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microphones, the amplifying circuit is automatically split in two and made to feed two distinct outputs, so that it becomes possible to make with the one set of apparatus two distinct and simultaneous translations of the original speech. There appears to be no reason why the same principal should not be applied eventually, if necessary, to a number of circuits.

The work which has been done at Geneva has been made possible largely by financial support received from the American philanthropist Mr. E. A. Filene, who has pursued into the realm of internationalism the quest for efficiency so characteristic of his nation. It is doubtful whether the development of the idea is yet sufficiently complete to make it equally applicable in all places. The difficulty which interpreters experience in listening and giving a simultaneous verbal interpretation for any length of time still remains. Captain Finlay sees a solution for this trouble in the use of an enlarged form of phonographic recorder with two independent actions, a constant recording device, and a reproducing gear which can be lifted, say by the action of the foot, from the cylinder at any desired moment and made to return to the point of interruption without in any way interfering with the work of recording. The interpreter will, with such an apparatus, be able to interpret sentence by sentence—an easy process—and there will remain at the end a permanent record of the original speech. In this way the presence of shorthand reporters in the conference hall may be dispensed with. There has not been time to develop the phonographic apparatus for the present Labour Conference, but it will undoubtedly be given a test at an early date.

The South African delegates at Geneva are so much struck by this new development that they propose on their return to advocate its application to the debates in the Union Parliament.

#### A Swiss Absurdity Threatened

is the title of the following short note in the *Motor* (May 31st): For four years past there has been an absurd and highly dangerous regulation in Switzerland by which all Government cars—that is, the postal diligences—should be allowed to keep to the inner edge on a mountain road. As other vehicles of the same type abound, the driver of a car does not know until at close quarters whether he is meeting a Federal char-à-bancs or a privately owned one, and, in any case, the probability of an accident at a blind corner is always imminent. At last, however, the postal authorities have been moved to propose a modification. They suggest that on very narrow roads the diligence should still have the right to the inner edge, but should halt to let another vehicle pass. On wider roads and where there is a clear view the Government cars, it is suggested, should overtake on the inner side, but must not cut in quickly after passing. This means, of course, that the driver of a slow car can never safely draw aside until he has looked round and ascertained whether the overtaking vehicle is a Government car or not! All the trouble would be avoided if no privileges were claimed for postal cars.

It seems indeed strange that Postal cars, whose drivers, thanks to their regular journeys, possess an intimate knowledge of the particular roads, should command such an advantage over the ordinary motorist, who presumably, in most instances, is an occasional tourist traversing and exploring country new to him.

#### The Russians at Geneva.

That the sojourn of the Russian delegation is a cause of constant anxiety for the Geneva police—which has been strengthened from the force of other cantons—is shown by the following paragraph from the June number of *Foreign Affairs*:

From the first the Geneva authorities did their best to make the Russians feel at home. With delicate attention, they sent them to live in the Hotel d'Angleterre. With even more attention, though perhaps less delicacy, they barricaded the sidewalk, set a guard outside, in the lobby, and in the halls, and organised a police service for the telephone. The Russians had complained of lack of protection on Swiss soil? They should be protected, then. Not even a poisonous whisper should reach them over the wires. The Swiss police, it seemed, were willing to absorb all such for them, and incidentally some information on their relations. Journalists calling the delegation were immediately switched on to the police, asked their name, newspaper, and business, then told either that the delegation could talk to no one at the moment or sometimes simply left without an answer until they rang off in helpless annoyance. Failing access of any kind, even to the secretary of the delegation, they supposed it was the Russians who were afraid to talk, until it became known that they had protested to Sir Eric Drummond against their state of "virtual imprisonment." Through his good offices the "service" was somewhat attenuated, the Russians

came to the Conference in one or two taxis instead of a fleet of eight full of policemen as prophesied in the papers, and the barricades were removed on Thursday afternoon before a curious crowd. Yet two days later a journalist invited to a rendezvous by one of the delegation was not allowed to go up or to communicate with him. Such interference, of course, did not come to all, but why should it come to any? The Swiss have said, what is quite true, that their responsibility for assuring the safety of the delegation is heavy. But there are ways and ways of protection; and the Swiss way this time was marked by a lack of tact that seemed to come more from fear of the Russians than for them. At the Conference their speeches have been listened to with interest and attention. While definitely rejecting any idea of an alteration of the Russian economic system, all the delegates indicated their belief that there was no reason why the two systems should not exist side by side and co-operate in economic reconstruction. The recent Arcos raid in London by the British Government is likely to cause Britain to be excluded from the benefits which will result from this inevitable co-operation.

#### A Violin with a History.

From the *Daily Express* (May 30th):—

Many historical musical instruments of all kinds are on view at the International Exhibition of Music at Geneva—the first of its kind to be held in Europe.

An old violin made by Andrea Guarnerius, in 1675, at Cremona is, perhaps, attracting the most attention, on account of the romance and tragedy attached to the instrument during the last 252 years.

This violin is now the cherished property of a wealthy Genevese amateur, M. Louis Prodron, who bought it at Leipzig in 1890, and who states he would not sell it for any amount of money.

It has travelled through the principal countries of Europe. The lowest price paid for it was "one hundred pieces of gold," 150 years ago, when a Bohemian sold it to a Neapolitan named Alberto Fortuni.

