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efforts than before to satisfy the propaganda requirements of the movement. Among the pamphlets and books recently issued by this department we quote an "Outline of the History of Co-operative Thought" (Umriss einer genossenschaftlichen Ideengeschichte), by Henri Faucher. This book of 212 pages, dealing with the influence of some Swiss co-operative thinkers and pioneers (Edouard Raoux, Professor Joh. Friedrich Schär, Dr. Munding, etc.) has proved to be a notable success. The first edition of 1,000 copies was sold in less than two months. As co-operative literature is generally not an article of easy circulation, the fact deserves special mention.

There is, however, one co-operative body which shows rather a decline in trade and membership. This organisation is the Catholic Union of Consumers' Societies, known under the name of "Concordia," and founded at Zurich in 1912. Since 1921 the turnover of the "Concordia" has continually decreased, the loss of the past year being 657,000 francs, or £26,280. The societies of the "Concordia" Union are generally small, and their number has never reached five score—at present their number is eighty three. The bad situation of this Consumers' Union is a striking example of the incompatibility of exclusiveness in co-operative work and practice."

#### M. Ernest Ansermet.

The music critic of *Truth* (Jan. 11th) seems to be somewhat prejudiced and is evidently not in love with M. Ansermet's interpretation:—

"Mr. Ernest Ansermet, who conducted the Royal Philharmonic Society's concert last week, is a Swiss mathematician who became a conductor. He is well known in this country through his association with the Russian Ballet and his sympathy with modern music. It was only to be expected, therefore, that the principal item on his programme should have been the first complete concert version of Ravel's "Daphnis et Chloë," which the Diaghileff company produced in London in its original ballet form some years ago. In spite of the great beauty of some sections—such as the Nocturne and Interlude of Part II, and the exquisite "Lever du jour" of Part III,—and the orchestral brilliance of others, "Daphnis et Chloë" loses enormously by the absence of the ballet. This is not a defect, since the work was conceived by Ravel in terms of the ballet form, and one cannot listen to the music in the concert hall without wishing to see the ballet again. In fact, it is depressing to realise that the London public is wholly dependent upon the casual and chance visitations of Mr. Serge Diaghileff and his Russian ballet company for the opportunity of seeing such typically modern masterpieces as "Daphnis et Chloë."

The only absolute novelty on the programme was Mr. William Walton's "Sinfonia Concertante" for orchestra with pianoforte *quasi obbligato*. Mr. William Walton is a young composer who has won a place in an International Competition with a vivacious overture, "Portsmouth Point," but he is best known in London by his amusing settings of Miss Edith Sitwell's "Facade" poems. The present work is something of a disappointment, because, while it shows an increasing technical ability, it is lacking in the originality of which one caught fitful gleams in the "Facade" settings. It is not that Mr. Walton definitely imitates anybody in particular, but his musical material is generally reminiscent and scrappy. Every now and then—as in the Andante section—one gets the impression that the real William Walton is a very simple, even sentimental composer, but that his native impulses are held in check by a consciousness of modern music and of jazz and a superficial sophistication which arrests his spontaneity. The ungrateful pianoforte part was capably played by Mr. York Bowen.

The rest of the programme was made up of Beethoven's lovely and neglected "Leonora No. 1" Overture and of Schubert's "Unfinished" symphony. I cannot say I liked Mr. Ansermet's interpretation of the latter work. Schubert's marvellous rhythmic verve was broken up by meaningless *rallentandos*, and the whole work was French-polished and sentimentalised in a way quite contrary to the whole spirit of Schubert. The fact is that the modern hyper-sophisticated French spirit is quite out of touch with Schubert's crystal purity and simplicity. One might as well expect to find a Parisian dandy trout-fishing in a mountain stream."

Here are a few personal notes from the *Daily Dispatch* (Jan. 5th):—

"Mr. Ernest Ansermet, the famous Swiss musician, is a remarkable personality, bearded, tall, handsome and impressive. He is able to imitate the sound of any instrument in the orchestra, and frequently does so at rehearsal to illustrate how he wants a passage played.

