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removed the catastrophic railways from constitutional referendums, have made of them a separate issue, either before or since? Not so the Swiss. No change. The railways have lost a further £35 since I began this paragraph.

From the above budgetary remarks it can be imagined that Switzerland wishes to cling like the ivy to each of her outside neighbours, Sanctions or no Sanctions. Owing to the falling away in the four chief Swiss export fields, tourism (invisible export), machinery and watches, lace and embroidery and milk and chocolate products, the trade balance is a sad affair. A further complication has to do with the increasing part industry now plays in a land that used to be three-parts agricultural. These industries, importing raw materials, must find markets abroad for their output, and the three big neighbours have ever been the principal recipients. How offend any one of them? Bloating but stagnant Swiss banking is no less eager to find opportunities abroad. Again, how offend puissant neighbours?

To come lastly to the internal political situation as this may have influenced the "neutrality" policy.

As an islet of law and order set in a troubled sea of surrounding Fascism, Nazi-ism, French internecine strife, and ever-penetrating Sovietism, Switzerland is in a singularly vulnerable position, the more so if we bear in mind that she gives haven to no fewer than 400,000 aliens of all kinds, one-tenth of the whole population. Highly combustible material in all directions. Domestically, the country is split in three. On the right the Frontists. On the left the Communist-Socialists. In the centre the great broad No Change middle-class mass. At the recent referendum Frontists and Communist-Socialists went into the same urn. Not because they liked one another, but because each wanted to revise what they claimed to be the obsolescent 1874 Constitution. The Frontists wished to revise in the direction of reducing parliamentary power for more direct and efficient handling of modern problems. The Communist-Socialists desired, within the Constitution, representative bodies to deal with economic and social questions affecting the working man. But the great No Change Swiss middle class said to the former: "We fear you are concealing your true selves and that you would introduce Fascism," and to the latter: "We are certain that once given power of revision, you would run to all sorts of extremes." And the national urn did the rest: nearly a three to one victory for No Change.

A short while previously, and to the general surprise, there was very nearly no change in connection with a referendum extending military service. Switzerland is rearing on land and in the air, its fears of violation being real. Yet the new military service measure only scraped through by something like 500,000 to 450,000 votes. Once again Switzerland was chary in the extreme about decreeing change.

LE NOEL DES ENFANTS DE LA COLONIE SUISSE DE LONDRES.

Une fois de plus et pour la ... vingt-septième! quelques membres dévoués de la Colonie suisse ont organisé la Fête de Noël pour les petits.

Messieurs René Hoffmann-de Visme et C. Campart, fort bien secondés, sont à la tâche, car tous tiennent à mettre sur pied cette grande fête, qui chaque année, demande un travail délicat et persévérant.

C'est ainsi que le 4 janvier, dans les vastes salles du Victoria Hall à Southampton Row, se réunirent près de 400 enfants avec leurs parents.

D'emblée, je remarque qu'il y règne une ambiance sympathique, et que les enfants s'impatientent, à juste raison, car pour eux c'est un événement marquant dans l'année. — Plus tard, dans nombre d'années — beaucoup se rappelleront de ce qu'ils ont vu et entendu autour de l'arbre de Noël traditionnel, de cette Suisse dont les aînés parlent, et qui pour eux est encore si lointaine.

Pendant ces quelques heures de présence, ces petits auront acquis un idéal de notre pays, un souvenir inoubliable de leur origine, même si les circonstances dans la vie les obligent à choisir ou à adopter une seconde patrie.

On ne pourra jamais assez louer le dévouement des membres de notre Colonie, qui cherchent à maintenir un contact constant entre le pays et les exilés. Il est juste de mentionner ici l'effort que font les Suisses d'Angleterre année après année pour réunir leurs enfants, car Noël c'est bien la fête des jeunes. Ce succès annuel est un geste d'autant plus vibrant qu'il se déroule dans le cadre d'amitiés anglo-suisse.