Then the instrument came successively into the hands of three Germans, who all died soon after they had bought the violin.

Finally an antiquary named Muirensky, of Leipzig, bought it and was preparing to take it to America when he died, and the Cremona came to Geneva.

#### DE MOSCOU, ENCORE! ET DE VEVEY.

N'en déplaise à quelques âmes chagrines, il nous faut, aujourd'hui encore, dire quelques mots de nos relations avec la Russie. Que ce soit en cette chambre vénérable du Conseil des Etats, où sous le lustre énorme les prudents députés paraissent des punaises attendant d'être écrasées par la masse qui, du plafond, va leur tomber d'un moment à l'autre sur la tête; que ce soit au Conseil National plus turbulent comme plus lumineux; partout s'élèvent des voix qui protestent contre l'accord conclu, qui demandent les explications les plus détaillées, qui réservent l'avenir et qui montrent une mauvaise humeur certaine.

Des députés de toutes les tendances politiques, de toutes les langues, enfin de toutes les parties du pays, se lèvent et font entendre la même voix, sous le silence approbateur du reste des Assemblées. Certes, notre remarquable Ministre des Affaires étrangères s'attendait bien à un questionnaire, il n'avait pas prévu cette levée de boucliers, et il faut franchement reconnaître que ses explications quoique très précises n'ont pas donnée à tous entière satisfaction.

Monsieur Motta a, entre autres choses, relevé que la note échangée prévoyait des négociations futures afin d'obtenir le règlement des questions pendantes. Il reconnaît pas ailleurs que les Soviets tiennent beaucoup à être reconnus par notre pays; enfin il déclare plus loin: "Le règlement de ces questions, si jamais il devenait possible, ne pourrait se faire que grâce à une négociation très longue et très lourde, précédée par la reconnaissance de jure du gouvernement soviétique ou aboutissant finalement à ce résultat."

Voici les paroles telles qu'elles furent prononcées. On comprendra qu'une partie de l'opinion publique, en joignant certaines phrases éparses de ce remarquable discours, s'inquiète et non sans raison. Les services de police de Genève vous diraient de leur côté que ce ne serait pas une sinécure que surveiller à la fois un centre international de propagande communiste qui aurait son siège à Genève, tout comme les autres institutions internationales et qui ferait peut-être plus de travail qu'eux, et de veiller en même temps sur la personne de ses dirigeants qui jouiraient évidemment d'une immunité diplomatique quelconque. On a

constaté l'efficacité du travail accompli par la délégation russe lors de la dernière conférence, et l'on commence à se rendre compte que l'avantage escompté pourrait bien ne pas être celui sur lequel on avait tablé. Même dans ces milieux, il se dessine une forte réaction dont l'Angleterre a pris la tête; et non sans raison! On comprendra donc que certains suisses se refusent à offrir à ces Messieurs de Moscou l'asile qu'ils n'ont pas pu trouver ailleurs!

\* \* \*

Et tandis que ces questions politiques agitent, peut-être trop bien des mentalités, il se prépare sur les bords du bleu Léman une des manifestations les plus propres de notre esprit national. Je veux parler de la Fête des Vignerons. Comme vous le savez elle n'a lieu que trois ou quatre fois par siècle et groupe tous les enfants du pays Vaudois en un même sentiment de reconnaissance envers notre mère la Terre qui est louée sous la forme de toutes ses saisons et de tous ses bienfaits. Avec une unanimité remarquable le peuple s'est levé pour reprendre la chère tradition et le moment est bientôt là où la Suisse toute entière prendra le chemin de la Place du Marché. Sur cette place depuis longtemps légendaire entourée d'antiques demeures, on a édifié une vaste arène de bois qui pourra contenir plus de treize mille personnes. Il y aura des places pour toutes les bourses puisque depuis 5 francs, elles s'élèveront jusqu'à 55! Et rassurez vous dès maintenant, c'est précisément ces sièges qui sont déjà tous loués. De Romanshorn l'on viendra en chemin de fer, de Genève on viendra en bateaux spéciaux, et comme le spectacle commence avant huit heures le matin, c'est une nuit sur le lac que se proposent bien des gens qui vivent autour de St. Pierre. Et ne sera-ce pas merveilleux cette traversée romantique sous le clair de lune qui servira de prélude à la fête elle-même!

Comme en 1905, la partie musicale a été confiée au Maître vénéré Gustave Doret qui a fixé depuis longtemps ses pénates à Paris, tandis que le texte est du poète genevois Girard, qui est tout de fraîcheur et de jeunesse. C'est donc la perfection; il ne demeure qu'une petite ombre au tableau que je me voudrais de ne pas noter bien franchement. Doret nous a déjà donné la Fête splendide de 1905, nous aurions eu un plaisir intense à entendre ce que Jaques-Dalcroze aurait trouvé sur le même thème, et il n'apparaissait que juste que la même personne n'accapare pas deux fois de suite le même rôle! Le destin et les contingences ne l'ont pas voulu ainsi! Nous irons malgré tout, le cœur débordant d'allégresse vers la Fête qui se prépare, et vous vous devez, amis suisses de Londres, d'y venir avec nous!

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