicki some years ago occupied a professorial chair at the Fribourg University, and was naturalized in 1908. He has never forfeited the Swiss citizenship, also he was made a citizen of Poland when this new republic was created after the Great War. Like other political refugees, he has pledged himself to abstain from political activities during his sojourn in Switzerland.

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Telephoning in Switzerland at the present time has its difficulties. In France for instance, you must only 'phone in French; in Germany of course, only German; in Switzerland only the four officially recognised languages are permitted. It very often occurs that during a telephone conversation the central calls out politely, "Will you please speak in Swiss", wherein is meant one of the four official languages. To a foreigner, it is a source of many misunderstandings and inconvenience, particularly so when he is not conversant with the Swiss.

A rather comical incident occurred not so long ago when a Rumanian had occasion to converse with his business firm in his country. Although he was familiar with some Swiss language his firm in Rumania was not. When the conversation, which of course was in Rumanian, had proceeded a little while, the usual interruption happened - "Will you please speak in Swiss?"

"So we are," replied the shrewd businessman, "don't you understand Romansch?"

"Oh, I do beg your pardon," floated back the sweet voice of the telephone girl over the 'phone, and the business talk went on without any further breaks.

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