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FUER UNSERE TESSINER.

AUF RUF AN DIE SCHWEIZER IM AUSLANDE.

Das Departement des Innern des Kantons Tessin hat uns in einem Schreiben gebeten, wir möchten auch den Schweizern im Auslande die Hilfsaktion für die durch das Unwetter vom September so schwer geschädigten Gegenden ans Herz legen. Wir kommen dieser Bitte gerne nach, in Bewusstsein des gemeineidgenössischen Sinnes unserer Landsleute im Auslande und der herzlichen Sympathien aller Schweizer für unser schönes, nun so schwer geprüftes Tessin.

Das Dorf Somea am Ufer der Maggia ist zum Teil zerstört. Andere Dörfer haben sehr schwer gelitten. Ausgedehnte Kulturen sind vom Schutt zugedeckt, wertvolle Ernten zerstört worden. Im Oserone-Tal sind die Schäden besonders gross. Ställe und Häuser sind demoliert worden, die Felder von Loco und Gressi verschwemmt. Strassen und Wege wurden zugedeckt. Die jungen Leute beginnen auszuwandern. Nur Greise, Frauen und Kinder bleiben zurück. In einem reicheren Lande wären die Schäden leichter gutzumachen. In diesen Gegenden mit armer Bevölkerung ist die Lage ausserordentlich ernst. Sehr viele verfügen nicht über die Mittel, um ihre zerstörten Wohnstätten wieder aufzubauen.

Nie war freundeidgenössische Hilfe dringender. Der Staatsrat des Kantons Tessin wendet sich vertrauensvoll an die Eidgenossen im Inland und Ausland, mit der Bitte um rasche und ausgiebige Hilfe.

Tun wir unsere Pflicht! Wir haben die Tessinische Staatsbank in Bellinzona (Banca dello Stato del Cantone Ticino) gebeten, sie möchte die Gaben der Auslandschweizer entgegennehmen und zur Verfügung des tessinischen Staatsrates halten. Gaben, welche durch die Vermittlung der schweizerischen Konsulate gespendet werden, sind mit dem Vermerk zu versehen: "Tessinische Staatsbank, Auslandschweizerhilfe für das Tessin."

Mit vaterländischem Gruss!

Secretariat der Auslandschweizer, Freibur.

HOME NEWS

A further subsidy of three million francs has been voted by the two Houses to the hotel fiduciary company (Hoteltreuhandgesellschaft), with the distinct understanding that no further financial support shall be granted; already five million francs have been spent under this scheme.

A referendum is being prepared in the western part of Switzerland against the Federal Bill recently passed, restricting further construction in the hotel industry.

The Association of Innkeepers in the canton of Grisons lodged a protest against a Government proposal to use part of the revenue accruing from the sale of licenses for combatting alcoholism; on the other hand, the association agreed to a gradual reduction in the number of licensed houses.

The military tribunal of the 4th Division has condemned to 1½ year's hard labour a deserter who in 1914 escaped to Italy to avoid service, and was recently arrested; another recruit received two months' imprisonment for refusing military service on religious grounds. — In Lucerne the criminal courts sentenced a soldier to two months' hard labour for simulating an illness.

A fire, which broke out on Friday (Oct. 10th) in the warehouses of Messrs. Surber & Co. in Altstetten (Zurich), destroyed large stocks of wood stored for manufacturing purposes.

The Geneva Grand Council, whilst accepting the accounts for 1923, passed a vote of censure on the Conseil d'Etat by refusing to accept the report submitted.

Dekan Joseph Jeker died in Solothurn at the age of 83. A keen Catholic, yet nevertheless distinguished by his tolerance. He enjoyed a widespread reputation as an expert on bee-culture.

A monument in memory of the well-known guide Henri Gex-Collet has been erected on the Col des Portes du Soleil (facing the Dents du Midi) near the spot where he met with his death at the beginning of last year. The impressive ceremony took place last Sunday in the presence of about 120 alpinists.

EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

Pour Chillon. — Samedi (27 Sept.) après-midi a eu lieu à Chillon, la 32me assemblée de l'Association pour la restauration du Château de Chillon.

Les comptes et la gestion ont été approuvés. La fortune de l'Association se monte à 76,907 frs. 85. Les dépenses pour travaux exécutés en 1923 atteignent fr. 23,040.15 et les achats d'objets anciens fr. 8,459.25.