He removes his coat at rehearsal, puts on a woolly jacket, and is far more exuberant than when in public. He will leap into the air, to come down on the first beat of a bar. He used to be a professor of mathematics at Geneva University. On one occasion he told me that British

orchestral players were "staggeringly good" at sight reading. In every department, he said, "English players rival the best Germans."

#### "Wind Slab" Avalanches.

Quite a number of fatal accidents have taken place this season; fortunately, none of our countrymen were involved. The following note of warning appeared in the English Press and is taken from the Times (Jan. 13th):—

"The snow in the Engadine has recently been so dangerous as to necessitate notices being posted up in the hotels at Pontresina, St. Moritz, Maloja and many other winter sports resorts, warning ski runners from undertaking tours. Curiously enough the conditions are due neither to thaw nor to the qualities of new snow, but to the high winds of the last few days. Under the influence of wind the loose, powdery snow is blown into great slabs of compact snow. These slabs are known as "wind slabs," and form the greatest and most subtle danger the ski runner has to contend with. The danger, in fact, is not always obvious even to the most experienced ski runners, and many are the resulting accidents due to these avalanches.

A "wind slab" avalanche is terrifying to be caught in. At first sight the snow slopes which one is traversing appear firm and compact—sometimes so hard that one can walk on them without sinking in." Suddenly, however, the whole slope splits with a booming roar and breaks up into great blocks of hard snow. At once the ski runner is overwhelmed and carried down in this besom of destruction. If he is not suffocated beneath the sliding mass he is likely to be crushed to death by the blocks, which are often several feet in thickness.

To distinguish a "wind slab" is very difficult, but its surface is usually marked with wind ripples. Several parties during the last few days have had narrow escapes. One party was almost overwhelmed within a few yards of the well-known Muotass Murai Hotel above St. Moritz. There is, indeed, only one motto for those who go to the mountains, and that, in the words of a famous mountaineer, is "Achtung! immer Achtung!"

#### Revolt against Decorations.

Unfortunately the indignation described in the subjoined cutting from the *Manchester Evening News* is not as general and as widespread as the promoters of the movement would like us to believe. The western part of Switzerland is quite unconcerned about it and one writer has expressed the opinion that if every Swiss could be made the recipient of a neat ribbon or other pretty decoration the protests would die a natural death.

"The Swiss are becoming more and more indignant at the way in which their democratic simplicity is being corrupted by lavish distribution of French decorations.

There are no decorations in Switzerland, and persons holding any public function are forbidden to accept a foreign decoration, but the prohibition does not extend to citizens.

It is now proposed that it should comprehend everybody, and a petition for a plebiscite on the question is being widely signed."

#### Packing for Men.

There is only one trousered mortal we know of who can pack his own trunk to perfection; we believe he lives somewhere in Herne Hill. The dread of this exasperating task is sufficient to drive any man into matrimony. However, the *Daily Mail* (Jan. 6th) has published the following hints to bachelors still living in blissful ignorance:—

"These are the testing times for packing if you are going to Switzerland for the sports and snows, to the South of France for galas and gambling, or anywhere for business or pleasure. Packing is important, for a holiday may become tinged with tragedy because you have packed a triviality but have forgotten trousers.

The man who packs for himself should remember that the art of the good packer is really divided into two stages, the theory and the practice. The more time spent on the first, the more successful will be the second.

A pencil and paper to your hand, visualise yourself dressed as you hope to be for the coming business meeting, golf, winter sports, or dancing—and note on the paper every essential. Do not forget the weather, wet, cold and warm; do not forget the small things, such as studs for evening shirts; and do not forget sponge and soap, tooth-brush and paste, hair brushes and pyjamas. If you are wise, you will assemble on a bed covered with paper what you think you want to take.

Discard from this, leaving only what you need—for excess luggage may not be only a worry, it will probably cost you more to transport, especially abroad.

There are certain "dodges" that men may adopt for the packing of their clothes. An arrangement of two expanding wires—one wire of which is slipped into each leg of a pair of trousers—keeps the trousers flat in their folds as they came from the press.

When a jacket is to be packed it should be folded so that the collar is pulled up—as if for rain. Fold one side into the centre (the pocket pointing outwards) and fold the other side right over. Before it is completely folded pass a hand from the arm entrance of the jacket down each sleeve to the cuffs, smoothing out the sleeves, and thus preventing creases. Evening shirts should be placed between layers of soft clothing, under-clothing or day shirts.

