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For the financial years 1914, 1915 and 1916, the first three to fall within the period of the Great War, the deficits were: 22,533,117 frs., 21,551,507 frs. and 16,645,455 francs respectively, then in 1917 the excess of expenditure over revenue mounted to treble that of 1916, increasing alarmingly year by year ever since, viz.:—

1917 deficit	50 747,865 frs.
1918	„	...	61,894,687 „
1919	„	...	95,655,686 „
1920	„	...	99,536,730 „
1921	„	...	127,571,870 „

A landscape by Ferdinand Hodler fetched 25,000 frs. at a recent sale of paintings at Geneva.

In 1880 the same picture was bought for 300 frs. and resold in 1918 for 19,000 frs.

Twenty-one countries are represented at the International Technical Conference on the Teaching of Esperanto in Schools, which has been opened in Geneva under the auspices of the League of Nations.

As arbiter in the dispute between Columbia and Venezuela in regard to frontiers, which was referred to it in 1916, the Swiss Federal Council has decided in favour of Columbia on the principal point of discussion, and recognized the rights of Columbia in the disputed territories.

During the first quarter of the present year Swiss Customs yielded a total revenue of 36,808,931 frs. against 22,661,960 frs. for the corresponding period of 1921.

CONCOURS INTERNATIONAL DE REGLAGE DE CHRONOMETRES.

Le Conseil d'Etat de la République et Canton de Neuchâtel, considérant que le monde horloger s'apprête à célébrer le centenaire d'Abram-Louis Breguet, horloger neuchâtelois, membre de l'Institut de France et du Bureau des longitudes, né à Neuchâtel (Suisse), le 10 janvier 1747, mort à Paris, le 17 septembre 1823; considérant que la patrie de Breguet ne saurait s'associer mieux à cette manifestation que par l'institution, à l'Observatoire de Neuchâtel, d'un concours international de réglage de chronomètres; vu le préavis de la Commission de l'Observatoire; sur la proposition des conseillers d'Etat, chefs des départements de l'Instruction publique et de l'Industrie,

Arrête:

Art. 1.—Il est institué, à l'Observatoire de Neuchâtel (Suisse), à l'occasion du centenaire d'Abram-Louis Breguet, un concours international de réglage de chronomètres, qui aura lieu en 1923.

Art. 2.—Un règlement spécial fixera les formalités et les conditions du concours; ce règlement sera remis gratuitement à tout intéressé qui en fera la demande à la Chancellerie d'Etat ou à la Direction de l'Observatoire de Neuchâtel.

Art. 3.—Les départements de l'Instruction publique et de l'Industrie sont chargés de veiller à l'exécution du présent arrêté.

Neuchâtel, 14 février 1922.

Au nom du Conseil d'Etat:

Le président, E. BEGUIN.

Le chancelier, STUDER-JEANRENAUD.

NOTES & GLEANINGS.

The not very unbiassed arguments in the English press as to whether English cases of consumption have better prospects of a cure by a stay at one of the Swiss health stations than by British sanatorium treatment, are now relieved by a discussion on the sun cure of tuberculosis. On April 10th, the medical members of the House of Commons were addressed by some English specialists on the method so successfully practised by Dr. Rollier at Leysin, and a medical correspondent in one of the papers describes the English treatment of tuberculosis as a "tragic farce."

The "Freedom of the Rhine" continues to be extensively referred to, as, for example, in the *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* (April 11th) and *The Observer* (April 9th).

What promises to be an instructive visit—and one that will help to further cement the relations between the Swiss and English dye industries—has just been arranged, for according to the *Yorkshire Observer* (April 10th)—

"The three principal Swiss firms—the Society of Chemical Industry, the Sandoz Chemical Company, and J. R. Geigy, all of Basle—have now sent an invitation to the West Riding section of the Society of Dyers and Colourists to visit their works in Switzerland.

The invitation is extended to representative users of colour in the West Riding, and already sixty names have been sent in. Ladies are to take part in the visit, and the three companies concerned are making arrangements for social events in addition to the works visits. The visit is to be made from June 3 to June 10, and is likely to prove both useful and enjoyable to those who are interested."

The *Saturday Review*, in which from the pen of a Geneva correspondent two articles appeared under the heading "A Paradise of Socialism," criticising in a superficial and deprecating manner Swiss administrative methods, has now published (April 8th) an excellent reply from Dr. Paul Lang, which, it is to be hoped, will correct the erroneous impressions created by the original missiles. The following is an extract:—

"It is hard to hear that we have no native art in Switzerland and that we are content with mediocrity, and consequently we can have 'no poets, statesmen, dramatists and painters or any of the more supreme achievements in intellect, beauty or wit.' It is the curse of Switzerland, being a tri-lingual nation, that as soon as a Swiss has attained any kind of fame, the big nation, speaking the same language as the part of Switzerland to which he belongs, embraces him as one of its sons. It is perhaps as well to state that 12 per cent. of all the receivers of the different Nobel prizes were of Swiss nationality, including one winner of the literary Nobel Prize. It is grotesque to have to reply to an article pretending that there is no native art in Switzerland. England rightly boasts of Hans Holbein, the younger, who won his great fame in London. Yet he, although born in the neighbouring part of Germany, was educated in Basle, a citizen of Basle and the husband of a lady of that town. His nationality may be disputed; it cannot, however be denied that Fuseli, Calame, Stauffer, Welti, Böcklin, Burnand and Hodler were Swiss. It may be as well to remind your correspondent, who thinks us a nation without poets, that not only Gottfried Keller, Conrad Ferdinand Meyer and Carl Spitteler are Swiss, but that the 'Times Literary Supplement' only last year declared that there is no lack of poets in Switzerland today, that 'there is, in fact, a high degree of original inspiration in the most important of the younger Swiss poets'; that Nietzsche declared Spitteler the finest of German æsthetic writers; that Professor Robertson, when giving an extensive account of Spitteler's works in the 'Fortnightly Review,' wrote: 'Not a few well-balanced minds in Germany and France have, since the passing of Nietzsche, regarded Spitteler as a kind of sleeping Barbarossa who would some day wake to assume the long unclaimed sceptre in German poetry'; that Rousseau was