M. Naef a donné d'intéressants détails sur la future salle du Musée dont l'emplacement est définitivement fixé. Une belle pièce, aussi spacieuse que la salle dite des chevaliers, située du côté sud, avait été aménagée, vers le milieu du siècle dernier, pour y loger des prisonniers. Six cellules y avaient été construites. Cette distribution va être démolie et la salle reprendra son premier aspect. On compte redonner au plafond l'élégante et originale forme cintrée et haute qu'il avait au XIIIe siècle.

Les travaux vont commencer prochainement et il est probable qu'en 1926 le Musée sera installé, ce qui comblera une lacune.

Une famille vaudoise, dont le chef, aujourd'hui décédé, était un collectionneur averti, a offert de mettre à la disposition du comité, en dépôt, une collection d'armes suisses de grande valeur et d'une absolue authenticité. Ce sera un appoint appréciable pour le futur Musée, où reviendront sans doute des objets et armes qui furent enlevés et déposés ailleurs le siècle dernier. (*Feuille d'avis.*)

A la mémoire de Capo d'Istria. — Vendredi matin (3 octobre) a eu lieu, en présence de M. Politis et des autorités genevoises, du chargé d'affaires de Grèce en Suisse, l'inauguration de la plaque commémorative du séjour à Genève de Capo d'Istria, plaque scellée dans le mur de l'immeuble No. 10 de la rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, et qui porte l'inscription suivante:

"Ici demeura, de 1822 à 1827, Jean Capo d'Istria, de Corfou, ministre du tsar Alexandre Ier aux Congrès de Vienne et Paris, gouverneur élu de la Grèce affranchie, citoyen de Genève et de Lausanne."

Au nom de l'Association gréco-suisse, J. G. Eynard, M. E. Chapuisat rappela ce que Genève et la Suisse doivent à Capo d'Istria qui fut à Vienne le guide fidèle de Pictet de Rochement. M. Politis exprima le voeu que le monument contribue à perpétuer les liens qui unissent Genève et la Grèce.

A l'issue de la cérémonie, M. Politis a déposé une couronne devant le monument de J. G. Eynard aux Bastions. (*Gazette de Lausanne.*)

Luganeseur Feuerwehr. — Die Feuerwehr von Lugano beteiligte sich am Sonntag (28. Sept.) an dem Feuerwehrwettbewerb in Turin, an dem die bedeutendsten italienischen Gruppen teilnahmen. Die Feuerwehr von Lugano belegte den ersten Platz in der zweiten Kategorie bei einer Beteiligung von 58 Feuerwehrrn. Die Luganeseur wurden zu Siegern "ausser Konkurrenz" proklamiert und erhielten eine grosse goldene Medaille. (*Berner Tagwacht.*)

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By A. W.

Le Palais Fédéral et Westminster.

Un correspondant du *Hampstead Advertiser*, de passage à Berne, a été grandement impressionné par les beautés de notre capitale, et en particulier du Palais Fédéral. Voici ce qu'il nous en dit (2 Oct.):—

While British Members of Parliament must content themselves, during their moments of leisure, with a sight of the Thames and St. Thomas's Hospital, Swiss Deputies and Senators are able to delight their eyes and refresh their minds with glimpses of the Alps, for the Bundeshaus or Federal Palace in Berne, the seat of the Swiss Government, commands some charming views of the mountains. It undoubtedly dominates all other modern buildings in the City. Built in Florentine Renaissance style, its interior is beautifully ornamented and contains some remarkable paintings. In contrast to the Houses of Parliament, the Law

Courts are a typical example of the old Bernese style of architecture—a strange blending of French baroque and the Bernese country house style. The great charm of the public gardens in Berne is the view of the Bernese Alps obtained from them. The chain of snowcapped, glittering peaks which surround the Jungfrau may be seen on any clear day, and seen to much greater advantage than at close range. From the Gurten, 2,800 feet above sea level and the city's most prominent point of view, the magic of this panorama is considerably enhanced. The great gateways form the choicest ornaments of old Berne, one of them—the old bellry clock tower—containing wonderful and complicated horological mechanism of the 16th century, the comic figures of which still make known the hours of the day by their quaint and ingenious actions. No reference to Berne would be complete without mention of the bear pit, where the bears have been maintained by the municipality for centuries. They afford much diversion to both young and old by their serio-comic demeanour and great appetites.

