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BASEL.

Am 7. April entschlief nach längerem Leiden im 73. Altersjahr der Basler Naturforscher Dr. Paul Sarasin-Hohenester. Er war bekannt durch seine Reisen nach Ceylon in den Jahren 1883-1886, 1890 und 1908, ferner seine Reisen nach Celebes in den Jahren 1893-1896 und 1902-1903. Zweimal war er Vorsitzender der Schweiz. Naturforschenden Gesellschaft und hat dort als erster Präsident der Naturschutzkommission mitgewirkt. Seinen Bestrebungen gelang es, den Schweiz. Naturschutzbund zu gründen, und sein Verdienst war es, dass der Gedanke des schweizerischen Nationalparks zur Wirklichkeit wurde.

LEYSIN.

Le 18 février écoulé, a été constituée, par acte notarié, la fondation de la Clinique-manufacture internationale du Docteur A. Rollier, dont le but est de mettre à la disposition des malades peu fortunés, atteints de tuberculose osseuse, et sans distinction de nationalité, un établissement, pourvu des derniers perfectionnements, dans lequel ils trouveront les moyens d'exercer une activité lucrative, tout en bénéficiant de l'héliothérapie à l'altitude.

Cette fondation est placée sous le haut patronage d'un grand Comité international dont font partie les plus éminents médecins de Suisse et de l'étranger. De nombreux industriels ont également manifesté leur sympathie à la Clinique-Manufacture en assurant à ses malades un travail régulier, qui permettra de réduire au minimum les frais de vente.

Un Comité restreint de direction s'occupera de l'administration proprement dite de la clinique, dont les portes s'ouvriront cette année encore, offrant aux malades-ouvriers un vaste chantier où se pratiquera systématiquement la "cure de travail au soleil" inaugurée depuis longtemps dans les cliniques populaires du Dr. A. Rollier.

LA SUISSE A L'HONNEUR.

Au cours de la séance de clôture du comité olympique international il a été procédé à l'attribution de la coupe olympique pour 1930. Cette coupe est attribuée chaque année à une fédération dont les mérites sportifs sont particulièrement grands. Pour 1930, elle sera remise à l'Association suisse de football et d'athlétisme.

NEUCHÂTEL.

Le comité central de la Société pédagogique neuchâteloise attire l'attention du public sur la situation extraordinaire qui s'est produite dans l'enseignement primaire au cours des neuf dernières années. Depuis 1920 il a été distribué dans le canton de Neuchâtel 313 brevets d'instituteurs et d'institutrices. Dans le même laps de temps il a été nommé seulement 38 instituteurs et 152 institutrices, soit une moyenne de 4 instituteurs par an et 17 institutrices. La Société constate que depuis la guerre l'extraordinaire et inquiétante diminution des naissances a eu comme conséquence la suppression de 120 classes dans le canton de Neuchâtel. A Neuchâtel-Ville, notamment, vingt classes ont été supprimés en cinq ans. Elle conclut en montrant qu'il n'est pas facile aujourd'hui pour bon nombre de candidats d'obtenir un poste d'enseignement public.

AVANT SUISSE-HONGRIE.

La commission technique de l'Association suisse de football et d'athlétisme s'est réunie samedi à Berne pour composer l'équipe nationale suisse qui jouera le 14 avril à Berne contre la Hongrie. Cette équipe sera ainsi composée: Grueneisen (Nordstern), Widmer (Granges), Ramseyer Berne, Gysler (Servette), Dr. Voegeli (Youngboys), Fassin (Bienne), Ehrenholzer (Concordia-Bâle), Abegglen II (Grasshopper), Grimme (Bienne).

La partie sera arbitrée par l'Anglais Rous.

Le jour du match Suisse-Hongrie, le F.C. Berne recevra l'équipe Etoile-Carouge dans un match amical qui aura lieu le matin.

LAUSANNE.

Réunis en assemblée vendredi soir, au nombre de 1200, les syndiqués de la Fédération des ouvriers du bois et du bâtiment ont décidé de bâtiment si les patrons ne cèdent pas aux revendications des maçons et des manoeuvres et si les autorités prennent des mesures d'exception contre les grévistes ou contre les chefs du mouvement ouvrir de Lausanne.

FRIBOURG.