La fête débute par des chants de Noël exécutés par les enfants, puis M. le Pasteur Hoffmann-de Visme rappelle à tous, le motif de fêter Noël, l'histoire de la nativité que l'assistance écoute avec recueillement. Succèdent Messieurs Steiner et Joss qui ont l'art de créer une atmosphère de gaieté, et entraînant avec eux cette innombrable famille, dont les chansons remplissent de joie parents et enfants. Pendant ce temps, le grand arbre s'est allumé, et l'on sent ... le sapin brûlé. La joie augmente, lorsque M. von Bergen se présente sur l'estrade et "jodle" quelques unes de nos chansons bien connues. Là, j'ai remarqué des coeurs émus de mères, tenant par la main leurs enfants; ces dames devaient être de là-bas ..., des marionnées très adroitement présentées rehaussent l'entrain; le tout se déroule avec grande dextérité et surtout d'une manière expressive, chose toujours difficile à réaliser auprès des enfants. Le coup d'oeil est charmant d'observer ce monde d'enfants, où reflètent dans leurs yeux les multiples petites flammes de l'arbre; la scène est décorée aux couleurs nationales des deux pays, à remarquer quelques plantes vertes. L'arbre "brûlé" encore quand les enfants sont appelés dans une salle voisine. Là, thé et gâteaux, tout y est appétissant, et bientôt, tous sont coiffés d'un bonnet de papier trouvé dans des "surprises"; les tables sont abondamment garnies de friandises gracieusement offertes par nos maisons suisses au geste large, citons Nestlé à Londres et Kunzle à Birmingham. Un "Père Noël" dans sa longue pélerine rouge à capuchon, apparaît soudainement. Il est bien accueilli, car dans un instant chacun aura son cadeau, il en est remercié d'avance et d'une manière déjà bien "anglo-saxonne," ce double "Hip, hip, hip, Hourrah!" des enfants. Le copieux "goûter" se termine, chaque enfant défile devant l'arbre de Noël, afin de recevoir le petit sac si bien préparé et patiemment attendu, joie bien légitime même du plus petit, car il rentrera à la maison heureux d'avoir passé une charmante après-midi où il se sentait libre et choyé, ne pensant guère à l'admirable et longue préparation qu'exige à Londres une réunion de cette ampleur.

Il n'est pas possible ici de remercier individuellement toutes les aimables organisatrices, cependant, l'on ne saurait trop apprécier l'inépuisable cheville ouvrière qu'est Mlle. Matthey, Mme. Joss toujours sur la brèche, Mesdames Sidler, Simmen, Muller, Jobin, Campart, Hahn, Meylan, Chapuis, Reber et d'autres encore, qui ne ménagent pas leurs peines; que dire à tous ceux qui font bon accueil au "carnet noir," lorsque dès l'automne, il va frapper aux portes, si ce n'est que leur encouragement est des plus précieux — ce n'est plus un secret!

Les bougies s'éteignent une à une, la salle se vide et l'on songe déjà à ce que sera le Noël prochain.

Roger Ceinturier.

SWITZERLAND HAS BEAUTIFUL STAINED GLASS WINDOWS.

Swiss churches are renowned for their beautiful stained glass windows, many of which are masterpieces preserved since the Middle Ages. Many glorious specimens are also to be found in Swiss museums, and may be classified among the finest and most valuable works of art that the country possesses. Particularly handsome is the early Gothic rosette in Lausanne Cathedral, consisting of 105 pieces. Important 14th century work may be admired in the former monastery church of Kappel am Albis (Canton Zurich), in the churchyard chapel at Frauenfeld-Oberkirch (Canton Thurgovie), Kôniz Church (Canton Berne), and above all in the churches of Mûnchenbuchsee (Canton Berne) and Blumenstein, near Thun (Canton Berne). Exceptional style and beauty are combined in the famous 14th century choir windows in the former monastery church at Königsfelden (Canton Argovie). These windows, masterpieces of their period, were presented to the Memorial Church for King Albrecht, of the Austrian House of Habsburg.

Numerous examples of 15th century late Gothic work are contained in the churches at Stauffberg, near Lenzburg (Canton Argovie), Zofingen (Canton Argovie), Bienne (Canton Berne) and Zweisimmen (Canton Berne). The late Gothic style reached its climax in the monumental choir windows of the Berne Münster, which are veritable marvels of light and colour.

In the 16th century it was the custom in Switzerland to exchange stained-glass coats of arms and other symbols; it was therefore in this period that this art reached its zenith. A unique cycle of windows, ranging from the 13th to the 17th centuries, is to be found in the Stations of the Cross in the former monastery at Wettingen (Canton Argovie). The group of windows from the Rathausen Monastery as preserved in the Swiss National Museum at Zurich; that from Muri Church in the Aarau Museum.

Further excellent groups are to be seen in the Town Hall at Stein am Rhein, the communal Hall at Unterstammheim (Canton Zurich), Jegenstorf Church (Canton Berne) and Lausanne Town Hall.

THE ACADEMY CINEMA, 165, Oxford Street, W.1.

After a successful and well-merited run, Episode has been replaced at this Cinema by "Sans Famille" featuring Robert Lynen, who will be remembered for his remarkable performance in "Poil de Carotte."

The title explains the story, and although it makes a good entertainment for the young, is rather poor stuff after "Episode."