A dressing gown forms an excellent cover-all for the contents of the trunk, socks fill the gaps."

#### QUE SE PASSE-T-IL AU CINEMA ?

Permettez-moi de vous emmener aujourd'hui dans ces salles obscures qui ont pour nom "cinémas" et dans lesquelles, aussi bien autour desquelles, s'élève en ce moment en Suisse Romande une violente polémique.

Les américains ont mis à la mode le film de guerre, les français, puis les anglais ont emoulté le pas, les allemands enfin, avec leurs immenses ressources, ont fait de même. Nous avons vu successivement à l'écran: "La grande parade," "Le Soldat inconnu," "Au service de la gloire," "Verdun," "Pour la paix du monde." Nous attendons: "La Somme"—qui nous viendra de Londres—et nous avons présentement sous les yeux, "La Guerre mondiale"—qui nous vient de Berlin.

Les "Yankees," qui sont des hommes de commerce avant tout, ont cherché à corser une bande d'actualités, ou une reconstitution difficile, par un roman de passion et de meurtres. Les français se sont cantonnés dans le documentaire pur en puisant aux sources mêmes des archives de l'armée. Certains conférenciers accompagnent même ces films qui répondent à un des côtés de la mentalité gauloise. Jusqu'ici, rien que de très naturel, mais, le film allemand, sortant du cadre de la documentation et de la fantaisie, prétend faire "pièce historique." Il veut expliquer "le pourquoi" de la guerre, ses causes et naturellement en repousser pour son pays les responsabilités. Nous voyons flamber les lettres de "Sarajewo," puis le feu se transmettre aux capitales de l'Europe dont Berlin étincellera... la dernière (évidemment!)

Et, si par un effort méritoire, on sent tout le prix de la bataille de la Marne, loyalement reconnue comme une victoire française, la violation

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# An Ideal Present - - - A PESTALOZZI KALENDER

de la Belgique par contre est "expliquée" par ces paroles approximatives: "Liège se trouvait sur le passage de la France; nous avons essayé de passer de nuit, découverts, nous avons dû nous en emparer." Puis, ce qui est plus grave, au moment précis où les alliés vont balayer les lignes allemandes et s'assurer la victoire, nous lisons sur l'écran: "Ici finit la première partie de la Grande Guerre."

Laissons de côté la réalisation technique et photographique qui est impeccable, mais, retenons cette imagerie tendancieuse qui, sous des aspects d'impartialité, cache une habile propagande.

Et puisque nous sommes en train de parler du septième art, il est bon que je vous mette au courant d'une nouvelle qui tend à faire de Genève un centre de production cinématographique. Un de mes bons confrères, autrefois critique cinématographique à la "Suisse," est décidé à tourner un scénario qui aurait pour base la Genève du XVIème siècle. Ce mouvement a soulevé et des débordements d'allégresse et de vives objections. "Aurons-nous, oui ou non, un film suisse, sur un scénario suisse, interprété par des acteurs suisses, mis en scène par un réalisateur suisse, dans un paysage suisse? Je n'ose vous le promettre, car l'ironie du sort veut que le promoteur soit un... Belge!"

Autre chose enfin. Charlot, l'admirable et génial comique, possède dans son répertoire un film intitulé "Charlot Soldat"; vous le connaissez sous le nom de "Shoulder Arms." Or, après avoir passé dans toute la Suisse, avec un succès retentissant, en 1919, il vient d'être interdit sur tout le territoire de notre Confédération, en l'an de grâce 1928!

La cause, me demanderez-vous? Elle est à la fois simple et fort complexe: Vous savez comme moi que dans cette bande l'ex-Kaiser, ex-Guillaume II, reçoit dans ce qui lui sert de postérieur une assez volumineuse correction; elle fit la joie des spectateurs, allemands et romands, il y a près de 10 ans. Elle fut coupée avant la réapparition du film, en 1927. Malgré cela, et seulement parce que l'ex-Empereur y paraissait plus ou moins caricaturé dans une scène d'état-major, la diplomatie a obtenu que le film ne fut plus présenté.

