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**Eine originelle Ehrengabe.** — Eine Aarauer Firma hat als Ehrengabe eine Patent-Teigknetmaschine Artofex im Werte von 1800 Fr. gespendet für den besten Schützen auf Scheibe Glück 300 Meter, welcher gegenwärtig den Beruf als Bäcker oder Konditor ausübt. (Neue Bündner Zeitung.)

**Verlorene Heimat.** — Noch schwerer als manchen Talleuten soll es dem 80jährigen Pfarrer Gietzen-danner in Innertal-Wäggitel geworden sein, die Gemeinde und das Pfarrhaus zu verlassen. Er weinte darüber, und die Talleute, die von ihm Abschied nahmen (zwei Drittel mussten nach auswärts ziehen und für ein Drittel entstand bekanntlich ein neues Oertchen), machten es ihm noch viel schwerer, so dass er meinte: "Ich wollte, ich hätte Abschied nehmen können, um auf dem Friedhof die letzte Ruhe zu finden; ich füge mich gerne Gottes Willen; nun müsst ihr fort, da man euch die Heimat nimmt. Das ist so hart für mich." (Freie Rätler.)

## DIE WÜNSCHE URIS.

Das Memorial, das der Urner Regierungsrat dem Bundesrat einreichte, lenkt die Aufmerksamkeit erneut auf die seit langen Jahren recht schwierige Lage des Kantons Uri. Die Wünsche, welche in Bern geltend gemacht werden, decken sich teilweise mit den viel erörterten Postulaten des Kantons Tessin. Angeregt wird so u. a. eine Erhöhung des Wasserzinses, den die Bundesbahnen für die Wasserkraft der Reuss zu entrichten haben. Man hat in Altdorf das Gefühl, dass die Abtretung dieses wertvollsten Naturschatzes des Kantons zu allzu ungünstigen Bedingungen erfolgt sei. Gewünscht werden auch höhere Entschädigungen der Eidgenossenschaft für den Unterhalt der Alpenstrassen. Das Hauptpostulat bildet aber die Anregung, die Eidgenossenschaft möchte der Urner Regierung eine Million Franken zur Verfügung stellen, welche vor einigen Jahren auf einem früheren Bundesdarlehen an den Kanton abbezahlt worden waren.

Die Wünsche des ältesten Kantons verdienen eine sympathische und wohlwollende Würdigung. Mit besonderem Interesse wird man ihre Erfüllung in Basel verfolgen, indem ja von einem Jahrzehnt die Hilfe für Uri von Basel aus organisiert worden war, als der Kanton infolge der Misserwirtschaft der früheren Ersparniskassa Uri vor einer finanziellen Katastrophe stand. Nachdem die Basler Kantonalbank gemeinsam mit ihrem Schwesterinstitut in Zürich die grösste Gefahr abgewendet hatte, sprang die Eidgenossenschaft ein und stellte dem Kanton Uri ein Darlehen von 5 Millionen Franken zur Verfügung. Als bei der Liquidation der faulen Geschäfte der Ersparniskassa ein grösseres Fabrikunternehmen abgestossen werden konnte, begann der Kanton Uri mit der Abzahlung seiner Schuld an die Eidgenossenschaft und sandte eine Million nach Bern. Man wollte damit den guten Willen zeigen und bekräftigen, dass es der Kanton mit seiner finanziellen Sanierung ernst nehme. Bald zeigte sich aber, dass dieser Schritt überhastet gewesen war. Die Kriegsjahre ergaben in der Urner Staatsrechnung grosse Rückschläge; immerhin ist für 1923 wieder eine sehr erfreuliche Besserung eingetreten. Als die wirtschaftliche Krise die Arbeitslosigkeit auch in das Urnerland trug, ordnete der Regierungsrat grosszügige Bodenverbesserungen an. Aus laufenden Mitteln konnten diese Aufwendungen nicht bestritten werden; der Kanton musste sich bei der Kantonalbank Kredite beschaffen. Elementarkatastrophen nötigten die Regierung zu weiteren ausserordentlichen Ausgaben. Auch hierfür musste der Kanton sich die Gelder bei der Kantonalbank sichern. So hat nun der Kanton bei der Kantonalbank Schulden von 2 Millionen Franken. Es ist unmöglich, diese rasch abzutragen. Deshalb appelliert der Kanton Uri neuerdings an die Eidgenossenschaft und regt an, dass ihm die erwähnte Million, die er auf der Bundesschuld abgetragen hatte, wieder zur Verfügung gestellt werde. Der Kanton will damit seine Schuld bei der Kantonalbank erleichtern.

