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TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

The regular publication of the *S.O.* will be interrupted for the next four weeks, and the next issue will appear on September 12. This course has been found necessary if the Editor is to enjoy an undisturbed and peaceful holiday. A good many of our subscribers will be away, and we trust that the faithful ones for whom the *S.O.* has become an indispensable week-end diet will bear with us for this short period. The date of expiry of the prepaid subscriptions and advertising contracts will be correspondingly extended. Any correspondence or enquiries received in the meantime will be attended to as usual.

THE PUBLISHERS.

HOME NEWS

Heavy thunderstorms visited last week the western part of Switzerland, the lightning causing considerable damage to farmhouses and factory buildings; the downpour of hail and rain was especially copious in Basle, where several streets became inundated. Along the Lake of Zurich and generally in the canton of Argovie vineyards and fruit trees have been ravaged by hailstorms.

As a result of a collision between a lorry and a private car near Erlenen (Berne) at a partly hidden road crossing, Mr. Zurmühle, a master baker of Solothurn, lost his life. He died solely from shock, nobody having been injured in the accident.

A motor cyclist, Rudolf Häuptli, a postal employee from Kohr (Argovie), collided last week with an automobile and subsequently died from his injuries in the Basle hospital.

Ascending the Bluemlisalp without a guide, two tourists, Mr. H. W. Binz and Mrs. Fuchs, both from Berne, fell over a snowfield into a crevasse on Wednesday (July 29th); their bodies were later on recovered by a relief party and brought down to Kandersteg.

Owing to a heavy storm, a small sailing boat got into difficulties on the Zurich Lake near Meilen last Sunday night. The mast having broken, the boat capsized, and the four occupants disappeared in the waves, their shouts for help being in vain. The names of the victims are: the two brothers Max and Werner Lehmann, Mrs. Max Lehmann and a Miss Benninger.

The well-known jewellery establishment on the Zurich Paradeplatz, belonging to Messrs. Meister, was broken into during lunch time on Wednesday (July 29th), the thief being able to abstract goods to the value of Frs. 700,000. No trace has been discovered of the burglar yet, though a considerable reward is offered for his apprehension.

A terrible motor accident happened last Tuesday in the Fluela pass near the village of Siss. A somewhat antiquated automobile, which had been hired at Chur for an excursion into the National Park, fell over a high bridge wall; the brakes, for some unknown reason, having refused to act. Fortunately for the five occupants, they fell out of the car during its fall, but they all contracted more or less serious injuries, with the exception of the chauffeur. They are all Dutch tourists.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KYBURG."

A Personal Note: "Counter-Reformation."

The letter published in last week's issue under the above heading, was published with my full approval, as our Editor should have mentioned in his footnote. My readers have now my article of July 18th and Mr. Ernest D. Hanifin's effusion of August 1st, and I think I can safely leave them to judge. A simple "tu quoque" is no argument, and abuse is not worth replying to. I intend

writing these "Notes and Gleanings" without bias and without fear or favour. I invite criticism and will enter into a clean fight, but I will not be drawn into personal aspersions. And I shall cease my weekly articles whenever my readers, through pressure upon our dear Editor, so demand it. And will they please remember that 'Kyburg' will not be one single penny out of pocket. And will they also remember that our Editor has not been able so far to find one single other Swiss who would undertake to write these "Notes and Gleanings" once a fortnight, in order to make them more interesting than they are now. Yes, we Swiss are very fond of getting something for nothing, but when it comes to rendering service without being paid for it, we Swiss are great artists in the hiding line!

Birds of the Alps.

Baptist Times (July 23rd):—

British bird-lovers, taking a tramp abroad into Switzerland, soon discover how favoured is their native land in the number and variety of its feathered folk. The country which is so rich in Alpine beauty is undoubtedly poor in bird-life. That must be said, but nevertheless it is not the whole story, for a bird-man in Switzerland will often meet familiar songsters: blackbirds, thrushes and finches on the wooded shores of Lake Thun, warblers in the reed-beds on the margin of Lake Lucerne, and merry troupes of gold-crests and tómtits in the mountain pine-trees. In addition to these homeland species he can make acquaintance with others hitherto unknown to him.