C'est une grande perte pour le septième art et c'est une mesquinerie de la part de la Puissance qui est intervenue en cette bizarre affaire.

*Le Cinéaste.*

## FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

The trade returns for the complete year 1927 have been published by the Federal Customs Authorities with the usual commendable promptitude. The figures do not show any sensational developments as compared to those of 1926, but at least bear witness to a sound tendency to economic improvement. Imports amounted for the year to a total of 73,200,000 tons in weight and a value of Frs. 2,563 million, while exports reached a total of 1,040,000 tons and a value of Frs. 2,023 million. This represents an increase of about 330,000 tons in the volume of imports and of 200,000 tons in the case of exports, while the former have increased by Frs. 149 million in value and the latter by 186 million. The proportions may be regarded as satisfactory in a general way, and after allowances are made for gold and silver shipments, which do not properly belong to the trade figures, the trade deficit for 1927 works out at 501 million francs as compared with 534 million francs in 1926. The Customs Authorities conclude their statement of returns by an interesting calculation in which the present figures are compared with those of 1913 and it is shown that after making due allowance for the altered purchasing power of the Swiss franc the export figures for the year just completed fall short of the 1913 figure by about 53 million francs. When the changed conditions of international trade, and particularly of trade between the various European nations, are considered, this does not seem a very large deficit and the fact that, in spite of the high tariff walls everywhere erected against them, Swiss manufacturers are still able to market their goods to this extent, speaks volumes for the high quality of those goods which can find foreign buyers in spite of every artificial difficulty.

Rumours of a fusion of interests between the Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co. and the firm of Peter, Cailler, Kohler, Chocolats Suisses S.A. have for some time past been current on the Swiss Stock Exchanges and an—apparently inspired—unofficial report from Vevey now seems to confirm these reports. It is stated that the basis of the fusion is to be the exchange of four P.C.K. shares for one Nestlé share. Though no official confirmation is at present available, and the Nestlé company have stated the announcement to be premature, there seems to be little doubt that in a general way

the report is correct and that fusion terms on something approaching the lines suggested will be put before the Nestlé shareholders at the next general meeting. It seems to be indicated that the proposed operation will be more than a mere taking over of the shares of the P.C.K. by Nestlé and that the business of the two concerns will be merged entirely. In many ways this should be an arrangement not too difficult of accomplishment since the Nestlé company have for a long time past acted as selling agents for P.C.K. products in all countries outside Switzerland. The complete absorption of one business by the other is not likely in any way to affect the quality or the variety of the products associated with these well-known names and should go far towards completing the consolidation of the current market valuation of its capital at least, can claim without fear of challenge to be the greatest industrial undertaking in Switzerland.

### QUOTATIONS from the SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES.

BONDS.	Jan. 9		
	Jan. 9	Jan. 16	Jan. 16
Confederation 3% 1903	83.50	82.50	
5% 1917, VIII Mob. Ln.	101.75	101.15	
Federal Railways 3½% A-K	86.77	86.62	
" " 1924 IV Elect. Ln.	102.50	102.25	
SHARES.			
	Nom	Jan. 9	Jan. 16
Swiss Bank Corporation	500	896	809
Crédit Suisse	500	890	900
Union de Banques Suisses	500	722	725
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	2855	2866
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	4550	4925
Soc. Ind. pour la Schappe	1000	3107	3210
S.A. Brown Boveri	350	592	599
C. F. Bally	1000	1380	1390
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	200	881	933
Entreprises Suisses S.A.	1000	1187	1215
Comp. de Navig. sur le Lac Léman	500	540	555
Linoenm. A.G. Giubiasco	100	188	220
Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon	500	737	748

## EIDGENÖSSISCHE GLOSSEN.

### Käse und Milch.

Die schweizerische Landwirtschaft befolgt die Aufforderung Prof. Laurs vom letzten Sommer: "Es ist an der Zeit, dass wir uns wieder etwas mehr umsehen, was andere Völker tun, um ihre Landwirtschaft zu fördern." Der Zentralverband schweizerischer Milchproduzenten hat eine Studienkommission nach Finnland, Schweden und Norwegen geschickt, um die nordische Milchwirtschaft und Käsefabrikation in Augenschein zu nehmen.

