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aussi aux personnes en train de faire leur correspondance de se souvenir qu'elles habitent dans un pays de vignobles réputés.

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**UNE RESOLUTION DES SOUS-OFFICIERS GENEVOIS.**—Le comité de la section de Genève de l'Association suisse des sous-officiers, ayant eu connaissance de l'interdiction de la manifestation communiste de Bâle, pour le dimanche de Raméaux; réprouvant toute ingérence de l'étranger chez nous; sachant que, dans le parti communiste, rien ne se fait que sur l'ordre de Moscou; attachant, dans l'intérêt de la paix, un grand prix à la tranquillité intérieure de la Suisse et aux bonnes relations qu'elle entretient avec tous ses voisins:

Félicité le Conseil fédéral de sa décision énergique et invite les citoyens à s'unir pour tenir haute et ferme, en toutes circonstances, le drapeau de la patrie.

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**VAUD.**—La statistique agricole faite par le secrétariat de la Chambre vaudoise d'agriculture, avec la collaboration du Département vaudois de l'agriculture, donne, pour le rendement brut de l'agriculture vaudoise en 1928, un total de Frs. 132,615,000, soit 14 millions environ de plus qu'en 1926. Le lait et les produits laitiers représentent 49,5 millions, la viticulture 23 millions, l'engraissement du bétail bovin 18 millions, etc.

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**400 OUVRIERS EN GREVE.**—Le personnel de la fabrique "Bulowa Watch & Co." s'est mis en grève lundi matin. La fabrique Bulowa Watch compte plusieurs succursales, en particulier à La Chaux-de-Fonds et au Locle. Le personnel des succursales est également en grève. Le nombre des grévistes est d'environ 400. Les motifs de cette grève sont dans une question de salaires et de revendication de vacances.

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**MANIFESTATION ARTISTIQUE.**—L'Ecole de Musique de Lausanne dirigée par Miles J. Cavalli et C. Mégard, a donné au théâtre de Lausanne le "Jeu du feu" de E. Jacques-Dalcroze, pièce que l'on dit extrêmement intéressante, pleine de fraîche poésie et de parfums printaniers. D'après un critique musical lausannois, il ne saurait être nécessaire d'insister sur les qualités de charme, de fraîcheur et de grâce juvénile de ce premier poème de E. Jacques-Dalcroze à la gloire du printemps, de la jeunesse et de la joie. Cette fête du Renouveau nous et renoue son cortège sur des rythmes populaires. C'est, dit-on, une fête des yeux, de l'oreille et du cœur. A quand sa présentation à Londres?

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A Fribourg, Mlle Jeanne Canton, 31 ans, a tué M. Adolphe Hertling, architecte, qui avait décidé d'abandonner son amie pour se fiancer à une demoiselle russe habitant Genève. La jeune Canton s'est suicidée. M. Hertling appartenait à une famille bien connue du chef-lieu fribourgeois.

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**UNE DRAME AU JARDIN ZOOLOGIQUE CHAUX-DE-FONNIER.**—Le Bois du Petit-Château, dans lequel on a récemment tenté d'acclimater sur un grand rocher-refuge une famille de chamois fribourgeois, et qui possède, en outre, toutes espèces d'animaux petits ou grands, vient d'être pour la seconde fois le théâtre d'une véritable tuerie. Il y a deux mois environ, un grand daim avait été égorgé par des chiens errants, après une défense héroïque qui permit aux autres habitants du parc de se mettre en lieu sûr. Hier, la tragédie s'est renouvelée et une jeune dame en a été victime. Cruellement mordue par deux chiens qui s'étaient introduits on ne sait comment dans l'enceinte grillagée, la malheureuse bête succomba aux affreuses blessures qu'elle porta à la tête et au cou. Le gardien du parc accouru, put tuer un des chiens d'un coup de fourche, alors que son compagnon s'enfuyait dans un effort désespéré.

