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HOME NEWS

The outlines of a far-reaching scheme to meet the acute crisis in the agricultural industry has been submitted by Federal Councillor Musy, the Finance Minister, to banking interests; it seeks to benefit in the first instance the small farmer in the mountain districts by affording relief in mortgage charges and generally creating facilities for financial assistance. A conference is to take place on Sept. 11th at Berne with representatives of financial houses in order to discuss particulars of this scheme.

Considerable excitement has been caused in political circles of the canton Ticino by a new frontier incident. An Italian political refugee, Cesare Rossi, who under an assumed name was staying at an hotel in Lugano, was enticed by Italian secret police, with the help of an attractive woman accomplice, to take a motor trip; on the car nearing the frontier the victim became aware of the plot but his protests and shouts were, of course, of no avail. Having secured their quarry, some disguised Italian police or Fascists presented themselves at Rossi's hotel in Lugano and, by the application of a very simple ruse, obtained possession of his personal belongings and papers. It is stated that Cesare Rossi was one of the original four creators and leaders of Italian Fascism; he was involved in the disappearance of the Socialist Matteotti, in consequence of which he fell into disgrace. He managed to escape from Italy and settled down in Paris, whence he levelled attacks and accusations against the Mussolini régime. It is asserted that he was lured away from Paris to Lugano so as to facilitate his capture.

Prof. Dr. Bernhard Duhm, a noted lecturer on theology at the Basle university, was knocked down by a motor-car just outside the Spalentor in Basle and died a few hours afterwards at the municipal hospital. Born in Friesland, he was called to the Basle University from Göttingen nearly forty years ago; he is the author of many important works on theology.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

"Saffa."

There is no English paper which during the last few weeks has not referred to this "All Woman" exhibition which was officially opened at Berne on August 25th by the President of Confederation and which continues till the end of this month. Though the feminine movement has never been so much to the front as in this country, the experiment has aroused a keen interest in England. Many professional ladies on this side are arranging their holidays so as to coincide with this exhibition; apart from the infant welfare stands the sections showing tapestry and pottery are of particular interest to this country. The following is taken from the *Daily News* (August 25th).

"For some time past the mystic word 'Saffa' has been appearing in the Swiss Press, and one gathered that it spelt big things to the feminine section of the community. The word, in fact, to the initiated, stands for Schweizerische Ausstellung für Frauen Arbeit, which, being interpreted, means Swiss Exhibition for Women's Work, and it stands for the result of two years' incessant effort on the part of all the numerous feminine associations in Switzerland.

Local exhibitions of women's work were held in Berne in 1924 and in Geneva and Basle in 1925, and, encouraged by the success of these, Swiss women decided to show what they could do in a national exhibition at Berne.

The result is the "Saffa," which opens its doors to-morrow.

The only woman architect in Switzerland has been responsible for the buildings, which cover an area of 100,000 square metres, and the committee is budgeting on a million Swiss francs (or £40,000) for the expenses. They have got together a big guarantee fund to which the Government has subscribed £6,000, but if the expected 80,000 people a day visit the exhibition during the five weeks of its existence this fund will not be called upon.

The intention of the exhibition is to demonstrate the economic and social importance of women's work. It is meant to interest public opinion in the education, professional activities and the social and philanthropic work of women. It will, in fact, reflect women's activities in every sphere, and to young girls at a loss to know what career to take up it will give useful guidance.

The exhibition is divided into 12 groups, in which domestic economy is placed first. Then come agriculture and gardening, arts and trades, fine arts, home work, industry, large and small (including machinery for facilitating women's work), commerce and the professions, science, literature, music, education, social work, hygiene and finally a retrospective section.

Berne will be *en fête* during the exhibition, and shop and café hours, for which in Berne the regulations are as the laws of the Medes and Persians, have been extended throughout the period. On the first two days there will be a procession through the town, in which 1,200 persons will take part, representing all the groups above enumerated, and including 600 Swiss costumes drawn from every valley in the country.

Alpine Accidents.