Der von H. Bretscher, Sekretär des Verbandes, in den "Schweizer landwirtschaftlichen Monatsheften" veröffentlichte Bericht giftelt in der Feststellung: "Von besonderem Interesse für uns ist der seit einem Jahrzehnt erreichte bedeutende Aufschwung der Emmentaler-Käseerei in Finnland. Mit einer weiteren Steigerung dieser Produktion in quantitativer und qualitativer Richtung muss gerechnet werden. Im Masse, wie die Milch- und Käseproduktion in Finnland zunimmt, wird sich auch die Konkurrenz des finnischen "Emmentaler-Käses" auf dem Weltmarkt intensiver gestalten." Er entkräftigt diesen Satz in einem gewissen Masse durch die Feststellung, dass wir von Klima und Bodenbeschaffenheit begünstigt seien, dass der Erdgeruch, der unserem Käse den besonderen Wohlgeschmack verleihe, in Finnland glücklicherweise fehle.

Für die schweizerische Landwirtschaft wäre es am vorteilhaftesten, wenn sie sich so wenig wie möglich auf diese sehr fragwürdige klimatische Begünstigung verliesse. Je mehr sie sich darauf einstellt, mancherorts in der Welt (nicht nur in Finnland) ebenbürtige Konkurrenten zu finden, um so wirksamer wird die Aufforderung Bretschers zur Qualitätsfabrikation sein!

Bretscher spricht an Hand seiner Beobachtungen im Norden, wo die Milch nach Fettgehalt, Reinlichkeit und Haltbarkeit bezahlt wird, von einer Bezahlung der Milch nach Qualität. "Nach Qualität nicht allein nach dem Fettgehalt." Für den Sekretär des Verbandes der schweizerischen Milchproduzenten handelt es sich vor allem um die Käseermilch, weil im Käseerbetrieb noch viele Störungen vorkommen, deren Ursache in der ungenügenden Milchqualität zu suchen ist. "Fast jeder Milcheinnehmer weiss, dass er die Milch dieses oder jenes Lieferanten nicht oder nur mit grossem Risiko der Verarbeitung zuführen darf." Es bestehe zwar vielleicht noch keine absolute Klarheit darüber, welche Eigenschaften von grösster Bedeutung für die Käseerträglichkeit einer Milch seien, doch sollte man sich auf eine bestimmte Formel einigen können, die dann zur Wegleitung für die Bezahlung dieser Milch nach Qualität zu machen wäre.

Bezahlung der Milch nach Qualität! Das Interesse des milchtrinkenden Publikums an einer solchen Neuerung liegt auf der Hand. Und könnte es einen stärkeren Anreiz für den Landwirt geben, Fütterung und Pflege des Milchviehs, Reinlichkeit beim Melken zu fördern, als eine Bezahlung nach Qualität? Der Bauer kauft den künstlichen Dünger nach dem Prozentgehalt, der Konsument die Milch aber nur nach dem Masse. Eines Tages wird sich

der Käufer gegen ein System wenden, bei dem, wie sich H. Bretscher ausdrückt, "ein Liter Wasser gleich teuer bezahlt wird wie ein Kilo Trocken-substanz."

### "Von den Toten nur Gutes."

Die "Schweizerische Bauernzeitung" schrieb in Nr. 11 (1927): "Nationalrat Otto de Dardel hat sich in der "Suisse liberale" wieder einer der Gemeinheiten schuldig gemacht, welche sich anständige Politiker nur dann so leicht gestatten, wenn sie den schweizerischen Bauernsekretär in der öffentlichen Meinung herabsetzen möchten." Die gleiche Zeitung nannte die Deutung, die Dardel den Ausführungen Laurs über die Spielbanken-Initiative gegeben hatte (Nr. 10) den "Gipfel der Entstellung" und charakterisierte seine Kampfweise als eine "unmoralische."