On recherche, dit la *Liberté*, un soi-disant Charles Heuberger, qui se dit ingénieur et qui s'est présenté aux autorités communales de Bulle, la dernière quinzaine du mois de mars, comme délégué du Département militaire Fédéral pour traiter avec elles la question du futur arsenal des troupes de montagne, qui doit être installé à Bulle. Heuberger a vécu pendant plus de quinze jours à Bulle, ayant avec les autorités communales et celles des chemin de fer de fréquentes conférences. Le vendredi saint il prit congé en disant vouloir revenir après Pâques. Il a naturellement omis de payer sa note d'hôtel. Informations prises à Berne, il est établi que les autorités de Bulle ont été victimes d'un mystificateur.

La Comtesse de Saulxures, qui vient de mourir à Lausanne, a légué au canton de Fribourg, où elle a vécu durant de nombreuses années, une magnifique collection de meubles antiques d'une valeur dépassant 200,000 frs. Il y a quelques années elle avait fait un don de 100,000 francs par la section des convalescents de l'hôpital cantonal.

FROM THE TICINO.

"THE CRISIS OF DEMOCRACY."

Dr. G. Guglielmetti, a lawyer, editor of the *Avanguardia* of Lugano and President of the Federation of Young Liberal-Radicals of the Ticino, recently gave a

lecture in Bellinzona under this title. As Dr. Guglielmetti pointed out, the subject is of particular interest at the present moment as after the war anti-democratic tendencies have gained the upper hand in quite a number of European countries. In Switzerland, also, the lecturer mentioned, we can see signs of reaction.

The lack of solidarity among the various democratic parties of the world and the fact that, to a certain extent, the parliamentary system was favouring private and class interest, instead of those of the nation, are contributory causes to the advance of reaction. What should be the remedy? asked Dr. Guglielmetti. First and foremost is the duty to educate the young people to the sound principles of democracy. Above the private interests stands the ideal, which guides men to liberty and to progress. If in Switzerland reaction has not made greater headway it is due to our constitution and to the soundness of thought of our population.

We, the lecturer said, must energetically rise in defence of our traditional, centuries-old democracy, fount of liberty and of progress. The young men of to-day should shoulder this delicate task. The young men full of enthusiasm, idealism and faith in what is right and beautiful should find this mission an easy task, and should defend with energy the liberties we have had handed down to us, and which are the most important treasure we have to keep safe and pass on to the coming generations.

INTERNATIONAL TEACHERS' CONGRESS.

The Congress of the International Federation of Teachers was held in Bellinzona from the 6th to the 8th inst. The meetings were being held in the hall of the Municipal Council of Bellinzona. The Swiss Teachers' Association as well as the French Swiss Teachers' Association entertained the delegates to banquets. The Cantonal Government of the Ticino also gave a banquet to the delegates, in the Kursaal of Locarno. Besides the official part of the Congress, various excursions were arranged to Locarno and its neighbourhood, as well as to the lake of Lugano.

"THE GREAT PROBLEM OF THE TICINO."

During the recent campaign for the re-election of the members of the Federal States Council, Prof. Brenno Bertoni, in a speech to the electors of the Valley of Blenio, referred to the problem of the de-population of the Alpine valleys. In view of the increasing difficulties of emigration, viz., the closing of the frontiers to our emigrants, by various countries, Prof. Bertoni considers that the better development of the economic possibilities of the Alpine valleys is an urgent and important problem.

Up to about a century ago the Alpine valleys of the Ticino, and particularly Blenio, were over-populated, due to the income derived from seasonal emigration. Milan and Paris were principally contributing to a state of well-being considerably in excess, of the local possibilities. With the advent of the liberty of commerce and domicile the emigrants began gradually to settle abroad for longer periods and the gradual de-population set in. Prof. Bertoni is particularly concerned at the thought that now, more than ever, due to the restrictions in force in many countries the emigrants tend to settle permanently where they find it possible to do so, or have to cross the oceans.

He suggests that the Bleniesi should set their minds to improving their fields and their pastures, so that a larger number of people could find it possible to earn a living without cutting themselves adrift from their homeland. They should take greater advantage of the subsidies granted by Canton and Confederation for the improvement of the Alpine regions, they should emulate more closely the people of the Leventina Valley, who have made considerable strides in this respect. ("Dovere.")

