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non essendo ancora conosciuta la patata e poiché nell'alta Leventina non cresce il castagno Leventinesi avevano acquistato dei diritti sulle selve castanili nella Riviera, a Iragna, Lodrino e Claro, facente ancora parte del Ducato di Milano. Nacquero delle difficoltà per recarsi a raccogliere le castagne e per trasportarle nella valle e le relazioni tra le popolazioni, già poco amichevoli, si inasprirono crudelmente. I Leventinesi vantavano altresì diritti d'alpeggio nella Lavizzarra, in Blenio e su quel di Disentis e, per accelerarli e ritornare, dovevano passare coi loro armenti e coi latticini sul territorio del Ducato. Il Duca poi spinto da parti interessate, annullava verso la fine del 1478 la vendita di Campolatorba che poneva i Leventinesi e gli Urani in possesso delle sorgenti della Maggia, apprendo così ad essi la via di Locarno senza dover affrontare le fortificazioni di Bellinzona. Egli offriva però di rimborsare il prezzo della vendita versato dai Leventinesi. Appena giunta in Leventina la notizia che il Duca aveva annullato la vendita e nell'imminenza dell'inverno che avrebbe impedito l'accesso agli alpi per ritirarne i latticini, frutto della stagione, e davanti al pericolo della fame, mancando le castagne e gli altri alimenti che i paesi alpini devono ricavare dalla pianura, i Leventinesi impugnarono le armi e scesero sino ad Iragna e Biasca, sotto la guida dal capitano urano, Andrea Beroldingen. Ad essi si unirono i Bleniesi, seguirono poscia bande di avventurieri, gli Urani ed i contingenti dei vari Cantoni colle truppe e cogli stessi capitani che avevano vinta la guerra contro Carlo il Temerario. Bellinzona venne assediata dopo aperta una breccia nella murata. Milano prepara intanto il suo esercito alla riscossa che raccoglie a Varese, poscia occupato Luino, Locarno, Domodossola, Chiavenna e il Jorio, ed avanzando per il Ceneri, minaccia di prendere Bellinzona a tanaglia. Gli Svizzeri levano allora frettolosamente il campo, lo incendiano e si rifugiano oltre il Gottardo lasciando in Leventina meno di duecento uomini. Contro la volontà dell'esercito milanese e specialmente dei suoi condottieri, il consiglio ducale decide l'avanzata nella Leventina. La neve era alta su tutte le vie e l'inverno rigido. In due colonne l'esercito milanese marciando sulle rive del Ticino, occupa Biasca per poi convergere da Pollegio sopra Giornico. In aiuto dei confederati accorsero quattrocento Leventinesi, comandati dal Capitano Carlo Francesco Stanga. I milanesi s'avanzavano faticosamente lungo la valle, allorché gli Svizzeri che occupavano le alture, fecero rotolare sopra di essi enormi blocchi di pietra che gettarono il disordine fra le file; poi precipitatisi sul nemico, lo misero in rotta e lo incalzarono fino a Biasca. Questo combattimento detto anche "dei sassi grossi" costò ai Confederati appena una dozzina di uomini. Al momento della conclusione della pace, i Milanesi dovettero pagare agli Svizzeri una forte indennità e confermare al cantone d'Uri il possesso della Leventina, mentre gli Svizzeri restituirono a Milano Blenio e Biasca che avevano occupato.

(To be continued).

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CONFIRMATION.

Confirmiert wurden: Doreen Hammer, Betty Francis Doluchanz und Joan Doluchanz.

Hospital-Sunday, den 23. Juni 1935. Collecte zugunsten der Spitäler in London.

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