Heureusement que les chamois qui, cette fois, semblent bien acclimatés, n'ont pas été molestés par les bêtes meurtrières. Il est d'ailleurs à présumer qu'ils leur eussent opposé une énergie et efficace résistance. Comme on risque d'accuser du méfait l'espèce dite "chien-loup," précisons que le chien tué est un roquet baptisé du vulgaire nom de "spitz" et d'une taille qui ne dépasse pas 40 centimètres.

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**UN IMMEUBLE S'ECROULE.**—L'immeuble attenant à la maison Cotting, à Fribourg, qui, le 2 février dernier, s'était effondré dans la nuit, s'est également écroulé dans la soirée de lundi. Toute la façade dominant la Sarine a été précipitée dans le ravin.

L'immeuble avait été évacué sur ordre de la frêfecture de police le jour même de la première catastrophe, aussi n'y a-t-il eu aujourd'hui aucun accident de personne.

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**VEVEY.**—On apprend le décès de M. Edouard Liausun, un Veveysan qui professa longtemps à Tiflis et qui occupait des lors une chaire à Tirana (Albanie). Le défunt était fils de feu Charles Liausun qui fut pendant de longues années maître d'arithmétique et de mathématiques au Collège de Vevey.

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### NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KIBURG.

One need not be a Fascist—no Swiss worthy of his birthright can be—while yet admiring the foresight of the Basle authorities in not only banning the Anti-Fascist demonstration last Sunday, but in asking the Federal Government to send a regiment or so of soldiers with a view to giving that ban effective power. To-day (Monday) I am pleased to read in the British Press that the demonstration was successfully prevented, and I am sure this pleasure must be shared by all those who do not mistake the freedom enjoyed by democratically ruled sovereign peoples for the "licentiousness of the swine," to quote Goethe (or was it another?)

When the British Home Secretary put into words what ought to be clear to any intelligent modern human being, namely, that the time is past when an individual can do as he pleases, he got into the bad books of quite a lot of people, even among his own party. However, in Switzerland, the country of well-regulated freedom, new laws are continually coming into existence and abrogating the free action of individuals to do as they think fit. According to the *Observer* (March 17th),

#### Swiss Laws Against Duelling.

Under the new laws, severe punishments are to be imposed in the case of students' duels, which are, happily, a declining custom in Switzerland. Though the head of the Department of Justice, himself an old "Corpsbruder" with a number of cuts, pleaded for taking a more sporting view of these encounters and for inflicting fines only, the Nationalrat decided for imprisonment. Probably this will deal the final blow to the Corps, who can barely get members enough to carry on under present conditions.

O alte Burschen Herrlichkeit! The other day I listened in to a quartet at Munich singing old students' songs and, although to my horror I found I had forgotten the words of quite a few of them, the old tunes were sufficient to make me feel quite "heiwelilig." The emotional side of one's character, alas, often runs contrary to one's reasoning, and, however much one can admire the "alte Burschen Herrlichkeit" surely one must admit, in 1929 and 11 years after the termination of the great war, that duelling and beer-swilling, even though they both had their origin in worthy motives, are better dispensed with. For one thing, they are apt to bring out that rather bullish trait in some characters and for another they look silly. Alas! *Et nos in illis mutamus!*

We are often struck by the obvious fact that English friends of ours know their own country much less than some of the Continental countries, notably Switzerland. We are inclined to think that funny at times, and to reflect how well we know our own little fatherland. But do we?

Whenever I glance through the press cuttings sent me for these Notes, I am struck by the wealth of information about Switzerland which they contain, and by the great number of things about which I knew nothing or very little. And yet in my youth I travelled nearly all over Switzerland, by train, on my pedal-cycle, on foot and by steamer, and I fondly thought nobody could teach me much more about it. And I ask myself, how many of you, dear readers, who possibly cherish the same illusions as I did about your profound knowledge of Switzerland, know anything about the following, culled from the *Liverpool Echo* (March 16th):—

#### Newly Married Pay in Switzerland.

A queer little fête takes place in Switzerland once a year, and the newly-married couples of the neighbourhood are those who pay its costs—by no means heavy, fortunately.