I (O.B.) have full sympathy with the sentiments expressed, but I doubt very much whether the Bleniesi will take kindly to the improvement of a rather difficult soil when many of their fellow citizens have done so well in foreign countries. To my mind it is of greater advantage to Switzerland that an emigrant should make good abroad rather than that he should just be able to eke out a meagre living among our native mountains. The trouble is that those who dispense so much advice in the matter of the re-population of the Alpine valleys usually do so from well upholstered chairs; whether it be in Basle, Berne or elsewhere, but have little practical experience of the hardships of earning a living among the mountains.

If the authorities would act more in a way so as to preserve the attachment to the native soil among the Swiss abroad, we should have little to fear from the de-population of the Alpine regions. O.B.

QUOTATIONS from the SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES

BONDS.	Apr. 9		Apr. 16	
	Fr.	Frs.	Fr.	Frs.
Confederation 3% 1903	83.00	83.25	83.00	83.25
5% 1917, VIII Mob. Ln	101.50	101.25	101.50	101.25
Federal Railways 3 1/2% A-K	87.50	87.50	87.50	87.50
1924 IV Elect. Ln.	103.50	103.00	103.50	103.00
SHARES.				
	Nom.	Apr. 9	Apr. 16	
Swiss Bank Corporation	500	812	811	
Crédit Suisse	500	950	949	
Union de Banques Suisses	500	705	705	
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	3428	3390	
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	4715	4695	
Soc. Ind. pour la Schappe	1000	4260	4205	
S. A. Brown Boveri	500	560	557	
C. F. Bally	1000	1365	1325	
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	200	801	794	
Entreprises Suizer S.A.	1000	1260	1265	
Comp. de Navig. sur le Lac Léman	500	505	506	
Linoleum A.G. Giubiasco	100	340	337	
Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon	500	850	857	

WIRELESS IN SWITZERLAND.

The question of new Broadcasting Stations in Switzerland, alluded to in an article in a former issue of the *Swiss Observer*, has been decided as reported below. It is to be hoped that both the German and the French central stations to be established will be powerful enough for clear reception even in London.

According to the decisions of the International Radiophony Society, two exclusive wave-lengths have been allotted to Switzerland, one of 406 meters, and the other of 489 meters. The mountainous configuration of Switzerland is, indeed, little suited to normal propagation of electro-magnetic waves, and the system of one broadcasting station only would be a great disadvantage for certain parts of the country. The two chief languages of the country, German and French, also justify the use of these two exclusive wave-lengths.

This situation has led Swiss authorities and radiophony societies completely to re-organise the present system of radio-broadcasting. It is proposed to found two chief stations—one of 45 kw., between Berne and Zurich for the German-speaking part of Switzerland, and the other of 16 kw., near Lausanne, for the French-speaking part. Those districts which are not within the zone of perfect transmission from either of the principal stations are to be provided with secondary wireless stations at Geneva, Sion, Berne, Basle, Zurich, St. Gall and in the Ticino. The cost of the establishment and technical installation of all the broadcasting stations will be borne by the Swiss Telegraph Office, whilst the intellectual centres of the country will contribute to the programmes.

The Progress of the Electrification of Swiss Railways.

By the end of 1928, 98.5 per cent. of the principal lines of the Swiss Federal Railways had been electrified. During 1929 these lines will be responsible for 85 per cent. of the total traffic on Swiss railways and will need 420,000 000 kw. of electric power, which is equivalent to about 600,000 tons of coal.

From the point of view of the length of electric railway lines, Switzerland is only surpassed by America, which possesses 2,800 km., most of which are important lines connecting densely populated districts. Switzerland takes the second place, having 2,082 km. of normal gauge electric line, whilst there is a considerable interval between this country and Italy, Germany and France, which are next in rank.

The Development of Motor Traffic in Switzerland.

The number of motor vehicles in use in Switzerland is considerably on the increase and now amounts to 100,000, i.e., an average of one motor vehicle for every 40 inhabitants. Certain parts of the country have even higher averages. The canton of Geneva, for instance, possesses one motor vehicle for every 20 inhabitants. Canton Vaud one for 30, Canton Zurich one for 35, etc. Although the majority of touring cars are imported from foreign countries, most of the motor lorries in use in Switzerland are made in this country, more especially at Olten, Arbon and Zurich.

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