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confederations, like the Grisons and the Valais. Here the real sovereignty resides in the commune; and the cult of diversity and autonomy is pushed to an extreme.

The second condition is that of moral unity; for in a country in which there are diversities and where there is no such thing as a common patriotism, federalism would lead rapidly to disintegration, dispersion, and separatism. This evidently is what was feared by those recently formed countries of Europe which, instead of taking the Swiss constitution for their model, preferred the centralised political forms suggested by the example of the French Revolution.

The example of Switzerland, which at one time seemed likely to determine the political evolution of Europe, has been rapidly left behind by the development of events. It remains for the future to decide whether this was for the best.

If federalism is the domestic expression of Switzerland's mission of unification, its international expression is that of neutrality. Neutrality cannot, any more than federalism, be born in one day and in the head of one man. It has been created in the course of centuries, and has changed its character repeatedly. It was because the Swiss cantons were not at one with each other in the fifteenth century, that they imposed upon the States which wished to join them the obligation of refraining from taking part in ulterior quarrels. It was this consideration that led to the formation of the neutral cantons of Basle, Schaffhausen, and Appenzell—an event that is the origin of permanent neutrality. When cantons were in conflict with one another, the Diet could not intervene; and as these cantons had for the most part reserved to themselves the freedom of alliance, the neutrality of the Diet in relation to the cantons obliged it to adopt a neutral attitude also towards the allies of the cantons. It thus happened that while, in the course of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the Swiss cantons had formed alliances with all the great Powers of Europe, the Swiss Confederation as a whole maintained an attitude of complete neutrality.

At the moment when, after the strain of the French Revolution and the First Empire, Switzerland gained her independence, it was on condition that she should practise in the future this traditional neutrality, a neutrality which was in the interests of the Powers.

If Swiss neutrality had been able to maintain itself in modern times, it is because such neutrality has not only been in the interests of the Confederation, by enabling it to avoid involvement in the continental wars, but also in the interests of the Powers, inasmuch as it prevented any one of them from dominating this little country, or, through its geographical situation, from attaining a hegemony over the whole of the Continent.

There is much that could be said regarding the conception of neutrality and the way in which it has been applied. By a curious contradiction, the Swiss have constantly interpreted it restrictively and practised it expansively; that is to say, they have been more neutral in practice than they were obliged to be in theory. They have ended by allowing themselves to be paralysed by the fear of not being sufficiently impartial; even in peace time, to all their neighbours; and they have thus lost contact to a large extent with international life. It is undoubtedly to this lack of experience in the international domain that one must attribute their intestine divisions in the course of the last war. On the other hand, the confidence which the Swiss Confederation has thus succeeded in inspiring in the Governments of all the large States has certainly been an important element in leading them to choose Switzerland as the seat of the League of Nations.

The neutrality of Switzerland has been recognised and maintained by the Council of the League of Nations. This step was seriously derogatory to the equality of the States who were members of the League and to certain provisions of the Pact. But without this concession the Swiss people would certainly have refused to enter the League of Nations, a decision which would have been a serious blow to its universality and authority.

In the second place, it seemed obvious that the seat of the League of Nations would be particularly well protected by the permanent neutrality of the State in the territory of which it was to find a home—protected materially by the almost invincible barrier which neutrality opposes to every sort of invasion, protected morally also by the long tradition of disinterested international co-operation established on this soil. It is a singular paradox of the situation of Switzerland that she has lost interest in the controversial aspects of international politics, while, on the contrary, she has taken for a long time past an active part in all efforts towards bringing the different peoples nearer together. One need mention here only the numerous international societies which, long before the War, had their headquarters in Switzerland, and in particular the Red Cross, whose admirable work in the War is known to everybody.

Neutrality, however, is only one aspect of the foreign policy of Switzerland and of the rôle which she can play in Europe. Neutrality is a negative conception. It consists in abstaining from

all intervention in the affairs of the world and from all implications in continental wars. It is not in itself a positive programme.

