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advice and with the concurrence of their Consulting Engineers, Messrs. Kennedy & Donkin, who are at present advising, the reporters understand, the Central Electricity Board with regard to matters of moment to the Electrical Industry in this country. The reporters do not agree that the advice given by Messrs. Kennedy & Donkin was wrong, because, having looked up the report made by that firm on the tenders for the first three turbines for Portobello Station, they find that, although the price of the three Swiss turbines with British condensing plant was 35% lower than the all-British plant, the efficiency of the Swiss turbine compared favourably with the average of the British offers. The Engineer and Manager is satisfied that the Swiss plant has come up to the standard guaranteed by its makers. The reporters beg to state most emphatically that Edinburgh Corporation have not lost by the purchase of Swiss plant.

From the foregoing you and your readers will see that Sir Philip Dawson has been badly misinformed."

Bombs on Swiss Line.

With the exception of the *Times* all the London dailies of April 16th came out with this prominent headline and something like the following description which is taken from the *Morning Post* (April 16th):—

"Two infernal machines were discovered by railwaymen yesterday morning fixed one to each rail at the exit of the tunnel between the stations of Kuessnacht and Immensee. They had already been crushed by a train, but, though charged, had not exploded.

The bombs were evidently intended to cause the derailment of a St. Gothard train full of Italian travellers.

The prefecture of Kuessnacht immediately opened an inquiry, and the Federal Railways have offered a reward of 2,000 francs for the discovery of the perpetrators."

The truth is that a couple of explosive cartridges, which in any case could not cause any serious damage, were placed on the line by some irresponsible lads out of sheer mischief; there is, of course, no political significance attached to it.

British Gun Salute for Swiss.

It is not often that the Swiss flag enjoys naval honours, but this is what the *Daily Express* reports under April 13th:—

"A squadron of the British Fleet consisting of the Royal Oak, Resolution, Frobisher, Delhi and Dragon paid an unprecedented honour two days ago to the Swiss flag in the port of Algiers. Two hundred and fifty Swiss from Geneva chartered a steamer at Marseilles and visited Algiers.

The Swiss flag was barely hoisted up on the return journey when the British ships became le-flagged and guns thundered a salute, to the amazement and pleasure of the Swiss travellers. The Swiss band played "God Save the King" as the steamer passed the squadron, and the British crews stood at the salute, while the Swiss were bareheaded.

"It was an unforgettable spectacle, the greatest naval power in the world saluting the flag of our little country," said a member of the Swiss party on his return here to-day."

Genevise in Ireland.

Here is a piece of history, a little biased in parts, culled from the *Cork Examiner* (April 14th) which will probably interest our readers from Calvin's city:—

"Dutch Huguenots it was who established the linen industry in Belfast and the North-East generally; other Huguenots, refugees from religious and political persecution on the Continent, started certain minor manufactures and trades in Dublin and elsewhere; while, nearer home, a colony of Swiss Huguenots had almost made Co. Waterford another Geneva. Unfortunately, this scheme did not materialise; but still its story is interesting enough to bear repetition, and, since it is only to be completely found in a well-written, though not easily accessible volume entitled "History of Barony of Gaultier," by M. Butler, M.R.I.A., no apology is needed for giving here a brief sketch of the efforts of the Irish Government of 1783 to start certain manufactures in Co. Waterford by the introduction of a band of industrious Genevise. These latter were to get special privileges and facilities for the carrying on of their trades in order to entice them to come over.

It may be as well if a short account of their native place is given here. Previous to 1814, when it became a member of the Swiss Confederation of Cantons, Geneva had been an independent republic, having only a nominal connection with the rest of Switzerland. It was sometimes under the influence of the Holy Roman Empire, at others dictated to by the Duke of Savoy. Notwithstanding its size, its powerlessness against oppressors, perhaps on account of the industry and thrift of its inhabitants, the part Geneva played in the intellectual movement of the eighteenth and former centuries had been no mean one,

rather was it most conspicuous. The birthplace of Rousseau and Necker had also been the place of refuge of Calvin and his gloomy sect. There too, Voltaire had spent his last years.

