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HOME NEWS

FEDERAL.

A CORRECTION.

The Federal Department of Health has issued the following correction. In a report on the recent meeting of the International Women's League for Peace and Liberty at Geneva, it was stated that the manufacturing of the heroin drug is now chiefly done in Switzerland. On the contrary, since the Federal Law on Drugs is in force (1926), the production of heroin has steadily diminished. From 3,500 kg in 1926 it was reduced to 952 kg in 1928 and 68 kg in 1929. This is undoubtedly the result of the control which is exercised by the Federal Authorities, control which has been steadily intensified. N.Z.Z.

THE ZONES DISPUTE.

Though this dispute is now *sub judice* the general council of Upper Savoy has deemed it expedient to issue a manifestation vehemently protesting against any change in the present temporary regime which has been created by the arbitrary action of the French authorities.

ELECTRIFICATION.

The sector Iselle-Domodossola on the Simplon route is now completed, the first electric train passing through on the 15th inst. The gain in time as compared with the former steam traffic is said to be ten minutes on the down journey and twenty minutes when ascending.

FOOTBALL.

In the last rounds for the Swiss championship the F.C. Basle was beaten in Lugano by four to one, the Zurich Grasshoppers drew with the F.C. Biel, both sides scoring three goals, whilst the Bernese Young Boys lost to Servette in Geneva by four to two.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

A novel way of celebrating Labour Day was introduced by Rumpf & Co., manufacturers of perfumery in Zurich. On May 1st all the employees and hands were given a trip to Basel, all expenses paid by the firm. Charabanes were in readiness at Basel for a sight-seeing tour of the town and the Rhine port. After lunch the Managing Director of the firm acted as guide in visiting the Basel Fair. Needless to add (we hope), Rumpf & Co., paid full wages for that day on top of it.

Martin Oswald, aged 26, from Wil (St. Gall) and living at Uetikon, was cleaning the pistol he possessed as sergeant-major. Unfortunately, he failed to notice that his pistol was still loaded. He was killed by a bullet which lodged in his heart.

Fritz Berchtold, 44 years old, citizen of Busswil (Bern), threatened in a public house at Uster that he would shoot the local chief magistrate. It appears that Berchtold was earning a precarious living as hawk, and that his nine children were left alone in their home all day. This state of affairs became a nuisance to such an extent that the sanitary authorities obtained a summons against Berchtold. His threats were communicated to Sergeant Pfennigwert, chief of police. The officer went to the magistrate's house to warn him. As he left the house, Berchtold, evidently mistaking him for the magistrate, shot him down. The murderer then escaped on his bicycle. Sergeant Pfennigwert was 55 years old; he had been a member of the force for over 30 years and was generally respected as an efficient officer. N.Z.Z.

LUCERNE.

The receiver in bankruptcy has sold the Hertenstein estate, including the two hotels, to Falck & Co., bankers in Luzern, for 800,000 Frs. What use will be made in future of the estate is not yet settled. V.

URI.

The cantonal poll, in replacement of the Landsgemeinde, resulted in the election as Landammann of the Liberal candidate, National Councillor J. W. Lusser, and of the Conservative Federal State Councillor Isidor Meyer as Landesstatthalter. N.Z.Z.

SCHWYZ

The Landsgemeinde des alten Landes Schwyz (Bezirk Schwyz) elected Statthalter J. L. Bürgler (Conservative) of Muotathal as Bezirksammann. The retiring Bezirksammann Kaspar Schindler (Liberal) of Goldau was elected Statthalter. Treasurer K. Holdener (Conservative) of Schwyz was confirmed in his office. N.Z.Z.

BASLE.

Willi Storrer, editor of the periodical "Individualität" and journalistic leader of the Anthroposophic movement in Switzerland, was killed in an aeroplane accident at the Gempenstellen. He had obtained his pilot's certificate a few days previously and was carrying out a flight with two young friends as passengers. One of the passengers was also killed and the other one very seriously injured. It appears that Storrer flew across the Gempenstellen plateau at too low an altitude, so that, when the plane fell into an air-pocket, he touched the trees. His plane, a 40 h.p. Klemm-Daimler, was destroyed. N.Z.Z.

Wonders never cease! One day last week, about mid-day, a cyclist was pedalling along Margarethenstrasse towards Gundelingerstrasse, with the intention of turning left into the Dornacherstrasse. He heard a motor-cycle spluttering behind him, looked round, and thought: Time enough to turn before he comes. But—there was not time; moreover, the cyclist had not given the slightest indication that he was going to turn left. Anyway, both met. The bicycle front wheel was left roughly in the shape of a ski, and its owner complained of pains in his hands. The motor cyclist had grazed the skin of his hands. And now comes the marvel: Both discussed the accident in a most friendly manner and agreed that each one was equally at fault. Motor police arrived quickly on the scene, and this produced another marvel. The motor-cyclist stated voluntarily, that he came along at the rate of 50 km. The policemen were dumbfounded by such truthfulness and looked so astonished, that the motor-cyclist said: "Oh well, it may have been only 40!" N.