Nevertheless, Switzerland, like other States, has its own interests and conditions of existence. Of these conditions of existence there are at least two. The first is the maintenance of peace, and the second the maintenance of European equilibrium.

Before everything stands the maintenance of peace. Switzerland is not content with reaping the advantage of not being involved in the wars of others: it is also necessary that these others should not be at war amongst themselves. Experience shows that in the central position which she occupies she cannot avoid the repercussions of a European war. Directly the conflict begins to spread, Switzerland is involved, if not in a military sense, at least politically and economically. This was the case at the beginning of the nineteenth century under the French Empire, and it has happened again in the course of the last war; for, although the Swiss have generally abstained from indulging in recriminations, they have at least the right to point out that in that war some of their rights were infringed, and that indirectly they suffered serious detriment from it—almost as much as the belligerents, and more than some of them.

The maintenance of peace is not in itself a sufficient condition for the independence of Switzerland. If one could conceive a Great Power establishing a hegemony on the European Continent, peace might well be maintained, but the independence of Switzerland would none the less be compromised. It is only through the equilibrium of all its neighbours that the Confederation, in spite of the smallness of its territory and the sparseness of its population, can succeed in carrying out a policy which is really autonomous. Those who believe that the League of Nations can be made a substitute for European equilibrium fail to understand the real conditions of existence on our Continent. The true formula is: Equilibrium within the League of Nations.

There is no need to demonstrate the fact that peace and equilibrium form the very basis of British policy. These are the conditions of the existence and independence of Switzerland, and that is why in almost all the great crises British policy has been led to favour the interests of Switzerland, and the policy of Switzerland has conformed to that of Great Britain. We see here a relationship imposed much more by the facts themselves than by sentiment.

There is one point which must be added. If Switzerland is neither able to exist within a hegemony nor within a Europe dominated by the idea of war, it would still less be able to exist for long in a Europe divided against itself. The sense of insecurity, the fear of war, and the economic consequences of this fear, create an atmosphere which is unhealthy for all States, but in which the small ones are simply unable to breathe, so that there is a visible correspondence between the deeper interests of Switzerland and those of Europe in general.

(The above article appears in the "Europa Year Book 1926" (price 15/6) and is reprinted by courtesy of Messrs. George Routledge & Sons, Ltd., 68, Carter Lane, E.C.4. The Year Book is issued in five parts and constitutes a useful source of reference for matters dealing with European history in the making, industrial and financial problems, disarmament, League of Nations, agriculture, labour and trade conditions, etc.; it also contains a European "Who's who?"—Dr. William Martin needs, of course, no introduction from us; he is one of the collaborators on the "Journal de Genève" whose regular articles dealing with questions of international politics are read eagerly all over the world.—Ed. "S.O.")

## THE BASLE FOOTBALLERS IN LONDON

S.B.C. LONDON *versus* S.B.C. BASLE.

(Preston Road Ground—April 3rd, 1926.)

Basle winning the toss, play started at 3.30, and the team soon commenced and maintained a steady attack on the London goal. Early in the game a beautiful pass from the left, which looked like a certainty, could not be converted, but soon afterwards the first goal was scored by Kirchhofer, the goalkeeper being unsuspected. After two unsuccessful corners the field of action was transferred to the Basle goal, but the strong defence of the backs, especially Herzog, rarely allowed the attack to become dangerous. In a straight run Dublin, the centre forward, scored the second goal for the visitors. Towards the end of the first half the "Blues" seemed to slacken off a bit, as their game was not as fast by any means as at the commencement, and thanks to some pretty saves by Burger, the London custodian, the score remained two to nil. The home team was somewhat handicapped owing to an injury to Way, the centre-half.