From such a place, then, were to come the thousand artisans who were to make of Waterford a great industrial centre, rivalling, if not surpassing, their own Geneva or the less-foreign Belfast.

This was in 1783, when Geneva was under the heel of oppression. Hence the Genevise were only too ready to emigrate, but the Irish Government of the day, beneficial in the extreme, went even so far as to vote a sum of over £55,000 with which to buy land for those of the Huguenots who wished to come to this country. On this land, procured on the shores of Waterford Harbour, near the little fishing village of Passage, a miniature town was to be built that would satisfy and supply the wants of the expected immigrants.

It is hard to explain why the Irish Government thought fit to thus back, financially and otherwise, the immigration of the Genevise; suffice it to say that this was done on the appeal of one Sieur d'Yvernous, "citizen of Geneva," who submitted a memorial "touching the situation of that Republic (Geneva) and the disposition of a considerable body of artists in the watch and other manufactures to quit that city and settle in Ireland under proper encouragement."

In this connection an official document of the period may be quoted. It states that:

"His Excellency (the Lord Lieutenant) and their Lordships (of the Council) are fully sensible of the importance of the object and the advantages to be secured to this kingdom by the considerable accession of a body of respectable citizens, and to its commerce by the introduction of manufactures so extensive and beneficial and by the immediate acquisition of a very material addition to the national wealth...Being convinced of the necessity of coming to an immediate decision in a case, the circumstances of which admit of no delay," they are of opinion that "proper encouragement shall be held out for so desirable a purpose—inducing the said citizens of Geneva to settle in this country."

The writer already referred to does not quote the above in his "History of Gaultier," but he gives another document of more than ordinary interest. It is a letter from Earl Temple, the then Lord Lieutenant, and was addressed to the Chief Secretary, Grenville. In it we are told by Temple that he was "full of the idea—which he must keep secret because of our University (Trinity College)—of founding a Genevise College for education...Many circumstances decide me to place them in the South, and I think I have nearly fixed our spot (near Waterford). I wished to remove them from the Northern republicans and to place them where they might make an essential reform in the religion, industry and manners of the South, who want it more."

From this it will be seen that the probable reason for spending so much money on the proposed immigration was that the new colonists were to be used as proselytisers! But neither "souper" college nor manufacturing town ever existed; the whole scheme was nipped in the bud.

Close on £13,000 was paid for the land in Co. Waterford on which New Geneva, the name of the proposed new town, was to be built. Officials galore drew fat fees for apparently difficult, though really negligible work; the Genevan Commission ran through a tidy sum; while some hundreds of pounds were expended in partially constructing New Geneva. But all the expense came to nought. Even though some of the Genevise had already arrived in this country, the whole band of a thousand or so suddenly gave up all thought of ever settling in Ireland; and New Geneva was left a derelict ruin—a memento of how near Co. Waterford, and the rest of Munster, too, was once being of becoming a great trading and manufacturing centre."

Politique d'abord, Commerce ensuite.

Il est indéniable que, depuis quelque temps, le parti socialiste fournit, en Suisse romande, un très gros effort. A Genève, son chef, dont la violence de langage est fort connue, s'est attaqué au président du gouvernement, M. Alexandre Moriaud et, voulant parer à ce qui n'est encore qu'une possibilité, pas même une probabilité, a voulu atteindre ce politicien dans une campagne électorale pour le Conseil fédéral. L'affaire de la Caisse de prêts sur gages lui a permis d'invectiver copieusement le chef du département des finances et le leader socialiste, pénétrant ensuite sur le terrain privé, a attaqué véhémentement la Banque de Genève et quelques unes des affaires qui en dépendent, toujours comme un marchepied pour atteindre l'homme de gouvernement, dont la figure ne lui sied point. On prête l'intention à M. Moriaud, au lendemain où vous lirez ces lignes, de répondre, en un discours mesuré, mais net, aux invectives du chef de gauche.