Who, having journeyed to the summit of the Jungfrau, could forget that amazing experience? A wonderful mountain railway carries the traveller higher and still higher, until at last he stands on the plateau outside the Joch station at the dizzy height of 11,480 feet. He seems to be standing on the roof of the world. Around and below stretches an icebound region of glacier and snow. But, hark! what is that loud "chack, chack!" bringing to mind garulous jackdaws at home? Soon, guided by the continued harsh chattering, he discovers that even this desolate region is not entirely devoid of bird-life; for below, on the glacier, are a company of Alpine-choughs: large, black birds, showing bright red legs and stout yellow beaks. They are close relatives to our own Cornish chough, which, owing to zealous protection, is happily becoming less rare. What those Alpine-choughs found to eat in such inhospitable surroundings was a problem they alone knew how to solve; but there is no doubt about their appreciation of the beef we threw to them from the store of provender given us at the hotel.

On lower levels, but still in the region of the snow-line, we may happen upon a lively flock of snow-finches. Very occasionally a few stragglers reach our shores, but the bird is by no means rare on Swiss mountain-sides. In summer dress the snow-finch is a handsome bird, his grey head and chestnut back serving to make the flock conspicuous when they alight upon a patch of sunlit snow. Alarmed, away they fly, and then open wings reveal striking feathers of snowy white. Descending toward the valley, at length we reach the tree-line, and straightway are greeted by the musical, bell-like notes of the Alpine pipit. From the topmost twig of some tall pine tree he tosses his little brown body aloft into the blue, and then, with outspread wings, pours out his tuneful song as he slowly descends to his perch again. Writing of the Alpine pipit recalls to memory the Wengernalp with Murren on the edge of the hill across the valley; on the left the stalwart, white Münch and in front the matchless Jungfrau—queen of all the Oberland.

Sometimes in winter a few black redstarts may be found in the warm South and West of England. Uncommon here, the bird is plentiful enough in Swiss valleys, and often may be seen flirting his fiery tail and warbling his merry ditty near some quaint old chalet. In the attention of Swiss folk the redstart, or Röchel, as they familiarly call him, takes the place we give to the redbreast, and they sorely miss him when, in autumn, he flies away to winter in the sunny South.

A book beloved of many birdmen is "A Year with the Birds," by the late, greatly gifted Prof. Ward-Fowler. Its pages reveal some of his glowing enthusiasm as well as careful knowledge and scholarly diction. Most of the chapters deal with bird-life in or near Oxford, but two of them describe birds of the Alps. These

may be recommended to any seeking information before or after their tramp abroad.

Mr. Spahlinger's Test.

Daily Herald (28th July):—

The Medical Group of M.P.s, which has been negotiating with Mr. Spahlinger, announces that his arrangements with the Tuberculosis Committee at Crewe for the tests of his vaccine on animals are now complete. At the end of three months he will be in a position to proceed with the completion of his remedies for human beings.

Switzerland and the New British Duties.

The Times (25th July):—

The restoration of the McKenna duties and the introduction of the silk duties in Great Britain is the general subject of interest in Swiss commercial circles. Figures which have just been published by the Customs Department show that the foreign trade of the country has been substantially affected by the prospect of the new duties. There has been a considerable growth of sales to Great Britain. The total value of exports has risen from 165,000,000 fr. in April to 190,000,000 fr. in May, as compared with 166,000,000 fr. only in May, 1924.

Swiss imports, on the other hand, have fallen, and the trade balance for the month is 4,000,000 francs to the good. Here the reduction is due partly to the falling prices of certain merchandise and partly to a diminution in the quantities of cotton, iron, and cereals imported. There has been rather a remarkable decline in French imports, the value of which was only 38,200,000 fr. in May, as compared with 40,400,000 fr. in April and 44,700,000 fr. in March. On the other hand, German imports have slightly increased, while British imports have fallen by nearly 5,000,000 fr.