Play in the second half was not so spirited. Dublin landed another goal from just inside the penalty area. This was soon followed by a shot from Schilling, the ball striking the goal post and entering the net. A quick run and some lucky passes helped the home team to the first goal, though the ball was actually sent in through a rebound from Oertli. This success, accompanied by vociferous cheering, stifled the onslaught of

the Londoners until Way again broke down, thus interrupting the game for a few minutes, until the art of "Dr. Jonstone" had brought him round again. The home team continued to develop considerable liveliness, and the visitors had some trouble in holding their own; they succeeded, however, in securing another goal, which was obtained by Isler, after a beautiful piece of passing. During the last five minutes a determined effort by Holten led to a scuffle in front of the Basle gate and enabled him to score the second goal for the home team, this being an object-lesson in "following-up."

Result: Basle 5, London 2.

BASLE TEAM.



Photo by Kreitz & Son, Wembley.

The match was played under excellent conditions, both the ground and the weather favouring a capital display. Without a doubt, the Basle team showed the better form, its mainstay being Kirchhofer and Shaw (half-backs) and the forwards being cleverly led by Dublin. On the London side Holton and Tobin (on the left wing) did excellent work, whilst "Baby" (Hablutzel—full-back) often proved the real *pièce de résistance*; on the whole the team was lacking in combination, and their passing too often went astray. The referee, Mr. F. Ratcliff, is to be congratulated on the manner in which he handled the game, all his decisions being very sound and prompt.

The two sides were composed as follows:—  
Basle—P. Rittel; H. Herzog, W. Oertli; S. Shaw, R. Kirchhofer (capt.), F. Peter; W. Leutenegger, F. Schilling, J. Dublin, G. Isler, E. Haberthur.

London—C. Burger; A. Hablutzel, F. W. Rasch; J. W. Castle (capt.), P. W. F. Way, W. Steiner; C. B. Holton, H. R. Tobin, E. Gourbach, F. J. Hill, M. Hillebrand.

LONDON TEAM.



Photo by Kreitz & Son, Wembley.

In the evening the players and their friends, numbering about 80, assembled at the Swiss Hotel, 53, Old Compton Street, W.1, where the culinary talents of our compatriot, Mr. Aug. Wyss, had devised a choice repast. The walls of the large room on the first floor were draped with Swiss and English flags and Basle escutcheons, while, in addition to the floral decorations on the tables, a miniature goal in chocolate confectionery confronted the chairman. An atmosphere of cordiality and frankness characterised the company, over which Mr. F. J. Smith, the President of the Football Section of the Swiss Bank Club, presided.

After the two loyal toasts had been duly proposed and honoured, the Chairman read out telegrams of felicitation from the S.B. Football Clubs in Zurich and Geneva.

The visiting team was officially welcomed by Mr. Charles Mayr, the President of the Swiss Bank Club. He admitted having harboured hopes of winning back the laurels which they had lost on their last visit to Basle, but evidently he was wrong. He was sure, however, that that afternoon they had had a first-class match, and that the better team had won. He thought these visits afforded the staff a unique opportunity of becoming more familiar with colleagues with whom in the course of business they were only superficially acquainted. He knew the London team were eagerly looking forward to another journey to

Switzerland; whatever temporary successes they might achieve during these visits, they had one permanent result, and that was: they taught us to "play the game." He invited the company to drink to the health of the visitors and the further prosperity of the Basle Club.

Mr. S. Lorsignol, the manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation in London, then presented the challenge cup to the Basle captain, Mr. S. Shaw. Mr. Lorsignol regretted that he was unable to attend the match in the afternoon, and that he had never been a great football player. He had often tried to grasp the rudiments of that great game, but had not yet been able to master the many different explanations which were being preached on the off-side rule.

Mr. Shaw, in acknowledging the cup, said he felt very proud, as an Englishman, to captain such an excellent team as the Basle side. Since he had been playing in Switzerland he had been entirely converted to the rules and ways as practised there. He had that afternoon greatly enjoyed the match, which was admirably refereed. The success of his side was in the first instance due to the facilities which the Basle management put at their disposal for training. He knew the London team were up against certain difficulties, and he wondered at the remarkable stand which they had made. He, too, was impatiently looking forward to the visit of the London team two years hence.