Obstinate Turks.

Le correspondant de Londres du *Yorkshire Observer* éprouve du ressentiment à ce que M. Motta ait été chargé par la Société des Nations, de nommer la commission devant investiguer dans la question de Mossoul. Voici les raisons qu'il nous donne:—

If other matters were not absorbing the interest of legislators at the moment, I imagine there would probably be some resentment at the choice of M. Motta by the League of Nations as one of the two Commissioners who will select the members of the body that is to investigate the Mosul question.

M. Motta is a Hungarian geographer and therefore an ex-enemy. Another factor which might arouse comment is the friendliness which has existed since the war between Turkey and Hungary.

I gather that our representatives would have preferred that an ex-enemy should not have been entrusted with this task of being mainly responsible for fixing the boundary, but we are loyally accepting the choice of M. Motta, as we are that of M. Branting, the Norwegian lawyer, who has practised in Egypt, and therefore has some cognisance, however slight, of the problem.

Some inquiries have already been made by M. Motta and M. Branting on the subject of the remainder of the personnel. Meanwhile, Mr. Ponsby to-day had to confess to having no further information to offer. Turkey has still failed to reply to our Notes, and, so far as we can judge, her troops are still on the wrong side of the frontier.

Une presse aussi bien informée nous apprendra bientôt que M. Gustave Ador est un général mexicain!

Septembre au Tessin.

Le correspondant tessinois du *Morning Post*, dans l'issue de ce journal du 22 septembre, nous donne ses impressions du mois de septembre sur les rives du lac de Lugano:—

But the day after! Atmosphere as pellucid as a mountain pool, mountains cutting the blue with keenly-chiselled silhouettes, and from the peaks the infinite panorama of Lombardy, the distant Alps, Milan faintly pencilled in the South. At our feet two of the greater lakes, and glimpses of a third, all reveling under the flood of light in their innumerable laughter. To leap, as one is tempted to leap, from the summit of San Salvatore into the water would be rather a high dive; let us return home, and at the front door, so to speak, the waters of Lugano invite us. Push out the trim little "barca" from the boathouse, and gently slide overboard. There is plenty of scope for swimming; twenty yards from land the waters are unfathomable—at all events, they have never yet been fathomed. Then, if you are athletic, climb back into the boat; if you are not an acrobat, be towed back to land, and sit and bask to a nice brown in the afternoon sun. Like a good hearty Burgundy, it is generous and full, but not too spiritly. All this in the middle of September, when already many of the leaves are beginning to turn! Oh, not to be in England now the summer's there!

On the southern shore of Lake Lugano lies the beautiful Valsolda, and it is one of the merits of this lake, as compared with Como and Maggiore, that when you want exercise you do not lounge along the front, but you gird up your loins and climb the cobbled mountain paths to the enchanting Valsolda villages. These paths run everywhere, and, provided you do not essay them in leather shoes—for then you will slip and skate on the polished cobbles—you can follow them into heights and glades of the purest loveliness. Vines and figs and peaches, great golden pumpkins, and, it would seem, most of the fruits of the earth, border all the paths, and in the glades flourish innumerable chestnuts, walnuts, olive-trees, and wild figs. The rich grass is everywhere mown industriously for hay, and the September air is full of the scents of spring, and even where the scythe has passed, there stand disclosed myriads of Michaelmas daisies, mauve crocuses in all the shady plots, and even the shy cyclamen with its delicate fragrance.

High up on the grassy plateau of Muzzalio, on the occasion of a Church festival, we find the peasants assembled for a 'festa.' It is a thanksgiving for the fruits of the earth. First, to the altar, with taper and tithes, and then a quiet day of pic-nic and 'dolce far niente,' with family and friends, in the shade of the chestnuts. Rude booths are set up, where, arriving hot and tired, we may refresh ourselves with red wine at the cost of under a penny per tumbler. An auction of the fruits is held, and we purchase a heaping basket of peaches, figs, nuts, apples, and grapes for two shillings. The goats and cows wander amiably among the pic-nic parties: a cold nozzle thrust into your hand reminds you that a