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THE PUBLISHERS.

HOME NEWS

Commencing from September 1st, a postal innovation is being introduced in the principal towns of Switzerland. Within a limited radius from these centres letters and parcels are being collected at the offices of the senders at their request, a small additional fee being charged.

Owing to a considerable increase in the railway service, the Swiss Federal Railways are extending the working hours of some sections of the staff—a deviation from the eight-hour day which is being vigorously contested by the unions concerned.

The *chasse* on Sundays is, after all, to be left to the discretion of the cantonal authorities, this being the recommendation of the commission of the National Council, contrary to the latter's decision and to the original proposal of the Federal Council; pigeon shooting, though generally forbidden, may be licensed by a cantonal government.

A further contingent of 550 Swiss children, living with their parents in Germany, arrived in Basle on August 2nd; they have been distributed in Switzerland, for an eight weeks' stay, with families who volunteered to take charge of them.

Some fissures in a tunnel of the municipal electricity works at Sion (Valais) having appeared, and water being thus allowed to escape, six workmen were ordered to repair the damage. Suddenly part of the roof collapsed, the air pressure caused by the incoming water and earth shooting the whole of the repairing gang out of the tunnel. Five of the workmen were extricated alive from the debris, whilst the sixth, Seraphin Juliard, from Ayt, died instantaneously.

Mr. Jacob Möhr, of Mayenfeld, the Director of the Federal Emigration Office, celebrates the 25th anniversary of his entering the service of the Confederation.

Thanks to a lucky accident, the Zürcher Kunsthaus has recovered the Hodler painting "Der Stabschneider," which some years ago mysteriously disappeared from its walls. The new owner proved to be an Austrian painter who had previously been convicted and expelled from Switzerland and who pretended to have acquired the picture for five francs from a hawker, without realising its true value.

Owing to carelessness by smokers, a forest fire has broken out on the La Crevasche Alp, near Leysin. The fire brigades of the neighbouring villages (Leysin, Corbeyrier, Yverne and Aigle) are hard at work and are meeting with considerable difficulties on account of the dryness of the pines and the formation of the undergrowth. The fire is being attacked in the lower regions, allowing the flames full play higher up the rocks; owing to blazing trees falling down the lower slopes, fresh fires have to be attended to promptly. Thanks to the direction of the wind, there is at present no danger to human habitations.

In climbing the Weisses Frau, Mr. Jakob Wey, the Superintendent of the Federal Workshops at Olten, and his two sons fell near the Blümlisalp glacier. The accident was observed by another party on the Wilde Frau, who at once proceeded to their rescue. One of the sons had fractured his skull and expired in the arms of his father. The

latter and the other son were brought down to Kandersteg, seriously but not fatally injured.

Bathing accidents have been numerous during the last few weeks. Near Lindencham two brothers, Jakob and Walter Hausheer, sons of the local mayor, were drowned in the Lorze (Zug).—Whilst bathing in the Lake of Geneva, near the Mon Repos Park, Fernand Tireport, an experienced swimmer, lost his life.—Carried away by a current, Miss Emilie Wendler disappeared in the Bienne Lake.—The same fate overtook Harry Ravassin, a postal clerk, of St. Croix, in the Lake of Interlaken.—Two sisters, Antonietta and Maria Mojana, from Bissonne, were drowned in the Lake of Lugano as a result of a collision between their motor boat and another one in front of the quay of Lugano.

EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

Deux Allemands naturalisés et maquillés. — Le gouvernement des Rhodes-Extérieures d'Appenzell vient de prendre une décision quelque peu singulière, en accordant à un Allemand naturalisé, du nom de Fraenkel, le droit de s'approprier celui de Tissot. Récemment, un cas analogue s'était passé à Berne, où un nommé Rosenbaum fut autorisé par le département de l'intérieur à s'appeler Ramsayer, au risque de s'exposer aux réclamations des ressortissants de cette famille bien bernoise. Le gouvernement appenzellois, lui, aura craint de s'exposer aux critiques de l'opinion en permettant au naturalisé de s'appeler Eugster ou Eisenhut; et il a tourné la difficulté en l'attribuant à une honorable souche neuchâteloise et fribourgeoise. Reste à savoir si les Tissots de la Suisse romande seront enchantés de se voir colloquer cet immigré.

Pour en revenir à la décision du canton de Berne, elle jurait quelque peu, avec le refus opposé, en 1919, à la requête d'un citoyen bernois fixé dans un pays allié, et qui avait demandé à franciser son nom. Après le cas du Tissot-façon, les esprits malveillants pourraient être conduits à insinuer que les nouveaux noms français seront réservés, dorénavant, aux naturalisés d'outre-Rhin! (*La Tribune de Genève.*)

Victime des bolchévistes. — Dernièrement est arrivé à Payerne le petit-fils du général Henri Jomini, originaire comme on le sait, de la cité broyarde. On se souvient que le célèbre général, abreuvé de vexations par Napoléon, prit du service auprès d'Alexandre Ier et qu'il ne rentra en France qu'après la mort de l'empereur, laissant en Russie une progéniture dont le nouveau rescapé du bolchévisme est le dernier représentant.