Swiss exports to Great Britain showed a very remarkable rise, viz., from 37,400,000 fr. in April to 62,700,000 fr. in May. This activity, due to orders given in anticipation of the new import duties, has also contributed to a temporary improvement in the labour market, the official returns at the end of May showing 7,189 applications for employment, instead of 8,591 at the end of April, and 3,995 offers of work, instead of 3,997 at the end of April. Unfortunately, this situation shows no sign of being permanent.

I cannot say that I honestly regret the lesson which our countrymen, including 'Kyburg' by the way, have to learn again. Duties in any shape or form are an anachronism, and until people begin to digest this and compel Governments everywhere to abolish such duties, there is precious little hope of economic recovery. Duties raise the costs of production, and the money which in turn is got from the collection of such duties goes into armaments and other war preparations, as can very easily be ascertained by taking the total figures of customs revenue and war preparation expenditure of each country. What fools we humans are, to be sure, and how slow to learn from bitter experience!

Swiss Kep's for Turkey?

Daily Express (28th July):—

The recent order from Angora abolishing the fez as headdress in the Turkish army and substituting the English military cap for officers and the Swiss "kepi" for soldiers has been received with much satisfaction in Switzerland.

It is hoped that the Turkish Government will buy a large stock of the Swiss soldiers' 'kepis,' which have been replaced since the war by metallic helmets resembling those worn by French infantry.

I should like to meet the jolly Turk who will cut a dash wearing 'Kyburg's' old kepi. I could tell him exactly where that spot is where it presses so horribly against the head and where a bit of an old or new newspaper can effect a great improvement! Won't the Turks regret having abandoned their comfortable fez? Fancy adopting a kepi, if one is not forced to do so! But then, you will, of course, observe that the kepis are going to be for the soldiers only, whereas the officers will wear the English military cap. 'Twas ever thus, and 'twill always remain so!

New Parcel Air Mail.

The Times (24th July):—

The Postmaster-General announces that on Tuesday, July 28th, a new air parcels service to Switzerland will be started. Parcels intended for transmission by this service will be forwarded from London, usually in the morning after posting, by direct aeroplane each weekday to Basel or Zurich (i.e., by the route numbered 2 on page 2 of the Air Mail Leaflet of

June, 1925) and should normally be delivered at any address in Switzerland on the second or third day after posting—that is to say, two or three days earlier than if sent all the way by ordinary service.

The special fee payable, inclusive of inland as well as air conveyance (but exclusive of express delivery, the charge for which is 6d. per parcel) is as follows:—For a parcel weighing up to 2 lbs., 3s.; 2 lbs. to 7 lbs., 7s. 6d.; 7 lbs. to 11 lbs., 11s. 6d. For the present no parcel weighing over 11 lbs. will be accepted, and there will be no facilities for insurance, payment of cash on delivery, or payment by the sender of Customs duties. For Customs clearance at the aerodrome at Basel or Zurich, as the case may be, and for subsequent delivery at the place of address, an inclusive charge of 1 fr. 30 c. will be collected from the addressee.

Air parcels can be posted at any District or Branch Post Office in London, and at any Head Post Office (and, in some cases, at one or more subordinate offices also) in the provinces. Except as shown above, the regulations of the ordinary parcel post to Switzerland will apply. The Customs declarations and despatch note relative to an air parcel for Switzerland should be made out with special care and accuracy, in order that there may be no avoidable delay in delivery of the parcel after it has reached that country. The sender must see that, either before or at the time of posting, an air mail label is carefully affixed to the parcel close to the address, where it will not be easily overlooked.

For information as to the latest time at which a parcel may be posted at a given post office for air transmission to Switzerland next day, inquiry should be made at the local Head Post Office.

The above information ought to be carefully stored up, as it might be useful at any moment and especially by and by, when the parcel-sending season begins.

Doing Switzerland in Thirty-six Hours.

Daily Express (27th July):—

A party of American tourists has just made a "record" 500-mile tour of the Swiss Alps and lakes in thirty-six hours.