The climbing season this year has been characterised by daring and hazardous ascents successfully effected and by the inevitable number of fatal accidents. The climbers seem to return every year in increasing numbers, imbued with a large dose of self-confidence which in the thrill of adventure ignores the heavy risks. The tragedies are practically all due to the fact that insufficiently experienced climbers set out without guides and, by not divulging the particular route of their ascent, render remote any chances of timely rescue by the very guides they despise. To counteract such recurrences a scheme is now under consideration which forces tourists when starting on their climbs to fill in a prescribed form stating, apart from personal particulars, the exact route they propose to follow. It has been felt that something must be done as these accidents are giving rise to comment which, unfortunately, discredits our guides and which suggest that their exorbitant fees prevent the average climber from making use of their services. The *Daily Telegraph* official correspondent, who ought to know better but who always displays a strange desire to belittle anything Swiss—the Italian Government has discovered a very drastic remedy in dealing with such scribes—sent a long diatribe about our guides to his paper. We refrain from reproducing it, but all the same we must take our hats off to our great contemporary for putting the matter right again by publishing in the subsequent issue of August 21st the following rejoinder from Lt.-Col. Graham S. Hutchison which speaks for itself.

"I remember reading a statement in *The Daily Telegraph* to the effect that exorbitant charges were made by the Swiss guides. As one who has been accustomed for quite a number of years now to employ the services of these guides, and whose father, as one of the earliest members, of the Alpine Club, has similarly made use of them, I desire to correct the impression which such a statement may make.

In my own experience the charges are exceedingly reasonable and within the reach of anyone or any party which desires to make an ascent. The following matters should be considered. The Swiss guide is employed only during a short season of about three months in the summer. The growing popularity of ski-ing finds for them an additional two or three months' employment, six months throughout the year.

During this six months their employment is not regular; they have to keep themselves to a high standard of training. They are obliged to live regular and abstemious lives. Their occupation requires qualities not only of fine physique, but of high courage and good judgment. They are obliged to pass strict tests before they are permitted to act as guides, which has entailed apprenticeship without remuneration, or for small pay as porters. They undergo considerable risks every time they make an ascent, not alone in respect of their own self-preservation, but chiefly due to the fact that they may be conducting persons or parties largely unskilled in mountaineering, who are not familiar with the hazards of crossing a crevassed glacier and who do not understand the technique of rock climbing. A fall from any member of the guide's party, or loss of nerve, to say nothing of sudden storms, ava-

lanches, rock-falls, may imperil the life of the guide, and in any case demands a steady head, good judgment, speed in decision, and all the qualities of good leadership.

The remuneration is not high for such service. For example, the ascent of the Matterhorn, on which many lives have been lost, requiring two guides, will cost about £15, and will occupy the guides' time in preparation and in the actual ascent for about a week. Bad weather may extend the period. To the average party this would work out at about £5 per head, and each guide would receive, say, £8. This is not excessive remuneration for highly skilled labour, while compared with that of professional footballers and boxers, whose employment is regular, not dependent upon weather, and who incur small risks to limb and nothing to life, the charge is small indeed. When I led a party of eighteen Boy Scouts up the Zermatt Breithorn, occupying two days and imposing considerable responsibilities on the guide, he was such a sportsman that he entered into the spirit of the adventure and his inclusive charge was £2.

Both my father before me and I always found the Swiss guides to be men of fine quality who take as much pride in their work as any body of men anywhere. They are more interested in achievement than in monetary gain, and I have never experienced or heard of an exorbitant charge.

It is true that in certain popular climbing centres, now considerably crowded with American travellers, what might appear to be high charges have been made by the guides leading certain expeditions. But the circumstances must be taken into consideration. I witnessed, for example, in 1925 a party set out to scale the Matterhorn, of which the principal was an enterprising American gentleman, who was determined to reach the top of the Matterhorn. He was quite unfitted for the task, and the guides responsible had to assist him in every yard of part of the ascent, placing his feet, pushing from behind, and pulling with the rope. It was to the credit of both the American, and especially his guides, that his enterprise was crowned with success, but as in other circumstances, such, for example, as millionaires flying the Atlantic, he paid higher than the ordinary commercial rates, and with justice.