Sa venue fit sensation. Les membres de la Municipalité qui le reçurent avec une amabilité marquée, furent si frappés de la ressemblance qu'il présentait avec le tableau du célèbre général qui orne la salle des séances qu'ils le réintégrèrent séance tenante dans la bourgeoisie payernoise. On lui fit même un secours de 600 fr. dont le nouveau bourgeois entend bien ne pas profiter. Il s'est contenté d'une somme de 100 fr. qu'il a promis de rendre à bref délai.

Ce nouveau citoyen a 46 ans; il est ingénieur agronome et entend ne devoir qu'à son travail sa subsistance future.

(*Feuille d'Avis de Lausanne.*)

Le général Bruce en Valais. — Le général Bruce, le célèbre alpiniste anglais qui organisa, l'an dernier, l'expédition de l'Everest, dans la chaîne de l'Himalaya, est en ce moment en Valais. Un Américain qui, depuis quelques années, habite Champéry, M. Montagnier, l'accompagne, ainsi que deux guides.

Ce groupe d'alpinistes est parti samedi de Champéry et a fait, dimanche, l'ascension de la Cime de l'Est et de la Haute Cime de la Dent du Midi. Il a quitté Martigny pour la vallée de Bagnes, se proposant d'aller de la cabane de Chanion jusqu'à Zermatt en traversant les hauts glaciers.

Le général Bruce a 58 ans. Il a vécu trente-deux ans aux Indes où il a longtemps guerroyé sur les frontières de l'Afghanistan. Il a fait la grande guerre dans la presqu'île de Gallipoli. Il connaissait déjà le Valais dont il a autrefois gravi les montagnes, avec des guides qu'il avait amenés du Népal. Il compte retourner prochainement aux Indes pour entreprendre la conquête définitive du plus haut sommet du monde.

(*Courrier de Genève.*)

Der zwölfte schweizerische Abstinenztag in Luzern wurde zu einer machtvollen Kundgebung für den Abstinenzgedanken. Am Festzug durch die Stadt Luzern beteiligten sich etwa 3,500 Personen. An der Tagung in der Festhütte wurden etwa 5,000 Teilnehmer gezählt. Die Versammlung wurde vom Ehrenpräsidenten, Nationalrat Ming, eröffnet. Nach



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einem programmatischen Vortrage durch den Direktor der Zentralstelle zur Bekämpfung des Alkoholismus, Dr. Max Oetli, wurde auf Antrag von Prof. Dr. Huwyler in einer telegraphischen Entschliessung dem Bundesrat für sein Bemühen für die Reform des Alkoholwesens gedankt. Es wird darin ferner die Erwartung ausgesprochen, dass der Bundesrat und die eidgenössischen Räte diese so notwendige Reform wieder aufnehmen, und zwar weniger in fiskalischem als in volkshygienischem Geiste.

(*Seeländer Anzeiger, Aarberg.*)

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KYBURG."

Young Swiss and England.

Nothing has happened yet—owing to the holidays, I am informed. But time presses, and it seems to me that the proposed meeting of the Economic Commission ought to take place, even if it is not possible to secure the attendance of all its members. The point at issue is simply to get a move on, to strengthen, as it were, the hands of our Minister. If only we can get him to report to Berne that the matter is viewed with growing anxiety by the Swiss in England, and that, owing to the particular position in which we are placed, we ought to be treated differently from other nationals, and that our Government ought to tackle the question from this point of view, something useful would have been done. But time presses!

Swiss Engineers' Visit.

Morning Post (2nd August):—

Sir Henry Maybury, Director-General, Roads Department, Ministry of Transport, yesterday entertained at luncheon at the Hotel Cecil a party of Swiss engineers who are paying a visit to this country to observe certain work in connection with road construction and surface dressing. To-day the party visit Horley. Crawley, Worthing and Brighton, and to-morrow attend the official opening, by the Hon. Mrs. Ashley, wife of the Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Transport, of the new arterial road at Farningham, Kent.

I wonder whether our Swiss engineers were able to advise the local authorities at Crawley concerning the deplorable state of the water supply in that town! Arriving there one evening last week after a most enjoyable run by motor, I found that no water for washing purposes could be got at the hotel, because the water supply is turned off every evening at 5 p.m. owing, if I remember rightly, to the pumps being obsolete! It required a threat to leave the hotel again without partaking of dinner to secure a modest supply of water from the kitchen! However, the dinner at the "George" at Crawley was worth some trouble, and the lofty dining-room there is worth seeing.

The Embroidery Trade.

A very interesting article appears in the *Nottingham Guardian* of August 3rd, dealing with the evidence given at the Board of Trade enquiry into the unemployment prevailing in the lace and embroidery industries. Mr. George Dawson, of London, gave some extremely interesting particulars of the Swiss embroidery industry. Readers