AARGAU.

National Councillor Dr. Eggspühler has died at Baden. His successor in the National Council will be Mühlebach, professor of agriculture, the next candidate on the Catholic-Conservative list. N.Z.Z.

ST. GALL.

The candidate of the Evangelische Volkspartei, who was elected a member of the Council of the town of St. Gall, has been unseated. It appears that the ballot papers of that party showed an alteration in the print, rendering it different from the official form. The St Gall law distinctly declares any such alteration invalid. The Central Election Office thereupon declared these papers null and void, and the seat now goes to the Liberal-Democrats. N.Z.Z.

APPENZELL.

Lightning entered the kitchen of Farmer Goldner's house on the Relle homestead, between Meistersrüti and Saul, and killed a young woman. N.Z.Z.

GENEVA.

Some members of the Geneva Rambling Club "Les Joyeux Alps" set out on an excursion to the "Vuache." Half way to the summit they sat down to a picnic, and whilst enjoying their no doubt most deserved meal, a viper 25 inches in length introduced herself into the "Rucksack" of Mr. H. Ziegler.

Unaware of the presence of their additional travelling companion the party broke up to gain the summit, where a well-merited rest was taken. The unconscious guardian of this "precious" load used his "Rucksack" as a cushion whilst enjoying an hour's "snooze," unaware of the great danger he was running.

Returning at night to Geneva, M. Ziegler handed the "Rucksack" to a friend of his, M. M. Regard from whom he had borrowed it, in which room the reptile spent the night peacefully. Whilst doing his morning toilette, M. Regard saw to his amazement and terror through a looking glass, the snake emerging out of the "Rucksack." Fortunately he was able to kill the beast before any harm was done. Moral: "Inspect your 'luggage' before returning."

The following dialogue between a Magistrate and a Hotel employee, who had indulged rather too freely than wisely in alcohol, and had

threatened his comrades with a revolver, took place in a Geneva Court:

Magistr.: "You are drinking too much."

Empl.: "When I am in the Ticino I drink a good bit, but when at Geneva three or four 'chopes' are all."

Magistr.: "What did you carry a revolver for?"

Empl.: "I bought it to commit suicide."

Magistr.: "You could have saved the expense, as there is the Rhône."

Empl.: "Agreed, but I do not like cold water."

Magistr.: "One day confinement! and take care that I do not see you here again, or I shall send you to a detention home for drunkards."

Empl.: "Thank you Sir, I am going to America, where 'all is dry.'"

NEUCHÂTEL.

The referendum, undertaken by the Liberal Party, against the newly introduced taxes which were voted by the Grand Council last February, has united over 7,000 signatures. As the minimum required by the legislature demands 3,000 adherents, this question will be submitted to the vote of the population.

LANDSGEMEINDE.

Anyone who wishes to get a glimpse of the real Swiss democracy must attend a Landsgemeinde as still held in a few small Cantons. Then he will realize, that the democratic constitution of Switzerland is the natural consequence of its history, and that it is firmly rooted in the Swiss population. The simple dignity, and the simple language, of the members of the Government, and the quick establishment of sympathetic contact between electors and elected! And, again, the unassuming way in which the electors standing in the ring voice their opinions, if in opposition to the Government's proposals! The calm and the common-sense in which the matters before the meeting are settled, impress beyond words. The small Cantons of old Helvetia are perhaps the only parts of Europe, where there is no yawning gulf between those who command and those who obey, where there is a feeling on both sides that confidence is given and is merited, and where everyone has understanding for the worries and needs of his neighbour.

(Extract from an article in N.Z.Z.)

ERNEST ANSERMET.

We hear from musical circles that our distinguished compatriot will be invited during the coming season to conduct various concerts in this country.

It will no doubt interest our readers to get a few biographical notes about this well-known conductor. Grove's Dictionary gives the following account:

"Musically he studied first with Dénéreaz at Lausanne and later counter point with Otto Barblan and composition with Ernst Bloch at Geneva.

"Having chosen the career of a conductor, he worked with Francesco de Lacerda of the Schola Cantorum and afterwards had the advice of Nikisch and Weingartner. He founded in 1918 the Orchestre de la Suisse romande. From 1915 onwards M. Ansermet was intermittently engaged with the Diaghilev Ballet which he has accompanied to North and South America, Spain, Italy and England, directing the first performances of many of its most important productions in Paris and London. His name is closely associated with the works of Stravinski of which he has given noteworthy performances. In recent years he has conducted concerts of the Royal Philharmonic Society in London and also at Liverpool."

REPARATIONS BANK.

The salaries of high officials of the Bank for International Settlements are announced. They are fixed according to the scale in vogue with the League of Nations:

The general manager's salary is £6,000; the deputy-manager's, £5,000; the chairman of the board's, £10,000; and the vice-president's, £8,000.

The sub-committee appointed to consider the question of the mobilisation of the first section of the Young Plan Loan met during the week. The quota assigned to each State was determined.

The bank will start operations on Saturday, when the Reparations Commission will meet to declare that the Young Plan is in operation.