The British climber, man or woman, will be met with no exorbitant charges, and will find in the Swiss guides, as I have done, a body of gentlemen and sportsmen, professionally engaged in a sport which almost alone remains the only one uncommercialised, and in which with them commercial gain is a consideration second to achievement.

The League and Geneva.

The least differences of opinion between League officials and cantonal or Federal authorities automatically releases in certain quarters the now stereotyped outcry of removing the seat of the League to some other city. Most of the provincial papers as well as the *Sunday Times* came out with headlines of "League may leave Switzerland." The fact is that the erection of the new League wireless station in Geneva has raised a few interesting points as to the sovereignty over League property (especially the ground it stands on) in the event of War. One paper—*Leeds Mercury* (Aug. 27th)—says that Switzerland must make a sacrifice for the sake of keeping the headquarters of the League. No sane person will take these vapourings seriously, and *The Times*, in the following long article published on August 29th, gives chapter and verse why the present status is not likely to be changed.

"It is well known that ever since President Wilson, impressed by the history of Geneva and confirmed in his views by the advice of Colonel House, established the headquarters of the League in Geneva there have been movements afoot to obtain its removal to other places. Various, not altogether convincing, reasons have been put forward for the change, but experience, gained principally from the holding of conferences in other cities, has shown that a place has yet to be discovered which is better suited for uninterrupted work on the part of the permanent officials, or for those intimate discussions among statesmen which have proved so valuable in helping forward the League's ideals. The so-called 'Geneva atmosphere' has undoubtedly among its qualities that peculiar respect for the privacy of its guests which comes from centuries of hospitality to leaders of thought.

Many private institutions have long been seeking definite evidence that the League is to

stand firm on Swiss territory. Some, which for various reasons had established themselves in of the Rockefeller library—the foundation-stone of which, together with that of the new Palais other places, now find in the gift to the League des Nations, is to be laid during the Assembly of the League in September—a good reason for re-considering their position, for the library will be open to all students of international problems. Already the group of societies centred in Brussels in what is known as the Palais Mondiale have been seeking a site in Geneva which, if sentiment is favourable, may ultimately become the headquarters of all unofficial international activity. There seems to be no longer any question of Geneva's future as a centre of international studies.

The Canton and Republic of Geneva has gathered within its area of jurisdiction—if not exactly within the walls of the medieval city—a considerable number of private international organisations. The oldest is the International Red Cross. Since the coming of the League there has been a steady addition to the number of bodies represented here. Three years ago there were nearly 40 to be counted, apart from the League and the International Labour Office; today they number about 60.

It might be feared that the proximity of so many unofficial organisations working in the international field would be disturbing to the League Secretariat. Actually there is no such effect. The League Secretariat and the staff of the International Labour Office are really two international civil services concerned only with such affairs as the member Governments have agreed to investigate and to study. Some of these private organisations undoubtedly do supply, from time to time, material helpful to the League and the International Labour Office, and in turn obtain from the official libraries information useful in their private activities, but, strictly speaking, there are no direct relations between the League and the private institutions. The great value of Geneva to the private organisations is the fact that the city is now the recognised periodical meeting-place of diplomats, and a sort of political Mecca attracting an ever-flowing stream of visitors with political or social interests.

A striking example of the change in the character of this stream of visitors was provided in a statistical table which showed that in the year before the War more than one-third of the persons registering in hotels arrived in July and August, and were therefore probably purely sight-seers, and that in 1927 the numbers were surprisingly evenly distributed from the beginning of March to the end of October. Even in the grayer months of November, December, January, and February, no fewer than 28,777 "foreigners" had reason to visit Geneva.