Ueber die Möglichkeiten, den Urner Wünschen entgegenzukommen, ist in Bern schon seit einiger Zeit verhandelt worden. Wenigstens in der finanziellen Frage dürfte ein Entgegenkommen möglich sein. Die Eidgenossenschaft sucht jedes Jahr für erhebliche Mittel, die in den Fonds festgelegt werden, gute Kapitalanlagen. Es ist durchaus gegeben, dass sie nicht nur eigene Obligations des Bundes den Fonds überweist, sondern einmal auch eine Million in einem Titel der Urner Staatsschuld. Dem Kanton müsste natürlich das Geld zu einem billigen Zinssatz zur Verfügung gestellt werden; denn sonst verfehlt die Bundeshilfe ihren Zweck, dem Kanton die finanzielle Konsolidierung zu erleichtern. Der Kanton Uri würde seine Schuld bei der Eidgenossenschaft mit 5 Prozent pro Jahr verzinsen, wobei 3 Prozent als Kapitalverzinsung zu gelten hätten, während 2 Prozent als Abzahlung betrachtet würden. So sollte es möglich sein, die Million innert zwei bis drei Jahrzehnten abzuzahlen, ohne dass der Kanton Uri allzuschwer belastet wird. (National-Zeitung.)

## CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents and cannot publish anonymous articles, unless accompanied by the writer's name and address, as evidence of good faith.

### Position of Swiss Citizens born in England.

To the Editor of *The Swiss Observer*.

Sir,—As I share entirely the view expressed by "Quarante ans en Angleterre" that the question regarding the position of Swiss citizens born on British territory may be of particular interest to many of our countrymen in England, I should be glad if you would kindly grant me once more some space in your paper.

Swiss nationality is acquired, *ipso jure*, by descent from Swiss parents. Registration in Switzerland of a birth which took place abroad is not essential in this regard, as M. Althouse seems to believe. It would, therefore, be a mistake to suppose that by not registering in Switzerland a birth occurring abroad, a child would not become a Swiss national.

A natural-born British subject who at his birth acquired also the nationality of another State has no legal right to declare, pending his majority, that he will follow the nationality of his parents, as stated by M. Althouse. The British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, 1914 (as amended by the Acts of 1918 and 1922), which exclusively governs this matter, says in Sect. 14 (1):—

"Any person who by reason of his having been born within His Majesty's dominions and allegiance, or on board a British ship, is a natural-born British subject, but who at his birth or during his minority became under the law of any foreign State a subject also of that State, and is still such a subject, may, if of full age and not under disability, make a declaration of alienage, and on making the declaration shall cease to be a British subject."

A person, therefore, born of Swiss parents on British territory can only divest himself of his British nationality after having attained majority, but at any time after that date.

I should like to state that I had not the intention of entering upon the advantages and disadvantages of possessing two nationalities when writing my previous letter. I only wanted to make clear the legal position, especially from the point of view of Swiss law.

In order to avoid possible international conflicts, Swiss law provides that Swiss citizens possessing also the nationality of another State cannot claim protection from Switzerland as long as they are in their second country of origin, and so far as such country is concerned.

Apart from the possibility of international conflicts, no State can admit that those of its nationals who are also subjects of other States should, if they are in a third country, apply for protection to the Government or Consul of one of the countries to which they belong, and perhaps on the same or on another occasion ask the authorities of their other country to protect their interests. The Federal Council, therefore, have laid it down that a Swiss citizen who besides his Swiss citizenship possesses the nationality of another country, and who is in a third State, cannot, as a rule, claim Swiss protection if he has already, in that third State, placed himself under the protection of his other country of origin.

"Quarante ans en Angleterre" seems to be of opinion that the British Government grants unlimited protection to British subjects who at the same time are nationals of another country. I doubt whether this is correct. As far as I am aware, the British Consular Officers are in possession of instructions which amount practically to the same as the principles laid down under Swiss law and described above. I have heard, for instance, of cases in which persons possessing British as well as Swiss nationality had been forced, on proceeding to Switzerland with British passports, to return to the United Kingdom with Swiss passports, their British passports having been withdrawn from them by British Consuls in Switzerland.

Consequently, if the British authorities place individuals with two nationalities under practically the same conditions as does Switzerland, the reservations which "Quarante ans en Angleterre" makes with regard to the Swiss nationality of Swiss citizens born within the British Empire, would, following his reasoning, equally apply to their British nationality.