Die "Schweizerische Bauernzeitung" schreibt in Nr. 1 (1928) über den inzwischen verstorbenen Nationalrat: "Wir möchten nicht, dass jenes Wort in Nr. 11 das letzte sei. De Dardel war ein Idealist, der oft seine eigene Wege ging, an dessen reinem Streben und vaterländischer Gesinnung wir nie gezweifelt haben. Ehre seinem Andenken!"

Wenn also der "Schweizer Bauer" in einer November-Nummer schrieb: "Auch Herr Moeschlin beteiligt sich wohl nach dem edlen Vorbild von Nationalrat Otto de Dardel in der "Suisse liberale" an der Hetze gegen Professor Laur," wenn man mir "krasse Entstellung, Verdächtigung, Nichtverstehenwollen, etc." vorwarf, so darf ich also vielleicht dennoch hoffen, nach meinem Tode auch ein paar Zeilen zu erhalten, wie sie jetzt de Dardel gewidmet worden sind.

Ein Trost! Wäre es aber nicht einfacher, schon bei Lebzeiten, wenn auch nicht so hohe Worte, so doch andere Worte zu gebrauchen?

### Lebendige Brüderlichkeit.

Im Tessin ist eine "Vereinigung für die Brüderlichkeit" gegründet worden. Ich wüsste ihr eine schöne Aufgabe.

Im Tessin gibt es bekanntlich ca. 112,000 Tessiner, ca. 8,000 Mitteleingewessenen, hauptsächlich deutscher Zunge, und ca. 32,000 Ausländer, zuzusagen ausschliesslich Italiener. In her Beurteilung dieser Zusammensetzung des Volkskörpers gibt es einen Unterschied zwischen der Art wie wir, und der Art, wie die Tessiner diese Zahlen betrachten. Uns scheint das Moment der ausländischen Durchdringung eines der wichtigsten, die Tessiner sind eher geneigt, die Tatsache der 8,000 deutsch-sprechenden Schweizer als etwas Bedrohliches aufzufassen.

Wenn Dr. Ammann in der "Bevölkerungsentwicklung der italienischen Schweiz" diese Probleme berührt, so macht er darauf aufmerksam, dass die italienische Einwanderung in die bürischen Kreise eindringt. "Wir haben also die in der Schweiz fast einzig dastehende Tatsache, dass auch der Kern der Bevölkerung schon von ausländischem Element durchsetzt wird." Im Gegensatz zu diesem Standpunkte wendet Prof. Bolla in seiner Untersuchung der tessinischen Bevölkerungsbewegung sein Hauptinteresse der deutschschweizerischen Durchdringung zu. Er gibt keine Kommentare, doch man merkt es auch ohne solche, wenn man seine ausführlichen Tabellen sieht über das Vorhandensein von deutschschweizerischen Kolonien bis auf zehn Personen herunter. Die Kolonien der Ausländer, das heisst der Italiener, werden nicht so eingehend behandelt!

Es wäre erfindlich, wenn die "Unione per la fraternità" auf Grund der Studien von Dr. Ammann und Prof. Bolla eine Darstellung des Tessins gäbe, vom Standpunkte unseres Bundes aus. Wir wären ihr sehr dankbar dafür.

*Felix Moeschlin in "N.Z."*

## A BERNESE TRAGEDY.

The real Switzerland of the Oberland valleys has at last come to English literature, and curiously enough it is a Swiss author who has done the feat, writing in English, a language foreign to him. John Knittel, once of Basel, is not unknown to the Swiss Colony, and his book "Into the Abyss" should be particularly interesting to a Colony which may not yet be so dead to Swiss art as Swiss newspapers think.

There is the soil of Switzerland in the book, and the keen air of the mountains. The characters are Swiss to the marrow of their bones, and so natural and convincing that they move to their different ends with the inevitability of Fate. There never was a Swiss farmer of the Oberland more Swiss than old Anton Muller, who wed the "Welsch" maiden from over the Pass. And what more entralling heroine could a *dépayé* colony want than this sombre beauty with the blood of the old noble robbers of Vaud in her veins, who is swept with the force of an Alpine storm towards disaster? Nor are the other characters of the tragedy less perfectly in keeping with the background of the Oberland—the farmer's son, passionate yet vacillating; Sophie, the wife of the lawyer of Thun; and Hertzog the bull, for he too has his part.