Not the least interesting feature of Geneva is the effort being made by the city to adapt itself to its changed character. This movement will no doubt be intensified now that the future is certain. The sudden descent in 1920 upon the city—then struggling industrially through a high rate of exchange, and afterwards with strange fiscal difficulties arising from what will be known at The Hague Court next year as the "affairs of the zones"—of some hundreds of persons, free by agreement from the payment of all taxes yet requiring accommodation according to the modern standards of comfort, was a severe tax even on Swiss adaptability. Prices soared high, and even now it cannot be pretended that living is cheap for those who find difficulty in adopting entirely the habits and the *cuisine* of the Genevese. But things are steadily becoming normal. In all the residential areas and almost within a stone's throw of the site selected for the new Palais des Nations there are springing up great blocks of "appartements" fitted with all that is now understood as comprising "comfort moderne," such as electrical refrigerators, exhaust air for vacuum cleaning, and electrical water-heating devices which come into play during the hours of low tariff.

The majority of the unofficial associations, which meet periodically at luncheon or dinner to exchange ideas and to be addressed by the League and other authorities on matters of current interest, have recently joined forces in supporting what is known as a *Centre Permanent d'Informations*, which, being closely in touch with those responsible for making Geneva attractive for visitors, enables the new international colony to obtain a sympathetic hearing for complaints of every kind, whether they be against the international railway facilities or the procedure at the Customs for the examination of visitors arriving from France.

Against the minor inconveniences which always present themselves to those taking up life in a new country—which in this case include (a) an admittedly wise but compulsory examination for all wishing to drive a motor-car; (b) an expensive tramway service more helpful to leisured persons than busy folk; (c) a recently re-introduced special tax to defray the cost of army

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mobilisation during the War—are to be balanced a smokeless air through which pure sunlight pours for months in the year, proximity to some of the most wonderful scenery in Europe, and great courtesy from the public officials and those Genevese families which interest themselves in international affairs.

Bisses in the Valais.

Little is known of the extensive irrigation scheme in operation in the canton of Valais and the following correspondent (Aug. 29th) supplies the following information about these historic "Bisses."

"Before the recent thunderstorms which broke the drought in Western Switzerland with so much unnecessary violence, the peasants in Canton Valais had been compelled to bring down their cattle from some of the summer 'alps' or pastures where the grass was completely dry and water supply exhausted. The Upper Rhône Valley—which is occupied by Canton Valais—is one of the warmest and driest in Switzerland; there is plenty of water in the main valley, but very little on the steep slopes on either side or those of the side valleys, which are positively burned by the sun; and these slopes are covered with vineyards, cornfields and orchards. The traveller who passes through Canton Valais at night is surprised at seeing from the train numerous lights going to and fro on the mountain side, which are the lanterns used by the men entrusted with the care of irrigating the meadows and fields.

In order to remedy the natural dryness of the soil and the lack of water the Valais mountain folk long ago established a most elaborate system of irrigation by means of canals called *bisses*. Such a system exists in some regions of Spain, where it was introduced by the Moors, and some historians suppose that the Valaisan system is of Saracen origin.

In order to irrigate their fields and meadows in the lower part of the valleys the natives collect the water coming out of the glaciers in the upper part of the valleys and convey it down by means of *bisses*. These are generally one foot deep and two or three feet wide; they are sometimes dug out in the earth or excavated in the rock, but often they are flumes formed of planks supported by iron hooks fixed in the rock and run along high rock walls above high precipices. A narrow footway by the side of the *bisse* enables the *garde-bisse* to examine and repair it. When the *bisse* is suspended to a rock wall the keeper has to walk either on a plank covering it or in the water itself. When it gets to the land to be irrigated the main *bisse* is divided into many smaller canals distributing the water over a large area. Every landowner is entitled to a certain number of hours of water a day according to the size of his land. The *garde-bisse* is supplied with a ploughshare-shaped spade, with which he blocks the main channel and diverts the water into the smaller *bisses*, and with a long stick on which notches of different length indicate the "water rights"—that is, the time during which water is to be supplied to the various fields. This primitive means of reckoning seems to be quite accurate, as complaints are very scarce.