Robert Lynen plays the part of a boy who joins a troupe of strolling players, makes friends with an ancient and rather decrepit opera-singer and finally becomes reunited to his mother from whom he has been separated. The story is rather banal and finishes on a note of classic sentimentality. M. Vanni-Marcoux plays the part of the ancient vocalist and sings several songs in a manner mostly of an opera singer with M. Vanni-Marcoux's reputation.

The photography is pleasing without being sensational and there are some scenes in which a troupe of performing dogs and a monkey make their appearance, which will cause joy to the younger members of the audience.

Robert Lynen is as attractive as ever, in spite of the fact that his part is not so powerful as the one he played in Poil de Carotte.

"Sans Famille" is a safe film for the children and will not cause them to pass sleepless nights.

ok.

AFFENLIEBE.

Affenliebe ist jene für Liebende und Geliebte gleichmässig anstrengende Verirrung des Herzens, die man zu Unrecht den Affen zuschreibt. Die Affen sind nie solche Affen; der Mensch missbraucht ihren guten Namen zur Kennzeichnung einer menschlichen Verstandeschwäche, die er als unmenschlich erkannt hat. Keine Gattung der Tierwelt scheint ihm besser geeignet als Darsteller einer so lächerlichen Gefühlsvariante, und dieser Irrtum ist durchaus verzeihlich, denn das Geschlecht der Affen ist in Gestalt und in urtümlicher Wesensausserung unsere beste Karikatur.

Es sind meistens junge Mütter, die so unmenschlich lieben, wessen Herz aber ist hart genug, dass er dem rührenden Unsinne, den eine Mutter, das qualende Halbmenschen vor den Augen, sagt oder stammelt, mit nüchternem Widerspruch begegnen könnte? Eine Mutter die ihren grundhässlichen Säugling entzückend nennt, soll es ungestört tun, wir wollen es ihr lächelnd bestätigen und unser besseres Wissen verhehlen. Der mütterliche Irrtum ist nämlich, und das entscheidet, ihr und uns durchaus ungefährlich. Der Säugling schadet der Menschheit nicht oder doch höchstens nur dadurch, dass er die Legion der Ueberflüssigen vermehrt, aber das

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TICKETS at 14/- can be obtained at Swiss House, 24-25, Fitzroy Square, W.1 (Tel. Museum 6063). City Office, 24, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.4. (Tel. City 3310), and Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.4. (Tel. Clerkenwell 9595-9596).

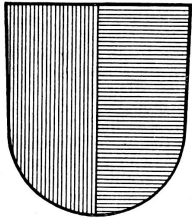
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kann man ihm nicht anrechnen. Und ausserdem wird er vielleicht, wenn auch wahrscheinlich nicht, ein Erlöser.

In das gefährliche Stadium der Affenliebe tritt der Liebende erst, wenn das vergötterte Kind sich zu Fuss unter Menschen tummelt. Dann kann das so geliebte Wesen der Schrecken eines vierstöckigen Hauses, einer stattlichen Schule, ja eines weitläufigen Stadtquartiers werden, darum, weil seine Mutter oder sein Vater jede Unart mit wütendem Eifer verteidigen. Man muss den Balg heimlich kneifen, weil sonst die entfesselten Eltern, wie der Teufel aus dem Kasten schnellend, mit Fluch, Prügel oder dem teuersten Anwalt drohen. Eine kleine Ohrfeige kann den grössten Skandal entfesseln, Parteien bis zum grausamsten Kleinkrieg erbittern, Nervenstricke zerreißen, Nieren zum Auswandern bringen. Mit verzerrtem Lächeln muss das kindliche Scheusal gelobt und gestreichelt werden, damit nicht der Hass seiner Eltern uns bis in den Schlaf der Nächte verfolge, denn die vom Stamme der äffisch Liebenden sterben, wenn ihre Liebe nicht geteilt wird. Zum Glück haben wir alle gelernt, die Liebe zu Kindern überzeugend zu heucheln. Diese Kunst ist Bestandteil der Umgangformen. Eine wichtige Kunst, wert gelehrt und gelehrt zu werden in alle Ewigkeit. Lüge, auf dass man dich liebe und liebe!

Walter Lesch.
(N.Z.Z.)

ARMS OF TICINO.



Per pale gules and azure.

The arms and the name of the canton date from the Act of Mediation, in 1803, when the bailiwicks of the Alps became united into one single state. These were the Leventine, belonging to Uri; Blenio, Riviera and Bellinzona, governed by the three forest cantons, and Locarno, Valle Maggia, Lugano and Mendrisio, under the rule of the twelve ancient cantons.

During the five years that preceded its autonomy, Ticino was divided in two cantons, Lugano and Bellinzona, both forming an integral part of the Helvetic Republic. The parted escutcheon construes admirably the division of the canton during that period.