Mr. G. Isler, the President of the Basle Football Section of the S.B. Club, referred to the cordial welcome accorded them, and said they had received like princes. He also expressed gratitude for the financial assistance of the London management and for their good example, which enabled them to develop the sport in Basle on proper lines. As a memento of the occasion he presented the London section with a gold-embroidered standard.

Mr. H. Herzog brought greetings from the President of the S.B. Club Basle, Mr. H. Stucki, to represent whom was not an easy matter, least of all for him (Mr. Herzog). He read a letter from Mr. Stucki in which the latter affirmed how much they appreciated in Basle the lead that had been given them by the S.B. Club in London; the letter was accompanied by a framed photo of Col. Simonius, the donor of the challenge cup and late Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Swiss Bank Corporation. Mr. Herzog added the hope that the London team on their next visit to Switzerland would be more successful, but ventured to predict that they—the Basle team—would then also go one better.

Mr. J. W. Castle, the London captain, said that the match was an object-lesson for them. He was sure, however, if they had had the traditional English weather—copious rain and plenty of mud—the result would have been different, as the beautiful passing of the ball, in which the Basle team excelled, would have been considerably impeded. He concluded by paying tribute to the indefatigable efforts of Mr. F. J. Smith, the President of the Football Section.

Mr. Smith returned the compliment, and referred to the valuable encouragement which they could always depend upon from Messrs. Castelli and Lorsignol.

Mr. Lorsignol expressed on behalf of Mr. Castelli regrets for not being present for reasons of health. (During the evening each member of the Basle team received as a souvenir of the event a silver pencil as a personal present from Mr. Castelli, the London Managing Director of the Swiss Bank Corporation.)

Mr. Comfort submitted the toast of "The Guests," to which Mr. P. F. Boehringer responded. The official part of the dinner was followed by a much appreciated entertainment, given by a sextette made up from the following members of the Swiss Choral Society:—Messrs. W. Fischer, J. Gerber, W. Peter, E. Ritzmann, F. Suter, and E. Weber. The songs rendered included "Im Dörflein," "Das Wandern" and "Am Brünnelein."

On Sunday, a trip by char-à-banc to Windsor and neighbourhood introduced the visitors to the beauties of the English countryside. The team left on Monday morning for Newhaven, and as the boat-train was steaming out the cheers raised for Mr. F. J. Smith seemed to shake the whole structure of Victoria Station, which was deserted at that time.

**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.

To the Editor of *The Swiss Observer*.

Sir,—As a sympathiser and a good friend of our compatriots, the Ticinesi, at home and abroad, I always endeavour to be present at the Annual Banquet and Ball of the Society, in order to share with all the members a jolly and pleasant evening and enjoy the patriotic speeches in the beautiful language of Dante Allighieri.

This year, to my astonishment, there was only one speech made in that language. My disappointment, however, was compensated for by the fact that this one speech was made in a classical style, full of patriotic sentiment and appreciation of the Ticinesi, by the Chairman, Mr. de Bourg, the

worthy representative of the Swiss Minister, who was prevented by unforeseen circumstances from being among us. His speech, needless to say, raised storms of applause.

Expecting to read the report in full published in *The Swiss Observer*, I was struck by the fact that it had been curtailed on certain important points. I think, and many other people are of the same opinion, that in justice and honour to the distinguished gentleman who made the speech, and to the important subjects dealt with in it, that the same should have been published *in extenso*.

Yours faithfully, P. O.

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\* Wer von Burgdorf aus die Emme entlang wandert, wird beim "Kalchofen" eine in kühnem Bogen sich über den Fluss wölbende gedeckte Holzbrücke finden, die ihn nach Rüegsausachen hinüberführt. Früher stand dort eine andere, deren Zerstörung bei der grossen Überschwemmung im Jahre 1837 Jeremias Gotthelfs "Wassersnot im Emmental" so ergreifend darstellte.