Some of these *bisses* are real works of art, and the natives proudly show them to those tourists who have a sure foot and do not fear precipices. The longest is the Bisse de Tordin, one of the most daring in its construction; it is over 19 miles long and comes down from the top of Val de Nendaz. The Bisse de Sainte Marguerite at Saviez offers the most frightening aspect to the visitor who follows it along terrific rock walls over 800 ft. deep. The Bisse de la Lienne at Montana is also interesting to visit. The vineyards and meadows of Visperterminen, at the mouth of the Zermatt Valley, get their water by means of a *bisse* coming from the Fletschhorn glacier. Formerly this *bisse* passed along steep slopes, where it was liable to be interrupted by land-slips. In order to obviate that inconvenience, the people of Visperterminen themselves made a tunnel for it, about two miles long, through the mountain. This was a very difficult work and took them two years to finish after a firm of contractors had abandoned the task.

Thanks to the *bisses*, the sunburnt slopes of the Upper Rhône valley and of the side valleys remained green, while everywhere else the trees lost their leaves and the grass was withered in

the drought. The *bisses* not only irrigate the soil, but also fertilise it with the fine glacier sand which they bring down and deposit on the fields and vineyards. About one-third of Canton Valais would be completely barren if no *bisses* had been made."

Cat as Climber.

The lure of the Alps is evidently not confined to the human race and there is no reason why cats and dogs should be debarred from what is considered the best of sports. Here is a tale of an adventurous cat taken from the *Daily Telegraph* (August 22nd) which, had it not been for its untimely death, would probably have emulated the feats of our old friend "Hidigei."

"For the first time in the history of mountaineering one hears of a real cat who became an enthusiastic climber in the Alps and succeeded in making several ascents of the Blumlisalp, 12,044 ft., a peak which was first climbed on July 18th, 1868, by that famous canine climber Tschingel, with her master, the late Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge.

The cat climber in question came a few weeks ago from Kandersteg and settled herself at the Blumlisalp Club hut, at a height of 9,000 ft., the guardian of the hut supplying her with food. One morning, when climbers were starting out for the Blumlisalp, she accompanied them the whole way to the summit. Evidently pleased with her first ascent, she would accompany a party of climbers every morning to one of the peaks climbed from that hut.

The other day one of the Alpinists whom she was accompanying on the ascent thought that it might be to her good if she were taken down to the valley to enjoy a milder climate. Therefore, when Pussy was having her breakfast, the Alpinist placed her in his rucksack, intending to carry her down to the valley, and in the meantime leaving his rucksack with the cat inside in what he thought was a safe place. When, however, he returned to the place where they had breakfasted, there was no sign either of Pussy or of his rucksack; both had mysteriously disappeared.

A day or two afterwards another party of climbers with a Kandersteg guide were making the ascent of the Blumlisalp, and what was the astonishment of the guide to see the cat sitting on the saddle of the peak. Wishing to take her down to the valley, the climbers tried to catch her, but she evaded all their efforts, hiding behind rocks and refusing absolutely to be made prisoner a second time. The day after there was a terrific snowstorm, and it is feared that she perished in it.

This is the first cat known to have become an enthusiastic mountain climber, but of canine climbers a good deal is known. Thus the ascent of the Jungfrau was made in 1911 by a British bulldog named Bobbie, with his master and mistress, the Marquis and Marquise de Charette, of Paris, and their two guides. But as long ago as 1868 the dog Tschingel, who used to accompany her master, the late Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge, the famous climber, made her first ascent of the very peak which this nameless cat climbed so indefatigably. Like all good Alpinists, Tschingel began her climbing career when still quite young. She was a mountain-born dog of no particular breed, but had very strong legs and well-developed feet.

Her first important expedition was the crossing of the Tschingel Pass, from Kandersteg to

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Lauterbrunnen, and from this pass she took her name. For nine successive years she used to go annually to the Alps with her master.

In course of time this dog acquired a marvellous instinct for guessing where a hidden crevasse lay, and also for finding the best way across an open one. After some years she grew so experienced in snow conditions that she could tell by merely looking at a snow bridge whether it were safe to cross or not, and when she drew back from a certain spot the guides knew at once that it would be a mere waste of time to take that way. On one occasion she actually showed a local guide the way down some difficult rocks.