The cause that brought the adoption of the present design is not exactly known. The arms of Ticino are not related to any of the ancient bailiwicks, nor to the Visconti of Milan who experienced supreme sway over the territory before the Swiss occupation.

From 1803 until 1878, before Bellinzona became the chief town of the canton, the government met alternatively at Locarno, Lugano and Bellinzona. The fact that blue is the chief tincture of the arms of Locarno and red that of Lugano and Bellinzona may well account for the red and blue of Ticino.

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Da die Hirten ihre Herde
Liessen und des Engels Worte
Trugen durch die niedre Pforte
Zu der Mutter und dem Kind,
Fuhr das himmlische Gesind
Fort im Sternraum zu singen,
Fuhr der Himmel fort zu klingen:
"Friede, Friede! auf der Erde!"

Seit die Engel so geraten,
O wie viele blut'ge Taten
Hat der Streit auf wildem Pferde,
Der geharnischte, vollbracht!

In wie mancher heil'gen Nacht
Sang der Chor der Geister zingend,
Dringlich flehend, leis verklägend:
"Friede, Friede ... auf der Erde!"

Doch es ist ein ew'ger Glaube,
Dass der Schwache nicht zum Raube
Jeder frechen Mordgebärde
Werde fallen allezeit:
Etwas wie Gerechtigkeit
Webt und wirkt in Mord und Grauen,
Und ein Reich will sich erbauen,
Das den Frieden sucht der Erde.

Mählich wird es sich gestalten,
Seines heil'gen Amtes walten,
Waffen schmieden ohne Fährde,
Flammenschwerter für das Recht,
Und ein königlich Geschlecht
Wird erblühen mit starken Söhnen,
Dessen helle Tuben dröhnen:
Friede, Friede auf der Erde!

Conrad Ferdinand Meyer.

PERSONAL.

We are extending our heartiest congratulations to Mr. George Forrer, who is celebrating on Saturday, January 18th, his 92nd birthday anniversary.

WINTER SPORTS EVENTS 1936.

Week of January 19-25
Ski Tours for Visitors, Slalom, Ice Hockey Match, at Davos.

January 22
Toboggan Race at Davos.

January 24-26
Swiss Ski Championship at Davos.

January 25 and 26
Combined Wispillen Ski Races at Gstaad.

Week of January 26-February 1
Tailing Party and Ski-kjøring to Sertig, at Davos.

January 26 and 30 and February 2
International Horse Races on the Frozen Lake at St. Moritz.

January 29
Toboggan Race for the Palace Challenge Cup at Davos.

End of January
Coupe Femina (Elimination) Ladies' Downhill Race for Visitors of the M. O. B. District, at Gstaad.

February
Wintersports, Competitions, Social Activities.

February 1
Gala Fencing Tournament at Gstaad.

February 1 and 2
World Championship for Speed Skating at Davos.

February 8 and 9
Ski Races for the Championships of the Bernese Oberland (Elimination for SSA-Races), at Gstaad.

February 16
Parsemn Derby Ski Race at Davos.

February 17
Dorfältli Race for the Davos Downhill Championship at Davos.

February 19
Handicap toboggan Race for the Belvedere Challenge Cup at Davos.

February 22-23
10th Swiss Long-Distance Ski Race over 50 km. at Wildhaus (Toggenburg).

4th Swiss Relay Ski Race at Wildhaus (Toggenburg).

February 23
Skating Carnival and Exhibition at Davos.

February 28-March 1
30th Annual Swiss Ski Meeting, combined with the Swiss Army Ski Races, at Davos.

March 1
Ski Races and Spring Ski Meetings.

March 8
Toboggan Race for the Canada Cup, Ski Competitions for Young People, at Davos.

March 15
Downhill Ski Race for the Parsemn Cups at Davos.

Ski-Kermis at Gstaad.

April 15
Meierhoffältli Downhill Ski Race at Davos.

For lack of space we are unable to cite in full detail the multitude of interesting "winter season events" which take place in the leading resorts everywhere. Whatever sport or pastime may particularly fascinate a visitor he is bound to be able to witness and to participate in contests and fêtes of the most entertaining and thrilling kind.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, February 15th, at 7 o'clock sharp — City Swiss Club — Dinner and Dance, at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, S.W.1.

Saturday, February 22nd, 1936 — Annual Banquet and Ball — Swiss Mercantile Society — at the Trocadero Restaurant, Piccadilly, W.

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Sonntag, den 19. Januar 1936.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst und Sonntagsschule.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr, Chorprobe.

Anfragen wegen Religions-bezw. Confirmandenstunden und Amtshandlungen sind erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde: C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4 (Telephone: Chiswick 4156). Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12-2 Uhr in der Kirche; Mittwoch