They arrived in the Paris express at Lausanne, where a powerful motor-car awaited them. The hustling tourists caught a "cinema glimpse" of the Alps, passing through Interlaken and Lucerne. After crossing the Grimsel, Furka, and Simplon passes, the party descended the Rhone Valley to Lausanne, and thence back to Paris.

I think these Yankees would have done better to go and see some good cinematographic shows giving Swiss pictures. I hope, however, they got an occasional whiff of mountain air.

Medical Treatment for the Middle Classes.

Spectator (25th July):—

Some time ago I had to undergo an operation of a rather serious character. A Harley Street doctor offered to do it for one hundred guineas "or less, should our circumstances not allow us to pay the usual fee," without, however, saying what the reduction would be. He offered, further, to find accommodation for me in a Nursing Home at 10-12 guineas a week. As there was no necessity for having the operation done at once, and as we are neither accustomed to, nor fond of, bargaining, we decided—with regard to our means, which are not unlimited—that I should go to Switzerland, where, as we knew, the medical fees are much lower. And so I went. I had a room to myself in a Nursing Home of about 200 beds. The nursing was first-rate and absolutely up-to-date; the food was good and carefully cooked; and I had my own doctor, who is an acknowledged authority. I stayed at the Nursing Home for 18 days, during which time the doctor paid me about sixteen calls. The entire cost was £65 10s.

Thus, by going to Switzerland I saved more than half of the money which I should have been obliged to spend had I undergone the operation in this country.

I thought the above might possibly be of interest to some readers. It bears out personal observations of mine.

A Grouse.

The 1st of August has come and gone and has once more shown up the wonderful spirit of "Un pour Tous, Tous pour Un" which prevails in our dear London Swiss Colony—I don't think! I duly received, and gratefully received, an invitation to a concert arranged and got up by the Swiss Institute. I did not attend, chiefly because I most certainly do not think that an individual Society of our Colony ought to be saddled with the responsibility of reminding us that the 1st of August ought to be celebrated. It is a burning shame that the great Swiss Colony in London is not able to forget the "Kantonlgeist," even on the 1st of August, and is unable to arrange a celebration uniting all Swiss and got up under the patronage of the whole Colony. As long as conditions are what they have been for some time in our Colony, so long will 'Kyburg' protest by his absence and be content to sit at home and to listen with closed

eyes to the ringing of the bells between 8 and 8.20 in the evening of the 1st of August. 'Kyburg's' ears may not actually hear those bells, but his mind will hear them, and he will celebrate the 1st of August not by listening to speeches, which under the circumstances now prevailing must be ringing untrue, but by communing silently with the spirit of Independence which it is essential that we Swiss preserve. Not political independence so much as moral independence—always!

UN MOT DE CHEZ NOUS.

Genève cette semaine heberge chez elle le XVIIème Congrès International d'Esperanto. Je vous laisse penser à la fois l'utile et le comique d'une semblable manifestation. Il est incontestable que cette langue auxiliaire lorsque les gouvernements l'auront prise au sérieux et en auront tenté l'essai loyal comme il lui fut fait à Genève avec un magistral succès, est appelée à être d'un secours précieux pour les relations internationales et scientifiques. Comme l'a très justement fait remarquer de vénérables savants, l'Esperanto permettra à la Science de se diffuser avec facilité et cette grande et encombrante barrière qu'est la "langue" aura disparu. Si vous aviez entendu les grands discours qui ont ouvert le Congrès vous seriez arrivé à deux notables conclusions: tout d'abord que cette langue tant décriée est plus harmonieuse qu'on ne le croit et qu'elle se prête comme une langue ordinaire aux grands effets oratoires. Mr. Edmond Privat, Président du Comité international et Président de ce 17ème Congrès, a, par exemple, atteint une virtuosité incomparable et son discours a touché, même ceux qui ne possèdent pas l'Esperanto. Ensuite vous seriez rendu compte que l'Esperanto possède à la fois toutes les nuances des langues latines et toute la brièveté des langues anglo-saxonnes. Ce qui est remarquable en elle c'est qu'elle s'adapte au génie des différentes langues sans leur enlever ce qui fait leur caractère propre et leur saveur particulière. L'Esperanto laisse aux Chinois ce qu'ils ont de chinois et aux Allemands ce qui fait la caractéristique de leur race. Parler Esperanto avec l'accent Irlandais ne manque pas de charme, mais comme cela devient exquis avec l'accent de Bénarès!