Unlike the cat climber, she was sometimes put on the rope, usually only when ice-slopes had to be ascended or descended. Tschingel became so famous a mountaineer that she was called "an honorary member of the Alpine Club," comparatively few of whose members, indeed, have made anything like as many ascents as she did—53 heavy ascents, 11 of them virgin summits, and some hundreds of less important peaks or partial ascents.

There was another famous dog Alpinist, Diana, who has a statue to her memory; while Tschingel had her obituary published in the *Alpine Journal* and an appropriate tombstone erected at Dorking.

Keep off the Grass.

An interesting sidelight is thrown on the mentality of the respective countries by the following three versions of a simple order; the cutting is taken from the *Evening News* (August 28th):—

"Round Lake Constance, which lies between Germany, Switzerland and Austria, you may easily visit all three countries in the course of a day, and the trip gives an insight into the psychology of the three countries. The lakeside is adorned with public parks, and it is worth noting how the three national authorities warn people to 'keep off the grass.'"

The Germans are curt and "forbidding": "Notice! Walking on the grass is prohibited on penalty of a fine. By Order. The Burgomaster."

In Switzerland the same offence is punished by a fine and informers receive half the penalty imposed in case of a conviction, so that in the course of an afternoon the watchful may earn a good few francs.

The Austrian, however, eschews threats. The Austrian notice reads:

"Oh ye who here may hap to pass,
Walk on the path and not the grass,
So that one easily may know
You are not just a grazing cow!"
And this notice proves by far the most effective of the three."

The Song of Switzerland.

A correspondent to the *Manchester Guardian* (August 28rd) wonders who is the author of the following chant; so do we; we are afraid the author has not earned any laurels for his art.

"I wonder who was the original author of that rousing chant 'The Song of Switzerland,' which has been enjoying such a vogue—as the fashion writers say—up in the Alps this summer. It may be sung only at altitudes of 5,000 ft. and upwards; a fine of 10 francs must be paid to anyone detecting a recital at lower altitudes. It must not even be written down, to appease the insatiable curiosity of charming young ladies in the lounge after dinner, at hotels below 5,000 ft. It is sheer impudence on my part to give it away a mere three feet above sea-level on a Sussex tidal estuary, but I want to know who started it, so here goes:—

The Swiss they are a hardy race,
Melodious in their shoutings.
They climb up to the mountain tops,
And slide down, on their outings.
And then they fortify themselves
Against the winter's cold.
By masticating cheese that is
A dozen decaydes olde.
(Here all the assembled company joins in a long, sprightly yodel.)
A dozen decaydes olde—
Long cheese, strong cheese,
A dozen decaydes olde.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

In view especially of the great efforts which the English railways are making to recover the losses which they have sustained on account of the competition of road transport undertakings, readers on this side may find some interest in the parallel experiences of the Swiss Federal Railways. In the first place, the Swiss Railways have tried to meet road competition by improving and accelerating goods services but they have not stopped there. An auxiliary motor transport service, organised as a limited company under the name of Suisse Express S.A. has been started and has operated successfully since the end of 1926. The company has concluded arrangements with some five hundred business concerns in all parts of Switzerland for the transport of their goods. It is difficult to arrive at an exact figure in judging the value of such an auxiliary service to the Federal Railways, but it is estimated that in 1927 the latter recovered some 350,000 tons of goods, and a sum of about 5 million francs.

The municipal authorities of Berne are shortly to issue a loan of 12 million francs to provide for the conversion or redemption of the 5% loan of 1918 which falls due for repayment on the 1st of November. Full details regarding the new issue are not yet known, but in any case it is expected that the issue price will be 99% and the rate of interest carried 4½%.

In order to provide increased working capital for the Crédit Foncier Vaudois, the cantonal authorities are negotiating for the arrangement of a loan of 20 million francs. The proceeds of the issue will go in the first place to payment in full of the shares of the Crédit Foncier, which is, of course, the cantonal mortgage institution, to redeem or convert the 5½% loan of 1924, outstanding to the extent of 14 million francs, and to cover other immediate financial requirements.