Towards the end of the afternoon of the first Sunday in Lent, the children of the villages round about Geneva, and in Savoy, assemble and prepare to visit all the newly-married people in the neighbourhood. Wildly excited, they rush through the streets of the hamlets, shouting the old, old refrain in patois which has been handed down for generations, and ending up with the time-honoured cry, "Aux Alouilles! Les Alouilles!" which they repeat in chorus before each house that they visit.

No sooner is the well-known cry heard than the young wife hastens to the door or window and showers down upon the expectant little

crowd the sweets, nuts, bonbons, biscuits and caramels that she has prepared, knowing full well that she would have small people to see her to-day. An unwritten law exacts that each child must catch his or her share of the sweets thrown, so there is a good deal of hustling to get a good place near the giver, and frequently wails from the smaller members of the party mingle with the traditional singing, though their tears are soon dried when special attention is paid to their lamentable position on the outskirts of the noisy throng. Very often friends and relatives of the newly-married pair come and pass the afternoon and evening of "Les Alouilles" with them, and then the children are sure of a rich harvest of goodies.

The origin of this quaint custom, and the reason for it, dates from heathen times, when in Switzerland the first settlers celebrated this time of year by visits to their scanty fields and orchards, carrying with them axes and torches, and threatening the trees and seeds with them if they did not yield plenty of fruit and a good harvest. Later on, the lads of the villages made a sort of annual festival of this custom, and went through the fields round the hamlets carrying "faillies," or torches made of straw, with which they burnt out the nests of caterpillars and scorched the grubs menacing the fruit-trees. In some parts of the country the festival is still called the "Faillies," and everywhere on that particular Sunday evening fires are lit on the heights above.

And tradition goes that if the newly-married people do not welcome the visit of the children with their cry of "Les Alouilles! Les Alouilles!" (term meaning flash of lightning and a corruption of the old French word "éclaire," and therefore fire of sorts), they will not be blessed with healthy children: or, if they have children who are reasonably strong, these will turn out good-for-nothings in the moral sense.

Wherefore, whether they believe the tradition or not, these young Swiss couples take care to lay in a good store of sweets for the fête of the children on the occasion of "Les Alouilles! Les Alouilles!"

By the way, why not institute this happy custom here in our Colony? Would it not be nice if once a year we all travelled to see those who had got married during the past twelve months and invited ourselves to have tea with them? We might even, to make the idea practicable, split up the neighbourhood of London into residential sections. Of course, over there only the children shout "les alouilles," but over here grown-ups might be permitted to show the way.

#### 500,000 Swiss See Films Weekly.

From *The Times* (March 19th):—

While the Swiss people take little interest in the film producing industry, they are favourable to the creation of moving picture halls, of which there are 265, with a total of 96,000 seats. It is estimated that the average weekly attendance at the Swiss picture-halls is 500,000, or one-eighth of the population.

The films shown in Switzerland are generally American, German and French, but a few British naval films met with great success during recent years, and there should certainly be a good opening for British films in this country. Foreign films, which pay a very small Customs tax, are imported into Switzerland through special offices at Zurich, Basel, Geneva, Berne, Lausanne and Lucerne, which distribute them all over the country.

Switzerland is rich in natural beauties of every description, which might afford an opportunity for making some most interesting films. Several attempts have already been made to film mountain climbs, as well as scenes in the Alpine valleys. Some scenes of *La neige sur les pas* were filmed either at the Grand St. Bernard or in the Moiry Valley, and several scenes of *Madame Récamier* were filmed at the Château de Coppet, near Geneva. Dramas have also been filmed in the Alps, but these films were not successful outside Switzerland. A valuable contribution to the documentary cinema has been made by the Geneva section of the Swiss Alpine Club, which, during the last three years, filmed the ascents of Aiguille du Moine, Aiguilles Dorées and Allalin Horn, but such films appeal only to experts in the art of mountaineering. All these attempts were made by amateurs, and it would