Great Britain, as well as Switzerland, certainly recognise their nationals as such wherever they are. Although a subject of a State may, under certain circumstances, not be granted protection, that does not at all imply that his country does or will not recognise him as his national. Apart from the question of two nationalities, there may be other reasons for which a State can or will not, in a given case, grant protection, although it fully recognises the person concerned as one of its subjects.

I may mention again that it is only my endeavour to establish the true legal position and not to express any opinion as to the desirability of people, having two nationalities, renouncing one of them. Yours faithfully,

EMILE STUTZ,  
Secretary of Legation.

## FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

The new Geneva loan, to which passing reference has already been made in these columns, was offered for public subscription from the 19th to the 23rd of this month. The amount was 20,000,000 francs, and the issue was of the 5½ per cent. type, made at 99½. Holders of 5 per cent. bonds of the City of Geneva, maturing in October, 1925, were offered conversion rights. The new loan is repayable by 19 annual instalments, commencing in 1931.

It will be recalled that the Bernese Oberland Railway—which was a heavy sufferer owing to the war—was reorganised in the course of last year, when the share capital was reduced by the writing down of the shares from Frs. 500 nominal to Frs. 200, and the creation of new preference shares. By this and some minor operations the deficit was wiped out, the accrued interest on the banks met, and a considerable sum written off for depreciations.

The accounts for 1923 are now available and show an increase of Frs. 208,954 on the receipts, as compared with the preceding year. This represents the heaviest takings ever recorded for the railway, and the passenger traffic was very satisfactory. The profit and loss account closed with a credit balance of Frs. 108,490.

The number of unemployed in Switzerland at the end of June showed a satisfactory decrease, amounting to 13,881, as compared with 18,805 at the end of May. Of this total, 10,938 were wholly unemployed. At the corresponding date in 1923 the total amounted to 39,168, while in the middle of 1922 there were 90,085 unemployed registered.

The accounts of the Gesellschaft für Bandfabrikation in Basle show a deficit of Frs. 855,513 for the year ending 31st of March, 1924, comparing with a profit of Frs. 237,033 last year. The present deficit is to be covered out of reserves and building fund to the extent of Frs. 525,000, and the balance will be carried forward.

## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

|                                     | BONDS. |         | July 15 |         | July 22 |         |      |
|-------------------------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|
|                                     |        |         |         |         |         |         |      |
| Swiss Confederation 3% 1903         | ...    | 72.00%  | 72.00%  | 72.75%  |         |         |      |
| Swiss Confed. 4th Mob. Loan 5%      | ...    | 100.35% | 100.35% | 100.32% |         |         |      |
| Federal Railways A—K 3½%            | ...    | 76.90%  | 76.90%  | 77.60%  |         |         |      |
| Canton Basle-Stadt 5½% 1921         | ...    | 100.30% | 100.30% | 100.62% |         |         |      |
| Canton Fribourg 3% 1892             | ...    | 67.25%  | 67.25%  | 67.00%  |         |         |      |
|                                     |        | SHARES. |         | July 15 |         | July 22 |      |
|                                     |        | Nom.    | Frs.    | Nom.    | Frs.    | Nom.    | Frs. |
| Swiss Bank Corporation              | ...    | 500     | 634     | 500     | 625     |         |      |
| Credit Suisse                       | ...    | 500     | 670     | 500     | 677     |         |      |
| Union de Banques Suisses            | ...    | 500     | 537     | 500     | 537     |         |      |
| Fabrique Chimique c.-dev. Sandoz    | 1000   | 3390    | 3390    | 3385    |         |         |      |
| Société pour l'Industrie Chimique   | 1000   | 2097    | 2107    |         |         |         |      |
| C. F. Bally S.A.                    | ...    | 1000    | 1116    | 1105    |         |         |      |
| Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon       | ...    | 500     | 600     | 640     |         |         |      |
| Entreprises Sulzer                  | ...    | 1000    | 590     | 597     |         |         |      |
| S.A. Brown Boveri (new)             | ...    | 500     | 258     | 256     |         |         |      |
| Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mlk. Co. | ...    | 200     | 185     | 187     |         |         |      |
| Choc. Suisses Peter-Gailler-Kohler  | 100    | 135     | 135     | 135     |         |         |      |
| Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman   | 500    | 560     | 560     | 560     |         |         |      |

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