The existence of the Swiss-Argentine Mortgage Bank in Zurich as a prosperous going concern always comes as a reminder of the close relations existing between Switzerland and the Argentine Republic, by virtue of the numerous colony of Swiss who have migrated there. For the year ended 30th of June, 1928 the bank shows a net profit of Frs. 1,958,769, as compared with a slightly smaller figure for 1926/27. It is proposed to devote a sum of 500,000 frs. to reserves, to pay 10% in dividend and to carry forward 121,606 frs.

QUOTATIONS FROM THE SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES.

| BONDS. | | Aug. 24 | Sept. 4 |
|------------------------------------|------|--------------|---------|
| Confederation 3% 1903 | ... | 82.00 | 81.00 |
| 5% 1917, VIII Mob. Ln | ... | 101.75 | 101.75 |
| Federal Railways 3½% A—K | ... | 86.55 | 86.50 |
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| Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz | 1000 | 5237 | 5350 |
| Soc. Ind. pour la Schappe | ... | 1000 | 4175 |
| S.A. Brown Boveri | ... | 350 | 582 |
| C. F. Bally | ... | 1000 | 1515 |
| Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co. | ... | 200 | 884 |
| Entreprises Suisses S.A. | 1000 | 1188 | 1200 |
| Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman | ... | 500 | 540 |
| Linoleum A.G. Giubiasco | ... | 100 | 333 |
| Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon | ... | 500 | 905 |

Ce que j'ai vu à la Première Séance de la IXème Assemblée des Nations.

Il y avait peut-être cette année plus de monde que de coutume à la première séance de l'Assemblée de la Société des Nations.

Dès l'ouverture, ce fut la foule aussi bien à l'intérieur qu'au dehors. Les plus belles autos que l'on puisse rêver stationnaient encombrées les unes contre les autres le long du quai et de la rue du Rhône. D'énormes Rolls-Royce, de rapides "Hispano," deux ou trois Sunbeam étaient entourées de modestes Citroën, de Renault, tandis que des taxis ne cessaient d'apporter et de déverser diplomates, invités de marque et journalistes. Les galeries pleines à craquer, les places de la presse surencombrées et la vaste salle où pas une place n'est libre servirent de décor au ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Finlande, lorsque, peu après 10h.30, ce très ponctuel délégué ouvrit la neuvième Assemblée de la Société des Nations en tant que président en l'exercice du Conseil.

Il est long, mince, noir, élégant. Il parle français avec un accent très spécial, roulant les "r" selon une mode chère à d'autres latitudes. Son discours ne contenait en somme pas grand chose car la Société des Nations, depuis une année n'avait pas accompli des prouesses. C'est tout au moins que son travail encore inachevé, concernant les possibilités économiques du monde, les études entreprises sur le désarmement ne prétaient pas à de longs développements.

M. Procope a cependant été longuement applaudi lorsqu'il a parlé du Pacte de la paix et qu'il a cité les noms de MM. Briand et Kellogg. Le premier nommé a vaillamment supporté une pluie d'applaudissements et d'un air modeste s'est enfoncé dans son fauteuil.

On a revu avec plaisir la figure de M. Quinonès de Leon, le distingué représentant de l'Espagne qu'une absence trop longue avait fait regretter, non seulement dans les commissions, mais au secrétariat lui-même où sa présence est toujours la bienvenue.

Dans notre délégation suisse on remarquait tout spécialement M. Motta et le professeur Rappard, dont le visage bruni semblait faire présumer un long et agréable séjour à la montagne.

Lord Cushendun avait à sa droite Mrs. Lyttelton, tout de bleu vêtue et qui semblait prendre un grand plaisir à suivre la procédure intrinsèque à cette première séance.