Et c'est là le côté comique de cette docte assemblée. Ils se comprennent tous ces messieurs et leur joie est visible, mais la Tour de Babel est tout de même là dans toute sa troublante acuité malgré la langue commune, et cette unité de langage ne fait qu'accroître davantage les différentes et radicales mentalités. Tous parlent certes le même idiome, mais les mentalités s'affirment plus distinctes que jamais. Ne désespérons pourtant pas, dans l'atmosphère si spéciale de Genève, si propice aux Ententes sincères ou nébuleuses, désirées ou craintes, avantageuses ou trompeuses, il se peut très bien que les futurs Congrès d'Esperanto amènent un rapprochement des peuples sur la base d'une meilleure compréhension. Monsieur le Conseiller d'Etat Oltramare, qui représentait le Conseil Fédéral trop occupé ou pas suffisamment éveillé aux trésors de l'Esperanto, a dit à ce sujet des choses exquises qui lui ont permis de montrer combien le latin est une langue admirable. O ironie! en voulant faire l'apologie de la langue nouvelle le distingué latiniste qu'est ce Conseiller d'Etat n'a fait que glorifier la langue qui lui est chère. Personne ne lui en voudra car "à côté" il s'est largement rattrapé en couvrant de lauriers une de ses propres tentatives, l'essai de l'Esperanto dans nos Ecoles primaires. Les hommes politiques sont si adroits et ils savent tirer de toute occasion honneurs et profits!

Et maintenant revenons aux choses purement "du pays," et voyons comment Monsieur Grimm, le directeur des Services Industriels de cette bonne ville de Berne comprend le 1er Août. D'innofensifs et patriotiques éclaireurs voulaient défilé dans les rues de l'antique cité et fêter ainsi et leur pays et le but de leur institution: l'union. Ce brave directeur trouva qu'une telle manifestation pourrait troubler ou gêner la circulation de ses tramways et pour ce motif — ou sous le prétexte de ce motif — il interdit cette paisible manifestation. Ajoutons en passant que, par contre, le 1er Mai, il suspend durant 4 heures consécutives—vous entendez bien, 4 heures de temps en pleine journée—la circulation des trams. Je vous laisse juge de la comparaison. D'un côté on favorise d'une façon chéronte la fête d'un petit nombre, quitte à priver les autres d'un moyen de locomotion qui leur est nécessaire, d'un autre on empêche de braves jeunes gens ardents patriotes de dérouler une paisible et pacifique manifestation. On ne respecte plus la Fête de tous, la vraie Fête Nationale, mais on impose celle du 1er Mai. Je vous laisse juge du procédé!

Notons pour finir que ce 1er Août a été l'occasion d'un nouvel essai de Poste aérienne, entre Lausanne et Milan. L'appareil parti de la Blécherette a atterri au champ d'aviation de Ciselle près de Milan et en est reparti la même après-midi. Il était piloté par l'aviateur Nappet et Monsieur Rochat, directeur de l'arrondissement postal l'accompagna. Ainsi se trouve inaugurée la première ligne postale aérienne Suisse-Italie.

"UN SUISSE QUELCONQUE."

DEMOKRATIE AND AUSLAND-SCHWEIZERTUM.

Ein Beitrag zur Frage der Verleihung politischer Rechte an die Vierte Schweiz.

(Von Alfred Herzog, Singapore.)