Die Entstehungsgeschichte der alten Brücke schildert uns ein junger, in Rüegsausachen wohnender Schriftsteller, Walter Laedrach, der daran ein fesselndes Bild aus der Zeit des alten Bern knüpft. Es zeigt uns das Verhältnis der Regierung zu den Untertanen in der zweiten Hälfte des 18. Jahrhunderts, nicht ohne des Bauernkriegs von 1653, der ja im Emmental seinen Herd hatte, zu gedenken und auch auf die Morgen-dämmerung einer neuen Zeit hinzuweisen. In jenen Jahren wird die Helvetische Gesellschaft gegründet, und die einsichtigeren Patrizier suchen die Bauern für sich zu gewinnen in der Überzeugung dass Stadt und Land zusammenwirken müssen. Gleichwohl regiert der Landvogt noch wie ein Fürst; er kann z. B. die Erlaubnis zum Bau eines Hauses geben oder verweigern, und die Gemeindefürsorge drücken die Bauern oft schwer. Es bedarf des Aufwands aller Kräfte, es müssen Menschenleben unkommen, bis die Regierung der gnädigen Herren die so notwendige Verbindung zwischen den beiden Ufern bewilligt. — Der Sitz des Landvogts in unserer bis jetzt noch nicht veröffentlichten Erzählung ist das im Revolutionsjahre 1798 in Flammen aufgegangene Brandis, von dem kaum mehr die Grundmauern stehen, in der Nähe von Lützelbüh, dem Wohnsitz Jeremias Gotthelfs.

Möge das anschauliche Bild der alten Zeit, das uns einige Emmentaler Kraftgestalten vorführt, die Liebe zur einheimischen Geschichte und zu unserm schönen Lande stärken!

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**SWISS SPORTS, June 5th, 1926**

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**CITY SWISS CLUB.**

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que l'Assemblée Générale Annuelle aura lieu le MARDI, 13 AVRIL au Restaurant PAGANI, 42, Gt. Portland Street, W.1 et sera précédée d'un souper à 7 h. (prix 5/6).

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard St. E.C. 2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595).

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**Divine Services.**

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(Langue française.)

- Dimanche, 11 Avril, 11h.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme. 6.30.—M. Ch. Jeannot.
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Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6 (Téléphone: Mountview 1798). Heure de réception à l'Eglise: Mercredi 10.30 à 12h.

**SCHWEIZERKIRCHE**

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C. 2.

- Sonntag, 11. April, 11 Uhr vorm.—Gottesdienst.
- Samstag, 10. April, 7½ Uhr, im "Foyer Suisse": Vortrag über "Babel und Bibel." Thec um 6¼ Uhr.
- Sprechstunden: Dienstag, 12—1, St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C. 2.
- Mittwoch, 3—5, "Foyer Suisse," 12, Upper Bedford Place, W.C. 1 (am Wohnort des Pfarrers).
- Pfr. C. Th. Hahn.

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS.**

- Tuesday, April 13th, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Annual General Meeting, preceded by a Supper, at Pagan's Restaurant, 42, Gt. Portland St., W.C.1.
- Wednesday, April 14th, at 8.30.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Monthly Meeting, preceded by a Supper, and followed by a Lecture on "Sweden and Norway—Special Account of their Paper Industry," by W. Pfister, Esq., at the Union Helvetia.
- Wednesday, April 14th, at 8.30.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Monthly Meeting at 1, Gerrard Place, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.1.
- Friday, April 30th, at 8.30.—SWISS CHORAL SOC.: Annual Concert at Mortimer Hall, 93, Mortimer St., W.1.
- SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.—Rehearsals every Friday evening. Every Swiss heartily invited to attend. Particulars from the Hon. Secretary, Swiss Choral Society, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.
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