Lorsqu'il s'agit de procéder à l'élection du président de cette session, cinquante bulletins furent tour à tour déposés dans l'urne fatidique. C'est sous l'oeil sévère de deux anciens présidents, MM. Hymans et Guani, que le très sympathique deuxième délégué du Danemark, Monsieur le ministre Zahle, fut appelé par quarante-quatre bulletins, à venir prendre place à l'imposant fauteuil présidentiel dont le dossier verdâtre n'est pourtant guère séduisant. Lorsqu'il quitta son banc, son chef hiérarchique, Son Excellence M. Moltesen, ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Danemark, lui serra cordialement la main.

La figure du nouveau président est une des plus intéressantes que l'on puisse voir. Elle porte à la fois les preuves d'une haute intelligence d'une perspicacité sans pareille, les caractéristiques d'une vieille souche aristocratique comme celles d'une boné du reste proverbiale. C'est en français qu'il a prononcé son discours de remerciement, comme son prédécesseur d'ailleurs. Quoique moins familiarisé avec notre langue, il sera cependant le président idéal puisqu'il a obligé ses collègues à reprendre séance non seulement à quatre heures de l'après-midi, mais déjà à midi pour arriver le plus vite possible au travail effectif. Ceux-ci se sont d'ailleurs soumis de très bonne grâce, heureux d'être sous la houlette d'un chef si connu et si sympathique.

Parmi les groupes qui se sont formés au cours de cette première séance on a remarqué une conversation assez animée entre Mgr. Seipel, premier délégué de l'Autriche, au crâne luisant comme une boule d'ivoire qu'agrémentent un nez de véritable Bourbon et une paire de lunettes d'or, et le comte Apponyi, premier délégué hongrois. Ce dernier dont la figure est légendaire dans les milieux de la Société des Nations, aux yeux pétillants de malice, à longue barbe blanche, surplombait de deux têtes au moins son flegmatique interlocuteur.

Malgré les postes considérables qu'ils occupent, M. Hermann Muller, chancelier du Reich et Lord Cushendun, secrétaire d'Etat des Affaires Etrangères par interim de Royaume d'Angleterre, n'étaient pas les plus entourés. C'est là un signe caractéristique des milieux de la Société des Nations. Il leur faudra en effet un certain temps pour être considéré sur le même pied que les autres membres de cette grande famille diplomatique quels que soient leurs mérites, leur amabilité et leurs titres.

Par contre, des personnalités telles que MM. Bénès, Hymans, Adatci, ont été immédiatement saluées par un grand nombre d'amis et d'admirateurs.

Cette neuvième session s'ouvre sous les meilleurs auspices et il ne paraît pas qu'elle doive accomplir un travail considérable. Elle sera plutôt une période d'attente qui permettra à la suivante d'arriver à des résultats plus tangibles. Erik.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

As it was already announced in last week's issue of the *Swiss Observer*, the City Swiss Club was privileged, at its last monthly meeting of Tuesday, the 4th September, in entertaining a distinguished guest in the person of Monsieur Henri Vallotton-Warnery, Avocat et Député des Chambres Fédérales, who is de passage in London at the present moment.

Some 42 Members and Friends had gathered to meet him, and, at the close of the dinner, the President, Mr. M. Gerig, proposed the toasts to the King and "La Patrie."

In the name of the Club, he then extended a hearty welcome to Monsieur Vallotton-Warnery, thanking him for having so kindly accepted the invitation to be with us for a few hours, and made himself the interpreter of all in stating the pleasure the City Swiss Club always has in receiving such visitors from "Home."

Monsieur Vallotton-Warnery, in his reply, made in a graceful and easy-flowing manner, gave us a forecast of how greatly interesting the lecture he had consented to give on Friday next should be to all who are able to attend it. We were also delighted to hear that, if the "Chambres" were not at present in session and he could therefore not speak or plead officially, we could count on having found in him a new champion for the cause of the "Quatrième Suisse."

Mr. Gerig had another pleasant duty to discharge in welcoming two Friends (we hope we may call them such) from our Legation, who had also kindly given us their evening, Mr. J. Borsinger, Chargé d'Affaires, and Mr. C. Rejonico, Secrétaire de Légation, thus giving a blend of

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