In letzter Zeit wurde oft die Frage aufgeworfen, ob wohl von einer Erteilung des Stimm- und Wahlrechts an die Vierte Schweiz die Rede sein könnte, wobei auch einer parlamentarischen Vertretung der Auslandschweizer in der Heimat das Wort geredet wurde. Es liegt auf der Hand, dass es damit nicht sein Bewenden hat. Diese Postulate bilden zunächst Gegenstand des lebhaftesten Interesses derjenigen Kreise, welche sich berufsmässig oder wenigstens vorzugsweise mit den Angelegenheiten unserer Kolonien befassen. In dem Masse, wie es begreiflich erscheint, dass eine Einigung auch auf mittlerer Linie schwer hält, ist es lehrreich und interessant, die sich durch zum Teil direkt widersprechende Ansichten angefangene Diskussion zu verfolgen, aus der höchst wertvolle Schlüsse gezogen werden können. Ich will nun in den nachstehenden Ausführungen versuchen, die ebenso heikle als tiefgreifende Frage einer kritischen Beleuchtung zu unterziehen, unter gerechter Würdigung von theoretischer und praktischer Durchführungsmöglichkeit.

Vorerst bedarf die tatsächliche Stellung und Bedeutung unserer zahlreichen Schweizerkolonien im Ausland einer gewissen Abklärung. Es liegt durchaus in der Natur der Frage, dass die Schweiz keine politischen Kolonien besitzt, wie dies z. B. bei England, Frankreich, Holland, etc., der Fall ist. Es kann sich daher lediglich um wirtschaftliche und kulturelle Gruppierungen handeln, welche in jeder Beziehung den Gesetzen und Vorschriften des betreffenden Wohnsitzstaates unterstehen. Anders verhält es sich mit den Kolonien im allgemeinen Sinne des Wortes, die als nationaler Boden betrachtet werden können und in verwaltungstechnischer Hinsicht ungefähr die gleichen Richtlinien anwenden wie das Mutterland. So verlockend es für die Schweiz wäre, solche Ausposten zu besitzen, muss doch darauf hingewiesen werden, dass sie als Binnenstaat nach menschlichen Berechnungen nicht in der Lage ist, noch voraussichtlich sein wird, ihren Einfluss in diesem Sinne ausser den Landesgrenzen geltend zu machen, was vom wirtschaftlichen Standpunkt aus bedauerlich, vom allgemeinen aus aber nur zweckmässig ist.

Es bleibt sodann zu untersuchen—um zu ursprünglichen Problem zurückzukehren—ob es die Struktur der vierten Schweiz erlauben würde, ihr eine weitgehende Anteilnahme an unsern demokratischen Einrichtungen zu sichern. Angesichts der Tatsache, dass nicht einmal offizielle Stellen in der Lage sind, genaue Angaben über die numerische Stärke unserer Landsleute im Auslande zu machen, hält es überaus schwer, sich auch nur über die blosse Tragweite der Anwendungsmöglichkeit solcher Vorschläge Rechnung abzulegen. Im allgemeinen wird mit einer Zahl von 400,000 Mann gerechnet, wobei aber sozusagen unbekannt ist, welcher Bruchteil davon für eine aktive Mitarbeit an der Entwicklung unseres Staates zu haben wäre. Wer nur einigermaßen mit den wirklichen Verhältnissen vertraut ist, muss wohl ohne weiteres zugeben, dass ein ganz bedeutender Prozentsatz überhaupt nicht in der Lage ist, sich in die entsprechende Situation hineinzuversetzen, mit andern Worten: schon zu sehr in den Institutionen des

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

BONDS.	July 30	Aug. 5
Swiss Confederation 3% 1903	78.50%	78.50%
Swiss Confederation 5% 1923	99.80%	100.00%
Federal Railways A—K 3%	82.10%	82.20%
Canton Basle-Stadt 3½% 1921	101.75%	101.50%
Canton Fribourg 3% 1892	74.50%	74.75%

SHARES.	Nom.	July 30	Aug. 5
	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.
Swiss Bank Corporation	500	679	679
Credit Suisse	500	725	726
Union de Banques Suisses	500	577	581
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	2890	2890
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	1682	1682
C. F. Bally S.A.	1000	1177	1175
Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon	500	705	700
Entreprises Sulzer	1000	894	890
S.A. Brown Boveri (new)	350	365	377
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Milk Co.	200	214	215
Choc. Suisses Peter-Callier-Kohler	100	206	205
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman	500	565	570

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