A Lausanne, les électeurs étaient appelés à repousser un siège de député. Là, encore, une habile propagande avait soulevé les masses et les socialistes étaient décidés à le revendiquer. Leur candidat n'a obtenu que 3,300 et quelques voix, tandis que le représentant des partis bourgeois en obtenait 4,800.

A Neuchâtel enfin, l'entente bourgeoise, dont le premier représentant a obtenu 13,600 et quelques voix, a fait passer sa liste intégrale au Conseil d'Etat, tandis que M. Paul Graber n'en a obtenue, lui, que 10,800 et quelques. Par contre, pour l'élection au Grand Conseil de ce même canton, les socialistes ont gagné deux sièges et les progressistes un, alors que les radicaux en perdent deux et le parti libéral un. Petite fluctuation, somme toute, mais fluctuation à retenir car, comme je vous l'ai déjà dit, il est indéniable que les socialistes sont en train de mener une vive campagne dans nos trois cantons romands.

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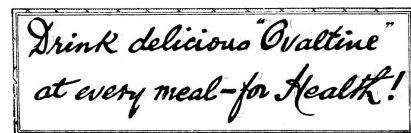
Il vient de se passer un bien curieux fait à Genève. Vous savez que les éclaireurs du monde entier fêtent le 23 avril Saint-Georges, leur grand patron et que, où que ce soit sur notre planète, ces jeunes gens, qui ont un idéal commun, revêtent à cette occasion l'uniforme kaki, le foulard écarlate et le large chapeau. Jusqu'à présent, à Genève, aucun éclaireur, au cours des années, n'avait manqué à cet usage. Or, par une décision bizarre, si ce n'est incompréhensible, le chef du département de l'instruction publique a interdit le port du costume au vieux collège de Calvin. Cette décision a soulevé une protestation unanime, non seulement des boys-scouts, mais encore de tous ceux qui voient dans ces formations de jeunesse un renouvellement désintéressé de la race, une patiente et minutieuse amélioration des tendances modernes. Nous ne croyons pas, quant à nous, qu'il y ait danger pour nos très jeunes gens à assister aux leçons de leurs maîtres en veste kaki plutôt qu'en chemise bleue ou blanche. Mais la polémique que cette interdiction a soulevée va peut-être dépasser son cadre primitif et rebondir avec de graves répercussions dans le domaine politique.

* * *

Tout récemment, à Bâle, une société italienne, pour l'inauguration de son drapeau, organisait un cortège auquel prirent part tous nos amis d'outré-Gothard, quelle que soit leur préférence politique. Ce fut pour les communistes du bord du Rhin un prétexte à une contre-manifestation et, tandis que les premiers se réunissaient sur la rive de la cathédrale, Petit-Bâle retentissait des accents les plus fulminants des chefs d'extrême-gauche. Il y eut cortège et contre-cortège, des menaces, évidemment; mais les policiers veillaient en fort grand nombre et l'ordre ne fut pas troublé. Il y a longtemps que, dans cette ville, ces deux tendances se montrent le poing. Il ne serait pas étonnant qu'un jour ces poings n'atteignent des figures...

* * *

Nous avons eu le privilège d'assister à l'ouverture de cette 12me Foire suisse d'échantillons, à laquelle Bâle a su donner un cadre si digne d'elle. Nous avons été émerveillés par l'évolution sans cesse grandissante de l'entreprise, par l'ordre, la minutie même, avec lesquelles elle était organisée, par l'affabilité de ses dirigeants, par l'empressement que les acheteurs de Suisse et d'étranger mettent à visiter les différents stands. Bâle a certainement réalisée, dans le bâtiment qui abrite l'exposition nationale de nos produits et de notre fabrication, un ensemble insurpassable. Perfection architecturale d'abord, non pas tellement dans la forme, mais dans l'aménagement; organisation impeccable, ensuite, où chacun trouve immédiatement ce qu'il désire et comme il le désire; enfin, l'effort constant de faire mieux et plus grand, ce qui est peut-être une caractéristique de la mentalité des bords du Rhin. Erik.



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